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Acting Editors for 1967

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NEWSLETTERS

Society members should be aware that a number of organizations in California publish archaeological newsletters of various sorts, and that these periodicals contain news and items of regional, if not statewide, interest. News of sites being dug, vandalized or destroyed, items on local collections and collections, notes on unpublished manuscripts and papers, names of local museums, historical associations and other sources and contacts, and similar bits of useful information are found in such newsletters.

Below are listed the newsletters known to the editors. If any Society members know of any other such periodicals, we will be happy to put such information in future issues for the benefit of members.

"The Artifact", published monthly by the San Luis Obispo County Amateur Archaeologists. Contact Mrs. Ethel Muir, P.O. Box 921, San Luis Obispo, California, 93401.

"Smoke Signals", published by the Pacific Coast Archaeological Society. Contact Aileen Mc Kinney, 2620 Fairway Drive, Costa Mesa, California.

"The Digger's Digest", published by the Northwestern California Archaeological Association. Contact Cmar D. Congar, 399 Sycamore Street, Fremont, California.


"The Newsletter of the Archaeological Survey Association of Southern California", Contact William Termas, c/o the San Bernardino County Museum, Bloomington, California.

"The UCLA Archaeological Survey Archaeological Newsletter". Contact the UCLA Archaeological Survey, University of California, Los Angeles, California, 20024 (NOTE: This newsletter was published from February, 1963, through December, 1966, and is no longer being published).

The Editors

SOME COMMENTS ON THE PLANNED METHODOLOGY SYMPOSIUM

Since I am one of those souls originally responsible for calling for a symposium on archaeological methodology at the forthcoming meetings, it seems appropriate to me that I present some of the ideas I had in mind, in hopes of clarifying my position and in hopes of making the planned session a little more productive. I hope, too, that
can prove contentious enough to stir up some comment and criticism.

Perhaps it will be easier to back into the subject by starting out with what I DIDN'T have in mind. One thing I am against is a debate on field and laboratory techniques. I have sat in on some heated debates about the relative merits of metric versus English measurements, quarter-inch versus eighth-inch screens, shoveling versus troweling, trenching versus checkerboarding, area exposure versus spaced pits, and so forth. While I can't say that such discussions were total wastes of time, I do feel that they tend not to resolve anything or accomplish anything, and that their chief value is in letting off steam. I feel that such discussions ought not to be a part of this planned symposium.

Another thing I am against is an attempt to assemble a set of "approved" or "good" methods to hand out guidebook-style to newcomers as a Bible of the right way to dig. I don't believe that there is a right way to dig, and even if we all could decide on one way to dig, which we can't, I believe that such regulations would be the worst possible thing in the way of arresting development in archaeology. Handbooks may work for plumbers, but I feel that they have no place in archaeology.

What I do have in mind is a presentation of the ranges and styles of approaches that competent archaeologists are using in California today. While we shouldn't try to pass off somebody's approach as the one way to dig, I think we can and should be able to say that some things are definitely wrong in any context (such as not taking notes and records), that some things are useful in certain contexts (such as palynology), that some things do not seem to be useful in some contexts (such as using natural strata in a coastal midden), that there are ranges and varieties of approaches and orientations, each leading to different shades of results, and each having varying degrees of usefulness and productivity in different situations.

This sort of discussion obviously won't give us a nice, neat package to hand to a newcomer. We can't say, "Do this and you will be doing things right." But we can spread ideas among the brotherhood more readily, and we can, I feel confident, set up some sort of base line of legitimacy.

Joe Chartoff

CURRENT RESEARCH

Joseph Chartoff conducted a survey for the National Park Service in the area of Guadalupe and Santa Barbara, covering a proposed construction of flood channels. He recorded 48 old sites and 3 new sites for a total of 51 sites. The report will be submitted to the National Park Service, copies of site records will be forwarded to the National Park Service, The State Archaeologist, U.C. Santa Barbara, U.C. Berkeley, and U.C. Davis.

EXCAVATIONS

San Francisco State College

Excavations by the archaeological field class, beginning in February, will focus on Mm-216, a 16th century contact site, Mm-375, a site of unknown provenience to be tested by the class prior to more extensive contract excavation, and Ala-328, a site of almost two decades of previous field work. The excavations will be directed by Dr. Alan Treganza.
Ward Upson will direct an archaeological field class which will excavate site Mru-293, a 16th century contact site.

