

THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN FLORIDA

CHAPTER

THE FLORIDA ANTHROPOLOGICAL SOCIETY



Volume 12 Number Newsletter August 1987

President: W.S. Steele Editor: Norma Dieppa

Board Meeting

6:00 PM, Aug. 21st.

The August Board of Directors Meeting will be held on Friday, August 21st at Beth Read's Office at 1489 South Miami Avenue. All Board Members are urged to attend.

August Membership Meeting

6:00 PM, Aug. 21st

Jack Welty, President of the Institute of Maya Studies, will give a color slide presentation on "Back packing the Inca Trail to Machu Picchu." IN addition, Jack will speak briefly (with slides) on the sights at Tulúm and Kabáh on the Yucatan Peninsula. Jack has been with the IMS since 1981 and a board member since 1982. Although he is now in construction work (Jack of All Trades) he has been interested in the Mayan culture for more than a decade. As a former missionary in South America he was in close contact with many Indian groups. His knowledge of spanish helped him get about on the back roads of South America. One of his many interest is in reactivating the IMS library, now one of the best on Mayan history. The meeting will be held this Friday, August 21st, under the Chickee at the Audubon House located at 5530 Sunset Drive, South Miami at 8PM.

John Carruthers

July Meeting

"The Stuff of Dreams: Native American Dolls"

The exhibition currently at the Historical Museum, was enjoyed by members of the ASSAF in July. The dolls, ranging from 5000 years old to modern gave us sight into the culture and traditions of those who crafted them. Some simple, some complex, the dolls were fashioned out of clay, paper, wood, beeswax and cornhusks. They played, performed and protected.

Hopi Kachinas representing spirits were arranged to perform the Bean Dance (Powamuy) occuring in February. A 19th Century Plains camp was set up with small dolls and teepees, simulating an actual camp. Also displayed were: An Apache girl made from a forked stick, a beeswax doll from Brazil and a Mahican cornhusk doll from Wisconsin. Sioux "pieces" dolls were made from scraps of left over fabrics. Speaking of fabrics, an amazing Peruvian textile doll made in 1000 AD is included in the exhibit. "Power" dolls used by shamans were quite interesting and some even frightening! A wooden Tanaina shaman's doll was believed to come alive and walk about during the night. Medicine dolls from the Crow, Teton Sioux, Tlingit and Shawnee were also displayed. Prehistoric fertility dolls, charms and amulets were of special interest to many of us. A gold Inca woman form Peru, a clay Maya figure from Belize and an Omec man, beautifully molded from fine white clay, are some of the examples of the ancient dolls.

A Shipibo Balsa wood figure from Perus decorated with a complex pattern of lines and circles (1961) and the Olmec man are my personal faves! (continued on Pg.2)

If you have not seen the exhibit from the Museum of the American Indian, it runs until September 27th. Special thanks to Sue Goldman who provided us with delicious refreshments and to Michael Mors who helped set up at the museum.

Debra Goldman

Extra Editors Note

The last meeting also included an interesting summary about the plight of the Florida Infantry 150 years ago. Thanks to Bill Steele's colorful recollection of possibly a past lifestyle??!! Also congratulations to Debra Goldman who did a great job at the Weston site as the Project Director. The site located in Ft. Lauderdale has come and gone, so if you were one of the few who had planned to attend as a volunteer, you have missed your chance. It was a fairly brief project with the objective of building a permanent display at this archaeological theme park. You did great DEBRA - Good luck in your next proj!

News from our Sister Sources

"Olduvai Fossil Produces Surprises"

This is the headline that appeared on the Spring issue of the Institute of Human Origins (IHO) Newsletter. IHO, Dr. Donald Johanson and his team discovered a partial Homo habilis skeleton last summer. Dr. Johanson was also responsible for the discovery of Lucy (Australopithecus Afarensis).

This new find is exceptional due to the fact that the find included, not only the cranium, teeth and jaws, but also the shinbones, femurs and arm bones. This allowed the IHO team to examine the species further and resulted in a fascinating discovery.

Homo habilis is an upright bipedal and relatively large-brained hominid which lived in the Eastern and Southern part of Africa between 2 million and 1.6 million years ago. Homo habilis termed as "the handy man" because of its reputation in primitive stone tool making and hunting, scavenging and gathering. This particular find is named OH62 (Olduvai Hominid No. 62) and was found fairly close to Mary Leakey's "Zinjanthropus".

The IHO team's find is a surprising discovery because the remains provide the possibility of a theory stating the evolution proceeded in a patchwork fashion rather than previous belief of a direct line of orderly progression. However, this new find shows an evolved cranium with a primitive lower body. OH62 is believed to be fully adult, estimated height of 3'3" smaller than famed Lucy's 3'7" and possibly female due to the stature. Above the neck, OH62 fits the usual pattern of previous Homo habilis discoveries, except that OH62 has very long arms in relations to its body size, even longer than Lucy who lived 3 millions years ago.

