

NEWSLETTER

of the

HOUSTON ARCHEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

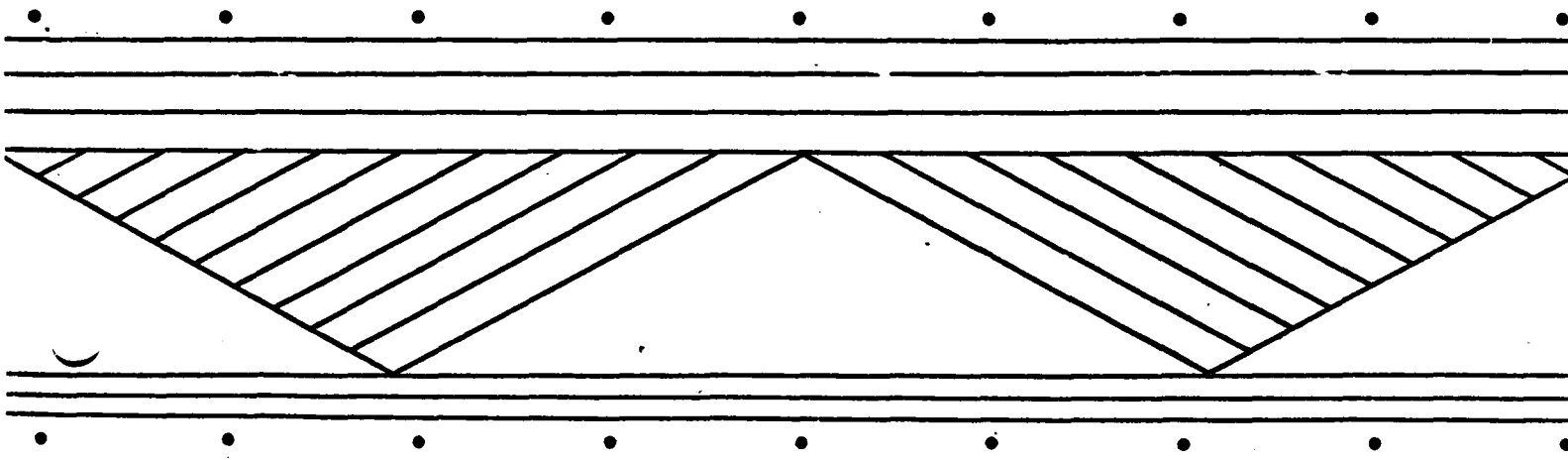
Number 29

July 1969

"All Pre-Columbians used hammers in various forms to pound food, stakes, wedges, chisels, stones and other Pre-Columbians."

-- Charles Miles

Indian and Eskimo Artifacts
of North America



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.

#

Officers 1968-69

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Directors - Alan R. Duke
Jay W. Sharp
Frank J. Brezik, Jr.

#

Front Cover

Charles Miles' excellent book "Indian and Eskimo Artifacts of North America" is a useful reference for comparing and identifying cultural materials. Available from Henry Regnery Company, Chicago, Ill.

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Past and Future Programs

May 1969 - A film on measurement of ecological time and evaluation of historical documents was shown.

June 1969 - Wayne Neyland spoke on "Observations of Pottery Patching Techniques and Observations on Interior Incised Pottery".

July 1969 - Discussion centered on the 1969 TAS Field School. Slides were shown.

August 1969 - T. R. Hester will present "An Introduction to South Texas Archeology".

#

Our librarian, Gary Saunders, is moving to Missouri. Our sincere thanks to Gary for his contribution to the Society's activities. Margie Fullen will assume the librarian's duties - which reminds me, where did I put that book I borrowed --?

#

"A Manual for Neanderthals" written by HAS member Hubert Mewhinney is still in demand but out of print. In case you do not have a copy and would like to obtain one for your library, Xerox copies can be obtained at a cost of \$7.00 from University Microfilms, Ann Arbor, Michigan 48106. University of Texas Press officials indicate they could use 500 copies to meet the growing demand.

#

TAS Field School (June 14 - 23)

The HAS was well represented at the field school in the Sanford Recreation area in the Panhandle. Members who participated included Elaine Burleigh, Shirley Thompson, The Chandlers, The Fullens and Tommy Medlin. Charlie Chandler was a Crew Chief and Lou Fullen was Crew Chief and later a Site Director. We understand the weather was of the "wait a minute" variety (wait a minute and it will change) - rain, hail, heat, dust, high winds, etc. But archeologists can be likened to the U.S. mail - neither storm, sleet, snow, etc. ---.

#

Boys School Site, Clear Lake, Harris County

HAS members and our friends from Lake Jackson turned out to assist Lawrence Aten in the excavation of burials located on this site. Boys from the school participated in the work under the guidance of experienced personnel.

Loosely quoting Aten, the principal objective of the "dig" was to obtain a sizeable sample of a human population which could be studied from two viewpoints - human biology and culture. Excavation was concentrated on the burials and not upon the occupation areas of the site. All or parts of 26 individuals were recovered, of which 40 - 50% were sub-adults.

At least 6 burials had grave goods associated with them. Included were strings of conch columella beads, ochre, pottery, a conch whorl pendant, bone whistles or flutes, bone tools of several kinds, bone gaming (?) pieces, and a ground stone netsinker. Virtually all of the grave goods came from one burial. 8 of the burials were recovered last year by Richard Gramley.

A small amount of stratigraphic testing was done at the Boys School site and on another site nearby. Both sites are essentially preceramic, with pottery present only in the topmost levels. Enormous quantities of bone were recovered and should provide information on butchering techniques, the kinds of animals used as food, whether the sites were occupied seasonally and whether the fauna in the area has changed with time. Carbon 14 dates will be obtained from charcoal and shell from the site. TARL personnel are currently involved in cleaning, preserving and restoring the skeletal material and upon completion of this work, the age, sex, pathology, etc. of the individuals will be determined.

Lawrence has asked that we extend his thanks, for a job well done, to all "dig" participants. A full report on the site will be forthcoming at a later date.

