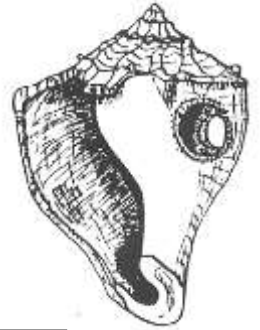


SWFAS

# NEWSLETTER

THE SOUTHWEST FLORIDA ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY



JOHN G. BERIAULT, ACTING EDITOR

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MARCH, 2000



Culture Clash? – or inspired Eclecticism? This turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century Seminole couple displays an inspired amalgam of fashion accessories from both cultures.

## FAS2000 CONFERENCE: THE COMMITTEES HAVE FORMED!

The February 9<sup>th</sup> SWFAS Board Meeting was another productive

session devoted to hammering out the details of the FAS2000 Conference of which we are the hosts. Chairman Beriault used Charlie Strader's excellent preliminary work and timeline, and, with the help of the above-named Mr. Strader, Steve Tutko, Bud House and all the other directors, made committee assignments and apportioned out the volunteers to each of the chairmen.

Some discussion then ensued as to WHEN the various activities connected to the Conference will take place and how each committee will deal with their respective tasks and duties. Some chairmen are well on the way to accomplishing their assignments. All chairmen should now have attempted to contact you volunteers who have generously put your names down to assist.

Attention was also given to the excellent program cover designed by Art Lee with the help of Linda Ballou.

Since the board meeting, Charlie Strader, Linda Ballou, and several others have further refined the times for the various

### *Inside this Newsletter*

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- 4 The Craighead Laboratory:** A History - by Art Lee - Installment Four...

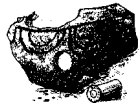
Conference events. The FAS Quarterly Newsletter (editor, David Burns) has been mailed with a pre-registration form, which I have copied to this Newsletter as a convenience to those of us that would like to pre-register.

It still appears things are "on track" for a very exciting Conference! I'll hope to see you there...

young man's fancy lightly turns to thoughts of love.,”

Sigh. The Sarrope Indians never heard either of these lines, but history suggests that the philosophies espoused were familiar to them--they just acted them out in a savagely different way.

We have alluded in an earlier column to the great Sarropean insult perpetrated on the Calusa by this apparently truculent group of aboriginals. To reprise quickly: the Cape Canaveral chief Oathkaqua (sometimes written Oathchaqua or perhaps Onathchaqua) was "a faithful friend" of one of the Calusan chiefs--call him Calos for the sake of the story. Oathkaqua felt the need to donate his daughter, a maiden of ravishing loveliness according to the accounts, as wife to Calos. Preparing a grand retinue, Oathkaqua and his daughter, her baggage train, armed escorts, and an accompanying group of wedding-party damsels departed on a four or five day journey all the way across the Floridan peninsula toward Calos-land. In modern retrospect this was no easy trip because, depending on the route taken, the wedding-train would have had to pass through or near the tribal domains of the Acuera, Jororo, Mayaca, Ays, and perhaps even the Jeaga, Jobe, and "Santa Luzes," all fierce and grumpy tribes--at least as far as



## POTSHERDS AND

## POTSHOTS... AN ONGOING SERIES BY ROBERT GORE

### A SARROPEAN GAUNTLET. 11. "MAKING LOVE INTEMPERATELY"

March is a month on the downward cusp of winter going into spring, with all the resultant conceits of rising sap, bursting buds, seeds, eggs in the nest-, and burgeoning new life. In other words it's a good month for a column about youthful peccadilloes and indiscretions--and sex. And no, this month's column is not rated X or R, but PG. As proof we proffer the following.

Percy Bysse Shelly posed a rhetorical query in his poem "Ode to the West Wind" in which he asked: "If winter comes, can spring be far behind?"

