

TENNESSEE'S NEW
ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROGRAM
PART 1

CONSERVING OUR FORGOTTEN HERITAGE

by Mack S. Prichard
State Archaeologist



High Priest Gorget, with upraised mace and victim's head.
This dramatic scene was carved on a sea shell
found near Gallatin. The shell is owned by the Heye
Museum of New York City.

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In 1970 the General Assembly passed the Tennessee Archaeology Act, creating a Division of Archaeology within the Department of Conservation.

Recognizing that our rich heritage of archaeological resources is non-renewable, the Act established a state-wide program of archaeological conservation. It provided for the survey and excavation of sites and created an archaeological advisory council. It stipulated that the Division shall cooperate with established university programs and with private archaeological societies. The Division shall also encourage publications, displays, and the establishment of museums and parks for the preservation of archaeological materials. Finally, the Act protects archaeological sites on state lands from unauthorized excavations and deems it a misdemeanor for anyone to remove artifacts from private lands without first obtaining the owner's permission.

The Act was needed because of Tennessee's rich archaeological heritage. There have been a lot of prehistoric tourists in this state; and they left some fascinating remains. Many unusual artifacts have already been found here and may be seen in principal museums. Despite the many priceless artifacts and information recovered, thousands of valuable articles have been destroyed for lack of competent attention. The development of roads, dams, and urban buildings sometimes wipes out whole village sites, removing forever the information we might have gleaned of our Indian antecedents. Thus it has been past time for the state to employ archaeologists to conserve this heritage.

Before 1970 the Division of State Parks had already acquired three archaeological sites. They included Old Stone Fort near Manchester, Pinson Mounds near Jackson, and Chucalissa near Memphis. Some 670 acres at Old Stone Fort preserve the earthworks, rocky bluffs, waterfalls, caves and diverse flora of that beauty spot. At Pinson Mounds some 1400 acres contain remains of 33 earthworks which will be excavated and eventually reconstructed. The Chucalissa site in T. O. Fuller State Park was the Department's first archaeological development.

Those who worked on the Chucalissa project from its inception watched the

public enthusiasm grow with its development. People came out to wonder at skeletons preserved *in-situ* as they were found, and to see what else had been unearthed by the continuous excavation. They studied the artifacts in the museum exhibits, then went out to watch the Indians actually make such handicrafts. Children learned that Indians were more than the grunting savages Hollywood movies often show. Many cross-cultural insights were exchanged with an Indian on one end of a log and a tourist on the other. A Choctaw, fresh from hometown prejudices, was once heard to say, "I like working here with white folks who talk nice—I feel like a human being again."



Since its development the Chucalissa site has served as a center of archaeological interest for West Tennessee. Nearly ten years ago it was described in *National Geographic*—along with Fall Creek Falls—as one of our two state parks of special interest. The film, *Chucalissa Indian Crafts*, has been the most popular documentary in the film loan library, Educational Services Division of the Department of Conservation. Since its transfer to Memphis State University, the Chucalissa Museum has become the focus for MSU's archaeological research program. Many students have learned proper field techniques during summer excavations there.

The "recipe" for Chucalissa's public acceptance will be used to some extent in Tennessee's future archaeological parks. Fundamental concepts will be: 1) site preparation, 2) competent staff management, 3) long-term excavations,

Officials tour Ozier Mound. Right to left: Governor Winfield Dunn, Assistant Labor Commissioner Lacy Rose, Conservation Commissioner Granville Hintor, and State Archaeologist Mack Prichard conduct legislators on a recent inspection of Pinson Mounds

- 4) reconstructions of important figures.
- 5) display of articles on the site, and
- 6) Indian guides for interpretation of Indian sites. Site development will be similar to the system of archaeological museums developed by the Ohio Historical Society which include such fine sites as Fort Ancient and Serpent Mound.



Where is the Eagle - Gone

The Great Chief in Washington sends word that he wishes to buy our land. How can you buy or sell the sky-the warmth of the land? The idea is strange to us. Yet we do not own the freshness of the air or the sparkle of the water. How can you buy them from us? Every part of this earth is sacred to my people.

We know that white man does not understand our ways. One portion of the land is the same to him as the next, for he is a stranger who comes in the night and takes from the land whatever he needs. The earth is not his brother but his enemy, and when he has conquered it he moves on. He leaves his father's graves, and his children's birth-right is forgotten.

There is no quiet place in the white man's cities. No place to hear the leaves of spring or the rustle of insect wings. But perhaps because I am savage and do not understand, the clatter only seems to insult the ears. And what is there to life if a man cannot hear the lovely cry of the whippoorwill or the arguments of the frog around the pond at night.

