

GERALD A. SMITH
Director

MUSEUM: TRinity 7-9831
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MAILING ADDRESS
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Bloomington, California

OPEN DAILY

As you may know, the San Bernardino County Museum, under grant from the National Geographic Society, is excavating an archaeological site which we believe to be of significance. The site is in the Calico Mountains northeast of Barstow in the Mojave Desert. Dr. Louis Leakey selected the specific locality within the area where we have been conducting a survey for the last ten years -- the drainage basin of Pleistocene Manix Lake. Dr. Leakey is the Director of the project and I am Field Director.

The excavation has been in progress since November 1 and at Dr. Leakey's request, the work has been done under the tightest controls and with small hand tools. Most of the excavation has been done in a 25' x 25' master pit. There are also several test pits and exploratory trenches. In the master pit, most of its 5' x 5' squares which have been opened now extend to a depth of at least 5'. The nature of the cementing materials has made progress slow, but we feel that now a sufficient exposure of the deposits has been excavated to make the stratigraphy of the site apparent.

From the deeper strata we have recovered an assemblage of artifactual material which we believe is significant. Dr. Gerald A. Smith, Director of the San Bernardino County Museum, and I hope that within the next few weeks you may have the opportunity to visit the locality. Your opinion of the deposits and artifacts would be most appreciated. We would be pleased to meet you at the airport in Ontario (near San Bernardino); at the railroad station at San Bernardino, or the railroad station in Barstow. If you come by automobile, we will arrange a convenient meeting place. We certainly hope that you will be able to visit the site.

Sincerely yours,

Ruth D. Simpson
Field Director

APPROVED:

Gerald A. Smith, Director
San Bernardino County Museum

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