

ARCHAEOLOGY SESSION I

PRELIMINARY REPORT ON EXCAVATIONS AT THE
SNAKE ROCK SITE, CENTRAL UTAH

by C. Melvin Aikens

(abstract not available at this time)

PROGRESS REPORT OF THE 1963 ARCHAEOLOGICAL
EXCAVATIONS AT EVANS MOUND, UTAH

by Joseph Chartkoff

This paper is intended to be a progress report of the excavations conducted by the University of California, Los Angeles, summer field class at Evans Mound, Summit, Utah, during the summer of 1963. It is hoped that, through such progress reports, UCLA can bring current findings to the attention of interested anthropologists at regular intervals, without the expense of necessarily repetitive publications.

The chief development of the 1963 excavations was the discovery of several pit-houses off the main mound. As was reported to this Conference last year by Jay Ruby and Wayne Alexander, in past seasons numerous above-ground rectangular structures had been uncovered on the mound proper. These circular pithouses, however, appear to be of Great Basin type, and appear to have been the houses of the people, while the on-mound rectangular structures appear to have been essentially storage chambers.

Another development was the finding of more trade ceramics, especially figurines, but the affinities of this trade-ware have not yet been positively identified.

At present, the 1963 material continues to indicate that the Summit people had a marginal pueblid culture which was heavily influenced by Great Basin traits.

AN EXPLORATORY REPORT ON SOME PREHISTORIC
AND HISTORIC SITES IN CENTRAL NEVADA

by Molly Magee

A brief account is given of the general surroundings and climatic conditions of Grass Valley, Lander County, Nevada, in an effort to explore the possible cultural and economic significance of extensive remains of village sites whose numerous house foundations and middens would seem to imply habits of settled habitation in the area over long periods of time.

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An outline sketch is made of the earthenware pottery types found in conjunction with village and burial sites. The pottery includes Shoshone grey ware, both plain and incised, and Owens Valley brown ware. Mention is made in the report of an area traditionally held to be a burial site, located on the east side of Grass Valley and called the Rocky Point. Cottonwood travois poles used for transporting bodies, finely worked projectile points showing little or no use, six separate pottery sites, and a human skull found on the surface give support to the theory that Rocky Point was one of the burial areas in the valley. Stone structures, including monuments, walls, burial cairns, blinds, murettes and house foundations are described. Particular emphasis is given distribution of monuments on passes, ridges, and hill tops.

THE CORN CREEK DUNES SITE:
A DATED SURFACE SITE IN SOUTHERN NEVADA

by Robert Orlins

The Corn Creek Dunes Site appears to be the first radiocarbon dated surface site in the Great Basin. It was excavated as an extension of the geological-archaeological survey of the Tule Springs Project of 1962-1963.

Charcoal from seven hearths was collected for dating. The dates received were internally consistent and span a range from 5,200± 100 B.P. (UCLA # 526:1963) to 4,030± 100 B. P. (UCLA # 535:1963). The lithic industry found was primarily composed of small chipped scrapers, large percussion flaked tools, and milling stone fragments.

EXCAVATIONS IN LEHMAN CAVES NATIONAL MONUMENT

by Charles Rozaire

Excavations of 14 five-foot squares were carried out in Room 1 of Lehman Caves National Monument, Nevada, in the Fall of 1963. Two major depositional periods were observed: one fluvial and the other aeolian. The latter (of later date) contained the Indian cultural material--15 fire hearths, 2 hammerstones, 4 flakes or chunks of obsidian, 1 used flake and 1 section of projectile point, the end of a bow, and possible arrow fragments. Also found were modern, non-Indian goods such as matches, nails, and other metal objects. In addition to the artifacts, 93 fragments of human bone were found plus 495 animal bones. The latter, however, did not comprise camp refuse and were scattered throughout the deposits.

It would appear that Lehman Cave was infrequently visited in prehistoric times and was not lived in. Since the human bone was not articulated, scattered and fragmented, the use of the cave as a burial chamber is doubted.

FURTHER EXCAVATIONS AT SITE 5, TULE SPRINGS, NEVADA

by Donald R. Tuohy

The well known Tule Springs locality was subjected to an intensive re-investigation during the winter of 1962. Previous work at the locality had posed many questions which could be answered only by further and more intensive archaeological investigations. The major question to be resolved by the 1962 excavations was the correct temporal placement of fossil vertebrate remains and the cultural materials presumably in association with them. The 1962 project combined the approaches of geology, vertebrate paleontology, paleobotany, and archaeology, and produced a wealth of data which have not yet been fully assessed. The project was headed by Dr. Richard Shutler, Jr. of the Nevada State Museum, and financed by a grant from the National Science Foundation.

One of the sites investigated at Tule Springs in 1962 was site 5, a low knoll on the north bank of Vegas Wash, an erosional remnant of a stream channel system with deposits rich in mammoth, horse, camel, and antelope bones and beds of charcoal. Charcoal from three fossil bearing beds within the channel systems was submitted for assay. Charcoal from a bed in the "lower channel fill" yielded a date of $13,900 \pm 200$ years B. P. A sample from the middle member of the "upper channel fill" yielded a date of 9670 ± 200 years B. P. Only one problematical artifact was recovered from the site, and that object was a bi-pointed bone tool associated with a charcoal bed, a presumed fire hearth, in the "lower channel fill."

One surface artifact, a broad, willow-leaf-shaped projectile point, similar to one found in association with the first mammoth at Santa Isabel Iztapan, Mexico (Wormington 1957: 94, fig. 32), permitted the suggestion that site 5 was an Early Man site similar in many respects to the Naco and Lehner sites in southeastern Arizona (Haury 1953; Haury *et al* 1959). Unfortunately, site 5 was not completely excavated, and at the conclusion of the 1962 season, a mammoth skull and several other fossil bones were left in the side wall of the excavation.

This paper is a report of further excavations, conducted during the summer of 1964, at site 5, Tule Springs, Nevada.

EXCAVATIONS AT LOYALTON ROCK SHELTER, SIERRA COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

by Norman L. Wilson

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