

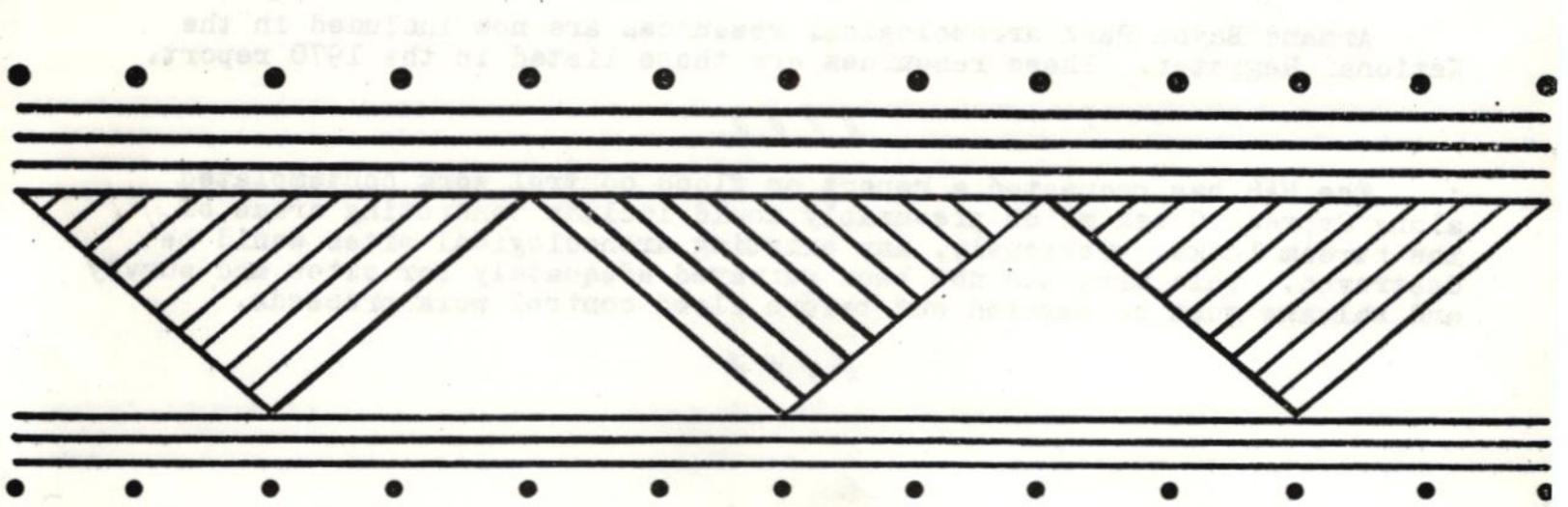
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The Newsletter is published four times per year by the Houston Archeological Society. Contributions of news items, short articles and information of archeological significance should be sent to the Editor - Alan R. Duke, 1706 Oaks Drive, Pasadena, Texas 77502.

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Activities

• Liberty County Sites

Margie Lohse is planning test excavations of sites in Liberty County during the first part of January, weather permitting. Volunteers from HAS are invited to participate. Proposed dates for this project are January 5-14, including the weekend of January 8-9. The area where this work will be done is in the Trinity River Valley approximately 12 miles east of Cleveland, Texas. Participants are asked to bring their personal excavation equipment and food and water. Group housing is not available at this time, although Cleveland has four motels and a trailer park (all on Hwy. 59). Call Margie at home, 682-3556, on Jan. 1 or 2 for further details and information on how to find the site(s).

• The Archeological Survey of the Gossman Brothers' Place on Armand Bayou, originally scheduled for December 11, 1976, was rained out and will be rescheduled for early March 1977.

• Cultural Resources Committee - Armand Bayou Park

A new committee, chaired by Lou Fullen, has been formed to plan programs dedicated to the conservation of historical and archeological resources that exist in Armand Bayou Park. The committee will include H. O. Davis, Jr., J. R. Deshayes, R. L. Gregg, W. L. McClure, Harriet Latimer and Michael Rees.

