



THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN FLORIDA

CHAPTER

THE FLORIDA ANTHROPOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Volume 12 Number 6

Newsletter

June

1987

President: W. S. Steele

Editor: Debra Goldman

BOARD MEETING

6:00 pm, Friday, June 19

The May Board meeting failed to meet its quorum due to the absence of all but two members. Therefore, the decision was made to forward the May Meeting issues to our upcoming June Board Meeting. All of our Board Members are urged to please be present. Once again, interested members who are not on the board are invited to attend.

The June Board of Directors meeting will be held on Friday, June 19 at Beth Read's office, 1489 South Miami Avenue, 6 pm.

JUNE'S GUEST LECTURER

8:00 pm, Friday, June 19

The President speaks tonight! This month's speaker will be our beloved Bill Steele. His presentation will be about Ft. Henry. He will discuss Ft. Henry's history, its rediscovery in 1983, and a possible project which the Archaeological Society may undertake involving this site. We look forward to your lecture, Bill. The meeting will be held at the Audubon House, 5530 Sunset Drive, South Miami.

Bill Steele

MAY'S MEETING A HIT!

The May meeting featured guest speaker Marilyn Masson who provided a slide presentation and lecture on recent field work at Colha, Belize. A large turn-out of members and guests enjoyed an informative lecture on the specialized Mayan lithic workshops that are distinctive at Colha. This is Marilyn Masson's second lecture on the subject. This presentation placed more emphasis on the Operation 4040 tested lithic workshop used for evidence on craft specialization. The Colha project is funded by the University of Texas at San Antonio and organized by Project Director Tom Hestor. Colha is a Maya site in lowland Belize and known for its industrial level stone tool production.

Thank you Marilyn for your presentation!

The meeting highlights included a raffle. A fossilized sand dollar donated by Mary and Stan Kiem, was won by member Judi Trimble. Judi claimed her psychic inclinations were not responsible for what now is a long series of winning raffle tickets. Maybe not, Judi, but we plan on funding a trip to Las Vegas and you are definitely coming!!!

THE OKEECHOBEE BATTLEFIELD PROJECT

The research for the graves of 27 American soldiers at the Seminole War battlefield site was launched this month by the Archaeological and Historical conservancy. The Field Director is Marilyn Masson and the crew includes her husband Jim, Debra Goldman, Don Mattucci and Guy Arnold. Project Director Bob Carr said, that the group will be very busy over the next 4 weeks testing a large area for both historic and prehistoric features.

The crew enjoys a rustic field house at the Okee-bee retirement community where the rooms have been divided by the crew with bed sheets. Despite the rough conditions, Ms. Goldman's only complaint was the lack of electricity for her hair dryer. Guy Arnold states that, "Its just like camping, but I like roughing it!" Crew member Don Mattucci reports he is enjoying the project but is getting tired of cooking most of the meals. "Truthfully", said Don, "I think the crews favorite is my specialty of deeply charred hot dogs, melted cheese covered with red wine sauce.

AND THAT'S THE WAY IT WAS...150 years ago this month...

General Thomas Jesup, Commanding Officer of troops in Florida had been negotiating with Micanopy, principle Chief of the Seminoles, for removal of the Indians from Florida. Encouraged by his talks with Micanopy and Coacoochee (even the warlike Sam Jones was rumored to be coming into surrender) Jesup wrote to the Secretary of War, Joel R. Poinsett, "the war I hope is over"; Jesups hopes for a speedy end to the war evaporated when on June 2, 1837, Micanopy, Jumper and Cloud were abducted by Osceola and Sam Jones. Jesup evaluated the new situation in a letter to Corey A. Harris, Indian Agent; "I believe", wrote Jesup, "the emigration of the Seminoles to be impracticable under any circumstances...the country can be rid of them only by exterminating them." His efforts, thus embarrassed, Jesup asked to be relieved of his command. Public criticism of his command led to his staying on in an attempt to rediscover himself. The June 2nd abduction was the first step on the trail to Okeechobee, site of the largest battle of the fiercest American-Indian War.

125 years ago this month...

Robert E. Lee is given the command of the Army of Northern Virginia.

