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Salvage Archeology of Canyon Reservoir

The Wunderlich, Footbridge, and Oblate Sites

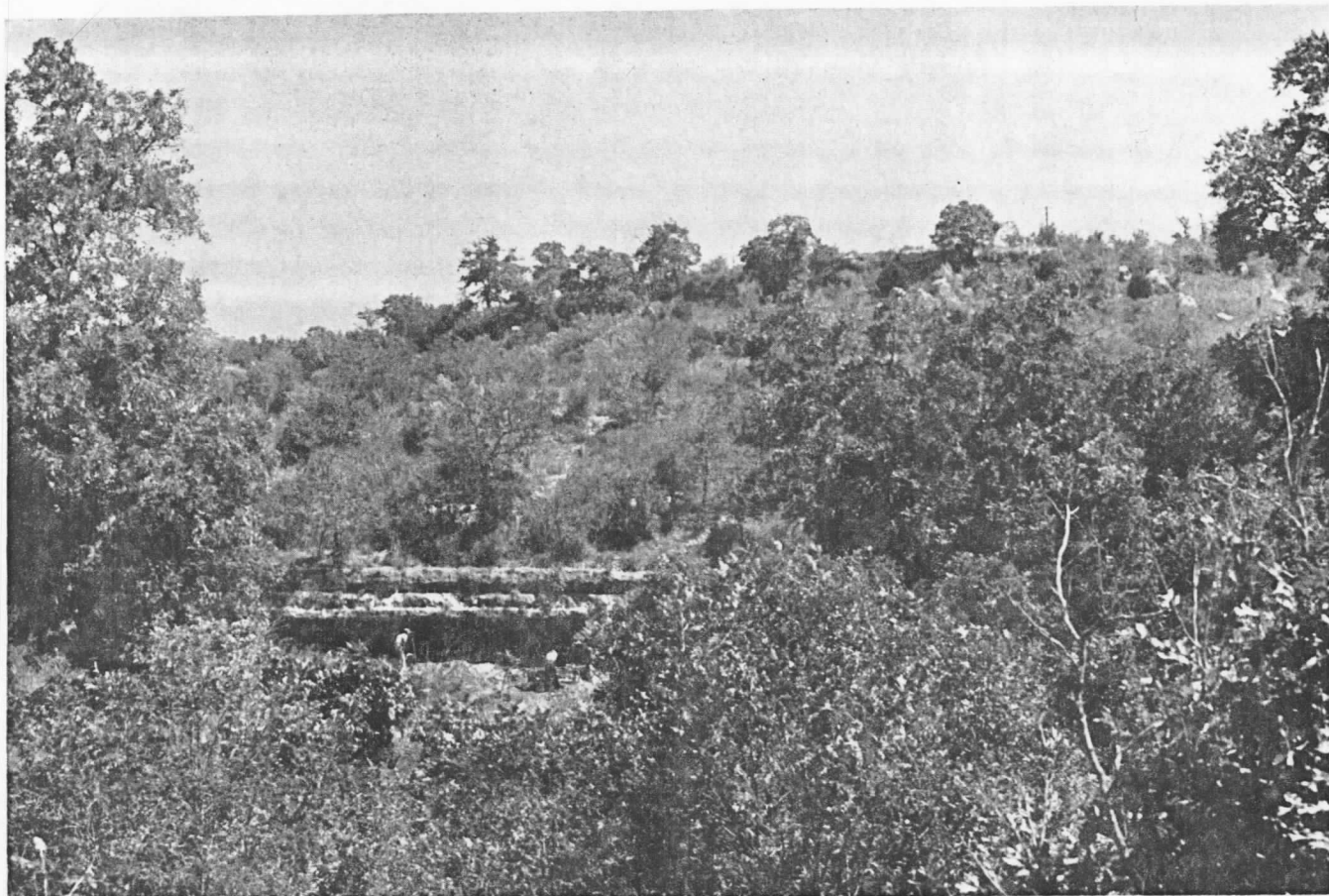
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This report was prepared in accordance with two Memoranda of Agreement (Nos. 14-10-0333-528 and 14-10-0333-657) between The University of Texas and the National Park Service providing for salvage excavations in advance of construction at Canyon Reservoir, Texas.

