

Louisiana Archaeological Society

NEWSLETTER OF THE LOUISIANA ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY



Vol. 3, No. 2

April 1976

IN THIS ISSUE:

Toward an Attitude of Archaeology for All ... 1; Editor's Preface ... 3 ;
The Wonderful World of Poverty Point ... 4; LAS Personalities ... 5 ; Annual
Meeting ... 9 ; Current Research ... 13; Other Activities ... 14; Notices and
Other News ... 15; Chapter News ... 16; New Publications ... 19.

TOWARD AN ATTITUDE OF ARCHAEOLOGY FOR ALL

Jon L. Gibson
LAS President

Presidential addresses are usually reflective and philosophical or, alternatively, are pragmatic and program-specific. Mine lies somewhere between. Under the administration of our first distinguished president, Dr. Clarence Webb, our society has grown and become a solid organization dedicated to communication and to fostering an appreciation of Louisiana archaeology. I would like to turn our attention momentarily from the peaches and cream of the Society's efforts--of which we can all be justly proud--and address a problem area, an area rarely discussed and often considered taboo. But in it are the germs of disruption and discontent--germs that if allowed to proliferate can and will infect the Society and the whole of archaeology in the state of Louisiana.

The newsletter of the Louisiana Archaeological Society is published quarterly by the Society from its editorial office at the University of Southwestern Louisiana; Department of Social Studies; Box 4-0198, USL Station; Lafayette, LA 70504. Unless otherwise indicated, opinions stated herein are those of the editor or other contributors and do not necessarily reflect Society Policy.

Many of us entered archaeology as artifact collectors and pot-hunters. Locations of sites were jealously guarded. Artifacts were things to be owned; they were things to be glued on boards and placed around the recesses of our inner sanctums where we could admire them privately. Many of us graduated from this artifact collectors school as our desire to learn about the artifacts themselves and the people who made them replaced our desire to own and admire them. But there are those who have not graduated.

Most archaeological sites are found on private property where, under law, they are "owned" by individual citizens. The rights of private ownership are sacred and basic to the American way-of-life, but does an uncooperative landowner have the "moral" right to own places and things left behind by people who generally had no concept of land ownership, save that land was made by the creator for the use of all.

But pot-hunters and uncooperative landowners aside, there are many people sympathetic to the advance of archaeology--some indeed members of this august Society--who are fearful of recently enacted state laws, who are afraid stipulations will be placed on where to collect and on rights of artifact ownership. There are a few who are actually concerned that they are losing their personal freedom to choose artifact collecting as a hobby, their personal rights to conduct archaeology under grant or contract in a manner of their own choosing, or to do what they wish with sites on their property.

People who do archaeology--whether as an avocation or as a profession--have moral obligations. We have an obligation to the people who left the remains that we cherish so much; the remains that afford us such personal satisfaction in their discovery and their understanding. The old ones cannot be forgotten; after all, we find the things, the places, of their creation, and in a very real sense, the things that we find belong to them, not us. But the old ones are dead, someone reminds me! Then we have obligations to each other, to the general public, and to science. Hoarders of artifacts, persons fearful of sharing information, landowners who will not share their opportunism with us are hindering our right to knowledge of the past. And most basically, we have an obligation to conduct archaeology in a manner which maximizes information return. Archaeology--from simple surface collecting to total excavation--is a destructive activity. If you are ignorant of acceptable methods, you owe it to yourself and other members of the discipline to learn the best methods of doing archaeology. Ignorance, in 1976, is an intolerable excuse for bad archaeology.

During my term as president of the Louisiana Archaeological Society, I intend to push the attitude of archaeology for all. I would like for each of us to improve our archaeology. I would like for us to educate pot-hunters and landowners. And I would like for the Society to be a major forum and sounding board for the archaeology for all attitude.

EDITOR'S PREFACE

Assistant editor named. Dr. Clarence Webb, immediate past president of the LAS, has been named assistant editor. Webb will help with newsletter preparation and will serve as referee for submissions to the Bulletin. Webb is imminently qualified for this post and the editor welcomes someone to share the blam...!, ominous duties of preparing the publications for our Society.

Bulletins. Bulletin 2 for 1975 is underway. Type has been set on all the articles and galleys have been distributed to the authors. Bulletin 2 will be much larger than the first; it will feature articles, Louisiana's Historic Indians (Kniffen), Chitimacha Basketry (Gregory and Webb), Mounds Plantation (Webb and McKinney), North Sector Excavations at Poverty Point (Kuttruff), Poverty Point as Seen from Southeastern Texas (Patterson), Young's Bayou Settlement Patterns (Smith), Mount Bayou Fire Pits (Gibson), and The Cicada in Southern Archaeology and Coushatta Tradition (Hunter). We hope to be able to distribute the bulletin sometime during the summer.

The editor is soliciting papers for the third bulletin. Thus far, not a single manuscript has been submitted. If you have something you feel is of bulletin quality, send it in and let us review it. We have been very fortunate so far in bulletin submissions; all have been of good or superior quality. In 2 years, I have only returned 2 papers to authors, one for additional beefing up and the other because of its highly technical nature. I know of no other state society journal which can boast about the quality of its contents and still admit that it has published virtually everything submitted. Get those articles, reports, comments, and reviews in; bulletin delays because of printing and technical production problems are one thing, but to delay bulletin appearance because of a lack of submissions is inexcusable.

