

THE BIRMINGHAM ANTHROPOLOGICAL SOCIETY

PRESENTS

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THE BIRMINGHAM INQUIRER

Dr. Carl Sensenig, Professor of Anatomy at the University of Alabama, made our last meeting, 4th of May, an extremely fascinating one. His subject, "Evolution", gave our membership and guests the latest theories in this field. It was stimulating, thought provoking, and well illustrated with slides. Dr. Sensenig outlined the periods and progress of life as it is presently understood, explained the reasons for the abundance of evidence in some periods and the paucity in others. One particular amendment to the general thinking of most laymen was the evidence that mankind did not descend from apes.

Member Speaker, Mr. Floyd Taylor, presented many facts on "Indian Food", covering both the well known foods and the ones that obviously were of a survival type.

INDIAN CAFE

WIGWAM STREET

COOSA VILLAGE

Turtle Soup

Meats - - - Venison, Turkey, Fish, Raccoon, Bear

Vegetables- - Squash, Yams, Potatoes, Succotash,  
Tomatoes (Love Apples), Maize on Cob

Corn Pone

Pottery Liquor (for dunkers or crumblers)  
either permitted

Pineapple Salad

Pumpkin Pie

Cigars or Cob Pipe

Mixed Nuts -- Peanuts, Walnuts,  
Acorns, Hickory

Persimmon -- Locust Beer

Pinion Cones, etc.

We were delighted with the "pottery" -- we mean poetry by Janet Wuehrmann last month. The poems by Dan Josselyn were "out of this world". How about some of you other poets and prozers coming up with a few lines? What, no other poets or essayist in the Society? If the President would call for a show of hands, betcha there would be at least a dozen who had at one time or another tried their hand. What say? Shall we try it sometime?

We welcome three new members in May. You may bring your address book up to date by adding these:

W. H. THARPE  
1651 Graymont Ave. West  
Birmingham, Alabama  
Phone 6-5426

J. G. STEIZENMULLER  
412 SW 12th Street  
Birmingham, Alabama  
Phone 6-5806

KENNETH R. DENNIS  
Route 1  
Wilsonville, Alabama

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At our last meeting two or three asked about the location of our library. Actually, it is still in the embryonic stage. Considerable work needs to be done on this project. It is to be located in the law offices of SHANNON & CONERLY, 906 Massey Building, Phone 3-5782. These two gentlemen have graciously offered space for our library. So, let's all get busy and make a worthwhile dream come true. Drop in sometime and bring a book for the library. Mr. Fred Kulovitz has kindly given the Society a considerable number of National Geographic's.

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Speaking of books, have you read a good book on anthropology lately? Here are a few:

BIRTHPLACE OF THE WINDS, by TED BANK, 2nd

An informal account of scientific exploration in the Aleutians, which reveals new finds in the burial caves and covers legends, customs, and the history of the natives.

KOREA TOMORROW, by KYUNG CHO CHUNG

A survey of Korea's history, social customs, religion, language and literature.

YOUR MOST ENCHANTED LISTENER, by WENDELL JOHNSON

A review of semantics in which the nature of speech, some of its common disorders, the pattern of logic and the creation and use of symbols are discussed.

THE TREE OF CULTURE, by RALPH LINTON

A delightful book. The author is reputed to have been one of the greatest anthropologists of all time.

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The following two books were given by the Society to the Public Library in memory of Mr. Horton. It is a two volume set.

SOCIETIES AROUND THE WORLD, Sanders, Woodbury, Schevendeman

Vol. 1 THE ESKIMO THE NAVAJO THE BAGANDA

Vol. 2 THE CHINESE PEASANT THE COTTON SOUTH  
THE ENGLISH MIDLANDS

Interesting and delightful books. Should be read and studied by everyone even slightly interested in anthropology, etc.

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A building supply salesman was working the rural areas. Noticing an old lady sitting in a chair by a window and staring out at the roadside, he thought that here might be a sale. "I've been watching you", he said, when he introduced himself. "I'm a salesman. Thought I might sell you a new double-size picture window."

The old lady grinned. "A picture window? What for? I ain't much to look at no more."

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Sunday, May 13th, three cars from Birmingham and one from Decatur (loaded of course, we mean the cars) made the trip to Bridgeport, Alabama, to look at the work being done by Dr. Carl Miller of the Smithsonian Institute, Washington, D.C. No work was in progress at the time of the visit, but Dr. Miller graciously conducted us into the far recesses of the cave. The work was near the entrance. He described what had been done, how they were doing it, etc. Dr. Miller asked that we not give much publicity to this project as THE NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC SOCIETY is financing the deal. We agree wholeheartedly with him that the NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC is entitled to whatever publicity may be obtained from this site. We understand that the report will come out in the National magazine in November. This will be with pictures, as there is a professional photographer with the expedition. Any of our members who are members of the NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC SOCIETY may well be proud of the fine job Dr. Miller is doing.

