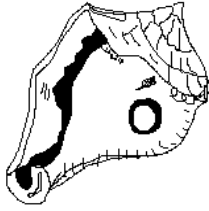


SWFAS



**SOUTHWEST FLORIDA
ARCHAEOLOGICAL
SOCIETY**

Inside this Newsletter

- 1 Ranching Life:** SWFAS has an Opportunity to help the Collier County Museum and get in on an Interesting Project - See what Art Lee has to say about it...
- 2 Where the Heck is Downtown Abaioa?** :Part Two - Dr. Robert Gore unravels a centuries-old mystery...
- 7 Discovering Archaeology**
- Linda Ballou has. See what she has to say...



Takin' A Break at Barnes A volunteer we all know (and appreciate!) waits for empty buckets to fill. Hang in there, Bob!

THE ROBERTS RANCH - SWFAS COULD HELP...

SWFAS has been offered a source of continued activity -- activity in behalf of a worthy cause.

The Collier county museum has been charged with making of the remains of a once major cattle ranch and orange grove a major facility for popular enjoyment and education, and the SWFAS board of directors has taken the first steps toward cooperation in this effort.

The county several years ago was given 4.1 acres of land at the edge of Immokalee, including a ranch house and outbuildings by the family of pioneer Robert Roberts Jr., and is in the process of buying more of the old ranch land to include an orange grove,

bunk house and other structures -- enough to create a working model of an early cattle layout.

A committee -- John Beriault, Jack Thompson, Betsy Perdichizzi, Charles Dugan and Art Lee -- appointed by SWFAS directors June 16 met with museum director Ron Jamro to explore ways the organization can help in the effort. It was decided that likely fields would include making a detailed contour map of the area, a walking and metal detector inspection of the land, especially near activity areas, sub surface exploration of areas of especial interest or where the soil will be disturbed, and obtaining oral histories from early residents of the area. To start the survey, Thompson and Dugan will explore county records to get a legal description of the property, and will try to obtain copies of early aerial photographs.

Information gathered by SWFAS will be of help in providing a factual basis for nomination of the facility for the National Register of Historic Places.

Meanwhile, SWFAS can be of help in another area -- supporting an appeal to the state by the county for funds to be used in preserving the existing buildings on the property, especially the ranch house which was given to the county complete with its original furnishings. Members are asked to prepare letters of support addressed to Katherine Harris, secretary of state, R. A. Gray

building, 500 South Bronough Street, Tallahassee, FL 32399-0250, but mailed to Ron Jamro, Collier County Museum, 3301 E. Tamiami Trail, Naples, FL 34112; Jamro will submit them to Tallahassee as a block.

The property is believed to contain the only intact remains of a historic cattle ranch remaining in Florida. It is of especial importance because most of the buildings are still on their original locations; the orange grove is the original one planted many years ago. Both cattle raising and citrus growing are major parts of the state's early economy. It offers an unequaled opportunity for the education of future generations.

Art Lee

597-2269; Sales: Valerie Flanigan, 262-8394; Finances, Jack Thompson 597-2269, 774-8517; Lab: (774-8517), Art Lee, 261-4939, Walt Buschelman, 775-9734, Jack Thompson, 597-2269.

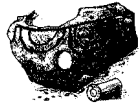
To Join: Address your check to the Southwest Florida Archaeological Society, P.O. Box 9965, Naples, FL 34101. Dues are: Individual \$20, Individual Sustaining \$50.00, Family \$35, Student \$15.

Any questions, comments, contributions to the Newsletter: John G. Beriault, acting editor, P.O. Box 9074, Naples, FL 34101-9074 or Email to: JGBeriault@aol.com.

Corrientes possibilities offered by Miami Beach, the Virginia Key/Key Biscayne complex, and Key Largo, and how they might help in locating the lost village of Abaioa.

Miami Beach and Virginia Key/Key Biscayne are barrier islands, although the former is more properly considered a barrier spit while the latter are more properly considered an incipient headland. In any case both are bar-built coastal barriers that formed as a sandbar-cum-shoal-cum-island on a Pleistocene reefal basement along the seaward margin of what is now Biscayne Bay. Their sand supply came from up the coast, carried by southward-running longshore currents. Coastal barriers are neither geographically fixed nor oceanographically forever. In fact, if Miami Beach, Virginia Key and Key Biscayne were united at the time of Juan Ponce's voyage they could be a prime coalesced contender for Herrera's Cape [La] Florida. Even if they were separated in 1513 (as they are today) either the tip of Miami Beach or Key Biscayne could still fill the promontorial bill. What's interesting is that both possibilities have some historical support. For example, Willem Gerard de Brahms, a Royal Surveyor, called the tip of the Miami Beach barrier spit "Cape Florida" in 1765. A decade later another famous surveyor, Bernard Romans, scornfully renamed it "Fool's Cape" and transferred the Cape

