



CALUSA NEWS

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INSTITUTE OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND PALEOENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES

FLORIDA MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY

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Return to Battey's Landing

by William H. Marquardt, Project Director

Even Frank Cushing was impressed. The controversial Smithsonian anthropologist had seen it all. He had studied Indians and artifacts since he was a teenager, had lived for years among the Zuni of New Mexico and been adopted as a member of the tribe. Within months he would begin excavation of southwest Florida's most famous site — Key Marco.

But now it was May 30, 1895, and Cushing's small boat floundered on the shoals at a place called Battey's Landing,

northwestern Pine Island. A man and several dogs came out to greet him, happy to have a visitor in their sparsely populated corner of the world. But Cushing's attention was already drawn to what was behind them.

What he saw was a Calusa Indian village and shellwork site that covered over 100 acres. It had enormous flat courts, imposing mounds, and a long straight canal that crossed the entire width of Pine Island.

Ninety-four years later only about 20

acres of the vast Indian town remain, most of it owned and vigilantly protected from further disturbance by Don and Pat Randell of Pineland.

The site is listed in the National Register of Historic Places, and the Randells have put up a historical marker across the road from their home, perched on pilings above the site that so amazed Frank Cushing nearly a century ago. The marker invites the casual visitor to pause and reflect on the now vanished kingdom of the Calusa — a sophisticated

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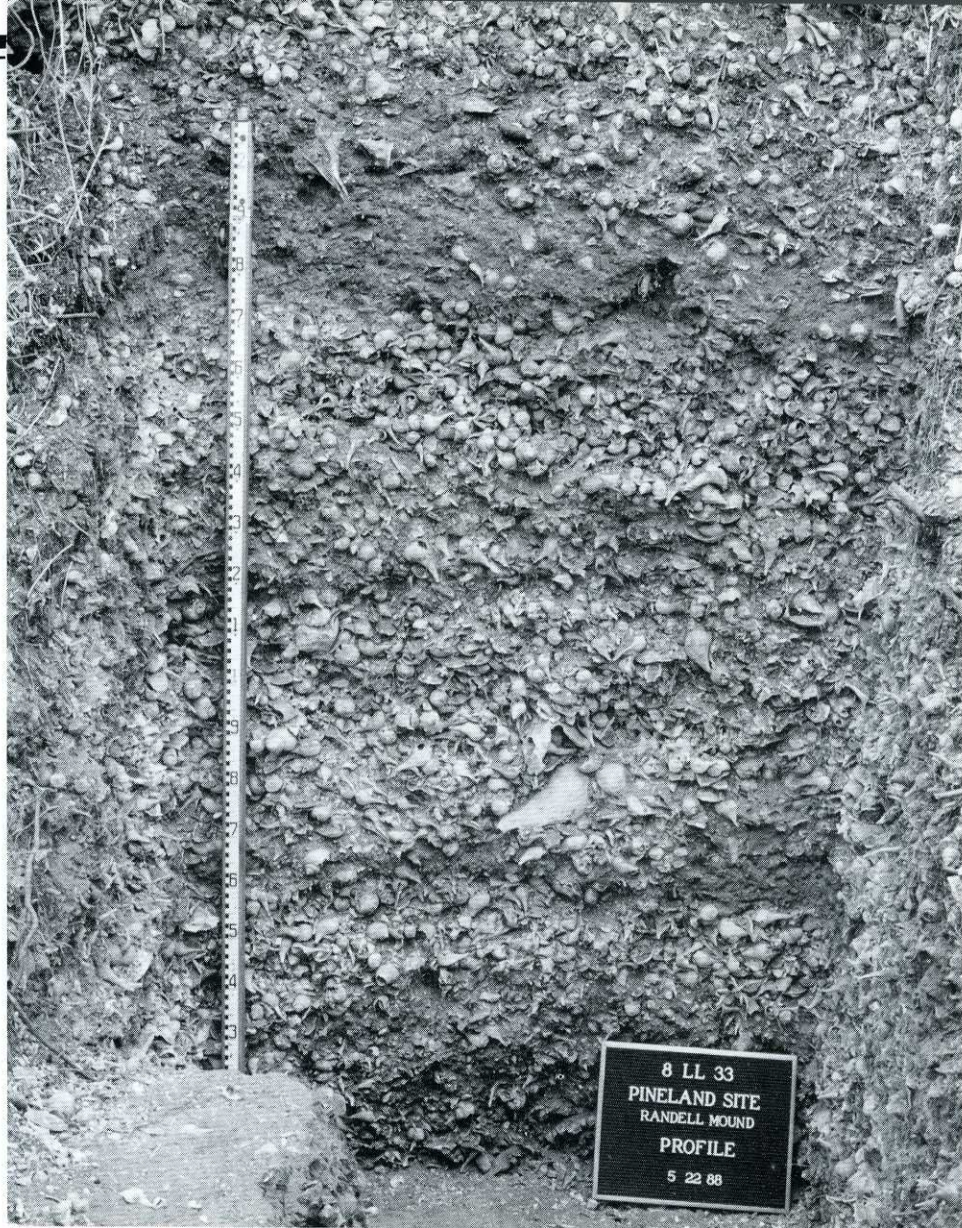
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The foundations, mounds, courts, graded ways, and canals here were greater, and some of them even more regular, than any I had yet seen. ... The same sorts of channel-ways as occurred on the outer keys led up to the same sorts of terraces and great foundations, with their coronets of gigantic mounds. The inner or central courts were enormous. Nearly level with the swamps on the one hand, and with the sand flats on the other, these muck-beds were sufficiently extensive to serve ... as rich and ample gardens; and they were framed in, so to say, by quadrangles formed by great shell structures which, foundation terraces, summit-mounds and all, towered above them to a height of more than sixty feet.

There were no fewer than nine of these greater foundations, and within or among them no fewer than five large, more or less rectangular courts; and, beyond all, to the southward, was a series of lesser benches, courts and enclosures. ... This settlement had an average width of a quarter of a mile; ... Its high-built portions alone, including of course the five water courts, covered an area of not less than seventy-five or eighty acres.

Frank Hamilton Cushing, 1897, commenting on the Pineland site, then known as Battey's Landing.



A section through the edge of the Randell Mound shows distinctive layers of deposits.

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and powerful Indian people who called Pine Island Sound home.

Some of the more curious visitors wander across the narrow asphalt road into the Randells' front yard, perhaps drawn by the same amazement felt by Cushing. Genuinely interested visitors are never turned away, and the Randells do their part to educate the tourists to what it all means, how much has been lost, how much there is yet to learn.

"How old are these mounds?" Pat Randell asked me one day late in 1987 when I dropped by for a visit. As with so many questions about southwest Florida's archaeology, I had to answer, "Well, I don't know exactly. No systematic archaeology has ever been done here."

"Well, I want to know," Pat insisted. "It's the first thing everybody who comes here asks me, and I feel like an idiot telling them I don't know." Pat was being modest. She and Don know a lot about the Calusa Indians, and I knew that visitors learned a lot when they ventured into the Randells' very special yard. Still, Pat's point was well-taken. Without some excavations there, we would all have to continue to guess the age of this remarkable site.

In May of 1988 Karen Walker and I returned to the Randells' to try to answer Pat's question. We were assisted over a 12-day period by people from the Pine Island community as well as the always faithful members of the Southwest Florida Archaeological Society. Volunteers came from as far away as Lakeland, Gainesville, and Sarasota.

A total of 84 volunteers worked 1782

hours. Karen had the idea of setting up a field laboratory to wash, sort, label, and catalogue the finds there, rather than trying to find people to help do this in Gainesville.

