- forging connections: NAPC and Monache Intertribal Association
- UCD Hopland research
- SCA at SAA
- speaking out against bad archaeology
Society for California Archaeology Newsletter

Volume 37, Number 2, June 2003

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I would like to begin this column by extending a hearty welcome to new SCA Executive Board members, Amy Gilreath, Terry Jones, and Stacy Schnieder-Case. Having sat through several meetings together, I am confident that this year’s Board, which also includes Dana McGowan, Rick Fitzgerald, and Vicki Beard, will make a great team, as well as considerable progress in carrying forth the Society’s ongoing initiatives. I am very honored to be serving on the Board with such dedicated professionals.

Sannie Kenton Osborn, Past President, left the Board this year after having worked on several important initiatives and projects. Among these were obtaining legal representation for SCA and serving as Board liaison for Brian Fagan’s book, “Beyond California,” among a host of other accomplishments. Sannie continues to be very active in the Society, and will carry on her efforts to revise the SCA’s procedures manual. Many thanks to Sannie for her years of dedication and service.

Trish Fernandez, Treasurer, leaves after two years of diligent work helping the Board with the often daunting task of understanding the Society’s financial affairs and status. Trish streamlined the tracking and reporting of operating expenses and income, and was tenacious in researching past fiscal issues. Current and future Boards will benefit for many years from Trish’s keen organizational skills.

Tom Wheeler, Southern Vice President, also said farewell to the Board this year. During his tenure, Tom organized and hosted the Southern Data Sharing meetings and supported the efforts of a number of SCA committees, including avocational societies, curation, local and regional planning, Archaeology Week, and the Proceedings.

The 2003 Annual Meetings, jointly held with the Professional Soil Scientists Association of California in Sacramento, were a great success thanks to the efforts of Local Arrangements Chairperson Scott Williams and Program Chairperson John Holson. Scott, along with Daryl Cardiff, organized a superb crew that kept daily activities running smoothly and efficiently. The program included over 120 papers, two workshops, roundtable discussions, tours, and a poster session. The meeting was attended by some 740 registrants. The SCA Business Office was instrumental in streamlining the registration process, and many thanks are extended to Greg White, Melinda Pacheco, and all the volunteers who assisted in those efforts.

The SCA Annual Meetings award banquet honored the contributions of members and colleagues William (Bill) Olsen (Lifetime Achievement Award), Larry Myers (California Indian Heritage Preservation Award), Beth and Chris Pardon (Harrington Award), Tom Layton (Baumhoff Award), Shannon Tushingham (Bennyhoff Award), Adrian Prætzelis (Tom King Award), and Pacific Coast Archaeological Society (Helen C. Smith Avocational Award). One award regrettably missing from the Annual Meetings, due to lack of submissions, was the Student Paper Award. Students – start thinking now about submitting a paper for consideration for next year’s award. The SCA Board also encourages University faculty to challenge their students to submit papers.

During the meetings, I had the opportunity to (continued page 16)
SCA Legislative Report

Stephen Bryne

Author’s Note: If SCA members have comments or issues regarding the legislation or have information regarding other current legislation that may be of interest, please feel free to contact: sbryne@garciaandassociates.com.

Federal Legislation

S 22 – Justice Enhancement and Domestic Security Act

Sponsor: Senator Patrick Leahy (D-VT)

Summary: Section 7301 of this bill would increase the maximum prison penalty for violations of the Archaeological Resources Protection Act (ARPA) and the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA). Maximum prison time for violations of ARPA would increase to 10 years in prison, unless the cost of the artifact and any repair needed for the object did not exceed $500, then the maximum prison sentence would be one year. The maximum jail terms for trafficking in Native American human and cultural remains would increase to 10 years.

Status: S 22 is an extremely large bill containing numerous changes to the judicial system, including many terrorism-related measures. Sen. Leahy is the senior Democrat on the Committee on the Judiciary, but it is uncertain when or if S 22 will be considered.

S 288 - Indian Contracting and Federal Land Management Demonstration Project Act

Sponsor: Senator Ben Nighthorse Campbell (R-CO)

Summary: The bill authorizes grants of $100,000 to qualified tribes (24 total over two years) to plan and manage services – archaeological, anthropological, and cultural surveys and analyses – on federal lands for the management and protection of sites considered sacred by tribes or tribal organizations. Those who have read the bill express concerns including: Why is Indian land not included? How do we protect cultural resources contracting based on a fair and competitive process?

Status: 2/4/2003 Referred to Senate committee. Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

HR 1446 - California Missions Preservation Act

Sponsor: Representative Sam Farr (CA-17)

Summary: This bill would provide $10 million in Interior Department grants to finance restoration and preservation of the historic missions in California. The overall program is slated to cost $50 million, with the remaining $40 million to come from the State and private donors. The San Francisco-based California Missions Foundation pushed lawmakers to draft the proposal, pointing out that all 21 missions need work just to keep them open.


HR 2009 – Iraq Cultural Heritage Protection Act

Sponsors: Reps. English (R-PA) and Leach (R-IA)

Summary: In August 1990, the U.S. imposed sanctions against Iraq in response to that nation’s invasion of Kuwait. Although most of the sanctions against Iraq have been lifted since the end of the recent conflict, the U.S. maintains its prohibition against the importation of antiquities and historical objects from Iraq. However, it is possible that items looted from Iraq before, during, and after the U.S. invasion will be imported into the U.S. under false pretenses (forged...
documents, etc.) HR 2009 seeks to solve this problem by maintaining the prohibition against the import of Iraqi antiquities removed from that nation after August 1990. In addition, the legislation would make several important changes to procedures that the U.S. uses to help other nations stop the looting of their cultural heritage, and would harmonize the definition of “archaeological material of Iraq” with the definition found in ARPA.

Status: The State Department recently issued a memo expressing support for the bill. Discussions are being conducted with the staff of the Ways and Means Committee, which has not scheduled consideration of the measure.

**HR 2419 – Native American Sacred Lands Act**

**Sponsor:** Rep. Nick Rahall (D-WV)

Summary: In an effort to counter growing threats to Native American sacred lands like Medicine Lake, Zuni Salt Lake, and Indian Pass, Representative Nick Rahall has re-introduced the Native American Sacred Lands Act. This bill is similar to the bill of the same name introduced by Rep. Rahall during the 2002 Congress. The bill would create a process by which Native Americans can petition federal land management agencies to withdraw sacred lands from development, and go to court to seek protection if the land managers fail to protect culturally significant places.

Status: Rahall is the ranking Democrat on the House Resources Committee, and the bill’s future is uncertain. Referred to the House Committee on Resources.

**State Legislation**

**SB 987 – California Missions**

*Introduced by Bruce McPherson (D-15th) and Dede Alpert (D-39th)*

Summary: SB 987 would appropriate an unspecified amount of Proposition 40 bond funds to the Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) for allocation as a grant to the California Missions Foundation (CMF, a nonprofit organization). This bill would require that these moneys be used to support the efforts of the foundation to restore and repair the California missions and to preserve the artworks and artifacts associated with them.

Status: In Senate appropriations committee.

**AB 974 – Coastal Act Protection for Native American Cultural Resources**

*Introduced by Joe Nation (D-6th)*

Summary: Under the California Coastal Act, there is little the Coastal Commission can do to protect Native American cultural resources. Problems arise when a developer begins work on a project in the coastal zone and uncovers a sacred site or cultural artifacts. This bill will strengthen the Coastal Act so that Native American cultural resources receive better protection.

Existing law requires that mitigation measures be taken where development would adversely impact archaeological or palaeontological resources, as identified by the State Historic Preservation Officer. This bill would also require mitigation measures to be taken where development would adversely impact Native American culturally significant sites, as identified by the State Historic Preservation Officer.

Status: Passed the Assembly floor. Read for the first time in the Senate and sent to committee.

**AB 1149 – Historic Preservation**

*Introduced by Marco Firebaugh (D-50th)*

Summary: Allocates funding from the California Clean Water, Clean Air, Safe Neighborhood Parks, and Coastal Protection Fund (Proposition 40, enacted March 2002) to the California State Library (CSL) for purposes of funding the California Cultural and Historical Endowment Act. In 2002 the endowment was created through AB 716 (Chapter 1126, Statutes of 2002) to allocate Proposition 40 funds dedicated to cultural and historical resources. However, that portion of the funding dedicated to the Endowment was blue-pencilled by the Governor leaving statutory authority for CSL to create and manage the endowment but no funding for its mission. The purpose of the endowment is to establish a decision-making structure to allocate Proposition 40 and future bond funds in an open and public manner that follows established criteria for historic and cultural preservation.

Status: In Senate. To committee for assignment.

**Contacting your Representatives**

California State Assembly  
www.assembly.ca.gov

California State Senate  
www.senate.ca.gov

U.S. House of Representatives  
www.house.gov

U.S. Senate  
www.senate.gov

Governor Gray Davis  
www.ca.gov

President George W. Bush  
www.whitehouse.gov

**References Cited or Consulted**

Lindsay, David  

Longsworth, Nellie L.  

California History Action. 21(1), Spring 2003.

http://www.leginfo.ca.gov
Forging Connections:
Native American Programs Committee Teams with
Monache Intertribal Association for Cultural Resource Management Training

Kimberly M. Cuevas and Janet P. Eidsness

The SCA Native American Programs Committee continued to fulfill their goal of facilitating the sharing of information between California Indians and CRM professionals by conducting a CRM workshop on March 1-2, 2003 hosted in partnership with the Monache Intertribal Association. The more than 40 attendees included Native Americans from the Monache Intertribal Association, Kern River Paiute Council, the Kern Valley Indian Community, Tejon Indian Tribe and White Blanket Indian Allotment, plus local supporters, members and staff of the Audubon Society and its Kern River Reserve, and professionals in CRM and biology from the region and across the state. The workshop was modeled after that held by NAPC in Bakersfield with the Tejon Tribe in January 2003. Monache Intertribal Association members, Ron Wermuth and Vickie Tanner, who had attended the Bakersfield workshop and felt the subject matter would benefit the Native American communities of the Kern River Valley, initiated the March workshop. The Kern River Valley, which is located in the far Southern Sierra Nevada Mountains, is home to people of Tubatulabal, Kawaiisu, Paiute, and Shoshone heritage.

