A large trash dump north of the structures contains hundreds of rusted metal cans, and clear and brown glass sherds. A few scraps of metal and glass sherds are also scattered across the site. All of the trash appears to represent ca. 1930s through 1950s refuse.

Figure 79. "December 8, 1941" is inscribed on this concrete holding tank.

...the property known as the Keyes Dairy has been managed by the city of San Angelo for the past few years.
What does it Mean?

Although the archaeological and archival investigations we’ve conducted thus far have been limited, the kinds of sites found, and their locations have provided us with some insight into the settlement and development of the Twin Buttes area during the latter part of the nineteenth century, through to about 1960. As in prehistoric times, one of the major attractions to the area for early settlers was likely the reliable water sources. With reliable water and fertile soils along the drainages, it’s not surprising that early ranching and farming activities make up most of the sites recorded.

Based on the artifacts found at these sites we have been able to put together a table showing the surmised period of development along each of the stream valleys in the Twin Buttes Reservoir area. Although these sites still merit much more in the way of research, the details we have amassed so far indicates particular dates of occupation and site type usage. Details which could be further explored by more thorough joint archival and archaeological investigations. If conducted, these investigations should be able to validate or invalidate the estimated dates shown here.

Table 7. Surmised development in the Twin Buttes survey area

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Drainage</th>
<th>Site #</th>
<th>Site Type</th>
<th>Earliest Surmised Occupation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Middle Concho</td>
<td>412</td>
<td>Farmstead</td>
<td>1880</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Middle Concho</td>
<td>344</td>
<td>Farmstead</td>
<td>1900</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Middle Concho</td>
<td>501</td>
<td>Railroad-related</td>
<td>1920</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Middle Concho</td>
<td>458</td>
<td>Farmstead</td>
<td>1925</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Middle Concho</td>
<td>459</td>
<td>Trash Dump</td>
<td>1930</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Middle Concho</td>
<td>419</td>
<td>Farming Operation</td>
<td>1940</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Concho</td>
<td>513</td>
<td>Sandstone Structure, Artifacts</td>
<td>1870</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Concho</td>
<td>160</td>
<td>Farmstead</td>
<td>1880</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Concho</td>
<td>248</td>
<td>Irrigation Diversion Dam</td>
<td>1883</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Concho</td>
<td>504</td>
<td>Schoolhouse</td>
<td>1900</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spring Creek</td>
<td>443</td>
<td>Dugout</td>
<td>1860</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spring Creek</td>
<td>445</td>
<td>Farmstead</td>
<td>1880</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spring Creek</td>
<td>253</td>
<td>Irrigation Diversion Dam</td>
<td>1885</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spring Creek</td>
<td>452</td>
<td>Gravel Quarry Operation</td>
<td>1920</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spring Creek</td>
<td>516</td>
<td>Farmstead</td>
<td>1920</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spring Creek</td>
<td>520</td>
<td>Farmstead</td>
<td>1920</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spring Creek</td>
<td>521</td>
<td>Dairy Farm</td>
<td>1920</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spring Creek</td>
<td>523</td>
<td>Cattle Operation</td>
<td>1920</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spring Creek</td>
<td>450</td>
<td>Farming Operation</td>
<td>1930</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Surmised Development in the Twin Buttes Reservoir Survey Area

The table indicates the surmised period of development along the three major drainages by site type. It appears that the earliest occupation in the area, possibly 1860, may have been just above Spring Creek, with the construction of a dugout and an adjacent pier and beam structure. The valley area along Spring Creek apparently developed little until the 1880s. A single farmstead in operation in the 1880s and the construction of White's dam (#253) across Spring Creek apparently sparked an interest in developing the area. By 1920 there were at least two more farmsteads, a dairy farm, a cattle operation, and a gravel quarrying operation in the valley.

Perhaps the earliest permanent occupation on the South Concho (within the survey area) took place at Site #513 where glass, rifle cartridges, and other artifacts were found around a sandstone structure. Even if the sandstone structure is of a later period of construction, the age and type of artifacts suggest a residence of some sort was likely in the immediate area beginning around 1870.

The South Concho valley developed slowly, with only one farmstead recorded before 1900. However, as with Spring Creek valley, an irrigation dam across the South Concho (Gardner's Dam - #248) must have sparked an interest in moving to the area. It is surmised that other farmstead occupants in the valley, but outside the Twin Buttes survey area, created a demand for the construction of a schoolhouse (#504) perhaps as early as 1900 to educate the children of the surrounding area. The relative absence of either residential, agricultural, or industrial sites found in relation to the South Concho dating to after 1900, suggests that the area remained predominately as grazing range.

The farmstead found along the Middle Concho suggests that historically this valley area was permanently occupied beginning around 1880 and slowly developed, so that by 1900 a second family moved into the area. It appears that around the 1920s, the Kansas City, Mexico and Orient Railroad built some sort of rail station (#501) just upstream from the present Twin Buttes Dam, and by 1940 – two other farming and ranching families had taken up residence.

