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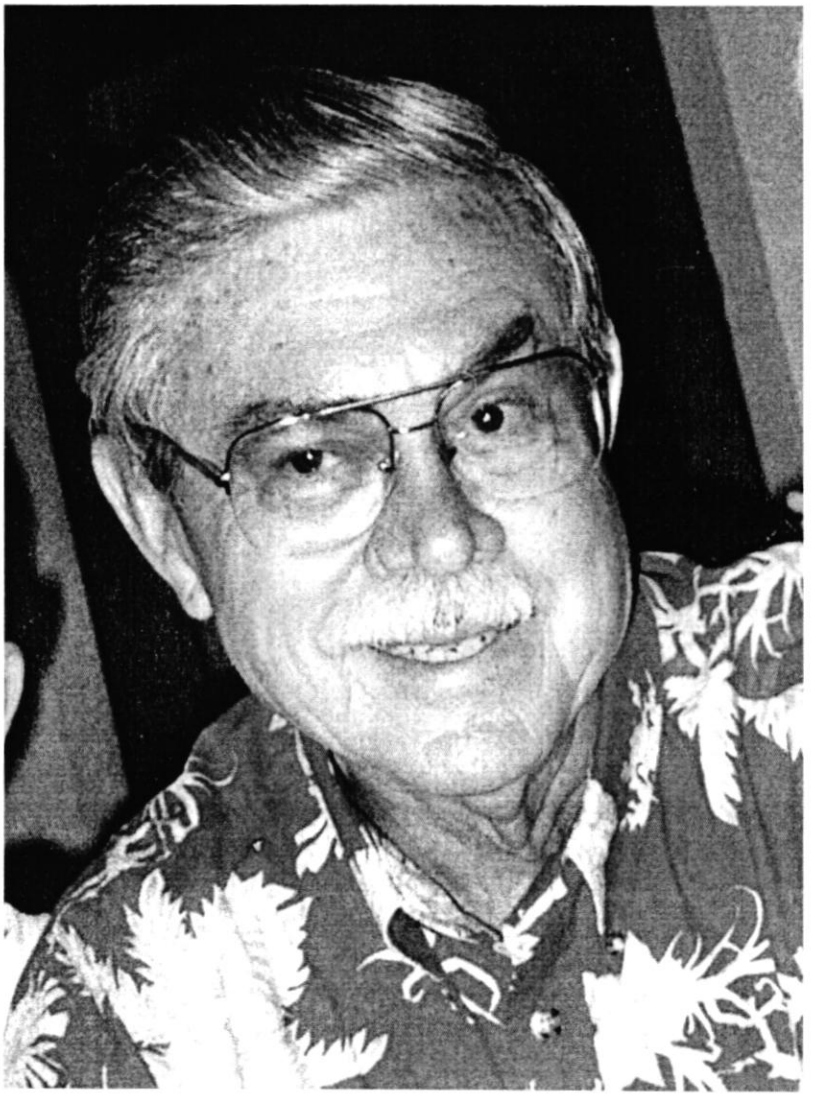

Bill McClure

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Contents

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William L. McClure, Archeologist and Biologist

William Lindberg McClure died May 10, 2002. He was an outstanding avocational archeologist, known throughout Texas. Bill was born June 28, 1927, in Anthony, New Mexico, grew up in Mentone, Texas, and graduated from Lubbock High School. In 1944, he entered cadet training in the U.S. Army Air Corps, and then transferred to the U.S. Navy as a cadet. Later he served in the U.S. Army in an Engineer Construction Battalion in Germany during the Korean War.

McClure obtained a B.S. Degree in Civil Engineering from the University of Houston in 1954. His professional career spanned more than 40 years with the Texas Department of Highways and Transportation and the Harris County Toll Road Authority. He had a part in the design and construction of all freeways and toll roads in the Houston area.

Bill was a member of the Texas Archeological Society, the Houston Archeological Society, and the Fort Bend Archeological Society. He was a past President and a past Director of the TAS, and was active in TAS field school laboratories. He received the Golden Pen Award from the TAS and the Southeast Texas Archeological Research Award from the HAS. Shortly before his death, McClure donated his extensive library to the HAS and FBAS, and his faunal specimen collection to Texas Tech University. He acted as a consultant on analysis of faunal remains for Texas A&M, Rice, and Southern Methodist Universities.

A bibliography of McClure's publications is included in this article. Sections of the bibliography cover his publications as author of 26 articles in the Houston Archeological Society Journal and the HAS Newsletter for an intensive survey of prehistoric sites along White Oak Bayou in central Harris County. He was author or co-author of 40 articles and sections of articles and reports concerning the analysis of faunal remains from archeological sites in Southeast Texas. McClure's publications on prehistoric sites on White Oak Bayou are a significant contribution to the archeology of inland Southeast Texas. His extensive publications on faunal remains from sites in Southeast Texas constitute a high proportion of available data on this subject in this region.

Access to a good faunal comparative collection, Bill always insisted, is crucial in faunal analysis. He built up two fine collections, his own and one for HAS. He also contributed many specimens to universities around the state. Almost all of the specimens were collected and prepared personally. A trip with Bill on the highways was likely to be punctuated with sudden stops to salvage road kills.

