

HIDDEN CAVE, NEVADA



Hidden Cave (NV-CH-16) about 12 miles east of Fallon, Nevada, east on US 50, is now part of the Bureau of Land Management's Grimes Point Archaeological Area. Unlike Lovelock Cave and Rose Spring, Hidden Cave with its tiny original entrance was not used as a habitation site, but rather a dry cave to store materials for people living in the Carson Desert. Originally investigated in the 1920s, it was most recently excavated by Dave Thomas of the American Museum of Natural History, and has served to anchor the culture history for this part of the Great Basin through

Thomas's extensive publication on the excavations. An additional web site on Hidden Cave by Thomas is at: http://anthro.amnh.org/anthropology/research/north_archeo/hidden.htm

In the 1950s, archaeologists from the University of California, Berkeley began work in the Carson Desert region, and excavated Hidden Cave in 1951, the artifacts of this excavation are curated at the Hearst Museum. Most unfortunate, the original unpublished report of these investigations (Archaeological Manuscript 171) has been missing from the University collections for over a decade.

Due to the extensive archaeological work at Hidden Cave, the understanding of Great Basin prehistory has been significantly enhanced.

fragment, flute, bone; 2-32565



MAP OF A PORTION OF THE GREAT BASIN AND PROJECT SITES.

No analysis of the Lovelock obsidian has ever been attempted to our knowledge. We analyzed seven of the Lovelock Cave obsidian points illustrated on the web. The source provenance of the seven specimens is generally similar to many of the sources present at Hidden Cave. Most common is Majuba Mountain, the nearest known source to Lovelock, followed by Bodie Hills over 100 linear kilometers southwest. Bordwell Spring (formerly called Homecamp), and Buffalo Hills are minor sources. Mount Hicks, a common source at Hidden Cave was not found at Lovelock.

Front cover: top: J.E. Smith, F.J. Clune and D. Biernoff resting after screening at Rose Spring. Bottom: Original entrance to Hidden Cave.



The Great Basin BLM Collections

*at the Phoebe A. Hearst
Museum of Anthropology*



INTRODUCTION

This pamphlet is a distillation of a long term project between the Phoebe Hearst Museum of Anthropology (PAHMA), University of California, Berkeley, and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), U.S. Department of Interior. The project includes an image laden website focused on some of the archaeological sites important in the history of archaeology from the Great Basin: Rose Spring, California (CA-INY-372), and Lovelock (NV-CH-18) and Hidden Caves (NV-CH-16) in Nevada, all of which were excavated by University of California faculty and students.



With funding from the BLM, we were also able to re-curate these collections up to modern standards, and provide this pamphlet for a peek at the extensive research collections housed at PAHMA. Indeed, we hope that this helps provide a public platform for a greater understanding of western Great Basin prehistory, the role of museums in enhancing that understanding, and the continued cooperation between the Bureau of Land Management, the Phoebe Hearst Museum of Anthropology and the University of California. For further information, visit the web site at: <http://hearstmuseum.berkeley.edu/blm/introduction.html>

basket makers kit, the longest of two bone awls is 160mm ; 2-45093.

LOVELOCK CAVE, NEVADA

The archaeological materials from NV-CH-18 (Lovelock Cave) were acquired by the PAHMA over a 65-year period in 21 accessions beginning in 1907 by S.A. Barrett. This large rock-shelter located above the Humboldt Sink has been variously called Sunset



Guano Cave and Horseshoe Cave. Based on radio-carbon dates, the cave was occupied between ca. 2500 B.C. and A.D. 1835. Researchers have further delineated the occupation into at least 17 components, mainly based on Pacific Coast shell bead types found in the cave. The site represents over 4000 years of occupation exploiting the rich lacustrine ecosystem of the Humboldt Sink. Despite the high level of disturbance from the early guano miners, Lovelock Cave serves as one of the most important sites in understanding early human occupation of the Great Basin.



buckskin moccasins, 240 mm from toe to heel; 1-21640 and basketry fragment, 410mm; 2-44898

ROSE SPRING, CALIFORNIA

The archaeological collection from the Rose Spring Site (CA-INY-372) accessioned into the Museum was collected by Francis and Harry Riddell in the 1940s and 1950s and R. F. Heizer and J. Davis in October 1961. It was most recently investigated in the late 1980s and early 1990s by Robert Yohe for a doctoral dissertation at the University of California, Riverside.



CA-Iny-372 is located in Rose Valley, which lies between two of the saline lakes of the western

Great Basin, Owens Lake to the north and Little Lake to the south. The site record describes Rose Spring as a habitation site at the mouth of a dry wash. The nearest water is the spring (Rose Spring) located approximately 50 yards southwest of the site. Unlike Lovelock Cave and Hidden Cave, Rose Spring is an open site with few organic remains recovered. The site, however, has been important in the understanding of prehistoric cultural history in the southwestern Great Basin including the introduction of the bow to this part of North America. Projectile points including dart points (atlatl), and arrow points (bow) were recovered in stratigraphic position and allowed Yohe to infer a chronology for the transition from dart to bow technology.



abalone pendant, 25.4mm; 1-88224