

Alabama Archaeological Society

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Associate Editors

Bart Henson
Dorothy Luke

STONES & BONES NEWSLETTER

Editor

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

MEMBER OF THE EASTERN STATES ARCHEOLOGICAL FEDERATION

NEW POLICY - 1978

We continue to experience difficulty and additional expense in providing members with back copies of the Newsletters at no charge. Claims for such services are primarily from institutional members which may request copy(s) one, or in a few cases, two years old. We certainly want these institutions to have complete sets of our publications, and we will continue this service; however, effective January 1, 1978, requests for back copies more than three months old will require a charge of \$1 for each copy. If a member does not receive a current copy and will let us know promptly, we will furnish a replacement at no cost within the three-month period.

A VISIT TO THE UPPER TALLAPOOSA

In late August your Editor visited the University of Alabama field crew, headed up by Charles Hubbert, that is performing an intensive survey and some excavation of sites in the Harris Reservoir on the Tallapoosa just above the forks near Wedowee. The rivers (the Tallapoosa and Little Tallapoosa) will be inundated by an Alabama Power Company reservoir, with the dam to be closed sometime in 1980. I spent two days looking at fish weirs, sites, and being treated to a canoe ride down the Tallapoosa for several miles. The few hours spent floating down that beautiful river was one of serenity and observing nature at its best. The river was at an "all-time low" and the "rapids" could hardly be called that, but still there were some exciting moments and plenty of opportunity to record those momentous scenes on film - especially with the expert help of the helmsman at the other end of the canoe - Charles Hubbert. The surrounding countryside along many miles of both rivers is sparsely settled with little or no farming and to me would seem an excellent candidate for the Scenic Rivers program. It seems that there is no end to the appetite of the dam builders - between TVA and Alabama Power Company, North Alabama may be one network of lakes with no free-flowing streams. It's hard to believe that the Tallapoosa, so far upstream, could generate enough kilowatts to justify inundating such a beautiful stretch of free-flowing river where the trees overhang so thick you can't see the banks; with mile after mile of rapids; stretches of mirror-like surface; hornets' nests glued to the tree limb that hangs farthest over the

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water and evenly spaced along the river where it seems that each hive had staked out its territory; the quietness that is almost deafening except the soft rippling of water over and around the rocks; and the occasional singing of birds hidden among the trees - it's almost overwhelming to think that all this will be lost to future generations in the name of present-day philosophy of steel and concrete.

The archaeological crew has identified and mapped some 60 fish weirs in the rivers that are aboriginal in origin, although some have been used until recent times. Alongside the banks on each side of some weirs were found camp sites providing at least circumstantial evidence that the fish collected in the weirs may have been cleaned and smoked at these sites. Approximately 125 sites have been located in the reservoir, but little time has been available for excavation - hopefully, Alabama Power Company will continue to fund for archaeological work there until the dam is closed. There has been little, if any, study of fish weirs in the southeast, especially Alabama; and this is a rare and perhaps last opportunity for study of these aboriginal features in Alabama.

1977 DIG FUND

Again this year it is our pleasure to list all the State Society members and friends who have made contributions to the Archaeological Research Association of Alabama, Inc., to cover our expenditures for archaeological investigations during the life of the funds. The numbers listed on the extreme right of the list indicate the number of years over which the donor has participated, and the list includes donations not previously acknowledged and which we greatly appreciate.

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We shall, of course, continue to accept Dig Funds forwarded by using the information on the inside back cover of this Newsletter issue, and please be assured they will be appreciated just as much as if they were included above. You have been most thoughtful in assisting in our efforts, and the final total for 1977 will be reported in a later issue.

Milt Harris
Birmingham

CHAPTER NEWS

Birmingham Chapter: The Chapter meets the first Wednesday of each month at the Red Mountain Museum, 1425 22nd Street South. Call Tom Hutto for further information at 956-1895.

Cullman Chapter: The October program, "Stone Circles of Great Britain", was given by Dorothy Luke of Huntsville. Dorothy has traveled worldwide and has visited archaeological sites in many countries.

