



Culturally Speaking

The Cultural Resources Newsletter of California State Parks

Produced by the Archaeology, History & Museums Division

Volume 3, Issue 2

Summer 2013

Inside This Issue:

From the Chief's Desk 2

Railroad Museum Library 3

New Tribal Liaison Position Filled 4

Tribal Water Summit 5

Japanese Consulate at Gilroy Hot Springs.. 5

Cultural Training Held at Asilomar..... 6

Hearst Castle Orange Orchards..... 8

Restoring "The Eye of Diablo" 9

Blessing the Collections 10

Santa Susana Stage Trail Repairs..... 11

In Our Corner: Ty Smith 12

Upcoming Events... 15

Linda Walton Receives Director's Award

Paulette Hennum, Museum Curator III-Archaeology, History & Museums Division

Silver Linings

On April 23, 2013, Linda Walton received a Director's Special Commendation Award for her dedication to protecting important cultural resources belonging to the citizens of California. The story of how this came about is a tale of how dark clouds can often contain a silver lining.

Accounting For Closures

In the not too distant past, seventy State Parks, many of which house museum collections, were identified for possible closure or alternative management arrangements. Like many of our archaeological sites and historic buildings, many of our museum collections had not been inventoried in years - if ever. It was evident that no matter which scenario played out, the need to account for our collections was crucial.

The AHM Division was notified that assisting

parks on the "closure list" was to be our top priority. In August 2011, Linda Walton, Museum Curator I, was assigned to coordinate our Division's response to requests for artifact inventories from eleven field units scheduled for imminent closure. Linda researched the topic,



Major General Anthony L. Jackson presents the Director's Special Commendation Award to Linda Walton

consulted with other professionals and developed a successful process for completing the inventories efficiently and accurately.

Overcoming Challenges

Conducting artifact inventories requires hard work and a willingness to get dirty. The inventory teams, under Linda's direction, worked in dusty, cramped storage rooms, in outbuildings with dirt

floors, on ladders to reach high shelves - and wherever else collections were located. Despite the challenging working conditions, Linda recruited staff from the Northern Service Center and the Capital District and garnered support from field management and seasonal employees at each site.

Commitment to the Collections

Each inventory resulted in an accurate count of our museum collections and their locations and a comprehensive report identifying areas in need of improvement and recommendations for how they could be made. Thanks to Linda's thoroughness and commitment to caring for the collections, her reports also provided a better understanding of the objects' physical condition and how they are managed.

Bidwell Mansion A Case Study

One of the best examples of this commitment is

(Continued on page 2)

Director's Award

(Continued from page 1)

Bidwell Mansion State Historic Park in Chico. Linda's follow-up report exposed several weaknesses which were fundamental in justifying an award of \$228,000 from Proposition 84 Cultural Stewardship funding to identify structural problems which were contributing to

damage of collections. In addition, the report inspired Chico State Museum Studies graduate student Melissa Chacon to use the Bidwell Mansion as a case study for her thesis titled: "Making a House a Museum: Optimizing a Sustainable Environment Through the Theory of Preventative Conservation."

Efforts Rewarded

What began as a project in support of impending park closures resulted in additional funding for the collections and an accurate and timely inventory of an important cultural resource. Congratulations to Linda and her team for their dedication.



Linda Walton With The Director's Award

From the Chief's Desk

Catherine Taylor, Division Chief -Archaeology, History & Museums Division

Staying Connected and Giving Back

As I write this, I am flying across the Great Salt Lake heading for the [American Alliance of Museums](#) (AAM) annual meeting in Baltimore. This year, the conference theme is "The Power of Story." I try to attend the conference each year, taking time to reconnect with professional museum colleagues, updating my skills, and re-charging my battery, so to speak. I have been active in the museum field for the past 25 years. Attending the AAM conference and acting as a nationwide museum peer reviewer is a big part of staying connected, keeping up to date on best practices in the field, and giving back.

Why is it important? I'll start with giving back. I

know that most of us who work for State Parks do so out of a commitment to service. Many of us are here because this is where the resources are that we want to protect and nurture. It is not just a profession, it is a calling. As the General so aptly said, we should strive to put "service before self." I know that's what each of you is doing every day at headquarters and in the field caring for our cultural resources. I believe that giving back to the museum field is something we should do because it enhances the field we are a part of, and allows California State Parks to have a say in determining where the museum field goes in the future. Giving back always comes back in immeasurable ways.

Museums Are Vital Link

Staying connected and keeping up with trends and best practices is vital to

what we do. It's critically important that we encourage our colleagues in State Parks to understand the unique nature of museums and how best to develop, manage and operate them. Our museums are a vital link in building community engagement and achieving audience satisfaction. Museums are an integral part of State Parks. All of our State Historic Parks, Monuments, Visitor Centers, and other attractions that care for collections and display them for the benefit of the public, can rightfully be called "museums." The standards and best practices of museums are relevant to our daily work, and should be incorporated into our policies and actions. This is particularly relevant to implementation of the Director's Strategic Action Plan. A key aspect of that plan is to build on the

I believe that giving back to the museum field is something we should do because it enhances the field we are a part of...

