**President’s Message**

By Cristina Gonzalez

Happy New Year everyone and welcome to the 30th year of SDCAS! First of all, I would like to extend a big thank you to Mick Calarco, our outgoing President, for all his dedication and service to the organization. His are big shoes to fill! Second, I would like to recognize the Board of Directors and volunteers who give so much time to SDCAS. As a relative newcomer to the organization, I realize there are people who have given years of service, and SDCAS would not be the same without them.

For our anniversary year, we hope to have some celebratory activities, so please watch your newsletter and attend the monthly meetings to hear about the dates and times. On a more serious note, I would like to impress upon all members the importance of getting involved in SDCAS. We not only put on monthly lectures, but also (Continued on Page 5)
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vacant*

First Vice President (Program)
vacant*

Second Vice President (Arch. Res.)
vacant*

Third Vice President (Gov. Liaison)
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see Editor’s Message (on Page 3) for address and fax

*These positions have not been filled because of a
lack of volunteers and the fact that they are elected
positions and we have not held a general
election. Please let us know if you are interested in
running for any of these positions! Please HELP
keep the society alive!

Community Relations & Youth Outreach
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Archaeological Society, P.O. Box 81106, San Diego, California
92138.

Los Peñasquitos Ranch House

General Meetings (4th Tuesdays) are at 7:30 p.m. at Los
Peñasquitos Ranch House. From I-15 take Mercy Rd. west,
turn right (north) onto Black Mountain Rd. and then take
the first left into Los Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve. Follow
the road all the way to the back, (past Canyonside Community
Park ball fields), and park either in the small parking lot or
along the edge of the dirt road. **NOTE: February meeting
location to be announced.
Editor’s Message

Happy New Year and Happy 30th year of SDCAS! Can you believe that this organization has been around for 30 years? Don’t you think it’s time you got involved so that we can ensure that it will be around for a while longer? There are some very dedicated board members who have kept this organization going for many years, but they cannot be expected to be board members forever. You may have noticed that there are many vacancies in our board of directors listing on Page 2. It really would be great if someone would step up and volunteer to fill them. You don’t have to be an archaeologist to be a board member, just an interested person with a few hours to spare every month…is that really all that much to ask? I know I started out like many of you, a “newsletter only” member. I paid my dues and read the newsletter, but never actually attended any meetings or events. But then I got talked into actually becoming the newsletter editor; I started attending meetings, and realized what a wonderful organization SDCAS really is. I know everyone is busy, those of us on the board are busy too, but are a few hours (typically 3-6 hours) a month really all that much to ask? Even if you don’t want to become a board member, please make an effort to attend the meetings and special events. Member participation keeps this organization going!

Also, I would like to apologize for the delay in getting the newsletter out this month. Once again out-of-town business trips and deadlines at work, coupled with illness and very busy holidays have resulted in me getting behind schedule on the SDCAS newsletter, I hope it has not caused any undue problems or confusion.

News articles or other archaeology-, anthropology-, or history-related items should be sent to me at the address below (e-mail works best). Digital documents in MS Word are preferred, but others will be considered for inclusion. Photos of your archaeological experiences (fieldwork, vacations, etc.), a cartoon from the newspaper or your favorite magazine, etc. should be sent as-is (slides, prints, or clippings); or if you have scanning capability or a digital camera, please e-mail them in. TIF, JPEG, or GIF format are preferred.

The submission deadline for the next issue is **February 28**. Please send all items to:

Marla Mealey  
e/o California Department of Parks and Recreation  
8885 Rio San Diego Drive, Suite 270  
San Diego, CA 92108  
Phone: 619-220-5329 / FAX: 619-220-5400  
e-mail: mmealey@parks.ca.gov or: mmealey@san.rr.com

Members’ News Corner

Juncus Basket Ethnographic Workshop
February 22-23

SDCAS will lead a fieldtrip/workshop to the Kumiai (Mexican spelling of Kumeyaay) community of San José de la Zorra in Baja California, Mexico. The community is located approximately 50 miles south of the Tijuana border and inland. We will meet the artisans, learn how the juncus is gathered and processed, and attempt to make our own small split juncus coil basket. This will be a really interesting trip for basket lovers, and a rare chance to share experiences in the Kumiai community.

