



SOCIETY FOR CALIFORNIA ARCHAEOLOGY

NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 6

NUMBER 1

FEBRUARY '72

ANNUAL MEETING

Laura Nader, University of California, Berkeley, will speak at a buffet dinner at the Edgewater Inn-Hyatt House Wednesday evening, March 29 initiating the festivities of the 1972 Annual Meeting to be held jointly with the Southwest Anthropological Association on the Campus of Cal State Long Beach, March 30-April 1, 1972.

The SCA program will include a number of symposia: "Man and Environment in the Late Prehistory of Southeast California" (James F. O'Connell); "Archaeological Responsibilities" (Paul J.F. Schumacher); "Changes and Measurements of Change in Southern California Prehistory:" (Nelson Leonard); "Politics and Archaeology (Ambro, Clewlow, Contreras, Hallinan, T. King); California's Archaeological Needs (M. Weide). Sessions with papers on archaeological methods and analysis, and on areal pre-history are also scheduled. The SCA business meeting, tentatively scheduled for Thursday evening March 30, will include the introduction of the newly elected officers.

The key to happy, full participation in the meetings is to let the local arrangements chairman know you are coming. Advance registration packets will be sent out, enabling advance purchase of tickets for the Wednesday evening buffet and meal tickets for on-campus eating during the meeting, to all who return the questionnaire which was mailed to members late in January, or who otherwise let the local arrangements chairman know of their plans to attend. Return the questionnaire or write to:

Douglas Osborne
Local Arrangements Chairman
Department of Anthropology
California State College
Long Beach, CA 90801



Members are asked to handle their own arrangements for accommodations during the meetings. Headquarters during the meeting will be the Edgewater Inn-Hyatt House, 6400 E. Pacific Coast Highway, Long Beach, CA 90803 (Phone 213-596-1631). Other nearby hotels and motels include:

Golden Sails
6285 E. Pacific Coast Highway
Long Beach, CA 90803
(Phone 213-596-1631)

Holiday Inn
2640 Lakewood Blvd.
Long Beach, CA 90815
(Phone 213-597-4401)

Outrigger
5325 E. Pacific Coast Highway
Long Beach, CA 90804
(Phone 213-597-1341)

NEWSLETTER ISSUE NUMBER CHANGED

Due to efforts to make the NEWSLETTER issue numbers correspond to the calendar year, there will be no Volume 5, Number 6. Volume 5, Number 5 will be followed by the current issue, Volume 6, Number 1.



Legislation

S. 1245 LIVES

S. 1245, the Moss-Bennett Bill, is not dead; it has been held over in the House Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs and is expected to be approved during the new session of Congress.

SCA members will recall that S. 1245 extends the provisions of the Reservoir Salvage Act of 1960 to cover all forms of federal, federally assisted, and federally permitted construction, and authorizes transfer of funds from agencies participating in such construction to the National Park Service to help finance salvage. If the bill passes, archaeological sites endangered by all kinds of federally related projects will be protected by basic evaluation and salvage requirements.

S. 1245 is supported by a wide range of congressmen, has already received favorable agency review and passed the U.S. Senate. It has been stalled in committee for some months, but is expected to be reported out soon. It would be very opportune for archaeologists to remind the Interior and Insular Affairs Committee of archaeological feelings

REWARD



FOR: PAYING YOUR DUES
PROMPTLY; SIGNING UP NEW
MEMBERS; ENCOURAGING YOUR SCHOOL, LIBRARY
MUSEUM, OR LOCAL SOCIETY TO SUBSCRIBE AS AN
INSTITUTIONAL MEMBER; PERSUADING LIKELY DONORS
TO MAKE CONTRIBUTIONS-

THE PRIZE WILL BE A STRENGTHENED, ENHANCED,
AND UNIFIED SCA, WITH A LOUDER VOICE TO EXPRESS
THE INTERESTS OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND ARCHAEOLOGISTS"

about this bill; if you are moved to do so, please write:

Honorable Wayne Aspinall, Chairman
Interior and Insular Affairs Committee
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

TOM KING
February 7, 1972

GOVERNOR REAGAN'S REASONS FOR VETO

As reported in the previous issue of the NEWSLETTER, Governor Reagan vetoed Assembly Bill No. 1788, legislation which would have established the California Archaeological Survey. Here is the letter in which he communicated his reasons.