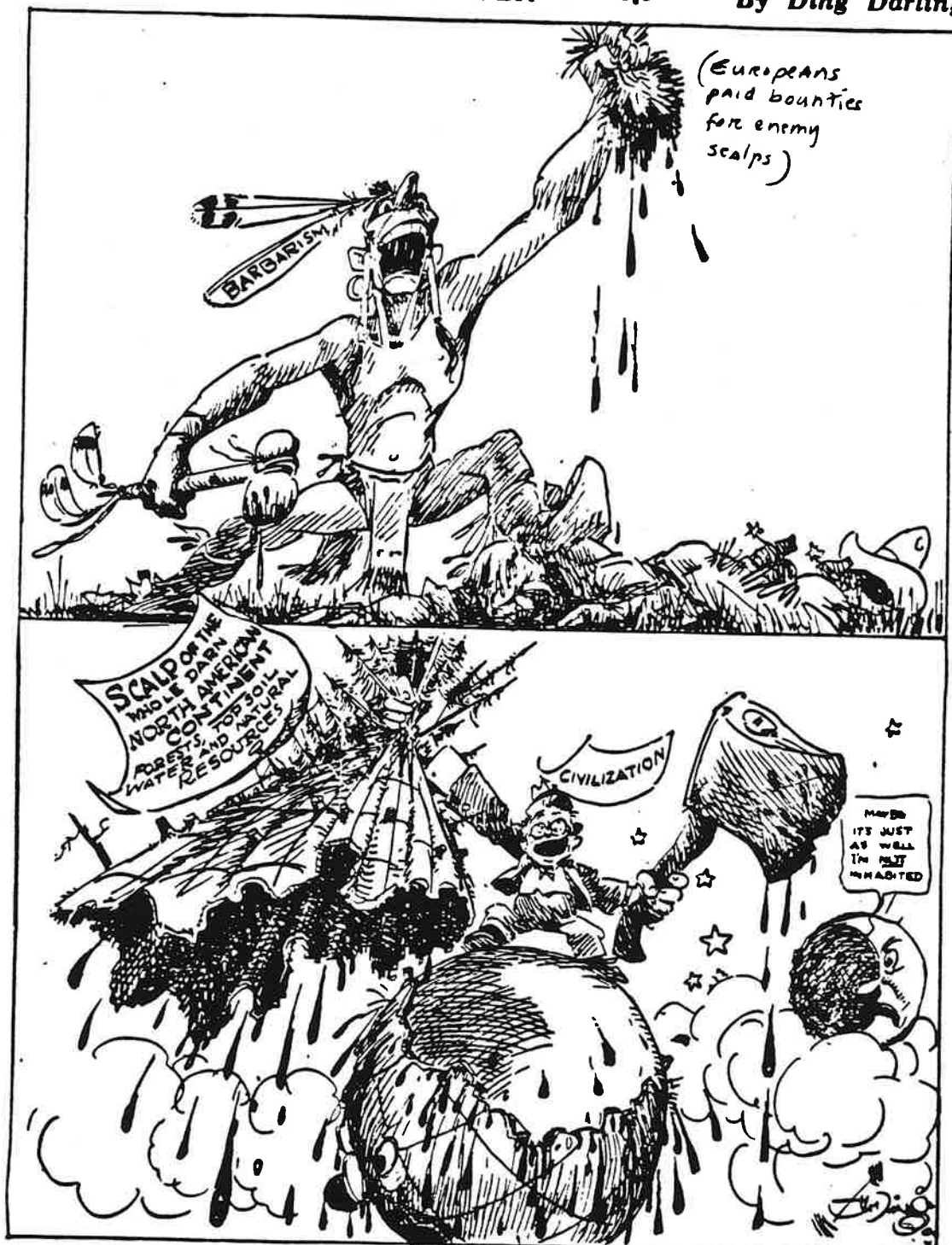
The whites too, shall pass-perhaps sooner than other tribes. Continue to contaminate your bed and you will one night suffocate in your own waste. When the buffalo are all slaughtered, the wild horses all tamed, the secret corners of the forest heavy with the scent of many men and the view of the ripe hills blotted by talking wires. Where is the thicket - gone, where is the eagle - gone. And what is it to say goodbye to the swift and the hunt, the end of living and the beginning of survival.

-Chief Seattle to President Franklin Pierce
1855



GOING THE INDIAN ONE BETTER

By Ding Darling



Courtesy, National Wildlife Federation

The Second Annual Wildlife Week will be observed throughout the nation March 19th to 25th, inclusive, at which time another serious attempt will be made to inform the general public of the need for immediate and concerted action, if our wildlife resources are to be saved.

You are invited and urged to take part. Volunteer your services now to the president of your local chapter, or write to this magazine for information. Talks must be made to all civic organizations, clubs, schools and churches, and a new series of eighty wildlife stamps must be distributed. Tennessee ranked fifth in the United States last year in this observance, let's rank first this year!

editorial

AS LONG AS THE RIVER SHALL RUN

Guest Editorial
by Mack S. Prichard*

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Conservationist Magazine
March -1973



We laughed at the Indian's price for Manhattan—\$24 in trinkets. But the Indians laughed at the paleface notion of selling the land. "The land is our mother; the river is the source of life; how could we sell this?" The Indians lived what Aldo Leopold advised in his *Sand County Almanac*: "Only when we regard nature as a community to which we belong, rather than a commodity which belongs to us, will we make progress in conservation."