...as with Spring Creek valley, an irrigation dam across the South Concho must have sparked an interest in moving to the area.
Summary and Conclusion

It is clear that in an earlier time, prehistoric peoples walked along the trails, hunted in the woods, and fished in the streams that are now part of the Twin Buttes Reservoir area. The number of archaeological finds over such a broad and diverse terrain confirms the intensive occupational history of these lands over the past several thousand years. Archaeologists discovered evidence that Native Americans lived in the area for about 11,000 years. These peoples did not reside in settled, permanent villages, but moved their camps as food, water, and their society dictated. Settlers coming into the area in historic times brought with them new ways to exploit the land and its resources.

The archaeological survey conducted on Bureau of Reclamation lands in the Twin Buttes Reservoir area has served an important purpose. It has given us the opportunity to explore, identify, and document features, artifacts and findings while adding to our historical knowledge of the area. Little by little and almost grudgingly, the lands give up their secrets, but with each new find or hint of evidence insight can be gained on the people and events that helped shape the Twin Buttes area of Tom Green County, Texas.
**Glossary**

*agave (uh-GAH-vee)*
- a group of related plants that have spiny leaves, such as those called Spanish daggers and century plants.

*Apaches (uh-PACH-eez)*
- nomadic Indians who were living in the Texas Panhandle at the time of European contact.

*archaeologist (ar-kee AHL-uh-jist)*
- a scientist who studies the remains that people leave behind, in order to learn about how people lived in the past.

*Archaic (AR-kay-ick)*
- a period in prehistory from about 1,200 through about 9,000 years ago, marked by changes in stone tool technology and subsistence.

*artifact (ar-tuh-FAKT)*
- any object that was made by past people; for example, an arrow point or clay pot.

*band*
- small number of people who live together as a group; the members of a band are sometimes an extended family.

*bias (BY-uhks)*
- anything that is reported in a way that expresses the special frame of reference, or point of view, of the person making the report.

*bison (BY-suhn)*
- buffalo.

*bison hunters*
- Indians who based their way of life on bison hunting to supply most of their everyday needs.

*Caddoans (KAD-uh-uhhz)*
- a group of farming Indians who lived in settled villages in Northeast Texas at the time of European contact.

*ceramics (suhr-RAM-icks)*
- objects made of fired clay; also called pottery.

*Coahuiltecan (koh-uh-weel-TAY-kuhn)*
- the name given to the many related bands of Indians who were hunters and gatherers and who lived in South Texas and Northern Mexico at the time of European contact.

*Comanche (koh-MAN-cheez)*
- a group of Plains Indians who moved into Texas in about 1700.

*Contact Period*
- the time when Europeans were exploring Texas and beginning to influence Indian lifeways; the dates of this period are from about A.D. 1500 to about 1700.

*culture*
- a group of people who speak the same language and have the same customs and way of life from generation to generation.

*direct contact*
- European influence on Indian groups as a result of actual meetings between the Europeans and the Indians.

*domestication (duh-mes-tuh-KAY-shuhn)*
- the process of cultivating or raising plants and animals for use by people.

*excavation (ek-su-VAY-shuhn)*
- a careful scientific digging process for studying archaeological sites.

*hunters and gatherers*
- people who move about gathering wild plants and hunting game for food and who do not have permanent settlements.

*Jumanos (hoo-MAH-nohz)*
- the bison-hunting people who lived in the Trans-Pecos region and adjoining areas at the time of European contact; this name was applied to several different Indian cultures by the first Spanish explorers.
Kickapoos (KIH-uh-pooz)
- an Indian group that moved down from the north into Mexico, and then moved into Texas after Texas became a state.

lifeways (LYF-wayz)
- the pattern of living that a cultural group follows; lifeways include the things that people make in order to get food and to use other natural resources.

midden (MID-den)
- either a dense accumulation of trash such as animal bones, broken pottery, and/or pieces of worked stone; or, a dense accumulation of fire cracked and burned rock is called a burned rock midden.

mission (MISH-uhn)
- a group of buildings, including a church, built by the early Spanish friars to house local Indians while they were being taught the Christian faith.

radiocarbon (RAY-dee-oh-CAR-buhn) dating
- a special laboratory test using plant remains to determine the age of an archaeological site.

rock art
- any site where Indians painted or etched pictures and designs on stone.

subsistence (sub-SIS-tense)
- the many ways of hunting and gathering plants and animals for food.

Tonkawas (TAHN-kuh-wuhz)
- a group of Indians who were hunters and gatherers and who lived in Central Texas at the time of European contact.

tribe
- related Indian bands grouped into a larger unit.

Wichitas (WICH-uh-tawz)
- a group of Indians who lived in Kansas and were settled farmers at the time of European contact; Wichitas came to Texas in the late 1600s or early 1700s.

Note:
Most of these terms were provided by the Office of the State Archeologist, Texas Historical Commission.