Pat Ball (Sarasota) donated plywood and sawhorses for lab tables, and the Randells' carport was soon transformed into an open-air archaeology lab. Even a flotation machine was set up, for separating tiny seeds, charred wood, and fragile bones from the excavated dirt.

We opened four test pits, one in the edge of the southernmost high mound, now known as the Randell Mound, one in the top of the highest mound, called Brown's Mound, one between Brown's Mound and the canal, and one in the single remaining flat plaza.

The detailed analysis isn't completed yet, but Pat's question can now be

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answered with the aid of our pottery studies and a set of ten radiocarbon dates.

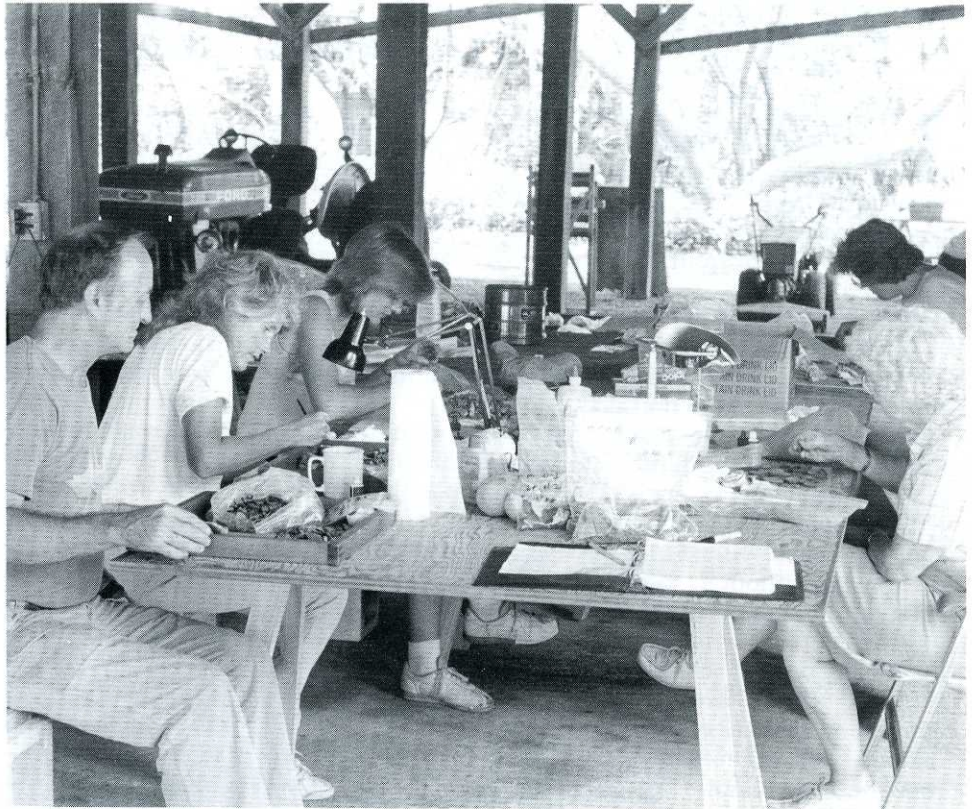
The site was occupied at least from A.D. 300 to 1400. The earliest date comes from the lower levels of the plaza excavation, the most recent from near the top of the Randell Mound.

The pottery shows that Pineland was a veritable crossroads of prehistoric communication and commerce. The influence of the Belle Glade pottery tradition is clearly seen in the levels dating a little over a thousand years ago. There are also some fragments of pottery with decorations incised with a sharp instrument, sometimes in combination with small "punctations" (small impressions made with a pointed instrument).

While the decorated pieces resemble some of the known varieties from nearby regions, they don't fit into the established categories. This adds importance to the Pineland site because it may hold the key to understanding how the pottery of the Charlotte Harbor - Pine Island Sound region changed through time.

Without more extensive excavations it is hard to tell much about how the mounds were built up. Based on our four test pits, it looks as though discarded shells and other debris accumulated at times, but at other times the Indians piled up such "midden" material purposely, to make the mounds even higher.

Time ran out before we reached the bottom of Brown's Mound, so we will



Open-air field laboratory at Pineland, May, 1988. At the table: Reed Toomey, Suzan Watts, Pat Snearley, Lynn Lee, and Mary Vogenberger.

return in May of 1989 to complete the test excavations. If the Florida legislature approves our request for funding of the "Year of the Indian" project, we will conduct more extensive

excavations at Pineland, with ample opportunities for public participation. Thanks to Don and Pat Randell, we are taking another step toward solving the mystery of the Calusa Indians.

CALUSA NEWS

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Knight Foundation Boosts Endowment Drive

On March 22, 1989, the Knight Foundation announced a gift of \$300,000 to the University of Florida Foundation to endow the archaeology program directed by Bill Marquardt, Florida Museum of Natural History. Since Marquardt's salary is paid by the Museum, interest earned by the endowment will be spent for student support, research, publications, and education.

The Knight gift will be matched by a contribution of \$150,000 from the State's Major Gifts Challenge Fund. (For every \$100,000 raised from private sources, the State adds \$50,000.)

We have set a \$1,000,000 goal for the endowment fund. To meet and exceed

this goal, we need only raise \$700,000 in private funds, to be matched with \$350,000 from the State.

Like all contributions to the Southwest Florida Project, gifts to the Archaeology Endowment are tax-deductible. Gifts of \$1000 or more qualify the donor for membership in the University of Florida Presidents Club, and we will additionally say thank you by sending the donor an autographed copy of Marion Gilliland's new book, *Key Marco's Buried Treasure: Archaeology and Adventure in the Nineteenth Century*.

All gifts, in any amount, are sincerely appreciated, and will be put to work in archaeological preservation and research in southwest Florida.

Who Are The Seminoles?

by Chuck Blanchard and Bill Marquardt

Whoever the Calusa people were, they are gone. After the Spanish departed from southwest Florida in the 1570s the south Florida Indians were left more or less to themselves for over a century, although European diseases continued to threaten their dwindling population. They passed from the scene in the early 18th century, hounded by slavers, weakened by sickness, forced from their traditional homelands.

The Seminole people, on the other hand, are very much alive, still wary, and part of a cultural continuum that has not passed into extinction.

Although we have begun our study with the coastal Calusa, understanding the Seminole culture in its troubled past and evolving present is of vital concern to the Southwest Florida Project. No study of the archaeology of south Florida can be called comprehensive without it.

From the moment visitors cross the northern border of Florida they are assailed by all manner of goods and services mislabelled "Seminole." With Timucua, Apalachee, Yamassee, Yuchi, Creek, Calusa, and other Native American traditions contributing to the history of Florida, the Seminoles seem to have a lock on broad public recognition and equally broad public misconception.

Relic collectors regularly trade "authentic" versions of the Seminole chief, Osceola's, skull amongst themselves. At least three muzzle-loading shotguns "definitely" belonging to Seminole chief Billy Bowlegs have made their way into the collectors' trade books. A popular university football program dresses its mascot as an Indian from the Great Plains, complete with fringed buckskin garb, a feather headdress, a horse, and a flaming staff. His name? "Sammy Seminole."

How this came to be, how a fiercely independent people came to be so popularly and incorrectly associated with the promotion of Florida tourism and the championing of a university's sports teams is a matter for another story. What is intended here is a somewhat simplified chronology of the Seminole Indians in Florida over the past 270 years.

The word Seminole comes from the Spanish "cimmarones," meaning anything wild or untamed. The Creek/Muskogean pronunciation of the Spanish word was "Simalones." The modern Anglo-Indian pronunciation inverted the "n" and "l," resulting in the word "Seminoles."