Bill was also a member and official of the Texas Herpetological Society and the Outdoor Nature Club of Texas. He was an Elder in the First Christian Church of Houston and on various boards and committees. He was much loved there and in the Texas and Houston Archeological Societies.

Finally, Bill was a kind person and generous with his knowledge and abilities. He was an excellent instructor, and tutored a series of assistant bone classifiers at field schools, giving each of them a glimpse of the intricacies of the identification of bones, and of how these tiny scraps and pieces of vermin, birds, reptiles, and amphibians, which formed such an important part of the human diet, can tell us about the various times and environments in which both humans and animals lived.

Leland W. Patterson, Robert E. Crosser, and C. R. Ebersole

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Abbreviations:
HASN - Houston Archeological Society Newsletter
HASJ - Houston Archeological Society Journal

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1976a Site 41HR259. HASN 51:8-15
1976b Sites 41HR258, 268. HASN 52:7-11
1976c Site 41HR89. HASN 53:8-13
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Darl and Yarbrough Points in Southeast Texas

Leland W. Patterson

Introduction

Darl and Yarbrough are fairly common dart point types in Southeast Texas during the Late Archaic (1500 BC-AD 100) and Early Ceramic (AD 100-600) time periods. This article presents data on the chronologies and geographic distributions of these point types in this region.

Darl and Yarbrough points have been described by Turner and Hester (1993) and Suhm and Jelks (1962). Darl is a slender point with a triangular body and a straight or slightly expanding stem. The basal edge is straight or concave. Shoulders are often not well defined. There can be considerable variation in length (Suhm and Jelks 1962:179). Suhm and Jelks give a width range of 10-15 mm for the Darl point.

The Yarbrough point has a triangular body, a straight to slightly expanding stem, and a straight basal edge. Suhm and Jelks (1962:179) state that the Yarbrough point type is closely related to the Darl point type, with considerable overlap in the morphologies of the two point types. The Yarbrough point is somewhat wider than the Darl point, with most Yarbrough specimens having a width of about 20 mm. The Yarbrough point usually has better defined shoulders than the Darl point. The Yarbrough point has a straight basal edge, compared to the Darl point, that can have a straight or concave basal edge. Some Darl and Yarbrough points are illustrated in Figure 1.

In many cases, the differences between Darl and Yarbrough points may simply represent manufacturing variations. In some cases, Darl and Yarbrough points may have been made by the same flintknappers, with most differences in morphologies resulting from different dimensions of the starting flake blanks.

All data used here are from the 1998 updates of the computerized data bases for the Inland (Patterson 1989a) and coastal margin (Patterson 1989b) areas of Southeast Texas.

Chronologies

There are no radiocarbon dates for Darl or Yarbrough points in Southeast Texas. However, stratigraphic sequences of excavated sites and the occurrences of these point types with or without pottery can be used to place these two point types in both the Late Archaic (1500 BC-AD 100) and Early Ceramic (AD 100-600) time periods (Patterson 1989c). As Shafer (1975) has noted, the introduction of pottery did not have a significant effect on other technological traits of Indians in this region. It can be noted that no dart point type in Texas has enough radiocarbon dates to define a statistically significant total time range.

Geographic Distributions

Geographic distributions of Darl and Yarbrough points in Southeast Texas are given by county in Table 1. Maps of this region with geographic distributions by county are shown for Darl (Figure 2) and Yarbrough (Figure 3) point types. Table 1 gives totals by county that include both inland and coastal margin areas.

Distributions of Darl and Yarbrough points are given in Table 2 for the western, central, and eastern zones of Southeast Texas. Turner and Hester (1993:101,197) show the Darl point to be primarily a Central Texas type, and the Yarbrough point to be primarily an East Texas type. Placement of the Darl point type mainly in Central Texas by Turner and Hester does not appear to

be an accurate conclusion. Suhm and Jelks (1962:179) state that Darl and Yarbrough point types are closely related. It, therefore, does not seem likely that these two point types are primarily from different regions of Texas, as shown by Turner and Hester (1993). Also, both Darl and Yarbrough point types are common in Southeast Texas (Tables 1,2), which does not support the Darl point being primarily a Central Texas type. It may be seen in Table 2 that both Darl and Yarbrough points are most numerous in the eastern zone of Southeast Texas, with decreasing frequencies to the west. It is concluded here that both Darl and Yarbrough points are East Texas types with continuations in geographic distributions into Central Texas. My conclusions are consistent with comments on the geographic distributions of these two point types by Suhm and Jelks (1962). Darl and Yarbrough points often occur at the same sites in Southeast Texas.

Data for Darl and Yarbrough points at individual sites may be obtained from the computerized data bases for inland (Patterson 1989a) and coastal margin (Patterson 1989b) areas of Southeast Texas. References for site reports can be obtained by using the site number cross-index in the bibliography for Southeast Texas (Patterson 1997).

