Alabama Archaeological Society

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STONES & BONES NEWSLETTER

Editor .
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MEMBER OF THE EASTERN STATES ARCHEOLOGICAL FEDERATION

"...It is of great importance that the general public be given the opportunity to experience, consciously and intelligently, the efforts and results of scientific research. It is not sufficient that each result be taken up, elaborated, and applied by a few specialists in the field. Restricting the body of knowledge to a small group deadens the philosophical spirit of a people and leads to spiritual poverty."

Albert Einstein

CHAPTER NEWS

- Birmingham Chapter: The Birmingham Chapter meets the second Thursday of each month at the Red Mountain Museum. Call Tom Hutto for further information at 956-1895.
- Cullman Chapter: The September meeting was held on the 17th at 7:30. Mr. Eugene Futato was the speaker, and his program was on the 1978 season at the Bear Creek Watershed.
- East Alabama Chapter: The East Alabama Chapter meets the second Wednesday of each month in Thach Auditorium at 7:30 p.m. For information, call Dru McGowen at 821-2595.
- Huntsville Chapter: Mr. Al Beinlich of Sheffield was the speaker at the September Chapter meeting. Mr. Beinlich spoke on "Bone, Tooth and Other Artifacts", with slides of the Stanfield Worley Bluff Shelter excavations.

The "dig" at Constitution Hall in downtown Huntsville is still in progress, and Chapter members and their friends are welcome to participate. Volunteers are digging, hauling and screening under the supervision of professional archaeologist Ed Fulda and site supervisor 0. D. Hartley. The work is going on from 8:30 a.m. to 3 or 4 p.m., weather permitting, every Saturday and Sunday. Several interesting articles have already been uncovered; artifacts will eventually be displayed in the replica of the Neal House, which will be erected soon to complete the Constitution Hall Park complex.

Muscle Shoals Chapter: The Muscle Shoals Chapter held its September meeting on the 11th at the Indian Mound Museum in Florence.

Mr. Al Beinlich presented an interesting program on bifurcated points of the LeCroy cluster. He discussed the differences between the LeCroy, McCorkle, St. Albans and Kenawa points.

Mr. Oscar Grogan, who now lives in southern Florida, visited the Chapter that evening. He had many interesting comments to make about the Seminoles, who are his present-day neighbors. Twenty members and guests attended the meeting.

REMINDER

Remember the cutoff for Newsletter articles is the 15th of the month preceding the month of issue - for example, cutoff for the November issue will be the 15th of October. We require this much lead time for selection, composing, printing and mialing before the first week of the month of issue.

The Editors

COMPUTER DATING

After eight years of continuous development with Digico computer systems, the Department of Physics at Newcastle University have produced two M16 dating systems.

The first, on behalf of the Department of the Environment, involves the measurement of magnetism in archaeological specimens such as pottery, mud and parts of kilns for the purpose of establishing age - commonly known as archaeomagnetism. This project is a development of the Digico rock magnetometer system which establishes the age of rock samples by measuring remanent magnetism in a spinner - use by university geology departments and mineral companies, etc.

The second is a new achievement involving a digitally controlled measuring table for measuring the width of tree rings - dendrochronology. The object is to establish date and age of tree specimens and the M16E system at Newcastle allows for the measurement of ring thicknesses as well as correcting for the angle of curvature of the rings.

Headed under the direction of Dr. Mark Noel, the Department of Physics at Newcastle is establishing a complete archaeological dating system - serving departments relating to geology, archaeology and botany.

(From Data Systems, May 1979)

The Editors

MEETINGS

October 18-20, 1979 - Conference on Writing in America Before Columbus, at the Elizabeth Bradley Turner Center for Continuing Education, Columbus, Georgia. There is no charge for the three-day conference. For more information and registration forms, write to Columbus College, Community Service Division; Columbus, Georgia 31907; tel. 404/568-2023.

October 19-20, 1979 - The 20th Annual Conference on Historic Site Archaeology, jointly hosted by the Historic St. Augustine Preservation Board and Florida State University, at Government House, St. Augustine, Florida. For more information contact Stanley South; Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology; University of South Carolina; Columbia, South Carolina 29208; tel. 803/777-8170.

