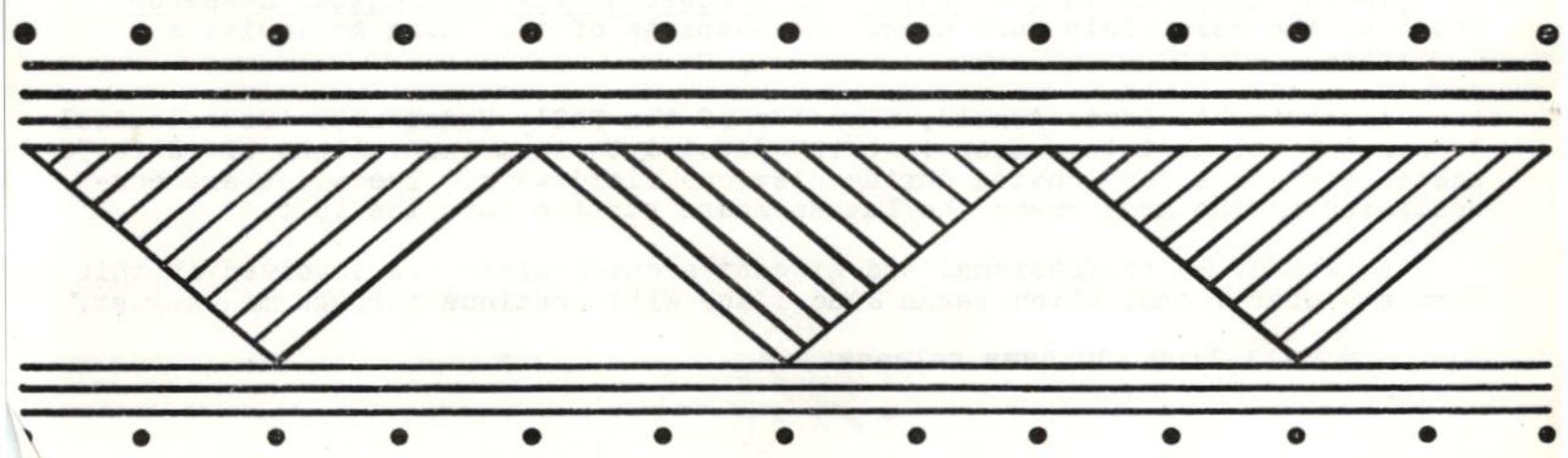


# HOUSTON ARCHEOLOGICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

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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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#### HAS Officers - 1976-77

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#### Activities

• HAS members have been working since Memorial Day on a site (41HR315) northwest of Houston. The site, along with others in the area, will eventually be destroyed since the sites are on land which is part of a growing new subdivision.

A number of one meter squares have been excavated, and material from the middle Archaic to the late prehistoric have been found. Archaic material includes Carrolton, Angostura and San Patrice points. The Louisiana influence is indicated by the presence of Ponchartrain points.

Work will continue on the site on Sundays only. Contact Lee Patterson (468-4464) for information, directions to site, etc.

• Lou Fullen is conducting a series of seminars on Early Americans of Southeast Texas and the Archeology of Houston Area at the Houston Museum of Natural Science. Seminars started July 7 and continue every Thursday evening (7:30 P.M.) thru July. A field trip to Armand Bayou on Saturday July 30 concludes the series. Contact the museum or University of Houston Continuing Education Office for information.

• Texas Archeological Society Annual Meeting - Quality Inn Cibola, 1601 East Division, Arlington, Texas - October 28 - 30, 1977.

• Half a mile off South Padre Island, immersed in the murky waters of the Gulf, a team of marine archeologists performs unique detective work.

As participants in the Padre Island Underwater Archeological Research Project, the scientists work under the auspices of the Texas Antiquities Committee.

According to Barto Arnold, director of the TAC's Underwater Archeological Research Section, this summer is being devoted to test excavations of 20 to 30 possible wreck sites located during previous field work. The sites are concentrated in the area where the Laguna Madre empties into the Gulf.