"As long as the river shall run and the grass shall grow" was the binding agreement in many United States/Indian treaties. Although the Red Man kept his word, we could not—and even today we covet Alaskan oil in the last Indian territory. Our early western migration plowed the prairies; now it has turned back to dam the rivers, at times callously insensitive to nature's laws and Indian rights.

The land ethic of White and Red Man contrasted vividly in Tennessee. In 1759 the first English settlers at Fort Loudoun found the Cherokee living comfortably within their means in scattered towns along the Little Tennessee River. The men hunted and fished for their meat in the rich valley, and the women worked garden vegetables which later became our staples. But our pioneers began to clear the forests and plow the slopes to improve the land. So many settlers crowded into Tennessee that by 1838 there was "no room" for the Indians; consequently they were brutally evicted by order of President Andrew Jackson. More than 4,000 Cherokees died on the infamous Trail of Tears to Oklahoma.

Less than one hundred years later the consequences of our improvements began to evict us. Disastrous floods and depleted soil forced resettlement and then TVA dams to meet the emergency. The dams stopped the floods but unfortunately covered many scenic and historic sites as well. Even now the Tellico Dam under construction near

Lenoir City threatens to flood the last concentration of Overhill Cherokee heritage.

Concerned that the old ways were dying out, the Eastern Band of the Cherokee Nation petitioned Governor Winfield Dunn to stop the destruction of their sacred towns and burial grounds. The Governor had already urged TVA to shelve the project because it entails loss of fertile soil, a productive trout fishery, and historical sites. Governor Dunn said that, with its proximity to the Smokies, "The Little Tennessee could best serve all Tennesseans by remaining a scenic river gateway to the wilderness lands beyond. I will do all I can to stop this dam."

TVA declined his request; but a citizen lawsuit—filed by the Association for the Preservation of the Little Tennessee and the Environmental Defense Fund—has obtained a temporary injunction to stop work on the dam.

We hope Americans may live more gently on Mother Earth, for today's inflation is a consequence of our own waste. In the past, great empires have fallen from their abuse of the land. Archaeology shows that where mankind has ignored nature's laws he has left desert mountains and dried-up rivers.

Perhaps history will view the Tellico controversy from the Indian's perspective who wrote:

"Paleface, he cut down trees, make too big tepee, plow hill, water wash, wind blow soil, grass gone, stream gone, squaw gone, whole place gone to hell. No pig, no pony, no corn, no chuckaway.

"Indian, he no plow the land, keep grass, buffalo eat grass, Indian eat buffalo, hide make plenty big tepee, make moccasins. All time Indian no hunt job, no work, no hitchhike, no ask relief, no build dam, no give damn.

"White man—he is crazy." ●

editorial

Tennessee Conservationist Magazine, July 1974

Save Our Streams

by Mack S. Prichard, *Asst. Director, Educational Services*
Department of Conservation Division

"In 1760 D. Boone cilled a bar on tree," in what is present-day Sullivan County. The ancient beech on which Daniel carved his cryptic words has since blown down, but nearby is another place that also served him well.

Shortly after that "bar cill" Boone was surprised by a band of Cherokees. The Indians hotly pursued him for hunting on their land. In his race for life, Daniel got ahead and waded through creek water to throw the attackers off his trail. Running down each bank to spot his tracks, the Indians passed a low waterfall and continued down the stream. Left behind, squeezing under a rocky ledge, lay Boone and his rifle, safely hid beneath the water's spray.

Just off U.S. 23 near Boone Creek School, this landmark of human ingenuity still flows, draining a pastoral valley. A few maples, elms and white-limbed sycamores shade its rapid-flowing and quiet pools. Today, cows drink where Boone hunted bear, and boys wade where he hid. Sun perch and stoneroller minnows live in its clear water. Violets and Star-of-Bethlehem bloom in abundance along the banks.

For years, only a red barn graced the scene, and although the school and highway were nearby, Boone's Falls remained a peaceful retreat amid the congested Tri-Cities. But more people needed more land to develop. Lately, a packing house and several new brick homes have been built overlooking the creek. Boone would find it harder to hide from their view than the Indians'.

Thoughtless "libations" of beer cans and picnic litter left behind make "No Trespassing" signs necessary. Silt and foam in the water are mute testimony to the fact that eroding fields upstream are losing valuable nutrients to the Gulf of Mexico. Wood ducks find it harder to feed without disturbance and have fewer hollow trees to

nest in.

All these changes are gradual to us and hardly noticeable. They would be shocking to Boone or the Indians. Boone or Crockett would want to move on for elbow room.

Our problem today is that the frontier has disappeared from Tennessee—if not from the world. "Be it ever so humble, there is no place left . . . but home." Only those tag ends of our great wilderness, like Boone Falls, remain.

We need to preserve these landmarks of our heritage as a source of inspiration. A stream is a stimulator. It wets us with daring and floats ideas on its surface. Its variety and serenity give us vitamins of wilderness essential to great character. America needs more Boone- and Crockett-type leadership. We must start by saving our streams.

John Drinkwater put it very aptly when he said:

"When we defile the pleasant streams
And destroy the wild bird's abiding
place

We massacre a million dreams
And cast our spittle in God's face."

