

Alabama Archaeological Society

Stones & Bones

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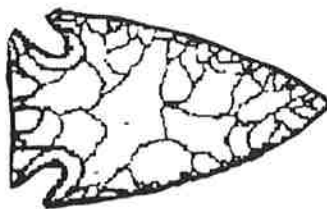
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Winners of the A.A.S. Essay Contest.

The Alabama Archaeological Society Recently sponsored an essay contest for high school students across the state interested in the field of archaeology. Five essays were submitted, all of which were exceptional. The winning essay was submitted by Shelly Jenkins of Buckhorn High School. As the winner, Shelly received a scholarship to the A.A.S. sponsored field school at Dust Cave. Fortunately, all five participants were extended this opportunity. The editors of the *Stones & Bones* are pleased to include these essays in the our next five issues, beginning with Shelly Jenkins', entitled "Digging Up Bones" in this month's issue.

"Digging Up Bones"

They were the crown jewels of my childhood: the old, faded dresses and yellowed strings of costume jewelry, the uniforms of forgotten soldiers and the banners of war-torn countries. All folded and packed neatly away into old cardboard boxes and wood paneled trunks, they were forever preserved as reminders of days long forgotten.

Sitting in my grandmother's lap, watching her faded, dulled eyes as she retold the stories of these priceless artifacts, I relived the scenes and experiences with the participants. Their escapades and journeys became mine as well; they were my childhood fantasies. In the long, hot days of my childhood, I would wear their cast-off clothes and romp around in their tattered shirts and dresses, fighting each battle with the soldier I never met, living each story as if it were my own. I would carefully gaze at the United States flag, torn and broken by generations of battles and struggles, both on and off the battlefield. Its stars and stripes would scream at me the lessons learned so many years ago, and, whether willing or not, I would succumb to their pleas and listen as well.

I learned their lessons of survival through hardship, of overcoming the enemy at any cost, but I also heard a greater truth, whispering gently from their torn seams. It was a truth that has, until recently, remained buried with these antiques inside the boxes and trunks. Their lesson, to me and to future generations, is a simple one- "Never forget the past or else we are doomed to repeat it."

These words, traveling so far to reach my ears, affect me in ways never known by scholars and historians. They evoke an emotional appeal within my soul, reminding me that history is not only fact, but emotion as well. As I intently study the remnants of war, the uniforms and flags. this

truth comes to light. We must strive to remember the centuries of religious and racial persecution, the decades of violence and abuse, and the forces of hatred for which these soldiers and flags fought against. In recalling and in preserving are we only able to escape the bonds with which they tie us down. Within the pages of history books and between the lines of printed text, among the ruins of ancient civilizations and amid the layers of soil and mud, lies the answer. We must remember, or else we will repeat.

That is what Alabama archaeology means to me. It is more than excavating towns or digging up bones, it is also a way to preserve. The ancient artifacts, the forgotten tools and trinkets hiding underneath the solid rock of Earth provide the fuel for the growth of future generations. Through exploration and reflection, we, as responsible citizens, can not only learn of past events and society, but we can also protect our own, determining not to repeat past injustices. As a child, these articles and artifacts were merely an afternoon's entertainment, but today they represent much, much more. In them lies the key to understanding and growing as a person and as a society. They are reminders of people, places and events so long forgotten, and they beg of us, "Remember me, for I will return." --- *Shelly Jenkins, Buckhorn High School.*

Dust Cave Summer Meeting

The 1994 Alabama Archaeological Society summer meeting was held at Dust Cave, Lauderdale County, Alabama on July 9, 1994. A lot of members attended the meeting and enjoyed themselves. The dust cave field school students were there as well as quite a few Troy State students who were working on a dig in Lawrence County, Alabama.

After touring the cave and having lunch the meeting was held at the Dust Cave campsite. The Board of Directors meeting was held and it gave all of the members attending the meeting the opportunity to participate in a Board of Directors meeting.