NAPC Chairperson Janet Eidsness led the workshop, which focused on CRM laws and regulations, the archaeology and ethnography of the region, and issues related to Native American Monitors and Consultants. CSU-Bakersfield professor Robert Yohe provided a presentation on the National Historic Preservation Act, CSU-Bakersfield professor Mark Q. Sutton and BLM archaeologist Kim Cuevas led a discussion of the archaeology of the region, and NAPC member and past SCA President John Johnson affiliated with the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History showed a slide presentation on regional ethnography and ethnohistory. In addition, workshop attendees were briefed by Teresa Benson, Wildlife Biologist for the Cannell Ranger District, Sequoia National Forest and by Amy Holmes, an archaeologist with Pacific Legacy, Inc., on botanical and cultural resource issues associated with the McNally Fire, a large wildfire on the Sequoia National Forest that occurred in the summer of 2002. Bill Mungary, Chairperson of the Native American Heritage Commission and Shelly Davis-King of Davis-King & Associates offered meaningful insights throughout the workshop. Guests at the workshop included Bob Barnes, Alison Sheedy, and Sandra Weiser of the Kern River Preserve, Mehmet McMillion, Wild Places Non-profit organization, Karen Nissen, Caltrans Archaeologist, and Stephanie Tungate, Forest Archaeologist, Sequoia National Forest. Attendees of the workshop were given training manuals with valuable reference materials and certificates commemorating their attendance.

Although the Saturday and Sunday workshop was packed with presentations, Kim Cuevas led the group on a visit to well preserved, complex prehistoric site located on BLM land near the south fork of the Kern River. CA-KER-311 is listed on the National Register and was the focus of Cuevas’ Master’s Thesis research accomplished at CSU-Bakersfield. The fieldtrip allowed CRM professionals and Native Americans to examine artifacts and site features from the region, share and appreciate the site’s associated Native American values, and rejoice in the wondrous vistas and spring flowers. While at the site, Ron Wermuth led the group in a blessing and song while each attendee placed an offering of tobacco onto one of the bedrock mortar features at the site.
Many thanks are due to Victoria Tanner, Ron and Carol Wermuth of the Monache Intertribal Association for bringing the group together and feeding us well, the Audubon Society for making its Kern River Reserve available for our meeting space, Stephanie Tungate, the local Native American community, SCA members, and many others for making the CRM workshop a huge success. Workshops such as these are instrumental in fostering valuable relationships between CRM professionals, Native Americans and other persons interested in preserving and fostering California’s rich heritage.

Blessing ceremony at CA-KER-311.

Information Center Liaison Report

John Thomas, CHRIS Coordinator
Lynn Compas, Information Center Committie Chair

CHRIS Regulations

Good News: The CHRIS regulations are in the DPR legal office for review. We are anticipating the review process to conclude by early June. At that time OHP will submit the entire regulation package to the Office of Administrative Law (OAL).

When the notice is placed in the California Regulatory Notice Register the one year process begins. In the first forty-five days there must be a public hearing to consider all relevant matter presented before adopting the regulations. The time and place for the public hearings is noticed in the Register. OHP must then assess the nature of any modifications to the regulations and decide whether the change is: 1) nonsubstantial, 2) substantial and sufficiently related, or 3) substantial and not sufficiently related. If OHP must make substantial, sufficiently related changes to its initial proposal they must be made available for public comment 15 days before adopting the
SCA Business and Activities

change. The public must be notified on OHP's website and by mail to each person who has submitted written comments on the proposal, testified at the public hearing, or asked to receive a notice of proposed modifications. No public hearing is required. OHP must consider comments received during the comment period, which are directed at the proposed changes. More than one 15 day opportunity to comment may be conducted. OHP must summarize and respond on the record to timely comments that are directed at the rulemaking proposal or at the procedures followed. The summary and response to comments demonstrates that OHP has understood and considered all relevant material before adopting the regulations. OHP must either 1) explain how it has amended the proposal to accommodate the comment, or 2) explain the reasons for making no change to the proposal. One year from the submittal of the regulations to OAL for review. OAL has 30 working days to review the rulemaking record to determine whether it demonstrates that OHP satisfied the procedural requirements.

GIS

More Good News: According to Northwest Information Center Coordinator, Leigh Jordan, the ICs are working diligently to make the data that has been entered into the GIS database available for use as soon as possible.

The Bad News: Fees will not be cheaper.

Even More Good News: You will get the information FASTER.

Avocational Committee Report

Jerry Dudley and Myra Herrmann

Congratulations to the Pacific Coast Archaeological Society on winning the 2002 Helen C. Smith award, presented by the SCA to the avocational society that best exemplifies excellence in all of those areas of activities that the society is involved. This group is involved in numerous public programs and conducts monthly meetings with prominent speakers; has well known publications and organized activities through out their area.

Our annual avocational society meeting at the March SCA meeting was another success with ongoing discussions on membership, curation and other activities. Thanks to the Sacramento Archaeological Society for helping sponsor the luncheon meeting, also thanks to Luther Betrando for his presentation on the success the San Luis Obispo Archaeological Society had in funding and partnership in the construction of their present curation and meeting facility. Other societies at the meeting also gave examples of the possible use of curation in the future. Societies present at the meeting this year included, Kern Co., Ventura, San Diego, Pacific Coast, Santa Cruz and San Luis Obispo. Plans for Archaeology month next year were also discussed.

Spring, 2003, CASSP Activities

Beth and Chris Padon

The annual meeting in Sacramento included a symposium about CASSP. Some of the session speakers talked about how this site stewardship program began and developed, and about the directions that it may take in the future. Other speakers presented original research and new analyses about the sites that they monitor. The papers in this session demonstrated that the benefits of CASSP go beyond site protection. Dave and Freida Branson have gathered historical photographs and information for their assigned site, the Minnetta Mine in Panamint Valley. Their research about this mining site has increased their ability to recognize site components and then measure and monitor their conditions. Fran and Sandy Rogers have completed the first systematic survey and recordation of the Terese Site (CA-KER-6188). They have recorded dozens of rock art images, described rock “check” dams along the drainage, and documented other surface features. Stephanie Manning has conducted research on the shell mound sites at Petenuec in San Francisco. While much has been lost at the shell mounds, much remains; there are important connections to the past and valuable opportunities to understand prehistoric Native American cultures. Site stewards Bill Wight and Annel and Ron Farris were unable to attend, but their papers also were presented at the symposium. The symposium demonstrated how site stewards bring important talents to archaeological research and protection, and new excitement and energy to the field.

The SCA Site Stewardship Committee met during the SCA annual meetings. Many of the archaeologists who coordinate the activities of local teams of volunteers attended this meeting. Other participants included CASSP volunteers, SCA officers, representatives of the Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation (OHMVR) Division of California State Parks, and other SCA members. After a brief report of the past year’s activities and expenses, we discussed ways to improve the program, and shared ideas for future directions. Advanced training workshops for current CASSP volunteers will be expanded. Starting next year nonprofit organizations can apply for OHMVR grants. A CASSP logo contest will produce a design to embroider on canvas shirts for volunteers.

California State Parks Northern Buttes District and Lake Oroville State Recreation Area (LOSRA) sponsored their second volunteer training workshop in Oroville on May 3-4. Speakers included Ben Reynolds from the Enterprise Rancheria, Michael Jablonowski and Ginger Hellmann from the Anthropological Studies Center at Sonoma State.
More than 25 volunteers and speakers from the BLM, USFS, and State Parks participated in the volunteer training workshop at the BLM Folsom Field Office on May 31 - June 1.

Participants and presenters at the volunteer training workshop for the Lake Oroville State Recreation area. The workshop was held at the Feather River Tribal Health Center in Oroville on May 3 -4.

Speakers at the CASSP symposium (from left): Fran and Alexander Rogers, Barbara Sylvia, Beth Padon, Stephanie Manning, Judyth Reed, Dave and Frieda Branson, and Russ Kaldenberg.
SCA Business and Activities

University, and State Parks Rangers Vic Herrick, Sue Hearne, and Ellen Clark. Leslie Steidl is the coordinating archaeologist for this team of volunteers. During the field trip, we saw first-hand the importance of site monitoring; at one stop, Leslie documented a biface that had eroded from the nearby slope onto a sidewalk. At another location, we found that a Park sign had been vandalized recently. During the previous week a site monitor had observed it in good condition, so we documented the damage and reported it to law enforcement.

Another volunteer training workshop was held on May 31-June 1 at the BLM Folsom Field Office. BLM archaeologist James Barnes and Tahoe National Forest archaeologist Bill Slater gave presentations about the prehistory and history of the area; State Parks Ranger Sue Hearne came from LOSRA to talk about preservation laws; and BLM Ranger Drew Abrams talked about safety and law enforcement issues. David Lawler, Mineral Specialist at California State Office of the BLM, joined us for the Sunday field trip and provided a great deal of interesting information about historic mining practices at the areas we visited. James Barnes contacted experts from several agencies to train the site stewards, a practice that we hope to repeat at other workshops. James will serve as the coordinating archaeologist for the new volunteers at Folsom.

We send special thanks to Elena Nilsson and Amy Gilreath, who took some of their valuable time to attend and participate at the Oroville and Folsom workshops respectively. The volunteers appreciated SCA Board participation, and CASSP benefits from their personal involvement. A training workshop for new CASSP volunteers will be held at the BLM Bishop Field Office on August 16-17. For more information about this workshop, or about CASSP in general, please contact Beth Padon at bpadon@discoveryworks.com, or (562) 492-6770, or visit the CASSP web site at www.cassp.org.

Minutes of the SCA Board Meeting, Doubletree Hotel, Sacramento, March 27, 2003

Vicki Beard

Board Members Present
Elena Nilsson
Sannie Osborn
Rick Fitzgerald
Tom Wheeler
Trish Fernandez
Vicki Beard
Greg White

Meeting Convened at 10:15 am

Old Business

Review and Approval of Meeting Minutes

Vicki Beard presented the minutes from the January board meeting. Tom Wheeler was erroneously listed as being present at the January meeting and should be shown as absent. Motion to approve the minutes with the above change. Motion approved.

