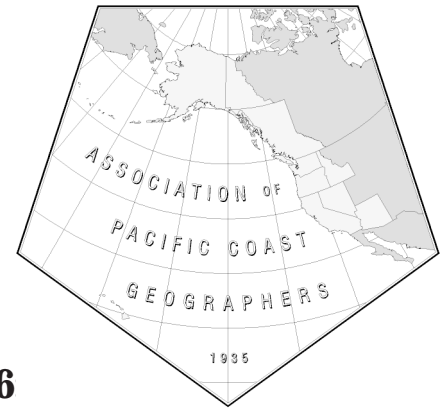


PACIFICA

The Association of Pacific Coast Geographers Spring 1999



FINDING WHAT'S LEFT OF ROUTE 66 NEEDLES IN A HAYSTACK

Lara Merriam, University of Wyoming

John Steinbeck's 1939 Pulitzer Prize-winning novel, *The Grapes of Wrath*, immortalized Route 66 in the 1930s. Bobby Troup's "ROUTE 66," more commonly referred to as "Get Your Kicks on Route 66," spurred people to kick up their heels along the Mother Road in the 1950s. And who could forget Buz and Tod's adventures in "Route 66" the famed CBS television show of the 1960s?

Route 66 is the road that linked a nation and opened the door for westward travel in the twentieth century. New towns sprouted across farmlands, deserts, and mountains, and brought new economic opportunities to existing communities along the road. Route 66 was a phenomenal feat, the first all-paved, all-weather road between the industrial Midwest and the Pacific Coast. The primary goal of the new highway was to link rural communities with their nearest metropolitan area. Once the link was completed, new gas stations, motels, restaurants, and grocery stores provided services to an increasingly mobile American family. In seventy years of service, Route 66 provided people who had lost their way a new home, people with a dream of the west a golden trail to follow, and those with a soul for adventure a new path to tread.

The Eye of the Needles

The area of Needles, California has been inhabited by the Mojave Indians for hundreds of years, giving Needles the distinction of being only one of two original settlements (the other being Yuma, Arizona) left along the Colorado River between Colorado and Mexico. Needles acquired its name from the sharp spire-like formations located on the Arizona side of the Colorado River. Needles, founded as a town in 1883, was no exception to the multitude of communities who were dependent upon the railroads for their livelihood. In 1882 the Atlantic & Pacific and Southern Pacific met half way across the first bridge built across the lower Colorado River, just a few miles from Needles.



When Henry Ford lowered the price on his Model T's after World War I, it allowed many families the ability to afford cars. This in turn created the need for a new system of highways across the nation. With the completion of these highways, people began taking cross-country journeys, and Route 66 became the mother of all roads. While technically Route 66 does not cross the entire country, only Chicago to Los Angeles, it did open portions of the West and Southwest to travelers.

In the early years of Route 66, travelers coming from the east would stop at the small community of Needles, at the eastern edge of the Mojave Desert. The single most feared stretch of Route 66 stretched out before them. They knew of the frightening journey that lay ahead of them because they had heard the stories of those who had crossed and knew there were few places to stop between Needles and Barstow. When the Dust Bowl dried up the dreams of thousands of farmers, Route 66 became the main arterial for transporting the destitute to a better life in California.

In the early 1940s when America was again at war, General George Patton brought troops into Needles to train in the

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The next two APCG Annual Meeting sites:

1999 Reno-Sparks: September 30-October 3
2000 Arcata, CA (Humboldt): September 14-17

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submission of announcements and
reports for the Spring issue is
March 1 and for the Fall issue is
October 20.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Robin E. Datel
California State University, Sacramento

The APCG offers a great variety of opportunities for participation in the geographical community. As you read through my message, consider which of the possibilities appeal to you. When you get to the end of this column, please e-mail me about which of these things you can do. I pledge to help you get them done.

