

Alabama Archaeological Society

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STONES & BONES NEWSLETTER

NADB DOC # - 4,056,626

MEMBER OF THE EASTERN STATES ARCHEOLOGICAL FEDERATION

??? WHERE DO WE "DIG" THIS SUMMER ???

MAY 2 - 1967

This has been the hot question, or demand, increasingly shot at us. We are ready to say that it looks as if our hand may be forced by time and modern engineering. Dave DeJarnette has completed the impressive and exciting report on the surface survey of the Bear Creek drainage area where the TVA will build 4 dams. This has been submitted as "A Proposal for Archaeological Salvage to USDI-NPS", but unless the National Park Service should have a surplus, it is too late to get salvage funds this year. Furthermore, there is work aplenty for more than a salvage crew. Although the survey is far from complete - Dave has been desperately short of help - TWENTY sites were located in the hurried survey of 3 reservoir areas (the fourth reservoir is yet to be explored).

This is a MOST interesting archaeological area, as A. B. Hooper III had discovered and alerted us - you will see his paper in the JOURNAL. On the Cedar Creek reservoir not a single potsherd was found, nor any pecked or ground stone implements. The Little Bear Creek reservoir yielded only ONE potsherd, the Bear Creek reservoir only TWO. In short, there seems to have been almost no late occupation. On the other hand, from one site where the hasty survey noted only chips, a local collector had 20 Dalton, 30 Big Sandy and 3 fluted points!

Of special interest to us, PEBBLE TOOLS were found on 3 sites, "crude tools" on 2, and emphasis was placed upon "uniface tools" at one site. Dave DeJarnette considers further exploration necessary to develop the full potential.

This area of Alabama, deeply eroded ravines in Mississippian limestone, is archaeologically unexplored. A. B. Hooper III now has mapped 24 pebble tool sites in the area which duplicate and verify the Lively Complex sites some 40 miles to the south. Four considerable areas are going under water, beyond exploration. Unless the POLLEN ANALYSIS, the RADIOCARBON DATE and the ARTIFACT CLASSIFICATION, when completed, should make further excavation of our extensively tested sites of last summer OBLIGATORY, it looks as if we are rather desperately needed in the Bear Creek drainage.

These sites are only a few miles from our first excavation, the Stanfield-Worley Bluff Shelter, where we made some advances in archaeological history - and where members of our Muscle Shoals Chapter did such yeoman duty. It is hoped that they can again serve so well. Thick growth makes it extremely difficult to conduct an inclusive surface survey in some areas - where untilled land promises uneroded sites! Everything, of course, depends upon finding THE site - the STRATIFIED SITE IN DEPTH. It would be a tremendous accomplishment and service to archaeology, to find THAT SITE. And we owe A. B. Hooper III both thanks and congratulations for the initial surface survey, and reporting, which stressed the importance of this area.

MAY 1967

PEBBLE TOOL NEWS

Thomas E. Lee, Universite Laval, Quebec, and Editor of the ANTHROPOLOGICAL JOURNAL OF CANADA, honored us (that is, our pebble tools!) by becoming our FIRST INTERNATIONAL visitor. He sat right down to a "delicious repast" of 26 trays, several hundred pounds, of pebble tools from Matt Lively's site La-8 (a ton or so from this site being studied to set up a "type site"). These trays are TECHNOLOGICALLY as well as typologically classified, as this very "un-American" technology is so important. Another tray, 40 pounds of chips, projectile point chips RED, small, often worked or used, pebble tool chips YELLOW, large, almost never used or worked - these alone tell the story of TWO DISTINCTIVE LITHIC INDUSTRIES - one need not see the tools!

Identical yellow jasper pebbles, identical technology and typology, from A. B. Hooper III's sites some 40 miles to the north, were skimmed over - proof that the Lively sites are no isolated pocket. This was followed by examination of "pebble tools" on other materials from 8 other areas in Alabama and 4 other states. It is impressive to see the same large, crude, COMBINATION TOOL (as a "beak" in combination with a scraper-type edge) from sites hundreds of miles apart - one stands agape that they have never been thoroughly explored! When Prof. Lee saw the same "noses", etc., worked on "choppers" in the "horrible hunks" of naturally fragmented chert discovered by Alice Burns, he remarked how easy they would be to miss. They have tremendously broadened our view - "pebble tools" might be on anything, and the "classic examples" on pebbles do not train the eye for "horrible hunks".

