



The PROFILE

July 2006

July Program Features TAS Field School Reports

The July 14 HAS meeting will feature local members relating their 2006 Texas Archeological Society (TAS) Field School experiences. In anticipation of this meeting, The Profile obtained permission from archaeologist Elton R. Prewitt to reprint most of his Field School report to TAS. We think you will find it an interesting overview of Field School and good preparation for the July meeting (7:30 pm at St. Thomas University).

“Thank you to all the TAS members who attended the field school at the Stallings Site, 41LR297, near Paris. Those who chose not attend this year missed a great time and some outstandingly good archeology.

“Artifacts were once again abundant - Gary dart points of all sizes, Catahoula, Keota, and Ray arrow points, Red River pipe fragments (both stems and bowls), Williams Plain and a variety of other ceramics including both Caddo and Lower Mississippian wares, daub, quartz flakes, several pitted handstones placed adjacent to post molds, and a couple of large grinding slabs come to mind quickly.

“Features included pits, a burned sandstone cluster, dark middens, and two distinctly different kinds - and levels - of post molds. The upper level post molds generally had bits of charcoal in them while the lower level (roughly 6 to 8 cm lower in recognition elevation) lacked charcoal. Several overlapping circular Caddo houses and associated extra-mural structures may be represented by the upper level post molds. Two large rectangular Woodland Period houses appear to be represented by the lower level post molds. (This is my interpretation, not Alan's.)

“Principal Investigator Alan Skinner, assisted by Jimmy Smith, Margaret Howard, and myself, over-

saw 15 crew chiefs and their crews for a week of fun and learning about Woodland Period archeology.

“Doug Boyd and Neal Stilly once again did a great job with the children's excavations where they found artifacts, charred corn, and features that this year included at least one post mold. The survey crew supervised by Shane Prochow concentrated on finding nearby lithic resources that could have been used by the inhabitants of the Stallings Site. Lab director May Schmidt, site secretary Jonelle Miller, and photographers Bonnie McKee and Doug Taylor and all their assistants somehow managed to keep up with the frenetic pace of activities - I'm sure May and her crew will be more than happy to have any of you volunteer to help finish the artifact processing if you happen to visit Austin in the near future.

“Coach Gene and Ruth Ann Stallings and their family once again proved to be gracious hosts; they not only visited the excavations daily, but took part in the work along with their grandchildren.

“The local arrangements provided by Rick and June Proctor, and all the other Valley of the Caddo Archeological Society members, helped make this field school a success. The City of Paris and Lamar County chambers of commerce provided considerable assistance, including a billboard advertising the field school and TAS. Thanks to the Texas Historical Commission for providing a total station and operator, Jeff Durst, for the entire week.

“I personally want to thank all of you who took part in field school. You all did a great job, and took my prodding in good humor. I look forward to Alan's report on the two field schools at the Stallings Site - it should be quite interesting, and whatever the results, I think we should all be pleased to have taken part in the work.” -- *Elton R. Prewitt*

Looking Forward

June is gone, TAS Field School is history, and now it's time for our Society to return to the work at hand. The Nominating Committee will soon gear up to begin looking for qualified and willing members to fill the available Board positions for 2006-07. Serving HAS in this way can be fun and personally rewarding, and I hope that many of you will give serious consideration to running for office. If interested in holding office, please let it be known. As Chair of the Nominating Committee, Muriel Walker would be delighted to know if you are interested in running, so give her a call!

As my second term as your President draws to a close after 7 years on the Board, I can attest that I learned more than I taught; I accomplished some things I'm proud of, and I failed to accomplish some things I wish I had. Overall though, it was a great ride, and I hope I was able to do my part in serving the membership and enhancing their own experience within HAS.

On a more somber note, I want to recognize the passing of a great lady from our midst. Mary K Merriman, immediate past Treasurer of HAS, died suddenly on June 6 of natural causes. Mary K was a mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, political activist, world traveler, patron of the arts, passionate booster of the University of St. Thomas and Rice University, and lover of all things archeological. Her energy and enthusiasm were remarkable, and we will sorely miss her presence among us. – *Linda Swift*

The Month of July

July gets its name from the Roman Emperor Julius Caesar, as this was his month. To the ancient Romans, July was the month of fruition and harvesting of crops. It also marked the yearly transition from growth to death in the fields and sunlight to darkness. The handsome and youthful Adonis, God of Living and Dying, was honored this month as he died to be reborn again just as the crops would be in the next year. July teaches us that things come to fruition and then end, sometimes not so gently.

–*Fred Kelly*



Mary K Merriman

Long-time HAS member Mary K Merriman, 69, passed away on June 6. She was the immediate past Treasurer of the Society and an active member of both HAS and the Friends of Archaeology at St. Thomas University. A retired HISD elementary school teacher, she was an energetic presence in the lives of all who knew her. Among her many interests were the Democratic Party, the Museum of Fine Arts, the Museum of Natural Science, the Heritage Society, the League of Women Voters, the University of St. Thomas, Rice University Catholic Student Center, hospital volunteering, traveling to exotic places, and being with her beloved family. She is survived by her husband Stan, four children, four grandchildren, and one great-grandchild. We at HAS will miss her.

