

## NEWSLETTER

# LOUISIANA ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

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### A NOTE FROM THE NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Well, summer is here and by the time most of you receive this the Fourth Annual LAS Summer Field School will be but a recent memory. This is a short issue for several reasons, not the least of which is that I have been busy getting ready to write, finally, the site report for the Oak Island project. Other reasons for brevity are the lack of any Executive Committee minutes and financial reports. The recently scheduled meeting of the committee was rained out. It seems to have been a quiet spring for most of the chapters but a few of you managed to drop me a note about your activities.

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The NEWSLETTER OF THE LOUISIANA ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY is published quarterly for the Society by the Archeological and Cultural Research Program of the University of New Orleans. Send all notes, news and other communications to: J. Richard Shenkel, LAS Assistant Editor, Dept. of Anthropology and Geography, University of New Orleans, New Orleans, LA 70122. Unless otherwise indicated, opinions stated herein are those of the Editor and do not necessarily reflect Society policy.

Within this issue are two important missives from the Bulletin Editor. They should be examined carefully! This is the last Newsletter for those who have not paid their 1980 dues!

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A SOBER NOTE ON INFLATION FROM THE BULLETIN EDITOR

The Louisiana Archaeological Society is not immune to the spiral of inflation. The lion's share of membership dues goes for publication expenditures. At the current rate of inflation, becoming current with our publications will not be without its price, literally and figuratively. The estimated cost for Bulletin 5 (1980 for 1978) is \$2100; for Bulletin 6 (1980 for 1979), which is actually a smaller issue, is \$2800, an increase within a time of less than a year of 33 percent. If this rate continues unabated, we can project that publication costs to be encountered during 1981 (if two bulletins are printed) will bring us very close, if not over, our existent worth and projected income.

This stark realization brings us to the unenviable position of having to plan for possible alternative courses of action, some of which may not be to our liking. Of course, the best possible thing would be for inflation to be brought under control, but in view of this unlikelihood, the editor proposes that thought be given to several of the options outlined below, or to other alternatives.

1. Increase Capital. This could be best accomplished by increasing our membership. It could also be accomplished by soliciting gifts and donations and by augmenting our contributing members list. Another quite undesirable solution would be to increase membership dues.

2. Change Bulletin Format. Typesetting, printing, and materials costs are simply sky-rocketing. We could consider changing the bulletin format to a typewriter-produced offprint which would be less expensive.

3. Reduce Bulletin Size and/or Period of Issue. We could go (with a type-set format) to smaller bulletins (say 75 pages or less) and/or make the date of issue every two years instead of one. The former alternative would produce some slight savings, the latter quite a bit, and a combination of both, even more.

Inflation is a problem which the entire membership must face and face soon. It is going to have to be dealt with and the sooner we come up with means of dealing with it, the better off we will be. I am sure that the membership shares the bulletin editor's desire to maintain the quality and excellence of the Society's publication. Somehow, we must continue to put out the kind of bulletins that have drawn praise far and wide and which, I think, is a source of pride for each and every one of us. Please give considered thought to this problem and to the suggested ameliorative proposals. Let your chapter representative hear from you and write executive committee members. With concerted effort, I'm sure we can prevail in this time of financial stress.

## BULLETIN PROGRESS

Louisiana Archaeology (No. 4, 1979 for 1977) should now be in the hands of all 1977 members. If you were a 1977 member and have not received your bulletin, please contact Bill Baker, LAS Treasurer (Box 637, Jonesville, La. 71343), who maintains the surplus issues. Also, if you received two bulletins, please return one to Mr. Baker.

Bulletin 5 (1980 for 1979) is in page mock-up stage, a production phrase which follows galley proof correction and precedes printing. Bulletin 7 (for 1980) is almost ready for type-setting. It will include articles, reviews and comments by R. Futch, L. Patterson, D. Davis and M. Giardino, T. Pertulla, H. Gregory, and C. Webb. Bulletins 8 (for 1981) and 9 (for 1982) are in the planning stages and may be given to special topics (if response allows); No. 8 to the Troyville-Baytown issue, and No. 9 to the Ouachita River Valley.