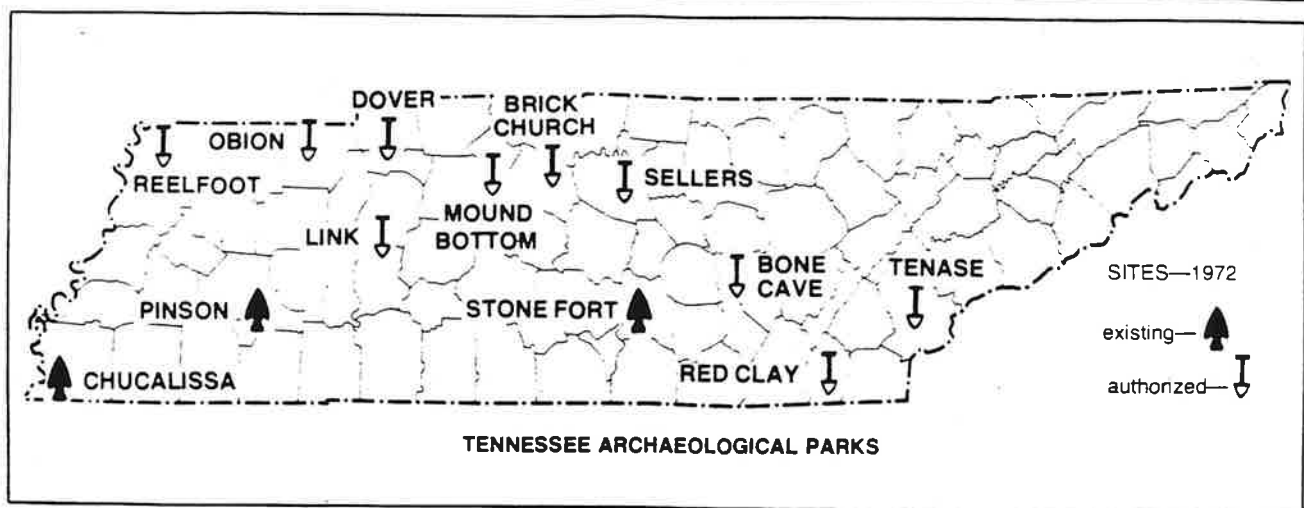
How fragile are the streams with their slender corridors of life-giving waters! Here grow the lushest flowers, the tallest trees; here lies the most fertile soil; here lives the wildlife. And here, too, are the oldest campsites of man. What an irretrievable mistake to mess up these living corridors with pollution, pavement, dredging and dams!

The NASA moon trips have shown how lifeless space can be and how fragile "spaceship" earth is. How round and finite is our world, how limited our clean air, water, and green space. How interconnected all things are.

How quickly we can lose it all.

Daniel Boone could go west; we can't.
We have only here and now.





men worked in the dust, piping water one-half mile through wooden conduits to leach out this essential ingredient for black powder. Their dirt filled wooden vats and rough-hewn aerial tramways have remained perfectly preserved until recent years. Even torch tripods, stirring paddles, and newspapers dated 1835 and 1862 have been found.

But careless spelunkers and souvenir hunters have lately vandalized fragile features. The worst blow came from someone who removed three of the best vats to Sauta Cave, Alabama without the owner's consent. Plans call for closing the present entrance to keep out such offenders and reopening the former entrance to the Muster Ground, a sandy room 50 by 1275 feet and twelve feet high, where the best vats may be seen. Lantern tours to the more difficult-to-reach Bone Cave will be lead by a guide. Excavations may find more big bones; wooden works will be restored where possible.

SITES PROTECTED FROM VANDALISM

Under the new State Archaeology Act of 1970 (T.A.C. 1101-1117) it is forbidden as a misdemeanor to disturb antiquities on private lands without the owner's permission, or on state lands without a permit from the Division of Archaeology. *Therefore all of these sites are protected; and persons visiting them should not dig or attempt to disturb or remove relics.*

ECHOTA-TENASE

Until the 1970 National Environmental Policy Act there was no protection of the Echota-Tenase site in Monroe County from the environmental vandalism it now faces. As planned, the Tellico Dam will flood this site and the "richest archaeological section in the Appalachians," according to the Smithsonian Institution. Flooded will be Echota, the beloved city of refuge; Tenase, the namesake

of our state; and most of the Overhill Cherokee towns including Citico, Toqua, Tommotley, Mialoquo, and possibly Tuskegee, birthplace of Sequoyah.

Already TVA has leveled the Niles Ferry Mound and the historic Clark Mansion beside the U.S. 411 bridge, and dam construction has scattered the bones of Coyatee near the mouth of the Little Tennessee River. Also to be affected are the Tellico Blockhouse, Fort Loudoun, and some sixty other archaeological sites found in the valley.



Cherokee lady making cornmeal at Oconoluftee Village, North Carolina.

The first English settlement west of the Alleghenies, Fort Loudoun, was built in 1759. TVA has offered to dike off this registered National Historic Landmark. A state park is planned to utilize the top of these sites around the reservoir and display some of their artifacts salvaged by the University of Tennessee archaeologists.

