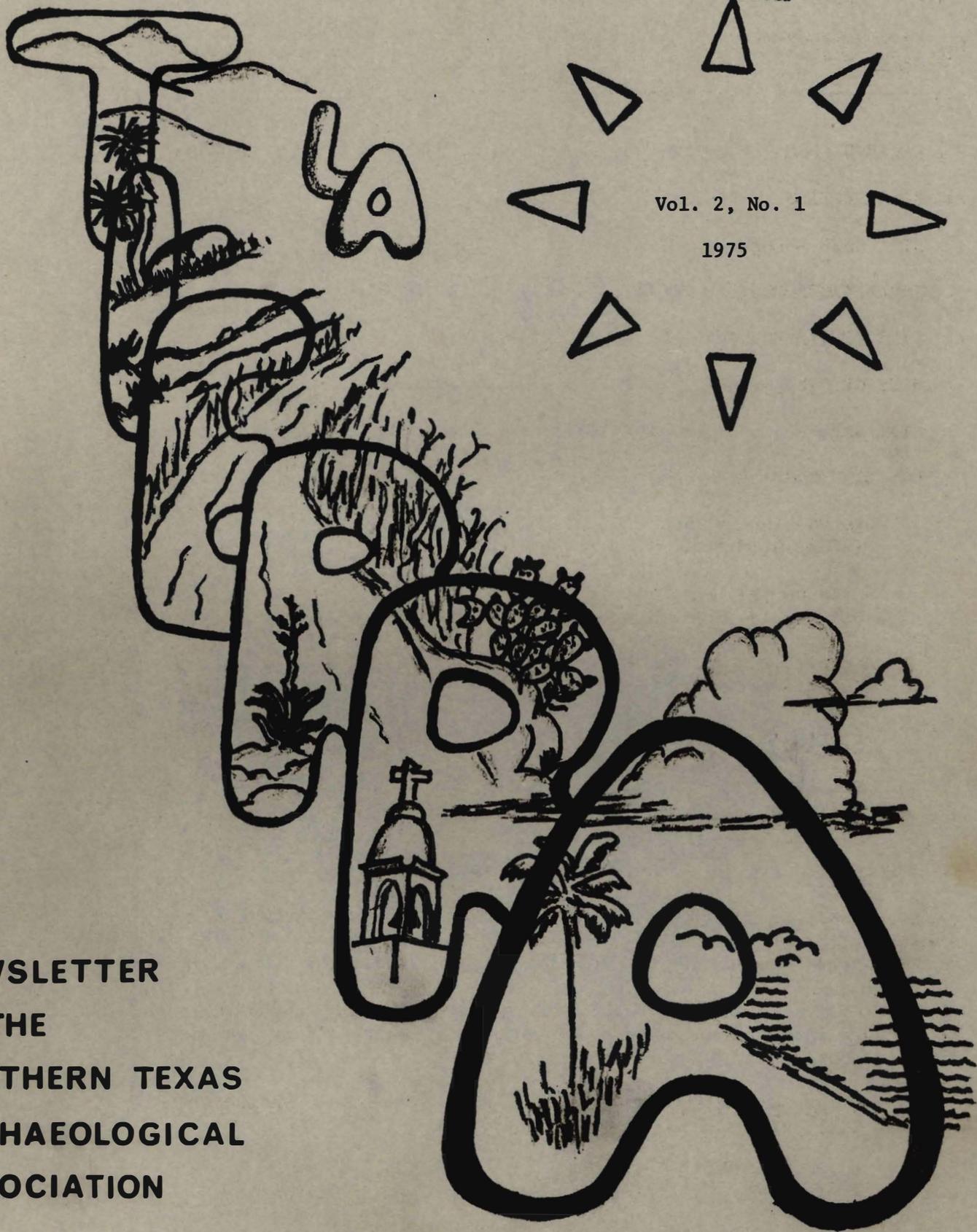


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NEWSLETTER
OF THE
SOUTHERN TEXAS
ARCHAEOLOGICAL
ASSOCIATION

LA TIERRA

Quarterly Newsletter of the Southern Texas Archaeological Association

Volume 2, Number 1
January, 1975

T. C. Hill, Jr.
Newsletter Editor

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Officers of the Association:

Dr. Thomas R. Hester, University of Texas at San Antonio (Chairman)
Anne A. Fox, Witte Museum, San Antonio (Secretary)
Mary Francis Chadderdon, 4002 Glenrock, San Antonio 78240 (Treasurer)

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 Southern Texas Archeological Association has come pretty well through its first year of existence, under the able leadership of Dr. Tom Hester and Anne Fox and Mary Frances Chadderdon et al, growing steadily to a final 1974 total of 270 individuals and 10 institutions. I don't think we anticipated such wonderful support at the outset, but perhaps we underestimated the frustrated need of our people for such organization and leadership?

In spite of the startling infant success of this first year, we now face a rather critical period from which we'll learn, perhaps, something of our true value. Oh, we'll continue to grow, no doubt about it, but can we retain the greater bulk of 1974's charter members? Have we furnished ourselves with the projected quality of instruction, practice and entertainment which would entice our first flock to come back to see what happens next?

U.T.-Austin furnished three of its best, Drs. Davis, Story, and Campbell to enliven our quarterly meetings, and the old master J.B. Sollberger of Dallas reduced us to tatters with a classic flint-knapping display. These experts were backed up by short interesting reports from our local members, making each program an event to remember.

Our newsletter, La Tierra, has furnished a series of fine, instructive papers from researching reporters scattered about our large territory, along with occasional news and items of interest. The rambling thoughts of our editor sometimes tend to drift away from the traditionally serious plane which most seem to prefer, yet some few have expressed appreciation for his peculiar style and his hide-bound belief in the future of archeology here in southern Texas... and he takes a measure of satisfaction from that!

Our meetings have also offered Sunday outings to interested diggers, experts and novices alike, with supervised trips to sites where excavations are in progress. And to become "permanently employed", like on weekends etc., one need only contact our Field Work Committee and offer himself...there's something going on all the time, in the Bexar County area.

Like anything else, our organization contains scattered groups and individuals of hard-core, everyday hustlers and scramblers who are working their fool heads off and are doing a tremendous job of it. Then, like anything else, some of us are more occasional and casual with our efforts...we sometimes stumble upon exciting evidence, we make excellent listeners-questioners, and as cheerleaders we're just great! Whatever our preference, we are all vitally needed, and the STAA would be sadly injured to lose the interest and membership of a single one of us.

* * * * *

Corpus Christi and the Coastal Bend society hosted the December 7 meeting, and although the attendance (51) was down a bit due to conflicting gatherings, the quality of the program was splendid.

Dr. T.N. Campbell talked of his present project, which finds him researching a ton of Spanish documents, looking for the group names, locations, etc., of historic southern Texas Indians, trying to plot their movements and to learn more of their habits. To date, he claims approximately 2,000 listed groups, and is just beginning to get the "feel" of the job. His excitement is catching, and we got the feeling that this gentleman, who has done such fine work on the coast, has once again turned his thoughts toward the south. Our Tierra is playing catch-up and we can use the likes of Dr. Campbell, and the results of his work.

Dr. Campbell was preceded by Gary Moore, who discussed a late prehistoric site near Junction which was worked by his team of Texas Highway Department archeologists. Dave Wilson spoke of an interesting collection of stone-faced mounds which he had found and plotted near the Mexican Gulf coast, not very far below Brownsville. Surely the builders of those enchanting ruins ventured north of the Rio Grande on occasion, and hopefully, we'll someday find their tracks. Then, all of us were captured by Rex Wayland's too-brief discussion of southern Texas geology, and several voiced hope that we'd be served similar courses in the future. Thanks, Corpus, for having us!

