



# *Santa Cruz Archaeological Society*

## *Newsletter*

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### ***Archaeologists Continue to Dig Up Movie History on the Central Coast***

June 18, 2013

April Hansen, KSBY News

Archaeologists continue to dig up decades of movie history under Central Coast sand dunes. In its latest excavation, the Guadalupe-Nipomo Dunes Center unveiled its latest artifacts from the Lost City of DeMille from Cecil B. DeMille's 1923 film ***The Ten Commandments***. It's the only surviving movie set from that era. KSBY News went to that community and found out how these unearthed artifacts are preserving Guadalupe's mark in cinema history.



**Archaeological Remains of the Movie Set *The Ten Commandments*.** (Image Courtesy of the Center for Land Use Interpretation <http://www.clui.org>)

"If you go out there now you'll see the knoll; the little chunks of stuff," said John Perry, Guadalupe resident and owner of JP's Auto Parts. When out of town visitors stop in at JP's Auto Parts in Guadalupe, they want to talk to owner John Perry because rumor has it, he knows where 'it' is buried.



"People will go out there thinking they'll see a hand sticking up, a paw or a head," said Perry. "They ask me 'where is The Lost City?' And I said 'we don't know, that is why it's called The Lost City' and they say 'oh you know where it is,'" said Perry.

Underneath the oil cans and socket wrenches, Perry dusts off a piece of cinema history. He has several of these plaster remnants from the set of Cecil B. DeMille's epic movie ***The Ten Commandments***.

More than 90 years of movie making history took place at the dunes, from ***Pirates of the Caribbean II*** to ***G.I. Jane***, but it was the movie ***The Ten Commandments*** that made the dunes popular with movie buffs. Not the movie itself, but what's buried underneath the sand.

Doug Jenzen is the Executive Director for the *Guadalupe-Nipomo Dunes Center*. "Typically when you think of archaeology you think of classical archaeology like Greece and Egypt," said Jenzen. He says no one knows for sure why DeMille buried his set.

"He ran out of money and didn't want to haul all the materials of this massive movie set back to Los Angeles. The second theory is he buried it because

he didn't want anyone else to get a hold of it," said Jenzen.

Jenzen says Santa Barbara County has no records of it, but driving through the dunes you can see what's left. "The set was 720 feet wide and 100 feet tall and that was just the back drop."

But archeologists have interest in more than just the set. "5,000 people lived in the sand dunes while the movie was being filmed, so they brought with them all the items they needed for a daily basis," said Jenzen. Like makeup compacts, gaffer gloves and film canisters.

As archeologists continue to uncover Hollywood's footprint on the Central Coast, John Perry hopes the history of the lights and camera will bring lots of action. "It will be a good shot in the arm of Guadalupe," said Perry. Artifacts from DeMille's ***The Ten Commandments*** movie set are on display at the *Dunes Center*.



## Snails Reveal Ancient Human Migration from France to Ireland

Popular Archaeology Daily News

June 19, 2013



A genetic study of snails, combined with other factors, suggests a migration of Mesolithic peoples from the Pyrenees to Ireland.

A recent study of the mitochondrial DNA of the *Cepaea nemoralis* land snail, a snail curiously common only between Ireland and the Pyrenees region of Southern France, has led researchers to conclude the possibility that ancient Mesolithic people carried the fauna with them in a migration from the French region to Ireland about 8,000 years ago.

This correlates with studies of human genetics and the colonization of Ireland, according to the research published June 19 in the open access journal PLOS ONE by Angus Davison and colleagues from the University of Nottingham, UK.\*

Ireland and this region of France are thousands of miles apart. Says Davison: "There is a very clear pattern, which is difficult to explain except by involving humans. If the snails naturally colonized Ireland, you would expect to find some of the same genetic type in other areas of Europe, especially Britain. We just don't find them."

Moreover, he adds, "There are records of Mesolithic or Stone Age humans eating snails in the Pyrenees, and perhaps even farming them. The highways of the past were rivers and the ocean – as the river that flanks the Pyrenees was an ancient trade route to the Atlantic, what we're actually seeing might be the long lasting legacy of snails that hitched a ride, accidentally or perhaps as food, as humans travelled from the South of France to Ireland 8,000 years ago."

