

Introduction: Community College Contributions to California Archaeology

Stephen O'Neil and Alan P. Garfinkel

This issue of the *Pacific Coast Archaeological Society Quarterly* brings together the final reports of three site excavations from south-central California. The sites were excavated by community college field classes in the late 1960s, and late 1970s through 1990s. Two were at small sites in the southern Antelope Valley, northern Los Angeles County, led by Professor Roger W. Robinson of Antelope Valley College, and the third was at a large site located in the southern San Joaquin Valley, Kern County, led by Professor Lucille Arnoldus of Taft College.

The two Antelope Valley sites were chosen by Robinson to begin the development of a baseline of archaeological data because at the time virtually nothing was known about Antelope Valley prehistory compared to other better-known areas of the Mojave Desert. Using students' knowledge of sites and gaining permission to excavate on private lands through student contacts, significant data were obtained, and future professional archaeologists received valuable field experience.

The role of Taft College's field class at CA-KER-60, even though the site had previously been excavated by professionals, proved the merit of community college efforts to unearth significant new and corroborating data. The excavation field work allowed students to gain important field experience for those who would go on to become members of California's cultural resource management community.

The *Pacific Coast Archaeological Society Quarterly* is proud to serve as the publisher of these three articles. The *Quarterly* has been a forum for early and significant research in the Antelope Valley and the San Joaquin Valley. It has published articles on excavations sponsored by community college field classes providing the wider exposure this work deserves.

It is probably not a coincidence that the lead author for these three articles is Mark Q. Sutton, with Audrey A. Williams on CA-KER-60, with Robin Mitchell and Roger W. Robinson on CA-LAN-483, and with Roger W. Robinson on CA-LAN-484. Sutton, then 16 years old, was on the field crew for both Antelope Valley excavations. In his long and distinguished career as a California archaeologist, some of Sutton's earliest publications were in the *Pacific Coast Archaeological Society Quarterly*. Beginning in 1979, he authored or coauthored 35 articles in the *Quarterly* with seven focused on the Antelope Valley/Western Mojave Desert region and five on the southern San Joaquin Valley. He also published major Southern California regional overviews in 2010 (with Jill Gardner) and 2011, and he wrote an ethnographic study of the Desert Serrano (with David D. Earle) in 2017—all published in the *Quarterly*. Sutton's personal experience at the AVC sites greatly enhances the value of the material presented in this issue of the *Quarterly*.