December 22, 1971

The Honorable Members of the Assembly
State of California
State Capitol
Sacramento, CA

Greetings:

I am returning without my signature Assembly Bill. No. 1788, relating to archaeology, and making an appropriation therefor, and also known in part as the "California Archaeological Survey Act:

This bill would create the California Archaeological Survey within the Department of Conservation and the California Archaeological Board within the Survey. The creation of this new Survey is unnecessary to meet the objectives of this measure. Senate Bill 215 (Chapter 827) requires a task force study of the State's archaeological efforts, to be completed by December 31, 1972. Since the study has been requested by the Legislature, it would seem advisable to await the results of it before taking further action.

In addition, AB 1788 contains a number of technical flaws, as well as serious questions regarding the staffing and funding provisions contained in the bill.

Accordingly, I am returning the bill unsigned.

Respectfully,

(Signed) Ronald Reagan
Governor

cc: The Honorable John Knox



"MIWOK PRESERVE" ANNUAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting of the Miwok Archaeological Preserve of Marin County will be held at 8:00 PM in the Miller Creek School Music Room on March 9, 1972. The focal point of the program will be a talk by Charles Slaymaker, Preserve Archaeologist. He will provide the story of the people who once inhabited what is now called Gallinas Valley.

MAPOM, Feb. 1, 1972

FUND-RAISING BANQUET CANCELTION

The fund-raising banquet as described in the last issue of the NEWSLETTER has had to be canceled. A traditional non-fund-raising banquet is still being planned, however.



MODEL PUBLIC RELATIONS

Every professional archaeologist is faced with the problem of how to deal with well-meaning people who through lack of information are engaged in activities that do damage to archaeological remains. The NEWSLETTER recently received two copies of letters that deal skillfully with such matters.

The first was written when a few months ago, a seasonal employee for the U.S. Forest Service sent a letter to SCA which described his excavating numerous Indian artifacts. Although various memoranda within the Forest Service were sent out giving caution to the employees and emphasizing their responsibilities to protect prehistoric and historic cultural resources, the following letter represents a very positive approach. Don Miller brought this letter to the attention of SCA members in order to make all aware of the humanistic method of dealing with relic collectors who, obviously, do not know the extent of their damage to the cultural record. Don hopes that all SCA members study this approach. It is not the only one, but it certainly has merit.

The letter was not written by Don Miller; both the name of the author (an SCA member) and recipient are omitted.

January 20, 1972

Dear Sir:

Your letter of September 5 to the Society for California Archaeology has been copied and passed around in various directions, and one copy at length wound up with me. I've pondered it for some time, during which time I imagine that someone from the SCA has contacted you. I also understand that there's been some discussion of what you've been up to among Forest Service people, so maybe I have very little to say to you that you haven't already heard. I still feel, though, that I ought to write you.

I can sympathize very much with what you've been doing. I grew up in a place not unlike Hayfork; I was fascinated by Indians and archaeology, and there certainly weren't any professional archaeologists around close to advise me, so I set about doing my own digging. I dug up several burials, puzzled over a lot of artifacts, and got quite a kick out of it. Now, though, looking back on what I did after almost fifteen years of archaeological fieldwork, I can see that what I was doing was terribly destructive and selfish. I had no reason to dig other than to satisfy my own curiosity, and in doing so (or usually failing to do so, because since I was untrained I didn't know how to really learn from an archaeological site) I destroyed information that could have been, and should have been, saved. A real archaeologist realizes that every shovelful of dirt he digs destroys things- the sensitive relationships between things in the ground. He realizes that he should only dig when he absolutely has to, when he has a specific, important question about past human activities that requires excavation to answer, or when a site is about to be destroyed and thus must be excavated in order to save any information at all. And if he decides that he must dig, any archaeologist worth his salt

makes sure he is well enough trained in archaeological methods to extract all the relevant information he can from what he sees in the ground. People who lack this realization, who dig out of more or less idle curiosity or to obtain objects, are destroying information that absolutely can never be replaced or renewed. That's what I was doing as a kid, and quite frankly, that's what you're doing. If you really want to learn about Wintun prehistory, you'll stop.