Summary

This article has presented data on the chronologies and geographic distributions of Darl and Yarbrough dart points in Southeast Texas. These point types are common in this region during the Late Archaic and Early Ceramic time periods, but are less numerous than Gary and Kent points.

Darl and Yarbrough points have decreasing frequencies from east to west in Southeast Texas. It is concluded that both of these point types are East Texas types, with geographic distributions that continue into Central Texas. Darl and Yarbrough points are closely related types with overlaps in morphology.

As may be seen in Table 2, Darl and Yarbrough points are concentrated in the central zone on the coastal margin of Southeast Texas, compared to adjacent zones of the coastal margin. This concentration of dart points in the central zone of the coastal margin has also been noted for other dart point types of the Late Archaic and Early Ceramic periods (Patterson 1998). A separate article examines possible reasons for the relatively high concentration of dart points in the central zone of the coastal margin (Patterson 2000).

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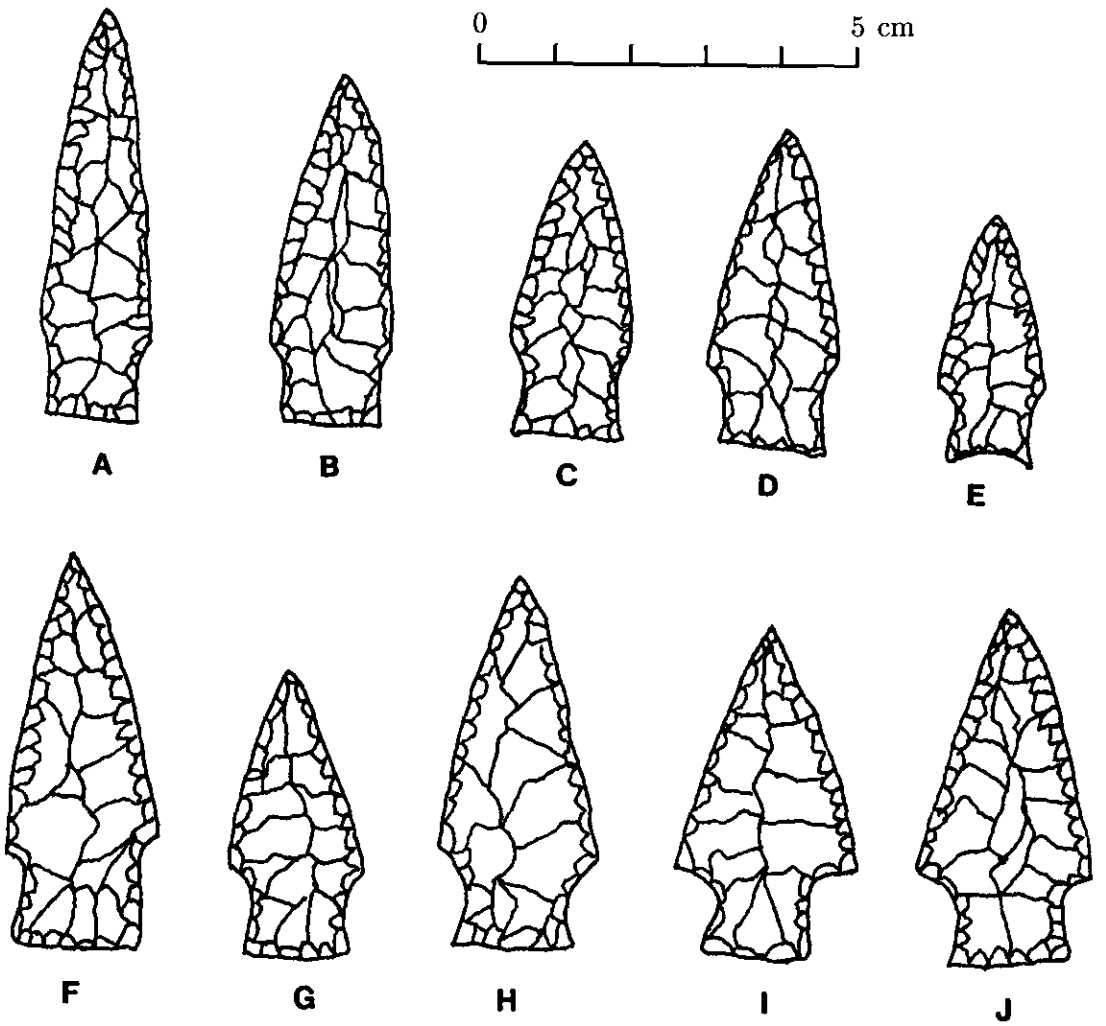
Table 1. Distributions of Darl and Yarbrough Points by County

	Darl		Yarbrough	
county	sites	points	sites	points
Austin	2	3	2	11
Brazoria	1	2	1	2
Fort Bend	5	7	8	31
Galveston			1	1
Grimes	2	3	3	4
Harris	15	32	28	81
Jefferson			1	14
Jasper	2	12	2	16
Liberty	5	22	8	43
Polk	4	8	8	47
Tyler	1	14	1	27
Walker			2	2
Waller			1	1
Wharton	4	10	7	14
Washington			1	4

