



THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN FLORIDA

CHAPTER

THE FLORIDA ANTHROPOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Volume 8 Number 11 Newsletter November 1984

President: Jeanie McGuire Editor: Beth Read

BOARD MEETING

Monday, November 5, 1984

The regular Board of Directors meeting will be held at Dr. Jackson's office, 190 S.E. 12 Terr., Miami. These meetings are open meetings and all voting members are welcome to attend and join the Board for coffee and dessert.

MEETING NOTICE

Thursday, November 15, 1984

The regular November membership meeting will be held at the new Historical Museum at 101 West Flagler Street, Miami, in the classroom on the lower level.

The guest speaker for the November meeting is Carter Burrus who will give an audio-visual presentation on the history of Biscayne National Park. Mr. Burrus recently received a Doctor of Arts degree in History from the University of Miami and has studied the cultural history of the south Biscayne Bay area in depth.

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Recently some of us watched the relocation of the famous "coral rock" (oolitic limerock) house, the Brown House. Our friends at Dade Heritage Trust will need our support along with the entire community to rebuild this historic home. It would be nice if we could help by making a contribution of \$100.00 to Dade Heritage Trust for the Brown House. Please join me in this effort by sending your checks of \$5.00 or more (made out to DHT or ASSF) and we will make a joint donation to DHT in the name of ASSF.

Jeanie L. McGuire
University of Miami
P.O. Box 249117
Coral Gables, FL 33124

FIELD REPORT

Jeanie

Last month in one of our new pits we uncovered a burial of a dog. At that time we believed the dog may have been buried about 1960 A.D. We thought it would be a good chance to try out techniques we haven't used before on this site and an opportunity to make a good display. We wanted to demonstrate a technique employed by physical anthropologist that displays a different view of Archaeology other than seeing illustrations and photographs.

To remove the skeleton material, the bone was exposed to determine the dog's size. The skeleton was then "pedestaled" and surplus soil was trimmed away. We then had a "block". To under cut the "block" we used a thin sheet of aluminum. This made a floor for the "block". The block was then tilted and lifted and placed into a carrying litter. The block

was trucked out of the site to be treated with a solution to harden both soil and bone. This exercise was a great success.

Bill Lyons uncovered an important artifact, a 17th Century Majolica sherd. This sherd is recognized as "Aucilla Polychrome" and is probably the largest sherd of this type found in Dade County so far. This Spanish sherd is terra cotta with yellow bands bordered by brown and black lines; it also has green floral patterns on cream white enameling.

While washing material in the screen last week Debbie Carr found a pipestone bead. The bead is red to brown in color and is the first we have found of this type. Only a few have been seen in South Florida.

The State Archives has some free booklets that may interest some of you. Ask for bulletins 1 thru 6. Send your request to:

Bureau of Historic Sites and Properties
Division of Archives, Department of State Capital
History and Records Management
Tallahassee, FL 32301-8020

Wes Coleman

EXCAVATION DATES

Sunday, November 4, 12:30 p.m.; Saturday, November 10, 9:00 a.m.;
Sunday, November 18, 12:30 p.m.; Saturday, November 24, 9:00 a.m.;
Sunday, December 2, 12:30 p.m.; Saturday, December 8, 9:00 a.m.; Sunday,
December 16, 12:30 p.m.

HELP US AT THE HARVEST FAIR

I need you. I want you. I'll even love you. If you'll help me man the booth at the Harvest Fair.

It's easy. And it's fun. And it's necessary. And we're going to have great exhibits. And Seth can't do it all alone.

Call Seth Lefkow at 861-8253 or 624-1347 to offer up some of your time on Saturday, November 17, or Sunday, November 18. While you're there, you can enjoy the rest of the Harvest Fair--always a fun day.

Seth

T-SHIRTS

You can have your own ASSF T-shirt with the new logo on a light blue T-shirt ready to wear for the Harvest, only \$5.00. To reserve yours call Jeanie at 284-4692 or 662-1950.

THANK YOU

Thanks go to Mr. John G. Berialt for his excellent presentation on the work at Chokoloskee Island, at our Regular October Meeting. Several of our members helped on this excavation. John presented slides of the excavation, some rare pieces of pottery sherds and all of us in unusual poses. The slides along with John's commentary made for an educational and entertaining evening.

HOLIDAY DINNER MEETING

Our regular December Meeting will be a holiday dinner meeting at Sorrento's Restaurant, 3059 S.W. 8th Street, Miami. As many of you will recall we met at the same place last year. The food is delicious, the company is great and we hope to see many of you there this year. This time we will have a separate dining room but will be able to order from the regular menu. Come early if you can and join us for a drink at the bar before dinner.