* * * * *

Next November, the infant STAA will host the Texas Archeological Society's Annual Meeting, in San Antonio. This is some sort of a "coup", seems like... pretty far-out for a bunch of beginners. Many arrangements must be made to pull **this** off nicely, and many members will be asked to help handle the crowds and the various functions. Stand by, because you'll be needed.

* * * * *

Back to Dr. Campbell's lecture. His source of earliest information for the many Indian groups along the mid-Texas Coast area is, of course, the Relacion of Alvar Nunez Cabeza de Vaca describing the expedition of Panfilo de Narvaez in 1527-37. Everybody's read this tale, I'm sure, and realizes how disastrously the cruise ended, and how the Spanish gentleman Cabeza de Vaca got off into an unscheduled tour of Texas the likes of which had never occurred before, and certainly not since! How he existed for several years as an ill-treated lackey in the hands of coastal Indians, knowing all along that he was just a whim away from suddenly growing wings and taking up the harp. He escaped from that nightmare, eventually, to become a strolling medicine man, moving generally westward across Texas and Mexico to return to his own people.

Many loose ends will always dangle from Cabeza de Vaca's journal, in spite of his often precise attention to detail. Recording his memories many years after the ordeal had ended, there's a fair chance that he might have seen fit to improve upon the truth, to make up for what was forgotten. We often sit around talking about the past, nowadays, and usually there are as many versions of an event as there are folks attempting to recall it. But most of us were never afoot in a strange land, naked and often freezing and hungry and mistreated, so maybe he had the edge on us and his recollections were vivid enough to defy time's passage.

Anyhow, it's a cinch that he never knew at any time precisely where he was, and so a number of good folks have come forward since then to help him locate himself. Having read several passages from several translations over the years, I was convinced beyond doubt that his route crossed Texas from somewhere on the upper coast to somewhere between Roma and El Paso on the Rio Grande, and several points in between. I'd personally like to see him come squarely through Zavala County, to exit over the bridge between Eagle Pass and Piedras Negras, but then I'm prejudiced, and I fear that several others might have been, too.

Finally, a couple of years ago, my buddies Margaret and John Holdsworth dug around in the closet and produced her father's very own translation of the event. I read it a couple of times, and got pretty excited with it, because there's a lot more to it than I had imagined before.

Robert E. McDonald, Margaret's father, had about as decent a set of credentials for attempting the job as most folks, and his method for plotting the "path" comes close to sheer genius. His knowledge of the Spanish language was backed up by many years working in northern Mexico, during a portion of a lifetime spent in service of the U.S.D.A. as a highly respected plant expert, and he acquired a good personal knowledge of the terrain and ecology of the south during his term. He depended heavily upon the plants described in the Relacion to locate various sites and filled in the bare spots with carefully determined geographical triangulations, using elapsed time and recorded distances to complete the project.

He secured a copy of the original tale from a reliable source in Madrid, and commenced the chore soon after his retirement in 1945. Determined to go at it "cold" to thus avoid bias, he refused to read other's translations, and so spent quite a single-minded spell at it, to finally declare that he was satisfied, and that was the end of it. I've no idea if his manuscript will ever reach publication, which is an absolute crying shame...it has never been submitted, and only a few folks know of it. I've a notion that a man's efforts deserve more than that. (Mr. McDonald is not unknown...turn to page 34 of the July 4, 1970 issue of Life magazine and meet this remarkable outdoorsman.)

In the following pages, I have summarized Mr. McDonald's account. We pick up the story with the expedition departing Trinidad in early 1528, five ships and 400 men sailing off to take possession of everything between Florida and the Rio Grande. Impending doom is suspected in the early chapters, when fumbings and disasters along the Florida coast prompt the decision to split the group into a seaborne and an overland section, the latter including Cabeza de Vaca, to circulate westward and eventually reunite at Panuco, near present day Tampico, Mexico.

This fatal act seems totally in character with the Spanish mentality of that time, in that they believed themselves "invincible" and immune to failure... oddly enough, they seldom experienced failure, often undertaking the most absolutely incredible schemes, with the barest imaginable help, in the history of mankind.

Anyway, the ships sailed away and the 300 troops commenced their boggy coastal journey, running into trouble and losing men to various tragedies until it was decided that they'd got the short end of the stick and would have to improvise and fast! They built five boats, loaded the survivors aboard, and proceeded to

row along rather smartly past the mouth of the Mississippi, suffering some but making headway until storms separated them and dashed them ashore on what turned out to be scattered Texas beaches, where many canny modern researchers have helped them to locate themselves.

Mr. McDonald places Cabeza de Vaca with a group of Indians from November, 1528 to late 1529 on Galveston Island east of the bay, probably near Anahuac. He arrives at this location by working back from future hints, in which the yaupon tree (Ilex vomitoria), the prickly pear and other plants, and their easterly or westerly limitations, are worked to the bone.

He then lives in a forest called "Charruco" for a period of about three years, and this becomes the Big Thicket to the north of the original landfall area. Included in the clues is a "cane for making arrows" which he traded, with other commodities, during that spell...this becomes the cane which grows in southern canebreaks, with a definite westerly limitation.

Other geographical hints mention the crossing, toward the west by several of the stranded Spaniards and later Cabeza de Vaca himself, of four rivers to arrive at a large bay, with approximate time-distance calculations given. This furnishes a pretty good description of a man traveling westward across the Trinity, the San Jacinto, the Brazos and the Colorado to end up in the Matagorda Bay region, where he resided for approximately two years.

He now breaks away from his coastal captors, joins the "Avavores" and is moved a considerable ways up the Brazos where he spends a more relaxed period of the better half of a year. Several trees and shrubs figure in this calculation, a most interesting specimen being "hieros", which is deduced to be the broad flat bean of the honey locust, not occurring in native form west of the Brazos.

Now he finds himself in shape to travel, and travel he does...it's west across the Colorado near Marble Falls, past a "sierra of iron" which becomes Flat Iron Mountain in northern Llano County, across a "beautiful little river" (the Llano in Mason County), then looping down over the divide into the Frio drainage near Leakey. Pinon nuts are mentioned, and I've stretched out many a Sunday's drive, north of Uvalde, just to view this rare little collection of scattered pines.

On across the Nueces not far above Uvalde, and I'm suddenly holding my breath! He's heading for Zavala County, I tell you...but he never makes it, no matter how often I read the story. He misses the chance of a lifetime by continuing westward into "dry sierras" and on across the Devil's River.

The Pecos gorge turns him northward again, and he follows that canyon up to the country of the "cow people", who make a habit of trooping out to the nearby plains to hunt bison in season. Crossing the Pecos, he continues westward to about Presidio and fords the Rio Grande. He travels up the Rio Conchos where the corn farmers operated, penetrating deeply into Mexico to encounter Spanish soldiers and deliverance.

The time consumed by the fast trip from about Taylor-Round Rock to the Pacific was a little less than a year, giving the poor fellow an itinerary of about seven years of touring Texas afoot.

All said and done, the "path" has probably consumed more research time than anything else old Cabeza de Vaca talked about, and Mr. McDonald admitted that his

route would probably parallel that worked out by many others, but vowed that he had done it and was glad, and I guess that's what counts. But the pages and pages of ethnography, the rare early, priceless descriptions of aboriginal people going about the everyday fact of living, can hardly be faulted, because there is literally not one scrap of printed evidence anywhere to contradict this recollection of the period and the area.