Table 2. Distributions of Darl and Yarbrough Points by Zone

	western		central		eastern	
type	sites	points	sites	points	sites	points
Inland						
Darl	12	22	12	29	12	56
Yarbrough	19	61	29	76	20	147
Coastal Margin						
Darl			5	6		
Yarbrough	1	2	5	12		
Total						
Darl	12	22	17	35	12	56
Yarbrough	20	63	34	88	20	147



A to E – Darl, F to J – Yarbrough

Figure 1. Darl and Yarbrough Points

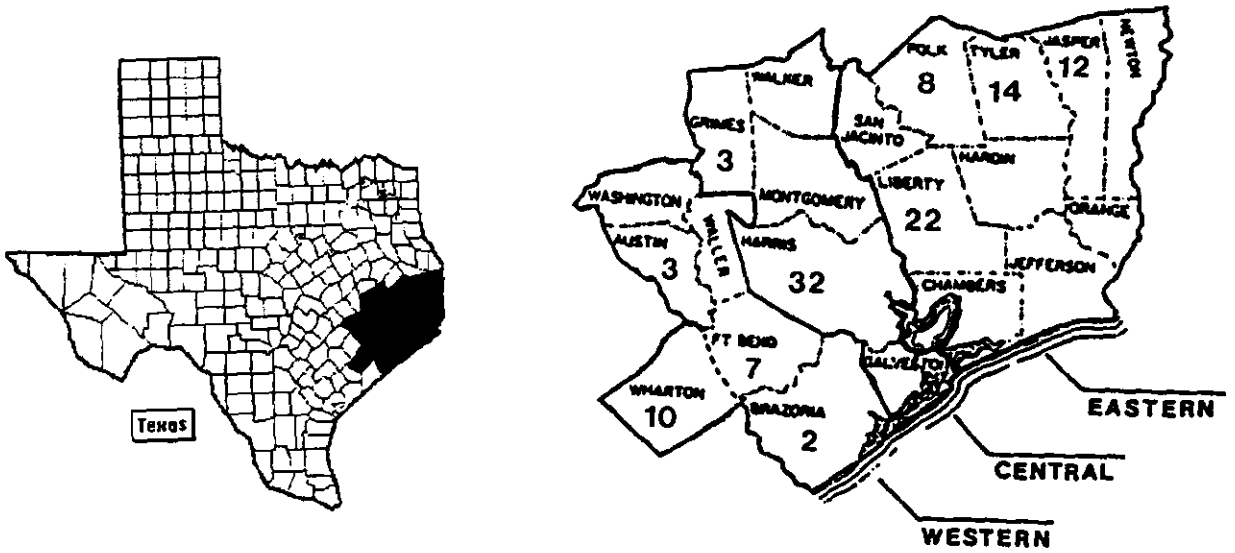


Figure 2. Distribution of Darl Points in Southeast Texas

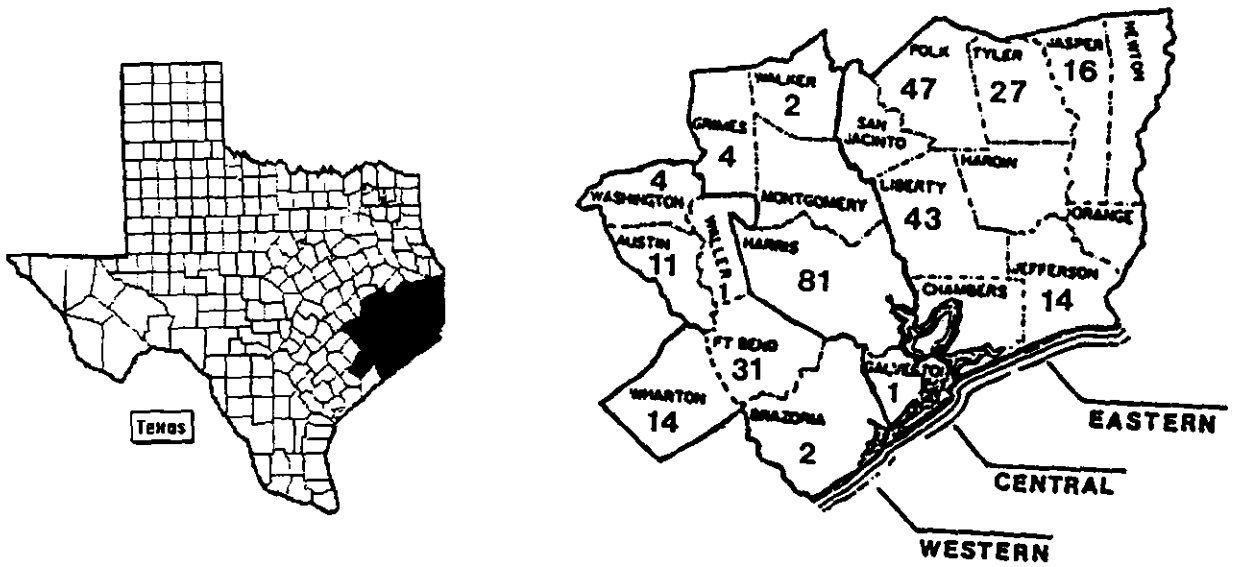


Figure 3. Distribution of Yarbrough Points in Southeast Texas

Gary/Kent Points in Walker County, Texas

William E. Moore

In a recent article by Leland W. Patterson (1999), information regarding the number of documented Gary and Kent points in Southeast Texas is presented. Patterson listed only 4 Gary points and 0 Kent points in Walker County. Based on my previous research and field experience I knew that these numbers were low. Gary and Kent are the major dart point types in Walker County and much of Southeast Texas. I subsequently conducted a search for additional examples. This search included a review of Walker County site forms, archaeological reports in my library, an examination of my personal collection, and discussions with other archaeologists familiar with the area. The results of my research appear below.

A systematic review of Walker County site forms 4WA1-41WA183 and 41WA259 was conducted by Douglas Mangum. The site forms with definite references to Gary/Kent points provided 54 Gary and 34 Kent points (Table 1). A number of site forms mention large collections of dart points containing specimens with contracting stems. It is probable that some of these are Gary or Kent points.

A review of the literature in my library added 1 Gary point from testing at 41WA97 in the Sam Houston National Forest (Boyd and Howard 1998: Figure 5); 1 Kent point found at 41WA109 during survey of the Huntsville Fish Hatchery (Davis et al. 1994:72); 1 Gary and 1 Gary/Kent point from testing at 41WA105 at the Huntsville Fish Hatchery (Davis et al. 1994:81); 3 Gary points and 1 Kent point found during testing at 41WA182 at the Kaygal Recreation Area (McNatt 1978: Figure 4); 1 Gary point found at 41WA259 during a survey at the Ellis Unit (Moore 2002); and 2 Gary points and 1 Kent point identified during an examination of the landowner's private collection of artifacts from site 41WA100 (Moore 1990: Figure 1). These points are tabulated in Table 2.

A check of my personal collection resulted in the identification of 71 Gary points, 28 Kent points, and 2 Gary/Kent points (Table 3).

Wally Kingsborough, Zone Archeologist for Sam Houston National Forest, accessed his own detailed data base for archaeological investigations within the National Forest and shared this information with the author. He added 6 Gary and 4 Kent points found at the Storm site (4WA218).