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\*Grindon AJ, and Davison A (2013) Irish *Cepaea nemoralis* Land Snails Have a Cryptic Franco-Iberian Origin That Is Most Easily Explained by the Movements of Mesolithic Humans. PLoS ONE 8(6): e65792. doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0065792. Photo Credit: Lauren Holden.



## Filmmakers Will Search for Mythic "Atari Dump"

Archaeology Magazine

June 5, 2013

ALAMOGORDO, NEW MEXICO— A Canadian company has been granted permission to dig into a New Mexico landfill known as the "Atari Dump," where the video game company reportedly unloaded broken and returned merchandise, in addition to 3.5 million unsold copies of *E.T. The Extra-Terrestrial*, dubbed by some as the worst game in history. The unprofitable items had been sitting in a warehouse in Texas and were crushed and buried in the early 1980s as part of Atari's move to China.



## Olive Wollesen (de Joodt) Dies at 103

Rob Edwards, SCAS Member

January 18, 2013

Olive Wollesen was a local rancher in the Hunter-Leggett area of southern Monterey County who at 40 was told to develop a “hobby.” She settled on archaeology because “I thought geology meant collecting rocks and I thought they would be too heavy.” She and her sister Rachael Gillette were focused on their life-time home of the San Antonio Valley. They became experts on the genealogy (Wollesen 1976) and history (Gillette 1977) of the Valley as they were related to almost everyone. They were mainstays of the San Antonio Historical Society and Olive studied and learned about the Native peoples of the area. She wrote and published a small book on the Salinian (Wollesen 1972) and supported archaeological research on her ranch.

In 1972 she approached the Hartnell College in Salinas to see if they would be interested in doing some initial archaeology survey. Hartnell’s President talked with Bob Swenson, the President of Cabrillo College and Cabrillo College and the newly formed Santa Cruz Archaeological Society became involved with Olive. It seemed that the Commander of the Hunter-Liggett Reservation was not receptive to Olive’s concern and tried not to involve her in their planning decisions. Lots of luck! She was related to everyone in the valley including members of the military support system. She usually knew (within hours) what had been said or done in the Camp Commander’s office.



**Archaeological Site CA-Mnt-910, Fort Hunter-Liggett** (*Image Courtesy Cal Poly San Luis Obispo*)

Olive wanted the archaeologists to record all the large prehistoric sites that she had found on the military base, some of which also had historic adobes. And she got permission for Cabrillo and SCAS to come on the base during Thanksgiving weekend, 1972. But then the biggest early storm in many years, before or since, hit and the Reservation was soaked and the work was altered to focus on some of Olive's known sites in one area along the Nacimiento River from the west edge of the Reservation to an area called "The Palisades." It was good the shift was made, for the dirt roads and fields became impassable. As it was, one Cabrillo vehicle was stuck up to its axel. In trying to free it, three Army vehicles, each bigger than the one before, also got stuck. The Archaeologists dug the van out by the evening, leaving the Army to cope as best they could (with major maneuvers scheduled for the next morning).

The result of the Nacimiento River Survey was amazing. Seventy-seven sites were recorded over four days in about three miles among landscapes of great beauty (Lönnberg 1973). This intense density of sites were used to project that a great number of sites would be found on the military base (Edwards 1975). In order to comply with a number of new laws passed in that era, the military had to hire various archaeologists over time to deal with these resources. Each group of archaeologists would pay homage to Olive and I am sure all of her sites were recorded as were many, many more. Certainly she was a major force in the historic preservation on the Hunter-Liggett Military Reservation.

Cabrillo students over the years heard about Olive and her field notes, as an example of how the taking of detailed, complete notes was so very important to subsequent researchers. She had taken notes on each of her "hobby" excursions indicating where she had surveyed, where she had found things, sketches of that area and of the artifacts she had seen and those artifacts she had collected. In many cases she even noted who drove by as she was surveying. She had a shelf of notebooks that documented her archaeological work. She served as an important resource to our understanding of San Antonio Valley.

She was a remarkable person, and she is missed.