PAGE TWO



POTSHERDS AND POTSHOTS... AN ONGOING SERIES BY ROBERT GORE

WHERE WAS ABAIOA? PONCE DE LEON, ARAWAKS, CAPES AND OCEANOGRAPHY: PART 2 by Dr. Robert H. Gore

Previously, we briefly considered Cape Canaveral as a possible locality for the village of Abaioa. Let us now look at the Cape [La] Florida/Cabo de

THE DATEBOOK

July 14th - SWFAS Board of Directors Meeting, Hampton Inn, Bonita Springs, 6:30 PM

July 21st - General Meeting Bonita Springs Community Center, 7:30 PM

About SWFAS

The directorate: President Wayne ("Bud") House, first vice president Don Taggart, second vice president Betsy Perdichizzi, membership secretary Brenda Hamilton, treasurer Jack Thompson, recording secretary Jo Ann Grey, directors Valerie Flanigan, Sue Long, Dottie Thompson, Jo Ann Grey, Charles Dugan, Annette Snapp, Tom Franchino, John Beriault and Charlie Strader.

The committees: Field: Beriault, 434-0624; Hospitality: position open; Membership: Brenda Hamilton; Publicity: Dottie Thompson,

Florida toponym to Key Largo. These decisions were both ill-conceived and hasty.

Bernard Romans to the contrary, Key Largo seems quite unlikely to be a Cape of Florida for several reasons. It is neither cape-like (lying as it does along the upper Florida Reef Tract), nor is it a bar-built barrier island promontory. Instead it is an

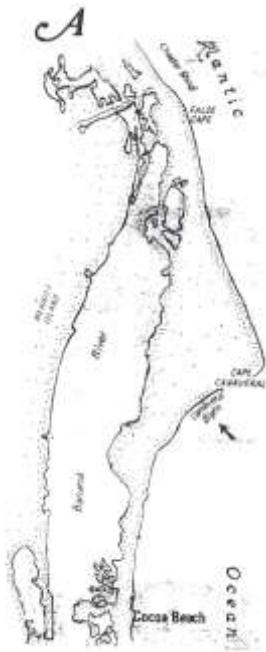


Figure 1. Donde son "Los Cabos de Corrientes"? A) Cape Canaveral and vicinity. If the Canaveral Bight (arrow) served as anchorage for Juan Ponce's fleet "behind the Cape" then the village of Abaioa would presumably lie on the coast somewhere near present-day Cocoa Beach or along the adjacent Banana River. Redrawn and modified from an American Automobile

Association Road Map

PAGE THREE

amalgamation of ancient coral reefs constructed of its eponymous Key Largo Limestone. As it curves gently southwestward it follows the general Pleistocene reef-line of Windley and Matecumbe Keys with little noticeable prominence when viewed from the ocean. Moreover, the Florida Keys had already been collectively designated Los Martyres by Juan Ponce who, it can be supposed, would certainly be able to recognize and delineate any "Capes" thereon.

On the other hand, Key Biscayne is a "cape-like island." Although a headland it is also built on the same coral reef basement of Key Largo Limestone as Key Largo. As a presumptive "failed cape" it did not maintain itself sufficiently through sand accretion and longshore littoral drift to become a prominent and permanent cape-like point of land. As noted in an earlier article, Marco Island on the southwestern peninsular tip is a similarly failed cape and is almost a mirror image of Key Biscayne. Both were probably true "capes" at some point in their ancient past, but by Ponce de Leon's time had only "cape memories" upon which to reminisce. As also noted earlier, Cape Romano lying to the south of Marco Island is a true accreting cape that has formed at the end of the sand supply from longshore littoral drift carried down the broad, shallow continental shelf of

the southwestern coast--and far from a major oceanic current. These three critical points--broad, and shallow, coastal shelves, a distance from a swift current, explain the difference between Cape Romano and Cape Florida. On the southeastern coast the narrowness and relative steepness of the continental shelf, coupled with the scouring flow of the nearby Florida Current, prevented similar barrier-capes from forming. Much incoming sand reaching Biscayne Bay spilled off the narrow continental shelf into the Straits of Florida trough. Farther south coralline reefs and subsequent emerged keys developed. But no capes.

