Louisiana Archaeological Society

NEWSLETTER OF THE LOUISIANA ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Vol. 3, No. 1 January 1976

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PRESIDENT'S VALEDICTION

Clarence H. Webb
Shreveport, Louisiana

The members of the Louisiana Archaeological Society should have a feeling of justifiable pride at the end of its first full year of existence. Much has been done: the Society is stable, with well over 200 members; its finances are satisfactory; and there are four active chapters. Tax exempt status was achieved after revision of the Charter and By-Laws, through the patient and persistent efforts of Jack Bonnin, Treasurer, and Jon Gibson, Vice-President and Editor. Bulk mailing rates will help in reducing costs. The Society had a successful Annual Meeting in Lafayette, for which Jon Gibson and the University of Southwestern Louisiana were accorded unanimous votes of thanks; the Northeast Chapter and Northeast Louisiana University are fully under way in planning the next Annual Meeting in January.

The Society gave me the honor and responsibility of its first presidency. I was and am appreciative and have tried to meet its expectations. For whatever measure of success that has been achieved, the major credit must go to you - the individual members. Professional or nonprofessional status have been forgotten; each within his own ability has worked to build up the Society, to make the chapters viable, and to advance archaeology in

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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, Louisiana 70501. Unless otherwise indicated, opinions stated herein are those of the editor and do not necessarily reflect Society policy.

Louisiana. At our organizational meeting I expressed the hope that this would be so; I am more than pleased to see it come to pass. With this spirit, we should never permit the kind of horrible and short-sighted conflict that has torn apart the archaeological society in Tennessee.

I would like to express appreciation to the other officers with whom I have served. Jon Gibson, as Vice-President, President-elect and Editor, has been the tremendously energetic wheelhorse of the team; the Society will be in good hands under his leadership in 1976. The Newsletters have been exactly what the name implies - letters full of archaeological news. We will be proud of the Bulletins, despite the unfortunate delay which is no fault of Jon. Jack Bonnin has been an excellent Treasurer and has stabilized the finances; we regret the illness which chafes his valiant spirit. Smokye Joe Frank and Marcus Mapp have conducted their offices of Corresponding and Recording Secretaries in efficient manner. They and the Executive Committee Representatives, Lou Harris, Dan Shipman, Lester Davis and Bill Baker, have brought to the meetings the thoughts of their chapters and have taken back our ideas and plans. The four chapters have been active and supportive: Northeast (proud of being the oldest archaeological society in the state), under the leadership of Reca Jones; East Central, making rapid strides with Bill Baker; Imperial Calcasieu, with Joe Frank as President; and Delta Chapter, with its large and active membership and its vital program under President Joe Manuel, have all contributed in ways for which we are proud and appreciative.

Other individuals, too numerous to mention separately but all deserving of thanks, have contributed to the advancement of the Society, its chapters, and the cause of archaeology in the state. They have done so in the university departments, the State Archaeologist's office, the Louisiana Archaeological Survey and Antiquities Commission, the Louisiana Archaeological Council, the State Legislature, work with the Indian Tribal Councils, the conduct of controlled surveys and excavations, and in many local projects and endeavors. The Society welcomes its new and out-of-state members, its Institutional and Exchange members, and support from the Gulf South Institute.

To all of you, I offer thanks for the opportunity of serving as your president and the privilege of knowing you better. I can only hope for my successor the same kind of support and friendship that you have given to me.

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EDITOR'S PREFACE

The Annual Meeting. The second annual meeting of the Louisiana Archaeological Society will be held at Northeast Louisiana University in Monroe on January 24-25, 1976. Glen and Lorraine Greene are the program coordinators and the Northeast Louisiana Chapter of the LAS is assisting with local arrangements. The meeting will take place at Strauss Hall on the NLU campus. The Saturday session will begin at 9:30 A.M. and will last until 5:00 P.M. Come a little earlier to register and to pick up your 1974 bulletin and the other publications that will be sold at the registration table. The Sunday session will begin at 9:00 A.M. and last until 11:00 P.M.

The program will be highlighted by Drs. Fred Wendorf and Joel Shiner, SMU professors of anthropology; these keynote speakers will talk about Amateur-Professional relationships and underwater archaeology, respectively. Contributed papers and current research will occupy the early Saturday morning session with Wendorf and Shiner, and a Bayou Jasemine report taking up the mid-morning session. After lunch, there will be a short business meeting and a symposium on Poverty Point culture, featuring various speakers. On Sunday morning, a symposium on Ouachita Valley archaeology will be conducted. Although the sessions are formal, there will be ample time allotted for informal exchanges, questions, comments, and general discourse.

