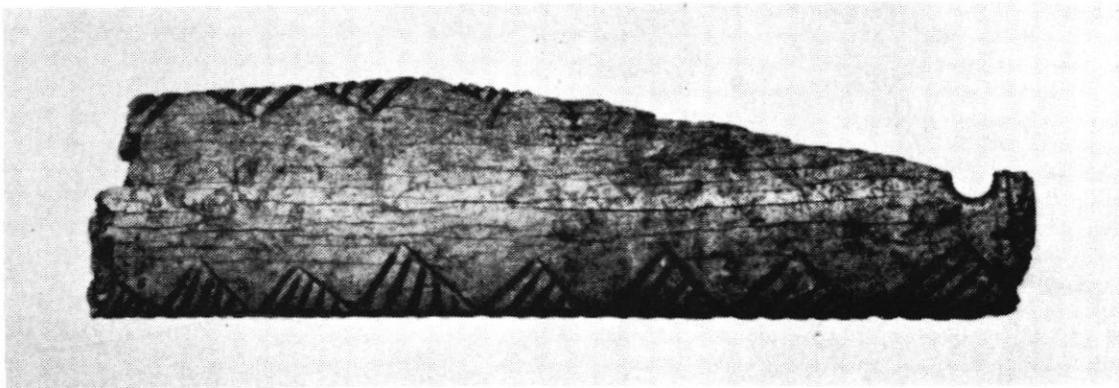




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Engraved Bone from the Konvicka Collection

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Faunal Analysis of 41FB37

W. L. McClure

Introduction

The Houston Archeological Society conducted test excavations at Site 41FB37 in March 1987. Results of that effort were reported by Patterson and Hudgins (1987). They indicate that, based on the artifact assemblage, the site was occupied during the Late Paleo-Indian and Early Archaic periods with some indications of minor occupation into the Ceramic period. The vertebrate faunal materials that were recovered are reported herein.

This site is on a sandy terrace on the west bank of the San Bernard River in Fort Bend County, Texas. The buried freshwater clam shell midden was discovered when fragments of clam shells and chert flakes were noticed at the surface. The activity of pocket gophers is the probable cause of the material being at the surface.

Soils from the excavations were washed through 1/4-inch mesh screens. In addition, approximately 1% of the soil from Pit D was segregated and washed through finer mesh screens under laboratory conditions. This additional effort yielded more than one-third as many bones and fragments as were produced from the balance of the pit. Weights of bone from each excavation unit are given in Patterson and Hudgins (1987).

Results

Vertebrate remains recovered comprise nearly 4300 bones and scales with a total weight of approximately 1.5 kg. A few fragments of arthropods and many molluscan remains were recovered and will be reported by Raymond Neck. A small amount of plant material was recovered.

Plants

One charred bur of the coast sandbur (*Cenchrus incertus*) was recovered in Pit C below 180 cm. Thirteen seeds of hackberry (*Celtis* sp.) were recovered from the pits between 140 and 260 cm. They have a chalky consistency as if having been exposed to heat.

Vertebrates

The vertebrate remains include fishes, reptiles, birds and mammals. Condition of the bones is only fair. Except for a few bones of the smaller animals and a few of the compact foot bones of deer, all are fragmentary. Evidence of burning is found on 35%.

Vertebrate species list:

| | |
|--------------------|---|
| gar | <i>Atractosteus</i> sp. or <i>Lepisosteus</i> sp. |
| freshwater drum | <i>Aplodinotus grunniens</i> |
| sunfish | <i>Lepomis</i> sp. |
| catfish | <i>Ictalurus</i> sp. |
| unidentified fish | genera unknown (not Lepisosteidae) |
| toad | <i>Bufo</i> sp. |
| bullfrog | <i>Rana catesbeiana</i> |
| American alligator | <i>Alligator mississippiensis</i> |
| mud turtle | <i>Kinosternon</i> sp. |
| stinkpot | <i>Sternotherus odoratus</i> |

| | |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| red-eared slider | <i>Trachemys scripta</i> |
| box turtle | <i>Terrapene</i> sp. |
| softshell | <i>Trionyx</i> sp. |
| unidentified turtles | genera unknown |
| Texas horned lizard | <i>Phrynosoma cornutum</i> |
| rat snake | <i>Elaphe</i> sp. |
| mud snake | <i>Farancia abacura</i> |
| Eastern hognose snake | <i>Heterodon platyrhinos</i> |
| kingsnake | <i>Lampropeltis</i> sp. |
| coachwhip | <i>Masticophis flagellum</i> |
| water snake | <i>Nerodia</i> sp. |
| unidentified colubrid snake | genera unknown |
| coral snake | <i>Micrurus fulvius</i> |
| cottonmouth | <i>Agkistrodon piscivorus</i> |
| Western diamondback rattlesnake | <i>Crotalus atrox</i> |
| unidentified pit vipers | genera unknown |
| unidentified snakes | genera unknown |
| turkey | <i>Meleagris gallopavo</i> |
| unidentified birds | genera unknown |
| Virginia opossum | <i>Didelphis virginiana</i> |
| Eastern mole | <i>Scalopus aquaticus</i> |
| cottontail | <i>Sylvilagus</i> sp. |
| black-tailed jack rabbit | <i>Lepus californicus</i> |
| Attwater's pocket gopher | <i>Geomys attwateri</i> |
| white-footed mouse | <i>Peromyscus</i> cf. <i>leucopus</i> |
| hispid cotton rat | <i>Sigmodon hispidus</i> |
| white-tailed deer | <i>Odocoileus virginianus</i> |
| large bovid | <i>Bos</i> or <i>Bison</i> |
| unidentified mammals | genera unknown |

Nomenclature and spelling of the names of the above vertebrates follow Hubbs (1982) for fishes, Dixon (1987) for amphibians and reptiles and Schmidly (1983) for mammals.

Species accounts:

Fishes.

Fish remains were recovered in all pits and in all levels that included vertebrate remains. At least four varieties of fish are represented. All are common in the area today.

Gar, *Atractosteus* sp. or *Lepisosteus* sp.

Gar are represented by 162 scales, 48 vertebrae and 2 sculptured bones of the head. Very large vertebrae and scales are probably of alligator gar (*Atractosteus spatula*) and smaller elements are either of that species or of the genus *Lepisosteus*. Many of the scales and a few of the vertebrae had been exposed to heat.

Freshwater drum, *Aplodinotus grunniens*

Seven otoliths of drum were recovered.

Sunfish, *Lepomis* sp.

One cleithrum of a sunfish was recovered.

Catfish, *Ictalurus* sp.

A fragment of a pectoral spine and two tooth pads of this genus were recovered.

Unidentified fish

Fish bones that could not be identified to genera include 136 vertebrae, 9 spines, 1 otolith fragment, 1 dentary fragment and 2 other fragments. These are probably from the above species other than gar. Many of the vertebrae match those of sunfish of about 10 cm length.

Amphibians.

Three bones of amphibians were recovered. Two varieties are represented and both are common in the area today.

Toad, *Bufo* sp.

One vertebra of a toad was recovered.

Bullfrog, *Rana catesbeiana*

A vertebra and a fragment of a tibio-fibula of this species were recovered. The tibio-fibula has been modified into a bead or other decorative item. It is illustrated in Figure 1B.

Reptiles.

