Alabama Archaeological Society

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Fashions in the Field

What am I going to wear today? This is a question that everyone who gets dressed in the morning asks, but for the crew member at an archaeological site, what they choose to wear can be the major determining factor in whether they have a great or a miserable day. That one simple question asked first thing in the morning can affect your attitude and working ability, not to mention your health. Plus, here in Alabama we have notoriously unpredictable elements to deal with. Crew members are forced to be creative in dealing with the problem of getting dressed in the morning.

Looking fashionable is NOT an issue for women. Many a "fluff chick" has arrived for the first day of work looking absolutely adorable. Hair teased and sprayed, face a Picasso, and a perfect little outfit chosen from the weekend wear section of the latest issue of *Vogue*. It does not work - never has, never will. By lunch time the hair is pulled back, the face looks like Tammy Faye Baker in a rainstorm, and the clothes - well, I won't take the time to explain. After a couple of days of this she learns that it's awfully hard to draw a feature with mascara in her eye. Fashion has ceased to be important and creativity reigns supreme.

The sports bra is an essential for women in the field, not only does it provide extra support but it makes a nice little halter top when the weather gets hot. It's easier to get a suntan in a sports bra than a tee-shirt. Cross dressing among women at archaeology sites is also very common. Women have found that men's clothes are simply sturdier and more comfortable. Unfortunately, this habit seems to cross over into their personal life as well.

Women are not the only crew members forced to be creative. Men who never talk about clothes outside of work will discuss "archaeology fashion" for hours. This is one field in which men seem to be more concerned with what they have on than women. Khaki, camouflage, and boots are the essentials and they collect these items with a vengeance. A male crew member simply can never have enough khaki and camouflage and they must have a different pair of boots for every 10 degree change in temperature.

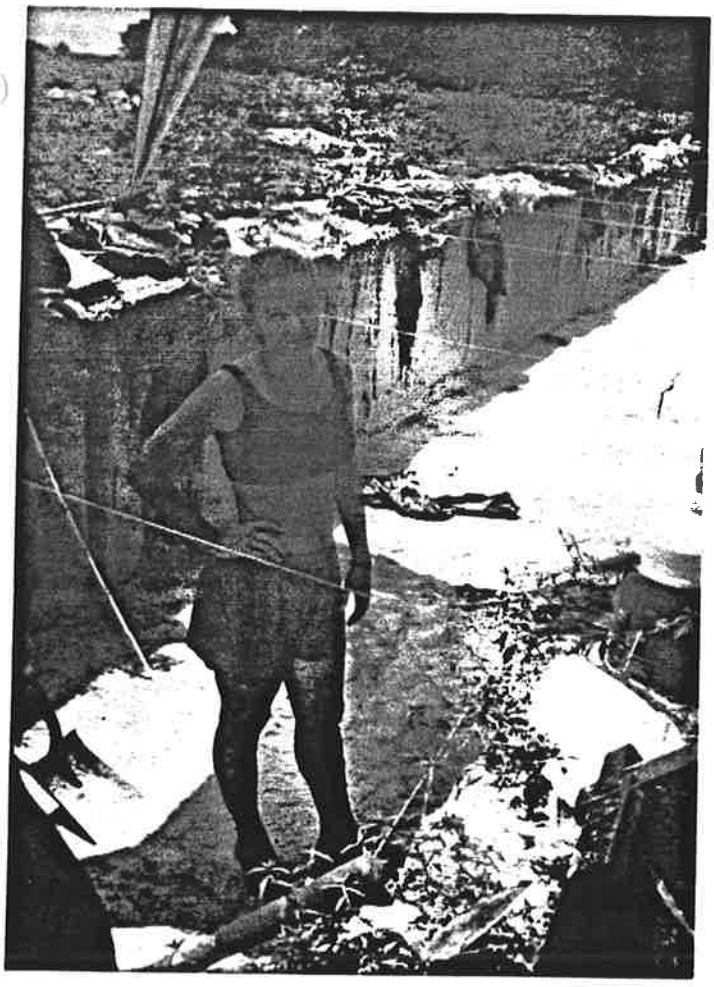
Men also have an obsession with clothes made with scientific sounding materials like Gortex, Thinsulate, Polypropeline, and Holofil. In cold weather women are happy in men's cotton long johns and men's cotton flannel, men on the other hand require Thinsulate long johns and Polypropeline socks.

