



## Louisiana Archaeological Society

# NEWSLETTER

RICHARD A. WEINSTEIN, Newsletter Editor

COASTAL ENVIRONMENTS, INC. BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA 70802

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Volume 25, No. 3

Fall 1998

### From the Interim Editor

This is my last issue as the interim editor of the newsletter. I will be turning the newsletter back to Rich Weinstein's capable and experienced hands for the spring and subsequent issues. It has been a pleasure to serve as editor for these two years. Please note that there is a questionnaire in this issue for those who are interested in volunteering on archaeological projects. Hope to see you at the 25th Annual Meeting of the LAS February 5-7 in Monroe.

Chris Hays

### A NEW LAS LOGO

During this past summer, your LAS officers and Executive Committee members were busy working on some items related to a 'new look' for the society. Three initiatives were approved: one has been completed, the second is just about to be, and the third is still under development.

With this Newsletter, I am proud to unveil our new LAS logo. Its design was not easy! We wanted to have a new logo ready for the 25th anniversary conference in Monroe next February, but, as they say, when you solicit opinions from 10 people (LAS members), you are going to get at least a dozen different ideas (some can't make up their minds). We took some basic concepts and had Mrs. Shannon Bonton of Baton Rouge, a scientific illustrator proficient in computer graphics, develop preliminary sketches (for a fee). I used my executive privilege as President to insist on several key ingredients. The design must be simple and not cluttered, illustrated artifacts should be symbolic and 'mood setting' rather than of a definite recognizable affiliation, and both prehistoric and historic themes must be represented. Mrs. Bonton submitted several final sketches and the one with the greatest number of votes (my vote counted twice) was selected as the winner. I hope you like it!

## **Bulletin Report**

Because of family illness, Bulletin Editor T.R. Kidder was unable to attend the meeting. He also sent his report to President Saucier. He reported that Bulletin No. 22 for 1995 had previously been sent to the USL print shop and would be mailed to the membership very soon. It will have 197 page and contain seven articles. T.R. said that Bulletin No. 23 for 1996 was almost completed. Discussion was then held regarding the printing of the bulletins. President Saucier reminded the Committee that the USL print shop set the production schedule and pace because of the excellent financial agreement that we had with them. He explained that although the bulletins were about two years behind, all members would receive bulletins as they were published for the years that they were members. Roger Saucier reminded members that articles for the bulletins were much needed. Several people mentioned that they had submitted articles or would soon submit them. T.R. reported that Jeff Girard had recently contacted him regarding the possibility of publishing his report on the Fredericks site. T.R. would also like Bob Connolly to consider publishing his article on Goad's Poverty Point excavations. T.R. said that together this could make up an interesting bulletin showcasing research by area archaeologists. Favorable comments were made by the Committee to this idea so Roger said that he would bring this up at the Annual Meeting. Roger asked for further comments and being none, Carl Kuttruff made a motion to accept the Bulletin Report. Recca Jones seconded the motion which the Committee passed.

## **Archival Committee**

Carl Kuttruff reported for the Archival Committee. He believes that the most important thing is to have copies of all past newsletters and bulletins included in the archives. He would also like each chapter to submit a chapter history and perhaps a list of past presidents and/or officers to be included. Nancy Affeltranger, speaking for the Committee, thanked Carl Kuttruff for taking on a difficult job.

## **Old Business**

### **New L.A.S. Logo**

President Saucier distributed a sample of the new L.A.S. logo. He thanked everyone who had contributed to the development of the logo. He also thanked those who worked on the design. He asked for comments and, although there were a few criticisms, most comments were favorable. Roger explained that for the present the logo would be in black and white. Color for the new logo will be discussed at a future meeting. Carl Kuttruff made a motion to accept the new logo and Recca Jones seconded the motion. The motion was passed. The logo will also be incorporated into the future L.A.S. web site.

