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Garfinkel and Cook: *Aspects of Prehistoric Change in Central Eastern California: The Sherwin Grade Site*

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REVIEWS

Brief Notes on Recent Publications

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Indian-White Relationships in Northern California: 1849-1920 in the Congressional Set of United States Public Documents.

Compiled by *Norris A. Bleyhl*. Northeastern California Regional Programs, California State University, Chico, 1978, 106 pp. This is an extremely useful reference aid to anyone interested in the ethnohistory of northern California. Bleyhl lists 348 documents including Annual Reports to the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, House and Senate Executive Documents, House and Senate Reports, etc., in order according to the date originally entered into the record and identified by the Serial Set Number. Each entry is annotated in some detail and the user will have good and accurate knowledge of what each document addresses. The index contains names, places, events, and subject categories.

Newspaper References Concerning Indians and Indian-White Relationships in Northeastern California Chiefly Between 1850 and 1920. Compiled by *Norris A. Bleyhl*. Northeastern California Regional Programs, California State University, Chico, 1979, 209 pp. This is a companion piece to the above publication. While it is also useful,

it does not, and cannot as the compiler recognizes, achieve the same level of completeness as the former volume. It does provide an annotated index to many of the old newspapers in northeastern California arranged by county and by subject matter. It has an index but would have benefited from a table of contents. Anyone seeking to document the mistreatment and murder of the Indian people in this area will find it invaluable.



Aspects of Prehistoric Change in Central Eastern California: The Sherwin Grade Site. *Alan P. Garfinkel* and *Roger A. Cook*. California Department of Transportation Occasional Papers in Archaeology No. 1, 1979, vi + 107 pp., \$3.00 (paper).

Reviewed by COLIN I. BUSBY

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Aspects of Prehistoric Change in Central Eastern California: The Sherwin Grade Site represents a commendable effort by the California Department of Transportation (CALTRANS) to publish basic site-data reports resulting from in-house project studies concerned with cultural resource management.

The report, from a region that has attracted a renewed and concerted research

effort since initial investigations in the 1930's, discusses the excavation of CA-Mno-584, a relatively high-altitude (6900 feet) site located on the east slope of the Sierra Nevada between Bishop and Mammoth Lakes, California. The initial test investigations were mandated by the proposed construction of a CALTRANS project associated with Highway 395. The research was directed toward determining the depth, areal extent, activity areas, range of potentially recoverable data, and cultural-chronological placement and significance. Additional limited excavation was carried out after the initial test phase to further determine the nature of the site.

In a format similar to the past University of California Archaeological Survey Reports, the report presents an excellent contextual background section dealing with the environmental setting, ethnographic background, and previous archaeological research with succinct subsections on recent regional research concerned with subsistence-settlement patterns and exchange systems. The basic components of the report are well presented, although I would have liked additional illustrations/photographs of the chipped stone artifacts as well as detailed descriptions and metrics for the various artifact categories (e.g., scraper, knife, etc.) other than projectile points. Comparison with other regional sites is often not possible without this basic information, although, in contrast to the chipped-stone specimens, the ground-stone artifacts are dealt with in more satisfying detail.

Special studies, including obsidian trace-element determination, obsidian hydration, and identification of both floral and faunal remains, lend excellent support to the report's data base and aid in the interpretation of Mno-584. The projectile point section is sufficiently detailed in both descriptive and metric attributes to allow future researchers adequate data to pursue further comparative studies.

The site is interpreted by the authors as a base-camp locality supporting a wide range of seasonal activities including the finishing of obsidian bifacial tools for export to other California localities. Chronologically the site appears to have been occupied from ca. 3000 B.C. to the protohistoric period. The monograph concludes with a useful discussion of late prehistoric cultural change in central eastern California which is of some value in its suggestion of a number of working hypotheses that may be tested by future research.

The report is well produced, and the authors and CALTRANS must be complimented for the publication. It is hoped that additional reports of a similar format may appear in the future and that other public agencies may follow suit in disseminating data gathered on similar public archaeology projects.



The Natural World of the California Indians.
Robert F. Heizer and Albert Elsasser.
Berkeley: University of California Press,
1980, 271 pp., 130 figs., \$12.95 (cloth),
\$7.95 (paper).

Reviewed by JOHN KIPPING
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Upon receiving my copy of Heizer and Elsasser's *The Natural World of the California Indians*, I slipped the volume into my jacket pocket and walked to a favored nearby knoll to read without disturbance. If I had chosen comparable works such as Kroeber's *Handbook of the Indians of California* (1925), Heizer and Whipple's *California Indians* (1957), or Volume 8 of the Smithsonian's *Handbook of North American Indians* (1978),