The time of appearance of Bulletins 5 and 6 is hard to predict, but should not be lengthy (i.e., within the current year). Both are in the hands of the printer and are no longer under editorial control. The wait should be worthwhile; please don't despair.

Our continued goal is to become current with the bulletins (i.e., issued at the end of the bearing their date). I believe that 1981 will see this goal realized, due to the heightened level of manuscript submission. Thanks authors, past and prospective.

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## REPORTS

RESUME OF THE SHARP-GEHEGAN COLLECTION OF ARTIFACTS FROM BAYOU  
JASEMINE, TANGIPAHOA PARISH, LOUISIANA....Darrell A. Posey

The archaeological excavations of the Bayou Jasmine site in southeastern Louisiana by Mr. Robert W. Neuman and his associates at Louisiana State University have brought important new perspectives to our understanding of early man in North America. The extensiveness of the site, combined with the extraordinary state of preservation of organic materials, provide excellent data on the seasonal activities of the early hunting and gathering people who occupied the Pontchartrain Basin nearly 3,500 years ago (Duhe 1976).

When the Brown and Root Marine Engineering Company cut through the rangia shell midden in 1974, not just Louisiana State University was interested in the artifacts being exposed in the backfill. Various local amateur archaeologists converged to collect a myriad of artifacts from the incredibly rich array of materials exposed during the construction of Interstate 55.

Mr. James Gehegan of Ponchatoula, Louisiana, an avid collector for many years, accumulated an extensive collection of materials from the spoil bank. In June, 1979, this collection was acquired by Mr. Wiley H. Sharp, Jr., a devotee of anthropology and local history. Mr. Sharp, President of Cutting

Pike Investment Corporation and acting for that Corporation, sought to keep the collection in the area and offer it for public view. Part of the collection is to be housed in the Ponchatoula Museum, while the remaining will be displayed at the Carter Plantation, which is the office of Cutting-Pike in Springfield, Louisiana.

I was contacted by Thomas Simpson Sharp, in behalf of Wiley H. Sharp, Jr., in July, 1979, to catalogue the collection. My expertise in anthropology is not archaeological; however, I consented to handle the collection since qualified professional archaeologists were not immediately available, and the collection had to be moved with urgency from the Gehegan home.

My involvement with the collection included (1) sorting the materials, (2) moving them to safe storage, (3) numbering and cataloguing the various artifacts, (4) recording information available from Mr. Gehegan concerning the circumstances under which specific items were collected, (5) alerting nearby professional archaeologists (Robert Neuman, Jon Gibson, W. G. Haag) about the collection, and (6) publishing this brief description of the now-called "Sharp-Gehegan Collection".

The Bayou Jasmine site has been described by various authors (E.G., Dugy 1976 a, b; Gagliano and Saucier 1963; Gagliano 1963; Saucier 1963). The site rests on a 4,000 year old natural levee of the Mississippi River Delta (Gagliano and Saucier 1963). The archaeological remains show a wide range of animal bones, and reflects a seasonal occupation oriented towards hunting and gathering (Duhe 1976). Of the total Sharp-Gehegan collection, which exceeds 1,000 pieces, the bulk is of animal and organic remains, with an abundance of Poverty Point "cooking balls", potsherds, and flint artifacts. No attempt has been made to identify or classify these materials. Only a cursory description to indicate the range of the collection will follow.

Plant remains: (1) various seeds, along with numerous fragments of thorns and branches are preserved; (2) a large quantity of petrified wood; (3) a wooden hand axe and several wooden tools; (4) charcoal; (5) wooden sticks showing evidence of being used for pounding; (6) various plant fibers and plaited strands of fibers.

Animal remains: (1) an excellent variety of bone fishhooks, awls, and perforators; (2) bone knives and scrapers; (3) antler tools; (4) a large alligator skull; (5) a deer skull; (6) harpoon points and parts; (7) bone beads; (8) various teeth; (9) worked fish vertebrates; (10) bone whistle (fragmentary).

Shell: (1) drilled oyster shells; (2) drilled and worked mussel shells; (3) conch shell (fragmentary); (4) scrapers; (5) containers showing red ochre stain.