NCAS and Galileo High School

Peter Moore will conduct excavations at site Mru-374, a Fernandez Facies site in the San Antonio Valley.

UCLA

Dr. James N. Hill, Department of Anthropology, will conduct a spring field class at site Ven-39.

UCSB

Richard Humphrey is currently analyzing a type collection of European clay pipes from the excavations at the site of Old Sacramento.

U.C. Riverside

Dr. Sylvia Broadbent has joined the Anthropology faculty at U.C. Riverside. Dr. Broadbent has a continuing interest in Columbia but is involved in the local archaeological program at U.C. Riverside.

M. Kowta

PUBLICATIONS

Manuscripts Received:

U.C. Davis

Title: "A Preliminary Survey of the Archaeological Resources of Lower Mill Creek"

Author: Jerald Jay Johnson

Title: "The Archaeology of Site A-Asa-56"

Author: Jerald Jay Johnson

National Park Service:

Title: "An Archaeological Reconnaissance of New Bullards Bar Reservoir, Yuba County, California"

Author: F.A. Riddell and W.H. Olsen

Title: "Archaeological Survey of the Knights Valley Reservoir Area"

Author: Adam E. Treganza
Title: "Site LA-2 — A Late Manifestation of the Topanga Complex in Southern California Prehistory"

Author: Keith L. Johnson

Publisher: University of California Press, Berkeley and Los Angeles

Series: 1966; Anthropological Records, Vol. 23

NEWS NOTES

RCAS METHODOLOGY CONFERENCE

The second annual Methodology Conference sponsored by the Northwestern California Archaeological Society was held on January 14, 1967 at Santa Rosa Junior College. The focus of discussion was "Emergency Archaeology," defined as the investigation of sites that are in the process of destruction, as distinguished from Salvage or Service Archaeology, in which normal systematic excavation is conducted prior to destruction. The morning session was highlighted by papers delivered by David Fredrickson, and by Michael Moretti and Donald Grayson of the University of Oregon. The afternoon session was given over to informal discussion of emergency techniques, particularly with respect to recording. A site destruction form, devised for the recording of significant facts from a ravaged site by "any educated 14-year-old boy" was exhibited and criticized. Participants agreed to give further thought to the problem, and it was suggested that more discussion be planned at the S.C.A. meeting in March.

Thomas King

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION

The UCLA Archaeological Survey is going to be doing some site survey projects this summer in Trinity and eastern Humboldt Counties. We would like to get in contact with local archaeologist and collectors who are familiar with that area. Would anyone knowing such individuals please send us their names and addresses, c/o the Archaeological Survey, UCLA.

Nelson Leonard, III
Joseph Chartoff

CHANGE OF SITE DESIGNATIONS FOR THE BUCHANAN RESERVOIR REGION

1. The archaeological sites recorded by Frank Rackerby within the region of the Buchanan Reservoir on the Chowchilla River ("An Appraisal of the Archaeological Resources of the Buchanan Reservoir, Chowchilla River, Madera County, California") have been assigned permanent designations by the Archaeological Research Facility of the University of California, Berkeley. The following are the permanent numbers replacing
Rackerby's "SFSC" designations:

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2. To avoid future confusion, it is suggested that the above changes be entered in all copies of Rackerby's report.

Paul J. F. Schumacher
Tom King

ANNUAL MEETING

The following symposia have been organized for the Annual Meeting:

1. "Archaeological Developments in the North Coast Ranges" will have six papers presented. The symposium will have as its chairman Dr. C. W. Meighan, UCLA Department of Anthropology.

2. "Recent Archaeological Developments in Southern California" will have seven papers presented. The chairman of the symposium will be Dr. William Wallace, Chairman, Department of Anthropology, Long Beach State College.

3. "Archaeological Methodology" will be a panel discussion with participants on the panel plus contributions from the audience. David Fradrickson, of the Department of Anthropology, U. C. Davis, will be the chairman for this discussion.

4. An evening business session for the Society is planned. Elections of officers will be conducted at this meeting.

As the editors plan to publish the proceedings of the Annual Meeting, authors of papers should please submit text of paper to the editors for inclusion in the published results.

The UCLA Archaeological Survey will be sponsoring excavations at Point Rincon (4 miles south of Carpenteria on the Santa Barbara coast) during the week of June 20 - 24. All qualified volunteers are welcome. Field director will be Gary Stickel.