

Newsletter

STONES AND BONES

March, 1960

Birmingham Anthropological Society

Morgan-Limestone Chapter

THE ALABAMA ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Madison-Huntsville Chapter

Muscle Shoals Chapter

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 Editor: Dan Josselyn, 408 Broadway, Edgewood, Birmingham 9, Ala.  
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## NEWS AND NOTES

NEW MEMBERS are good news. They assist us in affording better publications, and we hope to assist them in the greater enjoyment of a wonderful hobby, and in learning how they can better assist in the preservation, recording and study of archaeology.

ULLIS F. GOODWIN, Sumiton, Ala.  
 MISS BARBARA KELLY, Allen Street, Andalusia, Ala.  
 MRS. N. B. NEIGHBORS, 233 East 4th St., Oxford, Ala.  
 WILLIAM B. PONDER, Rt. 1, Box 17, Dadeville, Ala.  
 H. G. FRENCH, Route 1, Trinity, Ala.

DUES ARE DUE for 1960, we again remind members. It might be wise to bill members separately, including return-addressed envelopes with your newsletter, to make it easier for you. But think how much work for our mailing staff, sending out some 250 envelopes! So we hope you have an envelope handy, and \$4.00 (family \$5.00, junior \$1.00). This takes care of both your local affiliate membership and Ala. Archaeological Society. You may mail either to our State Secretary, R. L. Schaefer, 1414 - 15th Ave., S.E., Decatur, Ala., or your local affiliate Secretary (in the case of the Birmingham Anthropological Society, Mrs. Martin Hullender, 1884 St. Charles Ave., S.W., Birmingham, Ala.).

"Well, things have been a little slow in the Society lately - maybe I won't rejoin this year." Yes, we can see how some of you might entertain that notion. But gosh, this is no time for thoughts like that. There are exciting indications that we are just getting started. Two new possibilities, not yet ripe for reporting, are now cooking over considerable heat. Archaeology is going places and you won't want to miss being a sponsor and party.

ALSO DAVE DeJARNETTE has visited the remarkable CLIFF SHELTER which C. H. Worley discovered and we reported in the Feb. Stones & Bones. This site could possibly give us a firm date on the Clovis point, and even a skeleton of Clovis Man himself - and either would make archaeological history, for neither has been done. Furthermore, with Dave interested, we have OUR FIRST OPPORTUNITY TO COMBINE THE EFFORTS OF PROFESSIONAL AND AMATEUR ARCHAEOLOGY IN ALABAMA. So pull on your boots and let's go!

DAVE DeJARNETTE also reminds us of another great opportunity. That is, the 90% of the cost which the Federal Government will put up for archaeological projects on the right-of-way of the new Federal highways to be constructed. In other words, if we find a site which the highway is to destroy, by putting up a hundred dollars we can make it a thousand! We'll never have a better bargain, nor a better chance to prevent destruction. Judging by the successive bulldozing stages on the Florida Short Route now under construction, there are times when the right-of-way is in an ideal condition for prospecting. And with the bulldozers going successively deeper, even very ancient and deeply buried sites might well be discovered. The

cooperation of the State Highway Dept. can be had in reference to route surveys. We could have Alabama fairly breaking out with archaeology. And as you know, the popular sites have been hunted to the bone. So, with the Spring weather, why not hunt the highways?

AND IT IS MOUNDVILLE TIME, come the spring. Remember the spacious lawns, the imposing mounds, the uncovered cemetery of Indians just as they were buried, the new dioramas? Or haven't you been down? In any event, you will find no more lovely, peaceful, relaxing place to spend a day just being yourself, and taking time to note that life is good. Add to that the amusement and education of one of the greatest mound sites and archaeological museums in the South. Take along your lunch, or there is now a good restaurant right there on the grounds specializing in real barbecue. And carry all the young folks you can crowd into the station wagon.

HOW MANY LEGS DO INSECTS HAVE? We were drawing a map the other evening and tuned in on Dave Campbell's radio program. A lady called in about a humming bird "without feathers", and was it an insect? Shortly a very young voice called in saying that "all insects have six legs, and I'd just like to see a humming bird with six legs!" It never did get straightened out that the lady probably had seen a humming-bird moth, which in flight is easily mistaken for the real thing, but which is an insect - and therefore does have six legs.