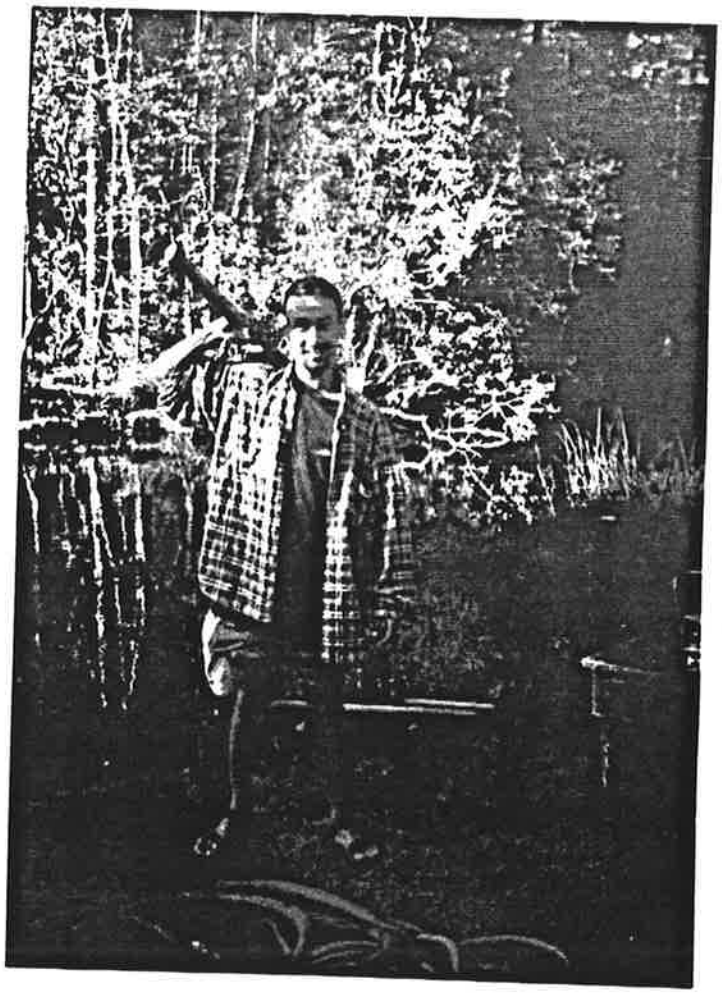
Another male fetish is hats. They love hats. Fedoras are the favored hats among men, probably because they are available in many different kinds of materials - straw, felt, wool, oilskin, and Gortex (the all-time favorite). A bandana is the perfect accessary for the fedora. Fold the bandana and tie it around the hat, it looks fashionable and it's a good place to hold the bandana until further need arises. When it gets hot, take the bandana off the hat, wet it with ice water, put it on your head with the straw fedora on top. When it rains, untie the bandana and put it on top of the gortex fedora, this keeps rain from falling on your glasses.

I have compiled a list of helpful fashion hints for the crew member:

1. NEVER use the Weather Channel as a guide to what you should wear. I can guarantee that you will be all decked out in Thinsulate and Gortex on the sunniest, hottest day of the year.
2. If you are waterscreening do not wear tennis shoes, they get stuck in the mud and it's uncomfortable sloshing around all day. Go barefoot if you can or wear Teva sandals. When you are done at the end of the day, rinse your feet and go.
3. This is a perfect solution to two problems. When the dryer eats one sock out of a pair, keep the mate. Wear your mismatched socks to the field. Don't wear your matched pairs because they will get stained and ruined anyway. Wearing mismatched socks may look funny, but it's more economical. Your coworkers may laugh at first but before long the whole crew will follow suit. Grin and bear it and you will be a trendsetter.
4. If your Cabella's Gortex socks spring a leak, send them back, they are guaranteed.
5. Wear your Gortex socks over another pair. Cotton in warm weather or a wool/Polypropeline mix is nice in the winter. This way you can wear the Gortex for several days in a row without washing them.
6. Most importantly always be prepared for anything. Have cold weather, wet weather, and hot weather wear ready. All the Gortex in the world won't help you if you fall off of a log into a river.

