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Johnson and Theodoratus: *Cottonwood Creek Project, Shasta and Tehama Counties, California: Dutch Gulch Lake Intensive Cultural Resources Survey*; and Johnson and Theodoratus: *Cottonwood Creek Project, Shasta and Tehama Counties, California: Tehama Lak...*

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*Cottonwood Creek Project, Shasta and Tehama Counties, California: Dutch Gulch Lake Intensive Cultural Resources Survey.* Jerald J. Johnson and Dorothea J Theodoratus. Sacramento: U. S. Army Corps of Engineers, 1984, 460 pp., 33 figs., 21 plates, 51 maps, 45 tables, bibliography, gratis (paper).

*Cottonwood Creek Project, Shasta and Tehama Counties, California: Tehama Lake Intensive Cultural Resources Survey.* Jerald J. Johnson and Dorothea J Theodoratus. Sacramento: U. S. Army Corps of Engineers, 1984, 228 pp., 3 figs., 11 plates, 14 maps, 32 tables, bibliography, gratis (paper).

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These two reports describe the largest published cultural resources survey in north-central California, comprising some 45,000 acres in the Cottonwood Creek vicinity, located in the foothills west of the Sacramento River between Redding and Red Bluff. The project includes two separate areas: the proposed Dutch Gulch Lake, encompassing portions of the North and Middle forks of Cottonwood Creek; and the proposed Tehama Lake, situated on the South Fork. The major goals of these studies were to document all cultural resources on project lands, and to evaluate their eligibility for the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). Toward those ends, concurrent ethnographic, historical, and archaeological data-gathering efforts were closely integrated to achieve a comprehensive result. The value of these studies was enhanced by the attention they focused on two broad research domains, to be discussed below. As a result, Johnson and Theodoratus'

investigations provide an important contribution to the anthropology of the region.

In parallel format, each report provides a brief introduction, environmental setting, and summary of previous research (Chapter 1), statements of research goals (Chapter 2) and methods (Chapter 3), a description of archaeological findings (Chapter 4) and synthetic results gleaned from them (Chapter 5), the results of ethnographic and historical research (Chapters 6 and 7), a summary of potential impacts upon recorded cultural resources (Chapter 8), an evaluation of their significance (Chapter 9), and management recommendations (Chapter 10). The texts are concisely written, with many data conveniently tabulated. Numerous well-executed maps, figures, and photographs contribute to the reports, although, regrettably, few of the prehistoric artifacts discussed in the text are illustrated (e.g., a wide-stemmed projectile point from the Tehama Lake locality).

The layering of ethnographic, historical, and archaeological research produced a wealth of detail by which to evaluate individual sites and districts, and resulted in the recordation of some cultural properties that might have been missed by an archaeological survey alone. The use of oral testimony and agricultural and population censuses are particularly noteworthy. Also contributing significantly to the archaeological component of the Cottonwood studies was Johnson's intimate familiarity with many unpublished data from the southern Cascade foothills. These data greatly enhance the contribution these reports make to two research domains involving prehistoric population movements and the location of the ethnographic boundary between the Bald Hills Wintu and the Nomlaki.

These ambitious research topics occupy most of the discussion in Chapter 5 of each report, and represent a commendable effort to interpret survey data. The topic of prehistoric population movements was organized

using a research design developed by Kowta (1975), who defined test implications for the hypothesized displacement of speakers of Hokan languages by populations that spoke Penutian languages. Johnson must have realized that it was unrealistic to expect survey data to make more than a minimal contribution to this issue. At the very least, dated archaeological components would have to be defined and compared – a task requiring subsurface testing. Therefore, Johnson's primary contribution is a synthesis of data from projects in the surrounding region, supplemented with some provisional conclusions about the Cottonwood Creek project area that will become germane when excavations are conducted. His principal observation regarding this research domain is that both study areas had a pre-Wintu occupation, as evinced by the scant presence of manos and millingslabs, and one wide-stemmed projectile point from each locality. These artifacts are thought to mark human presence at Cottonwood before ca. 1500 - 2500 B.C.

The question of the ethnographic Wintu - Nomlaki boundary was approached much more realistically using both archaeological and ethnographic data. Since this issue relates to the initial contact period, its investigation was amenable to surficial archaeological data-collection techniques. Hence a predictably greater contribution was made to this research domain. The archaeological data suggest that the ethnographic boundary drawn by Merriam (1967) south of the South Fork of Cottonwood Creek is probably more accurate than those defined by Kroeber and his students (notably, DuBois). Ethnographic interview data and the distinctive geography of the region also support this conclusion. Johnson noted cultural continuity from at least A.D. 600 - 700, and possibly earlier, in both study areas, reflected in an artifact assemblage thought to be ethnically diagnostic of Wintu occupation, including hopper-mortars, bow

smoothers, and other items comprising the Shasta Pattern. These marker traits are contrasted with the Tehama Pattern found in ethnographic Yana territory, and with known Nomlaki archaeological manifestations.

One unusual field method employed during the Cottonwood survey bears mention. In an attempt to define the spatial limits and relative ages of midden deposits, a simple soil-carbonate test was used. This test consisted of the application of a few drops of a 30% solution of muriatic acid to the ground surface, with positive (fizzing) reactions recorded subjectively as strong, intermediate, or weak. While soil-chemistry tests may lead to more sophisticated means for defining the spatial parameters of certain kinds of activity areas, the Cottonwood carbonate - testing program failed to quantify absolute carbonate concentrations; nor were skewing factors adequately assessed or controlled for. These factors will need to be addressed before the results of such tests become meaningful.

The survey results warrant brief consideration here in that they reveal several additional findings of interest to northern California archaeologists. In roughly equal project areas, 117 Indian and 166 historic non-Indian cultural sites were found in the Dutch Gulch locality, while only 80 Indian and 33 historic non-Indian sites were documented in the Tehama locality. These differences probably result largely from the distinctive environments of the two areas. Particularly important during the historic period was the presence of auriferous gravels in the Dutch Gulch locality, and their absence in the Tehama Lake project area. Of particular interest in the Dutch Gulch area are numerous Chinese mining sites, which, while known from other regions, have not been extensively studied to date.

The availability of potable water also helps explain why the South Fork apparently was a peripheral area in the recent past, when considered in relation to the Middle and

North forks of Cottonwood Creek. While the more northerly forks continue to flow even in drought years, the South Fork usually is dry in the late summer and fall. The seasonality of the water supply in the Tehama Lake locality, in turn, conditions numbers and types of biota present there. In light of Holocene climatic changes throughout California, it is interesting that the archaeological manifestations in the vicinity of the South Fork reflect diminishing human activity during the last 300 to 500 years of prehistory, while strong continuity is evinced in the northern project area. Future subsurface studies have the potential to shed considerable light on this issue.

Indian sites in the Tehama Lake locality include middens, lithic scatters, and a large number of isolated finds consisting predominantly of unifacial cores found on ridge tops and high terraces. These same site types appear in generally greater numbers in the Dutch Gulch locality, with the addition of cemeteries and quarry sites. The distribution of unifacial cores suggests the casual procurement / assaying of low-grade, locally available materials.

In all, Johnson and Theodoratus' two Cottonwood reports succeed in providing a comprehensive inventory of the project's cultural resources, as well as a thorough overview of the cultural history of the project areas. While their survey data could only begin to address the issue of population replacements, a truly substantive contribution was made to the investigation of the ethnographic Wintu-Nomlaki boundary. These research domains, as well as others including paleoenvironmental change, mortuary patterns, Chinese lifeways, and lithic procurement strategies provide an excellent context in which to judge the research significance of the documented cultural resources. As a result of these investigations, NRHP site and district nominations were recommended in both study areas, with examples of every site type included.

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*The Hover Collection of Karuk Baskets*. Virginia M. Fields, text; James D. Toms, photographs. Clarke Memorial Museum, 240 E Street, Eureka, California 95501, 1985. \$21.00 (paper).

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At the same time that so many valuable, documented collections of American Indian basketry are being split among children, separated from their documentation, and/or sold to dealers, *The Hover Collection of Karuk Basketry* tells the success story of a small collection of baskets which seems to have led a charmed existence.

Begun in the mid-nineteenth century by Emma Pearch, a Karuk basketweaver who married an immigrant Englishman, the collection was joined in the beginning of this century by the collection of Robert and Julia Starritt. The combined treasures became the responsibility of Lee Hover at the death of his mother, Elsie, in 1972. To their credit, Mr. and Mrs. Hover decided the collection would be most appreciated in the county in which it