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Club News

For the past few months we have not been able to publish The Record but it is hoped that in the future we will publish more often. This means that our members should get the rust off the writing pens and write up some of your digs. Just write the paper as best you can and bring it to the Editor and he will help you whip it into shape.

In the spring of 1959 several of our members did some exploratory work at the Ramsey Site (17D3-2) in Denton County. Test pits were dug by Frank Sloan, Bill Blair, Mark Huff and Evelyn and Herschel Cobb. On another week end Bobby Vance and Lloyd Harper dug test pits. A fragmentary skull and several other artifacts were found in testing. This site seems to be the remains of a village site of the Henrietta Focus. It is hoped that a report on this dig will appear soon.

Also, in 1959, several members assisted Mr. E. W. Hayner of Kilgore, in partially excavating a multiple component Caddo Site in Smith County. Three hearths, a portion of two pottery vessels, mussel shells and many pottery sherds were found. A report will soon appear on this dig.

R. K. Harris and Lloyd Harper have been working on several large site in Lake Whitney Basin. Test pits have been dug in two sites. During River Basin Survey days, an attempt was made to locate the Choctaw Camp of the late 1860's. One of the sites being investigated by Harris and Harper (39B1-13) has a historic level which has produced iron dress ornaments, army buttons, trade pipe fragments, faceted trade beads, and gun flints. More work is planned on this site. This same site has two other levels below the historic level. The middle level is Neo-American and the bottom level is Archaic. The bottom level has produced many artifacts similar to the Edwards Plateau Aspect including some 35 to 40 Plainview, Angostura, Scottsbluff, Meserve and Dalton. Also present are a few dart points of The Carrollton Focus Archaic including "net-sinkers".

During the past winter Bill Crook and R. K. Harris have been working on a site on Dixon's Branch and have located a late bison kill. The bison kill has not been completely excavated but three small arrowpoints of the type Fresno have been found in the rib case. When excavation is complete a report will be issued.

Several other members have made trips to various other sites in Northeast and North Central Texas. From these trips will come reports and papers. Two papers in this issue are results of trips made to sites in the area.

### General News

Mr. Ed Jelks and crew of the salvage department of the National Park Service-University of Texas plan to work in the Iron Bridge Basin as soon as the weather permits. This historic site is called the Pierson Site and is probably the site of the Towakoni Village of 1760. The artifacts found are very much like those found on the Womack or Garretts Bluff Site in Lamar County, Texas. Our members will want to attend this dig and look forward to it.

### *Eighteen* BURIAL 18, THE SAM COFFMAN SITE

On a field trip to the Sam Coffman Site, in November 1959, Mr. and Mrs. Herschel Cobb and I found and excavated a Burial which we gave the No. 18. This number was given this burial to follow thru with the burial numbers of Mr. R. K. Harris, who had previously excavated at this site and reported on the site in our Texas Society Bulletin. I was introduced to the site by Mr. Harris.

In the river bank Burial 18 had the appearance of two adjacent rings of bone, in a slightly darker soil. This led to the discovery of the burial and burial pit. The bones were identified as the cross-section of the right ulna and radius. Local collectors had found the burial but had mistaken the bones for "toe bones". From this error they decided that the whole burial had been lost to the river. Unfortunately, the skull, both humeri, and the entire thorax had been lost to the river.

Excavation disclosed a single burial, extended on the back, and oriented with the head to the north-east. Further examination of the skeletal material revealed it to be the burial of a female. The calculated length of the person is 61 inches, and the estimated age at time of death was between 30 and 50 years of age. The only burial offerings found were a deer mandible and broken water bottle. Of course we have no way of knowing what was around the head as this part of the burial was lost to the river.

The deer mandible lay in a horizontal plane over the lower one-third of the right femur. The lower margin of the mandible is highly polished suggesting its use as a "corn sheller". The incisor teeth had been removed to make a handle which would conveniently fit the grip of most women.

The broken water bottle was found to the right of the right foot. The neck of the bottle was lying on its side at approximately the level of the ankle. The

remaining pieces of the vessel were stacked in three or four piles near the neck of the vessel. The rest of the burial pit was completely explored and no other artifacts were found. Plate 1 shows artifacts from this burial.

