

Louisiana Archaeological Society

NEWSLETTER OF THE LOUISIANA ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

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THE YEAR IN RETROSPECT

Jon L. Gibson

IAS Vice-President

It has been almost a year since the Society was organized in May of 1974. Since that historic date, many important advances have been made in Louisiana archaeology--both in enabling legislation and in data recovery. This period will surely be marked as one of the most significant ever in Louisiana archaeology, ranking along side the Golden Age of Louisiana Archaeology---the WPA era (cf. Jon L. Gibson, "The Current Status of Louisiana Archaeology", Field Notes, No. 124, 1975).

State and federal legislation was adopted which has improved previous conditions and which hopefully will provide a sound foundation for archaeology. The Louisiana Archaeological Survey and Antiquities was formed. A state archaeologist was named, and an assistant state archaeologist has been hired. Five of the state's universities now have archaeologists who are actively engaged in research and fieldwork.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the Soil Conservation Service, and other agencies have responded admirably to new directives for supporting archaeological research, and contract archaeology is now being conducted at an ever increasing pace.

And ranking as perhaps the most significant happening has been the creation of the Society. Really for the first time in the state, an enduring organization of people interested in Louisiana archaeology has been formed. Communication

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 Sociology-Anthropology, Lafayette, LA 70501. Unless otherwise indicated, opinions stated herein are those of the editor or other contributors and do not necessarily reflect Society policy.

among all archaeologists has been enhanced, and the Society will no doubt become the major agency for spreading public awareness of our state's archaeological resources.

The Society has a great obligation. As several USL administrators remarked at the Society's first annual meeting--the general public must be educated. That is our mandate! The Society should strive to make 1975 and all ensuing years as significant as the first year of our existence.

EDITOR'S PREFACE

USL Fire: A costly fire at USL's print shop will cause a delay in the scheduled April release date of the Society bulletin, Louisiana Archaeology. The building was badly damaged and most of the printing and collating equipment was lost. It will be several months before the print shop will be functioning normally.

If there is anything fortunate about this misfortune, it is that the bulletin manuscripts and cover were not destroyed--only smoke discolored. It really emphasizes the necessity for contributors to submit two copies of their manuscripts, so that we will not have to start over from scratch as a result of such incidents. The editor is seeking bids from local printers and we hope to have the bulletin out in a couple of months.

The Second Bulletin: The editor is now accepting manuscripts for the 1975 bulletin, which will hopefully be printed before the year's end. This will get us on schedule. It will require cooperation on the part of prospective authors. Please observe the September 1 deadline for manuscript submission. A further word to authors--please follow the guidelines for manuscript preparation, format, and submission published in the first LAS newsletter. For details of style, consult a current issue of American Antiquity. This will save the editor from having to retype the papers which are sent in.

Are You Receiving Society Publications and Announcements: A common complaint reaching this office is that some members have not been receiving Society newsletters and correspondence. If a member knows of someone who is not receiving these items, drop the editor a note and we will try to rectify the situation. Also keep us posted on changes of address. We cannot afford to replace newsletters which you do not receive as we print only a few extras for prospective member enticement.

Membership Campaign: The Society needs new members. The editor will propose to the executive committee that we offer each member who brings in at least five new members during the course of a year an award--probably an archaeology book. Chapter representatives, presidents, and all members who are genuinely interested in seeing the Society grow, in making more people aware of archaeology, and in upgrading the practice of archaeology in Louisiana should earnestly solicit new memberships.

Unrenewed Memberships: In accordance with Society by-laws, all 1974 members who have not paid 1975 dues will be stricken from membership rolls. This will be the last newsletter you will receive until dues are received--So send those dues (\$10.00) to:

Jack C. Bonnin
LAS Treasurer
P.O. Box 605
Welsh, LA 70591

A membership form is appended to this newsletter for your use.

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE LOUISIANA ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY
(modified abridgment of minutes of meeting compiled by Joe Frank)

The first annual meeting of the LAS was held March 1, 1975 in the browsing library of the USL Student Union, Lafayette, Louisiana. Seventy-nine people registered at the meeting and the total number of attendants came to over 100 for the all-day session.

The group was officially welcomed by University officials; Dr. Jack Testerman, vice-president of university relations, Dr. James Oliver, vice-president of administrative affairs, and Dr. Henry Pitchford, head of the department of Sociology and Anthropology. Testerman spoke on the importance of the Society in stemming the destruction of archaeological resources by educating the public. Oliver elaborated on the role of the Society in public relations and education and pledged the support of the university for present and future endeavors of the Society. Pitchford welcomed the Society on behalf of the Department of Sociology-Anthropology, the official host of the meeting.