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Steve Bouscaren and Mike Wilken will be our guides and provide the much-appreciated interface with the community. We will either gather our own material or use materials on hand depending on the harvest conditions. The artisans will explain all the details of the preparation and provide “hands-on training” in juncus basket making. We can also ask about (and hopefully be shown) how to make dyed juncus although this is a long process that can take up to a month to complete.

We will camp somewhere near the community on Saturday night and hopefully have a traditional bonfire and discuss basketry, astronomy, and maybe some archaeology. Plan to finish the baskets on Sunday and return to San Diego in late afternoon. The estimated cost is $80 per person - this will provide a little income for our “teachers”, a donation to the community, and help with miscellaneous expenses. You must be a member of SDCAS to participate - non-members can join the day of the trip by completing the membership application (blank forms will be provided) and paying the yearly membership fee ($20 individual, $10 student). We will meet on Saturday morning at 7 a.m. at the normal place - this side of the border, exit I-5 at the Via de San Ysidro off ramp, turn right 1 block to the gas station next to the Mexican insurance place. Car pools may be arranged if needed and will meet at City College at 6:30 am—please call and coordinate if interested in car pooling. Your standard auto with average ground clearance will probably be OK provided there is no rain. Regarding the camp out - we will be located near the community but away from any facilities, so it is “primitive”. Tents, food, water, camp stoves, flashlights, warm clothes, hats, sunscreen, camp chair, and a log for the fire are recommended. The weather can be variable at this time in February so prepare for a range of temperatures - probably warm days and one fairly cold night.

Please respond early if you plan on participating - the group size will be limited.

Contact:  
Steve Bouscaren by email: stevebouscaren@mindspring.com or phone: (619) 291-9139  
Lynnette Salmon by email: halliday3@sbcglobal.net or phone: (858) 453-0888 x3

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Agua Caliente Living Traditions Programs  
Willow Granary Baskets

Saturday February 22, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Agua Caliente Cultural Museum in Palm Springs.

Instructed by Eva Salazar. The woven willow granary was a practical style of basket utilized by southern California Indians to store and carry food. These baskets varied from 1 to 5 feet in diameter. Cost for the workshop is $35 and is for persons 16 years and older. Classes are held outside so participants should dress appropriately for the weather. For more information or to enroll please call 760-778-1079x105.

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**SDCAS Website**

By Carol Serr, Webmaster

The host of our website shut down in January to upgrade the system, so unfortunately there will be no SDCAS website for several weeks. Hopefully I can find some other host page on which to re-create our website. The new location (URL) will be provided in the next newsletter.

(Continued on Page 7)
Fort Guijarros News
By Ron May

Battle of San Diego Bay Fiesta Marks 200th Anniversary
The United States Navy has agreed to allow the 200th Anniversary of the Battle of San Diego Bay to be commemorated on Saturday, March 22, 2003 at the foot of Rosecrans Street, Naval Base Point Loma. This, barring a war in the Middle East, would be exactly 200 years to the day after the American brig Leila Byrd exchanged cannon fire with Spanish soldiers at Fort Guijarros. All SDCAS members wishing to attend this very important Fiesta must telephone (619) 229-9743 to be placed on the GATE ACCESS List. If your name is not on the list, you will not be allowed on the Navy base.

Twenty-two years ago, San Diego County Archaeological Society members began archaeological investigations of the old Spanish fort. This year, Fort Guijarros Board Member Seth Mallios, Ph.D. will begin editing scientific articles written by Ron May, Fred Buchanan, and Architect Milford Wayne Donaldson for an up-coming publication by San Diego State University. SDCAS members should attend this very important event.

