NEWSLETTER

SOUTHWEST FLORIDA ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Post Office Box 9965, Naples, Florida 33941

Arthur R. Lee, editor | APRIL, 1989 | Volume IV, Number 12

RANDELLS TO RECEIVE AWARD

TWO SCORE SWFASERS VISIT JOSSLYN KEY'S MOUNDS

Twenty four SWFAS members and friends visited Josslyn Key's mounds and waterways Sunday, April 9, guests of Col. and Mrs. Donald Randell, the owners.

The island had been surveyed and test pits had been dug in recent years as part of the State Natural History Museum/University of Florida's Southwest Florida project, with the participation of SWFAS volunteers.

Material from the 50-acre island has been dated to between 200 B.C. and A.D.1,200, and includes a variety of potsherds as well as the assortment of shell tools customary to the area and millions of food shell.

A chartered boat from Pineland provided the transportation. Careful preparation by the arrangers -- Bud House, Bill Kemper and Jack Gaddy -- timed the visit to approximate high tide, which gave the visitors only a short wade. Field Activities Chairman John Beriault guided the group.

Participants included Sylvia Ansay, Kathy Ball, Linda Ballou, John Beriault, Walt and Mary Buschelman, Valerie Flanigan, Jack Gaddy, Enid and Owen Townsend Gander, Wayne and Shirley House, Bill Kemper, Art and Lynn Lee, Melody P.W. Qualls, Linda S. Robinson, Richard A. Stross, Reed and Barbara Toomey, Jamee Ward, Suzan Watts, Mike Weinberg, and Mary Ruth Winchell.

SPRING GARAGE SALE CANCELLED

There will be no SWFAS spring garage sale, it was decided April 11 by the board of directors who were told that adequate material did not appear to be available.

Director Barbara Logie urged members to save up for next fall's event, and Vicepresident Charlie Strader said those with problems storing major items could telephone him at 566-2133 days or 992-6133 evenings.

HONOR TO BE CONFERRED AT APRIL 20 DINNER MEET

Col. Donald H. Randell, Pineland, and his wife Patricia have been selected to receive the Southwest Florida Archaeological Society's newly-created "Dr. Frank C. Craighead, Sr., Award" for their major contributions to the area's archaeology.

The award will be presented at a dinner meeting of the Society August 20 at the Bonita Bay club, it was announced by President Keith Waterhouse.

The distinction is conferred in recognition of major accomplishments in any of three fields: archaeological research, education in the area's prehistory, and conservation of archaeological resources.

Eligible are individuals in these categories: Landowners and/or developers, educators, government employees, workers in both print and electronic media, and both amateur and professional archaeologists.

In the case of Colonel and Mrs. Randell, their activities span the spectrum of fields of eligibility: They have made repeated substantial financial contributions to further the Southwest Florida project of the University of Florida, Gainesville, and the State Natural History Museum; have purchased and protected from destructive development two major archaeological sites, Josslyn Key and the mound complex at their home ranch at Pineland, and annually have welcomed hundreds of schoolchildren and other visitors as well as researchers to sites under their protection. In addition, they have been eloquent advocates of the preservation of archaeologial resources.

The award is named for the late Dr.Craighead, who did pioneering research in the region's environment and who exercised a great impact on young people with whom he came in contact.

President, Dr. Keith Waterhouse; first vicepresident, Charlie Strader; second vicepresident, Linda Robinson; treasurer, Jack Thompson; recording secretary, Barbara Logie; corresponding secretary, Lynn Lee; trustees: Walt Buschelman, Wayne House, Art Lee, Joe Long, Eleanore Young, Anne Waterhouse, Mary Ruth Winchell. Committees, Dorothy Thompson public relations, Isabelle Felsberg hospitality, John Beriault field activities, Paul Benedict education, Art Lee, newsletter, laboratory.

WILDLIFE, CALUSA WORKS ON LAND,
GAVE DIRECTION TO RANDELLS' LIVES

Donald and Patricia Randell have been deeply involved in environmental and archaeological protection and education since their identification with Southwest Florida a score of years ago.

Col. Randell bought the tract of Gulf coast land that was to be their home in the course of a 1967 visit to Florida. The property, located at Pineland, proved to be as relatively untouched as he had hoped, with fish and shellfish in the waters and roseate spoonbills and other birds in the air. Moreover, it had mounds and other Indian earthworks. The presence of the wildlife and the relics of the Calusa Indians would give direction to his and Patricia's lives from that time on.

Col. Randell, born in 1909 in Newark,N.J., earned an A.B.degree in economic geology at Princeton University. His financial career included association with a number of investment banking firms specializing in the analysis of oil and mining companies.

Professionally, he was one of the pioneers of the Security Analysts in New York, associate editor of the Financial Analyst Journal, and lecturer at the N.Y. Institute of Finance. He helped develop the Athabaska tar sands deposit and to promote the western Canadian oil industry.