The early morning session consisted of contributed papers. It was chaired by Dr. Hiram (Pete) Gregory of Northwestern University. Papers included "The Young's Bayou Site, Natchitoches Parish" by Brent Smith (Houston); "The Fatherland Site, Mississippi" by Robert (Stu) Neitzel (Marksville); "Amite River Survey" by Richard Weinstein (Coastal Environments Inc., Baton Rouge); and "West Atchafalaya Survey" by Robert Murry (LSU).

This was followed by a symposium on the Paleo-Indian period in Louisiana, which was moderated by Dr. Sherwood (Woody) Gagliano (Coastal Environments Inc., Baton Rouge). Participants included: Dr. Clarence Webb (Shreveport), who spoke on "Paleo-Indian sites from extreme northwest Louisiana"; Dr. Hiram Gregory and Walter Pine (NSU, Natchitoches), who described Paleo-Indian materials from West-Central Louisiana; Mr. Wallace Stroud (Elton), "Paleo-Indian Sites from Allen Parish"; Dr. Jon Gibson (USL, Lafayette), "Vatican: A Late Paleo-Indian Site from St. Landry Parish", and Dr. Sherwood Gagliano, "Paleo-Indians in the Mississippi Delta."

Following lunch, the annual business meeting was held. It was presided over by Dr. Clarence Webb. Reports were given by Society officers: Joe Frank, recording secretary, on minutes of previous meetings; Jack Bonnin, treasurer, on financial status of Society; and Dr. Jon Gibson, Vice-president and editor, on publications. Dr. Webb led discussion on the required AOI and by-law changes necessary to meet the objections of the IRS to our efforts to become a non-profit-making organization. The package of changes, published in the newsletter, were modified and adopted by the group, following a motion for approval by Mr. Harmon Drew (Minden) and second by Mr. Harry Mathews (New Orleans). Mr. Drew will assist in further efforts to gain non-profit status.

Dr. William (Bill) Haag (State Archaeologist, LSU) was called on to discuss the recently adopted antiquities legislation and the composition and function of the State Archaeological Survey and Antiquities Commission. Dr. Haag reported on the provisions of the law (given in previous newsletter). He also acknowledged the role of Mr. Drew in pushing the bill through the legislature. Because of delays in getting the survey and commission established, the original appropriation of \$50,000.00 was pro-rated on a monthly basis leaving a balance to work with of only about \$26,000.00 for the remainder of the fiscal year. Ex-officio members of the commission includes Dr. Haag,

state archaeologist; Mr. David Garrison, director of the Office of Indian Affairs; Jay Broussard, director of the state department of historical and cultural preservation; and Ms. Ellen Moore, Registrar of State Lands. At-large members, appointed by Governor Edwards, included Mrs. Harmon Drew, Mrs. Lanier Simmons, Mr. Robert Neitzel, Dr. Clarence Webb, and Dr. Jon Gibson, who were all present at the meeting. Others, not present, were Mrs. James Brown and Mr. Fred Benton.

Other business items discussed were the most desirable dates for having next year's meeting (It was decided that January would be a more appropriate time) and the length of meeting (1 or 2 days). The group expressed a desire to have the executive committee settle these issues as well as fix the next meeting site. Dr. Webb adjourned the business meeting.

The business meeting was followed by a symposium on the Tchefuncte Culture. Dr. J. Richard (Rick) Shenkel (UNO, New Orleans) served as moderator. Contributors included Dr. Haag (LSU), "Historical Background of Tchefuncte Culture"; Mr. Robert Neuman (LSU), "Excavations at Weeks Island"; Dr. C. H. Webb (Shreveport), "The Resch Site, East Texas"; Mr. Duke Rivet (LHD, Baton Rouge), "Tchefuncte Pottery Types"; Dr. Rick Shenkel and George Holly (UNO), "Big Oak and Little Oak Islands" and Dr. Jon Gibson (USL), "Evolution of Tchefuncte Culture".

After the Tchefuncte symposium, Stu Neitzel continued with his discussion of "Excavations at the Fatherland Site".

