Deep construction excavation in downtown Sunnyvale exposed a Native American burial with diagnostic artifacts, particular grave characteristics, and a $^14$C date of 5590 cal BP. The artifacts included Olivella types A1 and A2 spire-ground beads and Haliotis 1A/S6, small double-perforated beads. Ochre staining on the skeletal remains was extreme, and several of the bones showed indications of contact with fire. Charcoal underneath the skeletal remains indicate possible pre-interment ritual in the grave pit. This grave feature at 3.5 meters below the surface represents one of the oldest dated burials with associations in the general area of the San Francisco and Monterey Bay regions.

Excavation for a parking structure with levels of underground parking unearthed human osteological remains in August of 2000. The remains were observed and reported by construction workers after being exposed while digging with large excavation equipment; archaeologists and Native Americans were contacted and consulted. The coroner’s office, the Native American Heritage Commission, and representatives from the City of Sunnyvale worked with the author and Kathy Perez (Most Likely Descendent) in coordinating the excavation, study, and reburial of the remains. As part of the coroner’s input, cadaver-smelling dogs were brought to the area, and the dogs noted several locations close to the burial where other human remains might be present.

FINDINGS

Archaeological excavation commenced with the exposure of the known remains, a search in back dirt for other remains, and backhoe excavation where the dogs had identified areas for the archaeologist to explore further. The spoil dirt had been transported approximately 40 kilometers away, and examination of the large stockpile of soils failed to reveal any additional archaeological materials. The backhoe excavation did not expose any further traces of osteological or archaeological elements. The original burial remained as the sole remnant of prehistory at the site.

This osteological study of the Red Burial identified a single male adult determined to have been between 35 and 45 years of age at the time of death. Although many of the bones had been disturbed and damaged by construction activities, the remaining bone material was in stable condition. Notable features of the individual included osteophytic lipping visible on the thoracic and lumbar vertebrae, degenerative changes associated with osteoporosis throughout the vertebral column, and an unusual thickening of the long bones.

Even though the burial had been disturbed and was partial (the cranium and mandible were the most notable missing elements), the extreme depth below surface and the presence of a bead lot made it potentially useful for understanding the earlier culture of central California. To establish its age, charcoal that was in concentration under the burial and partially adhering to the bones was recovered for radiometric dating and sent to Beta Analytic for AMS analysis. After being sketched and photographed, the osteological elements were recovered from the field. The soils under the burials were
The but partially eroded with age, whereas the *Haliotis* large construction excavation, approximately 150 x 150 meters and fragile. Graves were not in situ after disturbance by wet-screened. Shell beads found in the stratigraphy were visible in all four walls of fine-screened, with samples floated and alluvial in nature. Exposures of the layers and the burial in a roughly central area of this heavy equipment and were found scattered horizontally, and 3.5 meters vertically, with episodic flooding events and probably inter-fingered with sand and silt in a widespread formation across the exposure profiles. These geologic data represented and hills to the east, across the lower peninsula, and toward the San Francisco Bay a few kilometers to the east of the site.

Chronology of the burial feature was established from absolute dating and artifact seriation. Radiocarbon dating of charcoal attached to long bones returned a conventional date of 4830 ± 40 B.P., calibrated to 3670-3620 B.C. (5620-5570 cal BP), Early Period and Archaic, respectively. The most accurate date using the intercept of radiocarbon age and calibration curve is 5590 cal BP.

Time-sensitive artifacts were present with the burial in the form of *Haliotis* and *Olivella* shell beads, with the *Haliotis* being the most chronologically informative. The *Haliotis* beads were small, thin rectangles with double biconically-drilled perforations depicted as Type S6 by Gifford (1947). This is a variant of the highly diagnostic 1A (Lillard, Heizer, and Fenenga 1939). These shell beads found with the Sunnyvale Red Burial measure on the average 5 x 7 mm when complete (most were fragmentary when exposed), and they represent a relatively rare bead type, with other examples reported mainly from the areas of southern California and the Sacramento Delta. The single-perforation form of the *Haliotis* bead is more common, with reports of this bead in sites including SAC-68, ALA-307, SJO-56, SMA-77, and MNT-391 (Cartier 1993b; Gerow with Force 1968; Lillard, Heizer, and Fenenga 1939). In all documented cases, these small *Haliotis* beads are found in sites with Early Period occupation (older than approximately 3000 B.P.), and they are seen as one of the most diagnostic artifacts of this period. The double-perforated form found with the Sunnyvale Red Burial is the first known example reported from the San Francisco Bay Area. In the few examples of these double-perforated *Haliotis* beads reported from southern California, C. King (1990) chronologically places them in the older reaches of shell beds and pendant classification, in excess of 5,000 years old. This correlates well with the radiocarbon date from the Sunnyvale site.