The data presented in this article demonstrate that Gary and Kent points in Walker County, and perhaps Southeast Texas, are more numerous than previously indicated by Patterson. The results of my study produced a total of 211 specimens. Since Patterson does not provide site numbers for the four Gary points he refers to, it is not known if any of those mentioned here is a duplication of his work. As more sites are excavated and more private collections are examined, the number of these points in Walker County and Southeast Texas will increase.

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Table 1. Walker County Site Survey Forms which Document Gary/Kent Points

Site	Gary points	Kent points	Gary/Kent	total
41WA6	33	33	0	66
41WA54	16	1	0	17
41WA57	1	0	0	1
41WA58	1	0	0	1
41WA71	1	0	0	1
41WA78	1	0	0	1
41WA89	1	0	0	1
Total	54	34	0	88

Table 2. Gary/Kent Points Documented in the Literature

Site	Gary points	Kent points	Gary/Kent	total
41WA97	1	0	0	1
41WA100	2	1	0	3
41WA105	1	0	1	2
41WA109	0	1	0	1
41WA182	3	1	0	4
41WA259	1	0	0	1
Total	8	3	1	12

Table 3. Gary/Kent Points from Personal Collection of William E. Moore

Site	Gary points	Kent points	Gary/Kent	total
41WA55	38	16	0	54
41WA60	2	0	2	4
41WA63	7	3	0	10
41WA66	0	1	0	1
41WA74	2	1	0	3
41WA78	0	1	0	1
41WA83	20	6	0	26
41WA89	2	0	0	2
Total	71	28	2	101

Prehistoric Site 41WH27, Wharton Co., Texas

Leland W. Patterson and Joe D. Hudgins

Introduction

This article describes a surface collection and results of excavations at site 41WH27 in Wharton County, Texas. This site was found and recorded for state records by Joe Hudgins. The site was found by a few chert flakes that were exposed on the surface due to gopher activity. For several years after discovery, the area was covered with native grasses, which prevented intensive surface survey. In the spring of 2000, the area was plowed in order to establish an improved variety of grass. Plowing exposed the surface and rains exposed artifacts that were collected by Hudgins.

Excavations were done on May 13, 2000, to establish whether there was intact stratigraphy. Persons who participated in the excavations were Joe Hudgins, Dick Gregg, Etta Palmer, Tom Palmer, Jim Palmer, and Lee Patterson. Excavation records were handled by Etta Palmer, and excavations were directed by Joe Hudgins.

Artifact types show that site 41WH27 was occupied at least occasionally over a long time interval, including the Late Paleoindian and Middle Archaic periods, and sometime after the introduction of pottery, after AD 100. Long occupation sequences are common at sites of inland Southeast Texas. This is a seasonal campsite of nomadic hunter-gatherers with evidence of a significant amount of lithic manufacturing.

