The Newsletter is published four times per year by the Houston Archaeological Society. Contributions of news items, short articles and information of archaeological interest are welcomed by the Editor - Alan R. Duke, 1705 Oak Drive, Paradise, Texas 77532.

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Past and Future Programs

February - 1972 - Jun I. Higao, University of Southwestern La., discussed "Social Organization at Poverty Point".

March - 1972 - Dr. Frank Kelso and Rice University students presented a report on "Instruments among Archaic Indians and Chocolate Lumps."

April - 1972 - Dr. Belford C. Van Siclen, University of Houston, discussed the "Geological History of the Upper Texas Coast."

May - 1972 - Dr. Verna H. Bryant, Dept. of Sociology and Anthropology, Rice University, will talk on "Early Man in Peru" and discuss his experiences as a member of the Ayacucho Archaeological Project.

Historical Sites Purchase Requested

The Texas State Historical Survey committee requested, in January, 1972, that the Parks and Wildlife commission allocate approximately $7 million to add historic and archeological sites to the state park system in 1972-73. A list of 42 top priority sites was submitted to the commission for study on the basis that archeological and historical sites throughout the state are being destroyed at a rapid rate. Favorable action is anticipated on at least some of the sites. The Survey committee specifically opposed expenditure of large sums of money for recreational facilities at the sites.

Work Malted at Historic Parks

The Parks and Wildlife Department is currently working on several archaeological sites throughout the state. Parks Dept. work on severely damaged archaeological sites.
To the members of the Houston Archeological Society from Chairman W. L. McClure.

On various occasions we have discussed the goals, aims, objectives and function of H.A.S. The following has been drafted in order to stimulate thought and discussion among the membership. Please read and discuss with one another and pass your comments on to the Board either in writing or at the monthly meetings. Your contribution is needed.

HOUSTON ARCHEOLOGICAL SOCIETY STATEMENT OF POSITION:

The expenditure of time, energy and other resources on any endeavor can be justified only if it can produce a desirable result.

The activity involved in archeology invariably destroys the subject of the investigation. As there are no new prehistoric sites being created, the archeological resources are non-renewable. This makes it even more critical to determine that the activity conducted at a site produces a benefit that outweighs the destruction.

The paramount objective for the pursuit of the science of archeology is to produce information that is of value to humanity. Knowledge of prehistoric man's adaptation to his environment ostensibly will aid modern man to relate to the environment more successfully than could be possible without the knowledge. If this premise is incorrect there is no justification for any archeological activity.

With the above objective in mind, the primary goal of the Houston Archeological Society is to perform those functions that will result in the long-term production of the greatest possible amount of information relating to the earlier occupants of the Upper Texas Coast.

(1) A continual enhancement of the archeological knowledge and skills of members of HAS is to be encouraged. It is only through education that the other aims of the Society can be effected. The following phases of an educational program are minimal:

A. Provide monthly programs  
B. Publish professional and sub-professional papers  
C. Circulate notices of activities of HAS and others  
D. Conduct school of basic archeology including classroom, field and lab.  
E. Provide minimal list of "required reading"  
F. Prepare vocabulary of terms  
G. Sponsor annual meeting

(2) Locating, mapping and recording as many sites as possible is to be accomplished. Biological and geological data are important parts of the record of the site. The information gained from site surveying will aid in determining which sites are in danger of being destroyed, which should be preserved and which should be investigated scientifically. Geographic distribution of sites gives some clues to prehistoric activity patterns.

(3) The absolute preservation of representative sites or portions thereof is to be attempted. The methods utilized in archeological investigations are continually changing with the technological advances of modern civilization. This change will continue during the entire period of occupation of the globe by civilized man. These sites must be available for future generations of investigators utilizing techniques undreamed of today.
The HAS should provide assistance to professional archeologists. The knowledge of the area and contact with land-owners should be useful. Time and labor are two other resources that the members should make available to the professionals. This may be particularly beneficial for salvage operations.

The professional archeologists should be encouraged to publish and otherwise make available the results of all projects, both past and future.

An increased awareness by the general public of the importance of prehistory is to be promoted. It is only through the indulgence of the majority and the support of some of the public that the objectives of archeology can be achieved. A popular account of archeology of the Upper Texas Coast should be published. Exhibits for public display should be prepared.

The collection of artifacts is to be discouraged unless it is accomplished in a scientific manner. The assembly of a collection of objects is apparently a long-standing cultural trait of mankind. The personal satisfaction gained by collecting artifacts is understandable and not to be completely condemned. If such collections lead the individual to a better appreciation of past cultures and produces an aware and concerned citizen then a net gain may be the result. The collection may lead others to become involved in a positive way.

