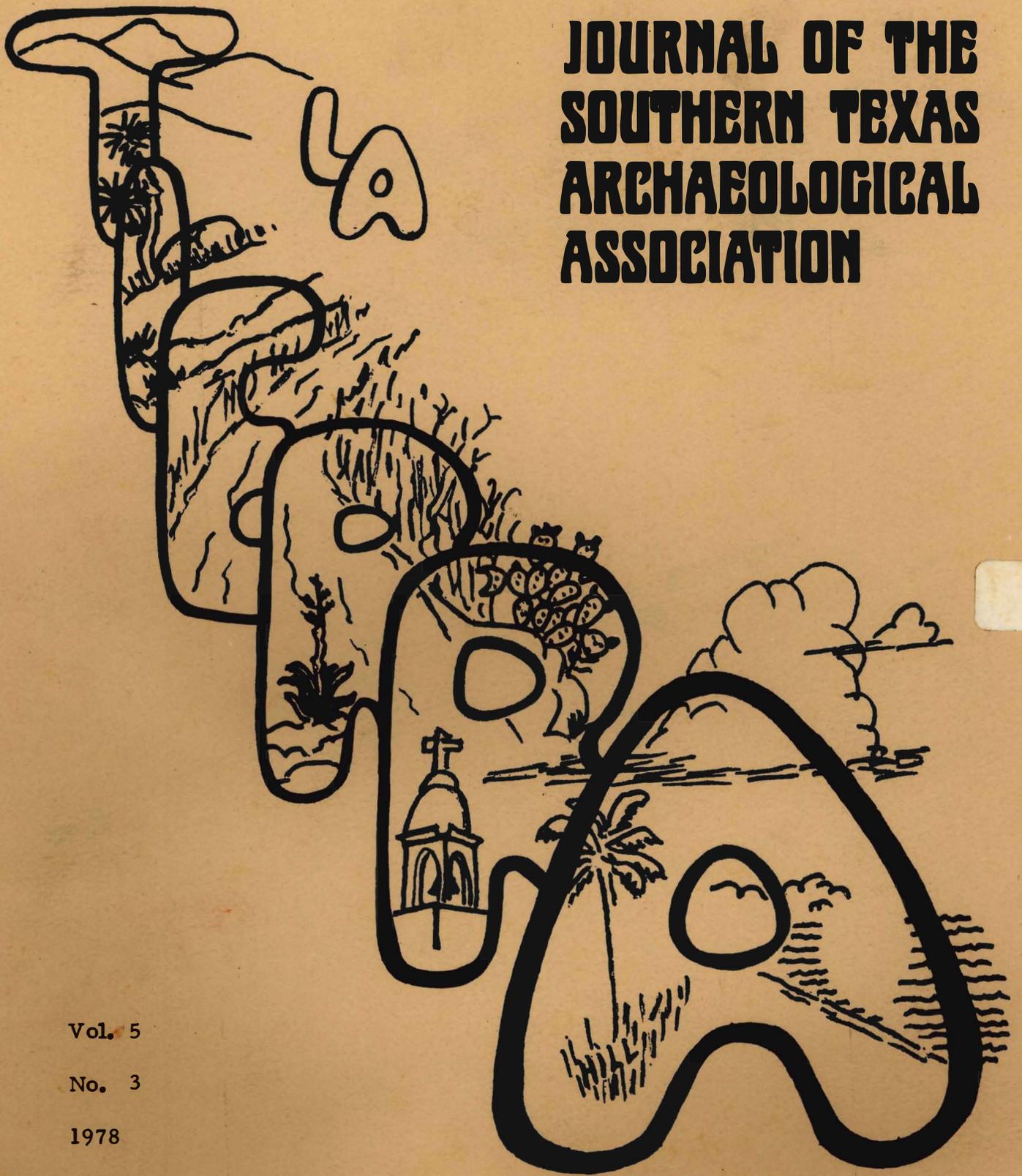


# JOURNAL OF THE SOUTHERN TEXAS ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION



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LA TIERRA

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Jimmy L. Mitchell  
Journal Editor

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## EDITORIAL

### INVOLVEMENT

This issue of La Tierra includes the work of eight different authors, any one of which could serve as an exceptional example of dedication and involvement as an avocational or professional archaeologist (See "The Authors," page 30). Their contributions provide insights into many areas of South Texas; from Kerr County in the north to Zapata County in the lower Rio Grande valley; and from Val Verde County in the west to Victoria County near the coast. I hope you will be pleased with their papers and that you will find them interesting and educational.

The increased variety of articles and their breadth of coverage is suggestive of the more comprehensive involvement of the STAA officers and members in recent months. Since the beginning of the year, STAA has somewhat restructured itself to facilitate more activities and to better meet the needs of the membership. The STAA board is meeting almost every month instead of once a quarter, and it has more active committees with more members so that there will be a greater participation by as many people as possible. Recently, the board bought a trailer for permanent storage of STAA screens and other digging gear, ordered shelving for use in a more permanent Laboratory, and made a firm commitment for the study and documentation of an extensive private collection of South Texas artifacts. We have a July meeting this year, with a B-B-Q social on Sunday after another day of work at the Dan Baker site. The July meeting also provides an increased opportunity for members to display their artifacts for other STAA members and the public.

Even with this increased level of activity there is still much that needs to be done. There is always Lab work waiting, reports which need to be written, sites to be reported and documented, and presentations for the next quarterly meeting which need to be developed. There are a number of places on our standing committees which still must be filled. If you have an interest but have not yet joined a committee, please contact one of the officers and volunteer. Get Involved and see how much fun it can be.

If you just don't have time for that kind of direct committee work, you can still help a great deal just by dropping a line to the membership committee with the names of others who would make good STAA members. You might even consider giving a gift STAA membership to a friend, relative, or even to the local high school or public library. Help is also needed in giving talks to local groups in order to get others (particularly more young people) interested in the preservation of the finite archaeological sites of South Texas. STAA needs your involvement in contacting local farmers and ranchers to identify potentially important sites, to record those sites, to contact STAA officers or some professional agency when sites are endangered, and, when all else fails, to salvage whatever archaeological information possible before a site is destroyed.

As you can see, there are many ways to get and stay INVOLVED. There is a role and a place for everyone, for whatever degree of interest and involvement they want. All of us need to stop and think occasionally about the kinds of things which need to be done to keep STAA growing and developing as the kind of organization we want it to be. If you recognize a need, then it's time to find a way to meet that need. GET INVOLVED and make STAA what it can and should be.

PRELIMINARY REPORT ON THE J-2 RANCH SITE (41 VT 6),  
VICTORIA COUNTY, TEXAS

Anne A. Fox, E. H. Schmiedlin, and J. L. Mitchell

The J-2 Ranch site is an important archaeological site in Victoria County which has been investigated by private collectors, a local archaeological group (1959-1969), and in a series of excavations by the Southern Texas Archaeological Association (1976-1977). This report provides an initial impression of the results of these investigations, displays some examples of the artifacts which have been recovered, and summarizes what is presently known about the archaeology of the immediate area. While a significant amount of information has been developed to date, the excavations have only just begun to reach the oldest deposits, the "Middle" Paleo-Indian stratum, which probably dates 8000 B.C. or earlier. Thus, additional work is necessary to fully develop the potential scientific value of the J-2 Ranch site.

Background

The J-2 Ranch site is located on property owned by Mr. and Mrs. Jim Alexander. It is approximately 12 miles northeast of Victoria, Texas, and about 30 miles from the Gulf of Mexico. It is approximately 22 miles east of the Johnston-Heller site (Birmingham and Hester 1976). The J-2 site is located on both sides of the Arenosa Creek and adjacent to a small marshy area (Figure 1).

Archaeological remains were exposed during the construction of an earthen dam across the creek in the early 1900s. The water backed up by the dam served as a watering spot for many years for cattle on their way to northern markets. The dam was dynamited by an irate "cowboy" for reasons unknown (Personal communication, Mr. Jim Alexander). As the remnants of the dam eroded, gravel bars formed downstream which proved to be a popular arrowhead hunting area for local scout troops for many years.

Mr. Bert Barber of Victoria, a former Scoutmaster, brought the site to the attention of Mr. and Mrs. E. E. Studer in 1959. The Studers and other local amateur archaeologists made extensive surface surveys in an effort to determine the borrow area used during construction of the dam. Several areas yielded Archaic and Paleo-like material, but the greatest concentrations were found slightly upstream of the site of the former dam.

In 1961, a north-south line was laid out and a datum point established by driving a 2 inch pipe into the ground on the north side of the creek. During the years 1961 through 1963, a total of seventeen 5 x 5 foot squares were excavated in 6 inch levels, to various degrees of completion by Mr. and Mrs. E. E. Studer, Mr. and Mrs. Virgil Branch, Mr. and Mrs. E. H. Schmiedlin, and Mr. Jerry Lowder, all from Victoria; Mr. and Mrs. C. A. Calhoun from Port Lavaca; and Mr. and Mrs. W. A. Henderson of Seadrift. The material recovered from these excavations ranged from arrowpoints to Paleo-like, basally ground artifacts and included a great variety of Transitional Archaic

