

Alabama Archaeological Society

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BIRMINGHAM ANTHROPOLOGICAL SOCIETY
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MONTGOMERY ART & ARCH. SOC.
MORGAN-LIMESTONE CHAPTER
MUSCLE SHOALS CHAPTER
NOCCALULA CHAPTER
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STONES & BONES NEWSLETTER

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MEMBER OF THE EASTERN STATES ARCHAEOLOGICAL FEDERATION

? ANOTHER "EARLY MAN" BREAKTHROUGH ? ! And Exciting !

THE TERRIBLE TRAGEDY of American archaeology was its long domination by the "Hrdlicka orthodoxy" insisting man had been here only 3 or 4 thousand years. From 1838, numerous finds of artifacts, even some priceless human skeletal material, in apparent association with remains of extinct animal species, were neglected - even hooted. Prof. F. W. Putnam in 1885 and Dr. E. H. Sellards in 1916 were practically "excommunicated" for calling attention to such associations. It almost literally required the atom bomb to explode that scientific "fundamentalism". For it was thanks to Dr. Libby's work on the atom bomb that he developed carbon-14 dating, WHICH A DECADE AGO CHANGED THE PICTURE ENTIRELY.

But we seem not to have learned our lesson! A NEW ORTHODOXY SPRANG UP, and a new underestimate. We were told exactly how, some 10 to 12 thousand years ago, so much water was locked in glacial ice that Bering Strait was an isthmus - and then and thus man came to America. Maps were even drawn, providing an "ice-free corridor" across Alaska and Canada to facilitate matters. The men who made Folsom fluted points 10,000 years ago became the "first Americans" and attempts were made to trace them to Asiatic origins - quite unsuccessfully! Children are now learning this neo-orthodoxy in school books!

NOTHING VERY OLD has been found in this "ice-free corridor", though enough people must have entered America to leave considerable evidence. THE DIFFERENCE IN BLOOD TYPES between modern Asiatics and American Indians suggests a longer separation than the "corridor" theory. MAN HAD SPREAD OVER MOST OF THE AMERICAS about the time this theory had him arriving! Yet the early rate of increase must have been very slow, for the estimated ages at death of the many skeletons from Indian Knoll, Kentucky, gave an average length of life of only 15.24 years!

It would seem that man must have "followed his meat" if he crossed a Bering Isthmus (not proven, but most likely). Even today, as Froelich Rainey has reminded us, northwest America and northeast Asia "form one of the most formidable barriers to human communication one can find anywhere in the world". It is difficult to envision a wide variety of animals making the trip at the height of the ice age - when even reindeer retreated as far south as the United States, and the "ice age" mammoth as far as Florida and Mexico.

So this writer, in his ignorance, has been unable to view Dr. G. F. Carter's support of a possible THIRD INTERGLACIAL ENTRY INTO AMERICA with quite the contempt often accorded it - though we might settle for a lesser warm period or interstadial during the fourth or Wisconsin glaciation. Asia and America, for ages past, have been normally joined, like Siamese twins, by a broad isthmus in the Bering area. Paleontologists, studying the ancient spread of animals, do find evidence of a prior break between the continents about the middle Eocene. But animals were crossing again toward the close of the Eocene, some 40 million years ago. There is geological evidence that this was broken again during the ice age - the tremendous weight of ice thousands of feet thick caused subsidence of the areas involved.

This is made necessary by the geological principle of "isostatic balance". The earth is subject to immense centrifugal stresses of high-speed revolution - and even our relatively microscopic automobile wheels must be balanced. And the earth is subject to tremendous atmospheric pressures, at sea level 24 million tons per square mile! We can better appreciate these combined stresses by remembering the geological computation that if the earth had been fashioned as a cube of steel, it would have been forced into a spherical shape of isostatic balance. Thousands of feet of ice on perhaps one-sixth of the continental surface required major compensating subsidence of that area to maintain isostatic balance. And, as the ice melted, the glaciated areas of course had to rise again to maintain isostatic balance - as some areas are still rising.

