

NEWSLETTER

of the

HOUSTON ARCHEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

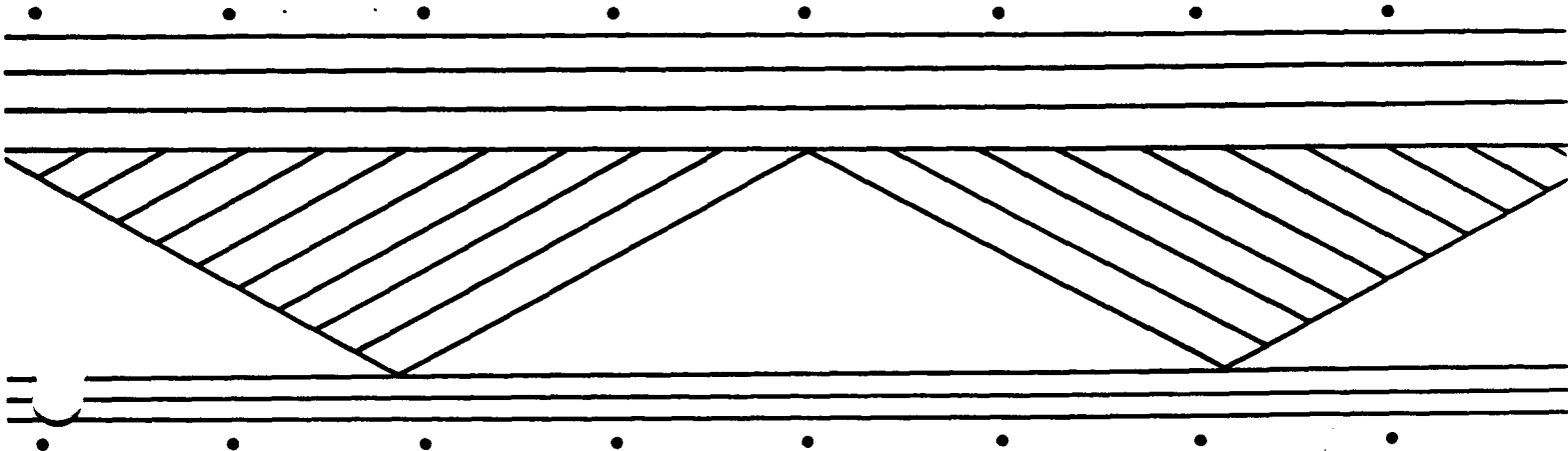
Number 15

October, 1965

OFFICERS 1965 - 66

Chairman	-	William Fullen 717 Dartmouth Deer Park, Texas
Sec.-Treas.	-	Miss Shirley Thompson 3816 Ruskin Street Houston, Texas
Directors	-	Alan R. Duke William Caskey Donald R. Lewis
Editor	-	Alan R. Duke 1706 Oaks Drive Pasadena, Texas

(Contributions to the Newsletter should be sent to the Editor
at address shown above.)



Texas Archeological Salvage Project:

The Houston Archeological Society has been working with the T.A.S.P. for several years but many of our members are not too familiar with the group. Briefly, here is the current organization:

Dr. Richard Ambler, Ph. D. in Anthropology, University of Colorado, has assumed the duties of the Executive Director. (W.W. Newcomb, Texas Memorial Museum, serves as its nominal head.) The project has its headquarters at the Balcones Research Center (University of Texas) in Austin and has as its main function the salvage of archeological materials from all areas in the state where reservoirs and dams are being built. The organization is financed primarily by the National Park Service, but is assisted by the University of Texas who contributes office and laboratory space and some personnel. The T.A.S.P., along with the University of Texas and the Texas Memorial Museum, helps support the Texas Archeological Research Laboratory which is directed by Dr. Dee Ann Story.

- - -

The ladies have contributed several articles to our Newsletter this time. The first contribution is by Margie Fullen and here is her description of the first weekend at the combined TASP - HAS Dig:

On October 9 about twenty members of the Houston Archeological Society assembled at 41PK8 now under excavation by the Texas Archeological Salvage Project. Work at this site had been in progress about two weeks and the stratigraphy may be observed in trenches dug by backhoe. Part of the HAS group assisted TASP employees Jerry Whitten and Glen Greene in their excavation of pits at this site, and had the opportunity to meet Richard Ambler, new Executive Director of TASP, who worked with us Saturday.