At this year's annual meeting in Reno we will be offering a President's Award for Outstanding Student Paper by an Undergraduate. An award for undergraduates was offered in the past but has not been given at the last several meetings. Kimberley Klementowski, an undergraduate student currently at Fullerton College who will be at Chico in the fall, wrote me to encourage us to take this step. She suggested doing so would send a message that "you really want us to follow in your footsteps and to continue studying geography." Please carry that message to your undergraduate students and help them submit their best work for a \$100 award and enthusiastic huzzahs. Also at this year's meeting we hope to give the first President's Award for Outstanding Student Poster, open to students at all levels. Details concerning all of our awards are provided on page 3.

Ms. Klementowski also suggested that she and other undergraduates would welcome career information in *Pacifica*. I hereby invite anyone, but especially all of you geographers who have not spent your entire careers in academia, to write a few paragraphs about your career, including what job you have now and how geography helps you do it. Send your narrative to Michael Schmandt. Or if you are the person in your department who keeps track of alumni, perhaps you could summarize some of the things that your graduates are doing now.

The membership committee needs a new chair, as Bill Loy needs his freedom to travel the world without worrying about the good old APCG back home. (He also needs his garage back, so let Bob Richardson know which back issues of the *Yearbook* you are dying to have (richardsonrt@csus.edu). Remember you can use these in the classroom; they are available for the cost of shipping. See our website for a listing of articles in each issue.) The committee could use other members too. I know that no one is going to volunteer for this job without being buttonholed, so prove me wrong. We also need each and every one of you to approach colleagues on a personal basis, brochure in hand, and urge them to join and participate. Bob Richardson will be happy to send you copies of the beautiful new brochure that he designed and produced.

Some numbers suggest the magnitude of our task. Of the 390 full-time geography faculty in Alaska, Arizona, California, Hawaii, Idaho, Nevada, Oregon, and Washington programs listed in the AAG Guide, 117 or 30% were members of the APCG in 1998. (If we add in our colleagues in British Columbia, the numbers are even more challenging.) Emeritus faculty belong at the rate of 34% (42 out of 123), and "other" faculty (part-time, adjunct, affiliated, etc.) at a puny 3% rate (3 out of 107). (In this figuring, I excluded non-geography faculty in the programs at UC Davis, UC

(Continued on next page)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Riverside, and Oregon State University). We do best at institutions granting bachelors/masters degrees, where full-time faculty membership reaches 41%. At Ph.D.-granting institutions we achieve 22% and at community colleges, 33% (in considering this last figure, note that many community colleges are not listed in the guide). No matter which kind of institution you are at, please make a personal effort to encourage your colleagues, full-time, part-time, and emeritus, to join. Wouldn't it be great if we could say in a few short years that we represent the majority of academic geographers, plus a growing cadre of student and non-academic geographers, in the Pacific Coast region?

My fellow officers keep reminding me that departments do not volunteer to host APCG meetings without a personal appeal from the leadership. I have learned that many do not volunteer to host meetings even with a personal appeal from the leadership. Still, I am bringing up the issue here, hoping to prepare the ground so that when the seed falls—the phone rings and the question is popped—it has a greater chance of success. How about proving me wrong again, and marching into your next faculty meeting, waiting for New Business, and asking your colleagues to consider hosting us in some upcoming year? We are hoping to be in the southern portion of our region in 2001, in the middle in 2002, and in the north in 2003. And please be aware that this model is stochastic; we do not adhere to it without a random variation from time to time. Hosting a meeting is awfully hard work, but benefits for your students, department, campus, and discipline are many.

The president's plenary session in Reno will be on "Teaching, Studying, and Serving Your Locality in a Globalizing World," with Jim Allen (Northridge), Paul Groth (UCB), and Phil Pryde (UCSD). We hope to have a lively discussion about how geographers interact with their own environments as teachers, researchers, and participants, while still making connections with the wider world. You can help make this session a success by thinking about how YOU manage this complex task, and prepare to share your ideas in September.

Darrick Danta is looking for book reviews for the *Yearbook*. He welcomes your suggestions for books and reviewers. Faculty, students, and others are encouraged to contact him.

