

THE BIRMINGHAM ANTHROPOLOGICAL SOCIETY

PRESENTS

THE BIRMINGHAM INQUIRER

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SPECIAL NOTICE TO MEMBERS AND FRIENDS

One more year is about to unfold for the Society. Some good, some bad is past; some we couldn't help, some we could. We lost through death a few old friends whom we will miss. We have tried to encourage new members for the group.

Our newsletter was at least an embryonic step in the direction of publishing. We are quite proud of the programs and general interest shown by members and guests in our endeavors. Our children's program has been enthusiastically received, though there is much more that could be done in this field.

For the benefit of those who are out-of-town members not able to attend all meetings, we are including a brief resume of our programs and activities, past and planned. One item of considerable importance should be mentioned - namely dues. It is our belief that the newsletter should be continued, and a further step in the publishing area should be undertaken by our members. In addition to the minor costs of stationery and stamps, there is the need for certain funds to take care of expenses of out-of-town speakers, payments for periodicals of other societies, State Fair exhibit costs, post office box, etc. The Society has decided as a group to adhere to the following scale of dues for 1957:

1 Child's Membership	\$ .50
1 Adult Membership	\$ 2.00
1 Family Membership	\$ 3.00
1 Sustaining Membership	\$ 5.00

It is desirable to receive your dues as soon as possible, primarily so that your name, address and phone number can be included in the 1957 Yearbook which will be published in early '57. Blank checks are included for your convenience. When filled out, they will require only your bank's name and your address and phone number to complete our records; and, we mention casually, your signature. Through the Yearbook, members will continue to have a convenient means of reaching one another for trips, information or help.

We, your outgoing officers, wish the forthcoming year to be still more fruitful in the fields of interest we all maintain. It is not amiss to mention that what goes into the mill, of questioning and searching, usually comes out as fine a grist as we by our individual efforts make it.

Sincerely yours  
Your 1956 Officers

Brittain Thompson  
Floyd Taylor  
Martin Hallender

Election of officers will be the prime business for our January 4th meeting - -

COME, NOMINATE AND VOTE.

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A recent speech on Early America given by one of our members before the Mens Club of the Church of the Advent was warmly received. The Parson, Dr. John C. Turner, joined our Society in the name of the whole parish family, and his membership was accompanied by a donation for which we are grateful.

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RESUME OF 1956

JANUARY:

Our business meeting consisted of the election of officers:

Brittain Thompson, President; Floyd F. Taylor, Vice President; Martin F. Hullender, Secretary & Treasurer for the year of 1956. Dan Josselyn, Joseph Daale and Steve Wimberly were elected trustees for the Delamar Fund.

A general discussion followed the election of officers and topics were assigned members concerning the food, clothing, religion and other aspects of Indian life for future programs.

On the 13th of January, Mr. Lewis Larsen, State Archeologist for Georgia, presented slides and discussed the results of his diggings at Etowah, Georgia. Over 160 persons attended.

FEBRUARY:

The speaker was Mr. James Wilkinson, who gave an excellent resume of American Indian Life.

MARCH:

The speaker, Dr. Sidney Finn, discussed the "Effect of Genetics and Mutations in the Human Race". Our member speakers were Messrs. Ed Green and Sterling Wortham who discussed 'Mexico' and ran slides of their 6,000 mile trip.

APRIL:

Our guest speaker, Mr. Dave DeJarnette, showed a series of slides and spoke on "Tannehill Furnace Site" excavations. Member speakers, Messrs. Randy Grey and Martin Hullender, discussed the "Red Man's Religion".

## MAY:

Dr. Carl Sensenig, Professor of Anatomy at the University of Alabama, discussed "Evolution" in a very stimulating and thought provoking manner. Member speaker was Mr. Floyd Taylor who presented many facts on "Indian Foods and Methods of Preparation".

## JUNE:

Guest speaker, Mr. Lewis Larsen, gave a very fascinating talk on "Yucatan and Indian Remains" both Mayan and Aztec. Member speaker, Mr. Sam Shannon, gave a talk on "Indian Law".

## JULY:

Guest speaker, Dr. James McCabe, discussed "Determining Age by Visual Examination of Teeth". A committee was appointed, with Mr. James Wilkinson as Chairman, to handle arrangements for an exhibit at the State Fair. The funds in the Delamar Foundation were transferred to the Society treasury.

## AUGUST:

The August meeting consisted of a trip to Moundville where a majority of the members, after a delightful picnic, spent their time in the laboratory and the museum.

## SEPTEMBER:

Mr. Ed Green discussed the "Religious Customs and Mores of Mexico". Member Martin Hullender gave a resume of his visit to the National Lone Scout Convention.

