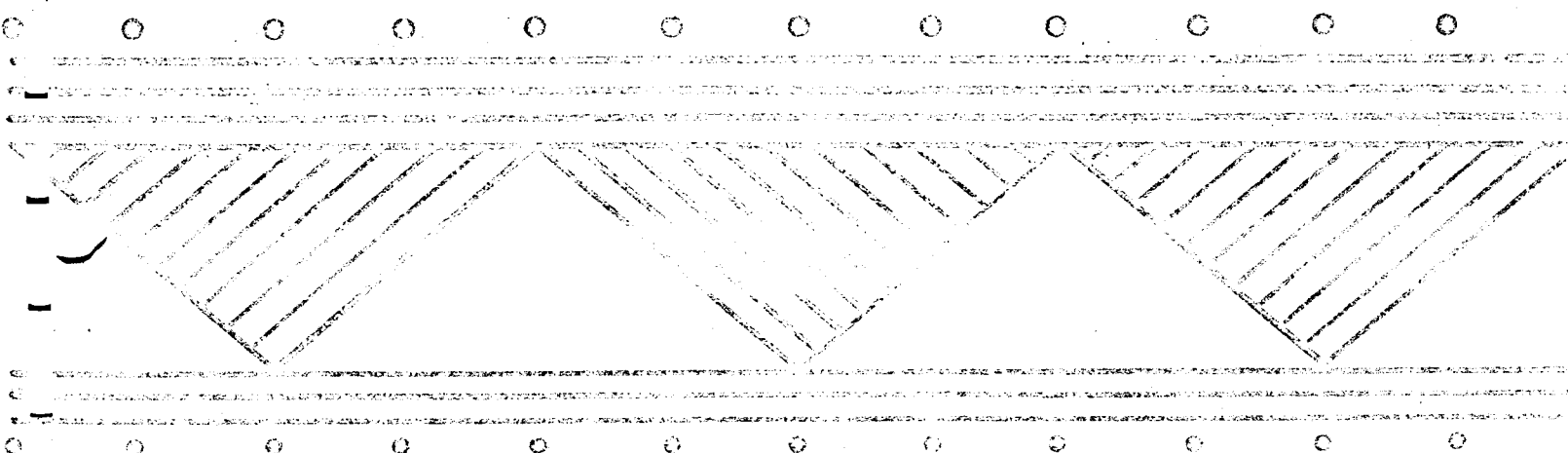


HOUSTON ARCHEOLOGICAL

SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

NUMBER 39

APRIL 1972



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 77532.

#####

Officers 1971-72

- Chairman - William L. McClure, 7720 Westview, Houston, Texas 77055
- Sec.-Treas. - Margie Pullen, 717 Danmore Lane, Deer Park, Texas 77536
- Directors - Elaine Burleigh
Frank Hole
Jay Sharr

#####

Past and Future Programs

- February - 1972 - Joe L. Gibson, University of Southwestern La., discussed "Social Organization at Poverty Point".
- March - 1972 - Dr. Frank Hole and Rice University students presented a report on "Excavations along Annand Bayou and Chocolate Bayou."
- April - 1972 - Dr. DeWitt C. Van Sicken, University of Houston, discussed the "Marine Ecology of the Upper Texas Coast".
- May - 1972 - Dr. Virginia H. Bryant, Dept. of Sociology and Anthropology, Texas A.M. University, will talk on "Early Man in Peru" and discuss his experiences as a member of the Ayacucho Archeological Botanical Project.

#####

Historical Sites Purchase Requested

The Texas State Historical Survey committee requested, in January, 1972, that the Parks and Wildlife commission allocate approximately \$7 million to add historic and archeological sites to the state parks system in 1972-73. A list of 42 top priority sites was submitted to the commission for study on the basis that archeological and historical sites throughout the state are being destroyed at a rapid rate. Favorable action is anticipated on at least some of the sites. The Survey Committee specifically opposed expenditure of large sums of money for recreational facilities at the sites.

#####

Work Halted at Historic Parks

The Parks and Wildlife Commission announced in February 1972 that work at historic and archeological sites would be halted in order to permit necessary archaeological investigations. At several sites, Parks Dept. work had severely damaged archeological sites.