But if the citizen lawsuit successfully contests the legality of this project's justification, and if Governor Dunn's request to halt the project is honored, another plan can result. Tenase Park could include reconstructed Cherokee houses on our state's namesake site; a rebuilt council-house at Echota, their ancient capital; and memorials to great leaders like Oconostota, Little Carpenter and Old Hop. It would certainly honor the birthplace of Sequoyah, the Tennessee-born genius whose bust properly stands in the Capitol rotunda.

A sensitive archaeologist would be employed to excavate the Toqua Mound and certain other features pertinent to the Cherokees' antecedents in that pastoral valley.

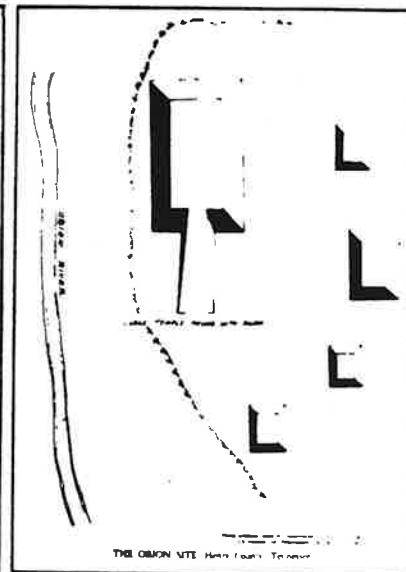
Further, Cherokees would be employed as Indian guides to conduct visitors on float trips down the crystal waters of the Little Tennessee River. They would stop at the old towns "come alive" again, and among the many islands to bargain for handicrafts that Indians-in-Residence would make. They might fish in one of the most productive trout



Bulldozer versus Brick Church Mound in Nashville. Our rapid growth can wipe out whole chapters of unwritten prehistory.

Part of the Duck River flint cache from the Link Farm.

The UT plat of the Obion Site in Henry County.



streams in the Eastern U. S. Floating quietly down through history on the thirty-three miles of that scenic corridor would be an unforgettable experience. As for the land that has been taken for the Tellico Dam project—it could be returned to the farmers and to the Indians who were forced to cede their homeland in 1819.

CONCLUSION

That somewhere America should stop exterminating the Indians and their sacred places is no longer a ridiculous idea. Before the proverbial 1984 we should recognize that diversity gives strength, that Indian history is our history in our adopted land. That the sites named here have heritage value quite apart from their archaeological richness is not adequately understood. Even if we do not excavate them, it is right that they be preserved, as touchstones of the Red Man's past.

We are all indebted to the owners of these sites for not destroying them. We are grateful to Tennessee's pioneer archaeologists who with labor and love opened our eyes to the sites' value—people like G. P. Thruston, W. E. Myer, T. M. N. Lewis, Madeline Kneberg, and many dedicated amateurs.

When properly developed these ten sites, and others to follow, will be among the state's finest tourist attractions. More importantly, they will be landmarks which the brotherhood of man can admire and reflect upon as cultural oases. They are needed for the poet's song because: "Someday . . . the pilgrims are coming . . . to visit shrines . . . of ancient origins . . . Temples of mystic meaning . . . to none but . . . ourselves." ●

The Archaeology Division requests that it be notified of Indian sites or places where there are unusual artifacts or archaeological remains. A survey is being conducted of all sites and collections that can be studied before they become lost. Anyone who would like to report such information, please contact the State Archaeologist, Department of Conservation, 2611 West End Avenue, Nashville, Tennessee 37203. Or telephone 615 741-~~4337~~1580

This is the concluding article in a two-part series. Portions of this article were reprinted from the Tennessee Valley Historical Review, Fall 1972

THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL PARKS

by Mack S. Prichard

State Archaeologist

Last month we discussed the formation of a state archaeological program. Now let us consider the big step being taken toward the preservation of our archaeological heritage. The 1972 General Assembly authorized a \$650,000 budget requested by Governor Winfield Dunn for the new Division of Archaeology. Recently the Governor and Conservation Commissioner Granville Hinton conducted legislators to Pinson Mounds to explain how these funds will be used.

Most of the appropriation will be spent for the purchase of ten of the state's finest archaeological sites. The sites selected contain features of unique historical, archaeological, and even paleontological value. They will be protected from destructive wheels of progress by the Department of Conservation as *archaeological parks*.

The ten sites now being acquired include the following unique places:

HUGH LINK FARM

The Hugh Link Farm near Waverly is the site of the world's finest flint cache, found in 1894. The cache had 46 ceremonial objects chipped into maces, eagle claws, effigies, and blades up to 27 inches long. They are now preserved in the UT McClung Museum in Knoxville. Four mounds remain in the village area overlooking Duck River. Although we are unlikely to find another cache, we may learn more about who made them and why.



Twin Mounds in Pinson Archaeological Park near Jackson.

DOVER FLINT QUARRY

Just a few miles north of the Link Farm is the Dover Flint Quarry, where the unique brown chert was obtained to chip those long blades. Dozens of large pits pock the ridge surface in one of the most extensive aboriginal mines in the United States. Visitors to this site will be given a demonstration in flint knapping by the museum guide.