Gwen Barron





Colonial America's First Science Center

Roanoke Island near North Carolina's Outer Banks is synonymous with the Lost Colony and Virginia Dare, the first English child born in the New World. Her fate, and that of 116 fellow colonists who vanished between 1587 and 1590, remains unknown - a mystery that has overshadowed the intriguing role an earlier English settlement on Roanoke played in U. S. history.

In 1585 Roanoke became England's first foothold in the New World. To prevent Spanish expansion north from Florida, Sir Walter Raleigh sent a detachment to build a fort on the island. Most of the 108 men were soldiers. But to assess the region's commercial potential (a previous expedition had reported that Roanoke Indians wore copper ornaments), Raleigh also sent two scientists - Thomas Hariot, a surveyor, mathematician astronomer, and oceanographer, and Joachim Gans, a metallurgist.

Ivor Noel Hume, the retired senior archaeologist of Colonial Williamsburg, has discovered where Hariot and Gans built their dirt-floor laboratory, the first science center in colonial America. The find was 'the most exciting in a lifetime of discoveries,' he says. "What Hariot and Gans learned justified England's investment in the new world.'

Noel Hume and his late wife, Audrey, decided to dig at the Fort Raleigh National Historic Site after reevaluating finds from earlier excavations. Bricks, burned on one end and ground down one side, had been thought to have been used for sharpening tools. Noel Hume speculated that they had formed the round mouth of a furnace. Artifacts previously unearthed near the bricks included sherds of ointment pots and clay crucibles and chunks of copper. "Nothing related to domestic life," he recalled. Another clue was one brass apothecary weight matched with a set from that era.

Noel Hume's excavation - funded by the National Geographic Society and organized by the Virginia Company foundation - uncovered over a hundred new artifacts: fragments of crucibles, flasks, and laboratory glassware; a chunk of antimony for processing silver and other ores; and a burned bowl possibly used in distilling. Pieces of charcoal likely were fuel used by Gans to assay minerals in the furnace. Seeds and nuts may have been part of Hariot's pharmaceutical studies.

Relations with the Indians soured after the soldiers attacked a village, and the English returned home in 1586. Hariot's accounts provided Europeans with the first detailed look at North America's southeast coast and inspired future colonists. Among them: the men and women who the following year settled what would be remembered as the Lost Colony.(*National Geographic*, January 1994, Vol. 185, No. 1)

Julie Lesinger

Mesozoic Genes

In last summer's blockbuster movie "Jurrassic Park", dinosaur DNA - plucked from blood cells trapped in the stomachs of insects embedded in amber - was used to re-create the extinct giants. Pure fantasy? Probably. And yet the same week the movie was

released, the National Science Foundation announced that a graduate student in paleontologist Jack Horner's lab had extracted DNA from a 65-million-year-old Tyrannosaurus rex fossil found in Hell Creek, Montana.

Ordinarily, exposure to air and water would have degraded any DNA in a fossil bone's cells. But Mary Schweitzer, Horner's graduate student, found the DNA sealed away in the marrow of a particularly dense T. rex bone. "Until now we never thought DNA could survive in bone this long," says Schweitzer. And she still can't be sure: instead of actual dino DNA, the DNA she found could be a recent contaminant from a fungus or plant that somehow worked its way into the T. rex bone. The next step is to see if there are enough nucleotide bases in the DNA chain for researchers to figure out its sequence and its origin.

Of course, even if this is dino DNA, it still won't be possible to resurrect old T. rex itself. Cloning the beast, Schweitzer says, would require a complete set of chromosomes a near impossible task, such long strands of DNA are extraordinarily fragile. It would also take a lot more knowledge about how dinosaurs develop than paleontologists are likely to have any time soon.

And while 65-million-year-old dino DNA would be impressive - until this past year the oldest intact DNA that scientists had recovered came from the cells of 17-million-year-old leaves, it wouldn't set any records. In June, Berkeley entomologist George Poinar reported that he and his colleagues had isolated intact DNA from a 130-million-year-old insect captured in a bit of Lebanese amber. (Amber is hardened, fossilized tree resin.) Poinar analyzed the genetic code and determined that the extinct insect's closest present day relative is the pinecone weevil.

