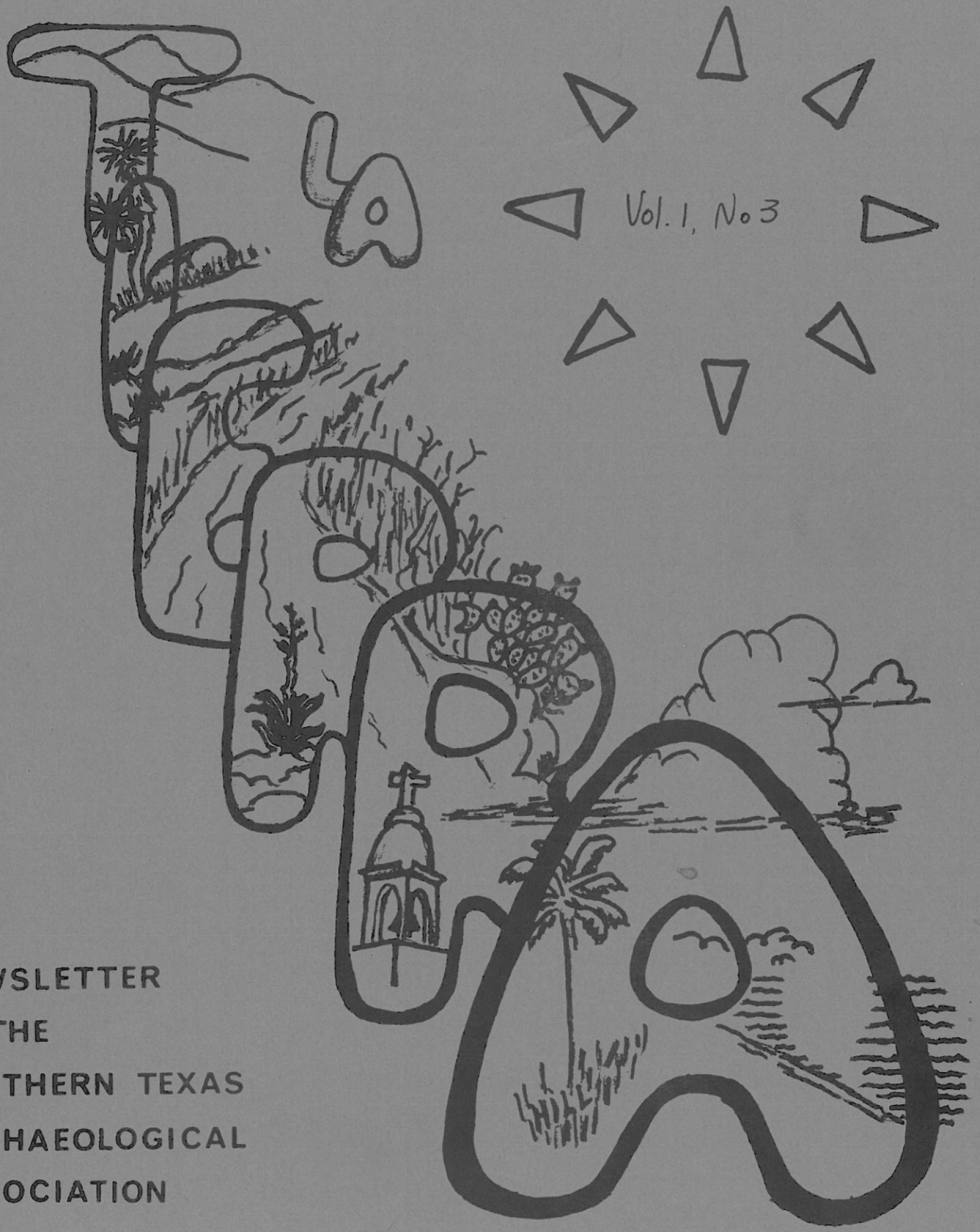

Vol. 1, No 3

NEWSLETTER OF THE SOUTHERN TEXAS ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION

LA TIERRA

Quarterly Newsletter of the Southern Texas Archaeological Association

Volume 1, Number 3
July, 1974

T. C. Hill, Jr.
Newsletter Editor

La Tierra is distributed quarterly to members of the Southern Texas Archaeological Association. For membership information, contact the Treasurer.

Manuscripts and other items for the newsletter should be submitted to T. C. Hill, Jr., Box 518, Crystal City, Texas 78839.

REMARKS FROM THE EDITOR

The STAA met in San Antonio in early June, another two-day affair which was well attended (71 registrants) considering that schools were just out and vacations were getting under way. Eight new members were recruited, and the membership count has now passed the 225 mark.

Saturday afternoon was devoted to a short business meeting, followed by several reports from around the region. Dave Espy talked of a recent excavation on Oso Creek which was performed by the Coastal Bend Archeological Society under the guidance of Dr. Hester. Anne Fox spoke of the featured "Indian Art of the Americas" show at the Witte Memorial Museum, flicking just enough dazzlingly beautiful color slides on the screen to whet the appetites of those who hadn't yet had opportunity to view the exhibit. (I later saw it...how incredibly well-displayed were the artifacts...groupings from both North and South America, running from ancient to contemporary. My interest in primitive ceramics left no time for inspection of stone, wood, fabric, leather, feather, etc. goods, and I came away stunned from three hours of stooping and craning at all that compiled fascination...)

Dr. Hester talked briefly of his imminent UTSA Summer Archeological Field School, a six weeks course for half-dozen graduate students to be conducted along two large creeks in northwestern Zavala County.

We were very fortunate to hear a detailed discussion of carbon-14 dating problems from Dr. Dee Ann Story of the Texas Archeological Research Lab in Austin. This amazing lady has seen and/or recorded just about everything that is known of Texas archeology, having spent a lifetime probing into the crevices and corners of the state. She is one of the busiest professionals in the game, and continues to score regularly and heavily after a fruitful career, when a lot of folks might consider that they'd accomplished their fair share and could decently go into a decline. But she continues, as excited and enthusiastic as ever, and is alsays eager to share her knowledge with other professionals and us dumb-bells alike...a truly great lady, a friend, and we cannot thank her properly for spending her time with us.

The Saturday evening workshop was ably hosted by Gene Griffin, and had to do primarily with the "language" of archeology...a very good, informative show. The Sunday dig on Salado Creek was well-attended, and was again successful.

. . . . . .