We have learned that Dr. Miller has another pressing job in the western part of the United States that will prevent his spending the time here that he hoped to have. He, therefore, will not be able to talk with us as we have hoped. He has, however, advised that he will give us a précis of his findings when time permits, and graciously gave us permission to include it in our newsletter. We assume this will be some time in the future.

The following made the trip from Birmingham:

The Wilkinson Family, the Simon Jones Family, Bill Little, Randy Gray, Matt Lively, Bobby Curren, Bill Steele, and the Hullenders.

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Just checking, Sir (and Ma'am).

Did you get your membership card?

Have you paid your buck for '56?

Are you receiving a copy of our newsletter?

Do you have any ideas for the improvement of the newsletter or the Society? If so, let the officers know, as the officers and several others are spending considerable time, thought, and an occasional buck to make a success of both.

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"There I was stranded in the jungle with two weapons, a collar and a tie."

"What good were they to you?"

"Oh, the collar was an Arrow and the tie was a bow."

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THE INDIAN WOMAN CHIEFTAIN OF THE SAVANAH RIVER VALLEY

When DeSoto reached the Savannah River Valley, he found the region occupied by Indians who were ruled by a woman chieftain who presented DeSoto with much clothing of her country: - shawls, skins, turkeys and a string of pearls. Some of the shawls were made from the inner bark of trees and some were made with feathers. When the chieftainess saw how the Spaniards valued the pearls, she told DeSoto to search some sepulchers in the village. He gathered about 350 pounds of pearls there, some of which were made into babies and some into birds. (According to the Gentleman of Elvas).

DeSoto stayed there five days. The Indians gave the Spaniards plenty of food and presents; but because DeSoto's men committed so many outrages against the natives, the chieftainess decided not to supply DeSoto with guides and porters when he should leave. When DeSoto learned of this, he had her made a prisoner and took her along with him, forcing her to order her people to act as guides and porters.

The chieftainess had with her a box of pearls, carried by one of her women. DeSoto did not object to this as he expected to get them when he reached the end of her territory. However, she was able to slip away, with the pearls, into a thicket and escape.

This Indian Woman ruled over a large territory, probably most of the Savannah River Valley. Many chiefs paid tribute to her. Her subjects were above the average of those the Spaniards had so far seen, wearing clothing and shoes.

By - Floyd Taylor

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MESSAGE FROM THE SOCIETY OFFICERS

President	--	Brittain Thompson	3609 Montrose Road	TR 1-0698
Vice President	--	Floyd R. Taylor	2331 33rd Avenue No.	
Secretary & Treasurer	--	Martin F. Hullender	202 18th Way SW	58-8900

Meetings: First Friday every month, 7:30 P.M., Birmingham Public Library, 3rd Floor, Art Room, unless otherwise announced.

June 1st:    Guest Speaker    -    Mr. Lewis Larsen, Professor of Archaeology,  
University of Georgia

Subject:    -    "Yucatan"



Mr. Larsen, a graduate in Anthropology from the University of Michigan, was first interested in Southern Cult Design in 1948, when he spent a summer at the Coosa Site. He was in charge of the excavations at Etowah, Georgia, which have added greatly to the field of archeology in the Southeast. He has spent considerable time in Mexico and expects to go back there this summer. He was our first speaker this year and was very well enjoyed.

Member Speaker - Mr. Sam Shannon, Jr.

Subject: - "Indian Law"

July 6th: Guest Speaker - Dr. James McCabe

Subject: - "Visual Determination of Age Through Teeth"

August "PICNIC"

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#### OUR CHILDREN PARTICIPATION PLAN

Children are tougher than adults. We dislike, in our field of interest, to make or hear positive, dogmatic statements. But statistically, physically, and tiredly, we admitted the truth. On the 19th of May we had a children's day. It started about 9:00 A.M. Our trip took us first to Kumonga Cave (Onyx Cave) which is undeveloped, and therefore, requires considerable climbing down and therefore back up. No artifacts, but many many rocks and pieces of Onyx. From there we went through Talledega to the Taylor Site. All of us obtained many sherds, some of which were highly decorated and incised. It was quite hot. We had a picnic and waded in the creek, dug out a few bones from disturbed areas, and skipped rocks.

From there we went to Fort Lashley in Talledega, where Rev. Randolph Blackford, historian and fellow member of our Society, has well underway the project of restoring the Fort and other buildings which figured in Andrew Jackson's campaign against the Indians. After looking at the artifacts and furnishings and pictures in the Fort Building, Dr. Blackford told us the story of the battle in this area. The whole group moved back over a century to see the fight, the men, the strategy, and the outcome. Then finally, the drive home. As we said, children are tougher than adults!

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"The problem of education is twofold; first to know, and then to utter."

- Robert Louis Stevenson