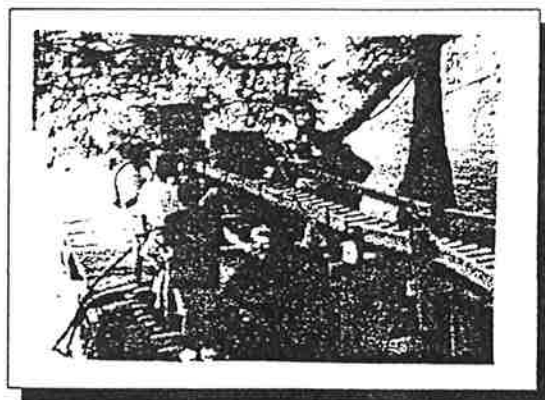
A lot was discussed at the Board of Directors meeting. A brief listing of the topics discussed follows.

- The five essay contest winners were announced

- A committee was formed to help with Archaeology Week

- Eugene Futato reported that the society hired a new typist and the 1992 Journal will be mailed to members very soon. The 1993 Journal's topic is Bottle Creek and the 1994 issue is a combined journal about Dust Cave. They will be mailed to members as soon as they are typed.

- Greg Rhinehart asked that all chapters meet during Archaeology Week (Sept. 25 - Oct. 1, 1994) and invite the public to this meeting. Volunteers are needed to speak to the community about archaeology during this time.





In the Alabama Archaeological Society's Past

Cullman County Archaeological Society- Our Newest Chapter!

By action of the State Society's Board of Directors at a meeting held in Russellville on July 8, 1967, the number of state chapters was increased to thirteen, and we are delighted to welcome the Cullman County Chapter, whose petition was approved unanimously. This large and enthusiastic group of amateurs will make a fine addition to our State Society, and we will take much pleasure in having them join with us in our attempt to inculcate proper archaeological principles and practices among our membership and their friends and acquaintances.

Present Chapter Officers are: Eulis King, President; Donald M. Wilbanks, Vice President; and Michael C. Wells, Secretary-Treasurer. The Chapter will meet on the 3rd Monday of each month at the Cullman City Auditorium, as far as we can at present determine, but further information will be found in next month's Newsletter so that the State Society members in the vicinity of Cullman can visit this newest Chapter and help get them off to a good start.

*Taken from the August 1967 issue of the
Stones & Bones.*

Chattahoochee Indian Heritage Center Groundbreaking

Groundbreaking ceremonies for the Chattahoochee Indian Heritage Center at Fort Mitchell, Alabama took place on May 25. More than 70 people attended this historic event including representatives from Fort Benning, the Russell County Commission, Russell County Historical Society, Historic Chattahoochee Commission and various other organizations.

The Historic Chattahoochee Commission (HCC) initiated efforts to develop the Chattahoochee Indian Heritage Center in 1987. The purpose of the center is to celebrate the culture and accomplishments of the Indians who inhabited the Chattahoochee River Valley until their removal west in the 1830's. It is intended as a gesture of friendship and reconciliation toward a courageous and principled people harshly treated and to long ignored in our history. Led by former U.S. Congressman Jack T. Brinkley, project organizers chartered the Chattahoochee Indian Heritage Association as a non-profit organization to spearhead efforts to develop the center. Utilizing a \$15,000 seed grant from the HCC, the Association conducted a design competition. During the last seven years, the Association has raised over \$100,000 and has finalized plans for the project.

The Heritage Center, which incorporates Native American symbolism and contemporary design, will be a tangible representation of expanding awareness and greater understanding among people who once believed themselves bitter enemies by now know they are but one people. Design elements include a recreated Indian ball-field, a nature trail featuring native plants used by the Indians and a sacred fire sculpture flanked by four beds or arbors. The 25-foot-high sculpture will be constructed of marble, serpentine, bronze and steel. The names of approximately 3,000 Indians removed from the area in the 1830's will be inscribed on the back of the arbors. The \$450,000 Heritage Center project is being funded with corporate, foundation and individual gifts and grants.

