

MOUNDVILLE SPECIAL\*\*\*\*\*MOUNDVILLE SPECIAL\*\*\*\*\*MOUNDVILLE SPECIAL

Newsletter

STONES AND BONES

June 1960

Birmingham Anthropological Society Morgan-Limestone Chapter  
THE ALABAMA ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Madison-Huntsville Chapter Muscle Shoals Chapter

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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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MOUNDVILLE BARBECUE !!!!!!!

"Dear Dan:

David DeJarnette and I wish to have all members and guests who attend the meeting at Mound Park on June 4 to be our guests at a barbecue luncheon. When the agenda is set up for the meeting, please let us know so that we can have the meal prepared at exactly the right moment. Barbecue is never so good as when it is just coming off the pit!...

If there is any way we can contribute to the success of the meeting, please let us know.

Sincerely,"

(Signed) WALTER B. JONES  
State Geologist

We accepted by return mail and assured Dr. Jones of the appreciation of the entire gang. And for your information, Dr. Jones' barbecue is famous in several states. This is a nice finishing touch to get us together in considerable numbers - which we do need, so that we may become more a unit organization and learn to pull together.

BARBECUE WILL BE SERVED FROM 12 TO 12:30. And if you have not signed up to go already, when you receive this Newsletter mail a card or letter immediately to David L. DeJarnette, Archaeologist-in-Charge, Mound State Monument, Moundville, Ala. It will be necessary to know approximately how many are to be fed.

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Perhaps some of our members are not aware that Dr. Walter B. Jones is responsible for the State's acquisition and development of Mound State Monument. It was a cultivated field in those days, subject to all the destructive effects of plowing - not to mention the even more destructive swarms of "collectors". The people of the State were as reluctant then as now to afford archaeology, so Dr. Jones acquired the property at his own expense until such a time as the State saw the wisdom of taking over. We can express our gratitude to Dr. Jones by making this a big "homecoming" at his archaeological alma mater.  
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And with an archaeologist now in charge at Mound State Monument, David L. DeJarnette, it is at last well on the way toward the realization of the tremendous potential which Dr. Jones saw in it many years ago. Alabama has never become as interested in archaeology as our sister State of Georgia, so this speeding up at our "archaeological center" is of vast importance promotionally and educationally. A trip to Moundville is the only contact with archaeology which most of our citizens - and taxpayers - have or will have. There they will get their impressions, information, motivation - if any. And as a recreational center and tourist attraction, it well deserves development.

We recently directed some den mothers and cub scouts, who were interested in a constructive archaeological program, to Dave DeJarnette. Dave took them to the laboratory and taught them how to wash, mark and catalogue artifacts. Then he took them to a nearby site and taught them how to surface collect. The boys brought their collections home with them, washed, marked and catalogued, then returned them to Dave - a scientific contribution by young archaeologists rather than the destruction of "collectors". And one of the boys was heard to say by his mother, "One of these little pieces of pottery might be more important than a whole pot!"

It may be added that the mothers were as enthusiastic about this as the boys. In fact, one of them said that Professor DeJarnette's introduction to archaeology "outshines anything that the Scout program had to offer". They plan an article in the Scout Magazine, and have already begun to "spread the message". It will have healthy reverberations for years to come as these boys mature into taxpayers.

When we compare this adventure with the customary Scout depredations, it looks pretty big and important. And this is but one specific example of the importance of having an archaeologist in charge at our archaeological center.

Professor DeJarnette (Univ. of Ala.) has had a very broad experience in both Alabama Archaeology and museum work. We are as happy as Dr. Jones must be to see the great project which he initiated under good management and "going places". Our Society should lose no opportunity to promote it - we shall be promoting Alabama archaeology.

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And Mound State Monument is quite a boast, you know. Think of the ten thousand mounds destroyed in Minnesota! We haven't any figures on the subject, but we do not know of a larger group of preserved mounds than those at Moundville. Destroying mounds was, and still is, a favorite outdoor sport - alas!

We never have heard just how Dr. Jones, though a geologist, became interested in preserving this remarkable 300-acre group. And we understand that it was a pretty thankless task for a long time. It is a great monument to his devotion, for it dates from the peak of the "classic" Mississippi culture. The fine art work and other artifacts of this culture have invited destructive collecting, of course, so that far too little of it remains intact.

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WE MAY HAVE SOME VISITORS at our Moundville meeting. We felt that this meeting was so attractive and important that we invited the members of the Alabama and Birmingham Historical Societies - small but important and potentially interested groups. And we suggested to Dave that he extend invitations to the Georgia and Florida Archaeological Societies.

One of our Society functions should be to contact "the right people" and groups. There is a vast, if dormant, interest in archaeology. One has no trouble in getting speaking engagements - even if one isn't much of a speaker. And attention is always excellent and questions abundant. In other words, there is a rich soil which cultivates easily.

So we ask you to make friends with any visitors we may have, answer their questions, introduce them, etc. As we well know, anybody who is interested in archaeology is a right guy or gal!!!!