This is not to say that you shouldn't learn about the Wintun or do archaeology. There are certainly Wintun sites being destroyed in your area all the time, and there aren't enough professional archaeologists around to keep the situation under control. We need your help. I'm enclosing a "syllabus" that, though prepared for the Division of Highways, contains a good many pieces of useful information. I'd strongly suggest that if you really want to do something productive and learn something about the archaeology of your area, you read some of the books listed in the back of the syllabus and contact the Northern California Archaeological Society for guidance and help. The fastest way to contact the NCAS is to get in touch with Ed Clewett, 2156 Garden Street, Redding. I'm sending Ed a copy of this letter so he'll know you're around. There's no reason why you can't be a really responsible amateur (or professional) archaeologist and make your digging useful to science, if you'll take steps in the right direction. What you're doing now, however, will only result in a loss to science, and should stop right away. If I can answer any questions or help in any other way, please let me know.

Sincerely,



On occasion Archaeologists and Geologists are approached by dealers in antiquities and/or their customers and are requested to authenticate, either by means of stylistic knowledge or by chemical and physical tests, objects of prehistoric art. Usually identification is requested in order to determine whether or not the object is "authentic" or whether it is a forgery. In performing such a service there is a strong possibility that the geologist is going directly counter to the provisions of the UNESCO resolution of 1970 concerning commerce in illegally obtained antiquities.

MACHAQUILA STELA RECOVERED

According to the UPI, in January of this year FBI agents seized a Mayan stela weighing several tons and valued at \$350,000 that was stolen from a jungle riverbank in Guatemala.

It was believed to be the first such recovery by U.S. law enforcement officers of a stolen Latin American archaeological find, the FBI said. Latin American nations, particularly Mexico, have been trying for years to get U.S. officials to take action in cases involving archaeological material illegally removed and sold to collectors in the United States. The "Machaquila Stela" was found in the unoccupied home of Clive Hollinshead in a L.A. suburb by agents armed with a federal search warrant. No charges have been brought against Hollinshead. The stela was recovered on the grounds that "It is a violation of federal law to transport in interstate or foreign commerce any stolen property with a value of \$5,000 or more."

APRIL 10



Deadline for materials submitted to the next issue of the NEWSLETTER is APR. 10. Everyone is urged to submit material.

When this circumstance has arisen at the UCLA Geology Museum I have found the following response to be a rather effective method of answering requests for scientific tests on prehistoric objects of art:

Dear Sir:

Regarding the antiquity you brought in for scientific verification I wish to point out that the UCLA Geology Museum has agreed to abide by the guidelines for documentation of antiquities as set forth by the UNESCO resolution of 1970 especially Item 1 which is designed to control the authentication of objects of questionable origin.

Since the UNESCO resolution and various other letters of agreement between the United States and other participating governments are designed to regulate the importation and sale of illegally acquired antiquities, I will be happy to furnish you with my written evaluation upon receipt of 1) copies of the appropriate government forms authorizing export of the object from its country of origin and 2) documentation from the office of United States Customs acknowledging the legal importation of the object into the United States.

Upon receipt of this documentation I will be happy to furnish you with certified information concerning the authenticity of your art object."

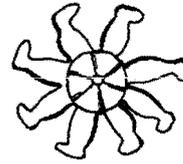
I am interested in gaining opinions from the SCA membership concerning this matter and to find out the policies of other member institutions that have museum facilities.

DAVID L. WEIDE
Dept. of Geology
University of California
Los Angeles, CA 90024
February 3, 1972

The limestone stela stands 6 feet 10, is 4 feet wide and weighs several tons. Removing it from the house "was a real project," an FBI spokesman said. It was covered with carvings and hieroglyphics estimated to date to 670 AD and was discovered in the Peten region of northern Guatemala on the bank of the Machaquila River in 1961 by British archaeologist Ian Graham.



NEWS OF THE PROFESSION



BAAC GETS ORGANIZED



Archaeologists in the Bay Area attended a meeting at Mike Moratto's home on February 12. The organizational meeting's purpose was to formalize some sort of a structure for the rapidly growing Bay Area Archaeological Cooperative. The Coop, which originally was envisioned by South Bay area archaeologists to coordinate some local activities, has adopted more ambitious goals as it has attracted the attention of archaeologists from the entire Greater Bay Area.

