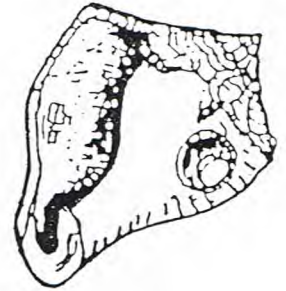


SOUTHWEST FLORIDA ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY



Post Office Box 9965, Naples, Florida 33941

Arthur R. Lee, editor

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DIRECTOR OF EPOCHAL DIG AT NOVEMBER MEETING

Dr. Glen Doran of Florida State University, Tallahassee, who directed excavation of a burial site near Titusville, Florida, which has attracted world attention, will speak at the November 17 meeting of SWFAS at First Federal Savings and Loan of Ft. Myers, 3201 Tamiami Trail North, Naples, starting at 7:30 p.m.

The excavation, at a development site called Windover Farms, not only provided a more detailed look at life some eight thousand years ago but an opportunity to examine the oldest known human DNA.

The dig was opened in 1984, after a construction crew turned up skulls. By 1986 the project had uncovered more than 100 burials, making it unique in the numbers of remains and in their diversity, being nearly equally divided among male and female, adult and subadult.

Although the dead had been hunter-gatherers, making seasonal rounds in search of game and vegetable food, they did have the leisure for nonessential activities. Several types of weaving were used in making fabrics, some quite fine and more sophisticated than any known in the Americas of that period.

Their existence, and that of objects fashioned from wood, bone and antler, such as pestles, a paddle, awls and needles, a hammer, and other tools of unknown function, is due to the burials having been made in a pond where water and peat provided an oxygen- and acid-free environment to protect them.

It was that same environment which preserved the brains of some of the individuals, providing an unparalleled opportunity to look into the genetic makeup of those early Florida residents.

GIVE TILL IT HELPS! THE SALE'S DEC. 3

DECEMBER 11 WORK SESSION MARKS NEW STATUS OF LAB

SWFAS members will meet at the Craighead lab Sunday, Dec. 11, to work on artifacts, but this session will be different from the Great American Wash-In and the Super Sunday Scrub-Up. This time elements of analysis -- weighing, measuring, and sorting -- will be added to the usual washing of material from past digs.

This modification marks a change in the status of the lab, dating from Oct. 22 when Bud and Eleanore Young volunteered themselves and a vehicle to move the remaining materials from past digs from B&B Builders Specialties, where they have been stored, to the laboratory crawl space, where they are reasonably well protected from the weather.

This protection for the artifacts, coupled with increasing pressure for storage space for washed material within the lab itself, has triggered the start of analysis along with the continuing cleaning.

The Dec. 11 event, will start at 9 a.m. and continue into the afternoon. As with the two other similar events, participants will bring lunch and there will be free soft drinks.

Rest rooms at the Collier County Museum, normally closed Sundays, will be opened to SWFAS for the occasion.

ALASKAN ARCHAEOLOGY SUBJECT OF TALK

SWFAS members have been invited to attend a presentation on Alaskan archaeology Tuesday, Nov. 22, at 7:30 p.m. at the Pine Island Museum of the Islands in the Pine Island Center. Host for the event will be the Pine Island Historical Society.

Speaker will be Diane Hanson of New Hampshire, a doctoral candidate at Simon Fraser University at Vancouver, British Columbia. She currently is employed at the Hood Museum of Art at Dartmouth College. A 1974 graduate of Ft. Myers high school, she is the daughter of the Pineland postmaster, Kay Hanson.

President, John G. Beriault; first vicepresident, Gary Susdorf; second vice president, Doug Messineo; recording secretary, Barbara Logie; corresponding secretary, Lynn Lee; Treasurer, Jack Thompson. Trustees, Art Lee, Joe Long, Charlie Strader, Eleanor Young, Anne Waterhouse, Mary Ruth Winchell. Committees, Dorothy Thompson public relations; Isabelle Felsberg hospitality, John Beriault field, Art Lee newsletter, laboratory; Paul Benedict education.

HEARINGS SET ON NEW ORDINANCE; CONSERVANCY SUGGESTS CHANGES

A schedule of public hearings on the proposed Historic Preservation ordinance has been announced by the Board of Lee County Commissioners. Pointing out that preservation of historic and archaeological resources is a goal of the draft law, Senior Planner Gloria M. Sejgo urges maximum participation by the public.

