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Excavation Update at the Pumpkin Site (38GR226)

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PALMETTO AWARD, From Page 1

ogy and *Historical Archaeology in Latin America*.

South's contributions to archaeology have earned him numerous awards and honors. In 1987, he received the J. C. Harrington Medal for outstanding scholarly achievement in historical archaeology from the Society for Historical Archaeology, and in 1993, he received the Robert L. Stephenson Lifetime Achievement Award from the Archaeological Society of South Carolina. In 1997, he was awarded an honorary Doctor of Humanities degree from the University of South Carolina.

For the past 30 years Stanley Austin South has been a leading figure in South Carolina archaeology. His work, through his numerous publications, professional and public presentations, and world-wide correspondence, has brought international recognition to the archaeological resources and history of the State of South Carolina.

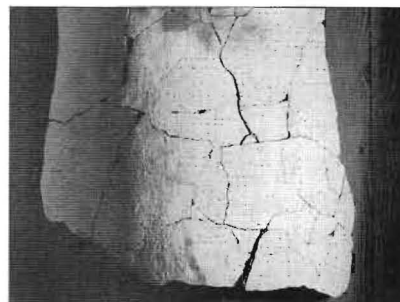
Excavation Update at the Pumpkin Site (38GR226)

By Tommy Charles

Excavation at the Pumpkin site began in November, 1995, and was completed December, 1996. Analysis of plant remains recovered from several large pit features has been completed by Dr. Gary Crites, Crites & Associates, Seymour, Tennessee. Domesticated goosefoot (*chenopodium*) seeds were identified in the samples and a carbon-14 date of 1460 ± 50 years BP determined for them. This date is in statistical agreement with two other carbon-14 dates (1470 ± 50 years BP and 1480 ± 70 years BP) that were obtained from a smoking pipe and loose charcoal from a subsurface feature at the site. The date for goosefoot may be the earliest evidence for domestication of cultigens ever recovered from South Carolina. Completion of final report is due winter of 2000.



Leslie Barker and John Walker, landowner, excavating the Pumpkin site. (SCIAA photo by Tommy Charles)



Connestee cordmarked pottery from the Pumpkin site. (SCIAA photo by Tommy Charles)

CHARLES ATTENDS INTERNATIONAL PETROGLYPH CONFERENCE

By Tommy Charles

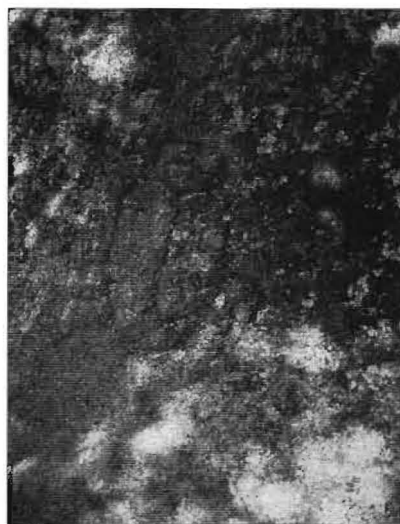
I had the pleasure of presenting a paper at the International Rock Art Conference-1999, in Ripon, Wisconsin, May 23-31, 1999. The paper I presented is titled, "Circle and Line Petroglyphs: Euro-American or Native American Origin? Well, Maybe." I presented an overview of what is known about these carvings, their known historic use, distribution, and variability of types. I also presented evidence that may support a prehistoric Native American Indian origin for some of the motifs, which is not the accepted Euro-American origin theory. Researchers in the field of petroglyphs from more than 30 countries attended this conference.

PETROGLYPH SURVEY UPDATE

By Tommy Charles

The survey for petroglyphs in the Piedmont and mountain regions of South Carolina continues as time and weather permit. Four previously unrecorded petroglyphs were discovered this year in upstate South Carolina and another potential site has been reported in Pickens County, South Carolina. Four petroglyphs were recorded in North Carolina. I am studying a particular petroglyph motif, a "circle and line" carving, that is recurring in the upstate and the adjacent portions of North Carolina and Georgia. A paper pertaining to this particular petroglyph motif was presented at the International Rock Art Conference held at Ripon College, Ripon, Wisconsin, May 23-31, 1999 (see adjacent sidebar). I continue to receive calls from both North Carolina and Georgia because apparently no archaeologists are responding to their citizen's reports of petroglyph finds. This allows for a broader range from which to

collect comparative data. I continue to work with the SC Department of Natural Resources to prepare an article about the petroglyph survey for their *SC Wildlife* magazine, Nov.-Dec. 1999 issue.



"King Beetle Rock" in downtown Columbia, SC. (SCIAA photo by Tommy Charles)