My penultimate item is not strictly an APCG one, although it has to do with our fundamental purpose—fostering geographical knowledge. A colleague of mine who teaches Environmental Design at UC Davis, Heath Schenker, is preparing an exhibit and catalog called "Picturing California's Other Landscape—The Great Central Valley," to open this fall at the Haggin Museum in Stockton. I helped Heath choose the maps that will be part of this exhibit and wrote an essay about the maps for the catalog. (Bill Preston, another APCG member, wrote another one of the essays.) In doing this, I spent time getting to know more about several map collections and archives. For example, the map librarian at UC Davis, David Lundquist, has over the years, put together a great collection of historical and contemporary maps of the Central Valley. I mention all this by way of encouraging you to use your own local map collections, whether they be at your university or college or elsewhere. I realize afresh what we geographers owe to map librarians. If your own research and

writing do not prompt a foray into these hidden purlieus, arrange to have your students visit them. Assign projects that encourage them to explore what heretofore has been shut away from them in cold, gray, metallic boxes. There is not one world, but many, in there.

I would like to close by drawing your attention to the piece about Margaret Trussell (1928-1998) that appears on page 10 of this issue. I was one of many Pacific coast geographers, especially women geographers, who benefited from Margaret's example and vision. Thank you, Margaret.

I await your e-mail (redatel@ucdavis.edu).

Student Awards and Travel Grants

Papers by students are now a significant proportion of presentations at our annual meeting. To encourage this activity, and to recognize and reward meritorious student scholarships, the Association annually presents several awards. **Two new awards, one for an undergraduate paper and one for outstanding poster presentations open to all levels of class standing, are available this year.** The awards to student presenters are as follows: 1) President's Award for an Outstanding Paper by a Ph.D. Student; 2) President's Award for an Outstanding Paper by an M.A. or M.S. Student; 3) President's Award for an Outstanding Paper by an Undergraduate; 4) Harry and Shirely Bailey Award for an Outstanding Paper by a Ph.D. Student; 5) Tom McKnight and Joan Clemons Award for an Outstanding Student Paper; and 6) President's Award for an Outstanding Student Poster Presentation. Each award carries a \$100 stipend. To be eligible for an award, a presenter must be an APCG member, submit a short abstract to the Program Chair Kate Berry at University of Nevada, Reno (see the "Call for Papers and Posters" elsewhere in this newsletter), submit a 3-5 page extended abstract to Mark Wilson (see directory on page 2 for address); and present the paper or poster at the annual meeting. Evaluation is made by the APCG Awards Committee based on the extended abstract and the presentation. The deadline for the extended abstract submission is August 23, 1999.

To encourage participation in the APCG by students, the Association offers a number of grants (up to \$100) to students who present papers and posters at the annual meeting. Because these grants are limited in number, they will be distributed on a first apply, first award basis. To be eligible for a travel grant to the Reno meeting, a student must be an APCG member and must present a paper or poster at the annual meeting. Presenters will be notified of their grant before the meeting, and will receive the grant at the banquet in Reno. The deadline for applications is August 1, 1999.

To receive applications for travel grants and student awards contact your departmental office first. If the materials are unavailable there, then contact *Mark Wilson*, Chair, APCG Awards Committee (see directory on page 2 for address).

ANNOUNCEMENTS

From the Secretary-Treasurer

Flagstaff Flood (of money): the final accounting is not yet complete, but already financial wizards Tina Kennedy and Dawn Hawley, co-chairs of the 1998 Annual Meeting, have turned over nearly \$4500 in profits to me. The APCG, I am pleased to report, is in excellent financial condition!

Moving Story: please PLEASE notify me of your new address if you move. Most of our mailings go at the special non-profit rate. They are not forwarded. I have included "Return Service Requested" on regular letters as a way to track you down, but each new address I find that way costs an extra \$.73—a significant percentage of an \$8 membership. *Pacifica* would cost an extra \$1.20, so I have not requested return service on it and you probably won't receive yours if I don't have your current address. Even if (gulp) you decide not to renew next year, I'll need your current address to send you the next *Yearbook* when it comes out.