The sessions, to be held in the Commissioners' meeting room, will be:

Dec. 5, 2 p.m., the county planning and zoning commission sitting as the local planning agency.

Dec. 7, 5:05 p.m. the first Board of County Commissioners public meeting.

Dec. 21, 5:05 p.m., the second commissioners' public hearing.

In deference to those meetings, sessions of the Historic Preservation Commission for Nov. 14 and Dec. 12, have been cancelled.

Meanwhile, Robert S. Carr, president of the Archaeological and Historical Conservancy, which numbers several members of SWFAS in its directorate, has submitted to Lee county planners a number of suggestions for changes of a technical nature regarding the sequence of actions prescribed for a certificate to dig, and certain criteria.

THE FINE SCREEN

It was homecoming Oct. 15 when Jean Belknap showed up at the Craighead lab. A mainstay there, she had been missed when she and her husband spent the summer touring and backpacking Rocky Mountain and other western wilderness areas.

And a couple weeks later Paul and Phyllis Benedict, both regulars at the lab, showed up for a work session after spending the warm season in the Northeast and a trip to India. Paul is Education committee chairman.

Latest addition to the SWFAS library at the lab is Handbook of Paleo-Preparation Techniques by Howard H. Converse, Jr., published in 1984 by the State Museum at Gainesville.

Alice Ash took off Nov.5 for a couple weeks in Australia.

Latest life member is John Beriault, so named by the board of directors after he shouldered a good part of the debt SWFAS incurred in setting up the Craighead lab.

DATEBOOK

*Nov.15 and every Tuesday and Thursday at 10 a.m., curating artifacts at the Craighead lab. We need help!

*Nov.17. Monthly meeting of SWFAS starting at 7:30 p.m. at the First Federal Savings and Loan of Ft.Myers, 3201 Tamiami Trail North, Naples.

*Nov.19 and subsequent Saturdays (excepting Sale Day Dec.3), washing, sorting, analyzing materials from past digs at the Craighead lab, starting at 2 p.m.

*Nov. 20. Field trip to Spanish Point. Rendezvous at 10 a.m. at B&B Builders Specialties Co., 3800 Tamiami Trail North; 10:30 at Bonita Springs Plaza parking lot. Note time change. Details: John Beriault, 261-0082.

*Dec. 3. SWFAS garage sale at parking lot of First Federal Savings and Loan, 3201 Tamiami Trail North, Naples. Donors and volunteers report at 8 a.m., sale starts at 9, continues to 1 p.m.

*Dec. 6. Board of directors meeting at the home of Eleanore Young, 4956 Esplanade St., Bonita Springs, 6:30 p.m. All members welcome.

*Dec. 11. Wash-and-sort at the Craighead lab: Washing, sorting, weighing, measuring of artifacts. Festivities start at 9 a.m., continue into the afternoon. Bring your lunch; soft drinks will be on the house.

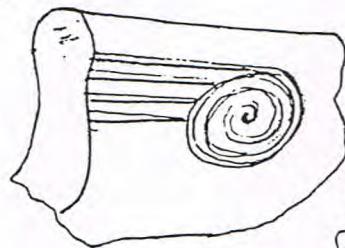
Dec. 15. Monthly meeting of SWFAS starting at 7:30 p.m. at the First Federal Savings and Loan of Ft.Myers, 3201 Tamiami Trail North, Naples.

DO YOUR CHRISTMAS SHOPPING
WITH MARY BUSCHELMAN: GIVE
A SWFAS TEE SHIRT OR CAP!
TELEPHONE 775-9734.



THE POTSHERDS WE DIG

Of sand-tempered clay, crudely moulded into thick walls and rounded rims is Port Washington Incised, a pottery type commonly associated with burials. Examples have been found at the Tatham site in Citrus county and also in Collier county. The vessels are small, about the size of a coffee mug, globular in shape, and bear the sun-circle decoration. They are frequently found in association with Safety Harbor vessels, with whose early 12th century A.D. dates they are contemporary,



JJB

DIFFERENCES IN MATERIALS, TECHNIQUES, MARK FLORIDA, CARIBBEAN, CULTURES

More differences than similarities were found by Linda Sickler Robinson Oct. 20 when she compared cultures of the prehistoric Caribbean and this area for members of the Southwest Florida Archaeological Society at their monthly meeting.

