The mission of the San Diego County Archaeological Society is to promote public understanding and appreciation of archaeology in general and to encourage the preservation of the cultural resources of San Diego County.

Calendar

Support your Society! Items in boxes are SDCAS-organized or sponsored events

Every Saturday & Sunday — Los Peñasquitos
Docent tours: Los Peñasquitos Adobe Ranch House
11 a.m. on Saturday and 1:00 p.m. on Sunday

July 18–20 — Moorpark College
Children of Many Colors Powwow
See announcement inside (Pg. 3)

July 19 (10 a.m.) Malki Museum, Banning
Lecture by Dr. Lowell Bean
the Cahuilla Indians of Southern California
$15 minimum donation requested
Call 951-849-7289 or email MalkiMuseumMail@gmail.com for info or reservations

July 21–August 1 (7 a.m. – 4 p.m.) Manzanar NHS
Volunteer Archaeological Excavations
See announcement inside (Pg. 3)

August 21 (6 p.m.) Old Town San Diego
SOHO’s 3rd Thursday Lecture Series
Speakers: Kim Fahlen and Karen Scanlon
“Lighthouses of San Diego”
See announcement inside (Pg. 6)

August 23 (8 p.m.) Los Peñasquitos
SDCAS Summer Saturday Night Lecture
Speaker: Steve Freers
“Rock Art Photography and Analysis”
See announcement inside (Pg. 4)

August 23 (5–9 p.m.) Old Town San Diego Plaza
Stagecoach Days Candlelight Dinner & Fundraiser
$65 per person; Make reservations at http://brownpapertickets.com/event/35925
More info: www.slowfoodsandiego.org

August 29–30—Barona
Barona Powwow

August 30—September 2 (7 a.m. – 4 p.m.)
Manzanar NHS
Volunteer Archaeological Excavations
See announcement inside (Pg. 3)

September 5–7—Sycuan
Sycuan Powwow

See Members’ News Corner inside (Pg. 3) for additional events & activities

INSIDE

Pg. 2 Board of Directors & Meeting Location
Pg. 2 Editor’s Message & Submission Information
Pg. 3 Members’ News Corner
Pg. 4 Upcoming Speakers
Pg. 4 Membership News
Pg. 4 End of the ASA
Pg. 7 CISA3 Researchers Analyze Native American Sites in Push for Digital Archaeology
Pg. 8 Mystery of San Diego Crescentics...
Pg. 10 Recent Archaeological Investigations at the Stonewall Mine Site...
Pg. 12 Tribal Bloc About Faces on Proposed Toll Road
Pg. 13 California State Parks on List of 11 Most Endangered Historic Places
Pg. 14 Harrison Ford Elected to AIA Board
Pg. 15 Terra Cotta Warriors Escape Quake Damage
Pg. 15 Finding the Art in Archaeology
Society of California Archologists Newsletter

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DISCLAIMER: Articles printed in this newsletter are for the information of the members of the Society and do not necessarily represent the views or beliefs of the board members or the Society in general.

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MEETING INFO: The SDCAS Office is located at Los Peñasquitos Ranch House. During the Fall, Winter, and Spring General Meetings are held on the Fourth Tuesday of each month except December. During the Summer months (June, July, August) General Meetings are held on Saturday evenings, in the courtyard at the Ranch House (see pg. 4 for details of upcoming meetings).

Los Peñasquitos Ranch House

Directions: 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 area by the barn or along the edge of the dirt road.

Board Meetings take place on the 3rd Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. They are held at California State Parks, Southern Service Center offices located in Mission Valley at 8885 Rio San Diego Drive, Suite 201.

Editor’s Message

Summer is here again. Hope you all have exciting summer plans and I hope those plans include the SDCAS Summer Lecture series. Erin (our 1st VP) has lined up some great speakers and interesting topics including the archaeology of Los Peñasquitos (find out the prehistory of the location of our monthly meetings!) and Rock Art (usually a crowd pleaser). See page 4 for more details.

Erin has her hands full with setting up the monthly speakers, and getting ready to go off to Grad School in the Fall, so we are desperately looking for a Sales person so that Erin can stop doing double duty (she’s been filling in for sales since leaving that position this year to take over the 1st VP position). If you would like to help, please contact her or any of the board members listed above.

CORRECTIONS: Please note that the email address listed for Carol Serr under her Membership News article has been incorrect for a little over a year. Thanks to an alert member for pointing this error out.

SUBMISSIONS: Please send articles, stories, poems, or other archaeology-, anthropology-, or history-related items to me at the address below (email works best). Digital documents (word or text files) are preferred, but others will be considered for inclusion. Hard copy photos of your archaeological experiences (fieldwork, vacations, etc.), a cartoon from the newspaper, etc. should be sent as-is (slides, prints, or clippings); or if you have scanning capability or a digital camera, please email them in JPG, TIF, or GIF format. Any hard-copy item you wish returned (such as photos or slides) should be accompanied by a self-addressed, stamped envelope, or arrangements can be made to pick up said items.

The submission deadline for the next issue is August 29. Please send all items to:
Marla Mealey
c/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

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Members’ News Corner
Volunteers Needed for Arch in the Park

SDCAS’s Arch in the Park is scheduled for Saturday October 18. Help out our society by volunteering to assist either in the planning or on the actual day of the event. Let any board member know your interest and willingness to help out. And remember you do not need to know anything about archaeology to volunteer. Get involved in this fun and educational community outreach event!

The San Diego Archaeological Center’s Second Saturday Lecture

Saturday, August 9, 2008, from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Escondido, CA – The San Diego Archaeological Center is pleased to welcome curators at the San Diego Museum of Man for the August Second Saturday Lecture Series.

San Diego Museum of Man curators Phil Hoog and Garrett Knudsen will present a lecture entitled “Malcolm Rogers and the Museum of Man,” at the Center on Saturday August 9 as part of the Visiting Scholar lecture series.