Publish or Perish: as I hope most of you know by now, we have successfully published the 1997 *Yearbook*, Volume 59, and distributed it to members from 1997 (if their addresses are correct!). Volumes 27-58 were published and distributed by Oregon State University Press, so this was a challenging new venture for us. Volume 60 is nearly through all editing stages and should be printed and distributed by fall, possibly sooner.

Robert Richardson

Publication Available

Maps of Amazon Floodplain - A small overrun occurred in the 1998 reprinting, by U.C. Printing Service, of two maps that are to be incorporated in the second edition of Hilgard O'R. Sternberg's 1956 book *A Água e o Homem na Várzea do Careiro*, now being issued by the Museu Goeldi of Belém, Pará. The maps, in Portuguese, featuring the geomorphology (1:60,000) and land-use (1:40,000), are of a floodplain area at the confluence of the Negro and Solimões (Amazon) Rivers, near Manaus, Brazil. The two colored maps, based on field compilation of aerial photographs (no grid system), measure 40" x 23" and 40" x 12.5", respectively. The surplus maps, printed on 100 Lb. Velvet Book stock, not-folded and suitable for map collections, are available free of charge, on a first come basis. One set per request, please.

Send request to Sternberg (466 Michigan Avenue, Berkeley, CA 94707-1738), accompanied by a check to cover cost of mailing tube and postage (for domestic US\$ 2.00; Can. & Mex. \$3.50; other foreign \$4.50). Enclose self-addressed, peel-off label (institutional address preferred) and (for the event that the request arrives after stock is exhausted) self addressed, stamped return envelope. Indicate if you would like a 1956 23-page reprint in English, dealing with some features in the geomorphological map.

Hilgard O'Reilly Sternberg

APCG Women's Network

An Invitation to
All Members of the
Association of Pacific Coast Geographers

The Women's Network invites all APCG members to nominate a female undergraduate or graduate student to attend the Annual Meeting of the Association of Pacific Coast Geographers in Reno, Nevada, September 29 to October 3, 1999.

The Network will pay registration, partial travel costs for the student, and one year membership to the APCG. It is not necessary that the student give a paper; rather, we are providing the opportunity for a student to attend a major regional meeting of geographers without the pressure of giving a paper. This initiative is funded through contributions to the Women's Network of the APCG. Three travel awards will be made based on a lottery.

The Women's Network will be having a no-host luncheon (date/time to be announced) during at which time the award recipients will be asked to speak about their interests and goals, and how the APCG and the Women's Network might assist them in reaching their goals.

Nominations must be received or postmarked by June 1st. Please ask your student nominee to provide the Women's Network with a one to two page statement about why they want to attend the meeting, what they see as the role of students in the APCG, and what they see as the role of the APCG Women's Network.

We will notify you and your student in July. Because funding is through a University Foundation, we can only reimburse students once we have receipts. The process is very quick but cannot take place until after the meetings. Nominated students should be made aware of this condition and of the need to keep all receipts.

Nominations by APCG members and student statements should be sent to:

Megan Ashbaugh, KEA Environmental, 1420 Kettner Boulevard, Suite 620, San Diego, CA 92101 mashbaugh@keasd.com

Special Yearbook Offer for New Members

The 1997 *Yearbook*, Volume 59, was recently sent to 1997 members. The 169 members who have joined since 1997 can order this 193 page volume for \$10, including postage and handling—half off the list price alone! Authors and articles appearing in this volume (and all volumes back to v.27) may be seen at <http://www.csus.edu/apcg/articles.htm>.

To order, send your name, address, and your check for \$10 (U.S. Dollars), made out to "APCG," to the APCG in Sacramento.

Robert Richardson

APCG 1999 ELECTIONS

Members whose dues are paid will be sent ballots. Check your mailing label on this issue of the *Pacifica* to see the status of your dues. If you have questions contact the Secretary/Treasurer.