A crew of 15 professional and student archeologists are involved in this summer's operations, which began June 1 and will continue through mid-August.\*

\*Excerpt from TAC news release.

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41 HR 274

This site is on the west bank of the bayou, just downstream of a small creek entering from the west and within a large horseshoe bend. The new channel has been displaced easterly and the old channel has been partially filled. A sanitary sewer lift station is on the site and a large storm sewer has been built through it. Recent fill covers the sandy loam topsoil. Burned timber is probably related to the channel straightening work. A few artifacts have been exposed by erosion and traffic (foot and cycle) on both sides of the storm sewer. The artifacts appear to originate in the lower part of the topsoil which overlies yellowish silty clay of unknown depth. Surface elevation is about 57 feet above sea level.

**BONE:**

One fragment of unidentifiable bone was found. Its surface is somewhat eroded and it may predate the occupation.

**CERAMICS:**

The assemblage includes 10 plain body sherds of vessels that weigh 56 grams. Two have grog temper and the others have a sandy paste. One of the grog tempered sherds and three of the others have the entire inner surface coated with a black substance which is presumed to be asphalt. Curvature indicates that rather large vessels are represented. The grog tempered sherds are both 5 mm. thick. Thickness of the others varies from 5 to 8 with an average of 6.5 mm.

None of these sherds can be classed as Goose Creek or San Jacinto wares with any confidence. The paste does not look right.

**LITHICS:**

There are a few pebbles on the surface that were obviously brought to the site in modern times. Therefore, no unmodified lithic material will be discussed here.

**Bifaces: (1) (Fig. 24, F.)**

A small cobble has been flaked from each side to produce a biface. The shape of the cobble has been little changed as the base and distal tip are cortex as are large parts of each face of the blade. Flint, weighs 10 grams.

**Projectile Points:**

The collection includes two dart points and three arrow points.

**Gary: (2) (Fig. 24, A., B.)**

These are small Gary dart points. One is quartzite. The other is silicified wood and was not finished due to the inability to remove a knot at midbody. Total weight is 14 grams.

**Alba: (2) (Fig. 24, C., D.)**

These two Alba arrow points have relatively short stems but fit within the type description. One is unifacially worked. Another arrow point (E.) is probably of the same type but the stem is missing. Total weight of the three points is 4 grams. All are flint.

**Flakes and Chips:**

The collection includes 132 flakes and chips that weigh 92 grams. One is quartzite, 10 are silicified wood (7+%) and the rest are flint. Four have fire pops. Two are lipped. There are no prismatic blades.

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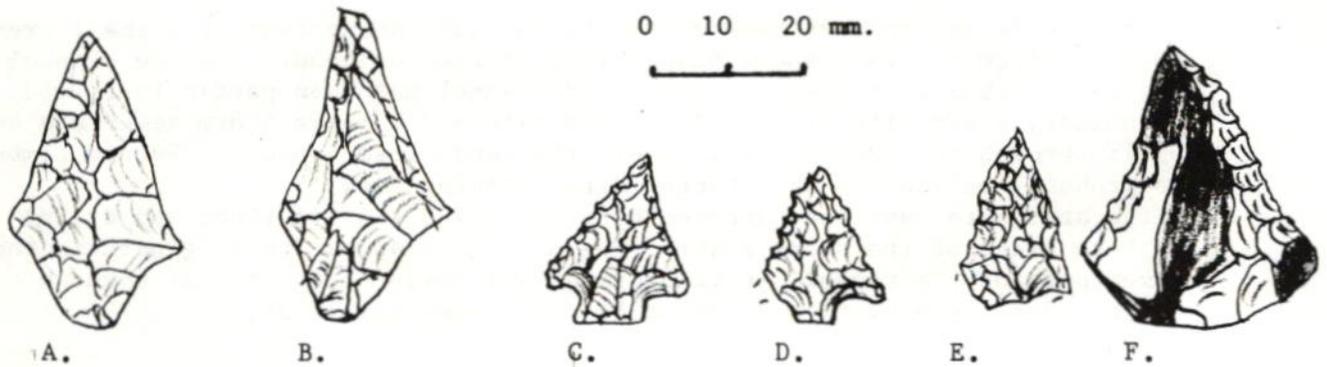


