

# Alabama Archaeological Society

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BIRMINGHAM ANTHROPOLOGICAL SOCIETY  
MADISON-HUNTSVILLE CHAPTER  
GUNTERSVILLE-MARSHALL CHAPTER  
MORGAN-LIMESTONE CHAPTER  
MUSCLE SHOALS CHAPTER  
EAST ALABAMA CHAPTER

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## STONES & BONES NEWSLETTER

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*      $ 1,844.78 OVER OUR QUOTA
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*      ?? WHAT DOES IT MEAN ??
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Doesn't it mean we have surprisingly discovered a potential PEOPLE'S MOVEMENT - a new way and a new hope for Alabama archaeology?

And would we not be derelict in our duty, and neglecting our supreme opportunity, if the amateurs did not provide continuing leadership for this popular expression of interest, and finance the exploration of our other Early Man complexes - Clovis, Cumberland, Redstone, Quad, etc?

Might not this happy combination of "people and Paleo" even become the BIGGEST THING THAT EVER HIT ARCHAEOLOGY? If you can think of anything bigger than popular support of the hunt for America's missing link Early Man, here where the evidence of Early Man occupation is far richer than anywhere else - name it!

CAN WE CONTINUE TO FINANCE RESEARCH FOR SEVERAL YEARS? Heck, look at what we did "on a shoestring": limited contacts, no publicity, no University authentication, no experience raising funds - no confidence! "It couldn't be done", you know. And there was still even wide opinion that the East had no Paleo or Early Man. But as of today, all the reasons why we could not finance one excavation have been reversed and become reasons why we can continue to finance excavations.

In fact, NAME ONE REASON WHY THIS TREND OF POPULAR INTEREST SHOULD NOT CONTINUE TO SNOWBALL! Donations have come from twice as many non-members as from members! The very nation has been alerted - 19 States and the District of Columbia donating - 43.7% of our funds from out of State! And all this before we have delivered the goods with one completed job!

WILL THE PEOPLE SUPPORT is not the question. They have! The question is: WILL THE AMATEUR MOVEMENT CONTINUE TO PROVIDE ENTHUSIASTIC LEADERSHIP?

SO LET'S BEGIN RIGHT NOW !While Publicity Is At Peak

For a starter, we have compiled a summary, report and prospectus on "the people for Paleo" - about our Paleo potential, our newly discovered potential of popular support, what the people have done, what the people are going to do. With personal communications, these are being mailed to several hundred donors as rapidly as only two hands allow.

Savor for a moment that we are nearly \$2,000.00 oversubscribed! Draw courage and reassurance and high resolve from it.

Then forget it! Because we aren't - that is, oversubscribed. The fact is that we have only about \$5,000.00 to go to finance 1962. We do have a good running start - and this is the exciting moment to keep running! We are just now getting something concrete to sell, and a big listening audience.

HOW ABOUT A FLUTED-POINT SITE FOR 1962?

The Dalton-Meserve projectile point type, which we are now excavating, was actually discovered two years before the famous fluted Folsom point - and, like the Folsom, in association with the bones of an extinct species of Bison - so it should have been the projectile point that started the Early Man acceptance in 1924. But it took the fluted Folsom, in 1926, to stir imaginations and make some think maybe America did have an Early Man, in spite of firm orthodox decision to the contrary.

The fluted point was so strange, different, exclamatory! It adorned magazine covers and stirred people who had never heard of archaeology. Folsom Man rapidly became "the first American" - remember? And an aura of drama still clings to the "fluted point", and we might find it promotional!

We do not have the Folsom point. But the older fluted Clovis points have been surface collected from more sites in Alabama than are listed for all the rest of the country in Dr. Wormington's classic, "Ancient Man in North America". There is our big opportunity, our tremendous obligation.

So why not hustle around and find an exciting fluted-point site to excavate in 1962? A Clovis - or we'd settle for a Cumberland or Redstone. They are all photogenic, famous, fascinating. And the men who made all of them are still mysterious missing links. Any archaeologist in his right mind would give his right arm to learn something about them and their way of life. There is still magic in the "fluted point" - and we must have a good site, not only to dig, but to sell, for 1962. That is all we need to give us another successful year - if we keep on the ball.