## OCTOBER:

Mr. Steve Wimberly, former Alabama State Archeologist, gave an extremely interesting talk on "Alabama Pottery" covering examples and the exhibiting of items from the whole of Southeastern Alabama. The State Fair exhibit, consisting of six exhibition cases covering the five general cultural periods and one case of miscellaneous models of Indian tools, weapons, etc., was an extremely excellent one and enjoyed by all.

## NOVEMBER:

Our guest speaker was Mr. Donald Beatty, who presented a most interesting talk of the expedition which he made in the early '30's in the Upper Amazon River Basin among the Jivaro Indians. He exhibited slides which had been taken by him and by Dr. Matthew Stirling of the Smithsonian Institution.

## DECEMBER:

Our guest speaker, Emil O. Dahlen, gave a talk covering Geology in a general manner, accompanied by film strips from Life Magazine on the subject "The World We Live In".

Our coming attractions will consist of:

JANUARY:

Dr. Joseph Volker, Dean of the School of Dentistry of the University of Alabama, will discuss "Fluoride Analysis for Determining the Age of Fossils".

FEBRUARY:

Dr. Frank Soday - - "Paleo Indians".

MARCH:

Mr. Richard Howard, Curator, Birmingham Art Museum - - "Indian Arts".

APRIL:

Dr. Harlan, Birmingham Southern - - "Marriage Customs".

MAY:

Dr. Carl Miller, Archeologist of Smithsonian Institution - - "Russell Cave Excavations".

AND MANY MORE EXCELLENT SPEAKERS.

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PROGRESS ON FORT LASHLEY

Those of you who have visited Fort Lashley will remember that it is a reconstruction of a fort built in 1813 by a trader named Lashley, who was in fear that he and his people would be massacred as had been those at Fort Mimms a few months previously.

To assist him he secured Chief Jim Fife, who lived at what we now call Eastaboga. It is thought that he brought the greater proportion of the 150 warriors he was later to command under Jackson with him as a garrison. Lashley also persuaded Selecta Chinnabee to come in from his home at what is now called McElderry Station and make his headquarters at the Fort. Selecta was a well known scout whose father, Old Chinnabee, seems to have been one of the most prominent pre-American leaders of the Creeks. The Fort was completed on November 6th, and its 300 inmates slept quietly that night, only to be aroused next morning by the news that a thousand Redsticks, hostiles, had surrounded them in the night. These were commanded by Will Scott, a chief well known for his ferocity against the Whites, saying "Kill all the Whites and those friendly to them". He came from what is now Clay County.

Scott demanded they go with him to fight Andrew Jackson at Fort Chinnabee, or Fort Strother, as it had been named within the week since Jackson had arrived to protect Old Chinnabee. Those in the Fort agreed, to save time, but asked for three days in which to grind corn. Meanwhile, they sent Selecta Chinnabee out in a pigskin.

Reaching Jackson at a late hour, he gave his message, and Old Hickory immediately set out with 2500 troops to the rescue. The Battle of Talladega followed, and the Fort was rescued. This was the first big battle of the campaign that culminated with the Battle of Horse Shoe Bend and which destroyed the Creeks as a military power.

The Reconstruction is very close to the actual site of the original Fort, and is going on according to the pattern of forts built in that time. It will, when completed, consist of five buildings surrounded by a stockade. The enclosure will be 200' x 100'. The Blockhouse has been completed and is now being used as a museum. The Trading Post is being completed as this is written and will also be used as a museum. The third building, the Pioneer House, is next in line and the contract for its chimney has been let. The building is an original log cabin that has been taken down from about 20 miles in the country and brought in and reconstructed, but much still remains to be done on it. The stockade has been begun and it will soon be under way in earnest. For the museums, we are asking our friends to lend us exhibits.

Among the exhibits in the museum are two skeletons that were dug up near Sylacauga last year. These, in the original soil, undisturbed as far as possible, have been put in show cases. As soon as show cases can be made for the second museum, it is hoped we can have someone in charge of the museums.

Randolph F. Blackford

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Dr. T. M. N. Lewis, Head of the Department of Anthropology at the University of Tennessee, has advised us that two volumes - William S. Webb, 1937, "Archeological Survey of the North Basin and Eastern Tennessee Bulletin 118 of the Bureau of American Ethnology", and William S. Webb and Dave DeJarnette, 1942, "Archeological Survey of Pickwick Basin" - are available. The former is \$1.50 or \$2.50, in paper or cloth binding, the latter \$2.50 or \$3.50 in paper or cloth binding. They are difficult to come by and we hope our members will take advantage of this opportunity.

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Mrs. Emma Lila Fundaburk has completed her manuscript "Indian Art and Crafts in the Deep South and Near Area". It will be privately published, and the prepaid subscription price is \$5.00. Our members should also consider this as an excellent addition to their library.

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A KINDLY AND HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL

"Spurts don't count. The final score makes no mention of a splendid start if the finish proves that you were an "also ran"."

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GUESTS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME!