

SOUTHWEST FLORIDA ARCHEOLOGICAL SOCIETY - NEWSLETTER -

Travis F. Doering, Editor

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July, 1985

- THE JULY MONTHLY MEETING of the SWFAS will be held at the First Federal Savings and Loan of Ft. Myers, (Community Room), 3201 Tamiami Tr. No., Naples, Florida at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, July 17th, 1986.

- The July meeting will feature two separate presentations. The first will be given by Ms. Diana Dorman of Mad Travel, Inc. of Naples. The topic of Diana Dorman's talk will be a 12-day cruise to Guatemala, Columbia, Panama, Costa Rica, Grand Caymen Island, and Mexico. The cruise will take place from January 23, to February 4, 1987, and a group of lecturers from the fields of astronomy and archaeoastronomy will be on board.

- The second part of the meeting will be a slide presentation on the recent SWFAS trip to Little Salt Spring near Charlotte Harbor, Florida.

- "Little Salt Spring is the famous archeological site owned by the University of Miami and it is a shallow, water-filled basin above a deep-vertical underwater cavern. It was, in Florida's more arid past, a freshwater cenote. It collected and preserved perishable organic artifacts and other evidence of Paleo-Indian and Archaic Indian origin ranging in age from 12,000 to 9,000 and from 6800 to 5200 years ago. An archaic period cemetery containing an estimated 1000 burials occupies an adjoining muck-filled slough and presently drowned portions of the basin of the spring." (Excerpt from Little Salt Spring, Florida: A Unique Underwater Site - Science Magazine, 2/79, Vol. 203 by C. J. Clausen, A.D. Cohen, E. Emiliani, J.A. Holman, J.J. Stipp)

- Be sure to bring along a friend to see the surprises and artifacts shown to our members by Drs. John Gifford and Carl Clausen who have just completed the most recent investigation of the Spring.

- SITE FORM AND PHILOSOPHY MEETING - Tuesday, July 8, 1986 at 6:30 p.m. at the Strader residence, Edgewater Dr., Bonita Springs, FL. (992-6133)

- BONITA BAY WALKING SURVEY - Saturday, July 12, 1986 at 1:00 p.m. at the Strader residence, Edgewater Dr., Bonita Springs. (992-6133)

- CHOKOLOSKEE RECONNAISSANCE TRIP - Sunday, July 20, 1986 at 9:00 a.m. meet at "The Hammock" restaurant on So. Tamiami Tr. and State Rd. 92. Details at July's meeting or call John Beriault, 261-0295.

- SORTING SESSION - Tuesday, July 22, 1986 at 5:30 p.m. at John Beriault's residence, 3550 Bolero Way, Naples. Your chance to help sort materials from past digs.

- THE JUNE MONTHLY MEETING - We hope you enjoyed the presentation on the recent trip to Mexico by a group of SWFAS members. The chance to see remote and seldom visited sites and the results of very recent excavations was an unexpected bonus to the group. We would like to formally thank Sr. Moises Morales of Palenque for his friendship and assistance in making our trip so successful.

- If anyone has any questions or would like to know more about

SWFAS

Meso-America or the Maya, please contact The Newsletter Editor, P. O. Box 9965, Naples, Florida 33941.

- YOUR SUMMER VACATION - During your vacation or summer travels, you may do something relating to Archeology or History. If you do, please share these experiences with other Society members. Photographs, slides, printed literature or artifacts that you have obtained can be brought to the monthly meetings to be viewed and discussed. Perhaps you may even want to give a presentation on your travels. Please contact John Beriault, President, or the newsletter editor if you have any questions or ideas along these lines. Thank you for your cooperation.

- PROTECTING THE DEAD - A bill protecting Indian mounds and unmarked graves may deter scavengers and may even help uncover murders. The bill, sponsored by Sen. Frank Mann, D-Fort Myers, has passed the Senate. It deserves approval by the House.

- A number of Indian burial mounds in Southwest Florida have been plundered by treasure seekers and souvenir hunters. Archeologists and other scientists can study their contents for clues to the way things were thousands of years ago.

