

NEWSLETTER

of the

HOUSTON ARCHEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

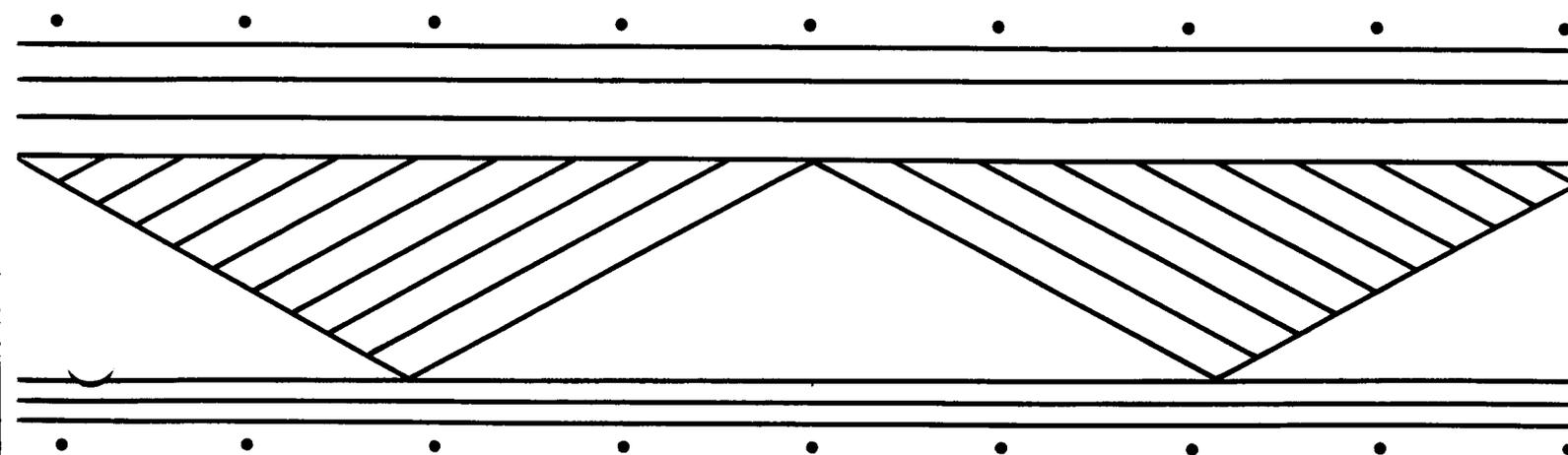
Number 30

October 1969

"It's hard to believe, after all the sweat and struggle, but at the very end of the second special session of the legislature, early in September, the Antiquities Code was passed".

-- E. Mott Davis

Texas Archeology - September 1969



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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New Officers for 1969-70

The following officers were elected in September.

- Chairman - Jay W. Sharp, 5818 Arboles, Houston, Texas 77035
- Sec.-Treas. - Rhonda K. Chrisco, 225 Marshall St., #104, Houston, Texas 77006
- Directors - Alan R. Duke
Charles K. Chandler
William Caskey

Nominating Committee:

Margie Fullen - Chairman
Frank Brezik
Nancy Jircik

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Front Cover

Our thanks to Mott Davis for his summary of the Antiquities Code as it appeared in the September 1969 issue of Texas Archeology. For the benefit of HAS members who do not receive the publication, the summary is reproduced in this Newsletter - with the understanding that many details have been omitted (per Dr. Davis).

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Past and Future Programs

- August 1969 - T. R. Hester presented a talk on South Texas archeology.
- September 1969 - Lawrence Aten discussed field excavations at Wallisville during this past summer.
- October 1969 - The subject of this program was the past, present and future of the Presidio San Agustin de Ahumada at Wallisville. John V. Clay presented the history of this 18th century Spanish presidio-mission complex. Marge Fullen discussed the discovery and testing of the first presidio site and Lou Fullen described a project designed to determine the archeological potential of the first presidio site.

II

A laboratory workshop was held on October 12, 1969, at Rayzor Hall, Rice University in Dr. Frank Hole's laboratory. Dick Hsu discussed and demonstrated laboratory techniques using material collected by HAS members.

November 1969 - Dr. Heyle G. Tebo of the University of Texas School of Dentistry (Dept. of Anatomy) will discuss "Anthropometric Measurements".

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HAS Field Activities

Future Society field work will include a search for Akokisa village sites in the vicinity of the San Agustin de Ahumada Presidio-Mission sites. This survey may be conducted as early as November of this year. Also, the Society may assist the Fullens in the testing of the first San Agustin de Ahumada site when arrangements with the TASP are completed.

H. Jensen, Asst. State Archeologist, has requested the assistance of Society members in conducting a survey of the new right-of-way for highway 35 around Bay City. More details on this project will be available soon.

HAS members, under the direction of Dick Hsu, worked on a site in the Livingston Reservoir area on the weekend of September 13 (Caroline Cove Development). Work on this particular site was deemed essential since a cache of eight banded obsidian points and a polished stone axe was allegedly found on the site. Limited excavation did not reveal any unusual features although a hearth was uncovered and a possible post mold located. A sample of charcoal was taken for carbon dating.

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TAS Annual Meeting

The TAS Annual meeting will be held at Corpus Christi on November 7-9, 1969.

Center of activity will be the Discoll Hotel and in addition to the Annual Business Meeting, Presentation of Papers, Annual Banquet, and various social gatherings, there will be a trip to Padre Island on Sunday for swimming and beachcombing. For further information, contact one of our TAS members or Miss Dawn East, c/o Corpus Christi Museum, 1919 North Water Street, Corpus Christi, Texas 78401.

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Antiquities Code of Texas

Here, briefly, is the summary of the Code as understood by Dr. E. Mott Davis, Editor of Texas Archeology. Copies of the complete Code will be made available to HAS members at a later date.

1. This act is called the "Antiquities Code of Texas."

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2. It is hereby declared to be public policy and in the public interest of the State of Texas to locate, protect, and preserve sites of historical, archeological, educational, or scientific interest on state-owned lands.

3. An Antiquities Committee is created, to consist of the Director of the State Historical Survey Committee, the Director of the State Parks and Wildlife Department, the Commissioner of the General Land Office, the State Archeologist, one professional archeologist from a Texas museum or institution of higher learning, one professional historian with expertise in Texas history and culture, and the Director of the Texas Memorial Museum of the University of Texas. Employees of the Antiquities Committee shall be deemed to be employees of the Texas State Historical Survey Committee.

4. The duties of the Antiquities Committee shall be to locate and designate State Archeological Landmarks, and to issue permits and write contracts for archeological work on state lands. The Antiquities Committee shall be the legal custodian of all items recovered and retained by the State of Texas.

5. All sunken or abandoned pre-twentieth century ships and all treasure in, on, or under the surface of Texas state lands, are declared to be State Archeological Landmarks and are the sole property of the State and may not be disturbed without a contract or permit from the Antiquities Committee.

6. All other sites of historical, archeological, scientific or educational interest that are on lands of the state or of any county, city, or political subdivision of the state are declared to be State Archeological Landmarks and may not be disturbed without a permit from the Antiquities Committee. The same applies to State Archeological Landmarks designated on private lands as provided in Sec. 7.

7. With written consent of the landowner, significant sites on private land may be designated as State Archeological landmarks. The landowner's consent shall be recorded in the deed records.

8. The Antiquities Committee may remove the designation of "State Archeological Landmark" from a site.

9. The Antiquities Committee may enter into contracts with qualified agencies, institutions, or private individuals for the discovery and salvage of treasures or of sunken ships. The contract may provide for fair compensation to the salvager in terms of a percentage of the objects recovered or of their cash value, as determined by the Committee.

10. The Antiquities Committee may issue permits for archeological work on State Archeological Landmarks, under terms as laid forth for contracts in Section 9. The worker must have the permit at the site at all times.

11. All activities covered by Sections 9 and 10 are under the general supervision of the Antiquities Committee, and are to be carried on so that the maximum amount of information may be recovered and preserved in addition to the physical recovery of items.

12. The Antiquities Committee may purchase from a salvager items which, by terms of a salvage contract, are the salvager's share, and may accept private funds for the purpose of such purchase.

13. The Committee may carry on restoration of antiquities for private parties, all costs to be paid by the private party.

14. No one may forge an antiquity with intent to represent it as original, to deceive, or to offer it for sale or exchange.

15. No aboriginal rock paintings or carvings may be defaced.

16. No one may go on private land and disturb antiquities without the consent of the owner or person in charge of the land.

17. Violation of the provisions of this act shall constitute a misdemeanor punishable by a fine of from \$50 to \$1,000 or not more than 30 days in jail.

18. The Attorney General, or any citizen in the State of Texas, may bring action for orders to restrain and enjoin violations of this act.

19. All state agencies are authorized and directed to cooperate in carrying out the intent of this act.

20. No person, not the owner thereof, may wilfully injure, remove, or destroy any historical structure, monument, marker, medallion, or artifact.