### **Updated L.A.S. Brochure**

Since Jim Fogleman was unable to be present at the meeting, Roger Saucier said that he would contact him afterwards to inquire as to the status of the brochure. Carl Kuttruff volunteered to help Jim if he wished or, if Jim is

unable to work on the new brochure, to do so. Roger called for a copy of the original brochure. How the brochure might be designed was discussed and Roger said that he would discuss all suggestions with Jim Fogleman. He emphasized, and the Committee agreed, that an updated brochure should be the no. 1 priority now.

### **1999 Annual Meeting**

Roger asked Recca Jones to report on the 25th Annual Meeting to be held in Monroe, Louisiana on February 5, 6, and 7, 1999. She announced that on February 6, Stephen Williams will give the keynote address which will be open to the public. He will speak on the history of Southeast archaeology. Now retired from Harvard University and presently living in Santa Fe, he was the director of the Lower Mississippi Archaeological Survey for twenty years. She said that most of the plans for the meeting were completed. Roger reminded her that the Committee had agreed to an increase in the registration fee to make it easier to fund the meeting. Recca said that the possibility of tee shirts for the meeting had been discussed and she asked for suggestions from the Committee. Roger said that the Baton Rouge Chapter could probably be helpful because of their experience with the 1998 meeting. He also expressed the Committee's belief that the 25th anniversary meeting was going to be great and thanked Recca for all the Northeast Chapter's hard work.

Next, the Committee discussed the format for the proposed questionnaire to create the computer-

based roster of volunteers. It was decided that the questionnaire should be included in the next newsletter. The information gathered would be forwarded to the Louisiana Division of Archaeology who would make the information available to the appropriate parties. Questionnaires would be placed in the newsletter periodically to update the data base.

The Committee discussed the L.A.S. web site. Suggestions were made on what should be included on the site including some historical photos of the Society and some past Archaeology Week posters, information about events such as the annual meetings, and links to other archaeological sites.

### **New Business**

Roger Saucier opened discussion on the Annual Meeting for the year 2000. Virginia Bommer, president of the Delta Chapter, said that Delta Chapter would host the meeting. Recca Jones gave some tips on planning the meeting. She said that the most important thing was to start plans as soon as possible. Roger thanked Delta Chapter for hosting the 2000 meeting.

President Saucier reported that he and Treasurer David Jeane had discussed the growing balance in the L.A.S. checking account. David said that with a balance as high as the present one, he would normally consider purchasing another CD. However with the expenditures expected shortly for the bulletins he did not feel that doing so was prudent at this time. He also felt that the best plan

would be to continue the present policy concerning investment of the monies. David and Roger discussed using some of the excess funds each year to reprint some classic, out-of-print archaeological reports and making them available at the annual meetings. The Committee enthusiastically endorsed this plan. Some suggestions for reprinting were: Webb's Belcher report, Ford and Webb's Poverty Point, some of the BIA reports on Louisiana Indians, W. Walker's Troyville and Natchitoches report, Bushnell's on the Louisiana Choctaws, work by Ford and by Phillips, Ford and Griffin. Reca Jones made a motion that the L.A.S. pursue the idea of making such reprints available. Carl Kuttruff seconded the motion and the motion passed. The goal is to have at least one reprint each year, more if feasible. Roger will announce this in the newsletter. All ideas or suggestions will be appreciated.

There was no further business. President Roger Saucier adjourned the meeting at 11:50 a.m.

### **A Preliminary Report on Scott Place Mounds**

**Joe Saunders**

In the early 1900s, C.B. Moore conducted a brief archaeological survey along Bayou D'Arbonne in Union Parish. He visited five sites and conducted test excavations at three. Among the tested sites was Scott Place Mounds (16UN4).

The Scott Place....in full view

from the stream, on ground far above the reach of the water, is a well-preserved, quadrangular mound [Mound A], with angles slightly rounded by erosion. This mound, somewhat more than 11 feet in height, practically square, has a basal diameter of about 110 feet. Sixty feet, approximately, is the diameter of the summit-plateau. The four corners of this mound are not exactly directed toward the cardinal points, through they are within a few degrees of being so, the eastern corner, for instance, being somewhat south of east, about the direction the aborigines would obtain from the sun in the winter.