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ONE FAILURE OF OUR FUND DRIVE

There is one discouraging thing which perhaps we should give some thought: less than one-third of our members have donated.

THIS IS NOT GOOD LEADERSHIP. We can't lead where we aren't going ourselves!  
THIS IS NOT GOOD SALESMANSHIP. If we don't buy it, who the heck will?

This is not even very good sportsmanship, is it, since we all as a Society shall get credit for this remarkable break-through?

We won't mention money, except to say that donating members averaged \$42.00 each this year, and suppose 200 more members averaged that!

However, the personal tragedies represented in this are the worst of it. Think how little archaeology must have come to mean to those members who do not think that even writing a new chapter on Early Man is worth a donation! Think how little they get out of their archaeological hobby!

No one could be that poor in dollars! The tragic poverty is one of understanding, scientific search for truth, interest, enthusiasm - these are the empty purses. The science of man himself not worth a donation? We may ask what is wrong with the amateur movement that we leave so many members poverty stricken in these vital respects. The amateur movement has a noble heritage of these qualities - enough to overcome the opposition of the entire scientific world! Archaeology was born, only 102 years ago, when the little customs clerk amateur, after a lifetime of fighting and rebuff, finally convinced the world of man's great antiquity. That was how amateur Boucher de Perthes enabled man at last to discover himself, and get about the long business of understanding himself. World turmoils tell us what a long hill we still need to climb in self-understanding.

We still need that glorious do-or-die amateur spirit. But now that the Chips are down, now that Alabama amateurs have a shot at Early Man in America, one of the great missing links of archaeology, we find that we have failed to develop that great amateur spirit in so many members!

There must be many, surely, who have only put off donating. Now that we have found the courage to graduate from a mere "drive for a dig" to a continuing "people's movement for Early Man exploration", it would give the amateur spirit a real boost if donations would take a big spurt.

#### A MESSAGE FROM A PROFESSIONAL

It might be timely, here, to quote another of the wonderful professional endorsements we have received - from all over the country! Without the fine and generous cooperation of professionals, beginning with our own Steve Wimberly and Dave DeJarnette, we wouldn't have touched first base.

And now State Parks Archaeologist, Charles H. Nash, Chucalissa Indian Museum, Memphis, has taken the thought and trouble to accompany his donation with a fine letter, in part:

"Talking about the roll of amateurs in archaeology, I think it should be more generally recognized that perhaps as high as 80% of the important recorded archaeological finds of the world have been made by amateurs. The list is a long and honorable one - and think how long the list might have been if all 'finders' had been able to recognize the value of their finds and had also been 'recorders'....."

"The big challenge for amateur societies is to record the finds of their area and preserve this data for future use. This job becomes of enormous importance among those who are collecting Indian artifacts. These collections must be made worthwhile by proper cataloguing and recording of data with each find....Unless the provenience of an artifact is known it cannot be considered as a scientific specimen....To sell this VIEWPOINT should be a major goal and one apparently more difficult to achieve even than that of raising money...."

Amen! And thanks to Dr. Nash for remembering our amateur triumphs, for pointing our possibilities, and not itemizing our sins! C. H. Worley has added another to the great list of amateur discoveries. The Alabama Archaeological Society has added another, we may well say - a new way to finance archaeology. And had you paused to think that this, our first scientific excavation, gives all of us a priceless chance to absorb more of the true spirit of science, and to learn more about its exacting techniques? From here on out, we can be better amateurs, and heap more glory upon the great amateur tradition.

Is not this educational opportunity, taken by itself, worth a matriculation fee - a donation?

A GREAT LITTLE AMATEUR  
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FRANK E. LANKFORD, Birmingham attorney, is one of the fine donor-joiners who have been attracted to the amateur movement only by a worthy project - another great service our better efforts can do for archaeology, and another reason why we must continue in good works. And Frank writes us a letter that reminds us that we haven't by any means lost faith in amateurs. It also reminds that we have a new crop coming along, and another great duty of ours is to provide them with good examples.