Thanks Extended. Rarely does a group or an editor express appreciation to the people behind the scenes in publication production. Most of the time there is price haggling, haggling over deadlines, over typesetting, over incorporating changes at galley and page-proof stages, and dissatisfaction with printing and binding. This editor would like to make an exception. The USL Printing Department, which does all the Society's printing, has responded cheerfully and effectively to our needs under the most difficult circumstances imaginable. Dr. Thomas Nevitt, director of the Print Shop and Head of the Department of Industrial Education, has taken in all our printing requests and has given us the fairest prices that we could ever hope for. Dr. Nevitt has, in fact, made it possible for us to have the quality publications we do with our limited publication monies. Ms. Ruth Boudreaux and Gerald Tribe are responsible for typesetting and page paste-up; Boony Hoffman for page mock-up and photography; Raymond Landry, Dan Tribe, and Glenn Laurents for printing and binding, and Earl Romero for newsletter duplication. All this accomplished in a burned-out shell of a building with equipment literally held together with baling wire, and with the large responsibility for doing all of the required printing for a large university. Thanks USL Printing Department!

Cut-off Deadline Here. As of last count, only 106 people had joined or renewed regular memberships in the Society; down about 90 from last year's end. For those 1975 members who have not paid dues, this will be the last newsletter you will receive (in accordance with Society by-laws), although you will still receive the 1975 bulletin as soon as it is ready. Don't let those memberships lapse; remember the Society needs you and we would like to think that you need the Society. Use the membership application at the end of this newsletter.

THE WONDERFUL WORLD OF POVERTY POINT

TYPICAL PROJECTILE POINTS

Clarence H. Webb
Shreveport, La.

At the 1976 Annual Meeting of the LAS, a suggestion was made that typical artifact types occurring in Louisiana be illustrated in the newsletter from time to time. I am therefore illustrating and describing the three most characteristic projectile point types that I have seen from sites of Poverty Point culture.

Gary type (Fig. 1a) defines relatively crude, thick points with triangular bodies, indistinct or squared shoulders and contracting stems. Their sizes vary from large (8-14cm) to typical (4.6-8cm) to small (3.2-4.5cm) in length, with widths averaging half the lengths, thickness averaging 9-10mm and weight 16-17gm. There are numerous varieties, including what we formerly called Desmuke and Wells types. More than half of Gary points are made from local pebble cherts, a third from novaculite or quartzite, others at Poverty Point from white fossiliferous chert, northern gray flint and other materials. Gary is the dominant type at Poverty Point sites west of the Mississippi River, totaling 24% of all points at Poverty Point site, 26% at Terral Lewis, 22% at Aaron, 19% at Russell Landing and 21% at Claiborne. The type diminishes in frequency in the Yazoo Basin.

Pontchartrain type (Fig. 1b) is typically slender, 4.8 to 9.5cm long at Poverty Point site, with a 3:1 length/width ratio and average weight of 16gm. The edges are straight to mildly convex, the shoulders squared, the stems rectangular with straight bases, with cortex often remaining at the base. Strong median ridges on one or both faces produce diamond-shaped or triangular cross sections. The edges are sharpened by parallel ripple flaking. Nearly all Pontchartrain points are made of local gravel cherts, buff or yellow (with white speckles), brown, and occasionally red, pink, black or mottled. Exotic gray flints are rarely used. This type has a geographic distribution along the Mississippi from Tennessee to the Gulf, in late Archaic and Poverty Point assemblages; it is the dominant type at Poverty Point sites east of the river. At Poverty Point site it is fourth in frequency, after Gary, Motley and Ellis; at Claiborne it is first, comprising 25% of the points found. Pontchartrain is similar to Kent type, which is wider, crudely made and lacks the ripple flaking.

Motley type (Fig. 1c) is a distinctive, well made point. The length averages 7cm, the width 3-3.4cm, the thickness 8mm and the weight 14gm. The bodies are long triangles with straight, convex or recurved edges. Deep corner notches produce barbs and narrow expanding stems. Rather uniform stem and shoulder widths and great variation in lengths (3.8 to 13cm) suggest resharpening, which is manifest on some of the short specimens. The workmanship is good, the faces flat, and delicate pressure retouch sharpens the edges. Most Motley points (75-80%) are made of northern gray flint or exotic dark flints like Dover from Tennessee or Le Flore County flint from Oklahoma. Motley type is a horizon marker for Poverty Point culture. The frequency at Poverty Point site is 13.3%, second only to Gary type. It drops to 5.3% at Jaketown, 3.5 at Claiborne, 4.5 at Aaron and less elsewhere. The manufacture from choice imported flints and the placement in caches at Poverty Point and Claiborne suggest that Motley points had a special usage related to the ruling hierarchy.