In the hope that superficial burials had been made in this mound...trial-holes were sunk over the summit-plateau, but almost at once reached hard, raw clay without any mixture of midden material.

In sight from the mound just described, in a southerly direction from it...is a mound [Mound B] with a flat top, somewhat more than 4 feet in height, measured from the western side, though from the eastern side, the mound being on a slope, the height seems considerably greater. The base of the mound, irregularly circular, is about 75 feet in diameter; the summit-plateau is 32 feet across.

Seven trial-holes dug from the

summit-plateau of the mound showed it to be of raw clay and sand without admixture of dark material indicating the presence of burials. These holes, carried below the base-line which was at a depth of from 6.5 to 7 feet, intersected no pits of any kind, nor was there any sign of a central pit extending below the base.

Five feet below the central part of the summit-plateau was a basin-shaped fireplace, 3 feet 8 inches across at the top and 21 inches deep. Filling the lower part of the fireplace was a layer of ashes and burnt material 9 inches in thickness (Moore 1913:78-79).

A survey of Scott Place Mounds 1992 relocated Mounds A and B (Saunders 1992). A large, unfilled pot hole (ca. 7 x 8 x 1 m) was in Mound A and a pot hole (ca. 2 x 2 x 2.5) and two trenches were observed in Mound B. It was assumed that the potholes were remnants of C.B. Moore's testing, while the trenches were of more recent origin.

In the fall of 1998, the Jones family granted permission for the Regional Archaeology Program at Northeast Louisiana University to reexcavate the pothole in Mound B. Moore's description of the fire hearth in Mound B suggested that he had excavated through the center of the basin-shaped feature, but left the margins of the hearth intact in the surrounding mound fill (since it was not a burial). A reexcavation of the partially filled pothole would quickly determine if

the supposition was correct.

With the assistance of Recca Jones, James Harty, Scott Jones, Bob and Elsie Sewell, and Wanda Dean, the Mound B pothole was reexcavated and backfill from the Mound A and Mound B potholes screened for artifacts (while refilling the potholes). The reexcavation of Moore's pothole successfully located charcoal and burnt clay in its walls at ca. 5 feet below surface. A small (ca. 30.25 cm block) was excavated into the intact mound fill above the burnt clay in an attempt to expose in situ charcoal. The small cut uncovered two lenses of burnt clay under intact mound fill. Charcoal was recovered from both the upper and the lower lens of burnt clay. Charcoal from the upper lens was submitted for radiometric dating. The sample dates to a corrected and calibrated age of (Beta-124193) AD 1250 +/- 70, with a one sigma range of AD 1195 to 1285.

The screening of backfill at both mounds was not very productive. In spite of processing a considerable amount of fill, very few artifacts were recovered. Field counts are: ca. a dozen sherds, some debitage, and a few cores. Decorated sherds number at least three. One Coles Creek Incised var. Hardy sherd was found at Mound A and another at Mound B. One incised sherd was recovered from Mound A.

This is a preliminary report on the work. The objective is to publish the radiocarbon date for a mound site in Union Parish. A more complete report on the work at Scott Place Mounds is forthcoming.

## References

Moore, C. B.

1913 Some Aboriginal Sites in Louisiana and Arkansas. *Journal of the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia* 4(16):7-99.

Saunders, J.

1992 1992 Annual Report for Management Unit 2. College of Pure and Applied Sciences, Department of Geosciences, Northeast Louisiana University. Report submitted to the National Park Service.

### Michael W. Beckman

(January 9, 1914 - October 24, 1998)

by Charles C. Clark and Don Duncan

A celebration of the Life of Michael W. Beckman was held October 29, 1998, at St. Paul Lutheran Church, Shreveport, Louisiana, with the Reverend Wesley Toncre officiating. Burial was at the Forest Park Cemetery, St. Vincent Avenue.