I kept in loose contact with Dr. Hester's field school, through the month of June and half of July, just enough to probably infuriate the group with my lazy, do-nothing sitting around their evening camp and devouring all their food. During that time I became fairly well acquainted with the individual characters who go by such names as Wagner, Chadderdon, Harris, Bass, Vasquez and Gates, and developed a genuine affection for them. My fond hope has been to see intelligent strangers come into "my" county, with shovels and screens, to move several tons of dirt and tell me what they thought about it.

(One dreads such an invasion, for several reasons...hereafter, "my" county will never again be solely "mine", and if the effort is successful there will come new strangers and new efforts...I'll profit tremendously from their work, and pride demands that "my" county shall produce its best wares for the strangers, put on a real bang-up show, look GOOD, you know?)

Now they've come and gone and I hope Zavala County didn't scar them too badly and that they retain a few fond memories for as wicked, as scorchingly hot, as bewildering a section of Texas as has ever been researched. They may take pride in the fact that they were the first group to operate in Zavala County, and that each of them managed to be there when the equipment and bagged artifacts and records were loaded and hauled back home. It took great willpower, great endurance...I know, cause I been there!

The Southwest Texas "Brush Country" is probably no meaner than any other section of our Tierra, but the discomforts seem strongly magnified, more sharply focused somehow. I can get through two long consecutive summer days pretty well, but stretch it to three in a row and I become a blind, stumbling, lonesomely helpless critter which should never have been allowed out of its cage. "Tough" ain't enough, friends, out here in the Brush..."tough" gets you snakebit, or sunstruck, or a silly tumble into a deep ravine with a possible busted leg to try to drag a mile or two, back to the truck!

There's precious little shade out here, and a sun which barbeques you before you can believe it. A certain percentage of humidity complicates things, and a monotonous hot southeasterly gale blows dusts and pollens to torment the bulging-eyed sinus sufferer to near-madness. Speaking of "monotonous", the gently rolling landscape seems to go on and on, forever and ever into a shimmering haze, shrouded with all manner of sharp-pointed bushes and cactii which might be described as varying only from "sparse" to "intensely thick".

Just about anything you decide to attempt ends up with the Brush still crouching there, gloating and practically untouched, while you limp away in pain and confusion. You seldom "attack" the Brush...youth may get away with it for a spell, but elderly specimens such as myself have to learn, very fast, to strike a pace which might allow us to complete a given chore before we're wiped out.

If the above brief descriptions of the near-impossible working conditions tend to discourage some intelligent strangers from visiting the Brush, please allow me to state that the rewards often profusely outweigh the difficulties. Choose a location to begin your survey, ANYWHERE, then strike out in any direction, upstream or downstream, across wide floodplain and upslope to the gravelly hilltops and ridges, it makes little difference. Zavala County and her surrounding sister counties can show you ancient debris in unbelievable quantity.

Weathered, slightly eroded surfaces almost always provide tumbled camp rubble which feathers away upslope and disappears, indicating that a ton of still-buried evidence lies nearby. Pit-testing such areas always provides surprises... occasionally the tester will luck-out and drop squarely into a wealth of material, but very often he'll unearth practically nothing.

The explanation might lie in the growing realization that the section was once a place of flowing streams with widely-wooded shoulders, a place of an open grassy plains-like appearance which furnished abundant wild life, floral and

faunal harvests, to its human inahbitants. Those people must have chosen, long ago, an "archaic" hunting-gathering style of life which depended upon absolute involvement with the environment, a shifting, flowing "small-group" pattern which might have satisfactorily endured forever if left undisturbed.

Small to large camps, often overlapping, tell of group movements from one short-term site to another, as the resources of an area played out and those of another were known to be coming into bloom. Happiness was likely a large prickly pear flat with just-ripening fruit...several weeks might have passed before a bumper crop was consumed and restlessness again overcame inertia, forcing the eternal move toward new expected windfalls.

Such a tradition of movement left countless, briefly-disturbed spots upon the vast face of La Tierra. A few tiny "hot" areas, concerned variously with fires and cooking, tool making, etc., and that desperately searched-for phenomenom, the garbage dump, might be discerned by a patient searcher with plenty of time and patience, amidst the very thinly scattered, thrown-away and kicked-aside residue about the camp proper.

So the Brush and I were just casually sitting around, waiting for Dr. Hester and his students to show up and demonstrate their practical brand of archeology... me a little sad, pretty anxious, yet proud that they'd chosen "my" county to investigate...the Brush saying nothing, feeling nothing, just brooding and waiting.

Camping squarely on the 100th meridian, for whatever that's worth, the Field School set up a tent city around a finely equipped hunters' cabin, with refrigerators, a freezer and stove, hot and tepid running water for sink and shower, good lab and storage space, the works. Downright comfortable, in a way. Not a tree in sight...oh, a few mesquite saplings...but actually, not a <u>tree</u> within a mile.

The first week was furiously active, and enthusiasms and appetites ran wild... folks ate like sheer starvation, and laid out schemes and ruses for attacking the Brush, and carried out those plans with great gusto. Only thing was, the broiling sun was getting into the act, and those early June temperatures ran as high as 110 degrees on cloudless, suffocating midafternoons.

By the time I could first visit the school, the sun had done its cruel job, and I was shocked at the late-afternoon lethargy, the apparent complete exhaustion of the entire outfit. Everything was slow-motion, appetites had wilted ("Oh, it still tastes good...it's just hard to swallow") for everything except gallons of iced tea and ice cream. Some didn't know or care what time of day it was, except that it wasn't dark enough to go to bed yet, and a couple didn't even know what DAY it was, except that tomorrow was ANOTHER one.

Later, I begged an invitation for a "working" weekend, wherein I did more watching than working. When the first crack of dawn showed, the two people whose day it was to cook hit the ground running, and didn't slow down until everyone had eaten and things were tidied up. The plan for the morning was meantime discussed, and several people fell in to loading the tools and water needed to get the job done. By sunrise the vehicles were moving, the crew seemed spritely and alert and the miracle of a night's rest showed all around.

By noon we were nearly back into a state of shock...lunch went by practically unnoticed, except for the disappearance of a swimmingpool-full of iced tea, and the crew scattered about under the pitiful little mesquite saplings for an hour or so of rest.

Some of us managed to drag back out into the boondocks for the afternoon, giving it one more all-out effort in the eternal search for the "mother lode". A few wisely chose to remain in camp, washing artifacts, bagging and tagging, plotting the charts, setting the pot roast to boiling, all those many necessary unending chores.