Arrangements have been made for special convention rates at the Holiday Inn on Louisville Avenue (see map below for location). Reservation cards are attached to this newsletter; be sure to write on the card that you are attending the LAS meeting or you will not receive the special rates. Rates are: single, $12.00; two persons, double bed, $14.00; two persons, two double beds, $19.00; other special rates for special rooms with rates to $26.00.

There will be a hospitality get-together in the Hospitality Room of the Holiday Inn beginning at 6:00 P.M. Saturday and lasting until. Special arrangements have been made for conferees to eat lunch Saturday at Coenen Cafeteria on the NLU campus. Food is good and inexpensive.

The meeting promises to be a good one but we need a good turn-out. I realize Monroe is a long way from New Orleans, Baton Rouge, Lafayette, and other places south, but this is a once-a-year occasion. All of us owe it to ourselves to attend, to hear some good archaeology, and to have a good time. Take off a day from work if you have to; stay a little longer than may be convenient for the drive on Sunday. But come and participate. Let's beat last year's attendance of slightly over a hundred.

New Officers Assume Duties. On January 1, several persons assumed duties as officers of the Louisiana Archaeological Society. Dr. Jon Gibson advanced to the presidency succeeding Dr. Clarence Webb. Elected as vice-president and president-elect in extremely close balloting was Dr. Gagliano. W. S. (Bill) Baker was automatically elected to fill the treasurer's office with the withdrawal of Jack Bonnin. Joe Frank and Marcus Mapp continue as corresponding and recording secretaries respectively until their multi-year terms expire.

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LAS PERSONALITIES

(SMOKYE) JOSEPH VINCENT FRANK, LAS CORRESPONDING SECRETARY

by
Jon L. Gibson

For years the formation of a state archaeological society in Louisiana had been bantered about in conversation. No one seemed willing to take the initiative and assume the burden of such a task. No one that is until in

the spring of 1974 at the Coalition of Eastern Native Americans meeting in Alexandria, when a single individual refused to let all the pretentious and idle talk about a society come to rest. (Smokye) Joe forced the hand of the big talkers. At his constant insistence, tentative plans--but plans nevertheless-for an organizational meeting were finalized. I have the distinct impression that Joe was ready to use bodily force, if necessary, to secure a commitment from the group on hand to settle the issue once and for all. We of the Louisiana Archaeological Society owe a deep debt of gratitude to Joe Frank, the catalyst that brought the Society into existence.

Joe Vincent Frank (Smokye Joe) was born in Natchez, Mississippi on March 1, 1943, the youngest of two sons of John P. and Cecelia Frank. Joe grew up in Natchez, attended elementary schools there, and graduated from Cathedral High School in 1961. From 1962 to 1964, he attended Southwest Mississippi Junior College at Summit, Mississippi on a football scholarship. Opinions vary on his athletic prowess, but the general consensus is . . . ! After a stint in the National Guard, rising to the rank of sergeant, working as a roughneck, as an off-shore hand, and for International Paper Company, he returned to college in September of 1966, this time to Co-Lin Junior College at Wessun, Mississippi. In June of 1967, he attended Mississippi State University and after the summer session and a short period of employment, he transferred to Northwestern State University at Natchitoches, where he studied from January 1968 to May 1970. Joe's stay at Northwestern formalized his early interest in archaeology. Strong influences at this time came from Kim Curry and later from Hiram "Pete" Gregory, anthropologists at NSU, and interaction with other anthropology-archaeology students--Bill Bourn, Dolan Wainwright, and Ted Brasher solidified his interest in archaeology and other aspects of "life". Joe graduated from Northwestern in May of 1970 with a B.A. in History and Anthropology. In August of the same year, after marrying the former Carol Ann Lashute, Joe joined the State Department of Education and is presently serving as district supervisor for the Lake Charles District. Since his graduation, he has taken graduate courses at Northwestern and the University of Southwestern Louisiana.