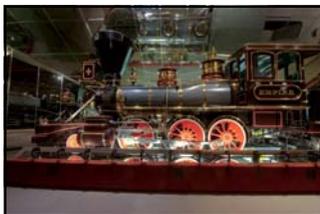


Archaeology, History & Museums Division Chief Cathy Taylor



The focus of the CSRM

Library collection is the history of railroads and railroading in California and the adjacent states from the 1850s to the present



The 1872 Steam Locomotive "Empire", California State Railroad Museum, Old Sacramento State Historic Park

From The Division Chief

(Continued from page 2)
professionalism of State Parks, and to recognize that best practices are often those we find when we reach out beyond our boundaries, and consider the world around us. A top priority for the Archaeology, History and Museums Division is to create opportunities for dialogue to occur around best practices,

and incorporate them into our policies and actions going forward.

What you can do to contribute: take time out to consider how you can enhance your own skills, give back to the field you are a part of, and use that to help re-build State Parks from the inside out. The opportunity is all around us. From

crises often new and better ways of doing business emerge. We need to make best museum practices a centerpiece of that new day, and grasp the "power of story" that we have to tell as the stewards of our State's most precious cultural resources.

California State Railroad Museum Library

Kathryn L. Santos, Archivist I -California State Railroad Museum

Railroad Research Library

For 32 years the California State Railroad Museum Library has been collecting and preserving the records of America's railroad industry with an emphasis on California and the West. The library is on the second floor of the "Big Four" Building, a reconstruction of the building in which the Big Four railroad entrepreneurs (Leland Stanford, Collis P. Huntington, Mark Hopkins, and Charles Crocker) met, and the former offices of the Central Pacific Railroad. The California State Railroad Museum (CSRM) Library has over 3,000 combined visits and reference requests each year. The Library

opened its doors for the first time in May of 1981 at the same time that the Railroad History Museum opened.



California State Railroad Museum Library Staff; (l-r) Cara Randall, Kathryn Santos and Shannon Mitchell

Railroad History From 1850s to Present

The focus of the CSRM Library collection is the history of railroads and railroading in California and the adjacent states from the 1850s to the present. Collections also cover selected railroad topics throughout North America, including Canada, Mexico, and Central America. Special

attention has been given to acquiring materials relating to the social, economic, political, cultural, technological and environmental impacts that the industry has had, and continues to have, on the region. In addition to books and reference material, the Library has over 700 manuscript collections, which range in size from an employee paystub to several hundred cartons of business records with an emphasis on the Central Pacific, Southern Pacific, and other Western railroads. There are also over 120,000 maps and drawings, over one million images in the general photograph collection, railroad promotional material, timetables, and employment records for Southern Pacific's Sacramento Shops employees.

Railroad Museum Library

(Continued from page 3)

Online catalogs for some material, including manuscripts, timetables, and drawings are available on the CSRM Library [website](#). Finding aids are available at the [Online Archive of California](#).

The Library contributes records to the [Online Computer Library Center](#)

(OCLC), a worldwide library cooperative.

The CSRM Library staff consists of one full time librarian, one full time archivist, and one part time Senior Park Aide.

The California State Railroad Museum alumni include three Archaeology, History & Museums (AHM)

Division Chiefs: Walter P. Gray III, Blaine P. Lamb, and Catherine Taylor.

For additional information about the holdings of the California State Railroad Museum, please contact archivist Kathryn Santos or librarian Cara Randall at (916) 323-8073.



The Big Four Building, Old Sacramento State Historic Park

Departmental Tribal Liaison Position Filled

Governor's Executive Order

As of March 1, 2013 the AHM Division Chief has a designated Kathie Lindahl, Senior State Archaeologist, to be the Tribal Liaison. This assignment was created to meet the standards set forth in the Governor's Executive Order B-10-11, dated 9-19-2011 that "agency tribal liaisons" coordinate with the Governor's Tribal Advisor to facilitate effective government to government consultation with California tribes. Since that date, Kathie, representing State Parks, has been attending quarterly meetings held by the Natural Resources

Agency with liaisons from other Departments, such as Water Resources, Energy Commission, Fish and Wildlife, and CalFire.

New Responsibilities

The quarterly meetings and ongoing discussions have helped to shape ideas on how to initiate the infrastructure of the Tribal Liaison and consultation responsibilities within the Department. A review of our consultation policy will be on the agenda in the near future.

Building Relationships

For now, Ms. Lindahl is responding to requests from tribes to participate in meetings, discuss the

development of Memorandums of Agreement between tribes and State Parks, and attend ceremonies of special significance to local tribes. This is an exciting time to build new relationships and strengthen older ones for the benefit of all Californians.

Additional information on the Governor's Executive Order and the role of Departmental Tribal Liaison is available at [The Governor's Office of the Tribal Advisor](#).



This assignment was created to meet the standards set forth in the Governor's Executive Order



Francis McDaniel, Wintu Basket Weaver at the State Indian Museum Open House-1978

Excerpt From the Governor's Executive Order B-10-11:

It is further ordered that it is the policy of this Administration that every state agency and department subject to my executive control shall encourage communication and consultation with California Indian Tribes. Agencies and departments shall permit elected officials and other representatives of tribal governments to provide meaningful input into the development of legislation, regulations, rules, and policies on matters that may affect tribal communities.