#####

To the members of the Houston Archeological Society from Chairman W. L. McClure.

On various occasions we have discussed the goals, aims, objectives and function of H.A.S. The following has been drafted in order to stimulate thought and discussion among the membership. Please read and discuss with one another and pass your comments on to the Board either in writing or at the monthly meetings. Your contribution is needed.

HOUSTON ARCHEOLOGICAL SOCIETY STATEMENT OF POSITION:

The expenditure of time, energy and other resources on any endeavor can be justified only if it can produce a desirable result.

The activity involved in archeology invariably destroys the subject of the investigation. As there are no new prehistoric sites being created, the archeological resources are non-renewable. This makes it even more critical to determine that the activity conducted at a site produces a benefit that outweighs the destruction.

The paramount objective for the pursuit of the science of archeology is to produce information that is of value to humanity. Knowledge of prehistoric man's adaptation to his environment ostensibly will aid modern man to relate to the environment more successfully than could be possible without the knowledge. If this premise is incorrect there is no justification for any archeological activity.

With the above objective in mind, the primary goal of the Houston Archeological Society is to perform those functions that will result in the long-term production of the greatest possible amount of information relating to the earlier occupants of the Upper Texas Coast.

- (1) A continual enhancement of the archeological knowledge and skills of members of HAS is to be encouraged. It is only through education that the other aims of the Society can be effected. The following phases of an educational program are minimal:
 - A. Provide monthly programs
 - B. Publish professional and sub-professional papers
 - C. Circulate notices of activities of HAS and others
 - D. Conduct school of basic archeology including classroom, field and lab.
 - E. Provide minimal list of "required reading"
 - F. Prepare vocabulary of terms
 - G. Sponsor annual meeting
- (2) Locating, mapping and recording as many sites as possible is to be accomplished. Biological and geological data are important parts of the record of the site. The information gained from site surveying will aid in determining which sites are in danger of being destroyed, which should be preserved, and which should be investigated scientifically. Geographic distribution of sites gives some clues to prehistoric activity patterns.
- (3) The absolute preservation of representative sites or portions thereof is to be attempted. The methods utilized in archeological investigations are continually changing with the technological advances of modern civilization. This change will continue during the entire period of occupation of the globe by civilized man. These sites must be available for future generations of investigators utilizing techniques undreamed of today.

- (4) The HAS should provide assistance to professional archeologists. The knowledge of the area and contact with land-owners should be useful. Time and labor are two other resources that the members should make available to the professionals. This may be particularly beneficial for salvage operations.
- (5) The professional archeologists should be encouraged to publish and otherwise make available the results of all projects, both past and future.
- (6) An increased awareness by the general public of the importance of prehistory is to be promoted. It is only through the indulgence of the majority and the support of some of the public that the objectives of archeology can be achieved. A popular account of archeology of the Upper Texas Coast should be published. Exhibits for public display should be prepared.
- (7) The collection of artifacts is to be discouraged unless it is accomplished in a scientific manner. The assembly of a collection of objects is apparently a long-standing cultural trait of mankind. The personal satisfaction gained by collecting artifacts is understandable and not to be completely condemned. If such collections leads the individual to a better appreciation of past cultures and produces an aware and concerned citizen then a net gain may be the result. The collection may lead others to become involved in a positive way.

#

SITE SURVEY OF LAKE LIVINGSTON STATE PARK

On March 11, 1972, twenty members of H.A.S. met on the site of the proposed State Park on the east bank of Lake Livingston. Alton Briggs, State Salvage Archeologist, led the group in a site survey of the property. The leaf litter and the briars hindered the work. However, it was determined that the principal activity conducted in the area today is fishing and the principal cultural debris is a vast assemblage of beverage containers. Perhaps similar associations should be investigated in prehistoric sites.

Two prehistoric sites were located. Both are on high ridges. One was apparently a chipping station as the only artifacts on the surface were lithic cores and flakes. The other site was beneath and around a late 19th century historic site. A few sherds of pottery, at least one dart point and other lithic material was found. A mussel shell midden was being eroded into the lake.

An extra bonus of the trip was a Pigmy Mouse, Baiomys taylori, which was found occupying a discarded beer can. It had not been previously reported from Polk County. Its preferred food item is June Bugs.