To which Alfred Lord Tennyson in "Locksley Hall" then added: "In the Spring a

### THE DATE BOOK

**March 8th - SWFAS Board of Directors Meeting**, Hampton Inn, Bonita Springs, 6:30 PM

**March 15th - SWFAS General Meeting** Bonita Spring Community Center, downtown Bonita Springs, 7:30 PM

**May 5<sup>th</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup> – FAS 2000 Conference**, Holiday Inn Sunspree Resort Hotel Ft. Myers

### About SWFAS

**The directorate:** President John G. Beriault, first vice president Betsy Perdichizzi, second vice president Don Taggart, membership secretary Charlie Strader, treasurer Charlie Strader, recording secretary Jo Ann Grey, directors Steve Tutko, Sue Long, Dottie Thompson, Jo Ann Grey, Charles Dugan, Jack Thompson, Tom Franchino, John Beriault and Charlie Strader.

The committees: Field: Beriault, 434-0624; Hospitality: position open; Membership: Brenda Hamilton; Publicity: Dottie Thompson, 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](mailto:JGBeriault@aol.com).

Europeans were concerned. The possible route apparently also swung close to the Lake of Sarrope, either within or adjacent to the territory of the Sarrope Indians. And thereby hangs the second part of our tale--because Oathkaqua's caravan never got any farther.

The general historical accounts are all more or less in agreement that the Sarrope found out about the caravan and ambushed Oathkaqua, his daughter, and her baggage train. But Le Moyne's account, for example, then downplays the aftermath somewhat euphemistically by saying that the Sarropean warriors reckoned the ambush to be:

"...a particularly splendid victory, and they are accustomed to marry the virgins they take in this manner and to be excessively in love with them."

Sounds like a Hollywood love story? Not quite. Consider an interesting development in all of this. The historical accounts of the Sarropean ambush were published in contemporary French, German, eventually in English, and (best of all for our purposes) in Latin. In 16th-17th century Europe Latin was still more or less both a language of the learned and a lingua franca. Thus, when an author wanted to ensure a wide reading of his source material, if he had any erudition at all he published it in Latin. From there he or fellow authors then often translated the Latin into the vernacular for their less studious countrymen. And that

has led in this case to a curious little situation. Today we would call it bowdlerizing--a form of tch-tching censorship.

Consider another translation of Le Moyne's chronicle which also held that after dispatching the military escort, the Sarropeans took the Oathkaquan maidens captive, then fell in love with them, and took them to wife. However, this English translation of the Latin gives us a darker hint, because it reads:

"The Indians regarded this as a signal victory for they usually marry girls taken in this way and make love intemperately." [Emphasis added]

However, the original Latin text, decidedly more direct, tells another and decidedly less romantic tale. The Sarropean warriors seem to have had another form of "marriage" on their minds:

"... matrimonio enim sibi coniungere eas virgines, & perditte amare solent."

The key phrase here is "perditte amare solent" which has been translated gently down as "to make love intemperately" or, "to be recklessly in the habit of loving." The better (and

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unexpurgated) translation is "to recklessly [and] bitterly have intercourse" in the sense of having numerous,, forced, and unbridled sexual couplings. In other words--gang-rape. This, by the way, is a substantially more realistic anthropological philosophy in internecine warfare (aboriginal or otherwise) than the French or Spanish Ideal of gentlemanly Sarropean swains making courtly, chivalrous, and dutiful love to demure, captive Indian virgins from another tribe. It means that the Sarrope not only insulted--they scored.

There may also have been some politics in this as well. By stealing Oathkaqua's daughter and her bridesmaids the Sarrope thumbed their noses at both the Oathkaquan donor, and the Calusan recipient. But as effective as the insult might have been it must then be asked: for what purpose? Just a "boys will be boys" philosophy? Springtime and young man's fancy and all that? Or was it an orgiastic act of civil disobedience to the purported ruling power--the Calusa? A retribution for a previous insult--perhaps a failure to pay a bread-root bill? We shall never know. But the great 19th century military strategist Clausewitz would probably have said that the ambush was a bad idea in any case because the Sarrope, who lived on or around Lake Okeechobee, then immediately set themselves up for a possible two-front war--

Calusas on the west, Oathkaquans on the east, and their respective allies in between--with no place to hide but the Everglades. We'll hold that thought for the final article.

But here's the curious part in all this. Neither the Calusa nor the Oathkaquans, as far as the historical record shows, exacted any retribution for this brazen insult. Calos's chronicler Escalante Fontaneda, in fact, never mentioned it. Nor did Pedro Menendez de Aviles in his accounts. Equally curious, the story first came to Jacques Le Moyne's attention from a Spanish castaway-cum-emissary whom the French ransomed from his Calusan captors. So the ambush had to have been common knowledge not only at Estampaba but a good way through the peninsula. Imagine the Tocobagans saying: "Those Sarrope! Did you hear what they did to Calos? What a bunch of wild and crazy guys! Har! Har! Har!"

