



PAR

ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES, INC.



NEWSLETTER

Volume 19, Number 1 • 2014

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

The Nisenan of Folsom	1
Editor's Corner	3
The Murer House	9
Cultural Resources Dept.	10
Environmental Planning Dept.	11
PAR's Experience in the West	12
2013 Holiday Party	13
Announcements	14
Current Staffing	16

PAR ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES, INC.'s mission is to provide technical reports on time, within budget, and with meticulous attention to detail.

THE NISENAN OF FOLSOM *by James Gary Maniery*

Unpublished Notes and What They Tell Us

The Southern Maidu, often referred to as Nisenan, occupied the Folsom vicinity. For the better part of 2013, I reviewed and synthesized published and unpublished data about their territory, traditional use areas, camps and residential sites (or villages [Maniery 2014]). I also focused on the possibility of the presence of an ethnographic village located at the Folsom Station, in old town Folsom. Although my interest was concentrated on Folsom, there were a few different locations along the lower American River that became important to my research. This article is a summary of my 2013 synthesis prepared as part of the Folsom Station historical archaeology project.¹

I contend that many who study California Indians rely on a handful of published sources to help them understand various aspects of California's native populations. While these sources are good places to begin, the unpublished information offers much more stimulating insight into cultural habits and particularly occupation areas; occasionally, it can be used to clear up discrepancies found in the published material. Data gleaned from anthropological field notes, historical diaries and newspapers, and from oral inter-

views of past and contemporary Native Americans knowledgeable of the Sierra Nevada foothill region offer details and insights that are not always reflected in published accounts. This research sheds light on Nisenan settlements that show up in the anthropological literature with multiple locations. It also addresses places that are discussed in non-anthropological source materials, and entertains the notion that previously investigated prehistoric sites could possibly be associated with more recent Nisenan residential areas within or near Folsom's historic downtown.

One drawback to using the archaeological record in Folsom, (one I feel is vitally important to understanding how the area was used by Native populations) is that many of the permanent settlements were seriously impacted, and often destroyed, by the Gold Rush and, later in the mid 20th century, by water storage development. The site loss is further compounded because of the paucity of specific oral interview data obtained by early 20th century anthropologists and others for the Folsom area. One can only imagine the impact to the Nisenan and their landscape from John Sutter's development in Sacramento and the Gold Rush that followed, both of which caused massive displacement and all out destruction to Nisenan hab-

itation along the lower American River between Sacramento and Folsom.

Despite the impacts to its prehistoric and late ethnographic period occupation sites, Folsom has a storied history that is easily recognizable as one strolls through old town. The recently developed railroad block and turntable are good examples of historic sites that visitors can readily experience. Bedrock mortars are easily accessible and interpreted along the river in Negro Bar State Park. Equally important, and the primary focus of this article, the new railroad block has a monument dedicated to the Native American – Nisenan -- use of the area. With this in mind, let's first briefly review Folsom's prehistoric record. Then I will touch on Nisenan ethnographic information, followed by settlements and other uses within and near Folsom.

The archaeological record points to prehistoric populations extensively using the Folsom vicinity, and particularly the American River and its tributaries. From the numerous unpublished reports within Folsom's corporate boundary, we find several systematically studied archaeological deposits. These sites contain datable artifacts, tools and features that inform us about prehistoric dietary preferences, trade with coastal groups and technological change through time. Clearly, we see a relatively long and complex period of use that extends back several thousand years. We can also substantiate at least one example where a Native American Nisenan, Jane Lewis, had a bedrock

mortar along the American River near the Folsom Powerhouse, and that it was family owned (Puffer 2008). It is identified as the Jane Lewis Nisenan Ceremonial site at Negro Bar State Park and may be associated with archaeological site CA-SAC-414.²

Archaeologists first began working in the area during the 1950s (when construction began on Nimbus Dam) and continued to do so sporadically over the next several decades. An archaeologist by the name of Adan Treganza surveyed the Nimbus Reservoir area and recorded 15 sites in the summer of 1952 (Treganza 1954). While the majority of these were destroyed by the dam construction, Treganza was able to excavate CA-SAC-169. He only identified a few artifacts, including a mano, cobble mortar, girdled sinker stone and a small basalt projectile point with a notched base. The cultural deposit (or midden) was described as a granular to sandy soil that con-

tained mammal bone, river mussel shell, charcoal and wood ash hearths. Disarticulated human bone was also mentioned. Although Treganza did not establish a date for the site, he interpreted it as a seasonal camp whose population depended on a fish-acorn diet (Treganza 1954:4). CA-SAC-169 was located across the river from the town of Folsom at Negro Bar. The other archaeological resources mentioned by Treganza remain an enigma.

Only a short walk to the main branch of the American River above Alder Creek, and within three miles of old town Folsom, another prehistoric site was located in the 1950s and then excavated in the 1960s by Charles Gebhardt (Gebhardt 1962). The site, known as CA-SAC-166 (the Natoma Site), was much more substantial than Treganza's CA-SAC-169. Use of the area over several millennium was apparent in the thousands of chipped and groundstone tools and waste, shell beads and ornaments, baked clay objects, a plethora of faunal bone, presence of fire hearths, and human interments. Thirty years after Gebhardt excavated here, PAR's excavation occurred. Our effort took place because of the Highway 50 interchange and expansion of the Folsom Boulevard ramp and intersection. My work identified only fragments of the remaining midden, but the material culture items that were recovered provided new and important comparable archaeological information (Maniery 1996).

The Natoma Site contained over 4,000 cultural objects including 21 crudely fashioned slate and basalt



Event at a Maidvan, possibly Nisenan feast and baskets of acorn mush and loaves of bread (Wilson and Towne 1978: 394-395; Figures 7 and 10)

projectile points, *Haliotis* beads and *Olivella* square saddle beads, slate pendants; casual tools such as edge-modified pieces, cores and scrapers, and an extensive faunal assemblage (including some awls) suggesting a strong reliance on deer, rabbits, and ground squirrels. There were groundstone tools used for subsistence purposes that may have been manufactured at the Natoma Site. Obsidian sourced to the Napa Valley and Casa Diablo was present. I postulated that people may have occupied this site as early as 70 B.C. and then intermittently all the way to A.D. 1400. I also learned that the Natoma Site was used for burial purposes, but was not certain of the age, complexity and magnitude of these interments (Manieri 1996, 2005).