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## References

**Edwards, Robert**

**1975 "Prehistoric Cultural Resources at Hunter Liggett Military Reservation." Submitted to the President's Advisory Council on Historic Preservation.**

**Gillette, Rachel**

**1977 "Memories of the San Antonio Valley." San Antonio Valley Historical Association.**

**Lönnberg, Allan**

**1973 "Survey at the Hunter-Liggett Military Reservation." Santa Cruz Archaeological Society Newsletter.**

**Wolleson, Olive**

**1972 "The Aboriginal Salinian Indians."**

**1976 "Genealogy of the Encinales Family."**



## Mummies reveal ancient nicotine habit

Joseph Castro, *LiveScience* [nbcnews.com/science]; edited for SCAS  
June 29, 2013

The hair of mummies from the town of San Pedro de Atacama in Chile reveals the people in the region had a nicotine habit spanning from at least 100 B.C. to A.D. 1450. Additionally, nicotine consumption occurred on a society-wide basis, irrespective of social status and wealth, researchers say.

The finding refutes the popular view that the group living in this region smoked tobacco for just a short stint before moving on to snuffing hallucinogens. "The idea was that around A.D. 400, people in San Pedro de Atacama smoked tobacco in pipes, and then after that time, they gradually switched to inhaling dimethyltryptamines in snuffing trays," said study co-author Hermann Niemeyer, an organic chemist at the University of Chile in Santiago. "What we show is that's not correct."

The practice of smoking and snuffing hallucinogens was deeply rooted in the culture and thinking of many pre-Hispanic societies. In the south central Andes, two plant sources of hallucinogenic compounds exist: nicotine-containing species of *Nicotiana* (tobacco) and tryptamine-containing species of *Anadenanthera* (cebil).

Niemeyer and his colleague Javier Echeverría analyzed hair samples of 56 mummies from the Late Formative to the Late Intermediate periods of San Pedro de Atacama (100 B.C. to A.D. 1450). The mummies, Niemeyer explained, were in good condition, preserved naturally from the high temperatures, extreme dryness and high soil salinity in the Atacama Desert. Depending on the site, the mummies were either interred in the ground or entombed in "some sort of stony environment made for them."

A range of different objects were buried along with the mummies, such as jewelry, weapons, ceramic objects, raw metals, textiles, vases and various snuffing paraphernalia, including mortars, trays and tubes. The researchers used the number and type of objects as a proxy for the mummies' social and wealth statuses.

The team found nicotine in the hair of 35 mummies, spanning the full range of years. "The finding of nicotine was definitely unexpected," Niemeyer said. In the archaeological record of San Pedro de Atacama, smoking pipes are gradually replaced by snuff trays after around A.D. 400 — previous studies found evidence of nicotine in smoking pipes, but not in snuffing powder or snuffing paraphernalia, which were often associated with tryptamine alkaloids.

The results, which will be detailed in the October issue of the *Journal of Archaeological Science*, suggest nicotine consumption in pre-Hispanic San Pedro de Atacama occurred continuously for hundreds of years and was performed by people of all social and wealth statuses, Niemeyer said.





## UPCOMING GENERAL MEETINGS

*All General Meetings are held at the historic Sesnon House on the campus of Cabrillo College, located at 6500 Soquel Drive, Aptos, CA and begin promptly at 7:30 PM.*

### September 14, 2013

#### **Ohlone Day**

Henry Cowell State Park's Ohlone Day Celebration is an annual family celebration with many activities, information booths, and foods. *This traditionally has been a great opportunity for SCAS to share information about our Society and its activities, so we're looking for the Membership to help staff various activity booths that day.* If you want to help and are available please contact SCAS Outreach Coordinator Charr Smith via email at [Charrsmithaacc@gmail.com](mailto:Charrsmithaacc@gmail.com).

### September 19, 2013

#### **Guest Speaker (to be determined)**

Please visit our web page at <http://www.santacruzarchsociety.org/> for the latest schedule of upcoming speakers and events. After our summer break we will have another fine speaker and announce the winners of our general election for Treasurer and Vice President.