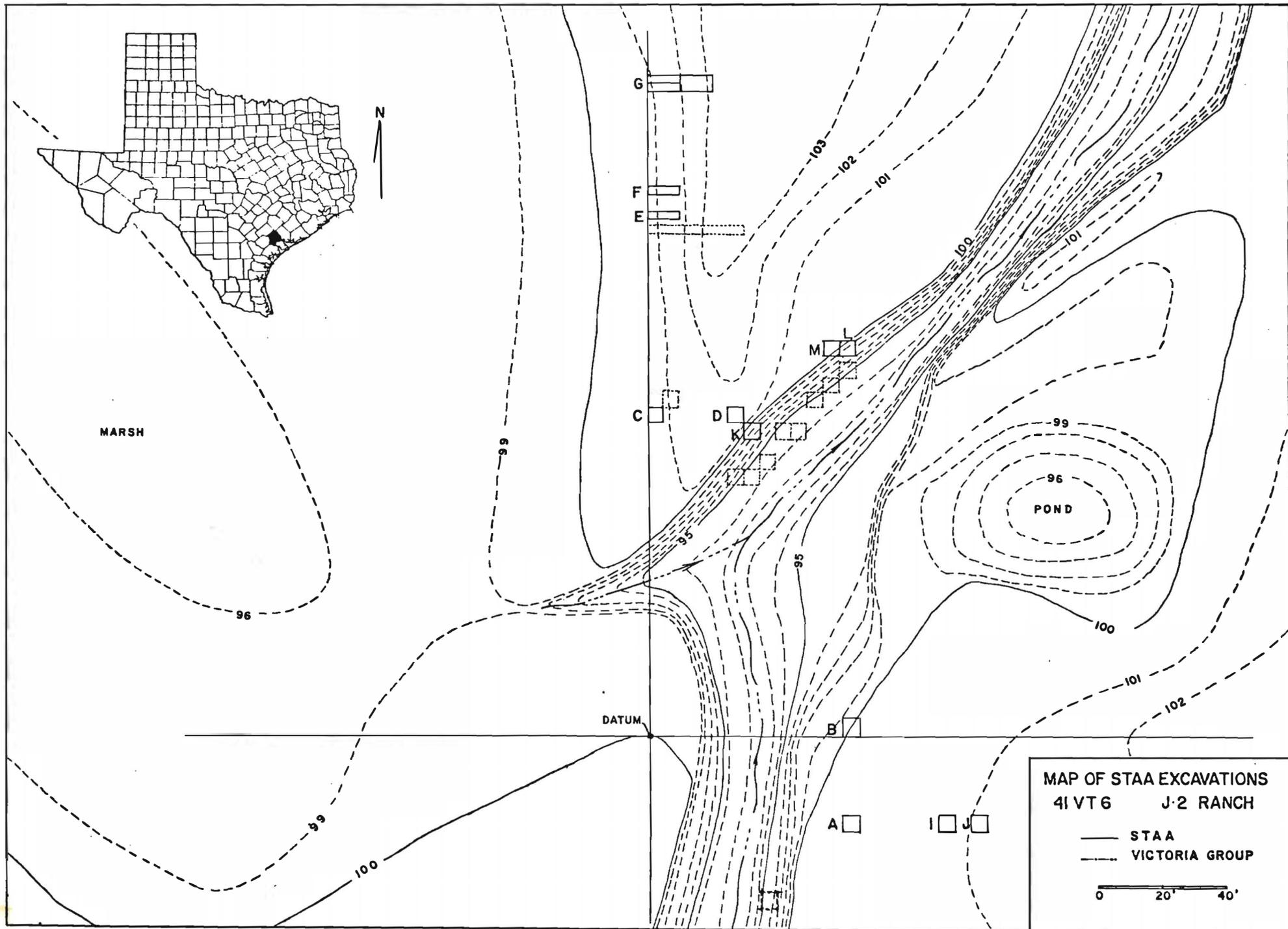


Figure 1. Map of 41 VT 6, J-2 Ranch, Victoria County, Texas.

styles. No pottery was recovered. The site also contained large amounts of well-preserved animal bone and flint debitage. The Paleo-like materials which were recovered were from varying depths, but were always found near the basal clay layer.

Surface collecting continued at intervals, with some very interesting results including two Scottsbluff points (See Birmingham and Mitchell 1978). In 1969, Mr. E. H. Schmiedlin and Mr. Bill Birmingham excavated a test pit on each side of the creek to determine the exact location of the original dam. The area selected on the southeast side of the creek proved to be badly disturbed and basal clay was reached at 27 inches. The area on the northwest proved to be washed-in creek sand and was abandoned at seven feet due to the danger of caveins. Basal clay had not been reached at that level. Very little archaeological material was recovered in these 1969 excavations.

### Summary of Early Findings

Between four and five hundred artifacts were recovered during the years of surface collecting and in the early excavations. Of 221 identifiable projectile points, triangular dart points were most common. The major types of points and their relative frequencies are as follows:

<u>Tortugas</u> -like triangular points . . . . .	35
<u>Plainview</u> (fragments, mostly bases) . . . . .	11
<u>Refugio</u> . . . . .	10
<u>Pedernales</u> . . . . .	7
<u>Bell</u> . . . . .	7
<u>Meserve</u> . . . . .	6
<u>Weak-shouldered lanceolate points</u> . . . . .	6
<u>Scottsbluff</u> . . . . .	3

Some of the projectile points recovered are illustrated in Figures 2, 3, and 4. These range from a Perdiz arrowpoint (Figure 2, a) which is considered to be Late Prehistoric (circa A. D. 1300 or later) to Pedernales dart points (Figure 2, d) which are considered diagnostic of the Middle Archaic (the Round Rock phase in Central and Southcentral Texas; Weir 1976), to Bell-like points (Figure 2, f, g) which are probably diagnostic of the "Pre-Archaic" (Sollberger and Hester 1972) which began about 6000 B. C.

Scottsbluff points (Figure 3, a, b) were found on the surface as were the "weak-shouldered" lanceolate (Birmingham and Hester 1976) points (Figure 3, c-e). The weak-shouldered lanceolate points are quite similar to points recovered from the Johnston-Heller site in Victoria County (Birmingham and Hester 1976), as well as from sites in Blanco County (Orchard and Campbell 1954) and from the Strohacker site in Kerr County (Sollberger and Hester 1972). Both the Scottsbluff and the weak-shouldered lanceolate points probably represent a phase or phases of the "terminal" Paleo-Indian period and may date around 6500 B. C. However, no radiocarbon dates are yet available from a stratified South Texas site which could be associated with these types of points and thus their exact dating is uncertain (Hester and Hill 1971).

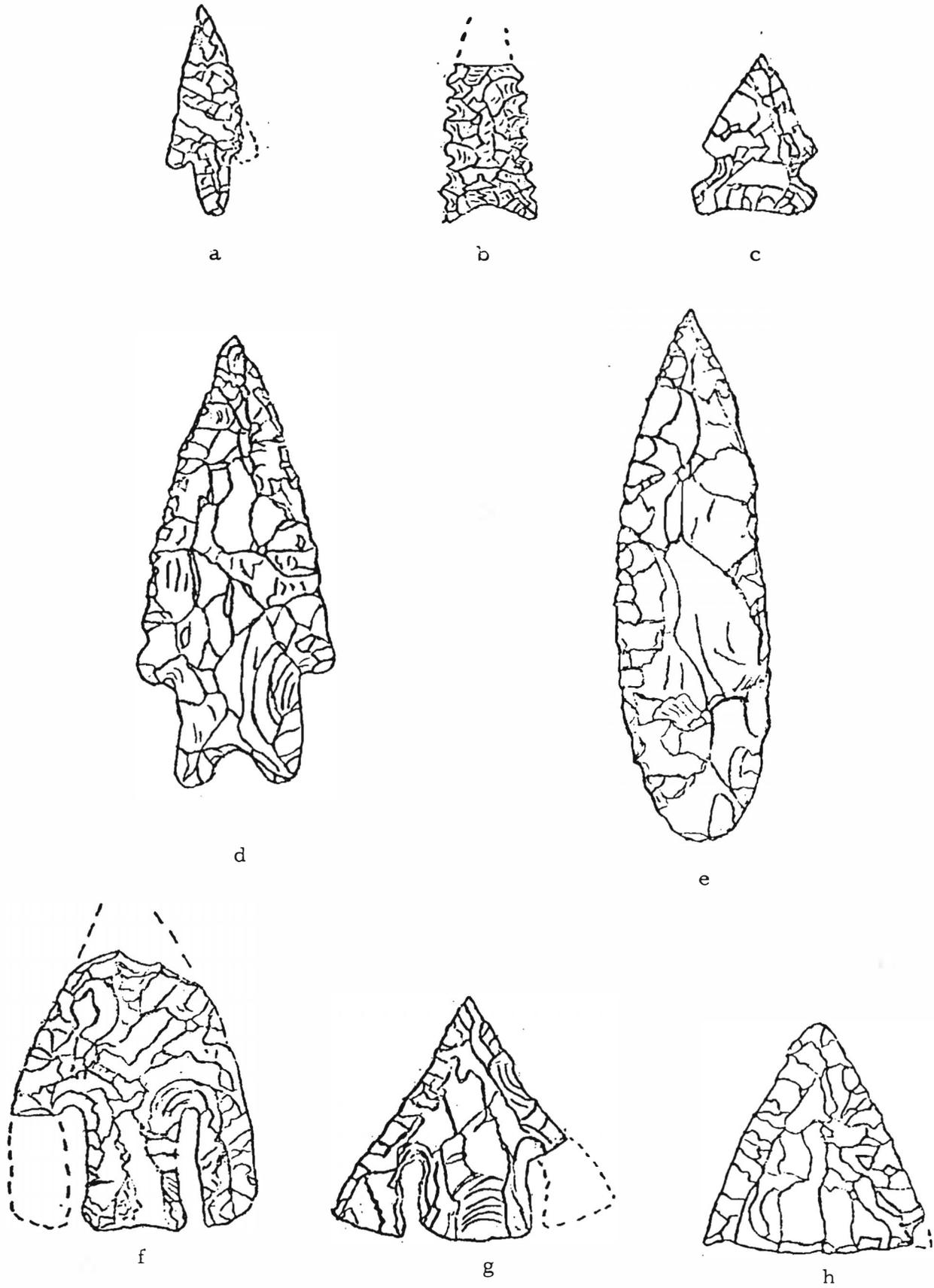
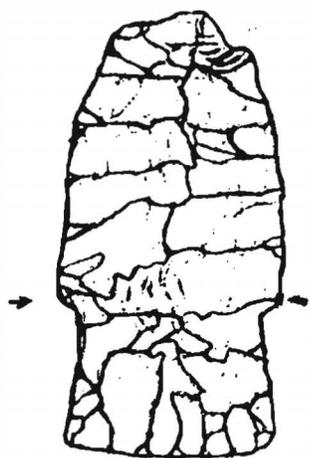
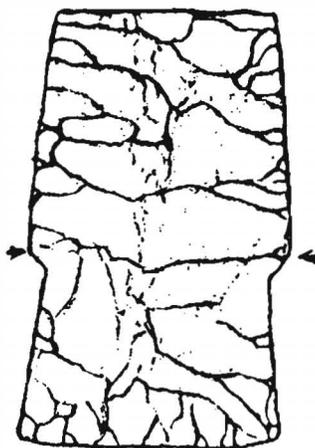


