

"Archeological Finds at Blackwater Draw"

Interviewed by Mrs. Jean Burroughs  
July 31, 1972

(Introduction by Mrs. Burroughs)

- 008 James Milton Warnica - born July 31, 1926 in Clovis
- 013 Grandparents: Mother - Mr. & Mrs. Joe Beasley - orig. from Texas came to N.M. in late 1880's. Grandfather died 1941, grandmother died 1962.  
Father - Mr. & Mrs. Fred Warnica - moved from Texas to Portales in 1901. Grandfather died 1946, grandmother died 1923.
- 031 Mrs. Beasley came to Sacramento in 1887; moved to White Sands in 1889
- 033 Mr. Beasley came to White Sands in 1883 (they were married in 1890)
- 036 Ranching there; Post Office was at La Luz; had to go to El Paso for supplies.
- 042 Went to Okla. in 1896; came back to open range in N.M. in 1901.
- 048 Homestead at Blackwater Draw for a year then moved into town.
- 060 Warnicas' came from around Seymore, Tex. in 1901; at present site of Amarillo there was only a box car.
- 070 Mr. Beasley's father was a Texas Ranger; Jim has a complete arrow that was shot at his great-grandfather by an indian around 1856.
- 084 Mrs. Beasley mother's father was killed by indians; had sold cattle to government for Indians at Ft. Sumner and was ambushed on the way back near the San Sabre River.
- 114 Parents: mother - Verda Beasley  
father - Jim Warnica
- 118 Older sister: Mrs. Merideth Ashby (Calif.)  
Gladys Lee Warnica
- 127 Father ran tailor shop in portales
- 130 Mother was early day telephone operator
- 140 He married Helen Christian (parents: Mr. & Mrs. M.C. Christian)
- 149 Two children: Jimmy M. Warnica III  
Terri Warnica
- 160 3 generations of his family has graduated from Portaled High School.

- 167 Oscar Sh<sup>e</sup>y in 10th grade got him interested in archeology by arrowheads.
- 190 1932 workers on highway brought bones of mammoth found at Blackwater to town.
- 204 Charles Anderson and Jimmy S<sub>a</sub>ne called attention to Blackwater site.
- 222 1932-37 first scientific work done at gravel pit by Univ. of Penn. Museum and the Philadelphia Academy of Natural Science.
- 227 Their findings given
- 237 1937-1949 archaeological work and mining non-existent.
- 242 Late 40's Sam S<sub>a</sub>nders reopened pit for gravel mining.
- 247 UNM State Museum at Santa Fe, and Calif. schools did work there.
- 257 Early 1960's: one of the most important finds made on N. American continent discovered ( 5 mammoth skeletons and man-made artifacts); find made near NW portion of site.
- 270-342 Description and facts about area in prehistoric times given.
- 344 Early 60's: excavations were done by El Llano Archaeological Society (local group) along with UNM.
- 348 Jim was instrumental in forming society; formed 2 mon. before big find was made in 1962; joint operation with Mr. S<sub>a</sub>nders.
- 373 Hoped to have museum over original site but gravel still had to be mined.
- 385 State appropriated \$100,000 for small area, but Mr. S<sub>a</sub>nders wanted to sell whole pit.
- 409 Decided to remove fossils from place.
- 411 Dr. F.E. Green directed removal of one of mammoth skeletons to Texas Tech.
- 418 Others were removed by ENMU; Dr. George Agogino in charge
- 430 Remains are stored at ENMU
- 437 Museum was built (with \$100,000) on Highway 70 between Clovis and Portales instead of at ENMU because of Clovis legislators.
- 462 Plastic replicas of artifacts on display at museum )prepared by anthropology classes-mainly Shirley & Calvin Smith.
- 498 Each summer classes make archaeological excavations at pits, description of process given.
- 530 Gravel company has ceased all mining
- 550 Possibility of human fossils being found discussed.
- 585 Speculat<sup>i</sup>on on orgin of people given

- 663 Museum is open five days a week by anthropology students at ENMU
- 675 What money is appropriated is for maintenance only
- 699 Museum is under Paleo-Indian Institute
- 715 Portales Springs discussed
- 735 El Llano Society has recently found bones of butchered bison and a few artifacts there
- 776 Springs was one of the main water holes on the route from Commanchero County into Texas
- 790 Hope to do more excavations there