Upcoming Speakers
January 28, 7:30 p.m. Los Peñasquitos.
The Organization of Subsistence Technology in Southern California During the Holocene
By Micah Hale, M.A. - Associate Archaeologist, ASM Affiliates

The most robust archaeological pattern in southern California is the Encinitas Tradition, roughly dated between 9,000 and 1,000 years ago. Data generated from a macroscopic analysis of formalization and use-wear on the primary constituents of this pattern indicated low levels of assemblage diversity and tool formalization coupled with intensive use and a high amount of functional overlap between artifact classes. These data, and other evidence, indicate that technological and social organization was geared toward high degrees of flexibility allowing for regional and situational adjustments. The adaptive significance of this pattern rests in its ability to facilitate environmental and social change without necessitating major adaptive technological shifts. Such a perspective facilitates the use of a growing body of paleoenvironmental data in archaeological explanation without invoking “prime movers” to explain cultural adjustments.

February 25, 7:30 p.m. Location to be announced
Continuum: Rock Art on the Lower Gila
Ken Hedges is Publications Editor, Manager of Information Services, and a former curator of the San Diego Museum of Man, where he founded the annual Rock Art Symposium in 1976 and has edited the annual Rock Art Papers since the first volume was published by the Museum in 1983. Ken is a founding member and past president of the American Rock Art Research Association, and he currently serves as editor of the Association’s quarterly newsletter, La Pintura. His lecture draws on his current research on Late Prehistoric rock traditions in the Far Southwest and their Archaic antecedents.

In his presentation, Ken will review the rock art of the lower Gila River in southwestern Arizona in the context of his past and current research on the Archaic to Patayan continuum in the lower Gila, lower Colorado River, Colorado Desert, and the painted and pecked traditions of the southern California and northern Baja California. To the east, this includes the contrast between the contemporaneous Hohokam and Patayan traditions and a look at the unique characteristics of the Gillespie Dam site north of Gila Bend.

Getting to Know your Board Members
Lynnette Salmon—Library and Hospitality
Growing up in San Diego I was in many ways just another Midwest transplant that fell in love with the ocean. My interest in archaeology sort of evolved from a love of the outdoors (my father’s influence, as he was very much a Midwestern outdoorsman), and a curiosity about how things are used – my mother’s thing from being an Oklahoma dust bowl depression survivor who had ten uses for every object. Trust me, that combination along with a lifelong subscription to National Geographic, numerous camping trips, and an inherent interest in all the different Native American cultures and influences, made it seem as if I was born to be an archaeologist. Except I didn’t know that “ordinary” kids could be things like that. Then as a middle-aged mother of two sons, I happened upon San Diego City College and Dr. Steve Bouscaren, and the world of archaeology opened up. I had never met a teacher who cared so much about his subject and the success of his students and I wanted more. Inspired, I attended City College to obtain a Certificate of Completion in Archaeology, and then took three classes in flintknapping offered in Zyzyx by the University of California at San Bernardino in their Desert Studies Program. I fell in love with stones that had at least ten uses. I did an internship with Grace Johnson at the Museum of Man, a place as much like heaven as I can imagine, and I joined SDCAS at Dr. Bouscaren’s suggestion. At his request, I joined the SDCAS Board of Directors as Secretary. I started participating in the field trips and began going to the SDCAS Baja workshops.

I am not a professional archaeologist with a diploma on the wall, but I think I reap all the benefits of the passion. I try to focus on that and remember that there is much more to life than analyzing accounting spreadsheets, which I do in my full-time day job as Accounting Manager for Halliday Management Co. Since joining the Board of Directors I have enjoyed being involved with SDCAS in many different capacities. I only wish I had more time to contribute to this organization as it continues to keep my interest burning and as it continues to provide meaningful, quality archaeological activities for “ordinary” people with sometimes boring day jobs. I do have at least ten uses, so I can’t wait until I can retire from my day job!
Membership News

Welcome new members: James & Louise O’Neill, Kyle Guerrero, William Larson, and Courtney Coyle. Thank you for joining SDCAS and we hope to see you at an upcoming meeting. SDCAS would like to give a very BIG Thanks to Richard Carrico and Susan Gannon for upgrading their memberships to Life status!