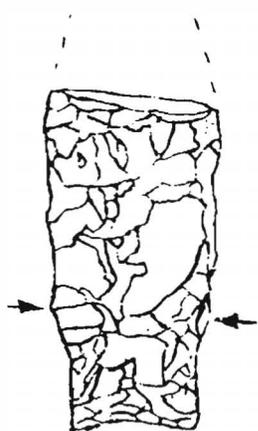
Figure 2. Late Prehistoric, Archaic and Pre-Archaic points from 41 VT 6, Surface Collection.



a



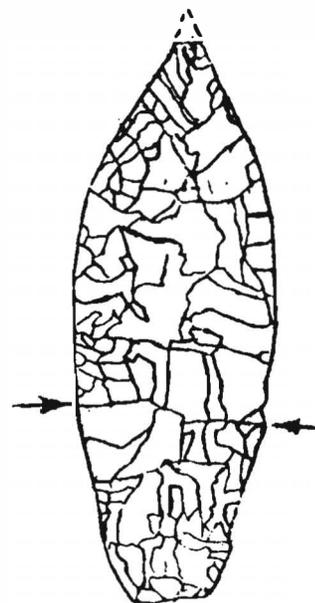
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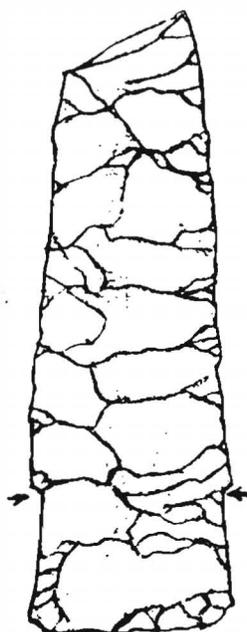
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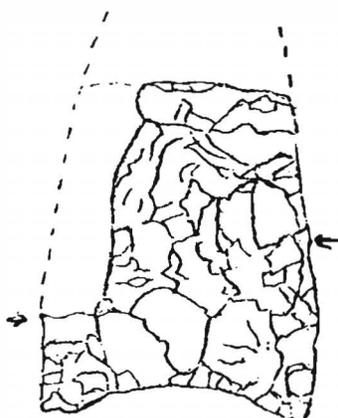
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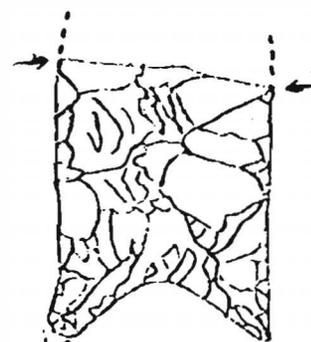
e



f



g



h

Figure 3. Paleo-Indian points from 41 VT 6, Surface Collection.

One of the most interesting discoveries in the early years of research at the J-2 Ranch site was the excavation, by E. H. Schmiedlin, of a Scottsbluff point (Figure 3, f), a Kinney point (Figure 3, g), and a Golondrina point (Figure 3, h) from the 6 to 9 inch level of a square on the southeast side of the creek during a 1961 excavation by the Victoria group. This was a very thin and mixed deposit and basal clay was reached at nine inches. Subsequently, this square was completely eroded away by several seasons of high water. The presence of the Golondrina, which dates about 7000 B. C. (Hester 1976), suggests the possibility of a "Middle" Paleo-Indian occupation (as distinguished from the "terminal" Paleo-Indian occupation indicated by Scottsbluff and weak-shouldered lanceolate points.

Some of the other artifacts collected from this site are shown in Figure 4. These specimens were collected and made available for study by Mrs. Jimmie Van Sickle and her daughter.

The artifacts shown in the top row of the illustration (Figure 4, a-c) are corner-notched dart points which may be indicative of the Early Archaic. The triangular point (Figure 4, d) may be an early triangular suggestive of the Pre-Archaic or a Tortugas common to the Middle and Late Archaic. The rounded base lanceolate and rounded base side-notched points (Figure 4, e, f) are not recognized South Texas point types; since they exhibit no lateral edge smoothing, they are more likely Archaic points.

Smoothed lower edges are indicated on the three artifacts on the bottom row (Figure 4, g-i). The stemmed point is unusual since ground sides are not typical for South Texas Archaic points. This trait is found in North Central Texas on Carrollton Focus sites; the Carrollton point is stemmed, is frequently ground, and often is found on sites with Scottsbluff, Meserve, and Plainview points (McCormick 1976).

The specimen shown as Figure 4, h, appears to be a drill made from an Angostura point; such Late Paleo-Indian drills are not uncommon in South Texas (Hester 1968: Figure 5, c). The Golondrina point (Figure 4, i) appears to be reworked (sharpened); this trait is also fairly common in this area of the state (Hester 1968: Figure 4, b, c, f).

The artifacts collected on the surface and in excavations through 1969 are strongly suggestive of a major Paleo-Indian site with later occupations in the Pre-Archaic, Middle Archaic, and perhaps even in the Late Prehistoric. This implies use of this site from as early as 8000 B. C. (Plainview points) up to A. D. 1300 or later, a span of 9,300 to 10,000 years. A varied stratigraphy is seen across the site with archaeological deposits ranging from 9 inches (southeast of creek) to more than 7 feet (northwest of creek) resting on a basal clay layer. It has the possibility of providing a very comprehensive picture of some of the Late Paleo-Indian and Pre- to Early Archaic phases which have not yet been fully defined for South Texas.

#### STAA Excavations

E. H. Schmiedlin brought the J-2 Ranch site to the attention of the STAA in 1976, at a time when the society was looking for a challenging location in which to do field work. Since that time, three weekends (a total of 9 days) have been spent in test excavations at the site. Each time, materials have been recovered and processed by the members in the society's laboratory.

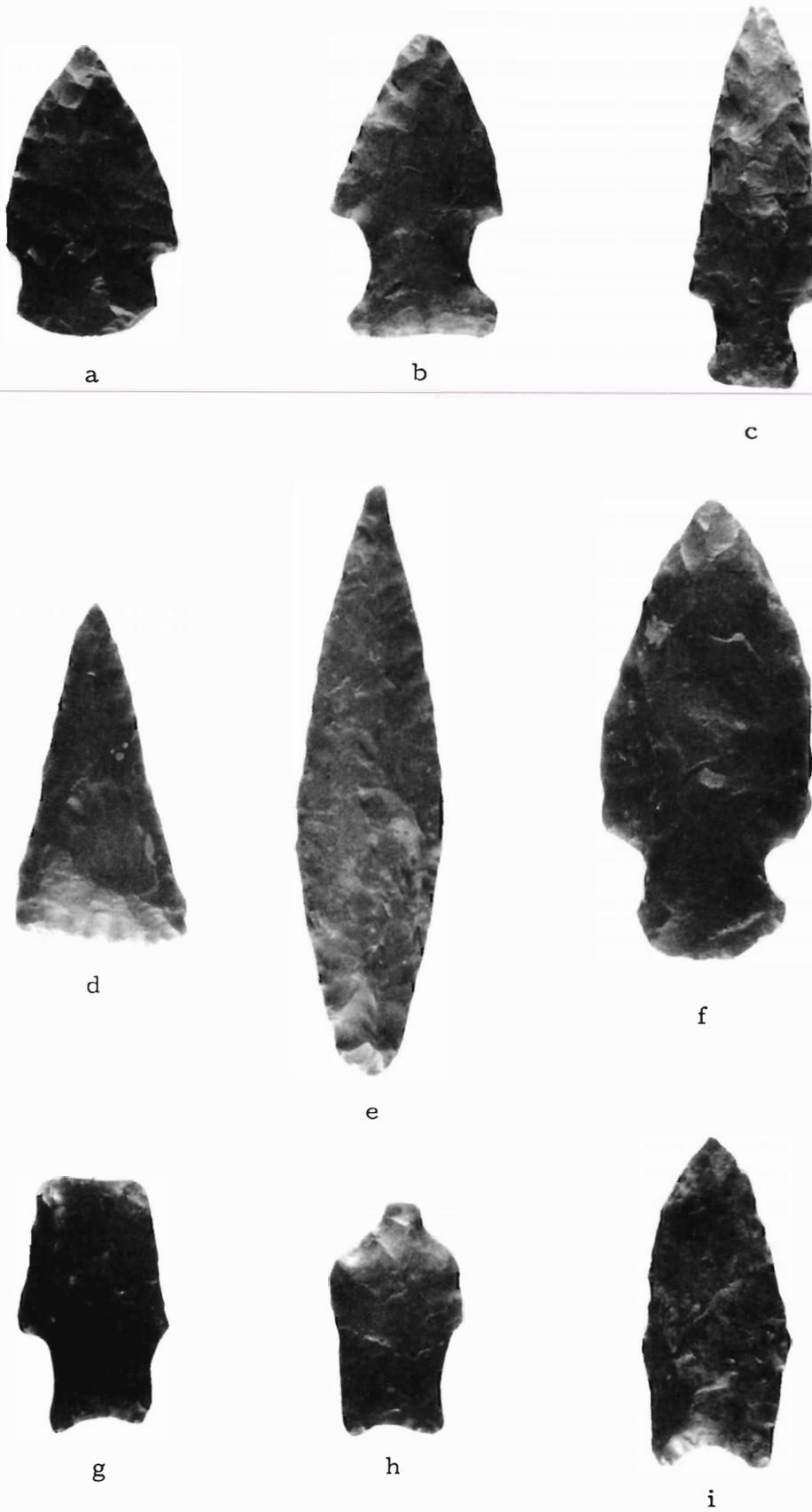


Figure 4. Surface collection from 41 VT 6. Courtesy of Mrs. Jimmy Van Sickle. Shown actual size.