The site is on a sandy terrace about 150 m from West Bernard Creek. Approximately 75 m west of the site is a small ravine that enters the creek.

Excavation Details

Artifacts found on the surface were confined to an area of about 15 meters in diameter. In the center of this area, three one-meter square excavation pits were dug in a north-south alignment with a spacing of two meters between pits. All soil was put through screens with a mesh of 1/4-inch (6 mm). Excavations could be done rapidly due to the sandy nature of the soil. Lithic artifacts were found to a depth of 35 cm in two pits and to a depth of 30 cm in one pit.

Site Disturbance

No intact stratigraphy was found in the excavation pits, as discussed below for flake size distributions. There was heavy site disturbance from recent plowing to a depth of about 15 cm. There is also evidence of site disturbance below 15 cm during various occupation periods, where small percentages of flakes under 15 mm square indicate that small chert flakes were winnowed away by fluvial action of rainwater. Flake size distributions shown in Table 1 do not match expected flake size distributions where bifacial dart points were being manufactured (Patterson 1990). Percentages of flakes under 20 mm square are much too low, and percentages of flakes larger than 20 mm square are much too high. There is ample evidence of bifacial dart point manufacture at this site as indicated by many dart point preform fragments. The wide range of time periods for artifact types found on the surface also indicates heavy site disturbance.

Time-Diagnostic Artifacts

Time-diagnostic artifacts indicate that this site was occupied at least occasionally over a long time interval. Two San Patrice points (Figure 1B,C) found on the surface are from the early part of the Late Paleoindian period, with a nominal time range of 8000-7000 BC (Patterson 1997:3). A Bulverde point (Figure 1A) found on the surface represents the Middle Archaic period of 3000-1500 BC (Patterson 1995:243, 1996:9).

One potsherd was found on the surface with a ceramic paste containing coarse sand. If the coarse sand was intentionally added as temper, this specimen could be classified as O'Neal Plain, variety Conway (Aten 1983:238) from the Early Ceramic period of AD 100-600 (Aten 1983: Figure 14.1). However, if this specimen was made from clay that naturally contained coarse sand, such as at site 41WH72 (Patterson et al. 1995:4), the sherd would be classified as Goose Creek, which could be from the Early Ceramic or Late Prehistoric (AD 600-1500) period.

Unifacial Stone Tools

As is typical of prehistoric sites in Southeast Texas, only a few formal unifacial tools were found at 41WH27. The dominant stone tool type in this region is the unmodified utilized flake. Two scrapers (Figure 1I,J) were found on the surface. One graver was found in an excavation pit at a depth of 20-25 cm, and three gravers were found on the surface, with one illustrated in Figure 1K.

Lithic Manufacturing

All lithic materials at 41WH27 are local types of chert that occur as cobbles in the nearby Colorado and Brazos River valleys. Some cores and flakes retain cortex of the type found on cobbles from local sources.

Many preform fragments indicate the manufacture of bifacial dart points at this site. Four preform fragments were found on the surface, three preform fragments were found at an excavation depth of 0-10 cm, and single preform fragments were found at excavation depths of 15-20 cm, 20-25 cm, and 30-35 cm.

As discussed above for site disturbance, flake size distributions shown in Table 1 are not typical for bifacial dart point manufacture because a high proportion of small flakes of sizes under 20 mm square have been removed by site disturbance. Many flakes show evidence of heat treatment, in the form of waxy luster, reddish coloration, and small potlid surface fracture scars.

For flakes over 15 mm square, there are 4.7% primary flakes (covered with cortex), 28.7% secondary flakes (partially covered with cortex), and 66.6% interior flakes (no remaining cortex). The low percentages of flakes with remaining cortex indicate that whole chert cobbles were not transported to this site. Chert raw materials would have been brought to the site as flake blanks and trimmed cores that were made from chert cobbles at sources. Manufacture of flake blanks and cores at lithic sources enables materials to be tested, and reduces weight and volume for transport.

Five chert cores were found on the surface, and one core was found at an excavation depth of 25-30 cm. The largest dimension of each specimen is 45 mm, 55 mm, 58 mm, 60 mm, 65 mm, and 80 mm. A quartzite hammerstone was found on the surface, with a maximum dimension of 75 mm and a weight of 208 gm.

Summary

Site 41WH27 is a prehistoric campsite that was occupied at least occasionally over a long time interval, with evidence of occupation events in the Late Paleoindian and Middle Archaic periods, and sometime after the start of pottery. No intact stratigraphy was found here, but data from this site are nevertheless a significant contribution to the regional archeological data base.