The SDCAS membership year is from October to October, so if you have not yet renewed, please do so today! I strongly encourage you to show your support to local archaeology by becoming a Life Member for a one-time sum of $250 (that can be paid in installments till Oct. 2003). This will be your last newsletter issue if we don’t receive your dues soon.

With this being our 30th Anniversary, please make this year a time to attend one of our Tuesday evening programs if you haven’t come before. We’d love to meet you, so don’t be shy—introduce yourself.

If the program topics haven’t interested you, please let us know what sort of topics you do like…or better yet…GIVE a presentation yourself…or suggest a speaker to the board.

Thanks to those who have renewed, and to new members, for your support in preservation of our historic past. Please consider becoming an officer or committee chairperson for 2003. We NEED your participation to help SDCAS to continue to make a difference in our County’s heritage.

Carol Serr, Membership Chair
858-578-8964 ext. 319 (work)
ArkyLabGds@aol.com

President’s Message

(Continued from Page 1)

workshops and field trips, and the level and number of activities might not continue without more volunteers. SDCAS needs board members and volunteers to help coordinate events, serve on committees, and even organize the snacks for our meetings!

This is your organization. Volunteering is your chance to have a voice in SDCAS, by helping plan lectures, select speakers, organize educational activities, and coordinate field trips and other events. And don’t worry if you aren’t an archaeologist! Most of us aren’t! You don’t need any archaeological experience to volunteer. All you need to have is the willingness to get involved!

I look forward to meeting all of you at the monthly meetings. Feel free to contact myself or any other board member if you are interested in volunteering [see page 2 for contact information]. Let’s make the 30th anniversary year one to remember!

Archaeologists Tour Southeastern States Archaeology

By Ron May

Fulfilling a dream born more than 25 years ago, former SDCAS presidents Richard “Dick” Gadler and Ron May carved out three weeks of time for a whirlwind trip through fourteen states to visit archaeology sites, historic buildings and hunt for antiques in the American South and Midwest this past October. Ron and Dick first met as staff archaeologists at the old Environmental Analysis Division, County of San Diego in 1976 and shared dreams of visiting famous archaeology sites in the American South. Dick spent much of his childhood in southern Illinois and knew the area intimately.

The adventure of the “Antique Brothers” (as Dick liked to say) began and ended with First Class sleeper train accommodations on the Sunset Limited and included the St. Louis to San Antonio run on the Texas Star. From the sky lounge, Dick pointed out many Paleo-Indian archaeology sites in Texas and Louisiana, not to mention wonderful brick commercial districts rife with antique stores.

Poverty Point. The first stop concerning prehistoric archaeology involved a Terminal Archaic Culture of the Lower Mississippi Valley, known as Poverty Point. Jon L. Gibson, University of Southwestern Louisiana authored Poverty Point, Second Edition with Revision, 1999, Department of Culture, Recreation and Tourism, Louisiana Archaeological Survey and Antiquities Commission. Perhaps one of the most spectacular cultural expressions of Archaic culture in the American South, Poverty Point dates between 1730 and 1350 B.C. and survives today with an enormous elevated earthen mound shaped like a bird surrounded by six arc-shaped concentric ridge mounds that supported houses of the elite people, all of which faced the Mississippi River. The largest mound measures 3,950-feet. The bird mound supported temples and the highest-ranking people. The mounds were associated with a ball court and ponds. Artifacts include finely ground and polished plummets (charm stones), clay figurines, and stunning knife and dart points. The most spectacular art forms include engraved copper and mica schist birds and animals in flowing stylized forms. The people conducted intense trade with other Archaic people for about 300 years. There are seven areas of Poverty Point style Archaic settlement throughout Louisiana, but none as spectacular as Poverty Point itself. Discovery of Poverty Point mounds in the 1950s revolutionized thinking about Archaic culture and forced archaeologists to recognize that people more than 3,000 years ago were capable of master planning enormous construction projects.