The U.S.S. Sagamore demands the unconditional surrender of Tampa. The Confederate Commander of the Oklawaha Rangers replied, "We have no such thing in the books as surrender." A Confederate battery and the Sagamore exchanged shots for an hour - no damage, no surrender!

Bill Steele

UPDATE!

Just a reminder to those who have not paid their dues yet. John Carruthers would be very happy to accept your dues at the next meeting or you can pay through any of the officers. Don't procrastinate or you may miss the next "hot off the press" newsletter! Don't miss this new year of upcoming exciting events!

BACKYARD FUN FOR THE SUMMER!

There is a lot that Florida has to offer, however, we sometimes tend to forget. So for those society members that are not outside busy digging up our past... you may want to just go out and visit again with Florida.

Pa-Hay-Okee Parks Newsletter suggests you visit:

1. Everglades National Park. "The well maintained trails and boardwalks give you a distinct advantage over the early explorers and indians." Winter is considered the best time to visit, but we society members are tough enough to handle the heat.
2. Big Cypress National Preserve. A true wilderness adventure which may provide you with a rare glimpse of the Florida Panther or the Black Bear. Call 813-695-4111 for more details.
3. Biscayne National Park. Awaits you with ranger led activities, glass bottom boat tours, cruises to Elliott Key and Convoy Point Key. Contact 247-PARK for more information.
4. Upcoming canoe trips.

Matheson Mangrove Canoe Trip: Sat., June 6.

7:30 to Noon, \$12 fee. Contact 662-4124

Mangrove Mosquito Madness: Hell's Bay Canoe trip

starts at 9:00 am - 5pm. Sun., June 7, \$18 fee.

Contact 662-4124.

Matheson Bayshore Canoe Trip. Thu., June 11, sunset

trip starts at 6pm - 8pm. Fee is \$6. Contact 662-4124.

Steamboat Creek Trek. Explore upper Key Largo over land

considered for American Crocodile Wildlife Refuge, mangroves, and various wading birds. 8:00 am - 4:00 pm, Fee \$18;

Contact Dade County Parks at 662-4124.

PA-HAY-OKEE NEWSLETTER - WINTER 1987

FORT JEFFERSON NAT'L MONUMENT

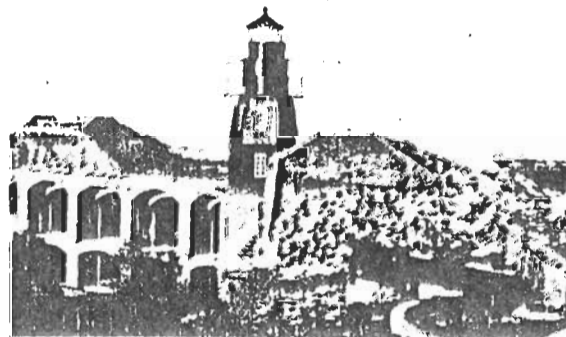
Lying at the extreme western end of the Florida Keys, 68 miles west of Key West, are the seven sand isles of the Dry Tortugas. Dominating the lonesome keys is the mammoth bulwark of Fort Jefferson.

The reefs and shoals of the Tortugas were first discovered by Ponce de Leon in 1513. Named for the abundant "tortugas" or turtles, the subtropical keys were a bountiful discovery. The large sea turtles provisioned the vessels with fresh meat but there was no fresh water. The Tortugas were dry.

Down through the years the Dry Tortugas have been the haunt of pirates and late wreckers. United States military attention was drawn to the keys in the early 1800's not because of high sea piracy, but because of their strategic location. Naval commanders felt that whoever controlled the Tortugas could control the Straits of Florida and the entrance to the Gulf of Mexico.

Plans were made for a massive fortress. Fort Jefferson would represent the largest of the new nation's seacoast fortifications. Construction progressed from 1847-1874 but the fort was never completed. The invention of the rifled cannon made the fort obsolete before its completion. Even as construction had progressed the fort began to crumble under its own weight. Yellow fever and hurricanes ravaged soldiers and military intentions.