Well, then, does the term "Corrientes" refer to the Gulf Stream? Maybe--depending on locality. At Cape Canaveral the Gulf Stream/Florida Current, the current having "more force than the wind," lies some 25-30 miles offshore along the edge of the broad, shallow continental shelf. This seems certainly too far to anchor and then row ashore to visit Indian villages. Might the descriptor "Cabo de Corrientes" (Cape of Currents) then refer to the confused inshore currents running past and around the tip of Cape Canaveral? Perhaps. Then, as now, the muddy shifting shoals east and south of Cape Canaveral have long been a recognized hazard to mariners, and Juan Ponce may have been comparing the slower safety of deep blue water to the uncertain hazards of

shallow green. Even so, using the northeast trade winds Juan Ponce



Figure 1. B) Upper Biscayne Bay and adjacent continental shelf. Arrows point to imputed "Capes" at Miami Beach and Key Biscayne. Dashed line indicates approximate 100 fathom line and western edge of Florida Current. Redrawn and modified from Hoffmeister, 1974.

PAGE FOUR

eventually avoided the Gulf Stream's northward flow by tacking closer to shore (where its flow is minimized or dispersed) and at the same time gained the benefit of the southward-flowing longshore currents, the very water flows that built the coastal barrier islands (and capes) that he noted in his log. Herrera's putative latitudes notwithstanding, the term

"Corrientes" suggests another possible location for Abaioa, not at Cape Canaveral but at Key Biscayne. The Florida Current rushes northward approximately five to seven miles offshore in the vicinities of Key Largo, Key Biscayne and Miami Beach. The continental shelf in this region not only is quite narrow (about 1.5-2 Spanish sea leagues), but drops rapidly into very deep, very blue, very fast moving water. Ponce's vessels proceeding southward would have had continually decreasing "wiggle room" between the devil's reefs and the deep blue sea. They would also have had to pass very near this reef-cluttered coast not only to avoid bucking the main Gulf Stream flow but also to find water shallow enough in which to anchor so that they could a) put boats ashore; b) discover the aboriginal inhabitants; and c) determine that the name of the village was Abaioa. In this scenario the southeastern tip of Key Biscayne or Miami Beach could easily be a "Cape of Currents" past which the 2-4 knot flow of the Florida Current collides with the strong tidal currents that periodically spill through Bear Cut or Government Cut from shallow Biscayne Bay. This outflow is so rapid that it has carved the seaward edge of the reefline across the Bay into a "spur and groove" formation termed "the Safety Valve." Supporting this deep Vs shallow hypothesis Herrera noted that one of Ponce's ships, a brigantine, was

unable to find the bottom (offshore?) in order to anchor, and was rapidly carried away out of sight and over the horizon.

Additional support for Key Biscayne being Cabo de Corrientes comes from coastal geography. Herrera stated that two islands lay to the south of the Cape, one of which, named Santa Marta, was one league (about 3.2 miles) long. If Miami Beach was Cabo de Corrientes, then the nearest island south that may have been Santa Marta would be Key Biscayne (4.5 miles long). If Key Biscayne was Cabo de Corrientes then the next large island southward was Elliot's Key, which today is about seven miles long (two Spanish leagues). In either case the village of Abaioa would lie "behind a cape," possibly on Elliot's Key, or on the mainland behind Key Biscayne, perhaps even on the Miami River. Such a location might then place it within Senquene's jurisdiction, If that Calusa chieftain controlled the province of Tequesta.

On the other hand, the barrier Islands immediately south of Cape Canaveral are today all very much longer than 1-2 Spanish leagues. All face a relatively shallow offshore environment subject to varying currents and periodically high surf, particularly during the blustery months of March-April. This dangerous coastline would become the graveyard of the Spanish Plate Fleets and a

tribulation for the Jonathan Dickinson party a century and more later. Indeed, none of the barrier island complex fronting the quite shallow Indian River Lagoon (which collectively extends more than 90 miles south from Cape Canaveral) seems a likely contender for cape status behind which the Ponce expedition might have anchored. In fact, it would have been foolhardy to attempt entry into the uncharted Lagoon through any of the narrow-mouthed tidally-scoured inlets using such unwieldy, large, slow, sailing vessels. Remember that Herrera specifically reported that they anchored "behind a cape," not offshore.