Dr. Webb instructed Joe Frank to write a letter of thanks to USL and to Jon Gibson for hosting the meeting and coordinating an outstanding program. The meeting was adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

LAS PERSONALITIES

This new section of the newsletter will feature brief biographies of people who have made significant contributions to Louisiana archaeology and to the Louisiana Archaeological Society. There will be no particular order to the presentations; the appearance of one biography before another does not necessarily mean that one person's contributions are superior to another's. Neither is this section designed to bring embarrassment to anyone, but if a person has made important contributions to Louisiana archaeology he will eventually be included. The editor feels that this is one of the best ways to acquaint the membership with their fellows who have given much to the advancement of archaeology in our state. What better person to start this section than with the first president of the new Louisiana Archaeological Society, Dr. Clarence H. Webb.

Clarence H. Webb
President of the Louisiana Archaeological Society
Jon L. Gibson
University of Southwestern Louisiana

Forty-one years ago, archaeology captured the interest of a young pediatrician while with his son on a Boy Scout camping trip to the Cossatot River in Arkansas. For Clarence Hungerford Webb, this was the beginning of a rich and gratifying avocation. For archaeology, this marked the beginning of a new period of enlightenment.

Clarence Webb was born August 25, 1902 in Shreveport, one of five children born to Frederick Fletcher Webb and Annie Lou Hungerford Webb. He spent most of his childhood at Gravel Point and Frierson in DeSoto Parish and at Ravenswood Plantation, Lucas, and Shreveport in Caddo Parish. He graduated from Shreveport High School in 1919, after having completed 12 grades in 9½ years. After high school, he entered Tulane University and received a B.S. degree in 1923 and his M.D. in 1925. In 1931, Webb was awarded his M.S. in pediatrics from the University of Chicago. And more recently in 1960, Centenary College honored Webb by presenting him with an honorary L.L.D. degree.

Webb's medical record, achievements, and awards rank as exemplary among members of the pediatrics profession. He has served on the medical faculties of four universities, on the staffs of six hospitals, and is a co-founder of the Children's Clinic in Shreveport. Additionally, he is a member of and/or has held office in eleven medical societies. He is a past-president of the American Academy of Pediatrics. Webb has received numerous honors and awards; most recently, the LSU-S School of Medicine established a "Dr. Clarence H. Webb Award for Outstanding Clinical Instructor". Webb is listed in "Who's Who in America" (1970) and in "Who's Who in the South and Southwest". His medical bibliography includes over 50 articles in major journals.

In addition to his professional medical career, Webb has devoted much time and energy to civic work and community service. He has served on many religious, health and social welfare, and service committees and organizations. Most prominently, these include the First Baptist Church, Rotary Club (past-president, district governor, and delegate to international conventions), Chamber of Commerce, Better Business Bureau, Child Guidance Center, Caddo Council of Social Agencies, Caddo Health Council, Children's Service Bureau, American Cancer Society, and Norwela Council--Boy Scouts of America. Webb has at one time or another, been the director, president, or founder of nearly all of these groups and has been honored for his civic contributions by innumerable awards and other commendations.

A record of service and accomplishments comparable to Webb's in any one of these areas--medicine or public service--would be quite remarkable. Webb has not only managed to contribute notably to both but has made an enduring impact in another field as well. That field is archaeology.

Webb entered archaeology during what might be called the "Golden Era of Louisiana Archaeology". The middle and late 1930's were witnessing a burst of archaeological activities, beginning with James A. Ford's National Research Council-sponsored work in the Mississippi alluvial valley and culminating in the WPA archaeological program. Those days were exciting and eventful. The core of men, whose names are indelibly underscored in the history of Louisiana archaeology, had been assembled by Ford in an all out effort to give structure and organization to Louisiana's prehistory, which at the time was amorphous and atemporal. Some of those men, who today form the nucleus of America's most respected archaeological community, included Gordon Willey, George Quimby, Robert Neitzel, William Mulloy, Edwin Doran, and others. Webb visited and corresponded with most of these individuals and observed or participated in WPA excavations being conducted at Marksville and Greenhouse in Avoyelles Parish.

All of this involvement was a result of his growing interest in archaeology which was constantly stimulated by his close association with Edward Neild and

Monroe Dodd. In 1934, Webb visited with Neild, inspected his remarkable collections from northwest Louisiana, Catahoula Lake, and Poverty Point. He read several of Ford's reports and began his long-time affiliation with Ford.

