

Newsletter

STONES AND BONES

August 1960

Birmingham Anthropological Society Morgan-Limestone Chapter  
 THE ALABAMA ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Madison-Huntsville Chapter Muscle Shoals Chapter  
 Member of the Eastern States Archaeological Federation

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 Editor: Dan Josselyn 408 Broadway, Edgewood, Birmingham 9, Ala.  
 Assistant Editor: Elizabeth Cline TR 1-2270 'Phone in late news.  
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HOW GOES OUR BIG PROJECT ?

Last month we sent out the SOS to solicit contributions to finance a professional exploratory excavation of what looks to us the most promising site we ever saw in Alabama.

The ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH ASSOCIATION OF ALABAMA, INC., has been formed to receive donations and be responsible for their careful administration. (NOTE: Name of ARA of Ala. slightly changed in final draft of legal papers, but will not interfere with cashing your good checks made out to the Ala. Arch. Re. Assn.)

Prof. DAVID L. DeJARNETTE has his summer schedule straightened out and will be ready for a two-week exploratory excavation of our now-famous cliff shelter beginning Aug. 22. NOTE: Dave had offered his services free - he is like that to a fault - but the Officers and Trustees of the Arch. Research Assn. voted him a modest remuneration, and a hearty thanks for his generous offer. We are set to go!

That is, ALL WE NEED NOW IS THE MONEY, hence the drive for donations. All of us have given to many good causes. This is a FAMOUS AMERICAN INSTITUTION. We, the people, over 50 years ago began to fight TUBERCULOSIS, then by far the leading killer, by giving to our TB Assns. Now the TB death rate is only about 4% of what it was, saving MILLIONS of lives - including some of us! We recently got back of POLIO DRIVES and got the wonderful Salk vaccine for our money. We now tackle heart disease, which today kills more than all other diseases combined - and those of us with bad hearts wish we had begun earlier! But better late than never.

But, late as it is, WHO EVER PUT ON A DRIVE FOR TRAGICALLY NEGLECTED ARCHAEOLOGY? So far as we know, the ALABAMA ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY has chalked up another "first" - certainly in this neck of the woods.

Yes, we have all given, but did you ever ASK? Did you ever knock on doors, hat humbly in hand, timid, apologetic, stammering - asking for your own cause - a great cause - knowing the need - a totally neglected cause? It gives one a new perspective on this business of democratic fund-raising.

But our very first reply was from Mrs. Alice L. Wright, R.N. "I am so happy to hear that something is finally being done...please accept my small..." - but a nice fat check enclosed.

We felt much better to be thus handsomely forgiven for putting on "another drive". We remembered that America is the only country in the world where important matters can be left up to the people in the democratic way. People in other countries are simply taxed, without the tremendous educational value of voluntary drives. And WE, THE PEOPLE, get our Salk vaccines first!

Do you realize that this will enable us to say, for the FIRST TIME in Alabama, "THIS IS THE MOST PROMISING SITE, SO HERE WE EXCAVATE"? Alabama archaeology has heretofore been dictated - by flood areas, by unemployed areas in WPA days, etc.

But what is this ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH ASSOCIATION OF ALA., INC? Is it some up-start trying to steal our thunder - our much older Society, whose members found, exploited, etc., the site in question? No!...EVERY MEMBER of the ARA is also a member of the ALABAMA ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY. It is a cell within a cell, one might say, for functional purposes - in a sense an incorporated committee. The Ala. Arch. Soc. had never applied for a tax-deductible status - or it could have functioned by itself without the new Corporation...which is for the sole purpose of RAISING FUNDS to support legitimate archaeological enterprises and administer them soundly. The matter of scouting out, and presenting for consideration, worthy enterprises, and also helping to finance them on a voluntary basis, is in the hands of the parent organization - the Ala. Arch. Soc.

But of outstanding importance, our ARA of Ala. is designed to enable us to go further afield, outside of our Arch. Soc., and tap a far broader source of funds. In other words, functionally speaking, we now have an arm reaching for the public pocket - and we hope the big money!