- Mann's bill sets a maximum penalty of five years in prison and a \$5,000 fine. State law now sets the penalty for disturbing a mound at six months in jail and a \$500 fine.

- Mann's bill makes the punishment the same as disturbing a marked grave. It also requires area medical examiners to visit unmarked graves to determine if murder was involved.

News-Press

- NEW PUBLICATIONS - The Society for American Archaeology, Office of Public Affairs, is pleased to announce the introduction of a new series: Archaeology and the Federal Government Publication Series --

Vol 1: THE BRIEFING BOOK ON ARCHAEOLOGICAL ISSUES

The foremost authority on current archaeological issues on the federal level, this valuable reference is updated on a monthly basis to keep subscribers abreast of the latest developments in the issues being tracked. Issues are currently being tracked in six broad areas: land management, appropriations, cultural properties/looting, government organization, research, and public outreach. Background and supplemental information is included. Comprehensive appendices of Members of Congress, Congressional Committees and State Delegations complete the Volume. New issues and areas are added as they emerge as well as in response to subscriber requests. This is a yearly subscription with 10 updates throughout the year. \$150/yr.

Vol 2: THE POLITICS OF ARCHAEOLOGY

This volume contains essential information on what you can do to increase your influence and the political power of archaeology in Washington. In addition, it also provides material on the archaeology programs at many of the federal agencies including the scope of their programs, the sources of funding, the key legislation they operate under, and who the key people are in the programs. Appendices contain lists of Congressional members and staff, committees and subcommittees, federal agencies, and cultural resource lobbying groups. \$18.50

Vol 3: THE PROCUREMENT OF ARCHAEOLOGY

Specifically written for those interested in a primer on obtaining funding from the federal government, this volume provides information on procurement law and proposal preparation. \$ 7.00

Forthcoming:

VOL 4: FEDERAL ARCHAEOLOGY LEGISLATION: A COMPENDIUM

A compilation of all of the federal laws pertaining to archaeology and historic preservation in one concise volume.

All proceeds from the sales will go to support the Office of Public Affairs, Society for American Archaeology.

To order: Cash, money order or check to: Office of Public Affairs, Society for American Archaeology, 2000 P Street, NW - Suite 305, Washington, DC 20036

- ARCHAEOLOGISTS: NEW LAW WILL PROTECT SITES - Palm Beach County needs an ordinance to protect some 200 prehistoric and historic sites from development, Dr. W. Jerald Kennedy said Thursday at Florida Atlantic University.

- Lake Worth, Boca Raton and Palm Beach are the only three cities in the County, thus far, which have approved ordinances to protect cultural resources found in their areas, said Kennedy, a professor of archaeology at Florida Atlantic University. Delray Beach is considering such a law.

- "We can generally conclude that a vast majority of municipalities don't have ordinances regarding preservation of archaeological sites," Kennedy told an informal group of 19 residents, archaeologists and city officials from Broward, Dade and Palm Beach counties attending a cultural resources management workshop at FAU.

- "There is a pressing need to have a county-wide ordinance basically to comply with state law", he said.

- To save its share of Florida's heritage, each county is required under the new state law to include protection of historic and prehistoric sites as part of their comprehensive land use plans.

- Dade County has one of the most progressive ordinances in the county, archaeologist Bob Carr said. There are also model programs in St. Augustine and Pensacola.

- In Palm Beach County, 80 to 85 percent of the prehistoric sites have been destroyed or severely disturbed, Kennedy said, but a state law amended last year should help protect the remaining ones.

- "Ten thousand years of Indian history are threatened", said arch. Louis D. Tesar, of the state Bureau of Historic Preservation.

- "Who wants a parking lot with a sign that says "here's where stood ..." Tesar said. "The things that are attractive, we're destroying them. It's all asphalt."

- Among the natural resources mentioned were sand mounds, Indian burial mounds, two shipwrecks, and a cave. The local sites are not publicized, Kennedy said, because archaeologists fear amateur diggers will raid them looking for lucrative treasures.