The Coop decided the structure of the organization should consist of 1) a Coordinator, 2) a Secretary, 3) Committees that would carry out the activities of the Coop and 4) a Board consisting of the officers and Committee Chairmen. The four Committees are:

- 1) The Grants and Finance Committee, which is forming ambitious plans to obtain a large grant from NSF to be administered by the California Academy of Sciences in San Francisco.
- 2) The Research Committee, which is designing a research plan and defining archaeological problems to be solved by the cooperative efforts of archaeologists in the area. Survey forms will be designed to collect data in an organized manner to solve the problems.
- 3) The Archives and Repositories Committee, which will coordinate data collected by the group.
- 4) The Communications and Resources Committee, which will focus on the task of keeping track of personnel and equipment in the area that can be mobilized quickly for salvage archaeology.
- 5) The Government Liaison Committee, which will deal with municipal, county, state, and federal government.

Officers and Committee members are: Coordinator; Chester King; Secretary; Shirley Lee; Grants and Finance; Mike Moratto, Ken Colson, Lowell Bean, Rob Edwards; Research; Bert Gerow, Jim Bennyhof, Chester King, Ron Hansen, Rob Edwards; Archives and Repositories; John Fritz, Lowell Bean, Jim Dotta, Marsha Wire, Polly Bickel; Communications and Resources; Shirley Lee, Mike Moratto, Jan Moissant, Tom Jackson, Ann Ramonosky, Rob Edwards; Government Liaison; Linda King, Rob Edwards, Al Alsasser, Harry Nelson, John McBeath, and Gale Engle.

A motion passed unanimously that the BAAC should take a stand against further excavations of Ala-328 and 329, the Coyote Hills sites until there are specific archaeological problems that need to be investigated by such excavations. The sites, which are on Parks land, are protected from other kinds of destruction.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the BAAC will be at the home of Shirley Lee of Ohlone College on March 19 at 2:00 PM. The traditional BAAC potluck dinner will follow. All interested people are invited to attend.

UCLA NEWS

During the calendar year 1972 the UCLA Archaeological Survey will be stepping-up its activities in the Santa Monica Mountains. It will become the clearinghouse for information about the development of land within the Mountains. The staff will organize and take part in a program of site survey, salvage excavation, laboratory analysis, and information dissemination. Through increased interaction with planning agencies, commissions, and developers it is hoped that many endangered archaeological sites may be incorporated into developments and thereby preserved; or in the event that preservation is impossible that funds be made available for salvage. In order to carry out such a program we will need the cooperation of archaeologists and interested laymen.

The following is a list of people to contact if you wish to volunteer your time or if you have information that would assist this effort:

General Information: NELSON LEONARD, DEAN DECKER, OR JUDY RASSON

Field Work: NELSON LEONARD, JEFF JONES, OR GRIFF COLEMAN

Laboratory Analysis: DEAN DECKER OR JUDY RASSON
Planning and Development: DEAN DECKER

All these individuals may be reached by phoning either 825-1720 or 825-7411, or by writing them c/o the Archaeological Survey, UCLA, Los Angeles, CA 90024.



CAL STATE LONG BEACH ARCHAEOLOGY SPRING FIELD CLASS

The field class in archaeology at Cal State Long Beach will continue excavations at Ora-193 on the north edge of Newport Bay this spring. The well stratified site, which was initially excavated by the Pacific Coast Archaeological Society, appears to have been the locus of specialized gathering of the resources of the shallow saline estuary-lagoon during the Late period. Notably absent is evidence of seed grinding, butchering of large land mammals, housing or mortuary activities.

The 1972 excavations will be designed to explore the periodicity of use of the site based on studies of the sediments and their stratification, and faunal remains; to test untested areas of the occupation for homogeneity with previously excavated portions, and to enlarge the sample of artifacts and faunal remains. Flotation and wet-sieving will be undertaken to recover remains selectively missed in previous sampling.

Ownership of the site is currently the subject of litigation between the Irvine Company and the County of Orange. Whichever way the ownership is resolved, plans for development of the bay threaten the site with destruction. Training and excavation in the field class will be under the direction of Margaret L. Weide, Instructor, and Mike Victorson, Teaching Assistant, assisted by Roy L. Hubbs.