For President: Tina Kennedy (unopposed)

For Vice President: Roger Pearson and David Plane

Roger W. Pearson

I am a Fellow at the Institute of the North, Alaska Pacific University in Anchorage. I retired from the University of Alaska Fairbanks in 1998 as a Professor of Geography Emeritus. I hold a B.Ed. from Illinois State University, and an M.A. and a Ph.D. from the University of Illinois.

Service to Geography:

My first APCG meeting was in Reno in 1980. I have participated often since then. We hosted the 1989 APCG meeting in Fairbanks, Alaska, and the International Geographical Union meeting of the High Latitudes and High Altitudes Group in Fairbanks in 1987. In 1987, I established a chapter of Gamma Theta Upsilon at the University of Alaska Fairbanks, and served as its faculty advisor until 1998. Currently, I serve on the National Council for Geographic Education's Distinguished Teachers Selection Committee.

Professional Experience:

From 1976 to 1998, I was an Associate Professor and Professor of Geography at the University of Alaska Fairbanks. For approximately two-thirds of that time, I served as the Department Head. I taught a wide range of courses in both human and physical geography, as is required in a small department. Previously, I was as an Assistant Professor at University of Georgia, from 1973 to 1976. I was honored with the National Council for Geographic Education Distinguished Teaching Award in 1993. I co-founded the Alaska Geographic Alliance in 1988 and continue to serve as its coordinator. Between 1993 and 1998, I was the Project Director of the Alaska Textbook Project. We published an elementary text, *Alaska in Motion*, and a high school atlas, *Alaska in Maps*.

My brief military career included two services. I served as a Lt. Commander in the U.S. Public Health Corps from 1972 to 1973, and as a Lieutenant in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers from 1970 to 1972.

Research Interests:

Most of my research has been in Alaska, especially northern agriculture, the regional geography of Alaska, and geographic education.

Publications:

I have published articles in the *Yearbook* of the APCG, *Polar Record*, *Arctic*, *Geographical Review*, *Agribusiness*, and other journals. I am co-author of *Alaska in Maps* (1998).

Goals:

The Association of Pacific Coast Geographers is an excellent organization. However, the level of involvement of Pacific Coast geographers has been disappointing in recent years. During my Geography Alliance experience, I have learned the importance of marketing ourselves better. APCG recruitment and publicity

efforts need to be reassessed and reinvigorated. Only 25 percent of the West Coast academic geographers are members of the organization. Our Canadian representation is especially low. The organization's offerings should be modified and expanded to encourage greater participation by targeted audiences, especially, the large number of non-academic geographers.

David A. Plane

Professor, Department of Geography & Regional Development, University of Arizona; B.A. Dartmouth College; M.A. and Ph.D. (1981) University of Pennsylvania

Service:

APCG: Organizer, 1991 Annual Meeting in Tucson. Field trip leader, chair of sessions. AAG: President and member of Board of Directors of the Population Specialty Group (1985-90); AAG Census Bureau Advisory Committee (1986-); Committee on Future Supply of and Demand for Geographers (1992-95); Program Committee, Annual Meetings (1988); Paper Session organizer for six Annual Meetings. NSF: Geography & Regional Science Program, Proposal Awards Panel (1992-94), Dissertation Awards Panel (1989-90), Program Review Panel (1988); RSAI: International Councillor At-large; Co-organizer, North American Annual Meetings (1993, 1998). WRSA: Executive Secretary (1991-); Organizer and Program Committee Chair of Annual Meetings (1992-); Co-chair or Member of Program Committees (1981-91).

Professional Experience:

Head, Department of Geography & Regional Development, University of Arizona (1990-97); Statistician, U.S. Bureau of the Census (1979-80); Assistant Planner, St. Lawrence County, NY (1974-76). National Science Foundation Research Grant Principal Investigator. Co-editor, *Journal of Regional Science* (1994-); Co-editor (1984-89) and Editor-in-Chief (1990-92) *Papers in Regional Science*; service on six editorial boards.