Malcolm Rogers’ systematic efforts to survey and record archaeological sites during the early-mid 20th century remain the foundation for many aspects of San Diego County archaeology. He documented hundreds of sites, many of which have been destroyed by later development. The artifacts that Rogers collected and his original field notes are curated at the San Diego Museum of Man, where he was acting director from 1933 to 1936.

This presentation will highlight Malcolm Rogers’ association with the Museum of Man, the historical context in which his studies took place and the important role his collections still play in archaeological research today.

This lecture is free for SDAC members; suggested donation for non-members is $5. For more information, contact Annmarie Cox via email at acox@sandiegoarchaeology.org or by phone: 760-291-0370.

Volunteers Needed for Archaeological Excavations at Manzanar NHS to Excavate Merritt Park

Have you ever wondered what it would be like to go back and visit a childhood home? What if that home was a wartime camp behind barbed wire? What if your reason for going back was an archaeological excavation of a garden your father built?

This was the experience of the Nishi family...as they returned to an old family home. Three generations traveled from Los Angeles to Manzanar National Historic Site to participate in the Merritt Park Archeological Dig. The goal of the excavation is to uncover and stabilize rock gardens and features of this centerpiece of community life at Manzanar. The project, which teams [National] Park archeologists and staff with volunteers, continues July 21 to August 1, and August 30 to September 2, 2008.

After Pearl Harbor was attacked by Japan on December 7, 1941, Kuichiro Nishi—a 56 year-old nursery owner and garden designer in West Los Angeles—was arrested by the FBI and sent to a prison camp at Fort Missoula, Montana. In the spring of 1942, his wife and children were forced to leave their home and move to Manzanar, as were thousands of other Japanese Americans living on the west coast. Mr. Nishi was released from detention and rejoined his family at Manzanar in June, 1942.

The U.S. Army designed Manzanar as an efficient military-style camp in the Eastern California desert. The internees, however, made many improvements that transformed the monotonous conformity of camp into a community—including beautifying the landscape. Mr. Nishi used his experience as a nursery owner to make the desert bloom. Within two months of arriving at Manzanar, he participated in the construction of a garden with pools and a fountain in Block 22.

Eventually Mr. Nishi convinced camp director Ralph Merritt to donate supplies and equipment for the community garden that later became known as Merritt Park. With its visually striking rock gardens, ponds, rustic bridge, gazebo, and diverse plantings—including roses that Nishi cultivated—the park became a sanctuary of tranquility for the Manzanar community. Couples were married in the park which provided an attractive escape from the drudgery of camp life. Today, home movies still bear witness to its peaceful beauty.

After Manzanar closed in 1945 and the Nishi family returned to Los Angeles to rebuild their lives, their temporary home at Manzanar returned to the desert. As years went by, spring run-off from the Sierra Nevada snowpack periodically flooded the site, burying the camp’s gardens with silt and sand. Many clues in the landscape were rendered invisible under layers of dirt.

Today, through a National Park Service Vanishing Treasures grant, park archeologists are excavating and stabilizing Merritt Park. Volunteers are invited to join the project—clearing brush, digging out the sediment to reveal the rock features, and restoring the rock and cement work based on photo documentation.

Anyone age 15 and over who is physically able to work outdoors in moderately strenuous activity is invited to volunteer for the Merritt Park Archeological Dig. Previous archeological experience is helpful, but not necessary. All that’s needed is an interest in history and a willingness to get dirty. Work will take place Monday, July 21, through Friday, August 1, and Saturday, August 30, through Tuesday, September 2, from 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. each day. The work will be conducted outdoors regardless of weather. For more information about volunteering for the Merritt Park Archeological Dig, please call Park Guide Gretel Enck at 760-878-2194, ext. 2713, or email at gretel_enck@nps.gov.

(Continued on page 6)
Upcoming Speakers
July 26 (Saturday Evening Lecture*), 8:00 p.m.
Los Peñasquitos

Presenter: Steve Bouscaren
Topic: Archaeology at Los Peñasquitos

In the spring of 1992, San Diego City College students began an excavation program at two archaeological sites, CA-SDi-5220 and CA-SDi-8125. Both of these sites are located in Peñasquitos Canyon near the ranch house on properties owned and managed by the County of San Diego. Excavations at CA-SDi-5220 were completed during the spring 2004 semester. A total of 55 1x1-m units were excavated to bedrock. Radiocarbon dates indicated both archaic and late prehistoric/early historic use of the site area. City College archaeology students began excavations in two areas of CA-SDi-8125 in the spring of 2005. These areas include a block excavation within the area of a mid- to late-19th century barn and the excavation of an early historic zanja or acequia.

This presentation will summarize the work conducted at these sites as well as the benefits and difficulties of archaeological field classes working at archaeological sites over a period of several years. As part of this presentation, we will uncover a portion of the nearby excavated zanja for all those in attendance to see.

Dr. Stephen J. Bouscaren is an Anthropology Professor at San Diego City College, Chair of the Department of Behavioral Sciences, and a member of the Steering Committee of the Institute for Human Development.

August 23 (Saturday Evening Lecture*), 8:00 p.m.
Los Peñasquitos

Presenters: Steve Freers
Topic: Rock Art Photography and Analysis

Digital photography of pictographs and subsequent postprocessing techniques have tremendously enhanced the information yield for regional rock art analysis and appreciation. Pictograph images heretofore unrecognized by conventional photography, field survey and recording techniques will be presented and placed within stylistic context. New cultural site relationships have been developed as a result of emerging digital enhancement technologies. The anthropometric study of pictograph hand prints will be presented as a specific example of the analytical possibilities of this new data set. Regional and site specific trends of hand print size and inferred participant stature will be examined against known ethnography regarding pictograph creation.