Pottery: (1) various styles reflected in sherds, with some vessels reconstructable; (2) various types of Poverty Point "cooking objects".

Flint: there are over 200 flint points, many in perfect condition, including a variety of birds and small mammal points, plus awls, drills and perforators. Larger points and blades are also represented, including

one point that deserves scrutiny because of its resemblance to very early paleo-Indian points.

Unusual items: (1) pieces of pumice (No. 73)\*; (2) a small bowl containing red ochre (No. W107); (3) a large deer antler handle with flint scraper point, found intact (No. W417); (4) a carved pipe and pipe stem fragment (Nos. W414, W415); (5) a tooled sting ray "spine" (No. W169); (6) gaming stones (Nos. W346, W354, W389); (7) red jasper stones (NO. 346); (8) polished and carved stone discs (No. W338); (9) quartz crystals (No.341); (10) turtle shell scraper (No. W199)

Two objects deserve special notice: (1) a wooden hatchet with a metal "blade" (total length is approximately half meter). The wooden handle is curved and properly weighted for throwing. The metal is not copper, but its exact composition is unknown (No. W422). (2) an embossed and decorated object of unknown substance. The object is thumb-shaped and sized, although the substance is undetermined. Geologists at the Field Museum in Chicago disagree over the composition of the object. Some say it is sandstone, but embossing is impossible on such a substance. The design is not aboriginal. The function of the object is also unknown. It is certainly an artifact that deserves scrutiny ( No. W416).

This resume is to show the range of items in the collection, and to suggest that scholars may find valuable information contained therein. All materials in the Sharp-Gehegan collection are available for inspection by serious students of archaeology, and study of the collection is encouraged. Post Office Box 1672, Hammond, Louisiana 70404.

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Note: Only the Bayou Jasmine portion of the Sharp-Gehegan collection is described here. There are over 3,000 additional artifacts also included in the collection acquired from ten other sites in Hammond, Louisiana area, plus some artifacts from other parts of North and Central America.

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\*The numbers refer to the catalogue numbers in the collection.

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UPDATE ON ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATIONS AT SHELLHILL PLANTATION, 16 SJ 2....  
Brian J. Duhe

I have just received the results of a series of carbon dates from the summer of 1979 excavations at the Shellhill Plantation site 16 SJ 2. These C-14 dates were taken from mound Test Pit - 1 which is located on the northwestern corner of the mound remnant. Financial assistance for the C-14 analysis was provided by Mr. Richard Beavers, Department of Anthropology and Geography, Archaeological Research Program, University of New Orleans.

During the 1979 Summer excavations I felt intuitively that I was excavating a Troyville - (Baytown) - Coles Creek occupation. However, the C-14 analysis did not support this assumption. C-14 analysis as presented by the University of Georgia is more supportive of a Coles Creek - Plaquemine ceramic continuum. Preliminary analysis of the ceramic assemblage from Shellhill Plantation support the hypothesis that most Plaquemine Period occupation at Shellhill Plantation.

These Plaquemine Period ceramics exhibit the same or nearly the same past characteristics as Coles Creek pottery. Baytown Plain var. unspecified was the most popular type found at the Shellhill Plantation site. However since this type includes not only sherds from undecorated vessels the percentage tends somewhat to over-emphasize the importance of plain wares of the Baytown period. The ceramic types Pontchartrain Check Stamp, French Fork Incised, Coles Creek Incised, Baytown Plain, Evansville Punctated and Mazique Incised were found in almost every level from earliest to latest. Thus Plaquemine seems to be a completely artificial segment taken from the cultural continuum of the region.

There is still much work to be done at Shellhill Plantation. During the past two years of field activities, I have been able to improve on some of the field techniques used by Archaeologists in Coastal Louisiana, but we have not as of yet provided much information concerning general prehistoric cultural processes in Coastal Louisiana. However, I have been successful in securing a botanist Dr. Lionel Eleuterius to analyze the floral remains recovered from the site and Diane Wiseman, Coastal Environments is doing some pollen analysis from the site. Hopefully, I will have a more detailed report to present at the Southeastern Conference in New Orleans and/or the L.A.S. annual meeting in Natchitoches.