Water Summit Logo Design-Mike Rodriguez, 2009

The distinctively Japanese aspects of the property were highlighted, including a tea bridge, a Shinto Shrine, and bamboo screening



Matt Bischoff, Yoshiro Tasaka, Laura Dominguez-Yon, J.J. Sasaki, Kei Hagiwara, and Bijay Niraula behind the Old Bathhouse at Gilroy Hot Springs

Tribal Water Summit Held in April

Kathie Lindahl, Senior State Archaeologist-Archaeology, History & Museums Division

Tribal Water Summit Conference

The second Department of Water Resources statewide California Tribal Water Summit was held in Sacramento on April 24th and 25th, 2013. This event was attended by Cheryl Essex from the State Parks Planning Division and me. The event was a gathering of tribes from throughout California to discuss the importance of water in their lives and traditions with the agencies who manage water resources throughout the state.

Key Concepts

I came away from the Summit with two key concepts that the tribes want to see embedded into the management of water throughout the state. The first is Tribal Ecological Knowledge, often shortened to TEK. The second was to develop cooperative management and stewardship of resources throughout the state with all agencies.

Traditional Ecological Knowledge

The term Traditional (or Tribal) Ecological Knowledge, or TEK, is used to describe the knowledge held by

indigenous cultures about their immediate environment and the cultural practices that build on that knowledge. TEK includes an intimate and detailed knowledge of plants, animals, and natural phenomena, the development and use of appropriate technologies for hunting, fishing, trapping, agriculture and forestry, and a wholistic knowledge, or "world view" which parallels the scientific discipline of ecology.

Additional information on Traditional Ecological Knowledge can be found at the [US Fish and Wildlife Service](#) webpage.

Japanese Consulate Visits Gilroy Hot Springs

Matt Bischoff, Historian III-Monterey District

Consulate General Visits Park Unit

Recently, Gilroy Yamato Hot Springs (a part of Henry W. Coe State Park) received two distinguished visitors from the Consulate General of Japan. Kei Hagiwara, Vice Consul, and Yoshiro Tasaka, Advisor for Community Affairs toured the site with me and Laura Dominguez Yon, the president of the *Friends of Gilroy Hot Springs*. The trip was arranged by volunteer Bijay Niraula.

Tour of Historic Premises

Also present was Henry Kato, for many years the manager and caretaker of the resort, and volunteer Jun "J.J." Sasaki. After discussing its history, the guests were taken around the site and shown its many historic structures and features. The distinctively Japanese aspects of the property were highlighted, including a tea bridge, a Shinto Shrine, and bamboo screening. The guests were particularly impressed with the work underway on the restoration of the

oldest building on the property, the Minnesota Cabin. They in turn shared something of the meaning of hot springs in Japan, and described how they are enjoyed and experienced in Japanese culture.

Undoubtedly, the highlight of the tour was the opportunity taken to enjoy the hot spring water itself. A temporary soaking tank, established for volunteers and members of the *Friends of Gilroy Hot Springs*, was set up for the use of the VIPs.

(Continued on page 6)

Japanese consulate article

(Continued from page 5)

Early Days of Gilroy Hot Springs Resort

First developed in the late 1860s by George Roop and partners, Gilroy Hot Springs boasted an elaborate hotel, numerous cabins, a clubhouse, two restaurants, swimming pools, and private baths. During these early glory days the hot springs hosted thousands of guests. As the access road was improved for automobile traffic, day use increased, and the resort hosted parties, dances, socials, and poker games. Some claim that over 500 guests could be accommodated at one time. By the late 1930s, however, the resort had fallen into decline.

An Issei Retreat

In 1938, prominent Watsonville lettuce grower H.K. Sakata

purchased the resort and set about creating a place where Issei (first generation Japanese Americans) could escape from the larger culture which discriminated against them. During World War II, as Japanese on the west coast were removed to internment camps, the resort was left in caretaker status. After the war, Mr. Sakata opened the resort to many returning internees, giving them a place from which to begin their lives again. Sakata's dreams for the resort were realized, as it became a place where Japanese people could feel like they were at home, and experience an important part of their culture. Many returned year after year, some staying for over a week at a time.

State Parks Acquires Property

Over the ensuing years the resort played host to a variety of people and groups. Following its closure in the mid-1960s, the property again went into decline. State Parks acquired it in 2003 and has been working to ensure its preservation ever since.

Cultural Exchange

Being that the Consulate General of Japan's goals are to "...promote mutual understanding of our countries and cultures, and "...to strengthen the friendship between Japan and California through our support for cultural programs...", Gilroy Yamato Hot Springs is a rare place to enliven that shared culture. I am convinced that this partnership will be fruitful.



Enjoying the Hot Water

During these early glory days the hot springs hosted thousands of guests.

