

**HEY RICK, OLE, ERIC AND ED!
1973 DOESN'T SEEM LIKE A LONG TIME AGO, BUT ON SOME DAYS
25 YEARS FEELS LIKE A CAREER**

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ABSTRACT

The first archaeologist whom the BLM hired in California reported for active duty in May of 1973. His job was to work on the implementation of planning criteria which would ultimately result in the development of a management plan for the California Desert. Instead, the hiring of Herrick E. Hanks led to the development of a program of extensive cultural resources management on all lands administered by the BLM throughout the United States and Alaska. This paper attempts to highlight what we knew and learned during the first few years of management, what we now know, and what we need to know to manage heritage resources in the next century.

INTRODUCTION

In 1973 I was a graduate student at San Diego State University. I had the good fortune of getting my undergraduate degree in Anthropology in the Bay area, which during the 1960s was a hotbed of enthusiasm, challenges, and political rhetoric and thought dealing with archaeology. During those years, I became acquainted with many of the archaeologists who today make up the major cadre of public archaeology professionals, either through all of the political activity that was going on in the Bay area or through the Society for California Archaeology. My recollection is that these were generally one and the same. My mentors were John Fritz and Meg Conkey, who schooled me in archaeological theory and technique and sent me to France to get some practical experience in field methods, typology, etc. My California mentors had been Nelson Leonard III and a pigeon flyer whose work included such masterful tomes as "The Comparative Archaeology of the King Brown Site," "Salvage of the Rio Oso Site," "The Salvage Archaeology of the Bear Creek Site," etc. I read them by checking them out of the school library when I was in high school in Taft, California. They were written by a guy I knew as William H. Olsen. For whatever

reason, I never met Ole until I went to work for the BLM, but I knew Rick Hanks and Eric Ritter from the SCA. I fluctuated between wanting to be a French or a California archaeologist.

If someone had stopped me in those days and said, "So, you are majoring in heritage resource management," I would not have had the foggiest idea what he was talking about. I was interested in Public Archaeology. Paul Ezell was also interested in Public Archaeology and taught such a class at San Diego State. I was Paul's graduate assistant, which meant that I read and graded all of the tests and papers. While in pursuit of a teaching career, I was lucky enough to land a job for an engineering firm doing archaeology. I kept bumping into Rick Hanks at meetings, though, and he would talk endlessly about the work that he was doing in the desert and the type of long term planning effort which he was doing; he could talk for hours and still can. I remember at one meeting, probably at an SCA annual meeting, that he said he was moving internally to the Desert Planning Staff, that Eric Ritter had been hired to be a District Archaeologist, and that "the" William H. Olsen had been lured away from the State Parks system to become the first BLM State Archaeologist. It wasn't long before I had my eyes and heart set on

joining that good group of people and becoming a BLMer. I had to wait until 1975 before the call came and due to an interesting personnel strategy it was summer of 1976 before I became the first Resource Area Archaeologist in Barstow, California. Before long there were quite a few of us. So, except for the first three years, I've been around most of the time. So may I welcome you to this symposium. I will begin the BLM portion of the symposium by spending a very few minutes on the past, present and future of BLM's cultural resource management program. While I would like to honor all of those who served the BLM over the past 25 years, I particularly want to honor Rick Hanks, Bill Olsen, Eric Ritter, and my favorite boss of all time, Ed Hastey. I want to pay particular tribute to my friends Christopher Raven and Clark Brott, and to remind you all that while Chris and Clark are no longer with us, their professional contributions are still valuable in understanding California archaeology.

I like to divide the administrative eras into the following: 1. Before Hanks; 2. Ole and the Advent of Staffers; 3. Hold on the Budget is Bad!; 4. Trust us, We Know What we are Doing; and, of course, 5. The Future is Bright. The thread that holds all of this together is Ed Hastey, past, current, and future State Director. He has been around through all four eras, in a time period which I like to call the Time of Common Sense. And after 25 years we are still in it.