As a postscript to the presentation, the audience will be visually reminded why rock art is such a particularly sensitive component in the incremental compromise of cultural heritage sites in southern California.

This is a richly visual and informative multimedia presentation, containing imagery from the regional rock art milieu not previously published nor viewed by the general public.

Steve Freers is a researcher and advocate for the preservation and recordation of Native American rock art sites. In 1994, he co-authored Fading Images, a book on the pictographs of Western Riverside County in southern California. He has served as the Publication Chairperson for the American Rock Art Research Association (ARARA) and editor-in-chief of American Indian Rock Art (AIRA). Over the past 18 years, he has given numerous and visually rich presentations on rock art to professional, archaeological, scientific, technical, museum, governmental institution and avocational interest groups. His research focus has been the application of the scientific method to rock art within the coastal-inland regions of southern California. His published research includes development of a unique anthropometric method for gaining information from pictograph impression hand prints and a comprehensive statistical analysis of the San Luis Rey Style. Mr. Freers currently teaches high school Honors and General Chemistry in Lake Elsinore, California.

*The Saturday Evening Lectures will replace the usual 4th Tuesday General Meetings during the summer months only (There will be no 4th Tuesday meetings in July, or August). The public is invited to arrive at Los Peñasquitos Ranch House around 7:00 p.m. and bring a picnic dinner, chairs, and drinks. It can get cool so long-sleeves and/or blankets are recommended. Bug repellent is also recommended. SDCAS will provide desert. The meeting begins at 8:00 p.m. with the lecture following some short announcements.

Membership News
By Carol Serr, Membership Chair

Welcome new members: George & Victoria Kline, Liz Herlihy, Adriana Valdez, Kenneth Shamblin, Lore J. Silva, and Carlette Anderson! Please make sure to introduce yourselves to others when you attend our meetings, so we can get to know our newest members.

We currently have 139 memberships, including 40 Life members. Our annual memberships dropped by 25 since last year because those people didn’t renew. Always check your last newsletter mailing label to see if your dues are current or Expired. Thanks.

Don’t forget to send me your e-mail address (e-dress) if you haven’t been getting notices via e-mail - or if you recently changed it (some have bounced back undeliverable). Sometimes this is the only way we can notify members of last minute changes, trips, etc. Your e-dress is not shared with the membership or other groups. If you included your e-mail on your application, but are not getting notices - that means the e-dress does not work (or was illegible on the application). Also, remember to let us know you new address when you move, so we can avoid the exorbitant forwarding fee the post office charges us.

To contact Carol please e-mail: sdcas@email.com (please use “SDCAS” in the subject line)

The End of the Archaeological Survey Association
By Anne Q. Stoll, President and Executive Director

“The next generation” – a quick look through a recent SCA newsletter suggests this is a hot topic for many of us. The future was certainly on our minds when we board members voted this past April to disband the Archaeological Survey Association of Southern California, Inc. or ASA, as it was fondly known, after 61 years of operation.

Many of you may remember the ASA – some of you are former members. This organization, recognized as the oldest avocational archaeological society in California, covered a lot of ground in the early days. The name often shows up in old reports.

The Archaeological Survey Association was started in January 1947 at a meeting in the Southwest Museum in Highland Park, near Los Angeles. Mark R. Harrington, Edwin F. Walker, Frederick W. Hodge, and Howard A. Edwards, were worried about the rate at which archaeological sites were being destroyed by Southern California’s post-war development boom. If that first
The End of the Archaeological Survey Association

(Continued from page 4)

meeting was anything like the one I was at many years later that started the Coachella Valley Archaeological Society, these guys were sitting around talking, eating pizza and drinking beer after spending the day in the field.

At that meeting in 1947 it was resolved to create the ASA to conduct a complete archaeological reconnaissance of California. The vision – and the naiveté – of such a goal are hard to grasp today, but such was the bravado of the times. These men proposed to form a team of professionals from local universities and museums who would use crews of volunteer amateurs to do the work. They drafted a very persuasive letter which they sent out to everyone they knew (and M. R. Harrington knew everybody). The Southwest Museum became the first sponsor but USC, UCLA and the LA County Museum of Natural History participated too. George Brainerd at UCLA served as the first president, followed by Robert Ariss of LACMNH, and then Gordon Hewes at UC Berkeley. Early field leaders included Stuart Peck, Freddie Curtis, Charles Rozaire, Edwin Walker, William Wallace, Ruth DeEtte Simpson (known as “Dee”), and Ben E. McCown.

As we all know, it’s not hard to recruit volunteers to help dig. ASA was soon a big success with well over 200 enthusiastic members. Between 1947 and 1963, ASA volunteers were at work in the field somewhere between Bakersfield and San Diego nearly every weekend: surveying, scouting, photographing, or digging. Some of the larger excavations were at Malaga Cove, Arroyo Secuit, Temeku, Phillips Ranch, and Burro Flats. The tough part was getting site maps made, artifacts catalogued and analyzed, and reports written; but in the beginning ASA’s publication record was pretty good, especially during the 16 Southwest Museum years.

In 1963, the ASA moved to the San Bernardino County Museum in Bloomington and the organization changed. The group is focused on coastal sites to the Mojave Desert, and several more big projects were undertaken in Kern, Inyo, and San Bernardino counties. Then followed a few more moves and many changes but somehow, through the efforts of many devoted volunteers, the ASA hung on. Through the 1970s, ASA worked in Black Canyon, near Barstow, surveying and excavating. Much of this project was recorded by ASA photographer Charley Howe, who published the summary report in 1980. Through the end of the 1980s, there were more weekend surveys in the East Mojave. The Mud Springs Lab nights in LaVerne continued through the 1990s, but the group was clearly losing steam. There were just enough members left in 1997 to make the 50th anniversary party worth having. The invitations and catering almost broke the bank, however. When we decided to throw in the towel at our final meeting on October 26, 2002, a grand total of 19 people attended.

