

-ARTICLE-

**RECENT SURFACE COLLECTIONS FROM
TWO LATE PALEOINDIAN SITES ON THE
DEMPSEY DIVIDE, ROGER MILLS COUNTY, OKLAHOMA**

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On May 11 of this year, Scott Harris and Don Wyckoff of the Oklahoma Archeological Survey visited and surface collected two published Late Paleoindian archeological sites in Roger Mills County, the Charley Terrace site (34RM439; Thurmond 1990: 4-8, 29-41) on Sergeant Major Creek, and Thurmond Ranch #94-B (34RM602-B; Thurmond 1991: 159-169) on Brokenleg Creek. A description of those collections follows, and is intended as a supplement to the previously reported data.

**Collection of 5/11/95 from
Charley Terrace, 34RM439**

Specimen 34RM439-130: An exhausted core fragment of a mottled light to medium brownish gray fusulinid chert, exhibiting a small area of stream polished cortex on its dorsal surface. The ventral surface is flat, and it appears that a cobble was split and used as a source of soft hammer percussion flakes until it became too small to be comfortably struck. The cobble was probably collected from a local Ogallala Fm. lag gravel deposit. Three short, concave lateral edges exhibit minute, irregular shatter, as from use in graving or shaving a relatively hard material like bone or antler. One damaged edge is 7 mm long at an angle of 68°, the second is 9 mm long at an angle of 60°, and the third is 10 mm long at an angle of 61°. The specimen measures 42 x 31 x 22 mm, and weighs 24.1 gm.

34RM439-131: A hard hammer percussion flake fragment of a similar mottled brownish-gray fusulinid chert. Patches of calcium carbonate adhere to the ventral surface. The platform is missing, and the distal edge is stream polished cortex. 29 x 27 x 10 mm, 7.1 gm.

34RM439-132: Biface thinning flake, decorticate but for its lipped platform, of patinated silicified wood. 22 x 18 x 5 mm, 1.9 gm. **34RM439-133:** Split cobble fragment, Ogallala quartzite, 48 x 37 x 35 mm, 52.5 gm.

34RM439-134: Core fragment with scars of four large hard hammer percussion flake removals, Ogallala quartzite, 68 x 55 x 41 mm, 104.9 gm.

34RM439-135: Large hard hammer percussion flake of coarse textured Ogallala quartzite, corticate platform and two small patches of cortex on the distal edges. 66 x 44 x 15 mm, 35.3 gm.

34RM439-136: Large hard hammer partially decorticate flake, with scars of three prior flake removals on its dorsal surface, of Ogallala quartzite. Flat platform. 69 x 55 x 19 mm, 77.9 gm.

34RM439-137: Burned rock fragment, quartz, 59 x 37 x 32 mm, 105.7 gm.

34RM439-138: BRF, quartzite, 37 x 25 x 24 mm, 35.5 gm.

34RM439-139: BRF, quartzite, 45 x 31 x 18 mm, 25.2 gm.

34RM439-140: BRF, Ogallala quartzite, 50 x 35 x 32 mm, 49.4 gm.

34RM439-141: BRF, quartz, 35 x 30 x 26 mm, 23.5 gm.

34RM439-142: BRF, quartz, 56 x 25 x 20 mm, 27.1 gm.

**Collection of 5/11/95 from
Thurmond Ranch #94-B,
34RM602-B**

34RM602-B-51: A lipped platform flake of Dakota quartzite with cortex along one lateral edge, which has been retouched to produce a spurred end scraper. A strongly convex span 31 mm long (measured around its perimeter; 24 mm straight across; breadth of convexity 9 mm) along the distal edge has been steepened by the removal of nine pressure flakes to produce a working edge 4 mm high, at an angle of 61°. Looking down at the dorsal surface, the leftmost flake was made particularly deep to leave a graver spur at that end of the working edge. There is intense, minute shatter all along the working edge, as from use in cutting or planing a hard material. 24 x 24 x 4 mm, 2.8 gm.

34RM602-B-52: A flat platform hard hammer percussion flake of Alibates agate. The distal edge is

hinged, and one lateral edge shows remnants of stream polished cortex (the flake was struck from a cobble). One span of lateral edge near the platform, 17 mm long, has been bifacially retouched by the removal of 8 small pressure flakes to an angle of 42°. This retouched edge is slightly abraded. 33 x 26 x 8 mm, 5.7 gm.