## OTHER EVENTS

### September 28, 2013

#### **Society for California Archaeology (SCA) Northern Data Sharing Meeting**

This meeting will be held at the Trinidad City Town Hall along the beautiful Pacific Coast in Humboldt County. A catered lunch will be provided and free camping is available on Friday and Saturday at nearby Patrick's Point State Park for the first 100 members who reserve a spot. Talks will highlight projects along California's North Coast but discussions on other geographic areas and topics are welcome. Visit the website <http://scahome.org/meetings-events/future-meetings/> or the SCA Facebook page for updates.

### October 17-19, 2013

#### **Paleoamerican Odyssey: A Conference Focused on First Americans**

#### **Archaeology in Santa Fe, New Mexico**

Hear leading experts in the field of First Americans Archaeology discuss the evidence for the Ice Age colonization of the Americas. Come and see the archaeological evidence--the artifacts from key sites from across North America. This conference is for everyone--archaeologists, avocational archaeologists, Quaternary scientists, students, the general public, and anyone interested in archaeology. Go to the web page <http://paleoamericanodyssey.com/> for more information.



Dear Members, it's Election Time Again! Here is the Candidate Description for Vice President:

**Pat Paramoure, Vice President (incumbent)**



Pat has lived in Santa Cruz County for the past 12 years, and has been a member of the Santa Cruz Archaeological Society since 2005.

After volunteering on many surveys for the society, she joined the board as the Membership Coordinator in 2007. In 2012, she was appointed Vice President when that position became vacant.

Originally from New England Pat moved to California after high school to study anthropology and archaeology at UC Santa Barbara.

While raising two children, she went back to school in 2004, and completed the Cabrillo College Archaeology Technology Program, earning an A.S. degree in 2006.

Beginning in 2005, she has worked in the field of Cultural Resources Management (CRM) for numerous companies in Northern California. She then entered the master's program at Sonoma State University, earning her M.A. in Cultural Resources Management in 2012.

Her Thesis investigated the daily lives of the lime workers at Cowell Lime Works Historic District on the UC Santa Cruz Campus.

She continues to work full-time in CRM and now does some of her own consulting work. She especially enjoys cataloging and dating historic artifacts.





*Dear Members, it's Election Time Again! Here is the Candidate Description for Treasurer:*

### **Cathy Phipps, Treasurer (incumbent)**



Born and raised in California, Cathy has resided in Santa Cruz County for more than 25 years. Prior to that time, she lived in Santa Clara County and spent seven years working in accounting offices. Upon moving to Aptos in 1988, she enrolled in classes at Cabrillo College part-time intending to advance her education and complete an Associate degree in accounting. After taking an introductory class in archaeology in 1991 (out of curiosity), she was hooked.

In 1992, Cathy completed her AS in accounting she immediately enrolled in the newly created Cabrillo College Archaeological Technology Program (CATP). She was a member of the first CCATP graduating class of 1994. She then went on to complete a Bachelor of Science (BS) in Anthropology with an emphasis in Archaeology from University of California Santa Cruz, graduating in the fall of 1998.

Cathy has been a member of SCAS since 1991, serving one term as Secretary on the Board of Directors in the early to mid-1990s before returning in 2005 to the position of Treasurer which she has held for the last eight years. She has over 30 years of bookkeeping experience with small businesses, as well as for parent-teacher clubs at both private and public schools. In addition to her Treasury duties for SCAS, she has spent the last 12 years coordinating school fundraising events for her son's elementary and middle schools in Santa Cruz County.

Spending time with family and friends is Cathy's greatest enjoyment, as well as contributing to the education and future of our local children.



*To the Membership, per the By-Laws of the Santa Cruz Archaeological Society Section X, below is presented to Members in Good Standing the detailed financial report for the prior Fiscal Year courtesy of Treasurer Cathy Phipps:*

SCAS Financial Statements  
Fiscal Year April 1, 2012 through March 31, 2013

**Accounts Balance:**

Checking	\$ 2,967.37
Savings	\$ 8,513.64
Research Fund Checking	\$ 961.07
Cash Box	\$ 70.00
<b>Total Accounts Balance</b>	<b><u>\$ 12,512.08</u></b>

**Income:**

Donation Income	\$ 62.25
Membership Income	\$ 2,735.00
Merchandise Sales	\$ 2,594.53
Other Income	\$ 1.88
<b>Total Income</b>	<b><u>\$ 5,393.66</u></b>