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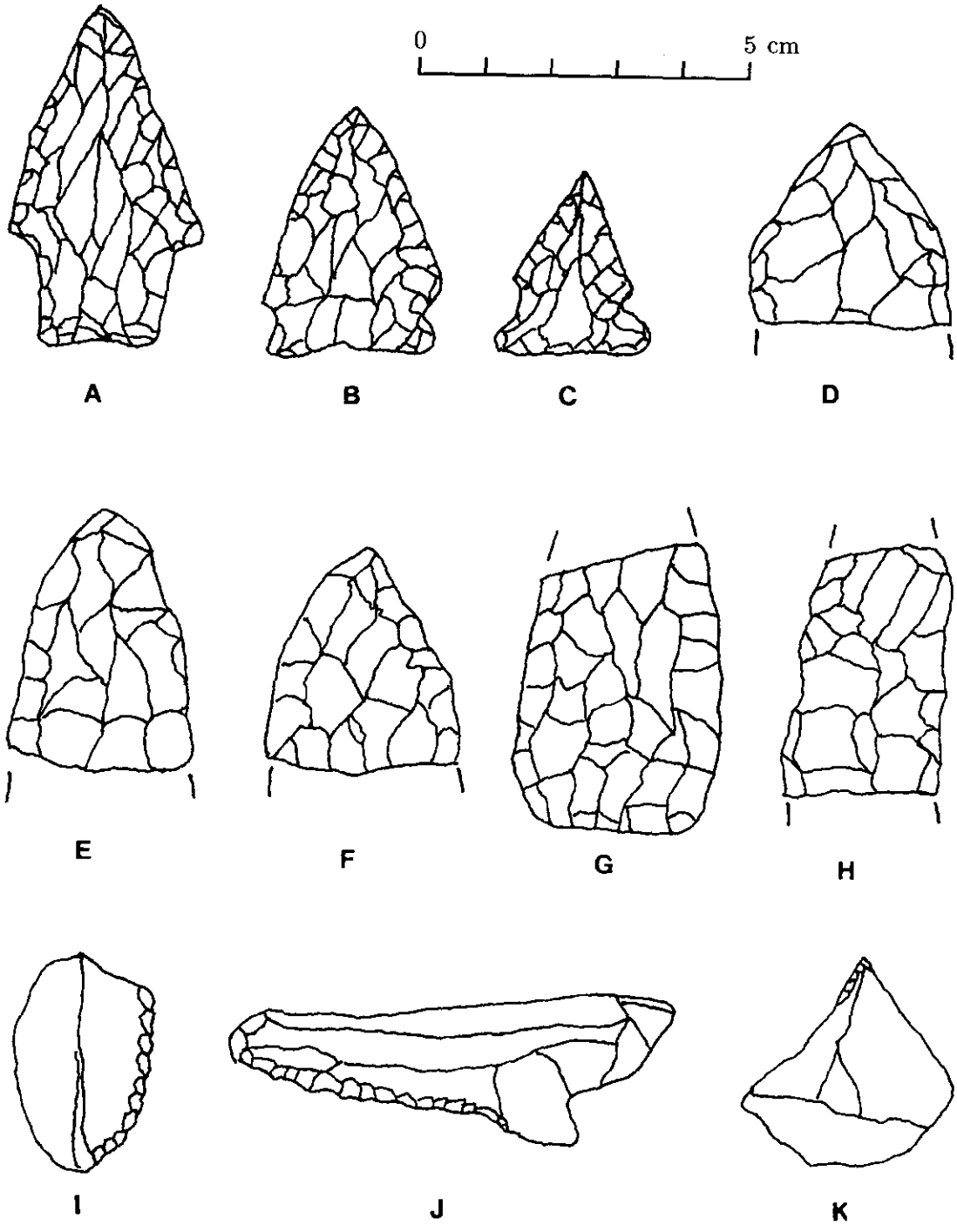
Table 1. 41WH27 Flake Size Distributions (Percent) by Excavation Level

flake size, mm square	excavation level (cm)						
	surface	0-10	10-15	15-20	20-25	25-30	30-35
under 15	0	46.2	50.0	30.8	13.0	13.3	33.3
15–20	18.1	11.5	0	23.1	21.8	6.7	16.7
20–25	37.1	11.5	20.0	7.7	30.5	13.3	50.0
25–30	20.0	23.1	10.0	38.4	13.0	33.3	0
30–35	17.1	7.7	0	0	13.0	26.7	0
35–40	4.8	0	10.0	0	4.4	6.7	0
over 40	2.9	0	10.0	0	4.3	0	0
no. of flakes	105	26	10	13	23	15	6



A – Bulverde point; B,C – San Patrice points;
D to H – dart point preform fragments; I,J – scrapers;
K – graver

Figure 1. 41WH27 Lithic Artifacts

Response to Misinformation in Houston Archeological Society Report No. 19, 2002: Investigations of Site 41HR72, Harris County, Texas

Bruce R. Duke

The purpose of this article is to correct misinformation concerning the origin of 265 arrow points and 80 dart points as described and listed in Houston Archeological Society Report No. 19, 2002: *Investigations of Site 41HR72, Harris County, Texas* (Patterson et al. 2002). The report ignores a published discussion of lithic artifacts found at nearby major site 41HR73 and, though citing a previous report by Alan Duke on the lithics from this site (41HR72), makes no mention of, let alone explains, the obvious differences in counts, sizes, and types of lithic artifacts found at the site in the two cases. Report No. 19 describes the George Wolf collection from 41HR72; the project was organized by Beth Aucoin.