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Recent Additions to HAS Library

Hester, Thomas R. "Archeological Investigations in Kleberg and Kenedy Counties, Texas, in August, 1967, (Report #15)". Austin, Texas: State Building Commission Archeological Program 1969.

Tunnell, Curtis D. and Harald P. Jensen, Jr. "Archeological Excavations in Lyndon B. Johnson State Park, Summer, 1968, (Report #17)". Austin, Texas; State Building Commission Archeological Program, March 1969.

Hole, Frank and Robert F. Heizer. "An Introduction to Prehistoric Archeology." New York: Holt, Rinehart and Winston, 1969.

Hsu, Dick P. "The Arthur Patterson Site: A Mid-Nineteenth Century Site, San Jacinto County, Texas." Archeological Survey Report #5, Austin, Texas: Texas State Building Commission and Texas Water Development Board, 1969.

Hsu, Dick P. and Ronald W. Ralph. "An Appraisal of the Archeological Resources of Cibola Reservoir, Wilson County, Texas", Archeological Survey Report No. 1, Austin, Texas: Texas State Building Commission and Texas State Water Development Board, 1968.

Hsu, Dick P. "An Appraisal of the Archeological Resources of Timber Creek and Bois D'Arc Reservoirs, Fannin County, Texas". Archeological Survey Report No. 2, Austin, Texas: Texas State Building Commission and Texas State Water Development Board, 1968.

Oklahoma Anthropological Society Newsletter, Vol. 17, #5, May, 1969.

Texas Archeological Society Newsletter, Vol. 13, #2, August, 1969.

Wyckoff, Don G. (ed). Bulletin of the Oklahoma Anthropological Society, Vol. 17 for 1968. Norman, Oklahoma: The University of Oklahoma Department of Anthropology, 1968.

Lobdell, Isabel (ed). Newsletter of the Oklahoma Anthropological Society, Vol. 17, No. 17, Forth Worth, Texas: Oklahoma Anthropological Society, 1969.

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A Welcome to Our New Members

Byron Sadler, Don Wilkinson, Donald Price and Janet Collins.

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News From Other Societies

Midland Archeological Society members have been conducting a highway right of way survey in Ward County for the State Archeologist Office.

The El Paso Archeological Society, Inc. will host the 1970 Symposium of the Southwest Federation of Archeological Societies which will convene in El Paso next spring.

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For Information Only - Procedures Not Recommended

Ex-socialite digs up ancient Indian relics

MERRYVILLE, La. — (UPI) — Out on her place along Anacoco Creek, near the Texas border, Grandma Bubbles is waiting for rain.

The 64-year-old former Port Arthur socialite — known there as Mrs. J. W. Clark — does not need the water for crops.

But the rain makes it easier for her to dig for arrowheads and other Indian relics on her immense farm.

Her farm pasture now looks as if it was attacked by a herd of oversized moles. Grandma Bubbles, as her grandchildren and great-grandchildren call her, has been spending most of her spare time digging up the astute since she stumbled on what appears to be a large Indian settlement buried beneath her farm.

What tribe? Mrs. Clark said. But so far she has found 39 arrowheads, several spear points, broken pottery, some

old coins, a pot-bellied stove, stone hairpins and stone beads. She also has the remains of an old mill on her farm.

The relics are spread out on a round table in her home and she can tell you where and how deep she found each one and about how old it is.

Mrs. Clark has studied arrowheads since she began her one woman pick-and-shovel expedition three years ago. She estimates her oldest arrowhead is 2,000 years old.

The white-haired great-grandmother has worn out two shovels and five pair of knee-top rubber boots with her walking and her digging. She works in Bermuda shorts.

"This gives me more satisfaction than any card game," the former bridge player said.

She is generous with her Indian relics. "I have no idea of selling them. I have given a lot away," she said. She also

gave away some old coins she found.

Apparently settlers followed the mysterious Indians to this Southwest Louisiana region in the last century. Several white gravestones on the hillside near the Clark place are marked with the words "slain 186-."

Dr. Glenn W. Cobb, a McNeese State College biology instructor whose hobby is Indian history, believes it was the highly civilized Caddo Tribe that once lived on the Clark farm.

This would have brought the Caddo farther south than they have been thought to be located. This area is best known for the nomadic Atakapas Indians.

Cobb is also puzzled by the preponderance of arrowheads. "There are not usually a lot

of arrowheads in a Caddo settlement," he said.

