

Newsletter

STONES AND BONES

April, 1960

Birmingham Anthropological Society

Morgan-Limestone Chapter

THE ALABAMA ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Madison-Huntsville Chapter

Muscle Shaals Chapter

 Editor: Dan Josselyn, 408 Broadway, Edgewood, Birmingham 9, Ala.
 Get your copy in before the fifteenth of the month. For deadline news items
 telephone our Assistant Editor and stencil cutter:
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NEW MEMBERS

- NALLON BOONE, 1324 N. 33rd Street, Birmingham 4, Alabama
- ROGER S. BOONE, 1605 - 34th Avenue, N., Birmingham 2, Alabama
- THOMAS E. CROXON, 2106 Birch Street, S. E., Decatur, Alabama
- JOHN C. FISHER, 2113 Birch Street, S. E., Decatur, Alabama
- FRED L. LAYTON, Route 1, Lincoln, Alabama
- ALFRED McCROSKEY, 2271 Stade Avenue, Florence, Alabama
- CAREY OAKLEY, JR., Box 1pi B, Route 1, Cordova, Alabama
- A. S. STANFORD, 617 Fourth Street, S. W., Birmingham 11, Alabama
- JOHN A. STELLMACK, Petroleum Refining Laboratory, University Park, Pennsylvania
- KENNETH STEPHENS, 1909 - 31st Avenue, N., Birmingham 7, Alabama

New members are encouraging evidence of a growing interest in the amateur archaeological movement. They also impose upon us increasing obligations to make this movement sound, useful, and educational. HOW, WHAT, WHY are questions we frequently find both old and new members asking. Perhaps it is time for our EDUCATION COMMITTEE to get out a Newsletter supplement on the proper methods of SURFACE COLLECTING - the major item making the difference between the destructive "collector" and the useful amateur archaeologist.

MAILING COMMITTEE NOTE CHANGE IN ADDRESS:

- CHARLES GASON, 4006 Marie Avenue, N. W., Huntsville, Alabama
- HOWARD G. CLARK, Route 4, Box 713, Gainsville, Florida

NOTE: MRS. FRANCIS C. SMITH, 717 Woodward Way, N. W., Atlanta 5, Georgia, who wrote LIVING ON A SITE for our Feb., 1960, issue, informs us that she has not received a copy of the Feb. issue with her article, nor a copy of the March issue with the delayed map of her site. We are sending her our file copies of these two issues. If there are any surplus copies of these two issues, we should like to keep our files complete...and thanks.

This reminds us that our mailing list is becoming very heavy. As we understand matters, there is no adequate provision for a mailing committee to distribute this work fairly. The oversight should be remedied. Our last complete membership list was issued with our August 1959 Newsletter. For convenience in mailing we append to this Newsletter an alphabetical list of new members since that issue. Any members inadvertently overlooked will please inform the Editor.

OUR NEW PRESIDENT

DR. ROBERT W. WORK, President of the ALABAMA ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY, is Director of Research at the great Chemstrand Corporation.

Dr. Work's training and employment have been in the exacting field of chemistry. For the past twenty years or so he has specialized in the exciting field of man-made fibers - which free us from the restrictions or limitations of nature, and supply us with socks which practically won't wear out, and tires which practically don't blow out.

Dr. Work is a Southerner by adoption, having lived for many years in Cumberland, Maryland; Charlotte, North Carolina; and now Decatur, Alabama.

Dr. Work says of himself: "When I say that I am an amateur archaeologist, this is really presumptuous on my part, for I can certainly not consider myself even an amateur as yet. However, I have a deep interest in archaeology which goes back about thirty-five years and I like to see that science advanced."

We must take exception to Dr. Work's "presumptuous" qualification of himself as an amateur archaeologist. For at considerable expense of time and trouble he has worked up a tentative plan whereby those members of the Morgan-Limestone Chapter who will move to North Carolina with the Chemstrand Research Center sometime in the latter part of the summer of 1960 can make their artifact collections of the greatest possible use to Northern Alabama archaeology. This spirit is surely amateur archaeology at its best.

Dr. Work's paper to members states, among other things, "Discussion among several of the people concerned brought out the viewpoint that every effort should be made to leave records, at least, and artifacts, if possible, behind. In so doing, contributions would be made to the general good of Northern Alabama archaeology.... A group of us met together to try to work out a plan and lay out the mechanics.... As a first step and a trial balloon, it was agreed that the writer would define and list his Tenn. River sites....Also, I agreed to write up the site from which I have the largest number of artifacts....Sam Mosley has already turned over his material from the same area....My material from RWW sites 10 and 11 have been turned over to Pete Knudsen."