Dr. Donald Johanson will be appearing at the University of S. Fla. in Tampa Wednesday, November 4th. His lecture topic will be on "Our African Ancestors". This editor attended one of Dr. Johanson's lectures in 1982 at the University of Miami. This is a must for anyone interested in paleontology!

NEWS BITS!!!!

Happy B-Day, Robert S. Carr! Better late than never - the Society wishes you a very happy belated birthday and many more to come. We won't disclose your age, however, please pay up your next 40 dues just to be safe!!

The Society wishes Marilyn Masson and her husband good luck on their move to Tallahassee. Marilyn Masson has been accepted at F.S.U. in Tampa and plans to do her masters program. Once again, good luck, Tallahassee has gained an asset.

Florida Atlantic University is offering a course entitled, "High Civilizations of Middle and South America" (Ant 4162, 3 credits, grade pass/fail or audit) at the FIU/FAU tower in Ft. Lauderdale on Monday evenings from 4:00 - 6:50 pm by Wm. J. Kennedy, Assc. Prof. He is also planning optional field trips for students to Mexico (N. Yucatan and Palenque, Dec. 17-22) and Peru (Lima, Cuzco, Apr 27-May 7). For more info - contact: FAU in Boca Raton, Dept. of Apy at 1-393-3230.

FLASH! BULLENTIN! HOT OFF THE PRESS!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Jim Lord informs this enquiring editor that the Desoto Winter Camp has uncovered a second spanish coin. The Project Director, Charles Ewing discovered the second coin some time during the last week of July while Jim Lord was visiting the area.

Norma Dieppa

NEWS FROM HOME

Goodbye Windover for now.

The Windover Archaeological Research Project has closed its door after 3 years of digging. The project is now moving to its laboratory phase. the 7,500 square yard pond is being refilled, although no one knows how long this process will take.

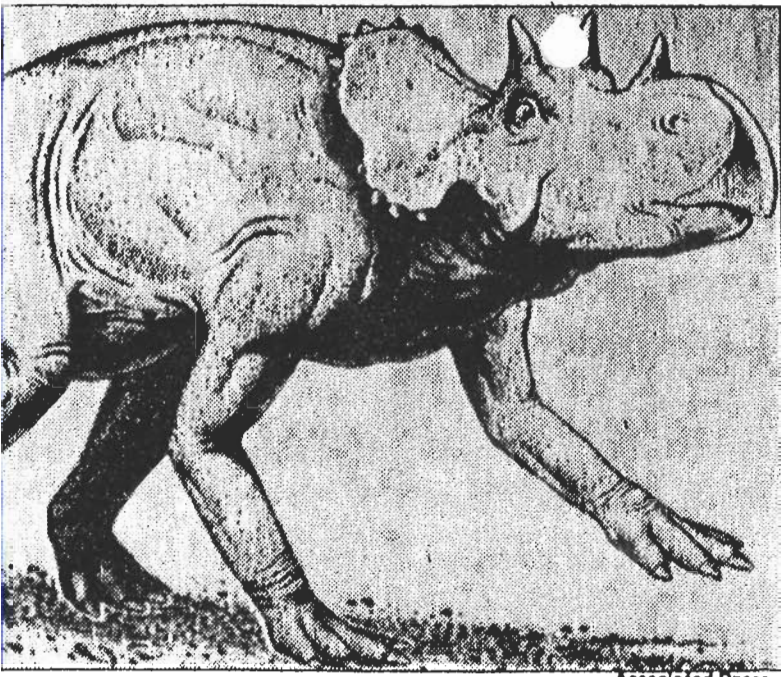
The pond yielded at least 62 skulls with well-preserved brain tissue, the skeletons of 64 people, 9,000 bone fragments as well as fabric, tools and jewelry. Radiocarbon dating has enabled scientists to date this burial ground from 6,990 years to 8,150 years ago +/- 150 yrs. This find not only produced the oldest remains of children in the new world but also included the greatest range of age in individuals and most important the brains yielded DNA, which scientists have already cloned and unraveled some genetic codes.

Ancient Indian hearth found.

The Miami Herald newspaper ran an article Friday, July 24th, 1987 on a discovery made in Orlando. Darkened soil found near Osceola-Orange county line proved to be charcoal remains of ancient wood. This discovery along with other artifacts indicates states oldest known structure might just have been an Indian cooking hearth. Marilyn Stewart, an associate professor at Rollins College in Winter Park and her team discover four circular soil stains eight inches across, starting about 1½ ft. below and 11 ft apart suggesting that these post holes were set up by early Florida inhabitants 4,000 years ago.

