

# SCAN

SANTA CRUZ ARCHAEOLOGICAL NEWSLETTER

## *Finding Underwater Archaeology in the Depths of Monterey Bay*

By John Schlagheck

Against the backdrop of its naturally diverse shapes, colors, and textures, the ocean floor does a great job of hiding things. Limited visibility doesn't help, and even under the best conditions locating underwater archaeological sites can be extremely difficult. This was the problem I faced recently as part of a SCUBA training project to relocate, measure, and identify a large anchor lying at the bottom of Monterey Bay. The anchor project illustrated both the considerable challenges to working underwater generally, as well as the interesting twist such work presents for archaeologists.

The SCUBA training I refer to is offered at California State University's Moss Landing Marine Lab as Marine Science (MS)-105, an advanced training class associated with the Lab's membership in the American Academy of Underwater Science (AAUS) scientific diving program. The AAUS certification is becoming the standard expectation for scientific divers in any field that wish to dive on behalf of institutions such as universities and aquariums. In terms of archaeology, San Jose State University's Department of Anthropology is beginning to promote formal dive training at the undergraduate and graduate levels in anticipation of new underwater archaeology projects directed by permanent faculty, with the actual diving instruction conducted at Moss Landing through an institutional partnership. Presently, students interested in archaeology that take MS-105 should expect to learn many techniques related marine science, such as kelp forest monitoring and bottom cover sampling. This reflects the fact that the majority of the students taking this course come from



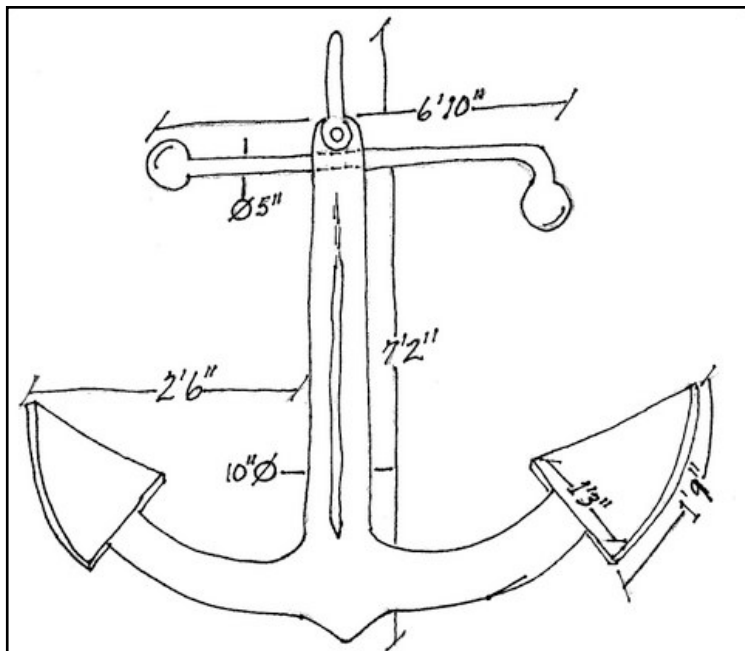
John hand-standing on the anchor

within Moss Landing's graduate programs in such disciplines as oceanography, phycology, ichthyology, and marine invertebrate zoology. As I discovered, however, there is enough flexibility in the curriculum to accommodate students wanting to do underwater archaeology.

The steps of the anchor project were in fact very similar to those used in any terrestrial archaeology project. We first surveyed the area where the anchor had been spotted on previous training dives. On the first of two dives, two divers

spent thirty minutes using circular transects of increasing diameter at ten-foot intervals to find the anchor. This proved ineffective and exceedingly strenuous, as stands of giant kelp prevented the operation of tethered divers from a central datum. We then used in-line transects similar to those used on land. While this method allowed us to cover considerably more area of the bottom, we found only more of the ocean's natural abundance. On the second dive, we again tried in-line transects but with three additional divers. After several passes over the area, we found the anchor in 33 feet of water—surprised that we had likely passed it several times.

