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Pastron, Walsh, and Clewlow: *Archaeological and Ethnohistoric Investigations at CA-NEV-194, Near Rough and Ready, Nevada County, California*

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attainment of wisdom. Joseph Giovannetti writes convincingly about the transcendental message found in a Tolowa myth. He points out that the events portrayed cannot be understood properly without an awareness that they represent the protagonist's journey to self-knowledge. Breck Parkman's short piece, "A Stone for Yontocket," is a personal account of a visit to a site where a terrible massacre of Tolowa Indians occurred in 1853. He emphasizes the need for maintaining spiritual balance in the world, which he describes as a cornerstone of religious beliefs in hunter-gatherer societies throughout the world. While one may question this generalization, it is difficult to fault Parkman's conclusion. He calls for an ethic of understanding the interconnectedness of life and preserving the balance of nature.

The final essay by Peter Nabakov is a well-written review of Chumash studies. He primarily surveys works based on the exhaustive ethnographic work of John P. Harrington. Nabakov covers only the major books that have appeared on the Chumash and has not looked much beyond the field of ethnography. He seems to have missed most recent articles, even those based on Harrington's work, and omits a number of Ph.D. dissertations in linguistics, archaeology, and ethnohistory that pertain to his subject. A few minor pratfalls are also evident, including a perpetuation of the error that Harrington's consultant, Fernando Librado, was more than 100 years old and a mistaken belief that publication dates were out of sequence for volumes in the *Material Culture of the Chumash Interaction Sphere*. Nabakov calls for a new synthesis to be written that will incorporate the rich material found in Harrington's papers. Although published in part in numerous books and articles, the Chumash ethnographic information collected by Harrington has yet to be woven into an integrated whole. The

late Travis Hudson had begun to work on such a project before his untimely death in 1986.

I found something of value in all submissions to this special issue of the *American Indian Quarterly*, and so my critical comments have been few. Occasionally polemics detracted from valid points being made, and a few articles had more to do with personal odysseys of self-discovery than they did of California Indian issues *per se*. In spite of these shortcomings, this volume conveys a sense of vitality and a new appreciation for the perspective of California Indians. In this regard, it is especially noteworthy that the guest editor and a fair number of the contributors are themselves of California Indian ancestry.



Archaeological and Ethnohistoric Investigations at CA-NEV-194, Near Rough and Ready, Nevada County, California. A. G. Pastron, M. R. Walsh, and C. W. Clewlow, Jr. Coyote Press *Archives of California Prehistory* No. 31, 1990, vi + 104 pp., 15 figs., 1 map, \$7.40 (paper).

Reviewed by:

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This volume reprints the results of a testing program conducted at CA-NEV-194 in 1982 for the California Department of Transportation. The original report was completed in 1984 in connection with plans to realign State Highway 20 between Grass Valley and Penn Valley in Nevada County, California. Based on the information presented in the original report, CA-NEV-194 was determined eligible for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places and the highway

project was redesigned to avoid the site.

The report is generally well-written and provides thoughtful interpretations of the limited quantity of cultural items ($n = 818$) recovered from 13 excavation units. Although the authors devote little attention to defining the research context and objectives of their study, these shortcomings are offset by careful analysis of recovered data. The report is organized into sections on project scope, setting, ethnography, study methods, data presentation, ethnohistoric associations, conclusions, and several appendices containing the reports of specialists and various usefully tabulated data.

The CA-NEV-194 site consists of two loci separated by a small seasonal drainage and encompassing some 8,000 m.² of cultural deposits. It is somewhat baffling how these limits were defined, however, since units outside the mapped site boundaries contained cultural materials in comparable quantities and depths to many of the units within the two loci. Apparently, nothing was done to help clarify this issue.

A single bedrock milling station is present at each site locus, with a total of 11 mortars noted. Cultural materials were recovered from deposits ranging between 30 and 80 cm. in depth. Time-sensitive artifacts, including Desert Side-notched ($n = 2$), Cottonwood Triangular ($n = 3$), and Gunther ($n = 2$) projectile points and historical materials (glass beads, a Jew's harp, buttons, a key, and various glass, metal, and ceramic fragments) indicate the site was occupied most intensively from the late prehistoric period into the late nineteenth century. However, chronometric data consisting of two radiocarbon assays and 19 obsidian hydration readings from chemically-sourced specimens (the entire obsidian sample recovered from the site) also suggest use of the site at a considerably earlier date. Two radiocarbon samples from Feature 5, a

