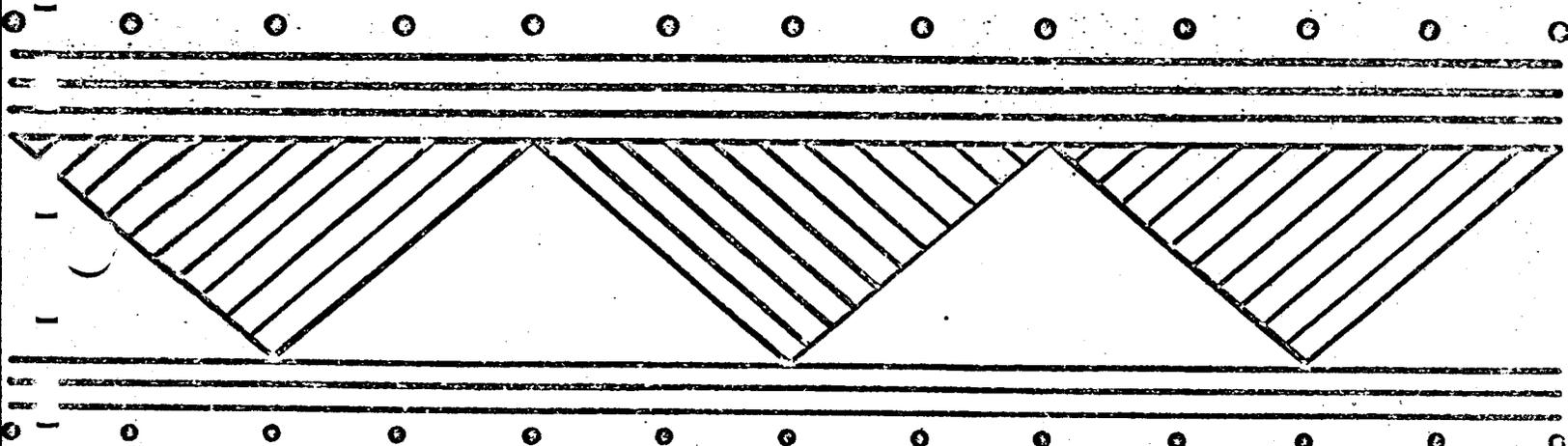


HOUSTON ARCHEOLOGICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

NUMBER 40

OCTOBER 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 77502.

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New Officers 1972-73

- Chairman - David E. Salzar, 6021 Clover Ridge, Houston, Texas 77017
- Sec.-Treas. - Barbara K. Kuether, 3746 Arnold St., Houston, Texas 77005
- Directors - Bill McClure
Elaine Burleigh
Tom Cobb
- Nominating Committee - Lou Fullen, Chairman
Shirley Thompson
Charles Chandler

Our thanks for a job well done to our 1971-72 slate of officers - Bill McClure, Margie Fullen, Elaine Burleigh, Frank Hole and Jay Sharp.

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Past and Future Programs - 1972

- June - Alexander Macnab, University of Houston, presented an illustrated lecture on "Architecture and Amerind Society: Post-Classic and Conquest".
- July - Lou Fullen presented a report on the 11th Annual TAS Field School - Kerr Co., Texas.
- August - Lawrence Aten, University of Texas and TASP, presented "Results of Archeological Investigations in the Upper Texas Coastal Area".
- September - Leland Patterson discussed "Lithic Blade Technology".
- October - Dr. Dewitt Van Siclen, University of Houston, will discuss "Surface Geology of the Upper Texas Coast".

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Coming Events

The Texas Historical Foundation will hold its annual meeting in the auditorium of the Lyndon B. Johnson Library, Austin, Texas on October 28 and 29, 1972. Among the subjects discussed will be "Involving Young People in Historical Preservation" and "State Underwater Archeological Program".

On October 14, and 15, 1972, TAS members and friends are invited to participate in a site survey and site testing on Squaw Creek near Glen Rose, Texas. If you are interested, contact Alan Skinner, Dept. of Anthropology, Southern Methodist University, Dallas, Texas 75222.