The same coastal Indians were still appalled at seeing starving Spaniards eat one another. These were people often described as "so hungry they cried"...but later Cabeza de Vaca mentioned that hunger really didn't bother them too much as they were used to it! The summers and falls seemed to have been a time of plenty, if they were inclined to move about and hustle for the various bearing fruits in the region, but the winters and early springs had to be nearly unbearable. (I had a taste of this, living on Matagorda Peninsula through a couple of winters in 1943-44, in an upstairs room on the north side of a tarpaper barracks. When a howling norther came whistling across the bay, it would simply blow the warm air back into the heater vent in my room and all the way back to the boiler downstairs. To save my very life, I'd put on my G.I. sheepskin flying suit consisting of furlined helmet, jacket, pants and boots...the only use I ever found for that get-up... pile all the cover I could find on the bed, and freeze myself blue! And those people went around naked all the time?).

So we realize that the coast could have been a viciously cruel area to make a primitive living in, but the excavated evidence tells us that it was done, and for a long spell. It would not come as a surprise that the folks who occupied it turned out somewhat mean and bitter, as our chronicler tells us. It's probably lucky he didn't do much with his medical practice there, since one single mal-practice suit would likely have lead to swift litigation.

Inland, he found a "better" sort of folk. There were sick people everywhere, and the former slave now became a well-known "witch doctor", famous and in demand. I don't recall his admitting a single ill individual who did not go away completely cured, by making the sign of the cross and blowing in his ear.

He was passed along, in the end, with such rapidity from town to town that he apparently never even learned the names of the inhabitants. Either that, or he was riding an ecstatic wave composed of his sudden voodoo popularity and the new nagging thought that maybe...just maybe...he now had a chance to escape this mess and go home, that he never even cared.

And lucky for southern Texas, he pulled it off and lived to record one of the extraordinary stories of all time. He described so many hideous and/or hilarious events that you get the feeling you were almost along on the trip. How much of it is gospel truth and how much is improved upon to make up for what was forgotten, we'll never know, but it makes for fascinating reading and is valuable beyond description to those, like Dr. Campbell, who are given to studying such matters.

My thanks go to Margaret and John Holdsworth for letting me read this fascinating translation, and of course to Mr. McDonald for attempting it to begin with.

T. C. Hill, Jr.
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STAA MEETING IN FEBRUARY

The first quarterly meeting of 1975 will be held on Saturday and Sunday, February 15-16 in San Antonio. The location for the meeting had not been determined as the newsletter went to the printer, but members will receive an announcement of the meeting in the mail in early February.

Saturday's program will begin at 1:00 p.m., with registration beginning one hour earlier. A small registration fee will be charged. The annual business meeting (including election of officers for 1975) will be followed by several papers presented by STAA members, and by a guest lecture by Dr. Harry J. Shafer, Director of the Archaeology Laboratory at Texas A&M University. Dr. Shafer will discuss recent archaeological investigations in McMullen and Atascosa Counties.

On Sunday, there will be a field trip, weather permitting. Plans are to resume the excavations at the St. Mary's Hall site (41BX229).

There will be tables for exhibits and displays. The Treasurer, Mary Frances Chadderdon, will also be accepting dues payments from those members who have not yet renewed for 1975.

This meeting promises to be an interesting one, so please mark February 15-16 on your calendar and plan to attend. If you want to present a talk during the Saturday program, please phone or write Gene Griffin, STAA Program Chairman (512-673-0703, 5723 Stonybrook, San Antonio).

STAA SITE REPORTS

A number of members have been filing site survey reports with STAA Secretary, Anne A. Fox. Anne keeps a copy for STAA files, and sends a copy to the Texas Archeological Research Laboratory in Austin, where an official site designation is assigned. Approximately 25 sites, from 10 south Texas counties and one west-central Texas county, have thus far been recorded. Some of the STAA members sending in site reports include Kurt House, Alvin Boldt, Gene Griffin, Jimmy Mitchell and Harvey P. Smith, Jr. Please continue to send your site report forms to the STAA Secretary. This is an important part of preserving south Texas prehistory.

TEXAS ARCHEOLOGICAL SOCIETY TO MEET IN SAN ANTONIO

The Texas Archeological Society's annual meeting will be hosted by the STAA, and will take place during the first week-end in November, 1975 (Oct. 31-Nov. 2). A "local arrangements" committee will be appointed at the February STAA meeting; there is a lot of work to be done, and your help is needed.

The St. Anthony Hotel will serve as meeting headquarters. At the TAS banquet, on Saturday night, Nov. 1, the guest speaker will be Professor Robert F. Heizer, of the University of California at Berkeley. Professor Heizer is a widely known archaeologist, author of many scientific papers and books, including An Introduction to Prehistoric Archeology (with F. Hole) and A Guide to Field Methods in Archaeology (a revised version of the latter book, co-authored with T.R. Hester and J.A. Graham is scheduled to be published in Spring, 1975).

There will be more information on the TAS meeting in later issues of La Tierra.

UTSA CENTER FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH

Recent activities by the Center for Archaeological Research at UTSA include survey work in the Upper Cibolo Creek area of Kendall County, and an assessment of archeological resources in a 17-county area within the drainage system of the San Antonio and Guadalupe Rivers.

NEWS OF STAA MEMBERS

The STAA Librarian Ned Harris wishes to remind members that a wide variety of publications on archaeology, especially south Texas archaeology, are available through the STAA library. Write or phone Col. Harris (2158 W. Kings Hwy., San Antonio; 512-733-0498).

C.D. Orchard has recently compiled information on 19th century Ft. Wahl in Gonzales, Texas. His information has been made available to the Texas Highway Department, the State Archaeologist, and other interested persons.

The Texas Archeological Society has again named STAA member Dr. Eugene O'Brien as Regional Vice-President for the San Antonio area.

Students in Dr. Thomas Hester's ANTH 630 course ("Special Problems in Texas Archeology") are aiding in the analysis of several special collections, including artifacts from Bexar County sites provided by Capt. Al Liewpe (STAA member now stationed in the Mediteranean); Victoria County abraded cobbles from the Bill Birmingham and E.H. Schmiedlin collections; Late Paleo-Indian projectile points found by Brom Cooper (Kingsville) in McMullen County; materials from near Monterrey, Neuvo Leon, from the C.D. Orchard collection; and materials excavated and collected by the UTSA 1974 Field School at Chaparrosa Ranch, Zavala County. Reports on some of this work will probably appear in later issues of the newsletter.

M.F. Chadderdon has been at work documenting archaeological materials in the Rudolf Menger collection. Her report appears in this issue.

STAA member Jim Warren (Three Rivers) has been appointed as an archaeologist for the state office of the USDA Soil Conservation Service. Jim will be helping to run the archaeological survey program of the SCS.

STAA SLATE OF OFFICERS FOR 1975

The STAA nominating committee (Dr. Thomas R. Hester, Harvey Kohnitz, and Nancy Wallace) presented the following slate of officers at the recent Corpus meeting. Voting on the slate (or the additions of names through nominations from the floor) will take place at the February meeting. Proposed officers are: President, Anne A. Fox; Secretary, Jamis Townsend; and Treasurer, M.F. Chadderdon. Nominations for Program Chairman are still open.

GROUND STONE ORNAMENTS IN SOUTHERN TEXAS

Jimmy L. Mitchell

Ground stone ornaments are only infrequently reported in the southern Texas area although they are fairly commonplace in the southwestern United States, east Texas, and, of course, in the Mississippi Valley and the eastern United States. This brief paper is an attempt to review the recent literature concerning ground stone artifacts in Southern Texas, and to report some additional specimens from Dimmit County.