Joe's interest in archaeology came at an early age. His older brother, John Junior, was an "arrowhead" collector and the interest naturally "rubbed off". The multitude of Indian sites around Natchez and the wealth of materials found along the Big River below the bluffs in that area kept Joe's early interest at a "fever pitch". His formal entrance into archaeology occurred in 1962 when he worked for the late Tono Waring and Stu Neitzel during excavations at the Fatherland Site. This excavation and the subsequent report by Neitzel, demonstrating without a doubt that the site was the Grand Village of the Natchez Indians where prolonged, historically documented contact between the inhabitants and the 18th century French transpired, is a milestone in historic archaeology. While employed by International Paper Company, Joe worked at the Linwood Mounds and surveyed International properties. Later at Natchitoches, he assisted Pete Gregory in surveys along the Bouef River in Northeastern Louisiana and in the Kisatchie Forest of Western Louisiana. In the Spring of 1970, Joe set out on a diligent search

to locate the "Tunica Treasure". This remarkable cache of early historic materials, brought to light by pothunting activities, promised to shed a great deal of information on the early history of the Tunica Tribe. Largely through Joe's efforts this important find was eventually located and is now being scientifically investigated and studied. This work brought Joe into even closer contact with Stu Neitzel, with whom he had previously worked at Fatherland, and with Jeff Brain, archaeologist from Harvard. Weekends in 1971 and 1972 were spent with Neitzel and Brain surveying in southwestern Mississippi. In the summer of 1974, Joe supervised the Southwest Louisiana Archaeological Society's excavations at the Bell site in downtown Lake Charles.

Joe has served as a board member and president (several times) of the Southwest Louisiana Archaeological Society. He is currently serving a multiple year term as the corresponding secretary of the Louisiana Archaeological Society. He is also an active participant in the Mississippi Archaeological Association. Joe has several articles, detailing the results of his archaeological and historical interests, to his credit, most notably "In Defense of Hutchin's Natchez Indian" (Mississippi Archaeology 10(4):7-11) and several others in the Newsletter of the Louisiana Archaeological Society.

Accidents of birthplace notwithstanding, Joe Frank ranks as one of Louisiana's primier archaeologists. Accidents of careers notwithstanding, Joe's major devotion is to Louisiana and Mississippi archaeology, especially of the Natchez and other historic groups. We of the Louisiana Archaeological Society are fortunate indeed to have Joe Frank as one of the major stalwarts of our organization.

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THE WONDERFUL WORLD OF POVERTY POINT

Stone Turtles

Clarence H. Webb
Shreveport, Louisiana

At Poverty Point, a fragment of polished carved limonite, representative of a turtle carapace (Fig. 1a), has been described and illustrated previously (Ford 1969, Fig. 5c; Webb 1968). Ford mentioned that two turtle effigies of jade had been described, but not illustrated, from the La Venta site. This was one of numerous comparisons that he made between Poverty Point and Olmec cultures.

During the past summer's excavations at Poverty Point, Dr. William G. Haag and his field party secured an even better representation of turtle carapace, in the form of a perforated ovate gorget of limonite, with the convex surface bearing engraved decorations which simulate carapace markings. Through courtesy of Dr. Haag, this object is shown in Fig. 1b.

Other stone turtles have been found in the Southeast, with indications that carving of these objects antedated Poverty Point times. A well-carved stone turtle (Fig. 1c) was found at the Denton site, Quitman County, Mississippi, the Archaic site from which a number of zoomorphic (locust) beads have originated. Two datings by the University of Georgia Radiocarbon Laboratory of materials from the Denton midden are reported between 3300 and 3100 B.C. (John Connaway, Mississippi Archaeological Survey, personal communication).

Another stone turtle effigy, chipped and unpolished, was found at the Edward Fant site, Coahoma County, Mississippi. It is owned by Mr. Fant and is shown (Fig. 1d) through courtesy of him and Bert Jaeger, Clarksdale, Mississippi. Little archaeological information is available about the site, which is within 20 miles of Denton, but it is thought to be Archaic or Poverty Point in time.

The fifth stone turtle shown in Fig. 1e is from southern Alabama, found in a small mound on the west side of Mobile Bay by members of the local archaeological society in 1960. It is shown through courtesy of Nicholas Holmes. Scattered in the fill of this mound were crude stone pendants, a dart point, amorphous baked clay objects and two plain pottery vessels, which were clay-sand tempered.

It appears that the lowly turtle was a creature of interest to aboriginal artists in a number of cultures and was reproduced in stone carvings by Archaic and Poverty Point peoples. I am reminded that Chinese mythology has the world borne on the back of a turtle (but, PLEASE!, I am not advocating diffusion from Chinese mythology to Poverty Point. I have enough to defend when I mention Olmec.).

References

Ford, James A.
1969 A Comparison of Formative Cultures in the Americas. Smithsonian Institution Press. Washington.

Webb, Clarence H.
1968 The extent and content of Poverty Point culture. American Antiquity 33(3):297-321.