Mike Beckman was born on a farm near in Lakota, North Dakota. From boyhood, interested in rocks, he became a collector of many kinds of rocks and minerals; he was particularly interested in flint and chert projectile points, knives, hide-scrapers, and other Indian artifacts.

His interest in such objects led him to study geology at the University of North Dakota, where he received his bachelor's degree in 1939. In 1941 he

received his master's degree in geology from Texas A & M. Shortly thereafter he was employed by the Continental Oil Company as a petroleum geologist in South Louisiana.

In 1945 he moved to Shreveport, Louisiana, where he worked for Skelly Oil Company and Mississippi River Fuel Oil Corporation. He later became a consulting geologist and independent oil and gas producer.

While completing the formal part of his education, in 1939, he married Ethel Estvold of Mapes, North Dakota. From this union four children were born: Michaelene, Dennis, Gary (who became a geologist) and Debbie. There are four grandsons.

Soon after Mike moved to North Louisiana, he visited Poverty Point, the 2,700 year-old mound complex in West Carroll Parish. He assisted in the work that resulted in the paper Poverty Point: A Late Archaic Site in Louisiana by James A. Ford and Clarence H. Webb in collaboration with Junius B. Bird and Michael Beckman, Vol. 46, Pt. I, Anthropological Papers of the Museum of Natural History New York, 1956. See the acknowledgment of Mike's assistance in The Poverty Point Culture by Clarence H. Webb, Vol. XVII, Geoscience and Man, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, 1977.

Mike assisted Clarence H. Webb in Webb's detailed examination of the Belcher Mound (See The Belcher Mound: A Stratified Caddoan Site in Caddo Parish, Louisiana No. 16, Memoirs of the Society for American

Archaeology, Salt Lake City, 1959).

He also was involved in the investigation of the Grand Prairie site of St. Landry Parish. He assisted in the investigation of a Caddoan site along Willow Creek in Bossier Parish.

Mike made donations from his extensive collection of Indian artifacts to Louisiana State University in Shreveport, Northwestern State University, and the Louisiana State Park at Poverty Point. He and Clarence H. Webb advised H. B. Wright in the creation of dioramas in the Louisiana State Museum.

Mike was an elder in St. Paul Lutheran Church, where he taught Sunday School.

Mike was a member of the American Association of Petroleum Geologists and the Kiwanis Club. He served as president of the following organizations: the Shreveport Geological Society, the Shreveport, Audubon Society, and the Shreveport Nature Society, and as a Director of the Shreveport Petroleum Club. He was a charter member of the Louisiana Archaeology Society and a member of the Ark-La-Tex Gem and Mineral Society. He worked with the Boy Scouts of America (scientific education) and the Salvation Army (Advisory Board).

Mike was a popular lecturer at schools and civic organizations. He was able to make his audiences interested in Caddo Indians and the Archaic and Paleo-Indian peoples.

One story, perhaps

embellished in the retelling, illustrates Mike's success in imparting information. Mike was a collector of the finely-chipped Scottsbluff points. He had found a Scottsbluff point in the North Louisiana area. On a country road he encountered a backwoodsman. In chatting with the fellow, he described what kind of "arrowheads" he was looking for and had found that the backwoodsman had a "collection" at his house. Hours after he had parked his car and had proceeded on foot searching for artifacts, he returned and found on the car hood a perfectly chipped four-inch gray Scottsbluff point, which the countryman had retrieved from his "collection" and left as a gift for the stranger.

Like Father Pierre Teilhard de Chardin, the geologist-paleontologist who assisted in the discovery of Peking Man, Mike Beckman lived both in the physical world and in the spiritual world: he was a first-rate scientist, thorough in his work, as well as being a Christian gentleman.

### List of Current Members of LAS

This issue lists all of the 1998 members of the LAS that have become current since the summer issue.