MARGARET WEIDE
January 12, 1972

NPS ACTIVITIES

Fred Bohannon, National Park Service Salvage Archeologist, Pacific West, will be transferring to the Pacific Northwest Region, Seattle, in March to become their new Regional Archeologist.

We are currently negotiating with the University of California, Davis, for a contract providing for salvage archaeology in the New Melones Reservoir, and with Long Beach State College officials to draft a contract for salvage in Hidden Reservoir.

Dr. William Wallace will continue to salvage excavate archaeological sites to be affected by construction activities in Death Valley Natl. Monument during the next few years.

We received a copy of Dr. Wallace's "Archaeological Investigations at Hidden Reservoir, Madera Co., California", published in *Contributions to California Archaeology* No. 7.

A contract was issued this summer and the project completed when Mike Moratto submitted his report, "An Archaeological Survey of Selected Areas within Redwood National Park, California."

Received and accepted was Tom King's "M-Yuc: An Archeological Survey of the Proposed Right-of-Way of the Morongo-Yucca-Upper Coachella Valley Pipe-line," in fulfillment of a contract funded by the Bureau of Reclamation.

ANN L. HOWARD
Western Region, NPS
February 2, 1972

S F STATE

In conjunction with Eldon Erhardt of Cañada College, Jim Dotta has continued excavations at SMa-125 in Woodside. A "status burial" with ca. 50 stingray barbs, 60 bone whistles, an imperforate plummet charmstone, several bone daggers, and *Olivella* D1 and G2b beads was recently discovered at this site. Mr. Dotta has also completed reconnaissance work for the Highway Department in the Coyote Creek area near San Jose, and he is preparing to undertake a survey of the new route 580 near Castro Valley. He has also compiled data concerning sites and their significance along the proposed PG & E Mendocino-Vaca-Dison power transmission corridors. This information will be used by the PG & E to select a final route with minimal impact upon archaeological resources.

Tom Jackson, Charles Slaymaker, and Stan Van Dyke are formalizing plans for a systematic archaeological survey of Marin County. Mr. Slaymaker is currently preparing his report on excavations conducted earlier at Mrn-138; Mr. Jackson is concentrating upon the reconstruction of trade routes as inferred from obsidian trace element analysis; and Mr. Van Dyke's studies focus upon the paleodemography of prehistoric Marin County relative to biotic factors.

Mike Moratto is preparing an archival facility at S.F. State to handle the manuscripts and survey data provided by the Bay Area Archaeological Cooperative. This spring he will be continuing the reconnaissance of Redwood National Park and, with T.F. King of U.C. Riverside, will be excavating in the Buchanan Reservoir locality of the southern Sierra. Mr. Moratto's Ph.D. Dissertation on the prehistory of the southern Sierra has been submitted to the University of Oregon and should be available for general distribution by late March.

Mike Moratto
S.F. State College
MIKE MORATTO
S.F. State College
February, 1972

AVILA ADOBE DAMAGED

Last February's earthquake damaged what is reputedly the oldest house in Los Angeles - the Avila Adobe on Olvera Street - so severely that public tours were discontinued pending restoration of the building. Prior to restoration, El Pueblo de Los Angeles State Historic Park Commission contracted for historical, architectural, and archaeological research and analysis in order to provide the basis for an authentic reconstruction.

Archaeological investigations began December 22, 1971 under the overall direction of Franklin Fenenga, Associate Professor of Anthropology, CSCLB. William Butler, graduate student, CSCLB, is in charge of field excavations, and Jeanne Muñoz, graduate student, UCR and classroom instructor, LBCC, is in charge of the laboratory. Crew members are present or past CSCLB students, and all are experienced in field archaeology.

Architectural findings include adobe floors, rock footings for earlier walls and for a possible fireplace, sealed up and plastered over windows and doorways, patches of roofing tile in walls, a vent, and, probably most important of all, a corner cooking fireplace. Samples of adobe, wall plaster, wood, nails, brea, brick, and roofing tile are being collected for the architect and for future analysis.

Archaeological findings date to the early 1800's and include artifacts from China, France, England, Mexico, and the United States. The largest proportion of artifacts were recovered from a trashpit in what is now the northwest room of the house. Preliminary analysis of the numerous animal bones found in the same room indicates two different butchering techniques.

Further in-field archaeological research must be completed by mid-February, as the building must be restored by August 9, 1972 to qualify for Federal earthquake damage funds.