Other less intensively occupied (i.e., seasonally used) prehistoric sites have been excavated near Folsom, primarily associated with the upper branches of perennial streams that feed the American River. While the sites have similar artifact types, they are functionally different and the quantities are less when compared to the Natoma Site. Some of the sites have associated milling stations (aka bedrock mortars, or also referred to as “grinding rocks”) used for a variety of food processing tasks, and some had a mix of historic period artifacts intermixed with the prehistoric deposit. Dating of these sites was based on a variety of techniques including obsidian hydration analysis and typological analysis of projectile points and shell beads. These seasonally used camps are contemporaneous with the later occupations of the Natoma site, but they are not older nor were they as intensively used.

Generally speaking there has been a remarkable number of archaeology projects carried out within the

vicinity of Folsom over the last 50 years. In fact, considering the City’s corporate boundary is roughly 25 square miles (15,360 acres); approximately 46% of the area has been surveyed. Fifteen hundred acres are covered by remnants of the historic mining that began in the mid nineteenth century and continued intermittently until about 1960. Over 125 prehistoric archaeological sites have been reported. Many sites have been destroyed or capped and are no longer discoverable; however, there are good examples of milling sites that have survived. Excavated sites briefly mentioned above are few and far between, and the data that have survived are available for scientific research.

During the late prehistoric period (i.e., the Augustine Pattern/Emergent Period dated B.P. 1000 to Historic [cf. Rosenthal et al. 2007]) when euroamericans and others began settling and/or exploiting the Lower American River, Nisenan, (referred to as tribelets in the anthropological literature), continued to occupy some of the ancient villages along the major rivers such as the South Fork of the American River. Given their expansive territory we know there was more than one Nisenan band and that slight language and cultural divergences occurred over their territory; for instance, people living at Clipper Gap were slightly different than those living south of the Middle Fork of the American River. The literature suggests there were at least four or possibly five Nisenan subdivisions, and the key boundaries consisted of the deep canyons of the large rivers. A recent unpublished doctoral dissertation written on the subject names five divisions: 1) Notomusse; 2) Nisenan Pawenan; 3) Eskanamusse; 4) Southern Nisenan; and 5) Estom

Editor’s Corner

by James Gary Manieri

Our firm has remained busy over the last year helping clients in cultural resource management, primarily throughout California, and environmental planning jobs – the latter efforts are specifically related to transportation projects in Nevada and Sacramento counties. We have wrapped up several significant projects in both of these service areas. The lead article in this issue stems from a synthesis prepared for the City of Folsom that addresses the archaeology, ethnohistory and ethnogeography of the Nisenan, a Native American population that occupied a vast territory of the northern Sierra Nevada and foothills. The study is a supplement to an on-going analysis and report of the historical railroad block being developed in the heart of old town Folsom. Cindy Baker’s article on the Murer House touches on “a little bit of Italy in Historic Folsom,” as she states in her article. The 2014 archaeological season is highlighted by two new permanent staff: Josh Allen, Associate Archaeologist, a graduate from the University of Idaho, and Sarah Heffner, a graduate from the University of Idaho and University of Reno. We are delighted to have both Josh and Sarah join our firm. Finally, Mary and I are fortunate to be travelling to the United Kingdom later in the year to visit the historic sites of Bath and Stonehenge (a short drive outside of London) and the Louvre museum in Paris. The trip will conclude with a week in Scotland and attendance at the 2014 Ryder Cup in Gleneagles. ✨

Nisnena (Tatsch 2006). Although Folsom does not actually fit nicely into Tatsch's scheme, the Eskanamusse District of Nisenan appears to border Folsom. Of the Eskanamusse District, Tatsch (2006: Chapter II) suggests that

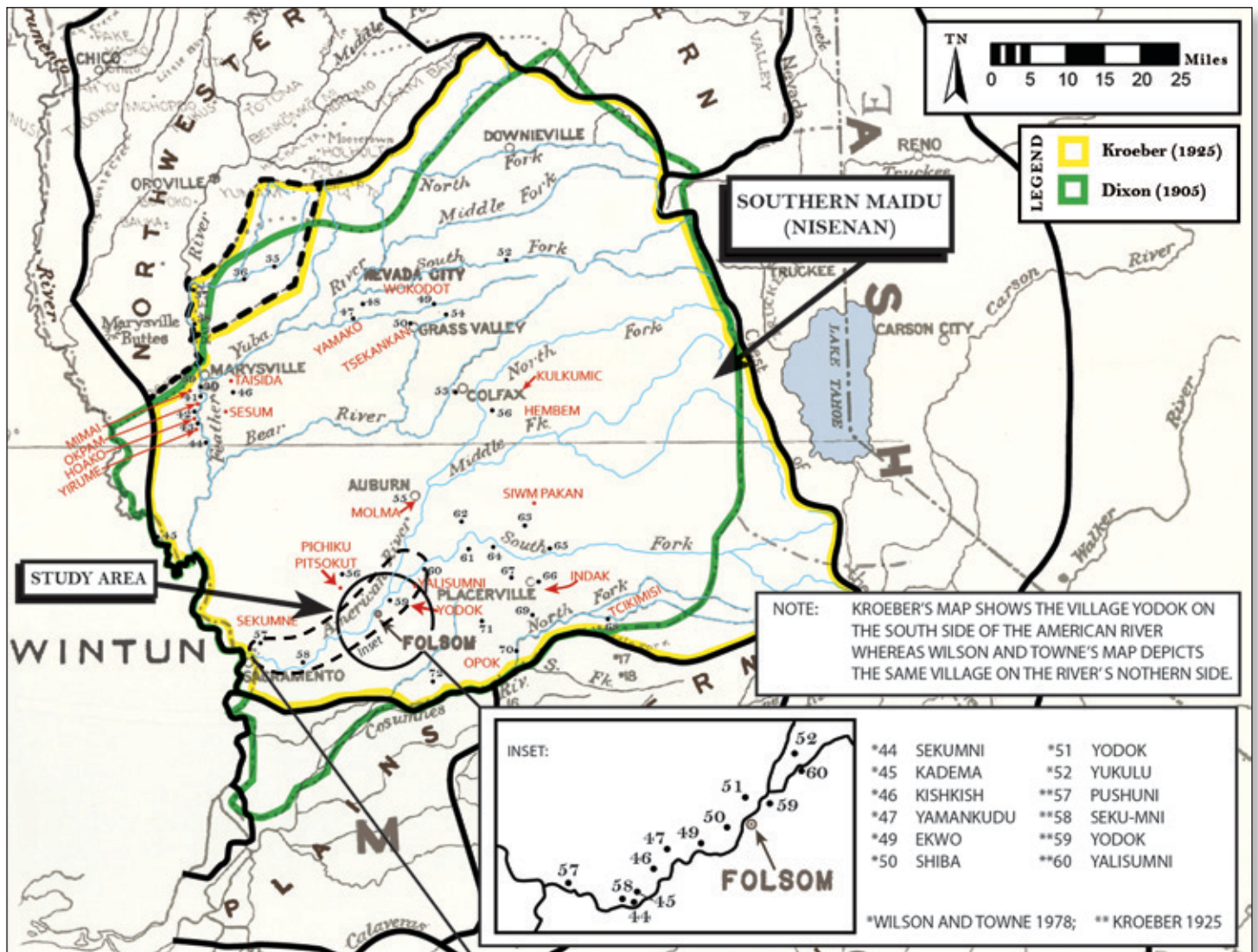
. . . it ranged westerly down the lower timbered edge of Salmon Falls on the South Fork of the American River and apparently did not include Folsom. It did, however, approach Michigan Bar and also Placerville, Coloma and Latrobe. From Salmon Falls the border moved northeast to Coloma. In an easterly direction it included Placerville. The southern boundary was identified by the Huse suspension bridge over the Cosumnes