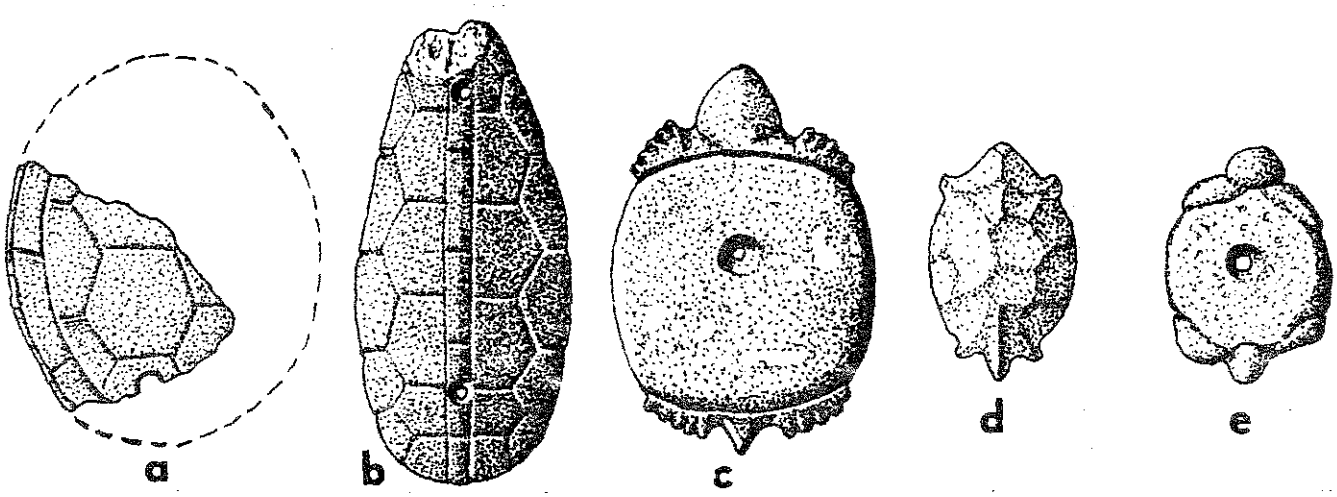

Figure 1. Stone turtles from Poverty Point and the Southeast. a, fragment of stone carapace representation; b, two-hole gorget from Poverty Point with carapace markings; c, stone turtle from Denton site, Quitman County, Mississippi, Archaic; d, chipped stone turtle from Fant site, Coahoma County, Mississippi; e, stone turtle carved from red limonite, mound on Mobile Bay. All approximately 2/3 size. Acknowledgments: a, Carl Alexander; b, William G. Haag; c, John Connaway, Mississippi Archaeological Survey; d, Burt Jaeger; e, Nicholas Holmes.

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REPORTS

A Short Story On The Extermination of Indians In Cameron Parish (Fact or Fiction)

Joe Frank
Lake Charles, Louisiana

Where have all the Indians gone? A good question with a sometimes disconcerting and disheartening response. This question was asked a descendant of one of the first families to settle in Cameron Parish, Louisiana. The answer, not verified as fact, was startling.

Mr. X's grandfather settled in Cameron Parish in the mid-1800's on a small tract of land. At this time Indians were still inhabiting the cheniers in the marsh, and their villages were located on the most appealing and suitable areas. This Indian occupation is verified by 19th Century Indian and European artifacts on Little Pecan Island and Joseph O. Dyer's statement of Indians migrating to and from beaches inland to Lake Charles. The new settlers in the area could offer little in material goods to enhance the Indians to relinquish their land, so other measures became necessary to secure these cleared tracts.

The settlers found that the most effective method of removing the Indians from their land without violence was European diseases. Each time there was an outbreak of fever, smallpox, or other contagious diseases, the white settlers would take advantage of the situation. True, some settlers would also die, but many had developed immunity to the diseases common to their heritage. This was not so with the Indians; there was no immunity and no knowledge of individuals who had contracted the disease.

When there was an epidemic, the settlers would gather all the contaminated clothing, bedding, etc., and take it to the Indians as gifts. The Indians accepted the gifts and distributed them among the villagers, not knowing that the contaminated material would help the white settlers in their unyielding quest for land. The Indians consequently died or became so few in number that the survivors abandoned their villages and relocated with Indian groups in other areas, thereby providing the settlers with the choice lands without bloodshed.

This story has been handed down orally through three generations. It has not been established how much is fact or fiction, but it is a thought-provoking reality that no Indians occupy lands in Cameron Parish, Louisiana today.

EDITOR'S NOTE.

