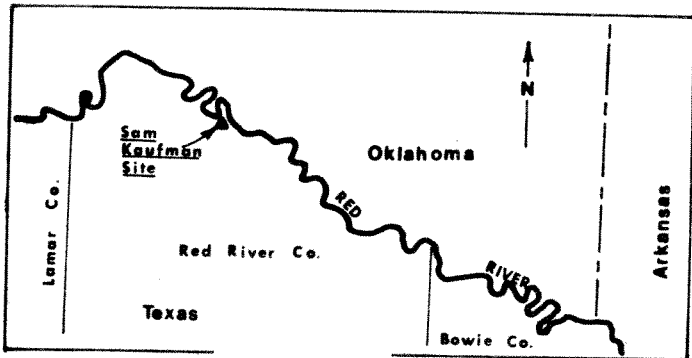
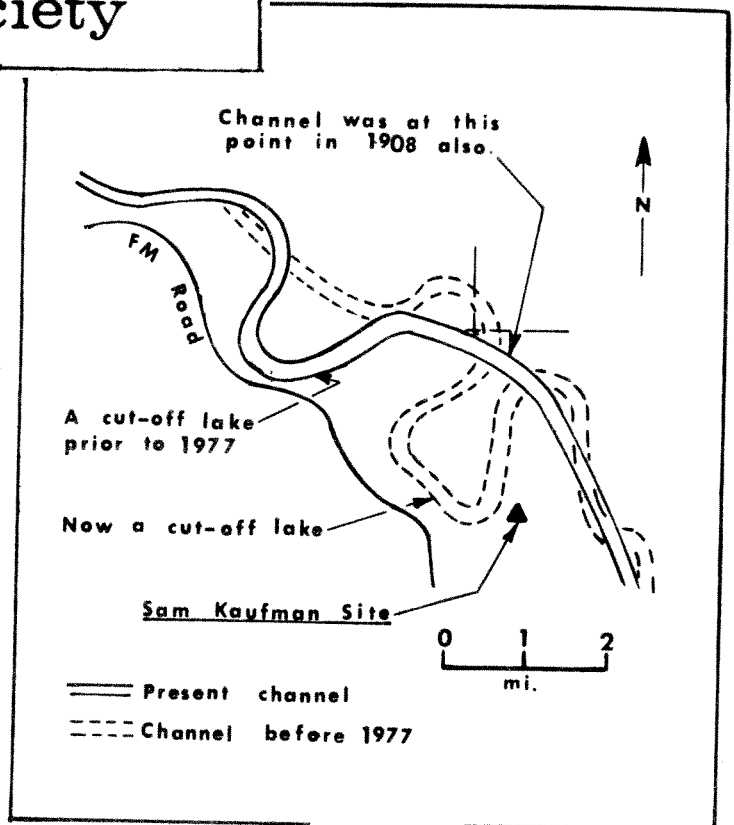


Dallas Archeological Society



THE RIVER



THE SITE

The **RECORD**

Volume 39, Number 1 September, 1983

The **RECORD**

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The RECORD

September, 1983.

EDITOR'S NOTES

A big date to remember is November 4 through November 6 1983, when The Texas Archeological Society holds its annual meeting in Dallas at the Dunfey Dallas Hotel. This is located on Northwest Highway at Marsh Lane. If you need a reservation form or other information see Paul Lorrain. The hosts of this annual meeting are SMU and the Dallas Archeological Society. To volunteer your services on the many chores necessary to this meeting, call Paul Lorrain, 750-1835.

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I just talked to our esteemed member and internationally known flintknapper, J.B. Sollberger, again. As most know, he had bypass surgery earlier in the year and is doing fine. He attended the September DAS meeting. He sounds good. I'm not saying that he will be racing somebody's bull to the nearest barbed wire fence -- not just yet-- but he has been knocking the flint around, and I'm looking forward to seeing him "back on the train" again. Congratulations, J. B.

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Our deepest sympathies go to our friend and member, Anna Ericson, and to president Ruth Ann Ericson. Anna's brother, Mr. Ed Almquist, passed away last month in their home state of Kansas.

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Herschel Cobb has prepared another interesting paper for us, which appears in this issue of THE RECORD. Thanks, Herschel.

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Sincere sympathies also go to our excellent secretary, Bonnie McKee, whose mother-in-law, Katherine Jalonick McKee, passed away just a few days ago. Special sympathy is for husband, Bob McKee.

