NADB DOC #- 4,056,825

Alabama Archaeological Society

Associate Editors
Bart Henson
Dorothy Luke



Editor
Amos J. Wright
2602 Green Mountain Rd.
Huntsville, Alabama 35803

MEMBER OF THE EASTERN STATES ARCHEOLOGICAL FEDERATION

Volume 25

Number 12

ALABAMA

(The following report appears in the Eastern States Archeological Federation: Annual Meeting Proceedings - November 5-7, 1982 - Norfolk, Virginia.)

The 1982 membership of the society remains above 500. A breakdown is: Individual 225; Family 40; Institutional 102; Individual Sustaining 80; Family Sustaining 12; Individual Life 34; Family Life 10; and Honorary Life 2.

Since the 1981 ESAF meeting, we have lost two members who were well known in the southeast: Milo Howard, SHPO and Director of the Alabama Department of Archives and History died in November 1981. Jack Cambron, well known for his many reports and the "Point Type Book" died in September 1982. Jack had been very active in the society. He reported the famous Paleo Indian Quad site near Decatur, Alabama. Edwin C. Bridges has been appointed Director of the Department of Archives and History. F. Lawrence Oaks has been named SHPO. Mr. Oaks hosted the Southeast regional meeting of the SHPOs where workshops included: Funding, National Register, Archaeology Issues, Environmental Review and Surface Mining, and Computerization of Historic Site Inventories.

The society Board of Directors will have met three times in 1982. A. J. Wright, Bart Henson and Dorothy Luke have sent out the monthly newsletter, Stones & Bones. The members appreciate their efforts in sending out one of the best newsletters in the country. The June issue of the Journal of Alabama Archaeology was delayed while Editor Eugene Futato attempted to get better copies of French and Spanish archival material for the report of the excavation at Fort Tombecbe by James Parker. This issue of over 100 pages is now in the mail. The December Journal should be on schedule. The Handbook of Alabama Archaeology, Part I - Point Types is sold out. The book is being reprinted but there will be an increase in cost.

The 1981 scholarship award went to Carlos Solis. In January, the society asked Eugene Futato to serve as coordinator in the compilation of the distribution of fluted points in Alabama. As reported in AENA, this survey reported 1,654 points. A society summer dig was held in Colbert County, consisting of two field trips. The first, on June 5th, was a controlled surface collection at a Paleo site on a clay knoll associated with

extinct lakes. The two acres had been leased and the landowner had plowed the site just a few days before. At this site, in the past, local collectors have found over 100 fluted points with perhaps as many not reported. On August 14th and 15th, another field trip excavated areas showing the greatest density of material. This society project was under the guidance of the Office of Archaeological Research. Although there was not much cultural material, further excavation may be warranted after a more detailed study of the results.

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The society granted the OAR \$200 for a carbon date on a rare, hafted stone axe recently found in the Warrior River. The handle is made of white oak and the celt of chlorite schist, ground and polished. After preservation is completed, the axe will be on exhibition at the Museum in Moundville. Vincas Steponaitis feels it should date around 1,000 to 1,250 A.D. The society also awarded \$500 to the Archaeological Research Laboratory of the University of South Alabama for use in emergency site work. A nationally significant 16th century protohistoric aboriginal site in the Mobile Tensaw Delta was badly disturbed by relic collectors. The vandals were identified and after being contacted by the Alabama Attorney General's office and Read Stowe, archaeologist at the University of South Alabama, they agreed to turn over removed artifacts to the State of Alabama. According to Stowe, the collection included 25 complete or restorable vessels (Bear Point Complex - Alabama River Phase, circa 1500 -1700), several thousand large sherds from vessels broken by the pot hunters, spatulate axe, repousse copper "headdress", approximately 100 large shell beads and pins, celts and other artifacts. Included also were a number of colonial historic artifacts, a fragmentary sword, lance head, rifle barrel, an ear spool made from tin glazed earthenware, four blue trade beads, four chevron beads, an iron trade axe, numerous other iron artifacts, a brass candlestick holder, and a "holy water bucket". Other pot hunters have found the site and now have dug a four-foot trench. University employees and volunteers are working with the Alabama Marine Police, the Department of Conservation, and the landowner in surveillance of the site. They will map the site, record the disturbance, collect exposed artifacts and develop a research plan for archaeological investigations. A report will be prepared for publication on this important late Mississippian Period site.