That is why our first try is so TREMENDOUSLY IMPORTANT - it could mean publicity, and publicity is needed to reach the big public ear. Our Newsletter mailing committee (the Martin Hullenders and our good publisher Frank Parsons) were forethoughtful enough to send a copy of our Newsletter for July to the Birmingham News. Jerry Hornsby, in charge of the State Desk, wants to keep in touch with developments, and run a SERIES OF ARTICLES if we can warrant it. Here we go!

And we have J. H. McCary, II, President, and Wm. M. Spencer, Treasurer, of the ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH ASSOCIATION OF ALA., INC. (new members, at their own request, of the Ala. Arch. Soc.), who are bringing something NEW into Ala. archaeology. Here were two men, then outside the circle of archaeology, capable of taking hold of something still in that NEBULOUS IDEA STAGE, seeing possibilities, willing to back a big "maybe". They have put real sweat and patience into this. They are going to put money into it. They are widely known and highly respected throughout the business community of Alabama. Here, too, is a NEW AND WIDER DOOR TO OPPORTUNITY.

With all this (and a heavenly site too!), we might as well shut up shop if we don't get on the ball.

But are we POTNIKS - just organizing a pot-hunting expedition, several have asked. WE ARE NOT POTNIKS! Pot-hunting needs no financial support, unfortunately. It thrives! - ever since Napoleon's rape of Egyptian archaeology. We are trying to save one site before these termites find it. Every bone splinter, potsherd, crumb of charcoal (the most important thing, for radio-carbon dating) will be at the disposal of science. Should that "dream man" Mr. Paleo turn up, no doubt Dave would send him up to Dr. T. Dale Stewart, Smithsonian, for study - and our leading physical anthropologist would consider it the chance of a lifetime.

My gosh no, we aren't playing for marbles - or pots. If scientific knowledge could be valued in monetary terms, we are looking for some FIFTY MILLION DOLLARS' worth of knowledge - not a five-dollar pot! Any excavation is a long-shot - but this could be a THOUSAND-TO-ONE.

You can be absolutely sure your money will be spent, and carefully, by the professionally most experienced in Ala. archaeology, to advance the highest scientific ideals - and our knowledge of man himself - the most important study in the world.

WE ARE LOOKING FOR - WELL, WE "HOPE" WE MIGHT FIND:

PERISHABLE MATERIALS seldom recovered in this climate.

NEW TRANSITIONAL PERIOD INFORMATION - Woodland into Mississippi - Archaic into Woodland - possibly even Paleo into Archaic.

NEW INFORMATION ON THE ADVENT OF CERAMICS in Ala., and perhaps more light on the sequence of development.

NEW RADIO-CARBON DATING (might be less contaminated in this very dry shelter) on any or all of the above.

A FIRST date on any Eastern fluted point.

A FIRST date on any of several Ala. fluted points.

A FIRST GENERALLY ACCEPTED date on the important Clovis point, older in the West (but undated) than the 10,000-year Folsom.

WE WOULD EVEN ACCEPT CORROBORATION (amen!) for Harold Kleine's "Sandia" point.

A FIRST AUTHENTICATED Paleo skeleton, complete with physical anthropology and date!

NOT TOO UNLIKELY, some "first" we never suspected in Ala. archaeology - we never before were able to look so selectively!

Personally, we have no intention of missing all these "IFS". This is a limb it will be an honor even to fall off! No, we are not playing for marbles - kid stuff.

From WORLEY to SCHAEFER to WIMBERLY to DeJARNETTE to the ALA. ARCH. SOC. NEWS-LETTER (did Britt Thompson originate the Newsletter in the Birmingham Anthropological Soc.?) to J. H. McCARY III to J. H. McCARY II and Wm. M. SPENCER to the OWNER OF THE SITE to the organization of the ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH ASSN. OF ALA., INC. to FUND RAISING by the ALABAMA ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY and the final torch of victory handed over to Dave DeJarnette. It has been an incredible relay, a victory for organization and cooperation.

In the September Newsletter we shall take pride in publishing the names of the CHARTER CONTRIBUTORS to, shall we say, DREAMS, INC.? Make checks payable to the ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH ASSOCIATION OF ALABAMA, INC. We have decided we should acknowledge, by letter, all cash receipts - so we still prefer checks or money orders! We are on our way. CONGRATULATIONS!