The following year saw Webb and Monroe Dodd excavating at Smithport Landing and making surface collections at many sites. Webb's first trips to Poverty Point and to the still fairly primitive Catahoula-Larto lakes environs were made that year. He excavated the large cache of broken steatite vessels at Poverty Point and became fast friends with the Hale family at Poverty Point after treating several of the Hale children for malaria.

In 1936, Webb and Dodd started the Belcher excavation, finishing it in 1941. Also during this interim, Webb conducted collecting trips to San Patricio Creek and Albany Landing and published the results of this work in American Antiquity. He and Dodd also dug the Gagahan mound, and in 1942, after close collaboration with Alex Krieger, Pete Miroir, and Dr. Hodges, started the first of the gatherings, now known as the "Caddo Conferences".

Webb's work continued through the 1940's; he salvaged the late Natchitoches material from the Lawton site in 1944, while on a Cane River fishing trip. Webb and Ford had been in intermittent contact and when Ford, Phillips, and Bill Haag initiated the Jaketown dig in 1951, Webb joined in a collaborative study of the microlithic industry. This close contact led to the work at Poverty Point during the early 1950's and culminated in Ford and Webb's monograph on Poverty Point.

In the early 1960's, Ford and Webb were actively working on a new Poverty Point volume, but Ford's commitments to Mexican fieldwork and Webb's obligations to the Academy of Pediatrics (he was then vice-president and subsequently president) slowed progress. A short survey in the Yazoo Basin of western Mississippi, with Ford and Neitzel, produced new information about Poverty Point sites. This was the last fieldwork for James Ford in the Lower Valley for the production of his Formative book was to occupy his time until his death in 1969. But Webb pushed on. He, Tom Koehler, John Connaway, and Sam McGahey excavated the Teoc Creek site in Mississippi; Webb, with Pete Gregory and members of the Northeast Louisiana Archaeological Society dug the Terral Lewis site; and in 1969-1970, he and Jon Gibson undertook an extensive analysis of provenience-allocated artifacts in the massive Carl Alexander collection from Poverty Point. This work has resulted in a number of publications on Poverty Point and will soon culminate in the production of two new volumes on this remarkable site and culture.

Since 1960, when not engaged in Poverty Point research or other activities, Webb managed to complete three major excavations: Mounds Plantation, with Ralph McKinney; Resch Site, with Murphey, Green, and Ellis; and John Pearce site, with E. Wayne Roberts.

Webb's archaeological pursuits have been varied and full. He has contributed a great deal to archaeological knowledge, and has published over 50 articles, monographs, and reviews; he has a most enviable record as a recorder of data, typologist, cultural historian, and perceptive synthesizer. He has virtually single-handedly provided the chronological framework for the Caddoan area of northwest Louisiana. He was a prime mover in the establishment of the Caddoan Conferences. He is the father of Poverty Point archaeology.

Yet Webb's contributions to the profession of archaeology run much deeper. He has been an inspiration to many of his peers and younger colleagues. He has set an emulative precedent with rapid dissemination of knowledge through

publication and oral presentation. He has been a great teacher and model. Webb has taken time from his schedule to correspond with and visit, to encourage and constructively criticize, and to pragmatically temper many younger archaeologists. And Webb has listened and learned; the newer methods, modes of data analysis, and adjunctive goals of modern archaeology have been assimilated and put to use.

We, of the Louisiana Archaeological Society, are indeed fortunate to have Clarence Webb as our first president.

THE WONDERFUL WORLD OF POVERTY POINT
Owl Pendants of Red Jasper
Clarence H. Webb

An article in the December issue of the Florida Anthropologist (Lien, Bullen and Webb 1974) describes a typical Poverty Point red jasper owl found by Lien while diving in the Withlacoochee River, in 20 feet of water. One surface of the owl pendant (Fig. 1f) was well polished and showed typical features; the opposite side, presumably exposed to scouring action in the river, was eroded and pitted. Bullen points out the importance of the Withlacoochee as the most feasible route from the Florida Gulf Coast to the central lake area.

Only two other specimens of red jasper owls have been found away from the Poverty Point site: one from Aaron Place, only 7 miles northeast of Poverty Point and on the Joe's Bayou relict channel of the Arkansas River; one from Hebe site in the Yazoo Basin, found by Robert C. Morris of Leland, Mississippi. Both of these sites have recognized Poverty Point components and we assume that the owl pendants were trade items from the great center. These owls, with comparable specimens from Poverty Point, are shown in Fig. 1.