River. Although there is no certainty regarding the Eskanamusse border with the Southern Nisenan District, what is apparent was it would have included portions of the Cosumnes River northerly up Deer Creek through El Dorado Hills to the South Forks of the American River and east to Placerville.

Nisenan territory in the Folsom region is distinguished by the Hill and Valley groups. They lived throughout portions of El Dorado, Amador and Nevada counties. The Hill people resided between the Cosumnes River and South Fork of the American River near Placerville. The Valley Nisenan lived on the plains of the Sacramento Valley. A study at the Walltown Nisenan

camp near Sloughouse indicated that the boundary between Valley and Hill Nisenan was a north-south line extending five miles on either side of the Sacramento and El Dorado county line. Included in this boundary were the towns of Folsom, Orangevale, Natoma, Latrobe, Clarksville, and Sloughouse (Payen 1961). Payen's informants referred to the Nisenan living at Folsom as To'se-win.

Hugh Warwick Littlejohn (a graduate student in Anthropology at UC Berkeley in the late 1920s) interviewed Maidu informants during the 1920s and concluded that he was uncertain exactly how the Nisenan were divided, suggesting it could not be ascertained (Littlejohn



1928).³ The general consensus is that Nisenan territorial boundaries included prominent perennial streams that have their origin high in the Sierra Nevada. These streams include the drainages of the Bear, all branches of the American, and portions of the South Fork Feather and North Fork Yuba rivers. Several key historic towns are recognized in the literature as having associated Nisenan settlements including Nevada City, Colfax, Auburn, Coloma, Placerville, Folsom, Sacramento, and Marysville. Geographically, the crest (or part way down in a westerly direction) of the Sierra formed their eastern boundary, with the Cosumnes River forming a southern edge, and the Sacramento River demarcating a western edge, at least up to the mouth of the Feather River and the controversial boundary to the north along portions of the Feather and Yuba rivers. Their territory was bordered to the south by other California Indian groups including the Plains and Northern Miwok, Wintun, Northwestern and Northeastern Maidu in the north and the Washo tribe to the east (Figure 1).

Clearly we see that Nisenan territory was expansive, covering many thousands of acres across several environmental vegetation zones. With this in mind, what did their settlements look like? In general, they built their permanent villages below the snow line. The higher elevations between the 3,000-foot contour and the summit were used for subsistence pursuits by both Nisenan and neighboring tribes such as the Washo. Littlejohn (1928) suggested that as a rule villages were not built close to the American River because the canyon was too steep and rocky. Instead, they were constructed in the canyons of

small streams or tributaries of the American River, usually on a fairly level knoll or piece of high open ground in the neighborhood of a stream. Other notable scholars on the subject suggested that villages located along the lower courses of rivers such as the American or Cosumnes were built on artificial mounds, thus achieving a sufficient elevation to preserve the huts from flood waters (Beals 1933:363; Gifford 1927:251-252). The Natoma site was located on higher ground above Alder Creek and set back from the American River. Similarly, the Walltown Nisenan informants claimed villages were “nearly” always built on a low hill (Payen 1961:18).

Anthropologists and the Native American community concur that villages of any consequence would have a large dance or assembly houses (*k'um*, *k'umi* or *k'umu*) measuring approximately 20 to 40 feet in diameter. These large structures were built in a round shape and often excavated to a depth of three to five feet. Often referred to as roundhouses, they facilitated social functions. Tom Cleanso, a well known Nisenan informant from the early twentieth century, told E. W. Gifford in the 1920s that at the village Goduma (near Sacramento on the American River) the dance house would hold 100 people. Although the roundhouse (or dance house) was used for social and ceremonial events, it was occasionally used as a dwelling house for visitors. It was owned by the chief or other people of wealth. The Nisenan also constructed a smaller sweathouse that was earth-covered. There were temporary huts made from brush that were used in various capacities including isolation (e.g., by a person injured or bitten by a rattlesnake). In general, a Nisenan village might

have a *k'um* and as many as six or seven houses sheltering small extended families of 15 to 25 people to perhaps several families numbering several hundred residents.