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- In the News -  
PROFESSOR DAVID L. DeJARNETTE

Takes another degree...thesis THE ARCHAEOLOGY OF THE CHILDERSBURG SITE, ALA., DeJarnette and Hansen...much-needed information for students of the historic period...remarkable sequence of trade-bead dating. Published by the Florida State Univ., Tallahassee, Fla., 1960

Dave (to his friends) has also received a grant from the National Park Service to finance his present excavations in flood areas of the lower Chattahoochee. With professional archaeology in Alabama, at last we can qualify for Government funds - into which we have been paying but not receiving. (Nor could we have engaged in our big amateur program without the authentication of professional archaeology.)

Now that we need Dave, it is nice to see him taking more degrees, getting even more experience, keeping his trowel bright - and in top shape to tackle OUR excavation. May it bring him fame!!!!

And by the way, the National Park Service is publishing inexpensive paper bindings. "Jamestown" should be in every American home - a fine job on pale-face archaeology, \$2.75. "The Funeral Mound", only \$1.00, should certainly be on the shelf of every southeastern amateur. Supt. of Documents, Govt. Prtg. Off., Washington, D.C.

NEW MEMBERS  
Alabama Archaeological Society

|  |                            |                    |
|--|----------------------------|--------------------|
| GEORGE BEASLEY,  | 645 Howell St.,            | Florence, Ala.     |
| MRS. RICHARD N. HAHN,  | 3936 Forest Ave.,          | Birmingham 13 Ala. |
| A. B. HOOPER, III,   | P. O. Box 216,             | Albertville, Ala.  |
| DAVE JOECKELS,   | 4000 Old Leeds Road,       | Birmingham 13 Ala. |
| J. H. McCARY, II,  | 43 Country Club Blvd.,     | Birmingham 9, Ala. |
| (President of ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH ASSOCIATION OF ALA., INC.) |                            |                    |
| DIANE PEARSON,   | 419 South 9th St.,         | Bessemer, Ala.     |
| WILLIAM M. SPENCER,  | First National Bank Bldg., | Birmingham, Ala.   |
| (Treasurer of ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH ASSOCIATION OF ALA., INC.) |                            |                    |
| EARL J. WRIGHT, JR.,   | Route 2, Box 22,           | Calera, Ala.       |

CHANGE IN ADDRESS

|                      |                        |                       |
|----------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|
| JAMES B. McKOY, JR., | P. O. Box 22A,         | Cottage Hill, Florida |
| HANK PARSONS,        | 336 - 20th Ave., N.E., | Birmingham 15, Ala.   |
| BERRY ZACK,          | P. O. Box 245,         | Bessemer, Ala.        |

NEW MEMBERS, BUT WHAT IS WRONG? It is most gratifying to note that 28 new members have joined the Ala. Arch. Soc. in the first six months of this year. But Newsletter receives a current list of paid memberships for 1960 - and only 160 have paid their dues. Are the others dropping out, or just late? We see some of our frontline members on the unpaid list.

Are we failing our members? Are our meeting programs falling off? Or is it our publications? Many of our members live at a distance and seldom or never get to meetings. Many others do not attend too regularly. But they all get our literature.

So what does our Newsletter need? We asked that in our Feb., 1960 issue - but got no replies. There is a vast amount of archaeological information in the Journals and Newsletters which we could select from in summary form, and book reviews by qualified specialists of which we could report the gist. We could use more of such things and make our Newsletter more newsy and educational in a broader sense - and with little trouble, since we browse half a dozen Journals anyhow. Would the members want that?

And we heard someone asking the other day when we can expect the next issue of our Alabama Journal. It rates very high in its archaeological studies, but would we like to see it more often? Aren't the members contributing enough articles?

And to get back to our meeting programs - sometimes our attendance is much too small. Are we borrowing enough ideas from other Chapters, and from other State Societies? Are we putting all the burden for programs on our Officers, or pitching in with ideas of our own to pep things up? Do we have enough projects which draw in the participation as well as interest of the members?

If we can get members, who join with an avowed interest, but can't hold them too well, it must be that we need to go into a higher gear. Give it some thought. It's later than you think - you'll soon be archaeology yourself - so be good to it.