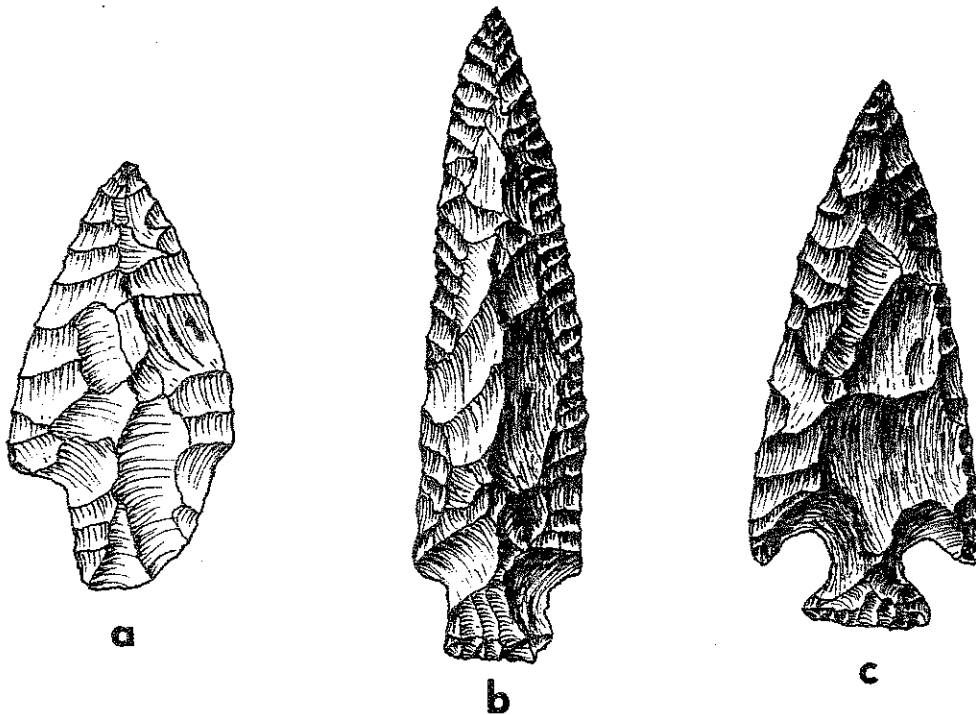


Fig. 1. Poverty Point projectile point types. a) Gary; b) Pontchartrain; c) Motley. a of novaculite, b of tan chert, c of dark gray flint. Full size.

LAS PERSONALITIES

FRED B. KNIFFEN, ARCHAEOLOGIST
William G. Haag
Alumni Professor of Anthropology
Louisiana State University

Fred Bowerman Kniffen, a distinguished faculty member at Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, and Emeritus Boyd Professor of Geography and

Anthropology, would seem to have had little time or inclination for an interest in prehistory. Yet in the course of his developing career, he made signal contributions to the aboriginal history of Louisiana. His numerous major influences on American geography are well known and well deserved. He has served in so many capacities in geography that they overshadow his archaeological interests.

Dr. Kniffen was born in Britton, Michigan, and attended the University of Michigan where he earned an A.B. in Geology in 1922. Dr. Carl O. Sauer was a young faculty member at Michigan in 1921-22 and he influenced Kniffen to such an extent that he followed Sauer to Berkeley. It was there that he also became a student of A.L. Kroeber and Robert Lowie. Among several internationally famous scholars who helped shape his future was Erland Nordenskjold.

It was with this more or less complete appreciation of the lore locked in the landscape that Kniffen arrived on the scene in Louisiana in the fall of 1929. He was associated with two other young California products, Henry V. Howe and Richard J. Russell. These three were to become the foundation of the School of Geology that continues to flourish in the perpetuation of the unique guidelines they established those many years ago.

As the southeastern U.S. blossomed into a hive of archaeological research in the 1930's, Kniffen was aware of the role of aborigines in altering the landscape, as well as the possibility of using their remains as indicators of extinct environments. He was early aware that there were cultural differences among the various Indian remains in the state and he sought to use these differences to work out a time sequence for certain physiographic changes apparent in the Lower Mississippi Valley. Most of the ideas he developed about the cultural sequence in the region came from field trips to the lower delta and environs with Dr. Russell and his own intensive surveys of several parishes, primarily, Plaquemines and St. Bernard (Kniffen 1936). Also, James A. Ford was a student in some of Kniffen's classes and between them, many aspects of pottery types and distributions were worked out.

One of the first useful formulations that was recognized was the dichotomy of pottery groups. Kniffen did this by a mode analysis that enabled him to characterize a cluster of ceramic traits that he labelled the Bayou Cutler complex. The diagnostic traits included lugs and ears on rims and abundant check-stamping. He noted the obvious resemblance of this complex to the Coles Creek pottery described by James A. Ford (published about the same time as the Plaquemines-St. Bernard report), but he also noted the preponderance of check-stamped in the Bayou Cutler assemblage that distinguished it from Coles Creek.

The second complex was called Bayou Petre after the large site at the juncture of Bayou Petre and Bayou La Loutre in St. Bernard Parish. The outstanding features of this pottery complex was shell tempering, many handles, nodes, and lugs on rims and mostly plain vessels. Kniffen demonstrated that the Bayou Petre complex was younger in time than Bayou Cutler. He also correctly concluded that the former's antecedents were to the east.

An interesting physiographic note that came from the Plaquemines-St. Bernard study was the awareness that coastal shell middens could be placed in a rough chronosequence by noting the degree of subsidence. Kniffen assumed that the construction or accumulation of all shell middens would begin at marsh level or just above sea level. Between Barataria Bay and the Mississippi River shell middens showed no subsidence but east of the Mississippi and west of Barataria Bay shell middens had sunk as much as 7.5 to 11 feet, thus suggesting that they belonged to an older time period than the middens near the river.