**Expenses:**

Business Insurance	\$ 291.00
Canopy Expense	\$ 217.57
General Mtg. Food & Supplies	\$ 92.77
General Mtg. Honorariums	\$ 200.00
Internet Expense	\$ 208.00
Merchandise Expense	\$ 410.32
Newsletter Expense	\$ 389.00
Office & Postage Expense	\$ 294.08
SCA Conference Expense	\$ 320.00
Other Expense	\$ 87.00
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b><u>\$ 2,509.74</u></b>

**Net Income** **\$ 2,883.92**

*Thank you for your support of the Santa Cruz Archaeological Society!*



## BONUS ARTICLE! Exploring the Past at the Cowell Lime Works Historic District – University of California, Santa Cruz

Mary Gerbic, SCAS Member

July 5, 2013

This spring eight University of California, Santa Cruz (UCSC) archaeology and anthropology students under the direction of Pat Paramoure, excavated at the Bay Street Kilns in the Cowell Lime Works Historic District on Coolidge Drive, located just inside the Bay Street entrance to the UCSC campus. Sponsored by the *Friends of the Cowell Lime Works* in cooperation with the UCSC Anthropology Department, this excavation internship project ran 10 consecutive Saturdays ending June 8 2013. During the project, students learned how to excavate and record the excavation and any features and artifacts that they find. They also performed lab work where students cleaned, identified, classified and accessioned artifacts into a project database.



***“Batch” Kiln, Cowell Lime Works Historic District***

The Cowell Lime Works Historical District encompasses the area around the entrance to the UCSC campus. Isaac E. Davis and Albion P. Jordan first mined marble for lime production here in 1853. Later Henry Cowell bought Davis and Jordan’s interest in the company. The ranch was in operation until the 1920s, and the estate passed to the S.H. Cowell Foundation after the last of Henry Cowell’s children died. During the 1960s, the Foundation sold land to the University of California Regents for the UCSC campus.

Cowell Ranch was not just a ranch; it was a self-contained industrial site where the local white marble was turned into lime for the building industry. In the Cooperage, barrels were constructed to hold the lime from the kilns and the barrels were taken to the company’s pier where they were loaded onto company ships for transport. Wood for barrels and fuel for the kilns was cut from the company’s forest lands. Livestock on the ranch fed the workers. Many of the workers were immigrants from Portugal and Italy.

Pot kilns are also called batch kilns, as they are loaded, fired and cooled as one process. During typical operation of the kilns, one would be in the process of loading while the next was fired and the third kiln cooling and being unloaded, for continuous production.



There are three of these kilns behind the Cooperage. Each of the pot kilns has four arched doorways, where fuel was loaded during the firing process and the resulting lime removed at the end. At the east end, there is a fourth kiln of a different design – a continuous kiln. As the name implies, this kiln could be continuously loaded from the top and lime taken out from the bottom during the kiln's operation.

I made three trips to the excavation site to meet with Pat Paramoure and the student crew. My first visit to the excavation was on May 11, 2013. I found the students hard at work in their units between the Cooperage and the four lime kilns; Pat toured me around the site. From west to east, facing the kilns, Pat pointed out the Trench 1 and Trench 2 excavation perpendicular to the Cooperage and the first pot kiln.



*Students excavate Trench 1 and 2, Cowell Lime Works Historic District (M. Gerbic)*

The trench was on a slight slope and very rocky. Pat and the students pointed out numerous refractory bricks used to line the kilns. Pat said that kilns had to be relined occasionally due to damage from melting and cracking, so it was not surprising that there were many bricks and brick fragments scattered about.

Near the center of the yard was Unit 1. Unit 2 was located in the arched doorway of the continuous kiln. Olimpia Vasquez Ojeda, who was excavating in Unit 2 that day, told me that it was much easier to dig than the other units because the soil was softer and moist.



Andrew Woodhead, one of Pat's teaching assistants, pointed out the stratigraphy of the unit. At the bottom of the unit was a white plaster "floor." Above the floor, dark soil was mixed with charcoal; the next layer was composed of gray ash with pieces of charcoal with gravelly tan soil and rocks. In the photo below the tan soil is capped by a piece of wood:



The students had isolated an unidentified metal fragment in the bottom of the unit. It might be a hinge for the door of the continuous kiln. Pat showed me the numerous nails that were coming out of this unit, which they had bagged after screening. Why is there a plaster floor under the ash and charcoal? "That's not known yet," Pat said.