We are most grateful for Prof. Lee's visit. SEEING and HANDLING a few hundred pounds are all our pebble tools need - and without it they are admittedly difficult to believe. Our latchstring hangs on the outside!

And Dr. Sherwood M. Gagliano, Louisiana State University, who became interested in the remarkable discoveries of our Choctawhatchee Chapter when he visited us recently, writes that he visited the area with our Bill Emanuel: "The first site was...covered with flakes, cores, large chopper-like tools...The second site was very similar...The third site is the most remarkable that I have ever seen...It was located...around the margins of a large, irregular depression...Hills around the depression were literally paved with crude chipped tools and chipping debris...it is quite probable that the depression was once a lake...I have started to examine the collection that we made more carefully and am fascinated by the assemblage of tools...All aspects of the problem are fascinating." Besides the technology and typology of the Lively Complex, these sites have other amazing tools, such as hand-axe types ranging all the way from crude, Abbevillian-like types to the beautiful Acheulean-like finished product. As Dr. Don W. Dragoo has observed in his own work (after discovering pebble tools in 1956), there seem to be "different phases of the Early Lithic" - which is most interesting indeed.

And a letter from Dr. E. Mott Davis, University of Texas, concerning the big Lively-Long-Josselyn publication on pebble tools (\$3.00), says: "Your descriptive material convinces me that you are on the trail of something worth pursuing...Perhaps the Lively materials are very early, or perhaps (which would be equally interesting) they represent a technological tradition that exists alongside of others. They certainly intrigue me." We like the astuteness of that "which would be equally interesting" if a coexistent tradition. It would expose a failure of archaeological method which might be more important than an early date - a thought too many have missed. Thanks to Lee, Gagliano, Davis, for the "promotional" assist - we ourselves are impressed that qualified archaeologists always are impressed too!

1967 FUND DRIVE BY POPULAR REQUEST

With so many new donors, it is time again to repeat: "EVERY DOLLAR DIGS" - that is what happens to your money. We have no soliciting costs, office expenses, overhead,

etc. This is a VOLUNTEER movement by VOLUNTEERS. And DCNORS are also VOLUNTEERS - we do not pressure. We do make a great effort to educate and interest people in the need and the potential. If supposedly Homo sapiens is only a fiction, cannot be educated to solve his problems - well, one might wonder, but we think he is worth our concern.

Our hopeful hypothesis is that the human race is worthy of all the effort and inspiration we can muster. And we think it will be helpful to study man as he emerged from a virtual animal life into tribal living, and gradually larger societies. Finally, he mastered his environment and became HIS OWN AND ONLY PROBLEM - and must now understand and master himself. But most of man's past is unwritten - it must be deciphered by archaeologists.

Alabama has an amazing archaeology - but no State funds. We, THE PEOPLE, are trying in a very small way to remedy that. The money we donate enables us to contract with the University of Alabama to conduct summer excavations with scientific and academic know-how and approval. We get a bargain - use of University equipment, and students working for field credits at a most modest rate per day. With our limited means, we hopefully concentrate on the MOST IMPORTANT archaeology we can discover - the baffling world problem of EARLY MAN IN AMERICA. We already have the oldest radiocarbon date for man in the southeast. We have now the most promising lead we ever had. Our unique efforts have received national applause.

We could "write a book", but in brief that is our set-up and objective. If you are in agreement or sympathy, you are cordially invited to become a VOLUNTEER DONOR. Our professional "in charge", David L. DeJarnette, is getting nervous down there at the University to know if we can sign a contract for another dig this summer - it could be a famous dig. (We enjoy a tax-deductible status.)

Jack Coggins, who lost his sight in childhood, recently lost his fine mother. Living alone, housework interferes considerably with his brisk, cheerful door-to-door selling with his "seeing-eye" Leda. His income of \$700 to \$900 a year has fallen off, as a consequence. But Jack insisted on donating. We are proud to have Jack as a friend - and donor.

A. R. Bentley, Athens, Tenn., becomes our EIGHTH new donor and EIGHTH out-of-state donor this year. Dave DeJarnette forwarded the generous check and wrote: "This check is a donation for the 'Summer Dig' from Mr. A. R. Bentley of Athens, Tenn. Mr. Bentley visited with us at Moundville and is very much interested in our archaeological program." Welcome, sir - and thank you!