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Our excellent treasurer, Vic Armstrong, has had problems lately with his cute daughter, Leigh Ann, 11 years old. It seems that Leigh Ann really enjoys our McKenzie Site (smart girl!). But mean old father, Vic, has been snowed with urgent work that keeps him and Leigh Ann away from the McKenzie Site. Tish, tish, Vic.

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A BURIAL AT THE SAM KAUFMAN SITE

By Herschel Cobb

(with a rare eyewitness account which catches the Red River in the act of furiously digging itself a new channel.)

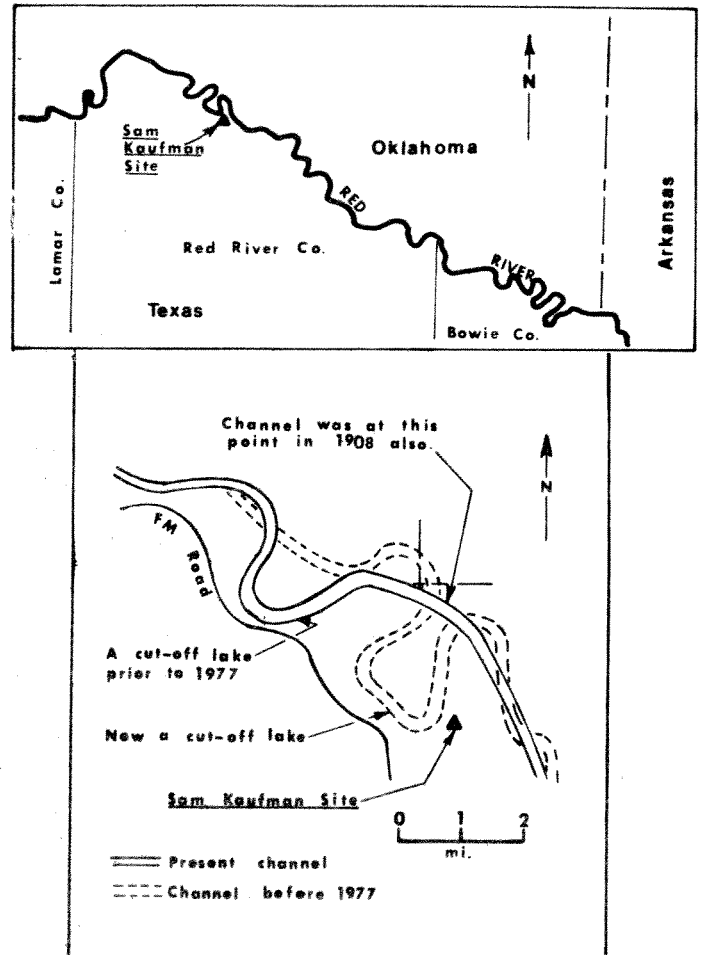


Figure 1. (upper) The Red River
(lower) The Sam Kaufman Site

The Sam Kaufman site is located on the south bank of the Red River in Red River County, Texas, in Northeast Texas.

Over a period of many years, prehistoric burials were exposed in the Red River bank by the eroding action of the river from heavy rains. This river is well known for its meandering and for changing its course. On the curving horseshoe and ox-bow bends, the river cuts away the outside bank of the curve and builds up sand bars at the opposite bank. This widens the river, and sometimes destroys valuable farm land.

Mr. Kaufman once said that he had lost 200 acres of his land to the river.

The Sam Kaufman Site is quite extensive, containing many burials over a large area. Through the years, the number of burials lost to the river was undoubtedly tremendous.

This site is considered a component of the McCurtain Focus of the Fulton Aspect. The McCurtain Focus was first defined by Baerrais (1943). Components of it are known in McCurtain County, Oklahoma, and in Red River County, Texas. Detailed information was published on one component of the McCurtain Focus (the Sam Kaufman Site) by R. K. Harris (1953).

Quoting Harris in THE RECORD:
"This site is 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 River together for their own protection. There was a pooling of pottery types and other artifacts."
Harris, THE RECORD, 1960 15:(1)2.

A few members of the Dallas Archeological Society have salvaged a number of Sam Kaufman Site burials, over the years, and reported them in the society's bulletin, THE RECORD. In 1953, Mr. R. K. Harris reported eleven burials he and others had salvaged, and had assigned numbers to them.

From 1954 through early 1960, seven more burials were salvaged from the lower site and reported by Mr. Harris, Mr. and Mrs. John Perkins, Mr. Lester Wilson, and Dr. Mark Huff Jr.

A burial excavated by Dr. Huff, with the assistance of the writer was assigned the number eighteen.