We are proud of Dr. Work and all those who may share in this cooperative effort. They truly deserve the title of AMATEUR ARCHAEOLOGISTS without reservations. If only they could devise a plan to stay in Alabama...but no doubt North Carolina can use some good archaeologists.

And we should like to add that anyone with the ability and fortitude to study and report it is most welcome to our own three tons of archaeological material, surface collections properly made, mapped and marked from many sites - chiefly Shades Valley just south of Birmingham. We feel that we have other matters more pressing, since they cannot be delegates, to terminate before the shortening road reaches its end and we, quite fittingly, become archaeology.

NEW MEMBER OFFERS AID

MR. FRED L. LAYTON, Route 1, Lincoln, Ala., whose name is added to our list of new members in this issue, wrote Secretary Schaefer (forwarded to the Newsletter), that he has collected a considerable area. And he adds, "I might be able to contribute some help".

We were abruptly reminded that we have not heard of any offers by our members to assist the several dam projects on the Coosa. As we know, the Alabama Power Company has generously supplied funds to excavate the more important of the to-be-flooded sites, but it would be impossible for a single source to finance excavation of all the hundreds of sites certain to be involved. It is therefore highly de-

sirable that the most important sites be selected for excavation. Those of us who are well acquainted through years of surface hunting with the areas involved, might well be of great help in both locating sites and helping to determine which are more important archaeologically.

And with Professor David L. DeJarnette of the University of Alabama, and Archaeologist-in-Charge at Mound State Monument, in charge of these Coosa River excavations - well, we at last have professional archaeology in Alabama. And we have a golden opportunity to trim the sometimes ragged edges of amateur archaeology by cooperation with professional archaeology. And anything we can do to help professional archaeology will be a step towards its continuance in Alabama - possibly even in time getting public funds for this long neglected purpose.

That Professor DeJarnette is most cooperative is attested by the fact that we know him as "Dave". And our professional friend Steve Wimberly tells us that Dave won recognition in archaeological coordination and administration in the days of the extensive WPA excavations on the Tennessee.

We are most grateful to Mr. Layton for his offer, and his reminder - we forwarded his offer to Professor DeJarnette, with the suggestion that he map his sites and make his marked collection available for inspection when excavation begins in that area.

And this brings up the subject of a

SPECIAL
MOUNDVILLE MEETING

At the dinner following our Annual Meeting (1959) in Decatur, Dave DeJarnette invited the Ala. Arch. Soc. to hold a meeting at beautiful MOUND STATE MONUMENT. A recent letter from our President Dr. R. W. Work informs us that Dr. Walter B. Jones State Geologist, also extends an invitation for a Moundville meeting.

We think we speak for the entire Society in saying Bob Work's acceptance will be enthusiastically approved by all. It would be difficult to name a more pleasant and fitting place to have a get-together. It would be equally difficult to name anything more pleasant and fitting than a get-together - period - an occasion all too rare. We predict that the lure of a day at Mound State Monument will bring together a record number of members.

This would be an excellent opportunity for Dave DeJarnette to outline suggestions whereby amateur archaeology can cooperate with professional archaeology. And, on the other hand, what suggestions can professional archaeology offer to improve our amateur operations? And would it be possible to arrange some "spectator archaeology" at sites to be excavated this summer, where interested members might get some first-hand appreciation of the problems of excavation? Some of our members persist in their desire to do some excavating, and it is most important that this urge should be turned into constructive channels. Could Dave work up a plan to teach them to put down a useful stratigraphic test pit (avoiding refuse pits, etc., which spoil the stratigraphic record), so they might get at least test-pit records of sites to be inundated and not marked for excavation? Does Dave need any surface collecting of sites which cannot be excavated? We hope Dave will give such questions some thought, and give us a talk on practical professional-amateur cooperation.

Dave will also have some archaeologists working for him this summer. Perhaps he can procure a speaker on some particular aspect of archaeology. Or a student doing field work might be very informative by telling us about his fresh experience in "learning archaeology".

And don't forget that it won't be all work and no play - one never tires of seeing the Museum, and Dave has new dioramas and exhibits. No trouble with the kids, either, for MOUND STATE MONUMENT is distinctly a family affair. We hope to get all the details soon.