The vote to disband the ASA was unanimous.

And then – surprise! The ASA hit the lottery. Seriously. Who knew Dee Simpson was worth that much money!? She lived alone in a funky trailer with a half dozen cats in Calistoga. With her money, we bought stock certificates and account books in her kitchen drawers were real? Dee Simpson passed away on January 19, 2000 and when the dust settled three years later, the ASA found she had bequeathed us one-eighth of her considerable estate.

What to do? There was no shortage of ideas. At last, this was ASA’s big chance to track down our scattered collections, find the old field notes, and write up the old reports. We would give grants and scholarships, we would clean up all the old messes and deal with the skeletons in the closet. The new streamlined five-member board voted to stash the time-consuming and expensive ASA account and look for good professional advice. Investment managers, lawyers, accountants, appraisers, web-designers – we hired them all.

We floundered at first. We paid good money for bad legal advice, and spent the better part of the next two years working with another lawyer to unravel the mess with the State and the IRS. Because we no longer had dues-paying members or took public funds, we became by default a private charitable foundation. In 2004 we turned the corner. We officially renamed ourselves the Archaeological Survey Foundation (ASF) and began to enjoy some success. We supported the publication of several long-overdue reports and gave out a number of research grants. Ben McCown’s report of years of survey work at Lake LeConte was finally published. Russ Kaldenberg’s Ayers Rock report went to the printer. Thanks to SRI’s support we consolidated our collections in Redlands. We subsidized CSUSB students attending archaeology field school in the San Bernardino Mtns. We moved slowly but we were doing good things.

Then the accountants delivered some bad news (non-profits beware!). There are new definitions of what is a “taxable expenditure” for a private charitable foundation. Thanks to the lawbreakers who scammed the IRS by setting up bogus foundations and giving themselves grants, the government changed the rules. No more simple cash grants to private individuals or deserving students. Unless you give to a non-profit, you have to ask the IRS permission before you give away the money, the recipient needs to prove their qualifications, you have to follow up on how the grant is spent and if misspent, you must try to retrieve the money, you must submit reports to the IRS in a timely fashion for each grant, etc. See Internal Revenue Code 4945 for the rest of it.

The paperwork seemed onerous and was the last thing the ASF needed. We were already starting to bog down with competing demands for our time and too many boxes of orphaned artifacts. It was time to molt and move on.

In the end, the decision was surprisingly easy to make. We voted unanimously to give our entire 119-piece LaMonk art collection and almost all our money -- $340,000 -- to the Foundation for CSUSB to benefit their tradition underrepresented student population here in the Inland Empire. With the wave of the pen, we created the ASA – Southern California Archaeology Endowment to ensure that the funds will be used exclusively for the benefit of the Cal State San Bernardino Anthropology Department in support of their undergraduate program in archaeology and cultural resource management. It’s the largest cash gift the CSUSB College of Social and Behavioral Sciences has ever received. Everyone is happy -- our legacy will serve the future.

In shutting down the organization, we’ve had the fun of giving two $10,000 distributions to worthy local non-profits, the first to the San Bernardino County Museum Association for the renovation of the AIC curation facility. The SBCM has graciously given a home to our archives, business papers and artifacts. The second gift went with the Charley Howe photos to the CSUSB Library, Special Collections, to properly curate the collection and get it online.

So we close the book on the ASA/ASF with a smile. Sixty-one years is a long run for any volunteer group. We hope other avocational societies who are struggling with shrinking membership rolls will consider following our lead and will plan for the needs of the next generation of California archaeologists.
Members’ News Corner
(Continued from page 3)

Children of Many Colors Powwow

July 18 - 20, 2008. Redbird’s 2008 Children of Many Colors Intertribal Powwow Moorpark College Athletic Field, 7075 Campus Road, Moorpark, CA 93021. Friday, July 18 - Open Circle Dance, 6 p.m. - 10 p.m. Saturday, July 19 Gourd and Intertribal Dancing, Exhibition Dances, Native American arts, crafts and food vendors. Sunday, July 20 11 a.m. - 6 p.m. Gourd and Intertribal Dancing, Exhibition Dances, Native American arts, crafts and food vendors.

Redbird is a federally recognized non profit association based in Ventura County, California. Our mission is promoting the awareness and celebration of indigenous cultures and people and creating a sustainable future.

Our specific goals include cultural awareness education, relief efforts to families in need through our annual blanket, toy and school supplies drive, and the creation of Redbird Ranch, a Native American elder housing project focusing on urban American Indian elders and their caregiving families.

There is a suggested donation of $2.00 per vehicle for the powwow - this is voluntary, in the true meaning of donation. The name Children of Many Colors came from the words of Onondaga leader, Oconaluse: “Every Woman is a Mother, and Every Man an Uncle, to Every Child, No Matter What Color They Are”

Download a free coloring book, powwow flier, and vendor application online at www.RedbirdsVision.org

Museum of Man Portico Premier: The Debut Party

August 16, 2008, 5:30 p.m. The Museum of Man is delighted to be unveiling the beautifully restored Museum façade and California Tower. The restoration project was the first step in a $3.9 million project supported by city and state funds. We are all thrilled to see the Museum in its full glory again, without the presence of scaffolding.

We urge you to visit the Museum and view the carefully restored California Building and Tower soon! In celebration of the completed work on the front of the building, the Committee of Women for the San Diego Museum of Man will debut Portico Premier on August 16, 2008. The evening will feature global cuisine, eclectic music, and a treasure hunt. The event will benefit the Museum’s education programs. Honorary Chairs: Dr. and Mrs. Andrew Viterbi. Event Chairs: Reena Horowitz, Susan Heller, Reimette Levine, and Patti Cooprider.