Inkind services are being donated by the 43rd Engineer Company and 63rd Engineer Battalion at Fort Benning, Georgia. These engineering units began site improvement work on May 31.

The groundbreaking ceremony has launched the Association's major fund raising campaign. A fund raiser will be named by the Association in the near future to manage the fund raising campaign.

It is anticipated that the Chattahoochee Indian Heritage Center will be completed by 1996 according to Doug Purcell, executive director of the HCC. Purcell believes that "...the Center will be one of the Chattahoochee Trace's premier attractions when opened to the public." He has estimated that 50,000 people a year will visit the Center within three years of its opening. For further information on the Chattahoochee Indian Heritage Center, write P.O. Box 33, Eufaula, AL 36072-0033 or call 205-687-9755.

What's Happening Around The State

Jacksonville State University...

has been busy with several projects this summer, one of which is the Dry Branch site or 1CA522. This is a predominantly Woodland village site located in the center of the right of way of a new bridge to be built west of Anniston. A tremendous amount of cultural material has been found in the eighty two by two meter units which have been opened so far. Large quantities of mica, hundreds of projectile points, mortars, pestels, as well as thousands of pottery sherds of grit, sand, and limestone temper have been found. Large portions of pots have been recovered as well, some of which are bases of pots with podal supports. This site served as Jacksonville State's summer field school site with twenty students participating in the excavation. Excavation began in

June and will end in August with hopefully one hundred units excavated.

Another project that JSU has undertaken this summer is the Wright's Farm project. Wright's Farm or 1CA18, is also a Woodland village site with great deposits of cultural material. The particularly interesting thing about Wright's Farm is the wonderful preservation of both bone and shell. Bone, mussel shell, and periwinkle shell have been found in the over ninety storage pits excavated so far.

Plans have been made to use the data gathered from the previously excavated Blue Hole site, which is another Woodland site located in Anniston, and data gathered from Wright's Farm to make a comparison with the Dry Branch site and formulate a ceramic sequence for northeastern Alabama.

In addition, JSU is still conducting a survey of Fort McClellan. In the spring, they finished the excavation of nine stone mounds located on Pelham Range.

The University of Alabama...

held their summer field school at Dust Cave again this summer. This was also the site of the AAS summer meeting, which had a large turnout this year.

A research design is currently being developed by the University of Alabama for site 1JA206 located near Bridgeport, Alabama. Testing was recently completed on this site which appears to be an upland middle-archaic campsite. This is an extremely interesting site because only one other middle-archaic site, Russell Cave, has been found in this area so far.

Test excavations of Paleo-Indian site 1LA601 will be taking place soon. So far three fluted fragments, a Morrow Mountain projectile point, and an adz have been found so far.

In addition, the University of Alabama will be working on Beartail Rock Shelter on Redstone Arsenal in Huntsville. This project is being conducted in conjunction with Mike Collins of the University of Texas at Austin. This is a primarily Archaic site which is significant because it may

have great depth and very early components. The field supervisor for this project will be Nurit Goldman-Finn. The University of Alabama is looking at the moment for volunteers to help in the excavation of this project.

Troy State University...