This has required hundreds of hours of washing, cataloging and record-keeping. All of the materials recovered have now been processed, and this report is a brief summary of the findings to date.

On July 3rd through 5th, 1976, STAA members began test excavations at the J-2 Ranch site. The original grid was reestablished from the 1963 datum point, excavation Units A through G were staked out (see Figure 1), and work was begun. Units A and B on the east side and C and D on the west side of the creek were 5 foot squares, in compliance with the system previously used by the Victoria group. Units E through G were 2 1/2 x 10 ft. trenches in order to obtain cross-sections through the site in an area which was anticipated to contain the most intense concentration of occupation, being the highest spot directly between the marsh and the creek

Work continued at J-2 Ranch on October 14th through 17th, 1976, and July 2nd through 4th, 1977. Additional Units I and J on the east side of the creek and K, L, and M on the west side were opened in sequence during these two succeeding weekends.

It appears that the area of most intense occupation was indeed where anticipated, as Units E, F, and G have yielded many thousands of chert flakes and bone fragments. Artifacts from these excavations range in age from a Scallorn fragment near the surface of Unit G to a Kinney point (Figure 5, d) found in the 6 to 12 inch level in Unit G, and fragments of lanceolate points from the 24 to 27 inch level of Unit G and the 41 inch level in Unit F. Unit E also yielded a thin, triangular Pre-Archaic projectile point from the 18 to 24 inch level (Figure 5, g).

Units D, K, L, and M, which were 5 ft. squares excavated to 75, 102, 72 and 60 inches respectively, yielded points varying from leaf-shaped points in Unit D at 26 inches and Unit K at 40 inches, and an Early Archaic point in Unit D at ca. 26 inches (Figure 5, a), to a series of Plainview-like basal fragments at 49 inches from Unit L and the 36 to 42 inch level of Unit M (Figure 5, e, f). Other artifacts of interest from this area include a cache of four Guadalupe tools and an incised bone artifact found at ca. 62 inches in Unit K.

On the east side of the creek, cultural deposits are quite different in nature. Bone fragments are quite scarce in this area, and the cultural levels are thin and appear in some cases to be disturbed, possibly by flooding. An unusually-shaped Archaic point fragment was recovered from the 12 to 18 inch level of Unit J (Figure 5, l). Unit A has produced three Early Archaic points (Figure 5, i, j, k) and a large fragment of Bison bone (so identified because of its association) from the 20 to 24 inch level.

Faunal analysis was performed by Billy Davidson of the Center for Archaeological Research of the University of Texas at San Antonio. He found the following species to be represented among the bones from the 1976 STAA excavations:

Garfish	Bullsnake	Beaver
Frog	Rattlesnake	Packrat
Slider Turtle	Diamondback Rattle-	Cotton Rat
Mud Turtle	snake	Cottontail
Softshell Turtle	Dog or Coyote	Swamp Rabbit
Watersnake	Striped Skunk	Blacktail Jackrabbit
Rat Snake	Raccoon	Whitetail Deer
Racer Snake	Plains Pocket Gopher	Cow or Bison

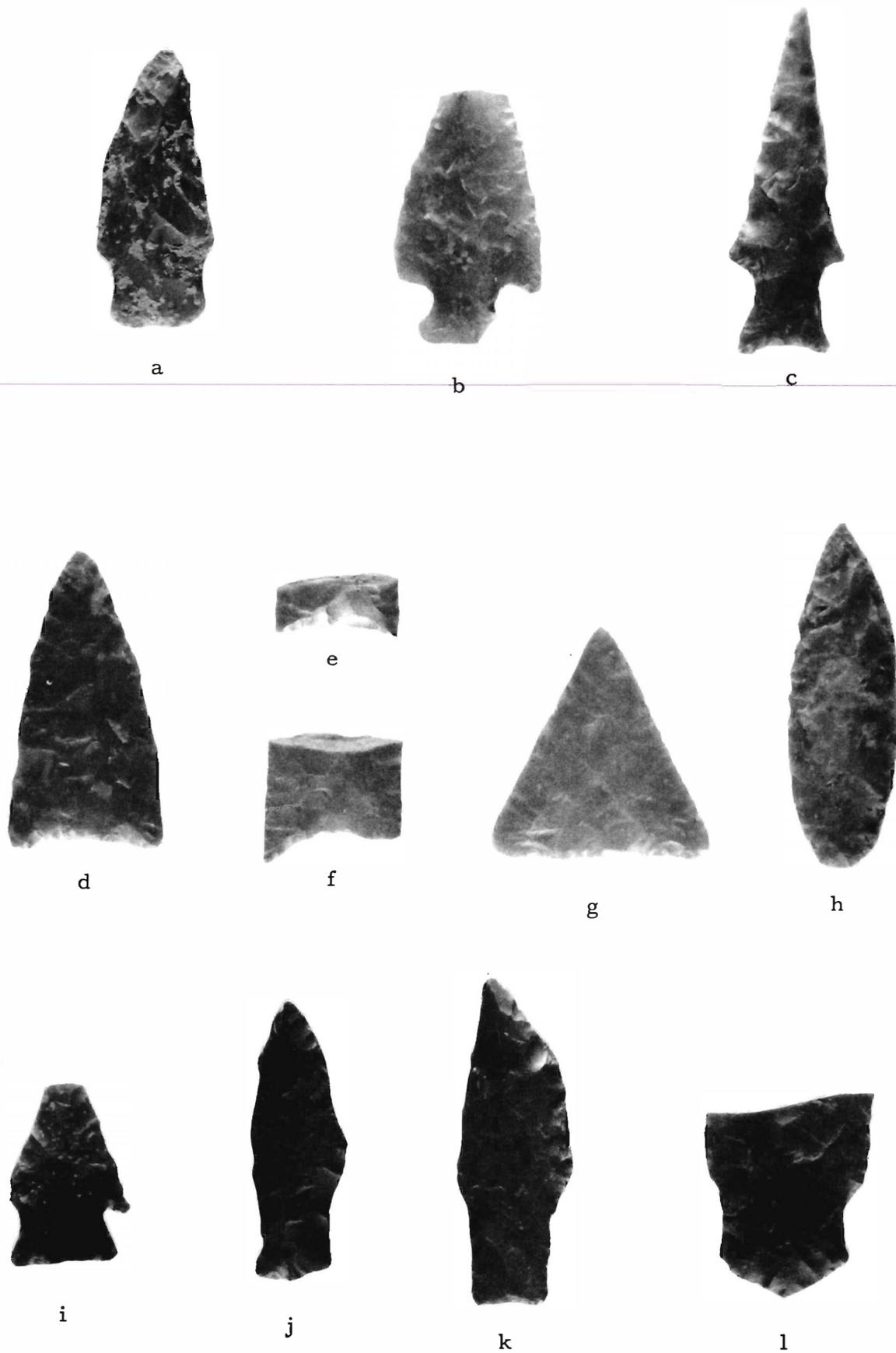


Figure 5. Artifacts from STAA Excavations. a, (Unit) D, ca. 26"; b, D, 24-30"; c, K, 58-60"; d, G, 6-12"; e, L, ca. 48"; f, M, 36-42"; g, E, 18-24"; h, K, 39-42"; i, A, 22-24"; j, A, 23"; k, A, 21"; l, J, 12-18". Shown actual size.

The preponderance of aquatic animals is not surprising, considering the location of the site. More careful and detailed study of the faunal material will give us vital information on the resources being exploited by these people at various periods of time.

### Synthesis

Taking into account the artifacts found in both the early investigations (1959 - 1969) and during the STAA excavations (1976 - 1977), some tentative conclusions can be reached about the various periods of occupation at the J-2 Ranch site and vicinity.

Paleo-Indian - The point types normally considered diagnostic of the Plains oriented early Paleo-Indian phases (Clovis, ca. 9200 B.C.; Folsom, ca. 8600 B.C.; Hester 1976) are absent at J-2. However, a Clovis point was recovered from the Johnston-Heller site within Victoria County (Birmingham and Hester 1976); thus, the absence of such points at J-2 may only indicate that the early Paleo-Indian levels have not yet been reached.

At the 62 inch level of Unit K, a cache of four Guadalupe tools and an incised bone artifact were recovered while Plainview-like fragments and bases were recovered from the 49 inch and the 36 to 42 inch levels of Units L and M. The Plainview artifacts are not firmly dated but may suggest a "Middle" Paleo-Indian occupation at about 8000 B.C. in South Texas since they are generally below Golondrina (ca. 7000 B.C.; Hester 1976) and above Clovis (9200 B.C.). The cache of Guadalupe tools apparently dates at the earlier part of the "Middle" Paleo-Indian phase and the Golondrina points recovered may date the end of this phase. On the basis of the materials which have been recovered at J-2 to date, it would appear that occupation of the site began during this "Middle" Paleo-Indian phase, probably about 8000 B.C. or earlier.

Evidence for the Late (or Terminal) Paleo-Indian phase at J-2 is seen in the Scottsbluff (perhaps 6500 B.C.; Birmingham and Mitchell 1978), weak-shouldered lanceolate, and Angostura (6000 - 5500 B.C.; Hester 1976) point types. During the Terminal Pleistocene in Texas there were regional concentrations of different point types; Hester (1976:7) notes such concentrations for "Scottsbluff in eastern Texas and the Golondrina" in Central and South Texas and in the lower Pecos. Angostura is considered a localized form of Central Texas. McCormick (1976) reports Scottsbluff points and ground stem points in North Central Texas. Since all these types are present at J-2, they may imply some type of area relationships with Central, North Central and East Texas during this Late Paleo-Indian phase (See Sollberger and Hester 1972: Figure 5).

