

NEWSLETTER

of the

HOUSTON ARCHEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Number 18

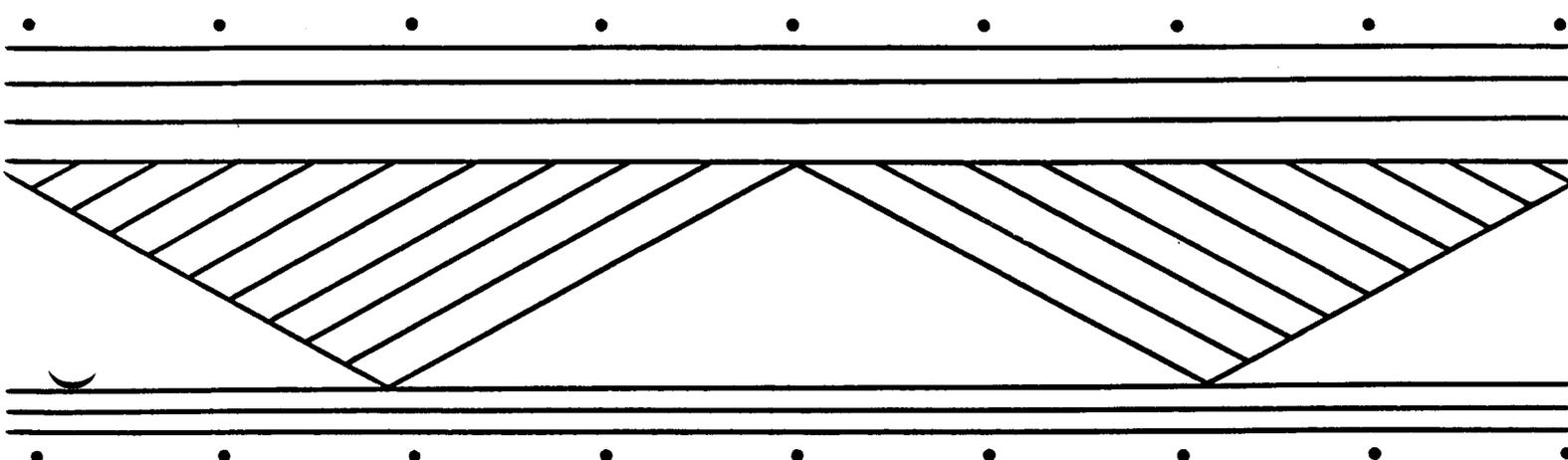
August 1966

"Of all animals, we men are the only ones who
wonder where we came from and where we will go".

--- W. W. Howells

"Speak to the earth, and it shall teach thee".

--- Job 12:8



found as the search is extended. The area to be inundated will include parts of Liberty County as well as Chambers County. Several areas can be approached by car and on foot while others must be reached by boat.

If you are interested in joining the search, contact Alan R. Duke, coordinator, for assignments and maps. The TASP will have a crew working on a number of sites in the area this summer. HAS members may want to drop in on the excavations and view the progress being made. More information on this at a later date.

Livingston Survey - This survey is still active and will become more intense in September when the TASP will resume work in the area. Contact Lou Fullen, coordinator, for information and maps.

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TAS Summer Field School

Eleven members of the HAS attended the 1966 field school held June 18-26 at the Dunlap Site 26 miles west of Ozona. Three rock shelters and two buried rock middens were tested under the able direction of Burney McClurkan. Lou Fullen served as crew chief on the survey party

Members of the HAS attending were: The Robert Jircik family, Shirley Thompson, Elaine Burleigh, Kerza Pickworth, Ruth and Alan Duke, the Charles Chandler family and the Lou Fullen family.

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News from other Societies

The following archeological societies have been banded together to form the Southwestern Federation of Archeological Societies: El Paso, Llano Estacado, Lea County, Midland, and South Plains. Their purpose in forming this federation, as we understand it, is to pool their efforts and consolidate the knowledge of the area covered by the federation. A noble idea!!

Members of the South Plains, Midland and El Paso societies attended the annual meeting of the Archeological Society of New Mexico at Hobbs, N.M. on May 21st and 22nd. The Lea County Society were hosts.