About noon everyone joined other members who had preceded them to 41SP19, a site north of US 190 on the west side of the Trinity River. A grid system was set up, and TASP employee David Ing put the backhoe to work digging the first of three trenches. Three pits were begun by HAS members while others started learning plane table mapping in the field with the alidade, transit, and stadia rod under the skilled tutelage of Burney McClurken and Glen Greene of TASP. The children soon discovered the backhoe provided a huge sandpile they were welcome to search and their work produced a number of sherds and flint chips which were bagged.

The landowner drove by to smile upon us sweating in the sun, and two persimmon gatherers inquired about the purpose of our labor. Otherwise, we continued undisturbed throughout the day. In the evening a group of intrepid campers found their way to Double Lake Recreation Area, two miles from Coldspring. There is no admission fee at this season and facilities include drinking water, restrooms, showers, tables and grills. 41SJ19 is a pleasant spot to camp and may be used by members who bring sufficient water.

On Sunday morning new faces met those left over from the day before, and work resumed. The backhoe finished the first trench and began another, work continued

on two pits, and the children returned to their sandpile. Surveying to establish elevations for a contour map was completed and interested members, with "equal opportunity", took their turn at learning how hydraulic pressure can aid archeology. Many of us will never again pass a backhoe without feeling a twinge of envy for the man (or woman?) in the operator's seat.

41SJ19 is a good site in a convenient location and the TASP appreciates our work and interest. HAS members who have been there feel it is lots of fun as well as informative and look forward to sharing this field season with TASP.

Margie Fullen

- - -

Wallisville Reservoir Area Survey:

A TASP survey of the area to be inundated by the reservoir associated with the salt water barrier at the mouth of the Trinity River will be started in January, 1966. The Houston Archeological Society has been invited to participate. More on this in the next Newsletter.

- - -

Texas Archeological Society Annual Meeting:

The TAS Annual Meeting will be held in Fondren Hall at Southern Methodist University, Dallas on November 5, 6, and 7. Hosts will be S.M.U. and the Dallas and Tarrant County Archeological Societies.

The Houston Archeological Society is planning to provide a display of representative artifacts from the Livingston Reservoir Area at the meeting.

- - -

State Archeologist:

The campaign by professional and amateur archeologists has paid off! Curtis D. Tunnell, formerly Executive Director of the TASP, has been appointed State Archeologist, (effective October 1, 1965) a position created recently by the state legislature. His job will be to advise state government agencies on archeological matters, and to make recommendations on such matters as protection, restoration and interpretation of sites in Texas. He will also be involved in informing the public about Archeology in the state and will speak at various gatherings and institutions.

- - -

Alibates National Monument:

The Alibates flint quarry and pueblo ruin on the Canadian River north of Amarillo has been made a National monument. The flint from this quarry has been widely used since Paleo-Indian times and preservation of the site became a

necessity since the area will become accessible to the public when Lake Merideth is completed.

It should be mentioned here that HAS member Hubert Mewhinney has been among those instrumental in gaining support for the establishment of the Monument through his newspaper columns and other contacts. Hubert has flaked many a beautiful point using flint from this site.

- - -

And here is our second article from the distaff side:

A GOOSE CREEK PLAIN VESSEL FROM THE
JAMAICA BEACH SITE (41GV5), GALVESTON CO., TEXAS

Ann E. Childers

Enough pieces to reconstruct three-fourths of a pot were found at the public digging grounds at Jamaica Beach subdivision on Galveston Island. These were found ten to twelve inches below ground surface in an area about three square feet.

The pot is sand-tempered (Goose Creek Plain) pottery and made of two layers of clay - a thick inner (1/4 inch in most areas) core of black clay and an outer layer of red clay which is 1/8 inch in some areas and 1/32 inch in others. The pieces are very fragile.

The sides are straight with the rim flaring out slightly. The bottom is rounded. In size, the pot is 8-1/2 inches outside diameter. There are only enough pieces of the bottom to effect a partial reconstruction and not enough to connect it to the sides. Judging from a slight inward sloping of the lower side pieces, an estimate of 10 inches can be made for the depth. The wall is of uneven thickness, ranging from 5/16 inch to 3/16 inch. The thicker measurement is found toward the top, the thinner toward the bottom.