FIELD WORK, TOO...Newsletter is not getting any interesting reports on field work - nor do we hear much about field work at our meetings. Personally, we are not able to do much of that any more, but we did look at a cliff shelter for the Girl Scout Camp - which coincidentally proved to be the same shelter recently reported by Bill Steele. It is not convenient to water, but many periwinkle shells are in

evidence, and a few late sherds. We have obtained written permission from the owner to make a proper archaeological exploratory excavation, and hope Steve Wimberly will be able to find time to execute same. The site doesn't look too promising, but as we know, Paleo man is where you find him. And we should be scouting for the few remaining better possibilities, now that we have an organization to finance professional excavation.

The more ~~so~~ reports of sound archaeological activities we can offer our members, the more active and interesting we become.

We picked up another interesting item in examining the above cliff shelter. Mr. and Mrs. William Tillery took us to the shelter. Mrs. Tillery has taught in Japan, and showed us some Japanese potsherds - heavy ware, nearly half an inch thick, and felt more like an extremely fine sand than baked clay - a silt, almost. Mrs. Tillery explained that of course one wasn't allowed to do promiscuous hunting in Japan, but she obtained permission to glean a site after it had been properly excavated. Suppose we in America had taken such good care of our archaeology!!! We'd have hundreds of wonderful virgin sites to the square mile for expert exploration. As it is, we are amazed if we find one in ten years of hunting - such as the cliff shelter Dave DeJarnette will excavate for us this month.

ANNUAL "CERTIFICATE OF MERIT" for the member contributing most to archaeology, in any way, is an innovation being adopted by the Arch. Soc. of North Carolina, we see by their Newsletter of March, 1960. Over the past few years we have had a number of members in the Ala. Soc. who deserved such recognition. What do you think?

NO VOTE AGAINST AN ANNUAL MOUNDVILLE MEETING has been received by Newsletter - which makes it unanimous. We have the feeling that this will do a great deal to enliven our Society, and to make it a unit. We should like to see some of our members on the program next year. What can you work up for a 15-minute report, or movie, or what-have-you?

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#### ARE YOU A MEMBER OF THE TENNESSEE ARCH. SOCIETY?

We do not feel that there is any conflicting competition between Archaeological Societies. To the contrary, we feel that the more stimulation one gets, from any source, the more interest he will take in his own Society - and more intelligent interest. We are not, therefore, backward about advertising other Societies, more particularly those which have interests and artifacts pretty much in common with our area.

In looking over the membership list in the Spring, 1960, issue of the Tennessee Archaeologist, we were amazed to note how many of our own members, who are of a caliber to enjoy and profit by this publication, do not belong! In this issue, for example, there is an excellent article by Charles H. Nash on how modern Choctaw Indians make blowguns out of cane, using primitive methods. And Cambron and Hulse report on excavating at the famous "Quad" site where Dr. Frank Soday discovered and named the new Quad fluted point. And what a site! Cambron and Hulse report a Cumberland fluted and a Clovis fluted "weathering out of the same strata" at this site - which suggests that the Cumberland is on the same order of antiquity as the Clovis - to our own surprise.

Among the excellent photographs in this issue are 113 artifacts, mostly projectile points, mostly named and explained, too. For \$3.00 a year, how can anyone interested in archaeology afford to miss this Tennessee Archaeologist? Dr. T. M. N.

Lewis, University of Tenn., Knoxville, Tenn. For \$5.00 a year you can get your name on the "contributing member" list and help support a better and better Journal. And remember - no publications NO ARCHAEOLOGY.

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### RACE PROBLEMS

We sometimes need to be brought back to the fact that archaeology is not studying pots or projectile points, per se - but people, the people who made them, and who wrote their "sermons in stones" if we can decipher them. We need to know more about people, even ourselves - who are, of course the sanest of all!!!! Yet we even give ourselves a lot of headaches.

We were amused the other day at two very small, but difficult, facets of the race problem. Fortunately, largely due to C. P. Mountford, the American-Australian Scientific Expedition to Arnhem Land is making a long ethnological study of the Australian Aborigines, to be published in four volumes. (The first volume, Art, Myth and Symbolism, \$18.50, Cambridge Univ. Press, N. Y., includes about 800 examples of aboriginal art and interprets the myths involved - they are writing of a sort.) Among anthropologists there are, unfortunately, two camps on the race question. One says there are differences, perhaps irreconcilable; the other says there are no important differences between the races. The obvious fact is that we have never had an adequate study to determine the question either way.