The completely restored water bottle represents a spool-necked vessel. The tempering material is finely crushed shell. The incised design was repeated four times around the body of the vessel. Although the design was incised rather than engraved, this bottle is probably of the type Hudson Engraved. (See Editors note below).

In summary, this burial exemplifies the importance of investigating every piece of bone in trying to locate burials. No hint as to the cause of death was found in the skeletal material. It may be significant that the deer mandible was associated with the burial of a female rather than a male individual. To the author's knowledge a vessel of Hudson Engraved has not been found in McCurtain Focus prior to the finding of this burial. (See Editors note below).

#### References:

- Harris, R. K. 1953  
The Sam Kaufman Site, Red River County, Texas. Bulletin Texas Archaeological Society. Vol. 24, pp 43-68.
- Krieger, Alex D. and Suhm, Dee Ann 1954  
An Introductory Handbook of Texas Archeology. Bulletin Texas Archeological Society, Vol. 25.
- Webb, C. H. 1959 ; The Belcher Mound. American Antiquity. VolXXIV, No.4, Pt.2.

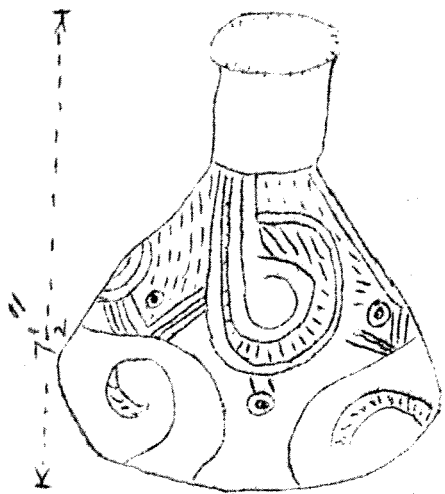
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#### Editors Note.

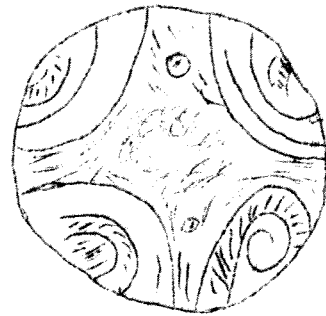
In Vol. 24 Bulletin of Texas Archeological Society, the Editor <sup>described</sup> The Sam Kaufman Site and its burial areas. ( Kaufman should be spelled Coffman). Burials 1, 5, 7, and 9 had water bottles of the Type Hudson Engraved present. In 1953, the type Hudson Engraved had not been described.

The Sam Coffman Site is rather late in the Caddo time span. The pressure of the Osage to the north and the Choctaw to the east had driven the last of the Caddo bands above the big bend of the Red together for their own protection.

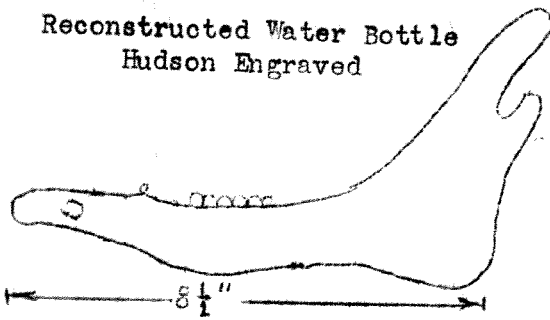
This banding together brought the remainder of groups like the McCurtain, Texarkana, Glendora, and other Foci together and there was a pooling of pottery types and other artifacts. In the Editor's 1953 paper it can be seen that vessels of McCurtain and Texarkana Foci were found together in the same burial. Also, some vessels and certain conch shell insect effigies found in the Belcher Focus were found in the Coffman burials. In other words, the bottles which look like Hudson Engraved may be of this type or they may be of an undescribed type.