Huntsville Chapter: Bart Henson presented the October program, a film on eating habits of Australian aborigenes. The next meeting of the Chapter will be on Tuesday, November 15, at 7:30 at the Senior Center on Church Street. Mr. Houston Wright will be the speaker. Elections for 1978 officers will also be held at this meeting.

Montgomery Chapter: The Montgomery Chapter of the Alabama Archaeological Society held a reorganization meeting in which officers were elected and general guidelines such as dues, programs, and meeting times were discussed. It was established that the Chapter will meet the first Tuesday of each month. Officers elected for the coming year are Mack Brooms, President; David Chase, Vice President; Bonnie Britton, Secretary-Treasurer; Craig Sheldon and Jim Parker, Program Committee; Margaret Chase, Field Activities Coordinator; and Kathy Donelson, Publicity Chairman. A film, "Anglo Saxon England", was also seen as part of the program. The next meeting's program will be the discussion of the need for educational archaeological workshops, and the meeting date is Tuesday, November 1, 1977, at 7:00 p.m. in the auditorium of the Tumbling Waters Museum, 131 South Perry.

Muscle Shoals Chapter: The Chapter met on October 12 at the Indian Mound Museum in Florence. Mrs. Georgia Dunn of Lacey's Spring gave a slide presentation on "Indian History and Artifacts of the Tennessee Valley". The next Chapter meeting will be November 14 at 7:00 p.m.; the speaker will be Mr. Eugene Futato.

Tuscaloosa Chapter: The newly elected Chapter officers are: President, Janice Gilliland; Vice President, Carey Oakley; Secretary-Treasurer, Betsy Stewart; Publicity, Dr. and Mrs. E. K. Austin; Editor of the Newsletter, Dale Stewart. The November meeting will be November 10 at 7:00 p.m. in the Department of Anthropology, TenHoor Hall, University.

RECENT ARCHAEOLOGICAL WORK AT FT. TOULOUSE

Work has mainly been concentrated on the completion of Phase III - the interior bastion and curtain walls of the 1751 fort. To date, archaeological excavations have been completed along the southwest, northwest and northeast bastions, and the east, west, north and south curtain walls. During these excavations, it was discovered that the fort entrances were located at the center of the north and south curtain walls and were nine feet wide.

Actual reconstruction has been completed in the southwest, northwest and northeast bastions, the west curtain wall and the north curtain wall (with nine-foot gate opening). Reconstruction of the east curtain wall and half of the south curtain wall (up to the point of the south gate) will be reconstructed very soon. The south curtain wall will only be half completed in order that we will have ample space for heavy machinery to enter the interior of the fort for the reconstruction of the interior buildings at a later date. This bit of foresight was attained when it was learned that a similar fort in another state had a wall knocked down by a truck attempting to deliver supplies to the interior of the fort.

The most recent excavations have been conducted in the southeast bastion area of the fort. Here, the major work has been unraveling the data in order to determine what is American (1814) and what is French (1751). Although this task was very difficult at the beginning, the archaeological evidence is now becoming clear. What was at one time thought to be the entire American fort (a rebuild of the 1751 French S. E. bastion) now appears to be only a fraction of the Jackson post. Not only does the archaeological investigation suggest this, but very recent archival research indicates that Jackson's fort could accommodate as many as 200 to 500 troops.

Another interesting recent archaeological discovery has been the remains of what appears to be the 1751 French powder magazine at the mouth of the southeast bastion. Further work here will be completed during the interior building phase.

While work has been conducted in the very complex southeast bastion, part of the archaeological crew has begun preliminary testing for the next phase - Phase IV - excavation and reconstruction of the 1751 French Dry Moat. Work here has indicated that the 1751 Dry Moat cut through the earlier 1717 French dry moat and curtain wall. In addition, Indian pits have been located along the moat line which indicates that the local inhabitants moved onto the site after the French abandoned the fort in 1763. Other evidence discovered along the testing of the east moat of the 1751 fort suggests that the Americans (1814) also erected a structure of some type in this area.

