

# Newsletter



## SOUTHWEST FLORIDA ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Post Office Box 9965, Naples, Florida 33941

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Arthur R. Lee, editor

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MARCH, 1988

### March meeting

#### LOCAL EXPERT TO DISCUSS EGYPTIAN ARCHAEOLOGY

Many elements of today's archaeology have their roots in the antiquarian pursuits of the past century. Indeed, the discovery by antiquarians of lists of Egyptian kings, which presently provide a fairly accurate record from 3,200 B.C. onwards, gave researchers their first solid basis for an historical dating system.

The Nile, like the Euphrates, Tigris, Indus and Yellow rivers, has been called a cradle of civilization. Man was first attracted to these fertile lowlands by the abundance of game animals, and later by the ease with which they lent themselves to cultivation. Thus Egypt figures in the development of many of the attributes of modern civilization -- agriculture, trade, metal working, navigation, the origins of writing, the arts, and political structures.

The archaeological exploration of this historically-rich area will be discussed March 17 at the monthly meeting of SWFAS by John A. Soldavini, CPA, of Naples, who has made an extensive study of Egypt, and who has an important library on the subject. The session will be held in the Community room of the First Federal Savings and Loan of Fort Myers, 3201 Tamiami Trail North, Naples, starting at 7:30 p.m.

Soldavini did his undergraduate studies at Montclair State College and graduate work at Seton Hall and New York universities. He was in education from 1952-54, in public accounting at Newark, N.J. from 1954-59, and at Cedar Grove, N.J., from 1959-74, when he moved to Naples and the firm of Soldavini & Gualario, CPAs.

#### TREASURER THOMPSON'S MAGIC MONEY BARREL NEEDS YOUR HELP

Treasurer Jack Thompson's magic money barrel has developed a hollow sound, and he needs your help in giving it a better tone.

He told the board of directors March 8 that work on the Craighead lab cost more than anticipated, because of requirements over which the Society had no control. While the work is essentially complete, money is needed for normal operations which now, incidentally, with the lab, can come closer to meeting SWFAS professional goals than ever before.

The board decided to start a drive to raise \$1,500, and urged members to contribute individually toward that target. In addition, a garage sale was scheduled for April 23 directed by Barbara Logie who asked members to set aside unneeded articles for it.

Looking to the future, the board decided to lay before the membership an amendment to the by-laws to provide for life memberships and to increase slightly annual dues to meet such needs as higher postal rates.

## **CRAIGHEAD FAMILY PRESIDES OVER LABORATORY OPENING**

Beside the large window that has been cut into the porch wall of the Craighead laboratory so people visiting the Collier County museum can see inside the building hangs a plaque with a picture of the late Dr. Frank C. Craighead Sr. and a resume of his career.

It was presented Sunday, March 6, at a ceremony marking opening of the refurbished onetime laboratory of the distinguished entomologist and ecologist, which was turned over to the county years ago and now is made available to the Southwest Florida Archaeological Society.

The plaque had been prepared for "Frank C. Craighead Sr. Day" designated by Collier County Commissioners Nov. 16, 1976 and marked by a banquet in honor of the man who was one of the first to speak for protection of the South Florida environment. It was presented by his widow, Carolyn Craighead, who is in her active 90s. As a souvenir of the occasion, she was given a register containing names of those who attended the ceremony.

Present also were Dr. Craighead's twin sons, Dr. Frank C. Craighead Jr. and Dr. John J. Craighead, and daughter Jean Craighead George, as well as a number of grandchildren, family friends, and SWFAS members who served coffee and cookies. More than 40 attended.

SWFAS President John Beriault remarked in accepting the plaque that the Craighead family is a dynasty which has devoted over a century in behalf of the environment. Museum Director Ron Jamaro also paid tribute to the scientist in his acceptance.

Frank Jr. and John Craighead have been honored for pioneer work in radio-tracking of grizzly bears; they also were the first to use satellites to trace the movement of animals. Jean Craighead George has written a number of children's and nature books and is the recipient of numerous awards. All nine grandchildren are involved in environmental endeavors.

The preceding Tuesday evening, March 1, the anniversary of the contract with the Collier County Commission giving SWFAS use of the laboratory building, a score of SWFAS members and county officials gathered there over coffee and sandwiches to examine work done to date.

## **THANKS TO SWFAS MEMBER, BOKEELIA TO GET ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY**

The weight of public opinion, including the variety wielded by the Southwest Florida Archaeological Society, has been felt in a development in downtown Bokeelia.