#

CONSERVATION IN THE HOUSTON AREA

The following letter represents the Society's thoughts on sites in the Addicks and Barker reservoir areas that are rapidly being destroyed and which are destined to be damaged even with "controlled" development. These sites are among the most important in Harris Co. and while Joe Ben Wheat did an excellent job in sampling and reporting sites in this area, there are many sites remaining that have not been reported. These sites are scattered throughout the reservoir areas but could not obtain permission from the Corps of Engineers. Several of these sites have been completely destroyed since that time. Let's hope our request for the protection of these sites will receive a favorable reply and immediate action.

Houston, Texas
April 3, 1972

Subject: Addicks & Barker Reservoirs Development

Secretary of Interior
C. B. Morton
Department of the Interior
Washington, D. C. 20240

Dear Sir:

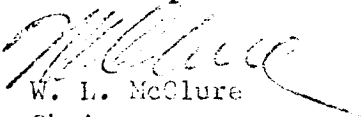
On March 26, 1972 the Houston Post ran a newspaper story about the proposed development of the Addicks and Barker Reservoirs in Harris County, Texas.

It is requested that the archeological resources within these reservoirs be given consideration during the planning for the proposed development. There is considerable evidence of a prehistoric settlement within the reservoir areas and an extensive salvage effort was made during construction of the dams. The results of this were published by Mr. J. B. Wheat. There are several other sites within the reservoirs that are being extensively looted by vandals at this time. There has been considerable advancement in the technology of archeological investigation since Wheat's work and there will undoubtedly be more sophisticated techniques in the future.

It is therefore considered imperative that at least some of the sites be preserved so that future archeologists can perform their work and correlate it with work done earlier by Wheat and others. Those sites that can not be preserved indefinitely could possibly be subjected to salvage activities prior to releasing the area for further development. The minimum that should be done at this time would be to take immediate steps in protecting the sites from further vandalism.

Your effort in this regard would be sincerely appreciated.

