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MOSS-BENNETT SIGNED

On May 24, 1974 President Nixon signed into law the Moss-Bennett Bill as Public Law 93-291.

The Bill 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. Archaeological sites endangered by federally related projects will be protected by basic evaluation and salvage requirements.

As all SCA members are aware, the signing of this legislation is the culmination of many years of effort by many persons and agencies concerned with the historic and prehistoric heritage of the United States. Certainly all professional archaeologists owe a hearty vote of thanks to those who worked so hard to see this legislation through, especially Carl Chapman, Charles R. McGimsey, and the Committee on Public Archeology of the SAA.

The passage of the Moss-Bennett Bill, however, is not a panacea for contract and conservation archaeology. Much will have to be done by archaeologists and historians, working closely with federal agencies to make the law work. And, Congress has authorized, but has not yet appropriated, funds to implement some sections of the bill.

EXCAVATIONS AT VANDENBERG

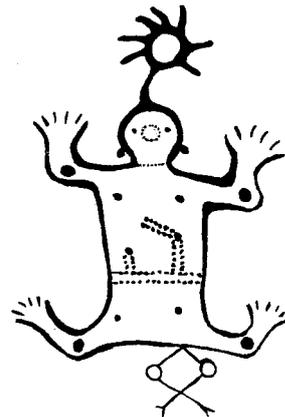
Beginning on June 17 and continuing through August 16, 1974, the University of California at Santa Barbara is conducting preliminary test excavations at about 30 archaeological sites which are endangered by the proposed construction of facilities for the Space Transportation System (Space Shuttle) on South Vandenberg Air Force Base. An evaluation of these sites will be included as part of the overall Environmental Impact Study of the Shuttle System, and there is a good possibility that many sites can be preserved. The archaeological remains involved are distributed along some 15 miles of coastal plain in the transition zone between Central and Southern California. Most of the sites are located between Jalama Beach and the Santa Ynes River.

The project is being supervised by Dr. Michael Glasgow of UCSB with a crew of 30 persons working in the field under the direction of Larry Spanne, who will be assisted by Bob Gibson, Jeff Quilter and Marilyn Steely. Two Chumash Indian representatives from the Santa Inez Tribe will serve as advisors and trainees.

The Vandenberg region is generally not well known from an archaeological standpoint. However, more than 420 archaeological sites of various kinds have been recorded during a "mixed Strategy Survey" of some 70 percent of Vandenberg's 153 square miles over the last four years. Partially funded surveys which have now provided intensive coverage of the entire coastal plain and major stream valleys, as well as other areas, were carried out by Larry Spanne with assistance from local volunteers. A contract proposal is being prepared which will call for completion of the survey by early 1976.

The data will be used as the basis for Spanne's doctoral thesis on aboriginal subsistence-settlement patterns of the Lompoc-Vandenberg Region.

One of the sites being tested this summer is probably the Purismeno Chumash village of Nocto (SBa-1010) located south of Point Arguello. This site has an unusual set of 5 or 6 apparently man-made terraces of different elevations and composed entirely of shell midden which may represent living areas or house locations. Other sites within the project area may be considerably older. One appears to be an early Millingstone Period occupation site, possibly dating to



the time of the Encinitas Tradition in Southern California (see Warren, 1968). Only four potential Millingstone Period sites have been recorded on Vandenberg to date.

A recent small-scale emergency excavation by Spanne in the San Antonio Valley of Northern Vandenberg has revealed a stratified hunting camp on the shore of an ancient slough or lake with an occupation sequence tentatively dated between 3000 B.C. and A.D. 500 on the basis of cross-dated artifact types. The remains of several large Canadian Elk and Mule deer were found along with fire hearths, living floors, antler hammers, antler wedges, antler flakers, large stemmed and concave-based projectile points, choppers, knives, shell beads, a biperforate, polished shaft wrench of elk antler, a bone punch or awl, and other artifacts and remains. Carbon samples have been collected and the material is now being analyzed.

Many of the archaeological sites being tested this summer on Vandenberg will probably be subjected to extensive excavations over the next five years as the Space Transportation System is developed. Data from our present excavations and a completed archaeological survey should allow us to formulate a series of hypothetical models concerning aboriginal subsistence-settlement patterns and other aspects of socio-cultural systems and their environmental adaptations. These models can then serve as a research framework for any extensive excavations in the near future within the Lompoc-Vandenberg region.