Mary Jane Lewis, Moundville, the archaeological center of Alabama, joins us as our NINTH new donor! This is beginning to astonish us. Does "a rolling pebble tool snowball"? All this new assistance is most heartening, and most gratefully received.

AN ANONYMCUS DONOR "wishes it were more", and befriends archaeology without wishing any credit. We hope that our work this summer will add reward to our thanks.

Mrs. Stella C. Meyer - our TENTH NEW DONOR! It seems that Bill Spencer, our Research Association Treasurer, happened to meet Mrs. Meyer, discovered she was interested in archaeology, and forthwith sold her a Cambron-Hulse point type book and a membership - and she also donated! She finds the type book "such a welcome addition to my Library" and will "look forward to 'Stones and Bones'" - and this in a perfectly lovely handwriting.

Dan Josselyn continues his monthly donation, and finds that this "hurts less and gives more" - a nice combination any way you look at it.

Getting down to statistical matters, which we do not like to mention, much less contemplate, our 1967 donations are nearing \$300.00. We ONLY need \$3,000 in order to sign a contract with the University for 6 weeks, half a summer. If we make that, the momentum should help arouse interest. So we are at the usual "pins & needles" stage!

WHAT CAN AMATEURS DO?

Mr. & Mrs. Spencer A. Waters, Moulton, Ala., know what amateurs can do, and seem to have a recipe on HOW to do it. For now Rory Waters, age 12, seventh grade, has adopted the family habit of winning FIRST PRIZE, Boys Physical Junior Division, Lawrence County High School. "Junior"? His PROJECT was "FOSSILS, A Guide to Pre-historic"!!!! And Johnny Waters, now an "old man" of 15, whose FIRST PRIZES we have applauded for years, we discover in THE MOULTON ADVERTISER, this year wins the tenth grade FIRST in the Boys Physical Senior Division, Lawrence County High; FIRST in the Northwestern Alabama Regional Science Fair - with also the GRAND AWARD for "Best in Fair", a GOLD MEDAL, and expense-paid trip to compete in the National Science Fair in San Francisco!!!! His PROJECT was "CORRELATION, A Comparison of Geological Sequences"! (Don't look now, but we think our diaper is slipping!) In fact, we are sure of it when we read the long, scientific, involved, man-to-man letters to Johnny from Drs. Alan Horowitz, Geology Department, University of Indiana; Donald B. Macurda Jr., Museum of Paleontology, University of Michigan; and Jim Sprinkle, Museum of Comparative Zoology, Harvard. But to top it all, and to help you understand and appreciate the stir Johnny is creating in top scientific circles, his work represents scientific breakthroughs. To abstract a few lines from half a dozen long letters which we wish we could reprint in full: "I loaned the Fox Trap gastropods to Dr. Roger Batten at the American Museum of Natural History in New York who is a specialist in these. Upper Miss. gastropods are pretty rare and he was absolutely delighted...some new forms...also the first occurrence of one form in the Miss. of the U.S. Its nearest relative is from England...Please give my best to your Dad and tell him his long campaign to get we paleontologists interested in Alabama fossils (Spencer has agitated this for over 10 years) looks like it's beginning to have results" - this from Dr. Macurda. So the letters run, to our astonishment and applause.

We are proud of that Waters family, and of the scientists who have become interested and cooperative. We wonder if the "amateur movement" is not too often "sold short". There are so many things to be done, so few scientists to do them. Let us pinpoint OUR objective, and make OUR contribution, and spend 10 years if necessary to bring it to scientific attention. Above all, let us steer young people in this fine AMATEUR direction - they seem to be a lot smarter than we are!