In other projects conducted at the fort, AUM students uncovered portions of foundation trenches of one interior building this summer in an archaeological field school conducted by Mack Brooms and David Chase. In addition, some of these students and volunteers under the supervision of Mack Brooms have been conducting salvage excavations outside of the fort proper on weekends. These excavations have been permitted by the Corps of Engineers, who have agreed to hold off on construction until the two pits have been excavated. These pits are very large - about 15 feet in diameter - and contain a wealth of artifact data including pistols, muskets, knives, aboriginal and European pipes (one such pipe is still filled with tobacco), rings (one contains the remains of what we think is an opal), silver earrings, numerous glass trade beads ranging from minute seed beads to large, elaborate beads, brass straight pins, buttons, literally bucket-loads of ceramics - both French and aboriginal (Oakmulgee Fields variety) including the only whole French faience plate known to have been found in Alabama to date. An attempt to reconstruct the aboriginal pottery has been fairly successful in that several bowls and plates are about 80 to 95 per cent mended. In addition, the fauna remains have been numerous and outstandingly well preserved. These include fragments from horse, oxen, swine, turkeys, chickens, sheep, goats and fish.

Phase IV (dry moat - 1751) will begin in full force this fall. Field school will continue in the interior buildings, and a master plan is in the process of being prepared for the National Park Service. This master plan will outline the areas and goals of research at the fort for the numerous years of archaeological investigations ahead.

Warner Floyd
Montgomery

REPORT OF THE NOMINATION COMMITTEE

The Nomination Committee of the Alabama Archaeological Society offers the following nominees for AAS Officers for 1978:

President: Drusilla McGowan, Auburn
First Vice President: Michael Wells, Birmingham
Second Vice President: Dorothy Luke, Huntsville
Secretary-Treasurer: Bettye Henson, Huntsville
Assistant Treasurer: Rodger L. Schaefer, Decatur
Editor of the Journal: David L. DeJarnette, Orange Beach
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Charles E. Moore, Florence
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Albert Trouse, Auburn
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ALABAMA ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY ANNUAL MEETING

Proposed Program

Auburn Student Union, Auburn University; December 10 and 11, 1977

ARCHAEOLOGY, BEGINNING TO END

Saturday, December 10

9:00 a.m. Begin Registration

9:30-10:30 Board Meeting

10:45-11:30 Archaeology and the Planning Process - Warner Floyd

11:30-12:15 Cultural Resources Inventory - Carey Oakley

12:15-1:15 Lunch (on your own)

1:15-2:15 Business Meeting

2:15-3:15 Mini-Papers - Archaeology in Action

3:15-3:30 Coffee Break

3:30-4:45 Mini-Papers - Archaeology in Action

4:45-5:30 General Wrapup and Announcements

6:30- Banquet with Main Speaker and Presentation of Awards

Sunday, December 11

For those staying over - field trip to Fort Toulouse Sunday a.m.

COST:

Registration and Banquet:

Single - \$8 (Registration, \$2; Banquet, \$6)

Couple - \$15 (Registration, \$3; Banquet, \$12)

Registration Alone:

Single - \$2

Couple - \$4

MOTELS NEAR AUBURN CAMPUS:

Heart of Auburn - Tel. 887-3462

Jovan Motel (Auburn Conference Center) - Tel. 821-7000 (formerly
All American Inn)

Pre-Registration:

Dru McGowan
Room 300
Mary Martin Hall
Auburn University
Auburn, Alabama 36830

Make Checks Payable to:
Alabama Archaeological Society
Auburn Chapter

Further information will be forthcoming.

**AMERINDS AND THEIR PALEOENVIRONMENTS
IN NORTHEASTERN NORTH AMERICA**

On February 4-6, 1976, the New York Academy of Sciences held a conference on Amerinds and Their Paleoenvironments in Northeastern North America. The proceedings of that conference are now available.