A developer brought together three owners of land there totaling 15 acres into a project, Seagull Bay, for the construction of a 75- to 80-unit condominium which could have entailed the destruction of five historic buildings, the Turner Mansion, the Captain's House, two smaller houses and a shed overlooking Charlotte Harbor.

Protection of those buildings was requested by the Florida Trust for Historic Preservation and the Pine Island Civic Association. The threat to them was commented on also at an appearance of the developers before the Lee County Historical Preservation Commission, which asked the county to work with developers on a plan to safeguard the historic buildings.

Meanwhile, SWFAS member Dr. Michael J. Hansinger reminded county officials that the area has great archaeological interest, and suggested a survey before construction.

After the passage of some time, the developers in February presented to the Preservation Commission a revised plan which included the preservation of the historic buildings.

And finally, Dr. Hansinger reports that the developers have arranged with Dr. William Marquardt of Florida State Museum for an archaeological survey of the area similar to that conducted at Galt Island in November.

## **SWFAS TO INVESTIGATE SITE IN GOODLAND AREA**

SWFAS members are invited to take part in a walking survey of an area near Goodland scheduled to be developed as a marina complex.

President John Beriault will lead those members interested in a preliminary examination March 12, Saturday, and in a possible more detailed investigation which could include digging the weekend of March 19-20. There is a road about 300 yards from the area to be investigated, but part of the walk will be through mangrove swamp. Rendezvous will be at B&B Builders Supply, 3800 Tamiami Trail North, at 1 p.m. the 12th and 19th, and at 8 a.m. the 20th.

## **GOLDEN TROWEL ENCASED**

Twice has Mary Ruth Winchell been presented the Golden Trowel she was awarded for devotion to SWFAS. Once was at the annual meeting, by John Beriault, who noted that she not only undertakes myriad special assignments and faithfully attends general and board meetings but makes them possible by handling meeting room arrangements. The second time was after it had been encased in an impressive frame by Ray Seguin.

## SWFAS GROUP VISITS RIO BEC SITES ON MEXICO-BELIZE BORDER

A small group of SWFAS members, Travis Doering, Charles Strader, and Keith and Anne Waterhouse, have just returned from a short visit to the Rio Bec sites in Mexico. Keith Waterhouse writes:

Leaving Miami the morning of Tuesday, Feb.23, we flew to Merida where we hired a "combi" and drove about 250 miles to the town of Bacalar near Chetumal on the Mexico-Belize border. This town and the hotel, Hotel las Lagunas, will be remembered by those members who were on the first SWFAS Mayan trip led by David Washburn.

Wednesday allowed us to visit the sites of Xpuhil, Becan, Manos Rojos and Chicana and to make contact with our prospective guide, Juan Briceno.

Thursday the 25th was tough! Visits to two extremely remote areas, Hormiguero and Rio Bec B, two magnificent sites, Rio Bec B being the type site for the Rio Bec area. The difficulty was the road -- terribly rough and choked by fallen trees and overgrown brush.

Friday was easy - civilized! We crossed the border into Belize - no trouble going in but a few tense moments getting out. We were very well received by the Belicenos who allowed us to visit two sites and encouraged us to come back for a longer trip.

Saturday the 27th we spent all morning at Kohunlich, which has been much restored since our visit in 1984. We were fortunate to meet a young caretaker/guide who promised, on another trip, to take us to rarely seen sites deep in the jungle.

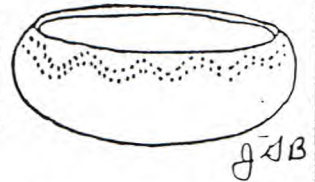
Spent the night at Hacienda Uxmal, well known to many SWFAS members, and Sunday visited Uxmal. Uxmal has had extensive work and the Mexican government has built a museum and, to some extent, overdeveloped the site. It is, however, impossible to stop "progress" and it is still one of the great Maya sites and a marvellous place to visit.

Finally, Sunday morning on our way to our flight from Merida, a short visit to a newly excavated site, Oxkintok. This site had had three seasons' work by the Spanish archaeological mission to Mexico and is well worth a visit. The structure has been largely reconstructed and has extensive internal chambers. There are also figures carved in the round to be seen.

Our plane, miracle of miracles, arrived in Miami four minutes early and we drove home. Another miracle allowed Anne not to get a speeding ticket -- but only just.

