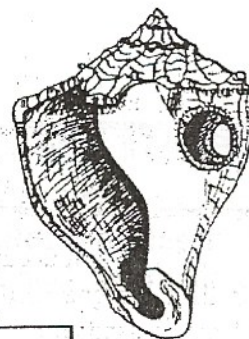


**SWFAS**

# NEWSLETTER

**THE SOUTHWEST FLORIDA ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY**



JOHN G. BERIAULT, ACTING EDITOR

VOLUME 16, NUMBER 10

OCTOBER, 2000



**An Early South Florida SUV:** This postcard taken c. 1910, purportedly in the Everglades (Big Cypress Swamp?) shows a Seminole Indian hunter and family with the early equivalent of a "swamp buggy", a combination wagon and boat. The yoke lying on the ground shows it was pulled by oxen. A 1900's "sports/utility vehicle" - I don't see a cellphone, however...

## LET IT BLOW, LET IT BLOW, LET IT... WELL, MAYBE NOT...

Headlines seem familiar? Well, It's the same as last month's. Our new hurricane shutters for the Craighead Lab just got a workout as part of an unscheduled practice drill involving a lady (hurricane) named Debby. The hurricane, scheduled to hit South Florida, fortunately fizzled over Cuba. But, many of us can now see the prudence exercised by Art Lee, our Lab Director, when he had SWFAS build these shutters back in July. You may read the story and see the photos of the valiant Lab volunteers in action as they prepared for this fortuitous "non-event".

All of us are very glad the shutters were not "put to the test" (this time), but the volunteers certainly were, and they passed with flying colors! Thank you all for springing into action and postponing your own preparedness!

### *Inside this Newsletter*

- 2 Willey On the Web!:** Ever wonder where to find the "Great Synthesizer"? Read Linda Ballou...
- 3 Nobody Wanted Debby:** You have to be pretty bad not to be wanted at the Craighead Lab... Read Art Lee...
- 3 Two Years and Counting...:** Observations From an Acting Editor...
- 4 What Happens If we're Homeless?** There's that possibility. The situation is still being addressed. Read...

## THE DATE BOOK

**October 11th - SWFAS Board of Directors Meeting,**  
Hampton Inn, Bonita Springs,  
7:00 PM

**October 18th - SWFAS General Meeting** Bonita  
Spring Community Center,  
downtown Bonita Springs, 7:30  
PM

### 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).

## Archaeology on the Web

By Linda Ballou

As a graduate student at Columbia University, Gordon Willey developed the idea of a survey of archaeological sites on

Florida's Gulf coast. Assisted by another Columbia student, Richard Woodbury, he came to Florida in the summer of 1940. In the course of that sweltering season they explored 87 archaeological sites in 26 counties

*Pioneers of Southeastern Archaeology: Gordon R. Willey* is a website offering content taken from a video documentary about the work done by Willey and his colleague during that summer's fieldwork. It is a special project of Harvard's Peabody Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology.

Incorporating journal entries, photographs, and excerpts from Woodbury's letters to his family, the web pages provide a chronicle that lets us share the flavor of the men's experiences in depression era Florida. Remarks about shellacking the wooden panels of the station wagon that served as their field buggy or picking the brains of local crackers and fishermen give us a personal view of the survey that brings it alive sixty years later.

Often guided to sites by local pot hunters (such as "the Pensacola collector of taxes and arrowpoints") and old C.B. Moore maps, Willey sometimes used workers from the Civilian Conservation Corps when he needed extra help for excavations.

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Lacking such modern amenities as Gatorade and aerosol bug sprays, the team explored remote mounds. Woodbury wrote home about being in "the most atrocious swampy jungles, reached by roads which peter out, leaving a mile or so on foot through as sticky and sweltering spots as I've ever seen." Gordon Willey penned a journal entry describing being lost and mired in the "great dank," a local swamp near Fort Walton. Their station wagon became swamped with water, algae, Spanish moss and other flotsam and jetsam, including a water moccasin that entangled itself in the steering wheel.

A sense of humor was no doubt as much an asset as a sharpened trowel. Willey writes gleefully in his journal of planning a beach party and oyster feast after which "we will seal up a representative collection and hide it in the shells, for the Moore of the future."

Willey's *Archaeology of the Florida Gulf Coast* has become a classic reference work. Go to:

[www.peabody.harvard.edu/Willey](http://www.peabody.harvard.edu/Willey) to get a feel for the human (and humorous) side of the man behind the pioneering archaeology.

