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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 - 1973

March - Dr. E. L. Lundelius, Jr., Department of Geological Sciences, University of Texas, spoke on "Fossil Vertebrates at Inner Space Caverns" (Georgetown, Texas).

April - Dr. Gregory Johnson, visiting Assistant Professor at Rice University (Anthropology Department) will speak on "Origin of the Political State in Iran".

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Coming Events

April 27 thru 29, 1973 - Archeological Society of New Mexico Annual Meeting at Santa Fe, New Mexico.

May 3 thru 5, 1973 - Society for American Archeology 38th Annual Meeting at San Francisco, California

June 9 thru 15, 1973 - Texas Archeological Society Field School, Waco, Texas.

June 17 thru 23, 1973 - Archeological Society of New Mexico Rock Art Field School, Farmington, New Mexico.

July 1 thru 28, 1973 - Archeological Society of New Mexico Field School at Farmington, New Mexico.

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Armand's Bayou Development

Jay Sharp is representing the Houston Archeological Society in the planning stages of the development of the bayou. Items under consideration include establishment of a museum and excavation (under professional supervision) and preservation of an archeological site within the park boundaries.

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Public Assists Archeologists

The following article from the Phoenix, Arizona Gazette presents some excellent examples of how a conservation oriented public can aid in gaining knowledge of the past. Your Editor had the pleasure of visiting with the Lehners on their ranch and observing the now famous Paleo site. The Lehners are dedicated to conserving the site for continuing study.

Museum Makes No Bones About Praising The Public

TUCSON — "If it weren't for the interested public, many bits and pieces of Arizona history would be lost."

So said Dr. Raymond Thompson, Arizona State Museum director and head of the University of Arizona Anthropology Department. The museum this week received an ancient human skeleton and some implements latest in a series of gifts from Arizona rancher and hunters.

The skeleton was donated by Mr. and Mrs. Warren Glenn, owners of the Malapai Ranch about 20 miles east of Douglas in the southeast corner of the state.

THE STORY of this particular find begins in March 1971 when Mrs. Glenn contacted Dr. Emil Haury, UA Riecker Distinguished Professor of Anthropology and adviser to the museum.

Mrs. Glenn told Haury that a human skeleton and some implements had been exposed by erosion in an arroyo on their property. Delighted at the invitation to examine the site, Dr. Haury visited the ranch with Walter Birkby, state museum physical anthropologist, and Helga Teiwes, museum photographer.

After studying the area, the team drew some tentative conclusions. The skeleton and implements showed that natives, apparently drawn to a spring, lived there around 1000-3000 B.C.

THE ARROYO on the Malapai Ranch continued to expose new evidence and the Glenns contacted Haury again. He and his associates recently returned to study animal bones embedded in loose soil and gravel cemented together by lime deposits from the spring water.

These bones are older than the human skeleton found earlier, Haury said. And if human bones are found in the lime deposit it could mean that natives were living in the area well before 3000 B.C.

The Glenns have now donated the human skeleton and other evidence found on their property to the state museum.

"Their enthusiasm and interest has been a tremendous help," Haury said. "A few more pieces of the puzzle have been put into place."

MARK NAVARETTE of Naco, sighted some bones and spearpoints, which he and his father reported to anthropologists at the museum. Their information led to the discovery of a classic set of elephant bones at least 10,000 years old, Haury said.

Another important discovery was prompted by Mr. and Mrs. Edward Lehner of Hereford. They reported seeing bones which turned out to be part of a kill site used by early man. Animal skeletons included nine mammoths, a tapir, a horse and a camel.

"Anthropologists can't possibly cover the entire state," Haury noted. "We certainly appreciate all the help we get from the public.

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Paleo Points from Karnes County

Dr. T. R. Hester has sent us an interesting article on Paleo points from Karnes Co., Texas. Tom is an Assistant Professor at the University of California at Berkeley - teaching various courses in Archeology. Last word we had was that he would become an Assistant Professor at U.T. - San Antonio beginning July 1, 1973. We are happy to see him come back to Texas! The paper, co-authored by Tom Hester, W. W. Birmingham and E. H. Schmedlin (both of Victoria, Texas) follows:

A NOTE ON PALEO-INDIAN ARTIFACTS FROM A SITE IN KARNES COUNTY, TEXAS. The purpose of this note is to record a series of fragmentary Paleo-Indian projectile points from the Tessman site in western Karnes County, Texas (Fig. 1). The site is situated atop a small ridge on the north side of a hillslope. Elevations in the site area (approximately 6 mi. west of the San Antonio River) range from 300 to 400 feet above sea level. The nearest water source at the present time is an unnamed creek about 1/2 mi. to the northeast; the headwaters of Tordillo Creek (a tributary of the Atascosa River) are about the same distance to the southeast. The entire site area has been artifically terraced and was cultivated for a number of years. It is now in pasture, covered with grasses, mesquite and black brush. The surrounding region is characterized by brushland vegetation, including live oak, scrub oak, mesquite, black brush and Mexican persimmon. Fauna are representative of the Tamaulipan Biotic Province (Blair, 1950, Tex. J. Sci., 2:104). Mr. Tessman, former owner of the site property, has a small surface collection from the site. In addition to the Paleo-Indian artifacts described here, it contains Archaic period dart points, including Pedernales, Kinney, Ensor, Refugio, Tortugas, Morhiss-like, Fairland and Langtry (Suhm, Krieger and Jelks, 1954, Bull. Tex. Archeol. Soc., 25). Unfortunately we have no data on non-projectile point tools from the site; during a recent visit, scattered flakes and a core were observed on the slightly eroded site surface. There is no evidence of Late Prehistoric (Neo-American) occupations.

The archeology of Karnes County is poorly known. As of 1960, there was only a single published reference regarding

archeological materials in the area (Campbell,1960, Bull. Tex. Archeol. Soc.,29:186). Several sites have been recorded in the county (notes on file, Texas Archeological Research Laboratory). During brief reconnaisance in the area, Birmingham has observed Late Archaic and Late Prehistoric artifacts (including pottery) from a site on the San Antonio River in the vicinity of Choate, and has noted Late Paleo-Indian projectile points (Angostura, Plainview) in private collections in the region (see Fig. 2,e, for an example). C.A. Calhoun (pers. comm.) has found two partially-restorable ollas of bone-tempered plainware at a small site in the county. It is apparent that a program of archeological research is badly needed in Karnes County.

The specimens. Four Paleo-Indian projectile points have been found at the Tessman site. All are basal fragments, and all have lateral edge smoothing (see Fig.2, a-d'). These are described below:

Specimen A (Fig. 2,a,a'). This specimen has parallel lateral edges,a deeply concave base, and flared basal corners. Transverse parallel flaking is present on both surfaces. On one face, the base has been thinned by the removal of a channel flake,with two arc-shaped flakes on both sides. Two short thinning flakes were detached from the basal edge on the opposite face. Length of the fragment is 26 mm., basal width is 24 mm., and maximum thickness is 6 mm. It is made of light gray flint.

Specimen B (Fig. 2,b,b'). This fragment is very similar to Specimen A. Basal thinning on one face consists of two rectangular flakes, while on the other face, there are multiple longitudinal flakes. Length of the fragment is 22 mm., basal width is 26 mm. (estimated), and maximum thickness is 6 mm. The specimen is fashioned of tan flint.

Specimen C (Fig. 2,c,c'). The lateral edges of this specimen expand from the base. A burin facet is present at one corner of the distal break. Both faces are characterized by narrow, transverse parallel flaking; on one face (Fig. 2,c') there is an oblique flake scar. The base is concave. One face has been basally thinned by the removal of four short flakes, while the opposite face has a channel flake scar extending longitudinally from the basal edge. Length of the fragment is 22 mm., basal width is 17 mm., maximum width is 20 mm., and maximum thickness is 5.5 mm. It is made of translucent mottled brown flint.

Specimen D (Fig. 2,d,d'). The specimen has parallel sides, a deeply concave base, and rounded basal corners. Both transverse parallel and oblique flake scars are visible on the body. Basal thinning on one face (Fig. 2,d) was accomplished by the removal of four short flakes, while on the other face, three short flakes and a broad lunate flake were detached. Length of the fragment is 22 mm., basal width is 27 mm., maximum width is 28 mm., and maximum thickness is 6.5 mm. As in the case of specimen B, this fragment is made of tan flint.

Discussion. Specimens A and B have outlines characteristic of Plainview-golondrina points (Johnson, 1964, Dept. Anthropol. Univ. Tex., Archaeol. Ser., 6:Fig.15). In addition to certain variations in outline, Johnson (1964:49) has used basal thinning techniques as one criterion in distinguishing between classic Plainview points and the golondrina variant. Classic Plainview usually have multiple long, narrow basal thinning scars, parallel to the long axis of the specimen (Sellards, 1952, Early Man in America:64-5). Specimen A from the Tessman site is unusual because of the very large channel flake on one face. However, one of the specimens from the Plainview type site also exhibits a similar large thinning flake scar (Krieger, 1947, Bull. Geol. Soc. Amer.:

Fig.5), and this trait has also been noted on Plainview points from northeastern Mexico (Epstein,1969, Dept. Anthropol,Univ. Tex.,Anthropol. Ser.,7:Fig.5,a), central Texas (Orchard and Campbell,1954, Tex. J. Sci., 4:Fig.2,b) and southern Texas (Hester,1967,Newsbull.S. Plains Archeol. Soc.,12). Specimen B (a golondrina example) has one side of the base thinned by multiple longitudinal flakes, characteristic of Plainview. A perusal of the literature reveals that other golondrina specimens sometimes have this trait (Orchard and Campbell,1954; Johnson,1964; Hester,1967; Weir,1956, Bull.Tex.Archeol. Soc.,26). Specimen D can be classed as Plainview, probably a golondrina variant as suggested by the recurved basal edge and the mode of basal thinning.

