

# NEWSLETTER

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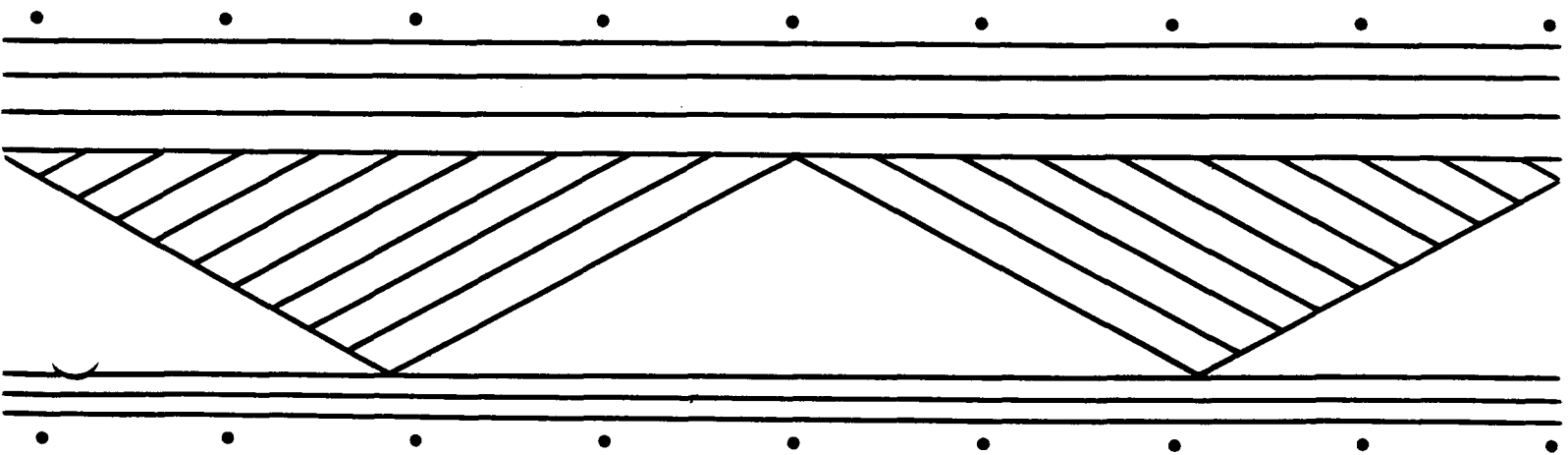
## HOUSTON ARCHEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Number 21

May 1967

"At a time when it is not unusual to see a group of people digging carefully into the earth along the highway, when national news magazines regularly carry articles about exciting and significant archeological discoveries, and when archeologists make news of sufficient importance to be included in the first section of the newspaper, archeology can no longer be thought of as the rather relaxed pastime of bearded scholars wearing pith helmets and searching for lost treasures, or for that matter, only for Indian bones".

--- James Deetz, Professor of Anthropology  
University of California  
From his book "Invitation to Archeology".



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The Newsletter is published four times per year by the Houston Archeological Society. Contributions of news items, short articles and information of archeological significance should be sent to the Editor - Alan R. Duke, 1706 Oaks Drive, Pasadena, Texas 77502.

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Officers 1966-67

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Houston, Texas  
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Houston, Texas  
Directors - Alan R. Duke  
William Fullen  
William Caskey

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Front Cover

Dr. Deetz' book "Invitation to Archeology" is available from The Natural History Press, Garden City, New York.

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Past and Future Programs

- March 1967 - Dr. Erica Wagner, Research Associate in the Dept. of Anthropology, Rice University, spoke on "Venezuelan Archeology".
- April 1967 - Dick Zingula discussed "The Use of the Petrographic Microscope in Pottery Analysis". Dick also demonstrated the technique of making thin sections.
- May 1967 - Dr. J. Richard Ambler, Executive Director, TASP, spoke on excavations conducted in the Wallisville Reservoir last summer.
- June 1967 - To be announced.

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TAS Summer Field School

Time and Place - June 17 - 24, 1967. Camp County in Northeast Texas. "Dig" will be administered by Southern Methodist University Salvage Project and the TAS. Registration fee - \$2.00 per person. (Only paid up members of TAS and members of family are eligible). Send your applications to TAS, SMU - Box 165, Dallas, Texas 75222 before June 5th.

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First Annual Gulf Coast Archeological Symposium

The following program was presented at the meeting at Rice University on April 29, 1967.

1. "Welcome to Rice"-----Dr. Frank Hole
2. "Coastal Archeology - Past, Present and Future"-----Dr. T. N. Campbell  
(Dr. Campbell discussed also his recent study of Coastal Indian groups identified in historical documents).
3. "A Survey of the Archeology of Jefferson and Orange Counties in Southeast Texas"---Dr. Charles N. Bollich
4. "Texas Archeological Salvage Work In Chambers County"-----Dr. J. Richard Ambler
5. "Archeology In Harris And Galveston Counties"-----Mr. Alan R. Duke
6. "A General Review of Archeology in Brazoria County"-----Mr. Raymond Walley
7. "Archeology in Jackson, Victoria, Calhoun, Refugio and Kelberg Counties"-----Mr. Cecil Calhoun
8. "Archeology In San Patricio, Nueces and Aransas Counties"-----Mr. James E. Corbin
9. "A Site in Cameron County"-----Mr. Frank Wier

Plans now call for publication, at least in part, of the talks presented.

