



THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN FLORIDA

CHAPTER

THE FLORIDA ANTHROPOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Volume 11 Number 9 Newsletter SEPTEMBER 1986

President: Sue Goldman Editor: Debra Goldman

BOARD MEETING

7:30 p.m., Monday, Sept. 8

The September Board of Directors meeting will be held on Monday, September 8 at 7:30 p.m. at Beth Read's office, 1489 S. Miami Avenue, Miami. All voting members should be present.

MEMBERSHIP MEETING

8:00 p.m., Friday, Sept. 19

Lee Tiger, Director of Marketing and Public Relations for the Miccosukees, and member of the musical group, "Tiger Tiger", will be speaking about the art and music of his tribe.

The meeting will be at the Audubon House, 5530 Sunset Drive, South Miami on Friday, September 19 at 8:00 p.m.

"FRIDAY THE 15TH, PART 2"

Thanks to Dr. Mittleman from the Dade County Medical Examiners Office, who gave quite a stimulating and informative lecture on the identification of human remains. (And I thought "Aliens" was bad!)

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Programs: Please contact Ruth Gaustad if you have a speaker scheduled for upcoming society meetings, at 252-0069, work, or 279-2735, home.

Cable TV: Thanks to Ed Bell, we got some good publicity in an article (with pictures!) that appeared in the July '86 edition of "WLRN Signal", a cable access magazine. The article, which told about our series, "In Search of Our Past", is available through Sue Goldman.

Exhibits: There will be a meeting of those interested in working on the display for the Harvest on Wed., September 3 at 7:30 p.m. at Debra Goldman's house, 625 Alhambra Circle, Coral Gables, 442-2687.

CONFERENCE

The Florida Trust for Historic Preservation will hold a conference on September 25-27 in Ft. Lauderdale. Tours, lectures and a river cruise are scheduled. Call Emily at 545-4230 for details.

DEATH OF A SITE

Once upon a time, when the Everglades came as far east as LeJeune Road and before the Indians brought coontie to a mill at 135th & Biscayne Blvd., and before flood control canals were dug and dikes were erected and before Henry Flagler and Commodore Monroe and Ponce de Leon and Christopher Columbus and Jesus, before all that there were two small islands in the 'Glades where They lived and ate and hunted and built and gave birth and died and were buried. And the waterways of the Everglades were their streets and They killed only to eat. And then They were gone.

When the canals were dug and the water level dropped and the River of Grass retreated west and the land was dry to walk on, these elevations remained verdant. Big trees giving more shade than a man could use. Black and yellow butterflies tasting every flower and the grass grew under the trees and it was beautiful. Then came man to peel back the cover that had taken centuries to be and to dig the rock and grind it up and sell it. But before they could chew up the last of it they found where the Early Ones had been and the archaeologists were allowed to "do their thing". The professionals and the amateurs are done now and the islands that became a forest are now white and bare in the sun. A giant machine, big as a house and as noisy as the jets that fly overhead uprooted the next-to-last big tree. One more to go. Then the dynamite and the drag lines and the railroad cars and waterfront lots will be "selling at pre-construction prices".

Some of us were lucky. We got to see it like it was and to work it. We took home rich soil from under the screens and plants for our lawns. We found the leavings of those who lived there before and we found them too --- in the ground. We laid out our little squares with string and stakes and we dug with trowels and toothbrushes and perspired and got thousand year old dirt under our fingernails.

Then the bulldozers came.

Seth Lefkow
June '86

DOZER DOINGS

Wes Coleman, assistant project director of the Cheetum Site had a unique opportunity... getting a bulldozer to perform like a trowel. He tells how he turned heavy machinery into useful archeological tools.

DG: Wes, tell us about your experiences with bulldozers relative to archeological sites.

WC: I've been an archeologist in urban areas and have been following the bulldozer for years. I realized that this passive position can be turned into an active one - you can control this piece of heavy equipment and use it as a tool.

DG: This can't be an easy trick. How do you go about it?

WC: The first thing you have to do is talk to the operator of the machine. Tell him what you are trying to do and why. Get him involved - also, get his foreman involved. They're on a time schedule, just like you.

Understand the equipment you are working with. Is it old? How much play is in the blade? Ask the operator if he can cut the surface at 10 cm. or 30 cm. levels. You can, after a time, use the dozer as a large trowel.

Try to get the same operator every day. He'll know what to expect from you and you from him. Learn the hand signals - make up a few, if need be. Again, get the operator involved in what you are doing and why.