UGa-3405	MU1, LE 40-50 cm	230 ± 60 B.P. AD 1720
UGa-3405	MU1, LQ 160-170 cm	730 ± 70 B.P.
UGa-3406	UU1, LT 190-200	1185 ± 60 B.P. AD 765

REPORT FROM THE 22nd CADDO CONFERENCE....Clarence H. Webb

The 22nd Caddo Conference was held in Texarkana, Arkansas-Texas, at the Texarkana Community College, March 27-29, 1980. It was well attended, with some 200 persons by my estimate. Except for imperfect control of the weather, the arrangements and hospitality were excellent - comfortable meeting room, adequate display for publications, good acoustics and projection system, hot coffee, crisp doughnuts or rolls, convenient restrooms for old folks and weak containers - what more could one ask? Good friends, that's what, and they were there.

The first day was given to a presentation of Arkansas Archaeology in Review, a symposium on the 13 years of the Arkansas Archaeological Survey, and a preview of their presentation at the SAA meeting. The 16 papers included (1) a group of introspective studies of methods and results of the survey, its background, relationship with the Department, the museum and the Archaeological Society, some of the difficulties encountered internally (largely overcome during the past 2-3 years), involvement with contract archaeology, etc.; (2) regional reviews and overviews; (3) research, including methodology in contract field studies, computer filing and retrieving, amassing and use of collections and photographs; (4) specific site reports in relation to public archaeology, as at Parkin and Toltec, and (5) local or regional studies of environment, settlement patterns and cultural delineation. I was especially interested, as I believe most students in Louisiana will be, in Morse's study of Dalton and Archaic cultures in northeastern Arkansas, the Toltec studies as a Coles Creek northern development, Jeter's ordering of southeastern Arkansas Mississippi Valley cultures which involve Plaquemine and Mississippian developments and possible Caddoan contacts, Early's Caddoan settlement patterns and their variations in the Ouachita valley, and Schambach's concept of Fourche Maline as covering the entire time and culture period from Archaic to Caddoan inception ( I cannot agree to the lumping into a single "culture" a period of more than 1000 years which parallels the developments in Louisiana which we know as Poverty Point, Tchefuncte, the several Marksville-Issaquena-Troyville phases, and Coles Creek). Frank and I will have some juicy arguments. The three discussants, James Brown, Steve Williams, and I, were complimentary of the Arkansas achievements, slightly wary of some aspects of its massivity and bureaucracy, congratulatory that perceived difficulties had been met, and hopeful of the future of Arkansas Archaeology; we are proud of our neighbors.

The first evening was open house at the hospitality suite but was largely given to personal and small party effusions. On the second evening, a cocktail party was given in honor of Robert E. Bell, who retires from his position at the University of Oklahoma. I was pleased as punch to have been asked to express the gratitude of the group to Dr. Bell, one of the

long-time leaders in Caddoan archaeology and a nationally known figure. I did so.

The second day saw an informal report on current archaeology in the four states, a panel on recent work in the Red River Valley, Spiro archaeology with keynote presentation by Steve Williams, and a further exposition of Fourche Maline culture by Don Wyckoff. Out of the presentation and discussions, several thoughts occur; I will mention these and relate them to the discussions, rather than going over the papers one by one. First, the Noble Savage idea hangs on and is occasionally shaken by findings: Wyckoff and Baugh described a mass burial of women and 2 children, with well made Boone chart Gary points embedded in the skeletal remains and loose in the pit. Their conclusion: a massacre of resistant inhabitants to people trying to move in. This reminds me of the recent argument I had with a Caddo-ologist who objected to my calling the early Caddo retainer sacrifice burials cruel because, he thought, these were practices sanctioned by religion and were willingly accepted by the victims.