So might we not give more liberal thought to the possibility that ALASKA WAS DEPRESSED DURING THE ICE AGE, and the BERING STRAIT ACTUALLY WIDER AND DEEPER - rather than a "land bridge"? Conversely, might it have been during a warm interval, when this area was freed from pressure for some time, that it rose sufficiently to reestablish the land bridge - which, remember, had long been the geological habit and balance in that area! During such a warm interval, man might more conveniently (and perhaps more logically) follow his meat-on-the-hoof across.

If this shocks those who have completely swallowed the theory of a land bridge being exposed by glacial withdrawal of water from the oceans, and subsequent lowering of the ocean level, let us point some problems there. Land surfaces have been notoriously unstable, and provide no fixed point from which to measure. Relative to ocean levels, some land surfaces today are hundreds of feet lower than they were in glacial times, and some thousands of feet higher! Which shall we use for a point of departure? The eastern coast of the United States? But we know that when one area is depressed, adjoining areas bulge. With the northern half of America depressed, how much did the southern half rise? Our eastern seaboard is said to be sinking now - or is the sea level rising? (R. W. Fairbridge has done some interesting studies on this.) We often see the "lowered sea level" of the ice age measured by drillings off the Gulf Coast - without mention of the fact that this area has long been, and still is, sinking. Is the sea level, or the land level, measured?

Actually, there were factors during the ice age which tended to compensate for the withdrawal of water and maintain a more constant ocean level. Much of Greenland today, for example, is submerged by pressure - displacing water as if you forced a block of wood down in a container of water. The adjacent sea bottoms rise in isostatic compensation, again displacing water and raising the general level. With much water removed from the oceans, perhaps there was some general rise of the ocean floor - we have to retain that isostatic balance. The tremendous volcanic and seismographic disturbances of the Pleistocene would have to be accurately assessed in this regard. It is easy to see why the computations of sea levels during the ice age vary so fantastically. And "actual measurements", as we have indicated, are "where you take them" and relative rather than actual. A "glacial land bridge" is no more proven than an interglacial.

To arrive at the exciting new evidence, which may help to open up our thinking, Calvin J. Heusser presents us with a study which finds that in the vicinity of Lituya Bay the Alaskan coast WAS DEPRESSED BY AS MUCH AS 1500 TO 1700 FEET at the height of the last or Wisconsin glaciation! (LATE-PLEISTOCENE ENVIRONMENTS OF NORTH PACIFIC NORTH AMERICA: AN ELABORATION OF LATE-GLACIAL AND POST-GLACIAL CLIMATIC, PHYSIOGRAPHIC AND BIOTIC CHANGES, American Geographical Society, Special Publication No. 35, Broadway & 156th St., New York City, \$4.00 paperback, \$6.00 cloth.) This is favorably reviewed by no less than Dr. Alex D. Krieger, American Antiquity, Oct. 1961.

Heusser suggests, therefore, that maybe we should seek signs of ice-age man on old, high beaches - as modern beaches were under water. It looks as if he has something. For Dr. J. L. Giddings has already reported finding crude artifacts, so old they are chemically changed from the original chert, ON A TERRACE 500 FEET ABOVE PRESENT SEA LEVEL. (Natural History, Nov. 1960; American Antiquity, Oct. 1961.) This was at Cape Krusenstern, across the Strait from the Siberian Chukchi Peninsula - so man apparently was not walking across at that time. If these artifacts prove as old as they appear, man in America must be older.

Heusser suggests the possibility of man "having crossed the Bering-Chukchi platform during the opening of the pre-Wisconsin interglacial..." But he is not referring to the Sangamon or third interglacial, but the later warm period known more commonly as the Gottweig Interstadial. This is thought to have begun some 45,000 years ago.

We are not trying here to establish a "theory". And we feel sure that Heusser would agree that his interesting study should stimulate search for more facts - and fewer pre-conceived theories! And it does seem that it might cast some doubts on our fondest pre-conceptions, and open eyes to new possibilities. Dr. Krieger offers the opinion that "Heusser's speculations about human migration into the New World would be agreeable with several archaeological situations in the western United States and Mexico for which radiocarbon dates between 30 and 40,000 years have been obtained in recent years."