Among the many questions about this debacle that remain and will probably never be answered are: Did Calos have his hands too full with Menedez de Aviles to exact retribution? Was Oathkaqua's daughter truly a gift or more of a mandated feoffment? If the latter, was her loss accepted philosophically by Calos as a sort of "easy come, easy go"? And if the bride was indeed a good-will gift then the greater loss would accrue to the giver, Oathkaqua, than the receiver, Calos. Why mourn what you never asked for, or owned? Or was Calos (and his tribespeople)

not quite the hurly-burlies that he would have history remember him as being? Was the Calusan game plan summarizable as "Good defense--no offense?"

We are further limited in our historical perspective because we don't know when this supposed event took place. Was it pre-contact or post-contact? The Spanish castaway's account implies that it happened within memory--viz. at the supposed height of Calusan power. If so, an equally important query is: why were the Sarrope ignored by the colonizing French and Spanish? Surely a tribe as well-known in the mid-1500s, and so powerful as to control "bread-root" supplies and prices across a peninsula, and so purportedly fierce that they could with impunity steal the betrothed of a Calusan chieftain, surely they would have had their existence noted, had to be dealt with, or had their passing exulted, at least in local legends. Yet the Spanish historical record remains mute; and the French relegated them to two paragraphs in Le Moyne's account.

But a couple of seemingly insignificant events chronicled in the early twentieth century suggest that maybe the Sarrope didn't get off scot-free. We'll wrap up this

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enigmatic tribe's place in history next month.

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## **HISTORY OF THE CRAIGHEAD LABORATORY: PART 4**

by Arthur R. Lee

### **Out of the Mud**

Work for other organizations was undertaken for the first time that year. More than 600 artifacts recovered from Galt island were cleaned, numbered and inventoried in preparation for their being incorporated in a display being readied by the Florida Museum of Natural History for the Museum of the Islands, then just being formed on Pine Island. In November a major collaboration was established with a University of Florida crew doing an archaeological analysis of Horr's

Island; it involved use of a storage facility in Fast Naples as a drop point for material enroute to and from the lab where it was cleaned and given a preliminary analysis. A later, major operation of that type was undertaken in August, 1993, when volunteers in the course of several sessions cleaned and analyzed 70 bags of shell re-moved by the Archaeological and Historical Conservancy from a disturbed area in the Bonita Bay development; a sizable contribution toward lab expenses resulted.

In February, 1990, the lab was moved, being set on its new location in the northeast corner of the Museum grounds the 6th. The Museum had obtained an

historic residence and needed for it the space that had been occupied by the lab. In preparation, materials and equipment were moved back to the B&B lot, valuable instruments went to the Museum vault, and the Lee's home work room was set up as a temporary lab. Restoration of the building to a working laboratory coincided with SWFAS' hosting the annual meeting of the Florida Anthropological Society, making for a busy period. Heroes of the move were Jean Belknap and Walt Buschelman, who dug a trench 300 feet long, two feet deep and one shovel wide for the lab's water line from the main Museum building to the new location, breaking a deadlock with the utilities people and getting the lab back in operation.

Lab volunteers were delighted to note that the Museum had added to

the back of the lab building a wooden platform, the planks spaced to permit drainage, where artifacts could be washed; that operation in the original location had been a muddy affair. The Museum added a double sink later.

The move changed the lab's physical ambiance completely. Where it had been standing by itself in the open, it became a part of a corner of the Museum grounds reserved for native trees and other plants, shaded and with cover for birds, a delightful setting.

A year after the move to the new location, on February 19, 1991, the lab's official status changed to its present form. The Society had petitioned the County Commission to be relieved of its original agreement - under which the lab building had been saved from destruction - citing the financial burden of liability insurance it was obliged to carry since it was regarded as a public facility. A delegation from SWFAS had asked that the organization be allowed to continue its work at the lab - as volunteers of the museum. In an "executive summary" filed with the commission, Museum Director Ron Jamro had stated that since 1987 the Society had upheld its duties under its agreement and had operated the lab in a "safe and conscientious manner" and that its members as volunteers had been of service to the Museum.