If all goes well, however, even that mark will soon be obliterated. In late 1992 amateur naturalist Ulf-Christian Bauer sent Poinar a piece of 225-million-year-old Bavarian amber containing unicellular organisms. Poinar thinks the protozoans, algae, and amoebas were trapped when a damaged tree bled into a puddle. "They look like what you might have gotten out of a pond last week," says Poinar. That's because life in a puddle probably hasn't changed much in 225 million years.

The problem is that there are no good techniques for getting DNA out of single-celled organisms, and a botched attempt could destroy the small amount of material Poinar and his colleagues have to work with. They are trying to find a way, however, because the information locked inside these cells could be valuable. Poinar would like to know which genetic sequences modern and ancient microbes share and how these genes might have allowed the organisms to survive unchanged for all these years. "This find opens the door," he says, "to a whole series of evolutionary studies that could never be done before." (Taken from the January 1994 issue of *Discover*)

Kelly Rothschild

The Not-So-Madding Crowd

Everyone knows crowding promotes aggression, but not everyone knows the meager scientific basis of that conventional wisdom. It comes from research on rats that was first done in the 1960's. At the time, some researchers even suggested that crowding was the cause of urban unrest. But does crowding really lead to aggression in primates like us?

According to Peter Judge, a primatologist at Emory University's Yerkes Regional Primate Research Center in Atlanta, the studies done until now have been far from conclusive. "Some looked at animals crowded only over the short term, " says Judge, " or they only looked at a few groups- and groups can vary enormously in their ability to get along with one another."

At a recent meeting of the American Society of Primatologists, Judge and Fran de Waal, also of Yerkes, reported the results of the first large, long-term study of the effects of crowding on rhesus monkeys- a notoriously ill-tempered species of primate. While aggressive behavior does increase under crowded conditions, the researchers found, the increase is only moderate. Furthermore, it seems that as density increases, the types of behavior that a simian Miss Manners might reconciling after fights- increase even more.

Judge spent eight months observing each of nine groups of rhesus monkeys. The groups were housed in conditions that ranged from low to extremely high density. Some lived free on Morgan Island, a primate breeding center off the South Carolina coast; others lived in outdoor corrals; still others were crowded into cramped caged. From the nine groups, Judge selected a total of 145 monkeys for observation. He looked for bites, wounds, threats, and chases, but also for acts that seemed to improve relations between monkeys- grooming, huddling, and displays of submission and affiliation.

In the most crowded cages, Judge found rates of aggression among female rhesus monkeys (who tend to fight more than males as crowding increased) were just 1.7 times higher in the lowest conditions on Morgan Island- even though the level of crowding was 6,000 times higher. Still more surprising, Judge found that in the most crowded quarters the percentage of fights that were reconciled- those cases in which one monkey made a friendly overture to the other within three minutes of the fight- was at least double what it was among free-running monkeys. In other words, as conditions get more stressful, rhesus monkeys try harder to get along.

The results confirm a theory De Waal first proposed a few years ago: that "coping" behaviors help monkeys reduce fighting within a group. What, if anything, do the results signify for the peace of cities built by other primates? " This study shows that rhesus monkeys are not as inflexible as you might think- in certain ways they can adapt," he says. " And if they can adapt, it's likely that other higher primates can, too." (Taken from the February 1994 issue of *Discover.*)

What's Happening Around the State

University of Alabama ...

is conducting a survey of Little River Canyon in conjunction with Alabama Power and the National Park Service. This survey, which includes a reconnaissance of the canyon walls, has required the U of A team to resort to repelling. So far numerous bluff shelters have been discovered, which is exciting, however, many have been disturbed by pothunters and relic collectors. Four sites will undergo phase II testing in the next few weeks. More information is forthcoming on this project for future issues.

Boyce Driskall is currently making plans to return to Dust Cave. Field season this year will run from June 1 to July 15. Dust cave will once again be the site of one of the A.A.S. summer field schools. Registration information will be announced in the March issue.

Jacksonville State University ...

has just finished phase II investigations of stone mounds and rock alignments on Ft. McClellan's Pelham Range. A total of nine stone structures were investigated, three of which yielded aboriginal artifacts. The remaining six didn't produce any archaeological materials.

