

## ART-I-FACTS



CENTRAL FLORIDA METAL DETECTING CLUB

The next meeting of the Central Florida Metal Detecting Club will take place on Friday, August 14, 1992 at 8:00 p.m. The meeting site is located at the Goldenrod Civic Center on Palmetto Street next to the Fire Station in Goldenrod, Florida. Parking is limited so please plan to arrive early!

August meeting date: August 14 September meeting date: September 11 October meeting date: October 9

...1992 Club Officers...

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Find of the Month
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Boyd Rodgers Lonna Leist Milton and Lorine Raw Fred and Nancy Schimmel

.DISCOVER FAMILY FUN IN METAL DETECTING.

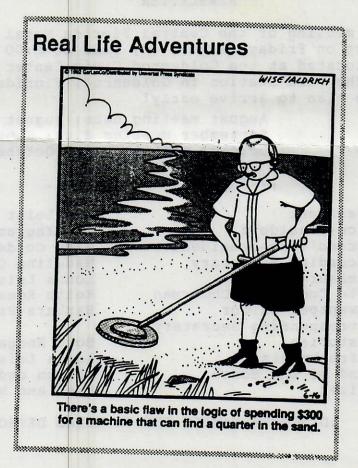
July Newsnotes.....

Jack Dee won the Half and Half and pocketed \$21.50. No one was a winner for Bank Night so August will be a bit richer for the winner!

Ray Leist was convalescing from knee surgery. Expected to be up and around soon!
Bill Hunt wishes to let everyone know his new address. It is....6138 Rhythm Circle, Orlando, FL 32808-1410. Our best to Bill who is fighting one pesky illness!

Our condolences to the Family of Frank and Donna Rothery on the death of Frank's father, Frank Sr. of Melbourne, FL.

The following cartoon was clipped from a Metal Detecting Club's newsletter. We thought it was kinda cute!



Find of the Month....

Single Coin- Barbara Phillips Group Coin- Alden Mitchell Single Jewelry- Brent Petherick Group Jewelry- Brent Petherick

Single Odd's N'Ends- Barbara Phillips (also Group winner!) Single and Group Artifacts-David Gascoyne

## Layers of artifacts were 4 charged MOUNDS f with looting mischief, grand t racketeering law: **Indian sites** Wednesday, are b If convicted of

face up to 30 yea ry maximum sen Investigators say they 'I don't thin damaged 7 archaeological sites, including one of the state's largest, in search of

Spanish gold.

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books about trea said he found so self in pre-Cast knows who dan sites and someti the culprits.

But neither he were involved w of Big Mound F Williams could n

"I'm more int treasure." Huds kind of stuff."

But according and the others ' mors that Spanis in Calusa shell n

The men beg that treasure mo ago, Subic said. bulldozers acros groves in a state Big Mound Key, most importan sites.

There, Subic s gash 20 feet wid the largest and n

The damage w gators had no clu Mound Key and ade occurred ir. where digging co

Investigators break in 1991 wh at Cayo Costa Sti ern Lee County men sinking an "This group was archaeology," S had gold fever."

Subic said aut said. other 15 suspects

civilization were 'reasure hunters.

## By Craig Dezern

OF THE SENTINEL STAFF

The Calusa Indians developed a powerful and complex society that flourished for more than a thousand years in Southwest Florida.

It took treasure hunters with two bulldozers and a backhoe just a few days in 1980 to demolish Big Mound Key, one of the tribe's largest and best-preserved sites.

On Thursday, the state attorney in Fort Myers announced that four men have been charged with damaging seven archaeological sites on Florida's west coast, including the key in Charlotte Harbor.

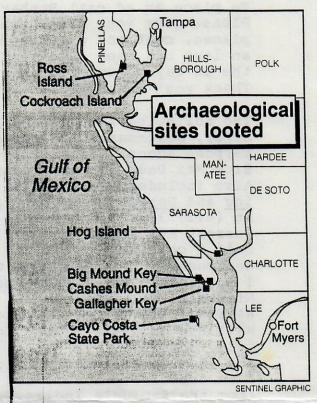
The team looted sites on state and federal land for more than a decade, investigators said, tearing through layers of Indian artifacts in a fruitless search for Spanish gold.

"They were very well organized," said Joseph Subic, who investigated the case for the state Department of Natural Resources. "These were not amateurs."

L. Frank Hudson, 74, of St. Petersburg; Donald Paul Williams, 59, of San Carlos Park; Peter Alexander Smitt, 39, of North Pinellas Park; and Ronald Allen Webb, 43, of Largo, may be responsible for nearly all of the damage to Calusa sites in the past decade, officials

The men, who were scheduled ing their investig for arraignment this morning, Important clue have been charged with criminal

Please see MOUNDS, A-8



sity of Florida archaeologist who has directed excavation of Calusa sites.

"People have been digging at these old sites for years," he said. "They've destroyed an awful lot of nformation about these people."

And unfortunately, Marquardt said, little is known f the tribe, which ruled southern Florida from 300 A.D. to the late 17th century. "They were a remarkable bunch of people," Marquardt said.

The Calusas were expert navigators and built canals — some 30 feet wide and 6 feet deep — that connected their coastal homes to inland rivers.

The skilled hunters and fishers thrived for decades after the tribes of North Florida had been destroyed by warfare, slavery and diseases brought by European settlers.

But by 1750, the Calusa tribe had disappeared, overrun by other American Indians who had moved into Florida to escape the settlers.

The mounds are nearly all that remain to supplement the sketchy and biased reports left by Spanish missionaries and explorers.

Some of the mounds are little more than trash heaps. Others may be ceremonial platforms or foundations for the homes of nobility. Big Mound Key "was one of the largest and best preserved of the mound sites in the United States," Marquardt said. "Before it was disturbed, it had such integrity to it."

After seeing archaeological sites compromised for more than a decade, Marquardt said he welcomed the arrests.

"I think it's certainly a step in the right direction." he said. "These people are stealing from all of us.

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