But Australia should be a good place to begin such a study, for many anthropologists agree with Dr. Coon that these aborigines are "the most primitive surviving human beings" and that Australia is the "museum of mankind". So if there are racial differences, here they should be greatest and most easily studied.

Now for the problem encountered. We have an article, sent by a friend, from the "Listener", July 16, 1959, by Christopher Ralling on the problems encountered by the Australian Government in the considerable efforts to improve the conditions of the aborigines - who have dwindled from an estimated 300,000 at the end of the 18th century to about 40,000. White people are not allowed to enter a reserve without permission (for good reasons, as the past has taught) and the Government Welfare Department, despite its efforts, has been unable to do much more than teach the aborigines to degenerate on the white man's "tucker". But it is perhaps in the schools that the most baffling problem arises. For example, it is difficult to teach the native children to tell time by a clock. On the other hand, they know who made a certain footprint, can mimic almost any animal or bird, know what grubs are good to eat, which birds or animals will lead them to water - things which it is very difficult to teach a white child!!!!

The other contradictory race problem we noted in connection with our Navajo Indians. In spite of excellent clinics, health education, free medicine, and a very real effort on the part of both the Government and such voluntary health agencies as the Tuberculosis Associations, the Navajos seem unable to absorb the principles of medical science. They still go in for their voodoo "faith healing". We have the Jan. 1960 "Bulletin" of the National TB Assn. open here beside us at a photograph of a mother holding a sick child, and a medicine man "making big medicine" with a sand painting.

On the other hand, the Wall Street Journal, Apr. 9, 1959 (reprinted in the Tenn. Arch. Soc. Newsletter, June 1960) tells us that the Navajos "have established a 10-ranger archaeological police force to protect artifacts on their land" against destructive "collectors". Heap pale-face probably never get so much sense!!!!

We are not going to try to decide either of these racial "intelligence tests". We do go along with those who say we need more archaeological and ethnological studies to help us determine how best to breed and nurture better people. And we have faith in man at his best - though not at his worst.

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PEOPLE ARE IMPORTANT, and we like to run news items about them. When have you sent in an item about yourself, or someone else? How else can Newsletter know?

WILLIAM G. McLOUGHLIN, member of the Ala. Arch. Soc. and Vice-Pres. of the Birmingham Anthropological Society, has written and published a book, COSMOLOGY OF THE AGES, and presented a copy to the B'ham Anthro. Soc. This should be an absorbing and highly informative book, with perhaps a moral. Down through time man has tried to put his concept of things in deep freeze - this is it! - discourage new concepts. We do it today. To read of "the vanity of human concepts" in the past should help us to accept the fact that we haven't yet even begun to get hold of the true nature of things. These new "negative protons", for example - a shield made from them (to invade science fiction) would dissolve a bullet, even an atom bomb, on the instant - dissolve into nothingness! And so short a time ago the world was a flat island floating in an ocean with an outer edge one could fall off of like a precipice! We still have our frightful precipices of preconception which make us fear to navigate the world of thought and the true nature of things. We submit that this book should be an eloquent plea for OPEN MINDS - we hardly ever meet one which hasn't been closed, locked, barred and booby-trapped against new ideas. Thanks to MARTIN HULLENDER for bringing Bill McLoughlin's book to our attention - and hearty congratulations to Bill for a valuable contribution to our too-scarce human efforts to know what cooks. We have no information on price, but Bill's address is 136 Emory Court, B'ham 13.

EMMA LILA FUNDABURK....remember a few years ago when this pretty girl approached members of the Birmingham Anthro. Soc. and the Ala. Arch. Soc. saying she wanted to write a book about Alabama Indian arts and crafts because it hadn't been written and should be? Our members were most generous in giving assistance, and in directing Miss Fundaburk to other sources of information - which she followed up in a big way. We may take some little credit for giving her a good start, and encouragement - though she went beyond even our expectations and has produced three books which have received honors and excited splendid reviews by professionals. In ARCHAEOLOGY, Summer 1960, we note another such review, by Richard B. Woodbury, Univ. of Arizona, covering Lila's SOUTHEASTERN INDIANS, Life Portraits, A Catalogue of Pictures. Dr. Woodbury says this "is the most comprehensive volume of early pictorial records of the Indians of a region ever attempted, and it will be welcomed by everyone interested in the Eastern United States....extensive notes from the writings of both early observers and recent scholars...this book is unequalled...a splendid source of pictorial information." \$7.50 plus sales tax, Emma Lila Fundaburk, Luverne, Ala. We feel sure many of our members will want to own all three of Miss Fundaburk's books, and take pride in the fact that they are one of the less direct and more unexpected results of a cultural Society such as ours, helping members of the community to "find themselves and exert their full strength", as it were. Lila is now studying in Ohio for her Ph.D., working her way by teaching...a girl we and Alabama can be proud of, and of any little contributions we have made toward her meteoric accomplishments since the Spring of 1956.

