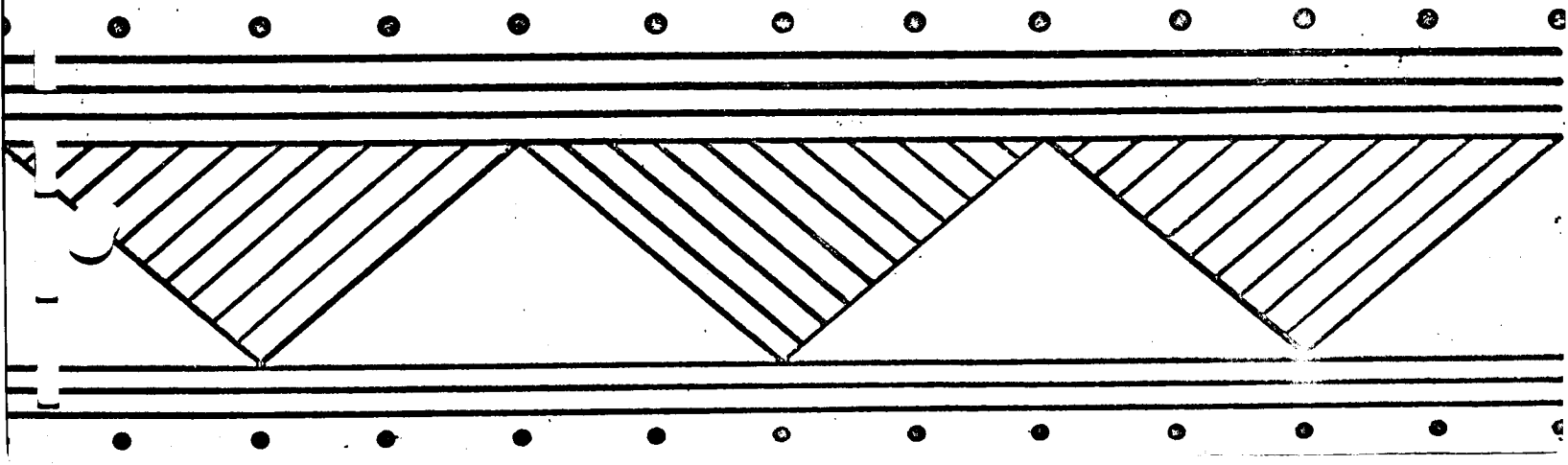


# HOUSTON ARCHEOLOGICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

NUMBER 34

DECEMBER 1970



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-Ian R. Duke, 1706 Oaks Drive, Pasadena, Texas 77502.

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Officers 1970-71

- Chairman - Jay W. Sharp, 5818 Arboles, Houston, Texas 77035  
Sec.-Treas. - Margie Fullen, 717 Dartmouth Lane, Deer Park, Texas 77536  
Directors - William Caskey  
 Larry Chrisco  
 Frank Hole

# # # # #

Front Cover

The "new look" on the cover is the work of HAS member Eddie Cherry and portrays ancient and modern man. In Eddie's own words, "the two figures are very similar except for clothes and hair style. Although the two men are separated by time, they have much in common meeting physical needs, coping with the environment, and living with their neighbors. The pots represent his endeavors to meet his needs, and our endeavor to learn what he was like by piecing together the evidence that remains".

# # # # #

Past and Future Programs

- September - 1970 - Mr. Brent Smith, graduate student in Anthropology at L.S.U., presented a report on three Louisiana excavations on Avery Island.
- October - 1970 - Lou Fullen discussed typology theory and "type descriptions" being used in classifying ceramics from the Wallisville Reservoir area.
- November - 1970 - Two films were shown. - Prehistoric Times - The World Before Man and Prehistoric Man in Europe. HAS members were invited to hear Dr. Elwyn Simons, Yale University, discuss the Latest African Discoveries in Human Evolution at Rice University.
- December - 1970 - Frank Weir, State Highway Salvage Archeologist, will discuss Highway Salvage Archeology..
- January - 1971 - Dr. Richard Blanton, Rice University archeologist, will talk on Mayan Archeology..