34RM602-B-53: Bifacial core remnant of high quality silicified wood, with cobble cortex remaining along one edge, showing the scars of 7 flake removals and small facets indicating several earlier ones. One strongly concave edge (depth of concavity 6 mm), 21 mm long straight across (27 mm along its perimeter), at an angle of 55°, has been used as a spokeshave on a hard material with apparently cylindrical cross-section and a diameter of ca. 9-11 mm, chipping numerous tiny flakes from one face. 55 x 49 x 24 mm, 39.8 gm.

34RM602-B-54: A similar but much smaller tool formed on a decorticate blocky fragment of Alibates agate. A moderately concave edge 5 mm long and 2 mm deep has been used as a spokeshave on hard materials of round cross section and less than 5 mm in diameter, producing intense, minute unifacial shatter. The angle of this working edge is 62°. 24 x 20 x 14 mm, 5.1 gm.

34RM602-B-55: A decorticate flake with faceted platform of Ogallala quartzite. A short convex span of the distal edge (10 mm long, breadth of convexity 3 mm) appears to have been unifacially retouched by the removal of numerous tiny pressure flakes to produce an edge 1 mm high, at an angle of 80°. This working edge is moderately abraded. 41 x 27 x 5 mm, 5.6 gm.

34RM602-B-56: A decorticate flake fragment of Ogallala quartzite exhibiting unifacial pressure retouch along a 13 mm span of lateral edge. The working edge may have originally been longer, as one end terminates at a break. The purpose of the retouch appears to have been to resharpen a cutting edge (angle 120°), which is weakly abraded. 29 x 25 x 4 mm, 2.6 gm.

34RM602-B-72: Flat platform flake of Alibates agate with one small patch of stream polished cortex remaining. One straight lateral edge 27 mm in length (edge angle 64°) exhibits intense unifacial shatter, presumably from use in working a hard material. Specimen is fractured and crazed from exposure to fire. 34 x 29 x 14 mm, 11.9 gm. **34RM602-B-58:** Soft hammer flake fragment, platform missing, Alibates, 19 x 14 x 3 mm, .9 gm. **34RM602-B-59:** Soft hammer, corticate platform flake, Alibates, 17 x 12 x 6 mm, 1.0 gm.

34RM602-B-60: Soft hammer, flat platform decorticate flake, Alibates, 22 x 14 x 3 mm, 1.3 gm. **34RM602-B-61:** Lipped platform decorticate thinning flake, Alibates, 15 x 10 x 1 mm, .3 gm.

34RM602-B-62: Lipped platform decorticate thinning flake, Alibates, 16 x 10 x 2 mm, .4 gm. **34RM602-B-71:** Distal fragment of a small thinning flake, Alibates, 12 x 11 x 1 mm, .3 gm.

34RM602-B-57: Bifacial core remnant, Johns Valley chert, 48 x 40 x 26 mm, 34.1 gm.

34RM602-B-64: Decorticate hard hammer flake fragment with hinged distal edge, calcite, 21 x 11 x 4 mm, 1.1 gm.

34RM602-B-73: Bifacial core with large area of stream-polished cortex remaining. Four large flake scars and facets of two earlier ones. Material is a bluish-gray aphanitic chert, unresponsive to UV light, probably from the Ogallala lag gravels nearby. Small patches of carbonate adhere to both flaked and unflaked surfaces. 90 x 58 x 28 mm, 134.9 gm.

34RM602-B-63: Largely corticate soft hammer, faceted platform flake, cortex is steam polished, chert similar to specimen #73. 29 x 23 x 4 mm, 3.2 gm.

34RM602-B-74: Corticate platform, soft hammer flake, yellowish brown siltstone (also likely from local gravels), 23 x 18 x 6 mm, 2.3 gm.

34RM602-B-69: Split cobble, Ogallala quartzite, 89 x 74 x 42 mm, 300.4 gm.

34RM602-B-65: Corticate hard hammer flake fragment, platform missing, Ogallala, 54 x 28 x 16 mm, 23.8 gm.

34RM602-B-66: Corticate platform hard hammer flake, Ogallala, 62 x 45 x 18 mm, 46.0 gm.

34RM602-B-67: Soft hammer corticate flake, flat platform, Ogallala, 29 x 26 x 4 mm, 3.0 gm.