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Recommended Reading

"Excavations in Toledo Bend Reservoir", 1964-65 by Burney McClurkan and others, Papers of the TASP, No. 8, June 1966. Order from Texas Memorial Museum, 24th and Trinity, Austin, Texas 78705. Price \$2.15

"Spiro Studies, Vol. I, Description of the Mound Group". Order from Dr. James A. Brown, Stovall Museum, University of Oklahoma, Norman, Oklahoma 73069. Price \$3.00

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New Members - We welcome into the fold the following new members:

Keller R. Davis	Miss Paulea Patterson
1804 Stuart Ave.	5522 Dawnridge
Houston, Texas 77004	Houston, Texas

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The following article has been submitted by our old friend, Cecil Calhoun. Cecil has been a major contributor to the archeological knowledge of the Coastal Bend region.

A SMALL CAMPSITE NEAR KENEDY, TEXAS

C. A. Calhoun

In April of 1959, a small campsite was found on the Terry Scarbrough farm, ten miles southeast of Kenedy. The site lies on the south bank of a diminutive tributary of Hord Creek, approximately two miles west from the confluence of these two intermittent streams, and is bisected by the Karnes-Goliad county line.

The site was located by the discovery of several pottery sherds which were originating from a faintly discernible plano-convex lens of ashes and charcoal 9 inches below the present day surface of the stream's flood plain, and approximately 48 inches above the stream bed.

Heavy rains had fallen over the general area recently and the small creek was swollen with run-off which was actively eroding its black, sandy-clay bank at this point. For this reason an immediate excavation of the threatened hearth was conducted by the writer and Mr. E. J. McCauley, of Kenedy, to investigate the feature and to recover as many of the sherds as possible. The excavation revealed that the remainder of the ash deposit occupied a semi-circular area which extended 18 inches south, away from the creek. The maximum measurement of its diameter was found to be 24 inches, along the cross section exposed in the nearly vertical stream bank. Its maximum thickness of 5 inches was reached here, also, at the center of the eroded profile.

A total of 119 sherds was recovered. Of these, 113 were found abundantly scattered throughout the ash fill of the fire pit and 6 more were lying near the water's edge immediately below it. The sherds are readily identifiable as Goliad Plain, and have been fitted together to form two relatively complete short-necked ollas, a fairly common vessel shape of this pottery type but primarily known only by large neck and rim sherds.

Other material found associated with the sherds included three splinters of large mammal long bones, a bovine terminal phalanx, a fragment of tortoise carapace, a number of whole and fragmentary shells of *Bulimulus* land snails, an angular fragment of fire-cracked quartzite, and two small flake scrapers made from flint. No potsherds were found other than those composing the two ollas.

The phalanx was submitted to the University of Texas' Department of Zoology for possible positive identification as to whether it represents bison or domestic cattle, but this could not be determined.

Nor do the two scrapers prove very helpful. They are both simply long, thin, utilized blades which were apparently struck from the same core. The material is a brown, fine-grained local flint, and each artifact retains a small remnant of black cortex. The larger (3.8 cm. X 1.8 cm.) is triangular in cross section, and has been used briefly along one side and at one end. The other (3.1 cm. X 1.3 cm.) is concavo-convex in cross section, and has a series of small flakes worn steeply away unifacially along a portion of one edge.

The sherds, and the two vessels subsequently reconstructed from them, provide the best source of diagnostic information found at the site. Except for overall sizes and minor variation of form, the two ollas are essentially alike. Therefore, the characteristics tabulated below, except for measurements, apply to both vessels.

Height: Vessel A, 25.5 cm. Vessel B, 20 cm.
Maximum diameter of body: Vessel A, 24 cm. Vessel B, 21 cm.
Diameter of oral aperture: Vessel A, 5 cm. Vessel B, 4.8 cm.
Average wall thickness: Vessel A, 7 mm. Vessel B, 6.5 mm.
Thickness at rim: Vessel A, 5 mm. Vessel B, 5 mm.
Basal thickness: Vessel A, extreme base missing. Vessel B, 1.1 cm.
Temper: Abundant particles of crushed bone, ranging from tiny flecks to angular fragments measuring 9 mm. long and 5 mm. wide.
Texture: Coarse.
Finish: Moderately smooth but uneven on exteriors. Poorly smoothed interiors, with prominent tool marks and some fingerprints of potter displayed.
Color: Dull orange to bright orange on both exterior and interior surfaces. Some fire clouding over exteriors. Dark grey cores.
Shape: Globular-bodied ollas with short constricted necks.
Lip: Rounded.
Basal form: Smoothly rounded and thicker than walls.
Method of manufacture: Uncertain, but somewhat spiraling continuity of horizontal fractures suggest that the coiling technique was employed, and that successive coils were applied in a clockwise manner of progress.
General: Both vessels are undecorated. Particles of the bone tempering material appear as white and blue specks on the exterior surfaces. Sherds are fairly hard but surfaces tend to crumble more readily than do the cores. Rims are not very evenly smoothed, and at one point the lip of vessel B is flattened and slightly flanged where excess paste was pressed downward rather than removed.