Status of Ethics Statement Revision

The proposed ethics statement was published in the June 2002 Newsletter (36:2) but no ballot was sent out. After discussions about the appropriate steps to take to conclude this issue, a decision was made to get clarification from the executive handbook and make a decision at the new board meeting on March 30, 2003.

Status of SCA Proceedings Volume 14, 16, and 17

Greg White has received Volume 16 on CD from Donna Day and Sharon Wacchter and has gotten an estimate of $4,700.00 to print about 600 copies. There will be an additional cost of $400.00 to $500.00 to mail Volume 15. Greg suggested that the Board consider professional handling of the Proceedings in the future, especially for the layout. He feels that the SCA Business Office could assemble the papers quickly but would need an editor. Motion to authorize costs for mailing Volume 16 of the Proceedings. Motion approved.

Elena will check with Donna and Sharon regarding the status of Volume 14. She will also recommend to them that the Business Office take over the call for papers and layout process while they remain as editors.

Manual Revision Schedule

Scott Williams will be having a meeting to discuss the 2003 Annual Meeting and will make suggestions for revising the Annual Meeting section of the manual. Sannie has the hand-edited version of the manual and will bring it to the June board meeting. An electronic version of the handbook has not been located. Vicki will check with Kristina.

Board Members Absent
Dana McGowan

Others Present
Stacy Schneyder-Case
Amy Gilreath
Mark Hylkema
John Holson
Scott Williams
SCA Business and Activities

Membership Brochure

The Membership Brochure is not ready.

SCA Website

The Board previously authorized a budget of $9,291.00 for the Business Office to design and implement a new website. The quarterly maintenance fee is $200.00. At this meeting Elena signed Amendment 2 to the Business Office contract formalizing the agreement. The start up date was changed to August 1, 2003.

2003 Budget

Trish Fernandez suggested that the SCA budget be projected from July to July rather than on the calendar year. It is difficult to create a budget by January 1st because the income from the Annual Meeting has not been realized. Trish and Stacy will explore the possibility of switching to fiscal year. Trish presented the 2003 budget for the Board’s review.

2003 Annual Meeting Update

John Holson and Scott Williams reported that the Annual Meeting was moving along well.

New Business

SCA Business Office Report

Greg reported that the Business Office budget appears to be on track for the year. Costs for publishing the Newsletter are running at between $4,900.00 and $5,600.00 per issue. Greg indicated that expenses could be cut by going back to a black-and-white format or by using third-class mail instead of first-class. The general feeling among the Board members is that the revamped Newsletter draws new members. Its timely arrival is also important. A discussion ensued regarding ways to stay within the Newsletter’s budget.

2004 California Preservation Foundation Meeting

Sannie Osborn reported that the California Preservation Foundation conference will be held at the San Francisco Presidio April 29 - May 1, 2004. Hopefully, archaeology will be included in the conference. Incoming Southern Vice President, Terry Jones will be the SCA Board liaison to the CPF. Sannie will be attending the conference organizing meeting.

Native American Registration Fees for Annual Meeting

In the past, people attending special sessions were comped for their registration. There is no official policy and the Board needs to make a decision before the Riverside meeting. The issue will be turned over to the new Board.

Sponsorship of the SCA for the California Governor’s Preservation Award 2004

Ken Wilson will speak with the Office of Historic Preservation about sponsoring the SCA for the upcoming Governor’s award.

Review of New Archeological Mitigation Measures for the City of San Francisco

The City of San Francisco asked the SCA to review and comment on their proposed programmatic agreement. Elena will e-mail the draft to board members. Mark Hylkema will gather comments and respond to the City.

Leakey Foundation 2003 Speaker Series on Human Origins

The Leakey Foundation is alerting the SCA to its upcoming Leakey Foundation 2003 Speaker’s Series.

California History Authors Request for SCA Mailing List

This group has asked for a copy of the SCA membership list. The Board will not release the list.

Continuation of SCA Student Paper Award

There were no entries for the Student Paper Award this year. The Board would like to see more outreach to colleges and universities next year in an effort to continue presenting the award on a yearly basis.

State Parks Anza Borrego Support Letter

Tom Wheeler sent a letter on behalf of the SCA supporting Anza Borrego.

Request for Support for the Desert Cahuilla Prehistoric Area Project

Tom Wheeler sent a letter on behalf of the SCA supporting the Desert Cahuilla Prehistoric Area Project.

Review of Caltrans Programmatic Agreement

Elena will circulate the proposed Caltrans Programmatic Agreement for the Board to review make comments.

SCA Projects

California Projectile Point Guide

Sannie will check with Tom Jackson to see where the project stands.

Edith Wallace Photographs Project

Joan Schnieder might be interested in pursuing this project.

Exchange Game

Shelved

- Meeting adjourned at 2:10 pm
SCA Business and Activities

Minutes of the SCA Board Meeting, Doubletree Hotel, Sacramento, March 30, 2003
Vicki Beard

Board Members Present
Elena Nilsson
Amy Gilreath
Rick Fitzgerald
Terry Jones
Stacy Schneyder-Case
Vicki Beard

Board Members Absent
Greg White
Dana McGowan

Others Present
Tom Origer
Mark Hylkema
Scott Williams
Trish Fernandez
Myra Herrmann
Michael Lerch

Meeting Convened at 8:35 am

Old Business

Bylaws Amendment Procedures for Changes to the Ethics Statement
Vicki Beard reported on the amendment process and recommended that the Business Office send out the proposed changes to the Ethics Statements and a ballot simultaneously.

Annual Meeting Recap
Scott Williams reported that a total of 742 people attended the Annual Meeting this year and that the membership was at 1090 members. Scott provided a preliminary financial assessment of the various events.

$1,494.00 Exhibit Room
$1,114.00 Reception
$3,792.00 Silent Auction
$  408.00  Tour

The Banquet and Founder’s Lunch were about even, the workshop results are not in.

Annual Meeting Feedback from The Board

Banquet: Comments regarding the keynote speaker were generally negative. The awards presentation was too long. Maybe there is no need for a band at the banquet.

Reception/Silent Auction: Venue, food, and music were good.

Sessions: Papers were generally good. Attendance was good. Rooms were crowded.

Volunteers: Consider dividing the Volunteer Coordinator position. Stress to volunteers that they have some authority.

Founder’s Lunch: Consider having participants move from table to table so as to experience different founders. Maybe adopt a salon forum with munchies rather than do lunch.

Facilities: There was no place to congregate. Need to negotiate for a separate bar area.

Scott will host a debriefing meeting on May 10, 2003.

Annual Meeting Committee
Tom Origer presented the Board with a committee concept for advanced Annual Meeting planning. The proposed committee assist the Board in long-range planning for meeting venues and negotiate contracts far in advance of the meeting dates.

Proposed structure of the committee would be as follows:

Chair
Northern California representatives (2)
Southern California representatives (2)
(Above positions require a 3-5 year commitment)
Past Local Arrangements Chair
Incoming Local Arrangements Chair
Past Treasurer

The SCA President will be the Board liaison to this committee.

Motion to adopt the structure for the Committee for Advanced Annual Meeting Planning (Amy Gilreath). Motion passed. Motion to delegate Tom Origer chair of GAAMP (Elena Nilsson). Motion passed.

2004 Annual Meeting
Elena passed information regarding to the 2004 and 2005 meetings to Tom Origer. He will try to locate the contract for the 2004 Annual Meeting and will review a proposal from the SF Presidio for the 2005 meeting.

The Board discussed proposed symposia, including:

-Trish Fernandez: Historical Archaeology and Class
-John Johnson: Ethnohistory
-Claude Warren: Pleistocene Lakes
-Mike Kelley: Western Mojave

Statistical Research, Inc. will coordinate Local Arrangements and Programs for the 2004 Annual Meeting. Michael Lerch represented SRI at the Board meeting and presented several ideas for special events.

Data Sharing Meetings
Terry Jones reported that the Southern Data Sharing Meeting will be held on November 1st or 8th at the San Diego Archaeological Center.
Treasurer’s Report

Stacy Schneyder Case

Society for California Archaeology
2002 Financial Statement

Beginning Equity

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Year to Date Equity

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Web Sites of Interest:

PSU Map Site
http://www.libraries.psu.edu/crsweb/maps/

Depression-Era Images of Flooded TVA Sites
http://www.utk.edu/

New NAGPRA Civil Penalties
http://www.access.gpo.gov/su_docs/fedreg/a030403c.html

California Series in Public Anthropology
http://www.publicanthropology.org/Bookseries/UCseries.htm

Chilean Indigenous People Portal
http://www.beingindigenous.org/

ISSN (International Standard Serial Number) Home
http://www.issn.org:8080/pub/

ISBN (International Standard Book Number) Home
http://www.isbn.org/standards/home/index.asp

PACLIM: Pacific Climate Workshop Home
http://meteor.ucsd.edu/paclim/

ACT: Alliance of California Tribes
http://www.allianceofcaliforniatribes.org/default.htm

ATIS: Antique Tractors Internet Site
http://www.atis.net/

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Editor’s e-mail:
gwhite@csuchico.edu
News and Announcements

Rick Fitzgerald reported that the Northern Data Sharing Meting will be held at Humboldt State University and will occur on either October 4th or the 11th.

June Board Meeting

The June Board meeting will be held on June 6th and 7th at the Far Western offices in Davis. The likely start time is 10:00am.

- Meeting adjourned at 11:20am.

and Then the SAAs...

After the SCA annual meetings closed, a few hearty souls caught their breath for a few minutes, then they caught their planes for the SAA meetings held in Milwaukee 10 days later. We are glad to report that the SCA was well-represented, and our Archaeology Poster received an award.

Current and recent board members attending included Rick Fitzgerald, Amy Gilreath, Terry Jones, and Sannie Osborn, in addition to Bill Hildebrandt, one of our State Historic Resources Commissioners. Relating to our Education Program, Sannie and Amy received an informal status report from staff working on BLM’s national Project Archaeology program, which leads us to anticipate receiving the Central California Educational Curriculum this summer. This is the first of three in the works. We also preliminarily discussed holding a Teachers’ Workshop, taught by Project Archaeology staff, to introduce the curriculum to those who will carry it into our grade schools. The Presidio has offered to provide space for the workshop; scheduling remains dependent on when we receive it. We are considering late summer-early fall.

