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# Alabama Archaeological Society

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November 1989

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<sup>\*</sup> Immediate past president of the Alabama Archaeological Society

#### CHAPTER NEWS

#### Coosa Valley Chapter

The Coosa Valley Archaeology Club held its first meeting after the summer break on September 28 in our new meeting place, Room 214 Martin Hall on the Jacksonville State University campus, with 33 members present.

Dr. Holstein announced that this year there will be more digs that club members can be involved in, one of which will be a dig to locate the town of Coosa, which will take place in November on a grant received from the Alabama De Soto Commission.

Dr. Koerper announced that on November 18 the Kitty Grace Lecture Series will open in the Houston Cole Library. Lectures will be presented on a variety of subjects. Dr. Harry Holstein, Dr. Phillip Koerper and Dr. Howard Johnson will be among the many people presenting lectures.

Dr. Holstein ended the meeting with a slide presentation on the Blue Hole excavation which took place this summer.

The Coosa Valley Chapter meets on the last Thursday of each month at 7 p.m. on the second floor in Martin Hall on the campus of Jacksonville State University.

Brigitte Cole

#### Cullman County Archaeological Society

If you missed the last meeting in September, then you missed a very good one. We viewed a video tape from the State Museum of Natural History at Moundville concerning bluff shelters. Dr. Michael Collins and Dr. Boyce Driskell were feature speakers. Everything you wanted to know about bluff shelters and were afraid to ask about was discussed, and much more. It was a very informative tape.

This month's program - for October - is no different. Mr. Van King will speak to us; if you remember the last program he gave, be ready! Remember, we meet the third Monday night of each month.

Howard King

#### Huntsville Chapter

The Huntsville Chapter meets the fourth Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. in the Auditorium of the Public Library. The public is welcome.

Chapter member George Thurlow presented the program at the October program. George's topic was the Maya. He illustrated his talk with slides taken on his trips to Belize and Copan.

Dorothy Luke

#### Muscle Shoals Chapter

On Monday, October 11, the Muscle Shoals Chapter held its first meeting after our summer "recess". There were 20 members and guests attending. President Mary-Eliza Moore gave a report on the A.A.S. summer meeting. She also told about the forthcoming annual meeting to be held in Tuscaloosa and Moundville on October 28.

Charles Moore gave a paper on Moundville. The report included a general summary of the Mississippian Cultural Period and how the Moundville complex was such a major part of that period. He also told about Moundville's influence in the Tennessee Valley. The paper concluded with several possible ways the Moundville complex could have broken up.

Indian Reunion in Florence - In conjunction with the 1989 Alabama Reunion, the Kennedy-Douglas Center for the Arts sponsored a reunion of the four tribes that had lived or frequently spent time in the Florence area during historic times. About 8,000 people visited this event, that took place on Saturday, October 14, in McFarland Park on the banks of the Tennessee River in Florence. The Creeks and Choctaws both provided excellent dance teams. The Cherokees and Chickasaws both had chiefs or representatives attending. Along with the dances, other activities included Indian cooking, pottery making, basket making, flintknapping, story telling, atlat1 throwing, stick ball playing, along with a fine relic display. The Indian Mound Museum was open free of charge and enjoyed continuous traffic all day.

Charles Moore

#### AHC STAFF CHANGES

The Alabama Historical Commission has announced several staff changes, some involving members of the Alabama Archaeological Society.

McDonald Brooms will be moving to Troy State University, where he will be teaching and developing a major in anthropology and archaeology.

Ned Jenkins, who was property manager at Fort Toulouse-Jackson and established the living history program, will be teaching sociology and anthropology at Southern Union College in Wadley.

Jim Parker, since 1981 State Highway Department Archaeologist, will coordinate the military and archaeological properties for the AHC - Fort Toulouse, Fort Morgan, Fort Mims and Cahaba, and Confederate Memorial Park.

(From "The Preservation Report", Vol. 16, No. 5, Sept./Oct. 1989)

#### VHS TAPE

The Department of Geography and Anthropology at Louisiana State University announces the availability of a two-hour VHS tape entitled "Bringing the Past Alive: Conversations with George Quimby and William

Haag". The tape focuses on the archaeological experiences of Quimby and Haag during the 1930's and 1940's. The taping sessions were part of a conference held in April 1989. Enquiries regarding acquisition of the tape should be directed to Geoscience Publications; Department of Geography and Anthropology; Louisiana State University; P.O. Box 16010; Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70893-6010. The cost of the tape is \$20.

#### STONE TIPS ON ANCIENT HUNTING

In the last decade, anthropologists have engaged in a heated debate over the extent of hunting by human ancestors. Some take the more traditional stance that hunting, at least of small animals, extends back nearly 2 million years. Others contend hunting replaced a lifestyle of scavenging and foraging much later, perhaps 40,000 years ago.

The traditional view gains ammunition from a new report suggesting that Neanderthals and anatomically modern humans living from 50,000 to 100,000 years ago hunted with stone-tipped spears. The practice may have spread throughout Africa and much of Europe and Asia.

(From "Science News", Vol. 136; July 1, 1989)



**Early archaeologists** 

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Available issues of Journal of Alabama Archaeology Vol. 20-29 each issue(\$2.50 to Members) \$5.00 pp
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