Yours very truly,

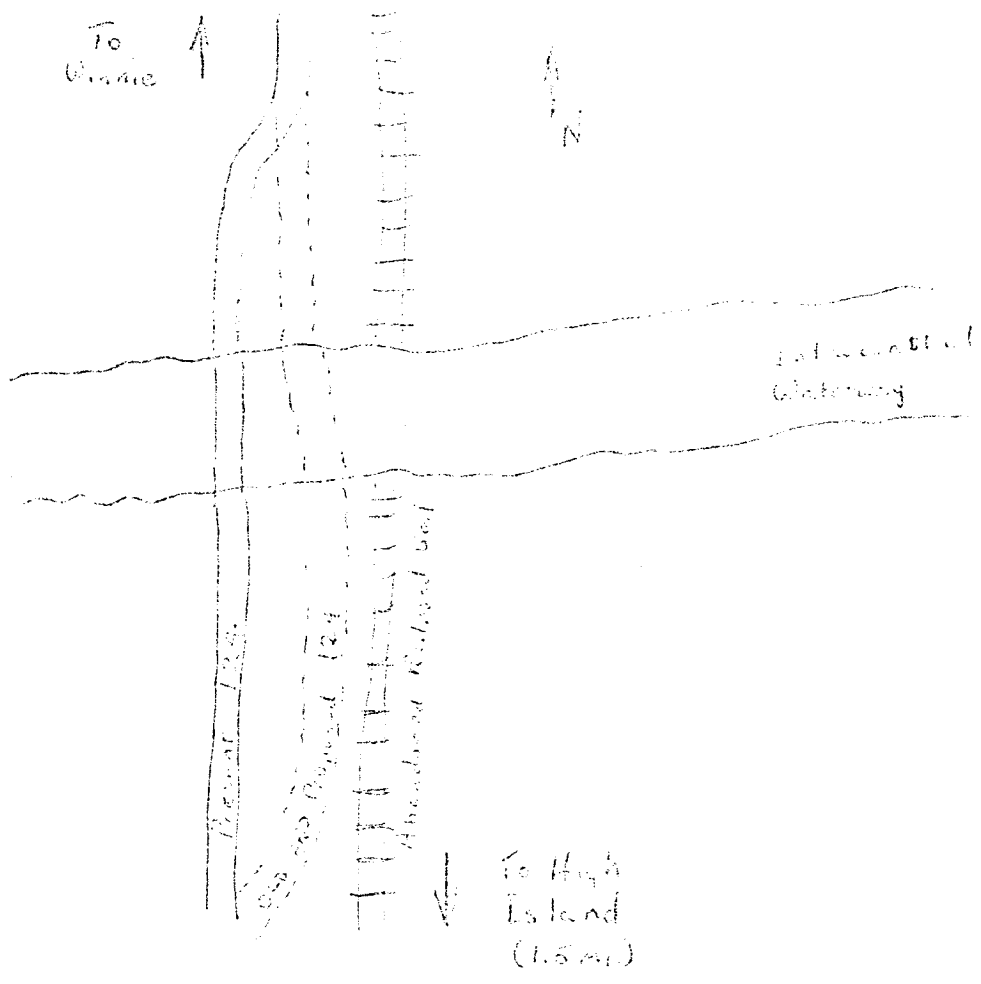

W. L. McClure
Chairman
Houston Archeology Society
7720 Westview Drive
Houston, Texas 77055

WLM:av

cc - Southwest Archeological Center - Globe
Corps of Engineers - Galveston
State Archeologist - Austin

Texas State Highway 128 Bridge Site Investigation - David H. Salzar

A visit to the Resident Engineer's Office for Chambers County, at Anaheim on January 21, 1972 resulted in a decision to conduct a survey of the site. This would be done primarily for the experience since the road work to be done was going to consist of a rework of the same area where road construction had been done twelve years before. The road bed upon which the existing highway rests was graded from the site where the new road bed will lie.



The investigating crew consisted of Michael Goins, Kay Evans, Mary Staudt, Kathryn and David Salzar. We met at the site at about 2:30 PM Sunday, January 23, 1972. The weather was beautiful; sun shining and cool. A first glance at the site convinced us that further inspection would not only be fruitless but nearly impossible. The entire area between the railroad bed (See map insert) and the existing highway was marshy and flooded. A situation that the Texas used as a worst case found ideal. The sight of the marshes and flood plain did not surprise us. The marshes did the same for us.

We did find a semi-dry pathway from the highway to the railway bed. I say semi-dry because Misses Evans and Strout discovered that something a little sturdier than "tennies" are needed for exploring Texas marshes; particularly if you are squeamish about wet, muddy feet. We saw small Oak bushes, as well as Elder vines and small Aspen-like trees. Animals which we found evidence of in the area were rats, turtles, rabbits and snakes, the last of which we saw in a brief moment of panic that did not result in positive identification other than, "It looked like a snake!"

Some fossils were found in the gravel that had been hauled in for the rail bed. There was a good deal of flint rock in this gravel, but no evidence that it had been worked. There are no Historical Markers in the area we investigated. In general the feeling was that there would be no endangered archeological or historical site as a result of the Texas Highway Department efforts.

#####

Odds and Ends

Neanderthal Men Put In Urals Earlier

Moscow (UPI)—Neanderthal man roamed the Ural Mountains 100,000 years ago, 25,000 years earlier than scientists had thought, the official Tass news agency says.

A large skeleton of a Neanderthal man, dating back 100,000 years, was found in the Ural mountains by an expedition from the Institute of Archaeology of the Soviet Academy of Sciences, Tass said.

"Many generations of Neanderthal hunters roamed the Ural mountains, and they were hunted by the modern man," Tass said.

"The location of the first Neanderthal man shows that

... the Neanderthal man was a primitive man who lived in the Ural mountains and was hunted by the modern man. Tass said.

Neanderthal Man Put In Urals Earlier

Dated at 100,000 years ago, the skeleton was found in the Ural mountains by an expedition from the Institute of Archaeology of the Soviet Academy of Sciences, Tass said.

was found by Soviet field researchers in the Ural mountains. The skeleton was found in the Ural mountains by an expedition from the Institute of Archaeology of the Soviet Academy of Sciences, Tass said.

The skeleton was found in the Ural mountains by an expedition from the Institute of Archaeology of the Soviet Academy of Sciences, Tass said.