Cultural Specialists Training Held at Asilomar

John Fraser, State Historian II, Archaeology, History & Museums Division

Information

Management Emphasis

California State Parks' Archaeologists and Historians gathered at the Mott Training Center, Asilomar State Beach and Conference Grounds, from April 22-26 to attend "Resource Management Cultural-Advanced", a training session on Information Management

strategies and skills. The session exposed the Department's archaeologists and historians to several information systems used to manage resources, including the Unit Data File (UDF), Geographic Information Systems (GIS), Global Positioning Systems (GPS), and The Museum System (TMS). On the first day of training, attendees heard from the Department's Archivist,

Lola Aguilar, from the Archaeology, History, & Museums Division (AHM) in Sacramento. Ms. Aguilar provided the group with an overview of the State Parks Archives and gave a detailed introduction to the Unit Data File, the Department's online document repository. Geographic Information Officer, Paul Veisze, and this author contributed to the



Michael Bonk Provides Instruction on GIS Mapping

(Continued on page 7)



The Mott Training Center at Asilomar State Beach ca. 1973

The session exposed the Department's archaeologists and historians to several information systems used to manage resources



Steve Ptomey (l), and Patrick Riordan (r) Receive Hands-on Training on GIS Device

Training

(Continued from page 6)
technical part of the presentation.

Presentations on a Variety of Topics

The group also heard from Senior State Archaeologist Kathie Lindahl of AHM, who discussed the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between California State Parks and the Office of Historic Preservation, with emphasis on how the Department captures cultural stewardship activities through the Annual Report, an annual update required by the agreement. Kathie also informed the group of her appointed role as the Department's tribal liaison, a newly created position designed to build improved coordination between California's State Parks and Native American communities (See related article on Page 4).

Continuing the technology education, GIS Research Program Specialist Michael Bonk, Associate State Archaeologist Marla Mealey (both from the Southern Service Center), with GIS Research Analyst Alan Kilgore and Paul Veisze, provided trainees with hands-on activities, demonstrating the range of GIS processes. Case

studies on GIS use in surveys, evaluations, and reviews were provided by Associate State Archaeologists Steve Hilton, Greg Collins, and Marla Mealey. Kilgore followed up with a detailed report on map creation and cartography.

Shared Visions For The Future

The trainees were pleased to hear from the Director, Major General Anthony L. Jackson, who discussed his Strategic Action Plan and provided inspiring words regarding the connection between resource protection and the preservation of cultural values. Newly installed Chief of the AHM Division, Cathy Taylor, impressed the group with her vision for the role of the AHM Division in executing statewide cultural resource stewardship goals and offered a renewed pledge of support to the field.

Museum Curator Winnie Yeung presented an introductory immersion into The Museum System (TMS), the Department's centralized database of museum collections records. Interspersed among the technology sessions, historian Mike Meloy enthralled the class with a talk on the

history of Asilomar Conference Grounds. Jay King of Far Western Anthropological Research Group presented a graphic-rich demonstration of the latest in GIS capabilities. Museum Curator Ross McGuire provided an update on the consolidation of Departmental collections at McClellan Business Park, followed by Wil Jorae's well-received tutorial on the Photographic Archives and Art Fong's primer on Natural Resources stewardship programs and technologies.

Successful Conclusion

The week closed with a discussion of wildfire management and cultural resources, led by Associate State Archaeologist Chris Corey and Superintendent John Pelonio, of the Law Enforcement and Emergency Services Division. A rich discussion on standards and processes ensued before the training adjourned. The gathering, centered exclusively upon information management and cultural resources, was the first of its kind and exposed the Department's archaeologists and historians to a broad range of valuable information management tools.

Hearst Castle Cultural Landscape Bears Fruit

Elise Wheeler, Associate State Archaeologist-San Luis Obispo Coast District

Hearst Castle National Historic Landmark

One of the many amazing cultural resources that are a part of our State Park system is Hearst San Simeon State Historic Monument, also known as Hearst Castle. A National Historic Landmark located on a remote ridge top in the southern Santa Lucia Mountains overlooking the Pacific Ocean, Hearst Castle is visited by nearly one million people annually. The Hearst Castle landscape features four main buildings sited at different levels on terraces surrounding the hilltop. Other buildings and structures include the iconic Neptune Pool and the Gymnasium (the site of the indoor Roman Pool and rooftop tennis courts).

Architectural Showcase With a View

The design of the estate reflects the influence of Spanish and Italian styles of architecture and landscape architecture with nearly all buildings and garden spaces focusing on the many spectacular views of the surrounding landscape. From the castle, the entire viewshed consists of the Hearst Ranch, which at

one time was as large as 250,000 acres and at the present time is around 85,000 acres. Hearst Castle and the designed landscape that surrounds it are the result of a twenty-eight year collaboration between newspaper magnate William Randolph Hearst and the distinguished architect Julia Morgan.