There seems to be increasing, if incredible, evidence that man may have been in America BEFORE HOMO SAPIENS IS KNOWN TO HAVE BEEN IN EUROPE SOME 35,000 YEARS AGO!!! Are there MAJOR SURPRISES in store for us? Certainly our American "missing link" grows every day more mysterious, more fascinating, more important to the understanding of man - AND MORE WORTHY OF OUR SEARCH.

We should be more than ever proud that Alabama is the first State to set up a volunteer fund-raising organization to finance the overdue search for our "missing link" by public subscription - in the great and grand American tradition of a free and enlightened and progressive people.

--- D. W. Josselyn

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE SEPT. 12, 1962 BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

Secretary R. L. Schaefer reported receipts for the year at \$1,396.25 and disbursements of \$640.17, leaving a 9-12-62 balance of \$1,189.19, from which the publishing costs of 2 Journal issues must be deducted.

Prof. D. L. De Jarnette reported Issue 1 of the Journal for 1961 had been distributed, and Issue 2 was still in press, also that the report on the Stanfield-Worley Dig was practically complete. Since this will run some 175 pages, the suggestion was made that it be considered as Issues 1 & 2 for 1962 since the publication cost will far exceed that of 2 average Journals, also that the Research Association be asked to assist in the expense of printing. Upon being informed that the Research Association would probably have insufficient funds to help after paying for this year's digs, the suggestion was made that members be asked to make contributions specifically earmarked for 1962 Journal publication expense.

E. M. Harris reported 451 copies of the Newsletter were being mailed, 18 to other Societies, 7 to professionals, 22 on an exchange basis, and 404 to members. After discussion, and notice in the October issue, no further copies were to be sent to former members who had not paid their 1962 Society dues.

Dr. Harry Amling reported on arrangements for the Society's Annual Meeting to be held December 9, 1962, at Auburn University in the Student Union Building. On a carried motion, it was decided that a \$1 adult registration fee would be charged to defray the cost of the meeting, with the excess to be used to help finance the 1962 Journal. Arrangements for speakers are to be made by Prof. DeJarnette, and details regarding hotels are to be supplied by Dr. Amling for publication in the December Newsletter.

Prof. D. L. DeJarnette reported there will be a meeting of the Southeast Archaeological Conference November 1, 2 & 3 at Moundville, to which Board Members were invited. Prof. DeJarnette, following discussion, was instructed to vote favorably on proposed changes at the ESAF meeting in Athens, Ga., on November 10 & 11.

J. W. Cambron distributed sample pages of a point type book he proposes to publish, including some 134 point types on a one per page basis, loose-leaf, with additional pages for terminology, maps, etc. Enthusiastic discussion followed, displaying a Society-wide interest in such a manual, and although no estimate could be supplied as to cost at present, it appears this would be an exceptionally popular publication both inside and outside of Alabama. Further information will be supplied as work progresses.

Prof. D. L. DeJarnette reported on the 1962 digs, stating the material has not yet been analyzed and no official report made, that the sites in the Leighton area were all Archaic, and that they had found Dalton points, Big Sandy Complex but no fluted points. He also reported on possibilities for further work in 1963.

Ed Mahan stated that he had talked with numerous people at Asbury, which has won several awards for community projects, regarding other Rock Shelters in that vicinity, and understood they would participate financially and otherwise in further projects.

S. A. Mosley was appointed Chairman of the Nominating Committee, which is to propose three Directors plus the regular officers for the coming year.

A. W. Beinlich inquired about family voting privileges for which no provision is contained in the constitution. On a carried motion, it was decided that both a husband and wife would hereafter be entitled to vote on a question.

Britt Thompson was given a hearty vote of thanks for the fine job he has done over the past five years on the STONES & BONES TV PROGRAM, and the hope was expressed that some means be found for resuming the telecasts. Dr. E. M. Lindsey stated the program had been most helpful in building interest in archaeology in his section of the State.