Representatives of many sections of the coast were present as well as a number of our friends from Austin. Lots of folks had to get up bright and early to make it by 9:00 A.M. and here is where they came from:

- Houston Area - Kiki Collum, Elaine Roberson, Kerza Pickworth, Frank Brezik, Hubert Mewhinney, Alan Duke, Mr. and Mrs. Lou Fullen, Dr. Frank Hole, Mr. and Mrs. Murray Robinson, Lawrence Aten, Mr. and Mrs. William Caskey, Nancy Jircik, Suzanne Kitchen, Mr. and Mrs. J. Saunders, and Mr. and Mrs. H. Hartman.
- Beaumont - Dr. Charles Bollich
- Lake Jackson - Larry Thompson, Jimmy Funderburg, Raymond Walley, Raymond Cleaver, J. B. Doiron, Frank Milburn, Mark Doumas, Mr. and Mrs. B. C. Doumas, Jennifer Doumas.
- Port Lavaca - Mr. and Mrs. Cecil Calhoun.
- Bishop - Charles Gliddon.

III

Austin - Mr. and Mrs. Jim Corbin, Dr. T. N. Campbell, Dr. Dee Ann Storey, Dr. J. Richard Ambler, Thomas Roy Hester, Mr. and Mrs. Christopher Thompson, Kenneth Brown & F. Weir.

Corpus Christi- Victoria Espy, Dave Espy, Dick Bowen, Danny Files, Mr. and Mrs. Malcom Johnson.

Kenneth Brown traveled the greatest distance to attend the meeting - he flew in from Colorado just to attend the session!!

Many questions were raised and much information passed around concerning Gulf Coast Archeology. A few "dragons" were trotted out but none were slain. Let's make the meeting in 1968 even bigger and better!!

We are deeply grateful to Rice University and Dr. Frank Hole for the fine facilities provided for the meeting.

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Status Report on HAS Week-End Dig - 41MQ14

Our Dig Director, C. K. Chandler, reports as follows on the week-end "dig" and lab sessions:

At our regular monthly meeting on April 14 the membership present voted to conduct a weekend dig at Honea reservoir about fifteen miles west on Conroe. The site was selected by the TASP.

On April 16 several HAS members visited the site for purposes of determining its exact location, its accessibility and to make preliminary plans for the dig. Plans were made and notice was sent to all members for the dig to be conducted the following weekend of April 22 and 23. This same notice also set time and dates for three lab sessions to follow the dig.

An early morning shower on April 22 with indications of more rain threatened to cancel the dig. However, as the day progressed the clouds cleared and the dig got under way. Dig Director C. K. Chandler, dug several small holes to determine midden thickness. Thickness over most of the midden area did not exceed 1-1/2 feet. After establishing datum point, a five foot grid was laid out and the dig was under way. Diggers continued to arrive and before the day was over nineteen diggers were active. Due to the shallowness of the fill effort was made to locate a greater midden depth. Indications were that the midden was somewhat deeper farther down the slope. A single square was staked out and opened seventy feet grid north of the first square.

While excavation continued in the original areas this single square did prove to be of the greatest depth and work continued on this square during the entire day of April 23. All excavations were in 6" levels and all dirt was passed through either 1/4" or 3/8" screens. The single square that was open further down the slope was of considerable interest since it produced the greatest amount of artifacts and contained a prominent feature in the last level excavated. This was a cluster of fired clay concretions. Probably this was the remains of a hearth. A similar smaller cluster of fired clay pieces was also found in another square.

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All material recovered from the dig was sacked by levels and squares. The first lab session was held Friday night April 28 at which time most of the materials recovered were washed. A second lab session was held Friday night May 5. The balance of the material was washed at this session and practically all of the artifacts were numbered and sorting of artifacts into categories and types began. An additional lab session was held for Friday night May 19 and the last session will be held on June 2. This last session will be used to aid members in writing artifact descriptions.

A large number of artifacts including arrow points, dart points, potsherds, knives, bi-facials, utilized flakes, cores and miscellaneous modified pieces were recovered. In the terms of material recovered the dig was very successful but our work will not be complete until a full report is made.

The following members participated in the "dig" and/or lab sessions:

Charles and Virginia Chandler, Lawrence Aten, Frank Brezik, Gary and Jackie Saunders, Lou and Margie Fullen, Nancy Jircik, Murray and Mimi Robinson, Don Moore, Kerza Pickworth, Charles Deane, Nancy Deane, Beth Shoemaker, Dick Zingula, Mr. & Mrs. L. D. Stewart, Mr. & Mrs. Fred Eicholtz, Bill and Louise Caskey, Mrs. Ann Childers.