(Don't tell a soul, gentle reader, but I was sore and wasted away at the end of my first day! And when I got home the next night, back to that sweet air-conditioning, my family almost didn't recognize this dirty, wore out relict.)

I thought Dr. Hester (they call him "El Jefe"), who grew up in the Brush and had intimate knowledge of its furious vengeance, drove himself as hard as I've ever seen him go. Yet he was always on top of the situation, varying the activities and allowing at times a certain individual freedom of movement to the students which kept them interested and involved. And how did the students respond to his whip-cracking? Well, they moved when he said GO...you see, they think El Jefe hung the moon, and as far as I know, he did.

Quite a number of visitors spent a day or more with the outfit, no doubt providing a welcome change of faces around the evening camp. Most welcome were husbands and wives, but the camp occasionally hosted "royalty" such as Dr. Peter Flawn, President of UTSA, Dr. Richard Adams, Dean of the College of Humanities and Social Sciences, and Dr. Tom Greaves, Director of the Division of Social Science.

My own long visit came at the end of the third week, when the group was just about hitting rock bottom, physically and mentally. We got together again near the end of the fourth week, and I declare I could see a slight comeback... people were still haggard and worn in appearance, but they talked and laughed loudly, more confidently. A short visit at the end of the fifth week showed they had gotten back on top, were over the hump and going strong.

It's difficult to appreciate such a comeback unless you'd actually witnessed the earlier damage. Perhaps it would naturally come with the nearing end of the ordeal...perhaps they felt they had that hard-earned six hours of credit under their arms and were streaking for the finish. Perhaps they also realized they'd learned the fundamentals of field archeology from one of the finest young scientists around, and felt a natural pride in such an achievement... I really wouldn't know.

But perhaps...just <u>perhaps</u>...they knew that they's managed to break even with the Brush, as a group. Maybe they hadn't <u>beaten</u> the Brush...you can't ever really expect to beat it...but to have climbed up off the floor and finished strongly and broken flat even took great endurance and willpower, and I will bet you that none of them will ever forget <u>that</u>.

So, El Jefe brought six intelligent strangers to "my" county and took them for a hot dusty ride. What'll come of it? It's much too soon to know, but I feel that a ton of evidence, some concrete and some only sketchy and demanding of much more research and brand new methods for performing it, will be laid out

in the lab, puzzled over, and eventually reported. That is El Jefe's way, to do a careful job of work and then to share the results with all who are interested.

Me? Oh, man, I still hurt from that weekend, but mum's the word on that, hear?

And the six various characters, the intelligent strangers who invaded "my" county? To tell the truth, up to now my "heroes" have been the directors and reporters of this type of work...the well-funded, far-distant, seemingly ice cold scientists who make their livings by collecting ancient rubbish and reading life and meaning into it. They usually include an "Acknowledgement" section in their published reports, carefully listing the names of their sweaty, smelly shovel hands, such as Wagner, Chadderdon, Vasquez, Bass, Harris and Gates...but most of us usually blast right on through that section and pay little attention to it.

They (Wagner, Chadderdon, et al) will probably laugh like loons and holler, "Whooie, T.C., what a crock!", but I have to say, here and now, that I have six brand new heroes, and they know deep-down that it comes from the heart. They did something I've only dreamed of doing, and I realize I'd likely have folded and faded if I'd tried to make six weeks of it with them.

I'd also like to welcome them back to our county anytime they feel like coming, and let them know that it'll be pretty lonesome around here without them. And who knows, maybe someday we can recruit a good bunch more of such "heroes" and actually BEAT this rascally Brush.

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Note from Malcolm Johnson, Fredricksburg, with a copy of a message read over Radio KNAF of that city: Briefly, it outlined studies recently performed upon human skeletons found between 1920 and 1935 along the Southern California coast, first believed to be seven to eight thousand years old, now having undergone new dating techniques which seem to have convinced the inquiring scientists of ages like 44,000 to 48,000 years ago.

Johnson cites the discovery of crude "pointed core choppers" at the Texas Street Site in San Diego, Ca., and also in Buchannan Canyon nearby, as well as other primitive-type tools...all said to be geologically dated as pre-Wisconsin artifacts. His interest evolves from his own collection of apparently early tools, "definitely not Hill Country Hand Axes", from a site near his home. I'm sure he would appreciate hearing if YOU have picked up such strange items... he's at Rt. 2, Box 325, Fredricksburg 78624.

T. C. Hill, Jr.

STAA LIBRARY

Since our last report in the April issue of La Tierra, the following publications have been added to the library: Bell, "The Washita River Focus of the Southern Plains"; Corbyn, extracts from "Basic Steps in Archaeological Plain Table Mapping."; Duke, "Artifacts from San Jacinto"; Fawcett, "An Archaeological Survey of Embudo Canyon in the Sandia Mountains, Central New Mexico"; Green, "Archaeological Survey Report of the Flood Control Project: Salt Creek Subwatershed of Southwest Laterals, Concho and McCulloch Counties"; Hester, "An Artifact of Alibates Dolomite from the Rio Grande Plain"; Hester and Hill, "An Initial Study of a Prehistoric Ceramic Tradition in Southern Texas"; -- "Prehistoric Occupation at the Holdsworth and Stewart Sites on the Rio Grande Plain of Texas"; Hester and Mitchell, "Source Analysis of Obsidian Artifacts from McMullen County, Southern Texas"; Hester and Rodgers, "Additional Data on the Burial Practices of the Brownsville Complex, Southern Texas"; Hill and Holdsworth, "Two Sites Beside Tortuga Creek in South Texas, With a Review of Present Day Edible Plants"; Hill and Hester, "Isolated Archaic and Late Prehistoric Components at the Honeymoon Site (41ZV34), Southern Texas"; Hoover and Hester, "Technological Notes on an Unfinished Boatstone Artifact from Southern Texas"; Mitchell, "A Banded Slate Gorget from South Texas"; Patterson, "The Need to Publish"; Robertson, "The Carrington-Covert House: Archaeological Investigation of a 19th Century Residence in Austin, Texas"; Shirah, "Lessons learned at an Archaeological Site"; Skinner, "Prehistory at Milehigh"; Sollberger, "On Replicating an Angostura Point"; and Wheeler, "Trade Theories Concerning the People of the Antelope Creek Focus as Indicated by the Dispersal of Alibates Flint".

Members are again reminded that this is their library and is available for their use. Contact Col. "Ned" Harris at his home, 2158 West Kings Highway, San Antonio, Texas 78201 (Tel. 733-0498) for information about library materials. We welcome donations of material dealing with anthropology or archaeology. Area of interest is world-wide but primary area is South Texas. Reprints of published items by our members are of particular interest.

E. S. Harris

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NEWS FROM THE PUBLICITY AND MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

The STAA Telephone Committee is now in operation, but we need five or six more volunteers to help out. With enough dedicated people to serve, we can make it easier and less time-consuming for everyone. There are now 110 San Antonio families to contact and with more people, each would make fewer calls. My thanks to June Carter, Jamis Townsend, Ruth Conners and Betty Harris for their prompt and effective help. If you can volunteer, please call Shirley Van der Veer at 732-5970. It is suggested that out-of-town members who wish to participate in digs currently in operation mail several self-addressed, stamped, envelopes to Shirley Van der Veer, 123 Crestline, San Antonio, Texas 78201. Please do not send postcards. We can't guarantee delivery in time, but they'll go out as soon as the dig is planned.

Our membership list will come out in the next issue of La Tierra. If you have moved or changed phone numbers since joining, please notify Shirley Van der Veer (see address above) as soon as possible.

Shirley Van der Veer

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FIELDWORK ACTIVITIES

The STAA Fieldwork Committee has continued excavations at the St. Mary's Hall site (41 BX 229) on Salado Creek, northern Bexar County. The most recent field session was on Saturday, July 19, and there was a large turn-out of members. As mentioned elsewhere in this issue, there is a concerted telephone effort to reach all local STAA members prior to any fieldwork activity. If you are not being contacted, please notify Shirley Van der Veer. One fieldwork activity being planned for August is a week-end of site survey and recording on a large land development near Wimberly. Please get in touch with Harvey Kohnitz (512-655-4367) if you would like to take part.

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SEPTEMBER QUARTERLY MEETING

The next meeting of the STAA will be held on Saturday, September 14, at the Witte Memorial Museum, 3801 Broadway, San Antonio, Texas. Registration will begin at noon and the meeting will begin at 1:00 p.m. Although the program is not complete at this time, the major part of the afternoon will be devoted to a flint-working demonstration by J. B. Sollberger of Dallas, Texas. Mr. Sollberger is perhaps the best known flintknapper in the state and is the author of numerous papers based on his experiments in stone-working.

An announcement of the meeting, with an outline of the program will be mailed to all members in August.

DESCRIBING PROJECTILE POINTS

Gene Griffin has assembled a few basic suggestions regarding the accurate description of projectile points. STAA members might wish to employ these when writing up a site report. The figure on the following page can serve as a useful guide in describing various attributes of specimens.

I. Of what stone (lithic material) is the point made?

Flint	Jasper	Quartzite
Chert	Quartz	Chalcedony
Obsidian	Diorite	Other stone

II. What type of flaking was done to make the point?

One side (Unifacial)
Both sides (Bifacial)
Fluting: 1/4 length, 1/2 length, 3/4 or full length

III. What is the overall length of the point; its width; maximum and minimum thickness?

IV. What is the shape of the stem?

Straight, Expanding, Pointed, Rectangular, etc.

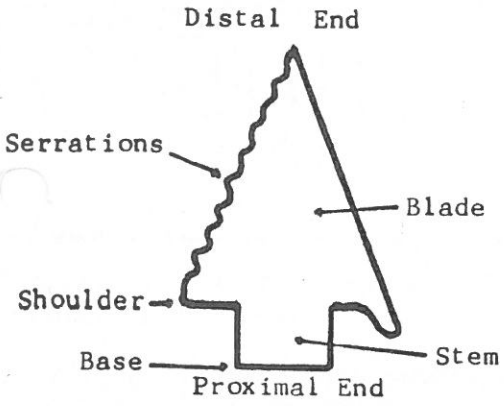
V. What is the shape of the base?

Rounded, Convex, Concave, Straight, etc.

VI. What, if any, type of notching does the point have?

VII. What shape is the blade, or body and does it have serrations on the edges?

PROJECTILE POINTS



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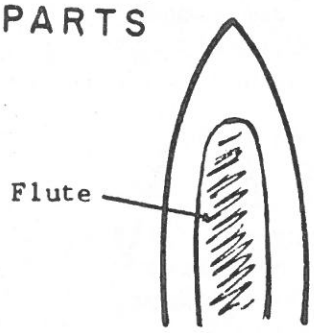
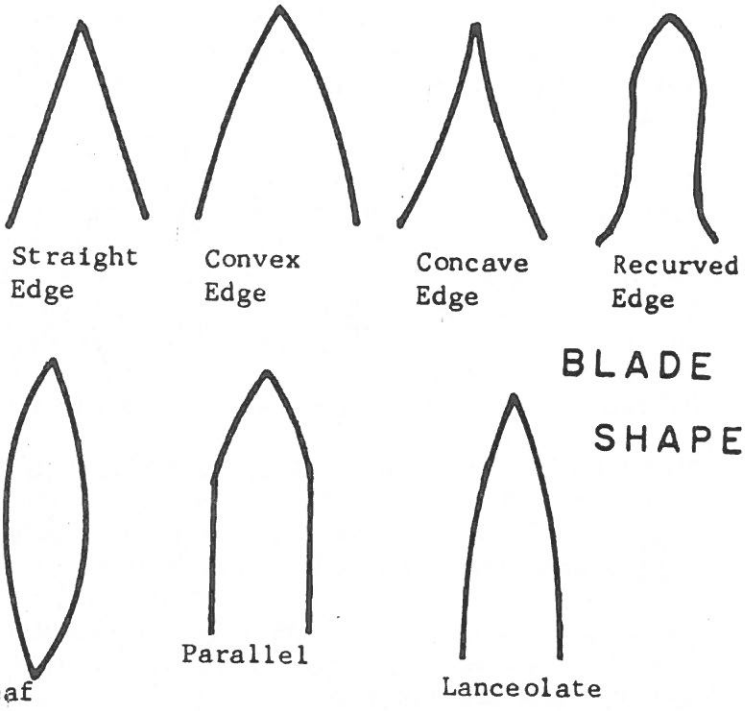