For Sannie, interacting with like-kinds of organizations was a priority, leading her to attend the Council of Council’s and the Council of Affiliated Societies’ annual meetings, on behalf of the SCA. The CoFC is restricted to professional archaeologists. The CoAS has membership consisting of professional and avocationalists, and was established to mutually benefit all societies in this field and to advance the practice of archaeology. Both Sannie and Amy pulled a shift or two helping staff the CoAS booth in the exhibit hall, where SCA introductory materials and complimentary SCA Posters were offered to those interested.

California was also well represented at the International Association for Obsidian Studies Annual Meeting. Those interested in an update should feel free to contact Janine Loyd who currently is on the Association’s Board. Students and faculty members with students who are conducting research focusing on obsidian are particularly encouraged to contact Janine. The Association, on occasion, is able to offer small stipends (e.g., $100 to $200) to support this research, and the Board is eager to accept nominations.

Amy Gilreath, SCA President-elect, receives the Third Place plaque from outgoing SAA President Bob Kelly. Our poster, the artwork of Andrew Brozyna, from the cover of the book “Before California: An Archaeologist’s Look at Our Earliest Inhabitants” by Brian Fagan, tied with Iowa’s poster entry. Wyoming’s poster took second place, and Nevada’s rock-art poster took top honors.
California Indian Conference
October 10-12, 2003
Gathering the Past, Weaving the Future!

At the Cabrillo College Watsonville Center,
318 Union St., Watsonville, CA 95076

Conference Pre-Registration is $20 general,
$10 for Elders and Students

Call for Papers, Panels and Presentations

The California Indian Conference and Gathering is an annual event for the exchange of views and information among academics, educators, California Indians, students, tribal nations, native organizations and community members. Any topic focusing on California Natives is welcome. Past topics have included: dance, storytelling, native languages, histories, law, political and social issues, repatriation, economic development, arts and traditions.

We live in the homeland of California indigenous peoples and their nations. It is important for Indians and non-Indians to be aware of current issues, as well as the histories and cultures of our first peoples of this state. Your participation is vital to the 18th California Indian Conference and Gathering. This is the first time it will be held in the Monterey Bay region and we are looking forward to a successful event!

Anyone interested in giving a paper, presentation, or organizing a session, panel, or presentation should send an abstract of 150 words to Rob Edwards at the address below, by August 1. Abstracts after that date will be considered only if space is available on the program. Please be sure to include an e-mail address, phone number and mailing address. Please state if you are available to present any of the 3 days or only particular days. Vendors specializing in California native arts and crafts and/or materials please contact us. Inquiries are welcome. For information, contact:

Rob Edwards
Anthropology Department
Cabrillo College
6500 Soquel Drive, Aptos, CA 95003
Tel. (831) 479-6294
Email: redwards@cabrillo.edu

Please see our web pages:

News and Announcements

SoCal Data Sharing: First Call

The southern California data sharing meeting will be held November 8, 2003 9:30 AM at the San Diego Archaeological Center, 16666 San Pasqual Valley Road, Escondido (see their web page at www-rohan.sdsu.edu/~sdcf). We are looking for participants interested in sharing results of major CRM projects and field school investigations undertaken in the last year in the greater southern California area — with an emphasis on the south coast (Los Angeles, Orange, and San Diego counties, and Channel Islands), Colorado Desert (Imperial County), and Mojave Desert (San Bernardino County). Both prehistoric and historic topics are welcome. The Center promises to provide a comfortable, pleasant setting in which informal data-oriented papers 10-15 minutes in length can be presented. Slide projectors and Power Point will be available, and arrangements are being made to provide lunch for a nominal fee. Please contact Terry Jones at: Tljones@calpoly.edu for more details or to sign up.

Opinion and Comment

How About Some Quality Control in California Archaeology?

Most professionals would acknowledge that a primary goal in archaeology is to learn about the past; using that knowledge to preserve past systems, to enlighten ourselves, and to inform us about the past so we can make better decisions in the future. As such, archaeology is a worthwhile enterprise and contributes to society in a variety of ways. The national and state governments generally share this view and have passed a number of laws and regulations requiring that archaeology, or more broadly “cultural resources,” be considered as part of the various environmental review processes.

For the last several decades, development, construction, population growth, and expansion have been widespread in California (and elsewhere), resulting in the need for a large number of cultural resource studies and in a subsequent proliferation of consulting archaeologists to perform that work. Most are well-educated, competent, and experienced researchers doing their best in a difficult arena, given the time and money pressures with which they work. They do archaeology because they have a genuine interest in the field. They are trained in archaeology and cultural resources and they are trying to do a good job.

However, some consultants do not fit this description. A number of people doing California archaeology for a living were not trained as archaeologists. When in school, their interest was not in archaeology but in other fields, including cultural anthropology, history, architectural history, iconography, or some other “closely related field.” For whatever reason, these people decided to leave their original
Opinion and Comment

disciplines and do contract archaeology to make money. Maybe they were college professors trying to pick up a few extra dollars, or their spouse had a job so they decided to put out a “Consulting Archaeologist” shingle in the same town, or they saw dollar signs and went for it. To be sure, some of these folks may have learned a great deal about archaeology over the years, developed a genuine interest in the discipline, and now do a pretty good job. Others have not and constitute the crisis of which I speak.

California requires that people who wash your dog or clip your nails be formally trained and have a license to practice. No such requirement is made of archaeologists. Seemingly, anyone can call himself or herself an archaeologist, print business cards, and open a consulting firm. The people that hire contract archaeologists rarely care; they usually want the lowest and fastest bid, and the one that gives them the results (read negative) they want.

A number of consultants do not care either. They do surveys and excavations without examining the local literature or consulting the local experts; they “blow off” sites, even entire classes of sites, with little consideration; they use field methods that are predestined to find nothing (I remember reading of a pedestrian survey that was done in the snow; amazingly, no sites were found); and some have even conducted their surveys without even going into the field—they just wrote a negative report for the client.

Archaeology is not mechanical. It takes a great deal of training and experience to properly locate, record, and evaluate cultural resources, and even then, mistakes are made. A good archaeologist must have an awareness of research questions, an understanding of the processes of site formation and regional geomorphology, knowledge of past material culture and the subtleties of site organization, a basic understanding of the past, and a great deal of other knowledge. If we believe that we ultimately do archaeology to learn about and preserve the past, then we must try to do it as best we can. We must acknowledge that archaeology has to be done by professionals, and not by people with a few hours of basic training (as some government agencies would like to see). Archaeology has a purpose beyond providing employment for people who cannot find work elsewhere. If we fail to have standards for archaeology, then we have lost the reason for doing archaeology at all.

Admittedly, I am talking about a relatively few people and of a problem not limited to California. While I do not have an easy solution, some suggestions include requiring that consulting archaeologists in California have some sort of license or credentials, such as membership in the Registry of Professional Archaeologists (RPA). Sure, RPA has its problems, such as difficulties in sanctioning those who violate the code of ethics and in “grandfathering” existing consultants, but this would be a step in the right direction. Another important step would be to have SHPO review archaeological projects done for CEQA. As I understand it, SHPO is legally able to do so, they just choose not to act. I know such a review program would be burdensome, but it is currently the only mechanism of review available (Information Center people are in a better day-to-day position to review reports but are legally prohibited from doing so).

Whatever is done, we should at least go on record as speaking out against bad archaeology.

- Mark Q. Sutton
  Dept. of Sociology and Anthropology
  CSU Bakersfield.

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From the President (continued from page 3)

visit with several Committee Chairpersons, including Stephen Bryne, Mary Gorden, Myra Hermann, Mark Hyklema, Richard Hughes, Chris and Beth Padon, Breck Parkman, and Amy Ramsey to learn of their accomplishments over the last year and of their on-going efforts. These individuals, as well as the other Committee Chairpersons, provide such an important service to the Society and are an integral part of the organization. I was very impressed with their commitment and dedication, and thank each of them for their continuing service.

In 2004 the Annual Meetings (March 17-2) will return to the Riverside Convention Center. Mike Lerch, and other Statistical Research, Inc. (SRI) staff, has accepted the challenge of serving as both Local Arrangements and Program Chairpersons. Mike is well into organizing the program, local arrangements, plenary session, workshops, and a public session. This year’s meeting will also host a job fair where agencies, universities, and CRM firms can interact with the membership. Look for the next issue of the Newsletter to provide more details on all these events.

To keep ahead of the Annual Meetings, the Executive Board has established the Committee for Advanced Annual Meeting Planning (CAAMP), spearheaded by Chairperson Tom Origer. Please see the Board Meeting notes in this Newsletter for more information about the goals of this committee. The CAAMP is looking at returning to Sacramento in 2005, and other venues are being explored for 2006. Also, a Website Committee has been formed to work with CSU Chico in developing and overseeing the retooling of the SCA website. Terry Jones will serve as Chairperson and Board liaison for his committee, and will be assisted by Past President Dana McGowan. Look for the new SCA website to come on line sometime in late summer.

SCA’s 2003 Archaeology Month poster won 3rd place at the Society for American Archaeology conference in April.
Thanks to Altamira Press who donated the artwork; the BLM and USFS for providing financial support; Mark Hyklema, Archaeology Month Chairperson; and Sannie Osborn who made sure the poster got to Milwaukee. Next year’s poster, depicting rock art, is already being developed and, having tasted the success of 3rd place, SCA is eyeing that 1st place slot!

Bill Hildebrandt has graciously accepted the role of Nominations Committee Chairperson. This year, the positions of President Elect, Northern Vice President, and Secretary will need to be filled. If you are interested in running for the SCA Executive Board, or if you have any recommendations for candidates, please contact Bill by August 20, 2003. I encourage all members to seriously consider running for office. Not only do you get the inside scoop on all things SCA, but you also have the opportunity to meet and work with a great group of professionals.

Planning for the Data Sharing Meetings is well underway, thanks to the efforts of Rick and Terry. The Northern Data Sharing Meeting is scheduled for October 4, 2003 at Humboldt State University in Eureka, while the Southern Data Sharing Meeting is November 8, 2003 at the new San Diego Archaeology Center. Mark your calendars for these events and don’t forget to volunteer a paper!