During the Civil War the fortress served as a military prison for Union deserters. On sixteen acres of sand and brick the Union garrisoned 800 prisoners



Enjoy a self-guided walk through historic Fort Jefferson.

and guards. The most famous prisoner was the ill-fated Dr. Mudd. Mudd was implicated in the conspiracy to assassinate Lincoln, and spent four years at Fort Jefferson before being pardoned.

Construction on the facility was halted in 1874. In subsequent years the military outpost was used periodically as a quarantine station, a coaling station for sea-going naval steam ships, and as a World War I seaplane base, but as the world changed the strategic value of Fort Jefferson waned.

Conversely, as the world grew larger the importance of the pristine reefs,

abundant sea life, and overwhelming bird life grew in value. In 1935, President Franklin Roosevelt, set aside Fort Jefferson and the surrounding waters as a national monument.

The keys of the Dry Tortugas represent the most important tern colony in the contiguous states - home to 120,000 Sooty and Noddy Terns each spring and summer. White-tailed Tropicbirds, Masked Brown Boobies, and other rarities occur each year. Peregrine Falcons, sharp-shinned Hawks, Merlin and other birds of prey move south overhead each fall.

Endangered sea turtles, the Loggerhead and Green, nest each year on the isolated sand keys. Scientists boast that the reef is one of the most interesting and best developed in the nation. Hard and soft corals and richly colored reef fishes create a kaleidoscope underwater world. Shipwrecks from centuries past lie silent and undiscovered.

Today, haunting and mysterious, the fortress interrupts the seascape. Seabirds cry and rife the wind. Far out at sea the brick fort stands sentinel guarding the past as we protect the future.

ACCESS:

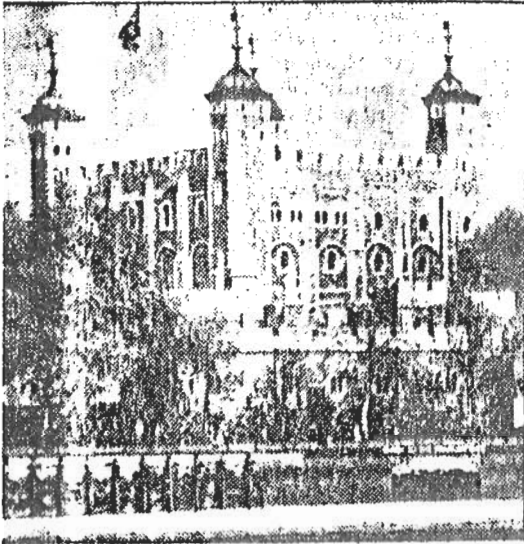
Public transportation to the fort is available from Key West by seaplane. Information on flights can be obtained from the Key West Chamber of Commerce.

Private boaters have a prime opportunity to visit the fort. Nautical charts for the route can be purchased at marinas and boating supply outlets in Key West. Information can be obtained in Key West from the U.S. Coast Guard, the Chamber of Commerce, and the Charter Boat Association. Boaters should be experienced and aware of the possibility of extremely rough seas.

The fort is open daylight hours only. An orientation slide show and self-guiding walking tour are available. There are excellent opportunities for snorkeling, SCUBA diving, and fishing. Camping is permitted in the grassy picnic area where grills and tables are provided. Remember, no water, food, supplies, shower facilities or accommodations are available. For more information about the monument, write to Superintendent, Everglades National Park, Box 279, Homestead, Florida 33030.

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FRIDAY, MAY 22, 1987



Tower of London, where Richard III allegedly murdered two young princes.

New evidence links bones to 'Princes of the Tower'

LONDON — (UPI) — New evidence indicates that two skeletons found more than 300 years ago in the Tower of London belonged to the young princes rumored to have been murdered by King Richard III, an archaeologist said Thursday.

When the skeletons buried in the Tower were found in 1674, they were assumed to be the remains of young King Edward V and his brother, Richard, Duke of York — the sons of Edward IV.

Rumor — and Shakespeare — said Richard III, as protector of the realm after his brother died in April 1483, had his nephews murdered in order to seize the crown himself.

Historical accounts indicate that the boys

disappeared in August 1483, two months after Richard III was proclaimed successor to the throne because his brother's children had been declared illegitimate by prelates.