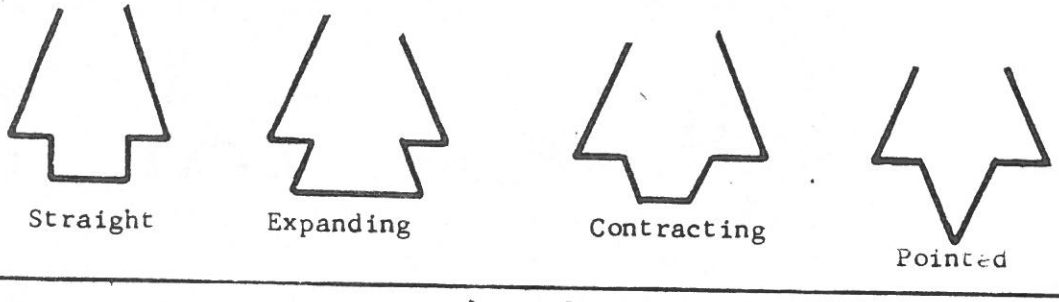
Based on: An Introductory Handbook of Texas Archeology

Texas Archeological Society
epartment of Anthropology
University of Texas
Austin, Texas

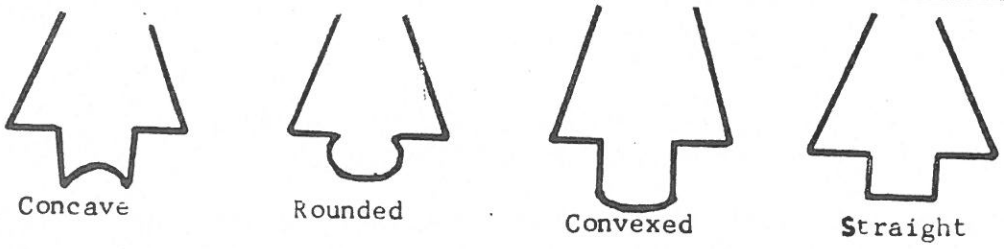
BLADE SHAPES



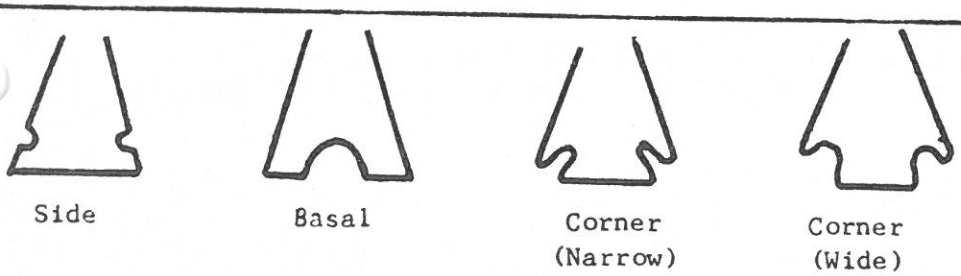
STEM SHAPES



STEM BASES



NOTCHES



A MULTIPLE ROCK MIDDEN SITE

L. W. Patterson

This report describes the surface survey of a burnt rock midden site, 41BN8, in Bandera County. The site is located on level ground, at the top of a steep cliff overlooking Hondo Creek. Flint debris and artifacts were found over an area of approximately 300 feet by 500 feet. The longest dimension is parallel to the creek.

A distinctive feature of this site is that there are three separate burnt rock middens, located fairly close together. Each midden consists of a circular pile of fist-size burnt limestone pieces, approximately two feet high. Two of the middens form a line parallel to the creek, 225 feet from the cliff edge. One of these middens is 60 feet in diameter and the other is 40 feet in diameter, with a distance of 50 feet between the edges of the two middens. Thirty feet closer to the creek, there is a third rock midden, 40 feet in diameter. No flint debris was found on any of these middens.

The function of burnt rock middens has been the subject of speculation for some time. Wilson (1930) presented the view that these middens were used for cooking of the roots of "soto grass". In any event, these large rock piles demonstrate more than casual occupation of this site.

No ceramics were found. An overall inventory of the lithic material, other than flakes, is as follows, with all material being flint, except for the pendant and drilled stone:

grooved pendant	1
drilled stone	1
thick chips	101
choppers	2
large flake cores	2
medium flake cores	7
dart points	5
arrow points	3
misc. bifaces	7
blade core fragments	4
burin spall, retouched	1
possible burin spalls	7

A number of the above artifacts are shown in Figure 1. The two holes in the drilled stone are deep, but do not go completely through the stone.

Dart points are: possible Abasolo, possible Angostura, Travis-like, Frio, and an unclassified large base fragment. Bifacial arrow points include two Scallorn and one crude unclassified point. All points are shown in Figure 1.

Several miscellaneous bifacial fragments were found. One specimen shown in Figure 1, has an interesting assymetrical shape. One burin spall has definite retouch on one end.

Only blade core fragments were found, so that blade core shapes cannot be described, except that one fragment seems to be from a wedge-shaped core.

While flint does not occur on this site naturally, there is no problem in obtaining this material in the general area.

Analysis of flint flakes is as follows:

	Number	Percent
large flakes	28	8.9
medium flakes	105	33.2
small flakes	127	40.3
gravers	6	1.9
flake burins	2	0.6
flake perforators	1	0.3
burin on small blade	1	0.3
microblades	13	4.1
small blades	19	6.0
large blades	2	0.6
unifacial end blades	6	1.9
unifacial side blades	6	1.9
total	316	100.0

Large flakes have at least one dimension over 25 mm., medium flakes are between 15 mm. and 25 mm., and small flakes have all dimensions under 15 mm.

There is a total of 35 prismatic blades, which is 11.0 percent of the flint flake collection. Microblades have widths under 11 mm., small prismatic blades have widths over 11 mm. and under 20 mm., and large blades are classified as being over 20 mm. in width. Dimensions of prismatic blades are as follows, using only lengths of blades that are not truncated:

	Microblades	Small Blades	Large Blades
length, mm.	17-22	27-42	54
width, mm.	8-11	12-18	24-25
thickness, mm.	2-3	2-5	6-8

Blade widths group between 8 and 15 mm., with only two small blades and two large blades being wider. The prismatic blade collection is similar to larger assemblages from Harris County, previously described by the writer (Patterson 1973a, b). Most blades have one dorsal ridge and a few have two.

There is a group of artifacts made on prismatic blade fragments, which the writer (Patterson 1973a,b) has previously described from Harris County as being unifacial side and end blades, for use with the Mesolithic type compound arrow point. These are very similar to Eurasian examples in both shape and type of retouch, and are proposed to represent use of the bow and arrow in Texas, before use of the conventional bifacial arrow points.