Frank and family have just returned from three weeks in the fabulous Virgin Islands. While there, Frank's young son, Frank, Jr., found two of the largest pot fragments that the National Park Service has yet seen on the island, "...large enough to clearly indicate the shape of the pot and a good deal about its texture and method of manufacture."

Wow, can't you just see yourself putting those on your mantel and bragging long and loud about having "the biggest potsherds ever found in the Virgin Islands"? Oh boy, almost as good as being able to outwit the guards and break a piece off of George Washington's favorite rocking chair! But then you know all about "collectors"! But that, it seems, is adult behaviour.

Frank, Jr. turned his prize potsherds in to the museum, where they belong, and where they will have scientific value. He didn't bury them in that useless old graveyard of personal collections. We are pretty proud of Frank, Jr. Our faith in amateurs got a big boost.

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DONATIONS STILL COMING IN  
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J. H. McCary II, President, and Wm. M. Spencer, Treasurer, of our tax-deductible device, The Archaeological Research Association of Alabama, Inc., made their donations at this vital time when we need courage to continue. These are two more of our responsible citizens who were brought into amateur archaeology only by a responsible project. And they gave us the courage to begin by becoming our first, and substantial, donors. We wish to submit the "discovery, recognition, and recording" of these two able and generous friends of archaeology as another great amateur discovery - and credit Jim H. McCary III.

C. F. Smith is responsible for the directional signs you may see on your way

to the dig, for the screens at the dig we believe, and worked on the road in to the site, the conveniences, etc., and is working at the dig now. We have no full report on the wonderful donations of time and sweat that our Muscle Shoals members have made, but Mrs. Stanford E. Smith gave us the general idea when she remarked at the Moundville meeting that she had not been able "to get any work out of Stanford for three months", due to his chores preparing for the dig. Well, on top of all that, C. F. Smith is still "excavating donations", and sends in two more from:

M. Jerome Carter & Co., Insurance, Real Estate, Bonds, 123 S. Court St., Florence, Alabama.  
Shumake Posey Furniture Co., 122 E. Tennessee St., Florence, Ala.

Dick Humbard, though busy like crazy in several states, has been carrying a torch for us steadily and turns in two more donations:

Fred Chenoweth Equipment Co., 712 5th Ave. S., Birmingham, Ala. - and this is the second donation from Fred Chenoweth!  
D. E. Riggins, 1602 Madison Ave., S. W., Birmingham, Ala.

Verne Reckmeyer has been adding notably to his good financial contribution by working up and sending out much-needed notices. Down here in Birmingham we are in a position to appreciate this especially - as we mail 500 to 800 pieces of mail a month! And Verne continues to send in contributions from our good Huntsville Chapter members:

T. Y. Cornell, 2621 Bonita Cr., S. W. Huntsville, Ala.  
E. D. Burwell, Sr., 405 Holmes Ave., N. E., Huntsville, Ala.

A. A. Jackson, our Birmingham member who has "donated" two more cliff shelters for testing this summer, in addition sends his cash donation. He has a fine Clovis point from one of his shelters - maybe it will be the Jackson dig in 1962 - with many a beaut of a Paleo flute! ! !

H. P. Alves, Guntersville, requested (June Newsletter) that someone pick up and deliver picture frames he was donating to sell for the fund. Since nothing ever comes of our notices and requests, we were most agreeably surprised when our promising new members, Milt and Bea Harris, arrived with the frames. We unpacked them, one at a time, excitedly - beautiful hand-made frames of golden Chittam Wood, dark old walnut with a few authentic worm holes, and enduring chestnut cut from dead trees which the blight killed all over America a generation ago and which few people now get a chance to see or own. Designs are excellent - Mr. Alves' own, we hear. We have already sold five of the two dozen, and haven't had a chance to show them - a fine contribution indeed. We hope we are not giving anything away, except one of the more inspiring incidents of our fund-raising campaign, in telling you that Mr. Alves is eighty-one years old! We have some fine senior amateur spirit, too!

