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R. K. Harris, Editor
R. E. Forrester, Jr., Asst. Editor
Address communications to the Editor
9024 San Fernando Way
Dallas 18, Texas

NOTES AND NEWS

At last we've come to the end of another year and we look back to what we have accomplished during the past year. Under our officers, Dr. Robert O. Coleman, President; Mr. Jay Blaine, Vice President and Mrs. Norma Hoffrichter, Secretary-Treasurer, we have had some wonderful meetings. Mr. C. A. Smith, our Program Chairman, has arranged for us during the past year, a good series of programs. Mrs. R. B. Gilmore, our Librarian has done an excellent job of bringing our Library up-to-date, for the use of our members.

We completed in the Fall of 1963 our survey of the Forney Reservoir, on East Fork of the Trinity River. This Report was submitted to the Texas Archeological Salvage Project of The University of Texas, for submission to the National Park Service; in accordance with the provisions of Purchase Order 33-514. This manuscript was published in December 1963 at Austin, Texas. It is entitled:

"An Appraisal of the Archeological Resources of
Forney Reservoir, Collin, Dallas, Kaufman,
and Rockwall Counties, Texas"

by

Members of the Dallas Archeological Society
Edited by

R. K. Harris and Dee Ann Suhm
with Appendices by

Robert Hatzenbuehler and R. K. Harris; Mark E. Huff, Jr., and
Norman Biggs

We have received several letters from over the United States stating that it was a valuable and excellent report. Among these

letters was one from the National Park Service and another from the Smithsonian Institute, complimenting the Dallas Archeological Society on the high quality of the publication.

Several of our members have asked the question, "When is the Gilbert Report coming out?". The final work on this manuscript is being done in Austin during the late summer and fall of '64, and it should appear as a special Bulletin of the Texas Archeological Society sometime during the late fall; or the early part of 1965.

The third Summer Field School of the TAS will be held from June 20th through July 4th, 1964 at the Vinson Site in Limestone County, Texas. As many of our members as can should line up for the summer dig. Our neighbor, the Tarrant County Archaeological Society, will help sponsor this year's Summer Field School. Hope to see you there.

The paper printed in this issue of THE RECORD is by Mrs. Kathleen Gilmore and Mrs. Norma Hoffrichter. It is on the L. O. Ray Site in Delta County, Texas, and it is a paper that makes an important contribution to the archaeology of northeast Texas. Furthermore, it is a result of the fine work being done by these two members, since they have been attending the last two Summer Field Schools. These two women have applied their knowledge and efforts in selecting a site, properly working the site, and making a report on the site. This type of work is what the TAS Board of Directors had in mind when they started the Summer Field School. It is hoped that more of our members will make such a contribution to THE RECORD, and to archaeology in general in our area.

The Dallas Archeological Society feels honored that its President, Dr. Robert O. Coleman has been selected by the President of the Southwestern Baptist Seminary of Fort Worth, Texas, to join a team of American archaeologists in excavating of the ancient city of Hebron, during the summer of 1964. Hebron is the traditional site of the tombs of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, and the first capital city of King David. The expedition will be under the direction of Professor Phillip C. Hammond of the Department of Biblical Studies of the Princeton Theological Seminary. Dr. Coleman is Associate Professor of Biblical Introduction and Old Testament at the Southwestern Baptist Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas.

Our annual picnic and election of officers for the next year will be held at 6452 Waggoner Drive, the home of Mr. and Mrs. Wally Hoffrichter, on Saturday June 13, 1964.

PRELIMINARY INVESTIGATION
L. O. RAY SITE, DELTA COUNTY, TEXAS

SITE Dt. 1

Introduction

Preliminary investigations at the Ray Site, a small midden in Delta County, Texas, have led the writers to believe, from initial analysis of the artifacts, that the main occupation of the site was during Gibson Aspect times, with a small Archaic occupation before the Gibson Period.

