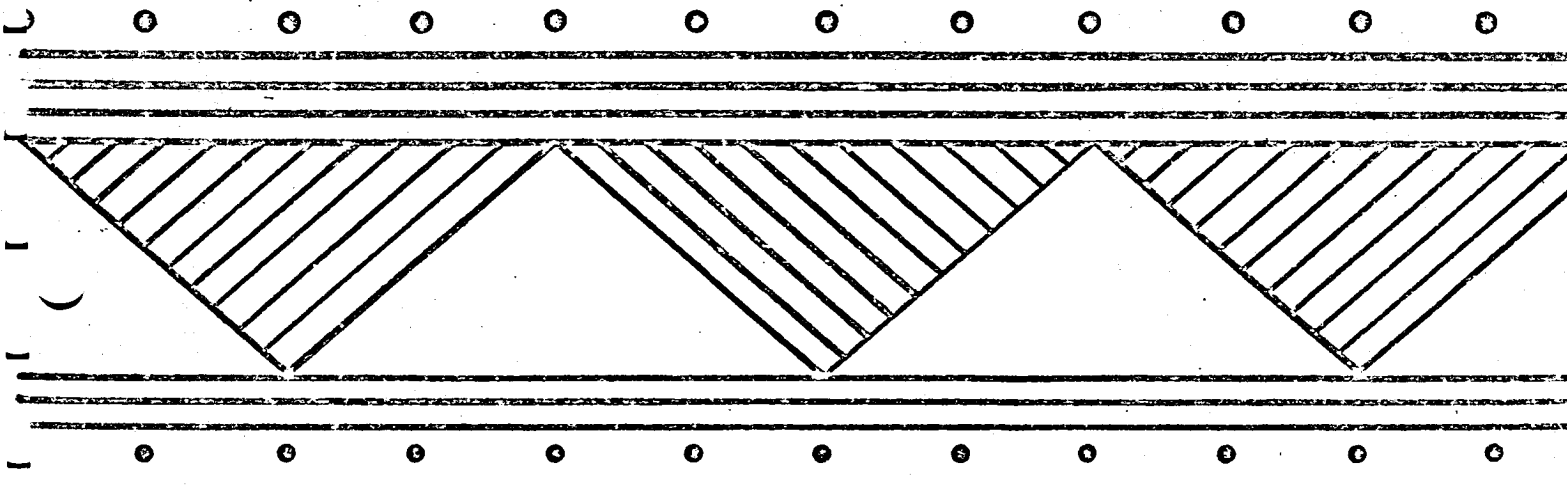


HOUSTON ARCHEOLOGICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

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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 - 1972-1973

November - Two films dealing with the life of the Yanomama Indians of the Orenoca River were viewed.
December - Dr. Donald D. Bogard discussed "Basic Principles of Dating Using Natural Radioactive Decay".
January-1973- Dr. Donald Lewis discussed "Dating Pottery and Lithic Artifacts".
February - S. Alan Skinner, Dept. of Anthropology, Southern Methodist University, will expound on the role of the amateur in archeology.

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Coming Events

The annual meeting of the Southwest Federation of Archeological Societies will be held March 23-25, 1973 in Midland, Texas.

The annual meeting of the Society for Applied Anthropology will be held April 12-14, 1973 in Tucson, Arizona.

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Eulogy

The death of Wayne Neyland, former chairman of the HAS, leaves a void in the Society that cannot be filled. Wayne was one of the founders of the HAS in 1959 and in spite of limitations imposed by his poor health, was active in pursuing the study of Gulf Coast Archeology until the time of his death. He was a past president of the Texas Archeological Society and his friends in the archeological world were legion. Those of us who knew Wayne salute his contributions to the advancement of knowledge of Texas archeology.

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Tom Hester has been a frequent contributor to the HAS Newsletter. The following paper is another of his excellent contributions. We'll be hearing more from Tom in future Newsletters.