Figure 1 shows the locations where ground stone artifacts have been reported in this area of the state. These reports include the following types of artifacts:

Gorgetts/Pendants

1. Owens Shelter #2, Crockett County - Fragment of a pendant or gorget (Word 1971).
2. Val Verde County Caves - Five pendants including one brown slate rectangular; one limestone rectangular; a gray slate elongated triangular pendant recovered with a burial; a thin, oval pendant of limestone; and a soft red stone pendant which was round shaped, from Jacal Canyon (Scheutz 1961).
3. Baker Cave, Val Verde County - An oval slate pendant or gorget (Word 1970).
4. La Jita Site, 41UV21, Uvalde County - A fragmentary, ovate gorget made from calcareous siltstone, with numerous longitudinal striations on both faces; two biconically drilled holes. Context suggests a late Archaic origin (Hester 1971).
5. 41SS10, San Saba County - A schist gorget; quadrilateral, with two biconically drilled holes (Green 1970).
6. Crumley Site, 41TV86, Travis County - A polished stone gorget found in the upper five inches of topsoil; two holes biconically drilled; possibly made of dolomite (Kelly 1961).
7. 41BN8, Bandera County - A grooved pendant and a partially drilled parallel sided stone, which is possibly an unfinished gorget (Patterson 1974).
8. San Miguel Creek near the Atascosa-McMullen County line - Surface find; a fragmentary, rectangular, banded slate gorget with two biconically drilled holes, with faint incised cross hatching on one surface (Mitchell 1973).
9. Alazan Bay Clay Dune, Kleberg County - Stone gorget found with a serpentine figurine (Hester 1972).
10. Dimmit County specimens - Several fragmentary gorgets as shown in Figure 2.

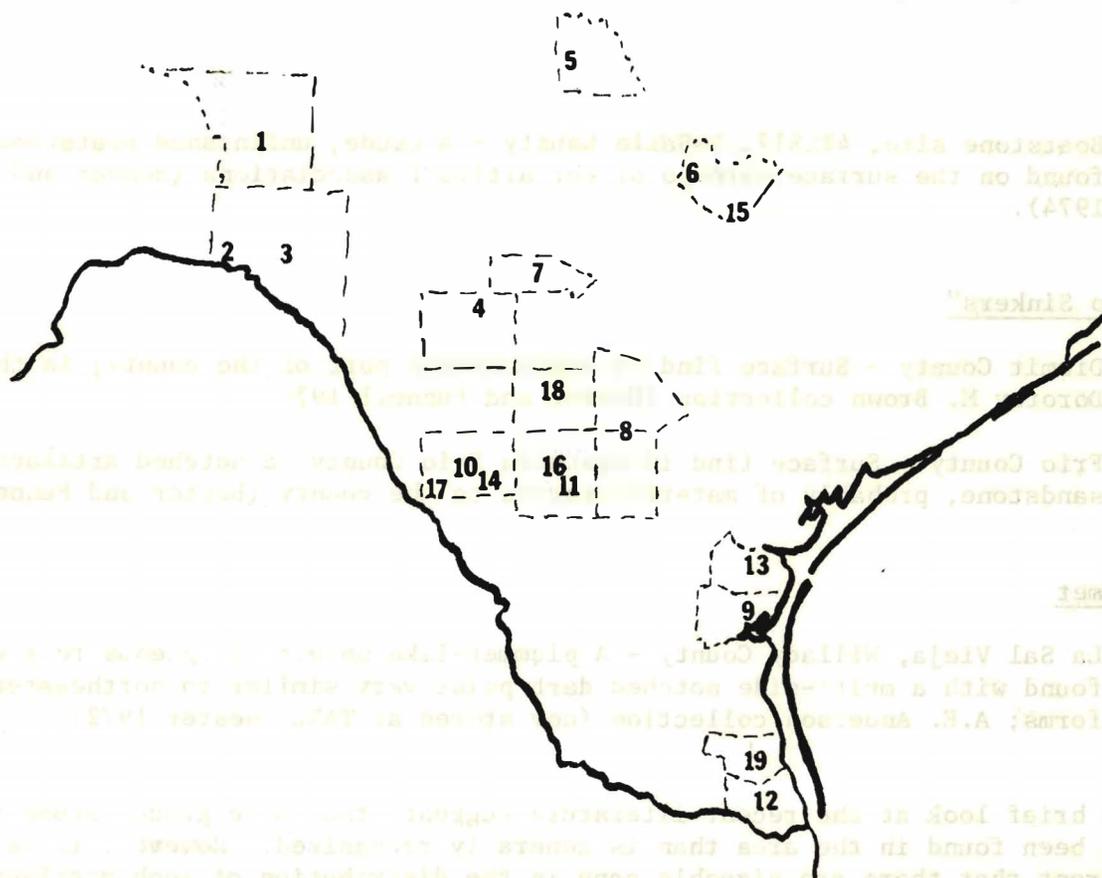


Figure 1. Distribution of Ground Stone Artifacts in Southern Texas:
 1-10, Gorgets/Pendants; 11-12, Celts; 13-14, Grooved Axes;
 15-16, Boatstones; 17-18, "Waco Sinkers"; 19, Plummet-like Object.

Celts

- 11. LaSalle County - Greenstone celt found near Johney Creek, of material possibly found in Frio County (Hester and Funnell 1974).
- 12. Cameron County - MacNeish noted a small celt-like object from Cameron County; a small tubular bead of jadeite also reported from the same area (in Hester and Funnell 1974).

Three Quarter Grooved Axes

- 13. Flour Bluff, Nueces County - one 3/4 grooved axe (Hester 1972).
- 14. Dimmit County - Two grooved axes found on the surface in southern part of the county; now in A.J. Hoover collection.

Boatstones

- 15. Smith Rockshelter, Travis County - One boatstone shaped object was recovered (Johnson 1967).

16. Boatstone site, 41LS17, LaSalle County - A crude, unfinished boatstone was found on the surface with no direct artifact associations (Hoover and Hester 1974).

"Waco Sinkers"

17. Dimmit County - Surface find in southwestern part of the county; in the Dorothy M. Brown collection (Hester and Funnell 1974).
18. Frio County - Surface find in Northern Frio County; a notched artifact of sandstone, probably of material native to the county (Hester and Funnell 1974).

Plummet

19. La Sal Vieja, Willacy County - A plummet-like object of igneous rock was found with a multi-side notched dart point very similar to northeastern Mexican forms; A.E. Anderson collection (now stored at TARL; Hester 1972).

This brief look at the recent literature suggests that more ground stone artifacts have been found in the area than is generally recognized. However, it is also apparent that there are sizeable gaps in the distribution of such artifacts over southern Texas. It may be that these areas where no ground stone artifacts are reported are simply a matter of lack of archaeological investigation or just a lack of communication of finds by collectors.

One of the objectives of the Southern Texas Archaeological Association is to promote problem-solving investigations; another is to document and communicate materials in present collections. It is apparent from this review that there is a substantial problem in further determining and documenting the quantity and distribution of ground stone artifacts in this area of the state. Only when there are sufficient numbers of well-documented reports will we be able to make any substantive statements about the limits of distribution of these artifacts. It is quite possible that some type of social boundary does exist in Southern Texas; some imaginary line south of which the ground stone artifacts will not be found, or only rarely. However, this type of hypothesizing cannot be fully verified without a more complete reporting of such artifacts by the membership of STAA.

In terms of the second objective of STAA noted above, that of documenting south Texas collections, the fragmentary gorgets shown in Figure 2 are reported here in pursuit of that objective. These four gorgets represent a substantial increase in the number of such artifacts reported for this area of the state. All of these specimens were found in Dimmit County where, until 1974, no ground stone objects had been officially reported.

- a. - The specimen shown as Figure 2a is from the Guerra Farm site along Carrizo Creek, and is now in the J.W. House collection in Carrizo Springs. This gorget is of a reddish-brown slate-like material and is biconically drilled. Its opposite face has numerous long striations similar to those shown on some of the pendants from the Val Verde Caves (Schuetz 1961) and on the La Jita specimen (Hester 1971). Its most unusual feature is the notching along its edges; this is a characteristic not seen in any other South Texas specimen. However, a very similar specimen was found at the

Zavonian Springs site in the McGee Bend Reservoir area of San Augustine County (Davis and Horn 1964).