Armand Bayou Park archeological resources are now included in the National Register. These resources are those listed in the 1970 report.

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• The HAS has requested a report on flood control work contemplated along Cypress Creek which presumably would include concreting areas of the stream banks. Obviously, any existing archeological sites would be destroyed. This area has not been surveyed adequately for sites and survey and salvage must be carried out before flood control work proceeds.

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An Archeological Complex in Harris Co., Texas - L. W. Patterson

During survey work in inland Harris Co., Texas, twelve archeological sites were found on both sides of an old bayou meander, now abandoned because of channel rectification for flood control. Two of these sites (41HR244, 41HR248) have been previously published (Patterson 1976b,c). This report summarizes the details of the other ten sites. Together, these twelve sites give a brief picture of prehistoric occupation from the terminal Archaic through late prehistoric time. Data presented here is for surface collections made through early 1976, with some samples being larger than for previous use of lithic data from some of these sites (Patterson 1976a).

The general setting is a wooded area with fairly level ground. Soils are mostly sandy, with some areas of clay. Trees are a mixture of deciduous and coniferous types. There is a significant amount of wildlife still found in this area, including squirrel, turtles, raccoon, and occasionally grey wolves. Deer were probably plentiful in former times. Waterfowl are also present seasonally. The total area under discussion has dimensions of approximately 2000 by 3000 feet. Most of the individual sites are under 100 feet in diameter, with sites 41HR244 and 41HR255 being somewhat larger.

As previously reported (Patterson 1976c), site 41HR244 seems to cover a period from the terminal Archaic through late prehistoric time, say AD 0 to 1500. All other sites in this immediate area being discussed fall within this time range, and generally represent shorter time intervals. Some sites may even be single seasonal occupations. The overall pattern is one of use of a general area over a fairly long time period, in a seasonal intermittent manner. Site 41HR244 offers the possibility of some preceramic occupation, and perhaps 41HR249 and 41HR251 as well. Using Aten's (1971:fig 10) chronology, all other sites fall into the Woodland period of about AD 200 to 600, having ceramics and dart points; and the late prehistoric starting about AD 600, with dart points largely replaced by small bifacial arrow points. As discussed for site 41HR248 (Patterson 1976b), there may be a transitional period shown by use of projectile points that could be small dart points or large arrow points. A previous paper (Patterson 1976a) has discussed technological changes through time in inland Harris Co. While technological details are becoming better understood, seasonal subsistence patterns and possible relationships to littoral sites remain poorly defined. A nomadic hunting and gathering lifestyle is indicated, in any event. The most significant technological patterns are that later sites tend to be smaller, use smaller lithic tools, and use less ceramics.

In describing the following series of ten small sites, it is convenient to give a single summary of lithic flakes, in Table 1. Prismatic blade width distributions are also shown.

Site 41HR245 appears to have both Woodland and late prehistoric elements, as there are fragments of an unclassified dart point and an unclassified arrow point. A few pieces of Goose Creek sandy paste pottery were found, with 6 sherds under 15 mm square, and 1 larger. Prismatic blade technology includes a microblade core fragment, 2 core trim flakes, and blades. Miscellaneous lithic include 5 flake graters, 1 thumbnail type scraper, 1 miscellaneous biface, 12 thick flint chips, and two pieces of burnt rock. There are also 6 small smooth pebbles that might have been

used for rattles. Some artifacts from several of these sites are shown in Figure 1.

Site 41HR246 is Woodland or later, as shown by a single Goose Creek type potsherd. No projectile points were found. Three fired clayballs were recovered. General lithics found include an amorphous flint core, 1 medium sized flint pebble, 4 thick flint chips, and 4 small smooth pebbles.

