



The Archaeological Society of Southern Florida

Chapter The Florida Anthropological Society

Volume 14 Number 7
President: Beth Read

July - 1989
Editor: Pat Cervi

July General Meeting

The July General Meeting will be held Friday, July 21st at 7:30 p.m. in Simpson Park which is located at 55 S.W. 17th Road, Miami. (The Park is just off South Miami Avenue, close to the I-95 exit. Call 856-6801 for directions.)

Want to know how old is that carved piece of bone you found in your grandfather's back yard many years ago? You may never know, but at least you may understand how artifacts are dated using the techniques of modern science. Dr. Jerry J. Stipp will speak to us on the subject of radiocarbon dating, isotope geochronology, and show us a short video tape of the functions of his laboratory, slides, and some samples of charcoal, wood, and bone, as well as hands-on equipment used.

Dr. Stipp and his partner, Dr. Murray Tamers, operate Beta Analytic, the laboratory which did the dating process of the material taken from the Cutler Fossil Site except that which was sent on to Switzerland. Beta Analytic is the largest Carbon 14 laboratory in the world. The Switzerland connection is the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology (ETH), a technical university in Zurich, which graduated Dr. Albert Einstein from its Polytechnic School.

Board of Directors

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July Board of Directors Meeting

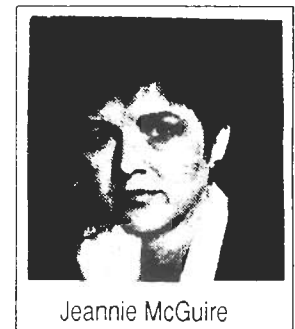
Friday, July 21, 1989
1489 S. Miami Avenue
6:00 p.m.

Our regular July Board of Directors Meeting will be held at **Beth Read's** office, immediately prior to the July General Meeting at Simpson Park.

All board members are urged to attend. Interested members at large are invited and welcomed.

McGuire named President of Dade Heritage

Dade Heritage Trust named Jeannie McGuire president.



Ms. McGuire, the trust's first education committee chairman, spearheads the "Save the Cape Florida Lighthouse" restoration campaign. She has been director of the Innovation and Entrepreneurship Institute at the University of Miami and just stepped in as UM's director of technology transfer affairs. She is a member of the Metro-Dade and Opa-Locka Preservation Boards, STATUS, the Miami Forum and The Archaeological and Historical Conservancy of Florida. Miami Today, Week of Thursday, June 15, 1989.

Sandler busy in San Antonio

In a note to Beth Read, Debra Sandler states that she is sweltering in San Antonio and getting prepared to begin a new
Please turn to page 4.

Real Estate Developer Really Digs Archaeology

What do you do if you're a big real estate developer, and one of your construction workers reports he's found a human skull on your property?

Most developers, fearing environmental departments more than sheriffs' departments, would tell the worker to get on with the job. And the skull would become part of a landfill project somewhere.

But this developer was different. His name was Jack Eckerd, who was not only a developer, but also a pharmacy chain mogul and a philanthropist as well.

So when the skull was found, the right people were told, and the result could turn out to be one of the most stunning archaeological sites in the world. It was so big, in fact, that it soon attracted such sponsors as the Florida legislature, IBM, Gannett, the Ford Foundation and the National Geographic Society.

Called the Windover Archaeological Research Project, located on Windover Farms just outside of Titusville, Florida, it's a treasure trove, of 8,000-year-old human tissue, bones and artifacts of incredible proportions. And scientists around the U.S., and in Canada, are participating in on-going analysis for greater understanding of what makes the human race tick.

Nothing quite like this find has ever been seen by scientist anywhere in the world. In fact, practitioners

have never before had the opportunity to deal with such archaeological data at all. But they have it now, and are analyzing all of it with sophisticated technology and with the enthusiasm of Christopher Columbus in his quest for the New World.

For it's a New World that these scientist have found at Windover Farms. you see, while older prehistoric remains have been discovered before, this site comes complete with everything from ancient human tissue, to plants and fibers. And what can we expect? Maybe new medical cures. Maybe new revelations of our origins and evolution. Or perhaps our final destinations in the future.

Anything is possible. And tomorrow could bring exciting headlines from one of the many laboratories now pouring over the Windover finds.

The story began in June 1982, when a backhoe operator, building a roadbed at Windover Farms, turned up what he first thought were rocks - but rocks are an unlikely occurrence in a peat bog. Taking a closer look, he found himself staring instead at a human skull.

Lawmen were called in, but they quickly determined this wasn't a case of contemporary foul play. So EKS, Inc., developers of the community at Windover, halted construction and called in archaeologists instead.

For that, scientists were grateful to say the least - after

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Archaeological Society of Southern Florida - Membership Application/Renewal Form

OBJECTIVE: To provide a formal means by which individuals and institutions interested in archacological 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 archacological 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 the property of the society.

I hereby apply for membership in the Archacological Society of Southern Florida:

Name: _____ Signature: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Renewal _____ New Member _____ \$12.00 Individual _____ \$15.00 Family _____

Mail check or money order to: The Archaeological Society of Southern Florida, 1489 S. Miami Avenue, Miami, Florida 33131

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all it just isn't what developers normally do. But EKS, headed by Jack Eckerd, Malcolm Kirschenbaum and Jim Swann, who are environmentalists in their own right, provided financial assistance and pumping equipment to drain the site, rerouted the road, and preserved the "dig" for future research. (The Department of the Interior has designated it as a National Historic Site and awarded Eckerd the first Southeastern Archaeological Conservation Award.)