Dr. Theya Molleson, an archaeologist at the Natural History Museum and an expert at dating skeletons, said Thursday she believes the skeletons likely belonged to the "Princes of the Tower."

She used X-rays, contemporary documents and recent dental dating methods to reach her conclusion, but could not determine how they died.

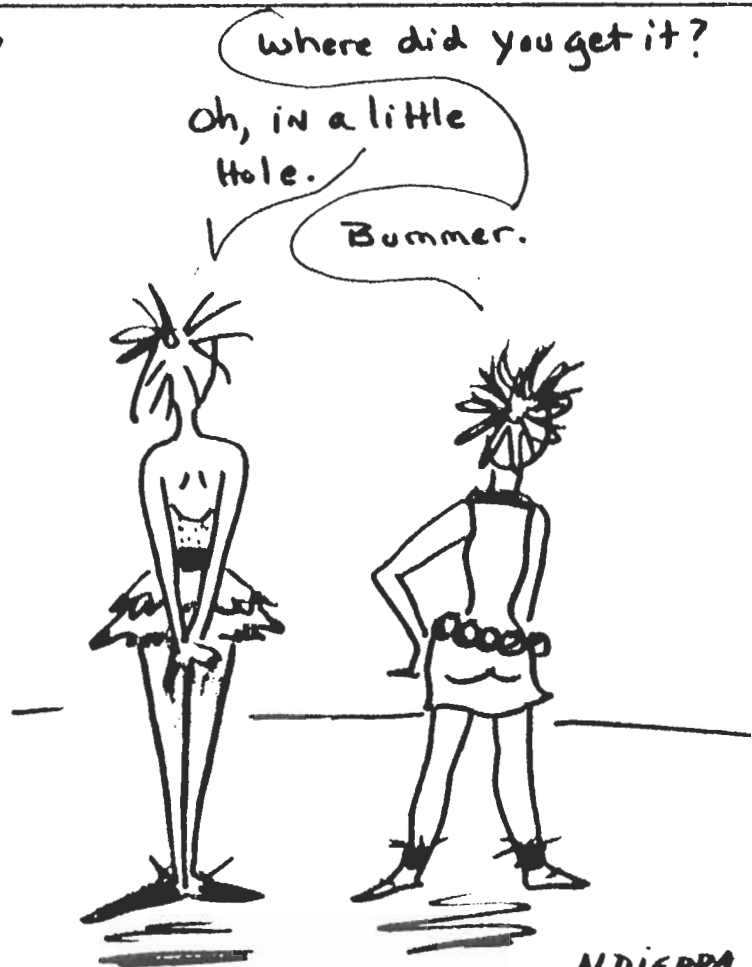
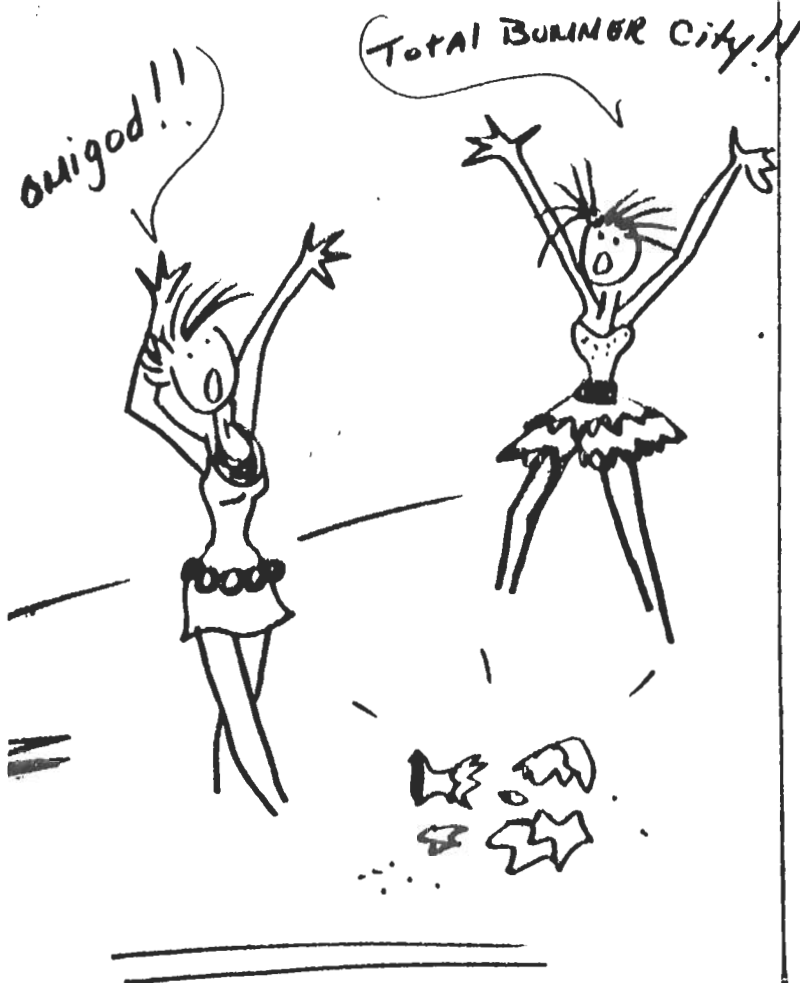
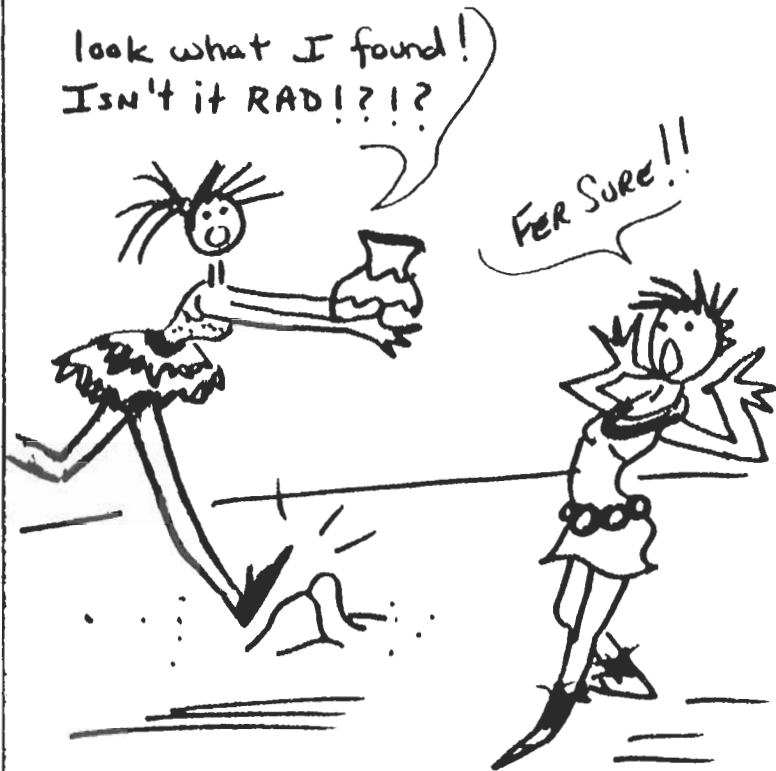
"The only conclusions I came to were that the skeletons are very likely to be those of the princes, and they died about 1484. I don't think you can conclude they were murdered or killed by Richard III," she said.

Raindrops

As I stand under the shelter,
of the old porch roof,
I watch the raindrops fall
as they splash around me,
tiny droplets fill the air
tingling my arms and legs.
Some rain drops hang onto the roof.
Each one catching
all the light of the world,
Then slowly dropping off with the others.
Splashing down,
to the ground making puddles.
Soon the shower stops.
But still off the old porch roof
the raindrops fall,
one by one.....

Judi Trimble

VALLEY ARCHAEOLOGIST



DATES TO REMEMBER

May 22 Rattlesnake meat in cans first sold in Arcadia, Fl - 1931
June 19 Board of Directors Meeting, 6 pm, Beth Read's office
June 19 Membership Meeting, 8 pm, Audubon House
July 17 July Membership Meeting



Emily P. Dieterich
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