Having located the site, we released a float buoy from the anchor that marked the site on the surface of the water. From this point we took three compass bearings to landmarks on shore, thus triangulating the site's position. On the same dive we also measured the anchor with tape measures, recording our data with handwritten notes on underwater paper. After we collected the measurements, we took about ten



close-up photographs of the diagnostic features of the anchor and the marine life that now covers the object completely. Complications during this phase of the project included the decreasing dexterity of our fingers in water below 50°F that frustrated our handwriting and the operation of the small controls on the camera. The extent of the problem became apparent only later, when, on the surface, I could barely read my own notes.

Harbor seals were also an issue of sorts. While they are not usually overtly aggressive, they get very close and can be intrusive, much like a large dog can be when it's checking out a new houseguest. The seals are also quick and powerful swimmers, an environmental factor that tends to compound feelings of vulnerability and awkwardness at depth.

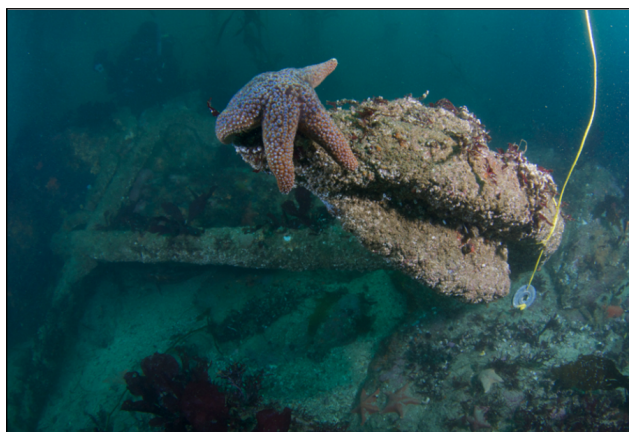
The anchor is a large and lonely artifact. It is also quite prominent, with one arm poised at about a 60 degree angle from the bottom and standing nearly five feet tall. After working around the object's bulk for maybe twenty minutes, I could not believe it had been so difficult find. As I started my ascent, I alternated my eyes between the anchor and my depth gage, trying to understand how the visual recognition of the object degenerated with distance. By the time the gage read 20 feet, a mere 13 feet from where I had just been working, I could no longer see the anchor against the ocean floor.

As impressive as it is, the anchor is far from remarkable from a historic perspective. Subsequent research shows the artifact to be an example of a "common" anchor design. Such anchors came into ordinary use on naval vessels in the late nineteenth century. While still in limited use today, the "common" anchor design was largely replaced by more modern designs in the 1940s. Made of cast iron, this type of anchor was usually a "bower" carried in the forward section of a ship.

Following the project, I discussed the anchor with several long time Monterey Bay science divers who confirmed the anchor was a known reference point well before the 1960s.

*Photos by Scott Gabara, Moss Landing Marine Lab; Illustration by Dana*

*Strickland*



## Calendar

All General Meetings are held at Sesnon House Cabrillo College  
6500 Soquel Drive, Aptos, California at 7:30 p.m. unless otherwise indicated.  
SCAS website: [www.santacruzarchsociety.org](http://www.santacruzarchsociety.org)

- April 21, 2011 **General Meeting**~Dr. Stephen Janes will present a talk called "An Ancient North American Linescape" about a network of ancient lines crossing the San Juan Basin and adjacent mountainous areas of New Mexico and Arizona. Separate from the inferred Chacoan "road" system, the linescape is defined by the alignment of numerous small structures, linear sherd scatters, and distinct landforms. Lines mapped in detail extend at least 70 kilometers and beyond the basin. This suggests that they are part of a much larger linescape that may be continental in scope.
- To May 8, 2011 **Exhibit**~The de Young Museum of San Francisco presents "Olmec: Colossal Masterworks of Ancient Mexico." The Olmec are best known for the creation of colossal heads carved from giant boulders that have fascinated the public and archaeologists alike since they were discovered in the mid-19th century. For information about tickets and times, please go to <http://deyoung.famsf.org/deyoung/exhibitions/olmec-colossal-masterworks-ancient-mexico>.
- May 12, 2011 **Lecture**~As part of its series, *Archaeology and the Ancient World*, the UCSC Society of the Archaeological Institute of America and the President's Chair in Ancient Studies present a talk by Sarah Nelson entitled "Korea and the Silk Road." The lecture will begin at 5 p.m. (snacks from 4:30) at UCSC in Humanities 1, room 210. Free parking will be provided in the Cowell-Stevenson parking lots. For more information, please contact [hedrick@ucsc.edu](mailto:hedrick@ucsc.edu)
- May 19, 2011 **General Meeting**~Nancy Olsen is a Professor of Anthropology and ICS at DeAnza College in San Jose. Dr. Olsen's background in ethnology informs her ethnohistoric research in San Jose as well as her work in rock art at Bandelier National Monument, New Mexico.
- May 24-28, 2011 **Volunteer Opportunity**~Site investigation in Monterey County, near Carmel. Please visit [www.santacruzarchsociety.org](http://www.santacruzarchsociety.org) and click on the "Volunteer" tab for more details.
- June 16, 2011 **General Meeting**~Serena Love will speak about her fieldwork in Catalhoyuk, Turkey. Ms. Love is a Graduate Student at Stanford University in Palo Alto.