BEFORE HANKS

Significant research was conducted on BLM lands by world renowned archaeologists from the 1910s through the 1950s and into the 1960s, the majority of which occurred in the California Desert. The list of major contributors includes Harrington, Rogers, Wallace, the Campbells, Treganza, Lathrap, Simpson, Haurey, Warren, Riddell, G. Smith, Steward, McCown, Peck, A. Hunt, Heizer and the Archaeological Survey Association of Southern California to mention but a few. Archaeology was driven by the need to develop museum collections and by individual research. At the advent of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) the National Park Service did occasional work for the BLM. The first work conducted under NEPA that I can locate was

Roger Desautels' work in 1968 which was a result of building BLM campgrounds in the California Desert, of course at archaeological sites.

A significant amount of work was being conducted in the 1960s by the University of California, the State University system, and State Parks as a result of highway, canal, and dam building projects. Hanks' first published work was on the desert in 1968 in the San Fernando State College Anthropology Journal. Thomas F. King landed himself a job at the University of California, Riverside about 1970 and began doing contract work in the desert. The Lucerne Valley project was one of the first large scale projects undertaken on BLM lands. Tom wrote about the Cinnamon Roll Hills, and Dean Decker worked on the Upper Johnson Valley Generating site. The desert was the focus of a lot of publicity as a result of the explosion of off-highway vehicles, and citizens began requesting that the Bureau of Land Management do something about managing them. Two early agitators for this were Ike Eastvold, who represented various environmental groups and promoted rock art protection, and E. Henry James of the Mojave River Valley Museum Association, who represented archaeology on the BLM's High Desert Recreation Committee. Henry was told by the Area Manager that he was going to be the high desert's first archaeologist when BLM was allowed to hire one but, unfortunately, he did not possess a college degree.

OLE AND THE ADVENT OF STAFF

Tom King left the University of California for New York and Rick Hanks moved to UCR from Cal State Northridge. He began working on ideas for long range planning from UCR for the BLM. In 1972 he was approached to become BLM's first staff archaeologist; due to other commitments it was May 1973 before Rick was actually employed as the first staff archaeologist in California--or BLM--depending upon whom you talk with. Rick's visions were that archaeology, to be successful in a multiple-use agency, must be integrated with the planning system in a logical way; and that the data recovered for planning purposes must be logical and in a useable format for non-archaeologists.

Rick set up the overall management strategy for the California Desert. Then, in 1975, he went over to the newly formed Desert Plan Staff, where he devised an inventory strategy based upon quarter-section sampling units. His models were theoretical and his inventory would eventually cover the entire 25 million acres in the California Desert Conservation Area. In 1974 Rick lured Bill Olsen away from State Parks after 17 years there to develop a statewide program with staff, money, and a purpose. Ole was pragmatic and set about developing position descriptions for archaeologists throughout the state. In the meantime, Eric Ritter was hired to be the Riverside District Archaeologist while he was finishing his Ph.D at the University of California, Davis. His interests were arid lands prehistoric behavior. The first area staff was hired in 1975 with Boma Johnson going to El Centro. I was hired in 1976 to be the first archaeologist in Barstow. During the course of the next two years about 20 archaeologists were hired for field positions and about 10 to work on the Desert Plan Staff.

Rick decided that he was going to fulfill the second part of his goal to move from implementation of planning procedures for cultural resources to become the first national lead for the program in Washington, D.C. The first time Rick came west, I'll never forget; it was 1977, and I was just settling into a comfortable position in Barstow. He started talking about planning and manuals and Advisory Council regulations and Tom King's approach to Cultural Resources Management. He talked for 2 hours and 15 minutes straight and could have gone on for another two hours, but Eric said that it was time to take a break. In the hall Rick kept talking about the experience and about full integration of cultural resources into the BLM system--by taking archaeology into management. He said that some of us ought to think about it and do it. Cultural resources should be on the same level as range, wildlife, mining, and all of the rest of the resources, and it could not be without good archaeologists going into management. It never left my mind after that.