Today, we would recognize that the Bayou Cutler complex is a part of the widespread Coles Creek manifestation and Bayou Petre is a southwestward diffusion of Moundville culture. In 1936, foundations for such ideas were laid by the fieldwork of Kniffen.

To a geographer and to an archaeologist fieldwork is nearly the all! Witness the Plaquemines-St. Bernard study. Although Kniffen called it a "preliminary" report on the Indian mounds and middens, he located and mapped 50 sites in the 2 parishes, 44 of which he visited, described, and collected surface material. Subsequent fieldwork has disclosed only a few more sites in these parishes, and they have been intensively investigated for archaeological, geological, and geographical purposes. Only a few other areas in Louisiana have had such an intensive survey for their beginning.

In 1938, Kniffen conducted fieldwork in Iberville and Ascension Parishes in preparation for a report on the geology (Kniffen 1938). His archaeological survey concentrated on Iberville Parish where some important sites were located. Perhaps one of the most significant aspects of this study was the correlation between site absence and siltation in certain areas in the Atchafalaya and Grand River basins. Kniffen pointed out that a well-known Grand River mound of 1915 was, by 1935, covered completely with silt to a depth of three feet across the summit. This process continues to this day.

Most archaeologists of any stature are aware that ethnologists are literally "catching archaeology alive". Kniffen was no exception to this rule. Being a trained ethnographer--he worked in California and published on the Achomawi--he brought this expertise to Louisiana (Kniffen 1928, 1938b, 1939). During the summer of 1929, he worked in the field in California with A. L. Kroeber and at the end of the summer visited A. V. Kidder at Pecos where he was encouraged by Kidder to get involved in Louisiana archaeology as soon as he could.

Kniffen soon became thoroughly conversant with the ethnographic literature pertaining to Louisiana and gathered together some of the remaining fragments of Indian culture (Kniffen 1951, 1966). He had the ideal background for superior work in archaeology, an undergraduate degree in geology, graduate work in geography and in anthropology, with a thorough training in all phases of fieldwork. The fact that his major thrust in research effort has been in geography is archaeology's loss. They just do not produce such scholars any more.



BIBLIOGRAPHY

Kniffen, Fred B.

- 1928 Achomawi Geography. University of California Press, Berkeley.
1936 A preliminary report on the Indian mounds and middens of
Plaquemines and St. Bernard parishes. Louisiana Department of
Conservation, Geological Bulletin 8: 407-418.
1938a The Indian mounds of Iberville parish. Louisiana Department of
Conservation, Geological Bulletin 13: 189-206.
1938b Walapai ethnography. American Anthropological Association, Memoir 42.
1939 Pomo Geography. University of California Press, Berkeley.
1951 Southwest Louisiana's Indians. The McNeese Review 4(1): 81-87.
1966 The Indians of Louisiana. LSU College of Education, Baton Rouge
(2nd edition, 1st edition printed 1945).

ANNUAL MEETING

Editor's Note. Rather than give a summary of the LAS annual meeting held in Monroe in January 1976, I would like to present reflections on that meeting by one of our stalwart members. These reflections take the form of a poem written by Myrna Fleming of the Imperial Calcasieu Chapter; Myrna:

Cry of the Amateur

It grieves me greatly to relate;
I am not fit to excavate.
I need a suitable degree
to dig around in old debris.

We need a host of summer schools
to educate us digging fools.
So if a teacher does appear
I have a shovel - and I am here.

Business Meeting of the Louisiana Archaeological Society. The annual meeting of the Louisiana Archaeological Society was called to order by Dr. Glen Greene, serving as Program Chairman of the LAS at 1:40 p.m. on Saturday, January 24, 1976. He called on Dr. Jon Gibson, President of the LAS to conduct the business meeting.

All officers (old and new) were called to the front. Announced vote outcome: Dr. Sherwood Gagliano, Vice President and President elect and Bill Baker, Treasurer. Mr. Jack Bonnin was given a vote of good thanks for a well done job. A vote of thanks was given to Mr. Charles Witman, CPA, for assisting in keeping the books and the nonprofit status for the Society.

President Gibson called for reports from the various officers.

Treasurer's Report: Mr. Bonnin presented the financial statement. Motion by Joe Manuel, seconded by Dan Shipman that the Treasurer's Report be accepted. Motion passed. (Financial Report attached).

Motion by Robert S. Neitzel, seconded by Glen Greene that the Society extend to Jack Bonnin a vote of thanks for a job well done. Motion passed.

It was announced that the 1976 dues can now be paid.

Corresponding Secretary's Report: 1975 members were discussed. There were 193 regular, 3 life, 1 sustaining, 11 institution and college, 44 associate, for a total of 252 members. Announced that the 1974 bulletin is available to 1974 members. Those who were not members in 1974 may purchase the bulletin for \$10.00 per copy. Motion by Dan Shipman, seconded by Paul Hodges that the report be accepted. Motion passed.

Recording Secretary's Report: Marcus Mapp gave the report. Reminded members that minutes were mailed for meeting held in July. Motion by Marcus Mapp, seconded by Jon Gibson that the minutes be accepted. Motion passed. Mentioned that the next meeting will be held in New Orleans in January, 1977. There were no questions about the minutes.

President Gibson asked for a vote of thanks to Dr. Clarence Webb for his fine work as first president of the Society.

President Gibson asked Mr. Gagliano to speak to the group.

Mr. Gagliano announced that he was very pleased to be president elect. He remarked that the previous officers have set a very difficult pace for the upcoming officers to follow.