The rim is serrated, which is the only decoration. There are two holes 1-1/2 inches from the top pierced in opposite direction from one another, presumably for threading a thong through for carrying, or for repair.

There are soot smudges all over the outside, and the lower side and bottom pieces are darkened. Traces of tar are seen but not enough to indicate that any attempt had been made to waterproof this vessel.

- - -

Miscellaneous Meanderings of Members:

Mr. and Mrs. L.D. Stewart visited the Indian Burial Pit near Salina, Kansas while on vacation. This archeological site was discovered in 1936 and has great archeological significance.

Your Editor and family visited archeological and historical sites in Texas, New Mexico and Arizona while on vacation. A high point of the trip was a special preview of Fort Bowie, Arizona - now closed to the public but to be opened soon as a National Monument.

- - -

New H.A.S. Members Since July 1965

Mr. and Mrs. James A. Birdwell, 5946 Benning, Houston	- WA 8-2511
Miss Katherine Halick, 3708 Underwood, Houston	MO 4-9928
Miss Kiki Cullum, P.O. Box 6523, Houston	MO 5-4388
Miss Elaine Roberson, P.O. Box 6523, Houston	" "
Mr. Michael Barrett, 12202 Kimberley, Houston	HO 8-3163
Mr. Bob Kaplan, 4617 Briarbend, Houston	PA 3-3142

- - -

Past and Future Monthly Programs

- September - Dr. Charles Bollich, Beaumont, presented an interesting review of preliminary findings on the Gaulding site near Beaumont. (T.A.S. Annual Field School)
- October - Arthur Randall discussed "Selected Sites in Colorado and Wyoming", and presented his views on migration routes suggested by radiocarbon dates.
- November - Dr. Frank Hole, Dept. of Anthropology, Rice University, will discuss his excavations in Iran during the past summer.
- December - Students of Anthropology at Rice University will discuss their archeological experiences in various parts of the world.

- - -

New Librarian:

Our new librarian is John Halick. Contact him if you want to borrow books from our rapidly growing library. His address is 3708 Underwood, Houston, Texas. Phone: MO 4-9928.

Recent additions to our library include the following partial list (some items still being cataloged):

	<u>Donor</u>
The Arkansas Archeologist Vol V, Mos. 2 thru 7, 1964	S.T. Watson
The Missouri Archeologist Vol. 17, Nos. 1 and 4; Vol. 13, No.2; Vol. 19, No. 3; Vol. 16, No. 1	S.T. Watson

Donor

- The Arkansas Archeologist
Vol III, Nos. 2, 7, 8, 10 - 1962 Rice University
Vol. IV, Nos. 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10-1963 "
- Bulletin of the Oklahoma Anthropological Society
Vols. 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12 - 1959 - 1964 Rice University
- Newsletter - Arkansas Archeological Society S.T. Watson
Vol I, Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 9 - 1960
- Randall, A.G. - Correlation of Lee Site Artifact
Rock Type with Quarry Sites, Wyoming A.G. Randall
- The Wyoming Archeologist
Vol VII, No. 1, 1964 A.G. Randall
- Faulkner, Charles H. - An Archeological Survey
of Marshall County, Ind. S.T. Watson
- Pennsylvania Archeologist
Vol. XXVII, No. 1 - 1957 S.T. Watson
- Interesting Facts About the Navajo S.T. Watson
- McCary, Ben C. - Indians in 17th Century Virginia S.T. Watson
- Chakravarti, S.N. - A Handbook to the Indian
Prehistoric Antiquities (Bombay) S.T. Watson
- Ladd, Richard S. - Maps Showing Explorers' Routes,
Trails and Early Roads in the U.S. S.T. Watson

Additional listing will appear in the next Newsletter.

- - -

Two lectures in the field of social anthropology are scheduled at the University of Houston. On Thursday, October 28th at 7:30 P.M., Dr. Leslie White, University of California, will discuss "Evolution of Human Culture", and on Monday, November 1st at 7:30 P.M., Charles C. Gillespie will talk on "The Effects of Evolutionary Theory on Religious Dogma". Both lectures will be held in the M.D. Anderson Library Auditorium.

- - -

LATE ADDITION TO FUTURE PROGRAMS:

Curtis Tunnell, State Archeologist, has agreed to address the H.A.S. at our January meeting.