Social activities associated with a *k'um* such as annual Big Times are well remembered by contemporary Native American Nisenan and by neighboring Me' Wuk. Men, women and children attended these events where celebrations occurred along with traditional dancing and story-telling, and where gambling games (hand game) were often played. One noted anthropologist, E.W. Gifford, described the *Hiweyi* dance that was performed at Michigan Bar and Folsom. It was danced to cure the sick. Big time celebrations are still practiced by Maidu/Nisenan and Me' Wuk families living throughout the Sierra Nevada region of California.

We actually know very little about specific Nisenan villages that were occupied late in time in the vicinity of Folsom. In Kroeber's manuscript on the Valley Nisenan, there are 13 villages listed along the American River between Sacramento and Folsom. The village *Yo'lim hu* may have been the nearest to Folsom but there is some debate over its location. One source places it at “Old Folsom” while another says only that it was the furthest upstream from the mouth of the American River, approximately five miles outside of Old Folsom. We do not know what the composition of this village may have been or how many individuals may have lived there.

Twelve miles south of Folsom at the mining enclave known as Walltown, there was a Nisenan camp that was occupied by up to 50 people who originally lived at a large village located three miles east on or near Carson Creek

(Payen 1961). Closer to town, in fact about three miles away, may have been the village named *Shiba* (cf. Kroeber 1929:256). While *Shiba* supposedly was located on the north side of the American River, I believe it might be correlated with the Natoma Site that would have been directly across the river (the Natoma Site definitely was occupied late in time based on the presence of shell beads and ornaments).

Another possible Nisenan occupation close to Folsom is Natoma (Kroeber 1925; Reed 1923; Sutter 1932). Kroeber refers to Natoma as a spot, or inhabited site but unfortunately he did not map its location. Reed pointed out that Natoma means “clear water,” and was the name given in 1850 to the Morman Island Post Office. The diary of John Augustus Sutter mentions the name Natoma only one time in reference to the location of the Morman Samuel Brannan’s store located on Morman Island; however, his diary makes no reference to Nisenan living here. Minimal archaeological work was carried out near the historic location of Natoma during a construction project. Very few artifacts were recovered along with a single human interment. The possibility of a cremation was also noted. Although not conclusive it was suggested the site was occupied during the Late Horizon placing the time of occupation between A.D. 1550 to 1770, and possibly later.

There are scant notes found in historical accounts and ethno-historic materials about Nisenan using Folsom during the late 19th through the mid 20th centuries. Of particular interest was the name *Yodok* (also spelled *Ya’-dok*), often mentioned in gray literature cultural resources manuscripts as the nearest Nisenan village to Folsom.

In the published anthropological literature on the subject there is no concurrence on *Yodok* (cf. Beals 1933:347; Dixon 1905; C. Hart Merriam 1966, Part I; Kroeber 1925, 1929; Littlejohn 1928; Riddell 1972; Tatsch 2006). One author places it on the north side of American River while another on the south side. A third author shows it directly below the middle and south forks of the American River. The unpublished literature conveys the most accurate picture, and after careful review, we find a completely alternative location and use. It is Littlejohn’s unpublished manuscript that identifies *Yodok* as the falls where “Indians” used to catch salmon. Relying on his informant Sam Kesler (grandson of Captain Tom), Littlejohn says Captain Tom owned a “fish hole,” nicknamed “sunburn” near a waterfall in the American River. Other noteworthy anthropologists working with Nisenan informants during the 1920s documented how the Indians would use willow nets for fishing here, and one actually identified *Yaw’-dok* as Salmon Falls. Apparently, this fishing spot was outside of Folsom at the mouth of Sweetwater Creek and the South Fork of the American River, on the edge of the *Ti-nan* community territory (Merriam 1966, No. 68, Part 1; Tatsch 2006). Historically, *Yaw’-dok* became a mining town known as Salmon Falls (Tatsch 2006:70).

Although treatment of Indian people in print often was not commendable, newspaper accounts from the mid nineteenth century point to use by Nisenan people who were displaced following the gold rush. For example, one reference suggests that a temporary camp consisting of several shelters (brush and blanket coverings over vertical poles) was located approximately ½ mile northeast of Folsom

Station at the site of the “old seminary on Sutter Street Hill.” Listed in the Folsom Express newspaper in April 1859, the article reads “there were approximately 15-20 Indians . . .” observed at this location. It was not unusual to find these brief commentaries about Indian people from this time period. Throughout the motherlode near mining enclaves Indian families were often found living on the outskirts of towns, occasionally near traditional villages (cf. Maniery 1987).

While it is common to read about clashes between white settlers, including well known entrepreneurs such as John Sutter, and Nisenan and other tribes living in the lower Sierra Nevada foothill region, historic conflicts between the Native American people are not as frequent. With this said, Payen (1961:20) discusses a so called “war” that was fought in the area that is now occupied by the town of Folsom prior to the Gold Rush. This confrontation was between Hill and Valley Nisenan. A boy was sent to the opposing group to notify them of the impending battle. He carried a wreath of green leaves, and when he arrived he swung his arms around three times (meaning sunrise to sunset), indicating the battle would begin in three days. The alleged location was the hill where the old Folsom High School stood. Weaponry in the battle included bows and arrows. One person, a boy, was killed in the battle. His body was carried away for burial to an unknown location. Apparently the Valley people won.

Although the anthropological literature and notes by the ethnographers and others who interviewed Nisenan about their traditional settlements and places were available, depicting these residential sites on maps was often inaccurate. Moreover, the scales used in

text books are difficult to interpret. Along the American River between Sacramento and Folsom there are numerous villages discussed in the literature, but really only a handful has reasonably precise locational data such as Pushuni and Kadema (some, such as Kadema have been investigated archaeologically). The latter two were visited frequently in the early twentieth century. Informants who talked to anthropologists from U.C. Berkeley had either lived at these enclaves or had relatives that were originally from Pushuni and Kadema.