At Poverty Point site, among 47 bird effigy pendants and beads, 20 are of owls (Webb, Ford and Gagliano 1974). Eighteen owls are of red jasper, one of galena and one of fluorite or amethyst. Red jasper, presumably from northwestern Alabama or northeastern Mississippi, was the favored material for ornaments among Poverty Point people, just as green jade was among the Olmec. Poverty Point owls have a flat base, with tail and small feet, hence they can be stood erect. They have curved beaks, drilled eye cones seated in bilateral facets, neck grooves, pot bellies and counterdrilled suspension holes. Recorded sizes are 11 to 29 mm in height, 6 to 16.6 mm in width and 6.5 to 18 mm in anterior-posterior dimension.

Additionally, three owl preforms have been found at Poverty Point. Blocked out of red jasper, they have beak-eye bevels, neck grooves and sometimes feet; they lack eye drillings, perforations and final polish (Fig. 1b). Evidence indicates that all of the owls were made at Poverty Point site.

Trade of owls to nearby satellite sites, like Aaron, is not unexpected. The find at Hebe is surprising, since the Poverty Point component there is modest; the site is on the terrace uplands and it may have been a collecting station for Jaketown, only 22 miles away.

A Poverty Point owl in Florida is more surprising but not too inappropriate. Bullen and I have shown that interaction existed between Florida and Poverty Point, especially around 1000 B.C.: (1) St. John's Incised sherds are at Poverty Point and Claiborne sites; (2) Small's (1966) report of baked clay balls from Tick Island shows them to be of characteristic Poverty Point types; (3) there are some indications that fiber-tempered pottery and, possibly, steatite vessel use moved westward along the Gulf Coast; and (4) there is

interaction between Claiborne and Choctawhatchee Bay sites, with typical Florida points and orthoquartzite at Claiborne, and red jasper pendants, two-hole gorgets, lamellar blades, cores and Jaketown perforators, Arkansas novaculite and a Motley point at Choctawhatchee Bay. The Poverty Point jasper owl pendant from Withlacoochee River is only another example of this interaction across the Gulf Coast.

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REPORTS

The Round School Site
 Brent W. Smith
 Houston, Texas

The Round School Site is located in Natchitoches Parish on the Northwestern State University campus under the west lawn of the Teacher Education Center or Round School Building. It is situated in an ecotone, or an "edge area" between microenvironments. Five microenvironments have been defined for the Young's Bayou area: Young's Bayou, batture, natural levee, backswamp and terrace. Ecological traverses were made in these ecological zones by two Northwestern State University students (Lee Wood and William Verret) for the purpose of defining what floral and faunal resources may have been available to aboriginal occupants. The results of these investigations are reported in Smith (1974, Prehistoric Settlement Patterns of the Young's Bayou Drainage, Natchitoches Parish, Louisiana, unpublished master's thesis, Department of Social Sciences, Northwestern State University of Louisiana) and Smith, Verret and Wood (1975, The Use of the Contemporary Ecological Model in Archaeological Research: An Example From Northwest Louisiana, unpublished manuscript, Houston, Texas).

The Round School Site was partially destroyed during construction of the Round School Building. Available surface materials were collected by Clint Pine of Natchitoches prior to and after construction activities. The site is an Archaic midden the surface expression of which was a scatter of lithic artifacts, debris, and debitage.

The total artifact assemblage from the site consists of 641 specimens of unifacial and bifacial chipped stone, polished and ground stone tools, and ceramics

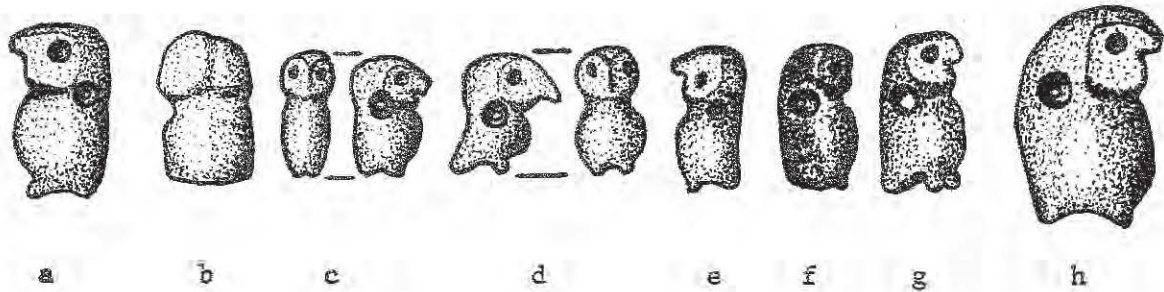


Fig. 1. Red jasper owls (full size): a-e, Poverty Point site; f, Florida; g, Hebe site; h, Aaron site; b, preform. Sources: a-c, h, Carl Alexander collection; d, Damon C. Dunn, Houston; e, Joe Frank, Lake Charles; g, Robert C. Morris, Leland, Mississippi.