By Yolanda W. Woodlee, The Miami Herald

- VOLUNTEERS FIND ADVENTURE IN RESEARCH PROJECTS --- This year some 2,600 amateur adventurers will scatter throughout the world to hack through jungles, count birds, tag kangaroos, dig up bones, chase whales, track turtles and map uncharted regions.

- They are members of Earthwatch, an international organization based in a suburb of Boston that matches researchers who need field help with volunteers willing to pay for the thrill of being on a scientific expedition.

- People like Marilyn Boettcher. The 55-year-old housewife embarked alone last January on a two-week adventure that sent her into the jungles of the South Sea islands, through the ruins of ancient sacred sites, into the kitchens of modern-day Maoris and to her first 60-pig Polynesian wedding

feast. "It's definitely not my husband's idea of a good time and it wasn't my friends' idea of a good time, but for me, well, I'm trying to decide what to do this year," she said. It's surprising what people are willing to pay to do. A trip of two or three weeks costs from \$600 to \$2,500 per person, including food, airfare and lodging -- often in a tent or primitive dormitory. But the cost is tax deductible and some scholarships are available for teachers and students.

- Conceived in a living room in 1971, Earthwatch now has a full-time staff of about 40 and an annual budget of nearly \$4 million. In its short history, Earthwatch has sponsored 730 projects in 68 countries, providing researchers with nearly 14,000 helpers and more than \$7.6 million in money and equipment.

- Volunteers range in age from 16 to 80 and include students, teachers, corporate executives, housewives and retirees. They choose among 90 projects a year that could take them anywhere from the reefs of the Canary Islands to a Borneo rain forest to the northwest New Mexico desert. One-third of them will return for another taste of the life of a research scientist.

- "You're helping on whatever needs help with; and they're usually very eager to teach you," said Steve Buehler, 34, a Chicago tax attorney who has been on archaeological digs in northern Maine, Zaire and Swaziland.

- By its 15th birthday this year, Earthwatch had outgrown its original headquarters in Belmont, two floors of a gracious old mansion, where linen closets bulged with stacks of files and a bathtub had to be removed to make room for the computer. The group recently moved to a former elementary school in nearby Watertown.

- This year, teams of volunteers will help researchers trap fruit bats in Costa Rica, excavate a French cathedral dating from the Dark Ages, search for Mayan trading villages in Belize and photograph dancers in Japan.

- Others will catalog traditional medicinal plants in India with a DuPont Co. biochemist who believes Western medicine has something to learn from the 5,000 year old folk remedies. Three teams will do what Boettcher did last year -- clear out and restore 1,000 year old religious sites in the Cook Islands while spending weekends living with native Maori families.

- The idea for the organization grew out of an armchair conversation between a Smithsonian scientist and several friends who were bemoaning the scarcity of grants for research projects, and a clearing house where volunteers could learn about projects in need of money. Leadership was assumed a year later by a Wall Street Lawyer, Brian Rosborough, who still refers to himself as "midwife" to the idea.

- "Since it was a new concept, a new idea, it took awhile to catch on," said John Humphrey of the Univ. of Michigan, who this summer will lead his fourth expedition of Earthwatch volunteers on an archaeological dig on the site of the ancient city of Carthage.

- For more information, contact SWFAS Newsletter.

By Jane Seagrave, Assoc. Press

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Mail to: SWFAS, P. O. Box 9965, Naples, FL 33941

____ Individual—\$10.00 ____ Family—\$15.00 ____ Student—\$7.50 ____ Contributing—\$25.00

Yes! I want to support the SWFAS in their work of preserving and interpreting the prehistoric heritage of Southwest Florida.

NAME _____ PHONE _____

ADDRESS _____

INTEREST & HOBBIES _____

I hereby agree to abide by the rules and bylaws of the Southwest Florida Archeological Society. I further release from any and all liability due to accident and injury to myself, dependents, and property, the SWFAS, its officers, members, and any property owners cooperating with the Society. Note: All dues & contributions are tax deductible.