

# Alabama Archaeological Society

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MEMBER OF THE EASTERN STATES ARCHEOLOGICAL FEDERATION

## TOO RESTRICTIVE?

A bill introduced in Congress by Mr. Udall (H. R. 1825) and titled "Archaeological Resources Protection Act of 1979" may be viewed as a blessing by some and with misgivings by others. The act will furnish protection to archaeological resources (50 years old or older) on land "owned or controlled" by the U. S. Government. Protection to the extent of offering a reward up to \$2,500 (upon conviction) for anyone furnishing information about a violator and also providing penalties of a fine and, for flagrant violators, up to \$100,000 fine and five years imprisonment. There is no question but that archaeological resources need better protection from vandalism and looters for profit - especially in the far west, where they are fast being destroyed by both the above and the joy-riding "dune buggers". This act as written deserves a little closer scrutiny, however, in that it is somewhat vague on several points, not restrictive enough on others and too restrictive on yet others.

Some of the vagueness deals with authorizing "approved" individuals and institutions for excavation work. Qualifications for obtaining a permit are not defined. Charging the permit holder with preserving such excavated artifacts "for a satisfactory period of time by a suitable university, museum, or other scientific or educational institution" is very vague, with a loophole designed for all sorts of abuse. Another glaring deficiency of the act is the fact that it does not require any report by these "suitable" universities, museum, etc. It appears that the act provides very little protection to archaeological resources after they are excavated and removed from the ground by authorized permit holders. There are no restrictions as to when and where the material may be moved; no requirement to document and report on the findings of the project; no requirement to retain the material indefinitely for study by future generations, and no requirement to properly preserve fragile material subject to decay; and also no requirement to "account" for or be held accountable for such material, nor even to perform the work in an acceptable scientific manner.

August 1979

The act prohibits excavating, damaging, selling, purchasing, transporting or exchanging archaeological artifacts/resources - and this is a good, needed, feature. It also prohibits "removal" or "possessing" any resource/artifact from U. S. -owned and controlled land. This last appears to be a heavy blow to surface collectors along the main rivers and streams in Alabama such as the Tennessee River (much of the adjoining land is owned or controlled by the TVA) and the Coosa/Tallapoosa Alabama Basin and the Black Warrior Tombigbee Basin all the way to Mobile Bay, as these adjoining lands are owned or controlled by the Corps of Engineers. This restriction most likely applies to our national forests, wildlife refuges and many other yet undefined Government holdings. Although we have not seen any figures, it is reasonable to assume that the U. S. may own or control upwards of 50 per cent of all land in the U. S.

It appears to the editors that this act, while having good intentions, is poorly thought through and poorly written and will effectively stop surface collecting on much of the land in Alabama.

The Editors

#### HIGHLIGHTS OF BOARD MEETING

July 14, 1979

The Board of Directors authorized its Representative to the Eastern States Archeological Federation to invite that organization to hold its 1982 annual meeting in Alabama, with the A. A. S. as hosting society.

Journal Editor Eugene Futato reported that the manuscript for the June 1979 issue of the Journal was complete, and he expected to have it printed and mailed by the end of July.

President Mike Wells appointed a nominating committee for 1980 officers: Margaret Chase, Montgomery; Eugene Futato, Moundville; and Amos Wright, Huntsville - Chairman.

The Board voted to accept the East Alabama Chapter's invitation, issued at the May 20 Board meeting, to hold the Society Winter Meeting in Auburn.

The next Board meeting has been scheduled for Wednesday night, September 12, 1979, in Birmingham.

The Editors

### THANK YOU

The A. A. S. would like to thank the Huntsville Chapter for hosting a most interesting and informative Summer Meeting on July 14. Chapter members contacted the speakers, organized the program, set up displays, provided refreshments and very capably handled the complicated logistics involved in arranging such a meeting.

The Editors

### CHAPTER NEWS

**Birmingham Chapter:** The 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 July meeting was a field trip to Wheeler State Park above Florence. The Chapter visited the exhibit sponsored by the University of Alabama and the Florence Museum.

**East Alabama Chapter:** The East Alabama Chapter meets the second Wednesday of each month in Thach Auditorium, Auburn University, at 7:30 p.m. For information call Dru McGowen at 821-2595.

**Huntsville Chapter:** The Huntsville Chapter meets the third Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. in the Arts Council Conference Room, north end of the Von Braun Civic Center. One topic to be discussed at the August meeting will be Chapter plans for a "dig" at the Constitution Hall site in downtown Huntsville.