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It is interesting to read the viewpoints of amateurs and professionals on the work of amateur archeologists. In this particular editorial from The Indian Trader, September, 1972, I'm afraid the author has tarred pothunters and amateur archeologists with the same stick. This can be, but is not necessarily, true. The author does look at the problem from both sides however. Our thanks to Bruce Duke, Casa Grande, Arizona for forwarding this material.

THE PLIGHT OF THE POTHUNTER

Suddenly, professional archeologists have experienced a sharp reduction in the number of sites available to them for study. This is due to several factors, such as (1) our population expansion and associated de-urbanization; (2) increased private ownership, notably by large corporations, of public lands on which sites are located for extensive farming or other purposes offering attractive tax incentives; (3) highway and other massive construction projects, and finally; (4) the increased interest by the layman in the American Indian and his associated prehistoric cultures.

Desecration or misdirected excavation of archeological sites is justifiable cause for concern. But placing the entire blame for this on the amateur archeologist . . . or pothunter . . . is not consistent reasoning by our articulate professionals.

Because efforts to stop or belay huge reclamation projects such as inundating thousands of acres by dam-building or razing extensive areas for freeway construction have proven futile, and the alarmists realize they no longer can control the disposition of sites on private property, the heavy guns have been trained on the one group still within reach . . . the pot-hunter.

The Antiquities Act

The Antiquities Act is designed specifically to prevent any activity by the amateurs without approval by the professionals. Under this law, one cannot pick up an arrowhead or piece of pottery . . . or for that matter, historic Indian items or Americana, or "any product or by-product of human activity" . . . on federal land, either on the surface or beneath it.

You can always get a permit from the U.S. Forestry Service. However, you won't be issued one unless you are a qualified institution recommended by the Smithsonian Institution.

Unfortunately, the Antiquities Act is another case of closing the barn door after the horse had gone. Probing of prehistoric sites began with the Wetherill brothers who discovered the great Mesa Verde Pueblo ruins before the turn of the century. Their attempt for recognition and efforts to generate some sort of enthusiasm met with ridicule, with the result the best artifacts were ultimately sold to a Swedish scientist who did express interest. And they are in Sweden today.

During the depression years, innumerable sites were plundered at random without regard for retaining accurate data, and a large part of the artifacts again found their way to European collectors and museums.

Contributions by Amateurs

The insinuation that all so-called pothunters are guilty of misdirected excavations is certainly an inaccuracy. The help they have furnished the professionals has far outweighed the hindrance they may have caused them.

The article entitled "Contributions of Amateurs to the Discovery of Paleo-Indian Sites" in the October, 1971, issue of The Central States Archeological Journal brings out many enlightening facts that those who condemn the pothunter should note with interest.

The prehistoric bison that became extinct some 10-15 thousand years ago was originally discovered and dated by the

Smithsonian Institution and the University of Nebraska, but it was a cowboy named George McJunkin who later (1926) found several fluted points amid a group of bleached bones in an arroyo bank eight miles west of Folsom, New Mexico. It was subsequently established, due to his discovery, that the bones were of the extinct bison, and the points associated with them proved that man existed on this continent at the same time. The point became known as the Folsom point.

A site near Clovis, New Mexico, excavated in 1932 provided a point similar to the Folsom except larger and less extensively fluted. But it wasn't until four years later that a road construction group, digging a gravel pit, discovered Clovis points in direct association with mammoth bones. Thus, Clovis man was dated at about 11,000 years old.

The Folsom and Clovis men were considered our earliest inhabitants until 1936 when Kenneth Davis, a student at the University of New Mexico, discovered evidence of human existence in a cave of the Sandia Mountains east of Albuquerque. The professionals were called in, and substantiated their antiquity range at 15,000 to 20,000 years old . . . the oldest known projectile points in the world.

In 1953, an oil worker named Keith Glasscock discovered fragments of a human skull along with two unfluted lanceolate points near Midland, Texas. Museum professionals were brought in from Santa Fe and established the fact that the Midland point was a pure type in itself rather than an unfinished or unfluted Folsom.

Amateurs have been instrumental in locating a large portion of all type points we know, and further, have established their locations and distribution throughout the continent by subsequent finds. And amateurs have discovered pottery types and sites in about the same proportion.