The report that will follow describes burial number nineteen. This burial was excavated in early 1960 by Mr. Leon Joplin, an acquaintance living near the Sam Kaufman site.

In 1968, Southern Methodist University excavated two small low mounds and several single burials in the surrounding areas, as well as a multiple burial of 4 individuals, several house floors, and a circular shaft burial containing eleven individuals under the west mound.

Before proceeding with the report on burial number 19, we must digress to report a significant event. This is an eyewitness account of a violent change in the Red River's course which took place over an airline distance of about six miles along the river near the Sam Kaufman Site.

In the spring of 1977, heavy rains fell in the drainage of the Red River west of the Sam Kaufman Site, and the river was overflowing its banks in places.

The low gradient of the river and the existence of ox-bow and horseshoe bends lying at right angles to the normal direction of flow, contributed to the overflowing and cutting of a new channel. The new channel joined together the two ends of the horseshoe bend on which the Sam Kaufman Site is located and changed this former river bend into a cut-off lake. See Figure 1.

On the 17th. of May 1977, Mr Leon Joplin who lived near the Sam Kaufman site, was at home about two miles away. This was near the south part of the horseshow bend where the site is situated.

When the turbulent river cut the new channel, he stated that he heard a very loud roar that sounded like a tornado. He could see the tremendous flow of water rushing across the floodplain, taking the most direct route eastward, and bypassing the ox-bow bends which were already full as it cut a new channel in the red sandy soil.

Figure 1 shows the channel both before and after the change. It is straighter after being changed.

The Sam Kaufman Site is also changed. Since the bypass, the bank has become stabilized and covered with grass. No caving or eroding occurs that would expose any further burials.

We appreciate Mr. Joplin supplying this eyewitness account of a unique event taking place on a major American river. All have seen numerous ox-bow lakes, but few if any have experienced just how it all came about.

BURIAL # 19

Burial # 19 was discovered and excavated by Mr. Leon Joplin in the spring of 1960, after he had seen pothunters excavate burials in the area. He notified Dr. Mark Huff Jr., who, with the writer and his wife, Evelyn, removed the back-fill of the grave as Mr. Joplin remembered, and then photographed the burial for a permanent record. The five pottery vessels were put in their original locations for photographing.

The site number shown in Figure 2 is the one used in the old Texas quadrangle numbering system. The burial was about two feet deep, and the individual was in an extended supine position. The skeleton was in a poor state of preservation. In the photo taken from directly above the burial, Figure 2 the head was at the left side of the photo.

THE POTTERY VESSELS

Referring to Figure 3, (c) is a miniature Simms Engraved bowl, which is a variation of the usual type. The sharply angled shoulder is absent where the vessel body begins curving to the rim. Also, the rim is everted instead of being vertical. The color is black with mottled firing spots. Diameter is 11 centimeters and 5.5 cm. height. In the decoration pattern, ticks are visible on the lip of the rim. Two engraved lines encircle the bowl under the rim. There are four engraved panels spaced evenly around the bowl under the rim, with ticks on the bottom line.

The number four appears again and again in connection with the decoration panels of these and other Caddoan ceramics.

Simms Engraved occurs in the McCurtain and Texarkana Foci, and appears to be a late prehistoric type. In at least one case, it extends into association with European trade goods at the Sam Kaufman Site (Harris 1953).

A Nash Neck Banded type of jar, Figure 4 has a light tan color and a body

diameter of 11.5 cm. with a height of 12.7 cm. It has a narrow plain flaring rim. The decoration entails equally spaced nodes under the rim and a row of incised ticks alternating with small punctates (the magic number 4 again).

An elongated triangular applique design extends from the rim downward almost to the base of the vessel. Again the applique is repeated 4 times.

Item (b), Figure 5, is a Nash Neck Banded jar with a grayish tan color. The body of the vessel is 14 cm. in diameter and 17 cm. high. Decoration consists of four equally spaced nodes under the plain narrow rim, located in a row of small slanting punctates.

An elongated triangular applique design extends from the rim downward two thirds of the distance to the base. Again, the triangular applique design is repeated 4 times around the vessel.