NOTES ON AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE IN KLEBERG COUNTY, TEXAS

Thomas R. Hester

In June, 1969, H. J. Shafer (then of the Texas Archaeological Salvage Project) and I visited an archaeological site in Kleberg County, Texas. I had done previous work in the region (Hester 1969a; 1971), concentrating on investigations at sites along the margins of Grullo and Baffin Bays. Through this earlier work, information has been obtained on settlement patterns, mortuary practices, and the material culture of prehistoric occupations in this area. However, the site visited by Shafer and me in 1969 was situated in the interior of Kleberg County, an area not yet adequately sampled by archaeological research.

The site (41 KL 54 in the files of The University of Texas at Austin) is located in western Kleberg County, about 8.5 miles north of the city of Kingsville. Occupational remains at the site are buried in the south bank of San Fernando Creek, and were exposed during a channel improvement project carried out by the U.S. Corps of Engineers. The site area extends for perhaps 40-50 yards along the creek; width of the site is not known.

Our attention had been called to the site by Ronald Tate of Kingsville, who had earlier observed two burials eroding out of the exposed midden in the face of the creek bank. At the time of our visit, both burials were still partially in place, but were in very poor condition. Burial 1 was apparently flexed on its right side, with

its legs drawn up to the chest, and the skull directed south. Burial 2, located 25 feet to the east, was a similarly-flexed individual, resting on its left side and with the skull directed west. The skeletal remains are those of adults; however, osteological analyses have not yet been conducted.

In order to learn more of the context of these burials, we excavated an east-west vertical face 140 cm. long and 40 cm. deep. The cut revealed a concentrated midden deposit extending from the surface to a depth of 30 cm. The midden soil was dark brown and contained numerous lumps of baked clay, a few flint flakes, and a quantity of small mammal and turtle bones.

Several chipped stone artifacts were collected from the surface of the exposed midden and are illustrated in Fig. 1. The specimens include a Tortugas dart point, a small side notched projectile point, a small triangular biface and a small triangular uniface, both of which were burned, an Olmos biface (Shafer and Hester 1971) with a burin facet at one corner, a fragmentary Olmos specimen, a laterally trimmed blade, and a variety of small flakes and worked pebbles. Also collected was a sherd of sandy-paste pottery with a gray exterior. This assemblage suggests that the site was occupied during the Late Prehistoric era (cf. Hester 1969a;1971).

Downstream from 41 KL 54, we recorded two additional sites, also along the south bank (sites 41 KL 55 and KL 56). Two small triangular points were collected at 41 KL 56 (Fig. 1).

The meagre archaeological remains found at these interior Kleberg County sites do not permit much in the way of comparison with the known archaeological manifestations on Grullo and Baffin Bays, 15 to 20 miles to the southeast. Not unexpectedly, these sites share lithic forms, especially triangular projectile points and the distinctive Olmos bifaces (this specialized tool form is distributed in a narrow band extending from the Grullo-Baffin area west toward the Rio Grande; Shafer and Hester 1971). As at 41 KL 54, burials within campsites do occur at Grullo Bay (Hester 1969a), although I have hypothesized that the modal form of burial along the coast was in cemetery areas (Hester 1969b). It is possible that the bayshore sites and the interior sites represent campsites occupied briefly while nearby resources were utilized; such sites were repeatedly visited during the course of the subsistence cycle. Alternatively, it may be that the larger sites along Grullo and Baffin Bays were base camps from which small hunting and gathering parties went out. In such a case, we could assume that 41 KL 54 and similar small sites in the interior of Kleberg County represent special hunting or gathering stations. It will require much more research--above the preliminary reconnaissance that has been done here to date--before we can develop and test these hypotheses and more clearly define the nature of the prehistoric occupation on this sector of the Texas coast.