Northeastern North America endured a complex sequence of changing environments during the past 15,000 radiocarbon years. These events included the wasting of the Laurentide continental glacier, proglacial lakes in many valleys and lowlands, and the general submergence of the continental shelf. By about 12,000 years ago, man had appeared upon the landscape. The northeastern United States and adjacent Canada have yielded Paleoindian sites and artifacts dating prior to 8,500 B.C.E. and Middle Archaic sites dating subsequent to 5,000 B.C.E. However, there is relatively little evidence for Early Archaic occupation of the area. Since the procurement patterns of these early social groups were closely tied to the subsistence potentials of their particular environments, it is the purpose of Amerinds and Their Paleoenvironments in Northeastern North America to examine both the evidence for the changing cultural adaptations and the milieus in which they took place. The particular focus of the authors is on the initial human appearance in the Northeast, the prevailing environments of those times, and on hypotheses that might explain the apparent paucity of Amerind occupation sites during the interval 10,000 through 7,000 radiocarbon years ago.

The 44 papers are authored by biologists, climatologists, botanists, marine geologists, palynologists, paleontologists, Pleistocene geologists and archaeologists and the editors have divided these works into the following sections:

Archaeological and Environmental Perspectives
Late Quaternary Environments
Earliest Human Occupations
The Care and Feeding of Radiocarbon Dates
Late-Glacial and Early Postglacial Environments
The Archaic
Unsolved Problems

A major conclusion of the conference is that a tremendous amount of information is still needed to properly understand the

origin and distribution of native Americans and that there are still communication difficulties among the various disciplines involved.

To order, send \$35.00 (plus \$1.00 mailing and handling) to:

The New York Academy of Sciences

Post Office Box 5075

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New York, New York 10022

BOOK REVIEWS

MEGALITHS, MYTHS AND MEN; An Introduction to Astro-Archaeology by Peter Lancaster Brown, Taplinger, New York, c. 1976, \$13.95.

This British astronomer goes into great detail concerning megalithic stones, rings and earthworks in Britain and France. Many of these are reported to be astronomical observatories.

The author gives special attention to Stonehenge. Theories and speculations made by early scientists and modern-day ones are studied. The author draws his evidence from a large number of sources. This book would be of more interest to someone who had an interest in astronomy. The book has numerous charts, photos and drawings.

DEEP WATERS, ANCIENT SHIPS: The Treasure Vault of the Mediterranean, by Willard Bascom. Doubleday, New York, c. 1976, \$8.95.

This is an interesting book giving much information about ancient ships and their treasures in the Mediterranean areas and the reasons why ancient ships sank in deep water with their treasure intact. Ancient warships are described, also trading ships and how they were built and their routes.

New equipment and new methods are used to salvage the ships and their treasures today. One chapter gives the methods of disposition of the finds. Many treasures are also listed.

Margaret Perryman Smith
Atlanta

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 and support professionally directed excavations and discourage unsupervised "digging"; to promote the 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 Society is a non-profit corporation and all contributions are deductible when making your income tax return.

THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH ASSOCIATION OF ALABAMA, INC.

This Association, an affiliate of our State Society, is a non-profit corporation, whose aim and purpose is to finance archaeological advancement in Alabama, the FIRST State to provide such financial support through popular subscription. All contributions to this association are deductible in making your income tax return (if, of course, you itemize your deductions). Your check should be made payable to the association as shown above.

MAIL TO:

Mr. Wm. M. Spencer, Suite 1510, First National - Southern Natural Bldg., 1900 - 5th Ave., No., Birmingham, AL. 35203

Journals and Special Publications

Available back issues of the Society's Journal *THE JOURNAL OF ALABAMA ARCHAEOLOGY*, and all Special Publications are available from the Journal Editor. Please see back of this page for listing.

Stones and Bones Newsletter

Comments, news items, reviews and other material for inclusion in the Newsletter should be addressed to:

Stones and Bones Editor / Amos J. Wright

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Available issues *Journal of Alabama Archaeology* prior to June 1974 (each) 1.00 pp
Special Publication 1 — *Fort Mitchell* 2.00 pp
Special Publication 2 — *The Archaeological Sequence at Durant Bend, Dallas County, Alabama* 4.50 pp

ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH ASSOCIATION OF ALABAMA, INC.

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Alabama Archaeological Society

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