Site 41HR247 seems to be mainly late prehistoric, with 2 Catahoula arrow points. Catahoula arrow points may occur early in the late prehistoric. Ten Goose Creek potsherds were found, with 9 under 15mm square and 1 larger. Two fired clay lumps were recovered. There was 1 medium size quartzite possible hammerstone, 3 miscellaneous flint cores. Three medium size flint pebbles are large enough for flake manufacturing use. Two classified dart point fragments may indicate that there is also a Woodland component. Seven thick flint chips and 1 petrified wood chip were found.

Although no ceramics were present, site 41HR249 is tentatively classified as Woodland because of the small single shouldered Gary dart point, weighing 4.2 grams. The total site sample is small, with several flint flakes, 1 flake graver, and 1 thick flint chip.

Site 41HR251 may be Woodland or late Archaic. There is one Kent dart point, weighing 8.4 grams, and one unclassified dart point fragment. All flint flakes are fairly small, and there are also 3 flint cores and 3 flint pebbles up to 35 mm in diameter. Six thick flint chips were recovered. No ceramics were found, but the overall sample is small.

Site 41HR252 is a small late prehistoric site with 2 Clifton arrow points, a few flint flakes, a medium size flint pebble, and 2 miscellaneous flint cores.

Site 41HR253 is another small late prehistoric site, with a single Scallorn arrow point, weighing 1.0 grams. There are 2 medium size flint pebbles, a few flint flakes, 1 quartzite fragment (possibly from a hammerstone), and 5 small smooth pebbles.

Still another small late prehistoric site is 41HR254, with one Catahoula arrow point, and one possible Alba arrow point. A single prismatic blade was retouched as an end scraper. Two medium size flint pebbles were recovered. All flint flakes found were small.

Site 41HR255 is the largest of the late prehistoric sites described here in terms of total artifacts, and is somewhat larger in area (approximately 75 by 150 feet). Arrow points included 1 small Perdiz, 1 Scallorn stem fragment, and an unclassified point fragment. A complete prismatic blade industry is present; with blades, a conical microblade core fragment, and 3 core trim flakes. Other lithics include 3 flint cores, 18 thick flint chips, 4 small smooth pebbles, 2 biface fragments, 1 side scraper, and 5 flake graters. One small Goose Creek type potsherd was found.

Site 41HR267 is the only site where any precision in dating can be discussed. This is a Woodland site starting at the very beginning of the period, with a Goose Creek stamped pattern sherd which L. E. Aten (personal communication) has dated to about AD 100. Goose Creek Plain sherds are also present, with 6 under 15 mm square and 4 larger. One sherd tempered sherd was also found. Lithics other than flint flakes include an unclassified

dart point fragment, 1 perforator, 1 biface fragment, 1 flint core, 1 flake retouched as an end scraper, and 3 thick flint chips. Two bone fragments were found.

As with other sites in Harris County surveyed by the writer, many of these sites possess complete small blade industries. Lateral edges of some blades show use retouch that can be associated with cutting functions, and some blades have distal end unifacial retouch from end scraper use. Both small flakes and sections of prismatic blades were shaped and retouched to manufacture unifacial side and end blades, perhaps used as elements for arrow points. The presence of unifacial microliths of this type continues from the Archaic until after bifacial arrow points become predominant. On some late sites, it appears that unifacial arrow points were used more often than bifacial arrow points. David S. Dibble (personal communication) has informed me that a late site in Val Verde County (41VV446) has mostly unifacial arrow points made on prismatic blades, so there are examples in another area of Texas.

There are enough primary flakes with remaining cortex and flint cores on these sites to indicate that at least some unworked flint nodules and pebbles were brought to the sites for lithic manufacturing use, although the possibility remains that some primary flint knapping was done at other locations, at lithic sources. Heat treating of flint was widely used in all time periods. Flint types used on these sites are typical for Harris County (Patterson 1974), with light tan flint predominating.