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AND WE WANT TO KNOW EACH OTHER BETTER. Britt Thompson, if memory serves, came up with a grand idea: LET'S ALL WEAR OUR NAMES AND AFFILIATIONS PINNED PROMINENTLY ON OUR SHIRT FRONTS. Please print on thin cardboard or stiff paper. As for example:

JOHN DOE  
MUSCLE SHOALS

In case you forget, paper and pins will be available "in situ" at the site - unless we forget! Anyway, be sure to get pinned! No fingerprints will be taken. \*\*\*\*\*

THIS IS YOUR CHANCE TO LEARN CLASSIC MISSISSIPPI CULTURE. Steve B. Wimberly, former State Archaeologist, and Dave DeJarnette, will be afternoon speakers. Between them they know a lot more Alabama archaeology than is yet in the books.

Their excavations and studies include the mammoth WPA excavations on the Tennessee, mounds and shellmounds in Clarke and Mobile Counties, the famous Coosa site which proved not to be a DeSoto site as believed, the three mounds at the Bessemer site, and the current excavations in the Weiss Reservoir area of the Coosa. Steve and Dave are, in fact, our only professional Alabama archaeologists.

Both, as you know, have been ever ready to assist and encourage our amateur activities. So bring your questions with you.

Perhaps Dr. Jones will tell us the story of the rescue of Moundville.

We haven't heard the full agenda, but Dave hoped he might procure another speaker. In any event, this is a "professional" opportunity to learn.

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#### MOUNDVILLE DETAILS

Moundville is 17 miles south of Tuscaloosa on Alabama Highway 13. Turn right on the main street of Moundville, drive several blocks and turn right again to reach Mound State Monument which is adjacent to the town.

As you enter the Park grounds, bear to the right and drive through the spacious lawns dotted with imposing mounds, to the far end of the Park. Here you will find the Museum and the Barbecue Shelter. There is ample parking space at the Shelter.

The nearby Museum will make an appropriate meeting place at 10 AM, where you can get your identity pinned on if you have not already attended to this important detail. Please do this before you wander off to look at the excavated cemeteries with FIFTY-SEVEN BURIALS, and pots, etc., galore. (Be hereby warned that the Museum is a fascinating place.)

And it has been suggested that we register our names in a book, which seems a nice idea.

At the Museum any further plans for the morning can be made. Perhaps many will want to visit the laboratory to gaze in awe at the tons and tons of artifacts stored in cardboard cartons. The hardier souls will want to toil up the ramp of the seven-story mound "B" and gaze out in awe over the imposing landscape, and wonder what it is all about, and what the Indians were thinking long ago. It is a thoughtful place, a monument to some forgotten god. How many baskets of earth, how many man-hours of labor!

But don't become too fascinated to meet again at the Barbecue Shelter at twelve noon to replenish the wolf with toothsome barbecue - that will remind you of the delights of our good old earth again.

The afternoon session will probably be in the auditorium of the Administration Building, just inside the entrance gate. There two professional archaeologists, Steve Wimberly and Dave DeJarnette, will tell us what's what.

NOTE: All who plan to accept the gracious invitation to the barbecue luncheon should give notice in advance. This goes for guests as well as members. If you have not done so, right now send a note saying you will be there. Send it to David L. DeJarnette, Archaeologist-in-Charge, Mound State Monument, Moundville, Ala.

So - SEE YOU AT MOUNDVILLE !!!!!!!!

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NEW MEMBERS - they keep coming!

W. B. Carlin, 822 Grant Street, S.E., Decatur, Ala.  
 Donald Studdard, Box 822, Jasper, Ala.

Welcome! And come to Moundville June 4 and let us meet you!

CHANGE IN ADDRESS

William J. Brooks, 1105 Theresa, Houston 51, Texas  
 Alice L. Wright, 3700 Holmes Ave., N.W., Huntsville, Ala.  
 Lawrence D. Maples, Jr., 710 Drake Ave., S.E., Huntsville, Ala.  
 Wallace C. Morey, Sr. and  
 Wallace C. Morey, Jr., 1604 East Meade Ave., S.E., Decatur, Ala.  
 S. A. Mosley, presently in Coleraine, North Ireland (send mail to:  
 Chemstrand Corporation, Decatur, Ala.)

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LAST CALL FOR DUES!!!!

A letter from Secretary Schaefer has gone out to all members who have not paid their 1960 dues. That was quite a chore, since out of our 242 members 106 had not yet paid. Please remind yourself.

Annual dues are \$3.00 for the Alabama Archaeological Society, Inc., and \$1.00 additional if you belong to a local affiliate. You may pay all dues either through your local affiliate or mail to R. L. Schaefer, 1414 - 15 Ave. S.E., Decatur, Ala.

We are holding up the publication of our annual list of members so you can get on it. But we regret that we shall be obliged to close the files June 30, and cannot send you Journals and Newsletters after that date unless your dues are paid. Unfortunate though it is, our budget is not ample enough to allow us to afford free publications.