The story of the Nisenan in Folsom from initial contact with Euroamericans around 1830, through Sutter's occupation, the gold rush years, and subsequent settlement is not for the faint of heart. During this time the many destructive events and atrocities led to devastation of the Native population, obliteration of their land and destruction of fisheries, game, and access to plant foods, leaving many Indian families and individuals homeless and hungry. The traditional villages summarized above were no longer optimal locations, and several were destroyed. Imagine living along the lower American River during the first three decades of the 1800s leading up to John Sutter's acquisition of land in and around Sacramento. By 1820, men from the Hudson Bay Company and other trappers were camping and trapping beaver in Nisenan Territory. In the early 1830s a massive epidemic dramatically reduced the California Indian population occupying the greater Sacramento Valley and lower foothills; one scholar estimated that it killed 20,000 natives in the Central Valley of California. This epidemic was followed by Sutter's 1839 development of New Helvetia. Mildly put, this led to confronta-

tions between Nisenan and other neighboring Indian groups, and to further destruction of the native population. Then beginning in 1848, the invasion of tens of thousands of miners entering Indian territories accelerated the population decline caused by 50 years of Euroamerican incursions into their territory, resulting in a disintegration of the culture. By the time the railroad reached Folsom in 1854 few local Nisenan remained.

We know that numerous archaeological resources have been identified within Folsom's corporate boundary over the last 50 years. About 80 percent of the surviving cultural resources include milling stations where Nisenan would process food resources. Only 10 percent (or 14 sites) of approximately 125 recorded prehistoric archaeological sites have been scientifically studied by archaeologists and, based on these various analyses, we can safely infer a period of occupation and use of the Folsom vicinity dating back several thousand years.

In conclusion, Folsom's archaeology, anthropological records and publications from the early twentieth century, historical archival notes, and oral interview accounts with Nisenan, suggests that prior to encounters with non-Indians, Folsom was intensively occupied. While we know there are ethnographically reported Nisenan villages near Folsom, the record does not precisely place a named village at the Folsom Station site prior to the Gold Rush. Archaeological evidence indicates that Nisenan permanent settlements are infrequent within a three-mile radius of the Folsom Station compared to BRM milling sites, but this may be partially due to the mass destruction of sites during the gold rush and later. Despite these losses and

data gaps, one can easily imagine travelling from the junction of the American and Sacramento rivers easterly along the American River prior to about 1830, a distance of roughly 13 miles to what later would become Negro Bar and the town of Folsom, passing several Nisenan villages and communities, perhaps separated by only a few miles as one noted anthropologist suggested (cf. Gifford 1927). ❖

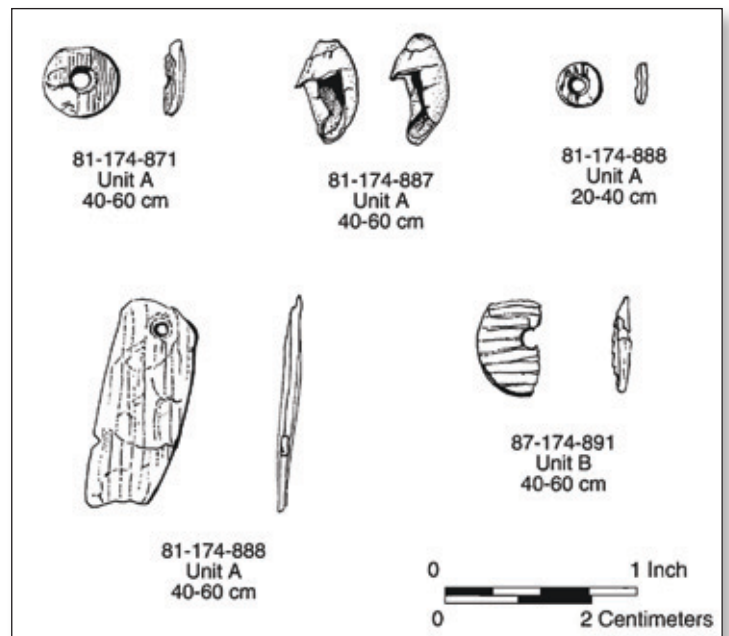
1. *The City of Folsom's historic railroad block is transforming into a public plaza area, including an amphitheater, stage area at the depot, and landscaping. The project was initiated by the Folsom Redevelopment Agency as a private-public partnership with Railroad Block Developers. This mixed-use transit-oriented development will eventually include 60 residential units and approximately 34,000 square feet of retail and office space called Historic Folsom Station. PAR, under the direction of Mary L. Maniery, conducted historical archaeology of the block in 2011 and is currently preparing a report for the city of Folsom.*

2. *John Peabody Harrington collected ethnographic information on the Nisenan. Although difficult to read and interpret, he mentioned Jane Lewis on a page of his hand written fields notes from the early 20th century. Harrington suggests that Jane Lewis was living "for years" in Folsom; ca 1908. The specific location is not clear, but Harrington mentions "polo" or buckeye rock. Polo' o' (polo) means buckeye in Nisenan (NMNH, Harrington; Accession # 1976-95; page 39 of 82 [Information provided by Glen Villa Jr., 2014]).*

3. *Marcos Guerrero, UAIC, provided a CD with H. W. Littlejohn's unpublished field notes.*

References Cited (for *The Nisenan of Folsom*)