Britt Thompson stated his belief that the Society has done an inadequate job of educating Chapters and members on indiscriminate digging of archaeological sites, and that many sites were being destroyed by both non-members and members who were making excavations rather than simply digging test pits. A. W. Beinlich added that although there were strict State laws concerning digging in general, very little attention was being paid to them. Dr. E. M. Lindsey discussed the Wood Island salvage project in which 10 burials were found by the Gadsden Chapter, stating that following newspaper publicity, numbers of people living in that section came to the site and dug indiscriminately. A. B. Hooper stated that at the Asbury Site, it was necessary to obtain police and boy scouts to guard the site day and night. Prof. D. L. DeJarnette stated that in his opinion there should be no digs on any site unless it is a salvage operation where the site would be destroyed by flooding, highway construction or building, and suggested that chapters should make thorough surface surveys and turn this information in to the State so they will know the location of sites. Then, if roads are to be built, or dams constructed, local chapters would be asked to dig those particular sites. Due to the lateness of the hour, no definite plan of action was determined, but the matter is to be discussed further at a later meeting of the Board, or at the Annual Meeting.

U.S. AND WORLD ARCHAEOLOGY NOTES. HAPPENINGS AND ABSTRACTS

TOMORROW'S ARCHAEOLOGY: From the July-August issue of INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH comes a fairly delightful spoof in semi-satire concerning the potential archaeology of today, via another planet's view of ourselves. There are 3 pages of the article entitled "Discovery of Manhattan Man".

First off, the visitors admitted that the native population was a most interesting group. They were categorized as something less than 2 meters in height with surprising dexterity and good wit, even if they couldn't be considered to be equipped with advanced intellect. Some of the modern artifacts were discussed as being indicative of a stifled creativity and an idealistic interpretation of self. The contemporary artifacts were also contrasted with antique sculpture and were noted to indicate an appalling artistic regression in concept, expression and execution. Cloverleaves were believed to be temples where these "X" Planet people observed us in a semi-daily ritual of passing through the temples and the making of sacrifices. These sacrifices were always attended by a blue clad priest who apparently officiated when the selected victims smashed into one another with the tearing asunder of steel and glass and bodies.

Certain technological skill was apparent in these Manhattan people and some of their tools showed remarkable adaptivity for use both as an awl and a lever (they obviously must have discovered beer can openers). A certain amount of animal cunning was exhibited by these Manhattan people in their utilization of natural resources. An example was the variety of stone used in their many tribal edifices and the use of stems of dicotyledonous shrubs. Another most amazing feature of the non-city population was the regimentation of the males to such an extent that often they neither gathered nor hunted food, thus permitting their mates to involve themselves in many tribal activities. The society seemed to be less family oriented than on other planets.

A fantastic number of rotational translators were observed varying from 2 to even 16 wheel machines. These vehicles were used both in the urban and rural areas and seemed to have considerable reliability. In the urban areas there was a great similarity in all parts and there appeared to be bustling, random activities. At mealtimes there was a very considerable amount of social freedom, and there was a fever pitch scramble at this period for what appeared to be sparse food supplies.

There seemed to be fairly dependable cycles. The first period of the cycle was spent at leisurely pace with much social intercourse. The second and third periods were more or less normal and the fourth was sluggish with little work being done and bad humor apparent. By the fifth segment an air of anticipation seemed to prevail through the community and there were celebrations held all over. During the sixth period, a majority of the inhabitants left the village area altogether. This cycle repeats daily. It is a very inspiring thing. Where they went in the last part of this cycle was not clear nor were their reasons for going there in the first place, but the native calendar coincides with these cycles as well as the primary motion of the mother star and the planet's only major satellite. The end points of their sets of days are surprisingly called the day of the moon and the day of the sun.

It is evident that the entire population has reached a semi-civilized state and warrants further study. Commissions should undoubtedly be formed to deal with research in areas such as language, customs, economics and the whole spectrum of tribal affairs. This would undoubtedly take time and money; however, it might result in a greater understanding of the Manhattan Man and his region, and might, therefore, enlighten us.