TOOLS "WORKED ON PEBBLES" ARE NOT "PEBBLE TOOLS"

Not necessarily! We had seen thousands of tools and projectile points retaining pebble rind - that is, worked on pebbles - before we ever saw a "pebble tool" in the traditional and meaningful sense. The term seems to have originated with the geologist, E. J. Wayland, famous for both his work on the African Pleistocene history and archaeology, when he found "pebble tools" in his proposed Kafuan culture, in 1920. The term was used by the great Abbe Henri Breuil, "Father of Prehistory", when he visited Cape Town in 1925; and it has been perpetuated by Van Riet Lowe, who at that time was recommended by Breuil for the directorship of the fine Archaeological Survey of the Union of South Africa. The "man of the archaeological hour", L. S. B. Leakey, has made "pebble tools" familiar around the world with his revolutionary discoveries in Olduvai Gorge, Tanzania (Tanganyika). The term has thus become standardized to mean a lithic INDUSTRY or HORIZON in which crude tools worked on pebbles are DOMINANT. A few stray tools with pebble rind might be found on almost any site, but they are merely "tools worked on pebbles" and not traditional "pebble tools" in other contexts. They do the "cause" no good. One has to find an entire PEBBLE TOOL INDUSTRY with an assemblage of "tools made on pebbles" to prove true "pebble tools" in the standardized sense of this term. And this lithic horizon, like all others, is subject to division into "complexes", as divided by time and/or distance. Dr. Alex D. Krieger, who under a grant surveyed America's "crude tool horizon" extensively on both continents, recognized distinctive aspects of our Alabama pebble tool industry and named it the "Lively Complex". It is ENTIRELY DIFFERENT from all of the thousands of lithic tools "worked on pebbles"

we had seen for 40 or more years - we now have TRADITIONAL PEBBLE TOOLS as Leakey uses the term - and he so used it when he saw our pebble tools and said he could "lose some of them" in his Olduvai collection.

CHAPTER NEWS

East Alabama Chapter meets on the 2nd Friday of each month in Funchess Hall, Room 247, Auburn University. At the April meeting, Dr. "Al" Trowse, a Chapter member, gave a colored-slide-illustrated talk on "Ruins in Yucatan". Two field trips are planned one on April 22 and one on April 23, both in Macon County, Ala.

Huntsville Chapter meets on the 3rd Tuesday of each month at Huntsville Public Library. The program for the March meeting was a workshop to identify and classify material brought in by members and guests. Eighty members and visitors were present. Chapter membership is now 83. Bill Greene has resigned as Secy-Treas. and A. J. Wright will take over that office for the remainder of 1967.

Morgan-Limestone Chapter meets on the 1st Tuesday of each month at Decatur City Hall. Mr. Tom Cornell, Huntsville Chapter, spoke to the April meeting on "Fossils of Madison County", giving an excellent and very understandable presentation with a surprise for 2 young boys at its closing. Highly recommended for all chapters to broaden their understanding of our antiquity. At the May meeting, Mr. Jay Gurley, owner, will speak on "Archaeology of Cathedral Caverns". Mr. Gurley has been very active in archaeological circles, and his findings at Cathedral Caverns will be of interest to all archaeologists, both amateur and professional. A field site survey in the Decatur area will be conducted during May, and interested persons should contact T. F. Moebes, Route 2, River Road, Decatur 35601, or attend May 2nd meeting.

Muscle Shoals Chapter meets on the 4th Monday of each month at Wesleyan Hall, Room W-3, Florence State College. At the February meeting, Jack Cambron, Decatur Chapter, spoke on the different types of burials that he has investigated in caves. Johnny Waters addressed the March meeting on fossils, specifically "Correlation of Pterotocrinus Wing Plates & Pentremites Brevis from the Moulton Quarry with the Glen Dean Limestone" presenting his paper and display that earned him the Grand Prize at the Northwest Alabama Science Fair and a trip to San Francisco. At the April meeting, Tom Cornell, of the Huntsville Chapter, and State President, will talk on the Whitesburg Site.

ANNOUNCEMENTS - STATE NEWS

NEW MEMBERS IN APRIL: (Delighted to have you with us for the big summer season!)