**Muscle Shoals Chapter:** The Muscle Shoals Chapter met at the Indian Mound Museum in Florence on July 9. Charles Hubbert presented a program on "Early Man Settlement Patterns", which everyone enjoyed. Barry Watters led the study on the Point of the Month, which was the Adena. Eugene Futato will bring the Chapter a program in August about the Bear Creek Watershed archaeology.

### NEW START

We are starting a new column this month which will be titled "From Around The State" and will be concerned with archaeological news from Alabama and occasionally from surrounding states. This column will be over the by-line of Dave Chase. We are asking our friends throughout the state - amateur and professional - to send us news items of interest to the membership. It may be a short paragraph about something of special interest at a project worksite,

survey, new finds, site damage or discoveries. Just send it in handwritten - nothing formal - we will take it from there. Send to the Newsletter Editor or to Dave Chase; 2822 Mallory Street; Montgomery, Alabama 36107.

The Editors

### FROM AROUND THE STATE

by Dave Chase

#### Stone Wall Builders

Imagine a complex of stone walls about 3 feet high, extending in different directions together with piled-up "cairns" and catchment dams at intervals of about 20 to 30 meters down sloughs or spring branches.

Such a complex was explored last fall in Shelby County. Guided by Miriam Fowler, president of the Shelby County Historical Society, these presumably man-made formations were examined on the side of a mountain. During this visit, the complex was partially mapped by compass and tapeline. The formations occupied about 3 to 5 acres of woodland. No tests were made toward a determination of the creative agency involved. Needless to say, plans are in the works to return for more extensive mapping and recording.

#### Weeden Island Traders?

Since Gordon R. Willey described his Weeden Island sites along the Florida Gulf Coast, surveys and explorations up principal rivers have disclosed that the Weeden Islanders may have dispatched trading parties as far north as the fall line and possibly to points even further north. After Bill Sears dug at Kolomoki in Georgia, the prospect of finding other Weeden Island sites upriver was raised. In the 1950s, two large sites containing Weeden Island components were found on the Fort Benning Military Reservation - one on the Uchee Creek on the Alabama side of the Chattahoochee River and the other back of the old Quartermaster Warehouses on the main post.

More recently, attention was re-directed to the Weeden influence sphere upon the discovery of two Weeden Island sites in Wilcox County, Alabama, indicating movement of these people along the Alabama River. Both of the sites are near Camden, placing them generally in the northern part of the county. During the 1960s, Weeden Island "trade sherds" were found in association with the Calloway Phase (ca. 300 to 600 A. D. in Central Alabama). Last May, a large Weeden Island single-component site was explored southwest of Camden on the Alabama River. The site contained most of the ceramic characteristics of a Weeden I Period settlement. In addition, a large earth mound was examined on the same site.

These "inland" Weeden Island manifestations are in need of further examination, and represent a possible trading activity with associated interaction with other peoples.

### CONTRIBUTIONS

The A. A. S. acknowledges the receipt of two contributions from the Archaeological Research Association of Alabama, one for expanding the Journal and the other to be used for research activities associated with Alabama archaeology. Contributions by Mr. J. A. Douglass of Mobile are also gratefully acknowledged.

The Editors

### VIRGINIA

The Archaeological Society of Virginia is having a sale, discounting by 40 per cent selected back issues of their quarterly Bulletin. The sale will continue through 1979. For a copy of this sale list, write to Dr. Theodore R. Reinhart; Department of Anthropology; College of William and Mary; Williamsburg, Virginia 23186.

The Editors

### FROM COLORADO

In the March 1979 issue of "All Points Bulletin", a publication of the Denver Chapter of the Colorado Archaeological Society, an article appeared titled "A Surface Collection from Fayette County, Alabama", by Fred C. Rathbun. This article, consisting of 15 pages of narrative, tables and photographs, was well written and gave a good analysis of a surface collection belonging to John Morgan of Denver which was collected some 10 miles southeast of Winfield, Alabama. The collection appeared to be predominantly from the Late Woodland and Mississippian periods.

The Editors

### PUBLICATION

EARLY MAN - The Magazine of Modern Archeology - made its debut 30 May. Publisher Stuart Struever hailed the new publication as "a major addition to the special interest consumer magazine field in America."

A quarterly, EARLY MAN is published by Northwestern Archeology, a program of archaeological teaching and research sponsored jointly by Northwestern University and the Foundation for Illinois Archeology. Write to P. O. Box 1499; Evanston, Illinois 60204. The annual subscription price to EARLY MAN, \$15, includes membership in Northwestern Archeology.