LARRY SPANNE
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June 9, 1974

LEAKEY LECTURES

The Leakey Foundation will present two Louis Leakey Lectures on the West Coast this fall. Each program will be entirely different, although some of the participants will be the same. The format for both the San Francisco and Los Angeles lecture programs will be similar: five principal speakers, questions and answers after each lecture, and a panel discussion with all participants at the close of the day.

IN SAN FRANCISCO: Saturday, Nov. 2, at the Masonic Auditorium "IN SEARCH OF MAN II"
9:30 AM to 5:00 PM

Participants: Dr. Jane Goodall, Dr. Irvén DeVore, Dr. Phillip Tobias, Drs. Allan and Beatrice Gardner and Dr. Sherwood Washburn

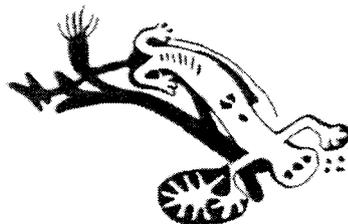
IN LOS ANGELES: Saturday, Nov. 9, at Beckman Auditorium, Caltech. "IN SEARCH OF MAN: PERSPECTIVES ON HUMAN EVOLUTION"
9:30 AM to 5:00 PM

Participants: Dr. Jane Goodall, Dr. David Hamburg, Dr. Irvén DeVore, Dr. Phillip Tobias, and Dr. Jacob Bronowski

Registration: fees for both events: General \$35, Students \$25.

The programs in each city will be different. As in past seasons, a limited number of scholarships will be offered to students and teachers through university

and college anthropology departments, who will be contacted directly by the Foundation early in September. More details will be forthcoming in the next issue of the NEWSLETTER.



RACEMIZATION OF AMINO ACIDS: A NEW DATING TECHNIQUE

On May 14, 1974 Dr. Spencer Rogers, San Diego Museum of Man; Dr. Jeffrey Bada, Scripps Institution of Oceanography; and Dr. James Moriarty, University of San Diego held a news conference at the Museum of Man. The purpose of the meeting was to disclose recent findings indicating that people lived in San Diego 50,000 years ago. Dr. George Carter, Texas A. and M. University, who was unable to attend the meeting, sent a taped message commenting on the discoveries. The dates reported are based on a technique developed by Dr. Bada which measures the racemization of amino acids in bone material.

Dr. Bada ran his test on several specimens of human material from the Museum of Man's collection. One specimen, a human rib, came from a burial uncovered at a site (SDM W-2) near the present La Jolla Beach and Tennis Club. Another sample was a human frontal found in the same area at a depth of 8 feet, or about 6 feet below the first specimen (see: George Carter, Pleistocene Man at San Diego, p. 379). Both burials were excavated by Malcolm Rogers in 1926. A third specimen, consisting mainly of a human skull and lower mandible, was discovered by Rogers and George Carter at the San Dieguito River (SDM W-34-A) in 1929.

Dr. Bada reports the following dates for the above items:

Human rib (SDM 16755)	28,000 years
Human frontal (SDM 16742)	44,000 years
Human skull (SDM 16704)	48,000 years

Besides the material mentioned above, Dr. Bada also ran his test on the Laguna Skull from the Los Angeles County Museum and mammoth bones excavated from Santa Rosa Island. These samples have already been carbon dated, so they served to "Calibrate" the dating method.

Dr. Moriarty believes that these dates have an important bearing on the age of sites like Texas Street and Buchanan Canyon (see SCA Newsletter, Oct. 1973, p. 7). Many geologists and geographers who visited these excavations last summer felt that the geological context of these sites was older than 20,000 years.

In 1956 a hearth from Texas St. produced a radiocarbon date greater than 35,000 years B.P. Now with dates of great antiquity taken from human material it is feasible to consider these sites the cultural aspect for the human remains. Dr. Moriarty warns, however, that until Dr. Bada's findings can be duplicated independently, some caution should be taken concerning these dates. Dr. Moriarty is presently completing a paper for the Museum of Man on the possible