"THE INTERAMERICAN", Newsletter of the Instituto Interamericano, Dr. Carl B. Compton, Director, Denton, Texas, issue of July-October 1962, provided the following tidbits of information, among many, many others:

"MONGOLIAN SPOT: Dr. D. Brower, writing in The Lancet, May 21, 1962, 'Letters to the Editor'. London, says that he found this pigmentation in a large percentage among newborn children of native soldiers in the Dutch East Indies Army. Although most of the spots were above the natal cleft, they may be found also on any part of the trunk and extremities, even on the scalp. The Danish missionary Saabye was the first to draw attention to this pigmentation and Brower suggests that it be called the "Saabye spot". This "mongolian spot", in spite of Brower and Saabye, is also found in Amerinds, particularly on Maya neonates. We are pushing no theories; we would simply like to retain the term "mongolian spot" until some more definite conclusions about it have been arrived at."

"9000 YEAR OLD WALL: Spanish archaeologists working in Jordan have discovered a stone wall which dates from c. 7000 B.C. This is near Belen according to El Comercio, Lima, Peru, p.1. 15 June 1962. (We go out of our way for news)."

"THE ART OF ANCIENT AMERICA: Civilizations of Central and South America. H. D. Disselhoff and S. Linne. Crown Publishers, Inc., New York. This was first published in Germany in 1960 but this English volume, translated by Ann E. Keep, is obviously much more recent since it contains information not available until late in 1961. This is a popular book which at the same time maintains a scientific attitude. With a few minor errors of fact and a certain amount of over-simplification at times, this is a good, concise overview of the subject. The specialist or even the student of any of these cultures will find little herein of value to him but, after all, it wasn't written for them. No price listed. 274 pp. Glossary, bibliography and index. Copiously and well illustrated."

"FOSSIL DEPOSITS: Skin divers have found important fossil deposits in a river bed near Gainesville, Florida. The fossils range in age from 10,000 to 2 million years in age. A small, prong-horned antelope extracted from the deposit is the first example of its kind found east of Central Texas. It is to be hoped that human remains may also turn up in this biggest fossil deposit found in Florida."

"DOINGS IN MICHIGAN: A mastodon find at Tupperville has a date of c. 6,300 years ago. This puts the mastodon in early Archaic times but no Archaic artifacts have yet been found in association with mastodon. A great many Clovis points have been and are being found in Michigan which may or may not have some significance in regard to the spread of the Clovis culture. The Aboriginal Research Club of Detroit (6584 Balfour, Allen Park, Michigan - editor of the Totem Pole, their newsletter and a good one) is probably the most active body in the state - or at least the most communicative - in archaeological activity, with the exception, naturally, of the University of Michigan and some other schools."

SPAAC SPEAKS ON PREMATURE REPORTING BY LOCAL PRESS: The August 1962 issue of the publication of Allegheny Chapter of the SOCIETY FOR PENNSYLVANIA ARCHAEOLOGY, "SPAAC SPEAKS", contains an editorial by Mr. Edward C. Boss, which is so pertinent it is being quoted, along with abstracts of the two articles to which it refers:

ABSTRACT #1 - "SALVAGE EXCAVATION" by Ed Boss, is a report on the excavation of the Bridgeville Stone (Hopewell) Mound by members of Survey Group #1. Two primary burials were recovered, one extended and one disarticulated (dismembered), from a pit in solid limestone - 26" x 7'6" x 11' and covered by sandstone slabs carried in from elsewhere. Artifacts were few in number, but included shell tempered sherds above the slab roof.

ABSTRACT #2 - "BURIAL MOUND?" by Ed Boss, reports a site desecrated by persons unknown, just prior to an investigation by Carnegie Museum. Two flexed (?) burials had been uncovered by a drilling crew. A "front page" story complete with photos appeared in the local press and may have been instrumental in the desecration! Only the skull-cap of one burial and leg bones of the other remained; no artifacts were found in association with the burials.