(continued on Pg. 4)

Bones of new dinosaur — a runt — displayed



Associated Press

Avaceratops lammersi's bones were discovered five years ago in Montana.

PHILADELPHIA — (AP) — A new type of dinosaur probably was a 12-foot-long runt among its saurian brethren 75 million years ago, but it may have evolved into one of the biggest horned dinosaurs, a scientist says.

The bones of the Avaceratops lammersi, a plant-eating animal, were found five years ago in Montana, the first unknown horned dinosaur to be discovered in North America in 35 years. They went on display Thursday at the Academy of Natural Sciences.

"It's a lot smaller than many people think of as dinosaur size," said Peter Dodson, research associate at the academy and associate anatomy professor at the Universi-

ty of Pennsylvania's veterinary medical school.

The specimen on display came from a juvenile, some 7½ feet long and about three feet high at the rear hips, said Dodson.

As an adult, it might have grown to 12 feet long and a bit over 1,000 pounds, he said.

But the bony frill at the back of its head suggests it may be linked to a triceratops, which stretched 25 feet long, weighed five tons and lived an estimated 10 million years later.

The animal's bones were recovered from a Montana ranch, where they were discovered in 1981 by a commercial fossil collector.

THE NEW YORK TIMES, FRIDAY, DECEMBER 19, 1986

Valuable Archeological Sites Reported Threatened

Special to The New York Times

GAINESVILLE, Fla., Dec. 18 — Wetlands and peat bogs that often contain splendidly preserved ancient human remains and other artifacts are reported to be endangered worldwide.

They are threatened by development and the sinking level of water under the ground, according to archeologists from around the world who met here over the last weekend.

"The lowering of water levels around the world is the biggest archeological catastrophe in the 20th century," said Michael Egluff, an archeologist from the University of Neuchâtel in Switzerland, who was one of those attending the international conference on wetlands archeology at the University of Florida.

Because of Switzerland's need for agricultural development, Mr. Egluff said that country had only a few remaining undisturbed wetland sites that could nurture fragile organic materials for thousands of years by excluding oxygen, preventing disintegration. The peat also has chemicals that preserve animal and vegetable tissue.

Heavy Pressure in Ireland

As the world's population continues to grow, the demands on water supplies for drinking, waste treatment, agriculture and industry will cause many undiscovered objects from the past to dry up and crumble to dust, the archeologists said.

The pressure on wetland archeological sites is particular strong in Ireland, where peat bogs have yielded ancient human bodies.

John Coles from the University of Exeter in England said: "Only 6 percent of Irish peat bogs remain uncut. Within 10 years that will be gone because the Irish Peat Board wants it all."

Peat is cut and dried to supply electrical generators in Ireland, supplying one-sixth of that country's power.

Wetlands should be left alone, Mr. Coles said, "because they house incredible archeological resources, provide habitat for wildlife and they hold and filter ground water."

Another reason, he said, is that "wetlands prevent flooding by soaking up water like a sponge."

Mr. Coles reported that the Univer-



The New York Times/Frank Adams

Workers examining an ancient dugout canoe found in a bog near Gainesville, Fla. The state's wetlands are among those threatened by development.

sity of Exeter had started a project that it hoped would help conserve wetland sites around the world. The project is aiming to preserve a wetland nature and archeological preserve by building a dike around it and pumping in water.

In areas where wetlands are irrevocably drying or where development is inevitable, Mr. Coles said the best thing to do was to carefully excavate archeological sites. "The yield is 10 times as high from these sites as you get from dry sites," he said.

Florida, with its high water tables, has a rich wetland archeological sites. But with an average of 1,000 people moving into the state a day, development is taking vacant land and archeological sites.

At times, however, a developer who stumbles across a rare find stops the operations and calls in archeologists. This occurred in 1982 near Titusville, Fla., and archeologists have discovered nine intact human brains that were 8,000 years old, along with 50 human skeletons that were thousands of years old.

Glen Doran, the anthropologist from Florida State University who directed the excavation, said that for every developer like the one who owns the site, Windover Farms, "There are probably 10 others who don't take the time to try to save the sites."

The solution to the problem, Mr. Doran said, could be to pass laws that protect archeological sites, whether they are on private land or not.