Deadline for submissions for the summer issue: July 1, 2011

Items to add? Corrections to suggest? Please contact us at [editorscan@gmail.com](mailto:editorscan@gmail.com).

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If so, send your preference and your email address to [editorSCAN@gmail.com](mailto:editorSCAN@gmail.com).

Past newsletters can be viewed—in color!—online at:

<http://www.santacruzarchsociety.org/newsletters.html>

Newsletters will be posted online approximately four months after they are mailed out.



*When archaeological artifacts are uncovered, they once again join the flow of history. Artifacts can come to symbolize the identity of a modern nation, or the ambition of a wealthy and powerful family. They show us who we were and, by contrast, who we have become. When artifacts are destroyed during the course of "current events," or stolen and hidden away by looters, we all lose a little bit of ourselves. During the recent revolutions in Tunisia and Egypt we saw people working to protect or recover their past even as they fought to create a new future. Dr. Zahi Hawass, Secretary General for the Supreme Council of Antiquities in Egypt, posted blogs about the effects of the Egyptian Revolution on the Egyptian Museum in Cairo, which can be found online by going to <http://www.drhawass.com/writings>. (This is also a wonderful site for up-to-date information about Egyptian archaeology.) However, Egypt is not the only North African country whose artifacts have been under threat:*

## *Eye On The MidEast: Tunisian Antiquities Suffered, Too*

By Judith H. Dobrzynski

It's not just Egypt. Tunisia's revolution may have been more peaceful, but news coming from there now suggests that the country's antiquities have also been "looted."

By the first lady, Leila Ben Ali.

Ben Ali's palace required decorating, and Mrs. Ben Ali apparently helped herself to the nation's treasures, some of which she distributed to homes of other members of the family.

According to The Art Newspaper:

Many of the artifacts and antiquities confiscated by the Ben Alis originally came from the Bardo Museum, which has the world's largest collection of Roman mosaics. According to Samir Aounallah, the Tunisian museums committee president, Leila Ben Ali used museum artifacts, including mosaics and frescoes, to decorate the family's villas.

Archaeological sites have also been affected. "I have accredited sources that have said sites in Cap Bon had objects taken from them by the Ben Ali clan," said Aounallah.

Aounallah also said that many of the objects have now been put back.

The Bardo's range runs from pre-history through the Ottoman era—Stone Age tools, gold Phoenician jewelry, massive stone sculptures from the Roman city of Bulla Regia, Islamic artifacts, exquisitely turned-out period rooms, and bronzes and other antiquities recovered from a Greek ship that sank in 81 B.C.

Again quoting The Art Newspaper:

According to Julien Anfruns, the director general of the International Council of Museums (ICOM), several international archaeologists and curators are currently in Tunisia surveying potential damage to objects, as well as drawing up revised inventories for the country's museums. Despite the violence, which according to a United Nations mission saw 219 people killed and 510 injured, museums have for the most part remained well protected. "People there are very understanding of the importance of the preservation of these museums," said Anfruns.