It is important to understand from the outset that the

Seminoles are *not* the modern descendants of the Calusa. Although there are 19th century legends of Seminole encounters, deep in Big Cypress Swamp, with remnants of a tall, fierce people called "Im-a-la," in fact by the end of the 18th century and certainly by the middle of the 19th when the Seminoles reached the Everglades, the Calusa were gone from Florida.

The Seminole people are descendants of the Creek Indian nation, and trace their geographic origins to present-day Alabama and central Georgia. In the early 1700s multinational scuffles amongst the Spanish, French, and British for control of trade in the Creek homeland, plus pressure from the Cherokee to the north, marriage alliances with the Apalachee, and the decline of Spanish missionary control over northern Florida, allowed significant numbers of Creeks

to migrate into north-central Florida where lands once occupied by the decimated Timucua were laid open to them.

In these regions — the lower Suwannee river, the Tallahassee/Micosukee area, and certain areas along the Apalachicola River — the British established trading posts where deer and cattle hides and land rights could be bartered for the fruits of modern civilization.

By the middle to late 1700s the Creeks had become so enmeshed in trade dependency on European goods (iron knives, muskets, balls and flints, mirrors, beads, buckles, kettles, cloth, decorative feathers, rum) that they became vulnerable to threats of withdrawal of that trade. On the other hand, they maintained a justifiable mistrustful aloofness toward the European storekeepers.

It is about this time (1771 and onward) that the name Seminole begins to appear in dispatches and manifests. No longer are the Florida Indians called Creeks; now they are "the untamed ones." Realistically, at that time they were a fragment of a larger, more northern Indian nation, and still hundreds of miles from their present-day Everglades environment.

By 1783 Florida had again become a Spanish entity, with a British trade presence well entrenched by this time. Meanwhile, 1776 had happened up north and the newly consolidated United States, wishing to be certain of its southern borders, increased its military activity in the southern states.

This doomed the northern Creeks to territorial conflict with the U.S. military, and by the time "the Creeks was whopped and peace was in store" (*Ballad of Davy Crockett*, Walt



Disney Enterprises, 1956), two or three thousand refugees had made their way to the adopted Florida territory of their cousins by blood and marriage.

This population explosion, aggravated by deepening distrust of whites in general, led to the First Seminole War in 1818. The progress of the war was not particularly genocidal, but it did effectively drive the Seminoles into the wilderness south of Alachua and down toward the northern borders of the abandoned Calusa territories.

When the war began, Florida was still a Spanish possession, but by war's end it had become a U.S. territory. North American frontierism proceeded relentlessly south through the peninsula, and it was only a matter of time (1830) until the Seminole presence was once again judged to be unacceptable and the Second Seminole War was waged.

Over the ten or so years of this inconclusive and unpopular war (it is often compared with the U.S. military nightmare in Southeast Asia and more recently with the Soviet Union's debacle in Afghanistan) nearly 4500 combined Seminoles, Northern Creeks, Apalachees, "Spanish Indians," and runaway slaves living in northern and central Florida were run to earth and either killed or removed to Indian territories in places such as Oklahoma.

By 1850 a hard-core band of Seminoles, true "untamed ones," had disappeared into the trackless Everglades and Big Cypress Swamp to gather their cultural strength about them and begin a rebuilding process that has brought their population back to around 5,000 one hundred forty years later.

For a more detailed look at the chronological record of the Seminoles, the interested reader may consult an essay entitled, "The Ethno-archaeology of the Florida Seminole," by Charles H. Fairbanks, in the book *Tacachale: Essays on the Indians of Florida and Southeastern Georgia During the Historic Period*, published by the University Presses of Florida, Gainesville, 1978.

Presently under construction is Ah-tha-thi-ki, a museum dedicated to preserving the Seminole culture and heritage. To learn more about Ah-tha-thi-ki, contact Shannon Garcia at (813) 621-2389.

Reading More

To learn more about Florida Indians, present and past, you may want to read some of these books in your school or public library. If they are not available, perhaps your librarian will order them for you.



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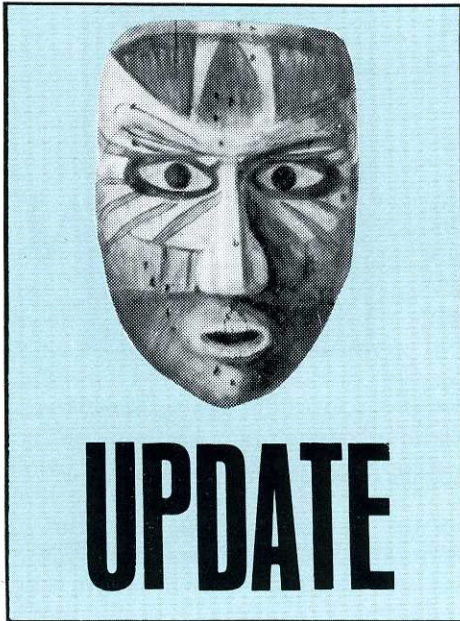
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Here is a brief summary of what has been going on since our last report in *Calusa News* no. 2.

- February, 1988: Early February was spent updating the *Calusa News* mailing list and preparing photographs for publication. Bill Marquardt and Brent Weisman worked on a report on archaeological sites in the lands owned by the Southwest Florida Water Management District (SWFWMD). On February 10 Karen Walker and Bill Marquardt screened some of the dirt samples from Buck Key, Galt Island, and Useppa Island not needed for flotation, saving clam shells for Irv Quitmyer and Doug Jones's study (see *Calusa News* No. 2, p. 12). February 11-14 found Bill and Brent doing survey for archaeological sites at the Carlton tract for SWFWMD. Bill presented lectures on south Florida archaeology in Carbondale, Illinois on February 22 and in Binghamton, New York on February 26.

- March, 1988: Ann Cordell continued her work on the Southwest Florida Project pottery and Irv Quitmyer worked on the clam study. On March 16 Bob and Linda Edic (Boca Grande) visited the Florida Museum to deliver some artifacts collected several years ago from Cash Mound. Bill spent much of March working on the analysis of Galt Island artifacts. Robin and Jan Brown (Fort Myers) visited the Museum to talk about Robin's planned book on Florida archaeology. One of the complete vessels from Buck Key traveled to

Tallahassee to be placed on exhibit there with some other Florida Indian artifacts. Bill lectured on March 22 to Time Sifters (Sarasota), on March 23 to the Lee County Conservation Association (Matlacha), and on March 24 at the Captiva Community Center. On March 29 he was a guest lecturer in Prof. Barbara Purdy's Florida Archaeology course at the University of Florida.

- April, 1988: *Calusa News* No. 2 at last arrived from the printer and was mailed out the first week of April. April 14-18 found Karen Walker and Bill Marquardt in Bokeelia working with 11 volunteers from Pine Island and the Southwest Florida Archaeological Society testing the site of the proposed "Seagull Bay" development. The study was funded by the Subon Corporation. On April 19 Bill and Karen accompanied Bob Repenning (Charlotte Harbor State Reserve) to an archaeological site in Charlotte county that had recently been damaged by looters. In the afternoon they met Don Cyzewski (Bokeelia) for a trip to inspect the Cash Mound site, where artifacts had been recently reported eroding out due to high tides and a strong southwesterly wind. With permission of the Federal government, two small test pits were excavated at Cash Mound April 20 and 21. The crew included Paula Johnson,

Chuck Blanchard, Bob Edic, Don Cyzewski, Karen Walker, and Bill Marquardt. Visitors included Ron Hight and Richard Blackburn (Ding Darling National Wildlife Refuge), Scott Johnson and Mark Futch (Boca Grande), Pat Ball and Steve Ball (Sarasota), and Zack Frignoca (Sarasota).