HAS LIBRARY: Open on **Friday, July 14**, from 6:30pm to 7:20pm, 3907 Yoakum Blvd.

LABORATORY SCHEDULE: **Monday, July 17 & 31, 7-9 PM**, Rice University, Sewall Hall, Room 103. Continue washing & cataloging of artifacts from the Sycamore Grove Plantation in Wharton County, as well as work related to the Elizabeth Powell site in Fort Bend County.

Galveston County Historical Museum

First Floor: Native American Exhibit with replica artifacts including a replica Goose Creek Plain pot by Marshall Black, on loan from HAS. Jean Lafitte exhibits, including a French book on the French fort Champs d'Asile. Lafitte aided exiled members of the French aristocracy who established the fort on the Trinity River in Liberty County. Several members of HAS, as well as members of the Price Daniel family, continue their search for this 1818 French fort that survived for about six months (for more info on Champs d'Asile and General Charles Lallemand, see Handbook of Texas Online, www.tsha.utexas.edu/handbook). Other exhibits include the Great Storm of 1900, the 1947 Texas City Disaster, and the Fresnel lens from the Galveston South Jetty Lighthouse. Second Floor: an excellent lithographic exhibit of Texas birds, as well as a tie-rod from the paddle-wheeled steamer, *Denbigh*, a Confederate blockade runner that ran aground in May 1865 in the shallows off Bolivar Peninsula.

This recently renovated museum is located at 2219 Market Street. Summer hours: Monday-Saturday, 10am-5pm; Sunday, Noon-5pm. Free. Metered parking in front of the museum.

San Felipe Thanks HAS

HAS recently received the following letter of thanks from the San Felipe Project:

“On behalf of the San Felipe de Austin Archeological Consortium, please accept our most sincere appreciation to you and the HAS membership for your contribution of \$2,000 toward the San Felipe Archeological Project. My apologies for not writing sooner to acknowledge your generosity.

“As you probably know from your members’ volunteer work at the site, we are in the fifth year of excavations seeking to determine the extent and integrity of the townsite, which was burned in 1836. Our Consortium—which consists of the Town of San Felipe, Austin County, the Austin Co. Historical Commission, the Sealy Chamber of Commerce, the Stephen F. Austin Park Association and the Fort

Bend Museum Association—hopes to continue and sustain these excavations as a key step in the ultimate preservation and interpretation of the site.

“We welcome the continued participation of HAS in the project. Your members have been generous with the volunteer contributions of time and expertise. I realize how special it is for the HAS to decide to contribute funds toward a project such as this, and want you to know how much we appreciate it.

“Thank you again for your generous support of the project.”

Sincerely,
Michael R. Moore
Executive Director
Fort Bend Museum Association

HOUSTON ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY MEETING MINUTES May 12, 2006

Linda Swift, HAS President, called the May meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. There were 45 people in attendance.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- No HAS lab on May 29th.
- No HAS lab in June.
- The Shumla School will conduct a class on art and archeology of the Lower Pecos, October 15-20th, 2006. Brochures are available in the lobby.
- Leland Patterson received the Hugh H. Goodrich 2006 Trowel Award from The Friends of Archeology. The award is in recognition of Leland’s dedication to the cause of Texas Archeology.

PROGRAM

Linda introduced the guest speaker: John P. Yates. His presentation was on “Tracing the Comanche War Trail.”

BUSINESS MEETING

After the program, there was a refreshment break followed by the business meeting with 16 people in attendance.

- Beth Aucoin showed slides of HAS members participating in the San Jacinto Day Festival conducted on April 22, 2006.
- Richie Ebersole has been moved to a nursing home in Austin.
- Father Ed Bader is going through chemotherapy.
- Sarah Guillote and Bill Haskell were thanked for providing refreshments.
- Sheldon Kindall talked about the recent search for Champ d’Asile conducted by HAS members and the Daniels family of Liberty, Texas.
- Linda showed the new laptop computer and PowerPoint presentation software recently purchased by the HAS. A policy and checkout rules are being developed so that members may use the equipment for archeological purposes and HAS business.

The meeting adjourned at 9:23 pm.

-- Submitted by Tom Nuckols, Secretary

ARCHEOLOGY... LIFE IN THE *PAST* LANE

August HAS Meeting: Speaker will be doctoral candidate Matt Taylor of the Texas Archeological Research Lab, presenting "Dental pathology in the Galveston area cemeteries". The goal was to differentiate between Karanakawa and Akokisa remains based on the patterns of dental wear and disease. Join us for this informative program at 7:30 pm August 11, Anderson Hall, University of St. Thomas, 3900 Mount Vernon Blvd.

Mark your calendars! This year's **Father of Texas Celebration** at San Felipe is scheduled for Friday and Saturday, November 3rd and 4th. Volunteers will be needed to assist with excavations, the welcome table, and the children's dig. Flintknapper is needed for each of the two days. The Texian Time Machine will be back again at the State Park, located across from the site, so we're hoping that all the schools will come back again on the 3rd. More details later. Info courtesy of principal investigator, Marianne Marek.

Please submit articles for publication to Sara Guillote, sguillote@hotmail.com
Submit articles no later than July 26 for the August issue.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON ARCHEOLOGY IN THIS AREA, CONTACT THE FOLLOWING:

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