### NEW MEMBERS

Alford, Mr. Donals (I)	7623 Fleming Hills Drive, S. W. Huntsville, Alabama 35802
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Southeast Missouri State University (Inst.)	Kent Library - Periodicals Dept. Cape Girardeau, Missouri 63701

### NO WAY TO GO BUT OUT

As late as 599 B. C., a Phoenecian expedition circumnavigated Africa, and it is suspected that a contingent of this foray actually crossed the Atlantic. Growing evidence points to trans-Atlantic trade voyages by these Phoenecians centuries earlier than this, an occupation which continued until the fall of Carthage in 146 B. C.

There is a growing body of documentation which credits the Chinese with trans-Pacific exploration to North and Central America off and on from late in the third millennium B. C. to the 5th century A. D.

There are tales of ecclesiastical fervor, from St. Thomas who was supposed to have sojourned to India around the beginning of our era, to St. Brendan of Clonfort who led a fabled voyage to the New World in the mid-6th century A. D. And there were the Vikings, whose incredible voyages are still largely unknown.

But then, as the medieval Dark Ages cast a shadow over Western civilization, there was a centuries-long hiatus in exploration, until late in the 13th century when Marco Polo made his historic journey to Cathay. Perhaps largely as a result of Marco Polo's book, an introspectively melancholy Europe re-awakened to the excitement of exploration and conquest of unknown, untrammelled lands. And this, in turn, set the stage for the classic voyages of Columbus, which for five centuries since has not appreciably diminished in enthusiasm.

Throughout history mankind has travelled virtually everywhere over this home planet, forsaking lush, pleasant valleys for the personal conquest of hot, arid deserts or hostile, frigid mountaintops. But always he carried a protective environment along to "terraform" the space he occupied.

The ancient intrepid seafarers outfitted their ships with the bare necessities for travel over the trackless oceans, terraforming their mobile environment for a voyage through one that was inhospitable. Columbus and Magellan did the same, as did Drake with his Golden Hind and later Darwin aboard the Beagle.

Such confinement, particularly if self-imposed, is tolerated for extended periods if there is also the promise of reward or gain. But if this gain does not appear to materialize after a time, then the size of the physical restriction must be enlarged commensurate in a sort of inverse proportion to the imagined or real loss.

(From Industrial Research/Development - July 1979)

#### BOOK REVIEW

THE BRENDAN VOYAGE - by Tim Severin. McGraw Hill pub., N. Y., c. 1978 - \$12.95. Maps and photographs.

This is a fascinating and easy-to-read book. It is the story of the British author's attempt to duplicate St. Brendan's voyage from Ireland to North America. This date was around 500 A. D., and St. Brendan and his monks' voyage had been chronicled in the "Navigato", old sagas about the trip. The author did a vast amount of research. There were studies in many museums. Then the types of leathers used in the original boat had to be researched in order to make a safe boat for the modern voyage. The new voyage was carefully plotted and a small crew enlisted. There were many trials and tribulations at the start of the voyage. They visited many islands with kind inhabitants; but then there were the open seas, storms, icebergs, whales and fish, a hole in the boat that had to be mended. Part of the voyage was made to Iceland; months later, the sailors landed in Newfoundland. This voyage showed that St. Brendan could have landed in North America after sailing from Ireland centuries ago.

Margaret Perryman Smith

## PUBLICATIONS 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) .....	\$5.00 pp
Available issues of <i>Journal of Alabama Archaeology</i> Vol. 13-18 .....	\$1.00 pp
Vol. 20-24 (\$2.50 to Members) .....	\$4.00 pp
<i>Stanfield-Worley Bluff Shelter Excavations</i> (Journal of Alabama Archaeology) Vol. VIII Nos. 1 & 2 - Reprint) .....	\$5.00 pp
Special Publication 1 — Fort Mitchell .....	\$2.00 pp
Special Publication 2 — <i>The Archaeological Sequence at Durant Bend, Dallas County, Alabama</i> .....	\$4.50 pp
<i>Handbook of Alabama Archaeology Part I, Point Types</i> .....	\$7.35 pp
<i>Lively, Long, Josselyn - Pebble Tool Paper</i> .....	\$3.00 pp
<i>Investigations in Russell Cave</i> , published by the National Parks Service .....	\$5.00 pp
CHECKS SHOULD BE MADE PAYABLE TO: <b>ALABAMA ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY</b>	
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