- May, 1988: The following papers were presented May 7-8 in Winter Park at the annual meeting of the Florida Anthropological Society: I. Quitmyer and D. Jones: "Calendars of the Coast: A Study of Incremental Shell Growth in Modern and Archaeological Southern Quahog from Charlotte Harbor;" K. Walker: "Aboriginal Foodways and Paleoenvironments of Charlotte Harbor, Florida," L. Newsom and M. Scarry: "Archaeobotanical Research in the Calusa Heartland," and W. Marquardt and J. Beriault: "Recent Investigations at Galt Island, Lee County, Florida." May 11-24 found Bill Marquardt, Karen Walker, and a total of 84 volunteers testing the Pineland site at the home of Don and Pat Randell, Pineland (see pp. 1-3, this newsletter). Both field work and laboratory work were accomplished there, thanks to help from the Randells, who funded the dig and allowed us to take over their carport and yard for the duration. Over 60 visitors stopped by during the excavations, and on May 20



Pat Snearley excavates a test pit at Bokeelia, April, 1988, at the site of the proposed Seagull Bay development.



Robin Brown tries his hand at knapping chert flakes from a core, February, 1989.

Robin Brown. Karen worked full-time for the project from July 14 to August 11, readying all remaining Galt Island and Pineland artifacts for analysis. Visitors to the Museum included Bud and Shirley House (July 18), Cliff and Mae Richardson (July 21), Muriel and Sidney Hoffman (July 27), and Art and Lynn Lee (July 28). Art and Lynn came to consult about pottery analysis with Ann Cordell. Debbie Shoss, Phyllis Harned, and Alice Anders (Sanibel) did volunteer work in the lab July 10-12, as did Reed Toomey (Sanibel) on August 1-4. Faithful Gainesville volunteers included Evelyn Watkins, Otto Gerry, Fay Eng, Ellen Miller, Andrea Hummel, Edith Marquardt, and Alice Coan. Barbara Toomey sorted zooarchaeological samples from August through October at her home in Sanibel.

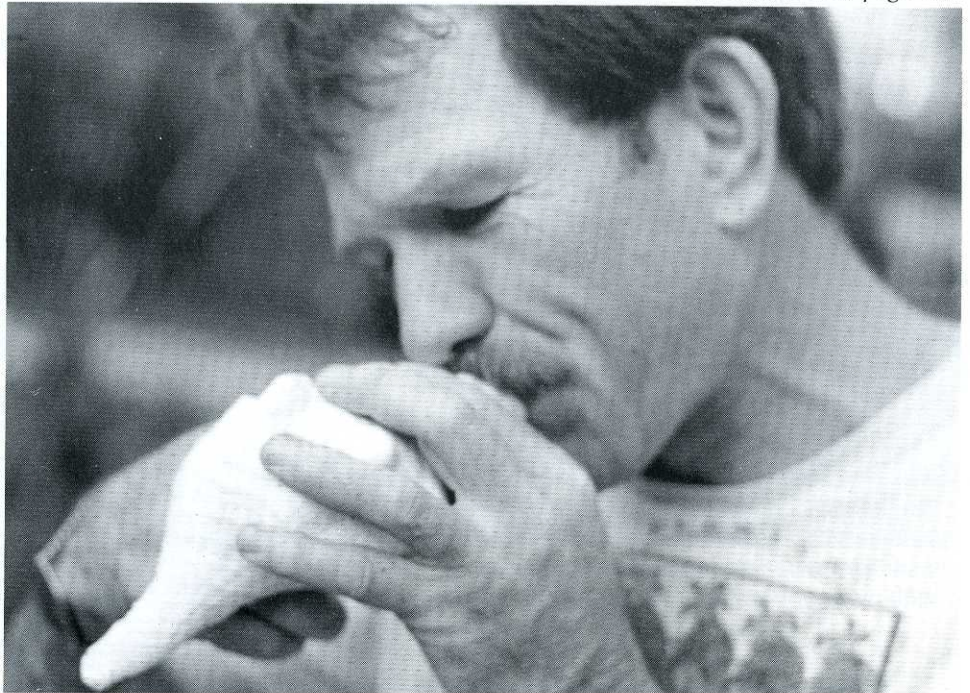
- August, 1988: On August 10 Dick Lohr (representing the University of Florida Foundation) and Bill Marquardt attended a special meeting of the Lee County Commission in Fort Myers, where the Randells, the Southwest Florida Archaeological Society and other Pineland volunteers, and the Florida Museum of Natural History were presented with certificates of commendation for their work in helping to preserve and learn from Lee county's past. The Randells took the opportunity to present a stock

certificate worth over \$14,000 as the first gift toward the endowment fund for southwest Florida archaeology. Later that day Dick and Bill met with Bill Payne and Joan Kohlbry (Nature Center of Lee County), Patti Bartlett (Fort Myers Historical Museum), and Jan Brown to begin planning a grant proposal to the Division of Historical Resources for an archaeology and education project to be called "The Year of the Indian." They also consulted with Kristie Seeman (Education Director, Sanibel-Captiva Conservation Foundation) about a small exhibit for the Nature Center on Sanibel. In the evening they visited with Barbara and Reed Toomey (Sanibel), and were on hand to assist in the hatching of sea turtles on the beach near the Toomeys' home. On August 13 Hermann and Candace Trappman visited the Museum to talk about an illustration Hermann has offered to do for our monograph. Robin and Jan Brown and Patti Bartlett visited the Museum on August 19. The Florida Museum's Department of Anthropology granted Bill Marquardt a graduate research assistant for the fall, and Claudine Payne was hired to help with editing several chapters for a book that will tell what we have found out in the first four years of the Project. On August 25 Bill traveled to Fort Myers for

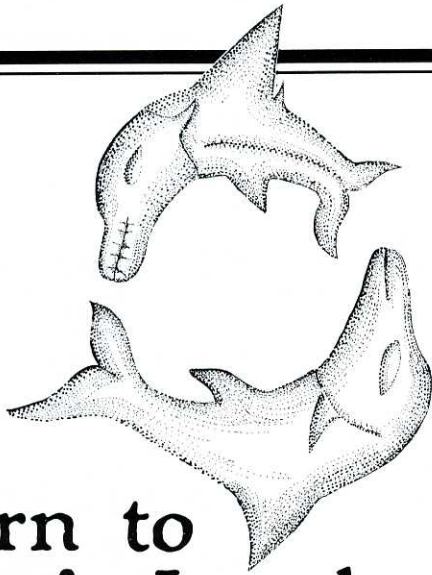
(Continued on page 10)

many members of the local press (TV and newspapers) came to interview the workers about what they had found. On May 14 Karen Walker and Bill Marquardt were guests of Robin and Jan Brown at a fund-raising banquet for the Museum Federation of Fort Myers, at which Peter Bennett, Director of the Florida Museum of Natural History, was the featured speaker. On May 19 Karen Walker presented a slide lecture on zooarchaeology and maritime adaptations to the Southwest Florida Archaeological Society in Naples. On May 27 Paul and Eileen Arsenault visited the Museum in Gainesville and toured the labs. We discussed ideas for a mural about southwest Florida's native Indians that Paul is going to paint in Naples.