Environmental Background

The Ray Site is near the eastern edge of Fenneman's Black Prairie in the Western Coastal Plains Province. The underlying rocks are probably Navarro of Cretaceous Age. The surrounding low hills are covered with several species of oak, hickory, with scattered sweet gum, bois d'arc, and persimmon. This property has been owned by the Ray and Miller families since about 1855. There is the tradition in the Ray family that the local area of the site was at one time covered with cane, and that it abounded in deer, wild turkey, even bear and panther.

It is unknown how long the area has been in cultivation, but it is now being used as pasture land with periodic plowings and plantings of lespedeza, vetch and Johnson grass.

Location of Site

The Ray Site is located near the junction of the Middle Sulphur River, South Sulphur River and Jernigans Creek, and north of the south levee of the Middle Sulphur River. The aerial photograph prepared by the U. S. Department of Agriculture shows three small rounded features, one larger than the other two. One of the small features is located due east of the large feature; the other is located north and about 10° east of the large feature. As yet the small features have not been investigated.

The site was made known to the writers in May 1962, by Gerald Moore, who was born on a farm in the vicinity. The site

has been known locally for many years. Surface collecting and pot-holing have been extensive.

The area tested is the largest of the three features. It is a midden deposit about 70 feet in an east-west direction and 100 feet in a north-south direction. It now has a maximum elevation from the surrounding area of about 10 inches. Mr. L. O. Ray, the owner, states that the elevation was considerably higher in years past.

Excavations

Six test holes of different sizes were excavated. As the excavations were in a pasture, it was necessary to back-fill after each session of digging. Time for excavation was limited to an afternoon because of the distance from Dallas and the lack of weekend time. Many members of the Dallas Archeological Society were helpful in digging, including Lester Wilson, Loyd Harper, Mr. and Mrs. C. A. Smith, Jr., Mr. and Mrs. Jay Blaine, Barbara Nelson, Dessamae Lorrain. Others who helped were Flo Peterson, Betty Wayman, AnnaBelle Joyce, and Etta Hawkins. Our special thanks are to R. K. Harris for helping analyze the artifacts and to Bob Slaughter for help in analyzing the bone material. Mr. L. O. Ray has been most helpful in so graciously permitting us to excavate and in relating the early history of the region.

A spot which seemed to be least disturbed and near the center of the midden was selected for the first test hole. A three-foot square was laid off east of the East 101 line and south of the South 50 line. Test Hole No. 2 was laid out four feet west of East 101 along South 50 and three feet north of South 50. Test Hole No. 3 was laid out four feet west of East 101 and three feet south of South 50. Test Hole No. 4 was laid out four feet east of East 101 South 50, three feet north of South 50. Test Hole No. 5 was a five-foot square, the southeast corner of which is East 101, South 45. Test Hole No. 6 was a four-foot square due south of Test Hole No. 3. These test holes were excavated in numerical order.

Field Techniques

A datum was established well off the midden. This was labeled East 0, South 0, with the arbitrary elevation of 100. A grid was laid off in 10-foot squares with the north-south line 200 feet and the east-west line 150 feet in length. A builder's level and tripod were used for determining elevations with readings taken each 10 feet.

Each square was dug in 6-inch levels and the material was screened through 1/2-inch and 1/4-inch screens. When the soil was damp, quantities of mud balls were brought in for washing. A log was kept on each day's work. Artifacts were washed and catalogued.

Analysis of Artifacts

Pottery

A total of 291 pot sherds have been found at the Ray Site. Of these 71 were found on the surface.