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### Boxes and Bones

Sunday April 28 a major "wash-in" reminiscent of those first staged by the lab was held to prepare material from Galt Island for inclusion in the lab's pottery collection and for display at the Museum of the Islands. Bud and Shirley House and Charlie Strader improvised a barbecue for a bratwurst picnic.

The same technique was called on August 13, 1995, when SWFAS was left with a truck load of material after a major salvage operation was closed down- two months of excavation on Marco Island under Dr. Randolph Widmer. The cleaned and rough-sorted material - some 150 bags - was trucked to Houston by Bud House and Don Taggart, where Dr. Widmer is an associate professor of anthropology, and where it was to be analyzed. An elaborate book keeping system was devised by Wait Buschelman, who had shown a knack for systems development, to keep track of the widely varied types of material involved,

The lab's raw material comes in plastic bags in various stages of deterioration (workers teamed that plastic does not return to its component elements; it simply shreds into smaller and smaller pieces). Shelving artifacts in such containers turned out to be impractical, so a major hunt for suitable boxes was launched. With

experimentation, the type used to ship computer paper was found to be ideal, at which point Gail Strader used her contacts in the computer world to advantage and became the Jeanne d'Arc of the moment. Wait Buschelman found that as processing advanced shelf space requirements could be eased by putting dividers in the boxes, resulting in a run on a super glue called "Glop". (Readers will be interested to learn that a set of especially-marked boxes is kept in a stand-by condition to transport lab records to the Museum vault at hurricane alerts.)

## **MARCH 25<sup>TH</sup> ARCHAEOLOGY DAY ANNOUNCEMENT**

I received a very nice letter from Park Ranger Nancy Kilmartin concerning a very interesting event scheduled by Koreshan State Historic Site. Here is a portion of the letter:

My name is Nancy Kilmartin and I am a Park Ranger at Koreshan State Historic Site. The park is sponsoring "Archaeology Day" on March 25". We have hosted the event for 5 years. The event consists of educational programs on various themes such as: the history of Native Americans in South Florida, Calusa cuisine demonstration, a natural materials basketry workshop, fish netting workshop, demonstration and usage of Native American technology together with exhibitors and local vendors. We will be offering free tours

to Mound Key State Archaeological Site through local concessionaires and are planning a catfish fry as well.

This year's event will be held at the Lover's Key State Recreation Area on Ft. Myers Beach from 9:00A.M TO 4:00P.M. Saturday March 25, 2000.



## **TRYING TO SAVE THE PINE ISLAND CANAL.**

The program to raise money to be used to purchase the Phase II parcel of land on Meadow Lane has been going on since October. With the negotiated price of \$15,000 we still have a long way to go before we reach our goal. As I modeled at the last SWFAS meeting, we

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are introducing a new "CALUSA CANAL" T-Shirt to be for sale at the next SWFAS meeting. They are beautiful quality shirts and come in Medium, Large, Extra-Large and Extra-Extra Large sizes and are priced at \$15 each. Of course all of the money will be used to purchase the PHASE II CANAL parcel. They can also be ordered from Bud House, either by telephone, or by ordering from 3489 Gasparilla St. St. James City, FL. 33956. Please enclose \$3.00 for shipping charges. Or call at 941-283-3493.

## **February 2000 CRAIGHEAD LAB REPORT**

by

Ella May Ablahat

This has been a rather quiet season. Lois Polewka is back from Ohio and is working on pottery from Chokoloskee with Jean Belknap and Jan Gooding.

Betsy McCarthy is illustrating decorated pot sherds. Jack Thompson spends his time in the lab entering data in the computer in between his various duties with SWFAS and FAS. Art Lee is busy filling in a new addition with the facts of archaeology as practiced in the lab.

The addition is Megan Pinckney who is working as an apprentice and receives credits for time put in here on the Executive Internship for juniors and seniors in the Honors program in Collier



County High Schools. She is working under the guidance of an experienced archaeologist.

## Archaeology on the Web

By Linda Ballou

If Bob Carr's excellent talk on the Miami Circle ignited your interest in the well-publicized site, you may want to check out Ryan Wheeler's web pages to rekindle the embers. Dr. Wheeler is the archaeologist sent by the State's Bureau of Archaeological Research to assess the controversial site.