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#### BUSINESS MATTERS

HAVE YOU PAID YOUR 1961 DUES? Courtesy extension time is up. It is no fun to assemble 10 to 15 pages, staple, fold, staple again, stamp, address and lug to the PO some 350 Newsletters - unless you are interested. And our bigger Newsletters are running into bigger money! We sincerely hope you do not want to miss a single issue of the exciting story of Dalton Man, and our Journals are preparing now. \$3.00 State Dues, \$1.00 local. Rodger Schaefer Secretary, 1414 15 Ave., S.E., Decatur, Ala. Thank you.

PAPERS NEEDED FOR THE JOURNAL, says Dave DeJarnette, now the professional Editor of our Journal. He has used up the backlog of contributions in getting two Journals ready for publication - we want four this year to compensate for past lapses. Personally, we'd like to see one Journal devoted to a preliminary report on the Stanfield-Worley excavation - breaking a record for the immediate publication of material the world is waiting for, and has been for 37 years!

Remember the University of Alabama has taken over our Journal publication, with some financial assistance. You'll be prouder than ever to publish in the improved format. And remember that the Society for American Archaeology now publishes abstracts of everything you write, and it will be read around the world. Finally, remember that it is not archaeology until it is published, and knowledge is one thing you can carry with you. So why not excavate the basement of your mind and send Dave a paper?

N--E--W Therlo Funderburk, Rt. 2, Box 241, Mobile, Ala.

MEMBERS Dossey White, Jr., Box 1009, University, Ala.

The Mobile Mauvilla Chapter seems to have 7 State members now, and needs only 3 more in order to affiliate. Dossey White was one of our student excavators last summer - a geology student, and we do need geologists who take an interest in archaeology! Karen Barber, who also dug last summer, is now Mrs. White - no, that is not where the romance began - poetry, not Paleo, seems to deserve the credit. (We recommend Mrs. Browning's Sonnets now.)

CHANGED was Dr. R. J. Ruppe, Cherokee, Iowa.

ADDRESS now Dr. Marshall McKusick, Dept. of Soc.-Anthro., State Univ. of Iowa, Iowa City, Iowa.

was Chas. Wright, Jr., Rt. 1, Box 4, Gulfport, Miss.

now Chas. Wright, Jr., 2115 18 Ave., Gulfport, Miss.

(We do appreciate the forwarding of changed addresses.)

B--A--D Oliver Douglas, P. O. Box 241, Decatur, Ala.

ADDRESS Dr. C. H. Fairbanks, Fla. State Univ., Tallahassee.

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#### NOTES AND NEWS AND SOMETIMES VIEWS

Dr. Albert C. Spaulding, Program Director for Anthropology, National Science Foundation, writes, "I am very much impressed by the vigor of your campaign for support of archaeology and by its success." We had thought it advisable to write Dr. Spaulding about our Paleo potential and our strenuous efforts to do something intelligent about it. If we can't quite make our quota some time in the future, the fact that we are trying like sixty might carry some weight of recommendation in applying for an NSF grant!

Dr. T. M. N. Lewis writes that his successor, Dr. A. K. Guthe, has been very active with amateur groups in New York.

Bill Ballard, President and Founder of the East Ala. Chapter, and initiator of our very successful Stones & Bones weekly TV program, we are very sorry to hear is moving to a better offer from Delta College, Saginaw, Mich. In his brief return to Alabama from Florida, Bill has been setting the woods on fire and we hate to lose him, but rejoice to see his ability rewarded.

Dr. Harry Amling will occupy the President's chair of the East Alabama Chapter. We hear good things about Dr. Amling's exacting standards and don't know anything more valuable, or more needed, in amateur archaeology. Bill writes that Dr. Amling "has the scientific know-how and energy and bulldog determination to get this done." That's our man!

Dr. Bob Work, who remains one of our best correspondents, writes that the representative Alabama artifacts which he sent to the National Museum in Copenhagen, Denmark, were recently viewed in Copenhagen situ by his brother. (This must be Birney, a recent donor - joiner.)

C. F. Smith writes that the May 21 meeting of the Muscle Shoals Chapter was held at Leighton, Ala., in the school museum stocked by Mr. H. J. Holland and his science pupils.

H. J. Holland himself writes that Dave and the student excavators also visited. Mr. Holland expresses his thanks for all the assistance he has received from interested parties - not realizing our "ulterior motive" is to utilize his enthusiasm and capacity in behalf of archaeology!

