



The Archaeological Society of Southern Florida

Chapter, The Florida Anthropological Society

Volume 14 Number 9
President: Beth Read

September - 1989
Editor: Pat Cervi

September General Meeting

The September General Meeting will be held Friday, September 15th 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 I-95. (Call 856-6801 for directions.)

Dr. Jerzy T. Babel will speak to us concerning the largest prehistoric flint mine in Europe, perhaps in the world. As you read in the August newsletter, Dr. Babel has been the senior custodian at the State Archaeological Museum in Warsaw. For the next several months, "Tom" as he is called by his friends and family, is the house guest Wesley Kwasniak, local architect, planner and general contractor.

Tom is now working with Dan Marcus, assistant curator of collections at the Historical Museum of Southern Florida. He has been an archaeologist for 20 years, with special knowledge of the Neolithic and Early Bronze Age, prehistoric flint mines, technology of stone and flint tools, and prehistoric religion and beliefs. Tom is conversant in English, Polish and Russian.

His slide presentation to us will reflect his paper given at the International Conference in Budapest in 1986 on prehistoric flint mining and lithic raw material identification in the Carpathian Basin.

Board of Directors

President - Beth Read
Vice President- John Ayer
Secretary - Vivian Peters
Treasurer - John Carruthers II

Directors

Bob Carr Jim Lord
Caridad Planas
Barbara Tansey
Sonja Noah Seth Lefkow
Pat Cervi

September Board of Directors Meeting

Friday, September 15, 1989
1489 S. Miami Avenue
6:00 p.m.

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

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

Items of Interest

We need to borrow display items for the booth at the Harvest Festival in mid November. **John Ayer** is chairperson of the event. If you wish to participate please call John at 238-2441.

Barbara Tansey has proposed tether balloon rides at the Harvest Festival as a means of capturing the crowd's interest and increasing our membership roll and our treasury.

Attention members who would like to participate in a dig. **Bob Carr** announced there is an aboriginal site near Krome Avenue that will need test pits dug near the end of the year during cooler weather. This site is not endangered, but does need exploration. Please watch this space for more information.

According to **John Ayer** there will be another Chowder Fest to profit the Cape Florida Lighthouse preservation effort. The Fest will be held in conjunction with the Dade Heritage Trust. A date will be decided in the near future.

"Hidden" park offers escape from city bustle

by Geoffrey Tomb
Miami Herald May 5, 1989

Close your eyes and you almost see Indian dugouts in clean, clear water. Open your eyes and you see magnificent tall royal palms, watch the Miami River bend, feel the shade of the oaks, smell pink frangipani, forget the heat and noise of a paved city around you.

Sure, some of the river water is the color of old shoes. Sure, sodden tires and beer cans are littered about. Sure, Miami police say it has become a warp.

"One of the best-kept secrets in Miami," says Paul George, president of the Florida Historical Society.

"One of Miami's hidden parks. An interesting property with that natural ridge," says **Bob Carr**, Dade County archaeologist.

It reminds me a little bit of Fairchild Garden," said Alice Wainwright, former Miami commissioner. She has not been there since 1965.

"There is always a nice breeze. It's an enjoyable place to spend a lunch hour," said Rudy Camejo, an appliance repairman at lunch Thursday.

They are talking about a gorgeous 10 acres of land that few have heard of, fewer have seen. The park, at Northwest 17th Avenue and South River Drive, is a few yards from the exhaust fumes at the S.R. 836 toll booth.

The city bought the land in 1964. Then Commissioner Wainwright suggested it be named for Miami's first businessman-booster, Everest George Sewell, a mayor in the late 1920s and 1930s.

The park has sat there ever since. Besides being ignored, it suffered a life as a santeria ceremonial ground. Dead chickens and goats were found among the litter. An occasional body would wash up from the river.

Neither of the two water

fountains works. There is spray paint graffiti on the outside walls of the bathrooms, which are padlocked shut. Picnic tables sit unused. Lurkers hover behind trees. It is a forgotten place, silent, alone.

"It's obviously a passive park. The city is not doing a lot of exploitation of it," said Carr.

Under Sewell Park, Carr has explored a series of pre-Civil War caves that he believes were dug as a food storage area. There is evidence of a prehistoric campsite on the high ground and a Seminole village along the banks of the Miami River.

The park is just east of the South Fork of the river. The down-river edge of the park is an early 1900s channel, called Lawrence Canal after developer Gen. Samuel Lawrence. It was dug to run from the river to Northwest Seventh Street. A cave opens onto the creek.

Also on the high ground are

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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 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 the property of the society.

I hereby apply for membership in the Archaeological 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

Local News

TUESDAY, AUGUST 8, 1989

THE MIAMI HERALD

SECTION B

CALL TO SAVE A LIGHTHOUSE



John Ayer, of the Archaeological Society of South Florida, sounds his concern Monday at the Lighthouse Bicentennial "Chowder Fest" at Cape Florida Lighthouse on

Key Biscayne. The event was to help raise funds for the restoration of the 164-year-old landmark. Dade County is oldest.

CANDACE BARBOY/Miami Herald Staff

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foundation remains of an early 20th Century mansion. Only the steps and some pathways to the sloping lawns remain, adding to the mystery of the voiceless place. Twin rows of royal palms lead down to the river. Stands of coconut palms dot the landscape.

Squirrels, mockingbirds, flickers and doves find homes in the gumbo limbo, pigeon plum, palms, oaks, huge ficus and Australian pines. The fiery red-orange of a spreading royal poinciana is about to explode. Nature goes on, ignorant of man.

Like a downtown worker, the park keeps daylight hours. It is open from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., when a gate to the parking lot is locked. Ray Lang, a Miami police spokesman, said undercover detectives and uniform patrols have been assigned to the park lately. Tuesday, work crews raked up litter and brunch.

But you get the feeling no one ever loved Sewell Park.

"One of the problems is that not enough families and other people use the park. That's one of the reasons for this vacuum," said Lang. Exactly.

T-shirts - Hats

T-shirts - Hats

A.S.S.F. T-shirts in red, light blue, silver and pink with a black logo, will be on sale for \$10.00 each at every meeting.

Light blue hats with a black logo are available for \$7.00 each.

Choose a Four-Day Trip to Merida, Yucatan, Mexico from two Options

Group Travel is planning a four day Thanksgiving weekend trip to Merida, Yucatan, Mexico. With a group of 20 we can receive special rates. Aero Mexico will leave early on **Thursday, November 23 (Thanksgiving)** and return in the evening of **Sunday, November 26**.

The cost will include round trip air fare, hotel transfer, a three star hotel for three nights, and an archaeological expedition, tentatively to Uxmal and the Caves of Kabah.

Other day trips can be arranged. The price will be approximately \$275.00 per person, double occupancy.

If you prefer, the trip can be scheduled for the following week, leaving **Thursday, November 30** and returning **Sunday, December 3**.

Please call Marilyn Smith at 421-0122 with your preference by September 15th. Remember, we require 20 people to agree on the date in order to get the discount.



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Miami, Florida 33131



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