Etoawah Mounds. The second stop involved Etoawah Mounds Archaeological Area, near U.S. 41 and Cartersville, Georgia. This equally spectacular Mound Builder complex dates from 800 A.D. to 1550 A.D. and is now a state park. Unfortunately, a neighboring farmer has been bulldozing portions of Etoawah Mound on his

(Continued on Page 6)
Archaeologists Tour…

(Continued from Page 5)

property and tensions between him and state park people are very high. We were sickened to see the damage he has wrought. The spectacular find at Etowah Mounds involved a buried, log-lined pit that held two almost life-sized stone sculptures of a man and woman kneeling. Both were painted with black and red pigments and had been ceremonially broken in the pit. Also present were carved mica and copper birds and animals, finely flaked projectile points, and a range of clay pottery that spans 3,000 years.

To place the Mound Builders in perspective, Louisiana reports over 700 archaeological sites with mounds. Dick and I drove past a number of mounds on private farms and in dense forests through Louisiana, Alabama, Mississippi, Georgia, Tennessee, Kentucky, and southern Illinois. They were all made according to master plans and the mounds elevated by people carrying baskets of dirt. Many of the mounds served as cemeteries, but all once supported temples and various ranks of elite people. The oldest have been dated to 4,000 B.C.

Cahokia Mounds. Taking the trip a bit out of order (we attended a 4-day American Cultural Resource Association trade meeting in Savannah, Georgia, representing Legacy 106, Inc.), we arrived at Cahokia Mounds, Illinois about a week and a half into the trip. The United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) has designated Cahokia Mounds a World Heritage Site for its importance to our understanding of the prehistory of North America. The entire site runs for more than five miles, but 2,200-acres have been set aside as a state park. Dick and I were shocked to see a modern carpet factory sitting directly in the middle of the park and then realized the entire town with streets, antique shops, motels and houses were all sitting on portions of Cahokia Mounds. This site dates from 700 A.D. to 1400 A.D. Cahokia was a “walled” (wooden palisade of 20,000 logs) city with 120 mounds, of which 109 are now preserved. More than 50 million cubic feet of dirt went into the construction. There were three types of mounds; platform mound for elite homes and ceremonial temples; conical cemetery mound; and ridge burial mounds (elite families). Many thousands of commoner houses extended for miles beyond the walled city. The most impressive mound is called Monk’s Mound and measures in four terraces to a height of 100-feet. There is also a “wood henge,” which archaeologists believe functioned as a seasonal calendar.

Russell Cave. Many archaeologists who grew up in the 1950s recall the spectacular discoveries of 8,000-year old archaeology at Russell Cave, Alabama. While driving toward Savannah, Dick and I deviated into Alabama to find the site made famous by National Geographic Magazine in 1956 and 1958. A Ranger met us at the Information Center and guided us out a long wooden walkway to the entrance to this immense, 107-foot wide limestone cave. The air was a cool 38 degrees outside, but a constant 60 degrees inside and it took no imagination at all to see how this site made a wonderful living location. A stream passes through a lower passage of the cave about 30-feet below. National Park Service archaeologists and coal miners recovered more than three and a half tons of flaked and ground stone tools, fish hooks, bone awls and needles, carved animal bones, marine and freshwater shell beads, carved bear bone lamps, and many mystery objects.

Modoc Rockshelter. During the 1970s, newspapers and professional archaeology journals announced discoveries of Paleo-Indian archaeological discoveries at Modoc Rockshelter that date back to 10,000 years ago. The age of the site proved to be controversial, as conservatives refused to accept those early dates in those days. Unfortunately for us, the only thing we found at Modoc Rockshelter was a National Register plaque on the limestone wall and a State of Illinois interpretive sign. We were heartened to see that farmers had parked tractors and machinery or hay bales at numerous limestone shelter sites along the valley to prevent pot-hunters from ruining other similar sites.

