



THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN FLORIDA

CHAPTER

THE FLORIDA ANTHROPOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Volume 12 Number 5 Newsletter MAY 198

President: W.S. Steele Editor: Debra Goldman

BOARD MEETING

6:00 pm, Friday, May 22

The May Board of Directors meeting will be held on Friday, May 22 at Beth Read's office, 1489 South Miami Avenue. This is the first meeting of the newly elected officers so it is important that all board members attend. Interested members not on the board are also invited.

MEMBERSHIP MEETING

8:00 pm, Friday, May 22

Maya Artifacts From the Belize Lowlands - A Private Collection

Thirty-five years of farming in the jungle have produced a serious collection of artifacts for pioneer Herbert Masson, owner of the ranch on which the Maya site Colha is located. Marilyn Masson will present a slide show of these artifacts at the monthly meeting, which include elaborate chert eccentrics, ceramics, and jade, in addition to formal tool types being mass-produced at the site for export. Some photos will be shown from other sites in Belize, too, so don't miss it. The meeting will be on Friday, May 22, under the chickee at the Audubon House, 5530 Sunset Drive, South Miami. Please note that this is the fourth Friday of the month.

APRIL'S ANNUAL MEETING

Yum!Yum! That sums up the taste of our annual pot luck dinner. Sorry some of you missed it. However, the rest of us had a great time! There was lots of socializing and lots of good food. Our a la carte surprise menu included yellow rice with shrimp, famous honey chicken, salads, cakes and Beth Read's spinach pies.

What more could you ask for? I'll tell you - Judi Trimble's art work! A beautiful display of watercolors adorned the wooden interiors of the Audubon House - a tres nouveau dining atmosphere.

The evening also included the final tally of votes. Well folks, it was close but our candidates held to their six shooters. Congratulations to this year's officers and board members. PRESIDENT BILL STEELE was asked to keep his acceptance speech brief - and he did! VICE-PRESIDENT BETH READ was pleased with the results and gave her allegiance to serve the society and Bill well. TREASURER JOHN CARRUTHERS will continue to run our treasury. See you in Mexico, John! SECRETARY VIVIAN PETERS graduated from Board Member to big-time politics.

continued ...

Our new BOARD OF DIRECTORS include BOB CARR who was extremely surprised at the outcome of the elections and started the new term speechless. NORMA DIEPPA - yea me! Since I wrote this article, I am making myself immune to satire! However, I do thank the society for the opportunity to serve them. Bob and I join board members DEBRA GOLDMAN, JIM LORD and RON PHENIX whose positions were not up for re-election this year.

On behalf of myself and the rest of the newly elected, let's make this a good year!

Norma Dieppa

MEMBERS ON THE MOVE

Bill Johnson is planning his annual trip to Alaska this summer, to work for the Bureau of Indian Affairs. He'll be in Nome, Kodiak and the Kenai Peninsula, examining aborigine sites from the Paleo-Indian period to the Historic. Stay tuned for Alaska updates in future newsletters...

Jo Southard had a visit from past president Sue Goldman in April. They spent the day in Monticello. Jo asked about everyone and sends "hellos". She'll be moving to Washington D.C. in early summer to begin a new job. Good luck Jo!

CUTLER LAB CLOSES

After processing tons of dirt, lithics, fossilized animal bones, human bones, charcoal, shell, tools and other artifacts, the Cutler Fossil Site Lab closed on Friday, May 8. Many society members worked in the lab including Marie Oscar, Jose Munoz, Norma Dieppa, Debra Goldman, Mark Duda, Wes Coleman, Don Mattucci, Marilyn Masson, Martha Miranda, Ashley Swift, Rick Diaz, John Ayer, Helen Woodmansee, Liz Bustin, Guy Arnold and Bill Steele. (Please forgive me if I have left you out.) The lab was under the expert supervision of Ruth Gaustad since January 1986. The enormous volume of material could not have been handled without Ruth's incredible organizational abilities.

The material is in the possession of the Danielsons, property owners and project fundors.

DO YOU JUST BELONG?

Wes Coleman found the following poem in the March/April 1987 newsletter of the American legion. He thought it was appropriate. So do I.

Are you an active member,
 The kind that would be missed,
 Or are you just contented
 That your name is on the list?
 Do you attend the meetings
 And mingle with the crowd,
 Or do you stay at home
 And crab both long and loud?
 Do you take an active part
 To help the Society along
 Or are you satisfied to be
 The kind to "just belong"?

There is quite a program scheduled
 That means success, if done,
 And it can be accomplished
 With the help of everyone.
 So attend the meetings regularly,
 And help with hand and heart,
 Don't be just a member,
 But take an active part.
 Think this over, Member
 Are we right or are we wrong?
 Are you an active member?
 Or - Do You Just Belong?

No sooner is Bill elected President...