A professional archaeologist, Robinson has explored the cultures of both areas. She is president of the International Association for Caribbean Archaeology, a member of the Lee County Historic Conservation Commission, and of SWFAS. Her talk was illustrated by slides and a collection of artifacts.

Clay, she said, was not a primary material in the Caribbean, a note in the Spanish chronicles about Indians taking water to Columbus' ships providing a rare reference to use of ceramics there.

However, like the Calusa and their predecessors, the Caribbean peoples made much use of wood: the chronicles mentioned wooden bowls, and wooden statues in Hispanola had mother of pearl eye pieces.

Although real evidence of trade between the areas has not been found, there are "terrific similarities" in their tool kits, possibly due to use of similar materials. Olive shells, used as ornaments in both areas, in the Caribbean commonly were holed by means of a notch filed into a shoulder. Though different species were employed, perforated scallop shells in both regions were used as weights.

Plummets found in our area commonly have grooves carved at one end for suspension, while in the Caribbean they are perforated. Stone beads, often tiny, were manufactured; a wooden effigy preserved in Europe has them sewn onto its covering. Some granite beads were perforated in two planes.

Unlike south Florida, the larger islands do have deposits of a low grade chert, which was used quite widely, and apparently quite economically: objects were altered for re-use after being broken. Very small stone cylinders were manufactured.

The islanders also were economical of their time, Robinson noted, taking advantage of the morphology of shells in manufacturing tools. She cited use of the Queen conch, which has a wing naturally growing in the shape of a celt, the all-purpose island tool; of hooks formed by slightly altering murex shells; of shell

whorls used as spindles, and of naturally-occurring shell forms which were isolated to create the omnipresent effigy, the zemie, though it also appears in wood and stone and in widely-varying degrees of elaboration or simplification.

Bird, manatee, and turtle bone was used in tool making, but the islands had no deer. For reasons unknown, shark teeth were not used, unlike the practice in Florida. Cups were made of cowrie shell, and mother of pearl was used in ornamentation.

Objects shown by Robinson displayed sophisticated ornamentation; much use was made of the frog motif (a tiny species, the coqui, is popular in today's Puerto Rican designs), and some objects exhibit multiple imaging: one displayed looks like a bird from one perspective, and a frog from another. A condor effigy was of South American inspiration.

With time, there was a decline of individual art in favor of monumental undertakings, she commented.

PREPARATIONS MADE FOR YARD SALE

Detailed plans for SWFAS' Dec.3 yard sale at the First Federal Savings and Loan of Ft. Myers' parking lot were made at a board of directors meeting Nov.8.

Sale director Barbara Logie has applied for the permit, and arrangements were made for sales tables and signs. Donors and volunteers will start the day at 8 a.m.; the sale will open at 9 and run to 1 p.m. She will need help with sales.

NEWS OF SISTER CHAPTERS

Ft. Lauderdale -- A shovel and auger survey of a site on the New River, part of a new development, was conducted Oct.30 by the Broward County Archaeological Society. At its Margate-Blount site many new and interesting artifacts have been found, including some beautifully incised objects from deer antler. An 1834 six-pence coin was found on the surface there after a recent rain.

Members have been active: Peter Throckmorton's book The Sea Remembers is being distributed; Sam Enslow's book The Art Of Pre-Hispanic Colombia is in press; Donna Ruhl, a doctoral candidate at the University of Florida and former BCAS vicepresident, chaired a symposium on paleoethnobotany at the recent meeting of the Southeastern Archaeological Conference.

IT'S A SMALL (ARCHAEOLOGICAL) WORLD

Do these wooden implements look familiar?

Shapes like these, but of bone, frequently turn up in the mounds we explore. We consider them to be gorges, designed to lodge in fish throats, in lieu of hooks.

Sixteen like those pictured, 10-13 cm. in size, were found at a medieval site on the west coast of the Danish peninsula called Elisenhof, west of Schleswig. Dirk Heinrich, in Fishing and Consumption of Cod in the Middle Ages, published in one of the British Archaeological Reports International Series, believes that they were used in the North Sea cod fisheries.