And as you well know, we equally cannot afford to lose members. We are getting large enough now to accomplish things. And we can promise you that this will be the most important and exciting year in the history of the Alabama Archaeological Society. Big news will break shortly, and you won't want to miss out on that. Coming Newsletters will carry the story in detail.

Mr. Federico Davila, although in distant Santurce, Puerto Rico, writes to Secretary Schaefer (enclosing dues): "Although my occupation and lately my health keep me from contributing to your very interesting Journal and to 'Stones and Bones' Newsletter, I always enjoy the fine articles and news...With my best wishes to you and our mutual friend Martin Hullender..."

We hope that all of you will enjoy our publications - and tell us where we are falling down if you don't. And even if you feel you don't need us, remember that the important thing is that archaeology needs you. So please remember to send in your dues. And thanks!

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AND WE URGE YOU TO JOIN THE TENNESSEE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY if you haven't. Dr. Lewis writes us that this fall he will publish a handbook on PROJECTILE POINT TYPES of our area, just what we need! It is necessarily a limited publication, so in order that you won't miss it, send your \$3.00 dues now to Dr. T. M. N. Lewis, Head, Department of Anthropology, University of Tennessee, Knoxville, Tenn.

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## CHAPTER NEWS IN BRIEF

THE MORGAN-LIMESTONE CHAPTER, May 4, showed a film on Early Man sites in the middle west - a "must for all members studying the Paleo problem in Alabama." (Other Chapters might like to know how and where this interesting film is available.) The artifact display that evening consisted of the "smallest artifacts". And a POLL WAS TAKEN TO SEE HOW MANY PLANNED TO ATTEND THE MOUNDVILLE MEETING.

THE BIRMINGHAM ANTHROPOLOGICAL SOCIETY, May 6, conducted its first "panel discussion". Questions were plentiful and answers adequate, but we had the feeling the group as a whole did not participate fully. But give us practice.

Mr. William Ward will speak at the June 10 meeting on THE PEOPLE OF THE SAHARA AREA - a strategic area in archaeology. NOTE that this meeting is postponed ONE WEEK, to the second Friday instead of the first, because of the Moundville meeting on Saturday June 4.

EMERGENCY: Someone left an umbrella at the May meeting. Call Assistant Editor, Elizabeth Cline, TR 1-2270.

SEE YOU AT MOUNDVILLE

## MOUNDVILLE MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Members:

It is with great regret that I must miss the June 4th meeting of the Alabama Archaeological Society at Mound State Monument, due to an untimely business trip to Europe. For the Moundville meeting will undoubtedly be one of the most pleasant, educational, and important meetings in the entire history of the Society.

Pleasant - well, I don't have to tell most of you about the informal, back-to-nature beauty of the Park setting. And of course it now has "modern plumbing", a restaurant, picnic tables and shelter, and all the conveniences. This is in a setting of some 300 acres of manicured lawn dotted with imposing mounds of the truncated pyramid type. The old "borrow pits" are now sparkling little lakes. The great Black Warrior flows by, appropriately named for Tascaloosa, the great Chief of the Mabila.

And you haven't even looked in the Museum yet, one of the finest in all the Southeast. Here, in situ, lie the bones of the warriors with their weapons, and their dark-eyed maidens with all their burial finery. And dioramas, artifacts, the evolutionary history of man on the walls - and what have you! Pleasure, I called this - and that is just how easy you absorb education in the Museum.

On a more strictly educational basis, papers will be presented by the two professionals who know the most about Alabama archaeology, our good friends and mentors Dave De Jarnette and Steve Wimberly.

And speaking of the importance of this meeting, for a long time we had no professional archaeology in Alabama - a tragic situation. Now that we do have Dave DeJarnette, Archaeologist-in-Charge at Mound State Monument, and Professor of Anthropology at the Univ. of Ala., it is of tremendous importance that professional and amateur archaeology in the State learn to work together.

I hope Dave will have something to say on this subject. It may be we can assist in the reservoir areas where Dave will be excavating (on a limited budget) for some years to come. The new Federal Highways will certainly uncover, and destroy, many sites - but the Fed. Govt. will put up 90% of the cost of excavating such sites if they are reported. So we can afford archaeology if we get on the ball.

And for the first time, influential Alabama citizens are becoming interested in backing local archaeology financially - at last an interest "of, for and by the people". This contains the potential of being the best thing that ever happened to Alabama archaeology. There will be news of this at the Moundville meeting - arrangements are already being made to finance the excavation of an extremely promising site.

And at this juncture a letter from Dr. Walter B. Jones, State Geologist, informs me that we are invited to lunch on his famous barbecue. All this and barbecue too! So, as the saying goes, don't you dare miss it - the Moundville meeting. It may well be a historic occasion. And the entire family will find plenty of occupation and amusement. Come informal, of course, for the great out-of-doors, climbing mounds, etc.

I have just firmed up the details to spend the weekend of June 4-5 with a French amateur archaeologist in the region of Tours and so, although I will not be with you at Moundville, I will certainly be happily engaged in archaeology on the same day.

With best regards,

Sincerely,  
BOB WORK, President  
Alabama Archaeological Society