Figure 24

Use scars are found on 30 (23%). One of these is a flake side scraper, two are thin notches, one has been retouched to a straight edge and four have been retouched to convex edges. The others have been used as cutting instruments.

Size	Material	Utilized				Unutilized				Totals			
		P.	S.	I.	total	P.	S.	I.	total	P.	S.	I.	total
0 to 10mm.	Flint		2	6	8	4	22	38	64	4	24	44	72
	Sil.wood					1	2	4	7	1	2	4	7
	total		2	6	8	5	24	42	71	5	26	48	79
10 to 15mm.	Flint		9	9	18	4	15	6	25	4	24	15	43
	Sil.wood					1		1	2	1		1	2
	total		9	9	18	5	15	7	27	5	24	16	45
15 to 20mm.	Flint		2	1	3	1	1		2	1	3	1	5
	Sil.wood							1	1			1	1
	total		2	1	3	1	1	1	4	1	3	2	7
30 to 35mm.	Flint			1	1							1	1
Totals			13	17	30	12	40	50	102	12	53	67	132

Table 11 Flakes and Chips

## DISCUSSION:

Occupation of the site was during the Woodland period with perhaps use during the Late Prehistoric period. Until the ceramics are identified and the relation of the Alba arrow points to other material can be resolved, not much else can be said about the site. Perhaps there is enough of the site still undisturbed to be excavated in the future.

WOB-57

An Archaic-Woodland Site, 41HR223, Harris Co., Texas - L. W. Patterson

This article describes archeological site 41HR223 in inland Harris County, Texas, which has components of the Archaic and Woodland periods. It is located on a creek bank on gently sloping, sandy soil. This site is in a wooded area, and is at least 100 feet in diameter. There are no distinguishing archeological features on the surface other than scattered artifacts. Artifacts were collected from the surface over a period of several years, until March 1977.

Evidence for the time periods involved is derived from projectile point types and pottery. Pottery starts at approximately AD 100 (Aten and others 1976:figure 16), at the end of the Archaic period. A Woodland period from AD 100 to 600 then follows, containing pottery and dart points but few bifacial arrow points, until bifacial arrow points become predominant at about AD 600 (Aten 1971:figure 10) at the start of the late prehistoric. Some of the pottery found on this site is characteristic of the early Woodland period. Dart point types found here are from the middle to late Archaic (roughly 3000 BC to AD 100) and from the Woodland period, with some overlap between the two periods (Patterson 1976:Table I).

The following dart points were found:

Bulverde	1
Bulverde (?) stem	1
Ellis	2
Catan or preform	1
Carrollton (?) stem	1
Marshall-like	1
unclassified lanceolate	1
unclassified fragments	3

The possible Carrollton point stem with ground edges may indicate site occupation as early as the middle Archaic (Smith 1969). Bulverde points are characteristic of the last half of the Archaic period, with some continuity into ceramic periods (Suhm and Jelks 1962:169). Ellis points are found in the late Archaic and Woodland periods (Suhm and Jelks 1962:187, Patterson 1976:Table 1). Marshall points have a long time distribution in the Archaic period and later on the Edwards Plateau (Suhm and Jelks 1962:211). This dart point collection is fairly typical of the upper Texas coast and adjacent regions for the time periods represented.