NAPLES ADVENTURE, PART TWO

Once again Ron Phenix and I journeyed across the state to Naples the weekend of October 13th to join the Archaeological Society of Southwest Florida in an unusual field project. We met at President Charlie Strader's house, which is located on the beautiful Imperial River. In addition to having a spectacular view, Charlie's property also contains an Indian midden. Nothing like doing a surface collection in your own backyard!

Charlie and his wife Gayle graciously ferried us in their Boston Whaler to a remote "island" known as Hell's Gate. After a short hike through a mangrove swamp we arrived at the site. What we found was an Indian burial mound which had been partially ransacked by pot-hunters. Our mission was to collect only those skeletal remains appearing on the surface. Apparently these bones had been deemed unworthy by the pot-hunters in search of skulls, grave goods, and other imagined treasures. It was the harsh reality of site vandalism and it was very ugly.

While we collected and cleaned the bones, John Beriault and several others surveyed and plotted the site on paper. The highlight of the project was a field lesson in physical anthropology given by Dr. Keith Waterhouse, a member of the society who is a surgeon and professor of anatomy. Dr. Waterhouse reviewed each group of bones, identifying the various indicators for age, sex, evidence of disease, and physical characteristics. Using femoral bones as indicators, we established the partial remains of approximately 15-20 people which were recovered.

The bones were to be collected the following weekend when another group, including some people from the press, would visit the site. Hopefully some good publicity about the bad effect of site destruction will be the result of our efforts. Ron and I would like to think so anyway.

Emily Perry Dietrich

TEA DANCE AT "Z"

Sunday Tea Dance for the benefit of Dade Heritage Trust is scheduled for Sunday, November 4, at 7:00 p.m. at the Art Deco Nightclub "Z" at 1200 Washington Avenue, Miami Beach. The evening will include a tour of the Art Deco Renovation of the club, cocktails and hors d'oeuvres, a laser light show, music and dancing, all for a \$25.00 tax deductible donation.

CHEETUM SITE TRIVIA

As of August 13, 1984, we have removed from the Cheetum Site: 18,318 grams of pottery sherds, 10,349 grams of shell and 6,595 grams of bone for scientific study. We have moved 475 cubic feet of soil, which means 17.3 tons of soil has gone thru the screens.

We are now on our 19th pit. We have worn out 3 screens.

Wes Coleman

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN FLORIDA

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION/RENEWAL FORM

Objective: To provide a formal means by which individuals and institutions interested in archaeological and anthropological studies in South Florida and related areas may come together for mutual benefits.

Code of Ethics:

1. Members of the society agree to promote archaeological site preservation and conservation, to excavate only undamaged sites as part of a qualified research group, to not excavate archaeological sites for the unscientific collecting of artifacts.
2. All artifacts and material recovered from society projects are property of the society.

I hereby apply for membership in the Archaeological Society of Southern Florida:

Name:

Address:

Telephone:

Renewal ___ New Member ___ \$12.00 Individual ___ \$15.00 Family ___

Mail check or money order to: The Archaeological Society of Southern Florida
101 West Flagler Street
Miami, Florida 33130

date: January 1, 1984

DATES TO REMEMBER

- November 4: Sunday, 7:00 p.m., Tea Dance at "Z", Washington Avenue, Miami Beach. For the Benefit of Dade Heritage Trust.
- November 5: Monday, Regular Board Meeting, Dr. Jackson's office, 190 S.E. 12 Terr., Miami, 7:30 p.m.
- November 8-10: Southeastern Archaeological Conference, Annual Meeting, Pensacola Hilton Hotel, Pensacola, FL.
- November 15: Thursday, Regular Meeting, Historical Museum, 101 West Flagler Street, Miami, 7:00 p.m.
- November 15-18: American Anthropological Association 83rd. Annual Meeting, Denver Hilton and Holiday Inn Denver Downtown.
- November 17-18: Harvest Fair, Benefit of the Historical Association of South Florida.
- November 17-18: SWFAS trip to State Museum
- December 2: Sunday, 11:00 a.m., Trolley Tour of Coral Gables with Historical Museum.
- December 7: Friday, Regular December Holiday Dinner Meeting, Sorrento's Restaurant, 3059 S.W. 8th Street, Miami.
- December 8: Saturday, 10:00 a.m., Canoe trip to Indian Key with Historical Museum.
- December 12: Christmas at the Cloisters, with Dade Heritage Trust.
- February 2: Trip to Lignumvitae Key and Indian Key.

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Emily Perry
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