

AN EARLY POINT FROM GARFIELD COUNTY, OKLAHOMA

by Robert Bartlett

The point in the accompanying illustration (Figure 1) is from the collection of Phil and David Burford. The point was found by their father in southern Garfield County. This point exhibits attributes overlapping several early point styles including San Patrice, Simonson, and Big Sandy. Similar points are reported in association with extinct forms of early Holocene Bison at the Rex Rodgers site in the Texas Panhandle (Wiley, Harrison, and Hughes 1978).

The point is made of Alibates and displays fine workmanship. The point preform was manufactured by lateral random flaking. The edges of the blade have been retouched and its distal end reworked to a narrow tip. The concave base was thinned by basal flaking, the scars intersecting the lateral flaking on the blade. On one face, the basal thinning flakes were removed after completion of the concavity. The basal edges are somewhat rounded through use, but they do not appear to be ground. Shallow side notches occur just above the base.

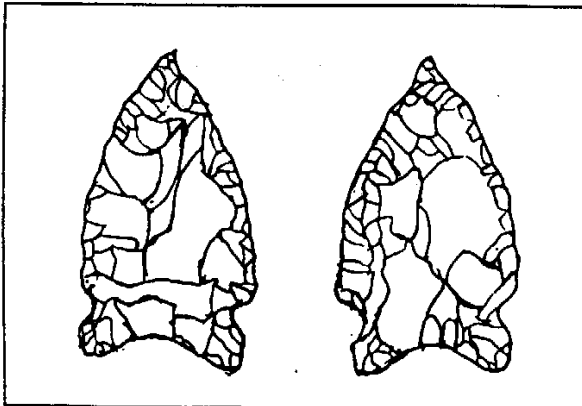


Figure 1

The point compares favorably with a point (# 41BI 42 - 456) from the Rex Rodgers site in the Texas Panhandle (Wiley, Harrison and Hughes 1978:56, Figure 12b). The authors provide an in depth discussion on the attributes exhibited in the "side-hollowed" points which includes input from several knowledgeable archaeologists (ibid. pp. 65-67). In this discussion the Rex Rodgers points are compared to point types such as Hardaway Dalton, San Patrice, and Simonsen. The Garfield county point would seem to fall within the same ranges, with the added dimension that the side notches bear resemblances to the Big Sandy point style.

Like the Rex Rodgers points, the attributes of this point make it difficult to place it in a formal type; however, its characteristics indicate an early Holocene origin. It is intriguing that the attributes overlap point styles commonly associated with the eastern woodlands. This point is from the central Southern Plains and manufactured of material from the panhandle of Texas.

- References -

- Wiley, P.S., B.R. Harrison, and J.T. Hughes
1978 The Rex Rodgers Site. In: Archeology at Mackenzie Reservoir. Office of the State Archeologist Archeological Survey Report 24, pp. 51-114. Texas Historical Commission, Austin, Texas.

Point Attributes:

Total Length :	48.8 mm
Base Width:	25.6 mm
Basal Concavity:	4.0 mm
Notch Depth:	2.2 & 2.5 mm
Blade width:	28.3 mm
Blade Thickness:	5.0 mm
Distance between notches:	21.9 mm

SOME BRIEF REFLECTIONS ON ANNUAL PRECIPITATION IN ROGER MILLS COUNTY SINCE 1950

By Pete Thurmond

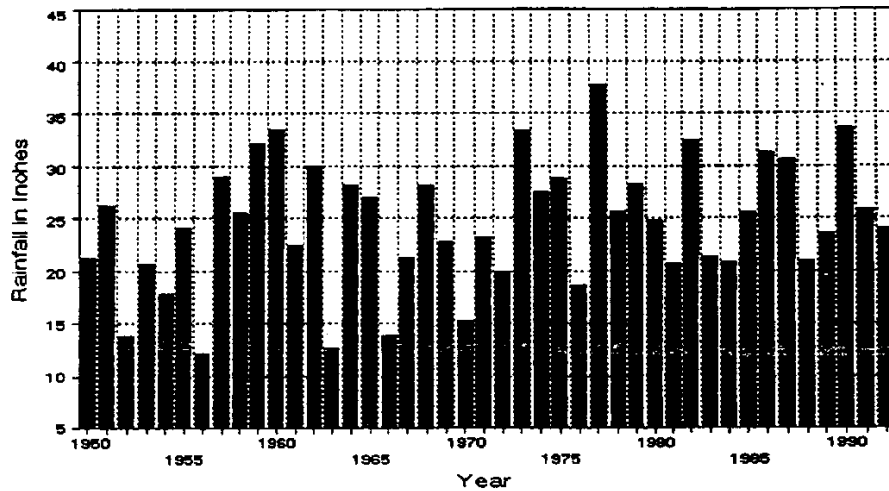
We have been doing quite a bit of erosion control dirt work on the ranch recently, so I have been in and out of the Soil Conservation Service (SCS) Office in Cheyenne on a frequent basis. The Cheyenne SCS Office has maintained monthly precipitation records since 1950. Just for grins, I decided to graph out the annual totals to see if there were any discernible patterns. The resulting graphs are attached.

Note the trend toward more mesic (climatological jargon for wetter) conditions reflected in the dry year lows since 1950. You might think you see a roughly fifteen year cycle in the rainfall highs, with peaks around 1960, 1975, and 1990. But more obvious is the pattern of the drought years becoming progressively less severe over the past forty years, which is highlighted in the second graph. The annual rainfall totals for only the driest years are illustrated. Fairly distinct pattern, is it not?

The ranchers who have been active in western Oklahoma since the 1950's frequently comment on how the range condition (beef biz jargon for vegetation density) has improved during their lifetime. A trend toward a more lush vegetation cover (on land which is not in cultivation) is obvious even to me, and I have only been ranching since 1981. Naturally this improvement is attributed to the increasing wisdom of the local ranchers in their range management and stocking rates. However, the rainfall data cause one to wonder if the vegetation is on the increase simply because the average annual precipitation is on the rise.

It will be interesting to see what the local average annual precipitation does over the next forty years. Will it cycle back down fairly quickly, or is this the beginning of a long term mesic interval? A trend toward higher average annual precipitation, in the form of progressively less severe drought years, would certainly fly in the face of one's expectations in a global warming scenario.

CHEYENNE, ROGER MILLS COUNTY, OKLAHOMA
Total Annual Rainfall, 1950-1992



CHEYENNE, ROGER MILLS COUNTY, OKLAHOMA
Rainfall, Dry Years Only, 1950-1992