OBION MOUNDS

The Obion Mounds near Paris consist of a great temple mound and four satellite mounds which

enclose an impressive plaza 500 by 1000 feet. Overlooking a great swamp forest in the Obion bottoms, this must have been an important early Mississippian culture ceremonial center. The principal mound was built in six stages achieving a size of 500 by 170 feet and 30 feet in height. A nature trail will lead through giant cypress to another mound near the river.

MOUND BOTTOM

Another spectacular site is the Mound Bottom complex on the Harpeth River in Cheatham County. Spread out between ancient river meanders are five separate features including the Narrows, Mace Bluff, Cairn Ridge and the upper and lower towns. The upper portion above U.S. 70 terraced an entire hilltop, creating a plaza 500 by 1000 feet with a large temple mound and four smaller ones enclosing a "fortified" area of 300 acres. Less than a mile

downstream in the bottom land of a river loop is another broad plaza dominated by an enormous mound and six smaller ones. Nearby is a cliff, on which is a pictoglyph depicting a mace or scepter, and a ridge with a low mound.

A mile downstream is another small mound surrounded by a great horseshoe bend that flows past the Narrows. In 1818, Montgomery Bell, an early iron founder, bored a hole through the limestone bluff and used the waterfall to power his Patterson Forge. Swinging bridges are planned to lead visitors to his grave located opposite the tunnel and to other features in Mound Bottom. The Narrows will be utilized in cooperation with the Boy Scouts, who have managed that area as old Camp Boxwell. The lower Mound Bottom will be managed by the Southeastern Institute of Anthropological Studies, who will develop the site into an Indian cultural center. With Vanderbilt University, they will also operate a summer excavation for students and the public to enjoy.

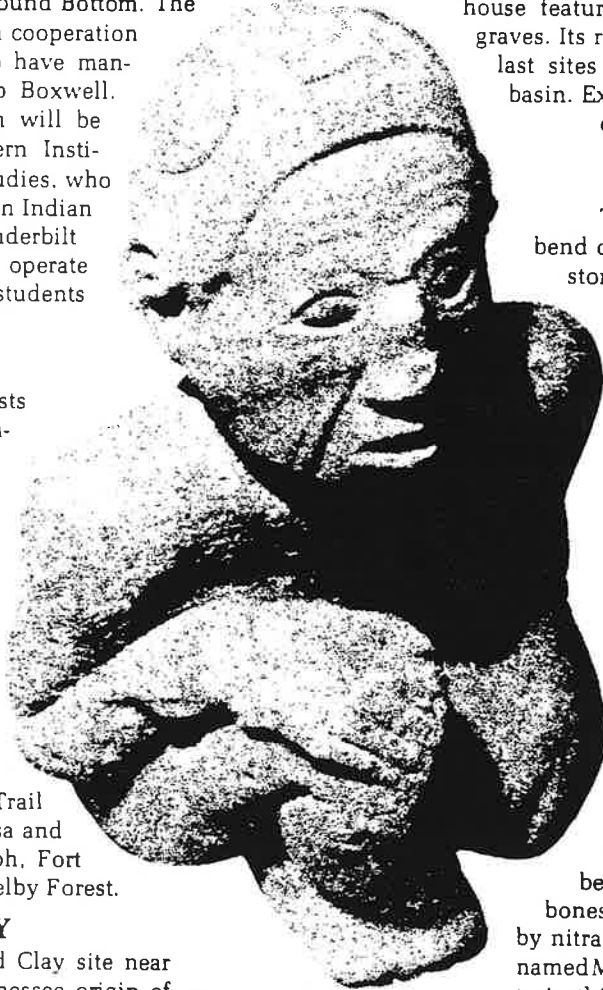
REELFOOT

The Reelfoot site consists of two mounds near Samburg. Adjacent to the lake, one mound is on a low occupational ridge that is gradually being plowed away. Across Highway 22 on a wooded bluff sits a flat-topped temple mound that has a grand view of the earthquake lake formed in 1812. This will be the northern terminus of the proposed 120-mile Chickasaw Bluff Trail that will begin at Chucalissa and pass near historic Randolph, Fort Pillow, Sunk Lake, and Shelby Forest.

RED CLAY

Across the state, the Red Clay site near Cleveland will be the Tennessee origin of the proposed Trail of Tears. From the last council ground of the Cherokee this state trail will head north to Rattlesnake Springs, Hiwassee River, Pikeville, McMinnville, and Clarksville. Over 4,000 Indians died on that trail during their forced removal to the Oklahoma territories in 1838. The site will be developed as a fitting memorial, employing Cherokee Indians to interpret their own heritage. The council buildings will be rebuilt, crafts will be exhibited, and a drama will be presented to help visitors understand the tragic exodus of a noble people. Events will center near a great spring that flows some 250 gallons per minute. Nearby is the grave of Sleeping Rabbit, a respected Cherokee veteran of the 1812 war. Fearing the loss of this site to a brewery, Colonel James Corn, county historian, bought its 150 acres outright and got the county to hold it until now.

