

SOUTHWEST FLORIDA ARCHEOLOGICAL SOCIETY - NEWSLETTER -

Travis F. Doering, Editor

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November, 1986

- THE NOVEMBER MONTHLY MEETING of the SWFAS will be held at the First Federal Savings and Loan of Ft. Myers, (Community Room), 3201 Tamiami Trail North, Naples, FL at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, Nov. 20, 1986.
- SWFAS President John Beriault will give a slide presentation and talk on the preliminary results of the Beachwalk site dig and the Chokoloskee Island dig because of the outstanding attendance at these recent projects. We look forward to hearing about our efforts.
- A hearty thank you goes to everyone who assisted on both digs. At Chokoloskee Island, the excellent sorting and overall organization of the slave labor force allowed a tremendous amount of information and artifacts to be accurately collected and logged. Thanks again for a great job by SWFAS members, and our good friends from the Miami and Sarasota Chapters and all the volunteers.

- CHOKOLOSKEE ISLAND - Sunday, November 9th at 7:30 a.m., meet at the Hammock Restaurant. Drive to Chokoloskee Island for further investigation of sites. Call John Beriault 261-0295.

- SITE FORM MEETING - Tuesday, November 11th at 6:30 p.m. at the Strader residence, 27564 Woodridge, Bonita Springs, FL. (992-6133). Discussion of new sites to be investigated.

- CHOKOLOSKEE ISLAND - Saturday, November 22nd at 12:30 p.m., meet at the Hammock Restaurant. Drive to Chokoloskee Island for further investigations. (See above)

- CHOKOLOSKEE ISLAND - Sunday, November 23rd at 7:30 a.m., meet at the Hammock Restaurant. (See above)

- SORTING SESSION - Tuesday, November 25th at 5:30 p.m. at John Beriault's residence, 3550 Bolero Way, Naples, FL. Sort dig materials.

- CHOKOLOSKEE ISLAND - Saturday, December 6th at 12:30 p.m., meet at the Hammock Restaurant. (See above)

- CHOKOLOSKEE ISLAND - Sunday, December 7th at 7:30 a.m., meet at the Hammock Restaurant. (See above)

- SITE FORM MEETING - Tuesday, December 9th at 6:30 p.m. at the Strader residence, (address above). Documentation of sites.

- SPECIAL DATE FOR DECEMBER MONTHLY MEETING - Wednesday, December 10th at 7:30 p.m. at First Federal Savings and Loan of Ft. Myers, (address above).

- NOMINATION OF OFFICERS FOR 1987 -- The following slate has been presented for election in January: President - John Beriault,

1st Vice President - Art Lee; 2nd Vice President - Gary Susdorf;
Treasurer - Jack Thompson; Recording Secretary - Barbara Logie;
Corresponding Secretary - Lynn Lee; Trustees - Keith Waterhouse, Eleanor
Young, Mary Ruth Winchell and Joe Long.

- OCTOBER MONTHLY MEETING - "Boldly Onward" is the title of a new book by SWFAS member Lindsey Williams and also the subject of his talk and presentation at our October meeting. Lindsey's knowledge and understanding of the subject of Florida's discovery made for a very enjoyable and informative evening.

- For individuals who were not able to obtain a copy of Lindsey's book at the meeting, they can write to Precision Publishing Co., 4140 Whidden Blvd., Charlotte Harbor, FL 33950 or inquire at your local bookstore. This extremely readable account of the adventures of Ponce deLeon, Panfilo Narvaez, and Hernando deSoto and their landing places in Florida is highly recommended.

- WELCOME NEW MEMBER - Paul Ollari

- NEW BOOK FOR CONSIDERATION - "Florida Bureau of Archaeology Research - Florida Archaeology, Volume I, Bibliography of Florida Arch. Through 1980 and Index to Bibliography of Florida Arch. Through 1980", 235 pgs., Bureau of Archaeological Research, Florida Dept. of State, The Capitol, Tallahassee, Florida - Paper, \$8.00.