President Gibson gave the Editor's Report. He announced that the bulletin had been printed. Remarked on the excellent quality of the manuscripts submitted. The Board of Regents has appropriated money for a new building to replace the one that burned down at USL. Dr. Gibson announced that the print shop will be nonfunctional until May. There was a discussion concerning the second bulletin. Several members were asked to get estimates from various printing companies for comparison. Omission of date from first publication was mentioned. There was a general discussion, and it was agreed that this would be considered for the next publication. Do we wish to copyright the bulletins? There was a discussion concerning this feasibility. Suggested that the Executive Committee should take up this matter. Motion by Margaret Drew, seconded by Dan Shipman that this be submitted for action to the Executive Committee. Motion passed.

Dr. Clarence Webb made a motion that the Editor's Report be accepted and a vote of thanks be extended to Jon Gibson for his hard work during the last 1½ years. Motion seconded by Bill Baker and passed.

This concluded reports of officers.

There was no old business.

New Business. Harry Thibodaux suggested that we should have two meetings a year. There was a general discussion. Paul Hodges suggested that attendance would be better with one meeting per year with district meetings held each month. It was suggested by Marcus Mapp that the local chapters be approached to find out their feelings and then come back to the Executive Committee.

There was a discussion by Logan Sewell concerning exhibit of artifacts on display at the meetings. Myrna Fleming suggested that the various chapters would like to bring their own artifacts in a portable display.

Dr. Clarence Webb made a motion that an expression of thanks be given to the Northeast Louisiana Archaeological Society, Recca Jones, Glen and Lorraine Greene, and Marcus Mapp. Motion seconded by Myrna Fleming and passed.

Statement of Receipts and Expenditures, 1975

Receipts:

Gross dues and Assessments of Members \$ 2238.00

Expenditures:

Postage and office supplies

1-3-75 20.12
1-3-75 15.00
2-10-75 20.00
2-10-75 10.00

65.12

Printing

2-10-75 10.30
2-10-75 100.00
6-10-75 129.74
10-2-75 80.40

320.44

Misc. Expense

Room for Executive Board
Meeting 13.52

13.52

Total Expenditures

399.08

Increase in Fund Balance

1838.92

Balance 12-31-74

1769.01

Balance 12-31-75

\$ 3607.93

Reconciliation of Bank Account, 1975

Bank Balance 1-1-75 \$ 1769.01

Gross Receipts 1975 2238.00

Gross Expenses 1975 399.08

Bank Balance 12-31-75 \$ 3607.93

CURRENT RESEARCH

Archaeological Survey of Colonial Pipeline. Woody Gagliano and Jon Gibson are cooperating on an intensive survey of the Colonial pipeline right-of-way which traverses south Louisiana. They are being aided by Eileen Burden and Rich Weinstein of Coastal Environments, Inc. and Steven Brazda of USL. One badly damaged shell midden and one historic locality, Waterloo, have been located so far. The survey is virtually complete and the report is in preparation.

Archaeological Survey of the Atchafalaya Basin. Robert Neuman of LSU is presently writing a report detailing the results of their recent reconnaissance in the vast Atchafalaya swamp of south central Louisiana. Over 120 sites, ranging from Archaic to Historic, are reported.

Archaeological Survey of I-10 By-Pass, Lafayette, Louisiana. Gulf South Research Institute of Baton Rouge is conducting a survey of proposed alternatives to the I-10 By-Pass around the city of Lafayette. Alan Saltus and Lynn Staub are conducting the work. All routes are slated to pass through an archaeologically-rich precinct along the Vermilion River and it is hoped that adverse impacts will be avoided.

Mitigation Work. Jon Gibson, USL, conducted investigations at two sites (16SM42, 16SM43) on the Belle River in St. Martin Parish in a successful effort to avoid adverse impact from borrow pit excavation. He also investigated the Knight's Bluff site, a Texarkana focus (Caddo) component on Lake Wright Patman, Cass County, Texas. Bluff stabilization plans here were modified to preserve the remaining site area. All investigations were ordered by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New Orleans District, who are responding admirably to federal directives for archaeological conservation.

Highway Archaeology. A recent Highways Department excavation on the north side of Monroe, Louisiana, brought Duke Rivet and Alan Toth back into the field together. An early Plaquemine site on the west bank of Bayou de Siard (16OU4) was tested to evaluate the impact of further improvements to U.S. Hwy. 165. The Highway Archaeologist, Duke Rivet, directed the investigation, and Alan Toth provided cooperation and support from the Louisiana Archaeological Survey and Antiquities Commission. Northeast Louisiana Archaeological Society member Willis Ward of the Monroe Highway unit was the local coordinator and invaluable assistant to the archaeologists. Two 2-meter test excavations showed that most of the record of the brief prehistoric occupation of the site is lost within the plow zone, and that little information will be lost by planned highway activities. A final report will be forthcoming upon completion of analysis.

Duke Rivet

OTHER ACTIVITIES

Louisiana Archaeological Council. Recognizing the need for statewide cooperation and interaction among professional archaeologists, the Louisiana Archaeological Council was established to serve as an advisory body to the Louisiana Archaeological Survey and Antiquities Commission. As defined in the Commission's rules and regulations (see Louisiana Register, Sept. 1975, pp. 375-386), membership in the Council is open to all professional archaeologists located or working in Louisiana. It is hoped that the Council will contribute to a coordinated state archaeological program by providing a forum through which research results can be shared and survey and reporting techniques standardized.

