



THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN FLORIDA

CHAPTER

THE FLORIDA ANTHROPOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Volume 12 Number 1 Newsletter JANUARY 1987

President: Sue Goldman Editor: Debra Goldman

HAPPY NEW YEAR!!! HAPPY NEW YEAR!!! HAPPY NEW YEAR!!! HAPPY NEW YEAR!!! HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!!!!!!!!!!

BOARD MEETING

6:00 p.m., Friday, January 16, 1987

The January Board of Directors meeting will be held on Friday, January 16 at 6:00 p.m., at Sue Goldman's house, 7730 S.W. 52nd Court, South Miami. All board members are urged to attend.

MEMBERSHIP MEETING

8:00 p.m., Friday, January 16, 1987

Art Lee, a member of the Southwest Florida Archeological Society, will be speaking about his experiences at a site in southwestern France, where he and his wife spent a month excavating skeletons of pre-neanderthal man!

The meeting will be held at the Audubon House, 5530 Sunset Drive, South Miami, on Friday, January 16 at 8:00 p.m.

SUE'S VIEWS

January, February, March and the Society year is over! We have heard of exciting and interesting discoveries made all over the world. Some Society members participated in two Dade County firsts. The Cheetum Site turned up one of the earliest radio carbon dates for a Tequesta site in southeast Florida, ca. 5000 B.C. The Cutler Fossil Site contained a first discovery of human bones in association with extinct animal bones.

The Harvest Committee members are to be greatly commended for the fine exhibit they prepared. It was the talk of the fairground! Norma Dieppa and John Ayer were honored at the December party for their leadership. John, Guy Arnold and Rick Diaz were given a year's membership in the Society for thier good work. Debbie and Bob Carr, Ruth Gaustad, Jose Munoz, Don Mattucci and Debra Goldman deserve special thanks for their support and good ideas.

The Cable TV Committee continues doing a fine job of recording Society activities, as was evidenced by the video tape shown at the Harvest. Thanks to Ed Bell, committee head, and Judi Trimble, Don Mattucci, Wes and Dee Coleman.

Sue Goldman

CUTLER FOSSIL SITE CLOSED

Excavations were terminated at the Cutler Fossil Site on December 15, 1986, after 14 months of continuous digging and numerous extensions from the property owner. The excavations resulted in the removal and recording of a 10,000 year cultural horizon from within a solution hole. Recovered artifacts included imported chert tools and a previously unknown limestone tool assemblage indicating that these people had mastered working the local limestone into effective tools. The cataloging and analysis of over 300,000 fossil bones and artifacts will continue throughout 1987 by the Archeological and Historical Conservancy.

Bob Carr

MIDDLE KEYS SURVEY TO BEGIN

The Archeological and Historical Conservancy has been awarded a \$7,000 grant from the State of Florida to conduct an archeological survey in the Middle Keys ranging from Plantation through Marathon. This is the second phase of the Keys survey with a previous phase having been conducted on Key Largo. Anyone with information about sites in the Middle Keys please contact Bob Carr at 545-4229.

BATTLE OF OKEECHOBEE - DECEMBER 5/6/7 1987 - OKEECHOBEE, FLORIDA

150th year Seminole War battle anniversary to be held near Okeechobee, Florida. 3 day AUTHENTIC Seminole War event to include: FRI: 12 Noon, beginning registration, separate authentic/modern camp set up, with out hookups. SAT: military living history encampment, drills, possible Indian skirmish and general melee, open to the public. SUN: 1 PM, battle re-enactment to be viewed by the public. PROVIDED: straw, firewood, water, port-o-johns, powder ration, battle certificates and streamers. ARTY not needed. Request families participating be dressed in 1830's period clothing. SUTLERS are welcome. No fees for re-enactors or sutlers. Cavalry is welcome - but SUN battle scenario has CAV dismounted. Possible local festival to be held in conjunction with battle re-enactment. Hosts for the event - the Okeechobee Historical Society and the Archeological and Historical Conservancy.

Pre-registration is requested by writing: Okeechobee Battlefield Committee
 Attn: Guy H. Arnold
 1180 SW 186th St.
 Miami, FL 33177

NEEDED: Authentic period (1830's) INF, CAV, Delaware, Shawnee, Seminole re-enactors.

Guy Arnold

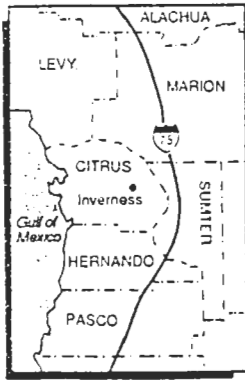
Florida News

Sunday, January 4, 1987

The Miami Herald

6B

Bones, armor trace deSoto's long march



INVERNESS — (AP) — Researchers have long been able to estimate the exact route followed by explorer Hernando de Soto, but a rich archaeological site now under excavation is yielding some of the best evidence yet of the Spanish explorer's travels in Florida.

The evidence near Central Florida's Withlacoochee River suggests that scholars who posted signs marking his route across Florida were on the right track, the University of Florida said.