- b. - This specimen is made of sandstone and is in the O.B. Bramblett collection.
- c. - The three pieces shown in Figure 3c are all probably pieces of a single, multi-perforated specimen. It was made of a greenish-black slate. This specimen is in the J.R. Weaver collection. As has been noted previously (Mitchell 1973), slate appears to have been the most favored material for gorgets in the Mississippi and Ohio Valleys.
- d. - This irregularly shaped specimen was found near Asherton in Dimmit County. It is in the Mrs. Joyce Bradshaw collection. It is made of a reddish sandstone; sandstone also appears to be another favored material for gorgets, even in areas where slate was available.

Discussion

No gorgets have been reported from the southern portion of our area; that is, from south of a line running from Alazan Bay in Kleberg County through LaSalle and Dimmit Counties to the Rio Grande on the west. If the published reports are an objective sampling of such ground stone artifacts, this may indeed suggest a social boundary of some sort between Archaic groups, with those north of this boundary being in some way linked to the makers of ground stone tools and ornaments in north and east Texas and the Mississippi Valley. South of this boundary, the groups apparently did not normally use such tools and ornaments, but the objects recovered in Willacy and Cameron Counties do indicate that they at least occasionally obtained them. The tubular bead of jadeite in Cameron County (Hester and Funnell 1974) and the plummet-like object found with a multi-side notched point similar to forms of northeastern Mexico (Hester 1972) suggest the possibility of a trade relationship with peoples further south.

It may also be that there is a correlation with certain Archaic projectile point types, with the Matamoros, Catan, Desmuke, Tortugas, and Abasolo types being concentrated primarily south of this postulated boundary and with the side- and corner-notched Archaic point types generally associated with Central Texas occurring primarily north of this boundary. The occurrence of "Waco Sinkers" in this area, but not south of this boundary, tends to support the possibility of a relationship with Central Texas.

Interestingly, the same boundary seems to be present at a late time level (AD 1000-1500) if one looks at the distribution of Alibates flint (from the Texas Panhandle) in south Texas (Mitchell, in press) or if one studies the distribution of alternately-beveled flint knives typical of the late Plains cultures (Poteet 1938; Sollberger 1971).

Summary

In this brief paper, we have looked at the archaeological literature for reports of ground stone artifacts in Southern Texas, have mapped their distribution, and have

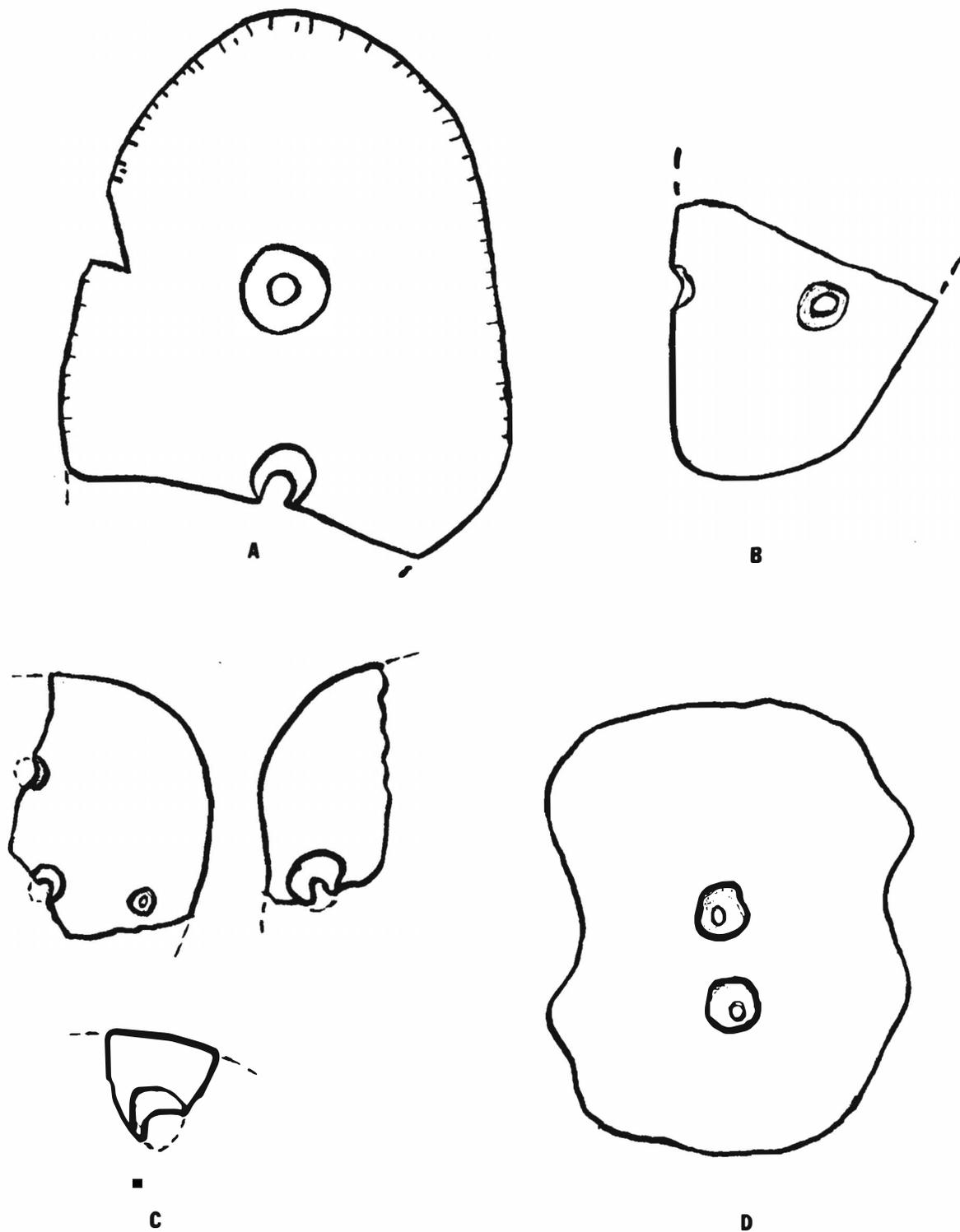


Figure 2. Gorgets from Dimmit County, Southern Texas: a. - J.W. House; b. - O.B. Bramblett; c. - J.R. Weaver; d. - Mrs. Joyce Bradshaw. Illustrated actual size.

reported additional specimens to aid in the documentation of such artifacts. Further, during a quick visit with T.C. Hill in 1973, we saw several additional specimens in the J.W. House collection in Carrizo Springs and in several collections in Crystal City which further tend to support the belief that such objects do occur in south Texas.

Speculation

In my own thinking (and this is purely speculative), I equate the social boundary hypothesized here with the southernmost extent of the Plains cultures. Dibble has postulated a relationship on the Archaic time level between the Bonfire Shelter (Val Verde County), the Texas Panhandle (Twilla and similar sites), and the northern Plains (Dibble and Lorrain 1968). Hughes has cited glotto-chronological research which suggests that differentiation between the Plains-Caddoan and the main Caddoan-speaking groups began between 30 and 35 centuries ago, with differentiation among the Plains-Caddoan language groups beginning about 50 B.C. (Hughes 1968: Figure 4). This implies a maximum geographical distribution of such groups during the late Archaic and early Woodland periods, which are the times when ground stone ornaments and tools were most popular in the Mississippi Valley. This would help to explain the lack of a heavy distribution of such ground stone artifacts in south Texas, since such artifacts are less frequently found in the Plains Caddoan-speaking areas (Plains ecological zones) than they are in the primary Mississippi riverine and woodland ecological zones (Hopewell and related cultures).