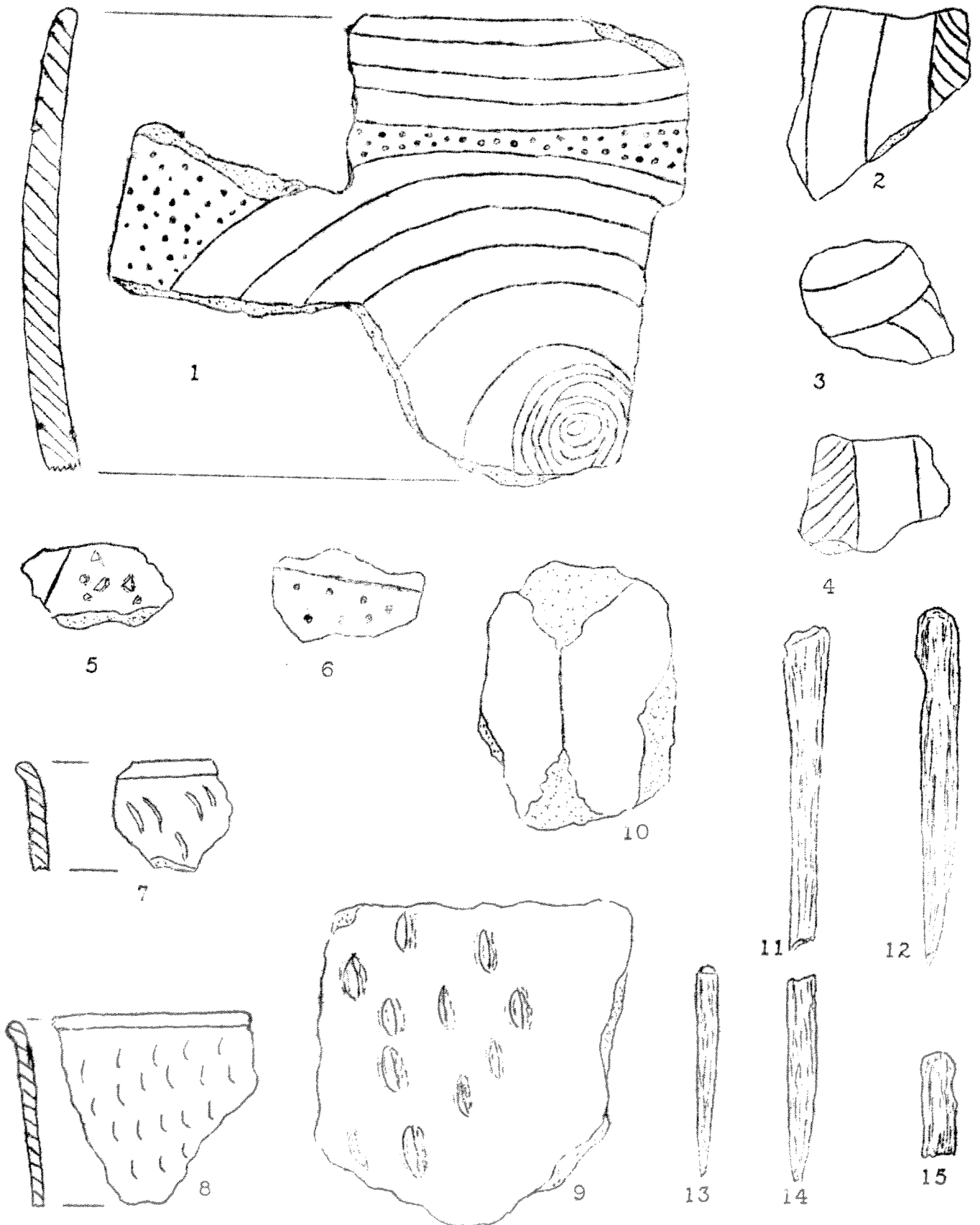
The sherds were analyzed with the aid of a binocular microscope and very weak hydrochloric acid. White particles contained in the sherds were considered bone if effervescence was not present when treated with hydrochloric acid and considered shell if it was present. All sherds containing clay and/or sand particles at random in the paste were considered as clay-grit tempered. When the sherds were grouped according to tempering agents, the following percentages were observed:

Clay-grit	64.0 percent
Bone	22.6 percent
Shell	1.3 percent
Sherd	12.1 percent

Of the 291 potsherds found on the surface and in 6 test holes at the Ray Site, 37 have some type of decoration. The following table shows the distribution of decorated sherds by levels.