Chronology of this site can only be estimated at this time from projectile point types. Abasolo and Angostura points could start as early as 5000 to 6000 B.C. (Suhm and Jelks 1962:165-168), but possibly any time later in the Archaic period. Frio and Travis are probably later Archaic dart points.

Scallorn arrow points may start as early as 500 A.D. (Suhm and Jelks 1962:285). This site appears to have been occupied at various times over a span of several thousand years, from the middle Archaic to the middle Woodland period. As may be seen from the site number, not much work has been done in Bandera County.

In coastal sites to the east, pottery starts several hundred years before bifacial arrow points. As noted previously, this site has arrow points and no pottery. This is in line with Aten's observation (Aten 1971:fig. 10) for coastal sites, that pottery tends to start later west of Houston.

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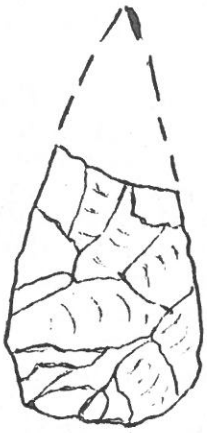
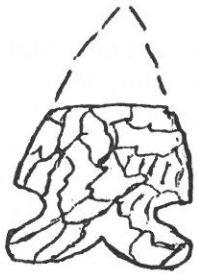
FIGURE 1
SITE 41BN8 ARTIFACTS

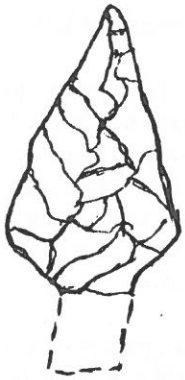


ABASOLO POINT

ANGOSTURA POINT

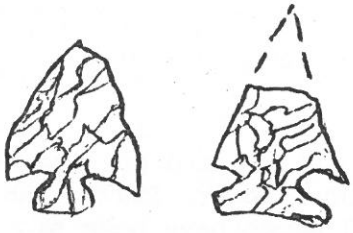


FRIO POINT



TRAVIS-LIKE POINT

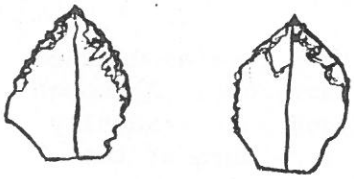
DART POINT BASE



SCALLORN ARROW POINTS

FLAKE BURIN

PENDANT



UNIFACIAL END BLADES

UNIFACIAL SIDE BLADES

BIFACIAL ARROW POINT

DRILLED STONE

BURIN ON BLADE

BIFACE FRAGMENT

PRISMATIC BLADE

PALEO-INDIAN SURFACE FINDS IN BEXAR COUNTY

Calvin D. Howard

Introduction

During past years, the writer and his family conducted several surface collecting field trips in the sand hill country of Bexar County, south of the Medina River. The purpose of this paper is to report, and describe, the Paleo-Indian artifacts found during this activity. These surface finds provide Paleo-Indian distributional data and supplement existing data on Paleo-Indian materials previously reported from the San Antonio and Bexar County area (Orchard and Campbell, 1954; Schuetz, 1966).

The projectile points described represent an accumulation of isolated surface finds from areas which had been greatly disturbed by clay and sand mining operations. No definite evidence of Paleo-Indian sites was found.

Description of Artifacts

All dimensions are in millimeters.

Specimen A. This projectile point has the outline of the "classic" Plainview (Sellards, Evans, Meade and Krieger, 1947), and has oblique, parallel flaking. The lower lateral edges have been smoothed.

Length (fragmentary)	47
Maximum Width	22
Maximum Thickness	6
Depth of Concavity	2.5

Specimen B. This specimen is similar to the Angostura type as defined by Hughes (1949:270), Wheeler (1954:4) and Wormington (1957:269). Although not readily apparent in the photograph, the width increases very gradually toward the distal end becoming 1 mm. wider near the fracture than at the base. The lower lateral edges have been smoothed.

Length (fragmentary)	56
Basal Width	19
Width Near Fracture	20
Maximum Thickness	7
Depth of Concavity	2.5

Specimen C. This projectile point is a variant of the Plainview golondrina as defined by Johnson (1964:47-52).

Length	63
Maximum Width	28.5
Basal Width	24
Maximum Thickness	9
Depth of Concavity	5.5

Specimen D. An anomalous projectile point, possibly Paleo. It is similar to the Agate Basin/Angostura types in outline but lacks the parallel flaking common to those types. Lower lateral edges are slightly smoothed.

Length (fragmentary)	48
Maximum Width	22
Basal Width	10
Maximum Thickness	5

Specimens E., F., & G. All three specimens are fragmentary Plainviews with smoothed lateral edges. Specimen E has oblique parallel flaking. The concavity is sharply beveled on the obverse side. The fragment is very thin, flat, and of excellent workmanship. The depth of the concavity is 20% greater than the maximum thickness. This appears significant considering that the depth of the concavity in all of the other artifacts pictured is much less than fragment thickness.

Specimen E. Dimensions:

Maximum Width	23
Maximum Thickness	5
Depth of Concavity	6

Specimen F. Dimensions:

Maximum Width	24
Maximum Thickness	6.5
Depth of Concavity	3.5

Specimen G. Dimensions:

Maximum Width	23
Maximum Thickness	7
Depth of Concavity	5

Specimen H. The basal characteristics of this perforator, and the workmanship, indicate the possibility that it is Paleo-Indian. It may be a reworked Plainview.

Length	70
Basal Width	17
Maximum Thickness	5
Depth of Concavity	2.5

Specimen I. This is an amomalous projectile point, possibly a reworked Angostura. The right side of both faces are sharply beveled. Fine pressure flaking in the beveled area has produced finely serrated edges. There is also very pronounced grinding of stem lateral edges.

Length	98
Maximum Width (stem shoulders)	21
Basal Width	9
Maximum Thickness	7
Depth of Concavity	1

Specimens J. & K. These specimens are examples of the Scottsbluff type (Barbour & Schultz, 1932; Schultz & Eiseley, 1935). Specimen J consists of three matching fragments. The incomplete areas have been reconstructed.