Acknowledgements

My thanks to Dr. Thomas R. Hester, University of Texas at San Antonio, for encouraging my interest in the ground stone artifacts of Southern Texas and for providing me with the information on the Dimmit County specimens reported in this paper. My thanks also to T.C. Hill, for touring me around his area and introducing me to several of the outstanding collectors in his vicinity. Neither Hester nor Hill should be held responsible for the speculations in this report, since they are my own.

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NOTES ON THE MENGER COLLECTION,
SITE 41BX272, BEXAR COUNTY, TEXAS

Mary Frances Chadderdon

Rudolph W. Menger, long-time resident of San Antonio and grandson of the founder of the Menger Hotel, recently requested the assistance of the Southern Texas Archaeological Association in examining and documenting lithic artifacts and other debris recovered from an amateur excavation near Long Creek in northern Bexar County. The collection had been scanned by two professional archaeologists and was thought to be of value in the continuing study of the Salado Creek-Long Creek Archaic occupations.

Accordingly, the author spent considerable time in conversation with Mr. Menger and in examining the collection. The site was excavated by him, his two brothers, and the two property owners over a period of 15 months in 1960 and 1961. It was selected without benefit of surface artifacts and simply on their hunch that "it looked like a good place for an Indian camp." The "hunch" was based on sound observation: they had successfully hunted deer there for many years, the mound which attracted their attention was on the north bank of a dry creek bed with the advantage of a south breeze, and it was protected at the rear by a high limestone bluff. Projectile points had been found in the rocky channel downstream from the site and shell-bearing strata had been observed in a road cut nearby.

A three foot wide trench was begun, yielding black alluvial soil for the first 12 inches, but no evidence of occupation. At about 12 inches concentrations of burned rock appeared, ashy soil and much scattered rock, and the first projectile points, which they identified as Frio. At three feet to four feet (sometimes as much as five feet) red gravel was reached and they did not go beyond this depth. The trench was extended to about 20 feet and another dug at right angles to it, extending about 30 feet parallel with the creek bed. Although none of the group was familiar with excavation methods and control, they were conscientious and observant diggers. In addition to points and tools they preserved all flaking debris, many pounds of it, and such bone as they could recognize. They attempted to excavate in levels indicated by soil color and composition and they describe the stratigraphy as many-layered and many-colored. Much is unclear in their only written record, which follows:

- "1. 1 ft. surface - blank
2. Frio
3. Montell, Castroville, Ensor-Knives
4. Pedernales, Langtry, Shumla, Marshall, Lange, etc.
5. 3-4 feet on top of red gravel: Bulverde, Nolan, Travis, Paleo types and Clear Fork gouges."

Their identifications were made on the basis of the Handbook of Texas Archeology: Type Descriptions, by Suhm and Jelks (1962) and on the Mengers' experience in surface collecting in Medina Lake and Medina River when they were almost dry in the early 1950's.

The site proved to be quite rich. The midsection of one heavily patinated point (Fig. 1,a) has been classified as Plainview-Angostura. The fragment measures 7 cm. in length and slightly more than 2 cm. at its widest point. Diagonal ribbon flaking is present on both sides. Two Angostura points were identified, each 6 cm. in length and 1.5 cm. in width (Fig. 1,b). Fig. 1c,d are two unidentified points

showing very fine edge trimming. With the exception of the Plainview-Angostura, I worked only with complete artifacts (a few with a fraction of the tip missing) and the totals given are indicative only of the relative frequencies of point types. Most numerous of the Archaic types were Pedernales, of which I counted 51, followed by Bulverde and Nolan-Travis with 32 each. There were 25 Frio, 20 Langtry, 16 Tortugas, 11 Castroville, nine Montell, nine Ensor-Edgewood, six Gary, five Marshall, three Carrizo, one Morhiss and about 40 possibly unfinished triangular points (or preforms) ranging in length from 6 to 8 cm.

There were 13 thinned bifaces ("knives"), varied in shape, extremely thin and of fine, delicate workmanship. Most are of light tan chert, four of light grey and two of medium dark Edwards Plateau flint. One is of a subtriangular shape 8.5 cm. long and 4 cm. at its widest (Fig. 1,e), another is bipointed, 17.5 cm. long, 4.5 cm. at its widest, and with a thick center ridge (Fig. 1,f). Two are triangular, one 16.5 cm. long with parallel sides and a slightly concave base (Fig. 1,g), the other 10 cm. long, 5 cm. at its widest and with a straight base (Fig. 1,h). One corner-tanged knife is 12.5 cm. long, 5 cm. wide; another is of the same length and similar in shape, but with only one notch (Fig. 2,a). Five are roughly triangular, but with one side more convex than the other, giving a curved appearance (Fig. 2,b,c,d). One is lanceolate, 12 cm. long, with a slightly concave base measuring 3 cm. (Fig. 2,e). One is leaf-shaped with a concave base, 8.5 cm. long, 3 cm. at its widest point, and 1.5 cm. at its base (Fig. 2,f).

The collection includes 15 Clear Fork gouges, two Guadalupe gouges, 15 drills, two of which had Frio-type bases suggesting they had been reworked from broken points (Fig. 2,g), three manos, one metate of dense red sandstone (a material not native to the area according to Mr. Menger), four pitted hammerstones (or manos). A flat, roughly triangular celt-like artifact of dense white sandstone measuring 7 cm. by 6.5 cm. had been perforated with a 1 cm. circle near an upper corner, possibly for use as a pendant (Fig. 2,h). A similar celt-like object with no perforation was also found. There are about 15 large flakes and blades trimmed and utilized as scrapers or knives and 30-35 thick bifaces or unfinished points ranging in length from 8 to 12 cm. Bones of various small animals were found throughout the excavation but no attempt has yet been made to identify them.

Near the midden, but separated from it by a small gully, a burial was discovered about one foot below the surface. Because of its nearness to the surface the excavators were in doubt of its antiquity and reluctant to expose it. A portion of the base of the skull, a mandible and a long bone were removed and are with the collection. It was reported later that a medical student in need of laboratory material removed the skeleton and also two others which he found directly beneath it. It is not known if the burials were flexed or extended, or if grave goods were placed with them.

The similarity in stratigraphy and artifacts to the Granberg Site (Schuetz, 1966) on Salado Creek north of San Antonio, will be apparent. Additionally, the occurrence of a basal "red gravel" zone, containing Early Archaic materials and Clear Fork gouges, is reminiscent of the stratigraphic situation at site 41BX271 (Granberg II; T.R. Hester, personal communication). The Menger collection seems to have been taken from another of the favored camping sites along the Salado Valley and Mr. Menger assures me that there are many more located along the stream courses there. We are grateful to them for preserving their collection and allowing us to document it.