*Olivella* shell bead types with the Red Burial consisted of the common A1 and A2, simple spire-lopped and oblique spire-lopped, respectively. Both and these types occur in medium (b) and small (a) varieties. Several were noted as having a rust-colored stain that is attributed to the presence of ochre in the grave. These *Olivella* bead types are consistent with the Early Period and Late Archaic but are recognized as present throughout the *Olivella*-bead seriation sequence.

Perhaps the most impressive characteristic of the Red Burial grave is the large amount of ochre associated with the interment (hence prompting the name of the burial, due to the distinct red color of the bones). The osteological remains, portions of the matrix soil, and several of the shell beads were stained a rust-red color. This is the typical ochre color found with burials in the local region, and it appears to be an iron oxide probably prepared from the burnt clay as frequently seen in the local archaeological sites. What is special about the ochre with the Red Burial is the extraordinary amount seen in the grave, and how this ochre resulted in staining all of the osteological remains such a deep rust-red color. Many burials in Southern California have displayed ochre that is interpreted as the paint with ochre pigment (Cartier et al, 1993). Of the body decomposition, oxide pigment settles on physical objects (bone, shell particles), covering it with a visible stain. So in grave features that are concentrated only on the skeleton. In the case of the staining was extreme, displayed this character regional case of extreme form been reported in the archaeological literature, from the Los Contra Costa County archaeological sites the Contra Costa County archaeologists Jack Meyer and Rosenthal excavated an early burial, Burial #14 at CC (approximately the same Sunnyvale Red Burial) with staining on the skeletal material. What is special about this is one of the Sunnyle Red Burial's definitive asochre staining, and it too had the unusual extreme ochre staining.

Another characteristic of the Red Burial was the clear evidence in the base of the grave that particles up to 15 mm in the soil under the skeleton adhering to bones, particu larly on the base of the grave, scorched on portions of the evident. From these data it is clear that the body was placed on the base of a fire as part of the funerary ritual. This use of fire has been observed in archaeological investigations in Native American cemeteries extending chronologically through the recognized range of the recognized in the area (Cartier et al. 1993).

Coeval deposits and Native American graves in the region are dated using the diagnostic cultural datums: the diagnostic cultural data for the Sunnyvale Red Burial are from the San Francisco Bay and Monterey.
The Sunnyvale Red Burial, SCL-832, thus represents an important body of data, both chronologically and culturally for the growing picture of central California archaeology. Sealed beneath strata of gravel and soil at the depth of 3.5 meters for live and one-half millennia, the burial came to light only because of reports by construction workers building a subterranean parking structure. It provides us with the oldest dated grave in the San Francisco Peninsula/South Bay region, well as one of the oldest dates for a grave in central coastal California. The double-perforated A1/S6 Haliotis beads are the first seen in this portion of the San Francisco Bay area, and this gives a temporal and spatial connection to similar ornament production/use in the Central Valley and southern California. We see in the funeral ritual the extremely abundant use of ochre in preparing the body of the deceased and the presence of a fire in the base of the grave prior to interment. Overall, this one, fragmentary, disturbed burial has yielded important information on a relatively poorly understood segment of Bay Area prehistory.

REFERENCES CITED

Cartier, Robert, Jason Bass, and Scott Ortman
1993b The Saunders Site: MNT-391, A Littoral Site of the Early Period. Robert
The archaeological evaluation is an excellent opportunity to understand chronology, decoration, osteology, cloth, and funerary practices among the Chumash people.

Archaeological salvage operations in San Jose provide a unique opportunity and the archaeologists have the opportunity to address revisionist sociocultural concerns. Much of what is known about deathways comes from mementos left by the wealthy, producing some discrepancy in traditional historical accounts. Archaeological data can provide new insights into social groups such as the poor, minority, and gender analysis. They can also provide information about social phenomena.

Holy Cross Cemetery, located in San Jose, was deeded to Archbishop Alemany on September 22, 1870. The 25.48-acre parcel was also a part of the Alemany property. Also present at the dedication of St. Joseph's Parish and Catholic Cemetery were the Catholic section of Oak Hill Cemetery, Santa Clara Mission Cemetery, and Oak Hill Cemetery. The records are incomplete, but other cemeteries in the area were available to local Catholic communities.

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