

NEWSLETTER

of the

HOUSTON ARCHEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Number 31

January 1970

"Another tribe probably related to the Assinai, the Orcoquisac, was settled near the coast, and a Spanish-Mexican guarrison and mission was established among them at a later epoch. This was San Agustin de Ahumada or Horcaquisac presidio, upon an ancient ford of the Lower Trinidad river, and it existed from 1756-1772. These Indians are variously called Arkokisa, Acconcesawa, Orcoquizas, Horcaquisaes, etc; and for some time Lower Trinidad river was called Arkokisa."

-- Archaeological and Ethnological Papers
of the Peabody Museum, Harvard University,
Vol. I. No. 2, 1891. The Karankawa Indians
by Albert S. Gatschet.

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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Front Cover

Albert S. Gatschet was one of the first to attempt to draw together the scattered knowledge concerning Gulf Coast Indians. The passage quoted on the front cover refers to the mission and presidio site now being surveyed and tested by HAS members under the direction of Lou and Marge Fullen.

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Past and Future Programs

- December 1969 - Elaine Burleigh presented a "photographic safari" thru Kenya, (including Olduvai Gorge), Tanzania and Uganda. Elaine and Shirley Thompson made this interesting trip in August, 1969.
- January 1970 - Dr. Loyd S. Swenson, Assistant Professor of History, University of Houston, spoke on "Industrial Archeology".
- February 1970 - Dr. Douglas Mitchell will discuss the "Origin of Writing and Manuscripts".

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News From Other Societies

Future activities of the El Paso Archeological Society include a membership drive to recruit 500 members; a lecture series to educate the membership and general public; a Summer Field School; archeological displays at meetings; a site survey program including a time table for surveying El Paso County; laboratory sessions to classify and catalog artifacts from past excavations; a week-end field trip to Arizona and technical demonstrations of pottery restoration - sounds like an ambitious and worthwhile program!!

The Midland Archeological Society is planning to survey several new highway projects. The Nolan County Archeological Society only has 15 members and no regular meetings but future plans include regular meetings and expansion of membership.

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Activity in the College Station Area

We received a report from George F. Carter, Distinguished Professor of Geography, Texas A&M University, that reads as follows: "We have a test trench in a deep site, and have pits to 8 feet below the original surface. At that depth we hit a sandy clay loam. Erosions in the area suggest Folsom, Sandia, and Clear Fork gouge associations for the sandy clay loam. The overlying 8 feet of sand seems to span the Archaic and the Pottery-Arrow period. We are getting some carbon samples and hope to be able to place many of the Archaic dart points in a dated series. So far, we have not penetrated the sandy clay loam strata but we will. In the upper 8 feet, there are no large core tools and no Paleo Indian material. Since both are eroding out nearby, we hope to find them stratigraphically in place in or under the clay loam."

Hope we can get another progress report from Professor Carter for the next Newsletter.