Fort De Chartres. Of all the historic archaeology sites Dick and I encountered in our trip, I felt Fort De Chartres ought to be reported to SDCAS because it is such a spectacular reconstruction. This 1754 French fort was built with trimmed limestone and looks like something out of a Disney movie. The 20-foot high walls of this four-bastioned fort contained several hundred cannons, seven buildings, and a powder magazine. It saw action against British troops, but was ceded to the British after the 1763 Treaty of Paris that ended the Seven Years’ War. The British re-named it Fort Cavendish and then abandoned it in 1771. The State of Illinois restored Fort De Chartres in 1917 but it was destroyed by a fire in 1948. The historic archaeology exposed interior buildings through the 1930s Works Progress Administration (WPA). The infamous Great Flood of 1993 inundated Fort De Chartres with 15-feet of water and the interior wooden buildings now suffer severe wood rot and are being restored by conservators. Dick and I learned that this is now a favorite location for reenactor groups who come in 18th century costumes to live the lifestyle for a few days. The museum displays many interesting artifacts, but one very interesting cultural exhibit shows the old French families still practice a French New Year’s tradition of costuming and singing songs in the various towns about the countryside.

Dick’s Farm. Although not the final destination of this very fruitful trip, Dick and I drove to his family farm in Franklin County, Illinois to walk the property and examine the remains of the old farmhouse. Vandals burned the house about 20 years earlier and a forest of hardwood trees has completely grown over the orchards, stock pens, barn and house site. Dick showed me an ancient buffalo trace, where forest buffalo traveled long before his grandparents acquired the farm. Leaf mold and vines now cover the old bottle dump, smokehouse stumps, and hogwire pens. Across the gravel road, the old cemetery holds Dick’s family’s grave plots that span back to at least 1790.

Eventually, this wonderful adventure had to come to a close. On the train trip back, we reflected on the fascinating prehistoric archaeology sites we visited and how they might relate to the prehistory of San Diego County. Equally interesting were the historic towns, buildings, plantations, and people we encountered. Of all the places, we both agreed that the best stop was Natchez, Mississippi where Spanish towns gave way to British and wonderful 19th century antebellum architecture has not been spoiled by tourists and land developers. Truly, the archaeology of the American South and Midwest is a wonder.
Members’ News Corner (Continued from Page 3)

New Exhibit At Barona Museum:
The Indian Cowboys of Barony Ranch and San Diego County

Indian Cowboys: does this sound like an unlikely pairing? Being a cowboy has been the work of American Indians from the moment the expanding Western Frontier appeared in the established Indian nations of Western America. Cattle and horses were of great interest to Indians of the Plains and other regions. Indians who were interested in becoming ranch hands soon acquired all the duties of cattle ranching. Along with Mexican caballeros and vaqueros, the arc of roping, wrestling, and riding became skills readily adopted by American Indians.

Opening in January is our new exhibit in which we will investigate the impact of ranching and cowboy life on the people of Barony and other Southern California Indians. In 1932, the tribe moved from Capitan Grande to Barony Ranch and the families tried to make their living as ranchers. The exhibit includes a gallery show of fascinating photos of life on ranches today taken by photographer Heather Hafleigh. Her photographs of Indian Cowboys from Mesa Grande and Santa Ysabel were featured in an article of News from Native California. We also include some wonderful family photos of local Barony, Viejas and other tribal members in San Diego riding, herding, roping and rodeoing. This exhibit is in honor of the new Barony Valley Ranch Resort and Casino, which recently opened here on the Barony Indian Reservation. The exhibit opens January 11 and will close in July 2003.

