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Newsletter

STONES & BONES

February 1961

Birmingham Anthropological Society

Morgan-Limestone Chapter

Madison-Huntsville Chapter

Muscle Shoals Chapter

Guntersville-Marshall Chapter

East Alabama Chapter

Member of the Eastern States Archaeological Federation

(Don't peek now, but this may be our most important issue ever []]]

# A NEW SCIENTIFIC BREAK-THROUGH But - You Have To Fight For Science

MANKIND'S GREATEST GIFT is that all-too-rare something which has made a few inspired souls fight - as they have had to - for knowledge, for truth. The slow history of progress is a history of battles against the mass inertias and terrible fossilization of society, of mass minds as fixed and anachronistic as calcified brachiopods.

THIS SLENDER GIFT TO KNOW developed, after half a million valorous but ignorant years, into modern science - to accomplish more in a century than all the rest of time.

SCIENCE - which Russia is exploiting so rapidly and ruthlessly - by dictatorial methods...and which depends so much upon the intelligence and determination of the people - in AMERICA: Can the people be roused to do battle with their own inertias?

Russia is undoubtedly doing a good job in archaeology. IN TRYING TO FINANCE OUR NEW SCIENTIFIC BREAK-THROUGH, proven by a test trench last summer and demanding complete excavation next summer, we must of necessity go to the people for donations. Is our educational level up to it? It is a little frightening to put democracy to the test?

OUR FAITH IN THE PEOPLE, however, has been reassured. There are those who can evaluate the pricelessness of science - and fight for it. We received a letter from a working man, a family man, whom we may identify only as "a North Carolina member":

"Enclosed is a check for \$300 to boost the funds a little closer toward the \$6,800 goal you have set. Since Dave DeJarnette feels that this dig merits this large a contribution on a professor's salary, I am sure that many of the rest of us should at least equal it. In addition to this, I shall be willing to give another \$300 donation during the summer if you run short of funds. Our Society must, by some means, assure Dave that we will support this project sufficiently to make possible a full summer's dig."

### THE FIRST BATTLE FOR "EARLY MAN"

"To you from failing hands we throw
The torch; be yours to hold it high.
If ye break faith with us who die
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow."

- John McCrae

Jacques Boucher de Crevecoeur de Perthes (Per:-tas), past seventy, worn with a lifetime of fighting, succeeded in dragging mankind past THE GREATEST MILESTONE in the development of man's understanding - the beginning of understanding himself. This was as recently as 1859 - and most people still don't know who de Perthes was!

He was just a customs officer who had become a crank, or more likely gone batty, about collecting certain old rocks. Even built a gallery on his house to hold them - sort of a museum - the first of its kind.

An amateur archaeologist, we would call him nowadays, and more lenient public opinion would rate him only half addled. The few who know about such things would put him at the head of a long and glorious list as the

DADDY OF "EARLY MAN" OR "PALEO MAN". A lifetime collecting hand axes chipped of stone by the hand of man, deep in the drift gravels of Abbeville and St. Acheul, gave de Perthes the then absurd and even dangerous notion that man was not suddenly created precisely at 9:00 A.M., October 23rd, 4004 B.C. But there was ample other proof that he was insane - he even babbled about "the rights of women" 188

One against the world: One little customs officer amateur against all the great men of science, the learned universities, the brachiopods of custom. Truth embattled. But truth battled back! Years of lecturing and exhibiting - eight monumental volumes written - precious blood of truth spilled across continents and decades.

HAS MAN A GREATER GIFT than this thing which makes him miserable for a lifetime, an outcast and idiot to his fellows, fighting for scientific truth? But as a white-goateed old man, past seventy, de Perthes saw his battle won before the British Association and Royal Society. THE GREAT ANTIQUITY OF MAN was proven, and accepted, to become the most useful forceps in the mental tool-kit to deliver a creature somewhat more entitled to call himself "Homo sapiens" - at last unafraid to look himself squarely in the face.

### THE BATTLE FOR "EARLY MAN" IN AMERICA

What we used to call, naively, "early Americans", seem indeed to have been very primitive, judging by such customs as "witch" burning. At least they had little of the spirit of science. They killed off the earlier inhabitants, mistakenly known as "Indians", with little attention to ethnological records. The science of archaeology has had to learn about them the hard way - even the location of historic village sites!