Sixteen-inch high sandstone figure found at Sellers Farm near Lebanon.



BRICK CHURCH MOUND

The Brick Church Mound in Nashville is another site in danger of annihilation. Interstate 24 will run nearby, and urban sprawl has almost enveloped it. Already a church has bought one third of the site and has bulldozed out a foundation. This site is well situated for the public and especially for school children to learn about the Indian heritage. A large temple mound, a lower mound, and an occupational ridge are rich with house features, debris pits, and some stone box graves. Its remote location has saved one of the last sites of this type left in the Nashville basin. Excavations should expose a valuable chapter of our unwritten prehistory.

SELLERS FARM

The Sellers Farm site is located in a bend of Spring Creek near Lebanon. Its stone box graves reveal the inhabitants as skilled artisans who sculptured fine stone figures like "Sandy," the little man selected as the motif of the Tennessee Archaeological Society. The site consists of a temple mound 25 feet high and 135 feet long and many domiciliary mounds, surrounded by an oval 25-foot-wide ditch 850 by 1000 feet. Traces of six small mounds can be seen outside the wall. When the site is developed a two-mile foot trail will lead to Jennings Knob, a lookout point rising 600 feet above the valley.

BIG BONE CAVE

Big Bone Cave near Rock Island, in Van Buren County, is probably the most unusual of the ten sites to be acquired. Its name refers to the bones of a giant ground sloth uncovered by nitrate miners in 1811. The animal was named *Megalonyx jeffersonii*, after our country's third President, a pioneer archaeologist. *Megalonyx*, standing eight feet high, browsed on tree limbs, reaching them with

its great claws. One claw was found still attached to the bone in the cave dust. In 1884 more bones, apparently of the same animal, were found with some periosteal fibers still attached. In 1896 Henry Mercer of the University of Pennsylvania made an expedition to the cave and found more sloth bones, plus remains of other species. As recently as 1971 Dr. John Guilday of the Carnegie Institute reported that remains of a jaguar, *Panthera onca*, had just been found by the Nashville Grotto in a newly discovered branch of the cave. The sloths died out about 10,000 years ago, but the jaguar has been estimated at 10,000 to 35,000 years B.P. (before present).

The dry cave was also a perfect environment for nitrate formation, or saltpeter. For the War of 1812 nearly 300

FORGOTTEN HERITAGE

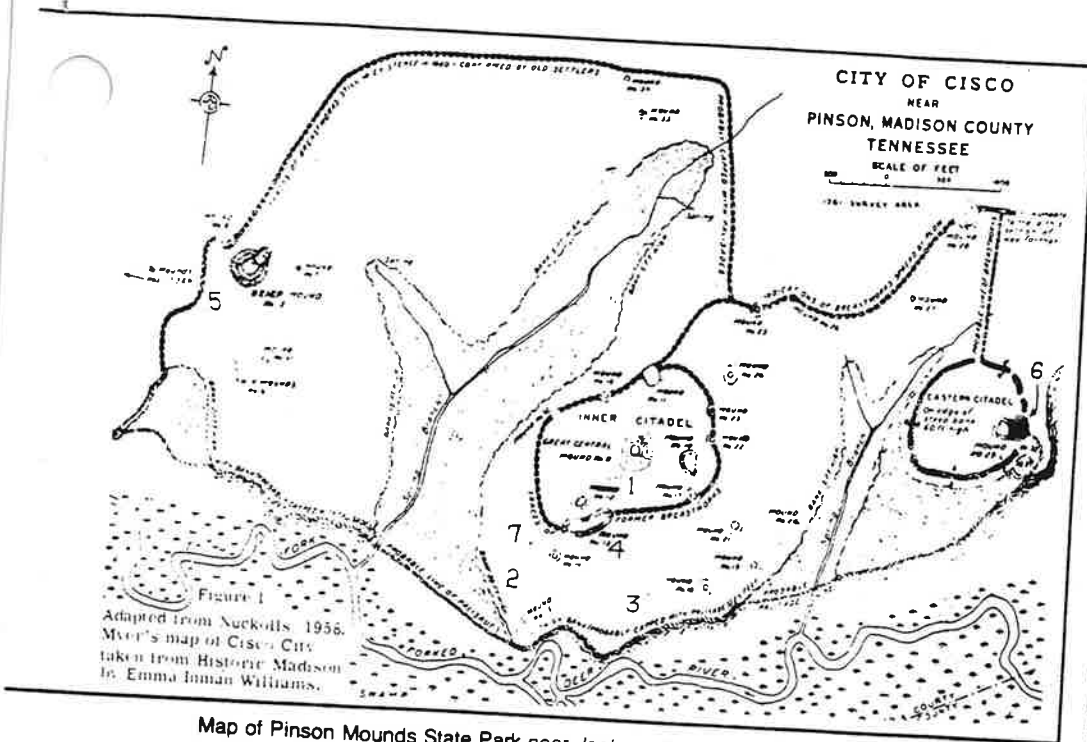
This "site protection practice" evolved from the usual "artifact mining practice." In certain notable old world sites. At *Pompei* in Italy and *Delphi* in Greece fragile specimens are protected in adjacent site museums instead of being removed to distant collections.