Take highway 8 east from San Diego. Take Highway 67 north. Turn right on Willow Road (Circle K) and proceed to the intersection with Wildcat Canyon Road. Turn left and go six miles to Barona Valley Ranch Resort and Casino. Continue on Barona Road (Wildcat Canyon) for another mile and the museum is on the left (1095 Barona Road, Lakeside, CA). Hours are Tuesday thru Sunday, Noon to 5 p.m.

SBCAS February Meeting

The program for the February 3rd meeting of the Santa Barbara County Archaeological Society will be “bone Flutes and Whistles: The Development of Ritual Activity in Chumash Society.” VCAS member Ray Corbett, a Ph.D. candidate at UCLA, will share his current research of bone flute and whistle artifacts from the Chumash region. Ethnographic and ethnohistoric evidence indicate that certain types of these objects were exclusively associate with ‘Antap ritual specialists. One highly distinctive type of whistle made from the tibia bone of a deer was a primary and central feature of major Chumash religious ceremonies. Corbett’s research points to significant temporal developments in ritual and ceremonial aspects of Chumash society. The timing of these changes is compared with transformation in other aspects of Chumash society. The talk will be at 7:30 p.m. in Farrand Hall at the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History.

Heritage of the Americas Museum

The Heritage of the Americas Museum (12110 Cuyamaca College Drive West, El Cajon, California, 619-670-5194) Presents their 10th Anniversary Celebration.

YOU are invited Saturday Feb. 1st, 11 a.m. - 4 p.m. (FREE ADMISSION)

Come see collections never before exhibited * Art show * Entertainment * Indian Village * Live Music * Cultural Demonstrations. “Tinku: The music of ancient times” is a musical group that will be performing. Tinku was a ritual where the people of certain South American regions met in fierce ‘celebration’. Tinku plays the music that is The Heritage of the Americas. Eric Runningpath, a professional Native American dancer who performs national and international programs will also be there. He has traveled throughout the world as a cultural spokesman and ambassador for Native Americans and Alaskans.

Agua Caliente Spirit Keepers Lecture Series: Regina Siquieros

March 19, in the Cahuilla Room at the Agua Caliente Spa Hotel in Palm Springs at 7 p.m.

Regina Siquieros’ program is on the Legends and Stories of the Tohono O’Odham. For more information please call 760-778-1079.

Agua Caliente Living Traditions Programs Whole Rod Juncus Baskets

Saturday March 15, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Agua Caliente Cultural Museum in Palm Springs.

This unique Mission-style form of twining is a rarity in basket making. Christopher Roman returns to teach this traditional skill used by southern coastal tribes. Cost is $35 and is for persons 16 years and older. Classes are held outside so participants should dress appropriately for the weather. For more information or to enroll please call 760-778-1079x105.

Baja California Sur Rock Art

Submitted by Carol Patterson via Lynne Christenson

A team of archaeologists and scientists from Mexico, Argentina, Australia and New Zealand is revealing that the giant human and animal figures painted on rocks in the Sierra de Guadalupe, Baja California Sur, Mexico are at least 6,500 years old. This is long before the Aztecs established their culture in the valley of central Mexico and at least a thousand years before other rock paintings were made in North America.

The research is financed by the National Council of Science and Technology of Mexico (CONACYT), the National Institute of Anthropology and History (INAH) and the National Geographic Society.

Rock shelters in Baja California are well known for the fabulously spectacular paintings of giant humans and animals, mostly in red and black, but also in white and yellow. These greater than life-size figures have never been previously dated. Little information is known of their... (Continued on Page 8)
Baja California Sur Rock Art
(Continued from Page 7)
association with material cultural objects of the hunter-gatherers who lived in this region for many years before the Spanish conquest.

The team leader, Maria de la Luz Gutiérrez, an INAH archaeologist and specialist in the rock art of the central sierras of Baja California, says that “these dating results for the Sierra de Guadalupe confirm the great antiquity and World Heritage significance of the Giant Mural paintings which have been recognized by UNESCO in the adjacent Sierra de San Francisco.”