November 2-4, 1979 - Old House Revival in Eufaula, Alabama, sponsored by the University of Montevallo and the Live-In-A-Landmark Council of the Alabama Historical Commission. This meeting will include workshops and tours. Among the workshops will be sessions on 19th and 20th century fabrics, the period kitchen, stenciling and graining, insuring historic houses, period landscaping, literature of domestic preservation, and moving a landmark home. Huntsville architect and noted historic preservationist Harvie Jones, and Lewis Mayson, a preservation contractor,

will speak on "The Architect, the Contractor and the Old House". For additional information, contact the University of Montevallo; Continuing Education Division; Station 154; Montevallo, Alabama 35115; tel. 205/665-2521, ext. 352.

The Editors

November 8-10, 1979 - Southeastern Archeological Conference at the Biltmore Hotel; Atlanta, Georgia. The public is welcome.

<u>January 11-18, 1980</u> - 13th Annual Meeting of the Society for Historical Archaeology and the 11th Conference on Underwater Archaeology at the Hilton Inn, Albuquerque, New Mexico.

February 29-March 1, 1980 - "The American Indian During the Jacksonian Era", sponsored by the Middle Tennessee State University, the departments of Sociology, Anthropology and History. Anyone who has researched this period from its anthropological perspective and wants to participate, contact Kendall Blanchard; Department of Sociology and Anthropology; Middle Tennessee State University; Murphreesboro, Tennessee 37132.

April 30-May 3, 1980 - Society for American Archaeology 45th Annual Meeting, Philadelphia Sheraton Hotel. Deadline for symposia proposals, abstracts of contributed papers and research reports is October 31, 1979. Contact Program Chairman Ernestene Green; U. S. Forest Service; 1720 Peachtree Road, N. W.; Atlanta, Georgia 30309.

Marjorie Gay Standing Rock

NEW SOCIETY MEMBERS

Johnson, Mr. David B. (I)

Pigott, Mr. Thomas R.

Little, Mr. Keith (I)

J. O. Johnson High School 6201 Pueblo Drive, N. W. Huntsville, Alabama 35811 L-38 South Plaza Tuscaloosa, Alabama 35401 840 Buckeye Street, N. W. Warren, Ohio 44485

PUBLICATIONS AVAILABLE

The Archaeological Society of Virginia has back issues of their quarterly Journal on sale - \$.60, \$.75 and \$1.20 each, depending on date of issue. Some title examples are:

1977 31.3 - Perrin: Analysis of End Scrapers from the Williamson Site

- 1976 30.4 McCoy: Survey of Virginia's Fluted Points
- 1975 30.2 Turnbaugh: Tobacco, Pipes, Smoking and Rituals Among the Indians
- 1968 22.4 McCoy: Bannerstones of the Dismal Swamp Area

These are but a few of those available dating back to 1963. For a complete list, write to Archaeological Society of Virginia; 938 Jamestown Road; Williamsburg, Virginia 23185.

The Editors

"GOLDEN" DISCOVERY: OLDEST BERING MAN?

In a discovery that she rates "an archaeologist's gold mine", University of Washington geologist Lee Porter has found fossilized animal bones in the Alaskan Yukon-Tanana uplands that have been radio-carbon dated to 29,700 years. Further examination of the bones has revealed chop marks, burn marks and spiral fractures indicating they were slaughtered by Homo Sapiens.

Although there is evidence for the presence of humans in North America as far back as 40,000 years ago, this discovery, found at the bottom of a 30-foot gold mine, marks the earliest known presence of humans in a Bering Land Bridge site. In addition, the bones, which include those of extinct lions, bison, musk oxen, "little wild horses" and wooly mammoths, are securely carbon dated, something Porter says is difficult to do in many sites because of the presence of calcium carbonate, a contaminant of radioactive carbon.

The presence of the bones supports the theory that early humans migrated to Alaska from Siberia in search of game during the Pleistocene Era. The interior of Alaska seems to have escaped the massive accumulation of ice that occurred elsewhere because it was protected by mountain ranges on the north and south, becoming a wildlife refuge and sanctuary.

Examination of some of the bison bones by the University of Maine's Robson Bonnichsen seems to indicate that the animals were butchered by early humans who, lacking usable rocks and the technology to craft metal tools, used bone fragments broken from the animals themselves to loosen and carve the meat.

Porter, who pre-selected the area in advance of her discovery, says that "it may be possible within the next 10 years to uncover fossils of early man which date back as far as 60,000 years ago".

(From SCIENCE NEWS, May 12, 1979)

FOOTNOTE: See October 1979 NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC.