## Quote of the Month Contributed by Linda Ballou

"In archaeology you uncover the unknown. In diplomacy you cover the known." (Thomas Pickering [U.S. Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs] at an archaeological excavation at the Sea of Galilee in 1986.) In January 1998, addressing a conference of archaeologists at Loyola Marymount University, Pickering offered a variation on the theme. "After many overseas postings in which I've become familiar with your work," he said, "I have also come to learn the difference between diplomats and archaeologists. Archaeologists dig holes to find out about mankind's history, diplomats dig to get mankind out of holes for the future."

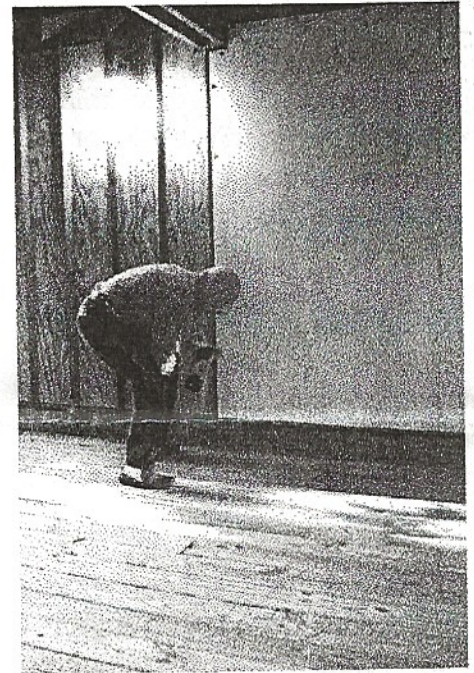
## The One Lab Visitor No One Wanted was Debby...by Art Lee

On Tuesday, August 22, Hurricane Debby was on a course headed straight for Collier county. Though it still was just nearing Cuba, its possible U.S. landfall would have been in less than a week, and by the Craighead lab's next scheduled work day, Thursday the 24th its workers would be busy putting up shutters on their own homes; -- provided Debby held course, speed and strength.

The only alternative, the lab crew decided, was to put in place the shutters which had been built in a workday not long before: not a small job, given the size of the shutters, especially those for the big display window, and the fact that to be on the safe side lab records would have to be boxed and taken to the Museum's vault, as had been done in the past. So the shutters went up, with Jack Thompson and Jean Belknap doing the heavy work and Art Lee running the screwdriver.

Debby, of course, pooped out, so a week later the work had to be undone, but there was general agreement that there had been no prudent alternative.

All the same, the crew thinks that it would be nice if they could be spared repetitions of the drill.



Art Lee drives the last of the Screws. Art Lee places the screws into the hurricane panels in the main window of the Craighead Lab.

## TWO YEARS AND COUNTING...

It has been two years this month that I took over the task of producing this Newsletter from Gail Strader. It really only seems like a few short months. I began the job with a little trepidation, feeling uncertain as to whether I could fill the shoes of Gail, Art Lee, Travis Doering, and several other worthy predecessors. I'm still not certain how I measure up to those giants, just that most comments