Citrus Grove at Hearst Castle

A Cultural Landscape

During time that Hearst was actively occupying the ranch, much of the food consumed by him and his many guests was produced on site. Fruit trees and orchards were an integral part of the landscape design. Hearst last spent time at the ranch in 1947, and died in 1951. Following Hearst's death, the property was adequately maintained by the Hearst Corporation, but with a greater reliance on lower maintenance displays. In 1957, the heirs of William Randolph Hearst, donated the castle and

surrounding gardens to California State Parks, and in 1958 the Hearst Castle opened for public tours. During the subsequent fifty years or so of public stewardship, the mission has been to preserve the character of the landscape Hearst once knew. As awareness of cultural landscapes began increasing in the early 1990's, changes began to occur at Hearst Castle. In 1995, a Cultural Landscape Study done by California Polytechnic State University Pomona was commissioned and as an outgrowth of that study a Landscape Preservation Committee was formed. One of the early accomplishments of the Landscape Preservation Committee was to plant a citrus orchard in 2001 where a 1940's photograph showed that one had been. The replacement orchard, now mature, has begun producing large quantities of oranges and mandarins.

Orchard's High Yield

This year, through the efforts of Supervising Groundskeeper Christine Takahashi and her staff, 4,541 lbs. of fruit have been donated to the San Luis Obispo Food Bank. It is planned to continue the citrus donations in the coming years with the help of garden docents.



Orange Tree In Among The Landscaping at Hearst Castle

The replacement orchard, now mature, has begun producing large quantities of oranges and mandarins.



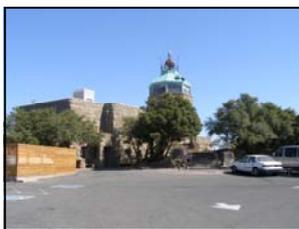
Citrus Trees Beside The Neptune Pool at Hearst Castle



Summit Tower Construction, ca. 1938-1942.

Photo courtesy Save Mount Diablo

Originally located on its own 70-foot tall tower, the Mount Diablo aircraft beacon was moved to the CCC Summit tower by 1941



Summit Tower and Signal Beacon, Mount Diablo State Park

Restoring The “Eye of Diablo”

Jeanette Schulz, Associate State Archaeologist-Archaeology, History and Museums Division

Aircraft Beacon Rehabilitation

State Park employees from the Diablo Vista District, working together with [Save Mount Diablo](#) (SMD), consultants, volunteers, local businesses, and others have joined forces to rehabilitate the 36 inch Sperry Aircraft Beacon located atop the 1941 Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) Summit Building tower.

Part of a Network

Mount Diablo is visible throughout much of central California. Its panoramic views drew both the United States Signal Corps and the United States Coast and Geodetic Survey to establish signal stations at its summit during the 1870s. By the early 20th Century, Standard Oil erected the Mount Diablo beacon as part of a series of lighted aircraft beacons along the west coast for commercial flights. In 1928, Charles Lindbergh lit this network by signal from Denver, Colorado.

Pearl Harbor Memorial

Originally located on its own 70-foot tall tower, the Mount Diablo aircraft beacon was moved to the CCC Summit tower by 1941. In December of that year, the beacon went dark after the attack on Pearl Harbor. It remained dark until 1964, when Admiral Chester Nimitz relit the beacon as a memorial of the events in Pearl Harbor. The beacon has since been lit one day of the year on December 7 and kept on overnight as a remembrance of servicemen who gave their lives at Pearl Harbor and for all military personnel who fought for the continued freedom of our country. This annual ceremony is co-sponsored by the [Sons and Daughters of Pearl Harbor Survivors](#), Mount Diablo State Park, and Save Mount Diablo.

Repairs, Rehabilitation and Repainting

Over time, both the tower and the beacon have required repairs. After Parks staff complete the current repairs and Americans With Disabilities Act (ADA) upgrades on the tower, the beacon will be returned to working order

with sensitive repairs, selective replacements, and repainting by a team of volunteers. For many years, volunteers have provided ongoing maintenance of the beacon. The beacon will be removed from the tower and lowered to a trailer fitted with a specially fabricated platform brace and



Mount Diablo Signal Beacon ca. 1935

brought down the mountain to a space donated by a commercial company for the repairs.

Lift-off is scheduled for early June and the beacon will be returned to the Summit Tower by September for its relighting and service on December 7th, 2013.



Mount Diablo State Park

Collections Facility Receives Blessing

Patrick Riordan, Assistant State Archaeologist-Archaeology, History & Museums Division

Accounting For Sacred Items in Collections

On a clear Saturday morning in late April, State Parks Staff (consisting of Kathie Lindahl, Dept. Tribal Liaison; Ross McGuire, Curator III, Museum Services Section; Lee M. Eal, Museum Custodian, California Indian Heritage Center; and Patrick Riordan, Dept. NAGPRA Coordinator) joined Native American representatives in West Sacramento to tend to a solemn and highly sensitive duty as essential to the success of the collections move as packing peanuts and pallet jacks. Curated amongst the antique furniture, historic wagons, and industrial machines of California's productive past, are collections of items that are held in special regard by many of California's first peoples. These collections contain the cultural patrimony of virtually every native California culture and hold within them numerous sacred items and the earthly remains of some 1,200 Native Americans. For many traditional Native Californians, these sacred items and human remains

are imbued with spirits which require veneration and special care when handling.

Raising Awareness

Concerns regarding the spiritual component of the collections move were identified in consultation with tribal representatives who agreed with Parks cultural specialists that the department had a responsibility to address the spiritual aspect of the collections prior to moving the most sensitive collections to the new facility. According to Department NAGPRA Coordinator, Patrick Riordan "The concerns expressed by the tribes provided us with an opportunity which allowed us to work with native communities to raise awareness of and connect native people to the cultural treasures that we have the responsibility and privilege of caring for and preserving."