Tickets are $150 per person, $175 after July 1, 2008. For more information, please call (619) 239-2001 ext. 16.

SOHO’S Third Thursday Lecture Series

Lectures are from 6-7:30pm at the SOHO-operated city museum, the Adobe Chapel, located at 3950 Conde Street in historic Old Town San Diego. The one-hour lectures include a 15-minute question and answer period followed by a book signing session and light refreshments. Ticket Prices: $25 includes Lecture & Book, $35 at the door includes Lecture & Book; or $15 Lecture only at the door or in advance. For tickets call (619) 297-9327.

The Third Thursday lectures will be the first in a series of interesting and informative SOHO programs geared towards educating and engaging San Diegans about their own community. We invite the public to come out and enjoy themselves with an evening in San Diego’s oldest neighborhood, historic Old Town.

August 21: Lighthouses of San Diego. Join coauthors Kim Fahlen and Karen Scanlon as they present new glimpses of the lesser-known lighthouses of San Diego thanks to the memories and photographs belonging to families of the men who kept the lights burning.

“As we made the high point off San Diego, Point Loma, we were greeted by the cheering presence of a lighthouse,” so wrote Richard Henry Dana, Jr. in 1859. In reality, beams from San Diego’s first lighthouse were repeatedly lost in cloud and fog, and all too soon came agitation for a more effective light at a lower elevation. By 1891 two new lighthouses, a harbor light at Ballast Point and another at the tip of Point Loma, were constructed to achieve what one could not. Although abandonment of the first lighthouse structure was catastrophic, it still survives today to charm millions of visitors.

Kim Fahlen and Karen Scanlon are identical twin sisters who work together on lighthouse-related projects and volunteer at Cabrillo National Monument tending its lighthouse’s lenses. Karen is an early-childhood educator and writer, and a fascinating force in the preservation and study of maritime history. Kim travels the U.S. and Europe photographing and studying lighthouses, with particular interest in their optics.

Bowers Museum Distinguished Lecture Series: Zahi Hawass on Pharaoh Hatshepsut

Sunday, August 24, 7:00 PM, Norma Kershaw Auditorium. In his only Southern Californian appearance this fall, Dr. Zahi Hawass presents a lecture on Lady Pharaoh Hatshepsut and the results of recent DNA testing and new archaeological discoveries in her re-excavated tomb. Reception and Lecture: $50; Lecture only $30. Reservations and pre-payment required. Send checks, payable to Bowers Museum, to: Education, Bowers Museum, 2002 North Main Street, Santa Ana, CA 92706

Bringing the Circle Together: A Native American Film Series

Thursday, August 14, 2008, 7pm: In Whose Honor? Filmmaker Jay Rosenstein focuses on the story of Charlene Teters (Spokane) whose campaign against Chief Illiniwek, mascot of University of Illinois, forced many to rethink the larger issue of culture and identity and their representation in the media, and effects on both Native Americans and non-Natives. Scheduled discussion to follow screening.

Bringing the Circle Together: A Native American Film Series is a FREE monthly film series located in downtown Los Angeles at the National Center for Preservation of Democracy (at Downstairs Central Avenue, between 1st Street and Central Avenue, in downtown Los Angeles, access via train, bus, or parking in the area). No reservations are needed and all screenings are open to the public. www.myspace.com/nafilmsseries

1st Annual Pala Pow-wow Pala Indian Reservation California

Mystery of the San Dieguito Crescentics; Magic Amulets, or S.A.E. 10,000 BP Tool?

By Warren Patch

Were not the early San Diegan’s just as clever and resourceful as we are now—if not more so? The theme of this essay is that useful technology is repeated and standardized.

Archaeologists proffer different theories for the curious Paleolithic crescentsics. Some suggest they may be mobile hunter’s pocket tool, some refer to it specifically as a spoke shave, and some suggest they are amulets, a metaphysical totem to empower the hunter. After a recent trip to the San Diego Museum of Man, I shall cast my vote for the former—the multipurpose travel tool.

I love tools. When I was a boy my dad gave me a neat little box-end wrench. It had a strange powder-gray patina and was stamped, “WAR FINISH.” That dated it to World War II. The War Finish substituted Cadmium for chrome, which was reserved for manufacturing millions of tanks, boats, airplanes, weapons and ammunition. The other side was stamped, “S.A.E. 5/16” / 3/8.” S.A.E.—Society of Automotive Engineering. With my little wrench, I could tighten or loosen any standard five-sixteenths or three-eighths inch nut or bolt.

S.A.E. guidelines helped win the war. They speed assembly and insure reliability. S.A.E. nuts and bolts are reliably uniform, the threads match, and mated parts have holes that align exactly, so they always fit first time, without modification. The Yanks could build war boats and planes faster than the Germans could sink them or shoot them down. Damaged equipment could be repaired quickly, because the American parts and the American tools were all standardized. It goes beyond cars, so I like to refer to S.A.E. as “Standard American Engineering.”

How far back in time do you suppose standardized engineering goes? Very far. I saw Homo erectus hand axes at the Museum that were made in a standard size for, oh, about a million years. Guess what they fit? The human hand, of course. That was the standard.

In China, in the Lesser Three Gorges of the Yangtze River I saw neatly spaced, square holes in the sheer vertical rock walls. The tour guide said pre-Bronze Age people made them for suspended sidewalks. The holes accepted horizontal beams that supported wooden walkways. Erected during times of flood, or in areas lacking dry ground, they could be “rolled-up,” during times of war so that adversaries could not invade. I noted that the holes were all the same size and shape, so that any beam would fit any hole. “Hey! You’re right,” said the guide, “I never noticed that before.” Standardization of repeated movement is a human trait.