Name	City	Expiration Date/Category
Ella Stewart	New	
McCulloch	Orleans	1998/Regular
Jean Robbins	Vivian	1998/Regular
Virgie Talley	Metairie	1998/Regular
Tozzer Library	Cambridge	1998/Institution

**Final Schedule for the 25th Annual LAS Meetings: Monroe, La., Feb. 5, 6, and 7.**  
**Questions, contact: Joe Saunders (318) 342-1899**

**Friday**

6:00-6:45 in evening LAS Board meeting.

6:45-7:30 in evening LAC Board meeting.

**Saturday**

7:15-8:20 Welcome

Tom Eubanks 8:25-8:45 State over the past 25 years and public archaeology

Jon Gibson 8:50-9:10 Academics over the past 25 years.

David Kelley 9:15-9:35 CRM over the past 25 years.

Alan Gruber 9:40-10:00 Conservancy over the past 25 years.

10:00 Break

Linda Jackson 10:30-10:50 Avocational archaeologists over the past 25 years.

Roger Saucier 10:55-11:15 Geomorphology and Archaeology over the Past Several Decades

Tad Britt 11:20-11:40 Corps over the past 25 years.

Jill Yakubik 11:45-12:05 Historic over the past 25 years

Lunch (12:05-1:20)

Eric Pani 1:25-1:30 NLU MS in archaeology/geology

Robert Connolly 1:30-1:50 Poverty Point

Marvin D. Jeter 1:55-2:15 The Oldest Mound In Arkansas? The Lake Enterprise Mound Site

Frank Schambach 2:20-2:40 An Inquiry into the Composition of the "Baked Clay Balls"...

T.R. Kidder 2:40-3:00 Archaeological Investigations at Raffiman, Madison Parish, La.

3:00 Break

Malcolm F. Vidrine 3:20-3:40 Freshwater Mussel Remains From Watson Brake Mound...

Gary L. Stringer 3:45-4:05 A Comparison of Fish Otoliths From Two Archaic Sites...

Marie S. Standifer 4:05-4:25 Plant Foods of Native Peoples of the Southeast

Charles Allen 4:30-5:00+/- Edible Plants of Louisiana (plus free samples)

LAS Business Meeting 5:15-6:15 +/-

Stephen Williams 7:30-8:30 Early Louisiana Archaeologists

Williams/Haag/Saucier/Gibson Informal discussion on Louisiana  
archaeology, keg, and cash bar.

## Sunday

Jeffery S. Girard 8:00-8:20 The Belcher Site: Review and Recent Investigations  
Chip McGimsey 8:25-8:45 Seeing What They Saw: the 1939 Excavations at the Marksville..  
Mark Melancon 8:50-9:10 James Ford's Seriation Technique Revisited  
Chris Hays 9:15-9:35 A Report on 16WA8: A Mississippian Period Shell Midden..  
George E. Avery 9:40-10:00 Archival Archaeology: "Artifact" Drawings in Spanish Colonial..

10:00 Break

Dennis R. Satterlee 10:30-10:50 Quebrada de Tacahuay: Prehistoric Maritime Procurement in...

Mervin Kontrovitz 10:55-11:15 Paleoenvironmental Reconstruction at the Wilson-Leonard Site..

David Jeane 11:20-11:40 Interesting Chinese Porcelain Vessels from the Philippines

Elizabeth L. Davoli 11:45-12:05 For Curing or Drinking?

Reca Jones 12:05-12:25 Plum Creek Archaic, A Middle Archaic Site.

Watson Brake Tour with Reca Jones

Motels with rooms in Monroe:

Holiday Inn Atrium meetings (318) 325-0641/(800) 428-7486, 2001

Louisville Av., (room=\$65)

Travel Lodge (across street) (318) 325-5851/(800) 578-7878, 2102

Louisville Av. (room \$35+)

Hampton Inn on 1407 US 165 (318) 361-9944, rooms (\$55+)

