

SEAC

newsletter

Volume 11, No. 1

June, 1967

Newsletters never die....

They may change format, time and place of publication, or be inconsistent. They may even fade away momentarily, but they always seem to reappear in one form or another--so the only conclusion can be that Newsletters Serve A Purpose. The purpose? Exchange of information, or communication, if you will.

One would not be surprised to find that he can't keep up with research much less theoretical advancements in the field of anthropology; but it would seem as if it might be possible to keep track of what is going on archeologically in the Southeastern United States. Must we wait for final reports to find out about Fort Center, or about Cherokee prehistory, or about recent Poverty Point research? Must we attend sundry meetings to hear the latest poop on field work and research? Well, yes and no. Current Research in American Antiquity gives some idea about what's happening, but certainly not the kinds of details about an excavation in the Southeast which someone else in the Southeast needs to know. The SEAC Conference keeps you abreast of research within the last year. The Newsletter should be able to narrow that down to every six months.

Indeed, it is now going to HAVE to do that. This Newsletter is going to be the ONLY means by which informal field reports can be shared amongst the "in-group" in the Southeast. By default, and by democratic decision at the last SEAC meeting at Avery Island, the up-coming SEAC meeting will have no field reports on the program. In a few weeks each of you will receive a revised (again) questionnaire from the Assistant Editor for Current Research in the Southeast, asking for information for publication in American Antiquity, AND asking for an informal written report on your summer's field work. This will be published in Volume 11, No. 2 of this Newsletter, which will be distributed at or before the SEAC meeting in Macon. To fail to respond is to fail your colleagues. Maybe we should threaten not to mail out the Newsletter except to those who respond. To get a little gossip you've got to give a little!

It seems to me that I have reached the point of no return in this nagging about passing on information about your current research. You are either going to respond or you aren't; you are either going to make the time to write a paragraph or two, or you aren't. No mimeographed plea from me will make the difference (I like to think a personal tear in the eye might, however). I serve only as a middleman (sic), to receive the "news" and to relay it to others. This means of exchanging information is only as useful as SEAC members make it.

Hester A. Davis
University of Arkansas Museum

ALABAMA:

Frank T. Schnell, archaeologist with the Columbus (Ga.) Museum of Arts and Sciences, continued work during March and April 1967 at the Kendrick site (1RU61) in Russell County, Alabama. Attention was directed primarily toward a partially destroyed mound which yielded evidence for two construction phases. The later phase is proto historic Ocmulgee Fields, associated with the predominating component in the village area. The earlier mound phase is an accretional mound of the Averett time period. There is strong evidence that hitherto undiscovered Averett structures may be uncovered in this core mound.

During the fall and winter, 1966-67, the University of Alabama conducted a survey of the Bear Creek Watershed area in Franklin and Colbert counties, northwest Alabama. Of the approximately 19 sites surveyed, surface indications revealed sites which contain components of what has been termed "pebble tools." Investigations are greatly needed to isolate and define this lithic complex and determine its chronological placement. Some salvage work will be possible at some sites because of dam construction in the watershed area.

ARKANSAS:

Work continued through the winter on estimating the extent, degree, and type of damage to prehistoric sites through land leveling, clearing and other agricultural activities in the Mississippi alluvial plain in eastern Arkansas. In cooperation with the county extension Agent, Chicot County (southeast corner of Arkansas) was "sampled," as had been Cross County (east central) earlier. In addition a large mound and village site, recently discovered when 200 acres was cleared in Arkansas County was tested. Three of the approximately 65 house mounds were excavated, revealing Early Mississippian occupation, with evidence of a wall trench house construction in one mound.

Of great significance to the future of archeological research in Arkansas was the passage of several bills by the 1967 Arkansas Legislature. An Antiquity Act was passed, providing for protection of archeological material on State land and setting up the mechanism for establishing State Archeological Landmarks. In addition a State-wide, centrally coordinated Arkansas Archeological Survey, was established, with a budget of approximately \$350,000 for its first two years. In addition to a Director and a State Archeologist, there will be eight Survey Archeologists operating out of the eight state colleges and universities.

FLORIDA:

Florida Atlantic University and the University of Florida continue research at Fort Center on Lake Okechobee. This is a major ceremonial complex with Hopewellian affiliations. Excavations are continuing through the Spring and Summer of 1967.

Current Research
Southeast, May, 1967

Ripley Bullen, of the Florida State Museum, and David Webb, a paleontologist, conducted a preliminary survey of a new canal near Vero Beach.