Commissioned in 1932, he had active duty in the War department before World War II; earned four battle stars, and was decorated after the Battle of the Bulge. Following the war he was deputy director of intelligence in the New York National Guard; he was retired in 1969 as a lieutenant colonel.

Locally, Col. Randell is active in veterans organizations, served three terms as president of the Pine Island Chamber of Commerce and was named its "man of the year". He is a member of a number of civic and environmental groups, including the Citizens Participation Advisory Committtee, of which he was president two terms. For 14 years the Randells have presented the "Make Pine Island Beautiful" award.

He was married in 1941 to Patricia Crandon, the only daughter of Charles H. Crandon of Miami, who was Dade county commissioner for 20 years; Crandon Park was named for him.

The Randells have three children, Crandon, a deputy district attorney, and Mrs. Robert Taggart, both living in California, and Frederick of Pineland.

After they moved to the Pineland property in 1968, the Randells restored the area, which had been modified, to more closely resemble its original state, and succeeded in having it designated as a National Historic Site. Then known as Batteys Landing, the area had been visited by archaeologist Frank Cushing in 1895.

A couple years after moving to Pineland, the Randells bought Josslyn Key, another major Calusa site just offshore in Pine Island Sound.

Both Josslyn and the Pineland site have been explored as part of the Florida Natural History Museum's Southwest Florida archaeological project.

The Randells have made substantial financial contributions to the Museum's project and last May opened their home site -- called the Rocking R Ranch, since they maintain a herd of cattle there -- to the Museum for a major series of explorations. In a two-week period nearly 90 people dug, sifted and sorted material from test pits in five areas. Earlier, similar work had been done at Josslyn Key.

Recently, they have agreed to sell Josslyn to the state for a fraction of what the island would command on the open market. "I wanted it in the hands of the state," Randell said.

A plot of land fronting on the Gulf in Pineland has been donated as a public park; it contains a plaque relating the history of the site.

Mrs. Randell entertains hundreds of school children and other visitors annually, showing them the Indian mounds and her collection of artifacts, and their home is a regular stopping place on an organized tour of Pine Island. Visitors leave with a better appreciation of the need for preservation of Southwest Florida's environmental and cultural heritage.

PERSISTENCE OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES
UNDER COASTAL WATERS TOLD BY KOSKI

Steven H. Koski believes that there are archaeological sites as far out to sea as the edge of the continental shelf. He explained to those attending the March SWFAS meeting that the Florida coast line in past has extended out 150 to 300 miles, and that then, as now, people lived along it.

Koski, who is research assistant at the Warm Mineral Springs project of Florida State University, has made study of inundated shell middens off the coast of Venice the subject of his master's thesis at Arizona State University.

Research at Venice beach was started in 1976 by Dr. Rey Ruppe, who returned in 1985 to conduct a remote sensing survey of the continental shelf by boat equipped with sonar capable of making a record of the bottom 50 meters to either side.

Exploration has demonstrated that shell middens were gradually inundated as the sea level rose, with accompanying rapid sedimentation.

In the course of the off-shore work numerous artifacts were found, including 53 wooden posts in a 10-meter area, which have been identified as part of a land structure. Two recovered have been dated at 1,300 B.P. Other finds have included flakes, projectile points, choppers, scrapers, a bone pin, sand tempered plain ceramic ware and shell tools.

Koski since December has served a co-chief of the excavation of a burial site at Manasota Key.

EARLY MAN IN SOUTHEAST FAS SPEECH SUBJECT

Banquet speaker at the Florida Anthropological Society's annual meeting will be Dr. Albert C. Goodyear of the University of South Carolina's Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology, it is annouced by President Harold D. Cardwell, Sr. His topic will be Early Man in the Southeast.

The meeting will be held April 28-30 at the Omni hotel in Jacksonville. Reading of papers will take place Saturday, and the FAS annual business meeting will be Sunday. To join FAS send a check to the membership secretary at 308 6th St. N.E., Largo, FL 34640. Individual membership is $18, family $20.

CRAIGHEAD AWARD SEEN AS TOOL TO FORWARD GOALS OF SOCIETY

The Dr. Frank C. Craighead, Sr., award was conceived by the Southwest Florida Archaeological Society's board of directors as a means of forwarding the organization's goals of learning more about the early residents of the area, disseminating that information, and preserving its evidences.

The heavy influx of new residents and tourists to the Southwest Florida area is creating an unprecedented demand for housing and facilities which, in turn, is stimulating construction and development, with a resultant threat to aboriginal habitation and activities sites. At the same time, a flourishing black market in artifacts has prompted widespread violation of burial and other important sites.