TEXAS MEMORIAL MUSEUM

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS

24th & Trinity · Austin 5, Texas



OBLATE: A ROCKSHELTER SITE

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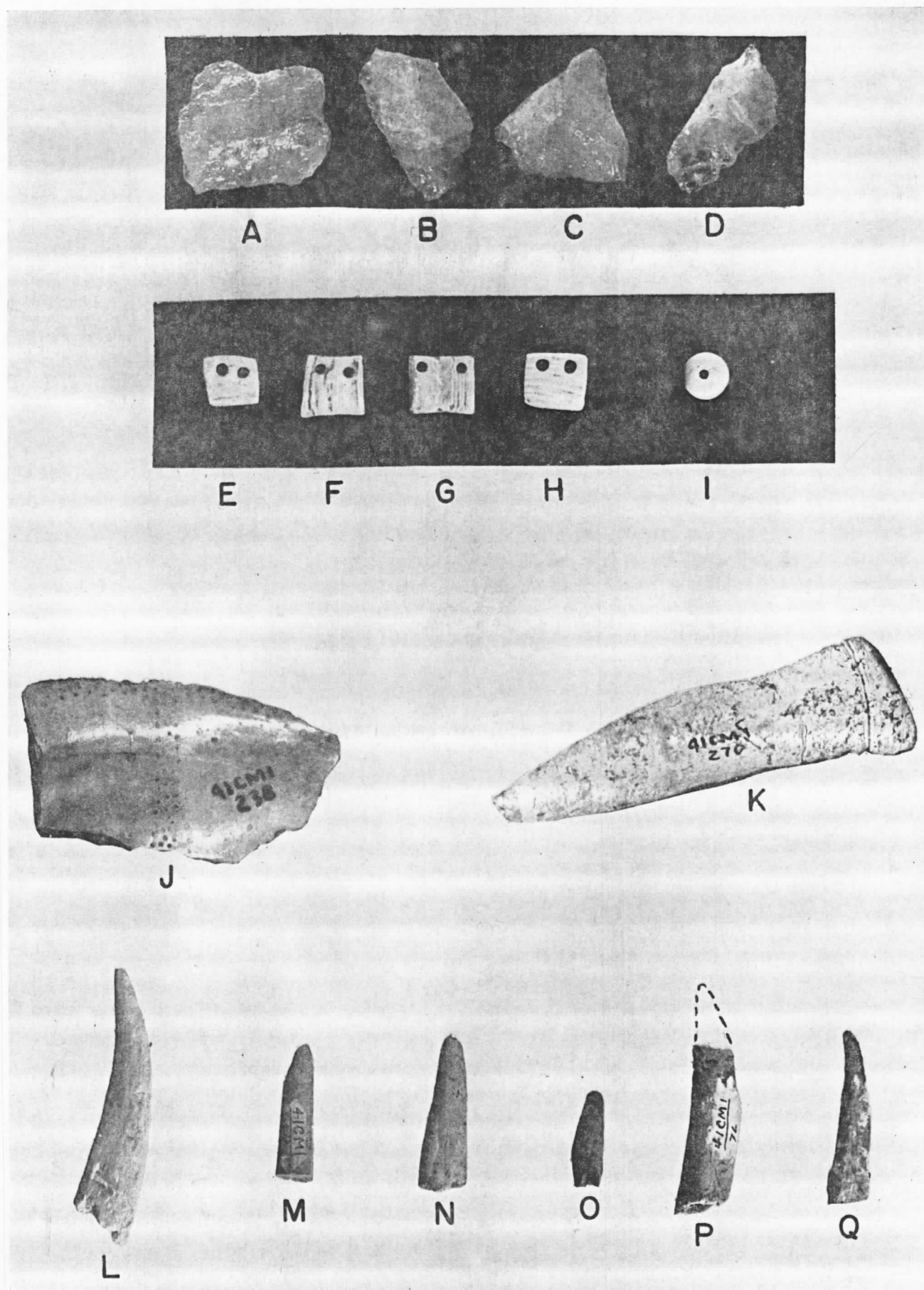


FIGURE 43. Quartz Fragments, Glass Bead, Worked Stone, Shell, and Antler. A-D, Crystalline quartz fragments. E-H, Mussel shell pendants. I, Glass bead. J, Worked mussel shell. K, Grooved stone object. L-Q, Deer antler tools. All specimens natural size.

pigment on both the internal and external surfaces. No designs can be detected. It was found in Mixed Zones II and III.