Specimen J. Dimensions:

Length	70
Maximum Width	29
Basal Width	26
Maximum Thickness	6.5
Depth of Concavity	3

Specimen K. Dimensions:

Length (fragmentary)	50
Maximum Width	27
Basal Width	23.5
Maximum Thickness	6.5
Depth of Concavity	1.5

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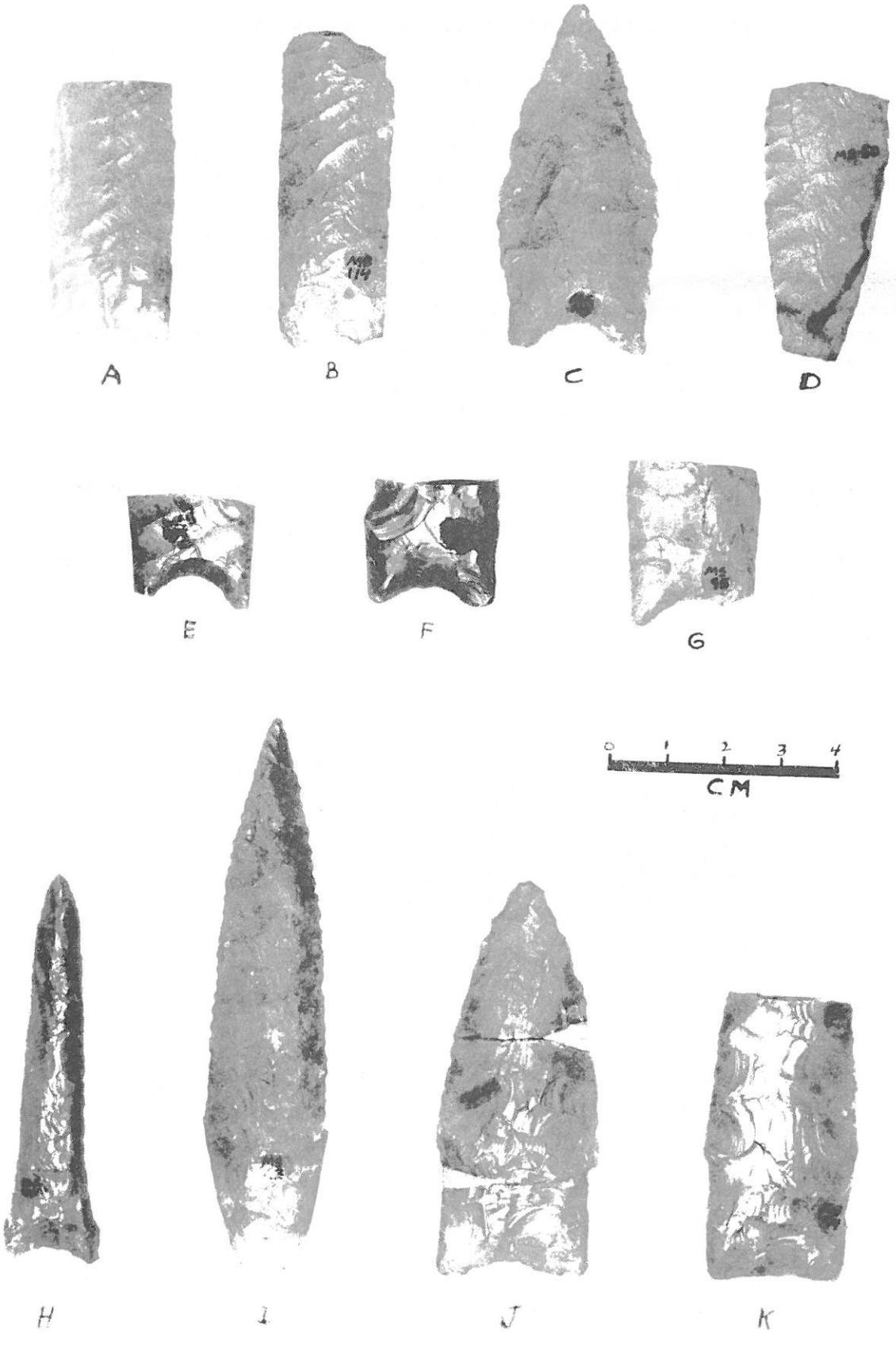

Figure 1. Paleo-Indian Projectile Points from Bexar County, Texas.

A FLUTED POINT FROM McMULLEN COUNTY, TEXAS

Brom Cooper

The specimen illustrated in Figure 1 is the basal fragment of a fluted point. It was collected from the surface of a site on the south side of the Frio River about six miles west of Tilden, in McMullen County, Texas. The material of manufacture is a pearly gray chert. The lateral edges near the base have been ground. Length of the fragment is 22 mm., basal width is 18 mm., and width at the break is 22 mm. Recent papers by House (1974) and Hester (1974) have documented fluted points from various areas of southern Texas, but the specimen documented here is one of the few such fluted projectile points from the McMullen County area.

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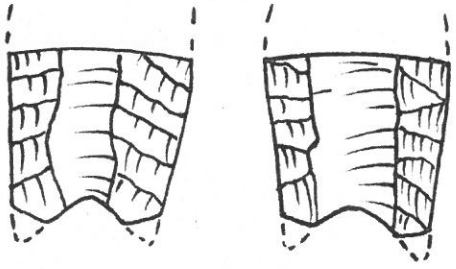

a b

Fig. 1. Fluted point from McMullen County. Illustrated actual size.

SOME OBSERVATIONS ON ARCHAEOLOGY AT CHAPARROSA RANCH, 1974

Thomas R. Hester

From June 4 to July 11, 1974, the University of Texas at San Antonio held its first summer archaeological field school at Chaparrosa Ranch, in northwestern Zavala County, Texas. Six graduate students participated and were enrolled in two courses, ANT 549 "Archaeological Field Course" and ANT 529 "Supervised Field Research".[1] The field school was directed by the writer. The archaeological investigations had four major objectives: (1) to provide training in archaeological field techniques for the enrolled students; (2) during the course of this training, to carry out excavations at a major late prehistoric campsite with a view towards obtaining information on intrasite (community) patterning of archaeological remains; (3) to continue the archaeological site survey initiated by Hester (1970) and, (4) to excavate test pits at several sites to obtain data on site content and the local prehistoric culture sequence.

As a brief review of the work carried out by the UTSA field school, I shall discuss some of the information obtained relating to these four major goals. The foremost goal of any archaeological field school is to provide intensive training for students beginning in archaeology. Of course, most of this training comes through field experience--the actual digging of a site. However, a great deal more is involved: the student has to adjust to the environment in which the field school is situated, the student has to learn to work with other members of the crew, and he or she must undergo a type of "conversion" in which the mind is trained to "think archaeology" at practically all hours of the day. There are also the rudiments of archaeology to be learned: recognizing and recording sites, proper methods of collecting artifacts from surface contexts, the techniques of excavation--from grid layout to mapping to backfilling (the latter being one of the more painful learning experiences).