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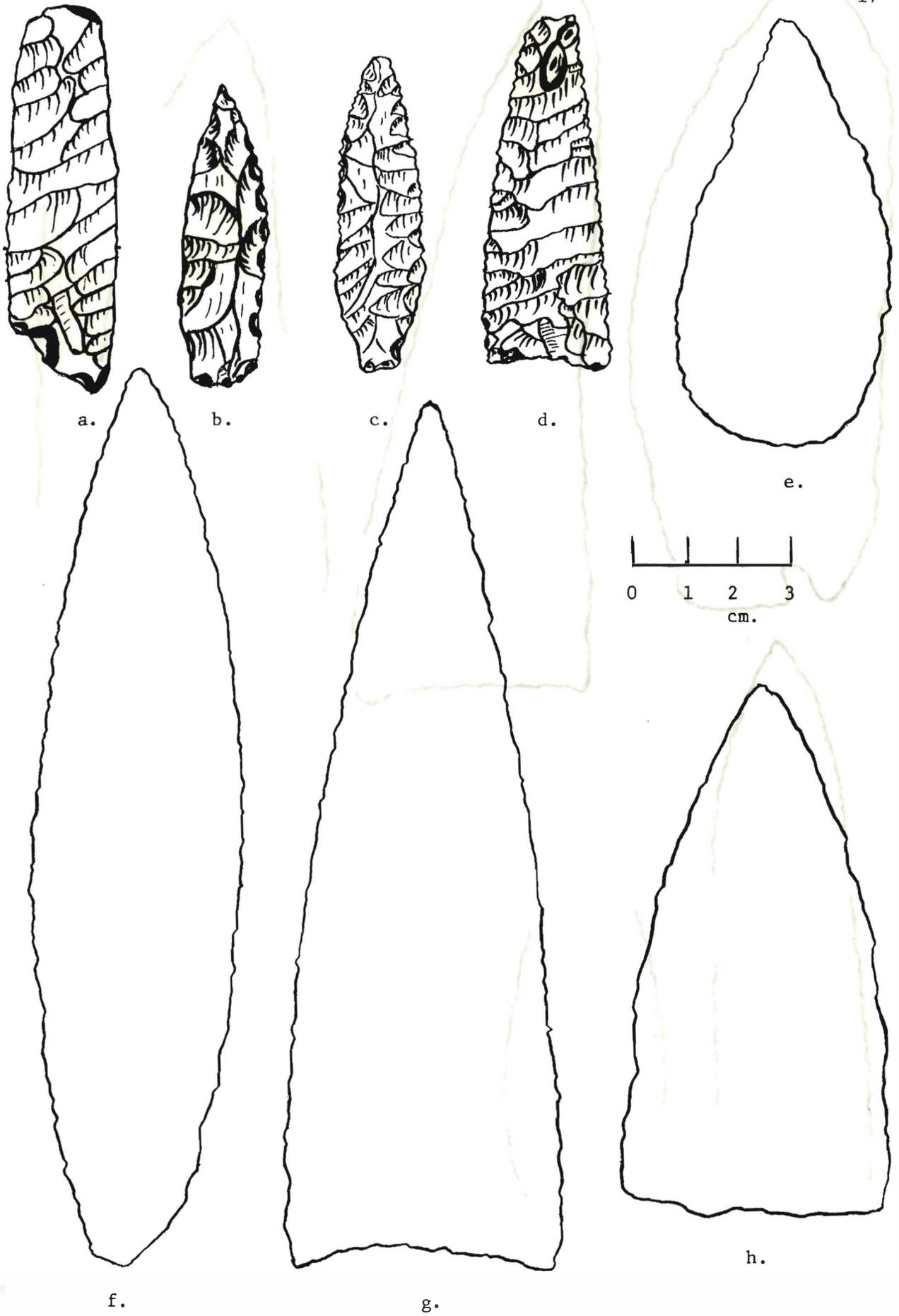


Figure 1. Artifacts from the Menger Collection.

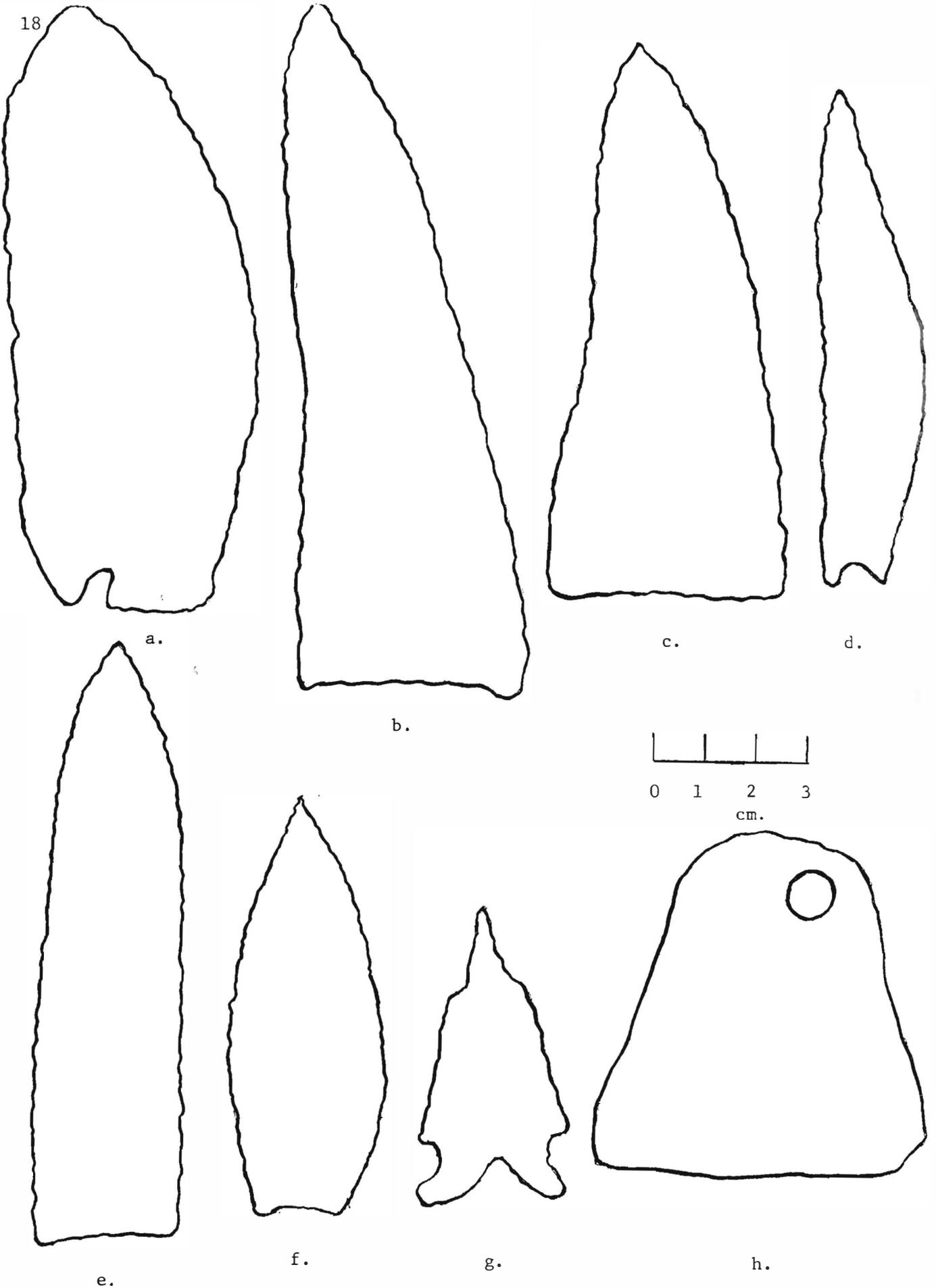


Figure 2. Artifacts from the Menger Collection.

■ A QUARRY SITE IN MEDINA COUNTY, TEXAS

L. W. Patterson

Suhm (1958:72) has noted the presence of quarry sites in central Texas, and this paper will describe a site of this type, 41ME3, in the little known Medina County area. The location is in gently rolling hills, at the southern edge of the Texas hill country. At the present time, the area appears to be fairly dry, with no streams in the immediate area. This site is essentially an intermittent series of eroded outcrops of flint nodules, extending for approximately 1,500 feet along a hill top. Evidence of chipping activity was observed wherever flint nodules were visible. There are three main areas of lithic scatter, with the largest having dimensions of 200 by 400 feet, and the other two being about 50 feet in diameter. Smaller amounts of lithic debris were scattered throughout the overall site area.