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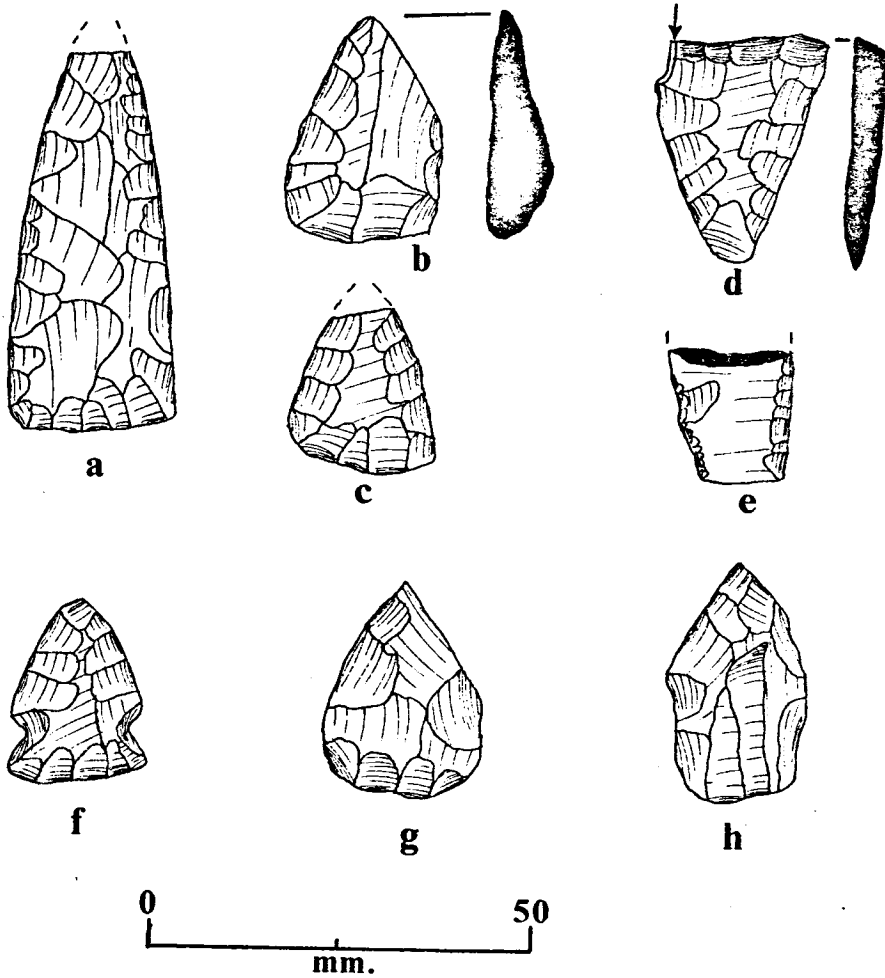
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Figure 1 (Hester). Artifacts from sites in Kleberg County, Texas.

a-f, artifacts from 41 KL 54; a, Tortugas point; b, small uniface; c, small biface; d, Olmos biface (note burin facet); e, laterally-trimmed blade; f, side notched point; g,h, points from 41 KL 56.



Sealy Area Survey

In November, 1972, HAS members under the direction of University of Texas personnel, participated in a site survey around Sealy, Texas in conjunction with proposed plans for building power generating facilities in the area. A number of sites were located and it is hoped that a report on the overall survey, which included power line right of ways, will be forthcoming in the near future.

