

THE ALABAMA ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Madison-Huntsville Chapter

Muscle Shoals Chapter

Member of the Eastern States Archaeological Federation

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 Editor: Dan Josseiy 408 Broadway, Edgewood, Birmingham 9, Ala.  
 Assistant Editor: Elizabeth Cline TR 1-2270 Phone in late news.  
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\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$ WE CAN BEGIN EXCAVATING \$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$

THE ALABAMA ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY FUND DRIVE has received \$1,413.00 in donations to date (Aug. 15). Cash donations have been acknowledged by letter. Others will of course receive their canceled checks at their banks. Our most sincere thanks to all donors.

These funds have been deposited in the First National Bank, Birmingham, to the account of THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH ASSOCIATION OF ALABAMA, INC. (set up by six members of the Ala. Arch. Soc. for the purpose of receiving tax-deductible donations, and administering them carefully for the promotion of authentic archaeology - see July Newsletter). The present funds have been made available to Professor David L. DeJarnette, Anthropologist, Univ. of Ala., and Archaeologist-in-charge at Mound State Monument, Moundville, Ala., who began his experience in Alabama archaeology way back in the 1930's and is thoroughly conversant with our great problems and even greater possibilities.

It has been stipulated that Prof. DeJarnette will use these funds for a two-week exploratory excavation of the rock shelter discovered and reported by our now-famous member Mr. C. H. Worley, and test-pitted by our professional member Steve B. Wimberly. It is estimated that in this very dry, undisturbed shelter there is a chance of solving several of our archaeological riddles. Especially, it lies in a favorable part of the area where Paleo artifacts have been properly collected and recorded from the incredible number of 280 sites! This must be, right here in Alabama, about ten times the Paleo sites reported from the entire rest of the country! We undoubtedly have an important key to the Paleo culture here in Alabama. Only one of the many types of fluted Paleo points has ever been dated acceptably, and none in the East. Beginning Aug. 29 Prof. DeJarnette, with a trained crew of student excavators, will begin Alabama's first professional attempt to solve such problems. This seems the most promising use of the funds donated which we can select at the present time, and we hope the members of the Ala. Arch. Soc. are unanimously agreed.

This raising of funds to finance a scientific exploration of the possibilities of this promising site certainly represents the high mark of organized achievement by the Ala. Arch. Soc. We feel we may speak for all members in thanking the donors who make our BIG TRY possible. If it proves successful in throwing new light on the archaeological past, it might also reinvigorate the future of Alabama archaeology.

You will be interested in a few donation statistics. The Birmingham Anthropological Society voted unanimously to contribute \$100.00 from its treasury. Of the members of the Ala. Arch. Soc. as a whole, 17% have made individual donations to date - which is pretty pathetic unless there are a lot of late arrivals. Here is a surprising figure: 62% of the individual donors were not members in 1958! Have some of us grown so accustomed to seeing nothing done that we think nothing can be done? Special thanks to new-member enthusiasm.

The dreamers who said something could be done, and to whom we owe our thanks for getting something started, donated more than a fair share:

JAMES H. McCARY, II  
 JAMES H. McCARY, III (father and son)  
 WILLIAM M. SPENCER

We shall always be, however, even more deeply indebted to their vision and enterprise than to their generous financial assistance.

We take pride in publishing the names of the CHARTER CONTRIBUTORS, to date. Stragglers will be published next month:

CRAWFORD BADHAM  
 BIRMINGHAM ANTHROPOLOGICAL SOC.  
 ALICE ANNE CLINE (non-member)  
 BOBBY CLINE (non-member)  
 ELIZABETH CLINE  
 G. B. DANIELL  
 DAVID L. DeJARNETTE  
 DR. ALBERT FISHER  
 M. H. FLOYD, JR.  
 O. L. JONES  
 DANIEL W. JOSSELYN  
 FRANK E. LANKFORD (non-member)  
 FRED L. LAYTON  
 MRS. JAMES LIVINGSTON (non-member)  
 MR. & MRS. CHAS. C. MARTIN