has recently completed phase III investigations on two bluff shelters along Sinking Creek in Lawrence County, near Moulton. These shelters, which were also the site of Troy State's summer field school, were discovered during a survey of an area proposed by the Moulton Water Works Board for reservoir construction. Phase II investigations conducted by the University of Alabama on seven of the bluff shelters revealed enough artifacts to warrant phase III mitigation on two of the shelters (1LA238 & 239). Excavations at bluff shelter site 1LA238 on the west side of Sinking Creek revealed evidence of occupation from the Dalton to the Late Woodland periods. A wide range of diagnostic lithic and ceramic artifacts as well as features recovered were predominantly associated with the Middle to Late Archaic and Woodland periods. Among the significant findings at 1LA238 was an artifact rich midden with a large amount of well preserved bone and food remains including hickory nuts and possibly elk teeth; also numerous artifacts including various lithic tools and limestone tempered ceramics. LA 239 is a beautiful bluff shelter located just north of Moulton. Its setting is ideal in that it is adjacent to a creek with some of the clearest and coldest water ever seen. The beauty this site evokes to the on looker is deceiving. The environment looks very peaceful, but it is, in fact, quite hostile. Some factors dealt with while excavating this site included an average number of ticks, copperheads, and yellow jackets. This is not counting the abundant crop of poison oak you had to traipse through to get to the shelter, or the fact that when it rained the serene little creek turned into a gushing torrent of white water.

Thankfully, these hardships did not go unrewarded. The field school students learned to apply the techniques they had studied while facing

obstacles like springs suddenly appearing in their units and very large boulders. A fair amount of artifacts were found. These included a Morrow Mountain projectile point, a Benton, and limestone tempered pottery.

We anticipate that further investigation and lab work on remains retrieved from these bluff shelters will give much insight on dietary practices and establish a settlement pattern for this area. *Clay Helms and Kate McLaurin - field supervisors.*

Chapter News

Birmingham Chapter...

The Birmingham Chapter held its July meeting on the 14th. Michael Finn presented slides and spoke about the excavation he directed at 1Bt15, a site in Blount County, Alabama with a significant Alexander Phase component. The Birmingham chapter meets at 7:00 PM on the second Tuesday of the month at Alabama Outdoors, 3054 Highway 31 South, Homewood. For information, contact Steven Meredith at 205-664-2739.

Huntsville Chapter...

The Huntsville Chapter of the Alabama Archaeological Society usually meets the fourth Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. in the Auditorium of the Public Library on St. Clair Avenue.

It was agreed at last month's chapter meeting that because the state Archaeological Society would hold its summer meeting in north Alabama in July, the Huntsville Chapter would not meet this summer. Therefore, the next chapter meeting will be Tuesday, August 23.

Troy State Chapter

Twenty -one members of the Troy State Chapter attended the AAS annual meeting at Dust Cave. While we usually do not meet in July, the AAs summer meeting gave us a great opportunity

to take a summer field trip. Our next meeting will be held the 3rd Thursday in September.

☺Member News☺

A special thanks is extended to Mr. and Mrs. L. Charles Wimberly for their generous contribution to the Steven Wimberly Scholarship Fund. Donations such as this will help to ensure that understanding and knowledge of archaeology will continue to grow in students and our young people.

New Members:

Carol S. McCanless
Oxford, GA

Dr. William B. Gresham Jr.
Birmingham, AL

Tina McCall
Troy, AL

Brad Soloman
Troy, AL

Fuller Blair
Mobile, AL

their environment. Call 536-2882 for more information. Burritt Museum in Huntsville.

The Burritt Museum also conducts Living History weekends in which historical interpreters demonstrate traditional crafts and activities.

November 9-12, 1994 - Southeastern Archaeological Conference & Midwest Archaeological Conference will be held jointly at the Radisson Plaza Hotel, Lexington, Ky. For information on local arrangements, contact: Mary Lucas Powell, W.S. Webb Museum of Anthropology, 211 Lafferty Hall, University of Kentucky, Lexington, KY 40506-0024, ☎ 606-257-7112.

January 4-8, 1995- The Society For Historical Archaeology's annual Conference on Historical and Underwater Archaeology will be held at the J.W. Marriott Hotel, Washington, DC. For more information, contact Henry M. Miller, Historic St. Mary's City, PO Box 39, St. Mary's City, Maryland 20686, ☎ 301-862-0974, FAX 301-862-0968.