MUSCLE SHOALS CHAPTER NEWS

C. F. Smith

At the regular Jan. 25th 1960 meeting, O. P. Grogan was elected to the office of Secretary and Treasurer but later, before he actually acted in that capacity, decided that due to his numerous previous commitments he would be unable to accept the honor of the office. Therefore we had another election and elected Charles Gooch as Secretary-Treasurer. Our President appointed Clarence F. Smith as Chapter Reporter for the Newsletter.

Clarence F. Smith gave a talk on "THE CENTRAL AND SOUTHEASTERN PROJECTILE POINTS", using the actual points to illustrate. A general discussion of these and other points followed.

The city of Florence, Ala., gave us permission to clean up the large prehistoric Indian mound at Lock #1 on the Tenn. River here at Florence, and restore it to its original natural beauty so it can be viewed and admired by our local people and visitors to Florence. Our President appointed a committee to oversee this work.

MORGAN-LIMESTONE CHAPTER NEWS

We amend the brief notice of last month (received late) about Dr. George C. Miles, who spoke on CRETE. Dr. Miles is Curator of the American Numismatic Museum in New York. He is a specialist in Arabic and Greek Archaeology, particularly the history and classification of coinage from the Near East. Next fall he is going to Crete to study the possibility of an Arabic culture on that Island. Upon his return, he will spend several months at the Institute for Advanced Studies at Princeton University. His talk was illustrated with slides. The Chapter felt it a rare honor to have Dr. Miles as their speaker, and urged all to attend. (And to pay State and Local dues.)

BIRMINGHAM ANTHROPOLOGICAL SOCIETY NEWS

Meet first Friday of each month, Birmingham Public Library, 7:30 P.M., visitors YES.

At our March meeting Mr. Bud Richards, as he was informally announced, made an absorbing talk on the archaeology of Civil War battlefields in Alabama. Mr. Richards first finds a battlefield and then uses a metal detector to discover where to excavate for bullets, shrapnel, exploded shell fragments and many other bits of metal - and sometimes other materials preserved by copper salts. The talk was illustrated with a good display of the savage artifacts of warfare. We do hope Mr. Richards is keeping extensive records and will make a copy available to the Alabama Historical Society. Even such recent history is so often lost or in error, or needs archaeological confirmation.

Bill Steele, who has always been unusually active in Society affairs but loth to hold office, was elected Chairman of the Field Trip Committee - a post too long vacant. We think Bill, who knows everybody (or else, as he says, they know him) and has been everywhere and can look more like a professor than any professor we

ever knew - well, we think he can do a good job. And there are new opportunities in field work inviting active members. We hope Bill will get with Dave DeJarnette on the possibilities of stratigraphic test pits (as we above mentioned) in the Coosa reservoir areas, and surface collecting of unexcavated sites in these areas. And Dave is anxious to get an archaeological program started in connection with new highways - where 90% of the funds are available from the Federal Government. Maps of proposed routes can be had from the State Highway Department. Just find a good site and excavation is assured! And of course we need a bit of "outing archaeology" for the entire family now and then. There is plenty to be done - so go to it Bill.

It was not certain if Dr. R. Dale LeCount (who failed to make our March meeting) would speak at our April meeting. But if not, we shall have a "panel discussion", a new adventure suggested by our President, Dr. Gessmann, which should be a lot of fun and highly educational. So bring your questions as well as your artifacts. There will also be a vote, as announced, on the question of electing a Second vice-President and some minor changes in the Constitution pertaining thereto.

MRS. WILLIAM T. WARREN, JR., MRS. FRANK SAMFORD, JR., and MRS. LIVINGSTON, whose initials we neglected to get, have the laudable ambition to set up an archaeological project for a troop of Cub Scouts. As highly desirable as this is to plant a seed for the archaeology of the future, it is equally difficult. Despite our best intentions, we have on several occasions stimulated interest in such a way that we produced destructive "collectors". This is not fair to the boys, to Scouting, nor to archaeology.

DAVE DeJARNETTE, with his wide experience and organizing ability, came to mind. Last we heard, the boys had been taken down to Moundville and invited back in April to see a real "dig". And Mrs. Warren says, "We are about to organize a family club so that all of us can participate."

We wish to thank all of those concerned for their unusual interest and efforts in behalf of the hungry minds of boys - and we wish we had had such troop leaders and archaeological opportunities. Maybe "the past will have a future".

STONES & BONES - Educational TV Program - Every Tuesday at 8:30 P.M.