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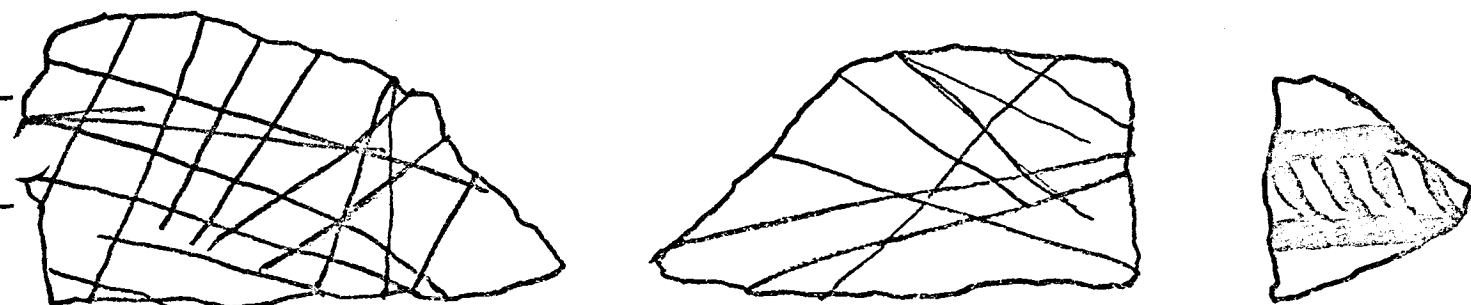
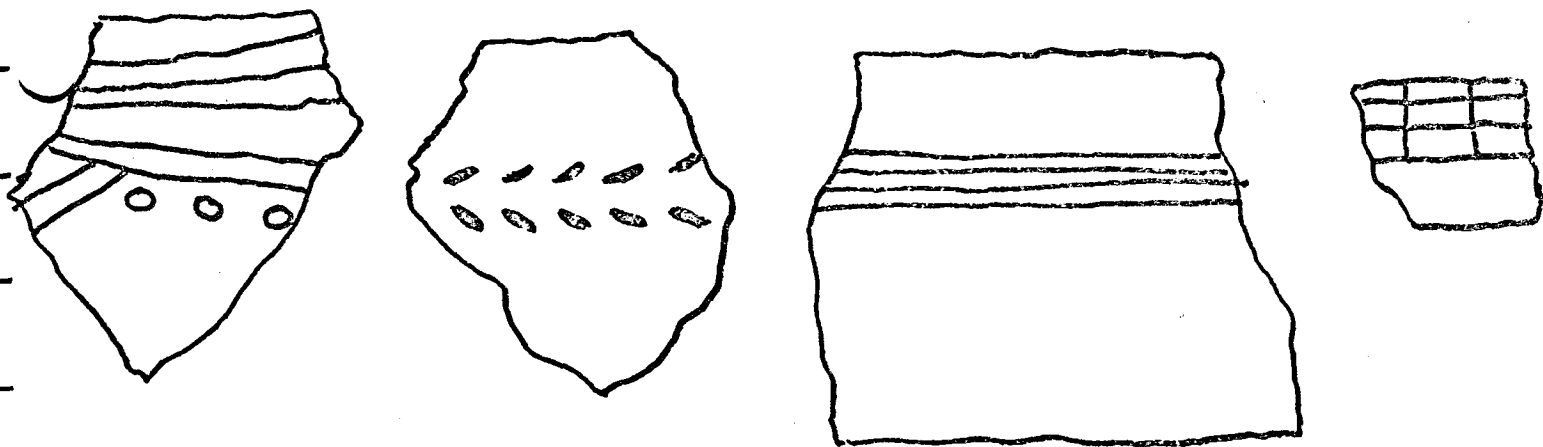
Progress Report on the Evaluation of the Archeological Potential of 41CH57 (Presidio San Agustin de Ahumada)

On December 7th members of the HAS and TAS, under the supervision of Lou and Margie Fullen, began clearing, gridding, mapping and making controlled surface collections. A botanical and zoological survey of the area was also initiated. Several large areas have been cleared and surface collections of 31 - 5 meter squares have been completed. A metal locator survey of 9 squares indicates a quantity of metal present in the site. 2 - 1 meter square test pits are being excavated in this area and artifacts recovered include Indian, French, Spanish and more recent Anglo material.

A 1/2 x 5 meter trench has been excavated to investigate a compact shell layer approximately 30 cm. beneath the present ground surface. This shell layer appears to be rectangular in shape and 10 meters by 30 meters in size. Testing in this area indicates that the shell is on sterile clay with Indian, Spanish and Anglo material above it. Two - 1 meter test pits dug on January 25th resulted in location of another corner of the layer.