As noted in a previous report (Patterson 1976a), utilized lithic flake tools tend to become smaller on later sites. Tool functions seem to remain fairly constant, however. A separate study is being made on lithic flake wear patterns, and retouch type percentages on large flakes from Archaic material from site 41HR184 are very similar to retouch type percentages of smaller flakes on late prehistoric site 41HR255.

Only relatively small amounts of pottery are found on late prehistoric sites, compared to the earlier Woodland period. Pottery in general is less frequent on inland than on littoral sites. While some sherd tempered pottery is found on late sites in inland Harris Co., it does not become very significant as on some littoral sites of the upper Texas coast.

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Table 1
Lithic flake Summary

Site	Site Type	% Irregular Flake Sizes, mm						% Pris. Blades	% Unif. End Blades	% Unif. Side Blades	Total Lithic Flakes
		under 10	10-15	15-20	20-25	25-35	over 35				
41HR245	W/L	34.9	36.0	15.5	4.7	1.4	0	6.1	0.6	0.8	361
41HR246	W?	30.4	30.4	17.4	8.7	2.2	0	8.7	0	2.2	46
41HR247	W?/L	28.8	37.9	17.6	5.2	3.3	0	6.5	0	0.7	153
41HR249	W?	25.7	11.4	42.9	5.7	2.9	0	5.7	0	5.7	35
41HR251	A?	37.9	44.8	15.6	0	0	0	1.7	0	0	58
41HR252	L	41.2	35.3	23.5	0	0	0	0	0	0	17
41HR253	L	56.5	34.8	8.7	0	0	0	0	0	0	23
41HR254	L	34.8	39.1	21.7	2.2	0	0	2.2	0	0	46
41HR255	L	45.9	29.3	10.4	2.4	1.2	0	6.0	2.1	2.7	335
41HR267	W	40.2	32.5	14.3	1.3	2.6	1.3	5.2	1.3	1.3	77