Evidence of pillaging by the Ben Alis has been well documented on several news channels, including one segment that aired on the Middle East-based Al Arabiya in January. The clip shows the home of Ben Ali's daughter, Sakhr El Matri, revealing antiquities and ancient statues perched in the foyer and next to the swimming pool of her oceanfront villa. In the aftermath of the uprising, crowds reportedly descended upon several of the Ben Ali houses to tour the premises. A handful of the sprawling properties' walls were tagged with graffiti including one that read: "This property is now a national museum for the Tunisian people."

For the complete article, please go to:

<http://www.artsjournal.com/realcleararts/2011/02/tunisian-losses.html>

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## SCAS Field Trip to the Grace Hudson Museum in Ukiah

by Lyn O'Niel

Several members of the Society met at the Grace Hudson Museum in Ukiah, Saturday, February 12, to see the traveling "American Masters" exhibit of California Indian Basket Making and attend a lecture about California Baskets by renowned scholar, Ralph Shanks. Judy Husted and I were early and so got the opportunity to learn about the unique Grace Hudson and her family from Museum Director Sherrie Smith-Ferri and other staff members. Rob and Julie Edwards soon joined us, as did California State Park Superintendent Tom Bernardo and his friend, Tress Putnam, both from the Sacramento area.

We were about to tour the exhibit when a group of basket makers from the Sacramento area arrived. They were scheduled to take a tour with the Director and Susan Billy, a well-known local Pomo basket maker and author. Several of Ms. Billy's baskets and those of her famous grandmother, Susie Billy, are on display at the Museum. This was serendipitous for our group, as we were able to join their tour and heard stories about some of the baskets. Much of their discussion concerned weaving techniques for various basket styles and patterns, materials used, and problems encountered, as well as a great deal of admiration for the amazing baskets in the exhibit. Susan Billy, who shares her grandmother's name but uses the more formal "Susan" to avoid confusion between the two, had several stories about her experiences learning to make baskets. The Billy family moved away from California and lived for a period of time in South Dakota. Susan did not return to California until 1973 when she was in her early twenties. She wanted to learn basket making and became an apprentice to famous Pomo basket weaver, Elsie Allen, in 1974. She remembers when Elsie handed her a basket-making knife and awl. Susan knew at once they were very old. Elsie told Susan, "These were your grandmother's tools. She gave them to me but I now know that I have been holding them in trust for you."

Around noon, Judy and I walked to Schats Bakery (think of Gayle's in Capitola) to meet with Rob and Julie for a delicious lunch and discussion of the exhibit and the paintings of Grace Hudson. All of us were looking forward to the afternoon lecture and tour of Sun House. While enjoying the sun and warm weather on our return to the Museum, Judy and I unexpectedly discovered a piece of local artwork on one of the buildings. We turned a corner and there it was, brightly illuminated by the sun—a wonderful mosaic of vivid colors that covered an entire wall!

The lecture started at 2 p.m. with Ralph Shanks narrating and his wife, Lisa Woo Shanks, assisting. Ralph has written the first two books of a series of three on California Indian Baskets. *Indian Baskets of Central California* was the first and has been available for two or three years. The second, *California Indian Baskets: San Diego to Santa Barbara and Beyond to the San Joaquin Valley, Mountains and Deserts* was published in 2010. The third will be on Northern California/Southern Oregon Baskets. His talk was based mostly on the second book. Ralph answered questions from the audience and included much information about the basket tradition of central California. He noted that many of the very oldest and best baskets were in museums in Britain, Spain, and other European countries, having been brought back as gifts to kings and nobles by the first visitors to California. California Indian Baskets are considered the finest in the world. Ralph said that California Indians had a wide range of uses for basketry, from birth to death, from cradle boards to grave goods. After the lecture we had the opportunity to buy a signed copy of either book—or both!

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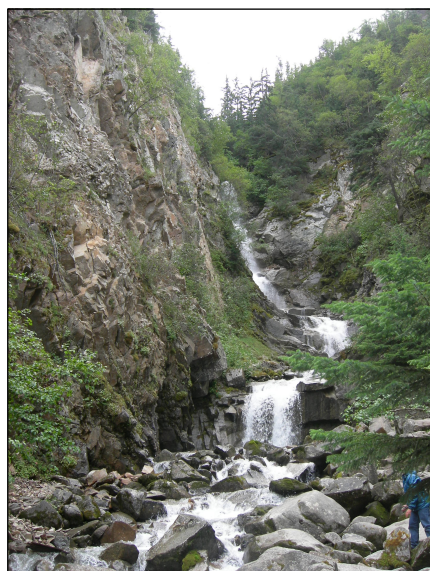
# Awesome Alaskan Archaeology Adventure!