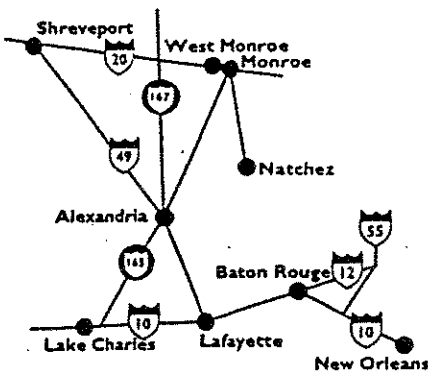
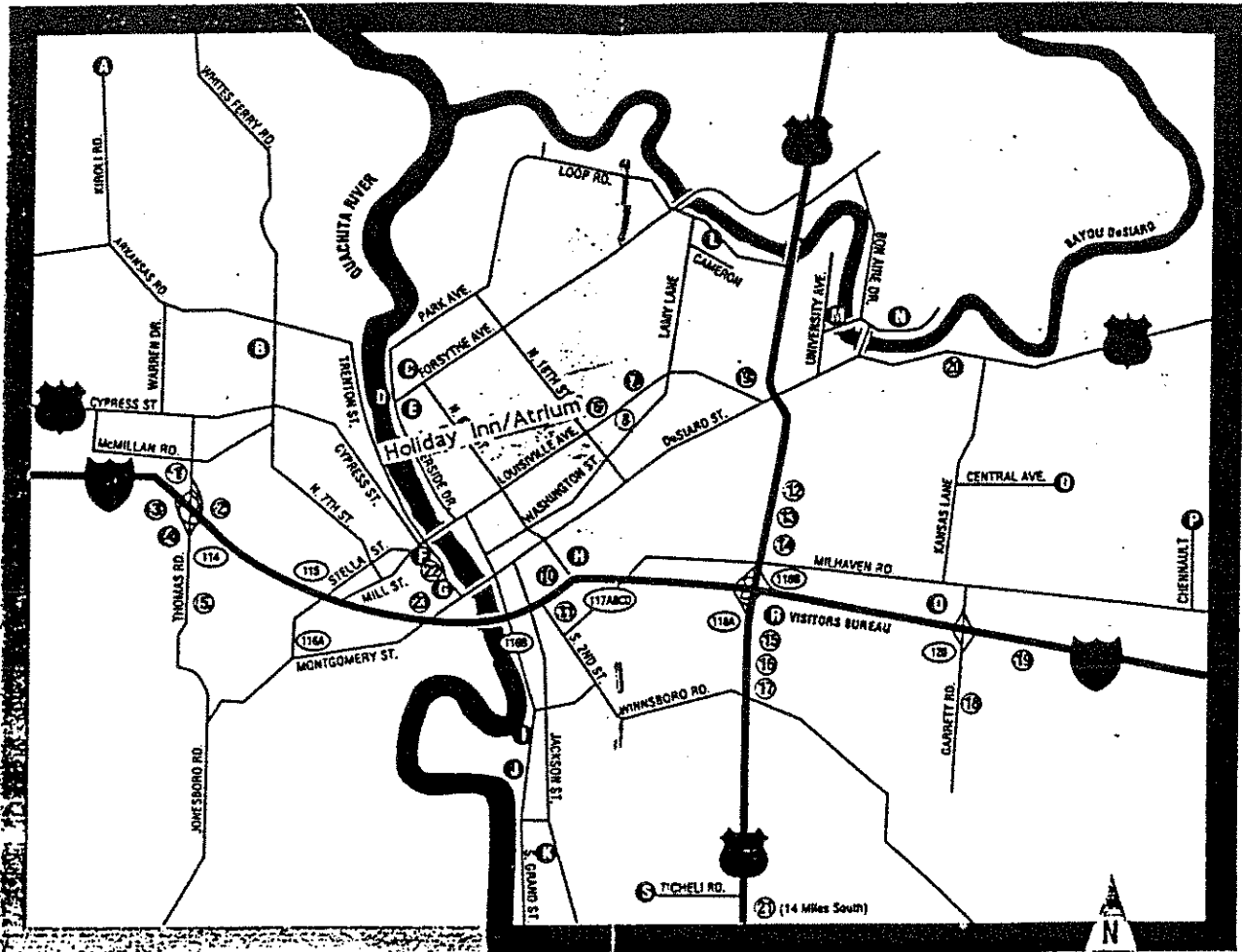
Ramada Unlimited 1601 US 165 (318)323-1600/(800) 272-6232, rooms (\$60)

Other chains in Monroe/West Monroe include Best Western, Red Roof Inn, Motel 6, Comfort Inn.