This issue of the Newsletter publishes the SCA’s 2002 financial statement. You will note that last year, SCA operated at a deficit, due to several reasons. First, the SCA business office moved to CSU Chico, requiring the expenditure of additional monies for operation. An equally important reason is that the 2002 Annual Meetings in San Diego did not generate as much income as had been expected. Since the Annual Meeting is our main source of revenue, any shortfall seriously affects the operating abilities and proceeds of the Society. The first and foremost remedy to ensure that SCA operates “in the black” lies with the membership, specifically with attending the Annual Meetings, where funds are generated and replenished. Attendance at the 2003 Annual Meetings was very high, a factor that will significantly help this year’s operating budget and the funding of programs and initiatives. The Society is depending upon your support for the 2004 Riverside meetings, so plan early to attend this important event.

For those of you wondering why this Newsletter is in a black-and-white format instead of color, the Executive Board decided that it should be changed this time to stay within the Newsletter budget established for the year. While the color cover format is very attractive, it does cost quite a bit more to produce, and will be used occasionally instead of every issue. While the look is different, the content remains equally interesting. Don’t take my word, just read on!

- Elena Nilsson

New Publications

Prehistoric Archaeology

Denise Thomas

This series offers an annotated bibliography of recent published and some unpublished literature pertinent to current debates and methods in Californian archaeology. Prehistoric and historical archaeology will appear in alternate issues. If you have any news or ideas about how this section can better fit the needs of its audience feel free to email the author: Denise_L_Thomas@dot.ca.gov. Please limit contributions to those that can be easily accessed by all members of the SCA and have appeared within the last five years.

Deal, Krista


A high representation of diffused bands have been noted from obsidian samples following a catastrophic wildfire thus destroying valuable analytical site information. Due to excellerated fuel loads from past suppression efforts, many federal and state agencies have performed controlled burns as a means to reduce environmental impacts from catastrophic fire. Deal’s purpose for the study was to (1) measure the effects of prescribed fire on obsidian hydration bands and (2) to evaluate how obsidian hydration data can be used to infer past landscape conditions.

Deal studied the effects of obsidian hydration samples from two prescribed burns (Fall 1996 and Spring 1997) performed in the Eldorado National Forest with specific attention to varying fuel conditions. The results from the obsidian hydration analysis from the fall burn showed that the majority (67%) of the sample exhibited severe effects from the burn whereby hydration rims were either absent or too diffused to measure. The spring burn, however, showed that only 33% of the hydration bands were altered. Deal suggests that the major difference between the spring and fall burns was in the length of time each area remained in a “smoldering, glowing phase of combustion” (2002:27). During the fall burn site, the fire was allowed to smolder at elevated temperatures for several days whereas the spring burn site was maintained at an elevated temperature for a duration of 4 to 5 hours. Deal does point out that variables such as soil chemistry, roots, volatile oils, and differing rock types were not controlled.
New Publications

Considering that 91% of samples from surface sites and isolated finds submitted for obsidian hydration analysis returns readable hydration bands in the district, it follows that few hot catastrophic fires or long, smoldering fires occurred in the area; possibly due to reduced fuel loads. This strengthens the assumption that the area was managed prehistorically. In reference to site management, Deal states that “Given that increased ground fuels equate to increased smoldering time and increased data loss, the results of the experiment point to the merits of removal of fuels from sites, prior to the occurrence of a smoldering fire, a high-intensity fire, or large-scale suppression activities” (2002:34).

Hildebrandt, W.R. and K.R. McGuire

In this article, Hildebrandt and McGuire examine the discrepancy between the predictions of a widely employed and generally accepted theoretical model and archaeological data. The authors begin by noting that population densities increased substantially throughout the Middle Archaic Period (defined as the time interval between 4000-1000 years B.P.). Optimal foraging models, often applied to interpret economic efficiency in prehistoric California, hold that Middle Archaic hunters altered their strategies and hunted smaller prey in response to large-game resource depression due to increased human exploitation. It would follow, then, that the archaeological record should provide evidence of an increased exploitation of smaller prey during the Middle Archaic Period. Hildebrandt and McGuire, however, state that data from middle and late Holocene archaeological deposits indicate an increase in large-game procurement and propose that this paradox is the result of hunting behavior that confers social benefits which, in turn, confers fitness benefits. This behavior of seeking higher risk large-game over more available and dependable small-game is referred to as “show-off” or “high-profile hunting.” They further suggest that this behavior generates a full suite of cultural manifestations that is incorporated into technical and artistic traditions associated with this period.

First, the authors present the basic tenets and assumptions associated with evolutionary ecology with specific attention to prey selection and prehistoric hunting behavior. They refer to ethnographic literature that documents the interest that hunting-oriented groups had in actively seeking out large animal taxa despite increased energetic costs. Rather than being influenced by potentially greater economic return rates, the authors suggest that hunters would benefit socially by returning with highly prized big-game resources—resulting in enhanced gender- and age-differentiated fitness leading to greater political and symbolic authority, and ultimately, enhanced access to females and reproductive success.

Secondly, Hildebrandt and McGuire review evidence of population increase and also subsistence related data that suggest an increase in large-game hunting during the Middle Archaic Period. They examine three bodies of data to support their contention that prehistoric hunters were influenced by social and cultural ramifications to procure and share large target species in California: 1) obsidian procurement and biface production; 2) the high representation of highly-ranked game in the rock-art complex of the Coso Range of eastern California; and 3) material evidence (i.e., swordfish headdresses, plank canoes, pictographs, and effigies) recorded from the Santa Barbara Channel fishery which exhibits the spiritual/ceremonial importance of big-game fishing. Hildebrandt and McGuire conclude with the observation that “it now seems clear that hunting is tied not only to subsistence, but also to other aspects of culture, including various symbolic systems, reproduction and kinship patterns, gender and age differences in work organization, as well as political authority” (p. 250), and, for future research, call for the increased consideration of gender-differentiated fitness and the broader social implications associated with subsistence activities.

Young, D. Craig

Young examines the geologic history of northwestern Nevada and performs obsidian sourcing analysis in an attempt to explain the presence of obsidian gravels and cobbles in the Madeline Plains, an enclosed basin in northeastern California. As a result of data recovery efforts associated with the construction of the Tuscarora Pipeline and the Alturas Intertie, small obsidian gravels and cobbles were observed within and adjacent to prehistoric sites located in the Madeline Plains and the Modoc Plateau. Geochemical sourcing from a sample of culturally modified material indicated two discrete geochemical signatures, one of which was not expected. The author proposes that prehistoric groups in the area are potentially taking advantage of both the primary obsidian sources at Cottonwood Volcanic Center (CVC) and secondary deposits in and around Madeline Plains.

Young collected non-modified obsidian nodules from several localities in the region. The results of the analysis exhibited a bimodal distribution similar to results obtained from the culturally modified material. This provides evidence that these small nodules are potentially procured locally within the basin. Certain tool types require a specific size of raw material to adequately manufacture the desired product. Thus, the presence of smaller tools might be indicative of locally procured obsidian which, in turn, could influence settlement patterning. Young emphasizes the need in understanding the geologic history of an area and defining regional areas where secondary sources could have been available for tool manufacturing.
Local and Regional Contributions from the University of California’s Hopland Research and Extension Center, Mendocino County, California

Taryn Wise-Harthorn

The Department of Anthropology at the University of California, Davis has a long, successful history of graduate student run prehistoric archaeology field schools in California and the Great Basin. These summer projects result in the documentation of sites, the completion of doctoral dissertations, and the training of many archaeologists to be. Some of our past programs include work in the White Mountains, Reese River Valley, and Bodega Bay, California (e.g., Bettinger 1991; Kennedy et al 2003; Thomas 1973). During the summers of 2000, 2001, and 2002, I received the opportunity to direct our field school on the University of California’s Hopland Research and Extension Center (HREC) near the town of Hopland in Mendocino County, California. The HREC is one of 10 research stations managed by the University of California Division of Agriculture and Natural Resources. The 5,358 acre station is located in the North Coast Range California culture area in the uplands adjacent to the upper Russian River valley. A dietary staple in this culture area, along with the majority of aboriginal California, was the acorn. Ethnographically, this region was inhabited by the Central Pomo with the Russian River as their central holding. The Pomo belong to the Hokan language family, and their basic subsistence pattern was one centered on intensive acorn use, or balanophagy, hunting wild game, fishing in rivers and lakes, and gathering other edible vegetal resources (e.g., Barrett 1908, 1952; Kroeber 1925; Loeb 1926; McCarthy 1985; Powers 1877; Stewart 1943). Aboriginal populations in the North Coast Ranges are thought to have been among the highest in California reaching 5-7 people per square mile (Baumhoff 1963).

Three Seasons of Field School on the HREC

In 1999, Dr. Robert L. Bettinger of UC Davis was contacted by Chuck Vaughn, a research director at the HREC, because no archaeological excavation had yet been carried out on the station property. However, the HREC staff had been surface collecting artifacts since the 1960s. In the summer of 1999, three undergraduates from UC Davis spent a
Articles

month at the station and located and recorded nine sites on top of the fourteen already recorded (As new sites do not have trinomials yet, they are referred to by the prefix HREC). Expectations for what would be found when excavation began in 2000 were high. The HREC is located in close proximity to the Russian River, Clear Lake and its obsidian sources, and the ethnographic village of Sanel, which led me to believe the archaeological record would reveal an intensive use of the area reflected in a variety of artifacts and site types.

The 2000 field season began with a thorough survey of the HREC property. The rough terrain and heavy vegetation made visibility difficult, but 29 linear miles were successfully walked with the discovery and documentation of five additional sites making a grand total of 28. The remainder of the 2000 season—and the entirety of the 2001 and 2002 summers—were spent excavating sites on the HREC. Archaeological materials recovered during excavations were processed by students in a full time laboratory located in the HREC headquarters. In total, eight sites were excavated in a variety of elevations and environmental settings from around the research station. These sites include Ca-Men-852, Ca-Men-2206, Ca-Men-2216, Ca-Men-2223, HREC 1, HREC 8, HREC 9, and HREC 12.