JEANNE MUÑOZ
February, 1972

Publications



"ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE PRESERVATION" AVAILABLE NOW

Through the courtesy of the Pacific Coast Archaeological Society and its editor, Lavinia Knight, the SCA has available a limited number of copies of "Archaeological Site Preservation: The Neglected Alternative to Destruction," by Keith A. Dixon. The paper, which discusses the problems of archaeology in the future and the frequent deficiencies of salvage excavation, includes the proposal developed by Dr. Dison for the preservation of Ora-58, the Fairview Hospital Site, as an integral part of the proposed Fairview Park in Costa Mesa. The park will provide much-needed open space for the City of Costa Mesa and will preserve Ora-58 as a resource for science and for public education.

Dr. Dixon's paper provides a very useful prototype for similar proposals. Individuals and groups who would like to obtain a copy should write to:

Margaret L. Weide
Department of Anthropology
California State College
Long Beach, CA 90801

"Archaeological Site Preservation..." will be published in the Pacific Coast Archaeological Society *Quarterly*, Vol. 7, No. 4, pp. 51-70.

MARGARET WEIDE

CA PUBLICATIONS AVAILABLE

SCA has available for sale several publications, including back issues of the NEWSLETTER. Procedures for ordering publications are:

- a. Regular, prepaid orders should be addressed to the Business Office, Dept. of Anthropology, San Francisco State College, 1600 Holloway Ave., San Francisco, CA 94132.
- b. Requests for special discounts, which should be held to an absolute minimum, must be routed through the President or Treasurer. Each request will be considered by the Board, and either approved or rejected promptly.

PRICE SCHEDULE

"You Can Help Preserve California's Past"	\$.15 each or 2.65 per 25
"Stewards of the Past" (including above)	.50 each
"Death of the Past"	1.00 each
"Syllabus for Highway Archaeology"	.50 each
"Coccidioidomycosis"	1.00 each
"Government and Archaeology"	1.00 each

NEWSLETTERS:

Volume I	January-December 1967	
No. 1	.25	xerox
No. 2	.35	xerox
No. 3	.30	xerox
No. 4	.40	xerox
No. 5	.70	xerox
No. 6	Out of Print	
Volume 2	January 1968-February 1969	
No. 1	.70	xerox
No. 2	.85	xerox
No. 3	Out of Print	
No. 4	.50	xerox (some originals)
No. 5	.75	originals
No. 6	.75	originals
Volume 3	April 1969-February 1970	
No. 1	.90	originals
No. 2	.65	xerox (some originals)
No. 3	.45	originals
No. 4 & 5	1.20	xerox
No. 6	1.00	originals
Volume 4	April 1970-February 1971	
No. 1	.95	originals
No. 2 & 3	1.50	originals
No. 4	.30	originals
No. 5	.40	originals
No. 6	.40	originals
Volume V	April 1971- December 1971	
No. 1	.60	xerox
No. 2	.50	originals
No. 3 & 4	.45	originals
No. 5	to be determined	
No. 6	due to change in numbering system, there will be no issue with this number.	

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ARCHAEOLOGY IN THE POPULAR PRESS

Archaeology is getting a good deal of exposure in the mass media this winter and spring, and members should be aware of this coverage so that they can expect and prepare to channel expanded public interest. Notable recent coverage includes:

1. A feature article on the national crisis in salvage archaeology in the NEW YORK TIMES in November; the syndicated version of this article has been widely distributed.

2. A major front-page story on salvage and amateur archaeology in the January 22 NATIONAL OBSERVER of Washington D.C.

2. Articles on international artifact smuggling and domestic salvage problems in the January 1972 SCIENCE, by Clemency Coggins and Hester Davis, respectively.

Several other archaeological features are in progress, including:

1. Articles on vandalism and salvage tentatively planned in WESTWAYS and DESERT magazines this spring.

2. A salvage archaeology sequence on the "Jimmy Stewart Show," probably in February.

3. A major special on North American archaeology on ABC-TV, including a salvage sequence shot in southern California, scheduled for April 17.