The Complaint

The complaint of the archeologist is that the pothunter tends to disturb the *in situ* condition of the site, and this is not without merit. In his article "Fight To Preserve Our Ancient Past," appearing in the June issue of Desert Magazine, archeologist Tom King of the University of California at Riverside explains that the location of the artifacts of prehistoric man, either buried or on the surface, are very fragile and easily destroyed, and any disturbance displaces material whose location could, if properly recorded, provide archeological data. Frequently, the amateur archeologist disregards such factors as the depth of the piece, its geographical strata, and its relative position to other artifacts in the vicinity, all of which are important to the professional.

Further, Mr. King admits there exists a great shortage of professionals . . . far too few to begin to investigate the many finds of amateurs.

If we discount the immature contention that all amateur archeologists are typically deer-hunters who use pottery ollas for target practice and concede that the great majority of the so-called pothunters are both intelligent and sincere, then it might be a logical approach to offer guide-lines for the proper means of excavation and recording of data so essential to the professional.

The primary goal of both the amateur and professional archeologist is exactly the same, and each group needs the help of the other in attaining it.

Ode to Archeology

It gives me chills to think that I
Might have passed archeology by,
And settled on some other measure
To satisfy my need for spare time pleasure.

I could be cutting gems from rocks,
Or collecting antique clocks.
I could be working, hobby-wise,
At catching moths and butterflies.
Or - might be down at Port Isabel
Combing the sand for an exotic shell.

I would have missed the fun and thrills
Of Society digs on Texas hills
I never would have known the delight
Of stumbling upon an untouched site.

I have a list, a long, long list
Of all the things I would have missed.
But this means more, far more to me
Than all the pots and points I see;
The thing I never will forget,
Those friendly people I have met!!

-- Alan R. Duke, September 1972

With apologies to Gerald Clark whose original poem I have modified
to apply to archeologists instead of rockhounds. Clark's original poem
appeared in The Geode.

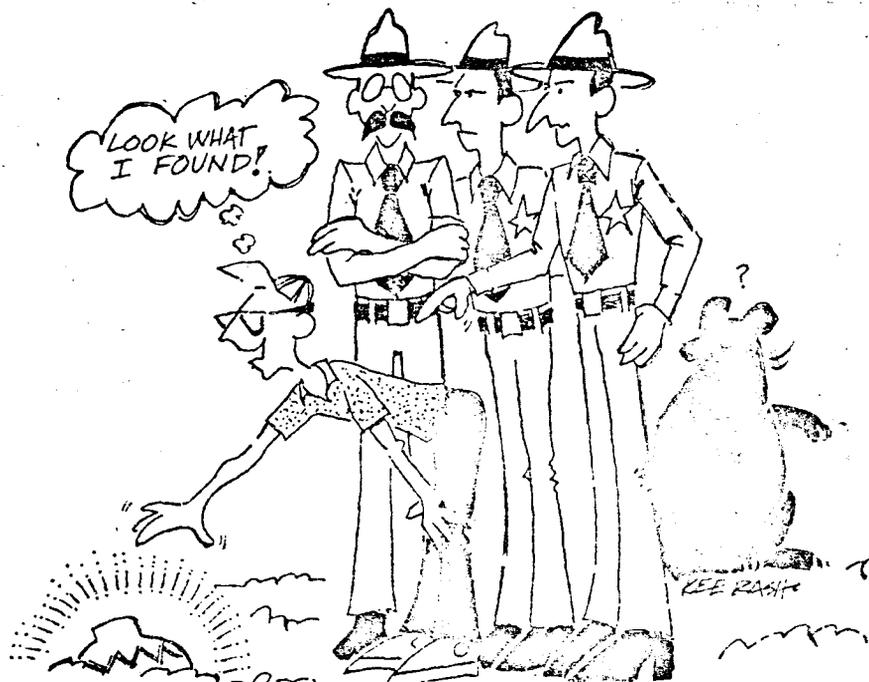
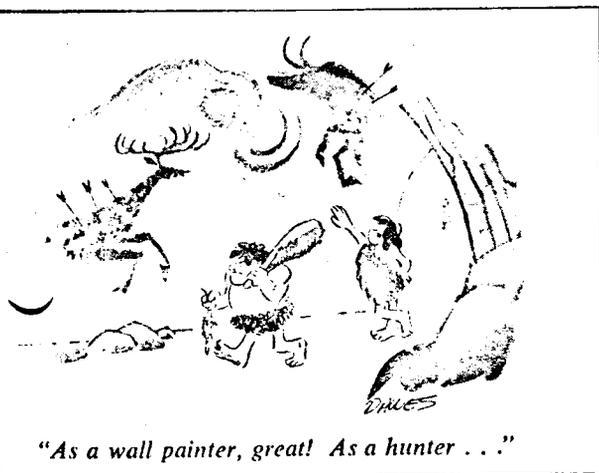
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New HAS Members