For reasons now obscure, certainly preconceived, archaeology got started with the notion that man had been in America only three or four thousand years. As notions do, this rapidly petrified - to the extent that evidence to the contrary would not even be considered.

Mark Harrington, in his "Gypsum Cave", lists many early discoveries indicating man had lived in America in association with Ice Age animals. Dr. A. K. Koch, one of the doctor amateurs that history missed, as early as 1839 reported stone implements in association with mastodon bones and charcoal. And again in 1846 Dr. M. W. Dickeson found part of a human pelvis in association with the bones of two species of ground sloths.

Even a "highly qualified" anthropologist, F. W. Putnam, in 1885 reported the discovery of a mastodon in association with a human skull, 18 feet deep in swamp deposit, and dared the title "Man and the Mastodon" when publishing in "Science". But what chance have fossilized bones in a contest with fossilized minds? Many years later he advised Mark Harrington, "If ever you make a find that seems unusually old, just report it - don't attempt to interpret it, or you will get into trouble!"

"EARLY MAN" IN AMERICA wasn't mentioned in sane circles until 1926. It was just ten years ago this month that the "Scientific American" published the official Smithsonian acceptance of an "Early Man" in America. That is, in western America, where Carbon-14 dating brought conviction.

BUT HERE IN THE EAST, an equivalent "Early Man" has never been proven by Carbon-14 dating. This represents the worst "missing link" in the over-all picture of American archaeology. Until this link is supplied, the chain of archaeological thinking will remain deplorably broken.

## THE BATTLE FOR "EARLY MAN" IN THE EAST

It is rather amazing that amateurs must still promote the science of man. The atom is split, we may reach the moon any day, and we chart the very universe. But the most important science - if man is to survive and continue to progress - the science of man himself, still tugs at its own bootstraps.

"This is my second try as regards this site", amateur archaeologist Charles H. Worley wrote, October 23, 1959, to his fellow members of the Alabama Archaeological Society. He wanted help to do justice to what appeared a most promising site, now become famous as the Stanfield-Worley cliff shelter.

He didn't have to try a third time. The Society was willing to take the long-odds gamble that this might be the eastern "Early Man" site where at long last a Carbon-14 date might be procured. To be sure, twenty-five years of excavating in Alabama had never found it. But it is the prerogative of amateurs to be not quite smart enough to know what "can't be done".

There were even some rambunctious "Hatfields and McCoys" - the McCarys and Spencers - who thought money could be raised to put down a proper professional test trench. And pelf scarcer than Paleo: But their confidence in people was justified - members and friends and otherwise interested parties donated over \$1500 and Prof. David L. DeJarnette, with students and volunteers, excavated the test trench.

The trench went down through the familiar eastern cultural divisions: the Mississippi, perhaps 1000 years old; the Woodland, which goes back some 3,500 years; and the late, middle and early phases of the Archaic, known to be at least 8000 years old in Alabama. And that has been heretofore the oldest dated culture in the East.

Below the classic Archaic was the usual, and feared, sterile zone, devoid of signs of human habitation. But below that an excellent midden (zone showing signs of habitation) which contained two of the older projectile point types, named Dalton and Cumberland, and the typical "Early Man" lithic tools:

## DOLLARS AND SENSE

Since such opportunities don't happen twice in a lifetime, naturally there was a great rush to finance the necessary complete excavation next summer: great educational institutions, wealthy foundations, alert legislators, industrial concerns, civic leaders, chambers of commerce.

But hold everything - we got our notes mixed. It wasn't six thousand they wanted to donate - it was six hundred thousand! And it wasn't for the Worley cliff shelter excavation - it was for a bigger stadium!

It had been a mistake to let it get out that the dig was "just science". The whisper should have been allowed to slip, accidentally and don't-mention-it, that the goal was pot hunting, or buried treasure.

## COUNCIL OF WAR

The six Society members who have shouldered the task of managing the financial end of the project, and established the Archaeological Research Association of Alabama, Inc. for tax-deductible purposes (and possibilities!), met in troubled council. Communications from several other amateur Societies, and numerous individuals, had warned that \$6,800 couldn't be raised - not for science, especially archaeological science.

## 1----- SO WE DO DIG ------

JUNE 5 to JULY 14, inclusive - at the very least. It was agreed, at the "war coun-

cil", to go out on a limb and guarantee to underwrite excavation for the first six weeks - and gamble that the limb was a good one.

But these six members have no monopoly on vision - the limb is rapidly being supported.