- Beals, Ralph L.
1933 *Ethnology of the Nisenan*. *University of California Publications in American Archaeology and Ethnology*, Volume 31, (6), pp. 335-413. University of California Press, Berkeley.
- Dixon, Roland B.
1905 *The Northern Maidu*. *Bulletin of the American Museum of Natural History*, Vol. 17, Part 3. New York. Reprinted in AMS Press, New York.
- Gebhardt, Charles L.
1962 *Archaeological Salvage Excavation of California Indian Site Sac. 166 Near Natoma, California*. American River Junior College. Submitted to the Central California Archaeological Foundation.
- Gifford, Edward W.
1927 Southern Maidu Religious Ceremonies. *American Anthropologist*, 29 (3):214-257.
- Kroeber, Albert L.
1925 *Handbook of the Indians of California*. Originally published by the Bureau of American Ethnology, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C. Reprinted with permission by the California Book Company, Ltd., 1967. San Francisco, California.
1929 The Valley Nisenan. *University of California Publications in American Archaeology and Ethnology*. 24 (4):253-290. University of California Press, Berkeley.
- Littlejohn, Hugh W.
1928 *Nisenan Geography: field notes and manuscripts*. Document 18, University of California Archives. Ms. on file, Bancroft Library, University of California. Berkeley.
- Maniery, James Gary
1987 *Six Mile and Murphys Rancherias. A Study of Two Central Sierra Miwok Village Sites*. San Diego Museum Papers, No. 22. San Diego, CA.
1996 *The Natoma Site. Archaeological Test Excavations at CA-SAC-166, Sacramento County, California*. Technical Report No. 2. PAR Environmental Services, Inc., Sacramento, California.
2005 *Burial Recovery at CA-SAC-166, The Natoma Site*. On file, California Historic Resources Information System, North Central Information Center, California State University, Sacramento.
2014 *An Archaeological, Ethnohistorical, and Ethnogeographical Assessment of the Historic Folsom Station and Surrounding Vicinity*. Prepared for the City of Folsom, Department of Public Works. Ms. in possession of author.
- Merriam, C. Hart
1966 *Ethnographic Notes on California Indian Tribes*. *University of California Archaeological Survey*, No. 68, Part I. University of California Archaeological Research Facility, Department of Anthropology. Berkeley.
- Payen, Louis
1961 *The Walltown Nisenan*. Ms. on file, Department of Parks and Recreation, Sacramento.
- Puffer, Herbert
2008 *The Tradition of Jane Lewis*. Unpublished manuscript on file at Pacific Western Traders. Folsom, California.
- Reed, George W.
1923 *History of Sacramento County, California*. Historic Record Company, Los Angeles.
- Riddell, Francis A.
1972 *The Ethnogeography of the Hill Nisenan*. On file, National Park Service, Western Region, San Francisco, California.
- Rosenthal, Jeffery S., Gregory G. White, and Mark Q. Sutton
2007 *The Central Valley: A View from the Catbird's Seat. In California Prehistory. Colonization, Culture, and Complexity*, pp. 147-164. Edited by Terry L. Jones and Kathryn A. Klar. Altamira Press, NY.
- Sutter, Johann August (John Augustus).
1932 *The Diary of Johann August Sutter*. San Francisco: Grabhorn Press, 1932.
- Tatsch, Sheri J.
2006 *The Nisenan: Dialects and Districts of a Speech Community*. Ph.D. Dissertation, on file, University of California, Davis.
- Treganza, Adan E.
1954 *Salvage Archaeology in Nimbus and Redbank Reservoir Areas, Central California*. *University of California Archaeological Survey*, 26. University of California, Berkeley.



Shell beads from the Natoma Site - Illustrations by Claire Warshaw

THE MURER HOUSE *by Cindy Baker*

The Murer House, a little bit of Italy in Historic Folsom, is a historical spot with lots of history. The Murer House was built in 1925 by Giuseppe “Joe” Murer. Murer immigrated from Crespano del Grappa in the Veneto region of Italy and came to Folsom in 1911. Between 1920 and 1950, he built five buildings on nearby Sutter Street and became an active member in the community. Today the property (including structures and landscaping) is all original. The City of Folsom acquired the Murer House property in 1997 to preserve the House as a landmark. Today his home town is Folsom’s sister city. The Murer House Foundation runs the site and is a non-profit organization with a Board of Directors and volunteers. All-volunteer group raises funds through programming and special events to preserve the site. They offer Italian cooking and lan-

guage classes and have about 100 members. One of their teachers is Orietta Gianjorio, a Roman who formerly had a cooking show on Italian television. They are currently seeking 1925 furnishings of the house including an electric stove



and a refrigerator and stove. They are also building a bocce court with two lanes and a traditional Italian wood-fired outdoor oven.

The organization is constantly seeking new members and volun-

teers to help with their programs, including their four annual fundraising events. These include the “Downton Abbey English Tea and Vintage Fashion Show” held in May, the “Italy on Wheels” Italian Car, Motorcycle and Bike Show September 13, the annual October Festa Dinner (a traditional family style Italian dinner with live accordion and Italian singing), and the Historic Folsom Holiday Home Tour held the second weekend of every December. The Holiday Gift Boutique at the site is stocked with all hand-made items. The Murer House is currently open for docent-led tours on the first

Saturday of every month and for groups by appointment. For more information, visit www.murerhouse.org or check their Facebook page at Murer House Learning Center. ❄

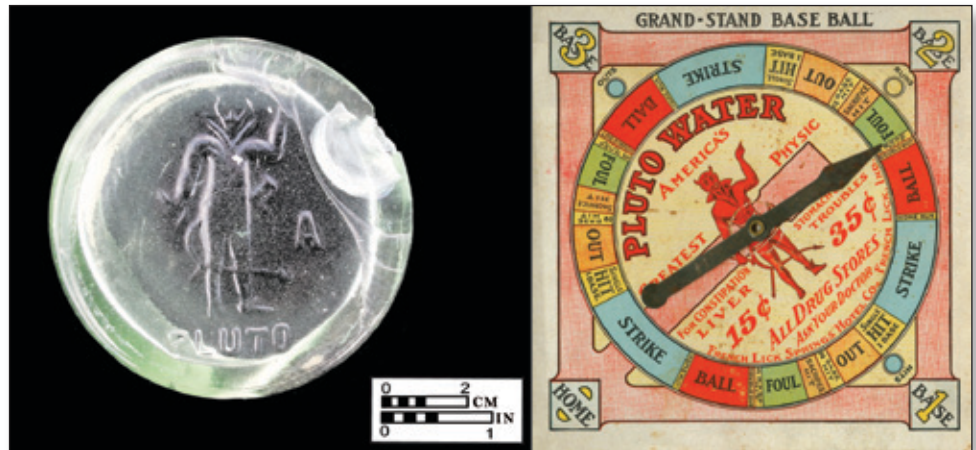


PAR continued work in the Mohave Desert in 2013, researching homesteads, mines, and roads. Settlement of Indian Wells Valley near Ridgecrest began around 1909 and peaked in the late 1910s, as World War I veterans took advantage of government incentives to acquire free land in the arid west through homesteading. PAR studied 10 homesteads at China Lake, ranging from short-term efforts by bachelor war vets to well-developed ranches with elaborate irrigation systems, outbuildings, reservoirs and homes. Exploring the Hansen homestead and its history through a study of contemporary letters, oral interviews, family photographs and archaeological remains resulted in a better understanding of a time when every family member worked hard, and enjoyed simple activities like swimming in the reservoir, and picnics with neighbors.