In the face of these challenges, the Society carries out a number of activities to stimulate awareness of the importance of the history locked in the area's soils and of preserving it. It is the hope of its membership that the Craighead award will help in this effort, as well as in encouraging the development and dissemination of information about the area's past.

Individuals and organizations in a number of fields are considered for the award, although only one is conferred annually. These are: Educators in primary, secondary and higher schools and other educational institutions; representatives of the media, both print and electronic; both avocational and professional archaeologists; and landowners and developers.

Criteria used in judging candidates include impact of the individuals' efforts, considering both primary and secondary audiences; duration of the results of activities; and evident effectiveness of candidates' efforts. Under these criteria, modest programs carried out over a period of time can compete with more dramatic, but single-event efforts.

Use of Dr. Craighead's name for the award has been graciously granted by his widow, who is a Naples resident. The distinguished scientist was chief entomologist of the U.S. Deparment of Agriculture's Forest Service at the time of his retirement in 1950. It was then that he started a second career studying the environment of the Everglades region, research that resulted in a new understanding of the area, opening new fields of study and furthering concern for the conservation of wetlands and coastal resources.

Although his interest in archaeology was secondary, he had a great impact upon the young people with whom he came in contact and through them study of the Southwest Florida's prehistory has been greatly enhanced.

THE FINE SCREEN

Joe and Freda Long have won the designation of "Master Gardener", which means that they are subject to call by the Collier County Extension Service to help the brown thumbs with their problems.

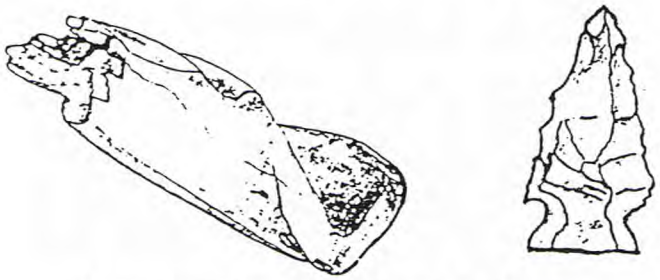
Vicepresident Charlie Strader can be congratulated on a move up the corporate ladder which has given him, among other things, a new large office at Modern Air Conditioning,Inc.,Naples.

SWFAS SHOVELS AND SCREENS RECOVER ARTIFACTS FROM GALT ISLAND BULLDOZER SPOIL HEAP

More than forty SWFAS members and friends manned shovels and screens March 18 and 19 to salvage artifacts from a pile left years ago by a bulldozer on Galt Island.

Although provenience of the material was lost to the earth-mover's blade, the artifacts still could be useful as comparative examples for the Craighead laboratory and to illustrate early life of the Pine Island area at the Museum of the Islands.

At present, the material has been cleaned and is being inventoried at the laboratory. Disposition will be made by the site owner, William T. Mills of Marathon, who graciously granted permission for the event, after the material has been described for the records.



Salvaged shell gouge, left, and point

Guided tours both days were conducted by Jack Gaddy and Pat Snearley.

Potsherds recovered included, other than sand tempered plain, some tentatively identified as Belle Glade and a pink-washed ware, possibly Weeden Island.

A couple shell columella gouges and chisels were found, along with both hafted and hand-held hammers and a shell fish-gorge. A pierced sharks tooth and bone fragment were also recovered. A number of stones of varied material were screened out, including some that apparently had been used as smoothing or shaping tools.

Shirley House's sharp eyes spotted in a tray a stone point tentatively identified as a late paleo Bolen type.

Although some traditionalists made comments about the organization becoming effete, others enjoyed the luxury of a portable toilet, paid for by the participants.

The SWFAS screen, cardboard sheets for sorting and plastic trays were brought by Charlie Strader, and a State Natural History Museum screen was provided by Gaddy, Wayne House and Bill Kemper.

Participants included Sylvia J. Ansay, Linda Ballou, Walt and Mary Buschelman, Beau Carlen, Bill and Carol Carter, John R. and Mary Kay Cassani, Bill and Michelle Fair, Valerie Flanigan, Jack Gaddy, Joanne Gasperik, Phyllis Harned, Dennis and Gillian Hinsley, Wayne and Shirley House, Bill Kemper, Lisa Latkowski, Art and Lynn Lee, Charles Moelter, Derrick Rdewicz, Jody and David P. Rice, Linda S. Robinson, Ray Seguin, Debbie Shoss, Pat Snearley, Marc Stockley, Charlie and Gail Strader, Richard A. Stross, Gary Susdorf, Reed and Barbara Toomey, Enid and Owen Townsend, Suzan Watts, Mike Weinberg, and Mary Ruth Winchell.