The Alabama Historical Commission is going to have to decide what steps to take in completing the restoration of Fort Toulouse, the French fort built on the Coosa River in the 1700s. Nearly \$400,000 has been spent so far in the partial reconstruction. The National Park Service had decided that the old wooden fort foundation used to design the reconstruction is the American fort built by Andrew Jackson in 1814. The Jackson fort, built on top, has destroyed about 40% of the French fort.

The winter meeting will be held on November 20 and 21 at the Hilton Hotel in Huntsville. The morning will be devoted to "Early Man in Alabama". In the afternoon, current research will be reported. After the dinner, Dr. Frances Roberts will speak on "The Constitution Hall Project"; Sunday there will be a tour of Constitution Hall in Huntsville.

Marjorie Gay Standing Rock

A. A. S. ANNUAL MEETING

The Alabama Archaeological Society held its annual meeting at the Anniston Museum of Natural History on Saturday, November 19, 1983.

We would like to commend Harry Holstein and his Program Committee for an outstanding job in setting up the meeting, with its excellent lineup of speakers and papers. We would also like to thank the Anniston Museum of Natural History for the use of their superb facility, for the beverages and snacks which they provided, and for the museum tour following our meeting.

Well over 100 people attended this year's meeting; this is the best turnout we have had in several years.

During the Business Meeting, the Outstanding Society Member award was presented posthumously to Rodger Schaefer for his many years of service to the A. A. S. Members of Mr. Schaefer's family were on hand to receive the plaque in his name.

Also during this session members voted to elect the slate of officers presented in the October STONES & BONES. Those elected will take office in January 1984.

Following the annual meeting, a number of Society members and several of the speakers met at the House of Chen in Anniston for an excellent Chinese dinner and informal discussion period.

The Editors

HIGHLIGHTS OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

- The A. A. S. Board of Directors met from 12:00 noon to 1:00 p.m. on November 19, 1983 at the Anniston Museum of Natural History in conjunction with the Society's annual meeting. The Board reviewed and amended the minutes of the previous meeting, approved the treasurer's report and heard the standing committee reports. Highlights include:
 - A. The June Journal has been mailed, and the December issue is in preparation.
 - B. The Russell Cave report has been reprinted and standing orders filled.
 - C. The Board authorized the Chairman of the Archives Committee to bind permanently one copy each of unbound newsletters and Journals.

- D. Back issues of the Journal and special publications have been in great demand, and their sale has contributed significantly to the Society's sound financial health. In addition to the Journal Editor, who normally handles sales, other Board members in attendance at regional and national archaeological conferences have made the Society's publications available with effective results.
- E. The plaque honoring Rodger Schaefer as the Society's outstanding member, to be awarded posthumously to a family member, was presented for Board review.
- F. The recently-formed Tuscaloosa Chapter was officially recognized.

The Board received reports of instances of archaeological site destruction and agreed to take under advisement suggestions for authorities in dealing with these situations.

The Editors

A SAD DAY TO BE REMEMBERED

Some of you may have known Mr. Jessie Benton, who passed away a few months ago. While I did not know Mr. Benton personally, what I found out about him I liked. He was a serious amateur archaeologist who collected in northern Alabama and later lived and collected Indian artifacts in New York State. He very meticulously cataloged his specimens, kept accurate notes and recorded his site locations on topographic maps. There is no doubt in my mind that Jessie Benton not only personally enjoyed his hobby, but also felt that he was making a significant contribution to our national heritage. I am sure that over his lifetime he spent thousands of hours in the happy pursuit of his hobby.