Finally, what of the term Abaibo itself? That the name was "Arawakan" as contended is true only in the sense that the language from which it came (Taino) belongs to the "Arawakan" group of languages. The confusion occurs because the once broadly construed tribal appellation of "Arawak" has unfortunately been incorporated within a language

PAGE FIVE

group shared by several other West Indian aboriginal moieties. The particular language once known as Arawak is now called Lokono. Based on shared language traits Lokono has been recently restricted to the continental peoples living in the Guianas and eastern Venezuelan region of coastal South America. Thus, assuming that the

"Abaiboans" were peninsularly non-indigenous (and we don't know for sure), they might have been of either Taino (sensu lato) or Guanahatabeyan stock, but were probably not Arawaks. The Tainos occupied by conquest and colonization the Lesser and Greater Antilles, including the Bahamas and all but western Cuba. The Guanahatabey, forced into western Cuba by incoming Western Tainos, were an archaic (stone-grinding) relict people whose ancestry was presumably Central American. Their presumed interaction with Senquene will be the subject of a future article. In any event, after the arrival of the Spaniards both groups, like the multi-nominate village of Abaioa-Abacoa-Aboa-Abaibo, vanished from history.

the above article copyright Dr. Robert H. Gore, written permission required to reproduce

WHO USED TO BE WHO IN ARCHAEOLOGY '???

by Steve Tutko

Jens Asmussen Worsaae, b. 1821, d. 1885, helped lay the foundations of prehistoric

archaeology. Author of the influential work *The Primeval Antiquities of Denmark* in 1843. In 1849 he was inspector of Danish prehistoric and historic monuments and a lecturer at the University of Copenhagen in 1855. In 1865, the last year of our "War Between the States", he became curator of Danish antiquities. His research and stratigraphic surveys served to refine Christian Thomsen's classification of prehistory into three ages (Stone, Bronze, and Iron).

DIG THIS...

By Steve Tutko

A NATIVE AMERICAN FABLE
A long time ago, in a very near place, there lived a handsome, young warrior. He lived with his family and the rest of the group along the coast. One day he decided to travel the land and hunt for food and adventure. While traveling throughout the land he came upon another village where he met a beautiful, young maiden by the name of Falling Rocks. He, of course, fell in love with her. Unfortunately, he had to return home with all the food he procured. Several weeks later he decided to travel back to her village with the hope of seeing the young maiden once again. Much to his chagrin, the group had vanished without a trace. He was very disappointed and sad. He vowed he would look for her if it was the last thing he did. To help

him in his quest he placed many signs throughout the land. You might have seen these signs as you travel around and about. They say **WATCH FOR FALLING ROCKS.**

(NOTE: Pretty *BAD*, Steve - EDITOR)

Archaeology on the Web

By Linda Ballou

Discovering Archaeology is the latest glossy archaeology magazine to appear on newsstands. The bi-monthly's premiere issue was January/February 1999. Like many periodicals these days, Discovering Archaeology also maintains a web site.

The contents of the current issue, as well as previous ones, can be accessed at the site, though not all material is offered in its entirety. Feature articles appear in what I consider "teaser" form, just the first few paragraphs. To read the entire story of, say, cannibalism in Chaco Canyon, you must still purchase the actual magazine.

PAGE SIX

Subscriptions can, of course, be ordered on line.

Each issue, however, is packed with shorter pieces in departments such as Research & News, Global Report, Web Watch, and Reviews. Almost all of these are available at the web site in their complete form. From the May/June issue, for example, you can read about prehistoric beer

brewing in Spain, ancient cosmetics from Egyptian tombs, or El Niño events from 15,000 years ago.

Like its print version, Discovering Archaeology online has many advertisers. With the hard copy it's pretty clear what's an ad and what's not. Not so on the web. It's easy to click on a what appears to be an informational topic and instead be linked to an advertiser. I thought "Ancient Sites" looked worth perusing, for instance, and found myself whisked to a role playing game involving fictional cities and characters rather than any archaeological information.

But there are many worthwhile links as well. Click on "Mammoth Disease" and you are taken to an American Museum of Natural History Site exploring the question of whether disease could be the explanation for the extinction of the woolly mammoth. At the end of some articles there are links to contributing researchers' web sites.

Discovering Archaeology offers a mix of entertaining and educational material, while a partnership with Scientific American further enhances their credibility. Bookmark their site at www.discoveringarchaeology.com because you may want to make return visits._

CRAIGHEAD LAB
REPORT by Ella May
Ablahat

ZOUNDS!! The new computer has been installed in the Craighead Lab and is ready for all the data we've been collecting on various sites. Now that we don't have to farm out our work and can do it right on the premisis it should get along nicely.

Capt'n Carl Johnson, Art Lee and Jack Thompson did us the honor of assembling the dozens of pieces of technology that it takes juist to get started. Now we (they) add the software and we are in business.

John Dante is busy cataloguing the otoliths in our collection and listing the one's we do not have. Jean Belknap is doing great things with shards of pottery from the Goodland Site and Ella May is still sorting bones from Chokoloskee. Our shell specialist and organizer, Walt Buschelman, is away visiting family members in other parts of the country.

NEWSLETTER

PAGE SEVEN

JOHN G. BERIAULT, acting editor

Volume No. 15

Issue No. 7

JULY, 1999