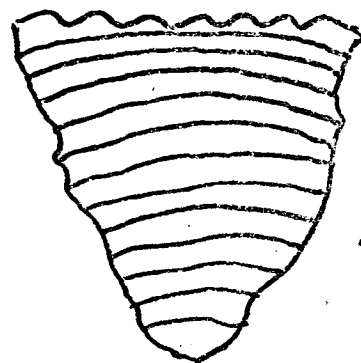
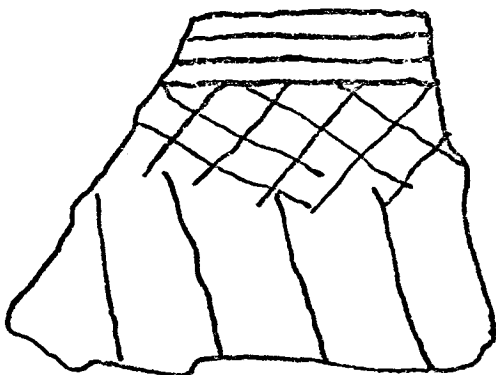
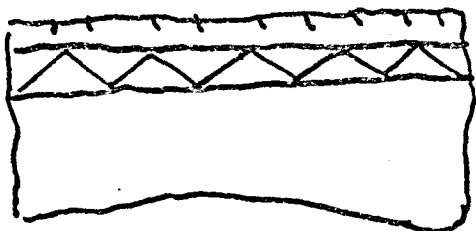
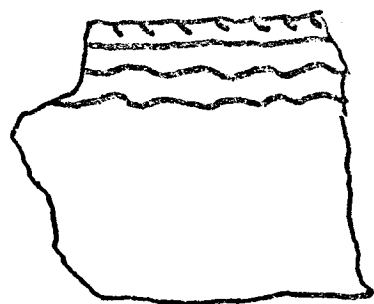
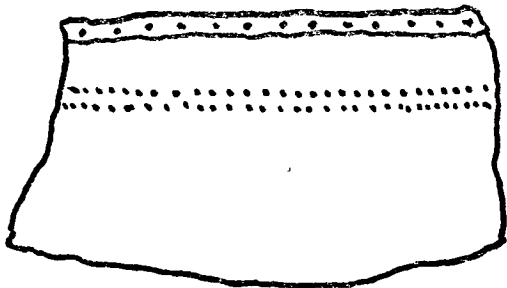
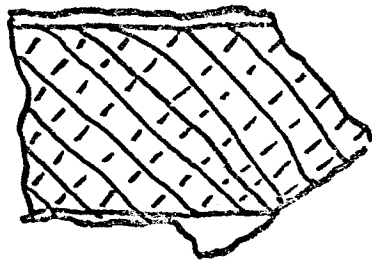
Much work remains to be done to accomplish the goals of the project. The site is proving to be extensive and much help is needed to complete the field work by the end of March.

The following map, drawn up in 1757, presents the anonymous cartographer's conception of the location of the mission and various Indian villages in the area.