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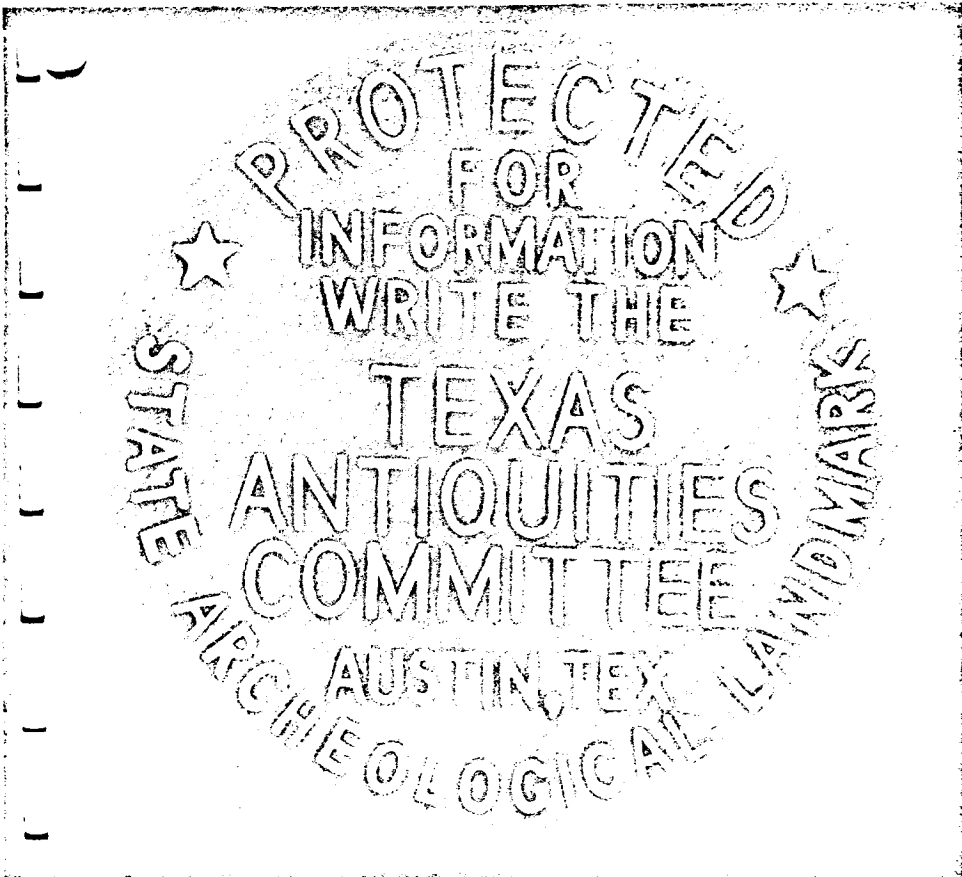
Projectile Point Types Posters

The West Texas State University Anthropological Society, Box 884, WT Station, Canyon, Texas, 79015 is now producing and selling Texas and Bordering States Projectile Point Type posters. These are full size line drawing reproductions of points and sell for \$2.00 + 50 cents postage. They can be used for rapid point identification.

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State Archeological Landmarks

If you see one of these markers, you are probably on a protected archeological site. Don't ignore it! Here is additional information from The Medallion, official publication of the Texas State Historical Survey Committee.



Since its enactment in 1969, the Texas Antiquities Code has been widely publicized in its efforts to protect archeological and historic sites on the public lands of the state. Resounding controversies have arisen over treasures and artifacts located (or allegedly located) on Pelican Island and the Texas tidelands, to name only two.

But few people are aware of another facet of the Antiquities Code, which is its ability to protect similar sites on private land.

Section 7 of the code provides that — with the consent of the owner — any piece of private property having historical or archeological significance may be declared a State Archeological Landmark by vote of the Antiquities Committee.

Upon being named an SAL, the property automatically gains the protection provided by the code, which makes it illegal to damage or destroy the property or artifacts located on it. Formal permission of the Antiquities Committee is required for any type of excavation on an SAL.

Any person who damages an SAL may be stopped by court injunction or restraining order, compelled to return illegally removed items, and may be punished by a fine of not less than \$50 or more than \$1,000 and-or a 30-day maximum jail sentence. Each day of continued violation of the code constitutes a separately punishable offense.

Persons wishing to obtain a copy of the Antiquities Code or more information on

State Archeological Landmarks should write Truett Latimer, Executive Secretary, Antiquities Committee, P.O. Box 12276, Austin 78711.

THE TOP OF A MARKER designating a piece of property as a State Archeological Landmark is pictured above. Any private land which has been declared an SAL must be posted with at least one such marker (shown actual size) for each five acres of area. See related story below.

New Members

The General Library, University of California, Berkeley, California; Edge and Mrs. Woodrow Seals, Houston; Dr. Frank Soday, Tulsa, Oklahoma (Welcome back, Frank) and Mr. and Mrs. William Colvin, Houston. Welcome Aboard!!

#

Additions to the Library

Newsletter, 20:8. Ponca City, Oklahoma: Oklahoma Anthropological Society, 1972.

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