All chipping in the "workshop" areas appears to have been by direct percussion, with all flakes having concentrated well developed bulbs of force. No signs of finer pressure flaking were found, and no small lithic flakes were observed. There was no direct evidence of habitation on this site, and no ceramics or projectile points were found. A number of large prismatic blades and blade-like flakes did show heavy retouch on the lateral edges, indicating some tool use activity on this site.

A number of large prismatic blades and blade-like flakes were observed, and three typical examples are illustrated as Figure 1, a-c. Both single and multi-faceted striking platforms were used. No lipped flakes were present. These examples have widths of 29, 25, and 38 mm., and thicknesses of 7, 5, and 15 mm., respectively. Large blades of this type may be derived from Paleo-Indian technology. Unlike the small and micro blades of the Gulf Coast, which appear to start in the middle Archaic period of approximately 3000 B.C. (Patterson ms.), blades on this site have dimensions similar to Paleo-Indian blades, which group in width at over 20 mm. (Converse 1973:14; Hammatt 1969; Kraft 1973).

One core was found with prepared striking platforms, shown in Figure 2. A number of blade-like facets are present. The main striking platform is multi-faceted, and a smaller single-faceted striking platform was also used. The material is tan flint. Large portions of the striking platform edges are unprepared, but there are some sections with battering and small flake removal on the faceted surfaces at the striking platform edge. Parallel-sided facets range from 8 to 40 mm. in width, with most being over 20 mm. Striking platform angles are all near 70°, except for two facets with angles of 110°.

The massive nature of some flakes should be mentioned. A typical example, with a well defined bulb of force and a multi-faceted striking platform, has a length of 120 mm., width of 55 mm., and thickness of 24 mm.

Hand axes are known in central Texas (Suhm 1958:77), and three were found on this site, shown as Figure 3a-c. The hand axe in Figure 3a is particularly well made, of white flint. There is a variety of flint colors on this site, including: grey, brown, black, tan, and white. No distinctive banding or other colorations were present.

Other artifacts found were a chopping tool, with cortex remaining on opposite end, and a crude biface, shown as Figure 1d. Miscellaneous flakes are shown as Figure 1e,f.

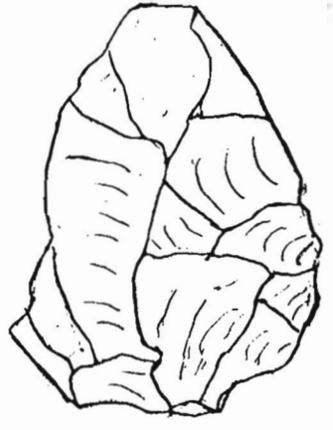
Although no projectile points were found, to serve in the diagnosis of the time period involved, this site is judged to be in the Archaic period, because of the hand axes and large blade-like flakes. Kraft (1973) has shown that these types of artifacts can start as early as the Paleo-Indian period. Lorrain (1968: Table I) points out, however, that these artifact types were used over long time periods.

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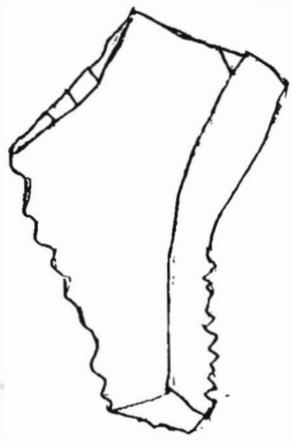
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Figure 1. Artifacts, Site 41MB3 (Full Size)

D
BIFACE



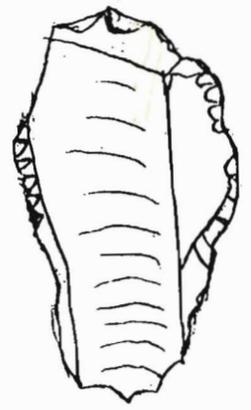
E
FLAKE



F
FLAKE



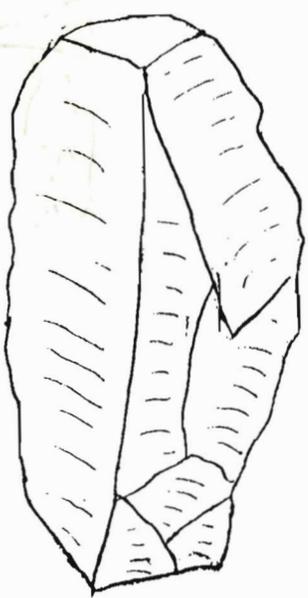
A
BLADE-LIKE
FLAKE



B
BLADE
FRAGMENT



C
BLADE-LIKE
FLAKE

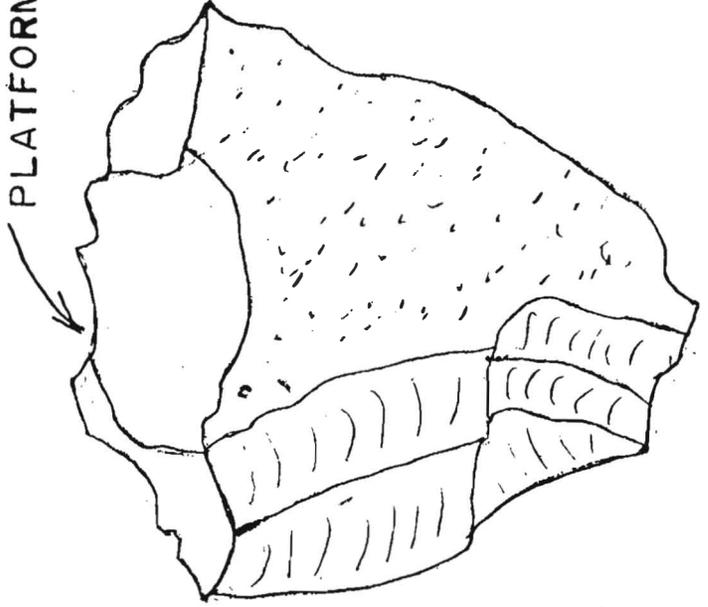


STRIKING
MORPHOLOGY

Figure 1. Artifacts, Site 41MB3 (Full Size)



STRIKING
PLATFORM



STRIKING
PLATFORM

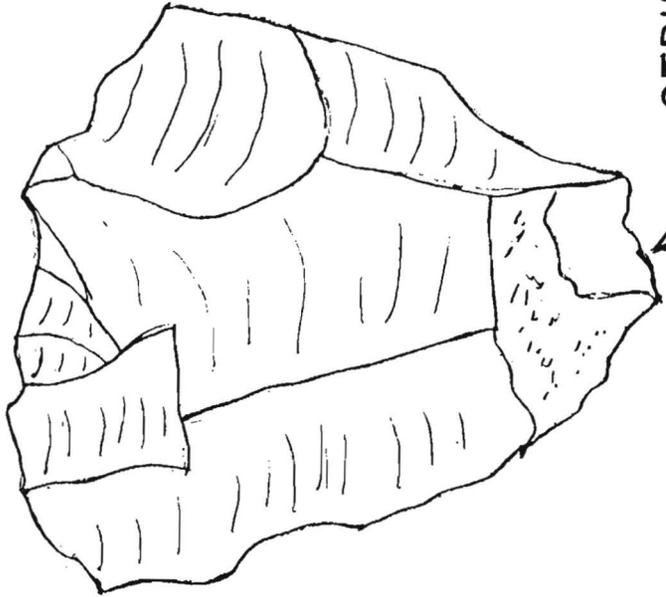


Figure 2. Prepared Platform Core. (Full Size)

Figure 3. Hand Axes (Full Size)