JAMES H. McCARY, II  
 JAMES H. McCARY, III  
 R. L. ROST  
 MR. & MRS. CLARENCE F. SMITH  
 MRS. FRANCIS C. SMITH  
 WILLIAM M. SPENCER  
 J. G. STELZENMULLER  
 ALVIN V. WALLS  
 R. W. WEAVER (life member)  
 JIM WILKINSON (in memoriam)  
 STEVE WIMBERLY  
 DR. & MRS. R. W. WORK  
 C. H. WORLEY  
 MRS. ALICE L. WRIGHT, R.N.

EXCAVATION NEWS will be released as soon as possible. If the field reports, prior to laboratory study, should warrant, we shall publish a special bulletin without waiting for the next Newsletter. After all, we can hold our breaths only so long!

NEWSPAPER COVERAGE is hoped for. James H. McCary, II, the working President of our Arch. Research Assn. of Ala., has volunteered to drive a Birmingham News reporter and photographer to the site for a preliminary news release. We hope this can be arranged.

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### GREAT GALUMPHING DINOSAURS!

WAS HOMO SAPIENS IN AMERICA BEFORE NEANDERTHAL MAN VANISHED FROM EUROPE? Carl B. Compton, Institute Interamericano, 5133 NT, Denton, Texas, drops an atom bomb by asking this question in the OHIO ARCHAEOLOGIST, July 1960 (420 Chatham Road, Columbus 14, Ohio). The growing number of American sites "beyond the present reach of radio-carbon dating" naturally leads to such questions - even if only to "kick around" at the present time. And of course there are a few proponents of a "third-interglacial Man" in America.

So then one begins to think - or at least dream - that the great isolation of America would have been a wonderful place for Homo Sapiens to have developed without succumbing to the violence, or mixture, of Neanderthal or other early types which dominated most of the rest of the world.

Just kicking the idea around, you know, but we have too often closed our minds, and locked the door. And it does stress, once again, the importance of our own search for Early Man in a certain rock shelter in Alabama.

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## WEST VIRGINIA ARCH. SOC. STUDIES PALEO MAN

SIGFUS OLAFSON, President and Editor of the West Virginia Arch. Soc. (81 Chatsworth Ave., Larchmont, N. Y.), sends us a copy of MID-OHIO VALLEY PALEO-INDIAN AND SUGGESTED SEQUENCE OF THE FLUTED POINT CULTURES, E. W. Hyde (Price \$1.00). All Paleo students will want to get a copy of this 48-page book.

Mr. Hyde attempts a tentative dating of their several fluted point types by correlation with glacial geology, which has been acceptably dated by radio-carbon methods. The fluted point types found only on the higher, older terraces of the Ohio, when it was hugely swollen by the melting of the Wisconsin glaciation, he reasons to be the oldest; those on the intermediate terraces of intermediate age; and so on. Surprisingly, the evidence does not show the Clovis to be the oldest type. (This might suggest that the fluted point originated in the East, not the West!)

The book contains numerous maps, figures, and photographs of fluted points, with descriptions and measurements. It is a very provocative and timely publication.

One disturbing note is to the effect that the right hand of archaeology doesn't know what the left hand is doing. In the past ten years the Tennessee Archaeologist (T. M. N. Lewis, Dept. of Anthropology, Univ. of Tenn., Knoxville 6, Tenn.) has published dozens of photographs of what has long been named the Cumberland fluted point (named by Dr. Lewis, if our information is correct, because it is so plentiful in the Cumberland Plateau region). Mr. Hyde illustrates our Cumberland type with the "basal tangs flared" and says, "Until a definite classification has been assigned to this type of blade, we will call it Ohio Fluted."

Since both of our Societies belong to the Eastern States Arch. Federation, couldn't we set up some kind of clearing house for such matters?