Unfortunately, at the time of his death he apparently made no provisions as to the disposition of his well-cared-for collection. As a result, his entire collection was put up for auction in the State of New York. It was only through careful negotiation with the assistance of the Broone County Historical Society that The University of Alabama became the recipient of his field notes, maps, and a modest selection of the archaeological specimens. The rest of his collection, including fluted projectile points, went on the auction block and was sold to the highest bidder.

While I do not presume to know what Jessie Benton's intentions were about the disposition of his collection, I cannot help think that he would be somewhat saddened about its being sold at auction.

With this in mind, I propose the following.

If you are a serious amateur archaeologist and are concerned about the perpetual care of your collection, then please make a will which specifies your wishes.

One concept that we are exploring here at The University is to develop a tax-deductible arrangement wherein an individual can make arrangements to donate his collection to The University. In return we will evaluate the collection for tax purposes. This way the individual may retain his collection on a loan basis, receive a tax deduction and at the same time be assured that his collection will be well cared for upon his death.

One point I should like to make. We (The University of Alabama) are not interested in hoarding all the archaeological collections within the State of Alabama. We are, however, interested in preserving our significant past and for this reason would be interested in obtaining well-documented research collections. I hope by some means we can work together to insure that these collections are not randomly sold, traded, or auctioned, because I truly believe that when this happens it is a tragedy for us all.

Let me hear from you if you are interested in discussing this further.

Carey B. Oakley Director, Office of Archaeological Research 1 Mound State Monument Moundville, AL 35474 (205) 371-2266

CHAPTER NEWS

Birmingham Chapter

The Birmingham Chapter meets the second Thursday of each month at the Red Mountain Museum Auditorium at 7:30 p.m. On December 8 the program will be "Southeast in Maps Since 1540". The speaker will be Ms. Ruth Spence, Curator, Agee Map Collection, Birmingham Public Library. The January 12 meeting will be on the "Ingomar Mounds: Recent Discoveries". The January speaker is Dr. Janet Rafferty, Mississippi State University. On February 9, David Chase of Auburn University, Montgomery and a past president of the A. A. S., will discuss "Developing Methods for Studying Alabama Prehistory".

Coosa Valley Chapter

The Coosa Valley Chapter of the A. A. S. met on October 27 in Brewer Hall on the JSU Campus. Twenty-five members and guests were present to hear Ms. Theresa Kisor and Mr. Gerald Whitton speak on "Historic Piedmont". The Artifact-of-the-Month contest, which was judged by JSU archaeologist Dr. Harry O. Holstein, had two winners: Phillip Smith and Kenneth Newman, both of Jacksonville. The president, Dr. Phillip E. Koerper, urged the membership to attend the Indian Festival at the Red Mountain Museum on November 5-6 and the Winter Meeting of the A. A. S. at the Anniston Museum of Natural History on November 19. Plans were made for the members to participate in a survey on December 3. The chapter Christmas party will be on November 30 at Dr. Adrian Aveni's home. Anyone in the Anniston - Jacksonville - Gadsden - Piedmont area interested in archaeology is most cordially invited to attend our meetings.

Huntsville Chapter

The November program was a most interesting presentation made by Dr. Marcy Lawton of The University of Alabama in Huntsville, "Speculations on the Decline of the Neanderthal". The next meeting, December 20, will be a workshop session. Elections for 1984 chapter officers will also be held at this meeting.

The Huntsville Chapter meets the third Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. in the Arts Council Conference Room, Von Braun Civic Center. For more information call Program Chairman Roy Blair, Jr., at 534-9663.

Twenty people from Huntsville attended the 1983 A. A. S. annual meeting in Anniston on November 19!

Muscle Shoals Chapter

Mary-Eliza and Charles Moore presented the program on October 10 to the Muscle Shoals Chapter. They reported on their fall 1983 trip to the Four Corners area. They told of visiting the Pueblo villages of Acoma and San Ildefonso and showed pottery from these villages as well as from the Hopi villages. They also described their trips to Bandolier National Monument in New Mexico and Batatakin in Arizona, as well as several other sites in that area.