The Division of Historical Resources, which is working closely with the Division of State Lands and Miami-Dade County to develop a management plan for the property, maintains the frequently updated website. Point your browser to [www.flheritage.com/brickellpoint](http://www.flheritage.com/brickellpoint) to go to Brickell Point State Archaeological Investigations.

From their homepage you can click to a Photo Gallery of good quality digital images of archaeological work in progress. One intriguing photo depicts fragments of charred wood bearing the marks of shell tools. Another clearly shows the vertical cut marks in one of the holes dug into the oolitic limestone. Or you can check out the Site Facts button to get quick summaries of selected topics such as the preservation, function, and age of the site. Each page provides a menu offering both the latest as well as

previously issued state press releases on the Brickell Point site.

Best of all, to my mind, is The Field Book. Ryan Wheeler's week-by-week field notes, amply illustrated with additional photos, give you the sense of being right down there on your knees, probing the gritty base of a cavity in the "Valley of the Holes." Through his detailed descriptions of trench profiling, auger surveying, and examination of midden deposits, Wheeler inducts us all into the inner circle of the Miami Circle.

## SOME VERY GOOD NEWS ABOUT A FRIEND...

Those of us who attended the Feb. 16<sup>th</sup> SWFAS Meeting heard some very concerning news about Bill Perdichizzi, husband of Betsy Perdichizzi who is our First Vice President. Bill and Betsy were just setting out to attend our meeting, when Bill had a terrible fall down some stairs at their home. We got to hear of the accident, but not of the outcome. Betsy has just sent the following news:

*Update on Bill. He fell on the front porch waiting for me to come down the steps, missed his footing and crashed through lower banister. The good news is he did not put out an eye, break his neck etc. He did*

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*fracture bones around one eye socket and fractured his wrist. He will be fine. This may change our sailing trip plans for May however, only time and healing will tell.*

As Betsy says, this is "good" news (considering the alternatives). We wish Bill a speedy recovery, and make the totally unnecessary suggestion that he be careful going down those stairs in the future!

## THE TALK ON THE MIAMI CIRCLE: INTRIGUING AND STILL UNFOLDING

Robert S. Carr, current Director of the Archaeological and Historical Conservancy and former Dade County Archaeologist gave an intriguing and comprehensive talk on two of the more exciting projects he has headed in the last twenty years. The first was the Cutler Ridge Fossil Site in Southern Dade County which dated to at least 11,000 years BP. The solution or "sinkhole" feature yielded early human remains and the bones of over one hundred species of animal, many of them extinct, such as bison, camel, tapir, mastodon, mammoth, dire wolf, jaguar, short-faced bear, Florida lion, etc. Paleo era chipped stone tools were discovered in situ along with

traces of the deliberate burial of a young infant only twelve months old. Bob believes conditions at the site were comparable with extensive grasslands resembling the Seregetti Plains of Africa. Climatic changes brought on an extremely wet interval which altered the nature of the landscape to something approaching today's conditions, dooming the great majority of the grazing animals and the large predators that preyed upon them. This, rather than human hunting activity, may have extincted the large megafauna of the Pleistocene – at least in South Florida.

will be our March 15<sup>th</sup> speaker. Steve has worked in the field of archaeology for many years. He assisted W.A. "Sonny" Cockrell at the paleo sinkhole site at Warm Mineral Springs and has done extensive research on an offshore inundated site at Venice that he discovered himself.

Steve is a knowledgeable and interesting speaker who has talked to our group before. Please welcome him now.

The talk then moved to the Miami Circle – how the project began; how the Circle was discovered; the investigations there; and the events leading to the singular event of the condemnation and purchase of the land by state and local governments. Bob also detailed broadly some of the future options available for the use of the two acre site on the south bank of the Miami River. The drama is still unfolding, so stay tuned...

**STEVE KOSKI TO SPEAK AT MARCH 15<sup>TH</sup> MEETING**

Steve Koski who is affiliated with Archaeological Consultants Inc., a contract archaeological firm headed by Marion Almy in Sarasota, and who is active with the Warm Mineral Springs Archaeological Society,