A number of fired clay balls, possible used for cooking, are present on site 41HR223. These have been found on Archaic and Woodland sites in Harris County (Patterson 1976:183) and have a wider distribution to the east along the Gulf Coast. The collection of clay balls for this site is as follows:

under 15 mm diameter	125
15 to 20 mm diameter	70
20 to 25 mm diameter	27
25 to 35 mm diameter	11
total	<u>233</u>

The collection of potsherds is as follows:

	<u>over 15 mm square</u>	<u>smaller</u>
Conway Plain	7	4
Goose Creek Plain	4	2
Bone Tempered	2	2

Conway Plain pottery contains very coarse sand tempering and is characteristic of the earliest Woodland pottery period in this area (Aten and others 1976: figure 16). Charles N. Bollich (personal communication) has examined a sample from this site and feels that it could fall within the Conway Plain type. Bone tempered pottery is usually associated with the late prehistoric on the upper Texas coast, but site 41HR223 has no indications of late prehistoric materials, such as bifacial arrow points. Some bone tempered pottery may be indicated earlier here, in the Woodland period. W. L. McClure (personal communication) has found bone tempered pottery with dart points only on White Oak Bayou, as on this site. Bone tempering was determined here by the lack of reaction with hydrochloric acid. In contrast, the carbonates in shell tempering will emit gas when contacted with acid. Goose Creek sandy paste pottery occurs throughout ceramic periods in this area. The low ratio of sherds over 15 mm square to flint flakes over 15 mm square on this site (0.04) is typical of the early Woodland period (Patterson 1976: figure 3).

There are many indications of lithic manufacturing activities and tool use on this site. Many of the flakes have edge retouch typical of cutting and scraping functions. This is a hunting and gathering type campsite, and lithic tool uses could include butchering, hide preparation, and woodworking. There are many small flint flakes present, typical of tool manufacturing debitage. Heat treating of flint was used extensively. Two whole flint pebbles and one split pebble, 25 to 35 mm in diameter, were found. Sixteen thick flint chips, 20 to 35 mm square, were found, and are probably indicative of primary flint reduction activities.

A few retouched flint flakes can be classified as formal tool types, including 3 flake graters, 5 perforators, and 2 microtools (1 bifacial). Twenty four prismatic blades and blade fragments were found, with 8 having widths of 5 to 10 mm and 16 with widths of 10 to 15 mm. Two of the wider blades have single retouched notches at the proximal end. Eight unifacial end blades and 5 unifacial side blades were found, with possible use as arrow point elements. This is another indication of use of the bow and arrow in this area before use of bifacial arrow points.

The collection of irregular shaped flint flakes is as follows:

	No.	%
under 10 mm square	365	50.7
10 to 15 mm square	213	29.6
15 to 20 mm square	95	13.2
20 to 25 mm square	29	4.0
25 to 35 mm square	15	2.1
35 to 50 mm square	2	0.3
50 to 70 mm square	1	0.1
total	720	100.0

This size distribution is typical of Archaic-Woodland site surface mixtures found by the writer, with a number of flakes over 25 mm square. Flakes over 35 mm square are generally fairly scarce on Harris County sites, probably reflecting the lithic raw materials available. Tan flint predominates as the material used most, with much darker brown flint, a small amount of red jasper, and a few pieces of petrified wood.

For the flint flakes over 10 mm square, there are 9.3% primary cortex flakes, 29.9% secondary flakes with some remaining cortex and 60.8% interior flakes with no remaining cortex. This possibly indicates that at least some

of the lithic raw materials brought to this site were in the form of whole or only slightly trimmed flint nodules and pebbles. Another indication that the starting point for lithic reduction work was mainly whole flint nodules, covered with an exterior cortex, is that the larger flakes have higher percentages of remaining cortex, as follows:

flake size	percent		
	interior	secondary	primary
10 to 15 mm	68.0	25.4	6.6
15 to 20 mm	54.7	30.5	14.8
20 to 25 mm	55.2	34.5	10.3
25 to 35 mm	13.3	73.4	13.3

This pattern would be expected for trimming of raw materials as a primary reduction step, and then further reduction in tool manufacturing.