SWFAS SUPPORTS YEAR OF INDIAN PROJECT; YOUR LETTERS CAN HELP THE CAUSE

The SWFAS board of directors April 11 voted to urge area legislators to fund the $245,532 "Year of The Indian" proposal which involves archaeological digs at Useppa and Pineland under the Florida Natural History Museum and a number of informational and educational projects. To be coordinated by the Lee county Nature Center, it would provide development of teaching units on Indian culture, a summer program at the Center, a multi-media show at the planetarium and permanent exhibits at the Center and the Ft.Myers History Museum.

It was pointed out that letters by members to their legislators would help chances of obtaining the funding. The Museum relies on SWFAS for assistance on its digs.

MEXICO CITY'S TEMPLE MAYOR: "MY MIND IS BOGGLED!"

On a recent visit with Anne to Mexico we spent a day in Mexico City visiting the Temple Mayor.

This relatively recent discovery in the center of Mexico City, one block from the Localo, has been fully excavated and a museum has been built, adjacent to the site, to display some of the 7,000 objects which were removed from it.

The site came to attention on Feb. 24, 1978, when some Light and Power Company workers happened on the lower part of a carved stone. Four days later it was fully unearthed by archaeologists from the Recovery and Preservation Department of the National Institute of Anthropology and History (INAH). What they had revealed was a huge stone disc, about eight feet in diameter and one foot thick, and known as the Coyolxauhqui. On its surface is depicted a dismembered woman warrier.

This find was so important that INAH spent the next three years on a very careful uncovering of the 1.400 square meter site which revealed the five construction stages of the great temple.

In addition to a magnificent demonstration of the architectural features, the display and explanation of the discovered artifacts reach the highest standards. As Anne said as we left the museum: "My mind is boggled!"

The quality and interest of the artifacts, which range from the Olmec period (1,000 B.C.) to the 14th Century A.D.,are of the greatest importance. The site was destroyed by Cortes and overbuilt so it could never again be used and in the adjacent blocks the enormous Mexico City cathedral was constructed. This was the common Spanish practice -- the more important the Indian site the larger the cathedral constructed after its destruction.

This is, in the words of the Michelin Guide, a four star site; that is, "Worth a special journey".

Keith Waterhous

Miami -- Archaeologists have recovered about 25,000 artifacts in an excavation they say shows that the Joe Robbie stadium site was the prehistoric meeting place for Tequesta and Seminole tribes.

DATEBOOK

*April 18 and 20, and every Tuesday and Thursday starting at 10 a.m., and Saturdays at 2 p.m., sorting and analysis at the Craighead lab. Help needed.

*Thursday, April 20, dinner meeting at Bonita Bay club; cocktails at 6, dinner at 7. Call Jack Thompson (office 261-3440, home 597-2269) for reservations by Monday April 17. This replaces the usual monthly meeting.

*Tuesday, May 9, Board of directors (officers, trustees, committee heads and any interested members) meeting at the home of Eleanore Young, 4956 Esplanade St., Bonita Springs, 6:30 p.m.

*Wednesday, May 31, SWFAS monthly meeting in Community Room, First Federal Savings and Loan of Ft.Myers, 3201 Tamiami Trail North, Naples, 7:30 p.m. This one-time change from the usual "third Wednesday of the month" date was forced by the S&L's using the meeting place for other purposes.

Need information? On membership, Lynn Lee, 261-4939; finance, Jack Thompson, 261-3440, 597-2269; field activities, John Beriault, 261-0082; garage sale, Barbara Logie, 597-4745; lab, newsletter, Art Lee 261-4939.

NEIGHBORS HAVE NEW OFFICERS

SWFAS' neighboring societies have seated their 1989 officers, who are:

Archaeological Society of Southern Florida, Miami -- Beth Read president, John Ayer vice president, John Carruthers treasurer, Vivian Peters secretary. Directors are Bob Carr, Debra Goldman, Seth Lefkow, Jim Lord and Barbara Tansey.

TimeSifters, Sarasota -- Joseph Booth president, Deborah Duranceau and Judy Axelrod vice presidents, Cornelia Futor and Kris Baker secretaries, Sue Safford treasurer and Marion Almy and Jodi John directors.

ELSEWHERE.....

Ft.Lauderdale -- The Broward County Archaeological Society's 1989 officers include Sam Enslow, president and editor of the Voice of The Turtle; Gypsy Graves, vice president and director of the Museum of Archaeology; Carol Browne and Marilyn Bast, secretaries, and Burton Goldfarb, treasurer.

Excavation at the Margate-Blount site, where salvage has been going on for some time, has been suspended following transfer of ownership of the property. Thursday evening lab work sessions are continuing. Recent finds include carved bone beads, Surfside incised potttery and a minature Busycon shell tool/toy, complete with wooden handle.

WELCOME TO SWFAS!

The Society has welcomed Enid and Owen Townsend-Gander of St.James City, Marjorie Wilkov and Todd Turrell, both of Naples, Marie Carson of Fort Myers and Penny Yaples of Lehigh Acres.