Reptile remains represent one crocodylian, five turtle species, one lizard and nine snake species. Turtle bones were recovered in all pits and at all levels below 20 cm. Snake bones were recovered in all levels below 60 cm in all pits that were excavated that deep. All of the species are common in the area today.

Crocodylians:

American alligator, *Alligator mississippiensis*

Two dermal bones of alligator were recovered. One came from Pit E below 140 cm and one from Pit F below 220 cm.

Turtles:

Turtle bones were recovered in all pits and in nearly all levels of each pit. A total of 1228 bones are from five species of turtles. This represents 29% of all bones recovered.

Mud turtle, *Kinosternon* sp.

Fragments of plastron and carapace of this genus were recovered in 4 pits below 150 cm. The Mississippi mud turtle (*Kinosternon subrubrum*) is probably the species as *K. flavescens* has not been recorded from Fort Bend County and is not expected there (Dixon 1987). (26 bones)

Stinkpot, *Sternotherus odoratus*

Fragments of plastron and carapace of this species were recovered in 2 pits below 180 cm. (6 bones)

Red-eared slider, *Trachemys scripta*

Fragments of plastron and carapace of this species were recovered in 4 pits below 70 cm. In the past decade, this species has been redefined with various biologists assigning it to the genera *Chrysemys*, *Pseudemys* and *Trachemys*. (42 bones)

Box turtle, *Terrapene* sp.

Fragments of plastron and carapace of this land turtle were recovered in 4 pits below 120 cm. Either *T. carolina* or *T. ornata* could be included. (40 bones)

Softshell, *Trionyx* sp.

Fragments of plastron and carapace of this genus were recovered in 4 pits below 90 cm. *T. spiniferus* is the most probable species based on relative numbers in local waterways. (11 bones)

Unidentified turtles

Numerous fragments of carapace and plastron and 3 appendicular bones are too fragmentary to assign to species. They probably do not represent any species other than the above. They were recovered from all pits below 20 cm. (1103 bones)

Lizards:

Texas horned lizard, *Phrynosoma cornutum*

A horn core with the adjacent skull fragment was recovered in Pit C below 180 cm.

Snakes:

Snake bones were recovered in all pits below 60 cm. A total of 102 vertebrae of at least nine species are included.

Rat snake, *Elaphe* sp.

Vertebrae of this genus were recovered in 5 pits at levels between 150 and 220 cm. (14 bones)

Mud snake, *Farancia abacura*

Vertebrae of this species were recovered in 3 pits between 160 and 250 cm. (11 bones)

Eastern hognose snake, *Heterodon platyrhinos*

One vertebra of this species was recovered below 210 cm.

Kingsnake, *Lampropeltis* sp.

Vertebrae of this genus were recovered in 3 pits between 90 and 250 cm. (6 bones)

Coachwhip, *Masticophis flagellum*

Vertebrae of this species were recovered in 4 pits between 70 and 260 cm. (5 bones)

Water snake, *Nerodia* sp.

Vertebrae of this genus were recovered in 2 pits between 150 and 200 cm. (5 bones)

Unidentified colubrid snakes

Vertebrae of unidentified non-poisonous snakes of the family Colubridae were recovered in 4 pits between 150 and 240 cm. (12 bones)

Coral snake, *Micrurus fulvius*

One vertebra of the coral snake was recovered below 150 cm.

Cottonmouth, *Agkistrodon piscivorus*

Vertebrae of this species were recovered in 3 pits between 140 and 180 cm. (10 bones)

Western diamondback rattlesnake, *Crotalus atrox*

Vertebrae of this species were recovered in 5 pits between 60 and 230 cm. (6 bones)

Unidentified pit vipers

Vertebrae of unidentified snakes of the family Viperidae were recovered in 5 pits between 60 and 260 cm. (8 bones)

Unidentified snakes

Vertebrae that were too fragmentary to assign to family status were recovered in 5 pits between 70 and 280 cm. (23 bones)

Birds.

Three bird bones were recovered. They are of three different species but only one can be identified.

Turkey, *Meleagris gallopavo*

The scapular end of a right coracoid of a turkey was recovered below 130 cm.

Unidentified birds

A fragment of a humerus which is comparable in size to that of the blue jay (*Cyanocitta cristata*) came from below 220 cm. A phalanx that is comparable to the toe bone of a mallard (*Anas platyrhynchos*) came from below 180 cm.

Mammals.

Nearly 2600 mammal bones were recovered but 94% of these are too fragmentary to identify. At least nine species are included.

Virginia opossum, *Didelphis virginiana*

One vertebra of an opossum was recovered below 160 cm.

Eastern mole, *Scalopus aquaticus*

A scapula and a humerus fragment of this fossorial species came from Pit F below 250 cm.

Cottontail, *Sylvilagus* sp.

The cervical vertebra of a rabbit came from below 170 cm.

Black-tailed jack rabbit, *Lepus californicus*

A maxilla fragment with 3 cheek teeth came from below 30 cm and a right astragalus came from below 140 cm in another pit.

Attwater's pocket gopher, *Geomys attwateri*

Bones of the pocket gopher were recovered in 4 pits at depths between 20 and 280 cm. All parts of the body are represented. It is apparent that at least three individual gophers died within the matrix of Pit F between 240 and 280 cm. (57 bones)

White-footed mouse, *Peromyscus* cf. *leucopus*

The left mandible with all cheek teeth and the distal half of a humerus came from 2 pits below 160 cm.

Hispid cotton rat, *Sigmodon hispidus*

Rat bones were recovered below 200 cm in one pit and at 3 levels between 80 and 150 cm in the fine screen part of Pit D. These include left maxilla fragment with 3 teeth, femur fragment, humerus fragment, premolar and phalanx. (5 bones)

White-tailed deer, *Odocoileus virginianus*

Deer bones were recovered in all pits and in all levels that included significant amounts of bone material (92 bones). Bones included are teeth (24), mandible fragment, petrous bone, antler fragments (4), axis, vertebra fragment, radius fragment, femur fragment, tibia fragments (2), patellas (2), metacarpal fragment, metatarsal fragments (2), metapodial condyles (9), lunars (2), cuneiform, pisiform, scaphoids (2), astragali (3), malleolus, centroquartal, calcanei (3), sesamoids (2) and phalanges (27). Except for the smaller bones these are fragmentary. One scaphoid has a V-shaped groove in one end. The groove is 1.1 mm wide and 0.9 mm deep and apparently was made by multiple strokes of a sharp-edged tool. It came from Pit G below 130 cm and is illustrated in Figure 1C.

Large bovid, either *Bos taurus* or *Bison bison*

The midsection of a rib of a large bovid came from one pit below 120 cm. At that depth this bone could be either cow or bison. It has been gnawed by rodents and carnivores.

Unidentified mammals

Fragments of mammal bones were recovered throughout the site (2416 bones). Most of them are probably of deer. A few have gnaw marks from rodents and one has cut marks from a sharp-edged tool. One fragment of bone has been shaped as shown in Figure 1A. It is not complete but all surfaces had been smoothed. The width tapers from 7.3 mm to 2.4 mm in a distance of 23 mm. The thickness varies from 2.4 mm to 1.8 mm. It came from Pit F below 220 cm. Provenience of each of the above bones is shown in an appendix which is not published with this account because of space limitations. The appendix will be filed at the Texas Archeological Research Laboratory of the University of Texas at Austin, Texas. A copy can be obtained from the author.