The JSU team is also preparing to begin short-term test excavation on the city of Jacksonville's town square. This testing is to be done in conjunction with the renovation of the town square, which hopefully will reveal the county's original courthouse. Also located in the square, is a site where Union troops camped during the Civil War. The crew is hopeful that they will find proof of both events.

Alabama Musem of Natural History--Gulf Coast Survey...

The Gulf Coast Survey of the Alabama Museum of Natural History is currently studying the Bottle Creek site (1Ba2), a major mound complex located in the Mobile-Tensaw delta. This primary center of Pensacola culture contains at least 16 mounds. Though it had been abandoned when the French arrived at the end of the 17th century, it still was revered by the Indians. Recent excavations have shown it was re-occupied later in the 18th century.

We conducted a preliminary study of Bottle Creek in 1991. First, we reanalyzed all Bottle Creek collections stored at the University of Alabama. These included several thousand pottery sherds from David L. DeJarnette's 1932 excavations plus two large surface collections made in the 1970s. Next, we surface collected every mound and all of the areas around and between the mounds. Finally, we excavated two test units in Mound L.

One of the Mound L excavations reached subsoil at 2.5 m below the surface. Both units yielded culture-historical information plus valuable data about the mound's construction and use. Much of Mound L probably dates to the Bottle Creek II phase (A.D. 1400-1550). Early on, it supported craft activities involving the manufacture and use of microliths. A wall trench structure and a series of thin burned layers were present deep in the mound. We also encountered the remains of two post structures just below the surface. One of these later structures may be protohistoric while the other dates after A.D. 1700.

We have two goals for the 1993-1994 Bottle Creek project: obtain chronological and ecological information about the site and examine the Mound L locale in detail. The latter entails excavating the two structures on Mound L. Future projects will investigate two smaller mounds, M and N, located nearby. Intensive examination of Mounds L-N should illuminate the changing functions of that part of the site during the prehistoric to historic transition.

Stratigraphic tests were planned for several small mounds in the northwestern and northeastern portions of the site. We felt these would yield good chronological information, as they have suffered less disturbance from pothunting. Eroding daub indicated they also would contribute settlement data. Of interest are the pre-mound and initial mound levels at the site. We hope to discover if the mounds were first constructed by local Late Woodland groups, local Mississippian peoples, or non-local Mississippians who had entered the area from elsewhere.

The results of the 1993 season caused us to revise the goals of the project. Test units in the slopes of Mounds C and D encountered very rich midden deposits. Because of the quantity and quality of the artifacts and food remains, most of the season was devoted to excavating these middens. It left little time for work elsewhere on the site, although we did conduct soil probe tests across the ridge projection of Mound B and around the flanks of Mounds C and D.

Among the significant findings in Mounds C and D were the following: evidence of a palisade bordering this part of the site; remains of structures dating early in the site's history; large quantities of well-preserved bone and shell; abundant plant remains, including maize; numerous artifacts, including pottery, cut mica, cut shell, and microliths. Preliminary analysis of the abundant pottery indicates the earliest Mississippian occupants, ca. A.D. 1100-1250, had very close ties to Moundville. Some of the sherds from this component also exhibit close relationships with contemporary cultures in the Lower Mississippi Valley. Pottery from later levels show a steady evolution away from these non-local origins toward Pensacola wares.

During the 1993 season, a crew led by Diane Silvia uncovered daub deposits and wall trenches associated with at least one structure on Mound L. They recovered a good sample of historic Indian pottery and European artifacts. The latter included glass beads, hand-wrought spikes and nails, and part of a flintlock pistol. Among the other discoveries during the 1993 season were a probable Indian canal (first reported in the 1800s) and another mound.

The goals of the 1994 field season at Bottle Creek include the following: test midden areas on two of the mounds in the northeastern part of the site (H-K); test a midden deposit at the base of Mound A; and finish excavating the structures on Mound L. If time permits, we will continue investigating the ridge projection associated with Mound B.