A comparison of Caddoan settlement patterns with Mississippian shows a great frequency of homesteads and small hamlets among both early and later Caddos. This was noted by Brown in northwestern Arkansas, by the Oklahoma researchers in the Arkansas River Valley and in the Jackfork Basin, by Early on the Ouachita and by Gregory and myself on the Red River and into the uplands of northwestern Louisiana. Civil and ceremonial centers are in the major valleys, large and separated in early Caddo, smaller and more frequent in the later period. Nowhere in the Caddoan area are compact or fortified centers present; dispersed upland homesteads and hamlets, frequent in all four states, differ from the Mississippian pattern. By the former Mississippian criteria of platform mound-plaza arrangement of sites, maize agriculture and shell tempered ceramics, or the recent criteria advanced by Bruce Smith of existence in the eastern deciduous woodlands during the period A.D. 800-1500 with a ranked form of social organization and a specific adaptation to linear, environmentally circumscribed floodplain habitat zones, neither Coles Creek, early Plaquemine nor early Caddoan cultures may automatically be called Mississippian.

Mississippian and Caddoan subsistence patterns were examined, especially with relation to maize production. Certain fallacies have appeared in the literature: that prehistoric agricultural societies depended largely or mostly on maize production, forgetting that most prehistoric societies throughout the southeast continued the Woodland tradition of gathering and hunting-fishing for a large amount of their sustenance; even in the compact Mississippian societies the harvesting of fish, waterfowl and game continued. Moreover, Brown reported at this meeting the presence in Caddoan levels of Ozark bluff shelters (he has finally, one hopes, laid to rest the idea of "Bluff Shelter Culture"), there were Iva and chenopodium seeds in addition to the agricultural tetralogy of maize, beans, squash and sunflower. A second fallacy is the estimation of maize production "across the board" through the southeast, quoting the dictum that it took one agricultural acre to feed each person, or that average yields were about 30 bushels of maize per acre. Some upland sandy soils produce 10 bushels or less per acre, while fertile river valley soils produce 75 to 100 bushels per acre in newly cleared fields, dropping to 30-40 bushels over a long period without fertilization. Moreover, 30 bushels of corn per acre equals 1650 pounds, or

There was plenty of regional archaeology: Western, Eastern, Plains and Midwestern, Southwest, New England, and Coming of Age in Arkansas; Old World, Meso-American, South American and Andean, Northern and Western Mexico, Arctic and Subarctic. There were local and cultural areas, like Fort Ancient, Mogollon, Abbott Farm, Dolores, Cuello, and - my favorite - Pulltrouser Swamp in Belize. Some titles that show the propensity of archaeologists for diversity and eye-catching works:

How Some Became More Equal Than Others

Historical Archaeology at a Union Pacific Railroad Station in the Red Desert  
Surface Collection as an Effective Field Method for Analysis of Skunk Hollow  
Rounding Off the Corners of Intensive Surface Sampling

Praise the Lord and Compare the Data

A Friend in Need is a Friend Indeed: Social Storage and Social Ranking Origins

Pennies for Denver (Evidence for a War Between Denver and New York City)

Cherry Blossoms, President's Plates and Chi Wari: Souvenir Collecting in

Washington, D.C. (poetic - try the cadence and note the rhyme)

Whatever Happened to the New Archaeology?

On the same panel: Investigations at the Gooseneck Site, and A Regional

Perspective of the Crawfish Valley

The Branch Concept: A Rose by Any Other Name

Politics and Environment in the Old, Old South (AppalachianMississippian)

Wasted Days and Wasted Nights? (Microwear Analysis)

The "Pot-Bellied" Sculptural Style

Energy and Archaeology - Boom or Bust?

How Green Was My Valley (Irrigation on the north coast of Peru)

(Not to neglect the local scene) Cultural Interpretation of Privy Fills in  
Three 19th Century Philadelphia Neighborhoods

I would not imply that levity prevailed. There were very serious and weighty discussions of Theory and Method, including locational models, regional exchange systems, spatial behavior, nearest neighbor analysis, settlement patterns, gateway communities and such. Public archaeology was approached from several directions; Historic Archaeology, cultural resource management, ethnoarchaeology, modern material culture, coastal adaptations, site protection in the private sector and a panel on the American Indian and Archaeology Today - with Indian contributors - were considered. Sections on lithics were not flaky but chipped away at analyses of behavioral inference, subsistence systems and resources. Jack Keller's panel cut a swath through site locational analyses in heavily wooded areas; Woody Gagliano's panel waded into cultural resource management on the outer continental shelf. Specialities like archaeomagnetism, zooarchaeology, soil analysis, plant phytolith analysis, and data bank management in archaeology all had their day.

