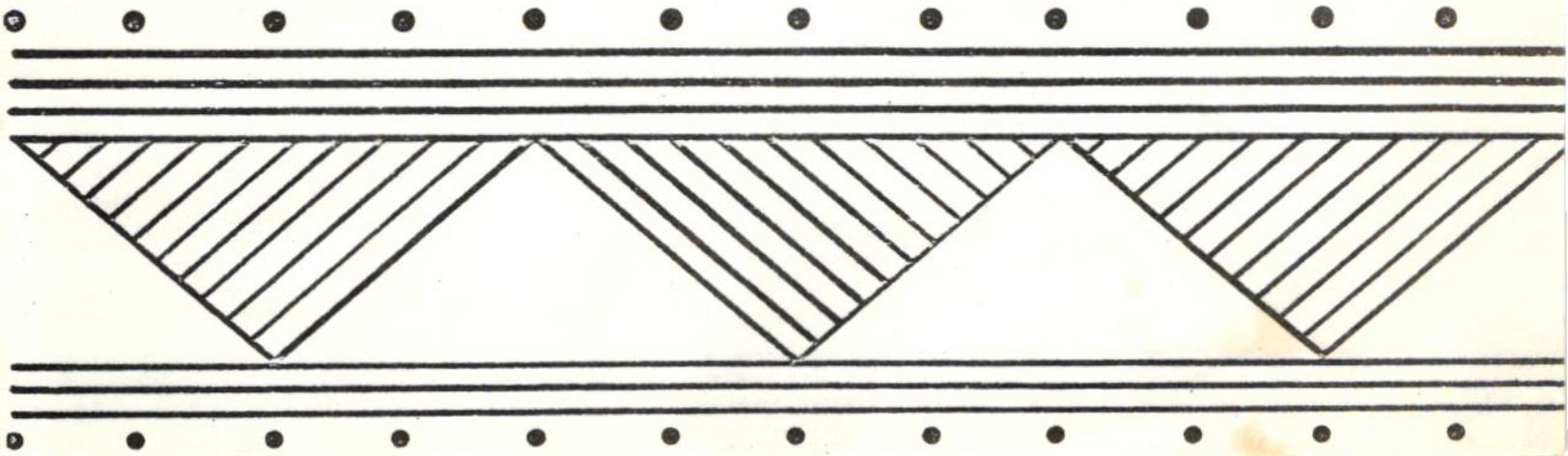


HOUSTON ARCHEOLOGICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

NUMBER 61

OCTOBER 1978



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 HAS Officers - 1978-79

Chairman - Richard Gregg, 5322 Stillbrooke, Houston, Texas 77096 - 721-4865

Sec.-Treas. - Bill McClure, 1510 Big Bend, Apt 52A, Houston, Texas 77055 -
461-9365

Directors - Kathryn Salzar, John Herbert, Charles Magan

Our thanks to the officers who served in 1977-78 and best wishes to the new officers who will guide us in 1978-79.

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Coming Events

- Two seminars of interest are currently being conducted in cooperation with the Houston Archeological Society at the Houston Museum of Natural Science:

The American Indian and His Foods - every Thursday at 7:30 PM - September 28 thru November 16 with field trips on October 28 and November 11-12. Instructors - Lou Fullen and Carmine Stahl.

Nautical Archaeology - every Thursday at 7:30 PM - September 28 thru November 16. Instructors - Dr. George Bass, Texas A&M, (President of Institute of Nautical Archaeology), Dr. D. L. Hamilton, Texas A&M, Donald Kieth, Roger Smith (graduate students - Texas A&M).

- Texas Archeological Society Annual Meeting - November 3-5 - La Quinta Motor Inn, Corpus Christi, Texas.
- Plains Archeological Conference - November 9-10 - Denver Hilton, Denver, Colorado.

Woodland Period Site 41HR267, Harris Co., Texas - L. W. Patterson

A previous article (Patterson 1976a) has described an archeological complex in inland Harris County, Texas containing twelve sites. Enough additional diagnostic material has been found for one of these sites, 41HR267, that a brief separate report seems to be warranted. This site is located on fairly high level ground at the top of a gentle slope from an old bayou stream bed, at a distance of several hundred feet from the stream bed. The setting is typical of wooded areas common to bayous in Harris County. As noted previously (Patterson 1976a:2), this type of location is capable of supporting considerable wildlife. Site 41HR267 is approximately 200 feet in diameter, judging by artifacts collected on the surface. In addition, approximately 100 feet to the west, a small scatter of lithic materials was found. It is not possible to determine if this represents a separate site.