Discussion

The grass bur could have been charred at the time of the deposit in that particular level. The presence of several charred seeds of hackberry trees suggests that perhaps the hackberries were processed for food. It is also possible that hackberry trees were growing on the site at the times of each of the occupations and seeds became included in the matrix fortuitously.

A wide variety of vertebrates appear throughout the excavations. Fish, turtles, snakes and deer are represented in nearly all of the levels of occupation of the site. Small mammals and birds are in lesser numbers but were probably included in the menu when the occupants could acquire

them. The rats and mice are in relatively small numbers. The rate of recovery of the small rodents was greater in the fine screen sample. They may have been consumed regularly with their remains being less frequently included in the recovered material either because of food preparation practices or due to recovery methods. The gophers may also have been part of the food resources, but at least some of the recovered bones represent individuals that died within the soil. Their bones were recovered from 20 to 280 cm below the surface. The mole bones in the lower levels also add evidence that the soils may have been subjected to bioturbation during all or part of the time since the first occupation of the site.

The vertebrate remains from this excavation reveal that the people who lived along the San Bernard River regularly used the available fish, reptiles, birds and mammals for food and used some of them for fabricating tools and decorative items throughout the entire period during which they were living there.

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Figure 1. Modified bone

Joseph Blanpain's French Trading Post

Jean L. Epperson and William Louis Fullen

In 1754, Joseph Blanpain, a French trader from New Orleans, sailed several miles up the Trinity River in Southeast Texas and built a trading post on a fresh water lagoon in Spanish territory. The Spanish upon learning of this unauthorized intrusion sent troops to apprehend the trader and his companions and to destroy the post.¹ Two years later the Spanish built a fort, Presidio San Agustin de Ahumada, on the site of the French trading post in order to discourage further French encroachment into Southeast Texas. They also built a church and established Mission Nuestra Senora de La Luz within the presidio in an effort to Christianize the Indians and to secure their allegiance to Spain.²

French efforts to trade with the Indians of the Galveston Bay region began in 1721 when Jean-Baptiste Benard de La Harpe led an expedition to establish a French settlement on the east side of Galveston Bay. They sailed aboard the ship *Subtile* to Red Fish Bar and then went by canoe to a large Indian village just south of present-day Anahuac. The Indians were not friendly and insisted that the Frenchmen leave. Reluctantly, the French returned to their ship and sailed for Louisiana.³

Between 1721 and 1754 it is probable that numerous French trading expeditions were made to the Galveston Bay region. Joseph Blanpain became a principal trader among the Attakapas Indians of southwestern Louisiana and southeastern Texas. After 1738 Blanpain's name appears frequently in the Louisiana records as he entered into contracts and trade agreements with several French partners.⁴ During this time the Spanish received reports from the Orcoquiza Indians that French traders had visited their villages. Spanish efforts to apprehend these intruders failed until 1754 when they arrested Joseph Blanpain and his companions at his trading post.⁵

Joseph Blanpain stated under oath the seventh of January 1755 in Mexico City that he was 57 years old, a native of Mons, Flanders; that he was married in Mississippi to Maria Anna Lambrote; and that he had a mercantile store in Natchitoches, Louisiana and a hacienda for farming 22 leagues from New Orleans where he lived. He had come with the permission and license of the governor of New Orleans, Kerlerec, to trade with the Attakapas Indians, whose villages extended from the Laguna de Cheti to the Trinity River.⁶

The men who arrived the first of August 1754, at what is now Lake Miller in Chambers County, with Joseph Blanpain were: Elias George, his brother-in-law; Antonio de la Fara, also a native of Mons, Flanders who styled himself as a servant; Captain Lacrev of New Orleans; two Spaniards named Antonio and Lorenzo and two black slaves called Joseph and Bernardo. One of the slaves belonged to Blanpain and the other to Lacrev.⁷

The men proceeded to erect buildings. In one account, a house, three storehouses, and a wharf on the south shore of the lake were built.⁸ The buildings were variously described as jacals, or casas. The boats were described as a large barge and canoes.⁹ The inventory of the goods as detailed later by Blanpain listed one boat with three sets of sails and appurtenances which cost 1500 pesos.¹⁰

Captain Lacrev, the partner of Blanpain, left the newly established trading post about the second week of September. Lacrev, with the Spaniards, Antonio and Lorenzo, and an Orcoquiza Indian Chief whom Blanpain had chosen apparently traveled overland to New Orleans.¹¹

Calzones Colorados (Red Breeches), chief of the Orcoquiza Indians, whose rancheria was nearest to the French trading post, accused Blanpain of destroying the patent granted to him by the Spanish Captain Don Joaquin de Orobio Basterra, and of giving a patent to a newly appointed chief on behalf of the French Government.¹²

Apparently Blanpain was lying when he stated in his sworn deposition that he was not trading with the Orcoquiza Indians or the Bidai Indians but only with the Attakapas nation and that he

had never heard of Chief Calzones Colorados. He stated that he had bartered some goods for deer skins valued at 300 or 400 hundred pesos.¹³

The Spanish had been hearing for some time that the French were visiting the lower Trinity and trading with the Indians; therefore, when Governor Jacinto de Barrios at Los Adaes heard that four Frenchmen and two Spaniards had established a settlement there, he issued orders on September 20, 1754, for Lieutenant Marcos Ruiz and 25 soldiers to reconnoiter the lower Trinity River and arrest the intruders. Ruiz was to enlist the aid of the Orcoquiza and the Bidai Indians by giving them gifts and promising them all the spoils obtained by the expedition. He was also instructed to burn the buildings and the landing.¹⁴

Lieutenant Ruiz found a valuable ally in Chief Tomas of the Bidai. Tomas readily agreed to accompany the expedition under the above terms but he wanted in addition an excellent sorrel horse which Ruiz was taking to Governor Barrios. Ruiz promised to give the horse to Tomas if the undertaking were successful.¹⁵ Chief Tomas and Lieutenant Ruiz were joined by two Orcoquiza groups, led by Chief Mateo and Chief Calzones Colorados, totaling 31 Indians. On October 10 about 10 o'clock in the morning the trading post was attacked and Blanpain and his followers were arrested.¹⁶

The houses of the post were not burned as ordered because the Indians intervened saying they wanted the structures. Ruiz sank the boat and gave the canoes to the Indians.¹⁷ Reporting later, Ruiz said, "We were astonished at the attitude of the Indians toward the spoils, for as soon as anything was found they claimed it as theirs. Consequently they did not leave one thing but carried off boxes, barrels, and the other provisions that were in casks. But even then they were not satisfied but kept changing their minds every instant."¹⁸

It is interesting that the Spanish were surprised by the Indians claiming all the loot as they had been promised. Perhaps what really surprised them was the quantity and quality of the goods that the French had, although a note was appended to Ruiz's report to the governor reading, "I assure Your Lordship that there was nothing of value among all the spoils, not a vara of Brittany linen or anything of any value; all were for Indian trade."¹⁹ Joseph Blanpain stated under oath that the inventory, which had been prepared by the Spanish and read to him, did not contain everything that had been taken from him but was only about a fourth of what he saw distributed among the Lieutenant, the soldiers and the muleteers. The Indians were given five or seven guns, a little gunpowder, bullets, knives, some small mirrors, glass beads, bells, and some flannel cloth, according to Blanpain. He said he would make an estimate and present a memorandum of the goods that were existent at the time of his arrest, which he did.²⁰ Blanpain's allegations about the distribution of the goods led to depositions being taken from four soldiers who accompanied Lieutenant Ruiz on the expedition. They, of course, corroborated Ruiz's statement that all the confiscated materials were given to the Indians.²¹

The Spanish authorities were made especially unhappy by statements by the Indians that Blanpain had promised the French would provide the Orcoquiza with a mission and a chaplain and that 50 French families were ready to leave New Orleans to come to the Trinity River to settle. Blanpain denied these charges and said to his knowledge they were not true.²²

When all the evidence was considered, the Spanish concluded that Blanpain was a tool of the French government and had been used with the hope of gaining a foothold for the French in Texas. The *modus operandi* was familiar to the Spanish and no doubt they were right.