At the end of the students' break, Andrew guided me to the top of the kilns for a view into the kilns, the Cooperage, and an overview of the excavation below. From this elevated vantage point, one can see how dry and rocky the soil is and how crumbly-looking the kiln walls appeared to be (photo below):



*Aerial View of Excavations in Trench 2, Cowell Lime Works Historic District (M. Gerbic)*

On my second visit May 25<sup>th</sup>, I was able to see how much progress the students had made in two Saturdays. I asked about the neat line of rocks running parallel to the kilns and the cooperage that were so visible in the photos from the first visit. Pat said, "If you know, tell us. We placed Unit 1 where we did, thinking it continued, but it doesn't."

Pat showed me two bricks with imprints never recorded at this site. Referring to a well-read copy of *Lime Kiln Legacies* by Frank Perry and others (2007), there is a listing of bricks found at other kilns in the Santa Cruz Mountains. There were bricks from the nearby Carnegie brickworks as well as those farther afield. Bricks were often imprinted with their manufacturer's name. Many bricks found at the Cowell Lime Works such as "SNOWBALL" were shipped from England or Scotland as ballast in sailing ships.

In Unit 2, the plaster floor was gone. "Now we've broken through it and now we have a brick floor," said Libby Tjoa, one of Unit 2 excavators. Libby and Liam Zachary were both in Unit 2, with barely room to spare. Libby continued: "It's cramped, but not too bad. You get some Yoga in." Liam carefully dusted a brick with some lime and brushed it away. The letters "G A R N K I R" appeared. This was the third previously unrecorded brick brand.

Later that afternoon, another discovery was made. It took just the right light to show that in the atrium of the continuous kiln, there were faint lists of numbers written in black on the red brick. Why were they sketched here? Pat and others will return later to investigate. In my mind, those numbers were a reminder and connection to the people who labored here nearly a century ago. Isn't this what Archaeology is all about?

On June 8<sup>th</sup>, I joined other donors and Friends for a final tour of the site. Students gave guided tours to each group of visitors. Several notable artifacts were on display including some of the recently discovered firebricks. One of the visitors was Tom Schreiner PhD, a SCAS member, and a researcher of old-time lime production methods, which he has studied for years, combining ethnography and experimental archaeology. Pat invited Tom to give an impromptu talk to the students, who were eager to hear Tom tell them how pot kilns were operated.

Tom also explained that the Romans and the Maya were experts in the manipulation of limestone and produced sophisticated products without the benefit of modern technology. Many people around the world have continued to use similar pre-modern techniques until a generation or two ago. They knew which additives to add to the lime to make plaster, such as crushed nopales, fruit, milk or blood, to give the plaster certain desired qualities, such as durability in tropical climates, or ability to take a polish.

As the excavation internship project ended, it was clear to me that the students had enthusiasm for their work, and had uncovered many mysteries. The student interns wanted me to pass on to you, readers, which they say thanks to all the donors who made this year's excavation possible. They would like all of you to donate next year as well, so that this work can continue and more UCSC students can participate.





*Excavation Crew at the Cowell Lime Works Historic District, June 8, 2013 (M. Gerbic)*

I am happy to know that the ranch is now a Historical District and that the University of California and the Friends of the Cowell Lime Works are engaged in the investigation, preservation, and interpretation of the district. This is a historical and archaeological gem, which can help us understand how people lived and worked in Santa Cruz a few generations ago.

For more information about the Cowell Lime Works, visit the Friends of the Cowell Lime Works website at [limeworks.ucsc.edu](http://limeworks.ucsc.edu), The Cowell Historical Society web page: [cowellhistoricalsociety.org/html/lime.html](http://cowellhistoricalsociety.org/html/lime.html), or pick up a copy of *Lime Kiln Legacies: The History of the Lime Industry in Santa Cruz County* by Frank Perry and others (2007) published by the Santa Cruz Museum of Art and History.



*“G A R N K I R” unrecorded brick brand from Cowell Lime Works (M. Gerbic)*

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