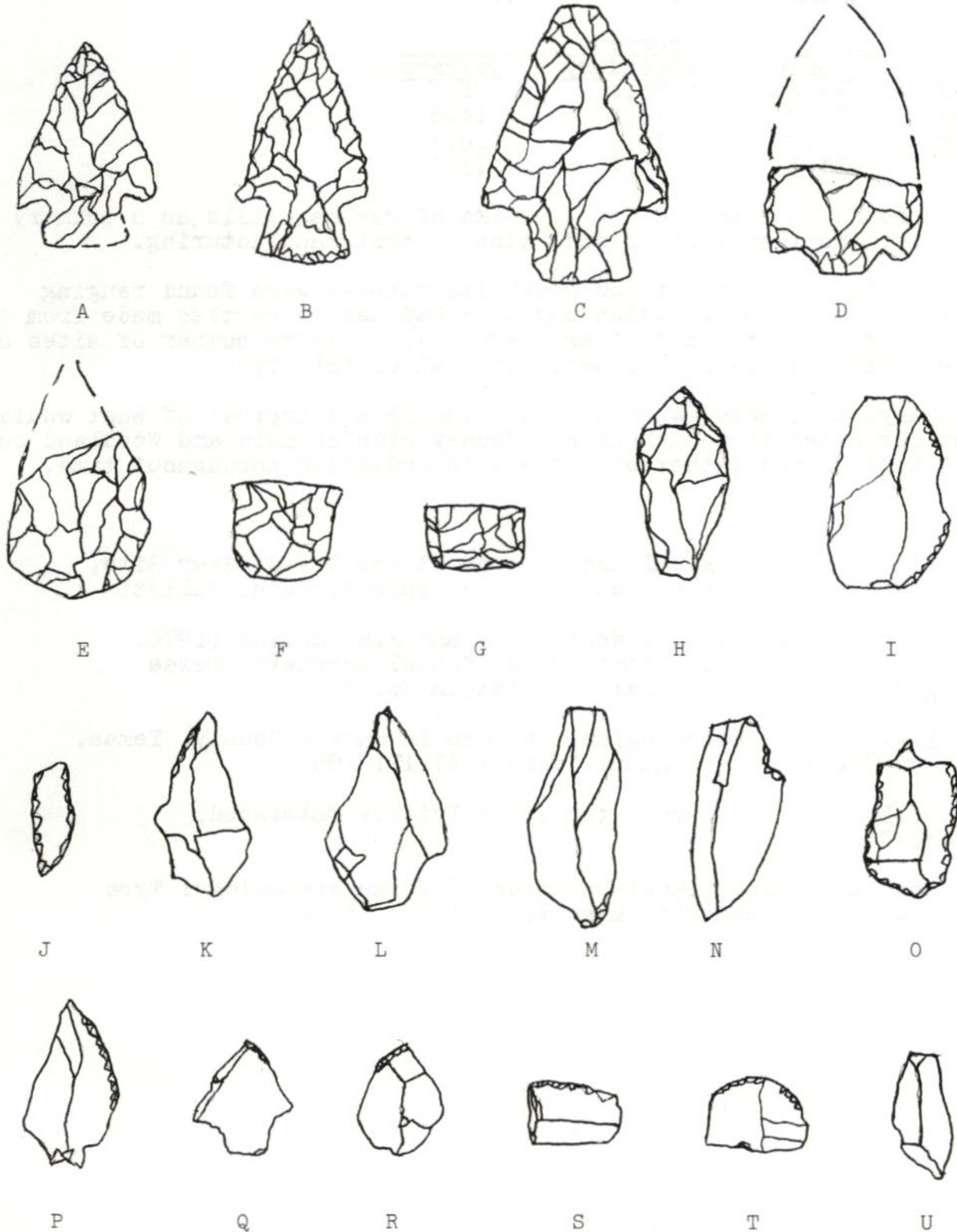
Eight small, smooth flint and quartzite pebbles were found ranging from 8 to 15 mm in diameter, which may have had use in rattles made from perishable materials (Aten and others 1976:41). A large number of sites of all ages in inland Harris County have material of this type.