But what really caught our fancy was the eagerness with which youth absorbs natural history, six legs and all. So on the way to Moundville this year, when passing through Tuscaloosa, stop awhile to visit the ALABAMA MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY and give yourself and the kids a treat and a liberal education at the same time. With both the Natural History Museum and Moundville - well, we seriously doubt if you can plan a more pleasant and profitable outing for the entire family (and all the neighbors you can carry).

And while we are on the subject, Dr. Work informs us that plans are being made for an early summer meeting of the ALABAMA ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY at Moundville in late May or early June. Details are to be announced later in STONES & BONES.

HAROLD KLEINE recently lost his mother, his many good friends will be sorry to hear. She had performed one of the great, but often overlooked, services for humanity in rearing a good family, and to mothers this must be the greatest of rewards.

HEATING POTTERY TO DETERMINE ITS AGE was announced in the Science News Letter, Jan. 16, 1960. The principle is that elements of radioactivity decay over the years, giving off alpha and beta particles, and these trap electrons in solid crystals. When heated to about 350 degrees centigrade, the electrons "are given back" and create a light which can be captured by a photomultiplier tube. The older the material is, the more light emanates. Rocks which have been heated, and lava, are subject to the same method. It is said to be good for dating up to about 100,000 years.

THE OFFICERS OF THE ALABAMA ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY - will someone who knows them send a thumbnail sketch about them to the Newsletter? Our questionable health made it impossible for us to attend the Annual Meeting this year. It is most remiss not to have told our readers about our Officers, and we offer our best apologies - and depend upon some kind reader to remedy the matter.

CORRECTION: Last month in a footnote to "LIVING ON A SITE" by Mrs. Francis C. Smith we added, "See map of site". It wasn't your eyes, or your glasses. We

personally undertook to trace the map on the reproducing sheet, carefully using two sharp pencils. But when the stencil sheet was run through the machine, nothing happened! This month we are passing that chore along to Mr. Parsons, who knows how it should be done. P.S. See map of site!!!!

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MUSCLE SHOALS CHAPTER NEWS  
A. W. Beinlich

For the December 28, 1959 meeting, Walter Posey, Jr., a high-school student, gave a talk about the famous Pyramid of the Sun. Walter Posey, Sr. added interesting comments. Several years ago the Posey family went to Mexico on their vacation. Some interesting artifacts were displayed at this meeting.

At the January 25, 1960 meeting the following officers were elected for the coming year:

- STANFORD E. SMITH, President.
- MRS. LOUISE SMITH, Vice President.
- O. P. GROGAN, Secretary-Treasurer.

A. W. Beinlich gave a talk based on an article published in the National Geographic Magazine for Aug. 1939, pp. 183-218, "Discovering the New World's Oldest Dated Work of Man", by Dr. Matthew W. Stirling. The expedition headed by Stirling found many interesting Mayan artifacts, including a fragment of a stela that had a carved row of bars and dots in the form of a Maya date. It was deciphered to read, November 4, 291 B.C.

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MORGAN-LIMESTONE CHAPTER NEWS  
J. P. Knudsen

Feb. 1, 1960, 7:30 P.M., City Electric Auditorium, on Johnson Street, between 1st and 2nd Ave., Decatur, Ala.

PROGRAM: TWO MOVIES.

- 1. Ceremonial Pipes from Oklahoma.
- 2. " Talking Hands", the sign language of the Plains Indians.

Our President, Gene Lenser, has obtained these films for us from the University of Oklahoma. They should be an outstanding addition to our series of programs for 1960. We got off to a good start last month with Bob Work's fine talk. Let's keep our attendance and enthusiasm high and have a good turnout in March and the months to come.

Mar. 7, 1960, 7:30 P.M. City Electric Auditorium, Johnson St., Decatur, Ala.

PROGRAM: George C. Miles, Curator of the American Numismatic Museum of New York City

will speak on "CRETE

Artifact Display: The season for river hunting is in full swing. Bring in your new prizes for us all to admire.

