

Field camp was an old Girl Scout camp where there was no shade, plenty of sand, and a limited water supply. Auxilliary water tanks were supplied (including one by the Third Cavalry, Fort Bliss) and kept filled by the El Paso County Water Improvement District (Fitzgerald 1977:5). Coping with high daytime temperatures of over 100 degrees and dessicating winds proved a challenge to TAS members not used to the West Texas summer. Wind blew continually, and tents and gear were distributed across the desert in the wake of the stronger gusts. Other problems were presented by the sand, as vehicles became stuck and were moved with difficulty. Landmarks were few and two-track roads numerous, so off-site surveyors at times had difficulty relocating camp. Although long-sleeved shirts, wide-brimmed hats, and boots were recommended, some daring excavators and surveyors braved the desert bareheaded, barebacked, and sandaled.

#### **1978: Galveston Island**

Mitchell Ridge, Galveston Island, Galveston County, upper Texas Gulf Coast, June 10-18

Archeologist: Barbara Bruce Atkins

Site types: prehistoric camp and cemetery sites, early historic occupation area, historic house site

Work done: excavation—Mitchell Ridge site (41GV66); testing—Hall historic house site (41GV70) and Galveston Island State Park; survey—10 sites recorded

Temporal context: Late Prehistoric, Historic European

Number of participants: 326

The history of Galveston Island and the lure of the seashore (especially after El Paso) proved an enticement for some 326 TAS field school participants from Texas, Louisiana, Oklahoma, and Arkansas. Unfortunately, there was little shade and a lot of mosquitoes. A large part of the camp area was located so that it benefitted from a welcome breeze at night, even though the days were hot and sunny. Participants enjoyed the surf after a hot day of digging, mapping, or surveying.

Education in archeological techniques and methods was emphasized in a variety of activities, including location and investigation of prehistoric camp sites and cemeteries, site surveys of areas of the island and adjacent mainland by both on-shore and off-shore (flotilla) surveyors, and investigation of the earliest historic occupation on the west end of Galveston Island. Participants were introduced to specific field techniques through orientation sessions prior to field crew assignment (Bruce 1978a:20). Both afternoon and evening programs were offered; afternoon attendance averaged about 50 and evening attendance about 230.

Testing at the Warren D.C. Hall site (41GV70), a mansion and its surrounding grounds, produced both European ceramics, dating to the 1840s, and Indian materials. One projectile point appears to have been made of glass, indicating historic Indian occupation (Bruce 1978a:20).

In cooperation with the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, an investigation of the western portion of the Hall site extending into the Galveston Island State Park was carried out by field school personnel to



Figure 29. Shovel testing, the only way to do a survey at Galveston due to ground cover and moving soils. (Photo: Bill Richmond)

determine if the proposed construction of a park maintenance road would disturb important features in the site. Test work included an intensive survey of all the site lying within the park boundaries and test excavations in an area of the site suspected to contain a prehistoric cemetery. The investigation was authorized by Texas Antiquities Permit No. 176.

Surveys by boat and on foot (Figure 29) located 10 previously unrecorded prehistoric sites. All were located on the same high ground as the TAS camp (Bruce 1978a:20).

The Mitchell Ridge site (41GV66) is located toward the west end of Galveston Island, approximately 11 miles west of the city of Galveston. Prehistoric living areas on the crest of the ridge were excavated. Faunal remains, pottery, projectile points, and possible gaming pieces were among

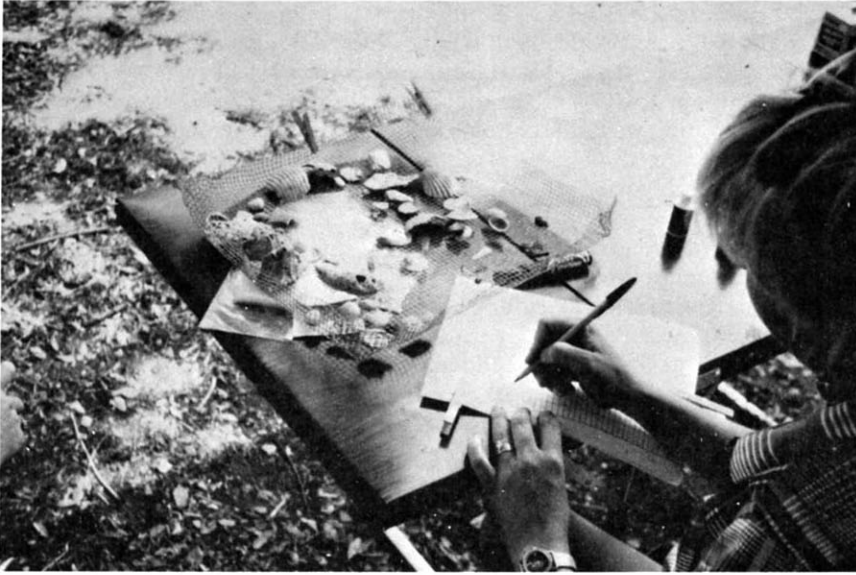


Figure 30. Cataloging artifacts in the lab. (Photo: E. Mott Davis)

the recovered materials cataloged (Figure 30). Two burials, located the last full day of digging, were of an adult woman and a four- or five-year-old child. An arrow point found adjacent to the third lumbar vertebra of the adult was the apparent cause of death. There was no evidence of the cause of death for the child. The burial was removed by the staff and a few helpers who continued to work after the close of the formal field school (Bruce 1978a:20-21).

#### 1979, 1980: Eubank Ranch

Cross Cut, north of Brownwood, Brown County, north-central Texas, June 16-23

Archeologist: Gerald Humphreys

Site types: prehistoric burned rock and mound middens, lithic scatters, quarry (procurement) areas, hearths, open campsites, rockshelter, terrace and historic sites

Work done: testing, excavation—41BR9, 41BR104, 41BR109 (ring midden sites); 41BR105, 41BR110 (mound middens); 41BR165 (rockshelter); 41BR107 (camp area); 41BR103, 41BR106, 41BR108 (house site), 41BR113 (Smith house), 41BR156 (mill site), 41BR159 (house site), 41BR172 (wagon road), 41BR177 (Byrd's store). Survey and collection—61 sites recorded; 41BR112 (lithic scatter), 41BR147 (burial site). Archival search.

Temporal context: Archaic-Historic European  
Number of participants: 1979, 275+; 1980, 200+