FIGURE 2. BURIAL NUMBER 19. THE SITE NUMBER IS FROM THE OLD TEXAS QUADRANGLE NUMBERING SYSTEM

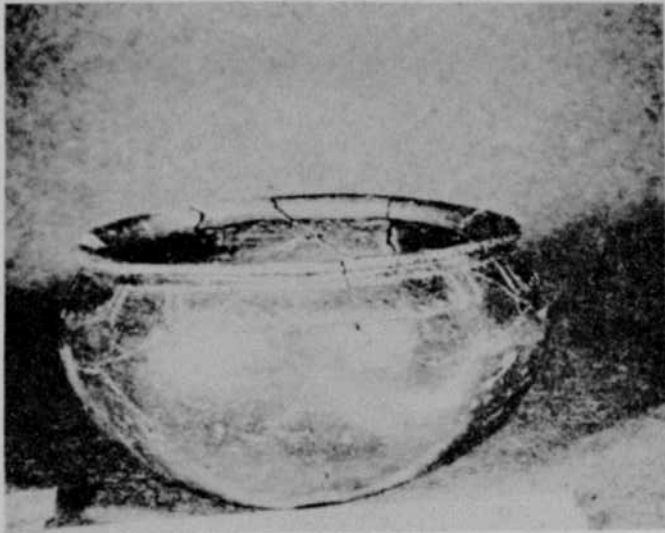


FIGURE 3 ITEM C, SIMMS ENGRAVED BOWL



FIGURE 6 ITEM D, HUDSON ENGRAVED BOTTLE



FIGURE 4 ITEM A, NASH NECK BANDED JAR

FIGURE 5 ITEM B
NASH NECK
BANDED JAR



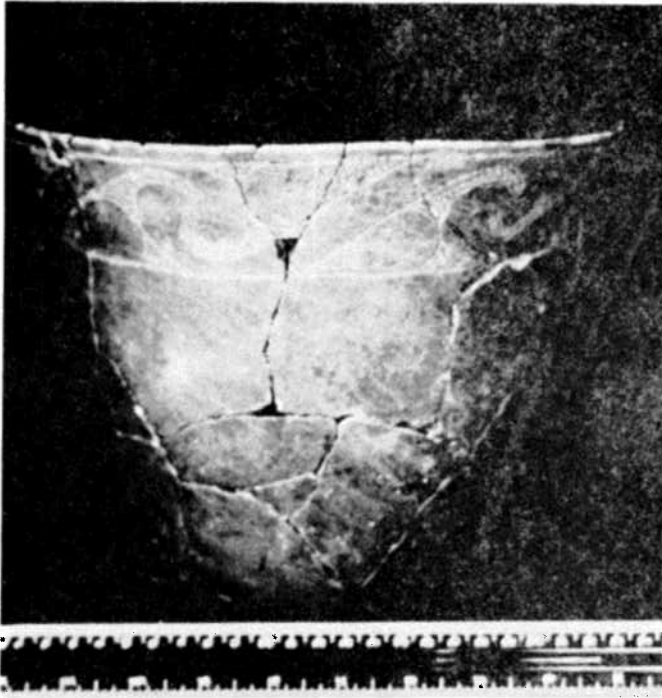


FIGURE 7, ITEM E, AVERY ENGRAVED BOWL.

Figure 7, Item E, is an Avery Engraved bowl, which has an interlocking scroll design engraved through the red slip or red film. Diameter at rim is 25 cm. and height is 20 cm. The area around the scrolls is filled with engraved hatchures..

The estimated ages of all five of these burial vessels is in the time span of about 1400 AD, to 1700AD, or even later. Avery engraved is very common in the McCurtain Focus of the Fulton Aspect. Nash Neck Banded occurs in both the McCurtain and the Texarkana Foci.

Another photo of the burial site, Figure 8, shows the location of the burial with respect to the ox-bow lake which formerly was a portion of the Red River channel.



TWO
VIEWS



FIGURE 8, BURIAL LOCATION NEAR OX-BOW LAKE, FORMER RED RIVER CHANNEL.

References Cited, see page 9.

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ECHOES FROM SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION ON THE
R. KING HARRIS ARCHEOLOGICAL COLLECTION

by Inus Marie Harris

Prepared for:
Dr. Ruth Ann Ericson
President DAS

First, a personal word: in behalf of King and me, I extend our appreciation to the Dallas Archeological Society Family, and members of the Texas Archeological Society, The University of Texas at Austin, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and the Smithsonian Institution for their years of support, inspiration, labor and motivation. It was this, combined with King's collecting and research, that resulted in the Lord blessing our efforts, and answering our prayer, by placing our archeological collection in the National Museum of Natural History at Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D. C.

After a massive stroke in May 1979, dust gathered on King's books and collection during his long illness, which finally resulted in his death on February 13, 1980. Later, Christian friends and members of King's family stood in a circle in our living room and joined me in prayer for the Lord to open a door where King's lifetime work would be continued; and, that it grow and expand to scholars yet unborn; here and around the world.