Ian Brown and Richard Fuller

1BA2 BOTTLE CREEK
Elevations based on arbitrary datum
50cm contour interval
(25cm intervals dashed)
Magnetic North
Instrument station/datum
0 20 40
scale in meters
Test excavation unit
1993 Excavation units
C101
C100
Mound A
Mound B
Mound C
Mound D
Mound E
Mound F
Mound G
Mound H
Mound I
Mound J
Mound K
Mound L
Mound N
Southern Burrow Pit
Northern Burrow Pit
Swamp

East Alabama Chapter

Conner Bailey, Department of Agricultural Economics and Rural Sociology, Auburn University, presented our November meeting. His Subject was "Archaeology in Indonesia: Hindu-Buddhist Sites in Central Java."

Among the most impressive archaeological sites in Indonesia are Borobudur and Prambanan, two temple sites in Central Java dating back to the early 9th Century. Dr. Bailey has visited these sites several times while working and traveling in Indonesia. His presentation focused on the historical context of these archaeological sites and their relation to present-day India.

Twenty members were present for this meeting. This chapter did not meet in December but sent representatives to the state meeting in Decatur.

Our January meeting was held on the 11th. Linda Derry, Staff Archaeologist and Project Manager, Old Cahawba Preservation Project, presented the program entitled "Historical Archaeology at Old Cahawba."

The antebellum town of "Old Cahawba" served as Alabama's first State Capital (1820-26). Located at the confluence of the Alabama and Cahaba Rivers in present-day Dallas County, this once thriving community rapidly deteriorated following the Civil War and by 1900 had become a virtual ghost town. Historians and archaeologists with the Alabama Historical Commission are working to uncover Cahawba's intriguing past and to create an interpretive historic park. As staff archaeologist and manager of the Old Cahawba Preservation Project, Linda Derry gave a slide presentation on efforts underway to preserve this important part of Alabama's heritage.

The East Alabama Chapter meets on the Second Tuesday of each month in the Alabama Power Company auditorium, 230 Gay Street, Auburn, at 7:00 p.m. Visitors are welcome. For more information call Gary Mullen at 887-9991.

Caroline R. Dean

Huntsville Chapter

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

The January meeting was held Tuesday January 25. Our guest speaker was Ms. Lee Luis, who is the Federal Review and Compliance Archaeologist with the Alabama Historical Commission. Ms. Luis will discuss recent developments on the burial bill.

The 1994 Chapter Officers are:

President Bobbie Gillespie

1st Vice President	Melissa Lehman
2nd Vice President	Stephen Davis
Secretary / Treasurer	Dawn Gillespie
Librarian	Georgia Dunn

Chapter dues for 1994 are payable now: $7.50 per membership (family or individual). See Dawn Gillespie at this month's chapter meeting to pay your dues, or mail your check to: Dawn Gillespie
20515 County Road 460
Trinity, AL 35673

Dawn Gillespie brought the refreshments to the January chapter meeting. We need volunteers to bring snacks to future meetings. Please see Dawn at this month's meeting to sign up.

If you ordered a chapter T-shirt in 1993 and did not pick it up, please come to this month's meeting and claim your shirt. T-shirts which are not claimed soon will be sold to someone else.

Troy State Chapter

The members of the Troy State Chapter held their first meeting of the new year on January 20th. Greg Rhinehart, Chief of the Compliance Division of the Alabama Historical Commission was the guest speaker. Mr. Rhinehart spoke on the progress being made concerning the Alabama Cemetery and Human Remains Protection Act and also on the Shipwreck Act governing the removal of artifacts from state waterways. The Troy State Chapter thanks Mr. Rhinehart for coming and invites anyone interested to attend our next meeting on February 24, 1994.

On Sunday, January 30th nine members of the chapter went on a field trip to the Michael C. Carlos Museum at Emory University in Atlanta, Georgia to see the exhibition **Human Body, Human Spirit: A Portrait of Ancient Mexico.** This excellent exhibit contained many examples of pottery, lithics, and statues, both utilitarian and ceremonial. We were also pleased to find that in addition to this exhibit there were also Egyptian, African, Near Eastern, and Asian exhibits on display. We would strongly encourage anyone who gets the oppurtunity to visit the Michael C. Carlos Museum to do so. In addition to visiting the museum we had a delicious Carribean lunch at Bridgetown Grill in Little 5 Points, did some shopping, and visited a tatoo parlor.

In the Alabama Archaeological Society's Past

Books- Books- Books- Following are some guidelines from the Indian Historical Library on how to protect your books, files, and important papers:

Acidic boxes, folders and wrappings, and poor quality plastics, will in time contaminate the items that they were meant to protect, through the transfer of acids.