The arrowheads are worth only 15 to 20 cents each, but are valuable to historians, he said.

Cobb suggests that the Clark farm be turned into a park. It includes a beautiful wooded area and a long stretch of Bayou Anacoco, which has pure white sand and clear clean water full of fish.

Grandma Bubbles wades there daily in warm weather.

Cobb hopes to find the burial ground that must lie near the Indian settlement and find skeletons and more artifacts that would help determine the age of the settlement.

The prospect of stumbling across a skeleton does not tempt Grandma Bubbles.

"I don't know what I'd do," she said.

An Indian Burial in Cottle County, Jay W. Sharp, September 1, 1969.

Early in July of this year, in the northwestern part of Cottle County, we excavated an Indian burial (Donald Love Site, 41CT10). It was located on a high, windy bluff overlooking a great sweeping bend on a branch of Pease River, and was almost certainly the first taken from the area by proper archeological techniques.

There were five of us working there that day - A. V. McFarland and Stanley Terry of Childress, Tom Isbell of Cottle County, and my nine year old son Steven and myself of Houston.

Tom Isbell had found the burial some weeks previously, as he was reconnoitering the area for Indian sites. He had been working his way along the face of the bluff, gathering information on the particular campground located there.

He had picked up occasional bits of chipped stone, a scattering of tools and points, flakes of flint, pieces of animal bone and mussel shell, the charcoal of long-dead campfires.

He came upon the burial rather unexpectedly, thinking at first that it was merely an unusual concentration of bone. There was no obvious grave outline. After closer examination he realized that he had discovered part of the vertebrae and the back of the skull of an Indian, now being eroded out by wind and rain.

While we toted our excavating equipment to the burial site and drove our survey markers in safe locations, we scoured the ground. Soon Stanley Terry picked up a mano, then a metate - evidence that the former residents of the site ground seeds, etc. into flour.

A. V. McFarland found a fragment of pottery known as Borger Cordmarked; it is often made of a brown sandy paste, and is tempered with crushed animal bone. It is widely dispersed in the eastern Texas Panhandle and probably in western Oklahoma as well. There seems to be no firm understanding of how the Indians manufactured Borger Cordmarked pottery. According to estimates, it ranges from 500 to 800 years old. Our fragment was a typical representative.

My son picked up a perfect arrow point, the first he had ever found. He--to say nothing of his father--was delighted, although we could not identify the point, even with the aid of archeological handbooks.

We also found a few fragments of tools. Some of these--as well as my son's arrowpoint--were made of a stone taken from the ancient and famous Alibates flint quarry up on the Canadian River.

Adding up our clues, we now could make certain guesses about our people, at least the ones who lived there last and left their artifacts on what is even today the top surface of the bluff.

From the animal bone, the mussel shell and the mano and metate, we could surmise something of what they ate. From the point, we know that they must have used the bow and arrow--rather than the earlier spear--for hunting. We could see that they evidently used earthen vessels for transporting and storing foodstuffs. We know that they--like countless numbers of their predecessors--used the excellent Alibates flint to fashion tools and points.

VII

Of course, from the work we did, we learned nothing at all of their origins or fate, their tribal structure and size, their family relationships, their mystical beliefs, their customs, their habits, or innumerable other things we would like to know.

We learned even less about those who apparently occupied the site in even earlier days; most of their artifacts were covered by time and earth. All the unknowns would have to wait for later, however. For now, our attention was focused on the burial.

Our archeological controls established, we began to excavate, in six-inch layers of earth, sifting every spadeful through a screen. The first layer yielded nothing outside of a few flakes of flint. The same was true of the second layer.

The third layer, however, produced a greater abundance of flint flakes as well as a large limestone rock. This rock had apparently been carried up from a limestone stratum exposed halfway down the bluff. The lowest few inches of the layer suddenly became more compact and difficult to dig. It seems possible that this could have been a surface packed down by a people living on it at one time.

The burial was located in the fourth six-inch layer, immediately beneath the compacted surface. We were wishing, of course, that we might find artifacts--grave offerings--so that we might learn more about burial customs, but we weren't very hopeful. Grave offerings seem to be rare in the Panhandle at least, for the period in which we were working.

What emerged, gradually, as we worked with trowels, dental picks and soft brushes, was a tightly folded skeleton lying on its left side, facing to the east. That he faced east seemed a bit sad to us, since he looked back into the bluff rather than out over the sweeping grace and primitive beauty of the river below.