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Commercial: Dues are Due!	State Membership	\$3.00
	Local Membership	1.00
	Total	<u>\$4.00</u> (and a bargain at twice the price)

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## BIRMINGHAM ANTHROPOLOGICAL SOCIETY NEWS

Being a "coronary sissy", a mere respiratory infection prevented your reporter from attending the Feb. meeting, much to his disgust! And no kind soul informed us about what transpired. There is, however, some business to be concluded.

We voted at a recent meeting to purchase master maps on which to locate our archaeological sites, both for safety and in order that there might be a total record. Frank Parsons has inherited most of the responsibility, it seems. Now how do we go about it? Personally we shall be glad to make a list of quadrangles on which we have sites, borrow the master maps and mark ours in - and supply brief information concerning each site and the materials recovered. Or any way that it would be most convenient for Frank. It really is important that this project be carried through.

March 4, 1960, 7:30 P.M. Meeting - Birmingham Public Library.

PROGRAM: D r. R. Dale LeCount, Pastor, Sixth Avenue Presbyterian Church  
"Picturesque Language of the Bible"

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## PROBLEMS OF TRANSLATING THE DEAD SEA SCROLLS

We have been much impressed by the problems presented in the translation of the Scrolls. For example, a passage which Gaster renders, "There is no intermediary", Dupont-Sommers makes out to be, "None deals insolently with sons." The archaeology of old languages appeared to us as difficult to interpret as the archaeology of rocks.

In the Dec., 1959 Newsletter we attempted a brief introduction to these problems of translation. Linguistics being one of the few subjects into which we never even remotely inquired, we were careful to "lift" our examples. To illustrate the problem of the ancient Hebrew written without vowels, we borrowed an example given in a foremost standard textbook, "The Bible and the Ancient Manuscripts", by Sir F. G. Kenyon, late Director of the British Museum and famous for a lifetime of work with ancient manuscripts. The example was the word "bd", for which Kenyon gave the alternatives "bad, bade, bed, bead, bede, bid, bide, bode, bud, abide, ebode".

At our December meeting following that issue of the Newsletter, Dr. Gessmann, our linguist (and now our President), said this was not at all a representative problem of the vowelless Semitic language - that most word roots consist of three consonants which are the carrier of the basic meaning of the word. And the vowel patterns that can be used with such a root do not vary so widely as above, and may modify the root slightly by distinguishing between moods, tenses, voices, verbs/nouns, nouns/adjectives, etc. He gave us as a more typical example our English word "DRINK", where the consonants "DRNK" rather plainly imply some form of DRINK, DRANK, DRUNK, etc. We had little difficulty in reading the sample sentences which Dr. Gessmann offered as more typical of the Semitic, such as, "H's 'n 'ld drnkrd" and "Sh' drnk ' glss 'f mlk."

Dr. Gessmann also called our attention to the fact that Semitic sentences without capitals or word separation did not present the problem one might suppose. For one example, in a narrative almost all sentence divisions will begin with "wa": "AND thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart...AND be these words... upon thy heart AND thou shalt teach...", etc. (The Sh'mah (Deut. VI: 4-9) translated literally.)

We feel that we are further than ever from being linguists, but after Dr. Gessmann had given us this, and a lot more, illustrated with consonantal sounds out of the past and strange writing from right to left, we did feel that he made his points. And we are glad to be able to pass them along to clear up such misconceptions as we perpetrated.

But Dr. Gessmann did agree that there are tremendous problems of semantics, or word meaning, involved in translating from the Semitic with its peculiar grammatical features, and ways of thinking entirely foreign to speakers of Aryan languages. This led to many strange misconstructions when the Hebrew Bible was translated into Greek, many of which we have not weeded out yet.

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#### HIGHLIGHTS Martin Hullender

One of our former Junior members, Julian Butler, whom we all remember well, is one of two Birmingham area students at the University who has been tapped for membership in Omicron Delta Kappa, national leadership fraternity for men. Julian was named as outstanding freshman in 1957-58. We are all proud of our former member's achievements and honors, which we are sure he will take in his stride as he has his many other honors and accomplishments. Don't know how much archaeology played in Julian's success, but we hope more of our Juniors will follow his example. It will take a bit of doing.