## Rooms

The Holiday Inn/Atrium is holding a block of 50 rooms (30 single/20 double) until Jan. 3, 1999. The rate is \$60.00 (plus a 10.5% tax) a night for single or double occupancy. Call (318) 325-0641 or 1-800-4ATRIUM. Please mention that you will be attending the LAS meetings when you register. There are other motels on Louisville and surrounding areas (Hwy 165 and I20); please refer to the map below for additional information).



- EXITS**
- 114-Thomas Rd.
  - 115-Stella/Mill
  - 118A-Fifth St.
  - 118B-Jackson St.
  - 117A-Hall St.
  - 117B-Texas Ave.
  - 117C-Civic Center Blvd.
  - 117D-S. Second St.
  - 118A-Columbia
  - 118B-Bastrop/NLU
  - 120-Garrett Rd./Airport

- HOTELS/MOTELS**
- 1. Shoney's Inn
  - 2. Super 8 Motel
  - 3. Holiday Inn Express
  - 4. Red Roof Inn
  - 5. Best Western West Monroe
  - 6. Holiday Inn Professional Centre/Atrium
  - 7. Budget Inn
  - 8. Travel Lodge
  - 9. Palms Motel
  - 10. Liberty Inn
  - 11. Guest House Inn
  - 12. Stratford House
  - 13. LaQuinta Motor Inn
  - 14. Holiday Inn Holidome

- 15. Hampton Inn
  - 16. Motel 6
  - 17. Ramada Limited
  - 18. Best Western Airport Inn
  - 19. Days Inn
  - 20. Economy Inn Bed & Breakfast
  - 21. Boscobel Cottage
  - 22. Rose Lee Hotel
  - 23. Tante Marie's
- POINTS OF INTEREST**
- A. Kiroff Park
  - B. West Monroe Convention Center
  - C. Forsythe Park
  - D. Twin City Queen
  - E. Biedenharn Foundation
  - F. Dream Car Museum
  - G. Antique Alley
  - H. Monroe Civic Center
  - I. Layton Castle
  - J. Masur Museum
  - K. African American Heritage Museum
  - L. Cotton Country Cooking School
  - M. Northeast Louisiana University
  - N. Rebecca's Doll Museum
  - O. Monroe Regional Airport
  - P. Chennault Park
  - Q. Pecanland Mall
  - R. Convention & Visitors Bureau
  - S. Louisiana Purchase Gardens & Zoo



### Information for Subscribers

The *Newsletter of the Louisiana Archaeological Society* is published three times a year for the society by Coastal Environments, Inc., Baton Rouge. Subscription is by membership in the Louisiana Archaeological Society. Annual membership dues are \$15.00 for individuals, libraries, and institutions, \$2.00 for associates (relatives of individual members), and \$10.00 for students. Life membership dues are \$150.00 for individuals. Sustaining membership dues for individuals or institutions are \$300.00. In addition to the newsletter, members receive one issue per year of the bulletin *Louisiana Archaeology*. Membership requests, subscription dues, changes of address, and back issue orders should be directed to the Treasurer. Unless otherwise indicated, opinions stated herein are those of the Newsletter Editor and do not necessarily reflect society policy.

### Information for Contributors

Send all notes, news, and other communications to: Richard Weinstein, Coastal Environments, Inc., 1260 Main St., Baton Rouge, Louisiana, 70806. If possible, articles should be submitted on computer disk, preferably in Microsoft Word 4.0 or Word Perfect 5.1 or 6.0, although most other word processing programs can be translated. Style should conform to the guidelines published in *American Antiquity*, Vol. 57, No. 4 (Oct. 1992).

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