



Common Ground

A Publication of the North Carolina Center for Archaeological Research
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CFAR NEWS: Uncovering the Past for the Future

The North Carolina Center for Archaeological Research, Inc. (CFAR) was very active in program development during 1990. The organization has grown and prospered since its humble beginning in the minds of a few people who wanted to actively participate in archaeology. Today, CFAR pursues sponsored research projects and public education with equal vigor. Among these are the well known Pee Dee Archaeological Project (PDAP), development of permanent educational exhibits for the administrative building of the Aluminum Company of America, Badin Works (ALCOA), technical assistance for the preparation of the National Historic Landmark Ceremony recognizing the Hardaway Site in Stanly County, artifacts displays, flintknapping, pottery-making, and primitive weapons demonstrations for Randolph and Stanly County school children and a major archaeological exhibit for the gala opening of Horizons Unlimited in Salisbury, NC. CFAR's reputation for quality and attention to detail in program and exhibit development is becoming highly regarded, as can be attested by recent contacts from the NC Indian Cultural Center, the Rankin Museum of American Heritage and the Department of the Army, among others. All CFAR members can take a great deal of pride in the accomplishments of the past year. Without your moral, financial and active personal support, CFAR would not have achieved the success it obviously has. Let's keep up the good work and find more "Common Ground" to develop!



CFAR's Mike Murrow and Susan Waller from Horizons Unlimited examine materials developed for educational display. Photo by Bill Terrell.

In case you missed the play on words, "Common Ground", the name selected for this newsletter, seems appropriate for an organization whose principal interests lie in the ground and who also promotes common concerns for archaeology. Let's hope we find lots of "Common Ground" for future issues. Also, look for the magazine, "Past Times", slated for publication in the near future.

Hardaway Site Recognized as National Historic Landmark

On November 5, 1990, dignitaries, invited guests and interested citizens from many areas of the state gathered outside the ALCOA Conference Center in Badin, NC to witness ceremonies recognizing the Hardaway Site as a National Historic Landmark. Since the enactment of the Historic Sites Act of 1935, 29 National Landmarks have been recognized in our state, yet only two commemorate our prehistoric archaeological heritage: Town Creek Indian Mound in Montgomery County and now Hardaway.

More than 350 people watched as Dr. Mark Barnes, representing the United States Department of the Interior and the National Park Service presented a bronze plaque to Badin Location Manager Tom Baugh. Baugh stated, "As a corporation, ALCOA is proud to be the property

owners of such a remarkable piece of land whose contents can be pieced together to tell a story of our country's past. I feel it is very important that our past and our present are preserved for future generations."

Among the dignitaries present were Patric Dorsey, Secretary of Cultural Resources, Congressman William "Bill" Hefner and Master of Ceremonies Jack Callaghan, vice-president and station manager for WSOC-TV in Charlotte.

Dr. Joffre Lanning Coe, now professor emeritus, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, and H.M. Doerschuk, an ALCOA employee and amateur archaeologist discovered the Hardaway Site in 1937. Dr. Coe's contributions to the development of American archaeol-

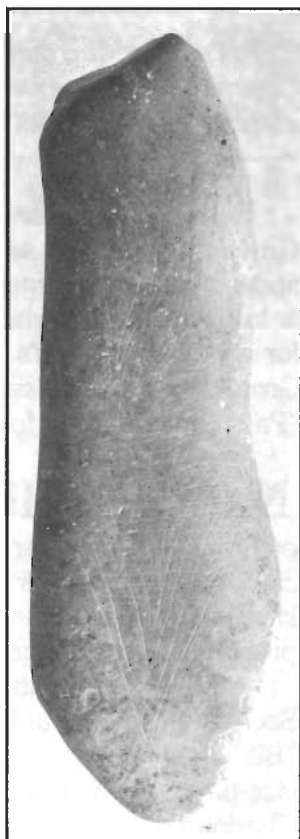
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Hardaway Site (continued from page 1)
ogy were recognized with a special award identified as "The Order of the Quartered Circle". Lewis Edwards, representing the **CFAR** Board of Directors, presented the engraved bronze plaque to Dr. Coe. The plaque was adorned with an original sculpture of the rare square and quartered circle gorget, hand carved by **CFAR** member Douglas Hill.

Some of the country's oldest artifacts have been found at the Hardaway Site. The recovered artifacts have been identified with superimposed and stratigraphically distinct cultural zones. Such a discovery in an upland setting such as the ridgetop on which Hardaway is situated represents a near geological impossibility. Coe's work not only discovered the stratified remains left behind by countless visitors, but also offered an explanation for their occurrence. According to Coe, "this land form has remained essentially unchanged, and in its natural state the processes of soil formation have proceeded at a slightly faster rate than those of erosion." The history of the site, in so far as it can be determined by the archaeological record, indicates that a shallow basin-shaped depression covered much of the site area when the first people built stone-lined hearths on its surface. Through the years artifacts and refuse became imbedded in the thin layer of humic soil which covered the surface. These deposits are identified with the Hardaway phase and are among the oldest in the United States. Many scholars believe the Hardaway phase dates before 10,000 B.C.

Recently, ALCOA initiated a site management strategy for the area which included returning the landscape to its 1937 appearance. Technical assistance was provided by the Office of State Archaeology and **CFAR**. The resulting change is both dramatic and inspirational, and as many people have remarked, you can sense the importance of this undulating piece of earth.

In a future issue we will take a closer look at artifacts from the Hardaway Site as well as a journey downstream to examine the equally important remains identified at the Doerschuk Site in nearby Montgomery County.



Engraved stone from 1988 Pee Dee Archaeological Project (Teal Site).