Chipped stone debitage and debris make up 84.4% of the assemblage, cores constitute 1.1%, preforms 1.1%, chipped stone tools 12.5%, polished and ground stone tools .6%, and ceramics .3%. Lithic raw material type frequencies are provided in Tables 1 and 2. Illustrations of representative artifacts can be found in Smith (1974) and Smith (1975, Prehistoric Settlement Patterns of the Young's Bayou Drainage, Natchitoches Parish, Louisiana, manuscript in preparation: much-abridged version of Smith, 1974).

A total of 541 specimens of debris and debitage were collected from the site. Debris (flakes or chips which are too small to be retouched) make up 79.3% of this total and debitage (flakes or chips which are large enough to be retouched) constitute the remaining 20.7%. Primary flakes and chips (those with dorsal surfaces covered with cortex) constitute 11.1% of the debris and debitage assemblage, secondary flakes and chips (those with dorsal surfaces partially covered with cortex) 10.7%, interior flakes and chips (no cortex on dorsal surfaces) 69.0%, and biface thinning ("lipped") flakes 9.2%. Only one specimen of debitage was a blade, indicating a clear predominance of flake manufacture.

A total of seven cores were collected from the site. Three (42.9%) had a single platform lisse, two (28.5%) had change of orientation platforms, one (14.3%) had a single faceted platform and one (14.3%) had opposed end platforms (double lisse). This latter specimen and one having a single platform lisse are micro-blade cores, as opposed to the other five cores, which are flake cores.

Eleven Archaic projectile points were collected from the site. Types represented include Marshall (1), Kent (1), Pontchartrain (2), Marcos (2), Evans (1), Gary (3) and unidentified stemmed (1). Two small undecorated grog-tempered sherds were also collected. Specific quantities for each of the other artifact classes are listed in Tables 1 and 2.

Artifact class data lend itself well to functional problems. By modeling certain artifact classes as male-related and others as female-related for the Archaic component at the Round School Site, we get a 20:1 ratio of males to females (see Smith 1974 and 1975 for a detailed description of this procedure). This is highly suggestive of a specialized hunting (and possibly fishing) camp.

As mentioned in Tables 1 and 2, exotic lithic raw material types from this site include novaculite (presumably from the Ouachita Mountains in Arkansas), exotic gray chert (possibly from Illinois, Indiana, Ohio or Western Tennessee), exotic white chert (possibly from the Ouachita Mountains of Oklahoma or Arkansas or the Ozark Mountains of Arkansas) and greenstone. These exotic lithic types and additional materials from a number of other sites in the Young's Bayou drainage are indicative of an "Archaic Interaction Sphere": a vast trade network. The Round School Site and other Young's Bayou sites may then be related to the Poverty Point type site and other Late Archaic-Poverty Point redistribution centers (see also Ted Brasher, 1973, An Investigation of Some Central Functions of Poverty Point, unpublished master's thesis, Department of Social Sciences, Northwestern State University of Louisiana; Jon Gibson, 1974, Poverty Point: The First North American Chiefdom, Archaeology 27 (2): 97-105; Clarence Webb, 1974, Poverty Point Culture and Site, unpublished manuscript, Shreveport, Louisiana; and Clarence Webb, James Ford and Sherwood Gagliano, 1973, Poverty Point Culture and the American Formative, unpublished manuscript, Shreveport, Louisiana).

CURRENT RESEARCH AND COMMENTARIES

Corrections on Long's "The Springridge Site".

A letter from James H. Long points out an editorial misunderstanding which worked itself into his article in the last newsletter. It was erroneously stated that Dr. Charles Clark used the technique of microscopic sherd matching, when, in actuality, Mr. Long was referring to Clark's use of microscopes in matching flakes with points to show that they were derived from a single core or "blank". As Long correctly observes, proving that the points and the flint residue from their manufacture came from the same piece of stone indicates on-site production and not importation in an already finished state.