Ritter took his job and finished the California Desert Plan in 1980 but had a different approach from Rick's. Eric, instead of using quarter-section sampling units, used 1 mile long by 1/8 mile wide transects which often crossed micro-

environmental regions. Eric then contracted for predictive models and tested them to see if they were accurate. Planning was also going on throughout the state. Chris Corson led the effort in northeastern California and brought to life ethnography and even ventured into Sasquatch as a part of the folklife of cultural resources management. Eric Montezambert in Bakersfield and Clark Brott in north-central California oversaw excellent overviews. The King Range was getting a lot of attention and work was undertaken there. Contract work under the stewardship of Ole made certain that good products were turned in as overviews throughout the state. Several joint BLM/Forest Service documents were at the cutting edge of the discipline. Eric pushed printing the overviews and giving them a more of an audience. All of the overviews had a section called "Future Research Trends and Needs." The 1980s were the era to develop syntheses on all of BLM lands, but the implementation of the recommendations did not occur.

HOLD ON, THE BUDGET'S BAD!

The 1980 elections sent shock waves throughout the archaeological community. Rumors that archaeology was a targeted reduction were rampant. James Watt became Secretary of the Interior. The California Desert Plan staff was broken up without being able to completely analyze all of their data. All of the predictions and aspirations of building a fairly large cultural resources staff to implement the planning recommendations found in all of the Management Framework Plans, the Desert Plan, etc. were dashed. Publications were hurried to the printer and I became General Editor, distributing the last 11 of them hurriedly before the end of the fiscal year. Rick was in Washington working on manuals to ensure that cultural resources had a permanent place in our system. Ole was giving everyone as much encouragement as he could. Everyone who wanted a job was placed somewhere. But the era of tight budgets was upon us. All of the interpretive work, fencing, and other proactive work took a back seat to Section 106 work. In the end every office had at least one archaeologist. Gail Egolf in El Centro, Judyth Reed in Indio, myself in the Desert District, Mark Sutton in Barstow, Jan Moore in Ridgecrest, Garth Portillo in

Bishop, Chris (Corson) Raven in Cedarville, Don Manual in Susanville, Dan Larsen in Ukiah, Francis Berg in Arcata, Bruce Crespín in Hollister, Andy Yatsko in Folsom, and Ruth Musser in Needles. Eric Ritter was in Redding. Dennis Gallegos had decided to work for an environmental firm; Suzanne Crowley found work in Oregon. Rich Weaver went from Needles to Caltrans.

One of the last of the overviews was one of the best; it launched the career of John Cook, who, by doing an excellent job on the McCain Valley archaeology and history, positioned himself to open his own archaeological firm.

Little by little, though, we lost our money to fill vacant positions. The 30 folks that we had in 1978 was soon down to 10. Several of the archaeologists repositioned themselves and went into management or lands and realty. Doug Romoli, for example, went into planning. Rick, himself, decided to become an Area Manager in New Mexico and see what it was like to lead staff in multiple use and solving issues through better planning. Several folks left the agency or went on to do other things, such as Gail Egolf from El Centro who became a farmer in Indiana, and Clark Brott who went to work for Dr. Emma Lou Davis's Great Basin Foundation, as did our friend Christopher Raven. Judyth Reed went to the Forest Service; Francis Berg became a Chief of Resources; the same guy that Eric Ritter had hired had suddenly become Eric's boss. Maturation has a price. Ole stayed, convinced that the program was important; although he thought about taking a job in Denver, he stayed and led a very humanistic, consistent program, against budget odds. Sometimes he had no travel money for much of the year. But he was the rock in California federal archaeology and always the pragmatist. Do what you can do, he would say; if you don't have any money there is little you can do. Much of the work done was conducted through the use of volunteers, field schools, and contractors working for third parties.

TRUST US, WE KNOW WHAT WE ARE DOING

Eventually budgets got better, we hired more staff, and got up to the current levels a few years

ago. Most of the work was not in planning but in the implementation of plans through third party undertakings. Instead of staffing up like the Forest Service was able to do, we made use of consultants. Consultants were everywhere, taking advantage of the booms in powerline development, pipeline construction and, of course, the explosion in hard rock minerals technology by which gold and silver mining became a prominent feature on the landscape. Our job in many cases became reviewers of third party contracts. Instead of the Park Service issuing permits we were granted permitting authority. Hundreds of thousands of pages of documentation was written on the archaeology on BLM lands in California; this material is in the vast literature called the "gray literature library" which needs to see the light of day. Matt Hall's presentation this afternoon will challenge us to think about all of the data that the BLM has collected or caused to be collected and to do something with it.