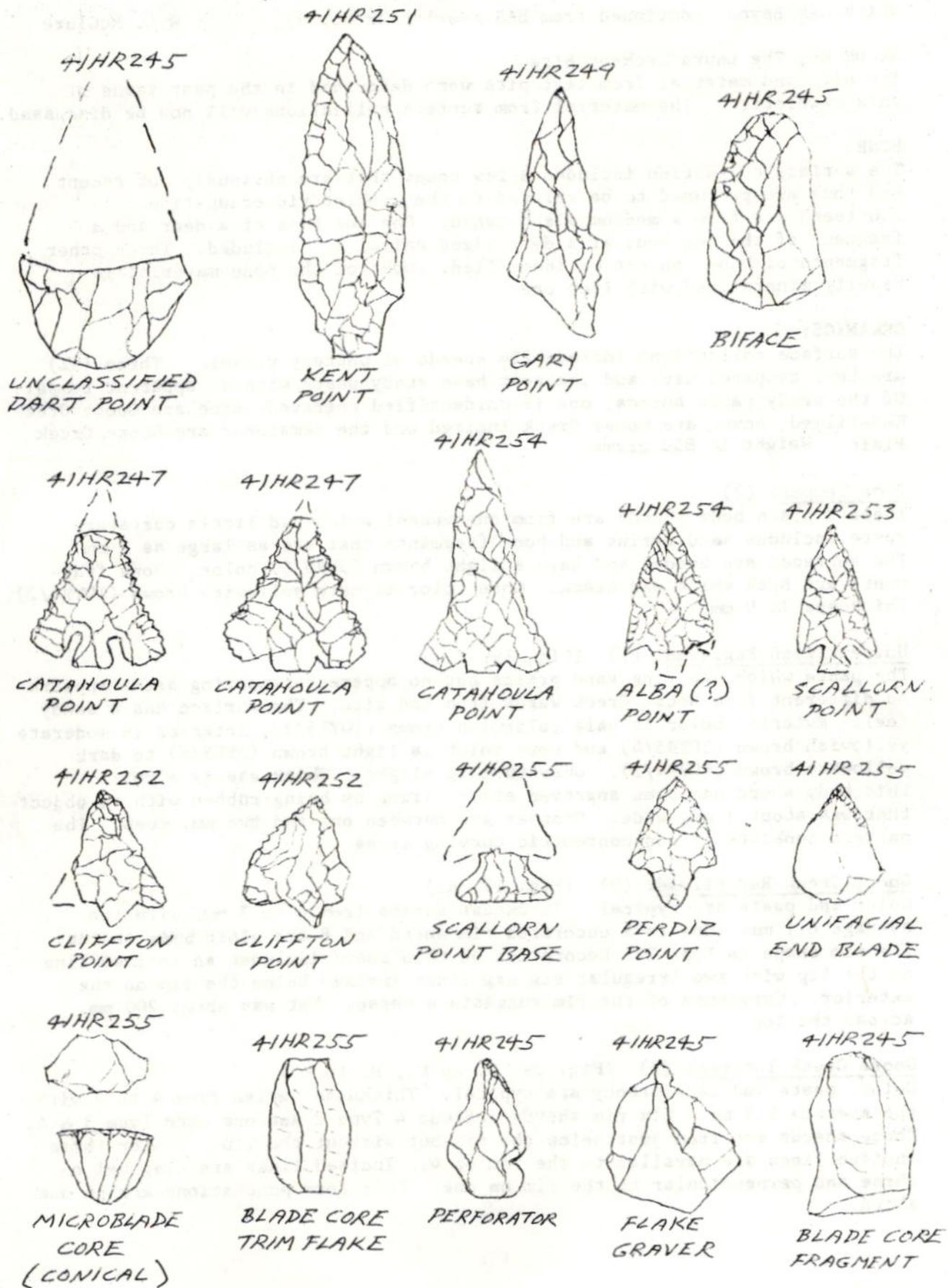
L- late prehistoric W- Woodland A- late Archaic

Prismatic Blade Widths, % of Blades

Site	under 10mm	10-15mm	15-20mm
41HR245	41	50	9
41HR246	25	75	0
41HR247	30	60	10
41HR249	0	100	0
41HR251	100	0	0
41HR254	0	100	0
41HR255	45	40	15
41HR267	25	75	0

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FIGURE 1
LITHIC ARTIFACTS

(ACTUAL SIZE)



41 HR 89, The Laura Lackner Site

The site and material from test pits were described in the past issue of this newsletter. The material from surface collections will now be discussed.

BONE:

The surface collection includes a few bones that are obviously not recent and thus are presumed to be related to the prehistoric occupation. Two teeth are from a medium sized canid. One toe bone of a deer and a fragment of the leg bone of a deer sized animal are included. Three other fragments of bone can not be identified. Most of the bone material is heavily mineralized with iron ore.

CERAMICS:

The surface collections include 214 sherds of pottery vessels. Three (1%) are bone tempered ware and the rest have sandy paste without apparent temper. Of the sandy paste sherds, one is unidentified engraved, nine are Goose Creek Red-filmed, seven are Goose Creek Incised and the remainder are Goose Creek Plain. Weight is 850 grams.

Bone Temper: (3)

These 3 plain body sherds are from one vessel which had little curvature. Paste includes sand grains and bone fragments that are as large as 2 mm. The surfaces are eroded and have a light brown (5YR5/6) color. Bone fragments are both white and black. Core color is dark yellowish brown (10YR4/2). Thickness is 9 mm.

Unidentified Engraved: (1) (Fig. 19, G.)

The paste which has fine sand grains but no apparent tempering agent appears no different from Goose Creek Wares from the site. The surface has a sandy feel. Exterior color is pale yellowish brown (10YR6/2); interior is moderate yellowish brown (10YR5/4) and core color is light brown (5YR5/6) to dark yellowish brown (10YR4/2). Curvature is slight. Thickness is 8 mm. This body sherd has been engraved after firing by being rubbed with an object that was about 1 mm. wide. Grooves are between one and two mm. deep. The pattern consists of non-concentric curving lines.