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Excavations at Clear Lake

Work will continue, on week-ends thru December, at site 41HR82 in the Clear Lake area. Call Dr. Frank Hole at 528-1707 or Mike O'Brien, at 524-5702 (during week), 645-7378 (Fri.-Sun.) for the week-end work schedule.

# # # # #

Houston Archeological Society - Sharpstown Exhibit

The HAS exhibit, assembled on week-ends in the Albert Sidney Johnston Junior High Library, required many hours of dedicated effort on the part of HAS members before the material was ready for display at the large shopping mall at Sharpstown on October 23 thru 25. Principal purpose of the exhibit was to acquaint the public with the purposes and activities of the Society and to encourage interested individuals to join our organization.

The exhibit was divided into two parts - approximately half was focused on the TAS summer field schools while the remainder of the exhibit concentrated on the HAS site survey work in the Houston area.

The following HAS members, under the able direction of Chairman Tom Cobb, contributed to the success of the exhibit either in preparation of exhibit materials, fliers, etc. or by being "on duty" at Sharpstown during the exhibit: Charles, Virginia and Holly Chandler, Lou, Marge, Jean and John Fullen, Larry Weiner, Jay, Martha, Steve and Michael Sharp, Dorothy Weir, Tommy Medlin, Edith Cherry, Beth Shoemaker, Marcia Zehl, Evelyn Lewis, Wayne Neyland, Larry and Rhonda Chrisco and Alan Duke.

Those who made special contributions in providing display materials were: Jay Sharp with his excellent black and white photos; Charlie Bollich of Beaumont who was most helpful in providing field records and artifacts from the Gaulding site plus an Indian skull from Florida and a panel explaining the archeology of the Lower Mississippi Valley; Charles Chandler provided slides and an assortment of artifacts for the display cases; David Espy of Corpus loaned us some lithic material from a site in San Patricio County; the Sid Moughon family of Gilmer loaned us some examples of late Caddoan burial goods; Lou Allen prepared some excellent panels describing HAS activities in the Houston area.

Last, but not least, through the kind generosity of Hal Story at the Texas Memorial Museum we were able to display his drawings of Texas Indians made for Newcomb's book, The Indians of Texas.

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TAS Annual Meeting

The HAS was well represented at the TAS annual meeting at Midland, Texas in November, 1970 by the following members: Charles, Virginia and Holly Chandler, Tom Cobb, Lou and Margie Fullen, Wayne Neyland and Beth Shoemaker.

Lou Fullen was re-elected a Director of the TAS and will coordinate activities of Regional Vice Presidents. Charlie Chandler was re-elected Regional Vice President for Region 5.

The 1971 TAS Field School will be held in the Kerrville area and will be hosted by the Hill Country Archeological Society. The 1971 TAS Annual meeting will be held in Fort Worth and will be hosted by the Tarrant Co. Archeological Society.

It seems appropriate, since we are talking TAS business, to correct an oversight in the last HAS Newsletter on the item dealing with HAS member participation in the 1970 TAS Field School. Margie Fullen was in charge of the Field School lab. and for the first time at any TAS Field School all the artifacts were cleaned and labeled in the field.

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## Analysis of Ceramic and Bone Artifacts from 41HR73 (Surface Collection)

A. R. Duke

Site 41HR73, a large clam shell mound on San Jacinto Bay, Harris Co., was mentioned by the author in a general report on 41HR72, a nearby site, in the HAS Newsletter No. 20, February 1967. Representative artifacts from the site were displayed at the TAS Annual meeting at Rice University in November 1967. Now, some 1,000 or more sherds later, it appears appropriate to analyze the surface specimens and list the types of sherds and bone artifacts found on this site. A report on the numerous lithic artifacts from 41HR73 will be presented in a future edition of the Newsletter along with the results of limited testing currently in progress.

Pottery classification is based on type descriptions shown on pages 9-17 of the Houston Archeological Society Report No. 1 (Jamison Site) October 1967, since all HAS members have access to this report.