The teaching of excavation techniques was combined with the investigation of a late prehistoric campsite, Chaparrosa 28 (Mariposa Site) extending over 200 meters on the east bank of Turkey Creek. At site 28, test pits dug in 1970 had revealed archaeological remains buried, in alluvium, up to one meter in depth. Radiocarbon dates obtained by the writer in 1971 indicate that the earliest occupations at the site took place around A.D. 550 (UCLA-1821E) and that perhaps the last habitation was ca. A.D. 1650 (UCLA-1821D; Hester 1974). In 1974, our excavations were carried out in a block of nine 2-meter squares. This large area was opened up in an effort to obtain a view of the horizontal distribution of cultural remains in one portion of the site. The excavation was slow and tedious. Digging proceded with trowel and brush in 5 cm. levels. All artifacts in each level were left in place and were precisely plotted before being removed. This enabled the development of a series of "distribution maps" showing the patterning of archaeological remains across the excavated area. In addition to information on spatial patterning, some data were obtained on the local projectile point sequence. In general, the last occupations (surface to 20 cm.) were characterized by the co-occurrence of a variety of projectile point forms, especially specimens resembling the Perdiz

[1] The students were: Feris A. Bass, Jr., Mary Frances Chadderdon, Jill Gates, Edwin S. Harris, Margarita Vazquez, and Mary Wagner.

and Scallorn types, triangular and subtriangular arrow points, and small, thick "dart points", some of the tentative Zavala type (for a similar situation, as reported from 41ZV155, Zavala County, see Hill and Hester, 1973). Underlying this assemblage, at 20-30 cm., were Zavala points, and in a nearby test pit, at 40 cm., a Tortugas dart point. The far southern edge of the site, known as Area B, has a deep erosional cut, from which a number of "Archaic" stemmed points have been collected, especially Tortugas and Langtry specimens.

A third goal of the field school was to continue site documentation within the 65,000 acres of the ranch. This again was combined with student training--providing experience in site survey and surface collection techniques. As of 1970, 61 archaeological sites had been reported from the Chaparrosa Ranch; at the close of the field session, 102 sites were known. The sites include a large number of buried occupation sites along the stream channels (Turkey and Chaparrosa Creeks), flint workshops on gravel ridges paralleling the streams, occupation sites (some temporary and others of longer duration) on high elevations overlooking the streams, and small upland sites. Site records are on file at The University of Texas at San Antonio and duplicates will be placed in the site files at the Texas Archeological Research Laboratory, Austin.

Finally, a number of sites were tested to obtain information on site content and culture sequence, the latter being very poorly known in the southern Texas area. There were few surprises as far as site content. The occupation sites along the Turkey and Chaparrosa Creek drainages consist of a variety of debris (fire cracked rock, charcoal, flint flakes, snails, mussels, chipped stone artifacts, occasional animal bones) buried in gray-brown alluvium, overlying a tan-yellow basal clay.[2] One site which intrigued us was Chaparrosa 84. The site lies in an upland situation west of Chaparrosa Creek and was initially recognized through roadbed erosion which had exposed a small scattering of burned rock. Exploration of the site by the students led to the discovery of several small depressions. When a couple of these were trenched (in order to obtain a profile of the depressions; they were later determined to be the remains of old pack rat dens), large quantities of burned rock were exposed. Further test pits were opened up, always with the same results: concentrated burned rock at 15-20 cm., again at ca. 40 cm., and scattered burned rock continuing to a depth of 95 cm. below the surface. No intact hearths were excavated. In studying upland sites in similar locales in 1970, I had concluded that they were all small, "temporary" sites, perhaps linked to hunting and foraging activities (Hester 1970). Test pits and shovel cuts at Chaparrosa 84, what I had considered a "typical" upland site, revealed deeply buried burned rock rather evenly distributed over an area of at least 70 square meters. The excavation of approximately six square meters of the site failed to produce any diagnostic artifacts; there were many pounds of fire-cracked quartzite and sandstone, a few flint flakes, a scraper and two or three mussel shells, and that was it. This is a completely different assemblage of debris (and a greater amount of burned rock) than one finds in the creek-side occupation sites. We can rather safely surmise that the quantity of burned rock at the site results from some "special activity", perhaps the cooking or roasting

[2] The soils at the sites were studied by Dan Arriaga of the USDA Soil Conservation Service and his observations will be provided in a future report. From these sites soil samples were collected for palynological analysis, as part of the continuing effort to obtain further empirical data on pre-European vegetation patterns.

of some type of food resource, but we are no farther along as to learning what that activity might have been. The local vegetation has been greatly altered by rootplowing and chaining, and was changed even before that by the "mesquite invasion" of the past 300-400 years. This upland locale may have been an area in which some particular plant assemblage was exploited, but it will be difficult to determine what this food resource might have been.

As far as learning more about the culture history of the area, we gained a little more knowledge, through our test-pitting program. From test pits at a number of sites (CH-91, CH-79, CH-9, CH-5, and others), we were able to confirm the placement of the Zavala series of projectile points.[3] They originate prior to the introduction of Perdiz, Scallorn and triangular arrow points but persist in use along with these. One site, CH-91, indicates that Frio-like points precede Zavala, with "Archaic" points, such as Tortugas, Langtry, Montell, and others coming earlier in time.

Another aspect of the site documentation and testing program was the analysis of hearths. At most of the sites, occupational remains are buried and hearths are only occasionally exposed. However, a number of hearths were found and mapped, the area around them collected, and details of hearth construction recorded. One particularly large hearth was excavated at CH-66 and debris collected around it (interestingly, projectile points and point fragments were clustered in one area at the southeast edge of the hearth). Recording of the hearth was facilitated through the use of a grid of 20 cm. units superimposed over the feature.

I have mentioned here only a few of the results of the 1974 UTSA archaeological field school at Chaparrosa Ranch. A great quantity of field notes, artifacts, photographs, and other data await analysis before definitive statements about Chaparrosa archaeology can be made. In sum, I believe it was a successful field program, made much easier by facilities made available by Mike Dillingham (Alice, Texas) at the Eight Mile Mill hunting camp on the Chaparrosa. It was a good learning experience for the students (and the director!) and it produced a very substantial amount of information on south Texas prehistory.

Acknowledgments

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[3] The Zavala series bears some resemblance, both in point morphology and temporal placement, to the Figueroa type of Johnson, 1964).

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