

NEWSLETTER

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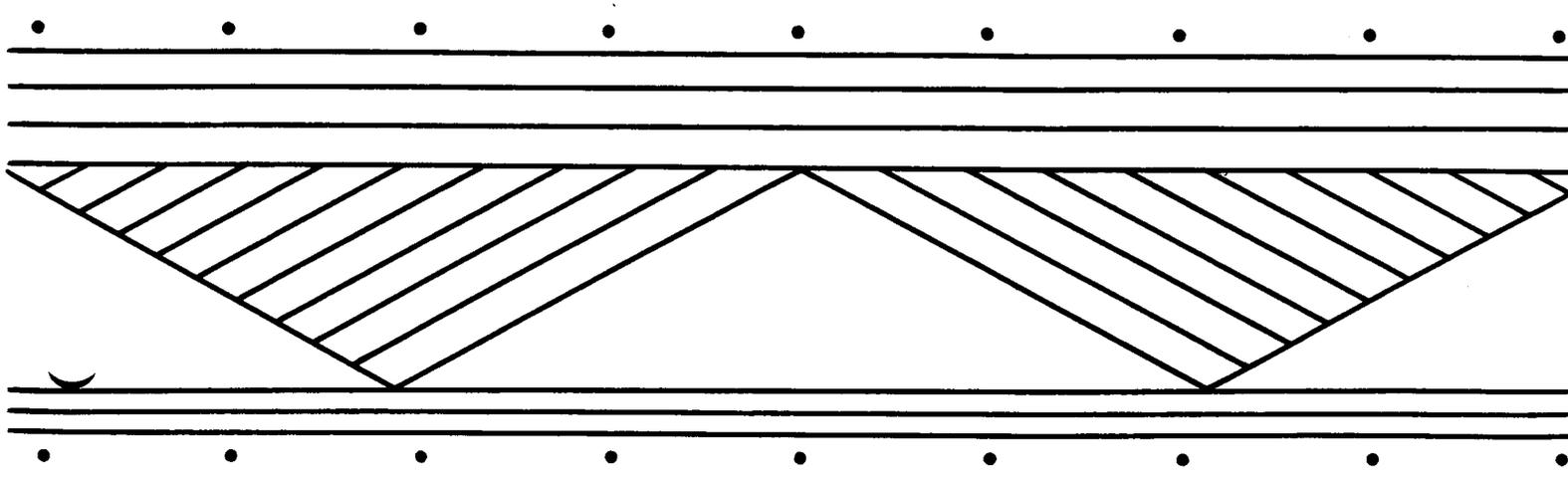
HOUSTON ARCHEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

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"On the face of it, a site survey seems far from an intellectual activity, but that is precisely what it is. To be sure, there is a great deal of physical effort involved - climbing hills, stumbling into gorges, and trudging over miles of barren land - but the driving force is professional purpose. For the archeologist, the goal is not to find just any site, but to find one that will help him better to understand some particular aspect of the culture and history of the vanished past."

- Shirley Gorenstein
Natural History Magazine
February 1966



Field Activities of the HAS

Wallisville "Dig" - Work on 41CH32, 41CH52 and 41CHL4, the sites currently being excavated jointly by the TASP and the HAS, will be terminated the last week-end in April. Additional work may be carried out on 41CH32 by the TASP at a later date.

About 28 members have participated in the "dig" at this writing and it is hoped this number will increase before the end of the month.

The following members and visitors have participated in some or all phases of the "dig".

Mr. & Mrs. Harry Hartman	Nancy Jircik
Danny Hartman	Mrs. Ann Childers
Frank Brezik	Mr. & Mrs. W.R. Pickworth
Lawrence Aten	Kerza Pickworth
Mr. & Mrs. Lou Fullen	Mr. & Mrs. Charles Chandler
Dr. & Mrs. Don Lewis	Mr. L.D. Stewart
Mr. & Mrs. Alan R. Duke	Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Kosmo
Gary Duke	Mr. & Mrs. Charles Deane
Shirley Thompson	Nancy Deane
Elaine Burleigh	Don Moore
	Charles Bollich
	George Bollich

The TASP has provided excellent guidance and instruction at the "Dig" thru Dick Ambler, David Ing, Bill Harrison and Ron Ralph.

Wallisville Survey - Now that work on 41CH32 is drawing to a close, a survey of the area to be inundated by the salt water barrier will get more attention. There probably are still many sites to be located and recorded. Contact Bill Caskey for instructions and maps.

Livingston Survey - There are still large sections to cover in the Livingston dam area to complete our TASP survey started two years ago. Contact Lou Fullen for information and maps.

We undoubtedly will be involved in the fall in additional excavation work at Livingston or Wallisville under the direction of the TASP if the Society members express their interest in further work. More on this in the next Newsletter.

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Artifact Collection Loaned to University of Texas

Miss Kiki Cullum and Miss Elaine Roberson recently forwarded their large surface collection of artifacts from the Galveston Bay area (East Bay) to the folks at the University of Texas. This collection represents three years of collecting and should provide valuable information on the artifacts of the upper Gulf Coast.

One of the unusual items in their collection is a sherd of Goose Creek pottery perforated for patching (?). This particular sherd dispels any doubts about the method used in making the perforation since the flint drill or perforator is broken off in the hole!

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News from other Societies

Aaron D. Riggs, Jr., Editor of the Newsbulletin of the South Plains Archeological Society, continues to turn out a neat little bulletin complete with excellent sketches of artifacts from the area.