The Calendar

September 25- October 1 - Alabama Archaeology Week

November 4-6, 1994 - Eastern States Archaeological Federation will hold its annual meeting in Colonie, NY. For further information, contact Dean Snow, SUNY-Albany, Dept. of Anthropology, Social Science 262, Albany, NY 12222, ☎ 518-422-4700.

June - August "Keepers of the Earth"

Earth camp sessions for children ages 7 and 8, which focuses on the Indians' relationship with

PUBLICATIONS AVAILABLE

Available issues of *Journal of Alabama Archaeology*

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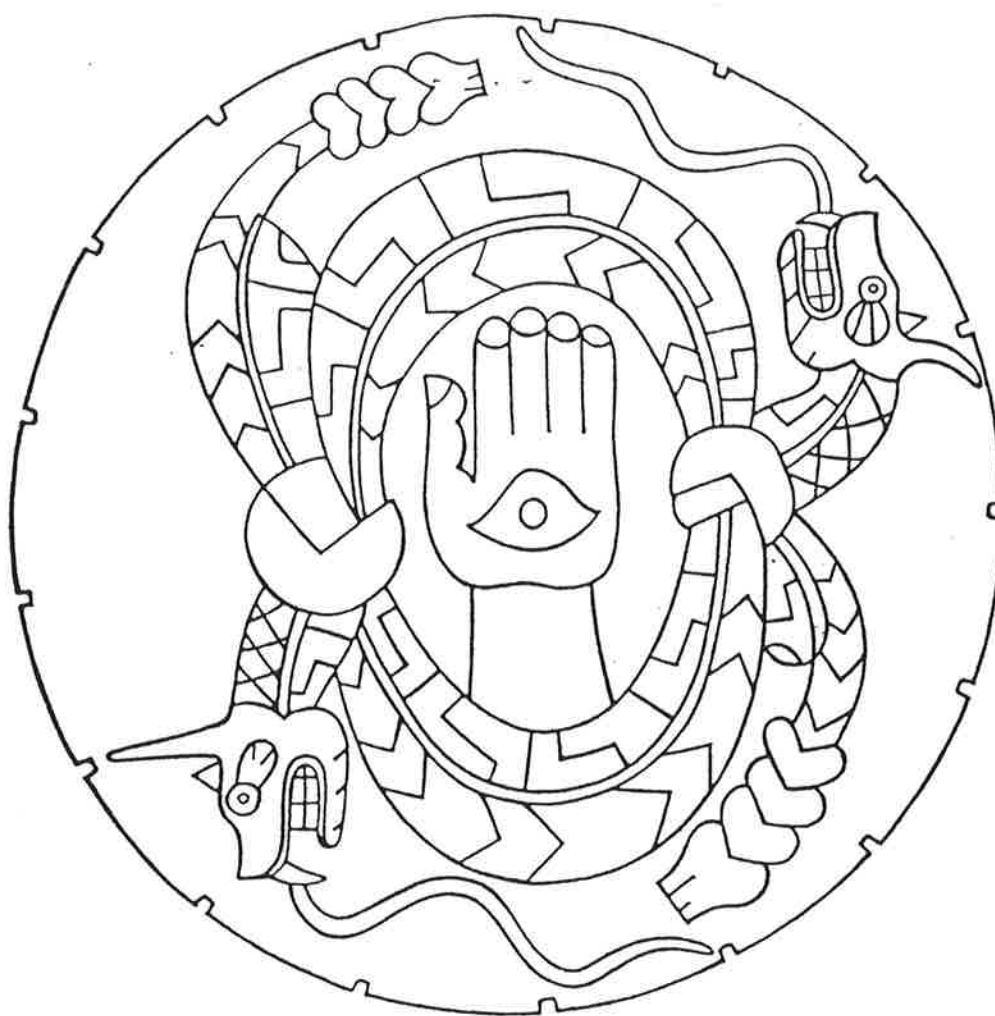
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