There is some documentary evidence to support Joe Frank's interesting paper. J. O. Dyer, who collated the few remaining notes of visitors to the Calcasieu Attakapas around 1817-1820, specifically mentions the "plagues" that accompanied the spread of white settlements, smallpox, syphilis, and tuberculosis. (Syphilis, however, may have been transmitted from Red to White).

Surface Materials From the Brusly St. Martin Site (16IV6)

Brent W. Smith
Louisville, Kentucky

On October 19th and 26th, 1969, cultural remains were collected from the surface of the Brusly St. Martin (Grand Bayou) Site in Iberville Parish. Surface collections made during these two dates by this author and ones made earlier by Glen Fredlund (L.S.U. - Baton Rouge) in 1968 and 1969 are included in this study (Table 1).

The Brusly St. Martin Site, designated IV 6 by the LSU Archeological Survey, is located west of Grand Bayou near the community of Brusly St. Martin in the southeast portion of Iberville Parish. The site consists of an approximately 12-foot high flat-topped pyramidal mound with a base approximately 30 feet by 20 feet, a large village area northwest of the mound and a small shell midden area in the northeast section of the village area, adjacent to a natural levee. Previous investigations of this site have been discussed in William McIntire's Prehistoric Indian Settlements of the Changing Mississippi Delta (1958), Philip Phillips' Archeological Survey in the Lower Yazoo Basin, Mississippi, 1949-55 (1970), James Springer's unpublished doctoral dissertation, "The Prehistory and Cultural Geography of Coastal Louisiana" (Yale University, Department of Anthropology, 1973) and John Huner's unpublished master's thesis, " A Critical Study of French Fork Incised Pottery in Coastal Louisiana" (LSU, Department of Geography and Anthropology, 1967). Springer's dissertation represents the only discussion of excavated materials from Brusly St. Martin and should be viewed as a primary source of information for this site.

The total sample represented in this study consists of 1,499 decorated sherds which were collected from the village area. Additionally, approximately 10,000 undecorated grog-tempered (Baytown Plain) sherds were collected from the surface of the site, but were not analyzed in greater detail. The analysis of this sample of ceramics indicates that the primary occupation of the site was during the Troyville and Coles Creek Periods. This assertion is supported by the distribution of a total of 95.75% of the decorated ceramic types in these two culture periods (Table 1). The Tchula, Marksville and Mississippian Period occupations are represented by much smaller quantities of classified sherds (0.26%, 0.86% and 3.13% of the total sample, respectively). The evidence gained through the ceramic typology and an analysis of projectile points from the site would place the chronology of occupation at the site from about 1500 B.C. to 1500 A.D. (Sherwood Gagliano, Occupation Sequence at Avery Island, 1967, p. 11 and Dee Ann Suhm and Edward Jelks, Handbook of Texas Archeology: Type Descriptions, 1962).

Of particular interest were the two major type frequencies: Pontchartrain Check Stamped (27.95%) and French Fork Incised (46.70%). This is in significant contrast to the frequencies of these two types at the Greenhouse Site, a Troyville-Coles Creek Period mound site in Avoyelles Parish, near Marksville (James Ford, Greenhouse: A Troyville-Coles Creek Period Site in Avoyelles Parish, Louisiana, 1951). At the Greenhouse Site, Pontchartrain Check Stamped attains a maximum frequency of 3%, while French Fork Incised reaches

a maximum frequency of 4%. As Ford (1951:79) states, Pontchartrain Check Stamped reaches its highest frequency south of Greenhouse on the coast and originated with the type Waukulla Check Stamped which is found in large quantities in sites of the Weeden II Period of the northwest coast of Florida. A similar geographical origin can be postulated for the type French Fork Incised.

Nonceramic artifacts in this sample include a Yarbrough (late Archaic) dart point, 12 unclassified Late Archaic projectile points, 1 unclassified arrow point, 1 bone awl, 1 bone flaking tool, approximately 50 small amorphous shaped fired clay lumps and a very unusual decorated fired clay object, now in the possession of Glen Fredlund. This artifact can be described as a punctated and engraved art object of intentional design which probably represents a stylistic face. With that interpretation, the engraved lines which form a triangle in the center of one side represent the outline of the face (or pointed facial designs worn by the Indians), with various punctations representing the eyes, mouth and nose.