Bob Elton, who produces our Stones & Bones TV show, has been taking periodic movies of the dig under difficulties - hobbling up the hill on crutches, one broken leg in a cast, and Dave won't let him have any of the excavated tibias and fibulas! We hope Bob's devotion over and above the call of duty will be rewarded with good films, despite difficult lighting.

Rodger Schaefer forwards a booklet from the N. Y. State Hist. Soc. announcing summer seminars, one on amateur archaeology. Why don't we, too?

Chick Craig writes praises for recent Society progress on many fronts and hazards that, "Our State Society may well become one of the best known and most active in the country." Chick's work schedule will now bring him to Decatur about once every other week, and he, Barbara, and Gretchen hope to participate in the dig in August.

Harold K. Kleine, who alerted us to our possibilities by reporting the first Ala. Paleo site in 1953, is the deserving recipient of a "forty-year watch" from the TCI - skilled, exacting service in behalf of the great American economic system. (Obviously, there were no child labor laws when Harold started working!)

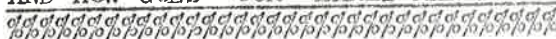
Charles Brosemer sends color photos of his museum and an invitation. We work at this %#!!! archaeological project 16 hours a day, 7 days a week, seldom take time to change from our pajamas, snatch cold bites standing over the sink so we won't have to waste time washing dishes, race the water to a boil for instant coffee, and bring the cup (greatly oversize) back to our typewriter - and more newsletters, and letters, and reports, and the like. (If you are looking for a Paleo Man - here he is!) So we won't be able to avail ourselves of Brosemer's invitation just now, but pass it along. Go out either Pulaski Pike or Blue Spring Road, north, about 5 miles from heart of Huntsville. He lives between these two roads just before you get to the mountain. If you can't take mucho Paleo, don't go!

Jim McCary, incidentally, thoroughly enjoys his visits with the Muscle Shoals gang - says they have revived the meaning of hospitality!

Dr. L. S. B. Leakey's work in incredible Olduvai Gorge has at last been financed by American sources, and Leakey reports more done in the past season than the previous 30 years. His recent find of a skull of Chellean (Abbevillian) Man, sought for 100 years, is photographed in the March 4, 1961, Illustrated London News. Supraorbital ridges greatly exceed all previous discoveries. Additional fragments of the Zinjanthropus skull, with the unbelievable gorilla-like sagittal crest, were also found. We look to be on the way toward a pretty complete evolutionary series of our ancestors.