## AND NEW HOPE TO FINANCE THE ENTIRE SUMMER

We have more time to raise money. Instead of a January deadline, Dave can now grant us until April first to see if we can finance the latter half of the summer.

The mills of the gods grind slowly. It has taken your editor two months to raise \$140 outside the Society. Now there is time to try to double it. And we have most encouraging reports on what others are doing.

### THE CLANS GATHER, BOWS ARE BRACED

MRS. GEORGE DONNEL AXFORD, non-member, came up with one of the neatest tricks - she sent our fund a check for a Christmas present:

FRANK E. LANKFORD, Birmingham attorney with a fine sense of civic responsibility, sent our fund a check and joined the Society because he "thought it might be helpful to the State to support our work" - about which we'll remark later.

DR. GEORGE KNOX SPEARMAN, Anniston, upheld the great tradition of doctors in amateur archaeology by being the first to send his donation in response to the hurry-up reminder of the Jan. Newsletter.

DR. A. G. LONG, JR., President of our brand new Guntersville-Marshall Chapter, as if not to be outdone, shortly sent in a whole batch of donations from these very promising "freshmen" members!

MR. A. B. HOOPER..... who will also give time to the dig.

MR. LEON KENNAMER.....

DR. A. G. LONG, Jr.....

MR. JOHN BROOKSHIRE....

MR. N. B. NEIGHBORS....

MR. JAY GURLEY.....

""""

and MR. THOMAS HAGOOD, MR. ACTON BOONE and MR. JOHN BLACK volunteer time: That is donating \$5.00 a day, remember, at the pay scale of student archaeologists.

JACK DEDDENS, former member of the Birmingham Anthropological Society, and after these years still mentioned frequently with pleasant memories, writes us that "THE LOUISVILLE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY, KY., will make a donation!" They have the distinct honor of being the only one of several Societies invited who have responded! Jack sends greetings to his many friends.

THE McCARYS, who are really going to bat to promote our project, report three donations and a promise:

W. N. CULP
HUBERT M. STILES
HENRY BEACH (W. B. LEEDY & CO.)
SOUTHERN LIFE AND HEALTH INSURANCE CO.

Needless to say, getting a "foot in the door" with Alabama business firms is of paramount importance. Our highly competitive business world is a sphere demanding not only good brains, but progressive brains.

DR. CARL B. COMPTON, Director of the Instituto Interamericano, 'way down in Denton, Texas, ran our advertisement (concerning an antique foot-pedal organ we'd like to sell and donate the proceeds to our fund) in his refreshingly human-scientific Newsletter - and has an inquiry. Talk about international finance! It may be too expensive to have it crated and shipped - but it makes wonderful copy - and far-flung publicity! And don't you meet nice folks in archaeology!!!

"A NORTH CAROLINA MEMBER", as we have seen, has got his scientific dander up and given us a real shot in the arm?

## THIS SHOULD DO SOMETHING TO YOU

"MATT LIVELY was the best thing in Newsletter last year", Britt Thompson told us. It didn't hurt our editorial feelings a bit - we admitted, page 5 of the October issue, that Matt put an old professional writer to shame. A little tardy with his donation, remember, he was apologetic about maybe having let his friends down:

"Since 1933 or 1934 the Birmingham Anthropological Society has been the 'agent' for introducing to me some of the finest people I have ever known in my life. Quite a few are my lifelong friends."

Since Matt has been having serious trouble with his eyes for a long time...well, you can see why it makes Matt a sort of special guy. And you will be glad to see him steal the show again.

MRS. E. J. CHENOWETH, SR., writes, "The enclosed, for the Stanfield-Worley cliff shelter, is sent in the name of a friend of mine, Matt Lively. Best luck."

MRS. T. M. HODGE wrote shortly thereafter, "This contribution solicited by Matthew Lively."

MRS. RUBY R. BELL, by the next mail, wrote, "Our friend, Matthew Lively, has called our attention to your planned development of archaeological findings. My husband and I are sending this donation."

## TOTAL DONATIONS TO DATE

It isn't our bookkeeping machine making those question marks. Members say, "Well, I've got \$\$ for the fund." But one hesitates to count chickens until they are in the bank. And, "I'm working on so-and-so - think they are coming through." Pots simmering all over the place, and the mail tomorrow revises the total today. But we are in the range, for sure, of

### \$2,000.00 plus &

#### AND THAT ISN'T HAY!

#### ALABAMA ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY - GOOD FOR THE STATE?

FRANK E. LANKFORD was quoted above as saying he thought it might be helpful to the State to support our work. Help the State? What good might we be doing the State? Had to think about it.