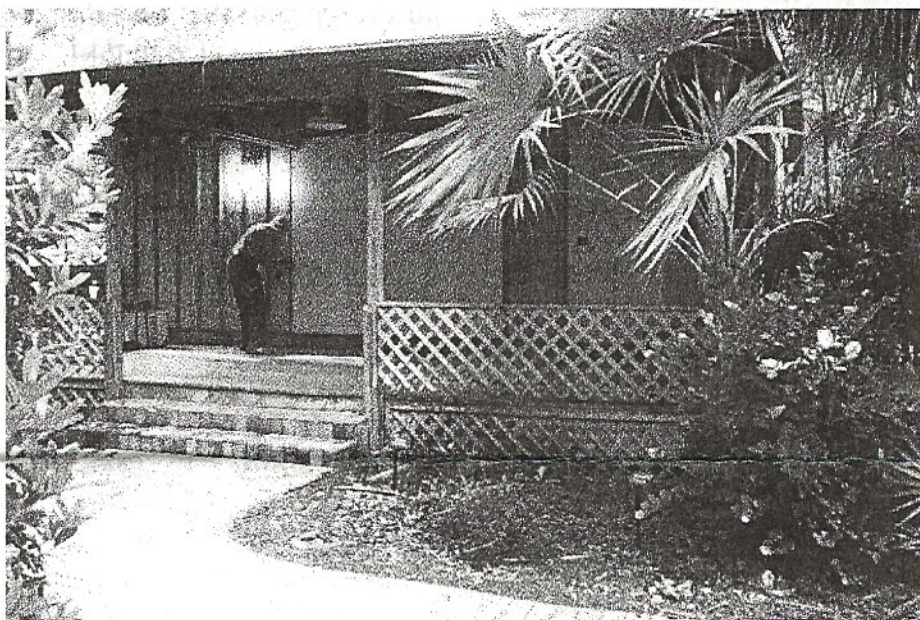


Jean Belknap to the Rescue! Jean is removing our important files and other irreplaceable material for safekeeping inside the Museum

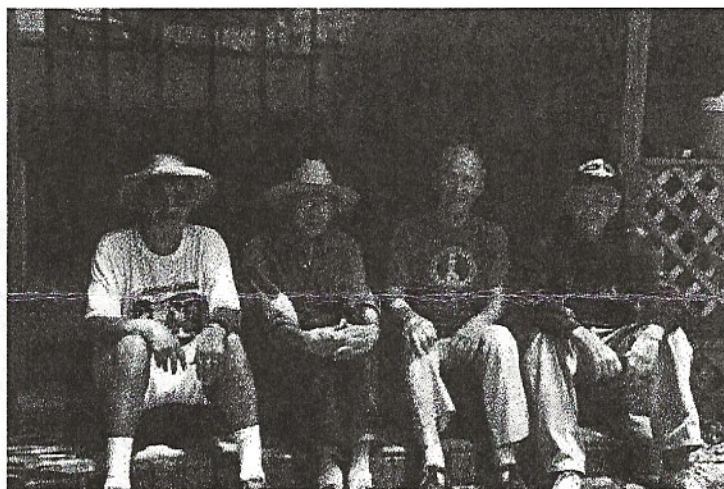
on the Newsletter have been favorable. I was also a little concerned as to being able to complete in a timely way twelve 4 to 8 page newsletters a year, the equivalent, if you stop to think about it, a very thin book, or a very long short story. All I can report is that I have managed to stay on schedule —so far. This is in large part due to the contributions in the form of articles, submissions, news of interest, photos, etc. the membership has provided. If it wasn't for this help, I would soon be the "non-acting" editor!

Several people have asked why I continue to identify myself as the "acting" editor. I suppose I don't want to feel comfortable in my position. I would also like to usher in my successor when that day invariably happens, and feel I was only holding down the fort for a person of real ability. The technology for producing quality newsletters and other documentation is growing exponentially. We already have voice-actuated computing. Maybe someday someone can produce a newsletter by giving a few terse verbal commands to a computer. Maybe the Newsletter will eventually be mailed electronically and be some sort of video and interactive presentation. Anything's possible. Thank you for letting me be your acting editor up till now.

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**Takin' Care of Business at the Lab:** We are now "Cleared for Action" — for something which fortunately never arrived! Art Lee installs the storm panels on the front of the Craighead Lab.



**Four Happy Guys with their Job Done!** From left to right: Bud House, Art Lee, Helmut Nickel, Jack Thompson in front of the Craighead Laboratory.

# **THE "FUTURE SITE OF THE GENERAL MEETING" SAGA CONTINUES...**

The SWFAS Board of Directors continues to grapple with the issue of where we will be holding our future general meetings. The situation looks very promising. We have three alternative places besides the present meeting location at the Bonita Springs Community Center where we currently meet. Within the next month there should be some firm arrangements made. Please keep watching the Newsletter for our final "resting place". We will endeavor to warn everyone at least two months in advance so you can all make the move with the rest of us.

## **DR. FEBLES TO SPEAK IN OCTOBER ABOUT CHIPPED STONE TOOLS**

Dr. Jorge Febles will speak at the October 18th meeting of the Southwest Florida Archaeological Society. The title of his talk will be "The Chipped Stone Industries of Cuba: An Interesting Question". The group

will meet at the Bonita Springs Community Hall located at the corner of Old Highway #41 and Reynolds Street at 7:30 P.M.

Dr. Febles is a Cuban archaeologist with the Center for Anthropology in Havana and a Titular Academician of the Cuban Academy of Science. He has been based in Miami since October 1999, supported by the fellowship from the Guggenheim Foundation for his work on the applications of new information and communication technologies to archaeology.

Avocational and professional archaeologists as well as those interested in history are welcome to attend. For further information call 597-2269.

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