Blanpain and his companions were imprisoned in Mexico City as the wheels of Spanish justice ground slowly forward. Blanpain died there in prison on March 14, 1756. The other four men were sent to Cadiz, Spain to be incarcerated for life.²³

In 1766 a gulf hurricane destroyed Presidio Ahumada and heavily damaged Mission Nuestra Senora de La Luz. The mission had been relocated seven years earlier to a hill just east of the

presidio. The presidio was rebuilt a short distance east of the second mission site and the damaged mission was repaired. The Spanish abandoned El Orcoquisac in 1771.²⁴

In 1966, acting on historical information supplied by John V. Clay, members of the Houston Archeological Society discovered the remains of Blanpain's trading post and the first location of El Orcoquisac. The site was designated archeological site 41 CH 57. Subsequent archeological testing of the site by the Houston Archeological Society provided the information necessary to include the site on the National Register of Historic Places along with the sites of the second locations of the mission and presidio as the El Orcoquisac Archeological District.²⁵

The French trading post that existed on the lower Trinity River for two months and ten days was important because it stimulated the Spanish to found El Orcoquisac.²⁶ The El Orcoquisac complex of the mission, Nuestra Senora de la Luz and the presidio, San Augustin de Ahumada, lasted for fifteen years and enriched the ecclesiastic and cultural heritage of the area. Today the local inhabitants proudly tell visitors that Nuestra Senora de la Luz was the first and only church in Southeast Texas for many, many years.²⁷

Notes

1. John V. Clay Collection, 5 parts, 23 boxes, Wallisville Heritage Park, Wallisville, Texas. Hereafter cited as CLAY. Part 1, Box 2, #14, Expediente about the arrest that Governor de Barrios y Jauregui, made of the three Frenchmen and two Negros that were found established at the mouth of the Trinity River, September 15, 1756, pp. 189-191; Part 1, Box 2, #11, Deposition of Joseph Blanpain, February 19, 1755 at Mexico City, of his arrest at the Trinity River and a list of his possessions that were confiscated by the Spanish force on October 10, 1754.

2. Herbert Eugene Bolton, *Texas in the Middle Eighteenth Century* (Austin: University of Texas Press Reprint, 1970), 73-74. Hereafter cited as BOLTON.

3. Jean-Baptiste Benard de La Harpe, *The Historical Journal of the Establishment of the French in Louisiana*, translated by Joan Cain and Virginia Koenig, edited and annotated by Glenn R. Conrad, The USL Series Number 3, University of Southwestern Louisiana, Lafayette, Louisiana 1971, pp. 176-182.

4. Mathe Allain and Vincent H. Cassidy, "Blanpain, Trader Among The Attakapas," *Attakapas Gazette* 3(4): 32-38.

5. *Ibid.* BOLTON, 73-74.

6. *Ibid.* CLAY, Part 1, Box 2, #14, Expediente about the arrest that Governor Don de Barrios y Jauregui, made of the three Frenchmen and two Negros that were found established at the mouth of the Trinity River, September 15, 1756, pp. 189-191; Part 1, Box 2, #11, Deposition of Joseph Blanpain, February 19, 1755 at Mexico City, of his arrest at the Trinity River and a list of his possessions that were confiscated by the Spanish force on October 10, 1754.

7. *Id.* CLAY, Part 1, Box 1, #8, Testimony of Joseph de Arias.

8. Bexar Archives Translations, vol. 30, January 1756 - February 1757, pp. 11-12, 27, 32-33, 36, 42-43; CLAY, Part 1, Box 2, #14, Archivo General de Indias Audiencia de Guadalajara 1756. Statements of Governor Jacinto de Barrios y Jauregui concerning the French on the Trinity, 1756.

9. *Id.* CLAY, Part 1, Box 1, #8, Capture of Blanpain, October 10, 1754. Decree of Governor Barrios, September 20, 1754; Part 1, Box 1, #9, Lt. Marcos Ruiz report of the capture of Blanpain; also testimonies of the soldiers, Joseph de Arias and Cristobal Cordova, under Ruiz's command.

10. *Id.* CLAY, Part 1, Box 2, #11, Deposition of Joseph Blanpain, p. 131.

11. Archivo General De Indias, Audiencia De Guadalajara 1756, Dunn Transcripts, Statements of Don Jacinto de Barrios y Jauregui, Governor of Texas, concerning the French on the Trinity, p. 46.

12. *Id.* CLAY, Deposition of Blanpain.

13. *Id.* CLAY, Testimony of Joseph de Arias; Deposition of Blanpain, 124-126. The Indians also told the soldiers that a cargo of furs had left the post.

14. *Id.* CLAY, Decree of Governor Barrios, September 20, 1754 and the order of Barrios to Ruiz.

15. *Id.* CLAY, Testimony of Joseph de Arias.

16. *Id.* CLAY, Testimony of Arias, Cordova and the Ruiz report on the capture of Blanpain.

17. *Id.* CLAY, Ruiz report.

18. *Ibid.*

19. *Ibid.*

20. *Id.* CLAY, Deposition of Blanpain. The inventory list of goods taken from him is appended.

21. *Id.* CLAY, Governor Barrios's Expediente, 33-64.
22. *Id.* CLAY, Depositions of Arias and Cordova.
23. CLAY, Part 1, Box 2, #18, Expediente about the arrest of Blanpain, 205-206 ; Walter Prescott Webb, ed., *The Handbook of Texas* (Austin: The Texas State Historical Association, 1952) 1:173. Hereafter cited as HANDBOOK.
24. *Id.* BOLTON, 340-374; CLAY, Part 1, Box 5, #43, Account of the storm of September 1766 and the removal of the presidio to higher ground, November 17, 1766.
25. William Louis Fullen, "El Orcoquisac Archeological District, Wallisville Reservoir, Texas: Past, Present and Future," *Houston Archeological Society Newsletter*, No. 59, April 1978.
26. *Id.* BOLTON, 346; CLAY, Expediente by Barrios, 200 or 37.
27. *Id.* HANDBOOK, 1:294.

A debt of gratitude is acknowledged to John V. Clay for the use of his extensive Spanish Collections and Translations, housed at the Wallisville Heritage Park, and his kind personal attentions to perfecting this manuscript.

The Konvicka Collection (41FB95), Fort Bend Co., Texas

L. W. Patterson and J. D. Hudgins

Introduction

This article describes a large collection of materials from prehistoric Site 41FB95 in Fort Bend County, Texas, made by Elaine and David Konvicka. Study of this collection by the authors was made possible through the courtesy of the Konvickas.

