Pecan Island Mound Occupied Twice

By DOT DURIO
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Archeologists excavating an Indian mound here say there is conclusive evidence that no one, but two different civilizations probably inhabited the site.

Rick Fuller, head of the archeology team, said because of two distinct layers of dirt and different artifacts in the mound being excavated, there is evidence that two tribes may have lived there.

"We don't know if they lived here on year apart or centuries apart," Fuller said. "But we have evidence that the mound was inhabited twice. We don't know if it was the same tribe."

Fuller said there is a layer of dirt at the bottom of the mound in which some artifacts were located, between the bottom and top layers is a shell and dirt fill, which have arc patterns.

Fuller said those patterns indicate the shell and dirt fill was very deliberately and calculatedly placed over the bottom layers of dirt. He said the Indians may have placed dirt and shell in some kind of vessel to produce the arc effect.

Some of the more interesting findings the team has made include a number of intact ash deposits at the bottom of the mound.

Fuller says those may have come from extinguished fires, as there is no indication that any dirt is burned. "They seem to have taken their fire refuse and just dumped it there," he said.

Fuller did not speculate what kind of people made up the tribe. "They may have been sophisticated in some ways, and primitive in others."

We tend to stay away from drawing any sort of conclusion about them.

Some of the pottery unearthed at the mound site shows how advanced the tribe may have been. On one piece of pottery, a web pattern was stamped into the clay. It is theorized the Indians may have carved the patterns into pieces of wood and then stamped the clay with it.

Most of the tools the archeologist have found are made of bone. "There were very few stone tools," Fuller said. "We've found very little stone — only three stone tools."

He said the diet of the Indians probably consisted of raccoon, muskrat and deer. He said skeletal remains of those animals had been found. He said fish may have been caught through the use of tidal traps, traps which catch fish as they schooled during tidal changes.

Fuller noted the site was not used as a temple or religious structure, proven by the artifacts gathered there. He said the grounds were probably used by a small, year-round population, which was not governed by a chief in a day-to-day living.

"The civilization was very organized," Fuller said. "They apparently lived in small bands of people rather than one large tribe."

Obituaries

Weston J. Trahan Sr.
Elton A. Arceneaux
Wilfie P. Constantin
Early Meche
Rene J. Allison Jr.

See PECAN, Pg. 2