TABLE 1

CERAMIC TYPE DISTRIBUTION: BRUSLY ST. MARTIN SITE (16IV6)

CERAMIC TYPE	NUMBER	FREQUENCY
Tchula Period:	4	0.26%
Tchefuncte Tetrapodal Bases	4	0.26
Marksville Period:	13	0.86%
Marksville Stamped	13	0.86
Troyville Period:	876	58.46%
French Fork Incised	700	46.70
Churupa Punctate	35	2.34
Yokena Incised	18	1.20
Larto Red Filmed	35	2.34
Woodville Red Filmed	53	3.54
Troyville Stamped	35	2.34
Coles Creek Period:	559	37.29%
Coles Creek Incised	104	6.94
Coles Creek Incised Rim	18	1.20
Pontchartrain Check Stamped	419	27.95
Beldeau Incised	18	1.20
Mississippian Period:	47	3.13%
Plaquemine Brushed	18	1.20
Manchac Incised	6	0.40
Dupree Incised	5	0.33
Wilkinson Punctated	18	1.20
GRAND TOTAL	1,499	100.00%

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CHAPTER NEWS

Imperial Calcasieu News

Alan Toth, assistant State archeologist with the Louisiana Archaeological Survey and Antiquities Commission was the guest speaker at the October meeting of the Southwest Louisiana Archeological Society. Mr. Toth reviewed the new regulations on archeology in the State of Louisiana. He also discussed services that will be provided by the Commission in the near future for interested citizens in the State of Louisiana. Future goals include, amateur certification, bulletins and educational programs. The meeting was well attended and the members left with the proper understanding of the Commission's responsibilities.

Joe Frank

The Imperial Calcasieu Chapter of the Louisiana Archaeological Society and the Southwest Louisiana Archaeological Society had a most interesting meeting August 27th at McNeese State University. The guest speaker for the meeting was John Prescott of Johnson Bayou. Mr. Prescott spoke on the various coastal sites he has worked on around Cameron, Johnson Bayou and the Sabine Lake area. He told how coastal sites normally differ from inland sites and described where these sites are usually located on ancient beaches and cheniers. Prescott said that the number of sites in this relatively small area along the coast; the size of many of these sites; and the abundance and variety of material would tend to indicate a much larger population inhabitance over a longer period of time than has been suggested in the past. Mr. Prescott has worked in cooperation with LSU on many of these sites and emphasized the importance of site reports pointing to a recent case where a proposed pipeline right-of-way was re-routed due to a site report made by him. He had an extensive artifact display which included points of gar scales, bone fish hooks, and pottery, one beautiful pottery piece surprisingly well preserved and intact dating between 1 - 500 A.D.

The society was most anxious and happy to welcome Dr. Harry Stopp and his wife at the meeting. Dr. Stopp has spent the last four years at LSU completing graduate work and will be teaching anthropology and geography at McNeese this fall in the Social Science Department.

Lou Harris, Representative
Imperial Calcasieu Chapter

The Southwest Louisiana Archaeological Society met on November 20th and elected new officers for 1976. Outgoing officers are Joe Frank, President; Myrna Fleming, Vice President; O'Neal Smith, Secretary; and Frank Tuten, Treasurer. Taking office January 1, 1976 are new officers Ralph Darnell, President; Roland Bodin, Vice President; Lou Harris, Secretary; and R. L. Coleman, Treasurer. New Board of Directors for the society are Joe Frank, Everett Scott, Dr. Joe Bruce, Myrna Fleming, Frank Tuten, O'Neal Smith and Mrs. Anna Fronczek. Alternates elected are Jack Bonnin and Ed Kebodeaux.

After election of officers the meeting was highlighted by a program with slides given by Dr. Harry Stopp, Assistant Professor of Anthropology at McNeese State University. Dr. Stopp reported on a site at Johnson Bayou that he and his students have recently excavated. Dr. Stopp said that the site shows evidence of occupation of the Coles Creek-Plaquemine Period, which dates back to approximately 950 - 1500 A.D.

Special guest speaker for the evening was Dr. Sherwood "Woody" Gagliano. Dr. Gagliano is now president of Coastal Environments, Inc. and has been prominent in the field of archaeology in Louisiana for several years. He was the founder of the original Louisiana Archaeological Society in 1961. Dr. Gagliano gave a most interesting program with slides on his extensive work at Avery Island where 11 species of extinct prehistoric animal remains have been found. Prehistoric Indian occupation at Avery Island has been dated at approximately 11,500 years before the present time. He said that up until the 1960's it was believed that the earliest prehistoric occupation by man in Louisiana was the Tchefuncte Period which dates back to approximately 2,000 B.C. Since the 1960's this date has been pushed back to about 12,000 B.C. and new discoveries are being made very rapidly as more work is done and more people become interested in the Indian occupation and history of our state.

President Joe Frank said that Dr. Gagliano is especially interested in Southwest Louisiana now due to recent discoveries made in this area and Dr. Gagliano commended the society on their work and their assistance to professional archaeology.