Site 41FB95 represents a long pre-ceramic occupation sequence, from the Late Paleo-Indian period through the Late Archaic. There are also indications of minor Late Prehistoric occupation of this site, but no evidence of occupation during the Early Ceramic period. This is one more prehistoric site to add to the growing list of sites in this region that have very long occupation sequences (Patterson 1983). Like most prehistoric sites in southeastern Texas, this location probably represents a seasonal campsite used by nomadic peoples with a hunting and gathering lifeway.

Site details

Site 41FB95 is located on a high ridge about 2 miles from the present location of the Brazos River, southeast of Simonton, Texas. This site is near an inactive stream bed that may have been the Brazos River or one of its tributaries. It is speculated that an occupation break at the end of the Late Archaic was caused by the stream bed becoming inactive, with the site becoming less attractive for later occupation in the Early Ceramic period. There are other sites in this general area with significant indications of occupation during the Early Ceramic period. No ceramics have been found at this site, but two Perdiz arrow points represent minor ceramic occupation in the Late Prehistoric period.

This general area is mixed woodland and coastal prairie. A wide variety of floral and faunal resources would have been available. The bone collection from this site reflects the diversity of animal food resources.

Site 41FB95 is at least 30 by 60 meters in size. The concentration of artifacts indicates that this was a major site in this area over a long time interval.

Projectile points and chronology

Based on projectile point types, Site 41FB95 has a very long occupation sequence. A summary of projectile points is given in Table 1. In addition, the collection includes roughly 100 dart point preforms, preform fragments and unclassified dart points.

The Late Paleo-Indian period is represented by a possible Plainview base and Angostura-like, San Patrice, Early Notched, and Early Stemmed points, as shown in Figure 1. All of these point types have ground basal edges. The Early Notched and Early Stemmed points are similar to specimens found in excavations at Site 41WH19 in Wharton County (Patterson and Hudgins 1983, 1985). The Late Paleo-Indian period has an approximate date range of 10,000 to 7000 B.P. (Patterson 1979:105).

Dart points representing the Early and Middle Archaic periods include Tortugas, Carrollton, Wells, Bulverde, Bulverde-like, Bell and Pedernales types. Some of these specimens are shown in Figure 2. Some point types, such as Bell and Pedernales, reflect influences from central Texas. This overall time interval is approximately from 7000 to 3500 B.P. (Patterson 1979:106).

The Late Archaic period is represented by Marcos, Gary, Kent, Ellis, Ensor, Darl, Palmillas, Yarbrough and Fairland dart points. Some specimens are shown in Figure 3. It should be noted that Gary and Kent points can also occur in earlier and later time periods (Patterson 1980:Table 3; Hall 1981:269). The Late Archaic period is approximately from 3500 to 1900 B.P. (Patterson 1979:106).

Because no ceramics were found at Site 41FB95, there appears to be a gap in the occupation sequence in the Early Ceramic period, approximately from 1900 to 1400 B.P. This is not completely certain, as many Late Archaic dart point types were also used in the Early Ceramic period. Two Perdiz arrow points (Figure 4A,B) were found that represent a minor occupation of this site in the Late Prehistoric period, after 1400 B.P.

General lithic technology

Judged by the large amount of chert flakes present, there was much lithic manufacturing activity at the site. Chert cores and quartzite hammerstones were also found. Several antler tools collected here were probably used for pressure flaking.

All of the chert materials appear to be of fairly local varieties. Use of heat treating is indicated on many flakes by pottlid surface fractures, waxy luster and reddish coloration.

During the brief inspection of this collection, few formal types of unifacial tools were noted. The dominant stone tool type is the utilized flake, as is common for prehistoric sites in southeastern Texas.

The large quantity of dart point preforms found indicates that dart points were manufactured at this site. Eleven large bifacial drills were found, having a wide variety of shapes (Figure 4C,D,E). The tips of some projectile points seem to have been reworked for use as perforators, such as the specimen in Figure 4F.

Faunal remains

Faunal remains consist of freshwater mussel shell, bones and antler. All of the antler appears to have been worked for tool use. The presence of mussel shell was noted, but none was collected.

The general bone collection will be analyzed by Bill McClure. Some of the more obvious specimens represent deer, bison, turtle and alligator. Preservation of bone materials at this site appears to have been fair.

The collection includes several bone tools. Most of the bone tools, such as shown in Figure 4H,I, are pointed and are made from deer bone. A few bones have engraved patterns, but a complete pattern can be observed on only one specimen (Figure 5), which has a pattern of filled chevrons. Similar specimens of engraved bone were found at Site 41AU36 (Hall 1981:Figure 50) located a few miles west of Site 41FB95. The Albert George Site (Walley 1955) in Fort Bend County also had similar engraved bone specimens. The specimen shown in Figure 5 is not complete, but a drilled hole can be observed in one end. This specimen may be similar to ones found at 41AU36 that had a drilled hole at one end and were pointed at the other end.

Miscellaneous materials

The presence of fired clayballs has been noted at this site, as is common for sites in this region. Several large pieces of natural asphalt were collected. This material was probably used for hafting projectile points. The exact source of this asphalt is not known, although it is known that natural asphalt occurs on the Gulf coast.

Summary

Site 41FB95 is an addition to a significant number of sites in the inland portion of the upper Texas coast that have very long occupation sequences, indicating a long-time stable settlement pattern (Patterson 1983). A broad-based Archaic hunting and gathering lifeway seems to have been present in this region over the entire known chronological sequence. Recording of large collections, such as this, in the context of known site locations can make valuable contributions to the regional prehistoric data base.