Prehistoric Land Use on the HREC

Following preliminary artifact classification and analysis, a basic settlement pattern for the research station was developed (Morgan and Wise-Harthorn 2001; Wise-Harthorn and Tishingham 2002). The majority of sites examined here are classified as hunting/butchering sites based on the high frequency of flaked-stone debitage and tools and lack of plant-processing materials. Several of these sites provided a fair sample of projectile points, bifaces, scrapers, and edge-modified flake tools. Hunting/butchering sites are located near perennial streams or natural springs which served as prime locations to spot game. On the research station, Men-2216, Men-2206, Men-2223, HREC 1, HREC 8 and HREC 9 are characterized as hunting/butchering sites. Based on brief surface surveys, it is likely the unexcavated lithic scatters on the HREC are also hunting/butchering sites.

Ca-Men-852 is the largest site on the HREC and is categorized as a seasonal-base camp. The site was originally recorded in 1979 by Robert Orlins from UC Davis, and is located in a saddle between three perennial sag ponds and the Parson’s Creek drainage. Seven units were excavated at Men-852 during the 2000 and 2001 field seasons. Cultural deposits include midden soils containing ash lens, fire-cracked rock, ungulate and water fowl bone, few millingtool fragments, an abundance of obsidian in late stages of reduction and chert in early stages of reduction. Men-852 is situated in a great area geographically with access to fish, deer, waterfowl, and plant resources and probably served as the hub for the rest of the HREC settlement pattern. It appears there are no other seasonal base camps on the research station.

A type of site expected, but not seen on the research station is the plant processing site. It is expected that plant processing sites would be located in vegetation zones like Hopland where the majority of vegetation is mapped as a Mixed Hardwood Forest dominated by oak species. Plant processing sites would be identified by milling equipment such as millstones, handstones, mortars, and pestles. Bedrock mortars are also indicative of milling activities, but they are absent on the HREC and in general are lacking in the North Coast Range. While there are no sites characterized as solely plant processing sites, there are plant processing components identified through milling tool fragments at Men-852 and Men-2206.

Finally, there were also three Franciscan chert quarries identified on the research station. HREC 12 was excavated in the summer of 2002. As expected, large primary flakes, shatter, and no formal tools were recovered. Six petroglyph sites are recorded on the research station most of which are the pecked curvilinear nucleated type (PCNs). In addition, there is one cupule rock.

Thus far, the following conclusions can be made from archaeological investigations at Hopland Research and Extension Center:

1) The majority of artifacts collected from the HREC are flaked-stone debitage. Tools recovered are mainly projectile points, informal scrapers, drills, and expedient-flake tools but these are the minority.

2) The flaked-stone artifacts comprise three material types: a) local Franciscan chert, b) Mt. Konocti obsidian found on

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<tr>
<td>Rattlesnake Corner-notched</td>
<td>49=50%</td>
<td>A.D. 1570- contact</td>
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<td>Gunther</td>
<td>14=14%</td>
<td>A.D. 1500- contact</td>
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<tr>
<td>Large Excelsior</td>
<td>14=14%</td>
<td>1000 B.C.- A.D. 1600</td>
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<td>11=11%</td>
<td>A.D. 600- A.D. 1600</td>
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<tr>
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<td>8=8%</td>
<td>3000 B.C.- 500 B.C.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Houx Contracting-stem</td>
<td>2=2%</td>
<td>4000 B.C.- 1000 B.C.</td>
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Table 1: Projectile point types recovered on HREC

(continued page 20)
the west side of Clear Lake, and c) Borax Lake obsidian located on the east side of Lower Lake. The majority of lithic material (>80%) is Mt. Konocti obsidian, which is also the tool-stone of the poorest quality due to its low elasticity, phenocrysts, and inclusions. The form and quantity in which the obsidian enters the area suggests prehistoric inhabitants had direct access to the Mt. Konocti obsidian source, but traded for high-quality Borax Lake obsidian. The local chert resources seem to be used consistently, albeit in low frequencies, throughout prehistory.

3) Obsidian hydration dates from Ca-Men-852 and two hunting/butchering camps (Men-2216 and HREC 9) suggest occupations of less than 3,000 years, although the sample size is admittedly quite small at this time. Occupation of this area is possibly as early as 7,000 B.P. based on preexisting North Coast Range projectile point typologies (Table 1). The Houx Contracting-stem points were all recovered from excavations at Men-852.

4) While the amount of flaked stone is high (n= ~42,000), milling equipment was recovered in extremely low numbers on the HREC (n=10). This leads to the conclusion that this area was most likely used for hunting forays and trips to Clear Lake to acquire obsidian and other valued lacustrine resources.

Discussion and Conclusions

While the archaeological record from the HREC is not by definition diverse, future data generated from the flaked-stone debitage will be invaluable to the understanding of prehistoric land use in this area of the North Coast Range. Ongoing lithic analyses and obsidian hydration will help fill the gap in the archaeological record that exists in this area of northern California.

The lack of milling equipment on the research station also poses interesting questions as to prehistoric land use in the area (Wise-Harthorn 2003). While a few of the surface finds by HREC staff have been millingslabs, there is no evidence for bowl mortars. The mortar and pestle tool type is often correlated with the use of the acorn and is used as an indicator of when native Californians began exploiting the acorn (Basgall 1987). However, the appearance of this tool type is not uniform across time and space in the North Coast Range. Mortars and pestles are evident in the archaeological record at Clear Lake at least 8,000 years ago (White 2002). At the North Coast Range locale of Warm Springs, mortars and pestles appear during the Dry Creek phase 2,500 years ago (Basgall and Bouey 1984, 1991).

The fact that mortars and pestles are not seen at Hopland may correspond with the lack of hearths, house pits, and other evidence of sustained occupations. Perhaps the mortar and pestle tool type is related not simply to the use of the acorn but to the development of more permanent habitation-camps of which there is no evidence for on the HREC. Based on their larger size and higher return-rates, bowl mortars appear to be a more efficient tool type than millingslabs for processing the large amounts of acorn needed to provide for rising North Coast Range populations. Ethnographic evidence (e.g., Barrett 1952; Kroeber 1925) and central-place foraging models of evolutionary ecology (e.g., Bettinger et al. 1997; Jones and Madsen 1987) suggest that acorns were taken back to the base camp for processing. Accordingly, there seem to be no “central places” on the research station. Populations appear relatively lower in this area of the North Coast Range, and groups from Clear Lake and the Russian River likely used the HREC in a peripheral manner.

Further examination of temporal and spatial differences in North Coast Range millingtool and flaked-stone assemblages should shed light on land use not only on the HREC, but the entirety of the North Coast Range. The
Archaeological materials collected and the data generated from the past three years of UC Davis field school at the HREC will certainly assist in this endeavor.

Acknowledgments

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Christopher T. Morgan and Karen L. Crawford for all their help as co-directors during the summer of 2000. Also Shannon Tushingham, Clint Cole, Won Choi, and Erika Plieff served as incredible teaching assistants for the 2001 and 2002 field seasons. Robert L. Bettinger and Chuck Vaughn have provided invaluable assistance and advice since the inception of this project. Last, but not least, this ongoing research would not have been possible without the 50 field school students that spent the long, hot summers with me in Hopland over the past three years.

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A Radiocarbon Correction Factor for Freshwater Shell for the Lower Kern River/ Northern Buena Vista Lake Area, Southern San Joaquin Valley, California

Mark Q. Sutton and Rebecca S. Orfila
CSU Bakersfield

As part of CSU Bakersfield’s ongoing research program in the southern San Joaquin Valley, a testing program was undertaken at the Manifold site (CA-KER-4220), a large and intact mound. The site is situated on the northern side of Buena Vista Lake, on the fan of the Kern River (Fig. 1). The site consists of a long, low, east/west trending mound of dark-colored soil at an elevation of 300 ft. The mound is approximately 300 by 120 m. in size and ca. two meters in height. Large quantities of cultural materials are present on the surface of the site, including ground stone tools, points, bifaces, cores, hammerstones, debitage, beads (shell and stone), animal bone, and considerable freshwater shell. The site was mapped, a surface collection was conducted, and four test units were excavated.

Numerous discrete piles of shell are present on the surface of the site and appear to be “dumps,” perhaps representing the remnants of individual cooking events. Several such in situ shell features were discovered in TU-3 and in one of those features (Feature 1), the burned bones of at least two different vertebrate species (mammal and turtle) were observed in the matrix of the shell. We knew that if the shell features represented single events, then the bones and shell would be of the same age. If this were true, radiocarbon dating the bones would provide a correction factor for dating freshwater shell from this site and for the lower Kern River/ northern Buena Vista Lake area in general. With this in mind, great care was taken to collect these specimens for radiocarbon analysis.

In the laboratory, the Feature 1 sample was weighed and its volume measured. The mammal and turtle bones seen in the field were separated and catalogued, with portions of each being taken as radiocarbon samples. During processing, numerous fish vertebrae (identified as Sacramento perch,

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Site</th>
<th>Sample No.</th>
<th>Beta No.</th>
<th>Material</th>
<th>Radiocarbon Age (RCYBP)</th>
<th>Calibrated Age (cal BP)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CA-KER-4220</td>
<td>-001</td>
<td>178955</td>
<td>burned carapace of a turtle (cf. Clemmys marmorata)</td>
<td>2,010 ± 40</td>
<td>2,000 to 1,900</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CA-KER-4220</td>
<td>-002</td>
<td>178956</td>
<td>burned fragment of unidentified arctiodactyl long bone</td>
<td>2,030 ± 40</td>
<td>2,010 to 1,930</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CA-KER-4220</td>
<td>-003A-005</td>
<td>178957</td>
<td>burned freshwater shell (Anodonta sp.)</td>
<td>2,320 ± 50 (corrected to 2,020 ± 50)</td>
<td>2,350 to 2,330 (corrected to 2,010 to 1,900)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The Relationship Between Basketry and Ceramics From Northern California

Joanne M. Mack

Basketry made by native people of California over the last 400 years receives international recognition for its beauty and exquisite techniques. Unfortunately, our knowledge and understanding of this exquisite basketry varies greatly from area to area within these regions. The variable level of knowledge results from a dependence on baskets collected after contact, curated in museum collections and on ethnographies, many of which do not include detailed information on basketry. For many cultural groups basketry was not well-documented or studied before basketmakers and their techniques of manufacture, materials, and decorative motifs were heavily impacted by contact and post-contact conditions. The result is that in some regions one group’s basketry may be well known and that of another incompletely or poorly known.