SITE SURVEY OF LAKE LIVINGSTON STATE PARK

On March 11, 1972, twenty members of H.A.S. met on the site of the proposed State Park on the east bank of Lake Livingston. Alton Briggs, State Salvage Archeologist, led the group in a site survey of the property. The leaf litter and the briars hindered the work. However, it was determined that the principal activity conducted in the area today is fishing and the principal cultural debris is a vast assemblage of beverage containers. Perhaps similar associations should be investigated in prehistoric sites.

Two prehistoric sites were located. Both are on high ridges. One was apparently a chipping station as the only artifacts on the surface were lithic cores and flakes. The other site was beneath and around a late 19th century historic site. A few sherds of pottery, at least one dart point and other lithic material was found. A mussel shell midden was being eroded into the lake.

An extra bonus of the trip was a Pigmy Mouse, Baiomys taylori, which was found occupying a discarded beer can. It had not been previously reported from Polk County. Its preferred food item is June Bugs.

COOPERATION IN THE HOUSTON AREA

The following letter represents the Society's thoughts on sites in the Addicks and Barker reservoir areas that are rapidly being destroyed and which are destined to be damaged even with "controlled" development. These sites are among the most important in Harris Co., and while Joe Ben Wheat did an excellent job in surveying and reporting sites in this area, there are many within the reservoir flood line that have never been published from the Corps of Engineers. Several of these sites have been completely destroyed since that time. Let's have our request for the protection of these sites will receive a favorable reply and immediate action.
Houston, Texas
April 3, 1972

Subject: Addicks & Barker Reservoir Development

Secretary of Interior
C. B. Morton
Department of the Interior
Washington, D. C. 20240

Dear Sir:

On March 26, 1972 the Houston Post ran a newspaper story about the proposed development of the Addicks and Barker Reservoirs in Harris County, Texas.

It is requested that the archeological resources within these reservoirs be given consideration during the planning for the proposed development. There is considerable evidence of a prehistoric settlement within the reservoir areas and an extensive salvage effort was made during construction of the dams. The results of this were published by Mr. J. B. Wheat. There are several other sites within the reservoirs that are being extensively looted by vandals at this time. There has been considerable advancement in the technology of archeological investigation since Wheat's work and there will undoubtedly be more sophisticated techniques in the future.

It is therefore considered imperative that at least some of the sites be preserved so that future archeologists can perform their work and correlate it with work done earlier by Wheat and others. Those sites that can not be preserved indefinitely could possibly be subjected to salvage activities prior to releasing the area for further development. The minimum that should be done at this time would be to take immediate steps in protecting the sites from further vandalism.

Your effort in this regard would be sincerely appreciated.

Yours very truly,

W. L. McClure
Chairman
Houston Archeology Society
7720 Westview Drive
Houston, Texas 77055

cc - Southwest Archeological Center - Globe
Corps of Engineers - Galveston
State Archeologist - Austin
A visit to the Resident Engineer's Office for Chambers County, at Anahuac on January 21, 1972 resulted in a decision to conduct a survey of the site. This would be done primarily for the experience since the road work to be done was going to consist of a rework of the same area whose road construction had been done twelve years before. The road bed upon which the existing highway route was graded from the site where the new road bed will lie.

The investigating crew consisted of Michael Conlin, Kay Evans, Mary Strait, Kathryn and David Salzer. We met at the site at about 2:30 PM Sunday, January 23, 1972. The weather was beautiful; sun shining and cool. A first glance at the site convinced us that further inspection would not only be fruitful but nearly impossible. The entire area between the railroad bed (See map insert) and the existing highway was worsey and flooded. A situation that the Texas road engineers found ideal.
We did find a semi-dry pathway from the highway to the railroad bed. I say semi-dry because Misses Smith and St. Joe discovered that something a little stinkier than "tummies" are needed for exploring Texas marshes; particularly if you are squeamish about wet, muddy feet. We saw small Oak bushes, as well as Briar vines and small Aspen-like trees. Animals which we found evidence of in the area were rats, turtles, rabbits and snakes, the last of which we saw in a brief moment of panic that did not result in positive identification other than, "It looked like a snake!".

Some fossils were found in the gravel that had been hauled in for the railroad bed. There was a good deal of flint rock in this gravel, but no evidence that it had been worked.

There are no Historical Markers in the area we investigated. In general the feeling was that there would be no endangered archaeological or historical site as a result of the Texas Highway Department efforts.

Odds and Ends
Additions to the Library


Hill, T. C., Jr. and Thomas Roy Hester. "Isolated Archaic and Late Prehistoric Components at the Honeymoon Site (412734), Southern Texas", *Plains Anthropologist, Journal of the Plains Conference, 1971.* (Reprint: Donated by Tommy Hester)


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