The Bureau became an important part of ecosystems management as the '80s progressed and into the '90s. Careers began to develop. I had always wanted to follow in Rick's and Ole's footsteps and somehow I did. Rick became an Area Manager in Rio Puerco, New Mexico, then a District Manager in Susanville. I became the Area Manager in Palm Springs; then, upon the announcement of Bill Olsen's retirement in 1992, became the second California State Archaeologist for BLM.

A very funny thing happened upon my assuming this job; Ole came out of retirement and has worked with me for most of the last five years doing something which he loves to do, collections management. He says that he has had enough of a career and really wants to retire in June, but I will lure him back with contracts for collections and NAGPRA work. He has been a tremendous mentor and a friend and has helped me gain the historical perspective so necessary in carrying out the responsibilities of institutional memory. To lose those memories one loses the perspective of those who came and made sacrifices before.

THE FUTURE

I can say that it does exist. It is bright but will be refocused. We will be spending more time on Indian issues, working with tribes more closely. We will be seeing the second generation of archaeologists very soon in California. Several of us actively talk about retirement being around the corner. Rick Hanks has actually moved on to become a recruiter for BLM at Cal Poly San Luis Obispo. We have hired students through the Student Career Experience Program (SCEP) for the first time in archeology to attempt to get some "home grown, mentored archaeologists." Eric is the longest serving field office archaeologist in California history and the future has him working a few more years. Marlene Greenway was our first successful Co-Op Education student and has found a home in the archaeology of northwest California; we will have more. The consolidation of our land base will continue where we are eliminating the checkerboarded land ownership. Duane Christian has done a marvelous job of working with the world class rock art sites on Carrizo Plain, an area where we had 20,000 acres of ownership a few years ago, which is now over 200,000 acres. Cultural tourism will take progressively more time. Dr. David Whitley was recently contracted to develop a rock art tour for the public from the Mexico border to the Oregon border. We will be encouraging the public to share our resources for their enlightenment. His adage that "Kokopelli is everywhere" is true; just look at mail order catalogues for an example of rock art motifs that are everywhere; and the public wants more. We will expand educational opportunities in heritage education, outreach, and heritage tourism; with our new Protocol we will be able to spend more time taking care of our resources and less time on process. Archaeology Week will attract new partners.

We have to synthesize our data and obtain grants or private corporate sponsorships. We have world class resources. Through our Paleontology and Cultural Resources Action Team (PACRAT) we have tried to obtain funds to begin a synthetic overview of archaeology, history, ethnography and paleontology across agency boundaries. Hundreds of thousands of pages of documentation exist but no where can we find anything that is concise and manager friendly. Let's put our efforts together and go after money to undertake such an effort. Let's synthesize our data and make it available to the public.

In summary, the rest of the papers will take you through the geography of every section of the state, and explicitly talk about the history of the programs there and the future. I for one can say that I have had a remarkable career; everyday has had some joy in it. Much of it is due to the relationships formed with Rick, Ole, Eric, and the rest. To Ed Hastey, State Director for much of the last 25 years, who says, when questioned about how to manage cultural resources, "It is just common sense," almost as often as Bill Olsen says, "Well, maybe yes and maybe no," as a rote answer to an obvious question; and all of the staff who have contributed to the making of a career, and to my friends in the Forest Service and Park Service, I say thank you. May the next 25 years be as sweet as the last. I hope that for all of you who are ending a career in the next few years, they be good and enjoyable years. To those starting careers, I would say that I hope the years are as wonderful for you as they have been for me. Lastly, I want thank Judyth Reed for making a tremendous sacrifice in leaving all of her very good Forest Service friends, whom I know she deeply misses, to return to BLM and take the Field Office Archeologist job in Ridgecrest, California--a long way from trees.