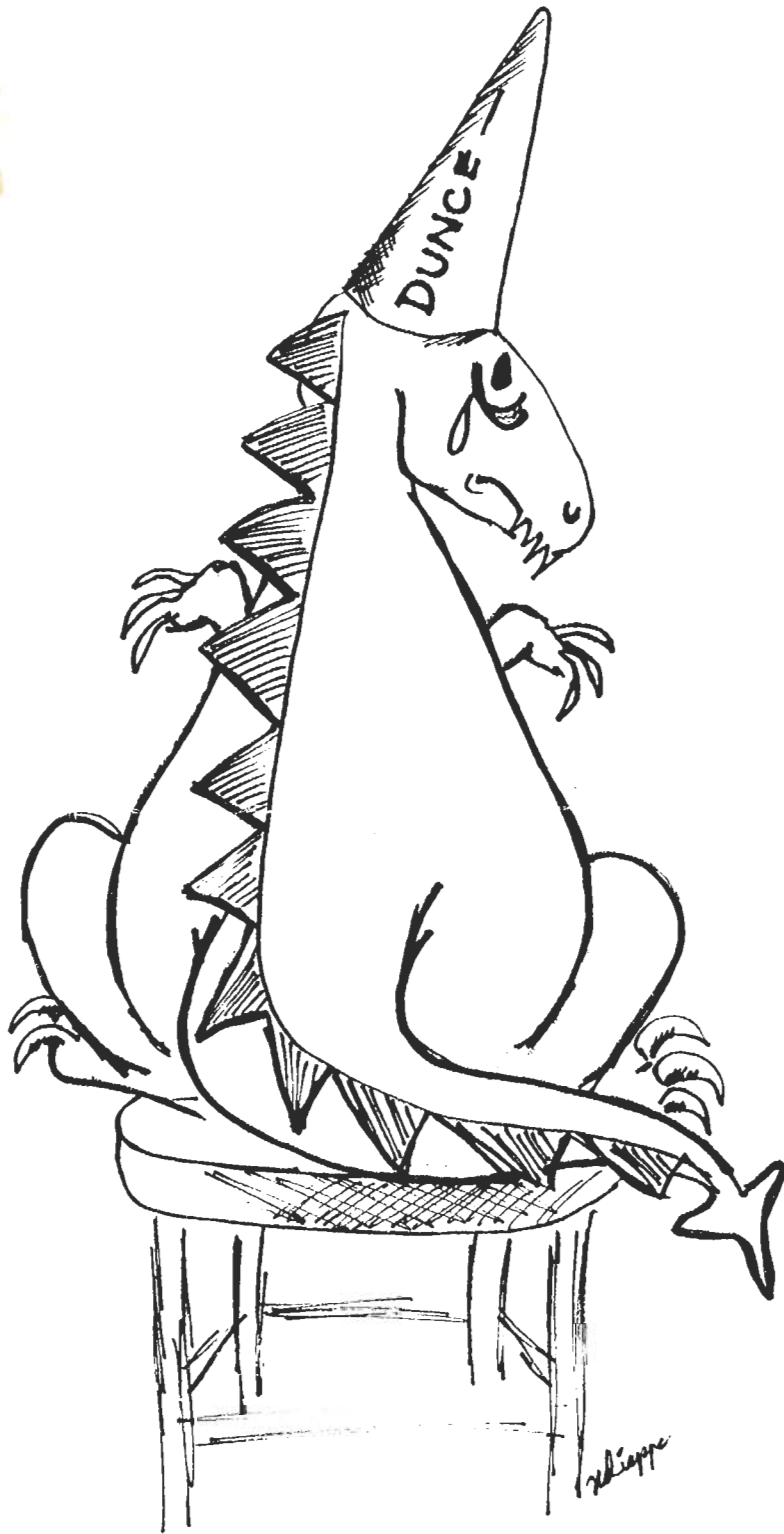
An archeologist from the University of Florida, Barbara Purdy, said she knew of a site on Florida's Gulf Coast where a developer dug a pond in the middle of an ancient Indian burial site.

"He just scattered the bones all over hell's acres," she said. "And there were no laws to prevent him, or even discourage him from doing it."

Digs in wetland sites, particularly coastal ones, have more than scientific value, said Richard Daugherty, a retired professor from Washington State University. As scientists dig through layers of muck, they can tell which coastal areas have gone through cycles of flooding and beach erosion, he said. He added that this could help them tell developers which areas were likely to have the same problems in the future.

Mr. Daugherty's archeological team has reaped a rich harvest in Indian art from a buried village on the Olympic Peninsula in Washington State. The find rekindled an interest among nearby modern Indians in their cultural roots, he said.

"Some have taken up artwork themselves, doing some carving and silk-screen work reflecting artwork recovered at the site," Mr. Daugherty said. "They are doing some really exquisite work."



Dinosaur DUNCE

Dates to remember

August 1, 1935 25¢ coin with George Washington's head imprint
goes into circulation

August 21, 1987 Board Meeting and Society Meeting.

August 21, 1935 Benny Goodman Band is a smash hit at Polamar
Ballroom in Los Angeles.

August 29, 1932 J.G. Haislip sets a new transcontinental record,
flying his airship from California to New York
in 10 hours and 19 minutes

September 18, 1987 September Monthly Meeting



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