Pre-Archaic - Bell-like points, recovered from the surface, and Early Triangular points, from the STAA excavation, are diagnostic of the Pre-Archaic phase which dates 6000 - 3500 B.C. (Sollberger and Hester 1972). A stemmed point, with smoothed lower edges, may date from this period or earlier; a similar stemmed point was recovered in a stratum with Bell points at St. Mary's Hall in Bexar County (Hester 1978). These point types are all quite typical in the north central area of southern Texas (Bexar County and the Guadalupe River drainage) and may imply a relationship with that area during this phase.

Early Archaic - Corner-notched Early Archaic points were recovered in Units A and D between 20 and 26 inches. Leaf-shaped lanceolate points were found at the same level of Unit D and at 40 inches in Unit K. A large Bison bone fragment was also recovered from the 20 to 26 inch level of Unit A; this suggests that Bison were exploited during the Early Archaic at J-2. Dillihay (1974) postulates the return of Bison to the Southern and Coastal Plains of Texas at about 2500 B. C.

Middle Archaic - Pedernales points are perhaps indicative of the Middle Archaic. They are considered diagnostic of the Round Rock phase (2200 to 600 B. C.) in Central Texas (Weir 1976) and may suggest some relationship with that area for this period.

Late Archaic - Evidence for occupation during the Late Archaic (ca. 800 B. C. to perhaps A. D. 800) is limited at the J-2 Ranch. Surprisingly few artifacts diagnostic of the Morhiss Complex were found. The Morhiss Complex is the major Late Archaic entity in this area and was defined largely on the presence of the distinctive Morhiss point type as well as Lerma and Tortugas points. Other types found at the Morhiss site included Refugio, Kinney, Pandora, Nolan, Travis, and Darl (Campbell 1976). At the J-2 Ranch site, Tortugas, Refugio, and Kinney points were recovered, but Lerma and the classic Morhiss points are missing. No explanation for their absence is readily evident.

Late Prehistoric - The early phase of the Late Prehistoric period (equivalent to the Austin phase of Central Texas, A. D. 800 - 1200) is suggested by the Scallorn fragment recovered from Unit G of the STAA excavation and perhaps by the Zavala-like point (Figure 2, c) recovered from the surface. A Perdiz point (Figure 2, a) is indicative of the post A. D. 1300 phase of the Late Prehistoric. Since only three artifacts of this period are present and other diagnostic materials (such as pottery) are lacking, a very light occupation during the Late Prehistoric is likely. This is consistent with the findings of earlier research in Goliad and Victoria Counties (Fox and Hester 1976; Campbell 1976).

### Conclusions

Judging from the results of the preliminary analysis, the J-2 Ranch site has already yielded a most important accumulation of information about the chronology and subsistence patterns on this portion of the Texas Coastal Plain for the last nine or ten thousand years. It also promises to provide many answers to questions heretofore unanswered about Paleo-Indian phases and subsistence patterns as well. This is especially important because of the serious lack of knowledge about the prehistory of this area (Fox and Hester 1976:5; Birmingham and Hester 1976:19).

The lower levels of the excavation units appear to have just begun to reach those oldest deposits from which the "Middle" and Late Paleo-Indian materials found on the gravel bars in the creek could logically have come. Deeper excavation in the trenches on the west side of the creek could yield vital faunal and artifactual evidence of this and possibly even earlier phases. Further deep pits along the creek bank, when water levels are low enough to allow it, may finally reveal the location of the elusive Paleo-Indian stratum so tantalizingly suggested by the artifacts revealed by every flood.

### Acknowledgments

We are particularly grateful to Mr. Jim Alexander who has made us welcome to excavate on his land and given freely of his knowledge of its history. Thanks also to Mrs. Jimmie Van Sickle, Mr. Alexander's niece, who has allowed us to study and photograph the artifacts she and her daughter have found on the site. Work at the site has been greatly expedited by the kind indulgence of Mr. and Mrs. Laurence Scherer who have allowed STAA members to set up camp on their land near the J-2 site. Their patience and forbearance are much appreciated.

This preliminary report is a composite effort: Smitty Schmiedlin provided the Background section and the information for the Summary of Early Findings. Anne Fox wrote the STAA Excavations and Conclusions sections, organized the report and provided the illustrations. Jim Mitchell developed the introduction, wrote the Summary of Early Results and the Synthesis sections. Many other STAA members have contributed considerable time and effort both at the site and in the laboratory to locate, process, and study the materials from this site; without their efforts, this preliminary report would not have been possible. Finally, as concluded above, much work remains to be done.

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NOTES ON TWO OBSIDIAN PALEO-INDIAN POINTS  
FROM VAL VERDE COUNTY, TEXAS

William B. Carroll

This report documents two obsidian projectile points from Val Verde County, Texas. These points appear to be Paleo-Indian artifacts which are quite unusual because they are both made of obsidian.

Location - Provenience cannot be isolated to a specific site, except to the extent that both pieces come from a large ranch approximately twelve miles north of Comstock, Texas. The ranch roughly parallels the Devil's River, but seldom comes closer than one-half mile actual distance. Several large canyons begin on the ranch and empty into the river further down. The river is at present the only source of live water in the immediate area.

The general area is semi-arid with thorny brush and cactus dominating the vegetation. Present are mesquite, huisache, live oak, frijolillo, prickly pear, tasajillo, ocotillo, sotol, yucca, and lechuguilla. Native pecan is encountered along the margin of the river, and some pinon pine is found in the canyons.

Background - The points were obtained from children of the ranch foreman, but the only specific information they can provide is that they are from open sites on the ranch as opposed to shelters or caves.

The writer has from time to time done surface collecting in the vicinity. Artifacts are lithics which are common to that portion of the state, i. e., Langtry, Shumla, Edgewood, Frio, Montell, and Tortugas. In a few spots along the banks of the river there are extensive flint and chert quarries. Quantities of rough unifaces and bifaces are found on the surface and primary cortex and some secondary debitage are evident. The Archaic artifacts recovered are of these basic raw materials.

Artifacts - Point A is made of obsidian which is black in color and completely opaque. Fluting is present on the ventral face up to about mid-point of the blade. The dorsal face is randomly flaked as are the lateral edges, and there is a flute-like central basal thinning flake. It appears to fall in the category of Clovis points as described by Suhm and Jelks (1962:177), although the writer has never personally seen a Clovis point resembling it. One surface of this point is dulled in a manner similar to Point B.

Point B fits very closely the description of the Plainview type (Suhm and Jelks 1962:239) both as to size and configuration. The proximal one-third of the lateral edges, and the proximal end itself are well smoothed by grinding. The raw material is quite unusual, being a gray-black, highly translucent obsidian. Flaking could not be termed collateral, but bears some resemblance, not being completely random. There is a slight luster to the ventral side of the point, but the dorsal face and blade edges are completely dulled, as though from the effect of sand blasting. Possibly this could have come from the elements or from chemical reaction due to soil contact.

Some studies have been made of the possible origins of obsidian used for artifacts found in South Texas (Hester and Mitchell 1974, Hester et al 1975), with central Mexico and New Mexico being likely sources. These two points have been sent to the University of California at Berkeley for X-ray fluorescence trace element analysis. Perhaps the sources of obsidian for these two points can be determined.

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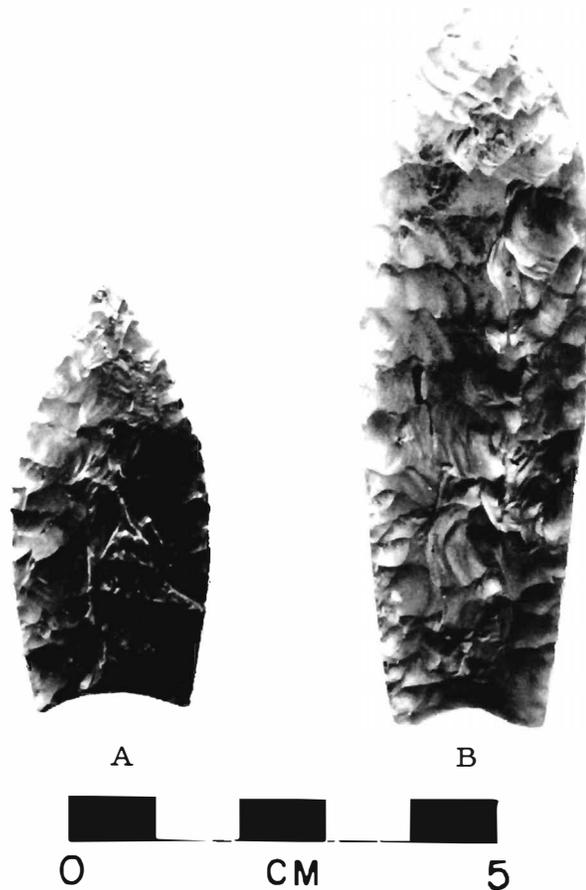


Figure 1. Obsidian points from Val Verde County. A - Clovis-like point; B - Plainview specimen. (Points are shown slightly enlarged; STAA photo courtesy S. M. Van der Veer.)

NOTES ON TWO EARLY MAN DART POINTS  
FROM ZAPATA COUNTY, SOUTHERN TEXAS

Wayne Parker

From a surface site near Falcon Lake Reservoir in Zapata County the writer has found two Early Man points. One is a Golondrina and the other is an unknown type. The writer has been collecting surface artifacts from this site for approximately 15 years.

Location - The site is located on top of a small hill near Falcon Lake Reservoir in Zapata County. It has the same characteristics and produces about the same lithic material as other sites in this area along the Rio Grande. This site has yielded a considerable amount of Archaic dart points, most typically Abasolo, Tortugas, and Refugio points.