Pots from the site appear to have noded, rounded, or conical bases. Sherds showing flat bases present in other sites in Houston area have not been found. Vessels appear to have been conical, cylindrical or bowl shaped. Some of the conical and cylindrical types curve inward between the middle and the mouth and flare outward at the mouth. Reconstruction of portions of pots show that the pots range from 9 cm. to 30 cm. in diameter at the rim and from 6 cm. to 40 cm. in depth. Wall thickness ranges from 2 mm. to 15 mm.

Sand, shell, bone and fragments of fired clay were used to temper the wares. Color of the sherds range from white through various shades of gray, brown, orange and yellow to completely black. Many sherds are fire mottled a varying shades of red, orange and gray. Cores are generally gray, brown or black but in some cases the cross section of the sherd is uniform in color, particularly in the fine textured sherds. Iron oxide concretions are present in many of the light colored sherds.

Surface finishes range from coarse to very fine. Striations are present on both exterior and interior surfaces of many sherds indicating use of a brush, shell or grass to smooth the surface.

Patch holes appear on fifteen Goose Creek sherds and eight Goose Creek Plain sherds are asphalt coated on the interior. No asphalt decorated sherds have been found.

Following is the distribution of the various pottery types represented in the 3,937 sherds found at 41HR73:

### Total Goose Creek Sherds - 3,851 (Plain and Incised)

Incised body sherds*	-	94
Incised rim sherds	-	54 (Total rim sherds - 195)
Lip notches rim sherds	-	22
"Pie Crust" rim sherds	-	2
Total Incised (Decorated) sherds	-	172
Total pot bottoms	-	36
Asphalted interior sherds	-	8
"Patch Hole" sherds	-	15
"Red Filmed" (exterior) sherds	-	1

\* Not identifiable as rim sherds.

San Jacinto wares found at 41HR73 accounted for about 2.2% of the total number of sherds. Only sherds with fired clay (grog) fragment tempering were considered in this category.

Colors range from light gray through brown, yellow, orange and black. Limited quantity of sherds makes it difficult to ascertain shape of the pots but it appears fairly certain that conical and rounded vessels predominated.

Cores are generally gray or black but some are uniform in color through the cross section of the sherd. Wall thickness ranges from 3 to 6 mm.

Total San Jacinto Sherds - 86 (Plain and Incised)

Incised body sherds - 4  
Incised rim sherds - 2

European pottery appears frequently among the prehistoric pottery. "Bean pot" ware and other crockery is present - perhaps because 41HR73 is close to the site of an early settler home dating back to the 1830's.

Bone and shell artifacts are rather scarce at 41HR73, as compared to ceramic and lithic materials, although there is a large quantity of animal bone and shell refuse on the site. Alligator teeth and gar scales appear occasionally as do perforated clam and oyster shells. Only one incised bone artifact has been found.

Following are the bone artifacts found on the site:

<u>Cylindrical Bone Bead</u>	<u>Bone Awls*</u>	<u>Deer Ulna Spatula</u>	<u>Deer Tine Flaking Tool</u>
1	19	3	1

\*One incised

Shell artifacts found include the following:

<u>Perforated Oyster Shell</u>	<u>Perforated Clam Shell</u>	<u>Conch Columella</u>
2	15	3

A large outcropping of sandstone is located about 200 yards from the site and pieces of sandstone appear along the beach. None of these pieces show evidence of use as abraders in the manufacture of the bone tools.

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#### Pottery Type Descriptions

A decade ago, most pottery found in the Houston area was typed as Goose Creek Plain or Incised. In 1959, R. B. Worthington, former HAS member, suggested two new types - San Jacinto Plain and San Jacinto Incised. Refinement of the definitions of these types were presented by Lawrence Aten in Report #1, Houston Archeological Society, 1967.

Dr. Richard Ambler, in his report "Additional Archeological Survey of the Wallisville Reservoir Area, Southeast Texas", - TASP Survey Reports (No.6), mentions several additional types including Wallisville Plain, Lost River Plain and Orcoquizac Plain. Certain characteristics of surface and core color, thickness, etc. prompted Dr. Ambler to suggest these new types and when these type definitions are presented in more detail and accepted, it appears a re-examination of pottery from all sites in this area will be in order.