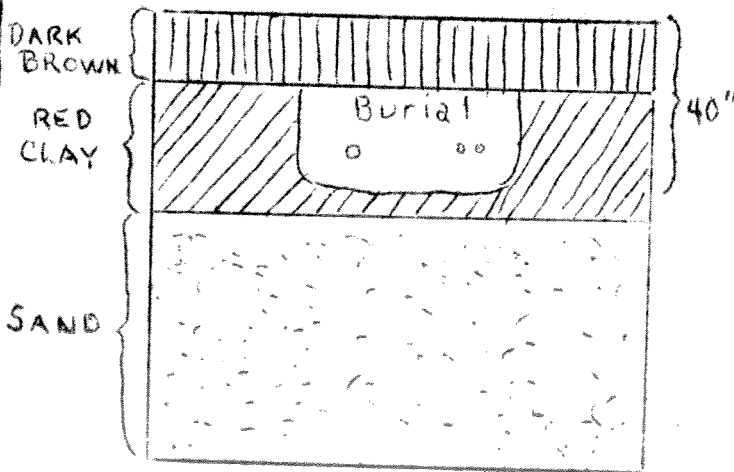
Reconstructed Water Bottle  
Hudson Engraved



Bottom View



Deer Mandible "Corn Sheller"



Profile of River Bank

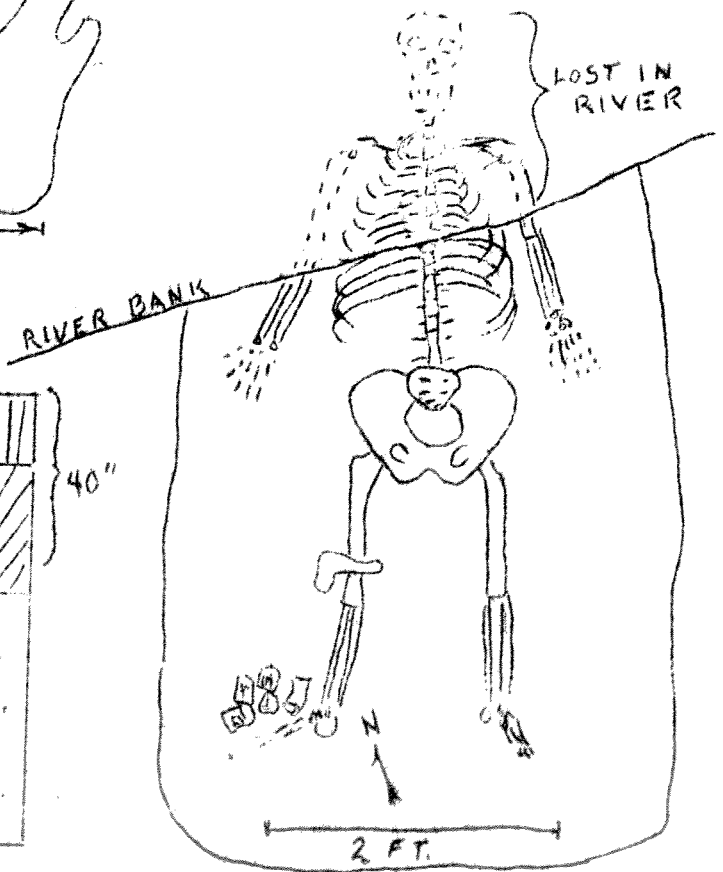


Plate 1 Details of Burial 18

A BURIAL AT LOWER ROCKWALL  
(B4LRW-1)

On December 19 and 21 , 1959 the author spent two cold rainy days at the Lower Rockwall Site digging out his first grave. When I arrived at the site on December 19th, I noticed two areas of fragments of human bone on the surface, disturbed by plowing. One of the burials was disturbed by the plow to such an extent that I was not able to do anything with it. The other one is described in this paper.

Although both burials were disturbed by the plow, this one could be salvaged for a little information. It was tightly flexed with head to the south-west. In fact it was so tightly flexed that it seemed that the body was some what forced into a very small burial pit.

Artifacts found in excavating were as follows:

1. A broken tip of a dart point in the area of the vertebra.
2. A round turtle back scraper between the long bones.
3. Large round stone under the pelvis.
4. A bed of mussel shell seemed to have been placed in the pit before the burial was made.

I dug the earth away around the burial and to a depth of 12" below the burial and found no other features. Plate 2 shows diagram and artifacts from this burial.

