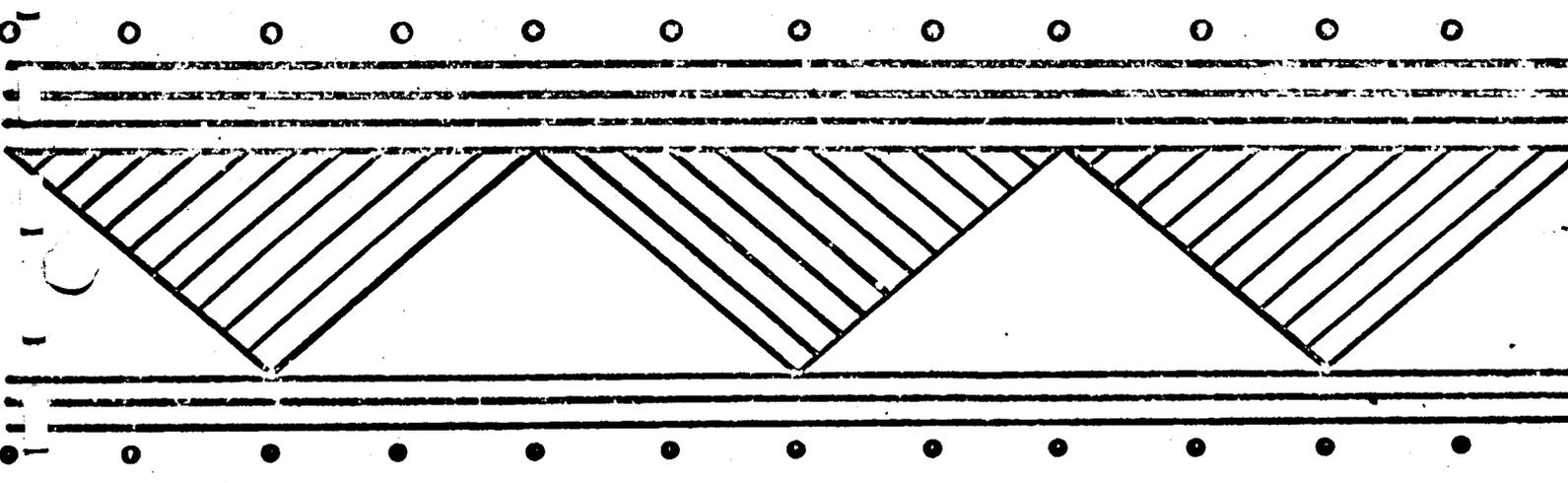


HOUSTON ARCHEOLOGICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

NUMBER 38

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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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Past and Future Programs

December-1971 - Dr. E. Mott Davis, University of Texas presented a talk on his work on Roman sites in Jugoslavia.
January -1972 - Alton K. Briggs, Survey Archeologist, Texas State Historical Survey Committee, discussed "Ethno-Archeology of Two Railroad Camps in Val Verde Co., Texas".
February-1972 - Jon Gibson, University of Southwestern Louisiana, will review the archeology of the Lower Mississippi Valley.

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Additions to the Library

American Antiquity, 36:4. Washington: Society for American Archaeology, 1971.
 General Soil Map of Harris County, Texas. Soil Conservation Service (USDA) & Texas Agricultural Experiment Station, 1962.
 Guide to Official Texas Historical Markers. Austin: Texas Historical Foundation, 1971.
 Texas Archaeological Salvage Project: Report of Activities for the Period, January 1, 1970 - August 31, 1971. Austin: The University of Texas, 1971.
 Aten, Lawrence E. Archeological Environmental Statement, Texas Coast, Research Report #3, Texas Archeological Salvage Project. Austin: The University of Texas, 1971. (2 Xerox copies).
 Gibson, Jon L. Archaeological Survey at Caddo Lake, Louisiana, and Texas. Contributions in Anthropology #6. Dallas: Southern Methodist University, 1969.
 Lorraine, Dessamae. Archaeological Excavations in the Fish Creek Reservoir, Contributions in Anthropology #4. Dallas: Southern Methodist University, 1969.

Preston, Nolan E. Two Burials from the McCann Site and a Synopsis of the Artifacts. Fort Worth: Tarrant County Archeological Society, 1971. \$1.50.

Skinner, S. Alan, R. King Harris, Keith M. Anderson, editors. Archaeological Investigations at the Sam Kaufman Site, Red River County, Texas, Contributions in Anthropology, #5. Dallas, Southern Methodist University, 1969.

Woodall, J. Ned. Archaeological Excavations in the Toldeo Bend Reservoir, 1966. Contributions in Anthropology #3. Dallas: Southern Methodist University, 1969.

Newsletter. Society for Historical Archaeology, 4:3. 1971.

Newsletter. Oklahoma Anthropological Society, 19:6,7,8., 1971.

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Items of Interest

- Carl J. Clausen, formerly Florida state marine archeologist, has been employed by the Texas State Historical Survey Committee as underwater archeologist for the state of Texas. Part of his responsibilities will be salvage work on the 16th century galleons which are off the coast of Texas.

- The galleon treasure recovered by Platoro, the treasure hunting firm, will be divided equally between the State of Texas and Platoro.

- The Texas Bicentennial Commission has requested help in locating the graves and documenting the lives of any American Revolutionary soldiers buried in Texas. Anyone having information on a gravesite or other pertinent information is asked to contact Ann Malone, T.B.C. director of research, at P.O.Box 12366, Austin, 78711.

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Preservation of Antiquities

A major portion of this issue of the Newsletter is dedicated to preservation. Reproduced on the next two pages are newspaper articles originally printed in Houston, Texas and Tucson, Arizona papers. A copy of Public Law 209 (Preservation of American Antiquities) is included also. The articles on preservation point out the need for Law 209.

The statements underlined in Dr. Haury's comments sum up the charge of all archeological societies and other groups interested in preservation - "let the public know what is happening". "Education could stop the curious".

UA Scientist Deplores Vandalism

One of America's most distinguished archaeologists is annoyed.

No. That's not strong enough. Dr. Emil W. Haury is furious.

The target of his anger is the vandals pilfering artifacts from archaeological sites before they can be examined by scientists.

"This," he says, "is the same as ripping pages from the only copy of a history book. They are destroying a non-renewable natural resource, and they should be stopped."

Haury has earned the right to his wrath, and to urge the public to realize what is happening.

When still in his 30s the Carnegie Institution called him "one of the three leading archaeologists in the nation."

He was chairman of the secretary of interior's 11-man Advisory Board of National Parks, Historic Sites, Buildings and Monuments and is now an active member of the advisory council.

Director of the Arizona State Museum and head of the department of anthropology from 1937 until he voluntarily stepped down in 1964, he continues as the Fred A. Riecke distinguished professor of anthropology at the University of Arizona.

He is a past president of the American Anthropological Association and the Society for American Archaeology.

The first person from the faculty of the University of Arizona to be named to the National Academy of Science he also was the first recipient of the UA's faculty achievement award. At that time former UA president Dr. Richard Harvill said: "No living man has had such extensive experience in the archaeology of the Southwest.

There's lots more.

So, when Haury says wholesale van-

*One of the nation's foremost archaeologists
calls for an end to the 'ruthless'
pilfering of our artifacts*

dalism is one of the greatest problems facing archaeology, people should listen.

"It is almost impossible to find any new site that isn't already dotted with vandal's holes," he said in an interview. "It is a shocking situation."

"Some of the vandals are ruthless, malicious. Others may not realize the harm they are doing. We have had a great influx of people to the Southwest. Many are interested in its history. They think it is exciting to dig up a few artifacts and have a direct contact with the past. I applaud their curiosity, but they are doing damage.

"Some have an amateur's interest in archaeology and get personal satisfaction from digging up something before anyone else.

"And now irresponsible digging is being done on a commercial basis. They even move in bulldozers. Irreparable damage is resulting.

"Certainly stronger, broader laws and enforcement of them are needed to curb these activities. But we must also let the public know what is happening." Education, he feels, could stop the curious. Public opinion could discourage some of the others.

Even greater than his incense with the vandals is Haury's enthusiasm over the work being done by men and women he helped train, the archaeologists of today and tomorrow.

"They are doing things we never dreamed of doing," Haury declared.

If this is true, then important discoveries are being made. Because Haury has been involved in, or directed, some of the major southwestern archaeological achievements of the century.

Haury was only 25 when he was a member of the small cast taking part in one of the dramatic moments in southwestern archaeology.

The late Dr. Andrew E. Douglass believed that tree rings are as distinctive as finger prints. Douglass had developed two tree ring chronologies. One dated back from trees then living to about 1260. The other covered 585 years. But which 585 years? It was essential that wood be found with rings that connected the two.

Haury was working with Douglass near Showlow, Ariz., on June 22, 1929, when a workman uncovered the charred end of an ancient roof timber. It proved to be the missing link that connected the chronologies, and a great achievement in the science of dendrochronology was born. For the first time the true age of the main prehistoric ruins across the Southwest could be accurately stated.

Haury, while assistant director of the Gila Pueblo Archaeological Foundation in Globe, excavated the long-buried village of Snaketown, near Sacaton, Ariz., in the 1930s. He showed how Indians of a thousand years ago used irrigation ditches to water their crops. He received national acclaim when he established that the community had been continuously inhabited from before the time of Christ to 1200 A.D.

On a hunch, when Papago Indians had turned him away from a site where he wanted to work, Haury began digging in a cave and found a place that had been continuously occupied for 10,000 years. Ventana cave proved to be a window through which the longest unbroken sequence of American development could be seen with remarkable clarity.

From the skeletons unearthed in Southern Arizona he learned how Indians had hunted and killed mammoths, or elephants, more than 10,000 years ago.

But Haury now feels that probably his most important work was at Point of Pines in Northern Arizona where he hoped to discover the secret of an unexplained mass migration of Indians in the 1400s. He didn't. The mystery still remains. But he did something more important — he trained people.

"More than 350 students from 45 colleges and a dozen foreign countries were exposed to archaeology at the Point of Pines school," he said. "A high percentage of them have entered archaeological work."

Haury paused and picked up a new scientific book. One of the authors had been one of Haury's students. "Youngsters like this have a great deal on the ball," he said. "They are doing things new ways, just as we used new ways in the 1930s.

"We are learning new techniques. We are becoming more proficient at getting things from the earth that tell of contemporary times.

"We've only begun. What we are doing has no end. It is infinite."

Archaeology can help generations yet unborn better understand the world in which they live. That's why the vandals must be stopped — now.

HOUSTON CHRONICLE

SECTION

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HOUSTON, TEXAS, MONDAY, JANUARY 3, 1972

★ ★

From Land Developments, Reservoirs

U.S. Archeological Sites in Danger

BY BOYCE RENSBERGER

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New York — Within the

next 20 to 30 years, the buried and still mostly unstudied record of prehistoric man in America may be largely destroyed, many archeologists are beginning to fear.

They attribute this to massive land developments, new highways and reservoirs and modern deep-digging farming methods that radically alter the face of the land.

Archeologists contend that scores of sites bearing fragments of the 20,000-year-old human heritage of North America are being chewed and churned into oblivion by the plows and bulldozers of a nation rushing headlong into the future, heedless of the past.

And, in growing number, archeologists are calling for an end to the destruction, insisting that archeological sites must be counted among the nation's valuable nonrenewable resources.

In some cases, land developers have gone ahead with their projects, convinced that what archeologists believe may be priceless treasures are, in fact, of little value compared with a new housing project, for example.

Archeologists readily concede that not all the sites are worth studying in detail and that many can be destroyed with no loss to science. But they note that it takes at least a brief study to know which sites have a scientific value.

Although no one knows how many archeological sites the United States has, estimates range into the thousands, counting everything from the

ruins of entire cities to camps where bands of hunters stopped for a few nights.

After resting for hundreds and sometimes thousands of years in the soil a few feet below the surface, the bones, artifacts and other evidences of the earliest Americans are now threatened by a variety of forces, including the following:

- In Delaware, highway construction plowed through one of the most important sites of the relatively recent Adena Phase of Indian culture and destroyed more than 1600 artifacts.

- In Kansas, a federally sponsored watershed project dug gravel from a tract containing 30 hearths of fires that men had kindled more than 2000 years ago. Only a preliminary identification was made before the site was destroyed.

- In Vermont, an unusually large prehistoric dump near Lake Champlain was bulldozed to make way for a housing project.

- Of 45 major sites known in Oregon, said Thomas Newman of Portland State University, "only one is positively known to survive substantially intact."

