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destined to be a standard reference in the anthropology of the Great Basin and in North American ethnobiology.



***Archaeological Investigations at Cantil, Fremont Valley, Western Mojave Desert, California.*** Mark Q. Sutton, with contributions by Paul D. Bouey, John D. Goodman II, Margaret M. Lyneis, Karen K. Swope, and Robert M. Yohe II. Museum of Anthropology, California State University, Bakersfield, Occasional Papers in Anthropology No. 1, 1991, x + 225 pp., 74 figs., 67 tables, \$10.00 (paper).

***Archaeological Studies in the Goose Lake Area, Southern San Joaquin Valley, California.*** Mark Q. Sutton, ed. Museum of Anthropology, California State University, Bakersfield, Occasional Papers in Anthropology No. 2, 1992, vi + 117 pp., 24 figs., 38 tables, \$6.00 (paper).

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The *Occasional Papers in Anthropology* (OPA) of the Museum of Anthropology, California State University, Bakersfield (CSUB), provide a welcome new publication outlet for scholarly work. The editorial policy for this series calls for monograph-length papers "in any of the subfields in Anthropology dealing with subjects from anywhere in the world (California materi-

als are especially desired)." The first two numbers of this new series are reviewed here. Both deal with archaeological research in Kern County, California.

OPA No. 1 is the final report of archaeological investigations at the Cantil automobile test facility site in the Fremont Valley, western Mojave Desert. It presents the results of CSUB's 1987 survey of the 3,840-acre project area and 1988 testing and documentation, respectively, of eight prehistoric sites and one historic homestead.

A very brief history of project work (Chapter 1) is followed by an informative summary of the environmental setting of the Fremont Valley (Chapter 2). Of special interest are Sutton's account of ancient Lake Thompson and his discovery of two shorelines (582 m. and 586 m. amsl) above the current playa of Koehn Lake (575.4 m.). Geomorphic features of these shorelines indicate not ephemeral filling but a lake stand "present for a considerable, but unknown, amount of time" (p. 8). Completing the background is Chapter 3, providing overviews of Kawaiisu and Kitanemuk ethnography, a sketch of local history, and a generalized prehistory of the study area. For the latter, Sutton draws mainly on extant chronologies for the western Mojave Desert and southeastern Sierra Nevada, since no local sequence has yet been defined specifically for the Fremont Valley.

Chapter 4, "Research Design," explicates the rationale for CSUB's archaeological work. Common objectives at each of the eight tested prehistoric sites were to ascertain depositional integrity (all but one of the sites had been plowed), identify any cultural remains below the plow zone, and define site content (i.e., the nature of assemblages). Site-specific research aims focused on temporal control, reconstructing subsistence practices, and relating site function to settlement pattern models derived from ethnohistoric data. More broadly, the Cantil project sought to probe the time depth of Kawaiisu pre-

history, contribute to studies of regional exchange systems (particularly with respect to shell and obsidian trade), and elucidate the apparent "archaeological boundary" between the southern Sierra Nevada/Fremont Valley and Antelope Valley. Although research problems are identified, Chapter 4 does not really qualify as a research design because it neither specifies data requirements nor explicitly links methods to the stated objectives. Nonetheless, this chapter does review the aims of CSUB's work and considers a number of topics that merit archaeological attention in the project locality. Sutton's impressive knowledge of the prehistory and current archaeological research issues in the western Mojave Desert is evident in this and subsequent chapters.

Archaeological work and findings at eight small sites are reported in Chapter 5. Seven of these sites (CA-KER-2209, -2210, -2212, -2214, -2215, -2217, and -2218) are lithic scatters with fire-altered rock, groundstone, and faunal remains. Temporal control is elusive, depending upon a single radiocarbon date of  $2,490 \pm 300$  for CA-KER-2218 and a few time-sensitive shell beads and projectile points. Some of the latter are equivocal, however, given the evident misidentification of a "Desert Side-notched" point from CA-KER-2210 (Fig. 15a) and an "Elko Eared" point from CA-KER-2214 (Fig. 24b). Sutton concludes that the tested sites were mostly small camps, a lithic workshop (CA-KER-2212), and a special-use site (CA-KER-2217) dated variously to Gypsum, Rose Spring, and Late Prehistoric times. These tentative interpretations reflect the very small samples of recovered data. Some sites (e.g., CA-KER-2212 and -2214) produced few archaeological remains; others (e.g., CA-KER-2218) had substantial data potentials but were sampled inadequately (possibly due to time and/or funding constraints?).