MRS. ALICE L. WRIGHT, R.N., sends out a call for HELP to other members of the Ala. Arch. Soc. Mrs. Wright is employed as Camp Nurse at CAMP CHA-LA-KEE, Guntersville Lake, for the summer (so hurry up with your help!). In prospecting the old settlers for information, she is told the area is full of history - that Jackson

camped here and that on the rock cliff across the lake is carved a likeness of Jackson and his horse (with a "spirit arrow" through them?). And the large beech trees in the camp area have what appear to be Indian signs carved on them. These are rapidly being obliterated by the still-popular habit of carving initials, hearts, etc., on beech trees. Mrs. Wright thinks they should be photographed, studied, "read" if possible, before they are destroyed. We are in most emphatic agreement. It sounds like "something new" might be added to Ala. archaeology. Interested parties please contact, at once, Mrs. Alice L. Wright, Camp Cha-la-kee, R. D. 3, Guntersville, Ala. And thanks to Mrs. Wright for using Newsletter to promote archaeology - that is what it is for.

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#### MUSCLE SHOALS CHAPTER NEWS

Clarence F. Smith

At the June 27 meeting at Student Lodge, Florence State College, we had an extra good meeting, attendance larger than at our last meeting. The speaker for the evening was

MR. A. W. BEINLICH

Subject: The Contemporary Arts of the Indians of the Southeastern United States. This was an extra good talk, very educational, interesting and well presented, and nicely illustrated by the artifacts and objects of art that were actually produced in this Southeast US area.

Yes, we were at the wonderful ANNUAL at MOUNDVILLE, eleven of us from the Muscle Shoals Area. We all had a wonderful time. We can hardly give Dr. Jones and Mr. DeJarnette enough credit and praise for the work they did to make the meeting possible, pleasing, instructive and entertaining. I sincerely hope we can have another ANNUAL next year, as this kind of a get-together is one of the best from both an archaeological and social standpoint.

The matter of the ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH ASSOCIATION of ALABAMA, INC., will be taken care of at our next meeting - favorably, I hope.

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#### BIRMINGHAM ANTHROPOLOGICAL SOCIETY NEWS

Meeting first Friday of each month, 7:30 P.M. - - - - - B'ham Public Library.

Dr. Arthur Walker, Howard College, spoke at our July meeting on the subject of COMPARATIVE RELIGIONS, from a theological point of view. The meeting was poorly attended, the empty seats standing out like bare spots on a pup with a bad case of the mange. This kind of welcome makes it difficult for our Officers, and other interested parties, to procure good speakers. Why not come and bring a friend? Our speaker at our August meeting will be  
 Shall we give him a crowd, or lame apologies?

Copies of our REVISED CONSTITUTION will be distributed - and we should like to express our thanks to our President, Dr. Gessmann, for doing a systematic and excellent revision to keep it up to date. And MEMBERS ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED THAT THERE WILL BE A VOTE at the August meeting, this notification being required by our Constitution. We have something over \$400.00 in our Treasury, some of which has been there for a long time and earmarked for the promotion of archaeology, as the Society majority may decide and vote. It was suggested, and discussed, at the July meeting that it would be difficult to find a better way to use some of that money than to make a contribution toward financing the ROCK SHELTER excavation which Dave DeJarnette will do for us beginning Aug. 22. It does seem eminently fitting that, beside our individual contributions, THE BIRMINGHAM ANTHRO-



POLOGICAL SOCIETY, as the oldest functioning group of amateur archaeologists in the State, should AS A SOCIETY play a prominent part in financing so hopeful an enterprise. We all like to retain a measure of autonomy and individuality, and this is one useful way we can express our autonomy - not "I gave," or "the Ala. Arch. Soc. gave" - but THE BIRMINGHAM ANTHROPOLOGICAL SOCIETY gave. Martin Hullender, who has proved his interest in our affairs with a tremendous amount of hard work, suggested that we give the nice round sum of \$100.00. This will be open for further discussion and a vote at the August meeting.

