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Alabama Archaeological Society

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SOVIET PLANS DISTURB ARCHAEOLOGISTS

An important archaeological site in the Crimea is being destroyed by bulldozers on behalf of property developers—the Academy of Sciences of the USSR. The site has turned out to be a Byzantine cemetery dating from the fifth to the tenth centuries, and has been under state protection since 1947 when it was declared a conservation area. The main feature of the planned development is a holiday rest home for the academy, which will need a new garage and office block to serve it.

Archaeologists from the Yalta Historical Museum and the Institute of Archaeology of the Ukrainian Academy of Sciences have attempted a rescue dig.

No action has been taken by the academy to provent destruction of the site, although individual academicians have visited the site or complained to the central leadership.

(From an article in "Nature Magazine," Volume 333, 19 May 1988)

STATEWIDE REPORT

Interested Dallas County citizens are working to protect one of the state's few continuously occupied sites from destruction by a gravel company. Located on Blackwell's Bend in the Alabama River, the site contains evidence of human activities from the Archaic period up to the 19th century. The site appears to have an early DeSoto contact component with artifacts from the Pensacola/Alabama River phase, as well as a French trade item. Preservationists hope an agreement with the gravel company can be made to excavate the site before it is destroyed by the gravel operation.

(From the "Preservation Report" by the Alabama Historical Commission in Montgomery, Alabama - Volume 15, Number 4, July/August 1988)

CHAPTER NEWS

Muscle Shoals Chapter

The Muscle Shoals Chapter held its annual picnic supper on top of the Indian Mound in Florence on June 13, 1988. There were 42 members and guests in attendance.

(Continued)

September 1988

(Muscle Shoals Chapter News Continued)

Members brought covered dishes—salads and desserts—with the chapter providing hamburgers and cold drinks. After a great meal, we held our last meeting of the summer inside the Indian Mound Museum.

Dr. Boyce Driskell brought us a program about the excavation in progress at the Smith Bottom Bluff Shelter. This project is jointly sponsored by the Office of Archaeological Research, the University of North Alabama and the Tennessee Valley Authority. Chapter members and guests were invited to participate in the excavation. Dr. Driskell showed a number of slides of the site that were taken last summer.

Charles Moore

Huntsville Chapter

Dr. Boyce Driskell of the University of Alabama's Office of Archaeological Research presented a slide illustrated program on the results of excavations at Smith Bottom Cave. Smith Bottom Cave is located on Tennessee Valley Authority property near Florence, Alabama has yielded archaic lithic material and abundant paleontological material. There are indications that a portion of the cave was used as a sacred burial site in more recent times, according to Dr. Driskell; and work will continue at the cave next summer.

Mr. Charles Hubbert of Huntsville will present the September 1988 program. His program will be "Paleo Man."

The Huntsville Chapter of the Alabama Archaeological Society meets the fourth Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. in the auditorium of the Huntsville Public Library.

Bart Henson

ROY SELMAN DICKENS, JR. 1938-1986

Dr. Roy S. Dickens, Jr. died in Chapel Hill, North Carolina on May 25, 1986. He received his M.A. from the University of Alabama in 1966 and his Ph.D. from the University of North Carolina in 1970. The Alabama Archaeological Society was saddened to learn of his untimely death.

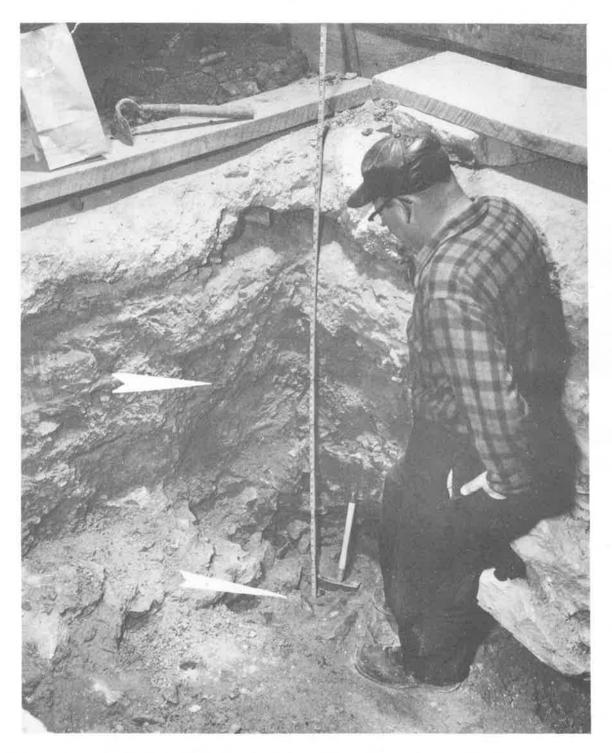
(From the American Antiquity, 53(2), 1988.)

CATHEDRAL CAVERNS 1988

The cavern has been purchased by the State of Alabama and will be developed into a state park when funds are available. The archaeological work performed by the University of Alabama and Jacksonville State University has uncovered material dating to the early archaic period. The following photographs show the size of the cavern and archaeological work in progress. The first photograph is of Ed Mahan of Guntersville when he was working in the cavern in the winter of 1957.

September 1988

Mr. Mahan's original excavations were placed to determine the depth of occupation of the early cave dwellers. The five foot level shows a Lerma type point exposed at perhaps 5,000 year level (from original Mahan notes). Mahan's pit is located approximately in the center of the area shown by the 1988 photographs.



Ed Mahan at work in Cathedral Caverns in 1957. Photo by Jay Gurley.









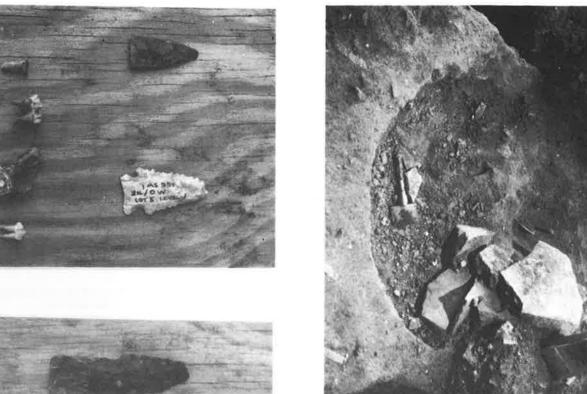
(Photos by Amos J. Wright)

CREW MEMBERS, CATHEDRAL CAVERNS 1988 EXCAVATIONS

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(Photos by Amos J. Wright)







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