	<u>Surface</u>	<u>Level 0</u> 0-6"	<u>Level I</u> 6-12"	<u>Level II</u> 12-18"	<u>Level III</u> 18-24"	<u>Level IV</u> 24-36"	<u>Total</u>
Incised	2	2	8	1	2	-	15
Punctate	3	7	5	1	-	-	16
Engraved	-	-	2	-	-	-	2
Banded	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
Red Film	1	1	-	-	-	-	2
Brushed(?)	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
Total	7	11	15	2	2	-	37

Ten of the incised sherds contain particles of clay and fine sand in varying quantities; five contain small fragments of bone in



Scale Full Size

PLATE 1 Ray Site, Delta County, Texas

the paste. Four of these sherds (Plate I, Figures 1-4) may be fragments of vessels fitting the description of Crockett Curvilinear Incised. The sherd shown in Plate I, Figure 1) is engraved, but probably belongs to a vessel of this type. Two small sherds with deeply incised lines and deep punctates may fit the description of Pennington-Punctate Incised, Plate I, Figures 5-6) (Suhm, Krieger and Jelks, 1954). The remaining incised sherds have either a single incised line or a series of parallel incised lines.

Several of the sherds are decorated with punctates probably made with the fingernail. The punctates vary in size and depth. Three sherds (Plate I, Figures 7-9) may belong to the type Kiam Incised. (Suhm, Krieger and Jelks, 1954).

One thick plain sherd, 175 mm. (Plate I, Figure 10) has a lumpy texture and seems to contain small bits of sherds. The two surfaces that are smoothed come together at about a 45° angle and the innerface is about 250 mm. There is a possibility that this sherd is a part of a square-bottomed vessel. According to R. K. Harris*, in the Wylie Focus at the Upper Farmersville Site were found two sherds of Marksville Incised. In this type the vessel walls are thick and heavy, some of which have square bases.

Two plain sherds, besides having small particles of bone and clay inclusions, have small particles of charcoal contained in the paste.

Two sherds, one with clay-grit inclusions and one with bone particle inclusions, have a red film or wash on the surface of the sherd.

Shell Tempered Sherds

Four shell-tempered sherds were found at the Ray Site. Of these one was found on the surface and the other three were in the 0 to 6-inch level. All of the four sherds are undecorated. The thickness of the sherds range from 5 mm. to 10 mm. The paste is smooth to somewhat lumpy; three sherds are gray in color and the remaining one gray to tan. These four sherds and one Perdiz point may indicate a fleeting

* R. K. Harris, THE RECORD, 1948.

occupation during Fulton Aspect Times. Further work at the site may clear this up.

Sherds with Sherd Temper

Of the 291 sherds found, 12.1 percent appear to be tempered with crushed sherds.

Lithic Artifacts

Projectile Points

The projectile points were divided into two groups -- arrow points and dart points on the basis of size and manufacturing technique. These were then sorted into groups with similar characteristics of stem and blade.

Twenty-eight lithic artifacts can be classed as dart points, but due to the fragmentary nature of some, only fifteen are described.

Twelve of the fifteen have been classified as Gary points. Three other points (not described) are probably Gary points. In general these points have triangular blades, well-defined shoulders, contracting stems with rounded bases and are made of quartzite. Most of these points are of good workmanship, considering the material used, with pressure flaked edges. These points correspond very closely to the Gary D-1 described by Duffield (1961).

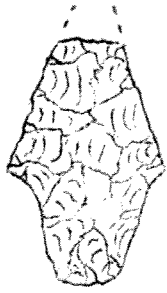
Seven of the above points (Plate II, Figures 1-7) have dimensions within these limits: length, 30-45 mm.; width at shoulders, 16-25 mm.; thickness, 5-8 mm. The stem length is about one third the length.