Presumably this national and statewide coverage can be translated by local archaeologists into public support for local programs, and it is recommended that members give thought to what it is best to encourage people to do if moved to action by stories in the media. Archaeologists who have questions, problems, or suggestions regarding archaeology's public image are urged to contact the Society for American Archaeology's Committee on Public Understanding of Archaeology. Contact either the California representative of the Committee, Francis Riddell, Dept. of Parks and Recreation, PO Box 2390, Sacramento, or the western representative on the steering committee, Tom King, Dept. of Anthropology, UC Riverside.

TOM KING
February 8, 1972

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

SOCIAL DIMENSIONS OF MORTUARY PRACTICES, A.A. Saxe, PhD Dissertation, University of Michigan, 1970. \$11.10, from University Microfilms, Ann Arbor, Michigan. 48106

To review an unpublished dissertation may seem somewhat gauche, but Saxe's paper is of such crucial importance to current research in California that I think a brief note is necessary. Saxe concerns himself with a concise test of a set of seven hypothetical connections between social organization and mortuary practices; his test cases are three ethnographic societies of differing levels of complexity on which ethnographic data are sufficient to confidently deal with mortuary customs. His conclusions present solid evidence that disposal practices do indeed reflect socio-political organization in a systematic way, and his analysis provides a set of models that should be much more useful than the somewhat simplistic Fried-Binford model generally in use by "political reconstructionists." It's worth every penny of Uni. Micro's usual mind-boggling price.

TOM KING
December 10, 1971

Fieldwork



KERN COUNTY DIG

KERN RIVER CANYON AND HOT SPRINGS VALLEY, KERN COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

Highway salvage work in the Tubatulabal cultural province of the Southern Sierra Nevada began on June 6, 1971, and ended on August 12, 1971. A crew of 30 archaeological aides from Sacramento, San Francisco and Fresno State Colleges and the University of California at Riverside and Davis participated in the project as administered by the Fresno State College Foundation.

Excavation along the new Highway 178 right-of-way from Bakersfield east to the resort areas of Isabella and Kernville took place at two major localities. The primary excavations took place at the confluence of Erskine Creek and Kern River in Hot Springs Valley. This site, known ethnographically as Palakuč, was mentioned in The Ethnography of the Tubatulabal (Voegelin: 1938) as a fishing camp. We found that there was not only a large component spread along a north-south ridge north of Erskine Creek (previously designated 4-Ker-260), but also a fringe of midden 38-50M wide and 10-200 cm. in depth surrounded a knoll immediately south of Erskine Creek. It was at this latter area, designated FSC-22, that we began testing operations in the Erskine Creek locality. The area to the north, 20-150 M wide by nearly 1000M in length, was designated FSC-113 in accord with working field records.

Although no archaeological work had ever been accomplished in the Kern River Canyon proper, a decision late in the preliminary planning stages made it possible to test several localized sites in the vicinity of Delonegha Hot Springs 16 miles west and down river from Erskine Creek. It has been fortunate that the meager amount of work in the area was successfully accomplished.

Before the summer season, 1971, little archaeological work had been carried out in the Erskine Creek-Lake Isabella area (Griffin 1962) and no work at all had been carried out in the Kern Canyon proper. One of the major aims of the salvage work this past year was to establish some familiarity with the artifact assemblages present in this little known area, and then assess their variance stratigraphically. Once this is done it becomes possible to begin comparative analysis with previously excavated sites such as Rose Springs to the northeast and Buena Vista to the southwest. It was also part of the original research plan to investigate the nature of pottery, both of the local variety and of the imported type to determine the extent of trade and dependency upon ceramics. The nature of our areal limitations (within the right-of-way) made it difficult to construct a test or survey procedure that would have answered some questions about settlement patterns. Nevertheless, we were able to test for intra-site variation and specific use areas at FSC-22 and FSC-113.

FSC-22 has a long historic sequence. It was first used in the late 1840's and was utilized as the site of a toll bridge across the Kern River gorge to Keyesville, as an arrastra-milling site and then in 1862 until 1968 as a ranch where cattle, horses and feed were grown in the meadows surrounding Erskine Creek. There is undoubtedly a great deal of disturbance present at the site FSC-22. There is near equivalency (numerically) between aboriginal artifacts and those of the superceding Anglo culture. The nature of the disturbance during the '20's and '30's will prove exceedingly important. Erminie Voegelin in her fine ethnography mentions (p. 30) that Palakuč was "near Indian mound, now leveled, on Monroe Bechtel Ranch."