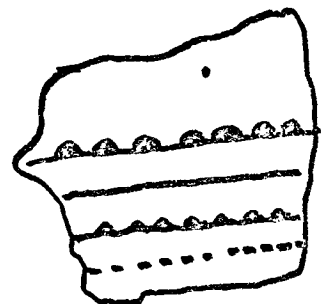
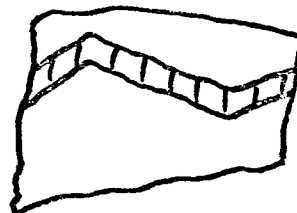
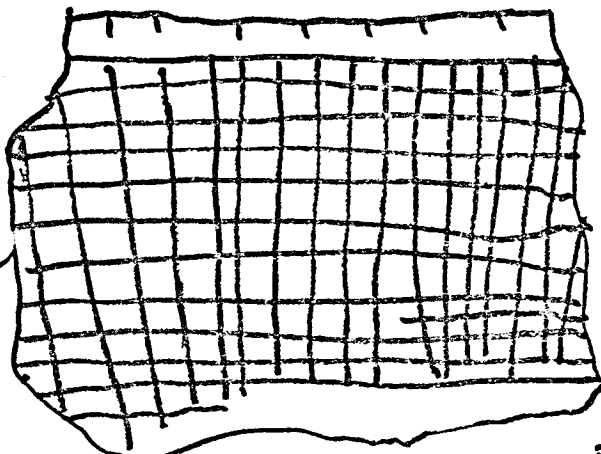
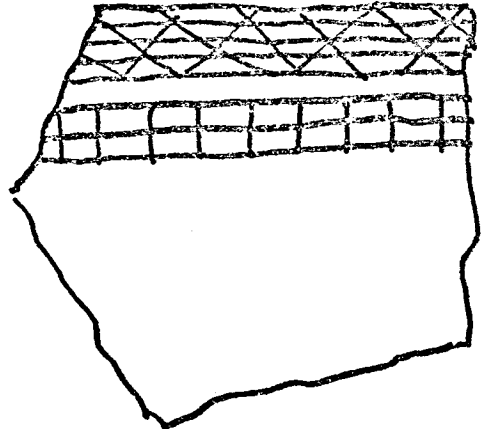
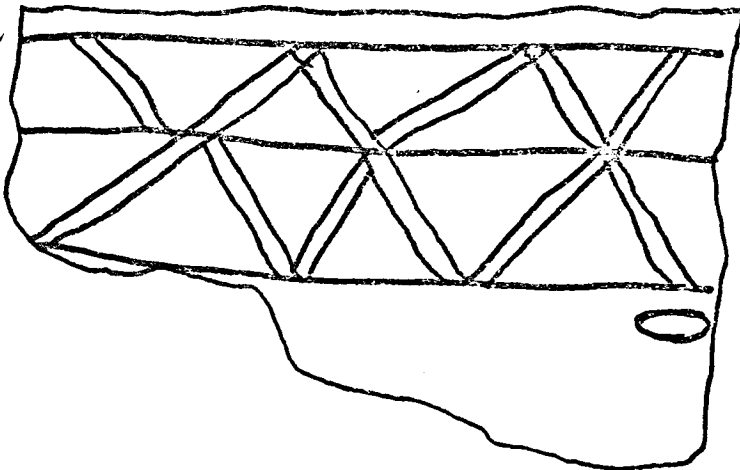
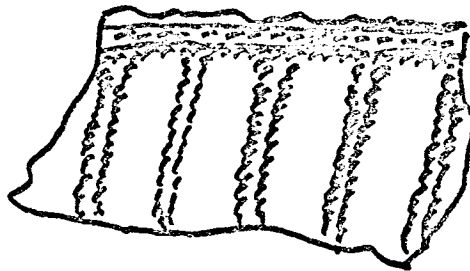
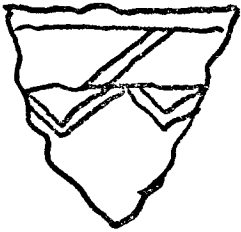
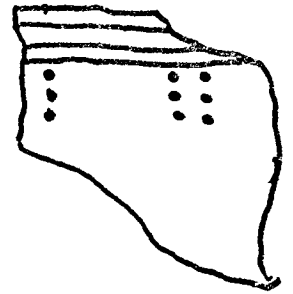
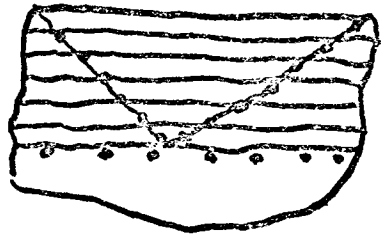
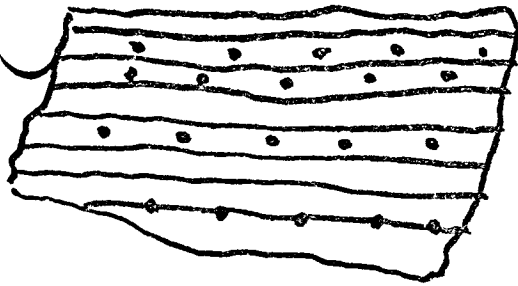