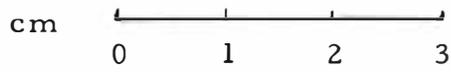
Artifacts - The first Zapata County Early Man specimen is a Golondrina point (Figure 1, a). (Ed. note - Golondrina was previously considered a Plainview variant. It is now recognized as a distinct type in South Texas. See Hester 1976:8.) This lanceolate dart point has a deep concave basal edge and deep eared basal corners. The flaking is at random, and this point has a distinctive base like that of a Dalton point from Arkansas. Basal thinning was accomplished on both sides of this artifact by the removal of a series of vertical flakes. The point is 61 mm long and 4.5 mm thick. It has a maximum width of 23 mm with the basal width of 19 mm. The depth of the basal concavity is 5 mm. The edges are ground 28 mm and 29 mm up from the base ears. This Golondrina is made from a brownish colored flint and is moderately patinated.

The second Early Man specimen from Zapata County is an unknown type to the writer (Figure 1, b). It has a flute on one side. The edges are curved from the tip to the base and are not ground. The flaking was made at random. This dart point was made from a greenish-brown stone with rusty colors. Perhaps it was made from some type of river pebble stone. The point is 67 mm long and up to 6 mm thick. It has a maximum width of 28 mm and is 15 mm wide at the base. It has a straight base cut at a slight angle. The flute, on one side only, is 23 mm up from the base. This dart point also has moderate patina. The projectile point resembles the Clovis type except for the straight base and unground edges. (Ed. note - In general shape, this point resembles the Angostura type which are generally not fluted. A close examination of the photo under a magnifying glass revealed small edge flakes on top of the "flute" which suggests that it is a basal thinning flake rather than a true flute. Such thinning, the lack of lateral edge smoothing, the straight base, and the converging lateral edges, strongly suggest an Angostura classification for this point.)

Summary - This site in Zapata County where these two Early Man points were found along with 126 Archaic dart points has an average amount of chert and flint flaking debris. The writer found a cylinder-shaped pestle stone



a.



b.

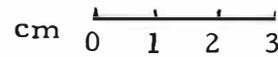


Figure 1. Early Man dart points from Zapata County, Texas.  
a, Golondrina; B, Angostura. Note different scale.

five inches long by 1.5 inches in diameter. From all these lithic materials, this was a site that represents a long Archaic period occupation sequence that probably also went back into the Late Paleo-Indian period. There have not been any small arrowpoints or ceramics found on this site to my knowledge.

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## AN ANIMAL EFFIGY FROM KERR COUNTY, TEXAS

J. B. Sollberger

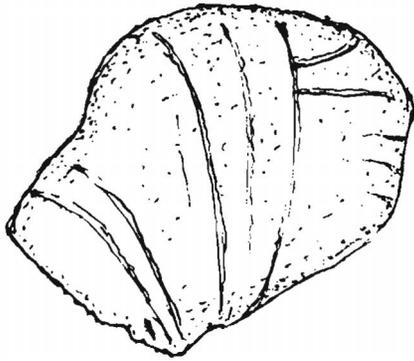
While excavating a burnt rock midden in Southwestern Kerr County some years ago, an unusual animal effigy was recovered (Figure 1). The time context of its manufacture was either at the end of the Archaic (dart point use) or the early stage of the Late Prehistoric (early use of the bow and arrow suggested by Edwards and Scallorn arrowpoints). The effigy was found at a level where Late Archaic dart points were mixed with the early forms of arrowpoints; therefore, the effigy probably dates sometime between about A. D. 500 and A. D. 1500. (Ed. note - Radiocarbon dates from the La Jita site date the Edwards point at about A. D. 950.)

The stone object shown in Figure 1 appears to be a bust effigy of the common ground squirrel, or perhaps that of a prairie dog. It appears to be made of limestone of a light to dark ash gray color. It weighs 51 grams. From the extreme tip of its nose to the end of its neck is 53 mm, while the diameter is about 35 mm. The entire surface, including the base of the neck, is incised with variously spaced straight lines. These lines are of various lengths and orientations but all are approximately 1 mm deep and from 1+ to 2 mm wide. Two parallel grooves start just above the nose and run to the base of the neck, which suggests a striped ground squirrel species.

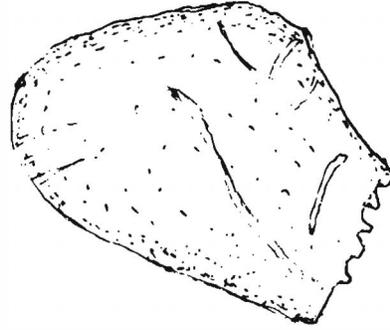
The base of the neck is quite flat and smooth. Here the incising is bold - deep, wide and clean. Chin whiskers are neatly incised on the lower face.

Animals, birds, reptiles, and fish were common subjects for art by the American Indian, but few prehistoric Texas cultures sculpted in stone. The Poverty Point peoples (Louisiana) made grasshoppers, owls, and ducks - to name only a few. Our North and East Texas Indians inscribed birds such as turkeys and flamingos on conch shells and pottery.

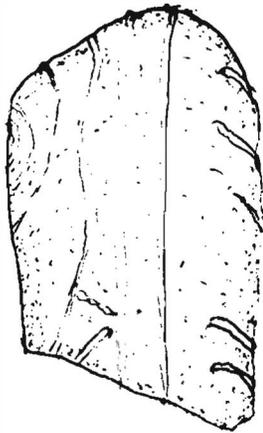
It is entirely possible that there are more such objects of art in Central and South Texas than I realize. It would be quite interesting to learn what other animals may have been made in effigy. Will you report yours?



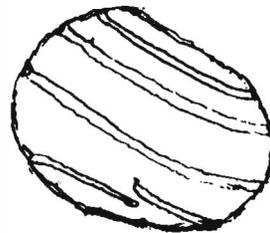
Left face



Right face



Top of head-neck



Base of neck

Figure 1. Limestone effigy - probably of the common striped ground squirrel.

A RECORD OF SEVERAL GROUND STONE ARTIFACTS  
FROM THE TEXAS COASTAL PLAIN

Thomas R. Hester, E. H. Schmiedlin, and William W. Birmingham

Many artifact collections from the southern Texas Coastal Plain contain examples of ground, pecked, and polished stone artifact. Mitchell (1975) provides an overview of such artifacts, and his bibliography should be consulted for references to the few ground stone artifacts that have been fully documented from the region.

We want to put on record in this paper a few previously unpublished examples, the notes on which have languished in files for many years. We also illustrate, for the first time, a few of the artifacts described by Mitchell.

We urge the professional and avocational archaeologists working in the region to take the time to document additional ground stone specimens, by using the convenient outlet provided through this journal. The material culture of the hunting and gathering peoples of prehistoric southern Texas needs continuing review. All non-perishable items, in addition to the chipped stone artifacts that are most commonly found, need to be considered in future studies of technology, ornamentation, trade, tool and weapon components, and other elusive aspects of these extinct lifeways.

Specimens from Victoria and Goliad Counties

Mitchell (1975:9-10) notes the occurrence of Waco "sinkers" and plummet-like artifacts. The function of these artifacts remains a mystery; they might have served as weights (for nets or even as weights attached to atlatls), as bola-stones, as ornaments, etc. Two additional examples have been found in Victoria County (Figure 1) by Birmingham and Schmiedlin.

One specimen (Figure 2, a, a') is from the Johnston-Heller site (41 VT 15; Birmingham and Hester 1976). It is made of a yellowish, ochre-like stone. Its length is 86 mm, maximum diameter 38 mm, minimum diameter 32 mm, and it weighs 128.5 grams. Notches 3-4 mm deep are found at both ends.

E. H. Schmiedlin has found a somewhat different specimen in an area of southwestern Victoria County. This artifact (Figure 2, b) is fashioned of purple quartzite, and is fully-grooved in a longitudinal fashion. Length is 82 mm, maximum diameter 32 mm, minimum diameter 19 mm; data on weight are not available. Flaring at both ends of the specimen distinguish it from the 41 VT 15 example and from similar artifacts observed elsewhere in southern Texas.

Mitchell (1975:10) also mentioned "boatstones," a type of ground stone artifact which, in most cases, apparently served as a weight attached to a spearthrower (atlatl). An "unfinished boatstone" from the Boatstone site (41 LS 17) in La Salle County is shown in Hoover and Hester (1974:23).

An excellent example of this type of spearthrower weight has been recorded by Schmiedlin from a site near the town of Weesatche in Goliad County (his catalog number 41G41d/5; Figure 1). The specimen is fragmentary, it is "boatshaped," and has a notch at one end (Figure 2, c). It is

made from a hard, gray stone which does not appear to be local. The notch on the specimen clearly suggests that it was attached to a spearthrower as a weight, perhaps to its underside much in the fashion of a specimen documented in western Nevada by Hester (1974). Length of the fragment from Goliad County is 42 mm; it is 30 mm wide and 30 mm high (top to bottom measurement).

#### Other Ground Stone Specimens from the Coastal Plain

Several of the artifacts mentioned here have already been briefly cited in Mitchell (1975) or in other brief notes; however, illustrations have not previously appeared.

A Waco sinker-like artifact was found by A. E. Anderson at his site W-2 on La Sal Vieja in Willacy County in 1938 (Figure 1). It is made of a gray, porous igneous stone; length is 66 mm, maximum diameter is 39 mm, and minimum diameter is 32 mm (Figure 2, d). It is stored at the Texas Archeological Research Laboratory, Austin.

As previously noted in Mitchell (1975) and Hester and Funnell (1974), another specimen resembling the Waco sinker form was collected some years ago by Dr. Dorothy M. Brown in southwestern Dimmit County (Figure 1). It is made of gray-black, grainy stone (material unidentified) and is highly polished. Length is 73 mm, and maximum diameter is 35 mm (Figure 2, e).

