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## Journal of California and Great Basin Anthropology

### Title

Beemer: *My Luiseño Neighbors: Excerpts from a Journal Kept in Pauma Valley, Northern San Diego County, 1934-1974*

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*My Luiseño Neighbors: Excerpts from a Journal Kept in Pauma Valley, Northern San Diego County, 1934 to 1974.* Eleanor Beemer. Ramona: Acoma Books, 1980, 67 pp., map and many illustrations, \$9.95 (paper).

Reviewed by D. L. TRUE  
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Eleanor Beemer's excellent treatise, *My Luiseño Neighbors* is exactly what she says it is, a selection of excerpts from her personal journal. It is not intended to be a professionally oriented assessment of any particular aspect of the Luiseño lifeway, and she does not propose any "scientific" treatment of the data she has collected.

Mrs. Beemer describes ritual activities, artifacts, important places, local folklore, and perhaps most importantly, *people* in a back-country reservation setting over a time span covering a substantial portion of the mid-20th century. She presents her material in an easy to read, literate style.

Many of the *kinds* of activities reported here are not altogether new and much of the general behavior described has been reported or at least alluded to by earlier ethnographers working the larger Luiseño area, so one should not read this book expecting a breakthrough in terms of large amounts of new and exciting ethnographic information. On the other hand, Beemer approaches the data and, more importantly, the contextual setting from which the data were derived from a perspective not possible under more typical anthropological data-collecting processes. The data presented here were collected over a long period of time so that many of her observations have meaningful temporal significance, and they were collected with a very special personal touch that suggests a level of authenticity not often seen in these kinds of reports.

In the opinion of this reviewer, the Beemer book is a valuable presentation of an important segment of a local history, and a gold mine of potentially useful and important ethnographic tidbits. Eleanor Beemer is an astute, sensitive observer, and the information she presents should be given careful and serious consideration. In short, this is not just another collection of interesting little local stories to be read once and set aside. It is a source book that will almost certainly be consulted again and again by scholars interested in the Luiseño as a people.



*Skeletal Identification of California Sea Lions and Harbor Seals for Archaeologists.* Jan C. Kasper. San Diego Museum of Man Ethnic Technology Notes No. 17, 1980, 34 pp.

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The goal of this publication is to provide the information necessary to distinguish between archaeological remains of the California Sea Lion (*Zalophus californianus*) and the Harbor Seal (*Phoca vitulina*). The author states that it is an essential document because complete reference skeletons of these animals are not available in southern California (the skeletons used in the study were obtained by loan from the Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C.).

The paper begins with a brief discussion of the taxonomy, anatomy, diet, range, and reproduction of the two species. It then