GEORGIA:

Geologists at the University of Georgia, in cooperation with the Laboratory of Archeology are beginning a study of the Pleistocene sand dunes on the Flint River, near Albany. Early Archaic flint workshop debris occurs on summits and a buried profile, exposed in a large Interstate Highway cut. The study includes palynological research on climatic shifts and ecological adjustments.

Testing by the University of Georgia in a mound in the Ocone Forest near Watkinsville has uncovered an Early Lamar occupation and burned buildings in the core mound. At the 18th century Cbfsuskee village at West Point, Georgia, rich historic trade goods in burial association and good ethno-historical documentation provide an encouraging background for more concentrated work at the site by Harold Huscher. Architectural and village plan details may permit a detailed reconstruction of the village.

A. R. Kelly and Donald F. Smith of the University of Georgia made an extensive survey of Huastecan materials from sites on the Panuco River, Tamulipas, Mexico in order to obtain C14 and obsidian dates for correlation of Huastecan Classic and Post Classic materials with Southeastern archeology. One effigy bowl (gourd) from a mound site near Panuco is a close facsimile of an effigy bowl found by Kelly (in 1935) in Mound B at Macon.

LOUISIANA:

Jon L. Gibson has done a preliminary survey of the Lower Ouachita valley and began a survey of the Little River - Catahoula Lake area in Louisiana. His research has led to a definition of a North Louisiana Tchefuncte Phase demonstrating diffusion from the coastal areas of Louisiana. Evidence of the Phase occurs late at Poverty Point and Jaketown.

MISSISSIPPI:

Robert S. Neitzel, who has recently resigned as Curator of the Mississippi State Historical Museum in Jackson, has completed a three month survey of reservoir and channel improvements in the drainage of the Pascagoula, Pearl, and Big Black rivers.

Mississippi State University at Starkville is establishing an archeological program, and will conduct its first field work this summer, sponsored jointly with the University of Mississippi.

During the winter, the University of Mississippi has been carrying out salvage work on several mounds scheduled for leveling at the Norman site in Coahoma County.

Current Research
Southeast, May, 1967

SOUTH CAROLINA:

During 1966, the South Carolina Department of Archaeology (at the University of South Carolina) had three crews in the field. Because of eminent destruction work first concentrated on Shawnee Indian Savannah Town and adjacent Fort Moore (1716) on the Savannah River near North Augusta. Another site further down the Savannah River revealed stratified deposits ranging from Paleo-Indian to late prehistoric times. Near Charleston, one crew excavated portions of an early (ca. 1685) colonial site, later occupied by a battery constructed in the 1740's. In the northeast corner of the state, Ft. Prince George was located and is more productive than anticipated. Work continued in the Spring of 1967 at Savannah Town, Fort Moore, and at Ft. Prince George.

TENNESSEE:

Research on features discovered during the University of Tennessee's 1966 excavations at the Old Stone Fort in Coffee County indicates that this enclosure is structurally similar to the Hopewell hilltop enclosures of Ohio. Radiocarbon dates indicate the walls were built between A.D. 30 and A.D. 430; these and other construction features suggest that the enclosure was built by a local Middle Woodland group with Hopewell affiliations.

The analysis of artifacts recovered by the University of Tennessee from three sites in the Tims Ford Reservoir in southcentral Tennessee reveals occupation of the area from Paleo-Indian times. Whereas the Archaic and Early Woodland complexes in the reservoir appear to be closely related to contemporaneous complexes in the Tennessee Valley proper, the Late Woodland assemblage, designated the Mason complex, seems to be somewhat divergent. Unique characteristics include net-impressed and knot-roughened pottery, and large bell-shaped storage pits. This Mason complex dates ca. A.D. 800 and may show contact with early Mississippian cultures.

TEXAS:

During 1966 and the spring of 1967, the Texas Archeological Salvage Project (Austin) had several projects underway. Excavations were conducted under the direction of J. Richard Ambler, at three shellmounds in the Wallisville Reservoir area at the mouth of the Trinity River and several other sites were tested. The three shellmounds were first occupied about 300 B.C. and abandoned about A.D. 500, with the first use of pottery indicated at about A.D. 150. With the cooperation of the University of Texas Radiocarbon Dating Laboratory, 21 dates have been obtained on shell and charcoal samples from sites in this Reservoir. This large number of dates is being used to determine the validity of radiocarbon dates on Rangia shell and so far the results are very promising. Burney B. McClurkan directed excavations at two sites in the Livingston Reservoir on the mid-Trinity River in east Texas during October and November. Both sites produced Archaic as well as later materials and the information gained fills a large gap in the knowledge of geographic distribution of materials for the area. In the spring of 1967,

Current Research
Southeast, May, 1967

Harry J. Shafer conducted salvage excavations in Conroe Reservoir on the San Jacinto River. Work was done at three sites, adding new information concerning coastal-interior relationships.