This site was previously described as being from the Woodland period, which would represent occupations in the range of AD 100 to 600 (Aten 1971:fig 10). A Gary dart point (Figure 1A), made of petrified wood, and three other chert dart point fragments have now been found here, which are typical of both Woodland and Late Archaic periods. One small sherd that could possibly be classified as Goose Creek Stamped was found, which Aten (1976:56) dates at AD 100 at the start of the Woodland period. A thin, single shouldered point (Figure 1B) was found, that could be classified as a large arrow point or a small dart point. It is 4 mm thick and the basal fragment found weighs only 1.5 grams. This may indicate additional site occupation in the Late Prehistoric period or at least fairly late in the Woodland period.

Other ceramics found include 9 Goose Creek Plain sandy paste sherds and 1 sherd that might be typed as Conway, with very coarse sand tempering. It is now felt that a sherd previously classified as sherd tempered was not correctly identified. Three fired clay balls and four caliche balls were found. Caliche balls react with acids, because of carbonate content, but fired clay balls do not give a reaction. Commercial grade hydrochloric acid was used for these tests.

The small number of large flint flakes, above 25 mm square, tends to confirm that this is a fairly late site, in comparison with other Harris County data given by Patterson (1976b:fig 5). The size distribution of irregular shaped flint flakes is as follows:

size, side dimensions of square, mm	number			total	% of total
	P	S	I		
under 10	0	7	61	68	37.0
10 to 15	7	11	50	68	37.0
15 to 20	7	11	13	31	16.8
20 to 25	1	4	6	11	6.0
25 to 30	0	1	2	3	1.6
30 to 35	0	0	2	2	1.1
35 to 40	0	0	0	0	0.0
40 to 50	0	1	0	1	0.5
	15	35	134	184	100.0

It appears that lithic manufacturing activities involved use of fairly small pieces of raw materials. However, there are enough primary and secondary cortex flakes to indicate that raw materials were not completely trimmed before being brought to this site. The nearest raw material source is approximately 25 miles west, in alluvial deposits on the Brazos River.

Flake classification by amount of remaining cortex is: 8.2% primary, 19.0% secondary and 72.8% interior. One small flint core, made from a large pebble 40 mm in diameter was found, having several random flake scars.

Two quartzite fragments were found that may be from hammerstones. There were three thick flint chips collected. Several of the larger flint flakes have edge wear patterns that may indicate cutting and scraping functions. Four small prismatic blade segments were found, with widths of 9, 11, 12 and 14 mm. One has considerable delicate retouch on the lateral edges, that could indicate some type of hafted side-blade service. Two small, smooth pebbles, 10 to 15 mm in diameter, were collected, that may have been used in rattles (Aten and others 1976:41). The only faunal remains found were two small bone fragments.

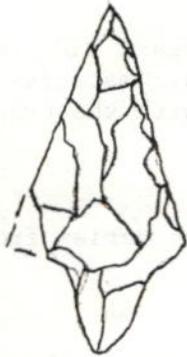
A small scatter of lithic materials was found approximately 100 feet west of site 41HR267. This consisted of a well used quartzite hammerstone, a dart point blade fragment, one small smooth pebble, one thick piece of flint and 5 small flint flakes.

The materials collected on this site are typical for sites of this time period in the general area, and reflect a probable nomadic hunting and gathering lifeway. A large number of reports on sites such as this will be required to accurately establish regional occupation patterns related to specific time periods. Due to the random nature of archeological site discoveries, I doubt that enough data will ever be available to accurately determine demography for each prehistoric period.

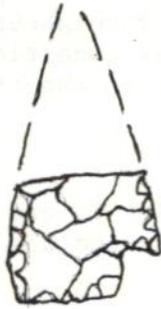
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- Patterson, L.W. 1976a An Archeological Complex in Harris Co., Texas, Houston Archeological Society Newsletter 54:2-6
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FIGURE I
41HR267 LITHIC ARTIFACTS



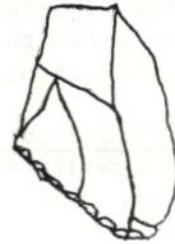
A



B



C



D



E



F



G



H

A-Gary dart point, B-single shoulder projectile point,
C,D,G-retouched flakes, E-flake graver, F-retouched
prismatic blade segment, H-denticulate

White Oak Bayou continued from HAS Newsletter No. 60 W.L. McClure

41 HR 273, continued:

LITHICS:

Area D had a great amount of road gravel throughout and Area B had some recently imported gravel. Because of this condition, lithic material from the two areas that could be questioned as to association with the prehistoric occupation is disregarded here.

