

REMEMBERING DON MILLER

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Donald S. Miller died over 10 years ago. He was recognized at his demise but has not been covered much in the subsequent literature. He had many important impacts, from being Regional Archaeologist for the U.S. Forest Service in California and Chief Archaeologist at the UCLA Archaeological Survey, to doing important fieldwork, making a significant teaching movie, shaping the careers of many archaeologists, and helping found the SCA. This paper, revisiting his contributions, also should help us understand what caused our discipline's history to take the directions it has.

California has long supported the largest number of research archaeologists of any state in the nation, in part because of its long history of progressive legislation requiring the preservation of archaeological evidence concerning the state's past, and in part because it has become the most highly populated state in the nation. Given this large number, it is not surprising that many practicing archaeologists do not remain well-recognized as their careers drift into the past. However, in order to develop a stronger understanding of how California archaeology has developed and why it has developed as it has, it requires that the important contributions of those in the past who have shaped archaeology's directions need to be remembered and understood. For that reason, this paper is devoted to helping restore our memory of Donald S. Miller, who played some quite important roles in the shaping of California archaeology, particularly in the three decades from 1960 to 1990.

DON'S EARLY INVOLVEMENT WITH ARCHAEOLOGY

Don's involvement with archaeology began when he was an undergraduate student at San Francisco State College in the 1950s. In 1958, he moved to Santa Barbara, where he attended the University of California campus and participated in several local excavation projects. In 1961, he was hired as an assistant to Phil Orr at the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History. His entry into the practice of archaeology became well established while he was still young.

With his interest in pursuit of a career in archaeology blossoming, he applied for admission to graduate studies at the University of California at Los Angeles and was accepted in 1963. He not only entered the graduate program in the Anthropology Department but also was appointed to an administrative position at the UCLA Archaeological Survey, a research facility of the department that provided research experiences for students while pursuing funding from cultural resource management contracts from various state and federal agencies. Don began as Assistant Chief Archaeologist of the Archaeological Survey and a year later, in 1964, was named Chief Archaeologist, following Jay Ruby and Keith Johnson, who had held that position previously.

DON'S CONTRIBUTIONS AT UCLA

Don's work at the UCLA Archaeological Survey provided the opportunity for him to make contributions in several areas. While in the positions of Assistant Chief Archaeologist and Chief Archaeologist, he headed the Survey's successful applications for a number of contracts and grants which funded a variety of cultural resource management surveys and excavations. That funding not only helped to support the activities of the Survey, but it also provided valuable support for many UCLA students in terms of both the opportunities for a variety of research experiences and the means to gain employment which helped them fund their higher education.

Don also became chief editor for the Survey's research publication, the *Archaeological Survey Annual Report*, which published many dozens of research reports contributed by a variety of writers. He did not create the *Annual Report*, which had been founded by Prof. Clement Meighan several years earlier, but he was able to attract the submission of a wide range of important papers for publication in the *Annual Report*, which helped stimulate the development of literature on California archaeology while giving publication opportunities to a variety of fellow graduate students, UCLA and other faculty, archaeologists who worked in government agencies, and professionally oriented amateur archaeologists from around southern California.

As Chief Archaeologist, Don also undertook a variety of research projects on his own. He led several cultural resource management survey and salvage excavation projects, in locations ranging from Santa Barbara County to Riverside and San Bernardino counties. An early example is the Glen Annie Canyon site (SBA-142) in Santa Barbara County, where he helped to direct excavations and coauthored the report on the project with Roger C. Owen and Freddie Curtis, which was published in the *Archaeological Survey Annual Report* (Owen et al. 1964). He also gave a number of lectures on his projects and on more general elements of California archaeology to university classes, community groups, and archaeological conferences.

As another area of contribution, Don taught the archaeological summer field school for the department. Previously, the field school had been held at the College of Southern Utah in Cedar City, but Don decided to move the field school back to California, since California was the primary research area for the Archaeological Survey. The previous Chief Archaeologist, Keith Johnson, had gained a faculty position at California State University, Chico, in the Sacramento River Valley of northern California. With Keith's collaboration, Don relocated the summer field school to Chico. There he taught fieldwork at the very significant protohistoric village called the Patrick Site, 4-But-1 (Chartkoff and Chartkoff 1983). In addition to conducting field school excavations at the Patrick Site, he also made a movie about doing archaeology at the Patrick Site as both a research project and as a teaching experience for the field school class. Support for that project was received from a National Science Foundation grant through the sponsorship of Professor James Sackett. The resulting film, "4-Butte-1: A Lesson in Archaeology," was distributed nationally and became a valuable teaching tool at a great many colleges and universities of the day. Don was a significant pioneer in the creation of audiovisual teaching devices to teach students about methods of archaeological research and growing knowledge about California prehistory (Hill and Toney 1967; Sackett 1965, 1966).