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## A DRY SHELTER EXCAVATION IN PENNSYLVANIA

You will note on page 12 of your Bulletin 19 of our Eastern States Archaeological Federation a brief account of a partial excavation of a dry shelter in Pennsylvania. It has a wet area as well as a dry, and increases in dampness with depth - apparently not as dry as our Worley shelter. But "an abundance of wood ash" (also present in our shelter) helped to "contribute toward a remarkable preservation of organic materials". This is of course one reason why dry shelters are of such great archaeological importance, these organic materials being so perishable on the average site.

Skeletal material, corn, beans, pumpkin, sunflower, cordage made from butterfly milkweed and Indian hemp, a bark food-storage container, beds of grass or leaves covered by bark sheets, fabric, net, leather, arrow shaft fragment, wooden paddle, part of a fire-by-friction set, are among the preserved organic materials listed from the dry portion of the shelter.

These rock shelters were of course especially popular with the very early inhabitants, before housing developed. "In the deeper levels there are possibly nine or more pre-ceramic stages, including a strong Transitional component." Since pottery goes back about 3,500 years (estimated - we need more precise dating on this, too), this Penn. shelter had many very early occupations. We hope that will prove true of our own shelter, where Steve Wimberly has identified the entire range of Alabama pottery types, from fiber to shell temper. And what with the dryness, the wood ash, considerable shell in the midden, and the acid-neutralizing limestone of the shelter itself, we hope preservation will be extraordinary even from Paleo times. Let us hope Paleo Man may have buried here!

W. Fred Kinsey, in the Penn. report, says, "The archaeology of Central Pennsylvania is poorly known, but we now have a site in this area of considerable potential." Down to the 10-foot level, they are still encountering evidence of human occupation. We can get an idea of the importance of these rock shelters. They are usually (as ours) free from the mechanical problems and disturbances of roots, too, so the story told in the layering of the soil is more readable for the archaeologist. And in part of our rock shelter there appears to have been no rock fall, such as Miller encountered in Russell Cave, to complicate both the work and the record.

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#### HOW DEEP ARE OUR POCKETS?

Funds for 8 weeks of excavation by a crew of 4 were provided for the Penn. shelter by the Penn. Historical and Museum Commission and the Social Science Research Council. But the end is not in sight. "Cultural deposits may be as much as 25 feet deep...We plan to carry out intensive excavations at this site during the next few years."

It would be amazing if the exploratory excavation did not prove our shelter to be of real importance. There seems little chance of getting public funds in Alabama - where we haven't sufficiently carried the story of archaeology to the people. To dig deeper, our own pockets will have to be deeper, as it were.

We do hope to get enough results and publicity to capture the public mind and to interest new donors. But it seems unlikely that our own participation won't be needed. Could we plan ahead? Your Newsletter editor will pledge at least \$25.00 a year. Knowing his financial status (or lack of it!), he would judge there must be 100 members in the Ala. Society who could average at least that. And \$2,500.00 a year would finance considerable excavating. When we begin to get results, we might reassess and discover that our archaeological interests are of more worth than a good many little things we spend money on - things of no permanent value - so that even though we "don't have the money to spare" we can save it elsewhere. That is our own personal method.

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#### ARE WE AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY?

Or are we merely flying the impressive big title at our masthead for the boastful effect? It might be time for us to ask ourselves this pertinent question, and to do something about it or "strike our colors" in defeat. And who wants to belong to a do-nothing society, anyhow?