In a few cases, archeologists are rushing through emergency excavations to salvage some sites before the bulldozers obliterate them. But most sites are being destroyed before their value can be ascertained. Many have already been lost.

In Arkansas, for example, one-fourth of the estimated 1000 sites known as of 1960 were destroyed by 1965.

"We feel that, within the next 20 to 25 years, most of

the archeology of Arkansas will be gone," said Dr. Charles McGimsey, director of the archeological survey at the University of Arkansas.

One of the greatest losses of archeology occurred in 1969, when a federally built dam on the Snake River in the state of Washington flooded one of the oldest known sites of human remains in the Western Hemisphere.

Scientists had discovered the 13,000-year-old remains of a group of humans called Marmes Man along a section of the river scheduled to be turned into a reservoir. Efforts to delay construction of the dam failed, and a protective coffer dam built around the site gave way with the first rising water. Only 25 percent of the site had been excavated.

Ironically, amateur archeologists probably destroy as many sites as land developers or construction crews. Eager for pots and arrowheads but ignorant of the more subtle clues that scientists look for, archeology buffs often shovel carelessly into the ground. The spatial relationships between artifacts that help explain their uses and the colors of the soil that reveal where the posts of a house rotted centuries ago go unobserved and unrecorded.

In some states the principal threat is strip mining. In others it is the subsoiler, a new agricultural implement that plows three feet or more into the ground, breaking up the buried remains that went untouched by shallower implements.

Dam construction and the

creation of vast reservoirs flood the river valleys that prehistoric man found essential for food, water and transportation. Thousands of archeological sites lie along every major river in the land, and virtually every new reservoir destroys dozens of such sites.

Next September, for example, 30 sites in Texas—most of them unstudied and some believed to be 10,000 years old—will be inundated if the Army Corps of Engineers proceeds with a plan to raise the level of Lake Whitney near Hillsboro.

Until the sites are destroyed, Dr. James V. Sciscenti of Southern Methodist University and a group of students and professional archeologists will be conducting a fast excavation to rescue as much as possible.

Sciscenti's project at Lake Whitney is only one example of numerous archeology efforts under way across the country. But such efforts, operating on shoestring budgets, will reach only a fraction of the sites to be destroyed.

One problem, archeologists say, is the lack of a strong, government-supported program to identify sites and fund studies of them before they are destroyed.

Preservation of American Antiquities

Public Law 209, 59th Cong., June 8, 1906, 34 Stat. 225

AN ACT For the preservation of American antiquities.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That any person who shall appropriate, excavate, injure, or destroy any historic or prehistoric ruin or monument, or any object of antiquity, situated on lands owned or controlled by the Government of the United States, without the permission of the Secretary of the Department of the Government having jurisdiction over the lands on which said antiquities are situated, shall upon conviction, be fined in a sum of not more than five hundred dollars or be imprisoned for a period of not more than ninety days, or shall suffer both fine and imprisonment, in the discretion of the court.

Sec. 2. That the President of the United States is hereby authorized, in his discretion, to declare by public proclamation historic landmarks, historic and prehistoric structures, and other objects of historic or scientific interest that are situated upon the lands owned or controlled by the Government of the United States to be national monuments, and may reserve as a part thereof parcels of land, the limits of which in all cases shall be confined to the smallest area compatible with the proper care and management of the objects to be protected: Provided, That when such objects are situated upon a tract covered by a bona fide unperfected claim or held in private ownership, the tract, or so much thereof as may be necessary for the proper care and management of the object, may be relinquished to the Government, and the Secretary of the Interior is hereby authorized to accept the relinquishment of such tracts in behalf of the Government of the United States.

Sec. 3. That permits for the examination of ruins, the excavation of archaeological sites, and the gathering of objects of antiquity upon the lands under their respective jurisdictions may be granted by the Secretaries of the Interior, Agriculture, and War to institutions which they may deem properly qualified to conduct such examination, excavation, or gathering, subject to such rules and regulations as they may prescribe: Provided, That the examinations, excavations, and gatherings are undertaken for the benefit of reputable museums, universities, colleges, or other recognized scientific or educational institutions, with a view to increasing the knowledge of such objects, and that the gatherings shall be made for permanent preservation in public museums.

Sec 4. That the Secretaries of the Departments aforesaid shall make and publish from time to time uniform rules and regulations for the purpose of carrying out the provisions of this Act.

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