# # # # #

SUPPORTING STATEMENT FOR A BILL TO AMEND PUBLIC LAW 86-523 OF JUNE 27, 1960

This, basically, is a conservation bill designed to facilitate and promote the protection and recovery of one of America's great non-renewable resources--the evidence of the past. The need for action is urgent for it is estimated that a majority of our archeological sites will be damaged or destroyed within the next 25 years.

BACKGROUND

The National Park Service, through the Secretary of the Interior, is charged with the responsibility for Federal action with regard to the nation's archeological and historical resources. In addition to its own personnel, the National Park Service has established and maintained for more than 20 years a program of cooperative agreements with state and local institutions for recovery of archeological data about to be lost through flooding behind dams. The 1960 act (Public Law 86-523) required Federal agencies building dams or licensing the constructions of dams to notify the Secretary of the Interior of such intentions and formalized the on-going reservoir archeological salvage program. Unfortunately there has never been any provision for the recovery of archeological and historical data being lost as a result of Federal programs other than dam construction. These losses far surpass those resulting from the building of dams.

THE PROPOSED BILL

The bill amends and broadens the 1960 act as follows:

(1) Coverage is extended to all Federal and Federally assisted or licensed programs which alter the terrain and thus potentially cause loss of scientific, prehistorical, historical, or archeological data.

(2) Federal agencies are directed to notify the Secretary of the Interior if in their operations archeological or other scientific data are revealed or threatened.

(3) The Secretary of the Interior upon notification by any responsible authority that a Federal program is threatening, damaging, or destroying such data shall evaluate the situation and cause a survey or other investigation to be made to the extent necessary to protect the public interest.

(4) Federal agencies whose programs are causing damage or destruction of scientific, prehistorical, historical, or archeological data are authorized to transfer to the Secretary of the Interior a small portion of the program funds to protect or recover such data prior to its loss.

ADVANTAGES OF THE BILL

Both funds (Federal and other) and archeological personnel are limited and should be utilized where there is the greatest priority or scientific need. The bill will make it possible for some additional Federal funding and action to recover data on our archeological and historical resources by extending the salvage archeological program to all Federal activities rather than limiting it to reservoirs. Of even greater importance, it will enable the archeologists

to select which sites to concentrate their efforts upon on the basis of scientific need rather than being restricted in their selection solely to those sites being destroyed by dam construction or reservoir flooding. In the past much extremely valuable scientific data has been lost due to lack of funds and available personnel at the critical time. By authorizing transfer of necessary funds from the program responsible for potential destruction or damage of the data it would be possible to tie in directly and immediately the level of support needed to the amount of destruction and availability of personnel.

Basically the responsibility for initiating action rests with the archeologists and the Federal agencies involved will not be burdened with unnecessary administrative problems or expense.

POSSIBLE PROBLEMS

The principle of transfer of funds by Federal agencies has been established by Executive order but its application in this particular instance needs to be cleared with the Bureau of the Budget.

It will also be desirable and necessary to assure the major agencies involved that neither the financial nor the administrative drain upon them will be serious and that both will be more than offset by the public benefit and improved public relations.

Dr. Charles R. McGimsey III  
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Representing the:

Mississippi Alluvial Valley Archeological Program  
Steering Committee

Editor's Note: The statement you have just read is a resume and analysis of the bill to amend an existing conservation bill. The amendment will be presented again to Congress next year and needs your support if you really believe in protecting and recovering archeological and historical data currently being destroyed.

A.R.D.

# # # # #

Additions to HAS Library

Here is a partial list of recent additions to the HAS library - more later:

Prewitt, Elton R. "The Piedra del Diablo Site, Val Verde County, Texas," and "Notes on Some Trans-Pecos Archeological Material in the Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C.," Archeological Report 18. Austin, Texas: Texas Historical Survey Committee, 1970.