Specimen C presents some difficult typological problems. Its size ,shape, basal configuration and mode of basal thinning varies from the other three specimens reported here. One face has a large channel flake scar. Although it is reminiscent of the Clovis type, it probably can be included in the Plainview type. The narrow base and expanding sides also suggest that it might be an Angostura variant, as somewhat similar specimens have been recorded from sites along nearby San Miguel Creek (Hester,1968, Bull. Tex. Archeol. Soc.,39:Fig.2).

In summary, four Late Paleo-Indian projectile point fragments have been recorded from a surface site in Karnes County, Texas. Three are identified as Plainview golondrina specimens, exhibiting considerable variation in basal thinning techniques. A fourth specimen is more difficult to classify, but it probably falls within the Plainview range. The Late Paleo-Indian period is still poorly known in southern Texas. Data from Trans-Pecos Texas suggests that Late Paleo-Indian manifestations date to ca. 7000 B.C. and later (Sorrow, 1968, Paps.,Tex. Archeol. Salv. Proj.,14). Late Paleo-Indian specimens

in southern Texas are often found in eroded surface sites mixed with Archaic and later cultural remains. Only rarely,as at the Tessman site, do several specimens occur at one site. At present, we have no data to indicate how late these Paleo-Indian projectile point styles survived in the region. William W. Birmingham and E.H. Schmedlin, Victoria, Texas; Thomas Roy Hester, Dept. of Anthropology, University of California ,Berkeley 94720.

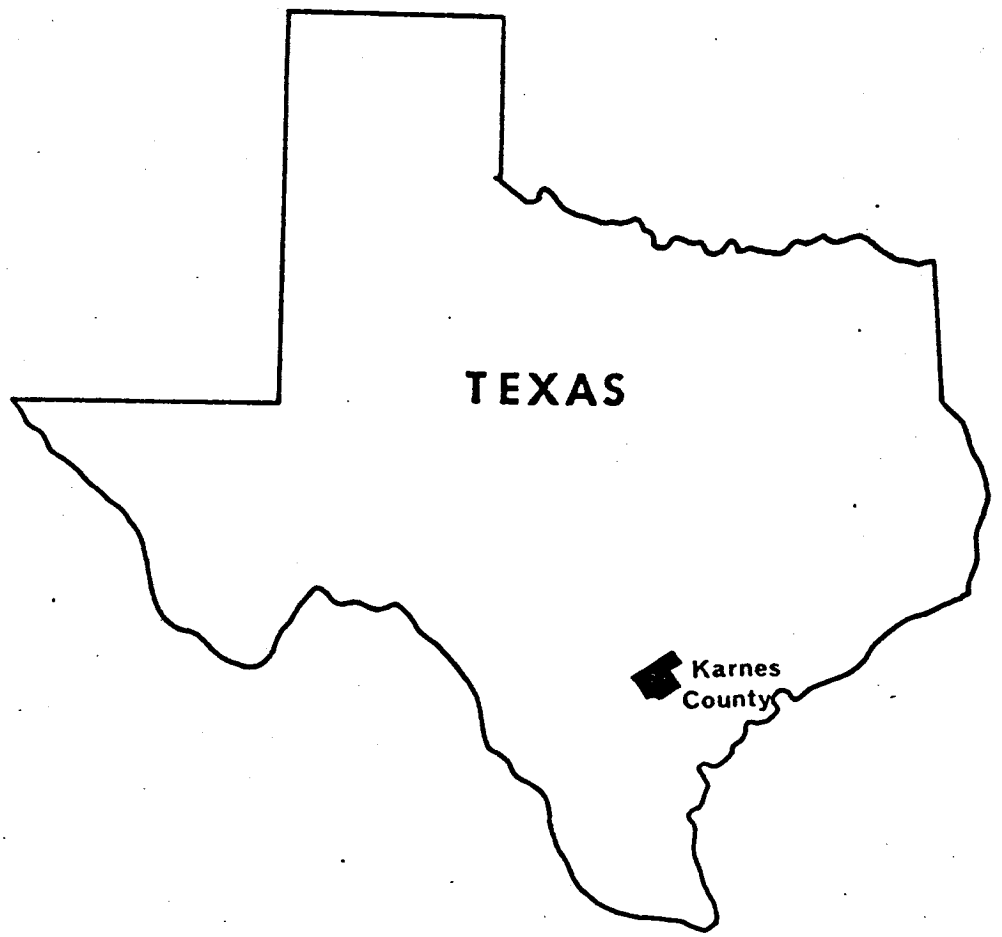

Fig. 1. Location of Karnes County, Southeastern Texas. The Tessman site is located in the westernmost past of the county.