In summary, artifacts found on site 41HR223 are typical of what would be expected for sites in inland Harris County with Archaic and Woodland components. A hunting and gathering lifeway is indicated throughout time.

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FIGURE I  
 SITE 41HR223 LITHIC ARTIFACTS  
 (ACTUAL SIZE)



A, B - Ellis Points; C - Bulverde Point; D - Marshall-Like Point; E - Catan Point or Preform; F - Carrollton (?) Stem; G - Bulverde (?) Stem; H - Unclassified Dart Point; I - Retouched Prismatic Flake; J - Bifacial Microtool; K, L - Perforators; M - Graver Point On Blade; N - Notched Blade; O - Graver On Retouched Flake; P, Q, R - Unifacial End Blades; S, T - Unifacial Side Blades; U - Prismatic Microblade

## Amateur Archaeologists as Conservationists - Alan Skinner

Several months ago my son lost a baby tooth. Finally after some-time his new tooth is growing in. This new tooth is permanent but if it is like the other teeth it is soft. I suspect that unless my son starts to care for his permanent teeth better than he does today that by the turn of the century many will be lost. Ultimately he will be able to talk about what it was like to have had real teeth and what it is like to use false teeth. Archaeological resources are like teeth, they are irreplaceable.

So Lets Go Dig! There is a familiar ring to those words for many of us for there is little doubt that digging is and has been a major lure for getting people involved in archaeology. Digging brings to mind the uncovering of a burial or an unusual artifact as well as the memory of sweat, sore muscles, a cool drink and recovering at work on Monday morning. It also reminds us that records need to be kept, maps made, artifacts washed and cataloged, reports written and submitted for publication. There is also the identification of fossils, points and bottles brought for identification by friends and acquaintances. These are all good or at least fond memories but what about bad ones?

What about the shelters, burned rock mounds and open campsites you have seen that were fox holed to death with vandals' pits? Or the piles of discarded tools and other artifacts that were apparently not worthy enough for the vandal to keep? Or the maimed rock art one finds? Or the educated historian who feels that responsible preservation consists of picking up or digging up all the artifacts at a site before someone else does?

We obviously cleave to the fond memories and would like to forget the bad ones. Bad memories can't be repressed too easily moreover they seem to pop back into the picture again and again all over our state. W H Y? Why is it that sites are looted? Does no one care? Who is to blame? What is our role? What can we do?

We understand that the Texas State Bar is considering revising the State Antiquities Law to weaken the role of the law and ultimately reduce the quality of archaeology done under the law. Whose fault is this? Us? Of course not, its the State Archeologist's problem! Right? So where is he and what is he doing? He is with us for he is us. He is our extension within the State bureaucracy. Does this mean that this is our problem too? If so maybe we better give him our support soon or he might end up not being there at all and then who would be our advocate at the State level? So when was the last time you wrote to him about a problem in your county? He's not going to be too busy dealing with your personal problem unless you and I start asking him to help us.

But do we really care? Of course we do why else would we be members of TAS? For the past year I have been trying to see if anyone really cared because I have tried to gather information about our archaeology to be included in a brochure that would be distributed Statewide. The brochure's goal is to summarize the knowledge available about site locations, types and numbers so that land planners might be able to understand that there is a lot of archaeology in Texas and that we still have more to learn about it. So I asked the TAS members (Skinner 1976) to fill out a questionnaire contained in the Newsletter. I even got some out-of-state responses but the total number of responses was seventeen and I have estimates for only 79 (31%) counties. This map will give you an idea of what we don't know about. If your county isn't represented or even if it is and you haven't responded please fill out the form and return it to me for use in the brochure.