The first meeting of the Louisiana Archaeological Council was convened in Baton Rouge on October 11, 1975. The thirty-five or more people who attended the first meeting represented virtually a complete roster of the state's professional archaeologists, as well as amateur groups in New Orleans and Lake Charles. Two main topics were considered: uniform site numbering procedures and contract archaeology.

On the first matter of concern, site numbering, it was agreed that a centralized office which could assign official state survey numbers would result in the most efficient system. Therefore, it was agreed that in the future ALL site numbers would be assigned by the State Archaeologist's office (Louisiana Archaeological Survey, Post Office Box 18880-A, Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70893 or telephone area code 504-389-6751). A survey data sheet must be submitted with a request for a site number to avoid duplication and to update the central state archaeological survey files.

A standards committee was established to begin to organize contract archaeology throughout the state. Contract archaeology consists of field assessments done by professional archaeologists to clear or suggest mitigation for various types of construction projects. The committee's primary assignment was to draft a set of survey standards and reporting procedures which will apply to all contract archaeology. The standards committee has met three times, in Alexandria and Baton Rouge, and it is hoped that a draft will be ready for the Commission later this spring. The draft then will be distributed to all professionals, LAS chapters, many government agencies, and appropriate representatives of the petrochemical industry for suggestions and comments. A revised version will be considered ultimately at a public hearing, and then formally adopted by the Louisiana Archaeological Survey and Antiquities Commission. The new survey standards will assure that a uniformly high level of field archaeology, analysis, and reporting is maintained in Louisiana.

Alan Toth

Louisiana Archaeological Survey and Antiquities Commission. Since September of 1975, the Commission has been in the process of revising the central state archaeological files. These files, compiled primarily from survey information,

form the data base for the Commission. The files must be kept as accurate and current as possible if the Commission is to serve adequately as the official advisory source on archaeology for state agencies and other organizations.

Toward this end, Commission staff members have been compiling survey information from various sources to produce a consolidated record. At times data from different sources conflict; then a field party must check the information in the field. Debbie Woodiel, staff archaeologist, and Suzi Fulgham, a part-time student employee, have been doing most of the field checking, but they have also relied on other individuals doing fieldwork who have provided much valuable information.

Because of impending dredging, the Tensas River was the first area chosen for intensive file revision and field checking. Louisiana State University, Gulf South Research Institute, Northeast Louisiana University, the Peabody Museum at Harvard University, members of the Northeast Louisiana Archaeological Society, and other members of the Louisiana Archaeological Society have been most helpful in providing us with necessary information.

Data consolidation is nearly complete for eleven parishes of Louisiana, but the necessary fieldwork has been accomplished more slowly. Testing of known sites is sometimes required as in the case of a site in northern East Carroll Parish which was tested in February because the mounds there were to be levelled for rice growing. Records for known sites in East Carroll, Madison, and Tensas Parishes should be complete this spring.

Debbie Woodiel

(EDITOR'S COMMENT: One wonders what the great Troyville site might look like today if such close cooperation between the Highways Department and a state archaeological agency had existed back in the days when fill was needed for the abutments of a bridge at Jonesville).

NOTICES AND OTHER NEWS

Indian Chief Dead. Joseph Alcide Pierite, Sr., last chief of the Tunica-Biloxi passed away at his home on the reservation at Marksville on March 16, 1976. Pierite had been chief for 22 years, until his son, Joseph, Jr. was elected tribal chairman in 1973. The elderly Pierite, age 75, was a retired farmer, fishing guide, and professional stick ball player. He was the last of the tribe to tan animal skins and some of his work is on display at the Smithsonian Institution and National Anthropological Archives. The president of the LAS, on behalf of the Society, would like to extend sympathy to family and friends of Chief Joe--he will be missed.

Chitimacha Plan Museum Exhibits. Tribal Chairman LeRoy Burgess and assistant, Larry Burgess are planning, with the assistance of Jon Gibson, a series of exhibits for their new tribal center museum. The thrust of the exhibits will be on the prehistory and early Chitimacha history of the Atchafalaya Basin and Bayou Teche. Featured will be displays of artifacts of each of the

represented culture periods. If you have some artifacts or other items you would be willing to loan for this exhibit, please write Gibson. Opening is slated for July.

Visit the Coushatta Crafts Center. The new Coushatta Crafts Center in downtown Elton has a volume of traditional crafts--pine needle and split cane baskets, pottery, beadwork, cane whistles, cypress knee drums, clay pipes, and other things at quite reasonable prices. Help the tribe and yourself by visiting the Center; it's open weekdays and Sunday afternoons.

Job Openings. The BLM Office in New Orleans has an opening for an underwater archaeologist at the GS11/12 level. Applicants should write: U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management, Office of the Assistant Director--Minerals Management, New Orleans Outer Continental Shelf Office, Division of Environmental Assessment, New Orleans, LA.

Brent Smith, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Louisville District, Environmental Resources Branch, P.O. Box 59, Louisville, Kentucky 40201, informs me that he is in a position to hire people on a temporary basis (700 hour appointments) or to refer qualified applicants to various contractors. Applicants should minimally have a B.A. in anthropology (or related (?) field) and 2 field seasons (6 months) of experience. Preference will be given to those with graduate training and supervisory experience. Write: Smith, 5602 Oxford Court, Apt. 717, Louisville, Kentucky 40219.