Recently, I visited the San Diego Museum of Man collections basement. Curator Garret Knudsen took me to see Malcolm Rogers’ lithic artifact collection from what he named the “San Dieguito” era. Archaeology publications agree that these Paleo nomadic hunters manufactured and employed the atlatl to throw fletched darts with dart points attached to removable foreshafts. They traveled long distances and frequented favorite campsites over millennia. The Harris site is one of many throughout the region. Heavy tools were left at the camps; a light travel tool kit was carried with them when they were on the hunt or on the move—just as we do today.

A drawer of crescentsics had been pulled by the curator and laid out for my observance. (Wow!) The curious crescentic is one of the touchstones archaeologists use to define the San Dieguito assemblage. I was especially impressed that they had been collected over a wide range from San Nicolas Island, through San Diego into Baja California.

I took photographs of the crescentsics, noted the consistencies of their form, and appreciated the individual nuances. (See photos.) Most of them are less than two inches long. They fit between the thumb and forefinger in a pincher grip. They are sharp all the way around the edges. The majority have two radii; a large one, and two or more small ones. Some of the atypical ones reminded me of wrenches. We moved on to see more of the collection.

After rummaging through several heavy drawers of the Rogers collection, observing cigar boxes full of small stuff (they must have smoked a lot of cigars,) like debitage flakes and dart points, along with larger, heavy pieces such as domed scrapers, and spoke shaves, Knudsen pried me away to look at other collections where organic materials have survived from less ancient times. For this strict discussion on crescentics I shall only note:

1) A bundle of arrows with foreshafts that were uniform in length and diameter
2) Eskimo harpoon foreshafts made of bone, ivory, or hardwood
3) An Alaskan spear throwing board

The arrows with ¼” diameter foreshafts were made of reeds that had hollow sections divided by knots, like bamboo. Fascinated by the arrow foreshafts, I asked Mr. Knudsen:

“What do you suppose the chances are that I could take out any one of these foreshafts and put it into one of the other arrows and it would fit?”

“Oh, about a hundred percent, I suppose.”

“That makes sense. Isn’t this the way the Paleo hunters designed their throwing spears, with dart point foreshafts?”

“Yes,” he said, “Come over here and I’ll show you some examples of dart point foreshafts from the North Pacific region that I have studied.”

(Continued on page 8)
San Dieguito Crescentics…
(Continued from page 7)
We climbed a ladder to the Eskimo/Alaskan artifacts. The smooth, polished foreshafts were about \(\frac{1}{2}\)" in the center and tapered down to where they inserted into the spear or dart.

“And these would fit into a spear [to be] thrown?”
“Yes. Here are some throwing boards:”

When he handed me the throwing board I realized that it was a variation of the ancient atlatl. There was a separate carved hole for each finger and the thumb and, although the maker had smaller hands than mine, the grip was totally secure. I climbed down the ladder, took a stance and tested the throwing motion. I looked down the groove that cradled the throwing spear, noted the radius, and visualized how big the shaft might have been.

That’s when it struck me that the suggested diameter of the throwing spear roughly matched the larger radius of the crescentics. And the smaller radii of the crescentics matched the diameter of the dart point foreshafts where they inserted. So, it is logical that the crescentic tool is a spoke shave designed to manufacture darts and dart points. But, this begs an interesting question; If the darts and dart points were standardized to be interchangeable, then the hole in the end of the dart shaft would be uniform too. There must be standardized drills to make the holes. Where are the drills? I must go back to those collections and have another look…

PS: Oh yeah, I forgot to mention—that tool at the top of the article? It’s from my old beach cruiser. You could adjust anything on the bike with that one pocket-sized wrench.

Recent Archaeological Investigations at the Stonewall Mine Site, Cuyamaca Rancho State Park
By Michael Sampson, Associate State Archaeologist, with contributions by Rachel Ruston and Don C. Perez, Archaeological Specialists, California State Parks, Southern Service Center, San Diego

Introduction
The Stonewall Mine Site is located at the northern end of Cuyamaca Rancho State Park (SP), San Diego County, next to Cuyamaca Lake. The historically significant Stonewall Mine and the site of Cuyamaca City, the employees’ residential area, are together designated archaeological site CA-SDL-18502. The site is open to the public daily and has a parking lot, restroom, and picnic tables. The locations for the 2006 and 2007 Southern Service Center (SSC) archaeological investigations at Stonewall Mine tested portions of several historic features associated both with the Waterman era mining (1865-1892) and the subsequent cyanide reprocessing operation (1898-1901). [Note: the term “feature” used here refers to physical evidence of historic-period buildings, structures, trails, artifact concentrations, and similar cultural remains.]

The geomorphic province in which Cuyamaca Rancho SP lies is composed primarily of granitic rock of the Southern California Batholith. The batholith has been dated as Late Cretaceous in age. The Stonewall Mine itself consists of a body of gold-bearing quartz surrounded by quartz diorite and schist.

Previous Archaeological Fieldwork
State Parks staff, directed by the late State Historian John McAleer, conducted a detailed archaeological and historical study of Stonewall Mine and the associated townsite of Cuyamaca in 1982. This work was reported in a thoroughly researched 1986 report. A total of 221 separate cultural features, divided into ten principal categories, were recorded and measured during the 1982 fieldwork. The categories consisted of flats (probable building remains), coyote holes or mining depressions, trench, privy pits, mounds or mine tailings, roads, trails, artifacts, trash deposits, and “large areas” (features of expansive area extent). An additional 18 historic features have been identified on-site by SSC Archaeologists since 1982. No significant prehistoric cultural remains have been documented within the 2006 and 2007 Stonewall Mine project area.