Lou Harris

Delta Chapter News

The December 1975 meeting of Delta Chapter of LAS was held in the University of New Orleans Archaeology Lab on the 18th. Even though it was a cold night and the lab has minimal heating facilities, approximately 30 members were in attendance. Several items of business and interest were discussed.

Forrest Travirca requested that Delta Chapter sponsor an Explorer Scout troop which he plans to organize. The Explorer troop will be archaeologically oriented and located in Lafourche Parish. Chapter approval was voted predicated on the following: A) That Explorers adhere to LAS Code of Ethics; and B) That LAS and Louisiana State Archaeological Survey give informal agreement.

Several months ago the Delta Chapter made an attempt to locate the site of Germantown, a community which was settled in St. Charles Parish about 250 years ago. Recently Dan Shipman has been successful in getting aerial photos of the area interpreted by stereo optical methods. Several sites have been pinpointed for further investigation. John Polk, a member of Delta Chapter and the St. Charles Parish Bicentennial Commission, will plan another trip to the area to attempt to locate the site.

Joe Manual, president of Delta Chapter during 1975, was presented with an engraved gavel in recognition of his many contributions to the Chapter and to Louisiana archaeology during the past year.

On November 15, 1975, Barbara Aucoin, Joe and Norma Bissel, Clarence Savoie, and Dan and Ned Shipman visited Isle Bonne. Isle Bonne is located across Bayou Barataria from the Fleming-Berthoud site. Joe Manual recently obtained permission from the owners for Delta Chapter to dig at this site. The purpose of the November 15 trip was to move the Delta Chapter dig paraphernalia from the Fleming-Berthoud site to Isle Bonne, to make preliminary surveys, to surface collect and to become generally familiar with the site. Isle Bonne contains two mounds, the larger of which is approximately 125 feet in diameter and 5 to 6 feet above water level at its highest point. It appears to be made of shell and humus. Some potsherds were recovered from the spoil adjacent to old pothunter's holes and from shell along the water's edge. About 200 feet SSE of the large mound is a second smaller mound of about 75 feet diameter and a height of 1-1/2 to 2 feet above water. No artifacts were evident on the surface of the small mound. Plans are being made for a dig at the Isle Bonne within the next two or three months.

Following the business meeting, Robert Neuman, Curator of Anthropology at the Museum of Geoscience, LSU-Baton Rouge, presented a slide talk on the prehistory of Louisiana. In general Mr. Neuman reviewed all the Louisiana prehistoric cultures, placing each in its time frame and reviewing what is known about the levels of technology based on artifactual remains. Following a question and answer period, the meeting was adjourned.

For those who desired more archaeological talk and fellowship, the base of operations was moved to Luigi's Pizza Warehouse.

E. D. Shipman
LAS Representative, Delta Chapter
832½ Fern Street
New Orleans, LA 70118

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PUBLICATIONS AND PAPERS

Patterson, L. W.
1975 41HR210, A Multicomponent Site in Harris County, Texas, La Tierra, Newsletter of the Southern Texas Archeological Association, 2(4): 17-22. (41HR210 has evidences of a Late Archaic assemblage with undecorated clay balls, microblade cores and a microlithic tool industry).

Smith, Brent W.
1975 Microblade Replication and Use Experiments, Houston Archeological Society Newsletter 49:5 (concerns the replication of microblades and an attempt to experimentally reproduce Jaketown Perforators).

1975 An Analysis of Faunal Remains from 41HR210. La Tierra , Newsletter of the Southern Texas Archeological Association, 2(4):23-28.