One point, 60 mm. long (projected length) has a stem one fourth the length of the point, (Plate II. Figure 8).

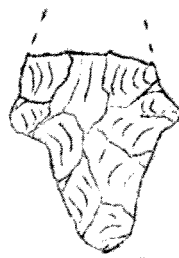
Four of the twelve points are of crude workmanship. One point (Plate II, Figure 9) has a long, slim stem and prominent, slightly barbed shoulders. Another (Plate II, Figure 10) has a wide stem, 16mm., which contracts to a flat base formed by the cortex of the stone used. The two others (Plate II, Figures 11, 12) have wide rounded shoulders, 27 mm., and a broad stem. These two points appear similar to those pictured in Suhm and Jelks (1962). It is interesting to note that these four points came from the deepest areas excavated.



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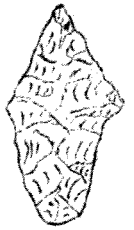
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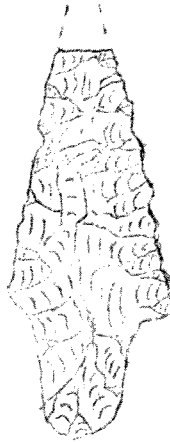
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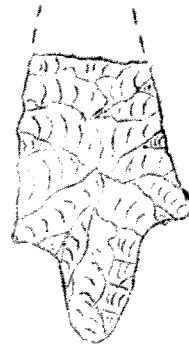
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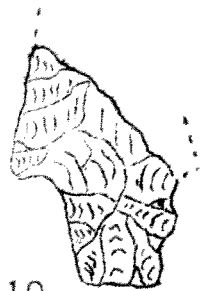
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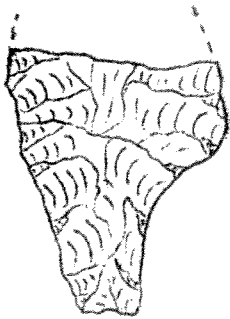
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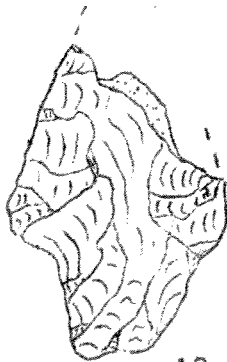
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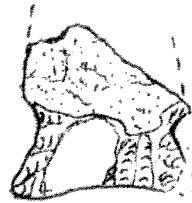
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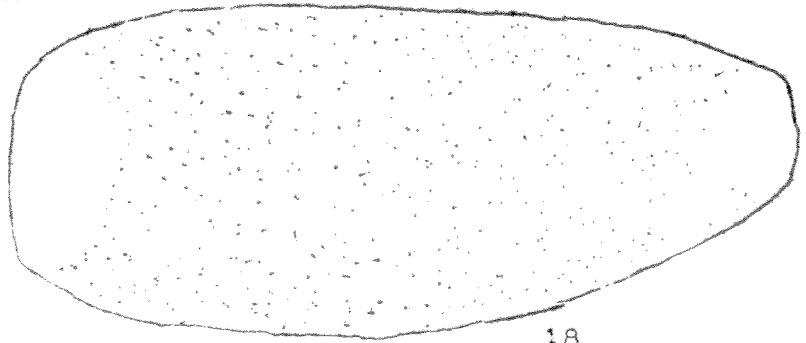
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16



17



18

Scale Full Size

PLATE II Ray Site, Delta County, Texas

Three other points cannot be classified as Gary. One of these is made of black flint, or possibly palmwood, and has the blade missing leaving the stem and shoulder of this expanding stem point. (Plate II, Figure 13). Long side notches form a strongly flaring base as wide as the shoulder. The base is concave and very thin. Although not enough of this point remains to be definitive, the base resembles the Edgewood type.