As the contrast to the community that settled around Ridgecrest, studies of 21 mining-related sites in the south central Mohave Desert around Johnson Valley, suggest an isolated existence, where solitary or small groups of predominately men lived a transitory lifestyle with few amenities. Water and the need for the precious liquid was a driving force and the Means Well, first dug in 1890 and improved spo-



Hansen girls enjoying a summer swim around 1922. Vivian Van Devender Collection, Matarango Museum



Pluto Water Bottle Base from a desert homestead and advertisement, 1920s

radically into the 1930s, was a cornerstone of area mines. Remnant storage ponds, livestock troughs, a stone-lined well and other features remain today to attest to the essential water supply.

PARs focus included mining exploration and exploitation sites representing all eras of mineral extraction activity in the Valley; from initial exploration efforts in the early 1900s through hard rock mining in the 1920s and small scale operations during the Great Depression of the 1930s. We also

had a few prospecting sites from the 1950s and 1960s, indicative of the resurgence in copper and gold mining after World War II ended. Prospecting sites were often represented by a single depression with tailings and a handful of cans. Large named sites had numerous features that included adits, shafts, prospects and tailings, can refuse areas, and domestic areas with structural foundations.

PAR staff took on challenges in five states in 2013. Highlights of our year included:



Ellie Maniery & Josh Allen - Johnson Valley Project

- Testing 8 sites associated with homesteading and military development in northern San Diego county;
- Researching and evaluating hydroelectric and irrigation systems in San Diego County;
- Assisting Sacramento County with 14 bridge replacements projects;
- Monitoring sewer and storm drain installation for the City of Sacramento;
- Researching and evaluating Sacramento's Capital Mall, a wide

avenue leading from the Sacramento River waterfront east to the State Capital;

- Continuing our work for Pacific Gas and Electric Company on multiple systems and projects throughout central and northern California, including architectural and archaeological surveys and evaluations, preparation of effect and treatment documents, completion of HABS/HAER recordation of hydroelectric features, and preparing popular articles for dissemination to the general public.

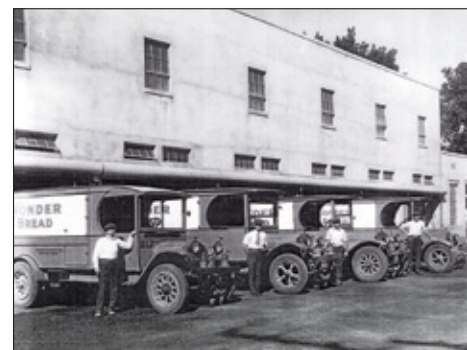
- Assisting clients with CEQA, NEPA, and Section 106 compliance in many regions of California and other states, including private developers, the United States Army Reserve, Veterans Administration, and Army Corps of Engineers.

In 2104 we look forward to continuing our efforts on behalf of our long time and new clients as they wind through project compliance and implementation. ✂

ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING DEPARTMENT *by James Gary Maniery*

We continued to focus on transportation planning projects in 2013, completing the Retrac Way Bridge Replacement project in Nevada County. As I mentioned in my last issue, this wooden bridge carries one lane of traffic over Wolf Creek. A new bridge that meets current

design standards will be constructed on the same alignment. Our cultural staff, and biologists Edward "Ted" Beedy, Virginia Dains and Sean Barry completed archaeology and biology studies at the site, all subject to Caltrans District 03 approval. Tami Mihm prepared the IS/MND for Nevada County while Caltrans took the lead on the federal categorical exclusion.



Edward "Ted" Beedy & Sean Barry - Retrac Way Bridge Project

We began the R Street, Phase III project in 2013 and continue to work on technical studies and an environmental document in 2014. R Street is an east-west arterial in mid-town Sacramento. Historically, it is known for its industrial character supporting warehouses and the Sacramento Valley Railroad that was constructed in the center of the roadway. Our company completed Phases I and II previously and now are excited to be working on the final leg. Technical studies prepared include a hazardous waste initial site assessment, cultural resources documentation (HPSR/ASR/HRER), biological memorandum and a visual assessment. The latter report was



R Street - then (top) and now (bottom). Courtesy Center for Sacramento History.

prepared by Jennifer Hildebrandt who will also assist PAR with the IS/MND. Jenny is employed by Drake-Haglan Associates, Inc.

PAR has completed numerous bridge replacement projects throughout northern California and continues to pursue these types of projects. ✂

PAR'S ARTICLED EXPERIENCE IN



PAR'S 2013 HOLIDAY PARTY



PAR Technical Reports Still Available:

Test Excavations at CA-MEN-2138, Redwood Valley, California.

PAR Environmental Services, Inc.
Technical Report No. 1, 1994

By James Gary Maniery
Cost \$3.00

The Natoma Site, Archaeological Test Excavations at CA-SAC-166.

PAR Environmental Services, Inc.
Technical Report No. 2, 1996

By James Gary Maniery
Cost \$6.00

A Study of the California Red-Legged Frog (*Rana aurora dratonii*) of Butte County, California.