- Summer, 1988: Bill Marquardt began his new permanent job as Associate Curator in Archaeology at the Florida Museum of Natural History. Ceramic analysis, archaeobotany, clam studies, and other work continued over the summer. The project was represented at the International Congress of Americanists in Amsterdam July 4-9 by Karen Walker and Bill Marquardt, who presented papers on southwest Florida research. On July 13 Bill participated in the Florida Museum of Natural History's summer children's program, "Funny Faces," with a slide presentation and an exhibit of Calusa Indian posters made possible by a gift from Jan and



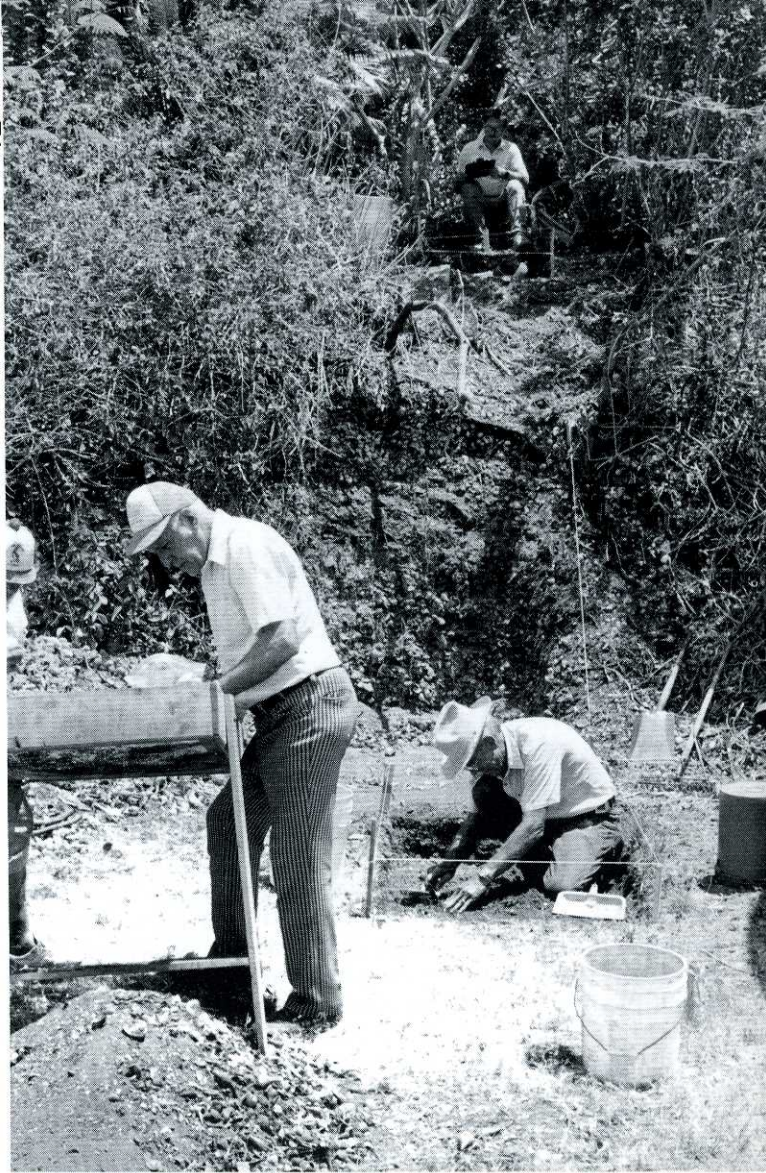
Dick Workman demonstrates how to play the conch shell trumpet, February, 1989.



Return to Battey's Landing



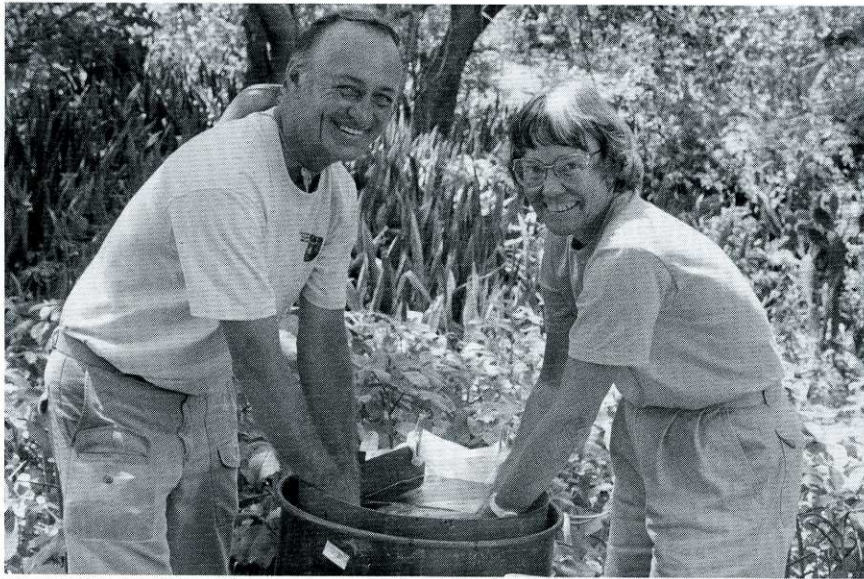
Pat Randell (foreground) and Nettie Hose sort small fish bones and shells recovered from the flotation tank, Pineland, May, 1988.



Shirley House and Arnold Hose examine the sifter screen for artifacts as Mitchell Hope excavates in the A trench, Pineland. In the background Gary Susdorf takes notes on the test pit at the top of the Randell Mound.



Kathy Ball, Mary Strong, and Joyce Moon examine each shell for traces of use by prehistoric Indians, Pineland, May, 1988.



Reed and Barbara Toomey get dishpan hands for the sake of science, Pineland, May, 1988. The flotation process allows small seeds and fragile charred wood fragments to be recovered without breakage.



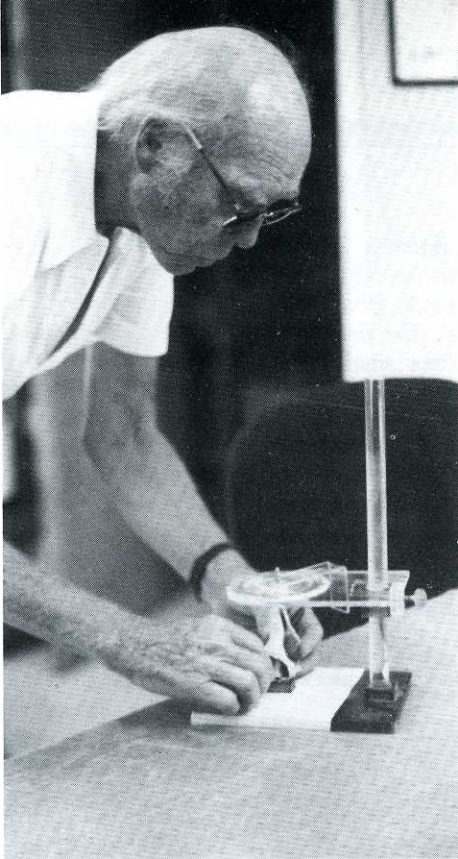
Ray Seguin confers with Karen Walker while cataloging artifacts, Pineland.



Linda Robinson and Joe Long take a depth reading using the line level, while George Clark (foreground) excavates in Test Pit C, Pineland.



(Above) A canal dug and used by the Calusa Indians can still be seen at the Pineland site.



Using a device he constructed himself, Art Lee measures the working edge of a whelk shell tool, November, 1988.

with lab work and proposal writing. Bill attended a public hearing and workshop in Tallahassee on November 10 to answer questions about the "Year of the Indian" proposal. On the 16th Barbara Thorp Gunn gave a lecture to 100 fourth graders at Sallie Jones Elementary School. Mitchell Hope visited the Museum on November 18. Bob Edic and Bill Marquardt continued to work on the shell tool analysis, assisted November 29 and 30 by Art Lee (Naples). Bill's paper on "Politics and Production Among the Calusa of South Florida" was published in the book *Hunters and Gatherers: History, Evolution, and Social Change*.