The purchase of important sites opens new possibilities for Tennessee in *conservation archaeology*. This concept may be contrasted with the *salvage archaeology* that has been Tennessee's major effort to date. In the latter practice, features are: 1) The project has a limited time and may obtain a limited sample of perhaps 10%; 2) The articles and information are normally removed to a distant museum or research facility for preservation and study; 3) The site is then abandoned to its fate and seldom can be re-examined by future control investigations; and 4) The site is usually destroyed partially, or totally, by construction or rendered inaccessible, thus removing another of mankind's fragile landmarks.

We may term this salvage work *Phase I Archaeology*, because the majority of sites must be salvaged from the construction or land-altering projects that revealed them. So long as *Homo sapiens* likes to camp on the same choice spots (albeit with skyscrapers), we will likely erase similar occupations. Accumulating for over 10,000 years are all those tribes that slumber beneath the grass. But once we have disturbed them all or paved them over without population pressure, their record in the dust is gone forever. It is precisely our "population" that threatens to eliminate all but "beer can" archaeology in a few years.

To assure that some of the ancient mounds, burying grounds, and sacred places of the Red Man remain, we must move into *Phase II Archaeology*. It is past time to put some of these lands in the bank, as part of a geography of hope. Future generations will value these sites and perhaps understand them better than we do now. Since the Department of Conservation has considerable expertise in land management of parks, forests, and historic landmarks, it seems an ideal parent for the archaeological site development.

The Phase II, "housekeeping



Map of Pinson Mounds State Park near Jackson as surveyed by Cisco (1902), Myer (1922), and Nuckolls (1958). Over 1400 acres have been purchased here to be excavated and reconstructed by the Division of Archaeology.



Chipped Stone Head. Found along the Duck River about 1900, this six-inch effigy, made of Dover Flint, is one of Tennessee's archaeological treasures.



Silver Medallion
 was plowed up along
 the Little Tennessee
 River. This two-inch medal
 was given to Cherokee Chief
 Little Carpenter by England's King
 George II in 1730.

archaeology" was pioneered by the National Park Service with such outstanding sites as Ocmulgee National Monument in Georgia and Mesa Verde National Park in Colorado. By comparison to salvage archaeology limitations, Phase II conservation archaeology has notable advantages. Unlimited time is provided to excavate the whole site when feasible, even if it takes a hundred years. The long-term plan is actually preferable, since excavation techniques and interpretation are being steadily improved. Portions of sites can be left undisturbed as scientifically controlled experiments to be tested later. As we learn more we can verify or update an original hypothesis—but only if we can go back to the site for data. A sad case in point is the Cretan Palace of Knossos, which was dug in its entirety by Sir Arthur Evans before Carbon-14 dating was discovered. Now nothing remains to accurately date that great Minoan structure except a relative guess-timate of 3500 B.P. (before present).

Additionally, it is better to have the whole site to excavate than to determine arbitrarily what constitutes an adequate sample. A test trench may reveal an average cross-section of a culture, but it may not expose some of that culture's most interesting features. However expertly the Cherokee towns are salvaged in the Little Tennessee River Valley, partial excavations could have missed by one inch a silver medallion that was plowed up accidentally by a farmer. King George II had given it to Chief Little Carpenter in 1730 when he visited England. This is a clue to the Indian acceptance of the English, whose first settlement west of the Alleghenies was made at Fort Loudoun in 1756. Since TVA's Tellico Dam would flood these sites, it is likely that many other valuable articles could not be found in time.

If a site and its natural context are preserved we may see it as the Indians did. This can be of value to scholars who unravel prehistory and to Indians as shrines to their cultural traditions. The retention of articles *in-situ* where found or in an adjacent museum is of value for study and public understanding. After excavation certain features like council houses may be reconstructed and the mounds even rebuilt to retain the value of the site as a heritage land-

mark. Such places have a silent eloquence.

Many hearts have been gladdened by the discovery of an Indian arrowhead. Yet, if we collect only the artifacts, we miss the real treasure of information. "Tis ye, 'tis y'er estranged faces that miss the many splendored thing."
 (—Francis Thompson, *In No Strange Land*)

The archaeologist must be as eagle-eyed as the Indian to dig deeper into the dirt for clues that tell a story. He must read the soil color for subtle hints of what happened here. He must save the pieces that have escaped time's erasure. And he must record every detail for future digestion. Because when we dig, we destroy the layers of ages' accumulation.

We dig for insights and information, that some day we may comprehend the values of the Red Man. If our excavations are done with skill and patience, we may gain an insight into time itself, and even the meaning of death. And perhaps, before it is too late, we can learn to cherish mother earth as naturally as the Indians did.

For archaeology bridges every class and race and reveals the continuity of humankind. As we have built upon the shoulders of peoples past, so shall someone—ages hence—continue the life we love. ●



Making Pottery at Chucalissa. Chocataw Indian, L. D. John, fires a turn's pot in the old way at this archaeological reconstruction near Memphis.

To be continued next month