Welcoming Collections to the New Facility

Tribal representatives, whose traditional territory contains the area occupied by the new collections facility, expressed the opinion that they have a slightly different view of the relocation of the collections and that their connection to the collections move extends beyond being affiliated

with specific items, and in some ways, can be viewed as that of surrogate host to all of the collections being stored in their territory at the new facility. While the local tribes were careful to say that they could not speak for the spiritual concerns of other tribes, they agreed that they should have a role to play in welcoming all the spirits as guests to the new facility.

Intimate Ceremony

In a two-part ceremony, much like a funeral and grave-side service, Miwok Spiritual Leader, John James led an intimate ceremony to explain to the spirits of the impending collections move, to ask for forgiveness, and to consecrate areas of the new facility where these important items will be curated. Accompanied by tribal representatives from Ione and Wilton, followed by State Parks cultural staff, James led the group in songs that echoed through the facility as they processioned up and down the isles of shelving filled with Native American cultural items. The group filed behind James to a point overlooking the entire ethnographic collection. From this point, the spiritual leader leaned over the mezzanine's



Chumash Steatite Whale Effigies, State Indian Museum

The department had a responsibility to address the spiritual aspect of the collections prior to moving the most sensitive collections to the new facility



Stone Bowl Mortar and Pestle

(Continued on page 11)

Collections Facility Blessing



State Indian Museum Basket Collection, 1960

The access road was routed in accordance with the park General Plan and historic-period routes...



Santa Susana Stage Trail Erosion Prior to Repairs

(Continued from page 10)

bannister and offered a heartfelt prayer to all the spirits and asked creator to watch over those charged with moving the collections. After additional songs and offerings of tobacco, the attendees were ceremonially cleansed with sage smoke and water from a sacred spring before proceeding to the new facility.

After reconvening outside the freshly completed collections facility, the ceremony participants followed Ross McGuire into to new facility and made their way through the vast collections storage area to the space dedicated to housing the ethnographic collections. Sage smudging wands were lit, and aromatic

smoke filled the air. As was done earlier in the day, a procession line formed behind the spiritual leader as he initiated the ceremony with a haunting call of his double bone whistle and proceeded to lead the participants in songful prayer.

The procession snaked up and down the empty rows of shelving as the solemn group filled the expansive state-of-the-art facility with the sorrowful wails of mourning songs. The echo of raw human emotion reached through, from centuries past, and buzzed through the rough harmonics of the ancient songs as the sad tunes reverberated off the cold reinforced concrete walls and enveloped the small

collective. Offerings of cut tobacco were sprinkled around the perimeter while the group sang, prayed, and blessed each of the four corners of the collection space. The events came to an end as final prayers were made and medicine bundles were placed within the austere room dedicated for the storage of Native American human remains and associated funerary objects.

With these final preparations in place, the statewide ethnographic collections are ready to be moved and the new facility at McClellan Air Park is prepared to receive them "in a good way."

Santa Susana Stage Trail Repaired

Barbara Tejada, Associate State Archaeologist-Angeles District

Santa Susana Stage Road Trail Erosion Project

In mid-March, work commenced on a trails project to correct erosion issues impacting historic- and prehistoric-period archaeological deposits within the National Register-listed Old Santa Susana Stage Road at Santa Susana Pass SHP in Chatsworth.

Unauthorized grading by a Southern California Edison contractor in the 1990s had disrupted the

historic drainage patterns, and over time the trail along a portion of the stage road has almost completely been obliterated by a large erosional chasm.

Multi-Phase Project

The project, funded through the Proposition 84 cultural stabilization program, consists of two phases. The first phase involved repairing an old road into the park to enable equipment access for the trail repair.

Previously, access to the

historic core of the park was only available through a gate from the adjacent Oakwood Cemetery, with limited hours of operation. The park entrance at Andora Avenue was upgraded with a pipe gate, signage and more park-like "woodcrete" fencing replacing the old chain link fence, improving the view for neighbors and conforming more with the "Old West" character of the park. After all, many of Hollywood most

(Continued on page 12)

Santa Susana



New Entrance Gate, Santa Susana Stage Trail

famous westerns were filmed right in these hills!

The access road was routed in accordance with the park General Plan and historic-period routes, and directed away from a short cut road that was being used which traversed archaeological deposits. Work on Phase 2 of the project began this month to re-grade the previous Southern California Edison (SCE) utilities contractor bulldozed berms to allow

water to flow into the proper drainage channel, fill in the worst trail erosion and install sediment capture systems to allow previous grading scars to fill in naturally with the least damage to adjacent archaeological deposits from further grading activities.

Improved Park Access

Already, the park cooperative association, the [Foundation for the Preservation of the Santa Susana Mountains](#) (FPSSM), has been using

the improved park access road route for interpretive hike events and graffiti removal activities. The road will also provide public safety and emergency access to the most highly-used portions of the park. The project has been scoped and managed by the District Archaeologist, Barbara Tejada, and the District Trails Coordinator, Dale Skinner, with assistance and support from the FPSSM.