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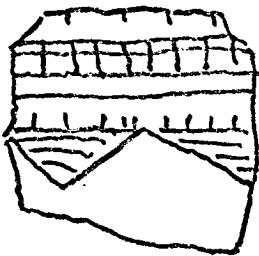
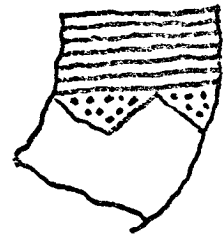
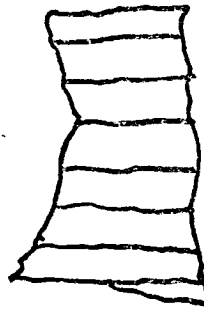
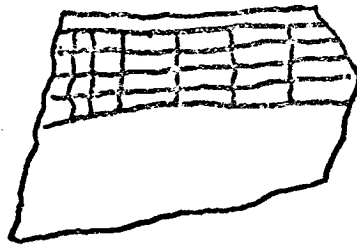
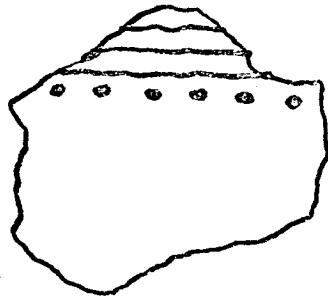
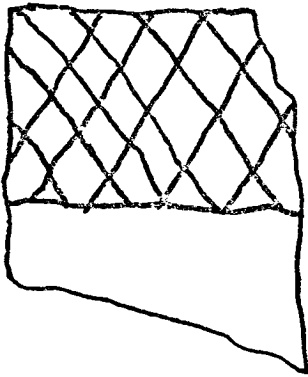
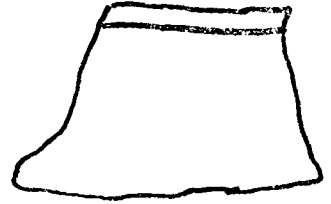
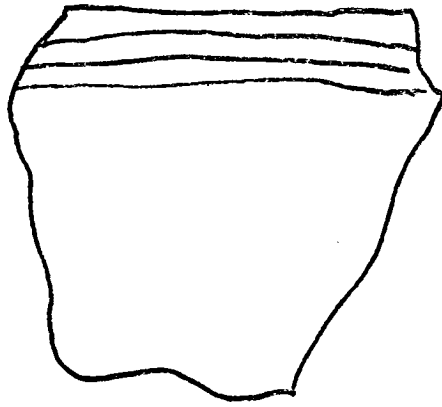
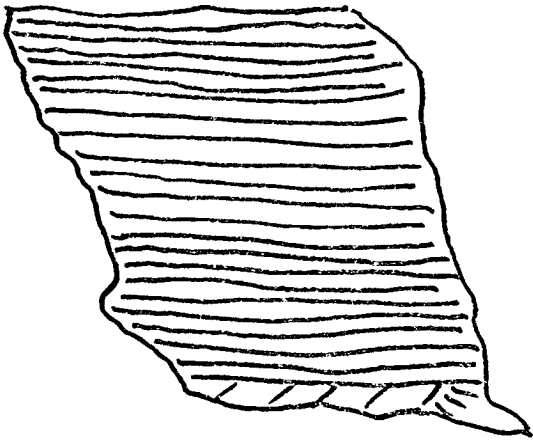


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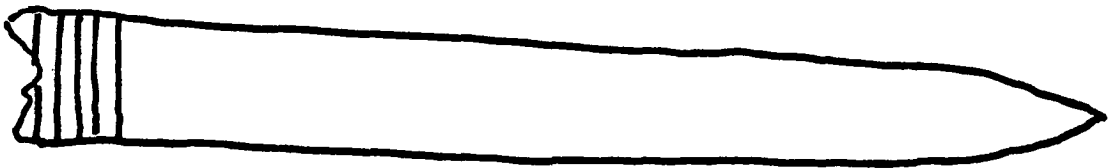
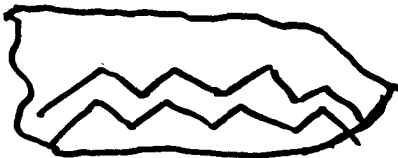
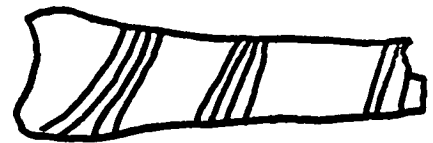
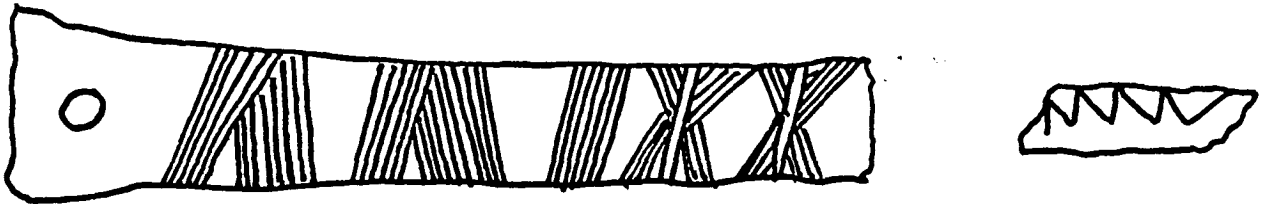
A.R.D.



Incised Bone Implements

Just to get the ball rolling, here are some incised bone implements from the Houston area - Harris, Austin, Fort Bend Counties. Let's hear from you if you have any incised bone!!

Incidentally, the artifacts illustrated are awls and spatulas.



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