A plummet-like artifact, flattened at one end, with an encircling groove just below, was collected in McMullen County (Figure 1) in the 1930s (Sam Lester Collection; photograph at the Texas Archeological Research Laboratory, Austin). It is 68 mm long, and has a maximum diameter of 40 mm. See Figure 2, f.

Finally, we should note the presence of fully- or 3/4-grooved ground and polished stone hammers or axes from the Coastal Plain. One has already been documented in this journal by Schmiedlin (1975); it comes from Victoria County. A second, and larger specimen, from Nueces County is mentioned by Mitchell (1975:9); and he also mentions two specimens reportedly from Dimmit County. The Nueces County specimen is of particular interest, as it bears wear in the form of battering (on the poll end) and use-flaking along the bit or opposite edge. Made of basalt, the specimen also has traces of asphaltum on it which may be indicative of the manner in which it was hafted. Notes, photographs and full documentation are on file at the Texas Archeological Research Laboratory, Austin.

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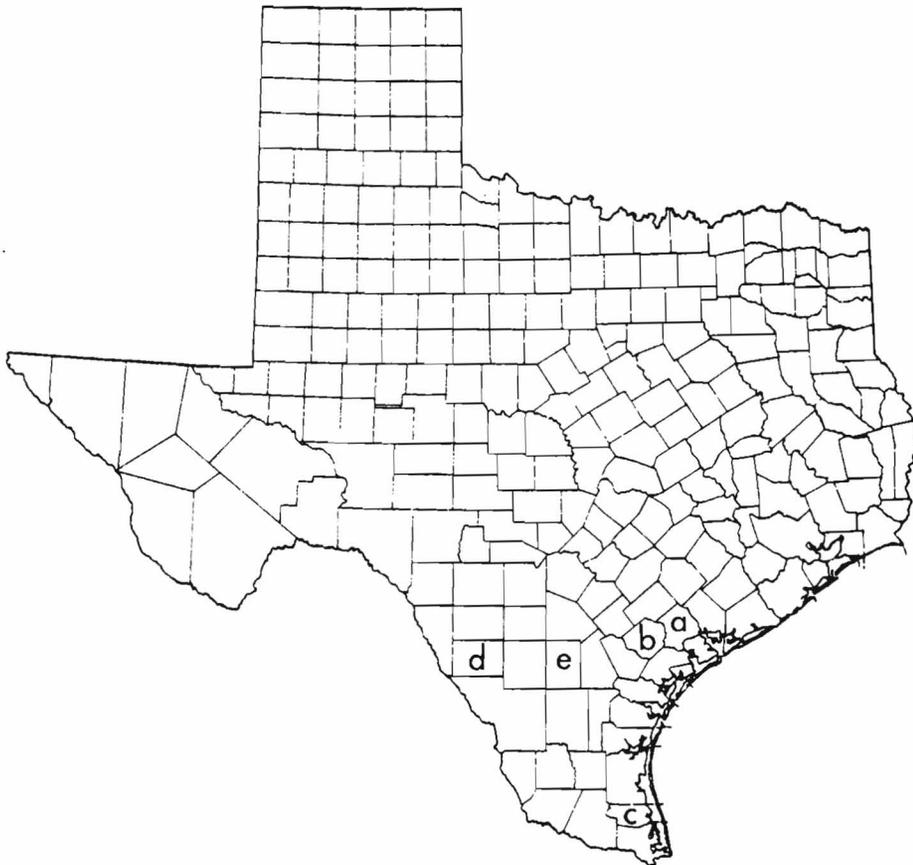


Figure 1. Locations of Counties Mentioned in Text. a, Victoria County; b, Goliad County; c, Willacy County; d, Dimmit County; e, McMullen County.

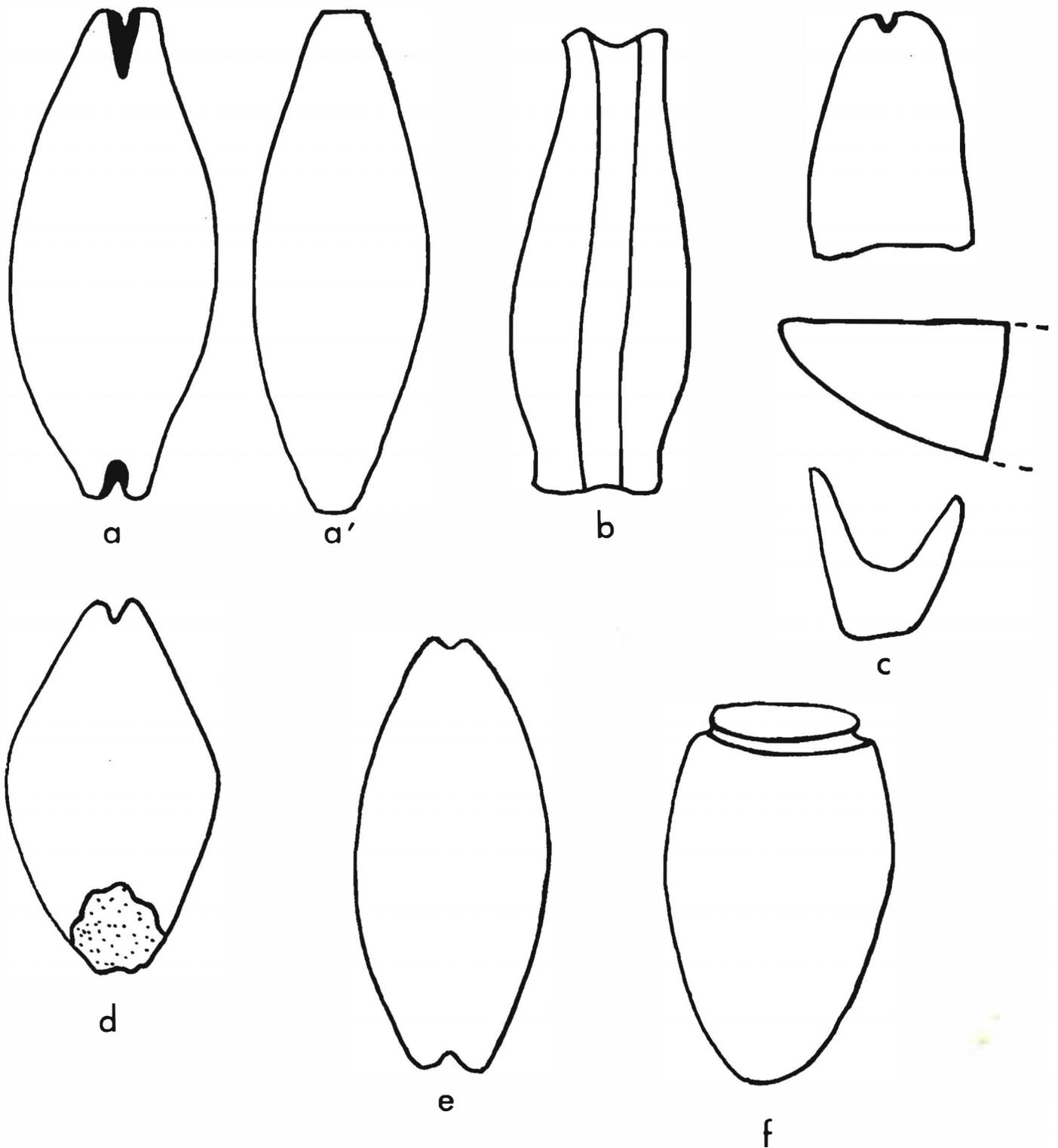


Figure 2. Ground Stone Artifacts from the Texas Coastal Plain. a, a', 41 VT 15 (a', side view); b, southwestern Victoria County; c, three views of atlatl weight fragment, Goliad County (upper: bottom view, showing notch; middle: side view; lower: cross-section); d, La Sal Vieja, Willacy County (stippled area represents fracture); e, Dimmit County; f, McMullen County. All artifacts are illustrated actual size.

## PIPES, POTS, AND LITTLE INDIAN GIRLS

T. C. Hill, Jr.

Draw a line from Uvalde to Carrizo Springs, thence eastward to Cotulla and Three Rivers, and back to Uvalde. You will undoubtedly have enclosed an area containing a hundred very late Prehistoric pottery-bearing archaeological sites. A few of these have been located, explored, and reported in various major and minor forms, while a major new site is in the process of excavation and so remains unreported (Hester and Hill 1971; Hester and Hill 1972; Holdsworth 1972; Hill and Hester 1973; Hill and Holdsworth 1973; Hill 1973; Hester and Hill 1975.)

This is the Middle Nueces River section of the western Brush Country, an area heavily utilized since the days of the makers of the Golondrina dart point. The 9,000 year use of this region endured right down to the time of Spanish penetration and conquest, and offers evidence which is both fairly clear and highly confusing...clear from the angle of hunting and gathering, confusing from every other vantage point.

If I have ever operated from the proposition that I've always been blessed with the uncanny instinct for being in the wrong place when the action gets heavy...the cold wintry tree, the high powered telescoped rifle, sundown, suddenly becoming convinced that nothing ain't ABOUT to happen here, too late to move...if this tells the story, then my returning again and again to site 41 ZV 14 to inspect the crumbling walls of its four original test pits may be understood. I feel that I missed the best part of the big shallow site and the "true answer" is still out there awaiting me.

A new shallow erosion just north of Test #1 came through, a year or so later, with several fragments of thin, curved, reamed and polished soapstone, determined to be a portion of the distal section of a tubular pipe. This keen rock (not illustrated) is greasy-glassy slick on the exterior, fairly well polished inside and shows perhaps an attempt at enlarging the bore of the last inch with a sharp, pointed tool...numerous scratches are visible in a circular cutting action. The light gray, speckled stone is said to have originated somewhere around the Llano Uplift, according to Dr. Ernest A. Lundelius, U. T. -Austin geologist-paleontologist. It was obviously well-used for a time, and its 4-5 mm thin wall is in definite contrast to the heavier, thicker, stubby tubular stone pipes of sandstone or limestone, fragments of which are occasionally found in this area.