Martin Hullender, who among his other duties, is our LIBRARIAN, announces the acquisition of three new books:

COSMOLOGY OF THE AGES, Wm. G. McLoughlin, which we have covered.

TRIBES THAT SLUMBER, Lewis and Kneberg, certainly the best all-around book for general reading on Southeastern archaeology.

THE DECIPHERMENT OF LINEAR B, John Chadwick, the story of the breaking of another prehistoric code, another triumph of mind.

Dr. Gessmann, an accomplished linguist, will digest this last for all of us and speak on it at a meeting in the near future. This should be an occasion that none should miss - a chance to understand, not only the breaking of an important language barrier, but the method used in doing so, and its significance to pre-history, especially the early Greeks who flowered into what is still called "the Grecian miracle".

Put first, be sure to attend our August meeting to cast your vote concerning the donation to finance what may well be THE LONG-SHOT HEARD 'ROUND THE WORLD.

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A BIBB COUNTY SITE  
and  
WHY THE LITTLE BOY WAS CALLED "BIG FIGHTING INDIAN"  
Mrs. Francis C. Smith

Many years ago, a little Alabama boy was invited every Sunday to go with his father to look for arrowheads on their family farm. And to the boy, Sunday was always looked forward to, because on that day there would be adventure and fun.

The farm lands had been in the family long before the 1800's. The first family settlers had chosen the rich bottom lands on both sides of the Little Cahaba River to homestead. Here were fertile soils, heavily wooded hills and a fine supply of drinking water in the big bubbling springs.

So on these Sundays with the small boy in tow, along with a couple of frolicksome bird-dogs, the father looked for the relics of a long-gone civilization. Arrowheads, spears, bird points, drills, celts, etc., as well as mortars and pestles, were found on the surface in open fields, woodlands, and riverside thickets.

The father tried to explain to the boy how the relics came to be there, as best as he was able. He told how great-grandparents had built the first log cabin on a hillock in an open field, which still looked like it might have been an Indian mound. He was shown the aged, gnarled cedar that once shaded the cabin, now long gone, with only a heap of boulders left from the first chimney. He was also told how the folks had chased the Indians from these very lands.

To the boy, it was a fascinating farm world just to know that real live Indians once lived on these high river bluffs...that they had made the fine black bird points at a workshop on the edge of the woods where now stood the molasses house.

There were so many places where bits of worked flint could be found. Stone mortars and pestles could be picked up many a time in the furrows of the plowed fields. Then there was Periwinkle Hill, piled high with shells whose meat had once been used for food by the Indians.

Once a plowing mule fell into a hole and the old darkey driver had stumbled onto something he knew the boy would fancy. He had taken in a basket the bits of bone and the little clay pots to the boy. But Mama had thrown up her hands and emphatically stated, "No, not in my house". So back to the red man's resting place, was toted the things and put back there with a bit of reverence and much awe by the boy.

Good arrowheads and such were kept at home on the den mantle. Many a night they were fingered and studied by man and boy. The fine workmanship of the relics was admired, as well as the problematical use and age discussed. Mortars, pestles, hammerstones, etc., were usually piled around the front steps and now and then one was used for a doorstep in the house.

Always, when the boy questioned him about the Indians, the father patted and thumped the boy's head and said, "Talwa Hadjo, Big Fighting Indian". This was an often-used term of endearment for the boy. But whenever the boy asked what and where the words came from, the father could tell little. He said that Uncle Joe, an old slave darkey aged 'bout a hundred, had said the identical words to him when he was a small boy himself. Uncle Joe, just like Uncle Remus, was plumb full of interesting tales, too!

The years rolled onward and the father passed away and later the family lands were sold. The boy grew into a man and his profession took him far away, but he still loved the study of ancient Indians. He found a little librarian who was able to get for him a wealth of reading material on the subject. He could and still did roam the countryside with ever an alert eagle eye for primitive man's handiworks. And he found them, too, from the mountains to the seas, and even in his own city back yard.