- December, 1988: On December 12 Bill drove to Chokoloskee Island to meet with Kenny Brown about a project to duplicate Indian artifacts. On December 13 he gave a talk to the Downtown Fort Myers Rotary Club and drove to Sanibel to pick up a clay sample that had been collected by Barbara and Reed Toomey. John Hann finished his introduction to the translations of Spanish documents on the Calusa. Bill finished writing a proposal to the Knight Foundation for help in getting our endowment fund drive off to a good start.
- January, 1989: Rick Stross (Pine

Island) visited the Museum on January 3. The Division of Sponsored Research, University of Florida, granted money to hire an illustrator-artist for the semester, and Merald Clark began work on January 6. He is preparing illustrations for our book. Someone stole our project truck (the "Red Dog") on January 4. Lee Newsom gave a talk on southwest Florida archaeology to junior and senior humanities students at Santa Fe High School on January 5. Bob Edic returned to the Museum to do further work on the shell tools, and Mike Hansinger came to do some more measurements on the Useppa burials. Barbara Thorp Gunn spoke to the Youth Museum, Punta Gorda, on the 10th. Photographic artist Barbara Bosworth (Cambridge, Mass.) visited the Museum on January 12 to talk about taking photos of southwest Florida archaeological sites. Chuck Blanchard arrived January 17 to offer his volunteer services for a few weeks. Paul and Fran MacMinn (Columbus, Ohio) visited the Museum on January 18. Bob Edic gave a talk on shell tools to the Southwest Florida Archaeological Society on the 19th. On January 24 Bill talked with physical anthropologist Jane Buikstra (U. of Chicago) about cooperative research. George Luer (Sarasota), Bob Edic, Chuck Blanchard, and Bill Marquardt

UPDATE (Continued from page 7) further consultations with Patti Bartlett and Bill Payne about the "Year of the Indian" grant proposal.

- September, 1988: Most of early September was spent writing the "The Year of the Indian" grant proposal, which was submitted September 15. Lab work and editing continued.
- October, 1988: On October 4 Bill drove to Sanibel to receive some artifacts and soil samples from the Wightman site that had been carefully saved by Charlie Wilson. Charlie was instrumental in organizing the work at Wightman in the 1970s. On October 10 Bob Edic gave a talk on southwest Florida archaeology at Orange County Community College, Middletown, New York. Project papers were given at the Southeastern Archaeological Conference in New Orleans October 19-22 by Irv Quitmyer, Doug Jones, and Lee Newsom, while Bill Marquardt gave a book review of Randolph Widmer's new book on southwest Florida archaeology and served as a discussant for a symposium on archaeobotany. Bob Edic (Boca Grande) and Bill Marquardt began work on a new shell tool typology, based on the important collection from Cash Mound donated by Don Cyzewski and Janice Kemp.
- November, 1988: November was filled



Work progresses in the Brown's Mound excavation, Pineland, May, 1988. From left to right, Charlie Wilson, Lou Franks, and Bud House.

worked on the shell tool typology
January 26-28.

• February, 1989: Bill Marquardt traveled to Fort Myers where he lectured at the Southwest Florida Teacher Education's annual conference on February 4. That afternoon he joined Jan and Robin Brown and Dick Workman (Fort Myers) at Hickey Creek where Robin and Dick were experimenting with pottery firing and Indian tool manufacture. On Sunday the 5th Bill led a group of teachers on a lecture and walking tour of Useppa Island, and on the 6th provided an in-service training session for 30 social science teachers. John Hann completed the first of two appendixes for the book on Calusa documents. Dan Ward visited the Museum on February 14. Our missing project truck was located by the police in the woods in east Gainesville; over \$500 in damage had been done by the people who stole it from the UF campus. Chuck Blanchard and Bob Edic gave a joint presentation to the Museum of the Islands Historical Society, Pine Island, on February 22.

• March, 1989: A bird watcher discovered that the Coral Creek site in Charlotte county had been partially destroyed with heavy machinery. Human bones were reportedly among the disturbed remains. The authorities and landowners were notified, and, with their permission, Bob Edic photographed the damaged site. George Luer drew a map of the disturbed areas. Bill Marquardt attended an international meeting on archaeological theory in Portugal, March 18-25, where he presented a paper using southwest Florida data as one of the two case studies. Ann Cordell spent the month of March doing a detailed technological study of pottery from Pineland and Galt Island. John Hann completed the second of two appendixes for the book on Calusa historical documents, and Margie Scary completed the archaeobotany chapter for our book.

• April, 1989: Plans were made to lobby the legislature on behalf of the "The Year of the Indian" grant. After catching up on correspondence following his trip to Europe, Bill returned to work on *Calusa News* no. 3. It went to press on April 26. On April 29 Bill presented a paper on the Pineland work at the 41st annual meeting of the Florida Anthropological Society in Jacksonville.

ARCHAEOLOGY FOR EVERYONE: LOCAL MUSEUMS AND OTHER ARCHAEOLOGICAL OFFERINGS

FORT MYERS HISTORICAL MUSEUM

2300 Peck Street, Fort Myers.
M-F 9 AM-4 PM Sundays 1-5 PM
Featuring a facial reconstruction of a Calusa woman made from a recovered skull.

NATURE CENTER AND PLANETARIUM OF LEE COUNTY

3450 Ortiz Avenue, Fort Myers.
Mon.-Sat. 9-4; Sun. 11 AM-4:30 PM
Featuring an extensive exhibit on the Seminoles.

NATURE CENTER, SANIBEL-CAPTIVA CONSERVATION FOUNDATION

Sanibel-Captiva Road, across from
Ding Darling Center, Sanibel
Island.
Winter: Mon.-Sat. 9:30 AM - 4:30 PM
Summer: Mon.-Fri. 9:30 AM-3:30 PM
Featuring guided trail tours at
10:00, 11:00, and 2:00.

ISLAND HISTORICAL MUSEUM

Dunlop Road, Sanibel Island.
Thurs. and Sat. only, 10 AM - 4 PM
Featuring Calusa artifacts and
some 18th century Spanish
material.

COLLIER COUNTY HISTORICAL MUSEUM

Corner of Airport and US 41,
Naples.
Open daily, 10 AM - 4 PM.
Features a Calusa artifact exhibit.

SOUTHWEST FLORIDA ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY LABORATORY

Located in the County Government

Complex at Airport and US 41,
Naples.
Lab is staffed from 10:00 AM - 1
PM, Tuesdays and Thursdays.

SOUTHWEST FLORIDA ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

P. O. Box 9965, Naples FL 33941
Monthly meetings in Naples; local
field trips and projects.

SOUTH FLORIDA MUSEUM AND BISHOP PLANETARIUM

201 Tenth Street West, Bradenton.
Tuesday-Saturday 10 AM - 5 PM,
Sundays 1 - 5 PM.
Featuring the pottery and shell
tool collections of Montague Tallant,
also an exhibit on DeSoto (through
1989).

THE TIME SIFTERS

P. O. Box 25642, Sarasota FL 34239
Monthly meetings in Sarasota;
local field trips and projects.

MUSEUM OF THE ISLANDS HISTORICAL SOCIETY

7000 Barrancas, Bokeelia FL 33922
Monthly meetings at Pine Island
Center; "Museum of the Islands"
under construction, corner of
Sesame and Russell streets, Pine
Island Center.

THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL CONSERVANCY

P. O. Box 450283, Miami FL 33145
A non-profit organization of
dedicated preservationists, conserva-
tionists, and professional and avoca-
tional archaeologists concerned
about Florida's dwindling cultural
resources.