DG: How do you feel about a project like this? Doesn't the bulldozer destroy everything?

WC: A lot of artifacts will be destroyed. Oh, you'll save a few, but in this case, you must remember that you're out there to collect information, not just artifacts.

You know what castor oil is used for. I don't like it, but for the results, you have to take it. You can cover the taste of castor oil to make it more palatable. You can do the same here on the project. If you can control the operation in some manner, you can conserve at least some information, if not the site. There's also an advantage. An overview will unfold before your eyes - not the kind we're used to in one meter pits, but larger.

DG: What would you say is the most important aspect when working with heavy machinery?

WC: You must record everything - this is the most important thing you do. Remember everything you see, keep your eye on where they're dumping the soil. Try to keep it in some sort of order!

DG: I understand you have giant soil piles from the Cheetum Site in your backyard, waiting to be screened and sorted.

WC: Yes, and this would be a good opportunity for any society member to start their own project or research on whatever they might be interested in. Faunal bone, shells, pottery, tools, worked bone - it's all in there.

DG: Thanks, Wes!

Sorting will take place on alternating Saturdays and Sundays at 9:30 a.m. beginning September 6. Call Wes at 226-6788.

CUTLER FOSSIL LAB

Help is needed in the Cutler Fossil Lab, Mondays - Fridays, 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Call Ruth at 252-0069.

CHOKOLOSKEE

The last remaining undeveloped portion of Chokoloskee will soon be destroyed by developers. The Southwest Florida Archeological Society has invited us to join them in a salvage excavation on Saturday, October 11, 1986. Those interested should contact Carla Lopez at 274-4991, evenings, or Debra Goldman at 442-2687.

SITE ACQUISITIONS

Ruth Gaustad, chairperson the the Site Acquisition Committee of the Archeological and Historical Conservancy, has asked members to contact her with any archeological or historical sites worthy of preservation. Call her at 252-0069, work, or 279-2735, home.

PHOTOGRAPHY

"Photography as a Historical Document, Images of Egypt and the Holy Land: Francis Frith, 1856-60 and Jane Reese Williams, 1976" will be on display at the Main Library Metro-Dade Cultural Center, through September 30. Ms. Williams, Dr. Martha Morrison, professor of Classical and Oriental Studies, Brandeis University, and Zahi Hawass, former inspector for Egyptian antiquities, will present a panel discussion on the history, art, architecture and archeology of the area on September 20, at 1:30 p.m. in the library auditorium.

(Taken from Photogroup/Miami Newsletter, Vol. 3, No. 4)

ARCHEOLOGY CLASS

Jeannie McGuire will be teaching an Archeology Class on October 11 and 12 from 10:00 a.m. till 4:00 p.m. at the Deering Estate. The fee is \$20.00 for members of the Historical Association and \$26.00 for non-members. Those interested should call the Education Department at the Historical Museum at 375-1625. Space is limited!

Please send material to be published in this newsletter to:

Debra Goldman
625 Alhambra Circle
Coral Gables, FL 33134

ANSWERS: ARCHEOLOGY II

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FIBER D S I
F U ARTICULATED
I S T G R R
G Y P L P A I
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O U T U F A P A
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R T G CAST N
TESAR U T C
E TYPEFOSSIL I
CONCH R R G S
O N R BONE
W MAIZE D
METATE P A
L H D

ARTIFACTS



101 West Flagler Street
 Miami, Florida 33130

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

DATES TO REMEMBER

September 1 Labor Day
September 3 Exhibit Committee Meeting, 7:30 p.m., Debra Goldman's house,
625 Alhambra Circle, Coral Gables, 442-2687
September 8 Board Meeting, 7:30 p.m., Beth Read's office, 1489 South Miami
Avenue, Miami.
September 19 Membership Meeting, 8:00 p.m., Audubon House, 5530 Sunset Drive,
South Miami.
September 25-27 The Florida Trust for Historic Preservation Conference. Call 545-4230.
October 11 Chokoloskee Salvage Excavation. Call 442-2687 or 274-4991.
October 11&12 Jeannie McGuire's Archeology Class. Call 375-1625.

SORTING DAYS (Cheetum Site Material)

(Cutler Fossil Lab)

Saturday, September 6 at 9:30 a.m.
Sunday, September 14 "
Saturday, September 20 "
Sunday, September 28 "
Saturday, October 4 "

Monday - Friday, 8 - 4:30p.m.



101 West Flagler Street
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Emily Perry Dieterich
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