

## **POTSHERDS/SHARDS**

These potsherds are from a large prehistoric site in Seabrook's Pine Gully Park.

Pottery appeared at different times in different places around the world. Pottery first made an appearance in the Galveston Bay area between 0 AD and 100 AD.

Sometimes enough potsherds are found at one location to allow reconstruction of the pot. Most of the reconstructed pots from this region show that the pots were extremely large - two or three gallon in size: much too big to support filling with a liquid. This brings up the question: What in the world were they using these pots for? Prior to pottery, indigenous people used gourds and skins for carrying water. It is doubtful that these large pots replaced that use. One suggestion is that they carried things other than liquids in these pots.

It is interesting to note that most pots had some sort of decoration. People then, as now, did not like plain items. Or, they may have used designs simply to identify the owner.

### **Rim Sherds**

Rim sherds are shards that contain part of the vessel rim. Rim sherds are especially interesting to Archeologists because, if the pot had decoration, almost always the rim was decorated. Also, assuming that the rim was round, it is easy to calculate the diameter of the pot rim from a single rim sherd. Large rim pots were probably used for cooking, but most pots were significantly longer than the diameter of the rim, not very convenient for cooking unless cooking was accomplished by dropping heated stones into the pots.

### **Lace holes**

A surprisingly large number of potsherds have holes that have been carefully drilled through the matrix. These are thought to be holes placed on either side of a crack and used to "lace up" the crack - much easier to extend the life of a pot by lacing up a crack rather than making a new pot. Hence, these are (today) called "lace holes." If this is what these holes were actually used for, then it is hard to believe that the pot was used to contain liquid.

On the other hand, it is easy to believe that, at least in some cases, these holes were used for hanging a pot.

One thing that is not discussed very often is that most of these holes show no "wear." It could be that, after lacing a crack, the pot was still not very useful and was soon discarded. Or it might be that the name "lace hole" is a misnomer.