Metal staples and paper clips will rust, stain, and often tear fragile and brittle papers.

Pressure-sensitive tapes, rubber cements and patent "glue-alls" contain chemicals that will stain and damage paper. They are often dangerous, and sometimes impossible, for even a trained conservator to remove.

The use of dangerous, irreversible lamination methods will slowly destroy the items that were to be protected, as the lamination decays- often in just a few years.

Acidic matting and backing boards cause ugly stains and damage to framed artwork and documents.

The list could go on and on....

A well-cared- for collection is stored off the floor in an air conditioned, or at least dehumidified, room. All windows are shaded, and where fluorescent lights are used, they are screened with ultraviolet-filtering tubes.

Non-acidic boxes, folders and wrapping papers are used to store collections, and very acidic items (like newspaper clippings) are wrapped separately to prevent acid transfer.

Framed items are checked to make certain that only safe framing and mounting materials and techniques have been used.

Any repairs are made with stable, non-acidic mending papers and adhesives. Major damage is left as is until a trained conservator can be consulted.

Finally, whenever possible, new materials are acquired which are printed on permanent-durable paper. In addition, items known to be "self-destructive" - modern newspapers, books, and the like- are treated before they begin to deteriorate. (Taken from the February 1989 issue of *Stones and Bones*)

🕮New Publications🕮

Whom We Never More See: History and Archaeology Recover the Lives and Deaths of African-American Civil War Soldiers on Folly Island, South Carolina. Columbia: South Carolina Department of Archives and History. 50 pages, index, illustration (maps, site and artifact photos.) Price 6.75 (pb) postpaid. Checks should be made payable to the South Carolina Department of Archives and History, P.O. Box 11669, Columbia, SC 29211.

The Calendar

The 59th Annual Meeting of the Society for American Archaeology will be held April 20-24, 1994, at the Disneyland Hotel, in Anaheim, California.

Reminder: 1994 Membership Dues

Your 1994 membership dues were due as of January 1, 1994. Please send in your renewal to Eugene Futato at 13075 Moundville Archaeological Park, Moundville, AL 35474 as soon as possible in order to continue receiving your Newsletter and Journal.

Steven B. Wimberly Scholorship Fund

When you write your check for your membership dues this month consider adding something for the scholarship fund. Since the scholarship has not been presented in the last few years, it seems to have been forgotten by most of our members. At the Winter meeting in Decatur, this oversight was brought to the Board Members' attention. As a result, the Board approved a new scholarship Committee composed of McDonald Brooms, Greg Rhinehart, and Ian Brown. This committee will meet in the spring to consider revisions to the existing regulations for the scholarship with the intention of reactivating the scholarship for Fall quarter / semester, 1994.

It is important that the AAS encourage students to enter the field of archaeology. We should also recognize our responsibility to assist archaeology students in any way we can. When the scholarship is reactivated in the Fall, we want to be able to offer as much financial assistance as possible. To do this will require your contributions to this very worthwhile cause so please add $10, $15 or more if you can.

Attention Chapter Secretaries

Please send the names, addresses, and phone numbers of individuals responsible for chapter news to the Stones and Bones editorial office, so that we can publish them. We also would like the same information for all chapter presidents, so that the secretary can contact them about A. A. S. board meetings.

Editors Note

The Troy State Archaeology Lab has moved. Our new address is 304 Wallace Hall, T.S.U. Troy, AL 36082 and our new phone number is 205-670-3638. We also have a new fax number that may be used for submitting chapter news, articles, and other information that might be of value to the editors (205-670-3753). Please have any information that is to be included in the *Stones and Bones* submitted to us by the 27th of the month so that we can get the newsletters to you in a timely manner. Any information received after the 27th will be included in the following month's issue. Thank you for your patience and please continue to send us mail!

Publications Available

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Special Publication 3- *Achaeological Investgations at Horseshoe Bend*.....$8.00pp
Handbook of Alabama Archaeology Part 1, Point Types.....$15.00pp
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Investigations in Russell Cave, published by the National Park Service..$10.00pp
Exploring Prehistoric Alabama through Archaeology (Juvenile).....$9.00pp

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