Bill Ashley, Route 6, Gadsden, Ala. 35901 (Family)
William L. Benefield, 4806 Padgett Drive, Huntsville, Ala. 35810 (Family)
Mark Burnett, 4808 - 18th St. E., Route 3, Bradenton, Fla. 33505 (Family)
Bradford Cashion, 3410 - 18th Ave., Sheffield, Ala. 35660
Woody Dinning, Walnut St., Demopolis, Ala. 36732
Harry E. Douglas, Route 12 Box 140, Birmingham, Ala. 35215 (Family, Sustaining)
William E. Ellard, Route 8, Cullman, Ala. 35055
Dee Hatton, Nurse's Res., Druid City Hospital, Tuscaloosa, Ala. 35401
Delbert Hicks, 506 Fort Payne Highway, Scottsboro, Ala. 35768
William J. Leighton, Box G. D., New Castle, Ala. 35119 (Family)
Dr. Michael D. Payer, 2341 Whitesburg Drive S.E., Huntsville, Ala. 35801
Kenneth C. Redmond, 2223 Tanglewood Circle, Huntsville, Ala. 35810 (Family)
Glenn W. Summerlin, 1144 Mailing Ave. S.E., Atlanta, Ga. 30315
Donald M. Wilbanks, P O Box 655, Cullman, Ala. 35055
David Willis, 1204 College Ave. N.W., Russellville, Ala. 35653
Dr. L. Eugene Womack, 210 Sivley Road S.W., Huntsville, Ala. 35801
Donald L. Wright, 512 Henson St., Birmingham, Ala. 35228

(The above bring to EIGHTY the total of new members added this year, BUT - see OVER!)

!!!! PLEASE READ THIS VERY CAREFULLY !!!!!

This year we seem to be faced with a VERY serious SALVAGE problem - not only from a strictly archaeological standpoint - but among our MEMBERSHIP in the State Society. Never before have as many members at this time of the year failed to pay their dues! Your State Officers are a bit worried, and have even postponed the cut-off date a month, but unless you get your check in the mail during early May, you will be dropped, most regretfully.

So, if you're uncertain, check the mailing label on this issue of your Newsletter. A small "x" appearing after your name indicates your dues for 1967 are paid and you will continue receiving State Society publications. If you find no small "x" after your name, we have no record of receiving your 1967 dues, AND NO MORE PUBLICATIONS WILL REACH YOU!

We need your continuing interest and financial support to carry out programs planned, so PLEASE check your status and MAIL YOUR CHECK TODAY!

FAMOUS ARCHAEOLOGICAL MILEPOST: "In 1942 a publication by William S. Webb and David L. DeJarnette provided a tremendous amount of detailed archaeological information gathered from extensive excavations within the Pickwick Basin of the Tennessee River...In this volume the authors offer a comprehensive discussion of previously published anthropological literature relative to the atlatl, and theirs is possibly the first large, widely circulated publication to use the term 'atlatl weight', assigning this term to artifacts of various shapes." (Robert W. Newman in AMERICAN ANTIQUITY, January 1967, p. 37) Prior to that, atlatl weights were meaningless "banner-stones". The Pickwick publication was a report on excavations in 1936-38, thus our Dave has been erecting "archaeological mileposts" for at least 30 years in Alabama. We hope he will establish another this summer - a strange and massive milepost of pebble tools and "amateur cement."

Prof. Howard Sargent - it was he on the telephone way up in New Hampshire - our "forget of the month" in the last issue. How could we - Sargent's MANUAL OF THE TREES OF NORTH AMERICA has always been our authority - any relation? Noel R. Stowe writes that his Prof. Sargent "is head of the Anthro. Dept. here at Nathaniel Hawthorne...has dug all over the U.S. An excellent teacher, motivator and a very nice guy" - a pupil rating of the Prof. which certainly gives him a professorial "A". Noel, or he prefers "Read", is "applying to the University of Alabama for admission to graduate school next fall". (Dave, he doesn't want to "become stereotyped as Homo armchair - identified by tweed jacket, Haavad accent, rimless glasses, land rover and antiquated archaeological dogmas" - And he is most interested in his Uncle Matt Lively's pebble tools. Our advice - grab him!)

PATINATION UTILITY NEGLECTED: "The pen is mightier than the trowel", too, and in inept hands can do more damage - as the many assurances one sees that patination is useless as an indicator of age. The study by Hurst and Kelly found that the variable patination potentials of lithic material "can be evaluated by regular petrographic techniques" - so that in a given soil environment patination depth can measure relative ages of artifacts. This is of particular interest to us in Alabama, where we have a lithic material which seems most adapted to the utilization of this "new tool" for archaeology. Patination depths vary from about .030" on Archaic points in this material, to around .250" on the hand-axe types Horace Holland is sending in, and .500" or more on the crudest tools Alice Burns has discovered - averages which are impressive by their consistency! We hope that further study will clarify this - it would be

a fine contribution to applied patination studies, too.