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Editors Note

Both of the papers in this issue of The Record were written by two of our newer members. In both cases they preserved information from archeological sites that were being destroyed by a river and the plow- information that would have been lost forever. Both papers show the effects of training that us old timers are trying to give the members of the Dallas Archaeological Society. Congratulations to both of these boys, and to the rest of you- get the rust off of your writing pens and give the old Editor some more papers.

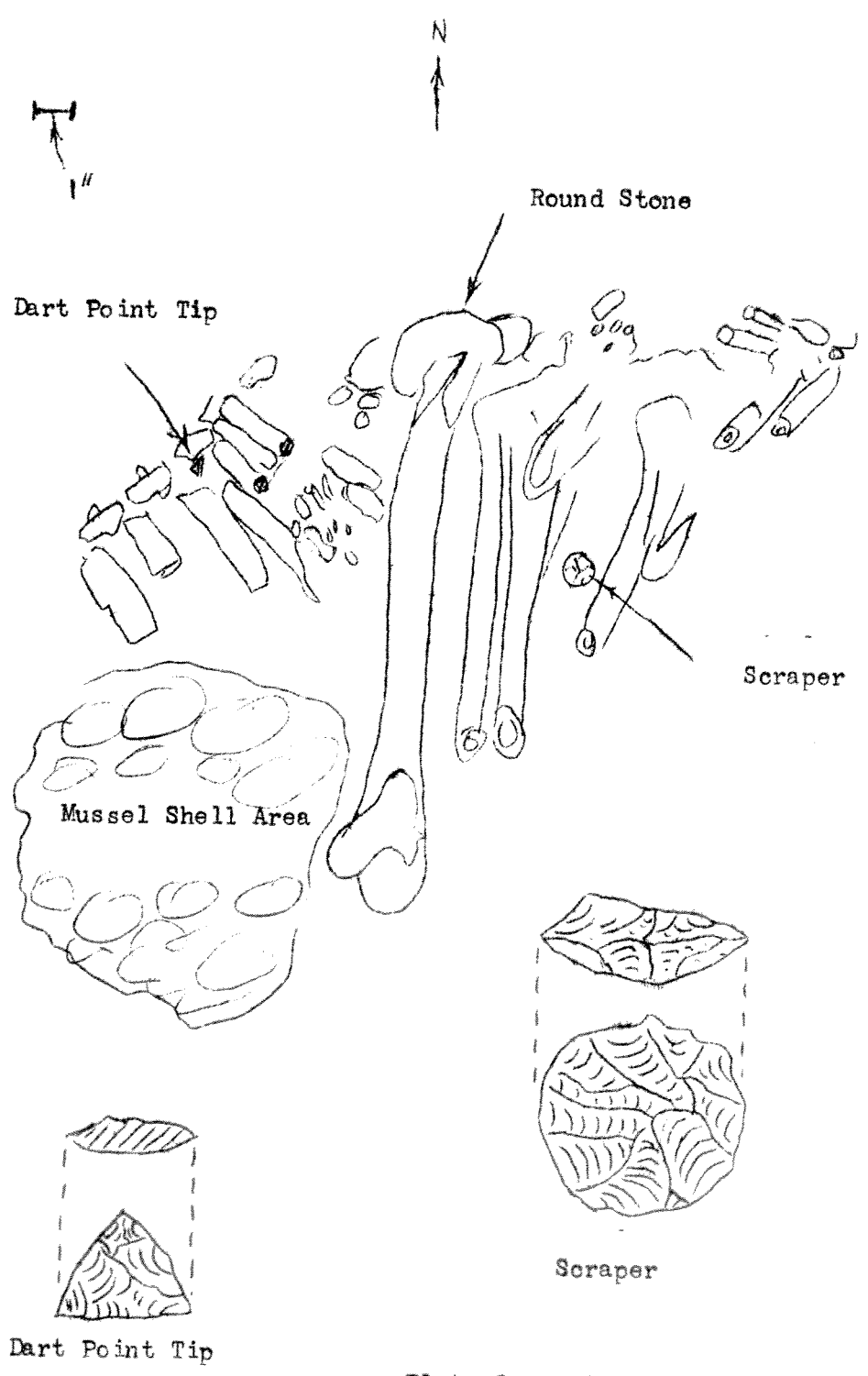


Plate 2 Burial Lower Rockwall