THE MIAMI HERALD, April 26, 1987

Indian artifacts from stadium site go on a road trip

By GELAREH ASAYESH
Herald Staff Writer

They were probably fleeing from soldiers, and left behind cobs of corn in the hearth, arrowheads, a pretty button of brass a woman once wore in her hair.

More than a century later, a bulldozer scooping fill for a giant football stadium uncovered what the Indians abandoned.

Archaeologists also found signs of the hunters: a button manufactured by Treadwell and Jarman, New York; leaf-shaped insignia from a shako military hat; chips of blue glass that bore part of the phrase "Zachary Taylor Never Surrenders."

These odds and ends of history, just enough to fill an eight-foot by four-foot exhibit case, went on display Saturday at the Historical Museum of Southern Florida, 101 W. Flagler St. The exhibit ends May 8.

They are the result of a dig that archaeologists have been working for the past three months at the site of the new Dolphin Stadium.

Construction workers tearing down a hill at the Northwest Dade site turned up the first 19th Century Seminole camps ever excavated by archaeologists in Dade, said museum operations manager Bill Steele.

"This is the best example of a Seminole site that I have ever seen," said county archaeologist Bob Carr, who has visited more than 300 sites since 1979.

The artifacts offer testimony of the Second



ALBERT COYA / Miami Herald Staff

Museum official Bill Steele examines part of the Indian artifact collection.

and Third Seminole Wars, which led to the relocation or death of 99 percent of South Florida's Indians by 1858, said Steele.

Among the broken pipes, blue beads and iron scraps are shards of bluish glass that were once part of Zachary Taylor's successful campaign for the U.S. presidency in 1849. Whiskey flasks reminded voters of his successful military campaigns: "Zachary Taylor Never Surrenders."

The artifacts were excavated from Honey

Hill, until recently a 15-foot mound at Florida's Turnpike and Northwest 199th Street. Honey Hill was once part of a hardwood hammock on an island in the waters of the Everglades.

The island started where Northwest First Avenue intersects 163rd Street today and was probably a popular campsite on a well-traveled trail that is U.S. 1 today, said Steele.

"It's kind of interesting," said Steele. "You have the newest stadium in the NFL and it's built on some of the oldest soil."

THE MIAMI HERALD, April 27, 1987

Developer wants possible historic site saved

Land may have been camp for Spanish explorer de Soto

TALLAHASSEE — (AP) — Developers of a site believed to contain artifacts from a 1539 camp of Spanish explorer Hernando de Soto said they want to work with state officials to preserve the area rather than build on it.

Mike Allen, a spokesman for Tallahassee Development Corp., owners of the property near downtown Tallahassee, said the key is whether an equitable lease arrangement or sale of the land can be accomplished.

The company had planned to build an office complex on the land, which has been appraised at \$1.1 million.

"We don't want to build on this site," Allen said of the wooded ridge-top. "Obviously we can't just donate it to the state, but we want to get something worked out."

Jim Miller of the state's Bureau of Archaeological Research agreed. He said his office, the Tallahassee Preservation Board and others are committed to helping developers find a way to

avoid paving or building on the one-acre dig site.

"We're ready to be fairly public about our idea that at least all the evidence to date points to a de Soto site. We believe it is a de Soto site," Miller said.

If the artifacts found at the dig turn out to be from de Soto's camp, it would be the oldest known European building site on the North American mainland, possibly predating the founding of St. Augustine by 26 years, state archaeologist Calvin Jones said.

Since early March, Jones, who specializes in 16th Century Spanish mission sites, and his crew have unearthed pottery shards, chain-mail links, nails and the remains of plastered walls.

State Sen. Pat Thomas, D-Quincy, said Saturday he plans to push for preservation of the area.

"This thing has got such tremendous potential that whatever needs to be done here to help the private sector to safeguard the artifacts, we'll do," he said.

Thomas said that includes buy-

ing the site, if necessary.

De Soto, leading an expedition of 600 soldiers, priests and followers, traveled to North Florida in search of gold, silver and precious jewels. They are believed to have built a winter camp in Tallahassee.

The explorer and his men left the area after encountering hostile Indians, hardship, disease and death and were believed to have traveled through nine other southern states to Louisiana. It was there that de Soto was felled by fever, possibly malaria.

Norma Dieppa will be taking over the Newsletter for June and July. Look forward to exciting articles and great illustrations.

Please send material to:

Norma
13355 NW 12th Avenue
North Miami, FL 33168

DATES TO REMEMBER

MAY 22nd Board of Directors Meeting, 6 pm, Beth Read's office
MAY 22nd Membership Meeting, 8 pm, Audubon House
MAY 25th Memorial Day
JUNE 19th June Membership Meeting



1489 SOUTH MIAMI AVENUE

MIAMI, FLORIDA 33129



Emily Perry Dieterich
6230 Grant Court
Hollywood, FL 33024