### THE POTSDERDS WE DIG . . .

In the tradition of an earlier vessel is the pottery shown at right, "late" Fort Drum punctate, decorated with impressed dots arranged in a zig-zag design. It has been found in association with Sanibel Island and Gordon Pass incised, notably in the midden mantle at Addison Key. The shallow vessels were of horizontal ovoid form.



### THE FINE SCREEN

Taking time off from work on the SWFAS Indian mound, Leo Ruble wandered into the field of view of a photographer who was shooting the Collier museum's locomotive, and onto the pages of the Naples Daily News.

Taking honors for having travelled the longest distance to attend the open house at the lab March 1 were Wayne and Shirley House of St. James City, and Kathy Ball of Bokeelia.

And the one travelling farthest for the February meeting was Ruth Jensen of Savannah, Georgia, a member since March of last year.

Our oldest potential sorter and analyzer is Carolyn Craighead, widow of the late Dr. Frank C. Craighead Sr. At the lab's dedication March 6 she expressed an interest in looking in on activities there from time to time. She is a very active 98.

Waylon and Mabel Wilson took off a couple weeks early this month to enjoy the dogwood blossom season in Texas. They are among the Society's most assiduous sorters.

The person to see about buying a SWFAS tee shirt is Mary Buschelman, who accepted the job at the latest meeting.

### HONOR ROLL

Contributors to this Newsletter were Anne Waterhouse, Keith Waterhouse, John Beriault, Isabelle Felsberg.

## ADORNED WITH NEW BACK PORCH, LAB ON VERGE OF OPERATION

Where three broken steps once led to the back door of the Craighead lab, there now stands a substantial porch and stairs, courtesy of Guy Fischer.

The landing is large enough so that a person carrying a tray from the exterior screening area to the drying rack inside will have room enough to hold the door open, and, built of heavy wood treated against the elements, is guaranteed to last. Illustrative of the quality that has gone into it, all steps are rounded, corners are beveled and main members are through-bolted.

Fischer, a charter member of SWFAS, also built the forms for the lab's concrete foundation. "If it's going to have my name on it, it's going to be right," Fischer told an admirer. Right it is.

The past month also has seen interior trim completed, latticework placed around the foundation, permanent hardware installed, and some equipment moved in. Two sorting tables are in place, John Beriault's set of graduated screens and accompanying sprinkler system have been renovated and moved to the lab, some of the drying trays have been fabricated and the drying rack is a-building.

Pending construction of the permanent storage cabinets, metal shelving borrowed from the county has been erected and will be used with cardboard transfer boxes.

SWFAS board members have expressed their thanks to Bill Jones of Tamiami Builders for contributing use of storage space needed during the restoration work.

### DATEBOOK

\* March 12. Walking survey in Goodland area. Rendezvous at B&B Builders Supply 3800 North Tamiami Trail; 1 p.m.

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

\* March 19-20. Detailed investigation of possible sites at Goodland. Rendezvous at B&B Builders Supply 3800 North Tamiami Trail; 1 p.m. the 19th, 8 a.m. the 20th.

\* April 12. Board of Directors meeting at residence of Eleanore Young, 4956 Esplanade, Bonita Springs; 6:30 p.m. All SWFAS members welcome.

\* APRIL 21. Monthly meeting of SWFAS at First Federal Savings and Loan of Ft. Myers, 3201 North Tamiami Trail, Naples, 7:30 p.m.

## LEE COUNTY HIRING CONSULTANT TO DRAFT CONSERVATION ORDINANCE

Lee county is in process of engaging a consultant to draft an ordinance to promote protection of historic and pre-historic sites, William M. Spikowski, acting director of the county's Division of Planning, told SWFAS members and guests at their February 18 meeting.

One of the problems in such protection noted recently by Piper Archaeological Research, Inc. in a contracted report on land-use management was that references to archaeology currently are scattered among a number of county regulations, Spikowski reported. The new ordinance would provide a central place for regulation of historically-important areas. A series of hearings in the April-August period will give the public a chance to make its views known regarding the proposed regulations.

Considerable reliance will be placed on use of predictive models -- descriptions of characteristics which permit identification of culturally-important sites. Current regulations offer protection chiefly to known sites, he said. There are large areas such as the fringes of Pine Island and upland regions in the southeastern part of the county which are culturally important but about which detailed information is lacking, and in which use of predictive models would be valuable.

## WELCOME TO SWFAS!

New member Suzan Watts of Bokeelia has been welcomed into SWFAS by Treasurer Jack Thompson and Corresponding Secretary Lynn Lee. She is the latest addition to the growing Pine Island contingent.