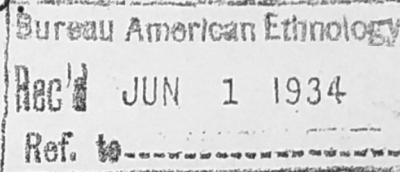


TALLANT FURNITURE CO

MANATEE, FLORIDA

May 29, 1934



Dr. W. M. Stirling
Washington, D. C.

INDEXED

Dear Dr. :

I really don't know how to thank you for the wonderful books you so kindly sent me. They came in yesterday but I haven't had time to read much yet. Will lock myself up at times and enjoy them to the fullest.

I haven't had time to explore much lately, but did slip off last Sunday with my two negroes and go over to Bishop's Harbor to the mound where that crystal bead was found. It is quite an interesting island and visited by very few people on account of its inaccessability. On the Harbor side is a large shell mound, about 25 ft. high and 100 ft. in diameter, leading to the west through dense mangroves is a bench possibly one foot high and covering a half acre of ground. A natural shell and sand ridge has been thrown up by the water all along the Tampa Bay side and just back of this is a sand mound about 45 ft. in diameter by 3 ft. high. Between the shell bench and this mound are to be found two road ways or ridges 15 ft. wide and 2 ft. high, but lead to nowhere.

We started as you do on the outside of the sand mound and went in about 15 ft. by 20 wide, taking out about 15 adults, and 8 babies. All bodies were placed on a bed of ashes but the bones did not seem to have been burned. In one place four adults had been placed with their heads together and bodies extending out. In the center I found the most beautifully polished shell bowl I have ever found, with the hole knocked in the bottom.

Above each skull was a slab of lime stone rock about 15 in.

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square. Under another slab of rock was a shell bowl and skull and after carefully uncovering found two baby skeletons either in her or in her arms, but they were in such a poor state of preservation that they could not be handled. Found one 3 in. arrow point which had been originally made from a clear light gray flint but was in the ash bed and had a very heavy coating of white over it. I could run on like this for hours but will not take up any more of your time.

Harry Walling?
Drove down to see Newman and was very much pleased with his find in the Englewood mound. Have tried to buy or trade the old "snake" man out of that crystal bead for you but people have told him that it is valuable and he as yet will not part with it.

A small boy found a beautiful gold bead on the mound east of Oneco the other day but gave it to a doctor here and his little girl has it and will not part with it at any price. The bead is about 7/16 in. in diameter, open lace work, 1/8 in. hole or ring on each side for stringing. It has the appearance of cobra coiled on each side. Have never seen anything like it and think it is very rare for this section. 8Ma34

Thanking you again very much for your kindness and hoping I can be of service to you in these parts, I remain,

Yours very truly,

W. M. Tallant

June 2 , 1934

Dear Tallant:

I am in receipt of your letter of May 29 together with the two interesting photographs. I was very much interested to read your description of your work on the Bishop's Harbor Mound. I hope that you will be able to complete the job and write down a description of your results as well as getting a few photographs of the more interesting features encountered.

I also hope that in time you will be able to get hold of the crystal bead which I should like very much to have if possible even if it is necessary to go up to \$10.00 or \$15.00 for it. As a rule I do not like the idea of buying specimens, but this one is unique and shows the drilling process so nicely that it would make a good Museum specimen. I suppose, however, it would be best not to rush the old fellow too much. If you can get a photograph of the gold bead without too much difficulty I would appreciate that also.

I am beginning work now on the reports of the archeological excavations which we conducted under the C.W.A., and naturally you will get a copy as soon as it is off the press. I am hoping to have a general preliminary account completed in time for our next annual report.

When I got back to Washington I found that Dr. Van Hying had sent me the same clipping that you had about the accession of the ivory-billed woodpecker's nest.

I hope that you find plenty of interest to read in the reports that I sent along. There are plenty more when you have finished with these which I will send to you also.

I wish that I were back in Brandon for about a month, nothing to do except to go fishing and exploring a little. You could let the furniture store go, and we would have a great time.

With very best wishes to yourself and Mrs. Tallant, I am

Sincerely yours,

W. W. STIRLING,
Chief.

Mr. W. M. Tallant
Manatee, Florida