The second point in the above group is slim with the end of the blade missing. (Plate II, Figure 14). The blade is triangular with straight edges and distinct shoulders. The stem has parallel sides with a flat base. It is of crude workmanship. The longitudinal axis of the stem and of the blade are at a slight angle to one another.

The third point is slender but crude and thick (Plate II, Figure 15). The poorly defined stem has parallel sides and a flat base. The thickness of the point, 7 mm., is consistent for almost the entire length, 48 mm. Perhaps this is not a dart point.

Of forty-five arrow points and fragments found, twenty-nine can be described.

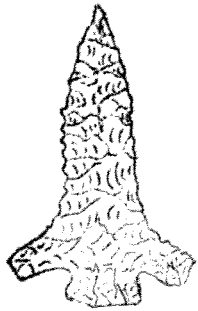
Eleven points are characterized by short, expanding stem and blade edges concave near the shoulder and convex to the point. Notches in the convex base create a short expanding stem and a long flat-tipped or squared barb. (Plate III, Figures 1-4).

The longest of these and the most finely worked is 40 mm. long, 19 mm. wide at the shoulder, and 3 mm. thick (Plate III, Figure 1). The other ten points vary from 20 to 40 mm. in length. Points like these have been classified as Alba, but according to R. K. Harris* these should probably be broken down into Catahoula and Agee Types (Harris, et al., 1963). These types have been found at Hogge Bridge (Stephenson, 1952); Branch Site, Collin County, Thompson Lake Site, Collin County, Butler Hole, Collin County (Lester Wilson*); and Limerick Site (Duffield, 1961).

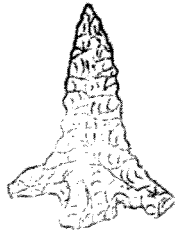
Nine bulbous stem points were found (Plate III, Figures 5-12). The blades are triangular with straight to slightly concave to slightly convex edges. The shoulders are straight and slightly barbed. The length varies from 30 to 16 mm.

One of the above group is crudely made and flat and has shoulders 23 mm. wide (Plate III, Figure 7). Two slim points

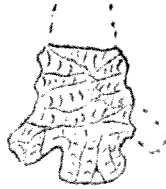
* Personal Communication.



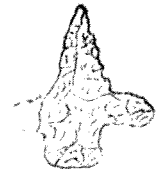
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20

Scale Full Size

PLATE III Ray Site, Delta County

have distinct shoulders on only one side (Plate III, Figure 5, 6). Two points have slightly descending barbs (Plate III, Figure 12). One small point with convex edged blade is very finely worked, (Plate III, Figure 11).

Six contracting stem points with prominent barbs and serrated edges were found. The barbs are at right angles to the longitudinal axis of the point.

Six contracting stem points have prominent barbs and serrated edges on the blade (Plate III, Figures 16-20). The barbs are at right angles to the longitudinal axis of the point. The blade is triangular and has straight to slightly concave edges. The size varies from 20 to 25 mm. A seventh contracting stem point is narrow, 28 mm. long, and has one rounded shoulder and one broken barb (Plate III, Figure 15).

One small point with triangular blade, slightly barbed shoulders and parallel sided stem with tip of stem broken may be a Perdiz point (Plate III, Figure 14)

One point, 20 mm. long, may be a blank (Plate III, Figure 13). The stem has straight parallel sides and a flat base. The blade is triangular with poorly defined shoulders.

Table showing the distribution of projectile points by depths:

	Surface	Level 0	Level I	Level II	Level III	Level IV	Total
	0-6	6-12	12-18	18-24	24-36		
Gary	1	5		1	4	1	12
Edgewood					1		1
Other dart	1	1					2
Expanding Arrow	3	3	3	2			11
Bulbous stem Arrow	1	3	3	1	1		9
Contracting stem Arrow	3	2	1	1			7
Perdiz			1				1
Other	1						1
TOTAL	10	14	8	5	6	1	44

If the first six inches of the midden is considered plow zone, then for stratigraphic purposes all surface points and Level 0 points can be disregarded. None that there are 8 arrow points in Level I, 4 in Level II, 1 in Level III and none in Level IV. There are no dart points in Level I, 1 in Level II, 4 in Level III, and 1 in Level IV. Although the sampling is very small, this Table seems to indicate that the arrow points are from a more recent culture and the dart points possibly from an archaic culture.