ADDENDUM: A postscript to Dr. William E. Goslin's excellent summary of Willey's INTRODUCTION TO AMERICAN ARCHAEOLOGY in our last issue. It is perhaps not fair to leave Dr. Willey "holding the bag" with: "The first Americans were big game hunters, killing mastodons and other herd animals of the Pleistocene with primitive lances tipped with flint spears". Left standing alone, that makes it sound as if Dr. Willey thought we KNOW who and when the FIRST Americans were and came - which would insult any competent archaeologist. On p. 37 you will find the saving grace: "I think it likely that the 'pre-projectile point horizon' is a reality and that man first crossed into America as far back as 40,000 to 20,000 B.C....because of the numerous surface collection assemblages or complexes that have been found widely over the Americas that present a typology that seems inconsistent with the American specialized hunters" - even as our Alabama pebble tools.

"I DON'T KNOW" is professional Steve Wimberly's favorite answer when asked about some archaeological matter. It has always impressed us as a fine thing to teach, far better than hedging or a know-it-all attitude. And we thought we had learned our lesson. But when J. Henry McCary Jr. showed us one of the polished, spherical stone balls which Horace Holland is finding, we hastily dismissed the possibility of it being an Indian artifact. Duane C. Anderson, SOUTHWESTERN LORE, March 1967, has a paper and photographs of stone balls "often highly polished and very nearly spherical" and it seems they were "in widespread use". As early as 1901 George A. Dorsey published on such balls THE SHOSHONEAN GAME OF NA-WA-TA-PI TA-NA-WA-TA-PI ("to throw with the hand"), a juggling game. Is this what Horace is finding? (Should you ask us if the Indians ever reached the moon, we shall quote Steve's eloquent precept "I DON'T KNOW")

8 ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH ASSOCIATION OF ALABAMA INC., 1966 Report of the Secretary: Progress, oddly, has to be pushed even in the sciences. And there must be special "pusher" interests - "George" won't do it - he is way behind keeping up with his 2 or 3 jobs. We think of our Research Association as our auxiliary fund-raising arm, but it is more essentially a "pusher of progress". For our objectives are not "archaeology as usual", but archaeological progress - and the further we get ahead of the "routine" stuff, the harder we have to push - we have to divert the entire sluggish current of a massive stream of thought. That is our real problem. Solve that and the \$\$\$\$\$\$ will come in and solve our purely archaeological problems. Your Secretary wrote in excess of 300,000 words of letters in 1966, trying to win friends and influence people for ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROGRESS. Your own PROMOTIONAL PUSH in 1967 will be appreciated!

Your Secretary, Dan Josselyn

ARKANSAS ARCHAEOLOGY WINS! Dr. Bob McGimsey, the University of Arkansas, and the up-and-coming Arkansas Archaeological Society, recently stormed the political sanctum to inform legislators that there is such a thing as archaeology - but soon will not be if something drastic is not done. And they got a "State-supported archaeological research program far superior to any other in the country. WE DO NOT EXAGGERATE! NO OTHER STATE with a program this size coordinates all of its archaeological activity; NO OTHER STATE will be providing the level of financial support that Arkansas will be when the program is completely funded in 1968. This is a UNIQUE archaeological program...the archaeological world will be looking at what we do...this was a team effort...the House and Senate passed all 3 bills UNANIMOUSLY". Congratulations indeed to Dr. Bob, to his right hand Rusty Davis, to the WORKING-TOGETHER Arkansas Society, to the State of Arkansas and to archaeology. We, certainly, are looking at you, with pride - and envy!