Glass

GLASS TRADE BEADS (Fig. 43, I)

One glass bead was found in Zone III. It is opaque white in color, and appears to have a thick coat of surface patina. It is round with flat ends and has a very small suspension hole, of uniform diameter, situated centrally. Size is 9 mm. in diameter and 9 mm. long; the hole is slightly less than 1 mm. in diameter. This is one of the common forms of Indian trade beads found at sites in Texas.

MODERN GLASS

Several fragments of wine bottles, fruit jars, and soft drink bottles were found on and just beneath the surface of the deposits. All of these specimens appear to date from the 20th century.

Metal (Fig. 44, G, H)

Several dozen miscellaneous metal objects were found at or near the surface of the shelter deposits; all are either heavily rusted or covered with corrosion. These specimens are identified as follows: two bottle caps, tin can scraps, common nails, one square nail, one thirty-caliber cartridge case, one twenty-two caliber cartridge case, one can opener, and small unidentified fragments. All of these specimens came from the uppermost part of Zone III and are apparently of the 20th century origin.

In addition to the above metal fragments, one ornamental brass plate (Fig. 44, G) was found in Zone III and a trigger (Fig. 44, H) was found in mixed Zones II and III. These gun parts—in connection with the gun-flints (p. 109) and the glass bead (p. 114) described previously—probably represent a brief historic Indian occupation of the shelter. There is evidence that Tonkawa and possibly Jumano Indians frequented this part of the Guadalupe drainage in early contact times (Kelley, 1947c: 46; Newcomb, 1961: 133). These groups may have lost the trade items mentioned above as well as some of the other artifacts found in Zone III. Evidence for a connection between the historic artifacts and specific Indian-made artifacts from Zone III is very tenuous, however.

MISCELLANEOUS CULTURAL DEBRIS

Vertebrate Faunal Remains

A small number of animal bones was found in each stratigraphic zone within the deposits. Zone III produced the largest sample, and the bones from this zone are well preserved. The lower zones produced smaller samples of poorly preserved bones.

With the exception of bison all of the species represented by the faunal sample are found in the area today. Bone identifications were accomplished by detailed comparisons of individual specimens with collections in the Laboratory of Vertebrate Paleontology, The University of Texas. Table 9 shows the distribution, by zone, of the faunal remains from the 1959 season. Vertebrate remains recovered during the 1960 season have not been classified.

Invertebrate Faunal Remains

Invertebrate remains—the calcareous shells of mussels and snails—comprise the bulk of the faunal remains from the Oblate Site. Mussel and snail shells occurred throughout the deposits and were so abundant in some areas that they formed an appreciable percentage of the bulk of the deposits. Large samples of these shells were collected from

Table 9.

Distribution of Vertebrate Remains by Zone (1959 season only).

Genera	Zone I	Zone I-II	Zone II	Zone II-III	Zone III	Pro-venience uncertain	Totals
Bison (Buffalo)	2	..	..	..	7	1	10
Canis (dog, wolf, coyote)	..	1	..	..	1	..	2
Castor (beaver)	..	1	..	..	1	..	2
Mephitis (skunk)	..	1	..	..	4	1	6
Neotoma (rodent)	..	..	..	1	1	..	2
Odocoileus (deer)	22	32	23	3	12	19	111
Sigmodon (rodent)	..	..	..	..	1	..	1
Sylvilagus (rabbit)	..	1	..	..	..	..	1
Terrapene (terrapin)	7	20	20	11	9	12	79
Trionyx (soft-shell turtle)	2	3	5	..	..	..	10
Urocyon (fox)	..	..	2	..	3	1	6
Bird	..	..	1	1	1	1	4
Fish	..	12	22	5	34	10	83
Snake	..	1	3	..	3	16	23
Unidentified fragments	..	..	..	..	..	..	88
TOTALS	33	71	77	21	77	61	428