concentration of rock between 10 and 40 cm. below the surface, provided surprisingly early assays of $3,230 \pm 220$ and $3,775 \pm 230$ radiocarbon years B.P. Obsidian hydration rind readings range from NHV (no hydration visible) to 4.3 microns on Napa Glass Mountain specimens ($n = 10$), 2.7 to 3.5 microns on Vya obsidian ($n = 4$), 1.3 to 2.6 microns on Bodie Hills specimens ($n = 3$), and NHV to 4.3 microns on Borax Lake specimens ($n = 2$). While the formulas the authors use to convert these readings to calendar dates should be viewed with caution, it is clear that the hydration data offer some support for occupation of the site prior to A.D. 1300.

In addition to the artifacts already mentioned, the assemblage from the site also included flaked stone drills, bifaces, utilized flakes, cores, debitage, hammerstones, manos and metates, a quartz crystal, one human tooth, and faunal and floral specimens. The faunal remains included elements from cow, dog, Pacific pond turtle, as well as other large and small mammal bone fragments from unidentified taxa. While the artifact and ecofact analyses in the report are in most cases adequate, it is regrettable that so little attention was devoted to the analysis of stone tool production, given the proportion of materials in the assemblage related to that activity.

In contrast, more detailed consideration is given to the historical Indian component at the site. The ethnohistoric section of the report provides many useful ideas of how the local foothill Nisenan Indians were affected by the colonization of their territory. The authors suggest that some traditional artifacts remained in use well into the historic Gold Rush era. This is supported by discoveries at other contact-period Indian sites in the foothills, as well as by ethnohistoric accounts.

While the distribution of hydration

readings and artifacts at CA-NEV-194 makes it difficult to sort out separate components vertically, the data suggest that we should probably place more emphasis on the identification of horizontal stratigraphy in future studies.



Wetland Adaptations in the Great Basin. Joel C. Janetski and David B. Madsen, eds. Provo: Brigham Young University Museum of Peoples and Cultures *Occasional Papers* No. 1, 1990, v + 285 pp., \$17.00 (paper).

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This volume of 17 contributions provides a broad mix of topics, perspectives, and obvious differences in sense of problem and sophistication. The notion of wetland "adaptations" has long been a topical cubby hole in the Great Basin, but some of the contributors are obviously trying to transcend the most pedestrian comprehension of this well-worn label as well as the associated stereotypes about sedentary versus nomadic societies, and outdated notions about factors that "permit" sedentism.

The diversity among the papers highlights those whose work is clearly different from that done 30 years ago. Unfortunately, some of the papers would be at home in a volume dating to the 1950s.

The volume opens with a provocative introduction by Madsen and Janetski that is an appropriate lead for the remaining papers—with one significant exception. The ideological tract about evolutionary ecology implies that this perspective has been broadly

studied and that contributions in this vein are a feature of this volume. Neither is true. Their introduction also points to the extremes of discourse in the Great Basin—the problem of "either/or polemics."

The introduction is nicely followed by a historiography of culture-historical typologies by Fowler and Fowler. They too show the extremes of perspective in Great Basin archaeology. Both papers (and others as well) suggest to this reviewer that we have yet to figure out how to comprehend variability in a variable place. Has the term "variability" become mundane, employed merely as a new form of particularism? I wonder if the term "variability," employed in an atmosphere of either/or discourse, has led us to describe the world merely as continua of types (collectors or foragers, nomadic or sedentary, etc.), or as particular cases (this valley, this "culture," etc.)? Collectively, this volume implies many such broad observations about the state of our discipline.

For the working archaeologist, there is an abundance of description that cannot be ignored. A number of the papers are attempts to find wider distribution for ideas from dissertations, research in progress, and cultural resources management research. Such efforts deserve support and thanks. The papers include: C. Fowler on the ethnographic and archaeological aspects of wetland material culture; Raymond and Parks on surface archaeology in the Stillwater Marsh; Drews on an overview of shellfish occurrences; Schmitt and Sharp on mammalian remains in Stillwater Marsh; Brooks et al. on the high frequency of osteophytes and eburnation of human bone from Stillwater Marsh in comparison to other Great Basin occurrences; Tuohy on Pyramid Lake fishing; Dansie's review of carnivore (especially dog) occurrences in western Nevada; Cannon et al. and Oetting, both on recent work in Warner