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OLD INDIAN BONES now play their part in medical science - and we don't mean as in China where pulverized ancient bones are supposed to have medicinal properties. It seems the Indians had better sense than to swap in the trusty old bow'n'arrow for nuclear weapons, and foul up the good atmosphere with strontium 90. So it seems that old Indian bones will help to verify the strontium 90 measurement technique.

MAN, FORTUNATELY, DID NOT LOSE ALL HIS SCALES in the process of evolving up through lower forms: our teeth are modified scales. However, these are not modified fish scales, which specialized in another direction. Our teeth-scales are specializations which branched off further down the evolutionary tree - in the shark stage. The shark's scales, which are so small as to appear to be only a sandpaper skin, are "placoid", or imbedded in the skin and bearing a projecting point tipped with enamel. Whoever coined the expression, "by the skin of his teeth", was a better zoologist than he realized.

"THE RAPE OF WAYLAND" is a sad account by D. S. Byers ("Antiquity," Jan. 1960) of another wantonly destroyed archaeological site. He calls this "ONE OF THE MOST TRAGIC EVENTS IN THE HISTORY OF NORTHEASTERN ARCHAEOLOGY", but perhaps should have said "two of the most tragic." And we are inclined to think the damage to amateur standing was more tragic than the destruction of a remarkable site. Loam was being removed, two "collectors" began their ghoulish occupation, the news spread. The Peabody Foundation was alerted before final destruction, but it did not help. Here is the story:

"It is tragic to learn that the discoverers of the site were card-holding members of the Massachusetts Archaeological Society. It is startling to learn that some members of that Society used their cards to misrepresent to the watchmen their relationship to the Foundation. It is shocking to discover that some members of that Society used their membership cards to strike awe in the minds of little children in order to induce them to relinquish relics.

"It is obvious that state societies will have to discover some way of disciplining members who do not conform to ethical standards for archaeological work...It is encouraging to learn that many members of the Mass. Arch. Soc. are shocked and dismayed at the lootings. In this attitude lies hope for survival of this group as an archaeological organization. These members should be given every assistance by all true archaeologists....Quite possibly we shall never have a like opportunity again."

And this may be true of any archaeological site. But the greater tragedy is our inability to teach, and/or learn, archaeological methods and the absolute ethics of science. As we have remarked before, we may fool our God now and then in our ethical lapses, or be forgiven. But we cannot fool the truth - we can only destroy it, and it seems very doubtful if God himself will ever restore the archaeological truths we wantonly destroy.

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THE NEWSLETTER OF THE TENNESSEE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY, Feb. 1960, informs us that the University of South Carolina has engaged an archaeologist for the first time in about 20 years. Tennessee, Georgia and Florida have active archaeological programs. Dave DeJarnette is putting Alabama archaeology back into circulation. Maybe we can save Southeastern archaeology. Anyway, let's try!

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THE T.V. PROGRAMS on Channel 10 (Educational T.V.) Tuesday evenings at 8:30, titled "Stones and Bones", sponsored by the Alabama Archaeological Society and m-ceed by our own Britt Thompson, have been excellent all winter and have brought the Society many favorable comments nation-wide. Forecasts of coming events:

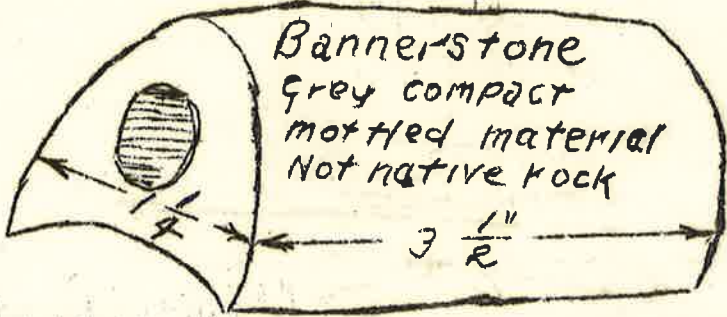
- Mar. 1 - Dr. Walter B. Jones, State Geologist  
"Salvage Work on the Weiss Reservoir Site" -- with artifacts
- Mar. 8 - William Ward, Attorney  
"Morocco" -- with slides of primitive peoples and sky-scraper cities
- Mar. 15 - Emil Dahlen, Engineer  
"The Role of the Amateur in Archaeology"
- Mar. 22 - Dr. Robert Work, Research Scientist  
"Chitzen Itza" - Mayan civilization
- Mar. 29 - Dr. Charles Askey, Research Physicist  
"Evolution of Tools"

Francis C. Smith Site  
Atlanta, Ga.