In the spring of 1967, Jon Gibson, working for the Texas Archeological Salvage Project and Southern Methodist University, conducted salvage work in the Pat Mayse Reservoir in northeast Texas. Thirty four sites were located and seven were tested.

VIRGINIA:

An intensive archaeological program has recently been inaugurated by the Anthropology Department of the College of William and Mary. Numerous Colonial sites and Indian sites are being located, tested, and excavated. Norman F. Barka directed work at the Queens Lake site, a large 18th century trash pit near Williamsburg, and at a pottery dump in Yorktown. The latter site has yielded a considerable and important pottery sample believed to have been manufactured by William Rogers, a relatively unknown local potter of the early 18th century.

Ben C. McCary and Norman Barka have conducted test excavations on various pre-historic and historic Indian sites in the Dismal Swamp area, along the Chickahominy River, and on Dumpling Island in the Nansemona River near Suffolk.

A comprehensive study collection, encompassing both Indian and Colonial artifacts from all parts of Virginia is presently being assembled at the Anthropology Laboratory of the College of William and Mary at Williamsburg.

Work at the Shannon site near Blacksburg, Virginia, was completed in December by Joseph L. Benthall (Virginia State Library) using volunteer labor throughout. The site provides much data on a Late Prehistoric palisaded village, in an area virtually unknown archaeologically. The entire palisade was uncovered, plus 13 circular house patterns and 100 well preserved burials.

The Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission was created in 1966 and is currently being staffed. It will address itself to identifying and preserving historic sites in the state. It will eventually have a field agency, The Virginia Research Center for Historical Archeology, which is planned to be built at Williamsburg in the next few years.

WEST VIRGINIA:

Three seasons work have now been completed at the important St. Albans Archaic site, and a report has been published on this work in No. 19 of the West Virginia Archeologist. Because the site is neatly stratified, the relative chronology of various Early

Current Research
Southeast, May, 1967

Archaic point types has been established. Since the deposit is well over 10 feet in depth, much work remains to be done and excavations will be continued by Betty J. Broyles of the West Virginia Geological Survey.

Edward V. McMichael, State Archeologist with the West Virginia Geological Survey, has resigned his position to accept a teaching job at the University of Indiana at Terre Haute.

Hester A. Davis

PERSONNEL:

George G. Demmy is now Assistant Archaeologist in the North Carolina Department of Archives and History.

Edward V. McMichael has resigned as State Archaeologist of West Virginia and has accepted a teaching position at Indiana State University in Terre Haute.

Robert S. Neitzel has resigned as Curator of Archeology with the Department of Archives and History in Jackson, Mississippi, due to ill health.

C. Fred Bohannon became Superintendent of Ocmulgee National Monument in January.

The University of Georgia announces the following changes in its Department: Five new faculty members have been added starting in the 1967-68 fiscal year. They are Joseph R. Caldwell, David Halley, Michael Olein, Walter Ward, and Pauline Persing. In addition, Harold Huscher is now Curator of Archeology at the UGA Laboratory of Archeology. A. R. Kelly will become Professor Emeritus in January, 1968, and will go to Mexico to continue the Huastecan study. Ann Schlosser is on leave to work on her doctorate at Southern Illinois University.

With the creation of the Arkansas Archeological Survey, the following positions have been filled for the 1967-68 fiscal year: Director, Dr. Charles R. McGimsey; State Archeologist, Hester A. Davis; Survey Archeologists: Dan Morse, James Scholtz, and Burney McClurkan; Editor, Mary H. Printup; Photographer, Dan Printup.

Richard A. Marshall has been appointed Assistant Professor of Anthropology at Mississippi State University in Starkville, and is inaugurating an archeological program there.

Robert W. Neuman has assumed his duties as Curator of Anthropology at Louisiana State University. He will be responsible, among other things, for salvage archeology in the state.

THESIS AND DISSERTATIONS IN PROGRESS:

University of Mississippi -- James Key, An Analysis of Choctaw Phonemics (MA)

University of Alabama -- Oscar W. Brock, Jr. The Transition from Paleo-Indians to the Archaic in the Tennessee Valley. (MA)

Louisiana State University -- Jon L. Gibson, Definition of a North Louisiana Phase of the Tchefuncte Period. (MA)

Current Research
Southeast, May, 1967

Thesis and Dissertations continued:

University of Chicago -- John W. Griffin, The Cultural Ecology of the Archaic Period in the Eastern United States. (Ph.D.)

University of Michigan -- Martha A. Rolingson, Analysis of the Shell Midden Sites Located on the Green River of Western Kentucky. (Ph.D.)