A number of related learned societies met concurrently or had business sessions. These included the Society for Archaeological Sciences, the Coordinating Council of National Archaeological Societies, the Society for Historical Archaeology, the Southeastern Archaeological Conference, the American Society for Conservation Archaeology, the National Association of State Archaeologists, the Society of Professional Archaeologists, and the American Committee to Advance Study of Petroglyphs and Pictographs. The Annual Business Meeting of SAA signalled the change of Presidency from Fred Wendorf to Richard E.W. Adams, and the Editorship of ANTIQUITY from Jeremy Sabloff to Dena F. Dincauze. The Editor had previously announced that the next four issues of ANTIQUITY are filled and no new manuscripts will be accepted until Dincauze announces new instructions (for 1981), these will be published. SAA now has more than 50,000 members and is sol-

1852 kilos per hectare, which amounts to more than 7000 calories per day per acre-enough to feed several people (men, women and children) if the other known foods are added.

The final day added interesting discussions of basketry patterns appearing on Caddoan pottery, by an artist, Jim Stoker, descriptions of pottery manufacturing by Eloise Stoker, Kathleen Gilmore and Gretchen Niendorf, all of which were interesting. A paper by Perttula which postulated a rupture in Caddoan development, reeconomic reorganization which should be traced by archaeology. Preliminary results were given from the Felsenthal Project and a 14,000 square hectare upland tract surveyed prior to lignite production, in south central Arkansas. Physical anthropology was reported on skeletal material at the Bug Hill site in Oklahoma, and a study of dietary reconstruction from observations on tooth enamel wear among Fourche Maline and Caddoan populations showed more attrition among the Fourche Maline people but about equal frequency of surface abrasions.

Stu Neitzel discussed changing of occupational patterns from the early to the late phase at Natchez, the later being largely linear sites.

The conference concluded with a trip and barbeque at the Crenshaw site, but Mrs. Webb and I were weary and leery about the mud and mosquitos, so came home.

REPORT FROM THE 45th ANNUAL MEETING, SOCIETY FOR AMERICAN ARCHAEOLOGY....

Clarence H. Webb

The SAA Annual Meeting was held in Philadelphia, in the Sheraton Hotel, May 1-3. The attendance was large, the interest high, and the weather was superb. Those who, like I did, were late in making reservations were housed away from the Sheraton and had the opportunity of strolling through the Parkway area, abloom with tulips and other gorgeous flowers; the trees were green, the city streets comparatively clean and the people courteous. I was impressed with downtown Philadelphia and the city fathers appear to have done a good job of averting or correcting the blight that has hit so many of our large cities. I clocked about 8 miles of walking in the 2 1/2 days, which was good for my constitution (appropriate for Philadelphia) and disposition.

The meeting was well attended, with choices of 10-12 simultaneous sessions, plus the inecitable bull-and-bar conferences. Louisiana had a good contingent; I remember seeing Bill Haag, Lorraine Heartfield, Dennis Price, Sharon Goad, Bob Neuman, Kass Byrd (beaming and why not?), Bill Spencer, Jack Kellar and Steven Shelly (Forestry); if I miss anybody, please forgive - my memory might have been temporarily liquidated. Most of the above were on the program, in one or another capacity. Other Louisianians listed on the program, whom I didn't see, were Woody Gagliano, Prentice Thomas, Frederick Wiseman (Pollens, L.S.U.), and Harvey Bricker, Winifred Creamer and Euginia Robinson (Tulane MARI).

There was a large contingent from England - Southampton, Oxford, London, Sheffield, etc. - involved principally in 2 panel sessions on Socioeconomic Change in Ranked Societies. I attended one of these with interest and with the reminder that everybody - except you and me - has an accent.

Professional archaeologists and knowledgeable amateurs are invited as guest speakers. In the last two months Mr. Bill Spencer and Robert Neitzel have spoken on appropriate subjects.

Baton Rouge....Jo Crosby

The Baton Rouge Chapter took a hiking tour of the Port Hudson Battlefield and they are also involved in the excavation of the Peter Hill Site in Grosse Tete.