Pictographs are abundant at this site. As yet I have been unable to unravel the exact reason for or time of leveling of this mound. Presuming that it once covered the area which we excavated, we might have an explanation for the great lack of features and the apparent random distribution of artifacts. Erskine Creek will have to be subjected to much more of a historical research methodology before the archaeological validity of the observed manifestations can be accepted. I am engaged in this research now.

The Delonegha Springs locality is known to have been a mining district established in 1866. Before that time it appears to have been occupied seasonally by varying groups of Indians. Our investigations in the area yielded two burials, a quantity of beads, several projectile points and six large obsidian blades. According to Latta and Kroeber, the Delonegha area falls very nearly on the Territorial boundary of the Paleuyami Yokuts, the Kawaiisu, the Tubatulabal related Banklachi. Numerous bedrock mortars exist all along the Kern River, in the Canyon. Work area components were designated from west to east as follows; FSC-93; Mill Creek FSC-94; (Sycamore Creek proved non-existent); FSC-95A, B, C, D, E; and 96A, B, C, D, E; FSC-97; and FSC-98. All of these sites and components (95-98) were located between the Delonegha Hot Springs and the Delonegha drainage, to the east approximately 1/2 mile.

The intense utilization of the area is accounted for by the benchlike terrain in an otherwise precipitous canyon, and the abundance of *Quercus sp.* Two periods of utilization are suggested, corresponding to low water. In late April to May fisheries were available before the spring runoff and after winter storms. In September and October acorn seed processing may have taken place. The artifact inventory from FSC-96 is substantially different from that of Erskine Creek to the east. Burial pattern, tight flex with rock features nearby at foot and head, blade type, ochre, and beads suggest affiliation with Yokuts culture.

Artifacts from Erskine Creek suggest at least two time periods. Desert side-notched and Cottonwood points suggest a late proto-historic or historic period, perhaps contemporaneous with INY-2, the Cottonwood site. There appear to be few, if any, points reminiscent of the Rose Spring series at Erskine Creek, but a stratum of yellow-brown cultural deposit yielded 3-5 samples of workmanship both in obsidian (1) and basalt that appear to have Pinto characteristics. I feel that it is too early to speculate beyond the suppositions herein stated. Radiocarbon samples were collected at both the Delonegha and Erskine Creek localities. The Division of Highways awarded no funds for C¹⁴ dating and until the problems of disturbance are resolved at Erskine Creek it seems ill-advised to submit samples for dating.

In summary, it is apparent that archaeologically and culturally, Delonegha Creek and Erskine Creek have opposite affiliations. It is unlikely that the areas were mutually exclusive of trespass from the two groups, but it would seem that Erskine Creek reflects influence from the Owens Valley and Desert to the east, while Delonegha Creek seems to be an easterly campsite of the Paleuyami and Kern River Yokuts, and occasionally other groups (see Latta, Voegelin and Kroeber).

The summer work of 1971 has been instrumental in adding and accumulating the knowledge necessary to begin construction of a research program aimed at answering questions of relevance to archaeology in both the Central Valley of California and the Western Great Basin. The work as accomplished so far should be ready for publication by June 1973. If at all possible I will include a "bone collagen

date" for the burial at Delonegha Creek, although this rests precariously on my personal financial situation.

In conclusion, it would be greatly appreciated if anyone reading this Newsletter having information of knowledge of the whereabouts of local collections or anyone who has done fieldwork in the area, would contact me so that we might share knowledge of the area. Contact: Mr. Lynne H. Mounday, Department of Anthropology, Fresno State College, Fresno, California 93710.

ROCKSHELTER CACHE RECOVERED

In addition to highway salvage, Fresno State College archaeologists have recovered a cache of food gathering and processing equipment from a small rockshelter at the foot of Tehipite Dome on the Middle Fork of the Kings River, Kings Canyon National Park. The cache included two complete Owens Valley Brown Ware vessels, fragments of burden baskets, and digging sticks. A storage pit lined with Yellow pine bark was also located and when cleared, its fill produced a cobble pestle and one stick die. The site (FSC-114) is located in an area reported to have been a meeting place for Eastern and Western Mono trading parties (Gayton 1948: 283) and is about one-half mile east of FRE-78.

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CALVIN H. JENNINGS
Fresno State College
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