Goose Creek Red Filmed: (9) (Fig. 19, A.)

Color and paste are typical. Thickness varies from 4 to 7 mm. with the average 6.1 mm. One is a decorated rim sherd and 8 are plain body sherds. The rim shape is Type 2. Decoration on this sherd includes an incised line on the lip with two irregular zig zag lines incised below the lip on the exterior. Curvature of the rim suggests a vessel that was about 200 mm. across the top.

Goose Creek Incised: (9) (Fig. 19, B. to F., H. to K.)

Color, paste and consistency are typical. Thickness varies from 4 to 7 with the average 5.5 mm. Six rim sherds include 4 Type 2 and one each Type 3 & 4. Three sherds are from just below the rim but without the lip. Two or three incised lines are parallel to the rim on 4, Incised lines are diagonal on three and perpendicular to the rim on one. Cuneiform punctations are on one sherd.

41 HR 89

Goose Creek Plain: (192)

Color, paste and consistency are typical. Two sherds are rounded bases that vary in thickness from 7 to 10 and from 5 to 6 mm. Two of the 181 body sherds have been drilled. The 5 mm. sherd has a hole that is 6.8 mm. in diameter on the exterior and 3.1 mm. on the interior. A 7 mm. sherd has a hole that is 6.8 mm. on the exterior and 3.8 mm. on the interior. Nine rim sherds include 5 Type 2, 3 Type 3 and one Type 5. There are no indications of lip notching. Thickness varies from 3 to 10 with the average 5.7 mm. on the body sherds. Rim sherds vary from 4 to 7 mm. with the average 5.7 mm.

The plain body sherds could be from Goose Creek Incised as well as from Goose Creek Plain wares. As there are 9 rim sherds of each it is probable that half of the body sherds are of each type as well.