Peachtree Battle Avenue

Lowland

Creek



DETAIL

Falls

Banner Stone

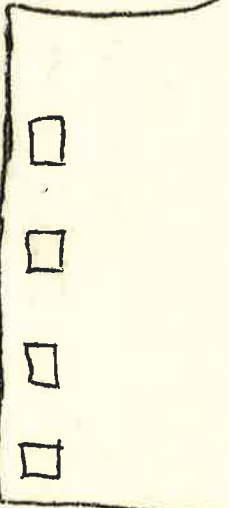
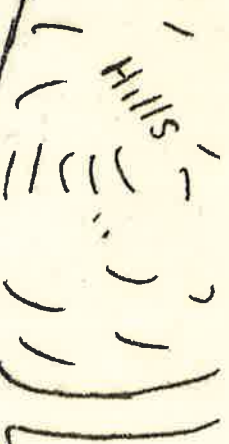
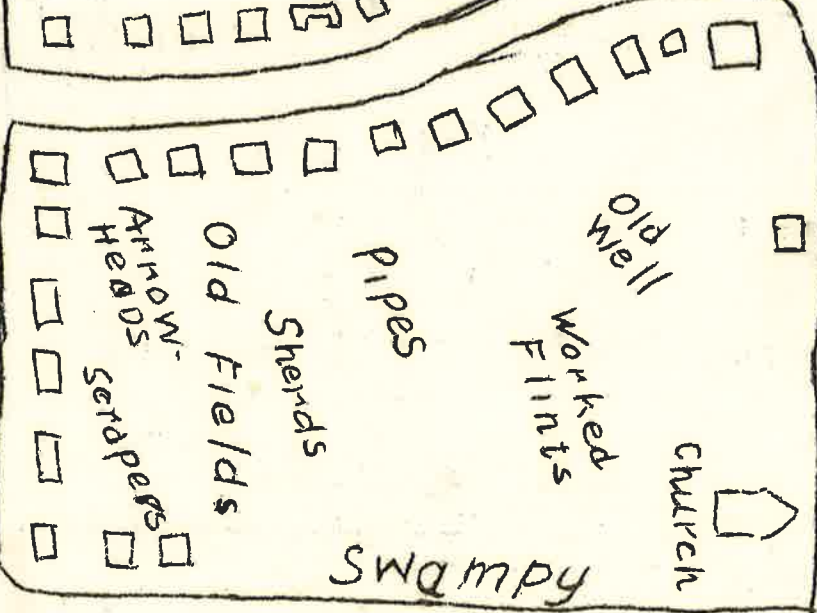
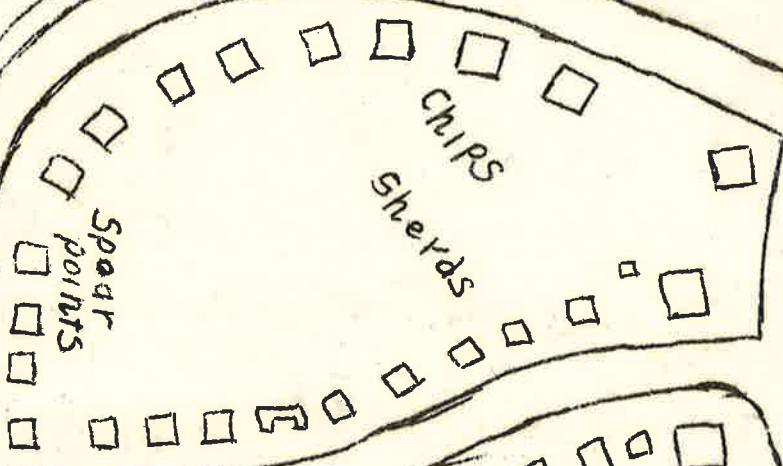
Old Fields

Parkway

Woodward Way

Falls

Bridge



Northside Dr.

SPRINGS  
SWAMPY