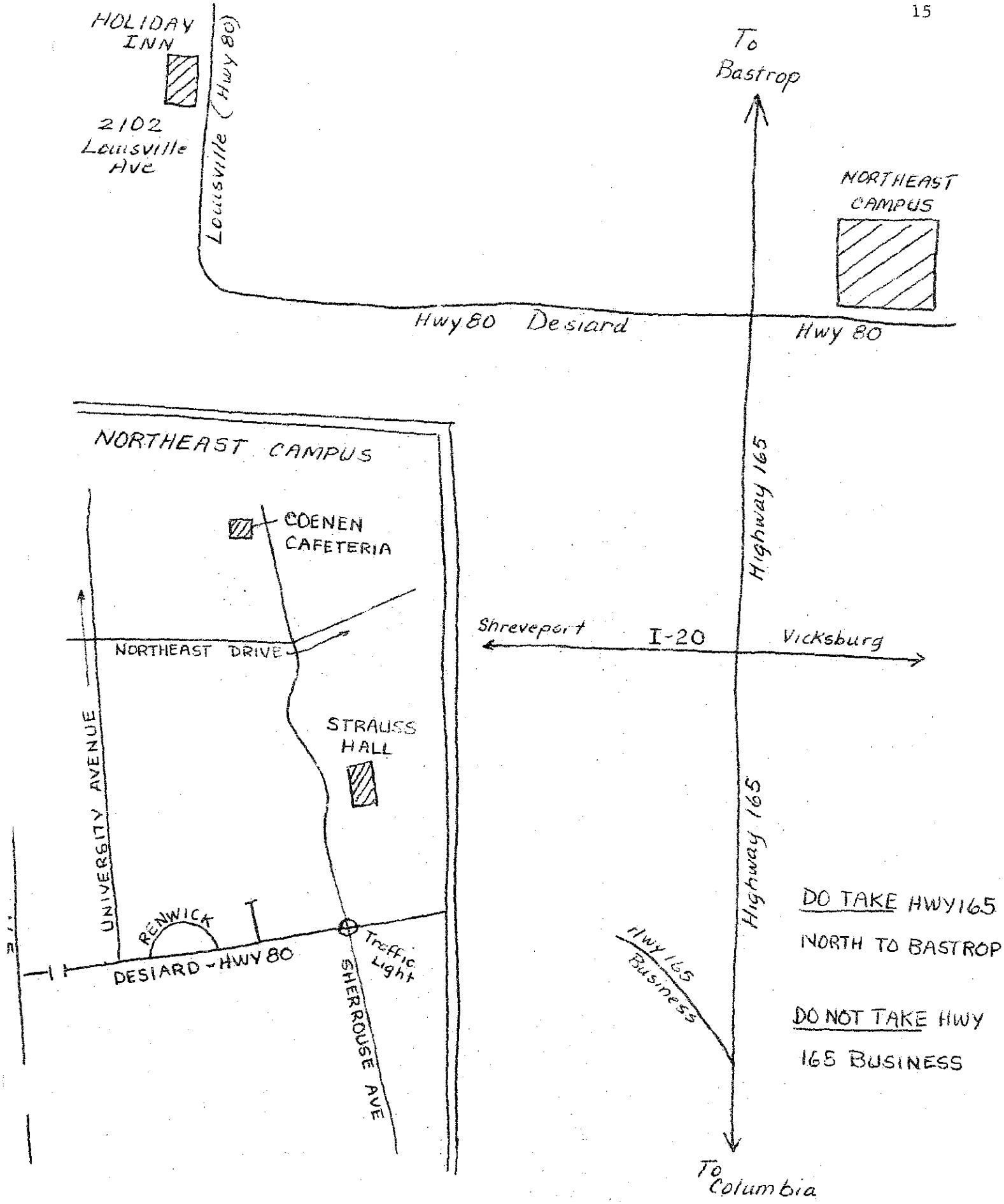
Byrd, Katherine (Florida State Museum)
1975 Tchefuncte Subsistence: Data From the Morton Shell Mound, Iberia Parish, Louisiana. Paper presented at 1975 Southeastern Archaeological Conference, October, 1975, Gainesville, Florida.

Haag, William
1975 Prehistoric Agriculture in Louisiana. Paper presented at 1975 Southeastern Archaeological Conference, October, 1975, Gainesville, Florida.

Lyon, Edwin (Dept. of History, LSU)
1975 The Louisiana WPA Project. Paper presented at 1975 Southeastern Archaeological Conference, October, 1975, Gainesville, Florida.

Smith, Brent
1975 Prehistoric Settlement Patterns of the Young's Bayou Drainage, Natchitoches Parish, Louisiana. Paper presented at the 1975 meeting of the Society for American Archaeology, May 1975, Dallas, Texas.

F. C. Stickney, president of the Texas Archeology Society, and Harry Shafer, TAS editor, have asked me to announce by this means the publication of a new monograph on Texas archeology. It is called: "The Bensen-Clark Site, Red River County Texas: A Preliminary Report". It is published as Special Publication No. 2, Texas Archeological Society and can be ordered from: Texas Archeological Society, SMU, Box 165, Dallas, TX 75275. It costs $5.25 (for members of TAS) and $6.75 for non-members. It is a good report, order it. Clarence Webb will review it in a subsequent issue of Louisiana Archaeology.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STRAUSS HALL
UNIVERSITY AVENUE
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DESIARD - HWY 80
Traffic Light
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DO NOT TAKE HWY 165 BUSINESS

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