Well, there's our item in the Jan. issue, H. J. HOLLAND, EDUCATOR EXTRAORDINARY. Has Mr. Holland received any inspiration or assistance from our work or members? May we have some influence on an entire school, and lasting for a generation? Scientific and cultural influences are certainly nice to have around, handy for acquisition.

MRS. MILDRED OAKLEY, Cordova, wrote us a fine letter suggesting another way we might have a good influence: "I am sending you some articles concerning our son Carey B. Oakley, Jr., who is a member of the Alabama Archaeological Society, also the Tennessee Society. He had the privelege of working with Mr. DeJarnette last summer at Eufaula".

CAREY B. OAKLEY, JR., we learn from the clippings, was "top winner" at the Thomas W. Martin High School in a Science Fair with his exhibit "A Study of Indian Culture (Arch.)".

## John Cottier

The Jan. 6th meeting of the East Alabama Chapter in Comer Hall, Auburn University, was attended by 33 members and visitors. After introductions, there was a short general business meeting.

The program was then given by our versatile 1st Vice-President, Harry Amling, who gave us a detailed talk on "Early Man in Alabama", illustrated with slides and artifacts.

Our Chapter was fortunate in having Mr. Frank Morast and Mr. W. E. Joy of Columbus, Ga., present. They represent an informal group of amateur archaeologists in our neighbor state, and issued an invitation to attend their meetings every Saturday at 10:30 A.M. (EST) in the Columbus Museum of Arts and Crafts.

A main highlight of the past week was the filming of an archaeological program with Harold Huscher of the River Basins Survey, who has been working on the Chattahoochee River. Mr. Huscher was kind enough to spend an hour or so with several members of our group, and also promised to grant us a program in the future. This film will appear on the popular Educational TV feature, STONES & BONES, and will also be available to local Chapters, in the near future.

Our Treasurer was swamped with 12 new members, which now brings our membership to a grand total of 23. Our next meeting is Feb. 3rd at the Tallapoosa Court House in

Dadeville, the program to be on "Recording and its Aspects".

#### NEW MEMBERS

Harry Amling*	11.9 Samford Ave Auburn, Ala.
H. G. Barwood*	Rt. 1, Box 172 Auburn, Ala.
Carolyn Carr	342 Payne St Auburn, Ala.
Mrs. E. Donnely	751 Sherwood Dr Auburn, Ala.
Mrs. F. French	1121 Rudd Auburn, Ala.
W. E. Goslin*	126 W. Norwood Ave Auburn, Ala.
Mrs. Anton Heyn	Apt. 6, Woodland Terrace Auburn, Ala.
C. J. Jenkins	854 College PO Morehead, Ky. (Auburn?)
Mrs. W. Johnson	682 Heard Ave Auburn, Ala.
James E. Proctor*	1106 Wallace Ave Opelika, Ala.
	and two members new to Auburn Chapter:
	already a State member
Viencent Lopez	not yet a State member

## Dr. A. G. Long, Jr.

The Marshall County Chapter met on Jan. 10, 1961, and installed six new members:

This brings the total membership to 23 and prospects of more. (Ed. Note our two new Chapters are running neck and neck)

Donations were taken at the meeting (see above) and checks are enclosed to help forward the progress in the Stanfield-Worley project. Other members will report later about donations of time and money.

#### BIRMINGHAM ANTHROPOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Meet first Friday of month, - Birmingham Public Library - 7:30 P.M. The January meeting elected officers: Martin Hullender, President; Bill Steele, First Vice-President; Mrs. Lloyd Bowers, Second Vice-President; Mrs. Richard N. Hahn, Secretary-Treasurer.

Retiring President, Dr. Albert Gessman, unfortunately was not available for reelection, having received a better offer than Alabama affords to Head a Dept. of Languages in a Florida institution. It is a matter of regret that we have not had time to get a full look at his wealth of information.

The Feb. meeting will concern the MAHAN SITE west of Montevallo. All members who have collected the site please bring your artifacts, and especially potsherds.

#### NEW MEMBER

Frank E. Lankford, Attorney ..... 1208-11 Comer Bldg., B'ham, Ala. (family mmbr)

### NOTES and NEWS

THE "SUMMER ANNUAL" AT MOUNDVILLE might ought to be simmering in our minds. Our archaeology is "coming of age" and we should plan a red hot program. No doubt Dave would welcome suggestions.