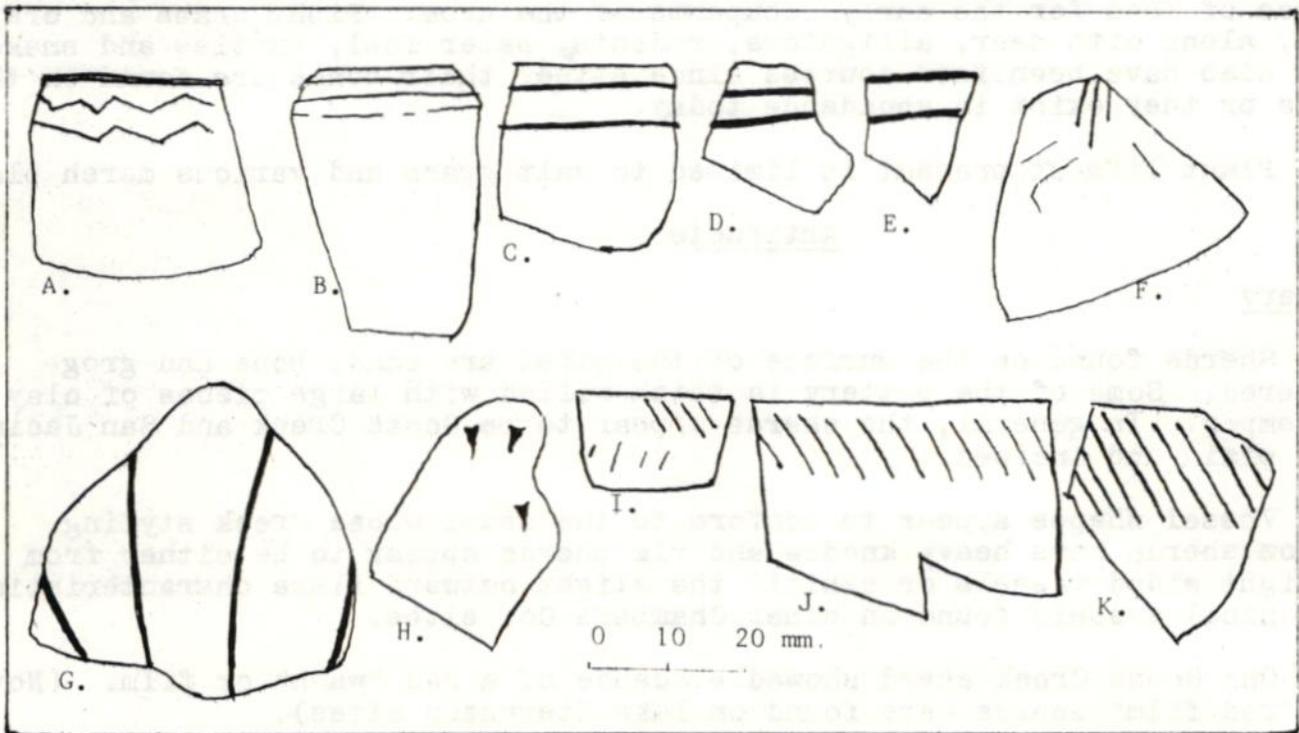


Figure 19

Items D. and E. are in the F.W. Goodrum collection.

OTHER FIRE-HARDENED PLASTIC MATERIAL:Clay Chunks:

Several clay chunks similar to those from the test area were found on the surface. One piece was different in that it was composed of larger sand grains and iron ore fragments cemented with clay. Sides are flat. It is 14 mm. thick.

Discussion of lithics in the surface collections will be in the next Newsletter.

The "Shallow Lake" Sites - Chambers Co., Texas (Lake Surprise) - Alan R. Duke

Lake Stevenson, one of the "Shallow Lake" sites, north of East Bay, was discussed by the author in the January 1976 (No. 51) issue of the HAS Newsletter. Just a short distance (4500 feet) southwest of Lake Stevenson lies Lake Surprise, another shallow lake.

Lake Surprise is about 8000 feet long and 4500 feet wide and is situated 2500 feet inland from the north shore of East Bay.

Environment

Lake Surprise is situated in the Gordy Marsh. "Topo" maps do not show any "high" ground around the lake but low shell middens on the west and south sides of the lake do exist. Obviously, as is the case at Lake Stevenson, any storm accompanied by high tides would flood the area.

Clam and oyster shell form the middens and must have been a principle source of food for the early occupants of the area. Fish, crabs and crayfish, along with deer, alligators, rodents, water fowl, turtles and snakes must also have been food sources since either their bones are found on the sites or they exist in abundance today.

Plant life at present is limited to salt grass and various marsh plants.

Artifacts

Pottery

Sherds found on the surface of the sites are sand, bone and grog tempered. Some of the pottery is thick walled with large pieces of clay as temper. In general, the sherds appear to be Goose Creek and San Jacinto, both plain and incised.

Vessel shapes appear to conform to the usual Goose Creek styling. Bottom sherds have heavy knodes and rim sherds appear to be either from straight sided vessels or exhibit the slight outward flare characteristic of conical vessels found on other Chambers Co. sites.

One Goose Creek sherd showed evidence of a red "wash" or film. (Note: Two "red film" sherds were found on Lake Stevenson sites).

Also, one sherd of San Jacinto ware showed internal incising, a relatively rare characteristic noted on sherds from other area sites.

Lithic Material

Few lithic artifacts were found on the surface of the Lake Surprise sites. A total of 2 Perdiz points, a perforator and 52 worked flakes represents the total lithics found. The Perdiz points have the long stem characteristic of the points found on the East Bay sites south of Lake Surprise.

