

## **UC Merced**

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#### **Title**

Lee: *Indians of the Oaks*

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vast extent of the Lake China shoreline.

Reviewing the chronological arguments for antiquity, given that stone tools of respectable age were found in conjunction with an extinct fauna, both the palynological data of Mehringer and the  $^{14}\text{C}$  and stratigraphic data of Smith combine to place a reasonable time bracket of 7 to 14 thousand years on the Lake China activity. Arguments for greater antiquity, no matter how enticing they may be, are, in my opinion, purely speculative. This is acceptable. The recurring theme, however, reflects the author's desires rather than the facts and, combined with her esteem for the very human characteristics of her "People of the Lakes" that gives *The Ancient Californians* a distinct charm, allows (perhaps forces) her to infer more from the data than the data warrant.



***Indians of the Oaks.*** Millicent Lee. Ramona, California: Acoma Books, 1978 (new edition), 256 pp., illus., \$6.95 (paper).

Reviewed by VERA-MAE FREDRICKSON  
Berkeley, California

These two stories of Kumeyaay (Southern Diegueño) life in the foothills of southern California were originally published in 1937. The author, the Founder-Director of the Indian Arts League of San Diego, had spent many years with the Kumeyaay as they moved from one seasonal site to another practicing the remnants of their traditional life.

The main fictional characters in the two stories are, respectively, a ten-year-old White boy who lives with the Indians and the young daughter of a Kumeyaay herbwoman. Accounts of their day-to-day adventures in the San Diego County of a hundred years ago comprise an entertaining adventure book for young readers. An engrossing focus of the book for students of Indian culture, however,

is the wealth of detail on technology, food gathering and preparation, journeys, and other aspects of Kumeyaay life.

Perceptions by the author of Kumeyaay values and philosophy are presented in the context of daily activities and interaction between people as well as in recountings of the traditional myths.

An introduction by the Education Coordinator of the San Diego Museum of Man provides information on the author and the context in which the book was originally written. The book includes "A Note on the Pronunciation of the Indian Names." Each new Indian word is also pronounced in a footnote on the page in which it first occurs. A brief list of herbs used by the Kumeyaay for food and medicine and the way they are prepared is illustrated with a page of plant drawings. Other illustrations are also scattered throughout the book: drawings of objects and scenes mentioned in the stories. The work concludes with a "Little Dictionary" of Indian words.

The writing style is very readable, with short sentences and clear language, marred only by occasional coyness. This book is highly recommended as supplementary reading for any course concerned with California Indians in elementary and high schools.



***A Southern California Indigenous Ceramic Typology: A Contribution to Malcolm J. Rogers' Research.*** Ronald V. May. Archaeological Survey Association of Southern California, *A.S.A. Journal* 2(2), Fall-Winter 1978, 54 pp., 9 figs., \$2.00 (paper).

Reviewed by CHRISTOPHER E. DROVER  
University of California, Riverside

The title of this work leads the reader to expect the long awaited publication of