"We know from historical accounts that to get north, de Soto had to cross a big swamp and a river," said Jerald Milanich, curator of archaeology at the Florida State Museum on the Florida campus. "We've found the swamp; we've found the river; and now we've found Spanish artifacts in an Indian burial mound that are almost surely from the de Soto expedition."

"I don't think we're going to be taking any signs down," he said. De Soto landed in Florida in May of 1539

with a band of 700 men. Early that summer, they began cutting a swath northward in search of conquest and gold.

Almost 450 years later, former Gov. Bob Graham asked a panel of scholars to help the state commemorate the route with historical markers.

Using maps, diaries, court transcripts and other historical accounts, the archaeologists and historians determined that it was the Withlacoochee River that de Soto crossed in July of 1539, and accordingly recommended that de Soto route markers be put about every five miles along State Route 41 from Inverness to Williston. From Williston, the trail winds through Gainesville on State Route 121, where it picks up U.S. 441 to points north.

The signs went up last year.

Now an Indian mound is yielding evidence of close contact between the natives and de Soto's men. The exact location of the mound is being kept a secret

to protect it, but it is near Inverness along State Road 41.

"I'd say that this site has yielded the best evidence yet of de Soto's presence in Florida," said Jeff Mitchem, field director of the excavation, now in its third season.

So far, the archaeological team has found Spanish armor fashioned by Indians into jewelry, Spanish beads, iron spikes and, perhaps most telling, Indians bones with sword marks on them.

The graves of a hasty mass burial in the mound's top layer probably indicates that de Soto exposed the Indians to germs to which they were not immune.

Beads dateable to de Soto's period suggest trading between the natives and de Soto's men. Silver objects, gold and the pieces of armor — all of which the Spanish would not have given willingly to the Indians — have also been found in the upper level of the mound, Mitchem said.

They may have been stolen from the

Spaniards, taken in battle or retrieved after they were hidden by de Soto's men.

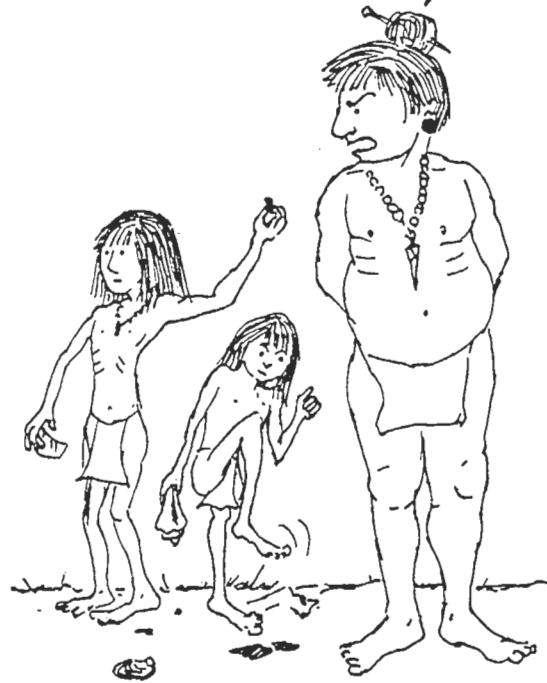
"The bones, though, were definitely cut by swords," Mitchem said, "and that's the closest category of contact you can document."

"De Soto's men may have worn out the welcome," Milanich said.

"Something they were accustomed to doing. If they needed laborers, they put Indians in chains," he explained. "The made concubines out of their women. The first thing they did when they came in a area was to seize the Indian's corn supply. And then those Indians who were uncooperative were thrown to a pack of dogs. They would tear them apart."

Mitchem and Milanich hope the pinpointing of this site will lead them to Calé, an Indian camp across the Withlacoochee where de Soto and his men stayed for some time and buried some of their heavier gear for safekeeping.

SMASH THAT POTTERY! THROW THOSE SHERDS. NO SENSE MAKING IT EASY FOR THOSE DAMN ARCHAEOLOGISTS!



R. CARR 86

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 endangered 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: _____

Signature: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

Renewal___ New Member___ \$12.00 Individual___ \$15.00 Family___

Mail check or money order to: The Archaeological Society of Southern Florida
c/o Beth Read

Due: January 1987
1489 South Miami Avenue
Miami, FL 33129

DATES TO REMEMBER

January 16 Board of Directors Meeting, Sue Goldman's House, 6:00 p.m.
January 16 Membership Meeting, Audubon House, 8:00 p.m.
February 20 Board of Directors Meeting, Membership Meeting
March 5-8 Ethnobiology Conference, Florida State Museum, University of Florida
Contact Elizabeth Wing, 904/392-1721

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DUES ARE DUE THIS MONTH. PLEASE SIGN THE ENCLOSED APPLICATION AND
SEND TO: THE ARCHEOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN FLORIDA
c/o BETH READ
1489 SOUTH MIAMI AVENUE
MIAMI, FL 33129

THANK YOU!



1489 South Miami Avenue
Miami, FL 33129



Emily Perry Dieterich
6230 Grant Court
Hollywood, FL 33024