Our sincerity can perhaps best be measured by what we put into our Ala. Arch. Soc. We have been interested in taking an inventory of our own personal efforts in behalf of the Society so far this year:

Besides writing 9 Newsletters, we have written 143 letters on "official business" (78 of them relating to the rock shelter, the formation of the Arch. Research Assn. of Ala., and the fund drive), for a total wordage of approximately 64,000. The cost of paper, carbon paper, typewriter ribbons, and mailing (often in duplicate, sometimes triplicate and quadruplicate) has been a minimum of \$12.00. In trying to keep up with what is happening in archaeology to a reasonable extent, we subscribe to Antiquity, Council for Old World Archaeology, Archaeology, and the Journals and Newsletters of the Tenn., Ohio and North Carolina Societies, at a total cost of \$31.50. For official trips, incidentals such as a rubber stamp and materials for TV shows, etc., we find we have spent \$52.00. Add \$25.00 contribution to the rock shelter excavation and we get \$120.50 - not counting books on archaeology, which we put down to personal expense, even though useful in Society work. We have also written three articles on archaeology for Journals, given

three public talks to arouse interest in archaeology, and made ourselves a public exhibit on two TV programs.

No, we have neither the time nor the money for this. We have to save both of them by curtailing other expenditures which undoubtedly are less important. And they are less interesting, come right down to the facts. The more one does in archaeology, the more he gets out of it. Just "going along for the ride" is unfair to yourself - you are cheating yourself out of interest, education, self-development and a pardonable pride.

We urge you to reassess your own contributions to archaeology through your Society - and its consequent contributions to you! Not the least value of this rock shelter excavation is the stimulus it will provide to all of us.

Clarence Smith writes (along with his nice donation) that some of the Muscle Shoals members volunteer their services for the excavation. That is an interesting angle. With the brief time available, we doubt if Prof. DeJarnette (to whom we forwarded Mr. Smith's letter) could break in and use beginners to any great extent. But at his summer excavations could he train a crew of our own members who have time, or would like to devote vacations to archaeology? We can all do something. And don't forget to scout for good sites. Mr. O. L. Jones, one of our donors, was telling us about a prospect we want to see.

Personally, we feel more encouraged than we ever were. In fact, this is the first time we haven't been actually discouraged about the prospects of Alabama archaeology. Now we're started, let's plan not to stop!

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Mr. R. W. WEAVER, Henagar Motor Co., Henagar, Ala., writes us (along with his generous donation) that there are some petroglyphs on a cliff in his vicinity of DeKalb Co. Look him up and investigate.

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#### MUSCLE SHOALS CHAPTER NEWS

Clarence F. Smith

At the July 25 meeting at Student Lodge, Florence State College, we had another good meeting, attendance very good considering the hot, humid weather, vacations, etc. The speaker for the evening was Stanford E. Smith, subject "Empire of the Andes", which was very interesting and instructive. It was well illustrated by the use of pictures, charts and diagrams. After this talk we had a general discussion of the artifacts of this region.

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#### BIRMINGHAM ANTHROPOLOGICAL SOCIETY NEWS

Meets first Friday each month - Birmingham Public Library - 7:30 P.M.  
At our August meeting we listened to an absorbing talk on cosmology, ancient and modern, by Bill McLoughlin (author of the new book, COSMOLOGY OF THE AGES). We learned that man's ideas about his universe have evolved quite as much as he has - and that our present concept of the universe will have to be revised within two years to fit the facts being rapidly discovered. We hope man will enlarge, right along with his universe, and learn how to do something about the depletion of earth's oxygen before we get a "dead atmosphere" like Mars. Carbon in the spectrum proves Mars once sustained life, too.

It seems very appropriate that for our Sept. meeting Dr. Karel Hujer, Prof. of Astronomy, Univ. of Chattanooga, will talk on ASTRONOMY IN EARLY CULTURE. This should be interesting. Some of man's earliest thinking on a larger scale, and much of his mathematics, seem to have been stimulated by his interest in the solar bodies. Indeed, man made some of his first gods out of celestial bodies.

Let's give Dr. Hujer a crowd!

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DEAR MEMBERS:

You will remember that I mentioned that on the same Saturday as the Moundville meeting I would be in the Loire Valley of France doing a bit of archaeological work. Everything turned out fine, and on the register of the museum at Grand-Pressigny I extended the greetings of the Alabama Archaeological Society to the museum and the curator. I rather feel that this is one of the rare times that an officer of a state archaeological society has visited the museum, since it is in a very out-of-the-way place in what remains of an old medieval chateau.