The Editors

BOOK REVIEW

VISIONS OF TIME, EXPERIMENTS IN PSYCHIC ARCHAEOLOGY. By David E. Jones. 1979. The Theosophical Publishing House; Quest Books; 306 West Geneva Road; Wheaton, Illinois 60187. \$7.50. This 404-page paperback is interesting and in some aspects fascinating. Dr. Jones, an anthropologist with a Florida university, conducted, over a sevenyear period, a series of experiments with four individuals having psychic powers. Dr. Jones established, as much as possible, double blind experiments along with control groups. His conclusions are that psychics have a high degree of potential for use in learning more about the people, environment, social relations and other factors not available through the conventional study and methods used today by archaeologists. The book contains much of the verbatim tape transcripts used in the sessions and the perception of the psychics are impressive for example, a box with an artifact selected by a third party from the museum that may come from anywhere in the world and any time period is placed before the psychic; and by only touching the box, he/she is able to describe some startling things about the artifact, enough of which can be verified that a high degree of credibility is established. As Dr. Jones says, there are the sceptics that believe nothing and the faithful that believe everything and as each of us falls somewhere in between, and if you have an interest in archaeology, you will enjoy reading this book.

The Editors

OLD BONES: EXPOSING TODAY'S LEAD HAZARDS

Americans and other industrial-nation dwellers may be exposed to considerably higher lead levels than previously expected, according to an archaeological study reported in the April 26 NEW ENGLAND JOURNAL OF MEDICINE. An American and Japanese research team estimates that present-day residents of the United States and Great Britain have 500 times the lead contamination levels they would have had in a "natural" environment prior to the development of lead mining. On the basis of their results, the scientists advocate a reexamination of currently acceptable lead standards.

The archaeologists analyzed the 1,600-year-old bone and tooth remains of Peruvians buried in the Viru Valley and "isolated from early sources of lead pollution", which began with lead mining in the Northern

Hemisphere 4,500 years ago. Employing "ultra-clean" laboratory techniques, which they say improve upon previous attempts to eliminate lead contamination added during collection and transport, the scientists analyzed the lead content of the Peruvian bones. The "true" lead content present 1,600 years ago - with that part of the world in a "natural" environmental state - was obtained through a complex process comparing the ratio of lead to calcium with the ratio of barium to calcium.

The findings strongly suggest that the high, contemporary lead levels "must result from overexposure of present-day people to industrial lead and not from natural variations".

(From SCIENCE NEWS - May 5, 1979)

The Editors

MEETING

The Annual Archeological Conference of the Archeological Society of Virginia will be held at the Lake Wright Motel in Norfolk, Virginia. The dates are Friday, October 19 through Sunday, October 21, 1979. For information on presenting papers, displaying artifacts or pre-registration, contact: William A. Thompson; 536 Summit Ridge Drive; Chesapeake, Virginia 23320; tel. 804/482-1696.

The Editors

PICTORIAL WALL MAPS OF EARLY ALABAMA

Imitation parchment maps, 23" x 35", are available for \$3.95 each from Down Home Designs; P. O. Box 812; Selma, Alabama 36701. Among those for sale are The First Alabamians - a Directory of Indian Townsites in Alabama from 1540 to 1832; and Alabama Forts - a Directory of Early Alabama Fortifications and Stockades.

The Editors

1979 WINTER MEETING

The 1979 Winter Meeting of the Alabama Archaeological Society is tentatively scheduled for December 8, 1979, at the Foy Union on the Auburn University campus. A field trip to Horseshoe Bend is being planned for Sunday, December 9. Watch for more information in the November and December issues of the STONES & BONES.

The Editors

PUBLI	CATION	S AVAILABLE	
Archaeological Salvage in the Walter F. George Basin of the Chattahoochee River in Alabama, a hardbound report, published by University of Alabama Press (\$2.50 to members)			
Available issues of Journal of Alabama Archaeology Vol. 13-18			\$1.00 pp \$4.00 pp
Stanfield-Worley Bluff Shelter Excavations (Journ Vol. VIII Nos. 1 & 2 - Reprint)			
Special Publication 1 — Fort Mitchell			\$2.00 pp
Special Publication 2 — The Archaeological Sequence at Durant Bend, Dallas County, Alabama\$4.50 pp			
Handbook of Alabama Archaeology Part I, Point Types			
Lively, Long, Josselyn - Pebble Tool Paper\$3.00 pp			
Investigations in Russell Cave, published by the National Parks Service\$5.00 pp			
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Alabama Archaeological Society

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