I started as a front line interpreter, worked as a front line supervisor, and have represented the department in many different venues...

In Our Corner

Michelle Bryans, Office Technician-Archaeology, History & Museums Division

This issue's employee highlight features Ty Smith, Interpreter III-San Luis Obispo Coast District, Museum Sector

Tell us how you first got involved in the field of Interpretation

I am an accidental interpreter. I was attending community college and working as an assistant manager at an auto parts store. My dad was a mechanic who literally broke his back working on cars and I couldn't see any future in what I was doing. I was taking my lunch break one day and I saw an announcement in the local newspaper advertising for guides at Hearst

Castle. I applied for the job and started working for California State Parks



Ty Smith, Interpreter III

in February of 2000 as a Guide Trainee. It was a seasonal job and I was forced to separate that year. I came back in 2001 and worked as a Guide I, PI, while working on my undergraduate degree at Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo.

I was just starting a masters program in public history at CSU Sacramento when I got my first job with the title of interpreter, in the Interpretation and Education Division. I was part of a small team that piloted the Parks Online Resources for Teachers and Students (PORTS) program.

What has surprised you most about being a State Park Interpreter?

The thing that has surprised me most is the variety of work that I have been asked to do. I started as a front line interpreter, worked as a front line supervisor, and have represented the department in many different venues, from

(Continued on page 13)



Main Terrace and Entrance, Hearst San Simeon State Historic Monument, 1958

In Our Corner



Ticket Office, Hearst San Simeon State Monument, 1961

Throughout my career, I have ranged from giving tours to having an opportunity to work on policy issues ...



Hearst San Simeon State Historical Monument. Marker Number 640, Dedicated June 2, 1958

(Continued from page 12)

classroom settings to high-level government events. Throughout my career, I have ranged from giving tours to having an opportunity to work on policy issues that have shaped the direction of the Department and the discipline as a whole. These various roles have given me many diverse skills.

What do you find most challenging about your job?

In a word: Personalities. I would give you the same answer if the question was about the most rewarding thing about my job. I am currently working as a State Park Interpreter III at Hearst Castle. My working title is Chief of Museum Interpretation. In this capacity, I manage the tour program, the ticket office, and our PORTS program. All together, I am responsible for the activities of about 100 people, with very real needs, desires, and visions of what we should be doing and how we should be doing it.

Many people see competing visions as an impediment to success. I have a clear vision of what I think should happen, but I like to give people a voice and achieve consensus, when possible. It takes more

time and energy, but, in the end so does dealing with low morale.

What do you wish other people knew about your job?

That it is more difficult that it looks and as a middle manager, I often agonize over decisions that I'm forced to make or directed to implement. I think that is true for anyone forced to balance what is best for a mission-driven organization, with the needs of individuals.

Who is someone who influenced you to work in the Field of Interpretation?

Nobody got me into it, but plenty of people caused me to stay with it. It's difficult to mention names without attendant accusations of kissing-up, or of leaving someone out. I will say that I am thankful for people like Michael Green, who got me involved in Departmental training. For the last ten years we have co-facilitated Basic Interpretation for Guides and Interpreters and he got me involved in Ranger Cadet Training and Sara Skinner, from the Training Center, has kept me engaged in that world. Donna Pozzi has been a huge inspiration throughout my career and I feel very proud to have worked in her Division, especially with the PORTS

program under the direction of Joe von Herrmann. I think that Joe and the rest of the PORTS team are some of the best in the business. I feel the same about Renato Consolini and Debbie Hollingsworth at the California State Capitol Museum and everyone here at Hearst Castle. I have had the opportunity to work with inspirational people, who have helped me become a better interpreter, mentor, and leader. Ahh! I know that I am forgetting people! Forgive me.

What might someone be surprised to know about you?

Probably, the improbability of me making it to where I am today. I was expelled from the eighth grade, I barely graduated high school. In my senior year, I told my guidance counselor that I wanted to go to college; he laughed and told me to find a trade. Instead, I set goals and fought my way toward them. Flash forward a decade and a half: I have spent most of my evenings over the last couple of years writing my dissertation and in December, I will complete my Ph.D. in the Joint Program in Public History (UCSB/CSUS). I will never forget my roots. I am, as I once

(Continued on page 14)



Hearst San Simeon State Historical Monument; Tour Bus, 1958

W e
pre-
serve
*profound cultural and
natural resources, all
of which have stories
of triumph as well as
aspects of trauma and
misery*



Hearst San Simeon State Historical Monument; "La Casa Grande" Under Construction, 1923.

Smith interview

(Continued from page 13)
heard someone say, a
"blue collar scholar."

What would you tell someone thinking about a career as an Interpreter for State Parks?

Be a faithful generalist, but keep the heart of an interpreter, and when they hand you the keys and budget allocation, make interpretation a major priority and fund it as such.

What do you think will change about the field of interpretation at State Parks over the next five years?