The museum has a magnificent collection representing the area for a good many miles around, and is well arranged. Perhaps the most astonishing thing one notices is the dearth of projectile points and the large number of cutting tools. These tools are made from a beautiful honey-colored flint and the men who made them were masters at knocking blades off a core. MANY OF THE BLADES WERE OVER A FOOT LONG AND ABOUT  $1\frac{1}{2}$ " WIDE AND NOT OVER  $\frac{1}{4}$ " THICK. Some of the celts had been extensively ground and polished and the museum also had examples of the boulders, deeply grooved, which had been used for polishing them.

After lunch with Dr. and Madame Parisot (Institut Textile de France) Anne and I were taken to one of the sites which, appropriately, was in a vineyard. Anne and I are known as "the vacuum cleaner Works" from the way we cover a site. However, we could not live up to our reputation on that site, because we would have needed a ten-ton truck to haul the flint away. The site was full of chips, some as big as your hand, most of which showed indication of some further working. We picked up a few interesting pieces but, of course, the field had been gleaned by other people. We did find a few small broken blades and a couple of pieces which may have been intended to become celts. Also, we have a core from which blades had been taken, to illustrate the techniques used. Jack Cambron and Pete Knudsen found these very interesting. In my records, the Pressigny is Site #53.

I did not get very far in the U.S.S.R., mostly from lack of time there. However, after being mistakenly taken to a group of ethnographers and having had an interesting discussion with them, they insisted that I take three books away with me as mementos. They certainly showed me every courtesy. I did manage to meet the curator of the anthropological museum at the University of Moscow. He was very interested in a few of the artifacts which I had with me and I plan to send him a few pieces representative of Northern Alabama.

In Copenhagen, Denmark, Anne and I had a splendid trip through the National Museum. Their collection is systematically arranged and illustrates the tools, weapons, dress and behavior of all the primitive peoples of the world. We spent several hours there and practically walked our feet off. Later, I had a nice discussion with Dr. Helge Larsen, the curator, who incidentally I had met at the conference at Yale a few months ago. I congratulated him on the splendid collection in the museum, but pointed out that there was one small discrepancy which prevented it from being perfect. I had noticed that in the collections from the United States, there were lithic materials from Georgia, South Carolina, Tennessee, and even a strange place called "Texas", but there was nothing from Alabama. He immediately admitted to this appalling error and welcomed my suggestion that the Alabama Archaeological Society in general and R. W. Work in particular would be glad to remedy it. Since that time, with Jack Cambron's help, a few pieces have been selected which will shortly be forwarded to the museum.

The thought comes to me that some of our other archaeologists may wish to send material to the same place and if so, they should be marked for Dr. Larsen's

attention at the National Museum, Copenhagen, Denmark. Needless to say, full identification and description and site location should accompany every piece. I think it would be a splendid thing if others who possess both better material and a more complete knowledge of Alabama archaeology than I do would send a few things to Dr. Larsen. Since I know nothing about pottery, I have not even attempted to send anything in the way of pottery. (Ed. note: Could Dave DeJarnette select some representative exchange sherds and send along with one of his publications?)

Well, that is the story of our trip. I would especially like to have Alabama archaeology represented in Copenhagen.

Sincerely,

BOB WORK,  
President, Ala. Archaeological Society

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THE SKELETON IN THE ARCHAEOLOGIST'S CLOSET:irate wife to husband: "Don't you try to drag the skeleton out of my family closet!"

The archaeological young son: "Why, mama? Was it grave robbing?"

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THE 1961 ANNUAL MEETING OF THE EASTERN STATES ARCHAEOLOGICAL FEDERATION will be held in Georgia, probably Macon or Athens. This should be very stimulating for Southern archaeology. Plan to attend, and to display or otherwise contribute if you can.