CFAR into Davie County Prehistory

In recent weeks **CFAR** has assisted the Office of State Archaeology by providing equipment and labor to investigate a number of looted Indian graves found at Hunting Creek Site (31De155) in western Davie County. This small village or hamlet appears to date to the period near A.D. 1500 and was one of only a few relatively undisturbed sites in this region. Unfortunately, shortly after the field was disked for planting, unscrupulous relic collectors ventured onto the site and began digging. When finished, the diggers had removed and chopped to pieces the skeletal remains of some of Davie County's earliest inhabitants. The landowner did not know anyone was digging up graves on his property and so a part of history was stolen, never to be replaced.

CFAR is presently considering sponsoring preliminary research at the Hunting Creek Site in cooperation with the Office of State Archaeology and Horizons Unlimited. Because of the long history of inadequate support for field investigations by the Division of Archives and History, the lack of funding by the legislature to recover looted or endangered human burials and the current budget crisis in State government, the Office of State Archaeology can do little more than provide technical assistance.

However, with your financial help **CFAR** can do a great deal. **CFAR** can contribute trained archaeological technicians, equipment, volunteers and funds toward supporting a field program. If you would like to show your support for **CFAR**'s action in this matter, please send a tax deductible contribution to:

CFAR
ATTN: HUNTING CREEK PROJECT
P.O. BOX 109
HIGH POINT, NC 27261

The limited investigation conducted so far indicates that the site is exceptionally rich in pieces of pottery, small triangular arrowheads as well as quantities of charcoal, animal bone and mussel shells. Because little is known about the Indians from this part of the state, **CFAR** wants to take this opportunity to excavate the site, and then develop a public exhibition of artifacts and a written account of the finds suitable for children to read in local schools. This is an opportunity to make history, rather than read it from another source. Be a part of making history -- **CFAR** into Davie County's past by sending in your contribution now. In future issues of the newsletter and our magazine, "Past Times", we will provide updates on the progress of the Hunting Creek project.



Feature excavation, Pee Dee Archaeological Project. Left to right: Bill Terrell, Richard Hurley, Bill Oliver. Photo by Bob Heist.

PEE DEE ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROJECT: Largest Public Education Project in North Carolina Begins Sixth Year

The Pee Dee Archaeological Project builds upon the work conducted by Dr. Joffre Lanning Coe at Town Creek Indian Mound, the longest sustained archaeological research in the United States. This work identified and defined the nature of the Pee Dee Indians who inhabited regions of the southern Piedmont of North Carolina before the coming of European settlement. It also resulted in the impressive reconstruction of the Town Creek Mound and its development as a State Historic Site and National Historic Landmark.

The Pee Dee Archaeological Project (PDAP) is designed to research the domestic villages and lifestyles of the people who built Town Creek Indian Mound, to promote public participation in these activities and to develop public education programs and exhibits for use in North Carolina's schools.

Today this project has succeeded beyond anyone's expectations. More than 400 people from all parts of North Carolina have directly participated in the field and laboratory activities. As the reputation of the project has grown, more people have inquired about how they can help or if **CFAR** can develop programs in their area. **CFAR** considers requests for visits on a first come, first serve basis and although attempts are made to satisfy all requests, sometimes requests cannot be satisfied.

The 1991 field season will once again focus activities in Anson and Richmond Counties with minor survey activities planned for Stanly County. Although actual dates have not yet been determined for the course of the season, **CFAR** plans to initiate excavations in either late May or early June. Look for an announcement in your mailbox near the end of April.

KID'S CORNER: What is Archaeology?

Archaeology is the scientific study of people and things from the past. The place where digging takes place is called a site.

Archaeologists study for many years to learn how to dig without damaging the things buried in the ground. People carefully map an area and then measure, dig, sift the dirt, wash and label what is found, and bag or box their finds to take back to laboratories for additional study.

Once in the laboratory the finds are given a number to identify each piece, then some pieces are fitted together while others are studied still further. Sometimes tests are performed to determine the age of the artifacts. Finally, archaeologists interpret all the finds from a particular site and offer explanations about how people lived long ago.

Before archaeologists can make interpretations, they must know as much as possible about the people who were supposed to live at the site. In order to do this they study:

- How the people lived - this is called the people's **CULTURE**.
- Where people camped or lived for periods of time - **SITES**.
- What kinds of tools were used - **ARTIFACTS**.
- What the people valued or worshipped, places that were considered sacred or special in some way -**RELIGION, TEMPLES, MOUNDS**.
- What actions, beliefs or ways of doing things were handed down from the past - things we call **TRADITION**.

ACTIVITIES

Have you ever drawn a map? Maps are important to archaeologists because they show where finds were discovered. By knowing where things are found and how many items of a particular kind are found close to one another, we can sometimes figure out where the people ate, lived and met with each other.

1. Draw a map of your classroom. Show where desks, book shelves and other furniture is located. Are certain types of furniture located together or near one another?

2. What makes up your culture? Make a list of things you think symbolize your culture, then with your parents, help bring in some of those items or pictures cut out of magazines to share with your class.

3. Either individually or as a class use the items brought from home and drawings to make a poster symbolizing your culture. Remember to include things which represent your past as well as your present.



Group photo from the 1988 Pee Dee Archaeological Project (Teal Site). CFAR blends the expertise of archaeologists, trained archaeological technicians and dedicated volunteers. Photo by Bob Heist.

APRIL MEETING

CFAR has been invited by the Uwharrie Archaeological Society to present the April program. Bill Oliver of the State Office of Archaeology will present the program: "Putting a Face on the Past". UAS meetings are held at the Asheboro Public Library every third Tuesday of the month. The April meeting is scheduled for April 16th from 7:00 to 9:00 PM. Attendance is free and participants are encouraged to bring items for display and identification. For directions, call (919)629-3329.