Miscellaneous Lithic Artifacts

Two drills, one fashioned from a core (Plate II, Figure 17) and the other from a flake (Plate II, Figure 16) have oval shaped bases. Three other broken artifacts may have been drills.

Eight flakes show evidence of retouching to make one or more cutting edges.

Five large oval bifacial blades manufactured by percussion flaking range from 42-47 mm. long. Five small and oval percussion flaked blades range from 20-32 mm. long. Three of these small blades show evidence of some pressure flaking.

A highly polished celt was found by Mr. Ray on the surface (Plate II, Figure 18). It is 180 mm. long, 48 mm. wide and 40 mm. thick. It is oval shaped in cross section.

A thick rounded stone has shallow ground depressions on both surfaces --- a pitted stone.

Five triangular shaped artifacts with pressure flaked edges are probably blanks for making arrow points.

Four pecked stones show evidence of use.

Four broken points of some type of blade are large and heavy and were manufactured by large percussion flaking.

Bone and Shell Artifacts

Two bone "pins" and two fragments of bone "pins" were found in Level I (6-12"), Plate I, Figures 13, 14, 15). Two broken bone awls were found in Level 0, (Plate I, Figures 11, 12). Two fragments of polished hollow bones were found on the surface and one is Level I (6-12"). Four antler tips were found --- two in Level 0 (0-6"), one in Level I (6-12"), and one in Level III (18-24"). One small piece of mussel shell, 3 cm. by 1.7 cm. with two v-shaped notches cut from it, was found

at Level IV (24-36").

Stratigraphy

There seems to be no definite delineation of soil zones in the Ray Midden. The uppermost soil is dark gray midden soil that is highly calcareous. This soil grades downward into a more clayey, somewhat more sandy soil. Charcoal was scattered throughout each test hole in irregular distribution. As most of the larger points occur in the deeper areas, and smaller points and the small amount of shell-tempered potsherds in the shallower areas, occupation may have been continuous for a long time.

Food Evidence

In all of the test holes were numerous bones, many of which were burned, and many burned nuts, probably hickory. Deer bones accounted for the greatest number of bones. There was only one bison bone found, a tibia end. Other remains found are bird, possum, glass lizard, skunk, wood rat, cotton rat, tree squirrel, turtle, raccoon, beaver, snails, and mussel shells.

Occupational Features

A great quantity of wattle impressed daub was found in all test holes, although no post holes or floors were found. It is hoped that with further excavation some of these features may be encountered.

Although no fire hearths were located in excavation, a great number of fire-cracked rocks were found at all levels.

Conclusions and Remarks

As large points occur in the deeper zones at the Ray Site without association with pottery, it is possible there was an Archaic occupation. Alba-like points, probable Crockett Curvilinear Incised sherds, and Pennington-like sherds may indicate an occupation at the Gibson cultural level. The small amount of shell-tempered potsherds and a possible Perdiz point may indicate a brief occupation during Fulton Times. Due to the small amount of testing of the site, the foregoing is inconclusive. It is planned by the writers to excavate further in the hope that more definitive features may be found.

As far as the actual dating is concerned, Bob Slaughter (1963) has found in his work on the North Sulphur River that the black sediment covering the valley fill has been deposited in the last 1,000 years. Further work is necessary before it can be said that this can be correlated with the sediment of the Ray Site.

Mrs. Kathleen Gilmore
Mrs. Norma Hoffrichter

Dallas, Texas
June 8, 1964.

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