- FLORIDA MUSEUM ASSOCIATION ANNUAL MEETING - will be held November 13-15th at the Tallahassee Junior Museum and Museum of Florida History in Tallahassee. For information and details, write to Tallahassee Junior Museum, 3945 Museum Drive, Tallahassee, FL 32304-9990 or call (904)576-1636.

- EARLIEST ISLAND RESIDENTS DATE BACK TO PYRAMIDS - ("The Islander") The year was 3,500 B.C. Along the Nile River early Egyptians were building their first pyramid. And in the cradle of human civilization the patriarch Abraham was entering the land of Canaan.

- At about that time, primitive man probably waded ashore at what we now call Marco Island and offered his family a succulent meal of freshly gathered shellfish.

- According to Florida state archaeologists, there is evidence that Calusa Indians lived in Collier County and on Marco Island long before civilization spread to Europe.

- The archeologists spent part of three years on Marco Island digging in the mounds of clam and oyster shells discarded by ancient Calusas. The young scientists and technicians worked ahead of the draglines and bulldozers developing the island community.

- Carbon testing of artifacts they unearthed, pottery pieces, arrowheads and tools made from shells, proved that man lived on Marco before Christ was born.

- Twenty-one ancient dwelling sites were located on Marco. The Calusas lived in the hills at Caxambas where elevations range from 30 to just over 50 feet above sea level, and in huts over the water at Old Marco townsite.

- In addition to the bits of fiber-tempered pottery and shell tools, the archeologists found several pieces of steatite, a form of soapstone. It was believed the steatite was a trade item brought here by boat from northwest Georgia, the nearest deposit of this type of stone on the North American continent.

- Several years ago a pre-Calusa burial mound was uncovered on

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Marco Island new Inlet Drive. It contained several layers of remnants of earlier cultures and 25 to 50 bodies.

- The Calusas, according to most accounts, were a non-agricultural people who lived by hunting and fishing and gathering wild food which was plentiful in the area.

- Their homes were round structures with thatched roofs, the chief occupying the largest dwelling in the group.

- They travelled by rude canoe or by walking and lived in villages of 10 to 200.

- The Calusas probably lived in Southwest Florida for some 2,000 years but they left little effect on future civilization here. They had almost completely disappeared by 1800.

- DINOSAURS: WHEN BIG IS BIGGEST - (Ft. Myers News Press 8/86)

Bones from what may be the world's longest dinosaur were found in an ancient stream bed by a retired music teacher who said he knew he had stumbled onto something unusual. Arthur Loy, of Albuquerque, N.M. was hiking in the desert with a friend in the fall of 1980 about 60 miles northwest of the city when he came to the edge of a cliff overlooking a valley. "I happened to look at my feet and these bones -- were sticking out, laying on their sides," he said. He called to a companion to look at the beautiful scenery.

- The exposed bones, on public land controlled by the U.S. Bureau of Land Management, remained mostly buried until researchers were able to begin excavation in 1985. They have recovered some tail bones and a section of thigh bone.

- Dr. David Gillette, curator of paleontology at the New Mexico Museum of Natural History, christened the beast "seismosaurus" -- the Earth Shaker. The dinosaur is larger than two other recently discovered dinosaurs, the supersaurus and ultrasaurus. This one is absolutely breathtaking for it's size.

- The vertebrae from a 10' section of the middle of the tail, part of a thigh bone from the upper part of a hind leg and other unidentified bones have been recovered. The vertebrae resemble those from supersaurus from Colorado, but are 20% bulkier and considerably taller. The three tail bones were ready for display at the museum. The thigh bone which is 1/2 to 2/3 complete, still must be cleaned.

- The seismosaurus bones were found in the 150 million-year-old Morrison Formation, which is from the latest part of the Jurassic Period - the halcyon days of dinosaurs. Seismosaurus probably was 100' to 120' long, 18' high at the shoulder, 15' high at the hip and weighed 80-100 tons.

- The bones were recovered from what seems to be an ancient sand bar, and the top was sealed by iron ore, which helped to preserve them. More digging is scheduled for 1987.

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 _____

NOTE: All dues and contributions are tax deductible.