References cited

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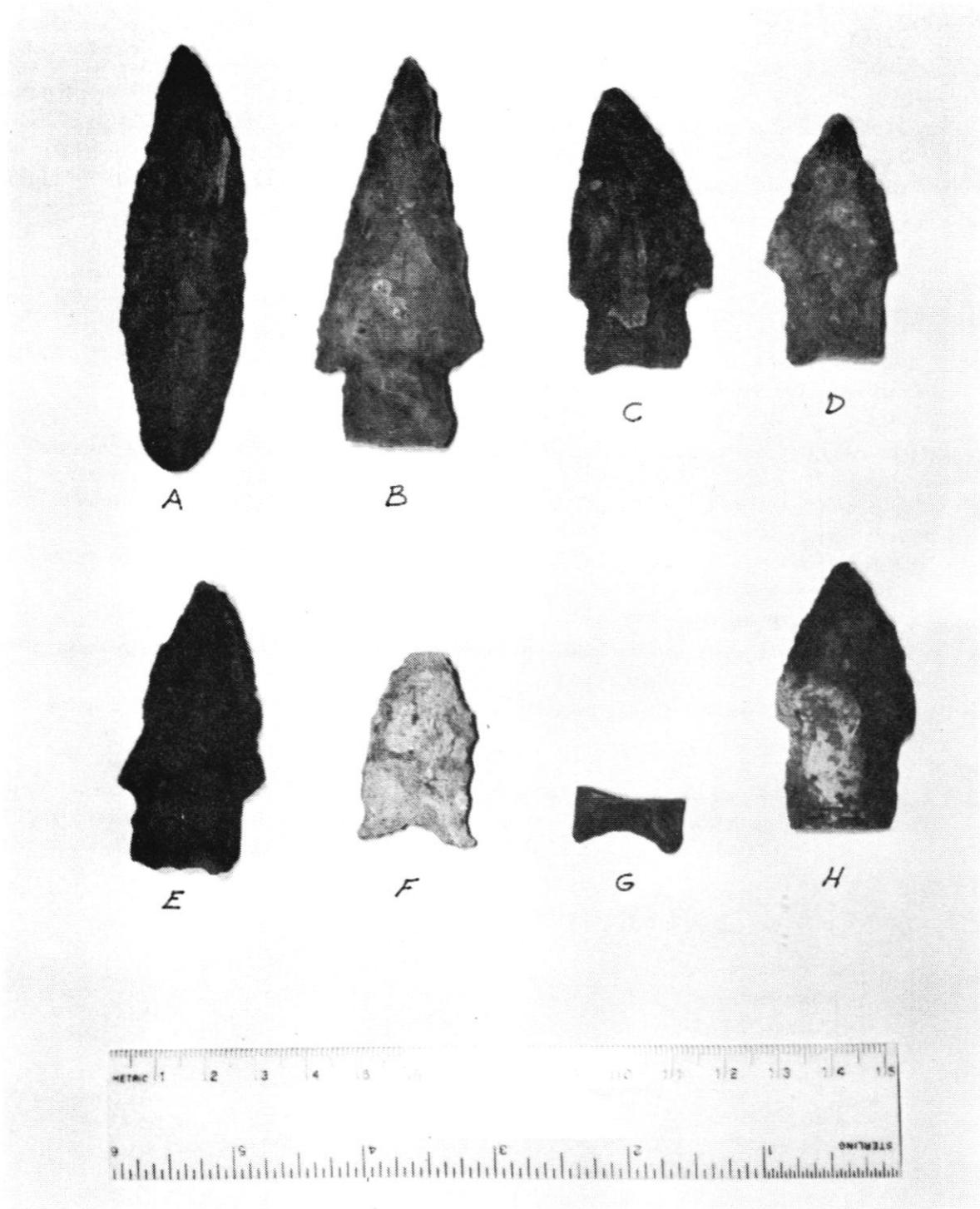
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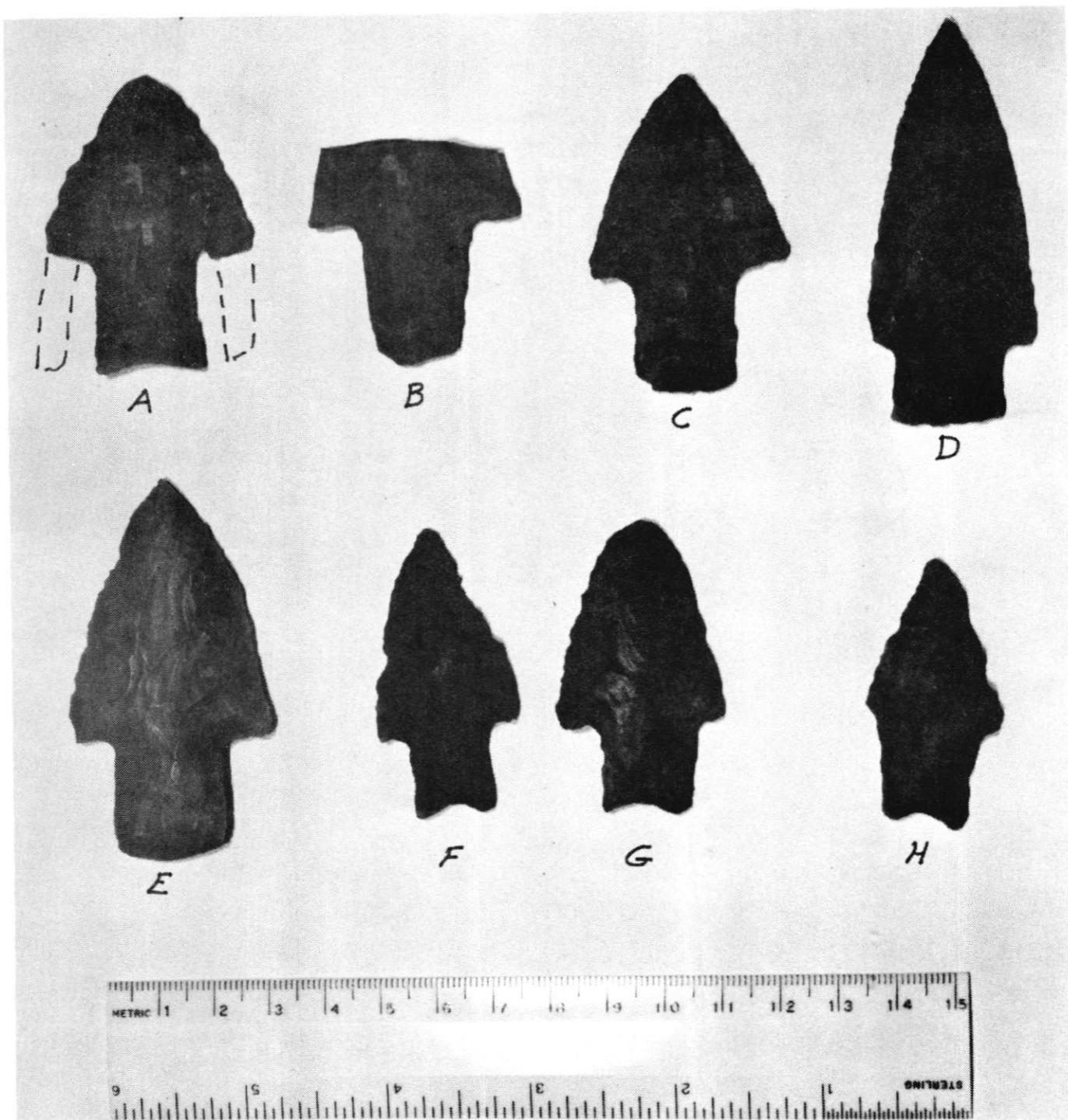
Table 1. Summary of projectile points

| | | | |
|--------------------------|---|------------------|----|
| Late Paleo-Indian | | Late Archaic | |
| Angostura-like | 3 | Gary | 11 |
| Plainview (?) | 1 | Kent | 15 |
| Early Notched | 2 | Ellis | 6 |
| Early Stemmed | 3 | Ensor | 8 |
| San Patrice | 2 | Marcos | 1 |
| | | Darl | 3 |
| Early and Middle Archaic | | Palmillas | 5 |
| Tortugas | 2 | Yarbrough | 6 |
| Carrollton | 2 | Fairland | 2 |
| Wells | 2 | | |
| Bulverde | 5 | Late Prehistoric | |
| Bulverde-like | 9 | Perdiz | 2 |
| Bell | 1 | | |
| Pedernales | 5 | | |