The eighth site (CA-KER-2219H), a homestead dating perhaps to the 1930s, was mapped

and recorded but not test-excavated because "vandals had dug into the trash pits and their depth and content were observable" (p. 81). Historical archaeologists will not be pleased with this brief account, which offers no historical research to identify former occupants, does not relate the site to historic contexts or themes, and describes the structural remains and material culture with considerably less detail and precision than is customary in historical archaeological reports.

The centerpiece of OPA No. 1 is Sutton's report of investigations at CA-KER-2211, an extensive artifact scatter of variable density in a plowed field near Cache and Cottonwood creeks. The site was mapped, surface artifacts were collected, two loci were defined, and cultural deposits were sampled by surface scrapes, "post-holes," and a total of 15 test units. Excavations in Locus 1 revealed numerous features (hearths, a rock pile, an obsidian cache, and a structural floor), and produced 4,449 pieces of debitage and 495 other artifacts (predominately mano and metate fragments, cores, projectile points, and *Olivella* beads). Although stratification was disturbed, Sutton was able to show—through analysis of artifact provenience, recovery of time-sensitive projectile points, and four radiocarbon dates—that Locus 1 witnessed at least two separate occupations after ca. A.D. 1200. Locus 2 yielded 695 artifacts, including 351 pieces of debitage, but no features. An abundance of milling equipment and silicate cores in Locus 2 parallels that of the late prehistoric component in Locus 1.

Although one might quibble with some dubious type ascriptions (e.g., Figs. 50b, e-f, 68d) or fret over the rather superficial debitage analysis, the CA-KER-2211 report is mostly well written and informative. Artifact descriptions are generally good, data are presented economically in tables, and interpretations are reasonable. While not all research objectives can be met with the recovered data, conclusions are tied

to the project's research design.

In a final chapter, Sutton considers project results in the broader context of Fremont Valley archaeology. Intersite comparisons permit inferences about adaptive systems during the Rose Spring and Late Prehistoric periods. The former "probably was focused on the exploitation of lacustrine resources and hares," while the latter "shows a shift in the settlement pattern to habitation near streams and/or springs, and an apparent . . . shift in resource exploitation" (p. 181). Sutton also refers to climatic changes at ca. A.D. 1000, and suggests plausible economic and demographic consequences. He is careful not to overstate his conclusions but does raise some interesting possibilities for future research.

Completing this monograph are four appendices: a brief oral history transcript prepared by K. K. Swope; a summary by P. Bouey of XRF analysis of 35 obsidian specimens for which Sugarloaf Mountain was the principal source area; a detailed analysis of faunal remains from CA-KER-2211, by R. M. Yohe II and J. D. Goodman II; and M. Lyneis's brief but expert description of seven plain brown sherds from CA-KER-2211.

OPA No. 2 is a collection of 11 papers dealing with the Goose Lake locality, midway between Tulare Lake and the Buena Vista/Kern lakes system, in the southern San Joaquin Valley. This monograph is focused mainly on the results of test excavations in 1989 by a CSUB field class at CA-KER-766 on the northeastern edge of Goose Lake. Five papers report investigations and findings at this site. These are preceded by two chapters, respectively providing a cultural background and describing the natural environment of the study area. Also included are reports of: archaeological materials recovered in 1926 from CA-KER-46, just north of CA-KER-766; minimal testing in 1990 of CA-KER-2107 near Lost Hills, just north of Goose Lake; sampling in 1977 of CA-KER-511, -512, and -513, south of Goose Lake; and human re-

mains found in 1978 during the excavation of an irrigation ditch near Lost Hills.

In the first chapter, Sutton summarizes local ethnography, history, and prehistory, and calls attention to the enigmatic dearth of previous archaeological work and absence of a cultural chronology for the southern valley, even though the remarkable data potentials of this region have been known for nearly a century. This brief chapter adequately introduces the papers to follow. One may question, however, its application of the Central California Taxonomic System to the lower Kern River area and its dating of the "Early Horizon" to 8,000 B.P.

Complementing the Introduction is William Preston's overview of the natural setting (geology, landforms, climate, hydrology, and biota), interspersed with vivid historical accounts, of the Goose Lake locality. This chapter amply shows that historic Goose Lake was a Yokuts oasis, "a unique valley environment where biological diversity and economic opportunities not only flourished but helped fashion a unique culture" (p. 9).