History (Based primarily on research by H. John McAleer and Alex Luberski-Clausen)
The discovery of the gold ore deposits of the Stonewall Mine is a matter of some debate. There is agreement that the gold discovery occurred in March 1870 and mining within the present-day park began soon thereafter. Ownership of the Stonewall Claim became the subject of litigation, though, by early 1871, A. P. Frary and J. M. Farley had purchased all claims to the Stonewall Mine and had a full mining operation in place (Features 98, 121-126, and possibly others); Feature 123 is the remains of the 1870s mine shaft. Frary and Farley sold their mine holdings in January 1876 to settle financial difficulties.

The Stonewall mine reopened in early 1885, but, by September 1886 the mine was sold again to Robert W. Waterman. Subsequently, Waterman purchased lands of the Rancho Cuyamaca Grant. Waterman was elected Lieutenant Governor of California in 1886 which led him to turn over supervision of the mine to his son, Waldo. In 1887, Waterman became Governor when the incumbent governor died. Stonewall Mine had many successful years under Waterman’s ownership; Waldo Waterman, Robert’s son, served as Mine Superintendent during these good years. Waldo, with a degree in mining engineering from UC Berkeley, directed the day-to-day operations of the mine and served as overseer of the Rancho Cuyamaca Grant lands.

Stonewall Mine (Figure 1) was well publicized as a highly successful mining operation by 1886. Gold production at the mine continued to be strong throughout 1886, 1887 and 1888 under Waldo’s direction. For example, 5,182 tons of gold ore was mined and processed in 1888 with a total value of $198,666. In 1889, Waldo directed the construction of a new 20-stamp mill that was added to the existing 10-stamp mill. Reportedly, a total of 300,000 bricks were made on-site for use in the new stamp mill. In this same year, the work force reached 200 men and the mine had sunk to a depth of 400 feet. The mine shaft,

(Continued on page 9)
Stonewall Mine…

(Continued from page 8)

identified as Feature 81, reached a depth of 600 feet in 1892. Stonewall Mine under Waterman’s ownership ended production by mid-1892. Total gold ore production from 1888 to 1892 (first three months) was 37,754 tons with a dollar value of $906,063. According to a 1963 Mines & Geology report, Stonewall Mine was the most productive gold mine in current San Diego County with a total yield of approximately two million dollars over its entire span of operation.

During the operation of Stonewall Mine, a lively community for the mine workers and families was located nearby in the present-day State Park. The community of Cuyamaca consisted of two bunkhouses for single miners, cabins for married workers, a boarding house (that sometime in 1891 became a hotel), a Superintendent’s house, a school, a library, a general store, a cemetery, and support structures.

Robert Waterman had passed away in 1891, a year after leaving the Governor’s office. Sather Banking Company became owner of Stonewall Mine and holdings of adjacent lands by the latter part of 1892 to satisfy financial claims against the Waterman Estate. The workers’ community became a resort for several years after the mining operation ended, until the early 1900s.

An option to reprocess the tailings of Stonewall Mine stamp mill were apparently purchased in 1898 by a company called Strauss and Shin from Sather Banking Company, the land owners. The Strauss and Shin operation sought to extract gold from the tailings left from the Stonewall Mine operation that ended in 1892 using a relatively new cyanide process. According to a San Diego Union newspaper article dated March 14, 1899, the Strauss and Shin operation included the construction of “several large buildings,” with “one containing the tanks being 200 feet long and 60 feet wide, and another containing the cyanide plant being 40 by 60 feet.” The March 14, 1899 article reported that the buildings had been completed the previous week, and “about twenty men” had begun working on the tailings that week. Another San Diego Union article dated May 8, 1899 reports that the new cyanide operation at Stonewall Mine had “about twenty men” employed there, and consisted of “several large buildings.” A photograph of the operation from the San Diego Historical Society collections (Figure 2) clearly shows a large-sized building (Feature 177), used in the cyanide processing, and a tramway leading up to it from next to the abandoned hoist building.

According to a 1963 Mines & Geology report, the Stonewall Mine cyanide reduction plant operating from 1898-1901 processed a total of 35,000 tons of tailings and they reportedly yielded an average of $4 to $6 of gold per ton. Another source indicates that the cyanide operation at Stonewall Mine yielded a total of $50,000, a figure not consistent with the average yield identified by Weber.

The land of Rancho Cuyamaca Grant stayed in the ownership of the bank until 1917 when Capitalist Colonel A. G. Gassen bought the mine and Grant lands. Businessman Ralph Dyar acquired the land of the present-day state Park, including Stonewall Mine, in 1923. Dyar sold off the buildings and filled-in the main Stonewall Mine shaft soon after purchasing the land. California State Parks purchased Rancho Cuyamaca in 1933 and it became known as Cuyamaca Rancho State Park. The Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC), who constructed many facilities within the new park in the 1930s, developed a Girl Scout Camp within the townsite of Cuyamaca. The camp included a lodge, restrooms, a swimming pool, storage, and camping tents for the scouts. The reservoir (Feature 180), originally built to supply water for Stonewall Mine and miners community, was renovated by the CCC for use by the scouts. The Girl Scouts stopped using the camp in 1975, and then the camp buildings were removed. The 2003 Cedar Fire destroyed all wood members of the historic reservoir, the only remaining standing historic structure from Stonewall Mine.

Fieldwork Methods and Results

The excavation units in 2006 and 2007 were dug in stratigraphic levels, that is, by following natural and culturally-deposited layers of soils and sediments. All excavated materials were dry-screened through eighth-inch and quarter-inch hardware cloth to ensure recovery of artifacts and subsistence remains. Standard professional archaeological fieldwork techniques and tools were employed during the above-cited test excavations at Stonewall Mine. The testing in 2006 and 2007 employed excavation units of varying sizes, one-foot square shovel test pits, five-foot square surface scrapes [the dense vegetative cover is scraped clear to expose the underlying sediments], and surface collections at specific locations. The artifact collection will be stored at the Begole Archaeological Research Center in Borrego Springs, a facility operated by California State Parks staff.