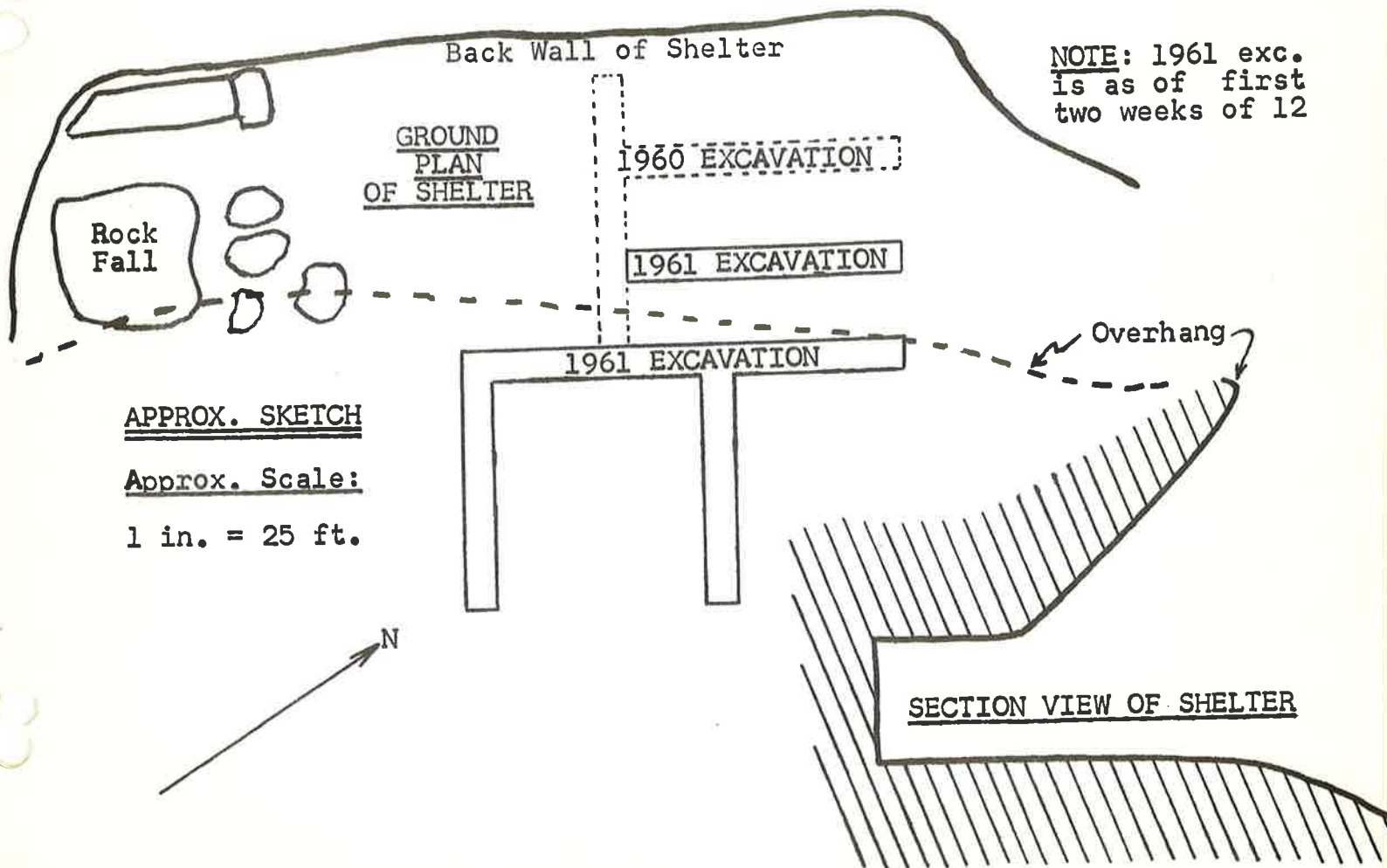
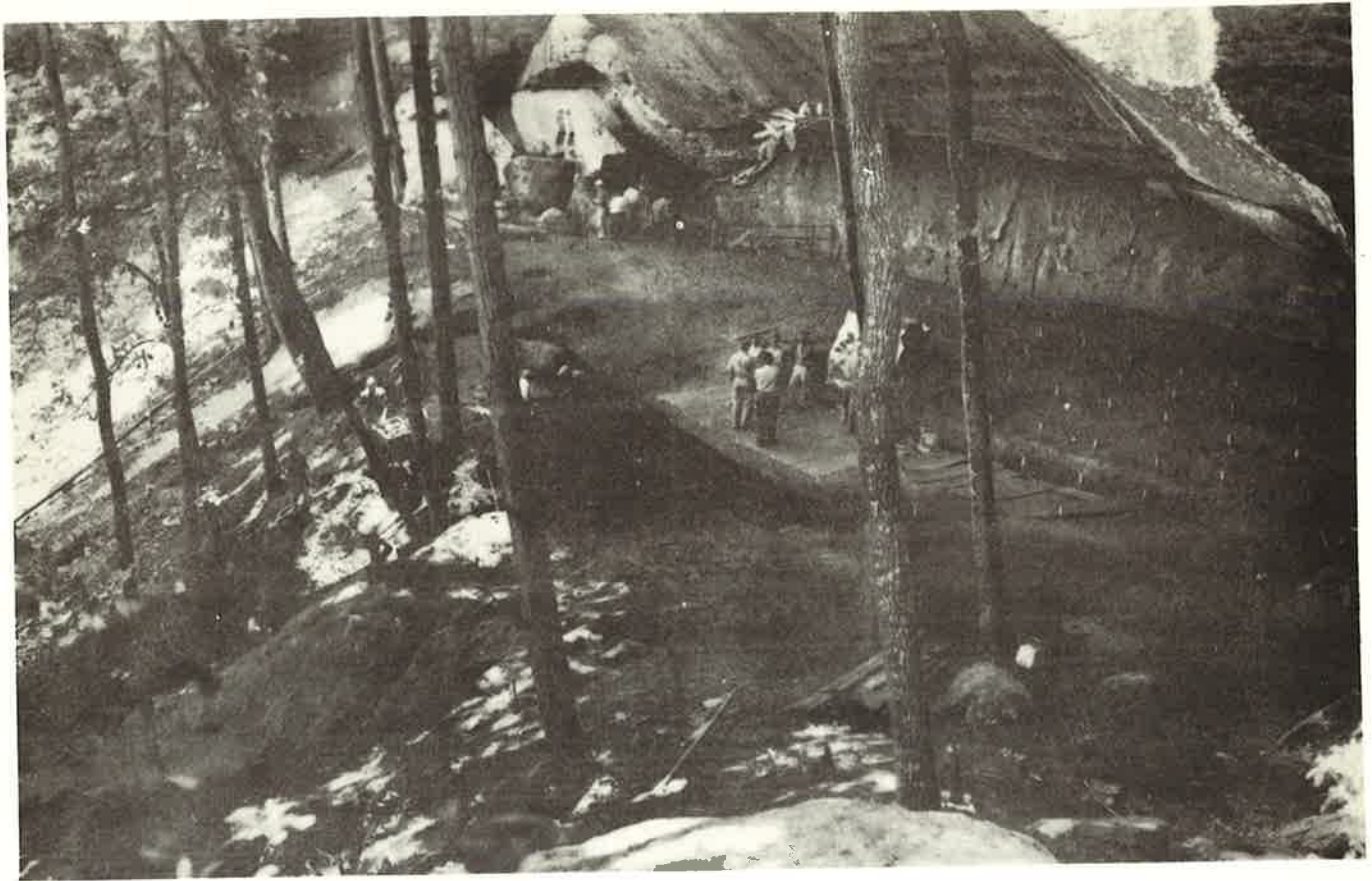
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AND HOW GOES "OUR" EARLY MAN DIG?