EDITORIAL: "Two apparently unrelated reports appear in this issue. But, they do have one thing in common - they both represent the results of timing, when informing "John Q. Public" of archaeological discoveries! In one, "Burial Mound?" we have an example of premature reporting by the local press; in the other, "Salvage Excavation", an example of good timing!

Let me say at the outset that I am not advocating suppression of "newsworthy" items, freedom of the press or freedom of speech, etc! Far from it - the public is entitled to know what has been found! More than this, they are also entitled to the full story and bearing upon history of archaeological discoveries.

In the one example, who knows what relative position these burials may have in the archaeology of the area? I doubt that the person(s) who removed parts of the burials could correctly interpret their full meaning! You and I can only guess at their significance; the public may never know! Did "John Q." really benefit by this press story? I think not!!!!

In the other example, however, the public not only learned of the discovery, but, because knowledge of the discovery was not immediately "given" to the press, Carnegie Museum through excavation was able to preserve much of the importance and significance of the site for "John Q." and science! Following excavation of the Bridgeville Mound, a Pittsburg paper carried an article giving the public all the news!

What then, can we as archaeologists do to "combat" premature reporting? Very little, I'm afraid, insofar as persons outside our "sphere of influence" are concerned - we cannot actively censure the layman for "giving" a "hot" news-story to the press. But we can impress upon the owner, on whose property a discovery has been made, the importance of keeping the discovery "under his hat" until a proper evaluation of it has been made by competent personnel, and then waste no time in informing the Museum of our actions! The news-reporter must be fast - we must be faster!"

We'll go along with all Mr. Boss says, and even go a little farther! True, we can probably do little outside our "sphere of influence", but we can extend the boundaries of that sphere. We can make the effort to become acquainted with our local news reporters - those of radio and TV as well as the press. And if we so discipline ourselves as to be worthy of it, we can win their confidence to a point where they will seek our advice on matters of "good timing" and "good reporting". As a first-hand example, we point with pride to Jim & Frances Spotswood of the BIRMINGHAM NEWS, who to our knowledge have released no news of archaeological interest without first making an effort to contact some informed and responsible person. We must realize, however, that the Spotswoods of the reporting world cannot do the job alone. If we are called upon for information or advice which we are not competent to give, then we must have the grace to say so, and we must assist the news reporter in every way possible to reach someone who is - and we must be quick about it.

CHAPTER NEWS

The Birmingham Chapter meets on the 1st Friday of each month at the Birmingham Public Library. At the October meeting, Prof. Dave DeJarnette gave a thorough & delightful preliminary report on last summer's digs, including several hundred feet of color film "not edited but spliced" showing the digs & diggers. Also, Oscar Brock, Dave's right hand man at the digs, discussed briefly some of the material excavated. Also present as a guest was last year's President of the Florida Anthropological Society, William "Bill" Lazarus,

who told us how with a few hundred dollars and a lot of drive and enthusiasm, Fort Walton Beach has a young jewel of a museum. At the November meeting, our Vice President, Joe Watkins and member Ron Eason, who have just returned from nearly 2 weeks at Chichen Itza, will tell us some of their adventures & show us some unusual slides.

The East Alabama Chapter meets on the 1st Friday of each month at Funchess Hall, Room 110, Auburn University. No report received.

The Madison-Huntsville Chapter meets on the 3rd Tuesday of each month at St. Thomas Church in Huntsville. At the September meeting, slides of the Society's summer digs, from pictures made by Chapter Members, were shown and discussed, and Jack Cambron also gave a talk on the same subject. For the October meeting, members were asked to bring all their greenstone celts, describe where they were found, and have them photographed.

The Marshall County Chapter meets on the 2nd Tuesday of each month alternately at the County Health Center, Guntersville, and the Utilities Bldg., Albertville. At the September meeting, lithic materials from the Asbury dig were further studied, and some 90 color slides were shown of the entire dig. The Chapter is continuing to map bluff and rock shelters in the vicinity, having located 16 to date, and will discuss these at the Chapter meeting in October.