(Continued on page 10)
Stonewall Mine…
(Continued from page 9)

A ground-penetrating radar (GPR) survey was conducted by staff from ASM Affiliates of Carlsbad at the beginning of the 2007 archaeological test excavations. The GPR will reveal buried items, including, potentially significant cultural features, that are otherwise not visible on the surface. This instrument cannot interpret those subsurface findings, but, it can help focus excavations to particular locations. The GPR transects and grids were clearly marked on-site making it easy for the Service Center crew to place excavation units within the surveyed areas. The GPR report is on file at the Southern Service Center.

Other investigations were accomplished at the Stonewall Mine project site by the SSC archaeologists in addition to the test excavations. All historic mining features found within the project area were examined, photographed, and mapped by GPS. SSC archaeologists conducted an examination of the Girl Scout Camp swimming pool site, where the existing restroom and access path are located, to better differentiate the Civilian Conservation Corps landscape features from more modern State Parks landscape features.

Selected portions of structural remains that date to the 1898-1901 cyanide reprocessing operation were defined and analyzed during the 2006 study. Feature 84, the Blacksmith Shop site, and Feature 86, a flat, date to the operation of the second Stonewall Mine owned by Governor Robert W. Waterman (1886-1892) were also tested in 2006. During the 2007 fieldwork, additional testing occurred within the Blacksmith Shop site, as well as, work at two structural flats (F. 85 and F. 86) and an area of tailings dating to the 1886-1892 Waterman era mine (Figure 3).

The spring 2006 archaeological fieldwork at the Stonewall Mine site provided strong evidence for preserved significant structural remains related to the 1898-1901 cyanide reprocessing operation. A series of shallow rectangular depressions with intervening earthen mounds, for example, are consistent with descriptions of percolation vats provided in an 1894 California State Mining Bureau publication. A concentration of historic artifacts, in particular, consumer goods, kitchen items, clothes parts, a stove part, other domestic debris, bricks, and cuts into the slope at the west end of one feature provide good evidence of the previously undocumented historic use of this spot as a modest-sized residence for the cyanide operation worker. Other flats, cut into the slope here, are identified as additional structures associated with the cyanide operation. One large-sized cultural feature consisted of reprocessed mine tailings (gold ore crushed to a fine powder consistency in a stamp mill), a holding pond, channel, and earthen berm or dam. This feature was both part of the mechanism by which the used cyanide solution was recaptured for reuse and the final resting place of the spent, reprocessed tailings.

The nail assemblage was a particularly noteworthy finding from the investigations at Stonewall Mine. The abundance of nails, nail fragments, the presence of nail plate fragments, and the high variability in nail style and size from Feature 84 in 2006 and 2007 test excavations lead to the conclusion that nails were made at the Blacksmith Shop for the specific needs at Stonewall Mine. The remote location of Stonewall Mine suggested that the most efficient means to get nails suitable to the needs at the mine would be to make them on-site. There is not an abundance of large nails or spikes in our collection. Few large nails were recovered (3 square spikes and 15 round). This may be due to the fact that all of the structures formerly present at the site had been removed in the 1920s, and much of the building materials and hardware were probably salvaged for other projects. Mining tools and machine parts would also have been removed on-site, as evidenced in our fieldwork results. For example, we found drill parts, miscellaneous fragmentary tool parts, construction fasteners, tool making by-products, and other objects of metal.

Historical documents, in particular, the Waterman Letters, indicated thousands and thousands of bricks had been manufactured at the Stonewall Mine site for use in building construction. One of our 2007 excavation units yielded a sizable component of broken bricks, which prompted us to attempt a study of them. Our analysis, conducted by SSC Archaeologist Don C. Perez, showed that a majority of the analyzed bricks were hand-made using a soft-mud technique by non-professional brick makers with limited access to high-quality materials. Such an outcome would be expected where bricks were opportunistically manufactured from raw materials readily available near the mine, and not obtained from a brick manufacturer.

A significant number of the units and shovel test pits excavated in 2007 yielded abundant Julian schist waste rock. Apparently, a traditional practice among mines in the western United States included placing waste rock immediately outside the mine opening and then these piles were graded flat. The graded waste rock deposits could be utilized in the continuing operation of the mine. At Stonewall Mine, the flattened waste rock deposits became areas to store equipment and places to construct new mine buildings as production expanded.

Stonewall Mine is a highly significant cultural property that has much to inform us about historical issues such as, mining in our local mountains, the everyday work and life of a miner, the effects of gold mining on local settlement, mining technology in the late 19th century, archaeological signatures of cyanide reprocessing, fuel use at mining operations and its effects upon local forest lands, and other issues. The site is today preserved for posterity, accessible to the park visitor, and protected by State Parks Ranger and Maintenance staff.
Finding the Art in Archaeology

[Archaeologically-inspired art including poetry, pictures, drawings, short stories, etc.]

“WHY”

As I slip into stuporous, slumberous retreat
I calculate today’s triumphs and lusty defeats
Reconciling what worked and what sadly did not
Asking myself what urges me Across the Universe
What hopes do I dream and what motivates me on?
What do I do, what are my reasons for being?
For blasphemous money or for inglorious passion?
For the money doesn’t begin to define my experience
Passion, ethical, moral, for all generations urges me on
Why do I care, 2nd generation American Russian Jew?
No connection should I have for anything anywhere
Yet I cannot deny my lusty emotions for the past
Be it Native American, Spanish, Mexican, American
Be it Roman, Arcadian, Mesopotamian, Egyptian
Be it anywhere on this planet it does not matter at all
Passion behooves passion and endlessly on it goes
I cannot define why I care other than to say I simply do...

-Martin Rosen
San Diego County Archaeological Society Membership Application

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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.

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