The photograph on the following page, taken by our Birmingham member A. S. Stanford at the end of the second week of excavation, and the ground plan and section sketches, will enable us to explain matters more clearly.

# STANFIELD-WORLEY CLIFF SHELTER EXCAVATION





Note the magnificent size of the shelter - though you do not get the full effect, for the overhang juts further than you can see and the near end of the shelter did not get in the picture. The view is toward the SW end, where you note a large rock fall. At the rear of the shelter you note there has been a huge geometric rock fall where the ceiling becomes horizontal instead of sloping - a very sheltered area some 20' x 100'. The ground slopes down rather steeply in front of the shelter to a permanent spring. The cliff is a part of the rim of the Billy Sanderson Cove - Dave suggests the possibility of animal drives, the Cove forming a pocket.

The trenches visible in the photo are the result of the first two weeks of excavation. The ground plan sketch shows how these trenches intersect the test trench area of 1960. The 1961 trench in the shelter is 40' long, and the parallel trench just outside the shelter 65'. Connecting trenches are now being excavated to isolate three ten-foot-square blocks for careful excavation by visible cultural and habitation strata as well as by measured depths. With stratigraphic indications exposed all the way around, there is a better chance of distinguishing between habitation layers. With eight or ten thousand years packed into five vertical feet, this is not going to be easy by any method. Two trenches have also been cut into the slope in front of the shelter, where no doubt considerable refuse was thrown in the long centuries of occupation. Dalton Man began building midden in the shelter, following which it was unoccupied for a time, then the Archaic people moved in, and the Woodland and finally Middle Mississippian, with no visible separation of these last three cultures in the midden deposit.

Jack Cambron, our projectile point specialist, writes that four projectile points were in association with a tightly flexed burial in a round grave, and while they appeared to be early Woodland or late Archaic type points, they are all unnamed points not yet assigned to a definite cultural period. Here is some new information we may get. Carefully excavated in association, they may add to our precious store of knowledge. Had they been just rooted up by one of these digging psychotics, they would be merely useless old rocks, and a paragraph of man's history lost forever!