Site 41HR72 was discovered by the Duke family in the middle 1960s. It was a small site, only 30-35 meters long with a modest amount of Rangia clam shells on the east side. Nearby site 41HR73, a huge Rangia shell site 0.4 kilometers long, was discovered by the author in 1961. Over the 1960s about 130 arrow points and 200 dart points were found at this site (Duke 1971). On the contrary, over a period of several years only 20 dart points and no arrow points were found at site 41HR72 by the Duke family, until one arrow point was found by Alan Duke as the site began to be influenced by environmental factors. This will be explained later. The average size of the chert flakes found at site 41HR72 was considerably larger than that for site 41HR73. It became apparent that the small site 41HR72 was Late Paleoindian to Late Archaic in age, and that site 41HR73 was Late Paleoindian to Late Prehistoric.

After a dragline operation at site 41HR72 in 1966, virtually no shell was present at this site for several years. During the late 1960s and early 1970s, Alan Duke continued to survey site 41HR72. He noticed that subsidence in the area was continuing and that site 41HR73 was being submerged. The shell layer on the beach was disappearing and the wave action was becoming more severe, especially as tankers traveled up and down the Houston Ship Channel. Then he observed clam shells increasingly being transported to the beach at site 41HR72, which is just above 41HR73, about 100 meters across a small inlet of water. Waves being created by the prevailing southeastern winds, ships, and high tides were moving 41HR73 cultural material directly to 41HR72. This is how site 41HR72 went from sand and clay balls and virtually no shell to a shell beach a foot thick, loaded with arrow points, dart points, and pottery sherds. As my Dad told me, "All of the shell beach from 41HR73 is being moved onto site 41HR72. Indians were everywhere in this area. Indians were all over HL&P. But the material won't stay there. It will move on. Then in the future someone will think they have found another site up the coast. Then all the material will be gone."

The report on the ceramics and bone from site 41HR73 (Duke 1970) was referenced in Report 19, but the analysis of the lithics from the same site (Duke 1971) was not. This makes site 41FB73 appear to be unimportant in regards to lithics. Also, Report 19 cites the article *A Harris County Shell Site* by Alan Duke (1974), but this is site 41HR71, a smaller site with fewer lithics than 41HR73. Furthermore, 41HR71 is near the Fred Hartman Bridge, and is not very relevant to site 41HR72. Fred Hartman, by the way, was an early member of the Houston Archeological Society.

Summarizing, I feel that it is certain that the vast majority of artifacts found by George Wolf at site 41HR72, as enumerated and illustrated in HAS Report No. 19, came from site 41HR73.

The report compares or equates, due to the artifacts found, site 41HR72 with site 41GV53. Site

41GV53 should have been compared with site 41HR73 based on the written report, but the lithic report by Alan Duke on site 41HR73 was left out of the archeological discussion and not cited. Site 41HR72 cannot be compared to site 41GV53 because one can be certain that many of the artifacts found by George Wolf at site 41HR72 did not originate there. Site 41HR72 should be considered the site it was as written up by Alan Duke in 1967.

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2002 Investigations of Site 41HR72, Harris County, Texas. Houston Archeological Society Report No. 19

Site 41HR72: A Reply to Duke

Leland W. Patterson

The Houston Archeological Society report on site 41HR72 in Harris County (Patterson et al. 2002) describes a large collection of prehistoric artifacts found at this site by George Wolf in the 1970s. Bruce Duke (1999) in this issue of the Journal postulates that the large Wolf collection from 41HR72 does not represent artifacts originally from this site, but instead represents a large number of artifacts that were transported by wave action from large site 41HR73 to site 41HR72 over a distance of about 100 meters. Bruce Duke bases his conclusions on the fact that only one arrow point from the Late Prehistoric period was found by Alan Duke in the 1960s at site 41HR72 while the Wolf collection has 265 arrow points found at this site in the 1970s. The original report on 41HR72 by Alan Duke (1967) shows only Archaic period dart points.

Bruce Duke has concluded that the large collection of artifacts in the Wolf collection from 41HR72 could not represent artifacts originally from this site, which he describes as having a shoreline length of about 35 meters. Instead, he postulates that many artifacts were transported to 41HR72 by wave action from large site 41HR73, which he describes as having a shoreline length of about 0.4 kilometers. There is a major problem with Bruce Duke's proposed scenario, however. When artifacts are displaced from a site by wave action, the artifacts will be scattered along the shoreline, not moved from the site in large quantities to another specific location. This can be seen along the 34 km shoreline of McFaddin Beach (Turner and Tanner 1994).

The most likely explanation for George Wolf finding many more artifacts at 41HR72 than originally found by Alan Duke is that wave action from the 1960s to the 1970s increased with increased ship traffic on the Houston Ship Channel, which exposed many more artifacts at this site. It is concluded here that the George Wolf collection basically represents artifacts originally from this site, with the slight possibility of only a few artifacts having been displaced from 41HR73 to 41HR72.

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