DON'S CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE SCA

Another contribution from that period which deserves more recognition is Don's involvement in the creation of the Society for California Archaeology. The SCA was formed in the fall of 1966, following a meeting held at UCLA to discuss the difficulties in providing unification, support, and direction for archaeologists around the state. California archaeologists had been using the Southwestern Anthropological Association's annual meetings for their venue. However, the opportunities for California archaeology to become enriched and unified through the SWAA were fairly severely limited, especially for Native Americans, graduate students, and amateur archaeologists. A meeting was requested among several important California archaeologists to discuss these problems and to plan some potential solutions. Don, as the Chief Archaeologist of the UCLA Archaeological Survey, offered to host the meeting and helped to organize it. He was able to reserve appropriate meeting facilities on campus. He also coordinated reservations for housing and other support services for the attendees. The Society for California Archaeology was created at that meeting, and Don played a number of crucial roles in making the conference and its decision work. Not only did he help launch the Society, but he also served as its second president. It should also be noted that in 1985, Don was presented with the Society's Mark Raymond Harrington Award for Conservation Archaeology, which reflected both his work at UCLA and his subsequent achievements at the U.S. Forest Service.

DON'S CONTRIBUTIONS AT THE U.S. FOREST SERVICE

After completing his service as Chief Archaeologist at the Archaeological Survey, Don moved to New York State and continued graduate studies at the State University of New York's Long Island campus. Subsequently, he came back to California and became the director of archaeology for the California District of the U.S. Forest Service. That position gave him access to new areas of archaeological management, where he not only gained a wider range of experience, but also had opportunities to make many new contributions.

To help illustrate those contributions, I will use as examples some of my own experiences with them. One took place in the summer of 1972 when I did a contract project under Don's oversight which involved not only doing a wide range of survey work in the Klamath River drainage of Siskiyou County but also providing field training in the practices of cultural resource management for many dozens of Forest Service employees. Don was an important early leader in the Forest Service in giving substantial hands-on experience to a wide variety of Forest Service staff who had varied involvements with the recognition and protection of archaeological resources and the practices of cultural resource management. I brought a group of students out with me from Michigan State University to use the experience for field school training and to provide more substantial training experiences for the Forest Service attendees. Several of those MSU students went on to become involved in California cultural resource management for their careers, which illustrates some other contributions to California archaeology from Don's management.

Another example of Don's innovative contributions is reflected in the GO Road Project, a study effort launched in 1978 in the Siskiyou Mountains to evaluate the potential impact on legally protected cultural resources of a proposed logging road to be built between Gasquet, on the Smith River, and Orleans, on the Klamath River. The project, shared between Dorothea Theodoratus and myself, was funded with positive support by the U.S. Forest Service. Don made sure the field research, both ethnographic and archaeological, was both well-supported and non-constrained. It also was allowed to have some innovative dimensions, such as hiring Native Americans to share in the research in ways in which they could present their own cultural perspectives.

Another example of the fostering of innovative research by Don while directing the archaeology of the California District of the U.S. Forest Service is illustrated by support I was able to obtain from the District's Forest and Range Experiment Station to fund my testing of the effectiveness of a variety of low-impact data discovery and recovery techniques. The work was done at several locations in the Sierra, particularly Stanislaus National Forest (Chartkoff and Chartkoff 1988).

CONCLUDING REMARKS

In California and elsewhere, those who have written the most significant books and articles have, in general, made the deepest and most long-lasting impacts on the history of the region's archaeology. Also ranked highly are those who have educated large numbers of subsequent professionals. Yet there are a number of other kinds of contributions which also have played crucial roles, making other kinds of significant impacts and modifying the field in other valuable ways. Insightful understanding of how our discipline has developed, why it has developed as it has, and who have played key roles in shaping its destiny is crucial for the accurate explanation of the discipline's history. It also can be seen as a relevant example of our larger objective: to understand what has happened in the past overall, and why it has happened that way. As the Diamond Anniversary of the founding of the Society for California Archaeology approaches, the enriching of our understanding of the history of our Society and our discipline will be especially valuable.

Don Miller's career falls particularly into this domain. Such things as his leadership of university training and research programs, helping foster the creation of the Society for California Archaeology, promoting the development of increased cultural resource management competence among Forest Service staff, stimulating involvement of Native Americans in the preservation of their own heritage, encouraging

innovative research, and making what may still be one of the most important teaching films ever made in California archaeology reflect a wide range of important contributions he made to our discipline. Knowing what Don Miller has contributed can give us all a better understanding of how our field has developed and why it has developed the way it has.

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