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Dick Zingula has donated a number of slides and cover glasses for those of you who would like to try your hand at "thin sectioning" of potsherds. Some of you have observed the technique at our meetings - why not give it a try?

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Here is a report by Lawrence Aten on "Two Unique Beads from the Dayton, Texas Area".

At the time of the Houston Archeological Society excavation of the Jamison site (41Lb2), located 3.5 miles northeast of Dayton, Texas, the site itself and the surrounding area were examined quite closely for artifacts on the surface. At the edge of a sand pit approximately 300 yards southwest of the site excavations, two stone beads were collected that are very likely of Indian manufacture; are unassociated with other artifacts; and whose relationship to the nearby excavations cannot be determined. These beads are briefly described here rather than in the report of the Jamison site excavations (Aten, MS) because of the impossibility of demonstrating any relationship between the two.

Specimen A (see attached figure) is an end fragment of a tubular bead fashioned from a very fine-grained, light brown, siliceous cemented sandstone. It is 11.0 mm. in diameter, was greater than 18.5 mm. in length, and had been drilled from both ends.

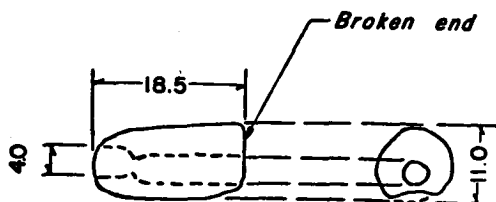
Specimen B is a complete specimen of a bead shaped much like a napkin ring, and fashioned from a varicolored, but primarily red, chalcedony. It is 27.5 mm. in diameter and 15.0 mm. in width.

With no associated material one can draw few conclusions, but these specimens are sufficiently unique (for this area) to justify their mention.

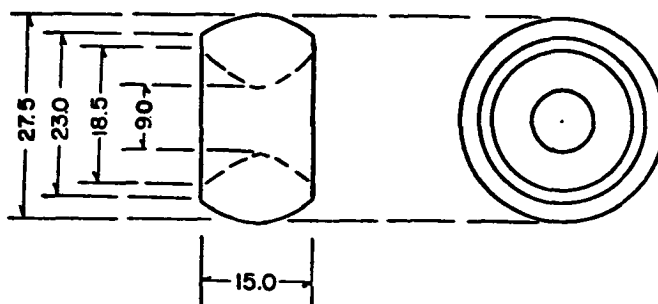
Both beads are very likely of Indian manufacture, but represent a level of technological skill not generally granted the indigenous population. It may be that we should associate the presence of these beads with the presence of a pair of earspools, likewise found with no clear context, at the Damek site (Duke, 1962) situated a short distance to the northeast of the Jamison site along the same side of the Trinity River valley. These specimens than, may represent the gradual acquisition of more sophisticated worldly goods from the Caddos (?) by their "country cousins".

#### REFERENCES CITED

- Aten, L. E., The Archaeology of the Jamison site (41Lb2), Liberty Co., Texas (MS. in preparation).
- Duke, Alan R., 1962, "Preliminary Report on the Damek Site, Liberty Co. Texas". The Newsletter of the Houston Archeological Society, No. 8.



(a)



(b)

(All measurements in millimeters)

Sketches of beads from the vicinity of the Jamison site (41Lb2)

News from other Societies

During the Gulf Coast Symposium, we had an opportunity to chat with Malcom Johnson, president of the recently organized Coastal Bend Archeological Society in Corpus Christi. Formation of this Society fills a definite need in the area. We wish them every success in their venture. Miss Diana Files, graduate archeologist from Colorado, is now associated with the Corpus Christi Museum where the Society meets. The museum, incidentally, has publications on sale which include "A Survey of Karankawa Camp Sites Near Corpus Christi".

The Midland Archeological Society conducted a surface survey of the Mustang Springs Site (41MT2) near Midland in February. Twenty members made the survey and issued detailed reports of their findings.

The Southwest Federation of Archeological Societies met in Lubbock, Texas on April 15, 1967 for the Third Regional Archeological Symposium for Southeastern New Mexico and Western Texas. The South Plains Archeological Society hosted the event.

The Iraan Archeological Society has made two field trips to the Girvin-Bakersfield Area. The Society has joined the Southwest Federation of Archeological Societies.

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We were particularly interested to hear of the work Raymond Walley is doing in Brazoria County. In order to salvage information on sites about to be destroyed, Raymond has recruited a number of young people (teenagers) to assist him and is training them as they work. They are assigned squares on the sites and are working these squares following good archeological procedures including report writing, identification of artifacts, etc. Sounds like Raymond has a good system here. All sites disappearing under the bulldozer blade cannot be worked by fully trained personnel so perhaps this is a middle course that will salvage vital information that would be lost otherwise.

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