PAR Environmental Services, Inc.
Technical Report No. 3, 1999

By Sean Berry
Cost \$6.75

PAR 2014 UPDATE

EDITOR:
J.G. Maniery

DESIGN:
Heather Rose Design, Manhattan Beach

PAR Environmental Services, Inc.
Copyright © 2014

NEWS FLASH ITEMS

- Gary Maniery participated in the 2014 Society for California Annual meeting in Visalia, California. He, along with Glen Villa Jr., Ken Wilson, Susan Stratton, Sara Dutschke Setshwaelo, Kyle Dutschke and Dwight Dutschke, were part of the Plenary Session held on Friday morning. This was a moving session that was organized and written by Dwight titled *“How do you say thank you in Miwok”*. The presentation was a story format told in three parts. Gary and Glen presented Part I, a revision of the Burning of the Digger paper first presented by Dwight and Gary in 1996 at the California Indian Conference. The second story was presented by Ken and Sara and was titled *When does a tribe continue to exist*. The final story was read by Susan and titled *What if I already know the Answer? Listen Before you ask*. Dwight’s niece Sara was the MC for the session that was well received by all in attendance. What a pleasure to be part of this.
- Mary Maniery and Sarah Heffner were invited to participate in the Chinese Railroad Workers Archaeology Workshop organized by Stanford University in October of 2013. This group is just one branch of a large international effort to commemorate the Chinese workers who participated in the building of the transcontinental railroad between 1865 and 1869. The workshop united historians, anthropologists, artists, researchers, archaeologists, sociologists and others from universities in the United States and China and private enterprises to share information on the Chinese labor force that built the section of railroad from California to Promontory Point, Utah, and to establish steps to honor their efforts for the 150th anniversary of the railroad (2015-2019).
- PAR staff is participating in a thematic issue for publication in 2015 by the Society for Historical Archaeology, building a digital pictorial library of associated artifacts, and producing a publication on artifacts and their uses by the Chinese workers. Look for Lynn Furnis and Mary’s article entitled *An Archaeological Strategy for Chinese Workers’ Camps in the West: Method and Case Study* and Sarah’s study on the health of the workers titled *Exploring Healthcare Practices of Chinese Railroad Workers in North America* in 2015. To find out more about the Project visit the Stanford web site at <https://www.stanford.edu/group/chineserailroad/cgi-bin/wordpress>.
- Andrea “Ellie” Maniery presented preliminary results of her geoarchaeology-based thesis work at Pharo Village, Utah, in Austin, Texas in April, 2014. Her presentation, entitled *The Alluvial Geochronology of Pharo Village and Implications for Cycles of Site Occupation and Abandonment* was included in a General Session—Later Prehistory in the Great Basin—at the Society for American Archaeology 79th annual meeting.
- PAR was pleased to present Cindy Baker with a plaque of recognition and a monetary award acknowledging her 20 years of service at PAR at the annual Christmas party. Cindy’s research and writing skills as PARs Senior Historian, high level of integrity, dedication, and loyalty to PAR is exceptional and we thank her for her efforts.
- Mary Ahern, PAR’s Office Manager, was presented with a similar award at the Christmas party acknowledging her 15 years of service at PAR. We appreciate Mary’s attention to detail and perseverance as she negotiates the increasingly challenging world of insurance certificates, woman-owned business listings, and document production.
- PAR thanks Jessica O’Connor for seven years of service to the company. Jessica leaves the company in May and is moving to historic Savannah, Georgia. We wish her all the best in her new endeavors.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

NEW EMPLOYEES



Josh Allen

Associate Archaeologist

Bachelors of Science,
University of Idaho

Mr. Allen joined PAR's Cultural Resources Management Department in May of 2013. He is responsible for leading field crews, GPS management and mapping, and report writing. Mr. Allen is a skilled field archaeologist with experience in Northern and Southern California, Mohave Desert and various locations in Idaho, Wyoming, Washington and Montana.



Sarah Heffner

Sr. Historical Archaeologist

B.A., Historic Preservation

Master of Arts, Anthropology,
University of Idaho

Ph.D., Historical Archaeology,
University of Nevada, Reno

Sarah Heffner joined PAR's Cultural Resources Management Department in 2014. Sarah's expertise includes Asian American archaeology. She specializes in health and medicine of Chinese immigrant groups and will work on various historical and architectural projects throughout California and the west.

LOCAL CHARITIES & NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS

- Plumas County Charities
- Murer House Foundation
- Heyday Books
- University of Idaho, Asian American Collection Center
- Sacramento Archaeological Society
- Society for California Archaeology



PAR is a woman-owned business that originated in 1982. From its beginnings as a small firm consisting of two enterprising and dedicated archaeologists, PAR has grown into a full service organization. Our staff provides professional expertise in environmental planning and cultural resources investigations. We take great pride in producing high quality, clear and concise reports based upon thorough and objective analysis. We have acquired a well-earned reputation for completing projects on time, within budget and with meticulous attention to detail. The firm's principals have a strong background in the natural and cultural planning issues of California and the West.



Shot glasses, wine goblet, whiskey tumbler, tobacco sauce and dishes

PAR ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES, INC.

Telephone (916) 739-8356

Mailing Address:

P.O. Box 160756
Sacramento, CA 95816-0756

Delivery Address:

1906 21st Street
Sacramento, CA 95811



ESTABLISHED 1982

CURRENT STAFFING

MARY L. MANIERY

CEO/Director, Cultural Resources
mlmanieri@yahoo.com

CINDY BAKER

Senior Historian
folsomite@aol.com

SARAH HEFFNER

Senior Historical Archaeologist
sheffner@PARenvironmental.com

JAMES GARY MANIERY

CFO/Director, Environmental Planning
jgmanieri@yahoo.com

JOHN DOUGHERTY

Senior Archaeologist
jdougherty@PARenvironmental.com

DENNIS MERRITT

Seasonal Archaeologist

MARY AHERN

Office Manager
mahern@PARenvironmental.com

MONICA NOLTE

Senior Archaeologist
mnolte@PARenvironmental.com

TAMARA J. MIHM

Associate Principal Planner

DALE SLOSS

CPA, Administration/Accounting

ANDREA ELLEN MANIERY

Associate Archaeologist

AMBER RANKIN

Graphic Artist, GIS Specialist
arankin@PARenvironmental.com

JOSH ALLEN

Associate Archaeologist
jallen@PARenvironmental.com



Mary Ahern and Cindy Baker Awards