Yale University -- Robert Dunnell, Emergent Village Life in the Mountains of Eastern Kentucky and West Virginia. (Ph.D.)

University of Kentucky -- Burt Purrington, Prehistoric Horizon and Tradition in the Eastern Mountains of Kentucky. (MA)

-- Frank Fryman, The Mississippian Tradition in the Green River Basin of Western Kentucky. (MA)

University of Georgia -- Patrick Garrow, Powhatan Indians of Virginia. (MA)

-- Christopher Murphy, Changing Subsistence Patterns of Proto-historic and Historic Indians in Georgia and Immediate Southeast. (MA)

-- Joseph Aceves, has completed a 15 month study on a Spanish village. (Ph.D.)

University of Arkansas -- James A. Scholtz, A Survey of Beaver Reservoir in Northwest Arkansas. (MA).

University of Florida -- George G. Demmy, Patina Dating on Glass.

FIELD OR LAB WORK, SUMMER 1967

Alabama:

The Archaeological Research Association of Alabama, Inc., is again financing a field school from June 5 - August 15 near Russellville, on Lively Complex sites; the work is directed by Dave DeJarnette.

Salvage work is underway in Mobile, sponsored by the University of Alabama, and the Alabama State Highway Department, on a 16th century fort (Fort Conde) which will be destroyed by the construction of a new Interstate Highway Plaza Tunnel Exchange.

National Park Service Salvage work continues this summer in the Jones Bluff Reservoir.

Current Research
Southeast, May, 1967

Field or Lab Work continued

Arkansas:

A small crew will spend a month doing salvage excavations on four sites along the Arkansas River Navigation Project west of Little Rock. One of these is the site of one of the three factories established in Arkansas, this one around 1819.

Another small crew will spend three weeks doing salvage work in proposed Gillham Reservoir in southwest Arkansas--Caddo County.

Most efforts are being expended on setting up the Arkansas Archeological Survey.

Florida:

Rip Bullen will do tests on sites in Barbodos and Grenada in July. Earlier in the spring he and David Webb, a paleontologist, made a Survey of a new canal near Vero Beach.

Bill Sears reports that work continues at the Fort Center site this summer. The large mound was worked during the winter (by University of Florida, Colgate, and Florida Atlantic University crews at various times). The mound covers a series of ceremonial structures, one of which is definitely a charnel house with preserved wood. All material is Hopewell, dating ca 0-100 AD.

Georgia:

A. R. Kelley and Don F. Smith will be working at Carter's Quarters from June to September.

Harold Huscher and graduate assistants will continue work at the West Point site in the Chattahoochee Valley from June through October.

John Walker excavated in May and June on Mound A, Ocmulgee National Monument to obtain sufficient information on construction of the mound to allow stabilization of the sides and reconstruction of the ramp. John has also begun analysis of materials recovered during the 30's from the Lamar site (a part of the Ocmulgee National Monument).

Kentucky:

National Park Service salvage will be conducted in June and July in proposed Uniontown and Newburgh Lock and Dam on the Ohio River, in Cave Run Reservoir near Salt Lick, and in July, final excavations will take place at the Corbin site in the Green River Reservoir--all under the direction of Martha Rolingson.

Current Research
Southeast, May, 1967

Mississippi:

Jeffrey P. Brain, Yale University, will be excavating at the Winterville site just north of Greenville. Work is sponsored by the Winterville Museum, the State, and an NSF dissertation grant.

Fred Bohannon (at Ocmulgee) is preparing the report of his excavations at the Pharr Mounds, a Miller 1 site on the Natchez Trace Parkway in northeast Mississippi.

Mississippi State University and University of Mississippi are jointly sponsoring two six-week field school sessions on late prehistoric and early historic sites near Starkville.

Tennessee:

Two crews will be in the field this summer "as long as weather and funds permit," in salvage operations in the proposed Tellico Reservoir area on the Little Tennessee River, in east Tennessee (Monroe and Loudin counties).

Memphis State University will again hold a field school at the Chucalissa Indian village, under the direction of Charles Nash with Dan Printup as field supervisor.

West Virginia:

See final page of this newsletter.

NEW FACILITIES AND CHANGES

The Museum of Anthropology at the University of Kentucky has moved to renovated facilities in Lafferty Hall. The Carnegie Building, which housed the Museum for 30 years, was razed to make way for the construction of a new 18 story office-class room building.

The Department of Anthropology, University of Alabama will become a separate department in September of 1967 with Dr. Paul H. Nesbitt as Acting Head.

A restoration and development program is underway at Mound State Monument in Alabama, sponsored by the University, which will include restoration of an aboriginal temple atop the largest mound, and several domiciliary huts close by.