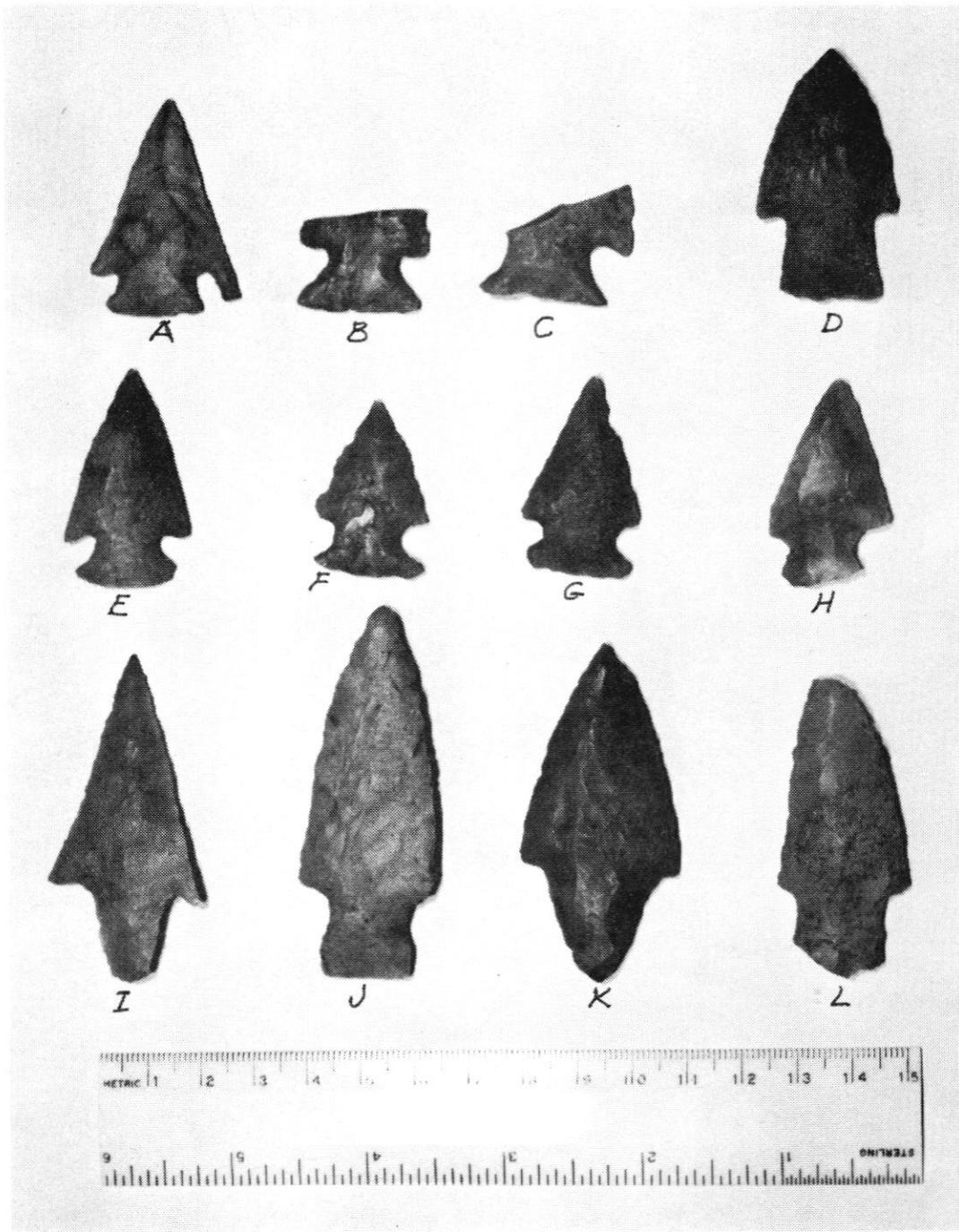
A - Angostura-like; B,C - Early Notched; D,E,H - Early Stemmed;
F - San Patrice; G - Plainview(?)

Figure 1. Late Paleo-Indian points



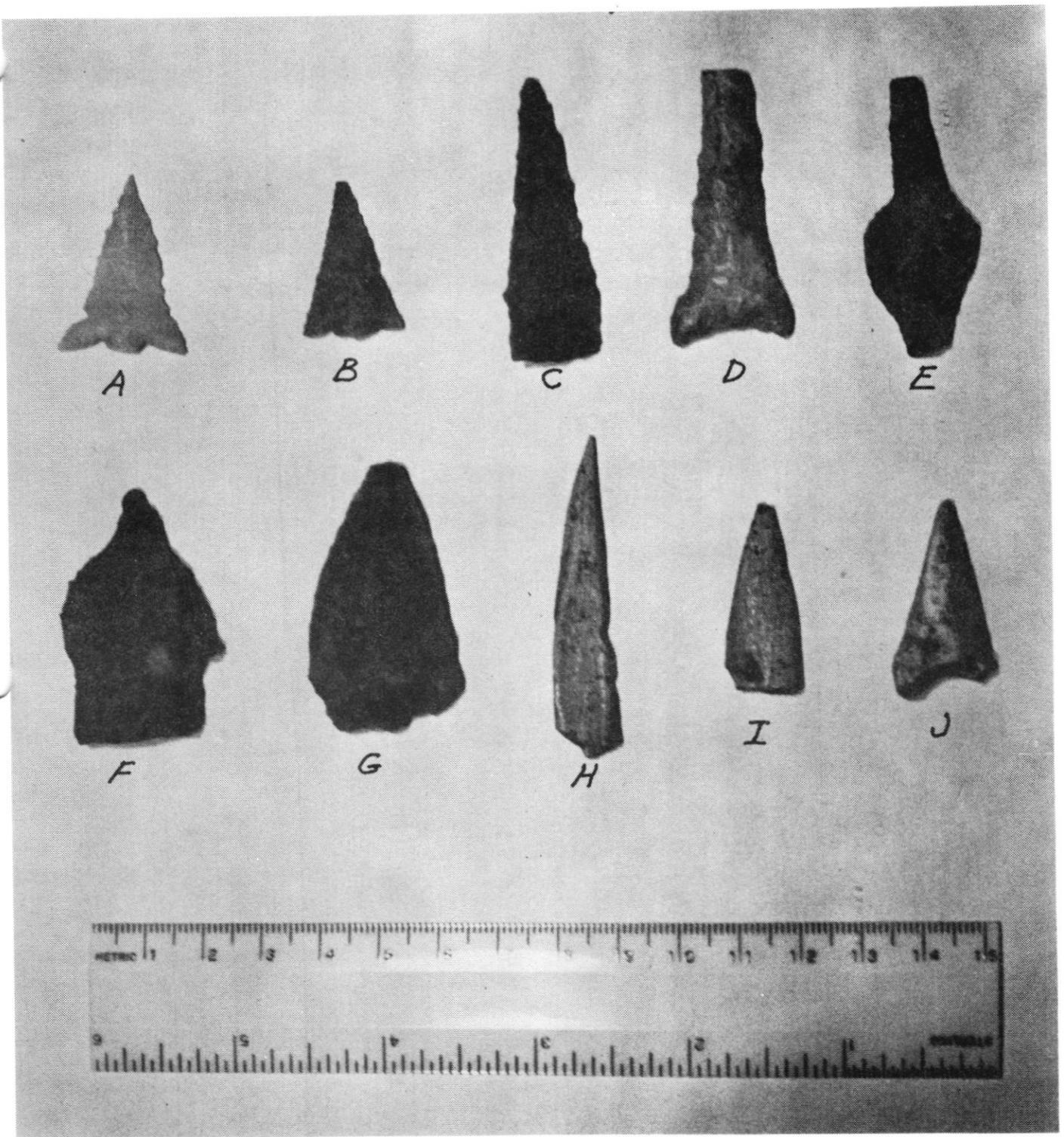
A - Bell; B - Wells; C - Carrollton; D,E - Bulverde;
F,G,H - Pedernales

Figure 2. Early and Middle Archaic points



A - Marcos; B,C - Fairland; D - Darl; E,F,G - Ensor; H - Ellis;
 I,K - Gary; J - Yarbrough; L - Kent

Figure 3. Late Archaic points



A,B - Perdiz points; C,D,E - drills; F - perforator on dart point form;
G - dart point preform; H,I - bone tools; J - deer hoof bone

Figure 4. Late Prehistoric points and other artifacts



Figure 5. Engraved bone

Bones from Site 41FB95

W. L. McClure

Introduction

Patterson and Hudgins (1987) report the artifacts from Site 41FB95 and give details of the site and a brief mention of faunal remains and bone tools. The collection includes nearly 500 additional individual bones or fragments that were examined. Total weight is 2.7 kg.