8 "A MUST FOR ALL PLEISTOCENE STUDENTS" is the gist of an unprecedented 11 pages of review "rave", by 17 international and interdisciplinary experts in no less than CURRENT ANTHROPOLOGY. The book is ENVIRONMENT AND ARCHAEOLOGY, by imposingly interdisciplinary and multilingual Dr. Karl W. Butzer, University of Chicago (Aldine Publishing Co., 320 W. Adams St., Chicago, Ill. 60606, \$12.50)

EDUCATIONAL PAGE

BIRD POINTS AND THEIR ROLE IN PREHISTORY

The ubiquitous bird point, or medium to small triangular projectile point, is found in practically all parts of the earth where man has lived under primitive conditions. It is not clear where the name "bird point" came from. It would seem probable that due to their very small size, the more imaginative decided that they were used to shoot small birds with. As a young boy, I was told by a small village "sage" that the Indians made arrowheads in different sizes and shapes for various purposes - the larger the point, the bigger the animal hunted and "those little bitty ones (meaning small triangular points) were used for shooting at very small birds", the wise man went on to say. Today, those of us who have kept up with our archaeology and retained our sense of analysis know that this appraisal of the nature and purpose of the "bird point" is quite untrue. Why shoot sparrows when turkeys and ducks would be so much better? Little song birds rarely if ever found their way into the Indian's stew pot if we are to rely on pure archaeological evidence. If Indians did eat our little feathered friends, then why aren't bones of very small birds found in refuse dumps? The bones of all other birds and animals are amply represented. Why is it true also that the "bird point" is found occasionally embedded in human bones? Maybe the hostile warrior from the other side of the mountain was seen as "a bird of another feather".

In Alabama, the small triangles whose nomenclature is known through publication (Cambron and Hulse, 1964) are the Hamilton and the Madison. This naming was the first step in removing the little triangle from the somewhat nebulous category of "Mississippian Triangular" - a misnomer which really meant very little.

The Hamilton with its incurvate sides and base is a bit larger than most of the triangular family and occurs frequently in later Woodland levels throughout much of the state. A smaller variant might very well be Mississippian. One small type, exquisitely made, appears in Late Woodland in association with the folded rim check stamped pottery of the Wakulla-Wright Check Stamped variety. Another very narrow one with "eared" tangs or fish-tail base seems to be associated with the Bear Creek complex, Carbon-14 dated last year by Roy Dickens of the University of Alabama at 920 A.D. Moving westward from Montgomery into Autauga County, another Hamilton form with deeply serrated edges is frequently found - also in association with the Later Woodland check stamped folded rim pottery. We have tentatively named this "Autauga Serrated" until it can be officially typed. There are at least 3 other variants of the Hamilton in the Central Alabama area including a "spike" type, a tapered shoulder type and a very small specimen of almost equilateral configuration but with a Hamilton incurvate base.

The straight-sided Madison point seems to come closer toward being the Mississippian point, if there would be one more typical than any other. It must be made clear, however, that there are stemmed points in the Mississippian artifact milieu, notably in Louisiana and other Mississippi Valley areas.

Generally speaking, the little "bird point" does seem to be the true arrowpoint of later prehistoric times throughout much of eastern North America. It is light, efficient and has the needed penetrating power to carry the arrow shaft deep into the target. Its final function, it would seem, is to delight the eye of its finder in some plowed field. There is something special about these tiny, often beautifully symmetrical, little products of a long ago craftsman and none of us, I daresay, can be casually indifferent about finding one or more of them on a site.

David W. Chase, Montgomery Chapter

THE ALABAMA ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Following are the objectives stated in our Constitution, slightly modified for emphasis: To promote informed interest in the study of Archaeology in Alabama and neighboring States; to encourage careful scientific archaeological research in such ways as surface scouting, mapping, marking, studying and especially reporting; to promote conservation of archaeological sites and to favor the passage of laws prescribing such; to oppose the sale of antiquities, and the manufacture and sale of fraudulent artifacts; to encourage and develop a better understanding of archaeology through providing Newsletters, Journals, Chapter and State meetings, helpful associates and good fellowship; to serve as a bond between individual archaeologists in the State, both non-professional and professional; and perhaps most importantly, to give everyone the opportunity to "do something about archaeology" through the accomplishment and enjoyment of these high aims.

The Society needs and welcomes as members, all persons whose ideals are in accord with the objectives set forth above. Active members receive the JOURNAL OF ALABAMA ARCHAEOLOGY, devoted to articles on the archaeology of Alabama and nearby States, and also receive the STONES & BONES NEWSLETTER, published monthly, containing news of members and their activities, also State, national and worldwide events of archaeological importance.



The coupon below may be used EITHER to APPLY FOR MEMBERSHIP in the Society, or for the PAYMENT OF ANNUAL DUES. Please be sure that your name and address are CLEARLY entered, and that checkmarks appear in applicable blanks!

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