Schuetz, Mardith K. "Excavation of a Section of the Acequia Madre in Bexar County, Texas" and "Archeological Investigations at Mission San Jose in April, 1968", Archeological Report 19, Austin, Texas:

Texas Highways, 17:9. September, 1970.

(Articles of Interest:

"Frank Weir-THD's Link With the Past"  
"The Hueco Tanks".)

Sorrow, William M. "Archeological Investigations at the John Ischy Site: A Burnt Rock Midden in Williamson County, Texas," Papers of the University of Texas Archeological Salvage Project No. 18. Austin: The University of Texas at Austin, 1969.

Duffield, Lathel Flay. "Engraved Shells from the Craig Mound at Spiro, Le Flore County, Oklahoma", Memoir No. 1. Norman: Oklahoma Anthropological Society, 1964.

Heizer, Robert F. and John A. Graham. "A Guide to Field Methods in Archaeology: Approaches to the Anthropology of the Dead." Palo Alto, Calif.: The National Press, 1967. \$8.95 + 50 cents - postage and handling.

Shepard, Anna O. "Ceramics for the Archaeologist." Washington, D.C.: Carnegie Institution of Washington, 1968. Paperback: \$7.00.

Dyer, Dr. J. O. "The Lake Charles Atakapas (Cannibals): Period 1817-1820". Galveston: Dr. J. O. Dyer, 1917.

Newsletter of the Oklahoma Anthropological Society, 18:7. October 1970.

American Antiquity, 35:4.

Binford, Lewis R. and Sally R. Binford, Robert Whallon, Margaret Ann Hardin. "Archaeology at Hatchery West", Memoir of the Society for American Archaeology, #24. October, 1970.

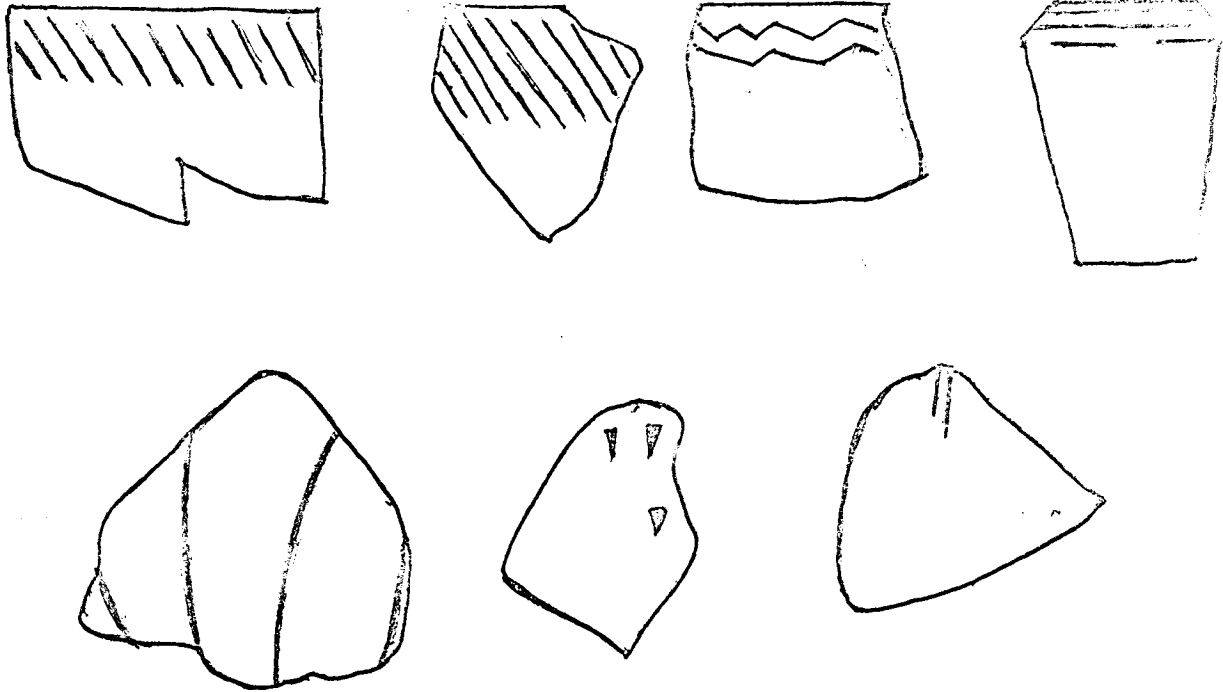
Mc Gimsey, Charles R., III, and Hester Davis. "Indians of Arkansas" Arkansas Archeological Survey Popular Series #1. Fayetteville: AAS, 1969.