The Mauvilla Chapter meets on the 3rd Monday of each month at the Mobile Public Library. At the last meeting, a panel discussion conducted by Thompson McRay Jr., Van H. Mizzell and Mike Blake, was held on DeSoto's travels in Alabama as related to the Mauvilla battle site. At the next meeting, there will be a presentation by the Chapter President, Van H. Mizzell, on field discovery techniques as related to finding sites of Indian habitation.

The Montgomery Chapter meets on the 3rd Monday of each month at the Cloverdale Community Center. At the next meeting, the Chapter will enjoy a talk by John Cottier, of the Auburn Chapter, who is a student of archaeology and anthropology and devoted the past two summers to field work at the Society's digs, and was in charge of a Coosa River salvage operation this past summer.

The Morgan-Limestone Chapter meets on the 1st Monday of each month at the City Hall in Decatur. No report received.

The Muscle Shoals Chapter meets on the 4th Monday of each month at Wesleyan Hall, Room 8, Florence State College. No report received.

The Nockalula Chapter meets on the 1st Thursday of each month at the Etowah County Court House, Gadsden. At the last meeting, A. B. Hooper of the Marshall County Chapter, showed slides, displayed artifacts and discussed the Asbury Rock Shelter. The Chapter took in 2 new members, and 10 members pledged to purchase copies of Jack Cambron's book on point identification! (Any others interested, in Gadsden or elsewhere? Ed.)

The Tuscaloosa Chapter meets on the 2nd Tuesday of each month in Comer Hall at the University of Alabama. No report received.

ANNOUNCEMENTS - STATE NEWS

NEW MEMBERS FOR OCTOBER: A hearty welcome!

William Patrick Armstrong, Route 3 Box 470, Gardendale, Ala.
Dr. Claude C. Erwin, New Albertville Highway, Boaz, Ala.
Caldwell Gilder Jr., Mt. Meigs, Ala.
Bart Henson, 3112 Acklen Dr., S.W., Huntsville, Ala.
Bobby King, 427 Men's New Hall, Florence State College, Florence, Ala.
Kathryn B. Linn, 3219 Bradley Ave., Huntsville, Ala.
Orville H. Peets, RD #1, Millsboro, Delaware.

CHANGES OF ADDRESS:

A. B. Harrison, 1634 Decatur Ave., Florence, Ala.
Fred D. Taylor, 316 - 45th St., Gulfport, Miss.

BAD ADDRESS: Please let us know if any of you do!

Miss Jeanette Bean, 810 - 12th Ave., Fairfield, Ala.

EASTERN STATES ARCHEOLOGICAL FEDERATION MEETING: Along with this issue of the Newsletter, most members (there weren't quite enough copies received) will ^{receive} an official announcement from the Federation concerning the Annual Meeting for 1962 being held this year at the University of Georgia, Athens, Ga., on November 10th and 11th. Other interesting information about the meeting and points of interest in the Athens vicinity are set forth. The announcement also includes a reservation form for use by those who are planning to attend, and we sincerely hope a number of Alabama Society members will find it possible to make this meeting, the first to be held in our section of the country in recent years.

ALABAMA ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY ANNUAL MEETING: As our Annual Meeting draws nearer, we are looking forward to an unusually large representation from each Chapter. The meeting will be at Auburn University on December 9, 1962. Further details including an outline of the program, will appear in the December Newsletter. We have just learned that a highlight of the meeting will be the presentation of the Annual Award of the American Association of State and Local History to the Alabama Archaeological Society by Dr. Charles Grayson Summersell, Alabama Chairman of the Awards Committee, and Head of the History Department at the University of Alabama. The award is in recognition of the Society's program of volunteer excavation, under professional direction, of a North Alabama Site; for its nationally recognized ETV program "Stones & Bones" featuring Brittain Thompson; and for its Newsletter which helps keep Alabama members up to date on State and World archaeological happenings. Your Society is being signally honored by this award, and you should arrange to be present and join in the thrill of the occasion.

HAROLD K. KLEINE, who has been suffering from another long siege of illness of a nature different from his troubles earlier this year, is now on the mend, and although still confined to his home, wants his many friends to know he hopes to be able to resume his normal activities shortly.