French Regime Symposium 1976: Mobile. The fourth in a series of symposiums on French colonization in the New World was hosted by the University of South Alabama under the direction of Dr. Reed Stowe. Dr. Jeffrey P. Brain of Harvard University was instrumental in organizing the symposiums and acted as moderator. Approximately 50 individuals from Canada to Florida were present for the program.

Papers covered a wide variety of topics from excavations in France of gunflint "factories" to a French fort in Castle Hill, Newfoundland. Topics of interest to Louisiana were surveys and excavations of Fort St. Peter near Vicksburg, Mississippi and the Grand Village at Natchez, Mississippi.

After the program, guided tours were conducted to Fort Conde and Dauphine Island, Alabama; and Fort Maurepas and La Pointe-Krebs House in Mississippi on the gulf coast.

Joe Frank

CHAPTER NEWS

Imperial Calcasieu Chapter and Southwest Louisiana Archaeological Society. The Southwest Louisiana Archaeological Society had their first meeting of the year 1976 on January 29th at Frash Hall, McNeese State University, with the newly elected officers for the coming year taking office. Officers for 1976 are: President, Ralph Darnell; Vice-president, Roland Bodin; Treasurer, R. L. Coleman; and Secretary, Lou Harris.

Lou Harris, LAS representative, gave a report on the state meeting held in Monroe the weekend before. The Imperial Calcasieu Chapter had 12 members who attended the two-day meet, which is a really good turnout considering the distance. And, of course, all who could not attend were really anxious to hear all about it.

It was learned at the monthly meeting that a member of our society and the LAS, Mrs. Flo Baumgardner, has passed away in December. On behalf of the local society and the LAS, we wrote a letter of condolence to the family of Mrs. Baumgardner. We will all miss her.

We had an interesting program in January by Dr. G. Harry Stopp of McNeese State University. Dr. Stopp showed slides and gave a talk on his trip to the Yucatan Peninsula in December.

New LAS President, Dr. Jon Gibson, spoke to the society in February on the Mermentau River survey under contract from the Army Corps of Engineers. Dr. Gibson said that the over 40 sites recorded for the survey area suggest a unique situation in that all but one site yielded evidence of a different cultural focus from that of the surrounding region. Members of the society who have done work on Lacassine Bayou said that many sites there yield identical cultural evidence to that described by Dr. Gibson on the Mermentau.

An interesting project is currently underway by the Bicentennial Committee of Jeff Davis Parish. The committee is sponsoring a four-part series on the history of that parish to be published in the Jennings newspaper. Jack Bonnin, a member of the committee and past treasurer of the LAS, is helping with this project. The first part of the series, entitled "In the Beginning", was written by Jack and was published in February. It told the story of the geological formation and history of the parish. Jack is now working on the second part of the series which will be called "The Advent of Man". This part will deal with the first appearance of prehistoric man in the area on up to European contact and colonization. The third and fourth part will tell how French, Spanish and American colonization affected and influenced the parish and then the development of natural resources.

Lou Harris
LAS Representative

East Central Louisiana Archaeological Society. On February 27, 1976, several interested parties met at Archie, Louisiana for the purpose of deciding the location of a levee on the south bank of Little River so as to avoid destruction of the Archie Mounds, nine miles west of Jonesville, Louisiana on Highway 84.

Those attending were as follows: St. Clair Thompson, Chief Environmental Branch; Sheila D. Lewis, Archaeologist, Environmental Branch; Louis Logue, Chief of Design, all from the Corps of Engineers, Vicksburg District, Vicksburg, Mississippi; Captain Ted M. Scott, Vidalia Area Office, Vicksburg District; Dottie Gibbons, Louisiana Art, Historical, and Cultural Preservation Agency; Robert S. Neitzel, Marksville and Louisiana Archaeological Survey and Antiquities Commission; Billie and Delson Chevalier, Deville, and Pat and Bill Baker, Jonesville, of the East Central Louisiana Archaeological Society.

A plan to route the levee southward to Louisiana Highway 84 and around the mound group was developed and approved by all those present.

A small surface collection of decorated potsherds, collected by Bill Baker and his son, Billy, last June from the small mound of this group, were examined. Stu Neitzel remarked they were representative of very late

Plaquemine, later than any he had ever observed from this area. He offered the suggestion that they could have been in use as late as 1542-43. These dates, of course, will be readily recognized by the Desoto buffs and set the wheels of imagination turning among the group.

This meeting was the result of many hours of time spent in telephone calls, letters and meetings by members of the East Central group and members of the LAS over a period of months. The Corps of Engineers, while cooperative and willing, are new in this particular field. Sheila Lewis is one of the first professional archaeologists the Vicksburg District has ever had on their staff. Sheila took her position with them last October and needless to say, has quite a backlog of work. Had Sheila been on the Corps staff earlier in the year this emergency meeting would not have been necessary. The Corps had notification last June of the existence of the three mounds. Somewhere along the way the ball was dropped and the final construction plans were drawn to protect one mound.

Sheila was sent to investigate the written request of the East Central Archaeological Society for the Corps plans for this area and discovered the error. The Corps moved quickly, in a weeks time, and a new set of plans were drawn up. The levee was rerouted thereby avoiding a tragic loss to Louisiana archaeology.