They meet on the last Wednesday of the month at the library of Goodwood Boulevard in Baton Rouge.

Central Louisiana Chapter....Rose Walker

The Central Louisiana Chapter had its birth at the LAS Annual meeting. After the Business meeting that Sunday a few interested persons met and worked out plans to get started. An organizational meeting was held February 15th at the Offices of Barron, Heinberg and Brocato Architects. In attendance were 21 interested persons of the local area with guest Bill Baker and Bill Spencer. The officers were elected and a By-laws committee formed for the writing of our By-laws and petitioning for a charter. Our meetings were set for the second Wednesday of every month.

The March meeting found us at the First Bank in Pineville. Professor Jerry Williams from Louisiana College was our guest speaker. He gave a slide presentation of some sites his classes had worked on in recent years in Grant and Rapides Parishes. Also at the meeting the By-laws were given to the members to read. We decided upon a 50/50 pot to be collected at each meeting in order to defray the cost of refreshment served at the meetings.

Moved again! The April meeting was held at the large meeting room of the Kees Park Civic Center in Pineville. This was to be our last move for it is to be our regular meeting place for the year. The By-laws were corrected and approved. We are now planning an emblem for our club. The program was a film from Shell Oil Co. entitled "This Land". The best part was the very last moment which gave us a promise of what we hope to see in the follow-up film later this year, "The First Americans".

Several of our members have brought some remarkable artifacts for us to examine. One remarkable piece was what we think to be an atlatl weight of highly polished red jasper stone in the shape of an animal. This interesting piece was found in Vernon Parish along with other artifacts such as a few clovis points.

May 14th will be our May meeting. Our guest speaker will be Brian Duhe. He will speak in general about Louisiana Archaeology and what amateurs can do to further their interest in archaeology and specifically about the bone-antler technology of coastal Louisiana.

vent, but some increase in dues is foreseen.

Well, what did I learn? That archaeology is a varied and complex science, with thousands of people involved in myriad aspects; that it has a responsible and difficult role to play in protecting and developing the prehistoric cultural heritage, competing with pseudoscience and exploiters for public attention and support; that it is going about this job, as well as contract archaeology, in an organized (even if not always concerted) manner; that the "New Archaeology" is mellowing and even Binford is "evolving his views significantly" (I heard him discuss one panel and was pleasantly surprised with his common sense approach); that pop corn was found in Meadowcroft Rockshelter (Pennsylvania) at 350 B.C. and cucurbits were in the Upper Ohio Valley by 1000 B.C. (gourd, squash); that Bob Neuman found 1000 persimmon seeds at Bayou Jasmine and that this was an important fall and winter fruit throughout the Eastern United States for 4000 years or more, but that the fruit may look ripe but will pucker your mouth if not mushy ripe (all of us farm boys know you don't eat them until after frost); that everything in the Lower Mississippi Valley after A.D. 1000 is not necessarily Mississippian culture, even though it is called the Mississippian time period; that I can still walk 4 miles in one day; and that it is beautiful to see old friends like John Cotter, Jimmy Griffin, Carlyle Smith, Bob Stephenson, Gordon Willey or Bill Haag and find that they are still perking. Go to the next meeting, in San Diego, and have a ball.

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#### CHAPTER NEWS

Imperial Calcasieu....Joe Frank

The southwest Louisiana Archaeological Society held its regular meetings on March 27 and April 24, 1980 in Frasch Hall Auditorium on the campus of McNeese State University.

The guest speakers in March were Ken and Linda Bayard who addressed the Society on archaeological photographic techniques in the field and in the laboratory.

At the April gathering, the guest speaker was Dr. Andrew Ranier, a local pathologist. His topic was the History and Mystery of the Shroud of Turin.

East Central Louisiana....Robert Prospere and Ron Hunt

The East Central Chapter was proud to host the annual L.A.S. meeting in Alexandria, in February, 1980. The meeting was well attended and we thank the membership for their support.

The East Central Chapter meets monthly on the first Tuesday, at the Catahoula Bank and Trust in Jonesville, Louisiana. This year the President is Dr. Robert Prospere. Meetings are well supported by attendance.