Unmodified Pebbles:

Eleven unmodified pebbles from Area A weigh 75 grams. Size varies from 12 to 32 mm. One large chunk of red ochre is included.

Modified Pebbles:

Nine modified pebbles from Area A weigh 67 grams. One or more flakes have been removed but no indication of use is evident. Size varies from 10 to 47 mm.

Bifaces:

Stage 'A' Bifaces: (3)

Three Stage 'A' bifaces of silicified wood weigh 45 grams. One is from Area B and two from Area A.

Stage 'B' Bifaces: (3)

Three Stage 'B' bifaces weigh 24 grams. One is flint and two are silicified wood. Two of them have one side mostly cortex and the other entirely flaked. All are from Area A.

Stage 'C' Bifaces: (2)

Two roughly oval-shaped Stage 'C' bifaces of flint weigh 16 grams. One each is from Area A and B.

Stage 'E' Bifaces: (2) (Fig. 32, C., G.)

Two Stage 'E' bifaces came from Area B. Both apparently broke before completion. One is silicified wood and one is flint. Weight is 15 grams.

Biface Fragments: (7)

Seven fragments of broken bifaces weigh 7 grams. All are of flint and are from area A. None of these are of sufficient size or shape to infer the shape of the unbroken object.

Curved Biface: (1) (Fig. 32, W.)

One bifacially flaked object from Area A has circular sides and a rounded end. It may have been the barb of a projectile point but the thickness of 6 mm. suggests some other purpose. The patinated flint biface weighs 1 gram.

Projectile Points:

The collection includes 29 projectile points or parts thereof. All are dart points. Total weight is 103 grams.

Plainview: (1) (Fig. 32, A.)

This is the base of a heavily patinated flint point that is probably of the Plainview type. All edges are ground smooth. Weight is 2 grams.

Unidentified Parallel Stemmed: (1) (Fig. 32, B.)

This is the stem of a heavily patinated flint point. It may be of the Kent type but workmanship is better than most of that type from this area. Weight is 1.2 grams.

41 HR 273

Lithics:

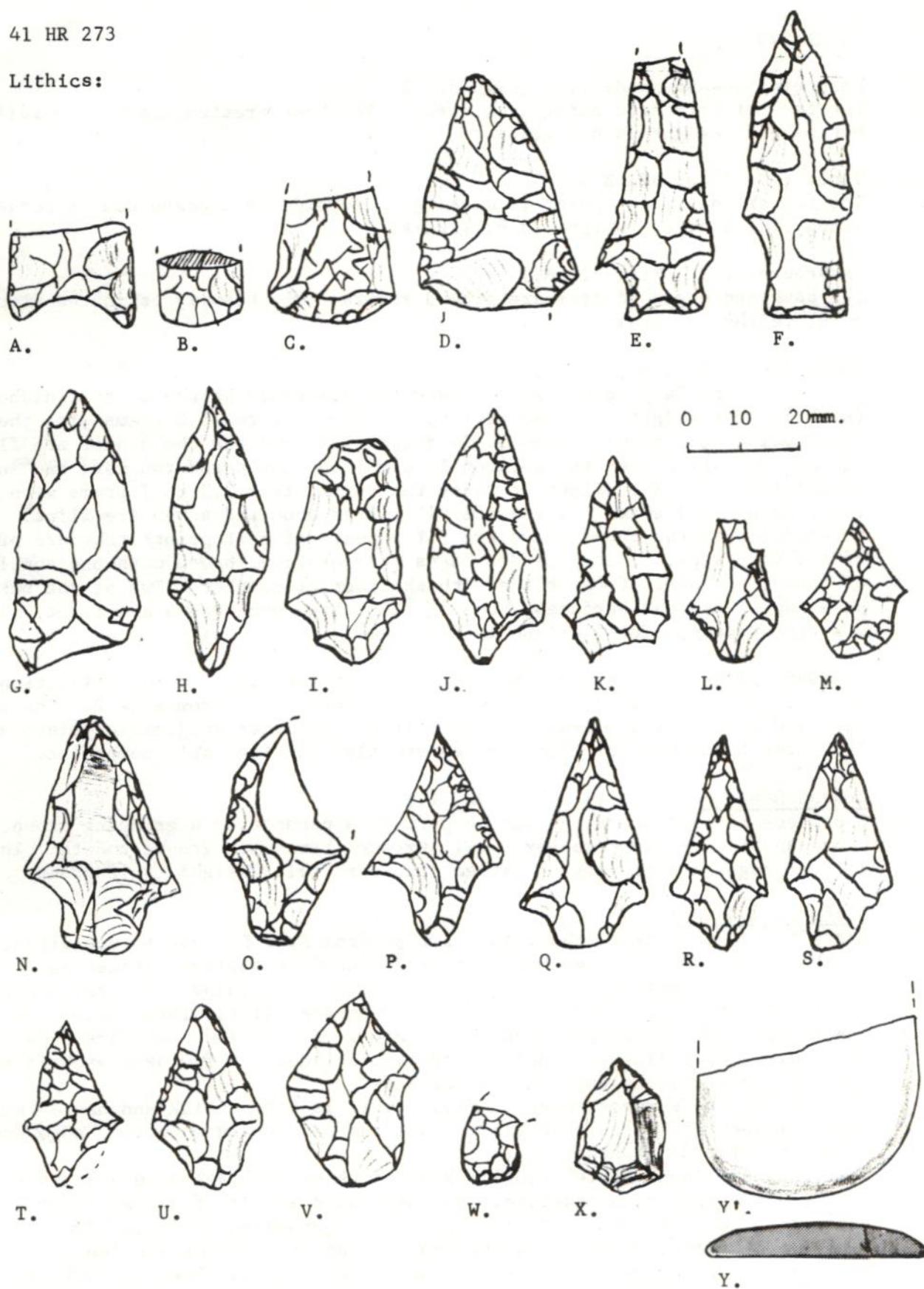


Figure 32

41 HR 273

Unidentified--Stemmed: (1) (Fig. 32, D.)

The base of this dart point is missing. The heat treated flint is heavily patinated. Weight is 6.2 grams.

Darl: (1) (Fig. 32, E.)

The tip of this flint point is missing. One side is concave due to resharpening of the edge. Weight is 6.2 grams.

Yarbrough: (1) (Fig. 32, F.)

The base and edges of stem are ground smooth. The heavily patinated flint point weighs 7.2 grams.

Gary: (24) (Fig. 32, H.-V.)

Several of the Gary points were apparently discarded before being finished (H.-L.). The weight of these five varies from 2.2 to 10.0 grams with the total being 32.2 grams. Item J. is silicified wood and the others are flint. Ten of the Gary points are apparently completed tools and two were broken in use (M.-V.). The weight of these ten varies from 2.3 to 7 grams with the total being 39.5 grams. Three are silicified wood and seven are flint. In addition to the above there are 9 fragments of dart points that are probably of the Gary type. This includes bases only of five, bases with one shoulder of three, and part of the blade with shoulder of another. Two of the bases have asphalt on the surfaces. One is silicified wood and 9 are flint. Two are fire-popped. Total weight is 8.2 grams.

One Gary point (N.) is from Area D. and is in the F.W. Goodrum collection. Two Gary points (O.,R.) and one of the Gary bases are from Area B. The other twenty Gary points are from Area A. All of the other projectile points are from Area B and most of these are apparently from the early component.

Ground Stone Object: (1) (Fig. 32, Y.)

One piece of hard sandstone may be part of a pendant or a grinding stone. Cross-section is plano-convex, All surfaces have been ground smooth. The lateral edges are converging rather than parallel. Weight is 12 grams.

Flakes and Chips:

Forty flakes came from Area B and 12 came from Area D. Due to disturbance of the areas, these flakes will not be included in further discussion. The collection from Area A includes 1079 flakes and chips. Ten are quartzite, 189 (17½%) are silicified wood, and the rest are flint. Total weight is 478 grams. Only 5% are larger than 15 mm. wide. Fifty-five have fire pops. Seven are lipped flakes. Fourteen are microblades. A few have asphalt spots and some have caliche deposits on surfaces.

The flint flake scraper shown in Fig. 32, X. is 9 mm. thick and has an edge angle of about 45°. Another flint flake has had an acute cutting edge produced by bifacial flaking.

Use scars are found on 141 (13%). Most of these (92) are minute scars such as would be produced by cutting. Six were used as thin flake scrapers and three are small notches. Shaping retouch has produced definite edges on 39 flakes. Of these, 27 are straight and six each are convex and concave. A tabulation of characteristics of flakes and chips is shown in Table 16.

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In June of 1978, after the above was written, heavy rain exposed additional material in Area A, including 4 more Gary dart points.