Likewise if you have some good black and white photographs of archaeological sites send them to me so we can consider them for use. It's up to us to get it done.

Before going any further I want to restate a well know political statement which is that "there is no, I repeat, no free lunch". If your friend is treating you to lunch he or she is paying for it. It's not free to them and its not likely to be free for you either. Well, archaeological sites aren't free either. Whether yours is weekday or weekend archaeology it takes time, commitment and it cuts out something else, therefore it costs. It requires commitment.

Archaeological sites themselves are not a dime a dozen. There was once a time when we treated them as if they would always be. Today we can no longer take them for granted. Gas was once common and therefore cheap, today it has doubled in price. Speaking of hard to get items, I've never found a Clovis or a Folsom point except in cigar boxes and other similarly dusty storage places. These old artifacts are rare today, maybe as rare as archaeological sites will be in the 21st century if we don't do something about it today.

Before painting a bleak picture of the future I want to establish a few assumptions. The first four deal with sites; the remainder deal with people. It is assumed that sites are:

1. the property and responsibility of the people, i.e., archaeological sites are public resources;
2. fragile - they destroy easily;
3. nonrenewable - you can't plant a new one; and
4. irreplaceable - they are the only document, albeit fossilized, that we have of man in the past.

It is assumed also that people are:

1. interested in man's past and in his archaeology, archaeology in this context refers to something that can be seen, is tangible;
2. largely uniformed about the unwritten past;
3. willing to commit time, effort and funds to archaeology, when and if asked;
4. unaware of the large-scale destruction of archaeological sites,
5. looking for something exciting to do with their own lives, and,
6. want to preserve evidence of the past.

On the basis of these assumptions and the current state of the art of archaeology I would offer four hypotheses:

Number 1. It is hypothesized that an uninformed public will continue to rape, pillage and plunder archaeological sites throughout Texas and the rest of the world. In fact I predict that there will be an increasing spread of destruction that will correlate with job dissatisfaction and increased free time.

Number 2. It is hypothesized that archaeological sites will remain primarily in marginal areas where man does not decide to expand. These "no man" lands will be rare because they are being exploited even today as urban sprawl continues.

Number 3. It is hypothesized that archaeologists, both the ivory towered academician and the ostrich necked amateur, will continue to have sleepless nights and gnashing of teeth about the dumb bureaucrats who are so insensitive that they don't get the bad vibrations that are emanating from archaeological minds all over the State, bear in mind that the vibes are coming from the minds not from mouths or on eyeball to eyeball basis or from pens, and lastly

Number 4. It is hypothesized that the 21st century will be a time of memories and mementos, for art objects, and out of print TAS Bulletins, of recollections of what it was like in the good old days.

Testing these hypotheses will be simple for all we need do is to lay back, archaeological apathy, or AA for short, will prove the rightness of these hypotheses.

The question is one of Action or Apathy. The answer is yours and mine. We are not going for overnight conversion but we are in need of large scale action for widespread understanding.

The Action Plan should be concerned with many areas of interest.

The first thing is dig into your closet or garage or office. Is there a site you know of that hasn't been documented at TARD? Record it, report it and deposit the artifacts for safe keeping. Unreported archaeology is archaeology that really shouldn't have been done because it doesn't benefit anyone and probably will be lost if not reported soon.

Next, advise decision makers that they need to consider archaeological resources. Our mayors, our governor and our congressmen probably know little about Texas archaeology or about your personal concern for archeological sites.

And lastly when a person comes to you with a fossil or an artifact for identification, take the time to show them that they too are important and that their archaeology is important too. Their archeology is like my son's teeth, if given good advice and treatment, it may be possible to preserve it for the future. Preservation will not however come with apathy or buck passing it will come only through responsible action. So Let's Go Dig!