The Midland Archeological Society, Midland, Texas, is just slightly over a year old but it is active! Their recent activities included a field trip, symposium and a banquet. Eleven papers covering many phases of archeology were presented at the symposium.

The Young County Archeological Society of Graham, Texas, will hold a "get-together" in Olney, Texas on April 23 and 24. Papers will be presented and artifacts displayed.

The El Paso Archeological Society has been quite active in the field. Society members have partially excavated and recorded six pueblo sites in the El Paso area. Members have been making surface pueblo and paleo-Indian surveys for the National Park Service and the Smithsonian Institution.

The Carrizo Springs High School Archeological Society has an active program which includes field trips, study of artifact collections and development of an archeological library.

Copies of the Newsletters of these Societies are available from our Librarian.

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Trinity River Canal

The plans for a canal extending from Trinity Bay to Dallas and Fort Worth will involve building 29 reservoirs (20 already completed or under-way), enlargement or relocation of water in some existing lakes, construction of five flood levees and 1600 soil conservation structures.

This all adds up to a tremendous amount of salvage archeology and the time is getting short! Surveys of the areas to be inundated must be carried out promptly. It is in this field that amateurs can assist the TASP. Let's hope an adequate number of individuals and/or Societies will respond to the call.

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A recent field trip by HAS members to the Amistad Reservoir area has been covered ably by one of our younger members. Here is a report by Mike Robinson:

Eleven members of the Houston Archeological Society, guided by David Ing, TASP, Bill Harrison, TASP, and Cecil Calhoun, visited a number of archeological sites in the Amistad Reservoir area.

It was a cold morning when the amateur archeologists met in Del Rio, Texas at 8 A.M. They piled into three cars and drove to Comstock, Texas, where they picked up their three guides in a coffee shop. David, Bill and Cecil were glad to see the group and went out of their way to be helpful and informative.

The caravan drove to the first site which was in Mile Canyon, east of Langtry, Texas. Mile Canyon is a formidable crevasse 100 ft. deep, 300 ft. wide, and a mile long. It took the group 15 minutes to reach the bottom where they found it quite warm compared to the freezing weather above.

They came to the first site, Bon-fire shelter - a bison jump site, which was hidden behind a large boulder 50 feet up the canyon. After a hard climb, they entered the site where they saw three large pits. The main pit had two bone layers with a radio carbon date of 10,500 years on the second layer. Several Plainview and a Folsom point had been found in the lower layer of bones.

The group left the first site and moved on to the second which was farther down the canyon. The site was named Eagle Cave, a habitation site, because it was a large cave in a limestone cliff face. The excavation pits showed there were firehearths and several layers of vegetable fibers, both burned and well preserved. There were also manos, metates, flint tools, cordage, and woven fibers.

It was noon when the archeologists left the second site and went back to their cars. Everyone was quite hungry so they drove to Langtry, Texas, where they had a large lunch and talked of what they had seen. While others were eating their lunch, some of the group went to see Judge Roy Bean's famous house and museum.

It was 1:30 P.M. when the group reformed and went to the next site which was on the Pecos River Canyon near Hwy. 90. They met David Dibble, Archeologist in charge, who was doing salvage archeology on a rock shelter and terrace site. The site, designated as VV99, was excavated 25 ft. deep under the rock shelter. The top level was Late Historic-20 arrow points found. The second level was Late Archaic-Ensor Points. The third level was Middle Archaic-with Shmmla, Montell, and Castroville points. The fourth layer composed of red sand was Early Archaic - where Langtry, Pandell, and Early Barbed points were found. Excavation of the site had also revealed many other artifacts including points, manos, metates, and shell artifacts (river mussels).

It was late in the afternoon when the tired band moved on to the last site. This was a Pictograph Site along the Pecos River. The group, lead by their untiring guides, were taken up a formidable cliff where they found excellent pictographs inside large rock shelters. The pictographs showed men, scorpions, birds, a cougar and a man using an atlatl. These shelters were extensive habitation sites.

The day was almost done as the archeologists, weary, but pleased by what they had seen, got into their cars and drove to Del Rio. After a short rest, they met with their guides and crossed the border to spend an evening in Ciudad Acuna, Mexico celebrating with good food and wine.

Texas Archeological Society Summer Field School

The popular TAS Field School will be held June 18 thru June 26. TAS members will receive information shortly on the "Dig" location. You must be a TAS member to participate.

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New Members

We wish to welcome the following new members to the Society:

Mr. L.C. DeWeese III
1112 Arlington, Houston 77008

Mr. Don Moore
218 Pine Hill Drive, Route 2, P37
Conroe, Texas

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Encyclopedia Britannica Yearbook - 1966

The field work in Iran by HAS member Dr. Frank Hole of Rice University has been mentioned as one of the important archeological efforts during 1965.

Archeological work in Texas is mentioned also in the Yearbook in the form of a report by D.S. Dibble, University of Texas, on the Bonfire Shelter in southwestern Texas.

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Recommended Reading

"A Study of Archeology" - Walter Taylor. Reprint of original work can be obtained from University of Southern Illinois (Dept. of Anthropology), Carbondale, Illinois for \$ 1.75.

"Early Man Projectile Points in the Southwest" - Kenneth Honea. Available from Museum of New Mexico Press, Santa Fe, New Mexico.

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Incorporation

The membership of the HAS voted at the April meeting to incorporate the Society under the laws of the state of Texas - so now, in addition to being a non-profit organization, we will enjoy the benefits of a corporate structure!!

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How ke che wa!!*

*Which in the Sioux language means "Good-bye".

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