The skull, while it was in the proper place, was in a vertical position. During burial, the head had been pulled over so that the right ear must have been jammed against the right shoulder. You had a feeling that the body had been squeezed into a grave which was much too small for comfort. As we had expected, there were no artifacts, absolutely none. This was nevertheless disappointing.

My abilities at determining age and sex of a human being from his skeletal remains are extremely limited, but my guess is that this was a man, who had died about the age of 30 or so. The real determination will have to be made by the scientists.

Erosion had destroyed the back of the skull, one side of the spinal column, the right side of the pelvis, and both of the feet. The remainder of the skeleton, however, was in excellent condition, a result of soil characteristics and the dry climate.

As we cleaned the dirt away and saw the face revealed for the first time we were rather surprised to discover that the skull was quite massive, and the brow ridge rather pronounced. It was still, of course, well within the range of Indian skull structures. The teeth, especially the incisors, were considerably worn, probably from chewing food containing sand and grit.

After we had completed our field notes, we removed the skeleton and placed associated bones in separate sacks. When we finished our reports, we turned all the material over to the Panhandle Plains Museum in Canyon for study.

Since we completed the excavation, I have learned of other Panhandle Indian burials which looked rather similar to ours, specifically, the ones excavated at the Texas Archeological Society field school on the Canadian River this past summer. Even the skulls were forced into a vertical position. It seems possible that there could be some relationship, although a great deal more work must be done to say for certain.

It was also interesting that our burial seemed to be associated with a campground, an unusual situation I have been told. The Panhandle Indians, even the ones of historic times, usually buried their dead some distance from living sites, in special graves.

If the burial was associated with a people like those who left the artifacts on the top surface of the bluff, we might conclude that its age would be measured in centuries rather than millennia. If it was not associated, we have no real way to determine the age without more work in the site.

There is still an immense amount we would like to know about the archeology of the southeastern corner of the Panhandle. Indeed, we have scarcely scratched the surface in a wonderfully rich region of our country. Eventually, we may be able to reconstruct thousands of years of man's pre-history there. In the meantime, it is as I have mentioned in several articles published in that area, critically important that the sites be left undisturbed until they can be investigated by knowledgeable people.

After we had completed the excavation and were headed back into town, my son Steven was fingering the arrowpoint he had found. "Just think," he said, "here I am holding something a man made hundreds of years ago, and no one had touched it for all that time until I picked it up today. I wish I could talk to that man. I'd like to know what he was really like."

That seemed to me to be a civilized thought. Maybe its what archeology is all about.

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24,000 Years Old

Ancient Skull Find Revealed in Mexico

BY FRANCIS B. KENT
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Washington Post News Service

Mexico City—Two Mexican anthropologists have disclosed evidence here that man lived in the Americas as long as 24,000 years ago.

The discovery brought to light Wednesday a human skull unearthed about 22 miles east of here on the highway to Pueblo. Tentative expert estimates put its age at no less than 24,000 years and possibly 30,000.

Its existence was made public by Prof. Jose Luis Lorenzo, director of the National Institute of Anthropology's Department of Prehistory, in an exclusive interview with the Mexico City Daily Excelsior.

Puzzle

Who Was Petroglyph Of Ohio?

Columbus, Ohio (UPI) — Who was Leo Petroglyph?

That question temporarily stalled debate Tuesday on a \$414 million capital improvements bill in the Ohio Senate.

Democratic floor leader Charles J. Carney halted the debate when he noticed a \$500,000 appropriation for the Leo Petroglyph State Memorial.

"Who was Leo Petroglyph and what did he ever do for Ohio?" Carney asked.

Sen. Robert R. Shaw, chairman of the Senate finance committee, couldn't remember.

"We had testimony about that before our committee," Shaw said, "but I don't recall offhand what it was about."

Sen. Walter E. Powell saved the day.

"It's not a person, it's a place," Powell said.

He explained Leo is a town just south of Chillicothe in South Central Ohio and a petroglyph is "an inscription carved in stone as an historical marker."

Houston Archeological Society

Financial Statement - September 20, 1968 through August 1, 1969

Balance on hand September 20, 1968 \$ 320.89

Income:

Dues	126.00	
Donations	<u>23.50</u>	
Total Income	XXXXXX	149.50

Disbursements:

Film rental	35.09	
Dues (T.A.S. and Oklahoma Anthropological Society)	13.50	
Postage	75.47	
Secretarial supplies	<u>28.80</u>	
Total disbursements		152.86

Balance in bank as of August 1, 1969 \$ 314.33

100 Jamison Bite Reports

*Ann E. Chidder
Secy. Treas.*