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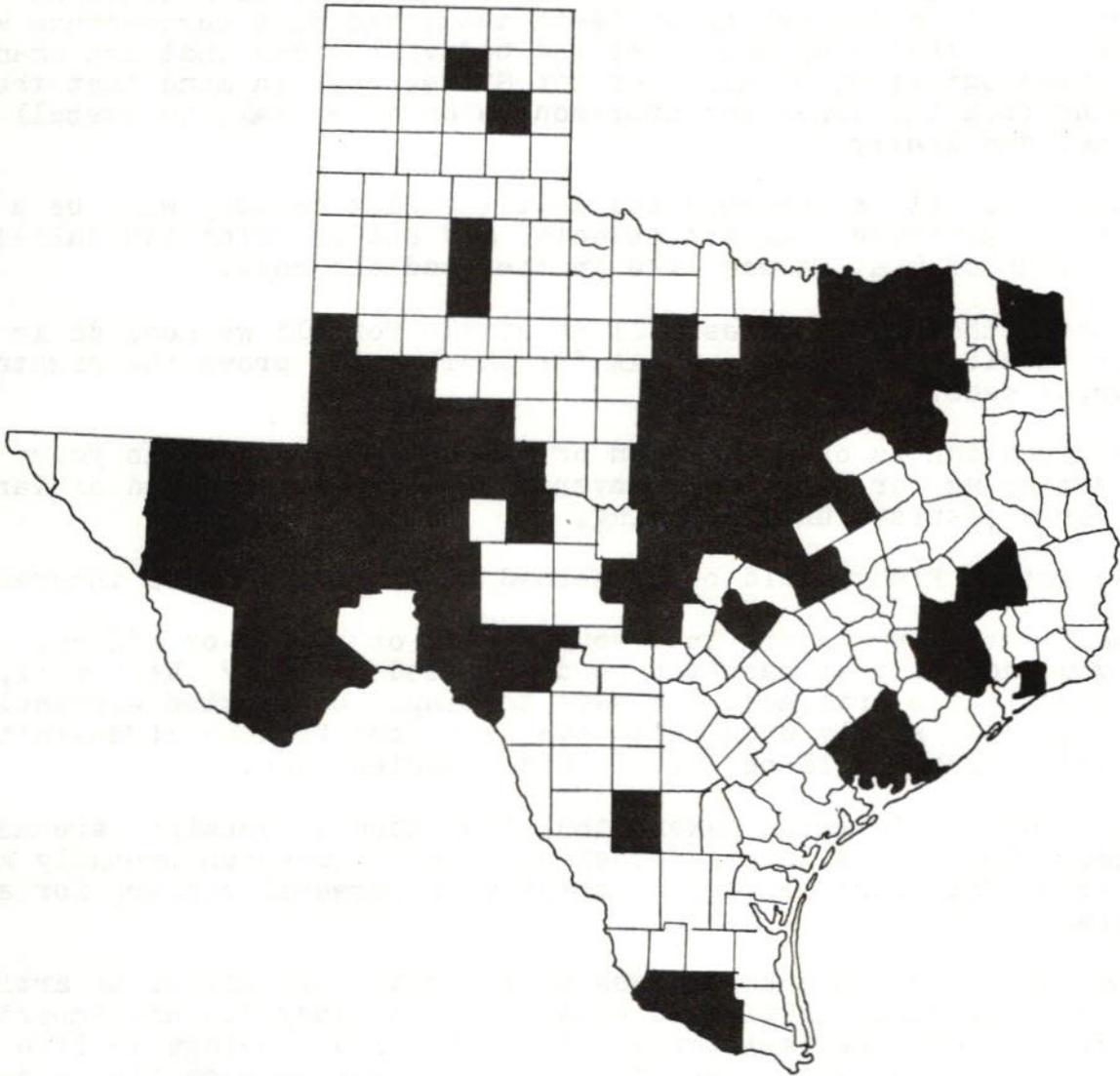


Figure 1. Map of Texas. At least one response has been received from those counties shown in black. No response has been received from the other counties and many of the darkened counties are represented by only a single response.