In school, I did much reading about the democratization of museums and historic sites. I think the trend, and I hope that it's one that Parks will follow, is to open up our spaces and share our authority. Part of this is providing a venue for people to create their own narratives about the past in ways that reflect their own sense of the past and its meaning to the present. We preserve profound cultural and natural resources, all of which have stories of triumph as well as aspects of trauma and misery. We need interpretation that is brave enough to embrace the full richness of these stories and we need to stop talking *to* people about their own pasts and start empowering them to tell their own stories. We

need to stop acting as temples of received knowledge and act more like forums of exchanged ideas.

If you weren't working as an Interpreter at State Parks, what would you be doing?

I think it was a couple of years ago that I realized that I could make a lot more money working as a consultant or contractor than I do with State Parks, but, believe it or not, if I was not doing my current job, I would be teaching at the college level. I had the opportunity to be a lecturer at CSU Sacramento. I taught a couple of upper-division courses in Native American ethno-history and urban history, and a few U. S. history courses. I value the university environment, but I especially believe in the mission of our community colleges. As someone who started my academic path at a community college, I know first hand the benefaction of those important institutions and it would be a joy to give back to it through service.

What do you do when you aren't working?

Over the last couple of years, mostly writing and research in an attempt to complete my dissertation. I have a four year old son, who keeps me abreast of important things like scooter riding and the politics and poetics of

Team Umizoomi and Dora the Explorer. For the last seven years, I have served on the Boards of the California Mission Studies Association and the California Council for the Promotion of History. About six months ago I started a leather-craft business. I make small handmade leather goods, such as wallets, phone cases, and other accessories.

What else can you tell me about being an Interpreter at State Parks?

I think answering these questions has caused me to be more introspective than usual. Interpretation is more of a calling than a career, but I think that such is true for most professions within Parks. In general, then, I want my coworkers to know that things will get better, but only if we fight for what is right and trust in each other and our own abilities. I think our Parks are of supreme importance, but we have to interpret that value to the public, through both word and action, every chance we get. In that sense, no matter what your job classification, we are all interpreters.

CALIFORNIA
STATE
PARKS



Archaeology, History
& Museums Division

1416 9th Street
Suite 902
Sacramento, CA 95814

Phone: 916.653.5910
Fax: 916.653.3398
E-mail:
Christopher.corey@parks.ca.gov

Our Mission:

To provide inspiration and leadership in acquiring, conserving, and managing cultural resources that represent California's rich history and diverse population.

To foster an appreciation of the extraordinary value of California's cultural heritage for the enjoyment of present and future generations through access, education, service, and stewardship.

© 2013 California State Parks

We're on the Web!

[Archaeology, History & Museums Division](#)

Culturally Speaking

Upcoming Events Around The Parks

The Dust Bowl, California, and the Politics of Hard Times

In the 1930s, a series of severe dust storms swept across the mid-west states of Oklahoma, Arkansas, Kansas, and Texas. The storms, years of drought, and the Great Depression devastated the lives of residents living in those Dust Bowl states. Three hundred thousand of the stricken people packed up their belongings and drove to California. A new exhibition titled "The Dust Bowl, California, and the Politics of Hard Times" opens at [The California State Capitol Museum](#) on June 17, 2013, and runs through May 15, 2014. This exhibit examines the cultural, social, and political impact the Dust Bowl migrants had on California. The photographs of Dorothea Lange, songs and lyrics of Woody Guthrie, and storytelling genius of John Steinbeck bring the era and people to life with their dramatic and poignant styles. Two California governors and their administrations grappled with the influx of the hundreds of thousands who flooded

the state throughout the 1930s. The great Dust Bowl migration transformed and reshaped California for years to come.



Pine Lodge Visitors, Sugar Pine Point State Park ca. 1900

Living History Day at Sugar Pine Point State Park

Step back in time with a day filled with costumed docents, stomp-your-feet music, open houses, great food, children's activities, antique car show and much, much more! The historic Hellman-Ehrman Estate comes alive on July 27, 2013, from 10am-3pm for a day to delight the entire family. All events are free. Parking \$10. Sponsored by the [Sierra State Parks Foundation](#) 530.583.9911

History's Mysteries at Columbia State Historic Park

Families and groups are invited to solve an actual crime that occurred in Columbia in the 1800s. You will witness the event, then interview key members involved in the crime, and get a chance to subpoena them in court. Then you will assist in selecting one person from your group to question people on the witness stand. This fun-filled morning ends with a trial at the Justice Court.

For additional information on these events, contact Columbia State Historic Park at (209) 588-9128. Cost is \$5.00 per adult, \$1.00 per child 12 and under. Reservations are highly recommended as space is limited. Meet at 9:45 a.m. at the museum in the center of town. The program lasts until approximately 1:00pm. Events will be held on the following dates: Saturday, July 27; Saturday, August 03; Saturday, August 17; and Saturday, August 31.

The Culturally Speaking Newsletter seeks to inspire and educate employees of the State Parks Department and the public on the many ways that the Archaeology, History & Museums Division works to preserve and protect California's cultural heritage. The Newsletter is distributed two times per year (January and June) by the Archaeology, History & Museums Division of California State Parks. Article submissions and events may be sent to the Editor, Chris Corey at Christopher.corey@parks.ca.gov. Articles to be considered for inclusion in the Newsletter should be approximately 300 words in length, and include photographs.