James H. Long
Shreveport, Louisiana

Coastal Environments, Inc.

Woody Gagliano's company, Coastal Environments, Inc., has added an archaeology section. Personnel, an archaeology library, a map library, and various kinds of equipment comprise the nucleus of the section, which will be primarily concerned with contract archaeology.

The newest persons added to the company's staff are Richard A. Weinstein and Eileen Burden.

The section is presently engaged in research on the cultural remains of the outer continental shelf of the Northern Gulf of Mexico (contract from National Park Service) and an archaeological survey of the Intracoastal Waterway in Louisiana (subcontract, contract let by U.S. Army Corps of Engineers).

Richard A. Weinstein
Coastal Environments, Inc.
Baton Rouge, Louisiana

Survey of Mermentau River and Bayous Nezpique and DesCannes.

The archaeological research facility of USL, under the direction of Jon Gibson has recently completed an archaeological survey and testing of sites on the Mermentau River and bayous Nezpique and DesCannes, under contract from the Corps of Engineers. Gibson directed the fieldwork and was assisted by Layton J. Miller, Linda Friedburg, and Steven Brazda. USL archaeology students assisted in the testing of the one site to be destroyed by dredging.

Over 30 sites were found, raising the total number of recorded sites in this drainage area to over 40. Rangia shell middens dominated in the Lower reaches of the River and around Lake Arthur, while earth middens comprise the remainder of the sites along the two bayous and the River's upper portion.

Artifacts from surface collecting and yielded by excavation at the Buckeye Site (16JD) suggest a unique situation with a great likelihood of cultural and chronological separateness from surrounding regions. Only one site produced artifacts typical of what is generally known as "Lower Valley types".

The report is being prepared and will attempt, among other things, to establish correlations of archaeological sites and ethnohistorically recorded locations of Attakapa villages, the historic peoples of the area.

Jon L. Gibson
Department of Sociology-Anthropology
University of Southwestern Louisiana
Lafayette, Louisiana

TABLE 1

The Round School Site: Raw material types for chipped stone.
Percentages of total samples for each category and for total
objects (read horizontally).

	Probably Local						Probably Exotic			Total Sample
	TBRBr	PW	FW	LGr	LW	LG	Nov	EGr	EW	
Debris	50.2	2.0		1.0	4.0	6.4	1.1	34.1	1.1	422
Debitage	47.0	8.4	2.5	1.7	.8	15.9		21.2	2.5	119
Cores	71.4								28.6	7
Preforms	71.4	14.3		14.3						7
Jaketown Perf.								100.0		2
Burins	50.0								50.0	2
Side Scrapers	33.3	20.0	6.7					26.6	6.7	15
End Scrapers	100.0									1
Ovoid Scrapers	100.0									1
Notches	50.0	20.0		10.0				20.0		10
Denticulates	66.7							33.3		3
Bifaces	57.1		14.3				14.3	14.3		7
Dart Points	90.9		9.1							11
Total										607

Key to Symbols: TBRBr - local tan, buff, red, and brown pebble cherts
 PW - petrified palm wood, presumably local LGr - local gray cherts
 FW - petrified wood, other than palm LW - local white cherts
 LG - local grainy chert; resembles orthoquartzite EGr - exotic gray chert
 Nov - novaculite from Ouachita Mountains, Arkansas EW - exotic white chert

TABLE 2

The Round School Site: Raw material types for ground and polished
stone tools. Shown in percentages of total
samples for each category and for total
objects (read horizontally).

	Probably Local		Probably Exotic	Total Sample
	TBRBr	Qu	G	
Celts			100.0	1
Bar Weights			100.0	1
Bannerstones		100.0		1
Pecked Stone	100.0			1
Hammerstones	50.0	50.0		2
TOTAL				6

Key to Symbols: TBRBr - local tan, buff, red, and brown pebble cherts
 Qu - local quartzite
 G - exotic greenstone

Survey of the Vermilion River, Bayou Teche, and Freshwater Bayou.

Jon Gibson, USL associate professor and head, Department of Sociology-Anthropology, has been awarded a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers contract to conduct an archaeological survey of the Vermilion River, Bayou Teche, and Freshwater Bayou. Approximately 250 miles of river bank and spoil areas must be systematically searched for prehistoric and historic sites so that their locations may be recorded in an effort to avoid adverse impact in future operation and maintenance work by the Corps.