In addition, the time depth of these traditions and techniques remains incompletely known, particularly in those regions where the environmental conditions are not kind to textile preservation. The usual limitations of archaeological preservation determine the extent of our knowledge. The precontact basketry for cultures resident east of the Sierra Nevada and Cascade ranges has a better chance to be studied than the basketry of cultures west of these mountains due to the presence of dry caves. Occasionally, wet site preservation has allowed study of precontact basketry west of the mountains, but wet sites are generally rare west of the mountains than dry caves east of the mountains, though in both areas textile recovery is not common. Basket impressions on fired clay do exist in archaeological sites from the Far West. Though also uncommon, the number of basket impressions increases in archaeological sites when those sites also contain a ceramic industry, because a ceramic industry increases the occurrence and possible recovery of accidentally fired lumps of basketry-impressed clay. Such a ceramic industry exists for the southern Cascades of northern California and southern Oregon, dating from roughly AD 900 to AD 1800.

This ceramic industry includes pipes, figurines, and pottery, known as Siskiyou Utility Ware (Mack 1986, 1988, 1989, 1990a, 1990b, 1991; Endzweig 1989). It has a distribution centered within three major river drainages: the Upper Rogue River in southern Oregon, the Upper Klamath River in Oregon and California, and the Middle Pit River in northern California (Mack 1986, 1990a). The ceramic pipes have a somewhat different, though overlapping, distribution: the Middle Pit River and the coasts of northwest California and southwest Oregon (Mack 1988, Endzweig 1989, Hall et al 1990). The figurines have a wider distribution than the pottery, adding sites from the drainages of other rivers in southern Oregon and northern California: the Applegate, the Umpqua, the Coquille, the Upper Sacramento, and the Trinity (Mack 1991a, Figure 1).

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Archoplites interruptus) were discovered in the matrix and a sample of that bone was also retained for radiocarbon analysis. The remaining soil from the features was divided in half, with one half saved and the other processed to extract shell for a radiocarbon sample. The processing involved wet screening the matrix with deionized water through #10 and #35 brass screens. Once dry, a sample of the shell from the #10 screen was bagged as a radiocarbon sample with the remaining material bagged for future analysis.

Dating

Four radiocarbon samples from Feature 1 in TU-3 were obtained; one of mammal bone, one of turtle bone, one of fish bone, and one of freshwater shell. Each of the samples are from short-lived animals, all “died” at the same time, and all were deposited at the same time. Thus, each of the vertebrate samples was expected to have the same age, with the shell dating older, therefore the difference would be the correction factor. Each of the samples was sent to Beta Analytic for dating (Table 1), although the fish bone was not dated due to difficulties in collagen extraction. The two bone samples returned virtually (and statistically) identical dates, while the shell sample dated about 300 years older.

Conclusion

The three radiocarbon dates from Feature 1 of TU-3 at CA-KER-4220 indicate that the correction factor for uncalibrated dates on freshwater shell is a negative 300 years. Following this, the radiocarbon age of the shell sample (CA-KER-4220-003A-005) should be corrected to 2,020 ± 50 with an adjusted calibrated age of 2,010 to 1,900 cal BP. Future radiocarbon dates on shell from sites in this vicinity can now be corrected and a more precise understanding of regional prehistory can be gained.

Acknowledgements

We appreciate the assistance of Dr. Marla Iyase, Dean of the College of Humanities and Social Sciences, CSU Bakersfield, for her generosity in funding these dates and of AERA Energy for permission to work at the Manifold site. Thanks also to Ken Gobate of CSUB who identified the fish remains and to Jill K. Gardner for her comments on a draft.
Unfortunately, the fired lumps of basketry-impressed clay (even if recognized) are often ignored in the analysis of materials from archaeological sites from the southern Cascades. They may or may not be noted in the inventory of artifacts, but whether noted or not, they are rarely analyzed to determine what materials and techniques have been used in the basket’s manufacture. This neglect is unfortunate for it limits the ability to give time depth to our understanding and appreciation of the basketry of the native people of Northern California, and it especially impacts our knowledge of the basketry of those cultures, whose basketry suffers from a general lack of specimens recovered from archaeological sites, as well as those whose ethnographies have less detailed basketry descriptions, both the construction techniques and materials.

Methodology

There is a great deal of potential information one can learn about a piece of basketry, which has been impressed into clay, especially if the impression is sharp. The positive impression allows the basket analyst to more easily determine the materials and manufacturing techniques, as it will then be similar to a fragment of basketry (Dawson 1976). The first example of the analysis of basket impressions from the southern Cascades was completed in 1976 by Lawrence Dawson and resulted in a chapter on basketry in a dissertation and later a monograph on the archaeology of the Upper Klamath River (Mack 1979, 1983).

How are the positive impressions made? Each fired clay basket impression is pressed into synthetic “artists” clay called FIMO, made in Germany. The positive impression is baked in an oven at between 212 and 265 degrees Fahrenheit or 100-300 degrees centigrade for 20-30 minutes. The results are a permanent positive impression of the basket, which has been taken of the negative basket impression. The positive impression can then be used for analysis, and it also gives a permanent record. This process does not damage the original fired clay impression in any way. However, it would contaminate evidence for residue analysis. The fired clay specimen does require careful cleaning before it is pressed into the modeling clay so the positive impression is very sharp.

Basketry Ethnography

The southern Cascades of California fall within the postcontact territory of several different groups. The groups in northern California include the Modoc, the Achomawi, the Atsugewi, the Shasta, the Wintu, the Yana, the Yahi, and the Okwanuchu. However, the basket impressions and the associated pottery have been recovered from precontact sites within the territories of only three of these groups: Shasta, Modoc, and Achomawi. Therefore, the discussion of the ethnographic information of groups within the southern Cascades will be limited to these groups and focus on those characteristics of the basketry traditions, which are most relevant to understanding the significance of the basket impressions from the southern Cascades.

Figure 1: Distribution of ceramics in northcentral California and southcentral Oregon archaeological sites.
The basketry of these groups is not equally known. The basketry of the Klamath and Modoc is the best known and most completely described (Barrett 1910, Spier 1930, Voegelin 1942). It is characterized by primarily flexible warp, close or open twining, with tule fiber the most common material. Most often two-ply twisted strands are used for warp with a weft of two or three strands. Larger and coarser baskets are constructed of unsplit tule. Other materials which the Klamath and Modoc are known to have used include juniper root for conical burden baskets and rolled nettle cord and strips of cane for basketry hats. If rigid materials are used, a single-rod or double-rod warp results. Most commonly, baskets are plain, two-strand twining with a pitch of stitch down-to-the-right. However, work in plain three-strand, diagonal three-strand, twill, cross-warp, and wrapped twining is also seen. Decoration is not common but when used is a plain twine overlay.

The Achomawi sometimes used tule for the warp and weft of flexible baskets, but most frequently willow and hazel rods were used for warp and split roots and grasses for weft. Achomawi twined baskets had both down-to-the-left and down-to-the-right pitch of stitch (Dixon 1908, Voegelin 1942, Elsasser 1978). Basket makers worked in plain, diagonal, two-strand, and three-strand twining. Both close and open twining was used.

Shasta basketry is not as well documented or analyzed as that of the Klamath and Modoc or as well documented as basketry of the Achomawi. This is due to the cessation of most basket making by the Shasta before ethnographers began to work with them in the early 1900’s. In addition, beginning in the 1850’s, many Shasta were forcibly moved onto the Siletz Reservation in Oregon, where their basketry may have been influenced by northern and central Oregon techniques (Dixon 1907).

Their basketry is characterized as a single-rod, ridged warp of peeled hazel or willow twigs and willow roots with a weft of two or three-strand yellow pine root. Only in basket hats is grass found as the weft. Tule was used for deep baskets used for storing powdered salmon, powdered deer and salmon bone, and deer fat. The most common type of twining is plain two-strand. As with the Klamath and Modoc, other forms of twining are seen in Shasta baskets, including plain three-strand, diagonal three-strand, cross-warp, and wrapped twining. The pitch of stitch is down-to-the-left (Dixon 1907, Voegelin 1942, Holt 1946). Decoration is usually double overlay.

Examination of Shasta baskets in the Phoebe Hearst Museum collection, throws into doubt the above characterization of Shasta basketry, as exceptions to these characteristics exist. For example two Shasta baskets have down-to-the-right twining (1-27187 and 89). In addition, Dixon (1907:402) illustrates a Shasta basket with a rim made of two rows of down-to-the-left twining and two rows of down-to-the-right twining. Therefore, though most frequently Shasta basketry was manufactured by using down-to-the-left pitch of stitch on twined baskets and warps were finished by cutting them at the rim, there are known exceptions.

Trade is another variable, which may confuse our understanding of basketry in this region. Shasta reportedly acquired many Karok baskets through trade as they considered them superior (Dixon 1907). Shasta basketry collections may then incorporate Karok baskets. The “true” origin of a basket is not always recorded accurately in museum records, further complicating precise identification. Certainly techniques and materials used by the Karok likely would have also influenced and been available to basket makers among the Shasta.

Precontact Basketry

Upper Klamath River

Within the southern Cascades there exists a very limited number of assemblages of precontact basketry. Unlike the Klamath Basin and the Northern Great Basin to the east, the remains of perishable textiles in dry caves are almost nonexistent. The remains of textiles have not been recovered from precontact sites within the Middle Pit River. Within the Upper Klamath River drainages only one archaeological site, reported in the literature, contains textile remains: CA-Sis-13, the Cash Creek Site, excavated by Wallace and Taylor in the early 1950’s.

Though this cave site is located well within Shasta territory, the basketry remains do not reveal what may be
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described as “typical Shasta” baskets. Because of this Wallace and Taylor (1952) suggest the Cash Creek Site shows evidence of use by both Shasta and Modoc. The fragments of four types of twined basketry recovered include 18 fragments of Catlow twine, a basketry type associated with Klamath and Modoc peoples (Cressman 1942, Adovasio 1986, Connolly and Cannon 2000).