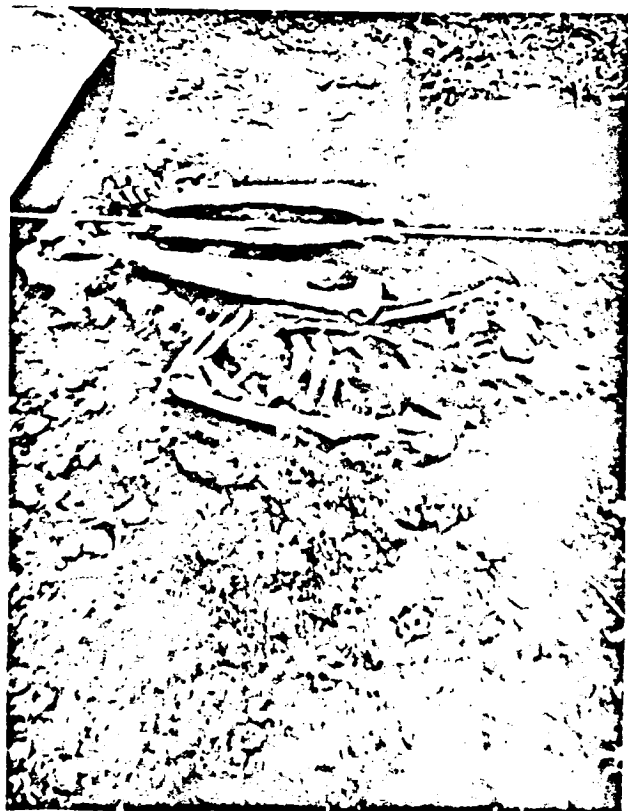
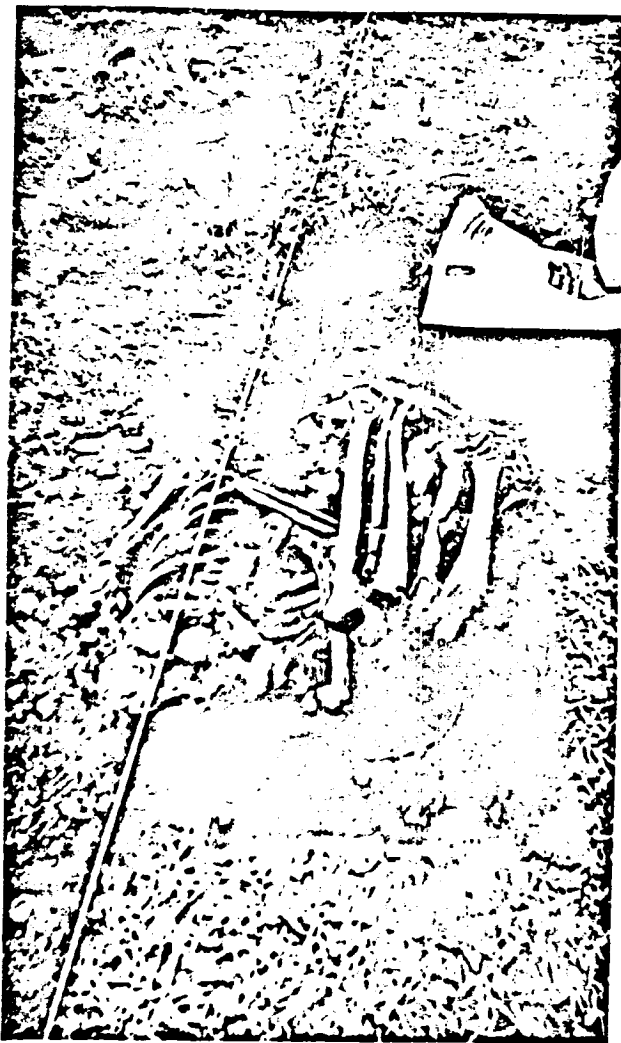
The next two pages of the Newsletter are devoted to photographs taken at the Boys School project - recognize them?

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BOY'S SCHOOL SITE, CLEAR LAKE, HARRIS CO., TEXAS



BOY'S SCHOOL SITE, CLEAR LAKE, HARRIS CO., TEXAS - CONTINUED



Fifty Dollars Award

Received a letter from former HAS member W. L. Atwood who is offering a \$50.00 award to any HAS member who can prove that the underground structures located on Dobbins Creek, about one mile south of Point Blank, "are there as a result of early settlers". If you are interested in collecting \$50.00 and can prove the origin of the structures or if you need further details, contact Atwood at 501 Ruth Street, Baytown, Texas. He believes, of course, that the structures date back to prehistoric times.

#

Wallisville

The TASP is working on sites at Wallisville again this summer. Lawrence Aten will direct the work until September when Harry Shaeffer will take over and continue the excavations. We understand work is being done only during the week - no week-end work.

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News From Other Societies

The El Paso Archeological Society has established the EPAS Hall of Honor to recognize the accomplishments of archeologists of the El Paso area.. Archeologists so honored are inducted at an annual banquet.

The Midland Archeological Society elected new officers in June. Jane Schweitzer is president for the year 1969-70.

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Tucson, Arizona Archeology

Your Editor had an opportunity to chat with personnel at the University of Arizona (Arizona State Museum) a few weeks ago and learned that considerable work is being carried out smack in the middle of the city of Tucson. A large urban renewal project is under way and large portions of the old city are being leveled for new construction. Archeologists from the University of Arizona are following the demolition work carefully and are mapping, sketching, and measuring the old dwellings prior to their destruction and are accumulating artifacts as they appear. The work could be designated by the familiar letters TASP, only in this case it would be Tucson Archeological Salvage Project.

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Attached is an up-to-date list of HAS members. Please advise if we have overlooked anyone.

#

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