41 HR 273

Size	Material	Utilized				Unutilized				Totals			
		P.	S.	I.	total	P.	S.	I.	total	P.	S.	I.	total
0 to 10mm.	flint	2	11	26	39	28	114	422	564	30	125	448	603
	sil.wood		2	6	8	15	49	71	135	15	51	77	143
	quartzite						3	7	10		3	7	10
	total	2	13	32	47	43	166	500	709	45	179	532	756
10 to 15mm.	flint		16	44	60	32	60	73	165	32	76	117	225
	sil.wood		2	5	7		16	19	35		18	24	42
	total		18	49	67	32	76	92	200	32	94	141	267
15 to 20mm.	flint	1	13	9	23	5	10	4	19	6	23	13	42
	sil.wood		1	1	2			2	2		1	3	4
	total	1	14	10	25	5	10	6	21	6	24	16	46
20 to 25mm.	flint		1	1	2	3	4	1	8	3	5	2	10
Totals		3	46	92	141	83	256	332	671	86	302	691	1079

Table 16 Flakes and Chips (Area A only)

DISCUSSION:

The major part of this site appears to have a single component of the Woodland period as demonstrated by the dominant artifact types in the midden. These are Gary dart points and Goose Creek Plain ceramics. Gary points are the only projectile type from Area A and the other types are probably from the earlier component that underlies a small part of Area B.

Area A. was apparently first occupied after expanding-stem dart points were no longer in use. It was abandoned at about the time that grog-tempered pottery came into the area and before the bow and arrow and incised pottery were brought in. As only 10% of the rim sherds have lip notching, it may be assumed that this technique was a late practice. The engraved pottery could indicate contact with people of north-east Texas.

The many deer-bone ends and bones with deliberate alterations demonstrate a considerable bone-working industry. The splatter spots on the bones, and to a lesser extent on flakes and sherds, suggest that asphalt was part of the industry. In addition, two of the dart points show that asphalt was used for hafting. Absence of deer bones from other than heads and legs may indicate some food-handling practice or may be due to differential preservation.

The presence of unfinished dart points and unfinished bifaces as well as the numerous flakes and chips indicate that lithic tools were produced at the site. The absence of large flakes and the presence of so few distinct tools other than dart points may be typical of the Woodland period in this area.

The ground stone object which may be a pendant, the turtle bones that were probably part of a rattle, the bones that were shaped into non-utilitarian objects, and the altered ceramics all suggest that the site was occupied by a relatively stable people who had time to spend on activities other than hunting and gathering.

The primary value of this site may be its representation of a single cultural occupation without mixing of artifacts from earlier or later periods.

Bibliography for Beginners - Continued from HAS Newsletter #60.

The following list of films, provided by Pam Wheat, are intended to supplement the slide presentation "Evidence of the Past" which can be purchased or obtained on loan from the Texas Archeological Society.

"Concepts of Archeology" - 2 filmstrips, 18 min. each - \$49 both.

"Understanding Archeology" - 4 filmstrips, 80 frames each - \$19.50 each.

These filmstrips can be obtained from Educational Dimensions Group, Box 126, Stamford, Conn. 06904.

"Glimpse of the Past" - 16 mm. (How archeologists put
(together the story of
"Learning About the Past" - 16 mm. (prehistoric Americas. (Rental).

"Digging up America's Past" - 4 filmstrips - \$74.50
Obtain from National Geographic Society, Dept. 78, Washington, D.C. 20036.

"The First Americans" - 16 mm. - The uncovering of several important finds in North America. For loan.

Obtain from Shell Film Library, 1433 Sadlier Circle, W. Drive, Indianapolis, Ind. 46239.

"Graveyard of the Gulf" - Underwater archeology in Gulf of Mexico. Loan, fee - return by bus.

Obtain from Texas Antiquities Committee, Box 12276, Capitol Station, Austin, Texas 78711.

"Archeology in Texas" - filmstrip - 3 sites in Texas which tell us about prehistoric man. \$40.

Obtain from Nuneally Multi-Media, 8615 Skyline Drive, Dallas, Tex. 75231

Additional lists of films may be obtained from:

Instructional Media Center
Div. of Extension
Univ. of Texas
Austin, Texas 78712

Archaeological Institute
260 W. Broadway
New York, N.Y. 10013

Simulated Artifacts for instruction may be obtained from:

Hubbard
2855 Shermer Road
Northbrook, Ill. 60062

Nasco
901 Janesville Ave.
Fort Atkinson, Wis. 53538

Please share this list with a teacher or librarian you know.

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