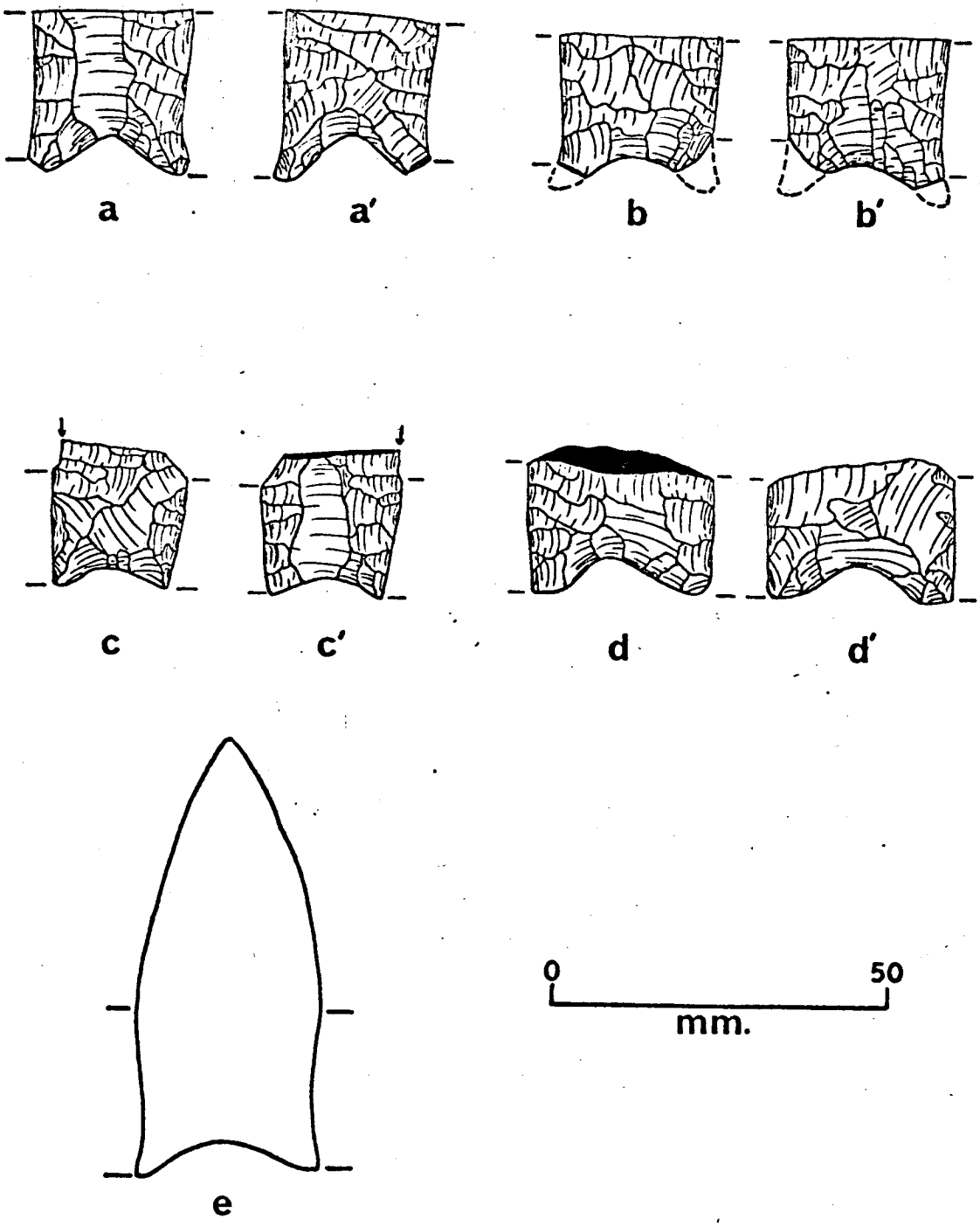

Fig. 2. Projectile Points from the Tessman Site and Karnes County, Texas. a-d', Points from the Tessman site; e, outline of Plainview specimen from private collection, Karnes County.