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(This NEWSLETTER will be published from time to time, as the cash in hand and the news worth publishing may determine. Chairman of the Society: Wayne B. Neyland, 4521 Keystone; Editorial Committee: H. Newhinney, 3705 North Main, John J. Dieckman, 5310 Edith.)

Collections Given to University (John J. Dieckman)

Several collections from this part of Texas---chiefly of bones and artifacts from burials and of potsherds---have been given lately to the anthropology department of the University of Texas by members of this Society.

Walter Fiedler of Hampshire gave some 500 potsherds collected from sites on ridges in the Spindletop Bayou drainage system of Jefferson County. The sherds included Marksville Stamped, Coles Creek Plain, and other Mississippian types, found with Goose Creek Plain, Goose Creek Incised, San Jacinto Plain, and San Jacinto Incised. The last type was defined by R. E. Worthington at the 1959 Pottery Symposium of the Houston Archaeological Society.

It is hoped that further study will partly clear up the relationship of the Galveston Bay Focus to the cultures of the Mississippi Valley.

Nolan Cox gave a restored carinated bowl, believed to be Ripley Engraves, from the Winters Bayou Site Number 1 in San Jacinto County. Other sherds from that site include Goose Creek Plain, Goose Creek Incised, and some not yet definitely identified that are well smoothed on the inside and show pinched coiling on the outside.

Wayne Neyland gave material from two burials at the Houston Ship Channel Site Number 2. This is a clamshell midden. One burial was of a stillborn child, sex uncertain. The other consisted of the long bones, the pelvis, and fragments of other bones but without the skull. Dr. T. W. McKern, of the University of Texas, said the bones were those of a woman about 40 years old.

Neyland also gave material from three burials at the Halls Lake Site Number 1 in Brazoria County. Burial Number 6 contained the teeth of a child and a quantity of red ocher. Burial Number 4 had the long bones and parts of the skull and the lower jaw. Burial Number 5 is a complete skull. McKern reported on the age and sex of the people April 17.

The first three burials were found by a fisherman. Brazoria County peace officers thought at first there might have been some murders.

Some long bones and skull fragments from the Smith Point Site Number 2 in Chambers County were given to the University by Worthington, his son, Mr. and Mrs. E. R. Ring, and Neyland. It is now believed that these bones were washed down

from an old cemetery for white settlers, on a bluff overlooking a beach.

Charles and Vivian Fleming gave the bones from Burials 10, 13 and 16 at the Mill Creek Site Number 3 in Austin County. They wrote a preliminary report on the site for the first number of this NEWSLETTER. They are still excavating it.

Scratching at Smith Point

(A. R. Duke)

Many archaeologists of this area are familiar with the sites at Smith Point on Galveston Bay in Chambers County.

People living in the village have collections of projectile points, knives, and the like, picked up from the beach after storms and high water. These artifacts apparently are washed out of the bank by waves, together with abundant potsherds. The sherds are mostly Goose Creek Plain but a few are Goose Creek Incised.

Several discoveries resulted from visits to Smith Point during the past winter. A stemmed projectile point of grey flint, 3-5/8 inches long, was found on the beach. Excavation of the bank above the beach, at a place where a shell layer could be seen, produced a socketed bone projectile point with asphalt in the socket, as well as an odd disk made from some kind of pottery. The disk is 3/4 of an inch in diameter and 3/8 of an inch thick. It is glazed on the two flat sides. The circumference has been shaped by abrading.

The bone point and the disk were found about 15 inches beneath the surface in apparently undisturbed earth. With them there were pieces of deer bone, deer teeth, teeth, gar scales, sherds of native pottery and sherds of what seems to be European pottery.

To little excavation has been done to justify definite conclusions. However, the association of the glazed disk and potsherds with artifacts certainly made by the Indians indicates that this may be an historic contact site.

The Significance of the Allen Focus

(Robert W. Stevenson)

Texas archaeology has accumulated a mass of data on various time levels. Likewise, students of early Texas history have accumulated a store of information on early life in Texas. A much needed link between these two fields of study will be found in the Historic Horizon of Archaeology when it is more clearly defined.

The attainment of this goal will not be easy. Work by many scholars will be required to bring this horizon into view, but the material is not lacking. Only the workers are needed. One might ask, "Where should we begin?" My personal answer would be "With the Allen Focus."

The Allen Focus is no new discovery. The Jim Allen Site, which is the type site and major site of the focus, was excavated in the fall of 1935 by the University of Texas and the field notes and materials have remained there since that date. Of the Historic Horizon sites in Texas, the Allen Focus sites have produced more historic material in direct association with Indian artifacts

than any other. Occasional mention of the Allen Focus sites has been made through the years. Krieger, for a time, classed the Allen Focus sites as late components of the Frankston Focus, but in the T. A. S. Handbook he first identified these sites as a separate focus.

Brevity being a necessity in this paper, an adequate description of the Allen Focus is not possible here, but a few comments on the type site will give some impression.

The Jim Allen Site contained 18 burials and roughly 200 artifacts. The skeletal remains from most of the graves were in sufficiently good condition to allow some age and sex determination. Eight glass beads and a brass cone were found in one of the graves. The quantity and high quality of the furnishings from this grave suggest that this person was of great status. The general similarity of the pottery and lithic artifacts to those found in the other graves indicate that this person was a member of the same group.

The nature of the material produced from the Allen Focus sites is such that this Focus gives us the best opportunity in Texas to bring both historical evidence and archaeological evidence to bear on the same body of material and thereby establish a link, however feeble, between Texas history and Texas archaeology.