The ages for the paintings were obtained from small samples collected in 2001 by Dr Alan Watchman, a geoscientist at the Australian National University, and an internationally recognized specialist in the direct dating of rock art. The samples were processed at the Rafter Radiocarbon Laboratory in New Zealand.

Thirty-one radiocarbon age determinations have so far been made with several paintings giving ages of more than 5,000 years, and one of 6,500. A series of age determinations for other large paintings indicate a long tradition of rock painting by prehistoric people in Baja California.

The great ages for these paintings surpass the previous estimates obtained by earlier researchers. Rock carvings in the same region have also been dated at 3,700 years and these are the first results for petroglyphs in Mexico.

The presence of these ancient paintings and carvings within the central Baja peninsula is regarded by Dr. Marisabel Hernandez Llosas, an archaeologist and international specialist in rock art of the National Council of Science and Technology of Argentina (CONICET), as indicating territorial marks and expressions of religious beliefs and social relationships of hunter-gatherer people.

Before the team started work in 2001 only ninety sites with paintings were known and now their systematic research has discovered more than 320 sites. The painted rock shelters are located in rugged terrain within spectacularly steep and pristine canyons. The types of painted figures range from male and female humans, different species of deer, fish, mountain lion and sheep, and…animals, birds and various rectangular patterns.

The current field campaign is extending the range of investigations previously undertaken with the aim of determining the spatial and temporal distributions of the paintings. The on-going project is devoted to differentiating episodes and periods of paintings with the goal of establishing changes in the functions of sites, different regional territories and variations in ideology through time. The research team believes that more archaeological discoveries, and older paintings and carvings will be found during the present project.

They believe that the scientific investigations justify an extension of the World Heritage area beyond the present boundaries so that these precious ancient relics of Mexico are properly protected and preserved for future generations.

Obituaries

Florence Connolly Shipek, 84; expert on local Indian tribes

2 Archaeologists, Robert Braidwood and His Wife, Linda Braidwood, Die

NASA and the Old Navajo
Submitted by Sam Webb via Sue Wade

When NASA was preparing for the Apollo Project, it took the astronauts to the Navajo reservation in Arizona for training. One day, a Navajo elder and his son came across the space crew walking among the rocks. The elder, who spoke only Navajo, asked a question. His son translated for the NASA people: “what are those guys in the big suits doing?”

One of the astronauts said they were practicing for a trip to the moon.

When his son relayed this comment, the Navajo elder got all excited and asked if it would be possible to give the astronauts a message to deliver to the moon. Recognizing a promotional opportunity when he saw one, a NASA public relations official accompanying the astronauts said, “why certainly!” and told an underling to get a tape recorder.

The Navajo elder’s comments into the microphone were extremely brief. The NASA official asked the son if he would translate what his father had said. The son listened to the recording, laughed uproariously but he refused to translate.

So the NASA people took the tape to a nearby Navajo village and played it for other members of the tribe. They too laughed long and loudly but also refused to translate the elder’s message to the moon.

Finally, an official government translator was summoned to the reservation. After he finally stopped laughing the translator relayed the message: “Watch out for these guys …They have come to steal your land.”
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San Diego County Archaeological Society Membership Application

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Directors.

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Code of Ethics

1. The collecting in any manner of archaeological material or data
shall be done using contemporary scientific techniques, and shall
have as its express purpose the finding and dissemination of
information relative to the history and prehistory of California.

2. Provisions shall be made for the housing of archaeological
materials and data in accordance with accepted professional
practices, and such materials and data shall be made available to
qualified individuals through accumulated field notes and records or
to the general profession through the publication of findings.

3. The gathering of archaeological specimens or the destruction of
archaeological sites for purposes of selling artifacts or personal
acquisition shall in all cases be forbidden and shall subject member
to expulsion proceedings.

All members will adhere to this Society’s Code of Ethics, and
to State, Federal, and International Antiquities Laws.

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