When Dr. Dennis Stanford, the Smithsonian Archeologist, decided to take the Collection to Smithsonian in 1981, he urged me not to publicize our gift. Because, he said, under no circumstances, would Smithsonian consider accepting the collection, except for the fact that they and other institutions heretofore mentioned, had previously worked with King and knew how faithfully he kept meticulous records on artifacts, mapped, catalogued, scientifically studied; and in many cases, he and others sketched, photographed and documented our findings.

It was you all: the DAS, SMU, et al, who personally, and as institutions, encouraged King and me in our continual tracing down and recording all the information we could gather on each artifact as it was added to our backyard Museum.

Since King's death, how often I have had to call on various ones of you, and the others mentioned, in order to help me recall things King told you; and you've

so graciously and knowledgeably responded and helped me contribute to many Smithsonian inquiries. Thus, you've all shared in this valuable contribution to our National Museum, and our National Archives which houses, I am told, not only King's notes and files, but also your correspondence and writings that came across his desk.

On August 5, 1983, June Crowder, a Smithsonian Lab Volunteer, and a former DAS member, phoned me. And, by the way, let me add, she is another example and living proof of the caliber of "Dallas Archeological Society-generated enthusiasm, tireless-labor and research". When her husband relocated in Washington, D. C., June Crowder volunteered to assist Dr. Joe Brown a member of the Anthropology Department at Smithsonian on inventoring King's collection. Work began on the collection in the Summer of 1982.

In August 1983, when she called, she was very happy to report that the Smithsonian inventory was complete and accession; that there are about 450 sheets, each about the size of a TV tray. These inventory sheets were completed by hand. They were scheduled to be put in the Smithsonian computer system in the fall of 1983, the first completely computerized Smithsonian collection.

On these Inventory Sheets is a wealth of information about each item, such as;

Site Number
Location: County, State and country
Smithsonian Accession Number
King's Number
Object Identification
Number present
Measurements
Type of Material
References (sometimes)

June Crowder said about 4,500 item types were recorded. Then she added, that often there were many specimens of one artifact type. For example, she recalled the micro-blades from the Poverty Point Site in Louisiana; that they numbered approximately 1,080. And, incidentally, Dr. Joe Brown related to me that the Poverty Point material in the Harris Collection is making a great contribution to the Smithsonian's Poverty Point collection.

Ed. note: This is a good point to remember. I, personally, did not even know that there were micro-blades at Poverty Point. To study this and other Poverty Point material at Smithsonian would be a great privilege. End of Ed. note.

June also referred to the fact that the collection totaled approximately 45,000. Consider the glass trade beads though; all of us here know of the thousands and thousands of bead specimens that represent only the "bead Collection, which King often concentrated on, in his last years.

In fact, several months ago, Dr. Dennis Stanford mentioned to Mr. Larry Banks that, at that time, 36,000 categorical, individual entries had gone into the computer. Then he explained that each entry could represent only a few specimens of one bead-type; but on the other hand, a categorical entry could also represent several thousand specimens of only one bead-type.

In closing, the purpose of June's August telephone call was to tell me to pass the word around to you all, and for us to publicize the fact that the Harris collection has been completely inventoried and will soon be computerized. It will then be moved to Smithsonian's beautiful new SILVER HILL ADDITION STORAGE. And, by proper appointment, it is now ready for continued observation, study, and research.

Ed. Note: We all thank Inus for her report. I'm also happy to pass on to you some information from June Crowder on the work that was done at Smithsonian on King's collection to make it accessible.

From June Crowder:

Cataloging or inventorying

1. Work began July 1982, finished December 1982, 7 hours per day, 5 days per week.
2. Each site laid out on worktable and grouped according to artifact type.
3. All field notes, published reports, etc. on site collected and read.
4. Each group catalogued on inventory sheets: A. temporary number, B. Harris number, C. identification of artifact, D. measurement, E. remarks/references, G. number of items in this group.

Accession of collection

1. After inventory sheets checked, permanent Smithsonian number assigned to each item
2. Numbering specimens began in January 1983
3. These sheets, with accession number added, form the basis for computer input performed by the Smithsonian staff.

I was assisted occasionally by other volunteers and especially by Mr. Brown of the Smithsonian staff, but was fortunate enough to perform essentially all cataloging of the collection by myself. I think it is nice that the process was kept in the "Dallas Archeological Society family". I thoroughly enjoyed the experience.

June Crowder

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Herschel Cobb paper
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