The Louisiana Archaeological Survey and Antiquities Commission met on June 3, 1980, in Baton Rouge. The new Secretary for the Department of Culture, Recreation, and Tourism, Mrs. Lawrence H. Fox, was introduced to the commission members. The State Cultural Resources Landmark Program is being implemented, and the commission was asked for comments. Both the professional and avocational archaeological communities will be contacted in the near future about the landmarks program. The Mimbres Foundation Archaeological Conservancy was also discussed, and the commission was requested to suggest important sites that the Conservancy might be interested in. The commission passed a motion to send a communication to Mrs. Fox expressing its concern over the removal, from the Department of Culture, Recreation and Tourism, of matters dealing with cultural resources as demonstrated in House Bill #1432 and Senate Bill #320. The applications for archaeological investigations at Poverty Point by the Office of State Parks and at a highway construction site in Rapides Parish by Mr. Charles Affeltranger, an L.A.S. Alexandria chapter member, were approved. The commission went on record urging Mrs. Fox to take all Departmental steps possible to make sure that the proposed State Surface Mining Plan includes provisions for the identification and protection of cultural resources. Mr. Brian Duhe invited Commission members to visit the LAS field school.

Submitted by Joan K. Koch

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

## NEW ANTHROPOLOGY PROGRAM IN THE STATE

The Louisiana Board of Regents approved at their May meeting, an anthropology major at the University of Southwestern Louisiana. The program will be in effect beginning with the fall of 1980 and will lead to the B.A. degree in anthropology.

Support for this program came from many sectors within the university, the community, and the state. I would like to single out several groups and individuals whose positive responses to the proposed major were instrumental in achieving this long-sought goal.

The Lafayette Chapter of the Louisiana Archaeological Society led the push in the Lafayette area. Petition-like documents were circulated among the Chapter members and various businesses. The support was overwhelming and the letter from the Lafayette Chapter favoring the program was an important key. Thanks, Bub (alias Charles Harper) for marshalling this support.

The Louisiana Archaeological Society is also on record in support of the program. Its letter of favorable recommendation was the primary factor in demonstrating support throughout the state. Thanks, Brian (Duhe) for pulling together and formalizing this influential support.

To these university-based anthropologists, selected to review the program, go grateful thanks for positive and constructive responses which furnished the springboard for eventual approval.

Thanks one and all. This uniform pledge of support was extremely heartening. It also is a mandate for performance and excellence. With the program now a reality, the USL faculty are excited with the prospects of discharging their responsibilities to educating our young anthropologists.

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## L.S.U. SUMMER ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD SCHOOL

L.S.U. will conduct a field school at Poverty Point from June 10-August 6. Work days will be Wed.-Sun., 6:00 A.M. to 2:00 P.M. Planned are excavations on the northern ridges to obtain data on subsistence and habitation.

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## SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

"THE CHICKASAWS OF TUPELO, MISSISSIPPI"

Saturday, August 2, 1980

Grand Village of the Natchez Indians

Natchez, Mississippi

Mr. Steve Cook and Mr. Julian Riley will exhibit their collections of glass beads, silver artifacts, and other trade goods in the museum. The artifacts are trade materials dating from approximately 1690-1840 A.D., and include items following contact with England, Spain, and the U.S. There are 250 different types of glass beads and additionally one of the largest collections of trade silver (arm bands, gorgets, crosses, etc.) ever found on a single occupation site.

The meeting will begin at 10:00 A.M., Saturday, break for lunch, and resume from 1:00-3:00 P.M. The East Central Chapter of L.A.S. will be sponsoring the presentation and invites interested persons to attend. To know how many people to expect, we request that you complete the form below and mail by July 20, 1980.

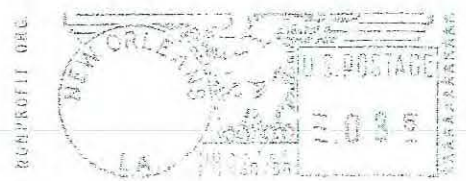
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To: Dr. Robert Prospere  
704 Orleans Street  
Apartment 2  
Natchez, Mississippi 39120

I plan to attend and bring \_\_\_\_\_ guests

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

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