## Part 2

By Annamarie Leon Guerrero

*(Continued from the Winter 2011 issue)*

One of the most amazing finds of the summer was at the historic YMCA building, a few blocks from away Soapy Smith's Parlor. The archaeology crew and the maintenance crew were also working to record and stabilize the building that was the first YMCA established in Alaska in 1900. A couple years later, though, the building was turned into a butcher's shop (Meyer's Meat Market) and was moved to its current location. Not only were we able to recover portions of the original YMCA floor, but we located a beaver felt hat beneath the floor of the meat market. This means that the hat, which is fairly well preserved, pre-dates the installation of the meat market floor in 1901/1902. The most exciting find, however, came as the maintenance crew continued to help stabilize the building's walls and foundations. A Smith and Wesson pistol was found on top of the northern wall of the building. According to our curatorial staff who researched it, the pistol was most likely manufactured between 1878 and 1892 in Springfield, Massachusetts. While none of us know for sure how the pistol came to be here or why, I can



The waterfall on the Lower Reid Trail

tell you that many of us on the maintenance and archaeology crews joked and speculated that this may have been either one of Soapy Smith's pistols, or one of his gang members'. While most of my days were filled with archaeology, the evenings and

weekends were definitely spent hiking on the many trails located around Skagway, hanging out with my new-found Park Service friends, and, when the weather was clear enough, camping out nights to watch the Aurora Borealis. There are so many trails accessible from within Skagway that it is almost impossible not to go hiking. After work, I would often find myself taking a walk down to the waterfall on



View from the top of the Lost Lake Trail

the Lower Reid Trail or up to Dewey Lake on the Lower Dewey Trail to get a fantastic overview of Skagway. One of the most memorable hikes that I went on was to Lost Lake over in Dyea. It was right after a good rain, so the first half of the trail was fairly muddy. Luckily, the rest of the trail that wound through densely wooded forest was not muddy. It was only uphill for about a mile and a half. Unfortunately, we missed one of the switchbacks to the actual lake, but we got a fantastic view from high atop the mountain. I still contend, though, that there is no lake, but no one will admit it!

One of my favorite adventures was a day trip out to the nearby townsite of Dyea. While Dyea is home to the main trailhead to the Chilkoot Trail, it was also a gold rush boom town similar to Skagway. All that is left now of Dyea are remnants of the old town, the Slide Cemetery, and the rotted timbers of the wharf where traders and miners would once rush

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The Dyea Wharf

to haul their loot and belongings onto the shores of Dyea. The Slide Cemetery is dedicated to those that died in an avalanche on the Chilkoot Trail in 1898.



The Slide Cemetery in Dyea



One of the remaining false fronts in Dyea

Walking around the forested area where the town once stood and down to the wharf and the flats that once bustled with activity is like walking around a ghost town. In the distance, you can hear the sled dogs that carry tourists on rides howling in the distance. With a little imagination, you can almost feel the energy that the town once had. Dyea is also where I spotted my very first grizzly bear. I didn't take any pictures of this bear as he went

about his day, since we were a little too close to risk startling him.

As the last of the cruise ships departed and the shops began to close down and board up for the winter, Skagway became a much quieter and sleepier town than it had been during the height of the season. I departed Skagway at the end of September. The weather was beginning to turn even colder! I was worried that if I delayed my departure, the ferry services would be shut down, or the flights grounded. So I sent off the last of my postcards, bought the last of my souvenirs, and packed my bags. One ferry ride and three flights later (on very small planes), I was back in California. I have to say that while I had the most amazing time in Alaska and was able to see the Northern Lights, bears, and hike in the Alaskan wilderness, I was definitely glad to be home. ☞



## *What Happens When You Create an Archaeological Exhibit?*

by Rob Edwards

Last fall Charr Simpson-Smith and I put up an exhibit in the Freedom Library consisting of local pestles, mortars, bowls, a basket and a mystery object. The exhibit was built from artifacts found in the 1940s and 1950s on the Silva/Kelly farmlands. (See last SCAS Newsletter). We also put out 50 copies of “The Archaeologist Handbook” (a small paperback) for people to take, copies of the SCAS newsletter, and an invitation to email me any ideas folks had about our “object of ceremonial importance” (i.e. the mystery stone).