ADRIAN E. THOMPSON (Thompson's Flowers), Tuscumbia member, has suggested to Dave that he might provide suitable accommodations for Dave and his crew next summer.

JACK CAMBRON is donating a lot of time, trouble, and know-how to do the lithic study on our Worley site.

J. H. McCARY II has volunteered to drive your editor up to Colbert County High School to talk to Mr. Holland's science classes.

DR. CARL B. COMPTON has at last figured a way to finance archaeology: move abroad and apply for foreign aid:

THE ALABAMA ACADEMY OF SCIENCE has never had a separate SECTION on ANTHROPOLOGY, due to lack of enough interested members. Now that we are "going places" in archaeology, we could use it to advantage. Dues are only \$3.00 annually and membership does - ah - confer a certain dignity.

CURATOR KANENOBU WATANABE, The Toyo-Bunko, 147 Kamifujimae-Cho, Bunkyo-Ku, Tokyo, Japan, sent the Alabama Archaeological Society a communication - in Japanese. We just haven't had time to read it.

MRS. FRANCIS C. SMITH writes us that many of Clarence Moore's publications can still be obtained, the accounts and photographs of his fabulous finds, and that prices are reasonable. She says let her know, if you are interested. 717 Woodward Way, N.W., Atlanta, Ga.

DR. T. M. N. LEWIS identified as owl effigies two stone pillars some six or eight feet high, from photographs sent him by Mrs. Francis C. Smith. Dr. Lewis cannot understand why they have not been reported in the Georgia literature. Watch the Tennessee Archaeologist.

"VERY CLOSE TO THE CLASSIC FOLSOM TYPE...I would certainly agree", Dr. Lewis writes us concerning Nos. 8 and 9, Figure 2, October 1960 issue of the Ohio Archaeologist. If you don't think the East has the Folsom point, look at these!

BILL BALLARD, on his toes, joined the Arkansas Society to get Dr. McGimsey's 1960 Newsletters which together form a veritable handbook for amateurs and Societies.

REV. RANDOLPH F. BLACKFORD sent his Christmas greetings to all from sunny St. Petersburg - but no archaeological news.

February 1961

STONES & BONES

BRITT THOMPSON'S Stones & Bones TV shows are looking sharp, and can now be seen played back on the commercial station Channel 6 B'ham at 5:30 A.M. Saturdays - as Britt cracks, "if anybody is crazy enough to get up that early on a week end." Maybe you will prefer Tuesdays, 7 P.M., Educational Channel.

HOWARD HUGHES, who can't even count his millions, has a mild interest in archaeology - except that he has already established his foundation for medical philanthropy, Dr. Carl B. Compton writes us, and adds, "Oddly, none of the 'right' people seem to have any very great interest in the anthropological fields." Righto - the philanthropy is already channeled - elsewhere:

#### TRAGEDY!

### "HE DIED AN ARCHAEOLOGIST'S DEATH"

It somehow had a valorous ring to it, when we read it. Even a certain nobility. One somehow felt he was as unafraid as a Viking going into battle. We have great traditions to live up to in claiming to be an "archaeological society".

We read on about Joseph Emperaire, with a sense of impending greatness rather than disaster. He and his archaeologist wife, Annette Laming Emperaire, had been doing excavating in the inclement Straits of Magellan area for several years. One day he was working alone in a deep pit and his stratigraphic cut caved in on him.

ADDINDA: As we go to press additional donations arrive, with an amazing geographic distribution of interest in our Worley excavation:

SIGFUS OLAFSON 81 Chatsworth Ave. Larchmont, New York Univ. Park, Pennsylvania JOHN A. STELLMACK Chem. Eng. Bldg. Decatur, Ala. TERRY W. TARKINGTON 2018 Mastmeade Ave. A. F. DELCHAMPS, JR., Delchamps, Inc., 305 N. Water St., Mobile, Ala. Delchamps, Inc., 305 N. Water St., O. H. DELCHAMPS, JR., Mobile, Ala. These last two are also new members, joining as well as contributing, thanks to our to our good member NICHOLAS H. HOLMES, JR., Architect (HOLMES & GEER), 22 S. Lafayette, Mobile, Ala.

#### DARE WE - DARE WE - HOPE FOR A FULL SUMMER DIG?