"Classification of lithic materials has been started", Jack writes. "David Hulse and I have worked two nights at the lab., assisted by the students. We plan to continue classification of materials as they are washed and numbered...." This is a wonderful service - something like having a viopsy of a frozen section of your suspected malignancy while you are still opened up on the operating table. Knowing something about what is being found during the excavation, instead of the customary years later, might be of great value in guiding and interpreting.

Jack writes further, "A variety of the three classic Dalton types have been found, as well as some variants of these types." We are excavating the first good Dalton midden, and hope to crack this ten-thousand-year-old mystery. Finding so many varieties of Dalton points in close association is itself a valuable addition to our knowledge - or lack of it!

A progress report comes from Dave just as we are getting ready to "go to press". He says that as of June 17, approximately 40 Dalton points have been recovered (1960 & 1961 total). And "found continually in what seems to be close association" are "a large number of Big Sandy I points and uniface scrapers." The apparent association of these two point types could well be another valuable bit of knowledge, a new chapter in archaeology.

Of ceramics, Dave writes, "Fiber-tempered Wheeler Series and sand-tempered Alexander Series sherds are abundant" - our two oldest known Alabama ceramic types, and let's hope we learn more about that fiber-tempered ware, and get a date if possible. Dave continues, "Limestone-tempered wares seem to predominate. These include the early Long Branch Fabric Marked and Wright Check Stamped types. A small number of shell-tempered and clay-grit-tempered sherds were left at the site by the last of its aboriginal occupants." That is, there is much more of the earlier Woodland than the later Middle Mississippian pottery - which is as we would prefer. Just when pottery appeared in Alabama, and to which cultural division it should be assigned, is a moot question upon which our excavation might shed light.

These, then, are some of the artifacts being recovered, with hints of the stories they might tell - we excavate for this information, not the artifacts per se. Anybody who would just "dig" for the old rocks themselves; destroying an irreplacable book of the past, may be likened to a psychotic bibliophile who is childishly fascinated to tear words and pages from rare editions. We found, this year, that such a psychotic digger had got into our Stanfield-Worley site, and a psychotic museum man had knowingly bought and gloated over the useless rocks, stupidly not knowing how worthless they were torn out of meaningful text. With mental institutions already overflowing, it is a problem what to do about these people running around loose and untreated - unless it's a shotgun.

The information which experts can decipher from our excavation will be a year in coming. Just now we are only discovering the words, paragraphs, and chapters of the book of the past as they are carefully uncovered, studied in situ, photographed, mapped in position, recorded - the site transferred to paper as exposed. Besides artifacts, there are such features as ash lenses, clay fire basins, habitation floors, post molds, pits of various kinds, and other signs of how people lived which are of indispensable value in the interpretation of this ancient, yet to us new, book of man's past.

Isn't it exciting! Milt and Bea Harris returned from their first three-day session as volunteer workers with ineradicable grins. Mr. and Mrs. C. F. Smith, and Mr. and Mrs. Brittain Thompson put in a solid week as volunteers. Charles Brosemer, Lee Craft, Bion Duncan, Charles Hubbert, James Johnston, Mr. and Mrs. Stanford Smith, Johnny Waters, Spencer Waters, and Mr. and Mrs. Wm. T. Warren were volunteers during the first two weeks. Last we heard, Mr. and Mrs. N. H. Holmes, Jr., President and Secretary of the new Mauvilla Arch. Soc. (we hope soon a Chapter of the State Soc.) had arrived to do a good stint. It is good to see Robert Stanfield, Jr., listed among the regular crew members - we'd like the local people to understand a little better what we are after, especially that it isn't gold!

Our photograph is by courtesy of our Birmingham member A. S. Stanford, 617 4th St., S.W., Birmingham 11, Ala. Mr. Stanford is doing a fine service by making a weekly pictorial history of the excavation - his photography excellent. Weekly sets of four photographs, 4" X 5", are available for one dollar and a stamp - or enlargements on order. Publication rights are also for sale, but not exclusive. If he can clear expenses, he wants to plow a percentage back into our fund. There probably will be many who want a weekly pictorial history by a professional photographer of this famous excavation - and of course our first!