The skeleton was found in the Ural mountains by an expedition from the Institute of Archaeology of the Soviet Academy of Sciences, Tass said.

Additions to the Library

- Newsletter of the Oklahoma Anthropological Society, 19:9,
December, 1971.
- Wyckoff, Don G., editor. Bulletin of the Oklahoma Anthropological
Society. Volume 20 for 1971. Norman: OAS, 1971.
- Hester, Thomas Roy and R. W. Rodgers. "Additional Data on the Burial
Practices of the Brownsville Complex, Southern Texas", The Texas
Journal of Science, 22:4. Austin: University of Texas Printing
Division, 1971. (Reprint: Donated by T. R. Hester)
- Hill, T. C., Jr. and Thomas Roy Hester. "Isolated Archaic and Late
Prehistoric Components at the Honeymoon Site (41ZV34), Southern
Texas", Plains Anthropologist, Journal of the Plains Conference,
1971. (Reprint: Donated by Tommy Hester)
- Jackson, A. T. Picture-writing of Texas Indians, Bureau of Research in
the Social Studies Study #27, Anthropological Papers Vol. II, Austin:
University of Texas, 1938.
- Newsletter of the Oklahoma Anthropological Society, 20:1.
Norman: OAS, 1972.
- "Texas Archeology", Newsletter of the Texas Archeological Society, 16:1,
Dallas: TAS, January, 1972.
- Peckham, Stewart. "Prehistoric Weapons in the Southwest", Popular Series
Pamphlet #3. Santa Fe: Museum of New Mexico Press, 1965. (Donated
by Leland W. Patterson) 50 cents.
- Oakley, Kenneth P. Man the Tool-Maker. Chicago: University of Chicago
Press, 1964. \$1.25. (Donated by L. W. Patterson)
- Deuel, Leo. Flights into Yesterday. New York: St. Martin's Press, 1969.
\$8.95
- Robbins, Maurice, and Mary B. Irving (editor). The Amateur Archaeologist's
Handbook. New York: Thomas Y. Crowell Company, 1969.
- Hume, Ivor Noel. A Guide to the Artifacts of Colonial America.
New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1970. \$10.00
- American Antiquity, Journal of the Society for American Archaeology.
37:1, pt. 1 Washington, DC: SAS, 1972.
- Wheat, Joe Ben. The Olsen-Chubbuck Site: A Paleo-Indian Bison Kill,
Memoirs of the Society For American Archaeology, #26. 37:1, pt.2.
Washington, DC: SAS, 1972.
- Clewlow, C. W., Jr. and Lewis K. Napton. Additional Projectile Points
and Lithic Artifacts from Levelock Cave, Nevada. Contributions of
the University of California Archaeological Research Facility, #7.
Berkeley: University of California Press, 1970. (Donated by Leland W. Patterson)
- Coon, Carleton S. and Edward E. Hunt, Jr. (editors). Anthropology:
A to Z. New York: Grosset & Dunlap, Inc., 1963. \$2.50.
(Donated by Beth Shoemaker)

HOUSTON ARCHEOLOGICAL SOCIETY
Membership List Additions and Changes
September, 1971

Applications Pending:

Howard J. Nickel
10118 Chatterton
Houston, Texas 77043
465-0619

Patricia M. Solomon
6685 Bayou Glen
Houston, Texas 77027
467-0273

The John E. Perry Family (6)
2810 Colonial Drive
Dickinson, Texas 77539
534-3051

Address Changes:

Donald L. Wilkinson
326 Skywood
Houston, Texas 77090

A. W. Morgan
8208 Gulf Freeway, #2
Houston, Texas 77017

D. E. Salzar
6021 Clover Ridge
Houston, Texas 77017
645-2589

Thomas E. Cobb
8951 Braesmont, #180
Houston, Texas 77035
665-5918

H. Mewhinney
Route 3, Box 307-A
Cleveland, Texas 77327

Robert V. Dorr
711 South Richey, #31
Pasadena, Texas 77502

Jay Sharp
927 Hackberry
La Porte, Texas 77571
471-2888

Re-instatement:

James H. McPhail
235 Tamerlaine
Houston, Texas 77024