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During the past two years a considerable amount of archaeological field work has been carried on in Texas. As yet few formal reports have appeared. The Council of Texas Archaeologists believes that in order to bridge this unavoidable gap between excavation and complete reporting, some type of brief, informal reporting should be done. The Texas Archaeological News has therefore been designated as an organ to publish news accounts of archaeological work being done in Texas. Representatives of various institutions and societies doing archaeological work in Texas were recently asked to send in brief reports of their field activities during the past two seasons. All reports received to date are given in the pages that follow. These reports are arranged on a geographic basis as a convenience to those who are especially interested in specific areas in Texas. At the end of the last paragraph in each section is given the name of the individual who reported.

TRANS-PECOS

Big Bend

(1) Presidio. The First La Junta Expedition, a co-operative research project of Sul Ross College, Alpine, the School of American Research, and the Works Progress Administration, Project 10249, was in the field from October, 1938, to July, 1939. The project was directed by J. Charles Kelley of Sul Ross College. Field supervision was in charge of Donald J. Lehmer until May, 1939, after which date Kelley took over the field work. Two large sites were partially excavated and tests made at two other sites.

The most extensive excavation took place at the Millington site (Shaft-er 7:1), located just east of Presidio, Texas, on the low terrace of the Rio Grande. Here twenty-two house structures, totaling twenty-nine rooms, were cleared and others located but not excavated. The site was cross-sectioned by numerous trenches, which were excavated in five-foot horizontal blocks and four-inch vertical levels. Most of the debris was screened and many artifacts were found. This site has been identified with the historic pueblo of Santiago of the Luxán account of the Espejo Expedition

of 1582, and with the pueblo Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe of the nations Palacmes and Sibulas of the Trasvina account of 1715.

At the *Loama Alta* site (Shafter 7:3), located on the second terrace of the Rio Grande, five miles west of Presidio and directly opposite the mouth of the Rio Conchos of Mexico, five house structures, totaling ten rooms, and one large storage bin were excavated in whole or in part. A ring midden was trenched and several stratigraphic trenches were dug. This site was identified with the historic pueblo of San Juan Evangelista of the Luxan account of 1582.

The culture represented has been termed the Bravo Valley aspect, with three foci: the La Junta focus, the Concepcion focus, and the Conchos focus. The earliest, or La Junta focus, is dated at between 1200 and 1400 A. D. on the basis of intrusive Southwestern ceramics, notable El Paso and Chihuahua polychrome wares. The succeeding Concepcion focus was described by the early Spanish explorers, the first account being given in 1583, and was terminated about 1700 by the impact of Spanish acculturation. The Conchos focus represents the Spanish mission period in the Indian pueblos and closes with the absorption of surviving native elements into the Mexican culture and population.

The Bravo Valley aspect is characterized by the use of pit-houses and houses in pits; ceramics, including intrusive Southwestern wares and native grey, red, and red-on-buff wares; a characteristic stone complex dominated by the use of finely chipped small arrow points of three types (namely, fine barbed points with long, narrow, needle-like, well-chipped tangs; small triangular side and base notched points; and triangular points with concave bases and concave edges, often showing rudimentary side notches), small snub-nose scrapers, one-hand manos and oval bowl metates (approaching true troughed metates), flake knives and scrapers, fine-pointed graters, carved stone bowls, mortars and pestles, polishing stones, and innumerable end-notched pebbles; highly developed work in bone and shell, including engraved bone beads and eccentrically shaped items of shell; and by burial of infants and adults in flexed position beneath house floors and in refuse heaps. Osteometric studies have not been made, but from field measurements the group is thought to have been dolichocephalic.

The predominating houses of the La Junta focus are rectangular structures built in shallow or deep pits, the dimensions averaging about 11 by 14 feet. They often have adobe floors and occasionally have low adobe curbs around the floors. Houses are oriented with the long axis north and south, and often have against the south wall a rectangular block of adobe, possibly an "altar". Houses are occasionally set side by side to form east-west alignments of several rooms. Superstructures are of jacale construction, and seem to have been largely flat roofed with roof overhangs. Small round or oval pithouses, probably of earth lodge or tipi type, occurring in this focus are thought to be intrusive from the east.

The typical house of the Concepcion focus is a large rectangular house built in a shallow or deep pit. Houses of this type average about 24 by 28 feet in size. Floors are of hard-packed refuse, and the walls and superstructure are of jacalo construction. They were flat roofed and apparently had roof entrances. As in the La Junta focus, houses are often grouped together in long east-west alignments of several houses, either in one pit or in contiguous pits, while the individual houses are oriented north-south. No adobe was used and the "altar" of the earlier structures is absent. Houses of this type continued in use into the Conchos focus, where they gave way to surface jacalos and structures of adobe.

Between the rectangular houses of the La Junta focus and those of the Concepcion focus there is a stylistic gap that may represent a missing focus. At the Loama Alta site there seems to have been an actual period of no occupation between the two foci. Large circular pithouses thought to represent earth lodges, though again with possible flat roofs and roof entrances, are not well placed in the sequence, and may belong to this gap. One of these contained an adobe "altar" similar to those of the La Junta focus. It is possible that the circular structures represent an intrusive group from the east that for a time broke the development of the Bravo Valley aspect. In historical times the presence of such a group, the Jumano, is known from documentary sources and may be indicated by other archaeological traits. For example, two sherds of an engraved grey and black ware similar to Caddo-Hasinai wares of northeast Texas were found in one Concepcion focus structure, as were several sherds of red-washed buff ware, possibly of Wichita origin. Also possibly intrusive is the Chinati ware of the Concepcion focus, a grey or brown ware with a Woodland-like shape, apparently with pointed bottom, wide neck and narrow mouth. Rim fillets occasionally occur, and vertical striations on vessel necks are common.

Ceramic and lithic studies are not yet complete, but a few data are known. Few if any locally made wares occur in the La Junta focus, which was dominated by Southwestern influences. Polished red and brown wares, with a rough grey or brown utility ware associated, characterize the Concepcion focus, with the development of a red-on-brown ware at its close. The Conchos focus is characterized ceramically by coarse unpolished red and brown wares, red-on-brown, and wares showing Spanish influence. Spanish or Mexican majolica ware is of frequent occurrence in this focus, and three sherds of a ware originating in the Valley of Mexico have been found.

Metal objects of European origin are found in the Conchos focus. A Spanish coin dated in the 1750's was found in the Conchos horizon at Shaft-er 7:1.

The culture appears to have had about equal dependence upon agriculture and hunting. Many buffalo bones were found.

Assignment of houses and artifacts to the various foci is based on actual stratigraphy, house intersections, and upon objects associated with houses. (J. Charles Kelley)