Word, James H. and Charles L. Douglas. "Excavations at Baker Cave, Val Verde County, Texas", Bulletin 16: Texas Memorial Museum. Austin: U of T at Austin, 1970.

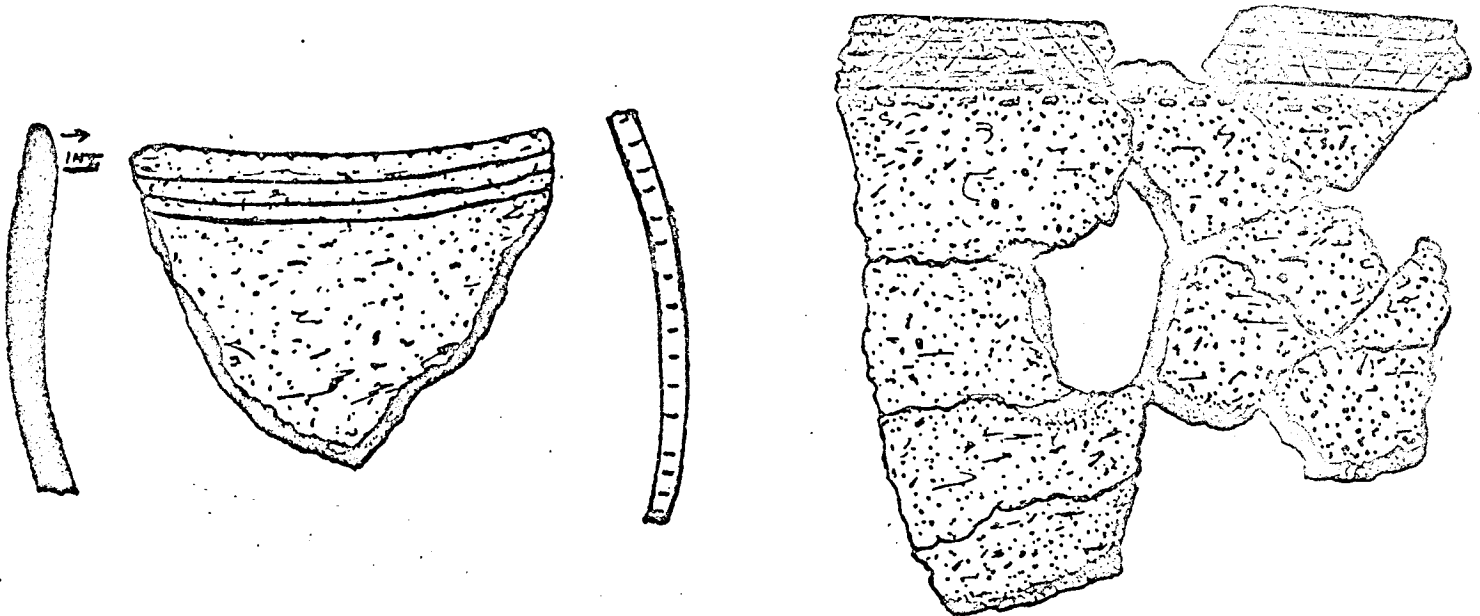
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Additional Examples of Incised Pottery (Houston Area)



Above sherds submitted by Bill McClure from site 41HR89.



"A"

"B"

Above sherds are from site 41HR91. Sherd "A" has red filmed exterior. Sherd "B" has red filmed interior. Submitted by Wayne Neyland.