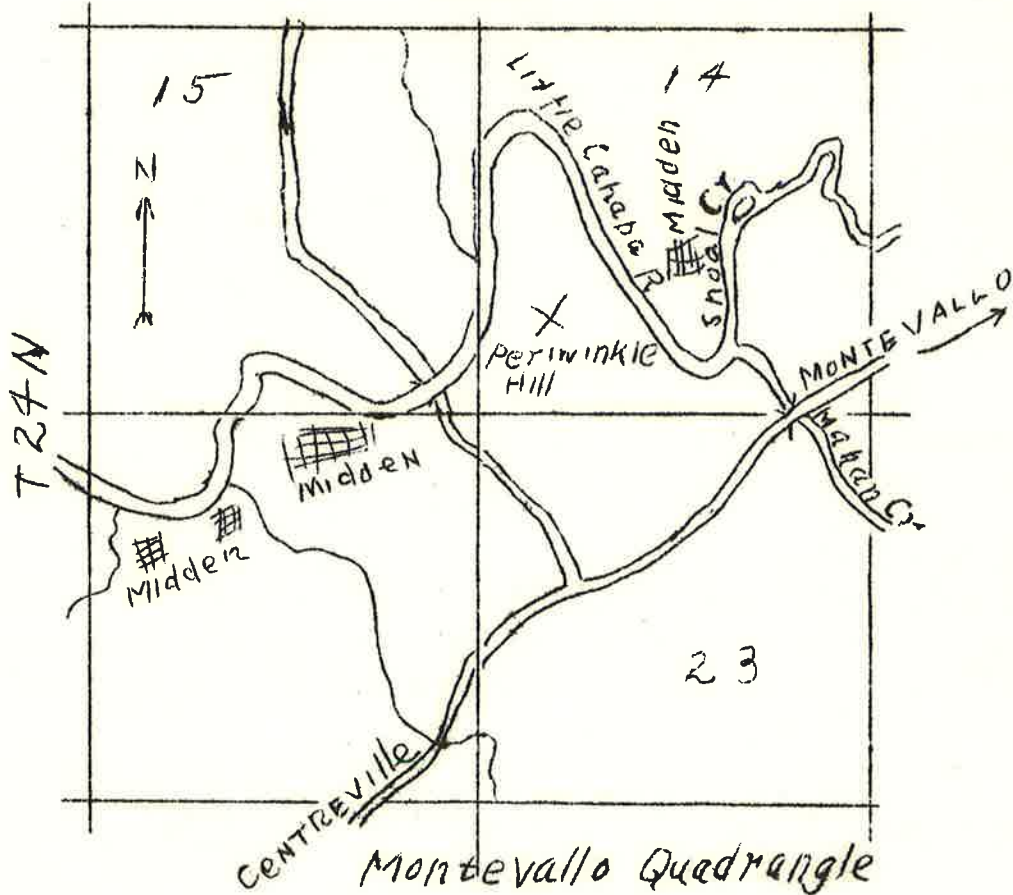
In his reading, one wintry night not so long ago, he came upon Indian words that startled him practically out of his chair by the fireside. "TALWA HADJO, Fighting Indians" - the very words for which he had so long sought the source and meaning! Now he knew! Here in one of the late Dr. John R. Swanton's scholarly tomes on Early Creek Indians were just a few meaningful words:

" Talwa Hadjo, was the name of an ancient Indian town of fighting Indians, somewhere in the vicinity of the Cahaba River, far to the northeast of other Creek villages.."

So mentions Swanton. He also states in his preamble that "relatively little was known...tribes wandered...there were many offshoots of small groups...many completely disappeared...towns vanished altogether out of the memories of living Indians

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Ed. Note: This delightfully human story is true - little "Talwa Hadjo", now somewhat larger and older, attended our Moundville meeting all the way from Atlanta. We have the privilege of printing the type of history which makes history live, yet the type that is usually as overlooked as archaeology itself. And "Talwa Hadjo" supplied us with a map to accompany his wife's account. Are we on the trail of Swanton's lost town of Talwa Hadjo?

R11E



TALWA HADJO MAP