ARCHAEOLOGISTS, LINGUISTS, SEE REVOLUTION IN STUDIES OF EARLY CULTURAL FLOW

SWFASers who helped in the May Pineland dig were impressed by the wash of different cultures across the area, as evidenced by changes, with time, in styles of pottery.

Traditionally, and probably influenced by the recent colonial past, anthropologists and archaeologists have been accustomed to thinking of such cultural changes in terms of long-distance mass movements of people, and forced revolutions in life-style.

That attitude is changing along with a realization that effects of migration are not as profound as had been supposed, and with a greater appreciation of the importance of local development. Asian specialists now are recognizing that cultural elements from China and India, for example, were diffused into surrounding areas and became attached to long-standing local traditions, rather than being imposed wholesale. This is noted by Irving Rouse in his recent book Migrations in Prehistory.

Changes in one cultural element -- language -- have come under study recently on a number of fronts. Prof. Jared M. Diamond, writing in the August Natural History, sees a relic of the linguistic world of thousands of years ago in present-day New Guinea, where, he notes, each isolated tribe has its own language, some unrelated to any other known language: there are about 1,000 languages there now. In the New World more than 200 languages have become extinct in recent centuries. In Europe, the Indo-European expansion wiped out all of the original western European languages except Basque. This expansion was discussed at a recent conference in Switzerland.

A commonly-held premise has been that the language shift to Indo-European dates from warrior nomads who swept westward from the steppes of southern Russia some 6,000 years ago. Some scholars now assert, and did so at the meeting on Lake Como, that the change started more than 2,000 years earlier in Eastern Anatolia, now part of Turkey, and, moreover, resulted not from conquest but rather from the spread of agriculture.

Colin Renfrew of Cambridge University argues that the Indo-European language became dominant as its speakers, who were encroaching agriculturists, became

more successful than the indigenous hunter-gatherers who either assimilated or shrank into isolated minorities. Archaeologist Renfrew buttresses his argument with Carbon 14 dates on crop seeds. ARL

Cited: Irving Rouse; Migrations in Prehistory; Yale University Press; 1986.

Jared M. Diamond; The Last First Contacts; in Natural History, August 1988.

Robert Suro; New Theories on Early Europe Cite Migration, not Conquest; in New York Times SCIENCE; May 10, 1988.

THOMPSON'S ARCHAEOLOGICAL SHOW WOWS 'EM

He stands behind a folding table erected on the porch of the Craighead laboratory on which are spread potsherds, shell tools and animal bones. Beside him Alice Ash, Jean Belknap and Lynn Lee wash artifacts. Visiting school kids cover the sidewalk and grounds in front of him.

"Welcome to the Craighead laboratory," he commences, and for the next 20 minutes SWFAS Treasurer Jack Thompson has their complete attention as he sells his own brand of snake oil: Respect for our pre-history and knowledge of the past.

His show was heard by more than 150 Fourth-graders October 20 and 27 as SWFAS cooperated with Collier County museum in hosting school visits.

TO SAVE MONEY ON FAS DUES.

PAY THEM BEFORE FEBRUARY 1

As an incentive to have members pay their dues early, the board of directors of the Florida Anthropological Society has reduced any which are paid before next February 1, it was announced in the current issue of the FAS Anthropologist.

The announcement coincides with a rise in dues, the first since 1982, to meet increased cost of postage and printing. The schedule now is: Regular and Institutional memberships, \$16 if paid before Feb. 1, \$18 if after that date; Family, \$18 and \$20; Sustaining \$25; Patron \$100 and Life \$200.

Membership brings with it a subscription to the quarterly journal The Florida Anthropologist, and eligibility to attend the annual meetings.

FLORIDA ANTHROPOLOGICAL SOCIETY APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

Name _____ Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

I am a member of the Southwest Florida Archaeological Society.

Regular (\$16) _____ Family (\$18) _____ Sustaining (\$25) _____ Patron (\$100) _____ Life (\$200) _____

Make check payable to FAS; mail to: Membership Secretary, *Florida Anthropological Society*, 308 6th St. N.E., Largo, Florida 34640