Another year passed, a few more heavy rains occurred, and suddenly the south wall of Test #4 had crumbled. Among the artifacts on the pit floor were found fragments of a heavy-grained white sandstone, and several more showed in the wall at the four inch deep level, right where the late pot-people lived at one time. On a hunch, a few shovels of the immediate area were screened and more white sandstone was recovered. Back at the house, these dozen or so peculiar pieces were gently rinsed to remove the bulk of their greasy-ashy black film, and I'll be doggoned if we didn't have another stone pipe! Jigsawing the pieces about, they soon fit into place, and were daubed at the edges with Elmer's good old glue to produce probably the bulk of the mouthpiece end of the treasure. (See Figure 1.)

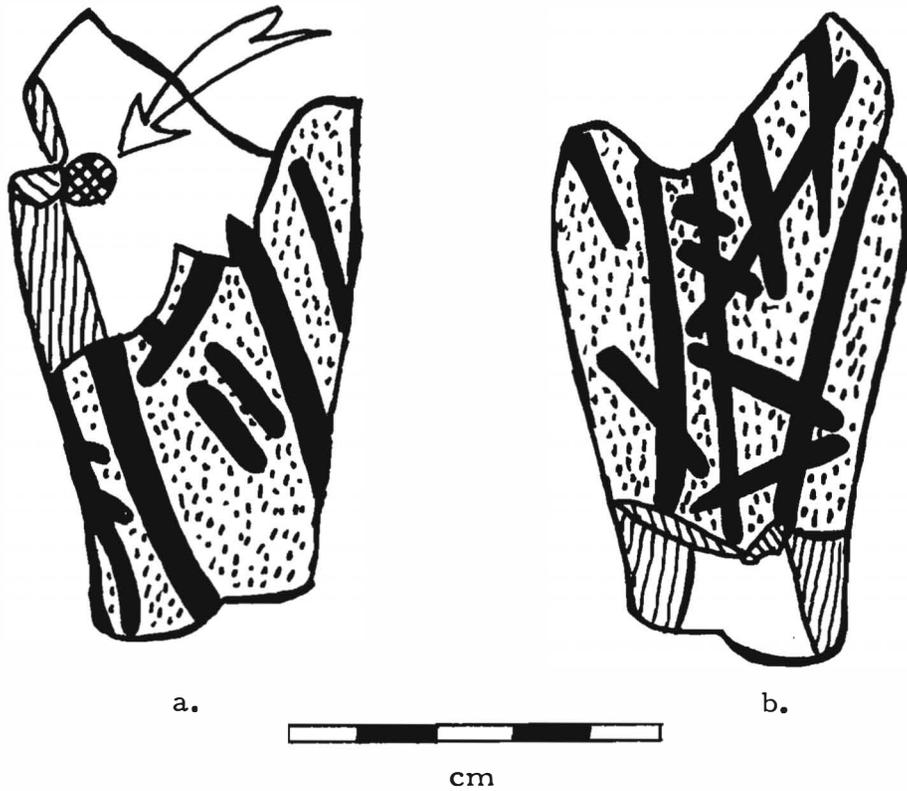


Figure 1. a, Sandstone pipe from 41 ZV 14. Wall thickness shown; arrow indicates "dottle".  
 b, Reverse side of pipe, showing deeply grooved crosscut decoration and "mouthpiece" boring.

Now a new element emerged...the exterior surface had been deeply grooved with a decoration of diagonal cuts and cross hatches, and while I cannot recognize any definite design amidst this random attempt at art, I do realize that we have here a rather rare item in the Late Inventory of the Brush Country. To date, we have discovered only a few things which show even the slightest attempt at decoration...a few tubular bone beads with lightly-scratched cross hatching, a rare pot sherd similarly incised, an even rarer stone artifact or pot sherd which still shows a spot of its once-gaudy red ochre paint-job, or its faint line of black asphaltum.

Another surprise...the gentle rinsing had left a good black spot of charred "dottle" on the interior wall surface! Plans are now in formulation to present the thing to a young lady medical student in San Antonio who is practicing a clever slight-of-hand with pot sherds wherein the crushed cores are induced to release the dried juices of their former fatty stews, with a good possibility of her recognizing the faunal and/or floral contents of same. I am personally intrigued with learning just what our "old folks" found to smoke for fun, out here, and a report will be prepared as soon as she presents her clues.

So where do these two newer artifacts leave us, as we ponder and puzzle over people who made and used pots, where no pots really belonged? Not much better off, actually.

The strange breed of men who inhabited site 41 ZV 14 (Holdsworth Island) and her sister sites along the Middle Nueces River drainage, have likely received more attention than all their many local predecessors combined, yet their origin and ending has never been proven. We Brush Country investigators really hope, deep in our hearts, that they'll turn out to be our very own "Coahuiltec" people, as such a decision might perhaps establish a firm base from which to back up in time, to extend certain lines of ancestry for them.

The tracks of antiquity are no doubt etched into every living being, some of whom are reminded very faintly of the conditions to which their forebears once reacted and survived, some others literally teeming with an olden lore when circumstances remain constant and time passes very slowly.

But for all that, I have terrible trouble believing that my trumped-up "Coahuiltec maiden" Little Flower and her people made those 41 ZV 14 pots! After five years of pottng on my own, starting from scratch and working like mad (Hill 1975), my skills are far below hers, and I doubt that I could exactly duplicate the fine thin, crisp little jars she put together and fired if I worked at it another five years!

The tracks of my own ancestry did not furnish me with any ceramic insight, and there is NO WAY a little Coahuiltec girl from around here could have potted immediately and with skill, from a standing start, because her tracks were made by hunters and gatherers, from a fairly simple background of a series of campfires along different creeks, of mesquite beans and cacti and scampering little creatures to be chased and caught. Oh, sure, she could have been "Coahuiltec," but if so I suspect she was a distant cousin from a different land, playing a different game.

## THE AUTHORS

W. W. (Bill) Birmingham is an amateur archaeologist from Victoria, Texas, who has coauthored several articles for this journal as well as a special report on the Johnston-Heller site in the Paleo-Indian series of the UTSA Center for Archaeological Research.

W. B. Carroll is a professional electrical engineer and a graduate of Texas A. & M. who lives in Houston. He is a long-time collector of Indian artifacts and engages in experimental flintknapping. He and Fred Wendorf (SMU) grew up together in the Dallas area, and both of their interests in prehistory date from field activities at that time.

Anne A. Fox is the former editor of La Tierra, currently is a regional vice-president of the Texas Archeological Society, and a research associate of the UTSA Center for Archaeological Research. She has authored many papers and reports on the historical and prehistorical archaeology of South Texas and is particularly interested in historical sites (having worked at the Alamo, Ft. Griffin, the Governor's Palace, San Fernando Cathedral, and many other important South Texas sites.)

Thomas R. Hester is another former editor of La Tierra, a professor at UTSA, and is Director of the Center for Archaeological Research. A well-known author and preeminent authority on the archaeology of South Texas, Dr. Hester was the first Chairman of STAA and remains one of its most active supporters.

T. C. Hill, Jr., of Crystal City, Texas, is a former regional vice-president of TAS, the noted editor of the Region VI newsletter, and is well-known as the first editor of La Tierra. Creator of prize-winning Indian-style pottery and myths (remember Little Flower, the Coahuiltecan maiden), T. C. has, through the years, published a variety of papers on all aspects of South Texas archaeology.

Wayne Parker is a very active Indian artifact collector who lives near Ralls, Texas. He has a collection of about 20,000 artifacts, mostly from West Texas and the Panhandle area. Wayne is a prime mover in the Crosby County Museum Association and was instrumental in the recent establishment of a museum building for the display of prehistoric artifacts. Wayne is also an active author and has published mainly in the Central States Archaeological Journal and in Artifacts, an Ohio based journal for the nationwide Artifacts Society.

E. H. (Smitty) Schmiedlin works for a chemical company in Victoria, Texas and has been a major force in the development of archaeology in that region. He, and other members of the Victoria Society, have worked hard to protect endangered sites and to preserve and develop archaeological data on the unique archaeological complexes of that area.

J. B. Sollberger of Dallas is one of the most distinguished flintknappers in the country and an exceptionally thoughtful avocational archaeologist. He has published in American Antiquity, Plains Anthropologist,

Bulletin of the Texas Archeological Society, and The Record, newsletter of the Dallas Archeological Society. Much of his early work was in South Texas, most notably in Kerr County, where he was first to identify and name the Edwards point type and the related Turtle Creek Focus.

#### ANNOUNCEMENT OF PUBLICATIONS

Included with this issue is a flyer announcing recent publications by the Center for Archaeological Research, University of Texas at San Antonio, which will be of interest to STAA members.

Other new publications of interest include:

Lithic Technology: A Primer, by L. W. Patterson, Houston Archeological Society, Special Publication, 1978. This 14-page booklet includes discussions on lithic manufacturing methods, functional analysis, and typology. A bibliography and glossary of terms is also included. The publication is primarily intended for the beginning student in all phases of lithic technology. It is available from: John H. Herbert, Houston Archeological Society, 5935 Dellfern, Houston, Texas 77035. (Price is \$2.00 including postage.)

Lake Theo: A Stratified, Early Man Bison Butchering and Camp Site, Briscoe County, Texas: Archeological Investigations, Phase 2, by Billy R. Harrison and Kay L. Killen, Panhandle-Plains Historical Museum Special Archeological Report Number 1. 108 pages, numerous illustrations. This is a complete report of the work at Lake Theo in the Texas Panhandle where Folsom and Eden points of Tecovas, Edwards, and Alibates flint were recovered from a bison bone bed, along with other tools. A major feature at the site was a circular cluster of bison bones including several left mandible halves. The feature may have been capped with a bison skull fragment; the purpose of the feature is unknown but may have been ceremonial. This report is available from the Panhandle-Plains Historical Society, Panhandle-Plains Museum, Canyon, Texas 79016.