*The former public library building
at Pine Island Center is being
renovated for use as a local museum,
the Museum of the Islands.*



The Calusa and Their Watercraft

by Chuck Blanchard

To observe the Calusa kingdom from the perspective of a narrow, paddle and/or wind-powered craft ...

To move in a world where a knowledge of wind and tide and currents must be second nature... Where the shortest distance between two points may change dramatically, even fatally, several times in an afternoon...

To fish and hunt and gather, to survive, to prevail, yet still to create and appreciate beauty in such a dangerous world ...

All this is to approach one aspect of the reality of native Indian existence in southwest Florida.

Time and motion studies of the canoe have demonstrated a work efficiency forty times that of human transport of goods on foot. In the realm of shallow bays, mangrove islands, and duck mud, where water is 90% of the environment and foot travel is even more tedious than on firm ground, that efficiency figure might be tripled or quadrupled.

From time to time in eroded peat deposits or mucky middens such as those on Cape Haze or Pine Island, a boat from the era of Calusa rule has come to light. When this has occurred, scientists and students have gotten a first-hand look at the mode of transport

that made management of the estuarine kingdoms of southwest Florida possible.

The Charlotte Harbor estuarine system was forming over 4000 years ago, according to our data from Useppa Island, and archaeologists Randolph Widmer and John Griffin among others have suggested that the sea levels and vegetation patterns of the Myakka, Peace, and Caloosahatchee river estuaries had more or less reached their present shapes and sizes 2700 years ago — that is, by about 800 B.C.

Mound construction and cultural traditions developed in the area during and after that time, and continued in their own way for the next 2300 years until the European era.

While native groups of the great North and South American continents were developing into increasingly sophisticated agriculturally oriented societies, the watery world of southwest Florida witnessed more and more powerful and complex societies based on fishing, gathering, and hunting. In that world some form of bark-bound or hide-bound or dug-out watercraft was essential to this development.

Movement of people and goods, collection and distribution of food, indeed, of garbage, on the scale demonstrated by the extraordinary site density and construction complexity of the region implies a dependence on watercraft and navigational skill no less wonderful

than the invention of the wheel or the domestication of beasts of burden (including human beings) in other less water-dominated cultures.

The winter winds of Charlotte Harbor blow at 10 to 20 knots daily, depending on weather front conditions around the great peninsula of Florida. But once a one-, or two-, or twenty-man, paddle-powered craft passes within the protective barrier of the Gallagher Keys in Turtle Bay or Cayo Pelau in Bull Bay, a forty-square-mile complex of wind-insulated streets and avenues opens up.

These thoroughfares run generally north and south, east and west. Except in extreme weather conditions, any destination within forty square miles is relatively easy to achieve. In no other area in south Florida is such dependable water travel over such a large region possible.

It is no wonder that sites abound within its borders or that Big Mound Key attained its staggering volume of shell and complexity of design. Cape Haze and environs, with its complex of mangrove islands, mounds, and windless streets, reminds one of Venice, Italy, from the air, with the Big Mound filling the role of Doge's Palace. But from the water — from small, human-powered craft — the view and the condition are eerily, superbly, profoundly Calusa.

Shell Tools in Southwest Florida and the Importance of Cash Mound

by Chuck Blanchard and Bill Marquardt

When a U.S. president resigned from office, progress was halted on a monument to him designed of field stones from all fifty states. Local representatives wrote to the sculptor with regrets that there were no stones in their state. Nonsense, of course, except that in the case of southwest Florida the statement might have been very nearly true.

In this seabound, sand- and shell-formed region, the lack of native stone of sufficient density and hardness to produce conventional stone tools and food processing devices contributed to the remarkable diversity of shell tool development by the prehistoric Indians. Shell axes, adzes, hammers, cups, bowls, woodworking and shellworking tools of obvious and obscure purpose — so far nearly ninety different classified types of shell artifact have been discovered and are presently under study, with more bound to turn up as collections are compared and excavations continue.

The item pictured on this page, for example, was discovered in the Pineland excavations of 1988. Since it was recognized, two similar specimens have been noticed among the shells being analyzed in the laboratory.

The finding of caches of shell tool “blanks” (prepared but unfinished tools) in occupation areas suggests a tool-making and tool preparation continuum with broad social implications. Centuries of carefully developed and protected skills may have resulted in specialists who were responsible for tool manufacture. Shell dippers and drinking vessels were probably personal equipment, and certain dippers were probably used only for special purposes, such as the “Black Drink” ceremony described by Dickinson as he traveled through south Florida in 1696.

One sometimes finds a robust whelk dipper that has been purposely per-

forated, rendering it useless, as if the spirit of the vessel had been “killed,” perhaps upon the death of its owner.

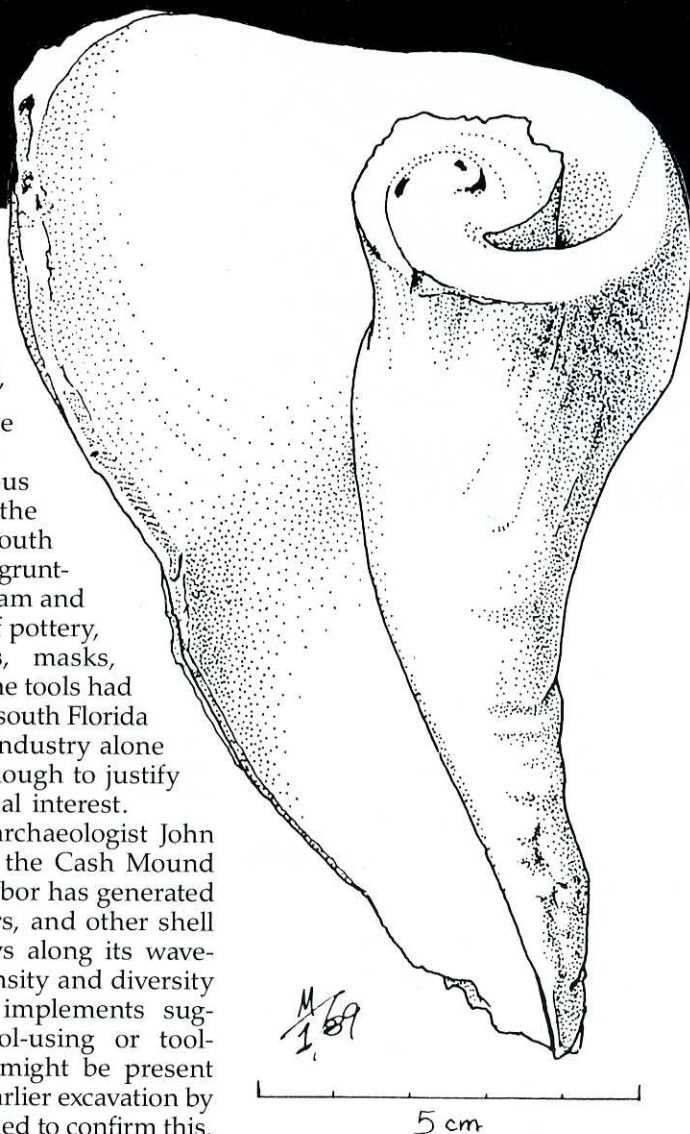
It would be a serious mistake to dismiss the native Indians of south Florida as a group of grunting, opportunistic clam and oyster eaters. Even if pottery, wooden sculptures, masks, fishing gear, and bone tools had never been found in south Florida sites, the shell tool industry alone would have been enough to justify intense archaeological interest.

Since the era of archaeologist John Goggin and before, the Cash Mound site in Charlotte Harbor has generated many celts, hammers, and other shell tools in the shallows along its wave-eroded face. The density and diversity of these scattered implements suggested a major tool-using or tool-manufacturing site might be present there, although an earlier excavation by Ripley Bullen had failed to confirm this.