34RM602-B-76: Hard hammer corticate platform flake, Ogallala, 32 x 29 x 10 mm, 8.7 gm.

34RM602-B-77: Hard hammer corticate flake, Ogallala, 36 x 22 x 10 mm, 9.7 gm.

34RM602-B-79: Partially decorticate blocky fragment, Ogallala, 45 x 27 x 15 mm, 18.8 gm.

34RM602-B-68: Soft hammer decorticate flake, flat platform, Ogallala, 26 x 20 x 4 mm, 2.5 gm.

34RM602-B-78: Partially decorticate hard hammer flake fragment, platform missing, Ogallala, 39 x 25 x 9 mm, 6.7 gm.

34RM602-B-80: Partially decorticate hard hammer shatter fragment, Ogallala, 22 x 14 x 10 mm, 2.1 gm.

34RM602-B-81 & 82: Two fragments, with a small medial section missing, of a backed blade of Ogallala quartzite. Estimated original length 70 mm, width 30 mm, thickness 8 mm. Flat platform, decorticate. Two recovered fragments weigh 13.5 gm.

34RM602-B-75: Hard hammer corticate flake, coarse textured quartzite of local origin, 47 x 37 x 20 mm, 27.4 gm.

34RM602-B-83: Burned rock fragment, quartz, 81 x 52 x 39 mm, 214.3 gm.

34RM602-B-84: BRF, quartz, 85 x 54 x 23 mm, 154.1 gm.

34RM602-B-85: BRF, quartzite, 59 x 44 x 36 mm, 82.9 gm.

34RM602-B-86: BRF, quartz, 54 x 51 x 40 mm, 124.4 gm.

34RM602-B-87: BRF, quartz, 57 x 43 x 30 mm, 95.3 gm.

34RM602-B-88: BRF, quartzite, 66 x 41 x 25 mm, 52.2 gm.

34RM602-B-89: BRF, quartzite, 60 x 36 x 21 mm, 43.2 gm.

34RM602-B-90: BRF, quartzite, 46 x 41 x 30 mm, 46.6 gm.

34RM602-B-91: BRF, quartz, 37 x 36 x 20 mm, 34.9 gm.

34RM602-B-92: BRF, quartz, 45 x 33 x 21 mm, 25.9 gm.

34RM602-B-93: BRF, quartzite, 40 x 34 x 13 mm, 21.2 gm.

34RM602-B-94: BRF, quartzite, 39 x 15 x 14 mm, 13.5 gm.

34RM602-B-70: Highly mineralized, spirally fractured diaphysis fragment from a large mammal long bone, 53 x 25 x 10 mm, 7.7 gm.

Comments on the Collections

As is the case with earlier collections from these sites, the contrast in intensity of use between quality cherts (both local and imported) and Ogallala quartzite is striking, if hardly surprising. The cherts have been used and reused down to the nubbin, while Ogallala discards tend to be quite large. The Johns Valley chert core from 34RM602-B is the first example of the material I have seen from the Dempsey Divide. Heat-fractured quartzitic pebble and cobble fragments, presumably hearth and boiling stones, continue to appear on both sites in quantity. The presence of burned rock is atypical of Paleoindian sites, and indicates residence at the campsites for relatively extended periods.

References Cited

Thurmond, J. Peter

1990 Late Paleoindian Utilization of the Dempsey Divide on the Southern Plains. *Plains Anthropologist Memoir* 25.

1991 An Additional Paleoindian Component on the Dempsey Divide: 34RM602-B, Thurmond Ranch #94-B, Rogers Mills County, Oklahoma. *Bulletin of the Oklahoma Anthropological Society* 39: 159-169.

- EXHIBIT -

RIVERS OF GOLD

June 18 - August 20

at

the Philbrook Museum

2727 S. Rockford Rd.

Tulsa, Oklahoma

This exhibit is well worth the trip. It shows a number of magnificent golden artifacts discovered in Panama. The workmanship of these objects is superb and very imaginative. The objects date to between 450 - 900 A.D. In the exhibit is also included an explanation of the different smithing techniques utilized.

Introducing *RIVERS OF GOLD* is a small exhibit prepared with the help of members of the Tulsa Archaeological Society on "What is Archaeology." This is a unique opportunity for Oklahomans to see these artifacts and to check out the work of your fellow O.A.S. members