Jon L. Gibson
Lafayette, Louisiana

CHAPTER NEWS

Southwest Louisiana Archaeological Society--Imperial Calcasieu Chapter.

The Southwest Louisiana Archaeological Society held its first meeting of 1975 on January 30 in the Frasch Hall Auditorium at McNeese State University. Dr. Jon L. Gibson of USL was the guest speaker. His topic was 'Louisiana Indians' from the advent of DeSoto (c. 1539-42) to the present day groups in Louisiana. The members and guests present thoroughly enjoyed Dr. Gibson's presentation. The program had good attendance along with publicity. KPLC Channel 7 TV was present and interviewed Dr. Gibson as well as part of the actual program, indicating the growing interest in Archaeology in southwest Louisiana.

Mr. Everett R. Scott, Jr. local Lake Charles attorney spoke to the Southwest Louisiana Archaeological Society on February 27, 1975 at McNeese State University. Mr. Scott reviewed the State's Antiquity Law of 1972 and the recently enacted Archaeological Treasure Act of 1974 with a background of or contrast to the laws of treasure trove as the latter have existed in both the Louisiana and Napoleonic Civil Codes.

The program was very informative and a great deal of information was secured by the individuals present.

Joe Frank
President, SLAS
Lake Charles, Louisiana

Delta Chapter of LAS.

The Delta chapter of the LAS met at the University of New Orleans on January 30. Joe Manuel, president, urged a membership drive and plans were discussed for finalizing the Fleming site work. Dr. J. Richard Shenkel of UNO gave a most interesting and informative talk on Big and Little Oak Islands, Orleans Parish.

Gloria E. Brown
Delta Chapter, Corresponding Secretary
New Orleans, Louisiana

OTHER NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Nanah Waiya.

Nanah Waiya is the sacred mound of the Choctaw Indians. It is also the name of an excellent little periodical published by Choctaw students at the

Philadelphia reservation. LAS members should find this quarterly magazine, which features Choctaw tales, legends, folk medicine remedies, recipes, personalities, and craft articles, of considerable interest. An annual subscription is \$6.00 (2 years, \$8.00). Help these students in an effort to record and preserve their culture. Send check to:

Nanah Waiya Magazine
Route 7, Box 72
Philadelphia, Mississippi 39350

Reservation Status Accorded Coushatta Indians.

A proclamation designating the Coushatta Indians of Louisiana as an official U.S. tribe and the area near Elton in Allen Parish as an official U.S. reservation was signed in Washington, D.C. on March 14. Persons instrumental in promoting this declaration were Ernest Sickey, tribal chairman; J. D. Langley, tribal official; Congressman John Breaux; David Garrison, Louisiana Commissioner of Indian Affairs; and Morris Thompson, U.S. Commissioner of Indian Affairs. Congratulations to the Coushatta.

Information on Steatite Sherd Distribution Requested.

Brent Smith, 1414 Lynnview Drive, Houston, Texas 77055, would like information regarding the distribution of steatite sherds; numbers of sherds as well as other artifact associations are requested.

Louisiana Antiquities Commission Holds First Meeting.

The first formal meeting of the Louisiana Archaeological Survey and Antiquities Commission was held at the LSU Union on April 9, 1975. The Commission was established by Louisiana Act No. 378 Regular Session 1974, to oversee the preservation, recovery, and study of the state's historic and prehistoric resources through the State Archaeologist's office. The Commission will maintain central state archaeological survey files and be legal custodian for all antiquities recovered from state lands or donated by private individuals.

The State Archaeologist's office is presently located on the LSU Campus in Baton Rouge at 4010 Highland Road. Dr. William G. Haag of LSU has been appointed by Governor Edwards to serve as State Archaeologist, and Alan Toth has been retained as his assistant. The Louisiana Archaeological Survey will initiate its first field operations in June at the Poverty Point site in West Carroll Parish. In time, the Survey will have the capability of conducting several simultaneous projects involving survey, salvage, and excavation. A research laboratory will also be maintained to allow full analysis of the recovered remains.

The formation of the Louisiana Archaeological Survey and Antiquities Commission marks the beginning of a long awaited state program of coordinated archaeological investigation. The cooperation of LAS members will be instrumental in building a state archaeological structure in which all can take pride. LAS chapters or members wishing to address problems or information to the State Archaeologist's office should direct correspondence to the Louisiana Archaeological Survey and Antiquities Commission, P.O. Box 18880A, University Station, Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70803.

Alan Toth
Baton Rouge

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