Discussion

Preservation of the bones is only fair. Some of them were exposed to the elements before recovery. Many were broken prior to being discarded by the inhabitants. Spiral fractures are common. Other fractures occurred within the soil or during recovery. Many of the bones were subjected to gnawing by rodents, probably before being covered by soil. A few of the bones were charred by fire. Several have marks of sharp cutting tools and some have hack marks as from impact by stone choppers.

Two bone artifacts were examined. One item was made from the anterior edge of a deer metatarsal. It has been reduced to a thickness of 4 mm and the width tapers from 10.6 to 10.0 mm. All sides and edges were ground smooth and have transverse scratches from sharp-edged tools. The scratches are roughly parallel at a slight angle to the bone. Both ends were broken and no smoothing occurred after breakage. Perhaps the scratching was part of the technique for reduction of the bone rather than decoration.

The other item is the midsection of a deer metatarsal. Grooves have been ground across the anterior face and on the sides of the bone at an angle. The grooves average about 1 mm wide and 1 mm deep and were made by an implement with rounded edge. This may have been an unsuccessful attempt to use the groove-and-snap method of tool production, with the the fracture failing to follow the grooves.

Animals that were identified are alligator gar (*Atractosteus spatula*), unidentified teleost fish, American alligator (*Alligator mississippiensis*), softshell turtle (*Trionyx* sp.), pond turtle (*Trachemys* sp.), box turtle (*Terrapene* sp.), duck (cf. *Anas americana*), American opossum (*Didelphis virginiana*), swamp rabbit (*Sylvilagus aquaticus*), raccoon (*Procyon lotor*), bobcat (*Felis rufus*), white-tailed deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*), large bovid (cf. *Bison bison*), and human (*Homo sapiens*). At least 300 bones are too fragmentary to identify but they could be any of the above and most are probably deer.

The gar is represented by 3 large vertebrae and the teleost fish is represented by a large vertebra. The alligator is represented by 12 dermal bones, 2 vertebrae (one is caudal) and 11 bones of the head. All could be of the same individual which would have been about 3 meters long. The softshell turtle is represented by 9 fragments of carapace and plastron of one or more large individuals. The pond turtle is represented by 6 fragments of carapace and plastron of one or more large individuals. The box turtle is represented by 6 carapace fragments. The duck is represented by the distal half of a left humerus that matches the American wigeon. Two other fragmentary humeri could also be of the same species.

The opossum is represented by three mandibles of different individuals. The rabbit is represented by a mandible. Raccoon bones consist of a left calcaneus and two distal halves of humeri. The distal half of a bobcat humerus is included. White-tailed deer are represented by more than 100 bones. It is possible that some of the bones are of pronghorn (*Antilocarpa americana*) but none are definitely of that species. The bones include mandible (2 right w/teeth + fragments), maxilla

(1 w/o teeth), 6 loose teeth, humerus (left distal end + fragment near distal end + proximal epiphysis), ulna (2 left & 1 right fragments), radius (proximal ends of left & right), tibia (distal ends of 4 right), 3 vertebrae, metacarpal (5 left & 4 right proximal fragments + 4 midshaft fragments + fragment near distal end), metatarsal (3 left & 2 right proximal fragments + 4 midshaft fragments), 1 patella, phalanx 1 (12), phalanx 2 (16), phalanx 3 (5), metapodial (3 distal condyles), astragalus (2 left & 8 right), and calcaneus (3 left & 6 right). The large bovid which is probably bison is represented by 3 teeth.

Human bones consist of a skull fragment and a phalanx 2 of manus.

Conclusions

The remains of 13 different animals including fishes, alligator, turtles, birds and mammals document the wide variety of resources exploited by the inhabitants. As in many other sites in the area, deer is the most frequent species in the recovered material. The preponderance of larger vertebrates in the assemblage is probably due to recovery techniques. The uncontrolled collection of the material prevents analysis of changes during the apparent long span of occupation of the site.

At least one human was interred at the site.

References cited

Patterson, L. W. and J. D. Hudgins

1987 The Konvicka Collection (41FB95), Fort Bend Co., Texas. Houston Archeological Society Journal 89:11-18

HAS Historic Note Number Eleven

Alan R. Duke

1973-1974

Officers for 1973-74 were as follows:

- Chairman – Alexander Macnab
- Sec.-Treas. – Shirley Thompson
- Directors – David Salzar, Leland Patterson, Barbara Keuther
- Newsletter Editor – Alan R. Duke

HAS members attended the 1974 TAS Field School at McKinney Falls State Park (41TV289). Lou Fullen was Director of the School.

Through the efforts of HAS members, policing of Armand Bayou sites to prevent damage was initiated by the City of Pasadena.

Hubert Mewhinney, first editor of the HAS Newsletter and a charter member of the Society, passed away. Hubert, a columnist for the Houston Post and a flintknapper of renown, was instrumental in promoting the establishment of the Alibates Flint Quarry as a National Monument and authored the flintknappers' book *A Manual for Neanderthals*.

The Society initiated measures to encourage the University of Houston to establish a Department of Anthropology. The Department was established in 1975.

Preliminary testing by members of 41GV66 (Galveston Island), under the direction of Lou Fullen, was started.

1974-1975

Officers for 1974-75 were as follows:

- Chairman – John Herbert
- Sec.-Treas. – Janet Alkire (9/74 - 2/75)
Pam Wheat (3/75 - 9/75)
- Directors – Alexander Macnab, Shirley Thompson, Jack Klatt
- Newsletter Editor – Alan R. Duke

Under the direction of HAS member Brent Smith, instructor in Anthropology at Houston Community College, HAS members participated in the excavation and laboratory work on Site 41HR276, a shell midden on the San Jacinto River at Highlands, Texas.

HAS Report Number Two, *Archeological Investigations Along Armand Bayou, Harris Co., Texas*, was published. This report was a joint venture with the Department of Anthropology, Rice University.

The first edition of *Bibliography of the Prehistory of the Upper Texas Coast* by Leland Patterson was published by the the Society.

Members participated in the work at 41GV66 (Mitchell Ridge Site) and attended the two-week HAS Field School at the site in June 1975. Lou Fullen was project manager and member Barbara Burger of Rice University was field director.

HAS members attended the TAS Summer Field School at the Floydada Country Club site.

Members surveyed the Sims Bayou area (Harris County) for sites.

HAS member Barbara Burger was awarded the first HAS Scholarship.

Jack Klatt was elected a Regional Vice-President of the TAS and Charles Chandler was re-elected to the Board of Directors of the TAS.