The November chapter meeting was held on the 14th at the Indian Mound Museum in Florence. Twelve members and guests attended as Charles Moore presided. Bart Henson of Huntsville presented an interesting lecture and color slide narration on Petroglyphs and Pictographs. The December meeting will be a supper meeting at Howard Johnson's in Florence on December 12 at 6:30. Houston Wright of Huntsville will present a program entitled "Paleo Chronology and Climatology".

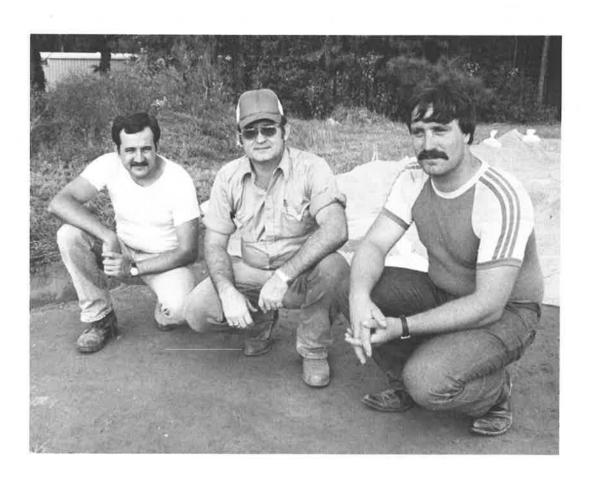
Tuscaloosa Chapter

The November chapter meeting was held at the town library. Ms. Jeanie Allen was the guest speaker. Ms. Allen, from The University of Alabama, spoke and showed slides on Moundville effigy pottery.

The next meeting will be held at the town library on December 5 at 7 p.m. The guest speaker will be Mr. Bruce Bizzoco of Shelton State Junior College in Tuscaloosa.

Note of interest from John W. (Bill) Adkison: "A few weeks ago I found a large deposit of high-grade greenstone at Guntersville, in Marshall County. It is located on the north side of town on Guntersville Lake, just before you cross the bridge to your left across from the Kiwanis pier park. Also I found a large amount of Tuscaloosa yellow chert in south Franklin county. I suggest using the clay ball method for all gravel cherts. Lately I have revised my clay ball method, by only letting the clay ball dry for a day and a half, instead of a week and a half. For further information on the clay ball heat-treating method, refer to the September 1983 issue of the STONES & BONES."

The picture below shows John W. (Bill) Adkison, Jack Wilson and Tony Ferrell of the Tuscaloosa Chapter, A. A. S. The picture was taken at The University of Alabama Weekend College Archaeology Field School, Moundville, Alabama, during the fall of 1983.



PUBLICATIONS AVAILABLE	
Available issues of <i>Journal of Alabama Archaeology</i> Vol. 13-18, each issue	
Stanfield-Worley Bluff Shelter Excavations (Journal of Alabama Archaeology) Vol. VIII Nos. 1 & 2 - Repri	nt, \$5.00 pp
Special Publication 1 — Fort Mitchell	\$2.00 pp
Special Publication 2 — The Archaeological Sequence at Durant Bend, Dallas County, Alabama	\$4.50 pp
Special Publication 3 — Archaeological Investigations at Horseshoe Bend	\$6.50 pp
Handbook of Alabama Archaeology Part 1, Point Types	\$10.00 pp
Lively, Long, Josselyn - Pebble Tool Paper	\$3.00 pp
Investigations in Russell Cave, published by the National Park Service	\$7.50 pp
Exploring Prehistoric Alabama through Archaeology (Juvenile)	\$7.00 pp
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SEND CHECKS TO: MR. EUGENE FUTATO, Office of Archaeological Research	
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Alabama Archaeological Society

Mr. Amos J. Wright 2602 Green Mountain Road SE Huntsville, Alabama 35803



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