How does one evaluate an exhibit? Personally, I liked it, but then you might have guessed that I would. An enthusiastic lady (Vicki) who was present when the exhibit was being mounted was very excited about the display. While she said she had collected similar artifacts in the Valley, she was shy about giving her name or the location of her ranch. On a later visit to freshen up the exhibit we met a Salinas man who was very interested and later came to the Archaeological Society meeting.

I received three emails about the mystery stone and replied to each. One was a young student from the Pajaro Valley who wondered if the mystery stone could have been a “feely stone”. I had another person from Salinas who thought it might be a paint mixing stone. I even had one email from a man in Georgia who saw the information on the web (Media News Press) who thought it might also be a small grinding stone for herbs. I thanked them each and said their guess was as good as mine. (If they had been students in one of my classes I would have pursued the question “How could you test that hypothesis?”) I also had a request for a classroom visit from a teacher.

I contacted the Freedom Librarian, Heather Geddes, for her reactions, as she might be more objective than I. She said, “The display was very well received by the public! Most people coming to the library stopped to look at the display. We had people specifically come in just to look at the display, although I’m not sure where they found out about it. The free books were very popular, especially with elementary school students. We received comments that the display was very interesting and looked great. We had questions about what the objects were, what they were used for, where they came from, who put the display together, and comments about the beautiful basket (loaned by the State Parks in Sacramento). Kids really liked touching the large bowl outside the display.”

Ms. Geddes also said, “Your narrative was well done and I was able to point to it to answer most questions people asked. We would be interested in doing an archaeological display again”.

So I guess the exhibit has been inter-subjectively validated in a positive way! ☺

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### *Grace Hudson trip, continued*

The six of us then took a tour of Sun House, Grace Hudson’s home, located on site. Sun House is a Craftsman-style home. With the exception of a kitchen remodel in the 1950s and roof skylight change in Grace’s studio, the house is kept essentially as it was when Grace and her husband occupied it. Grace planned many of the unique and beautiful aspects of the house. For example, she designed and painted the wall coverings in their bedroom. Cloth was applied to the walls, which Grace then hand-painted with soft rose flowers. The effect was very pleasing.

Grace Hudson was an artist who painted portraits of Native Americans almost exclusively at a time when this was definitely not in vogue. Grace’s works were popular during her lifetime and sold well. This enabled her to be the main support of the family so her husband could give up his career as a doctor to become an ethnographer specializing in the Pomo people. He gathered the first great collection of Pomo basketry, which came to form the heart of the Smithsonian collection. The Museum houses Grace’s paintings, an exceptional collection of Pomo artifacts, and a fascinating pioneer history of the Hudson family in the Ukiah area.

The end to this perfect day was supper with Rob and Julie at the local “first organic” brewery. Tom and Tress had to return to Sacramento soon after the Sun House Tour so missed out on our fun. Good food, good company, great day! ☺

## California Islands Give Up Evidence of Early Seafaring: Numerous Artifacts Found at Late Pleistocene Sites on the Channel Islands

ScienceDaily, Mar. 4, 2011

Evidence for a diversified sea-based economy among North American inhabitants dating from 12,200 to 11,400 years ago is emerging from three sites on California's Channel Islands. Reporting in the March 4 issue of *Science*, a 15-member team led by University of Oregon and Smithsonian Institution scholars describes the discovery of scores of stemmed projectile points and crescents dating to that time period. The artifacts are associated with the remains of shellfish, seals, geese, cormorants and fish.

Funded primarily by grants from the National Science Foundation, the team also found thousands of artifacts made from chert, a flint-like rock used to make projectile points and other stone tools. Some of the intact projectiles are so delicate that their only practical use would have been for hunting on the water, said Jon Erlandson, professor of anthropology and director of the Museum of Natural and Cultural History at the University of Oregon. He has been conducting research on the islands for more than 30 years.