This latest effort, I believe, has done much to establish a procedure whereby agencies such as the Corps and local Levee Boards will be more thorough in investigations of areas under consideration for construction. Well done East Central.

Delta Chapter News. In the last newsletter credit should have been to Bob Zirkle for much of the work done in trying to locate the site of Germantown. Bob is a geologist with Chevron Oil Company and was responsible for obtaining stereo optical interpretations of aerial photos of the Germantown area.

Delta Chapter has instituted a series of programs which will provide a good background of information for amateurs working in southeastern Louisiana. This series is the brainchild of Charles Collins, our program chairman, and will extend over the next year or two. The first of these programs was presented by Woody Gagliano at our February meeting and concerned the geomorphology of the area. A second program, presented at the March meeting by Bob Lozano, concerned ceramic analysis. Planned future programs include the ecology of prehistoric southeastern Louisiana and the Tchefuncte culture.

Delta Chapter's dig of 16JE60, Ile Bonne, started on March 27, 1976. A 3-meter by 3-meter grid was laid out on each mound. Excavation was started on larger, higher mound. The location of the grid was selected to extend insofar as possible across the shoulder of the mound, cutting the deepest level plus shallower levels.

The 1977 meeting has been scheduled for the Howard Johnson's Airport West, on Veterans Highway near the Interstate, on January 14-15-16.

NEW PUBLICATIONS OF INTEREST TO LOUISIANA ARCHAEOLOGISTS

Off-the-Press.

Greene, Glen A., E. R. Williams, L. Heartfield, M. Hillman, and J. R. Humble
1975 The Search for Fort Miro: A Spanish Fort in the Ouachita Valley.

Northeast Louisiana Archaeological Society, Popular Series 1.

(order from Northeast Louisiana Archaeological Society, P.O. Box 122,
Monroe, Louisiana 71201, price, \$2.50).

Tregle, Joseph G., Jr.

1975 The History of Louisiana, Translated from the French of M. Le Page
du Pratz. Louisiana Bicentennial Reprint Series, Louisiana
State University Press, Baton Rouge (a facsimile reproduction
of the 1774 edition with foreword, editor's note, introduction,
and index added, price ?).

Gibson, Jon L.

1976 Archaeological Survey of the Mermentau River and Bayous Nezpique
and Des Cannes, Southwest Louisiana. University of Southwestern
Louisiana, Center for Archaeological Studies, Report 1. (Order
from Department of Publications, Drawer 4-1009, USL Station,
Lafayette, LA 70504, price, \$3.75, make checks payable to
USL Center for Archaeological Studies).

Broyles, Bettye J. and C. H. Webb

1970 The Poverty Point Culture. Southeastern Archaeological Conference,
Bulletin 12 (After 6 long years in press, this major contribution
has finally appeared, featuring articles on settlement patterns,
intrasite variability, Terral Lewis site, Cedarland-Claiborne,
Catahoula phase, edible flora, thermoluminescent dating and
radiocarbon dating; authors include C. H. Webb, H. F. Gregory,
L. C. Davis, D. G. Hunter, S. M. Gagliano, J. L. Gibson, and
J. C. Weber; order your copy now from Ted Guthe, Department of
Anthropology, University of Tennessee, Knoxville, Tennessee.
No price given.)

Speck, Frank G.

1976 The Houma Indians in 1940. American Indian Journal 2 (1):4-15.
(An abridged version of an earlier article in America Indigena,
with an Introduction to Frank G. Speck, by H. F. Gregory, pp. 3)
(Order from Editor, Institute for the Development of Indian Law,
927 15th St., N.W., Suite 200, Washington, D.C. 20005, no price
given).

In Preparation.

Brent Smith informs me that he is still accepting articles for inclusion
in Contributions to Southeast Texas Area Prehistory, Houston Archeological
Society, Special Publication. He is especially interested in reports on

southwest Louisiana. Deadline for first drafts is June 1. Send articles to: Brent Smith, 5602 Oxford Court, Apt. 717, Louisville, Kentucky 40291.

Clarence Webb's Poverty Point Site and Culture has gone to press. It will appear in the Geoscience and Man Series (LSU) and hopefully will appear by summer.

Fred Kniffen, whose article on Louisiana's Historic Indians is the lead article in the next LAS bulletin, is in the throes of finishing a major book on Louisiana Indians. It will be published by LSU.

Pending official release by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New Orleans District, an archaeological survey report on Bayou Teche, Vermilion River, and Freshwater Bayou, by Jon Gibson, will appear in the USL Center for Archaeological Studies Series. Release date is uncertain, but will hopefully be late summer or early fall.

The Louisiana Archaeological Society
c/o W. S. (Bill) Baker
P.O. Box 637
Jonesville, Louisiana 71343

1976 Dues are now payable

- \$10.00 Regular Membership
- \$ 2.00 Associate Membership
- \$300.00 Sustaining Membership
- \$100.00 Life Membership
- \$ 10.00 Libraries and Institutional

(Indicate number and category(-ies) of membership(s) desired).

PLEASE PRINT

NAME _____

STREET _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP CODE _____

NAMES OF ASSOCIATES _____

(Please make checks payable to the Louisiana Archaeological Society)

ORDER 1974 BULLETIN:

- Check here if you would like the 1974 Bulletin; enclose an additional \$10.00.