A hearty welcome to the following new members: Mr. & Mrs. Herbert Charney; John Herbert, David Pettus and Mr. & Mrs. Glen Smith.

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And a Little Humor --



Additions to the Library

American Antiquity, 37:2. Washington, D.C.: The Society for American Archaeology, 1972.

Annual Report 1971. Washington, D.C.: The American Anthropological Association, 1972.

Newsletter, 20:4. Norman: Oklahoma Anthropological Society, 1972.

Southwestern Lore, 37:3. Boulder, Colorado: The Colorado Archeological Society, 1971. ("Pottery Sites near Limon, Colorado" by W. Raymond Wood) Donated by James Baker.

Texas Archeology, 16:2. Dallas: Texas Archeological Society, 1972.

Shafer, Harry J. and Thomas Roy Hester. "A Study of the Function and Technology of Certain Bifacial Tools from Southern Texas", Archeological Report #20.

Skinner, S. Alan. "Historical Archeology of the Neches Saline, Smith County, Texas", Archeological Report #21, Austin: Texas Historical Survey Committee, 1971.

Bordes, Francois. The Old Stone Age. New York: McGraw-Hill Book Co., 1968.

Cartier, Robert R. and Frank Hole. San Jacinto Battleground: Archeological Studies, 1971-72. Coastal Industrial Water Authority, 1972.

Oklahoma Anthropological Society Newsletter, 20:5. OAS: Ponca City, 1972.

Society for Historical Archaeology Newsletter 7:2. SHA: Moscow, Idaho, 1972.

Following items donated by Cal Howard:

Breternitz, David A. "Archaeological Investigations in Turkey Cave (NA2520), Navajo National Monument, 1963", Technical Series #8, Museum of Northern Arizona. Flagstaff: Northern Arizona Society of Science and Art, Inc., 1969.

Daugherty, L.L. & G. W. Jeffords. Indian Brother Buffalo: Legend of the Sacred White Buffalo. American Printing Co., Muskogee, Okla., 1968.

Jenness, Diamond. The People of the Twilight. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1959. \$1.95

McGimsey, Charles R. III, Hester Davis and Carl Chapman. Stewards of the Past. Columbia: University of Missouri, 1970.

Wendorf, Fred. A Guide for Salvage Archaeology. Santa Fe: Museum of New Mexico Press, 1966.

El Palacio 77:1, 2, 3, 4. Santa Fe: Museum of New Mexico, 1970-71.

The Redskin 5:1. Memphis, Tennessee: Genuine Indian Relic Society, Inc., 1970.

Southwestern Lore 26:1 (1960), 33:3 & 4, 34:1 (1968), 34:4, 35:1-2 (1969), 35:4, 36:1-3 (1970). Boulder: Colorado Archaeological Society.

Collins, Michael B. "A Review of the Llano Estacado Archaeology and Ethnohistory," Plains Anthropologist, 16:52. Lincoln, Nebraska: Plains Conference, 1971. Donated by James Baker.

Heizer, Robert F. and M. A. Baumhoff. "Big Game Hunters in the Great Basin: A Critical Review of the Evidence", Contributions of the University of California Archaeological Research Facility, #7. Berkeley: University of California Department of Anthropology, 1970. Donated by Leland Patterson.

Heizer, Robert F. and Lewis K. Napton. "Archaeological Investigations in Lovelock Cave, Nevada", Contributions of the University of California Archaeological Research Facility #10. Berkeley: University of California, Department of Anthropology, 1970. Donated by Leland Patterson.

American Antiquity, 37:3. Washington: Society for American Archaeology, 1972.

American Antiquity, 37:3, pt.2. Washington: Society for American Antiquity, 1972.

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