In Chapter 3, Sutton describes the Goose Lake site, CA-KER-766, a scatter of artifacts and ecofacts on a low mound associated with an alkali sink plant community identified by the Bureau of Land Management as an Area of Critical Environmental Concern. Additionally, he sets forth research objectives (acquiring data on chronology, site formation processes, subsistence, and lithic procurement), and recounts field and analytic methods. Four subsequent chapters include discussions of: the 95 recovered artifacts of flaked and ground stone, clay, and shell (Chapter 4, by G. Laframboise, D. J. Scott, and B. Lewis); hydration measurements and geologic source ascriptions, mostly Coso Volcanic Field based on XRF analysis, for 32 obsidian specimens (Chapter 5, by K. Moreland); temporal implications of projectile points, shell beads, and obsidian hydration measurements (Chapter 6, by S. Ptomey); and zooarchaeological analysis of

molluscan, fish, reptile, amphibian, bird, and mammal remains—an assemblage dominated by aquatic species (Chapter 7, by S. R. Jackson, M. Q. Sutton, and K. W. Gobalet).

Chapter 8 (G. Clift, M. Q. Sutton, and E. Gabet) describes 31 artifacts and provides anthropomorphic data for 11 burials excavated by E. W. Gifford in 1926 at CA-KER-46, a small artificial mound used as a cemetery, but evidently not as a habitation site, “perhaps . . . repeatedly for several thousand years” (p. 87). Farther north, at CA-KER-2107—a small, diffuse lithic scatter on the edge of old Goose Lake Slough near Lost Hills—evidence of extensive disturbance and recovery of 13 lithic flakes from a single test unit are reported in Chapter 9 by R. E. Parr and S. R. Jackson. In the next chapter, M. Peterson and G. Clift describe and analyze cultural and faunal remains from eight units excavated in 1977 by Robert Schiffman and his Bakersfield Community College field archaeology class at CA-KER-511, -512, and -513 on Buena Vista Slough, south of Goose Lake. Each of these sites appears to represent transient occupation during late prehistoric or protohistoric times. One site, CA-KER-513, contained burned cow bones, perhaps indicating aboriginal use of cattle taken from a mission or other settlement. Completing the monograph is a descriptive summary by R. Novickas of 40 human bone fragments, representing at least five individuals, discovered in 1978 at CA-KER-2421 near the Buena Vista Slough, north of Goose Lake. The presence of “cloth” and hair with some of the burials, observed at the time of discovery, may imply that the remains are of late prehistoric/protohistoric age and, therefore, possibly Yokuts.

Although this set of papers achieves three of the four explicit research objectives (p. 28), the topic of site formation processes—as might be elucidated by geomorphology, archaeological stratification, and the definition and dating of

geoarchaeological analytic units—is not addressed. Also conspicuous by absence are the description and analysis of lithic debitage, of which 3,380 pieces (97% of the artifact collection) were recovered, or any interpretive synthesis of the work and findings at CA-KER-766. The critical reader will find in this monograph a lack of theoretical orientation and no general summary or conclusions, even for the set of reports on CA-KER-766. None of the many tables or figures is listed in the Table of Contents; editing and proofreading are uneven; and the separate reference listings for each chapter, instead of a single integrated bibliography, is distracting. Nonetheless, there is much of archaeological value in this collection of papers.

In sum, Sutton and his colleagues and students have published the first monograph on the archaeology of the Goose Lake locality. This report not only describes recent investigations by CSUB in this area but also makes available substantive data collected by others beginning in the 1920s. This information is especially valuable, since some of the sites have been destroyed and are no longer available for study. Moreover, the volume provides faunal analyses, assemblage descriptions, and obsidian data suitable for comparative studies, as well as an excellent environmental overview that will benefit future archaeological studies in the Goose Lake locality.

Sutton and his associates are commended for their contributions to the prehistory of the Goose Lake and Fremont Valley areas, and for launching the *Occasional Papers in Anthropology*. This series reflects the growing influence of CSUB in south-central California archaeology, particularly in the upper San Joaquin Valley, adjacent mountains, and Mojave Desert. Sutton, together with Gerrit Fenenga and their students, is active in a previously neglected but archaeologically important region. As this work continues, we look forward to the publication of additional volumes in the OPA series.