Other evidence of precontact basketry within the Upper Klamath River drainage comes from Border Village (35KL16) in the form of four basket impressions on fired clay. The site is less than a quarter mile north of the California border. The larger piece has the impression of a twined basket on both sides of a piece of baked clay 4.0 cm x 3.2 cm X 1.0 cm (Figure 2). The impression is deep and clear, indicating the clay was very plastic when the basket was impressed into it. About half of the periphery of the impression is squeezed down to a thin edge, as though it has been pinched in the fold of a flexible basket. The impression is similar on both sides; enough to suggest the same basket is represented twice. It is a twined basket with down-to-the-right weft turns, the weft rows spaced about 18 mm (Dawson 1977). The warp of tule strands appears somewhat constricted by the weft turns but not twisted or made into cordage. Three weft rows are plain twining, but there is also one row of simple three-strand twining. In weave, material, and texture the impression closely resembles a basket (1-12568) in the Phoebe Hearst Museum Collection from Klamath Lake, an oval shaped, flattened food serving tray of tule. But it also fits the description of the deep, flexible tule basket made by the Shasta for storage (Dixon 1907).

The second specimen is much smaller, and though the impression is fairly deep, it is not as sharp and clear as the first. Only two turns of one weft row are present, greatly limiting the analysis. However, it is a twined basket with weft turns also down-to-the-right. The basket appears to have been constructed of plain twining over one warp at a time. The material used appears to be split tule, but the identification cannot be positively made (Dawson 1977). It appears to represent a basket of openwork twining of split tule similar to baskets made by the Klamath. Though the third impression is larger than the second, it is not as clear or sharp, making analysis very limited. The impression is of a one centimeter square of close plain twined basketry with a pitch of the stitch down-to-the-right (Dawson 1977). A more specific description is not possible.

The fourth impression is clearly different from the others. It is a clear, deep impression, indicating the clay must have been sticky-moist when it adhered to the basket. The impression is of twined basketry with weft rows spaced about 5 to 7 mm apart (Dawson 1977). The weave is an irregular plain or twilled twining over two or three warp elements. The warp elements are somewhat crushed by the weft turns. The weft turn is down-to-the-left (Figure 3). The material appears to be whole juncus rush, probably Juncus effusus. The material, weave, and pitch of stitch are all reminiscent of the twined juncus baskets known from northern and central Oregon groups. Within the Phoebe Hearst Museum a comparable basket comes from the Upper Umpqua (2-10804).

These basketry impressions were recovered from two housepits at Border Village (35KL16), one of which had been dated to AD 1400 by C-14 dating. Clearly the village falls within the Late Prehistoric Period and into the Canyon Phase of the cultural sequence for the Upper Klamath River (Mack 1990b). Its spatial location within the Upper Klamath Canyon put it within an area claimed by both the Shasta and Klamath-Modoc during the late 1800’s. The presence of three of four baskets similar to Klamath or Modoc types seems puzzling as the other data from the houses at Border Village point to Shasta occupation, including pithouse form and other artifacts (Mack 1983). In addition, some ethnographic research places Upper Klamath Canyon within Eastern Shasta territory (Heizer and Hester 1970, Theodoratus et al. 1989).

Basketry pieces dated to the mid-1800s from the excavation of a site within the Upper Klamath River drainage in some ways parallel the basket collection from Cash Creek and Border Village. The site, CA-Sis-262 is located just south of the Klamath River on Bogus Creek. The site is the location of a massacre of a group of Shasta and a White trader in 1864. The basketry fragments from the site show an interesting variety. Of the 47 fragments of basketry housed at the Phoebe Hearst Museum, 43 can be described as plain twining on peeled twigs with a down-to-the-left pitch of stitch, expected from a Shasta assemblage. There are two pieces of twined basketry on twig warps with the pitch of stitch down-to-the-right. There are also two pieces of twined basketry made of twisted tule with the pitch of stitch down-to-the-right. These materials are numbered (1-163672, 1-163698, 1-163710, 1-16312-15, 1-163719, and 1-163723) and come from the 1955 excavation of the site by James Bennyhoff and Albert Elsasser (fieldnotes curated at the Phoebe Hearst Museum).

Middle Pit River

One site on the Middle Pit River produced four basketry-impressed pieces of clay, the Lorenzen Site (CA-Mod-250). One of these was on a potsherds, and the other three were on pieces of fired clay or daub. These were not analyzed or reported in the preliminary report on the site (Baumhoff and Johnson 1968). A partial analysis of the four impressions was completed in 1988 (Mack 1988). This analysis used both the original impressions and positive impressions of the baskets made from the fired clay negative impressions. All four are of close twined baskets. In three of the four the stitches are 3mm long, with roughly 5-1/2 weft rows per centimeter. The other is more tightly twined with small stitches, 2mm long and 6-1/2 weft rows per centimeter. All four have weft turns running down-to-the-right. Further analysis to determine materials used may be possible if an expert on basketry impressions analyzes the specimens and positive impressions.
Discussion and Conclusions

The lack of knowledge about precontact basketry of the southern Cascades has contributed to an incomplete knowledge of the basketry of some of the groups who used the region. Only Klamath and Modoc basketry is well known both through ethnographic and archaeological specimens. This is due primarily to the work of Luther Cressman in the Klamath Basin and the Northern Great Basin, whose work related archaeological assemblages to the ethnographic Klamath-Modoc (Cressman 1942, 1956). West of the Klamath Basin and the Northern Great Basin knowledge of basketry drops dramatically. Archaeological specimens are rare, and except for the Achomawi, for whom we have a solid understanding of ethnographic basketry, even ethnographic specimens are not abundant and detailed studies have not been completed. What is known of basketry of the people of the southern Cascades should not be used to make assumptions about the characteristics and attributes of the basketry of those groups for whom there is incomplete information. Too often scholars use the commonly described attributes for manufacture and decoration of a category of objects such as basketry without considering the possibility of intra-community, intra-band, and intra-tribal variation, as well as variation introduced by individual basket makers. The collections analyzed must not only be large, so as to better reveal intra-group variation, but they should also be collections which represent as equally as possible baskets from throughout a group’s territory. Environmental variation may affect the availability of different materials throughout a group’s territory. Possible variation introduced through time must also be considered. Unfortunately, this later variation will be most difficult to identify, as the specimens available for study are likely to be few.

The Shasta case presents an excellent example. When the current evidence is examined, we have a group of attributes and characteristics linked to the Shasta from the work of ethnographers. There are known archaeological specimens from only three sites within Shasta territory: Cash Creek, Border Village, and CA-Sis-262. Of course the archaeological specimens have been interpreted based upon ethnographic information, which has lead to statements concerning site use by multiple groups such as made by Wallace and Taylor (1952). Should archaeological specimens be linked to particular tribal groups based on the ethnographies? Probably not for the Shasta or any group for whom only limited collections have been studied and whose ethnographic information was collected from a limited number of informants not directly involved in the production of baskets. The Shasta were not one group identical from east to west or north to south. It is not unlikely that Shasta basket makers living in villages on the eastern edge of Shasta territory knew of material and techniques of Klamath, Modoc, and Achomawi people. It is known the Eastern Shasta and Modoc intermarried and trading between the Shasta and all three groups also existed. Shasta basket makers near the western edge of Shasta territory interacted regularly with Karok people; we know they traded for their baskets. Those to the north traded with Takelma people, and those to the south with the Wintu. All these interactions took place before contact. (Dixon 1907, Davis 1960). After contact these and different interactions took place. The point here is that the information from ethnographies rarely allows a single list of attributes and characteristics for the production of such a complex item as a basket over the entire territory of a particular tribe. Therefore, other sources of information on basketry techniques and materials of various groups must be used. For areas with ceramic traditions, basketry impressed clay can potentially become a source of information.

We are not likely to discover a great many archaeological specimens of basketry in the southern Cascades; the environment simply is not conducive to textile preservation. Though relatively dry cave sites may still produce some fragmentary evidence along the Middle Pit and Upper Klamath, we cannot expect much data from such sources. But basketry impressions are already known for all these areas, though they are rarely analyzed. Unfortunately research designs and budgets for analysis do not include funds for expert basketry analysis, and consequently, the impressions are reported, and in some cases partly analyzed, but full analyses remain to be done. In other cases no analysis is attempted beyond reporting that the specimens are of twined basketry. In at least one older collection, they are not even reported, because no analysis existed for the ceramics from the site.

If we are ever to both understand and appreciate the basketry of the southern Cascades of California, two research programs must be pursued. One must focus on the study of all baskets available, made by all the native peoples of the southern Cascades. This research must not be limited to the better-known collections within the major museum within the United States. The research must include the investigation of the collections housed in smaller regional museums, specimens held in private collections, and possible specimens in European collections (Blackburn and Hudson 1990).

The second research focus must deal with the increasing number of basket-impressed fired clay specimens from archaeological sites within the southern Cascades. These will not only provide our best chance for an understanding of pre-contact basketry technology in this region but also possibly fill in the gaps of our knowledge of groups, whose baskets were quickly modified after contact. The heritage of basketry throughout southern Cascades can be enriched by an analysis of the data available from basketry impressions in lumps of fired clay. Researchers must be aware of its potential existence within archaeological assemblages, and they should provide a fully description and full analysis in reports.
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SCA Newsletter 37(2)
A NOTE FROM
ORIGER’S OBSIDIAN LABORATORY

In the last issue of the Newsletter, we announced the closure of the obsidian laboratory at Sonoma State University and the formation of Origer's Obsidian Laboratory. In this issue we convey again that message. And, we have added a new feature.

Many users of hydration dating wonder about the meaning of comments that are included on hydration data sheets and reports they receive from the obsidian lab. We are providing illustrations depicting weathered surfaces, diffuse hydration, multiple bands, etc. in this forum as well as on our website.

In this issue we illustrate one rare hydration feature and one not too uncommon feature. The rare feature is a vesicle within the obsidian matrix, and in this instance the vesicle is encircled with a hydration band. The not too uncommon feature is a crack in the obsidian matrix with hydration. The crack leads from the exterior of the obsidian specimen to the interior vesicle. This crack served as a conduit for moisture laden air to penetrate the obsidian and allow for the creation of the hydration band on the interior wall of the vesicle as well as along the pathway of the crack.

To contact Origer’s Obsidian Laboratory to discuss your obsidian needs, please call Tom at (707) 792-2797, send a fax to (707) 792-2798, send an email to origer@origer.com, or write or send specimens to P.O. Box 1531, Rohnert Park, California 94927. Our website address is http://www.origer.com.
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