A return visit to the site in December of 1959 with Mr. E. E. Studer of Victoria, revealed another thin lens of ash and snail shells approximately 20 feet downstream from the locus of the first, and likewise exposed by erosion along the south side of the small stream. The second ash lens was not investigated other than a superficial examination of its eroded cross section. It is presently protected by vegetation and the stream bank here appears more stabilized than did the section containing the first ash layer and is not likely to be lost to flood waters in the immediate future. We found no indication whatsoever of occupational material on the level surface of the stream valley in the vicinity of the hearths.

Although the exact size of the Scarbrough Site is unknown, it appears to be a small one which was used only briefly as a camping place. The stream channel extends into the impervious basal clay of the local Goliad Formation in the immediate area of the site and pools of water remain standing for several weeks after flow in the drainage stream has ceased. Therefore, a convenient source of water may have influenced the selection of this site as a camping place. The people utilizing the campsite had somehow obtained a young cow or a bison, which they butchered and/or consumed at the site. Additional

foodstuff was probably gathered nearby, such as the land snails and the gopher tortoise. Shallow, saucer-shaped depressions were dug adjacent to the stream and large fires, or several small fires, were built in them. The campers possessed pottery vessels, at least two of which were broken and subsequently discarded into a fire pit along with other refuse. Tools required for some minor cutting or scraping endeavor were furnished by thin blades struck from a core of nodular flint.

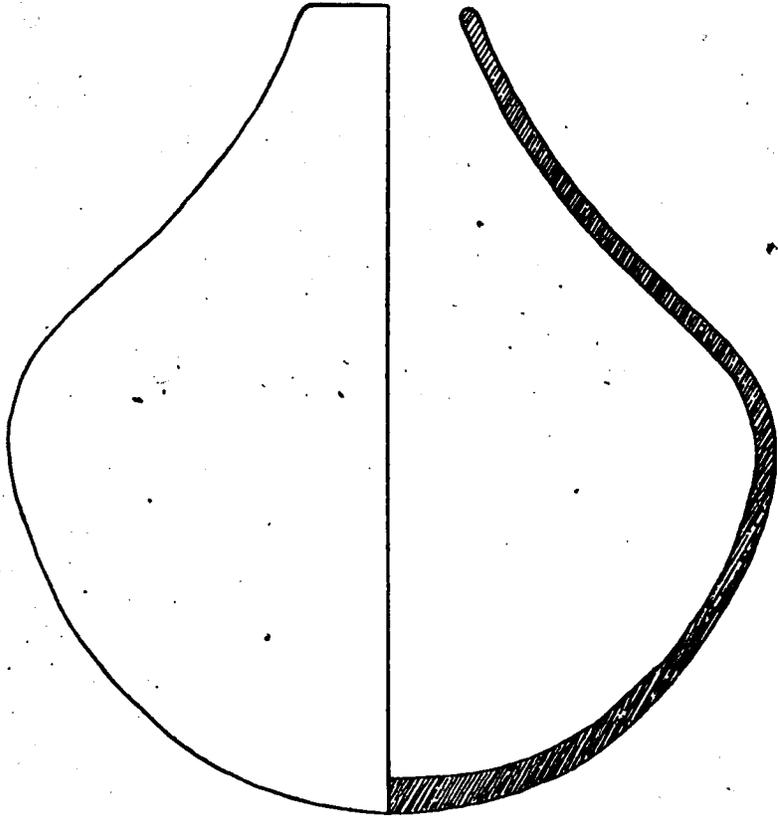
As mentioned above, the two vessels appear to be identical in all respects except their relative dimensions, and could reasonably have been produced by the same potter. This assumption seems strengthened by their close association within the abandoned hearth and the isolated nature of the site in its entirety.