"This is among the earliest evidence of seafaring and maritime adaptations in the Americas, and another extension of the diversity of Paleoindian economies," Erlandson said. "The points we are finding are extraordinary, the workmanship amazing. They are ultra thin, serrated and have incredible barbs on them. It's a very sophisticated chipped-stone technology." He also noted that the stemmed points are much different than the iconic fluted points left throughout North America by Clovis and Folsom peoples who hunted big game on land. The artifacts were recovered from three sites that date to the end of the Pleistocene epoch on Santa Rosa and San Miguel islands, which in those days were connected as one island off the California coast. Sea levels then were 50 to 60 meters (about 160-200 feet) below modern levels. Rising seas have since

flooded the shorelines and coastal lowlands where early populations would have spent most of their time.

Erlandson and his colleagues have focused their search on upland features such as springs, caves, and chert outcrops that would have drawn early maritime peoples into the interior. Rising seas also may have submerged evidence of even older human habitation of the islands. The newly released study focuses on the artifacts and animal remains recovered, but the implications for understanding the peopling of the Americas may run deeper. The technologies involved suggest that these early islanders were not members of the land-based Clovis culture, Erlandson said. No fluted points have been found on the islands. Instead, the points and crescents are similar to artifacts found in the Great Basin and Columbia Plateau areas, including pre-Clovis levels at Paisley Caves in eastern Oregon that are being studied by another UO archaeologist, Dennis Jenkins.

Last year, Charlotte Beck and Tom Jones, archaeologists at New York's Hamilton College who study sites in the Great Basin, argued that stemmed and Clovis point technologies were separate, with the stemmed points originating from Pacific Coast populations and not, as conventional wisdom holds, from the Clovis people who moved westward from the Great Plains. Erlandson and colleagues noted that the Channel Island points are also broadly similar to stemmed points found early sites around the Pacific Rim, from Japan to South America. Six years ago, Erlandson proposed that Late Pleistocene sea-going people may have followed a "kelp highway" stretching from Japan to Kamchatka, along the south coast of Beringia and Alaska, then southward down the Northwest Coast to California. Kelp forests are rich in seals, sea otters, fish, seabirds, and shellfish such as abalones and sea urchins.

"The technology and seafaring implications of what we've found on the Channel Islands are magnificent," said study co-author Torben C. Rick, curator of North American Archaeology at the Smithsonian Institution. "Some of the paleo-ecological

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and subsistence implications are also very important. These sites indicate very early and distinct coastal and island subsistence strategies, including harvest of red abalones and other shellfish and fish dependent on kelp forests, but also the exploitation of larger pinnipeds and waterfowl, including an extinct flightless duck. "This combination of unique hunting technologies found with marine mammal and migratory waterfowl bones provides a very different picture of the Channel Islands than what we know today, and indicates very early and diverse maritime life ways and foraging practices," Rick said. "What is so interesting is that not only do the data we have document some of the earliest marine mammal and bird exploitation in North America, but they show that very early on New World coastal peoples were hunting such animals and birds with sophisticated technologies that appear to have been refined for life in coastal and aquatic habitats." The stemmed points found on the Channel Islands range from tiny to large, probably indicating that they were used for hunting a variety of animals.

"We think the crescents were used as transverse projectile points, probably for hunting birds. Their broad stone tips, when attached to a dart shaft provided a stone age shotgun-approach to hunting birds in flight," Erlandson said. "These are very distinctive artifacts, hundreds of which have been

found on the Channel Islands over the years, but rarely in a stratified context, he added. Often considered to be between 8,000 and 10,000 years old in California, "we now have crescents between 11,000 and 12,000 years old, some of them associated with thousands of bird bones." The next challenge, Erlandson and Rick noted, is to find even older archaeological sites on the Channel Islands, which might prove that a coastal migration contributed to the initial peopling of the Americas, now thought to have occurred two to three millennia earlier.