Dart points, knives, etc. were not evident and all flint flakes and pieces found were very small.

One piece of sandstone was found. These are commonly used as abraders and sharpeners for bone tools in the area.

Bone and Shell Material

Bone artifacts found included one incised section of bird bone, several polished fragments of bone awls and fragments of deer ulna, toe bones, etc.

Shell material other than the clam and oyster shell of the middens was also scarce and included just two sections of conch columella.

Conclusions

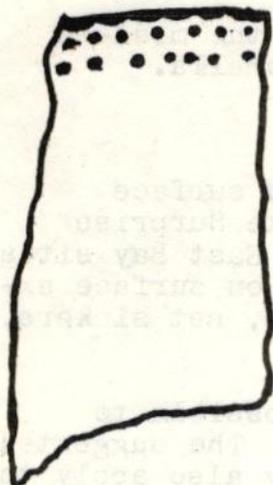
The artifacts described are the results of very limited surface examination. Based on the analysis of the material, the Lake Surprise sites are Galveston Bay Phase sites and are very similar to East Bay sites. However, neither the East Bay or Lake Surprise sites, based on surface examination, possess the more unusual items such as boatstones, net sinkers, carinated pottery, etc. found on Lake Stevenson sites.

Only thru closer examination of the sites will it be possible to determine whether the same people occupied all three areas. The suggested time scale of AD 800 to AD 1600 for Lake Stevenson sites may also apply to the Lake Surprise sites.

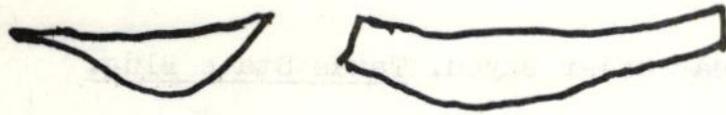
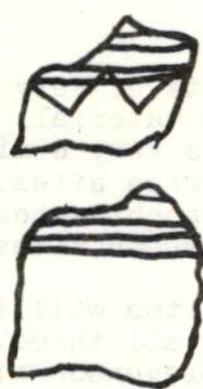
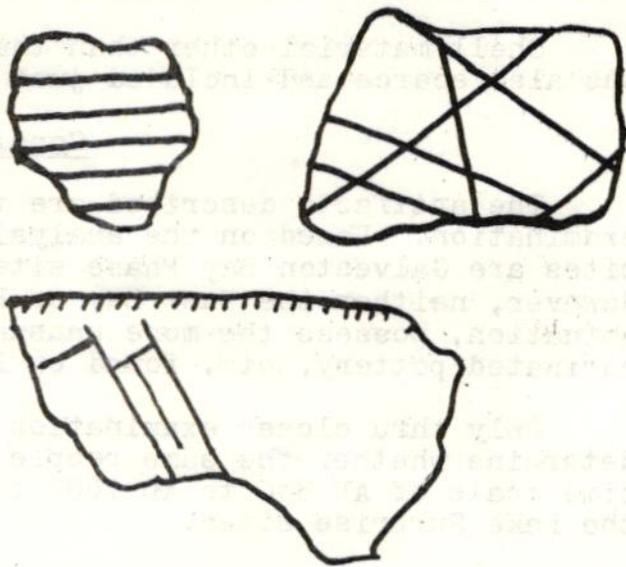
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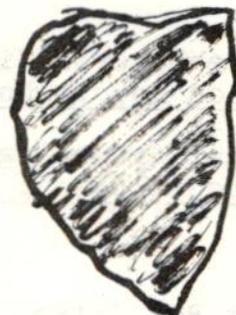
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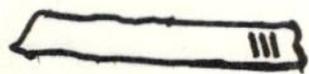
INTERIOR INCISING



BOWL BOTTOMS



RED FILM (WASH)



INCISED BONE



PERDIZ POINTS



PERFORATOR

ARTIFACTS FROM LAKE SURPRISE
CHAMBERS CO., TEXAS