The orange-colored ollas represent a distinctive variant of Goliad ware which was produced by the Coahuiltecan neophytes of Mission Espiritu Santo after 1749, at its third location near present day Goliad. The same pottery was also made by the Indians of Rosario Mission, about four miles north of Goliad, sometime after 1754. Both of these Spanish missions were less than 25 miles east of the Scarbrough Site. Refugio Mission, where Goliad ware was manufactured after 1795, was 47 miles southeast of it; however, very few sherds of the orange surfaced ware are found in collections made at this particular mission site, within the city limits of Refugio. The short-necked olla form was shared with the neighboring littoral Rockport Focus (assumed to be tribes broadly referred to as "Karankawan" in historic times) pottery types, whence it was probably derived..

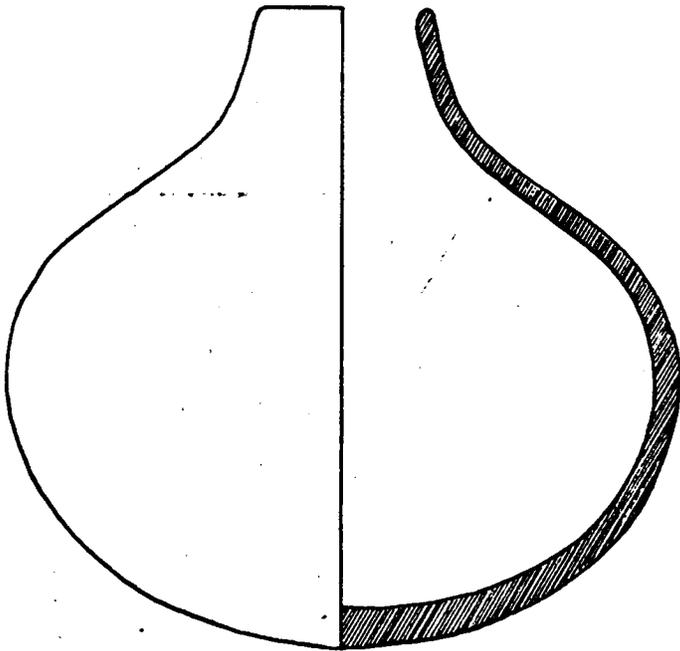
Sherds of Goliad ware are occasionally found at other sites in northern Goliad County and southern Karnes and De Witt counties.. The nearest one to the Scarbrough Site known to this writer is located on the west bank of the San Antonio River 8 miles northeast of the Scarbrough farm. Here, 34 sherds (including part of a loop handle and 15 sherds of the orange variant of this pottery type) were recovered from a low, sandy knoll in a cultivated field, along with 2 sherds of glazed bocarro ware, of Spanish or Mexican manufacture, and a fragment of dark green bottle glass.

Numerous sherds of Goliad Plain have recently been collected by Mr. D. E. Fox, of San Antonio, at two Spanish mission sites in Bexar County. Frequent contacts between the Coahuilteicans of these missions and their contemporaries at Goliad are well documented.

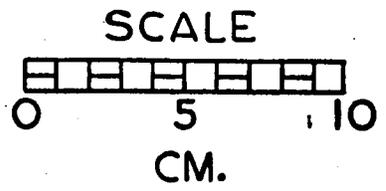
The most remote location at which the orange-colored Goliad Plain sub type has been recognized is the Vinson Site, in Limestone County. Recent excavations at this large village site, 220 miles distant from the Goliad missions, have disclosed a number of sherds associated with Indian and European artifacts dating at circa 1820 or slightly earlier.



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HOUSTON ARCHEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

TREASURER'S REPORT
June 1, 1965 - May 31, 1966

Balance on hand May 31, 1965		\$ 326.06
Receipts		
Membership dues	\$ 242.00	
Total Assets		568.06
Disbursements		
Postage	60.00	
Secretarial Supplies	35.90	
Newsletters	89.15	
Audiovisual Dept of U of H	25.00	
Books	10.11	
Donation to the Laubin Dance Fund	20.00	
TAS Membership dues	10.00	
Supplies for site surveys and Wallisville dig	59.77	
Total Disbursements	\$ 309.93	
Balance on hand May 31, 1966		\$ 258.13

Shirley L. Thompson

Secretary-Treasurer