The 13 co-authors on the study with Erlandson and Rick were: Todd J. Braje, professor of anthropology at Humboldt State University in Arcata, Calif.; UO anthropology professors Douglas J. Kennett and Madonna L. Moss; Brian Fulfrost of the geography department of San Francisco State University; Daniel A. Guthrie of the Joint Science Department, Claremont McKenna, Scripps and Pitzer Colleges of Claremont, Calif.; Leslie Reeder, anthropology department of Southern Methodist University in Dallas, Texas; Craig Skinner of the Northwest Research Obsidian Studies Laboratory in Corvallis, Ore.; Jack Watts of Kellogg College at Oxford University, United Kingdom; and UO graduate students Molly Casperson, Nicholas Jew, Brendan Culleton, Tracy Garcia and Lauren Willis. ❧

## *Santa Cruz historian, author dies*

by Kimberly White

Santa Cruz Sentinel, January 22, 2011

As a fourth generation Santa Cruz resident who lived on the property first settled by her great-grandparents, it's fitting Margaret Rau Koch dedicated much of her life to preserving the history of Santa Cruz County.

She died January 7 in Klamath Falls, Oregon. She was 92.

During her tenure as a staff writer at the Santa Cruz Sentinel, where she worked from 1957-1981, Koch's work focused heavily on the county's history. She penned articles that helped lead to the restoration and preservation of some of the historical buildings in Santa Cruz, including an adobe building on School Street, part of the Santa Cruz Mission State Historic Park.

"Koch was born April 13, 1918, in Sacramento, but spent most of her life in Santa Cruz. She met her husband, Edward Koch, while studying journalism at UC Berkeley, and they married in 1938—on her twentieth birthday.

As a reporter, Koch focused on feature stories, as well as religion and history, and even had her own column, "My Mountain Home," about life around her Glenwood homestead.

Koch also wrote numerous books about the county's history, including "Santa Cruz County: Parade of the Past."



# Archaeologists Uncover Historic Mexican Settlement

## Near the Presidio

By Brian Rinker  
The Bay Area Citizen, March 11, 2011

The Presidio, site of the first Mexican settlement in San Francisco, will be transformed into an educational walking trail, according to Presidio Trust officials. The announcement came during the Fourth Annual Redmond Kernan Lecture Series held on November 17, 2010 at the Presidio Officers Club when four archaeologists disclosed their findings of a one-time valley known as El Polin. Discovered a couple hundred feet east of the Presidio beneath four feet of landfill dating back hundreds of years, lies this one-time valley, according to Presidio Trust archaeologists. The El Polin Loop, as it is being called today, will be a classroom where students get to use the landscape to interpret some of the artifacts found, said archaeologist Kari Jones. "This is hot off the presses," Jones said, referring to the approval of the loop. "I'm so excited, this is wonderful. The great thing about Presidio archaeology is that we get to bring it to the public. Normally archaeologists dig up some artifacts, interpret them and then bury them again."

El Polin is going to be restored back to its natural habit. The valley is a riparian area, and the planting of indigenous plants and the removal of the fill is already underway. The restoration of the wetlands will be reminiscent of The Presidio's Mexican era.

This era of "El Presidio" is often the most overlooked and misunderstood time at The Presidio. The historic findings included a Spring Box that drew water from a spring to create a pool that helped to filter sediment, cool food items, and offer protection against animals. They also found a brick clamp, a type of brick-making furnace that cooked from the inside out—an ancient technique dating back to Roman times.

A third discovery was a large waste pile—most likely the wasted clay tiles that inevitably occurs when making bricks in a brick clamp, according to Adrian Praetzelis, Sonoma State archaeologist. "We can now assume that at least some of the brick in The Presidio came from here [El Polin brick clamp]," said Praetzelis. This seems to be the first physical evidence of Mexican settlements outside The Presidio, Jones said.

The El Polin settlements were on the main trail that extended from El Presidio to Mission Dolores. These were the only established settlements at the time, which was around the 1810's. Under Mexico rule, El Presidio housed the Mexican governor of California. "That's why it so important," Jones said. "At this time you were either a soldier or a missionary." Both were very structured societies, and to live outside of those establishments was unheard of until then, Jones added. The excavation along McArthur Avenue was initiated by the proposed construction of a bus terminal and the "daylighting" of a creek, Jones said. ☞

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