

Southwest Florida Archaeological Society Newsletter



BETSY MCCARTHY, EDITOR Vol. 20 No. 5

MAY 2004

JIM LONG 1917-2004

A romance that had its beginning and its end in SWFAS was seen to its closure Wednesday, April 26, by members as they said goodbye to Jim (James Alvin) Long, who succumbed April 26 to an extended illness.

Some 10 years ago Suzanne Morrow telephoned then Secretary Lynn Lee to ask if she knew of a member who would be willing to give her a ride to the monthly SWFAS meeting. Lynn's records showed that Jim Long lived in Sue's neighborhood, he agreed to her telephoned request, and the rest, as Jim loved to recite, was a courtship which culminated in a full-fledged marriage ceremony. It was held April 26, 1994, with both families participating, even to flower girls (three of Sue's granddaughters) and the formal ring ceremony.

Jim was born in Porto Alegre, Brazil, on July 1, 1917, studied physics at the University of Oklahoma, was nominated for a Rhodes scholarship, and took his degree in 1937. In a 47-year career as a physicist, during which he won an award for a paper on a system for processing seismic data, he explored for oil reserves in various parts of the world, from the back countries of South America to the Hindu Kush, giving him a lifelong passion for travel (some 100 countries).

He participated in six Earthwatch expeditions and was a founding member and fellow of the local Explorers Club and an International Rotarian.

Jim participated enthusiastically in SWFAS functions with Sue at his side, as she was to the end of a relationship begun in mutual interests in our area's past. Death came to him April 26 – exactly 10 years after their marriage.

MUSEUM HONORS JACK HARVEY AS "VOLUNTEER OF THE MONTH OF APRIL



Jack Harvey, Craighead Laboratory volunteer, was honored in April as volunteer of the month. This designation was based on the

number of hours worked, effort, and dedication of the volunteer as determined by CCM staff members. He received a Shining Star award certificate, an Above and Beyond pin and his name will be printed on a plaque that will be hanging in the Museum.

Congratulations Jack!

WHAT HAPPENED TO BARON COLLIERS LINER?

On May 25, the History channel will run a program on underwater archaeology and the mystery of a wreck found off the Keys. It was made with the help of the Collier County Museum.

CRAIGHEAD LAB NOTES

By Jack Thompson

We find the Olde Marco Inn material introduces new artifacts to us. Coke bottles are a good example. A clear glass one is probably quite old. It belonged to the Ft Myers Bottling plant. One other sample contained coke bottles from Michigan, Cuba, Georgia, and Ohio. A strange green bottle with a round bottom turned out to be a Belfast ginger ale bottle. At some time in the past someone leveled the area by pushing shell mound tops over historic material. If you know about bottles, drop in some Tuesday or Thursday morning to educate us.

MAY SWFAS MEETING

Theresa Schober will be speaking at the May meeting of SWFAS. She is a professional archaeologist and co-director of the Cultural Resource Management Program at Florida Gulf Coast University where she also teaches courses in physical anthropology. The CRM program conducts archaeological projects in Lee, Collier, and Charlotte Counties with a focus on public archaeology. Through the program, Theresa and co-director Corbett Torrence also administer educational programming at the Mound House, a 2,000 year old calusa Indian mound and historic house owned by the town of Fort Myers Beach. Originally from western Canada, Theresa has participated in or directed archaeological excavations on the northern Plains, in the high Arctic, the Midwest, the Baja Peninsula, Panama, and most recently, southwest Florida.

Her talk will be on Human history of Southwest Florida as told from the skeleton.

History is traditionally told with reference to written records and other documents, or in an archaeological sense, from material remains or artifacts left behind. Embedded in the human skeleton and the context of burial is another source of information on how humans behaved in the past. This presentation will discuss how the human skeleton contributes biological knowledge of an individual living in prehistory as well as human behavior that can be inferred from patterns of trauma, disease, and mortuary contexts.

Particular reference will be made to the contributions of human skeletal analysis in understanding Florida prehistory.

The SWFAS meeting will be held in the same room as we have been using – Room 124 in Academic Building III. Refreshments will be served at 7 PM with the meeting beginning at 7:30 PM. Call 239-597-2269 for directions.

ABOUT SWFAS -

President – Tom Francino
 1st VP – Corbett Torrence
 2nd VP Theresa Schober
 Rec. Sec. – Joann Grey
 Treasurer – Charlie Strader
 Membership – Charlie Strader

TO JOIN –

Address your check to: The Southwest Florida Archaeological Society, PO Box 9965, Naples, FL 34101.
 Dues are: Individual - \$20., Sustaining - \$50., Family - \$35., Student \$15.

QUESTIONS, comments or contributions to the newsletter:

Betsy McCarthy, 909-8 Augusta Blvd., Naples, FL 34113, or E-mail – popismom@hotmail.com

LAND WHERE DIG RECOVERED ARCHAEOLOGICAL TREASURES PLANNED FOR CONSTRUCTION

By Jeremy Cox

No one knows what archaeological treasures might lie beneath the sand at a live oak-shaded property on the Imperial River. And they may never know.

A 1986 dig uncovered evidence that the two acre site was once home to

an Indian village or cluster of families, one of the most important archaeological discoveries ever in Bonita Springs, experts say.

The landowners plan to build four Old Florida Style houses on the Snarkage Drive property. After concerned preservationists complained last October, Bonita Springs officials wrote letters to the United Kingdom – based company that owns the land to see whether it would be willing to sell or preserve the site.

Six months later, there has been no response....

The property's assessed value is \$1.24 million, according to the Lee County Property Appraiser. But it's also rich in archaeological value, said Charlie Strader, whose family owned the property in the 1970's and 80's.

During their dig, Southwest Florida Archaeological Society members found a 7 foot-deep shell midden, an area where prehistoric people lived and tossed their trash. Indians lived there between A.D.300 and 1200 said Strader, who is a member of the society...

The society's members dug down 13 feet and found, among other items, beads, pendants and pottery. But they never unearthed any human remains or evidence of burials...

Strader said there is a "fair possibility" that Indian remains are buried under the property. But there will be no telling if it's developed...

Cullum Hasty, a member of the city's local planning agency, also pushed

city officials to contact the property's owners.

"It would have been nice to see a very significant archaeological site on the water like that be turned into something accessible for the boating public," he said. "Its kind of a day late and a dollar short on that one."

From the Naples Daily News, Wed. April 28, 2004

BERIAULT TALKS ABOUT THE MIAMI CIRCLE AT APRIL SWFAS MEETING

John Beriault gave a very interesting talk on the Miami Circle at the April meeting of SWFAS. He showed slides of the site and clearly identified the Circle area of post holes. His comments gave us an intimate idea of the work that was done at the site including interesting side lights on the workers.

We were treated to an excellent view of the "famous" or "infamous" septic tank.

Certainly, those of us who had not seen the site were better acquainted with it than if we had actually been there.