

Archeologists Dive for Ship Remnants

Every calm, sunny day for the last two summers a small crew of divers and archeologists have spent all their working hours combing a section of the Gulf floor in search of the scattered remains of 400-year-old Spanish sailing ships.

Under the sponsorship of the Texas Antiquities Committee, the personnel are recovering for the state of Texas vast amounts of archeological information that would otherwise remain buried in the ocean or be lost to treasure

hunters and salvagers. Tons of material consisting of hundreds of individual artifacts have been recovered during approximately six cumulative months of work. Unfortunately, most of the perishable material — such as wood, cloth, and rope — is gone, and many of the fragile objects — such as clay pots — are broken. Mostly metal artifacts survive, although time and the sea have wrought strange changes in them, eating away at their surfaces or cementing them

together with grotesque encrustations of corrosion and shellfish deposits. A six-hour day on board the barge Discoverer, the Antiquities Committee's vessel from which the crew of 10 to 20 works, reveals the tremendous difficulties encountered by land animals (men) attempting to work in a medium (water) which is not their natural habitat.

The recovery of a single artifact entails, first, an hour's trip to the barge site, located some 1,600 feet offshore above the Port Mansfield Cut on Padre Island. There the day's crew relieves the two divers who have spent the night on the barge as watchmen. Equipment brought from shore (including lunches of bologna sandwiches and apples) is laboriously transferred to the barge by means of a small inflatable boat, and diving gear is checked in preparation for the descent.

In theory, the operation is simplicity itself. A propeller-like blowing device on the barge is injected into the gray-ocean waters and its rotating blades clear a 30-foot diameter hole in the sand.

"We are not in it for the coins. We'd be happy if we never found any," says State Underwater Archeologist Carl Clausen, who put together the project in 1972 and has supervised it both summers.

His point is illustrated when one of the divers emerges from the water holding a pot sherd (portion of a clay jar). All work stops while the crew scrutinizes it. Clausen scrapes off a speck of what appears to be tar and burns it on the tip of his knife.

"Smell," he directs.

The odor is pungent.

"Probably pine pitch," he muses. "So it looks like the Span-

ish may have been sealing their jars with pine pitch at least 400 years ago."

This is the sort of scientific information the operations are being conducted to discover.

When the sherd has been seen by everyone, it is photographed from several angles, tagged as to location when found, and placed in a plastic bucket for safekeeping until it is transferred ashore. Toward the end of the diving season the artifacts are loaded into vats of treated water and placed in trucks for transport to the Texas Archeological Research Laboratory in Austin. There they are cleaned and their deterioration stabilized in order that they may be subjected to further intensive study.

When this process has been completed, the Antiquities Committee will arrange for their public display at a museum or educational institution in order that they may be seen by the people of Texas — for whom they were recovered in the first place.

Houston Trip For Engineers Planned Soon

Roland Love, chairman of the local chapter of The Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers, (IEEE), has announced that final plans for the chapter's sponsored trip to Houston are almost complete.

The field trip will be held on October 17, and will include a tour of the EXXON Refinery with lunch and a viewing of the Instrument Society of America's (ISA) exhibits at the Astrodome that afternoon.

Other activities include another IEEE sponsored field trip to Houston on November 20. That trip will include a tour of Houston Lighting and Power and NASA's Avionics Lab.

Down-home

(Continued from page 1) help make a success: giving interviews, posing for pictures, being patient with everyone. He probably would have walked on nails if it helped his career. On the road to making it he is very careful to do anything he can to promote himself. He is not yet at the point where he can afford to ignore things and people. He seems to be a man who is climbing a ladder patiently, step by step, hoping for the road to stardom. He and his whole group seemed rather lost. They were eager to talk. When speaking to each other they sounded run down, as if they were out of things to say. They have been to 15 cities in 30 days, playing to lots of audiences and finding new friends. Grey said he loved road concerts, but his manager commented earlier that they hated them, however, tours are necessary. I would imagine that Holiday Inns can be lonely.



FLY NAVY

See the Officer Information Team in the new MSC or in the Zachry Engineering Building, through October 5, from 9 a. m. - 5 p. m.

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Bulletin Board

TUESDAY

Handball Club will meet on the De Ware basketball courts at 7 p.m. to set up handball ladders and round robin tournaments. Dues for students will be \$3 and \$5 for faculty.

Mu Chi Chapter of Kappa Delta Pi will hold initiation of new members in Room 230 of the Memorial Student Center at 8:15 p.m. Dr. John J. Koldus, will be an honorary initiate and program speaker at the meeting.

Inter-varsity Christian Fellowship will meet in Room 226 of the Library at 7:30 p.m. for a Bible study.

Agricultural Communications of Tomorrow will meet in Room 101, Earl Rudder Tower, at 7 p.m. Guest speaker will be Leroy Schaefer.

Health and Physical Education Majors Club will meet in Room 601 of the Rudder Tower at 7:30 p.m.

Horticulture Club will meet at 7:30 p.m. in Room 204 of the Plants Science Building.

Air Force Student Wives Club will meet at 7:30 p.m. at 301 Ball St., Apt. No. 2110. For more information call Janice Kelly (846-0332).

Forestry Club will meet in Room 115 of the Forestry Building at 7:30 p.m.

Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers will meet at 7 p.m. in Room 103 of the Zachry Engineering Center. Final plans for the Oct. 17 field trip will be discussed and panel discussions presented.

Saddle and Sirloin Club will hold the annual barbecue at 7 p.m. in the Commons of Krueger-Dunn. The tickets are free to all club members who have paid the dues.

Engineering Technology Society will meet in Room 305 of the Fermier Building at 7:30 p.m. A presentation will be given by

Bucyrus Erie Company, who are looking for construction machinery sales people and those interested in engineering discipline. Wildlife Biology Association will meet at 7:30 p.m. in Room 113 of the Biological Sciences Building—East. Dr. W. B. Davis will speak on "About Bats."

WEDNESDAY

Science Fiction Class of Free University will meet at 7:30 p.m. in Room 502 of the MSC Tower.

National Association of Home Builders will meet in the Architecture Auditorium at 7:45 p.m.

Pre-Vet Society will meet at 7:30 p.m. in Lecture Room 1 of Zachry Engineering Center.

Bonfire First Aid Committee volunteers will meet in Room 305 of the Physics Building from 7:30 p.m. until 9 p.m. An exam will be given which will take 30 minutes.

Senior Class will meet in Room 410 of the MSC Tower from 7:30 p.m. until 8 p.m.

Pre-Vet Society will meet in Zachry Engineering Center Auditorium at 7:30 p.m. All interested in Vet-Medicine are invited to attend.

Bridge Tourney Set Friday

A duplicate bridge tournament will be held Thursday at 7:15 by the Unitarian Fellowship at 1202 Bristol. Proceeds from the tournament will be donated to a charity.

Anyone interested is invited to play in the handicap system. Donations of \$1.25 per player are requested.

After the tournament a party will be held in honor of Dr. Balusu Rao, who has recently become an American citizen, and Dr. and Mrs. Nick Pace, who are being honored as life masters, the highest official rating of the American Contract Bridge League.

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