"ALABAMA MOUNDS TO MISSILES" (Strode, \$4.95). This excellent new history of our State was introduced on Tuesday, October 23rd, at The Book-keepers, 2408 Canterbury Road, Birmingham, by the authors and illustrator, Virginia Pounds Brown (Mrs. Bestor) and Helen Morgan Akens, Don Davis. You will recall Mrs. Brown as a generous donor to our digs this year. The book is receiving good reviews and is considered a fine account of historical events during the long period of our State development it covers. We might add that Dan Josse-lyn's model of a typical habitation site (which was on display at Moundville at our summer meeting) was a part of the window dressing at The Book-keepers last week.

RUST GIFT TO BIRMINGHAM-SOUTHERN: The many "rockhounds" among our Society membership will be glad to learn that the Geology Department of Birmingham Southern College is the recipient from Mrs. Harry Rust of Birmingham, of a collection of lapidary equipment and mineral specimens worth some \$5,000.00, for use in instruction and display. Included in this most generous gift are a 14" diamond saw, 4 special "poly-arbors" with numerous wheels permitting many kinds of work to be done, a sphere cutting machine made by the late Mr. Rust, and an extensive collection of minerals including many valuable and interesting items.

LETTER: New member of the Society William P. Armstrong, in his letter transmitting his application and dues, asks if it is possible for him to be furnished a membership certificate suitable for framing. Your Editor doesn't know of any previous similar requests, and certainly there is nothing other than a membership card at present available. Is there a desire among the membership of the Society statewide for a framable certificate?

??? "QUESTION BOX" ???: All of us occasionally have archaeological problems, or a desire to know where certain archaeological information can be found. Since the Society membership embraces numbers of persons well equipped to supply the answers, and your Newsletter would be an ideal medium for disseminating questions and answers, WE would like to know how you feel about having a "Question Box" included as a regular feature hereafter. And what would YOU like to know about, archaeologically?

H A P P Y T H A N K S G I V I N G !

A GLOSSARY OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL TERMS

NATIVE COPPER - Copper occurring on the surface in the form of nuggets.

NEGATIVE PAINTING - A kind of pottery decoration in which the undecorated area forming the background is the design. This was done by covering the desired design with wax and painting the rest of the area. When the vessel was fired, the wax disappeared.

NEOLITHIC - A term applied to the New Stone Age in the Old World, characterized by the use of polished stone implements and pottery, and the domestication of plants and animals.

OBSIDIAN - A volcanic glass; may be black, brown or green in color.

OCCIPITAL DEFORMATION - Head deformation in which the back of the head is flattened and widened.

PALEO-INDIAN - Name assigned to nomadic groups who were the first inhabitants of the New World. Their culture was comparable to that of the late Paleolithic of the Old World.

PALEOLITHIC - A term applied to the Old Stone Age of the Old World. During this period man had no knowledge of plant and animal domestication, and no knowledge of pottery and metals.

PASTE - The clay and tempering material mixture with which pottery is made.

PATINA - An adhesive crust or discoloration produced by weathering on an object. It does not necessarily imply great age.

PECKING - A technique of forming a stone artifact by continuous striking the surface with a hard, pointed stone.

PENDANT - An ornament perforated or grooved at one end for suspension so as to hang lengthwise from the neck.

PERCUSSION FLAKING - Removal of flakes from stone by striking blows with a stone or bone hammer.

PICK - A roughly made stone tool having a point rather than a cutting edge.

PLANOCONVEX - Term used to describe an object that is flat on one face and convex on the other.

POLYCHROME POTTERY - Pottery with surface designs in two or more colors in addition to the background color.

POSTMOLD - The cast or impression left in the ground by the decayed basal end of a post.

POTSHERD - A broken piece of pottery.

PRESSURE FLAKING - Shaping a stone such as an arrowpoint by removing flakes from the edges by pressure with a pointed implement of bone or antler.

PROBLEMATIC FORMS - Applies to various forms of artifacts for which the use is unknown.

PROFILE - A soil profile refers to the vertical wall of an excavation in a village site deposit or earthwork.

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