March 29 - Derwood Langston, Local Photographer
"Something for the Record"

April 5 - Mrs. Gladys Hanford, Nationally known Lecturer
"The Hardest Stones in the World" (History of Diamonds)

April 12 - Monro B. Lanier, Vice-Chrmn. Bd., Ingalls Iron Works
"Development of Ships"

April 19 - ? "Surprise"

April 26 - Dr. R. Dale LeCount
"Magic Spades" (Mid-Eastern Archaeology)

ALABAMA ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP LIST -- TO ADD TO AUGUST(1959) ISSUE

NALLON BOONE 1324 N. 33rd Street, Birmingham, Ala.
 ROGER S. BOONE 1605 - 34th Ave., N., Birmingham, Ala.
 C. K. BROWN Route 1, Marion Junction, Ala.
 E. D. BURWELL, SR. 405 Holmes Street, Huntsville, Ala.
 CHARLES CASON 4006 Marie Avenue, N. W., Huntsville, Ala.
 A. B. CRAIG AND FAMILY 2110 Stratford Road, S. E., Decatur, Ala.
 THOMAS E. CROXON 2106 Birch Street, S. E., Decatur, Ala.
 FREDERICO DAVILA P. O. Box 9654, Santurce, Puerto Rico
 OLIVER DOUGLAS P. O. Box 241, Decatur, Ala.
 S. W. DuPUY 148 Greenwood Road, Mountainside, New Jersey
 BILL ENNIS 1113 - 40th Street, Birmingham 8, Ala.
 JOHN C. FISHER 2113 Birch Street, S. E., Decatur, Ala.
 H. G. FRENCH Route 1, Trinity, Ala.
 BOBBY GILLESPIE Box 103, Moulton, Ala.
 MRS. GLADYS GILLILAND Route 3, Decatur, Ala.
 ULLIS F. GOODWIN, Sumiton, Ala.
 O. W. HOPPER, Spratt, Ala.
 R. S. HOPPER, Spratt, Ala.
 MISS BARBARA KELLY Allen Street, Andalusia, Ala.
 FRED L. LAYTON Route 1, Lincoln, Ala.
 TOMMY LITTRELL Box 337, Moulton, Ala.
 JOSEPH K. LONG, III 319 East Cross Street, Greenville, Ky.
 ALFRED McCROSKEY 2271 Shade Avenue, Florence, Ala.
 JAMES B. McKOY, JR. 1110 Texar Drive, Pensacola, Florida
 JOHN MITCHELL 601 - 7th Avenue, S. E., Decatur, Ala.
 FRANK MORAST 1635 Berkley Circle, Chattanooga 5, Tenn.
 ED NEELY AND FAMILY Carlisle Park, Guntersville, Ala.
 MRS. N. B. NEIGHBOERS 233 East 4th Street, Oxford, Ala.
 CHESTER NEISWENDER, JR. Route 4, Box 66, Pensacola, Florida
 DR. JOHN B. NUCKOLLS 120 Aakslea Place, Jackson, Tenn.
 CAREY OAKLEY, JR. Box 108 B, Route 1, Cordova, Ala.
 WILLIAM D. OWENS 2011 Lee High Drive, N. E., Huntsville, Ala.
 MR. & MRS. W. F. OWSLEY 909 East 15th Street, Anniston, Ala.
 PAUL OZBURN P. O. Box 37, Alabaster, Ala.
 CHARLES K. PEACOCK 1514 Bailey Ave., Chattanooga 4, Tenn.
 WILLIAM B. PONDER Route 1, Trinity, Ala.
 R. L. ROST 107 South Side Square, Pulaski, Tenn.
 C. P. SCARBOROUGH 2313 Adams Street, Anniston, Ala.
 JOHN C. SCOTT 2650 Halls Mill Road, Mobile, Ala.
 MRS. FRANCIS C. SMITH 717 Woodward Way, N. W., Atlanta, Ga.
 A. S. STANFORD 617 Fourth Street, S. W., Birmingham 7, Ala.
 JOHN A. STELLIACK Petroleum Refining Lab., University Park, Pa.
 KENNETH STEPHENS 1909 - 31st Avenue, N., Birmingham 7, Ala.
 ADRAIN E. THOMPSON 101 N. Main Street, Tuscombua, Ala.
 R. W. WEAVER, LIFE MEMBER Henagar, Ala.
 ADRAIN A. WILSON, JR. Florence State College, Box 221, Florence, Ala.
 GEORGE L. WILSON Route 1, Mount Hope, Ala.

We make this a total of 252 members, not counting numerous individuals in family memberships - provided all "old" members pay their dues. We thank you all - and please notify the Editor of any mistakes in the above - compiling it left us a bit dizzy at 4 A.M.