In April of 1988, however, local observers became convinced that a dark, greasy midden just coming to light could well be the source of the tools. Previous tests (see *Calusa News* No. 2, p. 11) had shown that the dark layer dates earlier than A.D. 200.

Although the optimum low water conditions of spring tides had passed, it was thought that another year’s cycle of storms might destroy the midden, so, with special permission of the Federal government, which now owns and manages the property, an excavation crew was assembled under the direction of Bill Marquardt.

A persistent southwesterly wind kept water in the bay even during low tide, so that a system of sump pumps and



coffer dams became a feature of excavation technique.

Three test pits were excavated in the midden area over a two-day period. Despite the recovery of some ceramic and shell tool materials and considerable fish and other animal bone, the source of the shell tools remained as elusive as ever. However, the new information, in combination with that from earlier digs and from the surface collections donated to the Florida Museum by Don Czewski, Janice Kemp, and Bob Edic, has formed the basis of a new shell tool analysis project. Our knowledge of shell tool manufacture, use, and meaning is becoming increasingly comprehensive and definitive.



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1988

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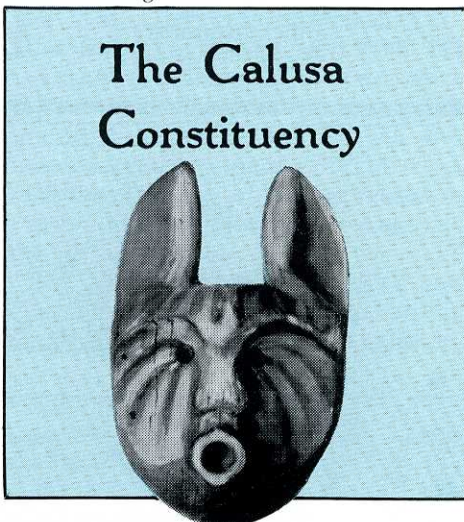
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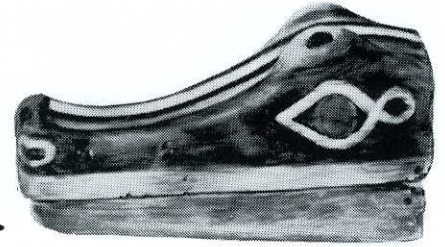
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In Appreciation



On page 14 and 15 are listed the names of those who gave of their time and/or money in 1988 to help the Southwest Florida Project. We thank you all for your support.

A special word of thanks goes to those who have made the project a success this past year. Our field crews continued to enjoy the furnished house in Fort Myers made available to us free of charge by Jan and Robin Brown. Reed and Barbara Toomey are thanked for their hospitality, friendship, research help, and advice. Mike Hansinger, Florida Museum Field Associate in Fort Myers, provided sound advice and helped coordinate publicity efforts. Bob Edic continued to serve the project faithfully as our representative in the Boca Grande area.

Barbara Sumwalt, Jan Brown, Don Randell, and several other people helped further the understanding of the Southwest Florida Project among certain University of Florida personnel. Thank you!

Paul Miller and Jan and Robin Brown are thanked not only for their continuing support, but also for agreeing to serve on the Florida Museum's Major Gifts Committee.

Pat Ball and Ralph Mugerdichian provided materials to build lab tables during the Pineland dig. Bob Repenning loaned us a magnifying lamp, which aided the lab work. Jack Gaddy, Bud House, Bill Kemper, and others built a protective covering over the unfinished excavations at Pineland. A number of journalists made special efforts to give good coverage to our efforts in the local media. Among these, Lin Williams (*Charlotte Herald-News*) and Betty Elmquist (*Pine Island Eagle*) deserve special thanks.

Larry Davis, who represented the Subon Corporation during our work at Seagull Bay, facilitated our work in every possible way. Bill Spikowski, Gloria Sajgo, and Gladys Cook deserve

our gratitude for helping in numerous ways and for running the most enlightened and effective planning department we have ever experienced anywhere. We thank Ray Seguin of P&R Framing, Fort Myers, who framed our resolution of commendation from the Lee County Commission at his own expense.

On campus, we were supported by a stellar cast: Christy Morris, accounting, University of Florida Foundation; Pauli Seabrook, Secretary, University of Florida Foundation; Dara Silverberg, Secretary, Department of Anthropology, Florida Museum of Natural History. Dick Lohr, Development Director for the Florida Museum, provided much help and encouragement. Karen Stone, U.F. Legal Counsel, helped process an easement on an important archaeological site. Jerry Milanich, Curator in Archaeology, Florida Museum, represented the project's interests in negotiations with the developers of Horr's Island. Marilyn Whetzel, Florida Museum Department of Interpretation, cheerfully found volunteer workers for last summer's lab projects on campus. The following are thanked for contributing funds to help pay a graduate student's travel expenses to an international meeting: Norris Williams and Elizabeth Wing, Florida Museum Department of Natural Sciences; Russell Bernard, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, Department of Anthropology; and Dean Madelyn Lockhart, Graduate School. The U.F. Division of Sponsored Research granted funds for an artist/illustrator for the spring semester 1989, and the Florida Museum Department of Anthropology (Kathleen Deagan, Chair) provided an editorial assistant in the fall semester 1988. Florida Museum director Peter Bennett allocated funds for a new computer/word processor that has greatly facilitated the work of the Southwest Florida Project.

FROM THE PROJECT DIRECTOR —

April 26, 1989



Bill Marquardt finds that a whelk shell cutting tool makes a good wood chopper.

Dear Friends of the Southwest Florida Project,

This has been a busy and exciting year for our project, maybe the best yet. First, not one but two books will go to press soon — our monograph on the archaeological findings, and John Hann's translations of Spanish documents relating to the Calusa.

Second, the financial stability of the project is beginning to improve at last. Our endowment drive is off to a good start. If we reach our goal of a \$1,000,000 endowment for the project, we ensure that the preservation, research, and education work in southwest Florida will continue on into the future, even after we pass from the scene. Your help is now more important than ever. Please support the endowment drive as generously as you can with your tax-deductible gift to the University of Florida Foundation, earmarked for Southwest Florida Archaeology. And please tell at least one friend about the project and why you think it's worth supporting.

Third, we made major initiatives toward sharing the excitement and value of archaeology with a broader public. By the time you receive this issue of *Calusa News* the Florida legislature will be considering our proposed project, "The Year of the Indian." If they approve the funds already recommended by the Department of State's Historical Preservation Board, we will be doing some extensive excavations to which the public will be invited, publishing inexpensive books about southwest Florida archaeology for the lay public, creating stimulating

exhibits for the Nature Center of Lee County and the Fort Myers Historical Museum, and working with public school teachers to give them the information they need to instill more historical and environmental awareness in our children. We will also prepare a planetarium show and summer program at the Nature Center, and there will be a series of public speakers. If you live in Florida, please ask your state senators and representatives to vote for full funding for the project known as "The Year of the Indian."

Fourth, I have been working with the committee planning the permanent exhibits for the Museum of Natural History's Education and Exhibition Center, to be constructed in Gainesville in the early 1990s. It will be a museum for all Floridians, and I promise you that the research you have supported with your time and money is going to come to life in exciting new exhibits on the Calusa Indian domain and on south Florida environments. These major exhibits, combined with our continuing assistance to local museums in southwest Florida, will help bring the message of archaeological and environmental awareness to residents and visitors alike.

Many thanks for your support and interest in southwest Florida archaeology this past year.

Sincerely,

Bill Marquardt,
Project Director



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WILLIAM H. MARQUARDT

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