During the fall and early winter of 1984, 1985 and 1986, teams of scientists led by Glen H. Doran, Ph.D. and David N. Dickel, Ph.D., both of the Department of Anthropology at Florida State University, Tallahassee, carefully dug into what was proclaimed to be an important prehistoric burial ground.

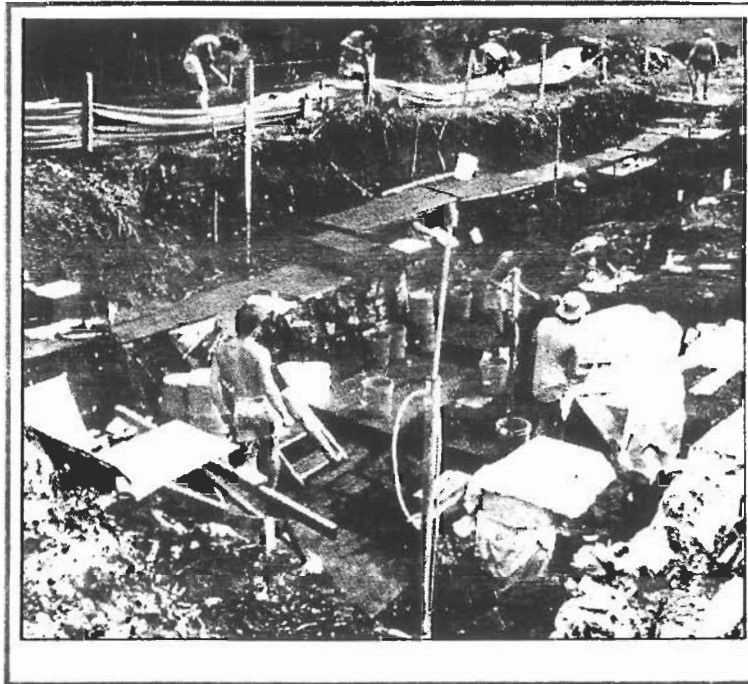
To date, scientists have investigated about fifty percent of the quarter-acre site, which has so far yielded the remains of 155 persons of all ages, from fetal to 65 or 70. About half of the skeletons are relatively complete.

Now comes the excitement. You see, in some skulls were found the oldest, best-preserved human brains ever discovered, together with some DNA (that genetic blueprint of life that is vital to the study of evolution, and may eventually yield the clues to the cause of man's diseases). The discovery of the Windover DNA could also unlock some secrets of the origin of these nomadic peoples who lived by hunting and gathering food. Since the various groups of humans have certain gene characteristics, the origin and migratory patterns of this population might soon be revealed.

But how were these skeletons, skills and DNA so well preserved at Windover?

The survival of DNA of this great age can be attributed to the peat itself. Peat blanks out light and oxygen (which hasten decomposition), and Windover peat, is a storage closet for ancient material.

The material found at Windover



comes from the Early Archaic period which, before this site was uncovered, yielded only shell and stone tools, and occasional scraps of animal and human bone. (Many of these were also found in the Windover site and included tools made from bones 8,000 years old.)

But in addition to human brain tissue, DNA and tools, the Windover site also yielded textiles.

In fact, Windover fabrics are the most complex and diverse set of textiles from this time period currently known in the New World.

Finally, the Windover site is also a treasure trove of ancient animal life - yielding 49 ancient vertebrates and invertebrates, including such specimens as unidentified large mammals - possibly bears - deer, great blue herons, alligators, largemouth bass, sunfish, catfish, various turtles, frogs, salamanders, and many more.

From the dig, scientists have also identified 12 species of woody plants and seeds, fruit skins and other parts of 30 plant species.

In fact, from this incredible array of ancient plants and animals, Windover has turned into a fully integrated, multidisciplinary study. Collaborators now include experts in anthropology, geology, physics,

geophysics, biochemistry, medicine, botany, neuropathology and radiography. And, as their findings are analyzed, there could be new breakthroughs in theories of evolution, biology, and medical research.

And the future of the site?

After excavating for 3 years (1984 - 1986), the pond covering the bog has been allowed to flood again to its natural state so that future generations of scientists can again ponder man's past - and his future.

As one scientist, Glen Doran, of FSU's Department of Anthropology put it, "We can recall how rapidly technology has changed in the past 10 years. Some of the analyses going on today on Windover material simply would not have been possible five or six years ago. So who knows what's going to be possible in 10 or 20 years. I think there will be a lot of things we can get at that point that we simply can't envision now."

So Windover may yield more secrets to scientists who haven't even been born yet. Which can be credited to a developer turned environmentalist.

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survey outside of town.

She is not impressed with Texas archaeology since the only thing they find, is they are lucky, are flakes and a rare projectile point. Debra misses all the shell tools and pottery and bone that is sprinkled in Florida sites.

Debra's new address is:

Debra Sandler
234 Allensworth
San Antonio, TX 78209



1489 South Miami Avenue
Miami, Florida 33131



VIVIAN & WALTON PETERS
17800 SW 108 CT
MIAMI FL 33157