Research Interests:

Population geography, migration, urban geography/demographics, and transportation

Publications:

Book: *The Geographical Analysis of Population: With Applications to Planning and Business*; 50 articles and book chapters. Work has appeared in such journals as *The Professional Geographer*, *Annals of the AAG*, *Geographical Analysis*, *Regional Studies*, *Demography*, *Environment & Planning A*, *Geographical & Environmental Modeling*, *Social Science Journal*, *Socio-Economic Planning Sciences*, *Economic Geography*.

Goals:

As we did when organizing the large Tucson Annual Meeting back in 1991, I would like to work to stimulate increased participation of faculty colleagues and students at a number of western geography departments that have not been regularly involved in the Association. We should revel in, and continuously nurture, the APCG sense of grace and place.

For Secretary/Treasurer: Robert Richardson (unopposed)

APCG 1999 RENO MEETINGS

Call For Papers and Posters

Due Date: July 2, 1999

To present a paper or a poster at the 1999 APCG annual meeting in Reno, Nevada, you must submit an abstract of 100-250 words by July 2, 1999. All persons presenting a paper or poster must be current APCG members and pay meeting registration fees.

All posters will be presented at a special poster session and reception, to be held in the Pool Terrace on Thursday, September 30, from 5 to 6 p.m. Participation is limited to 20 posters.

The header of the abstract shall contain the name(s), affiliation(s), address(es), e-mail address(es), if available, of the presenter(s), and the notation "paper" or "poster" indicating the delivery format. Leave a space followed by the body of the abstract.

The abstract should provide a descriptive summary of the paper or poster's content, including the topic, research question, significance, methods, findings, and conclusions. Include four to six key words at the end of the abstract. Papers or posters authored by students should include the notation "Student paper" following the text and key words of the abstract if they wish to be evaluated for student paper awards.

Abstracts may be submitted by either mail or e-mail. If submitting an abstract by mail, enclose both a paper copy and a diskette copy, clearly marked with the file name and the word processing program used. Each abstract should be accompanied by a completed meeting registration form and registration fees for the presenting author(s). Mail to:

Department of Geography/154
1999 APCG Meeting
University of Nevada
Reno, NV 89557

If submitting by e-mail (kberry@scs.unr.edu), the abstract may be written directly into an e-mail message, pasted in from a word-processing file, or attached as a file. Meeting registration form(s) and registration fees should be sent under separate cover by mail.

Members wishing to organize special sessions are encouraged to do so. Please arrange to have all abstracts for each session participant sent directly to the session organizer so that the entire packet reaches the Department of Geography at UNR by the July 2 deadline.

If you are interested in serving as a session chair, please indicate this at the end of your abstract. For further

information on the program only, contact Kate Berry at (775) 784-6344 or kberry@scs.unr.edu. For updated information about the 1999 APCG meeting, visit the Department of Geography's website: www.geography.unr.edu

Tentative Schedule

Wednesday, September 29, 1999

Registration, 4 - 9 p.m.

Reception: 6 - 7 p.m.

Plenary session, 7 - 8:30 p.m.:

"The Truckee River"

Naomi Duerr, State of Nevada Water

Planner

Scott Mensing, Department of Geography,
University of Nevada

Peter Goin, Art Department, University of
Nevada

Adjourn to Great Basin Brewery

Thursday, September 30

Registration, 7:30 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Paper sessions:

8:30 - 10 a.m.

10:30 - noon

1:30 - 3 p.m.

Presidential plenary session, 3:15 - 4:30 p.m.:

"Studying, Serving, and Teaching Your Locality in

a

Globalizing World"

James Allen, Department of Geography,
CSU, Northridge

Paul Groth, Department of Architecture,

UC

Berkeley

Philip Pryde, Department of Geography,

San

Diego State University

Reception and poster session, 5 - 6 p.m., Pool Terrace

Friday, October 1

Field trips along the Truckee River

Saturday, October 2

Paper sessions:

8:30 - 10 a.m.

10:30 - noon

1:30 - 3 p.m.

Business meeting: 3:15 - 4:30 p.m.

Reception: 6 - 7 p.m.

Banquet: Basque dinner, 7 - 9 p.m.

Robin Datel, Presidential address

For updated information about the 1999 APCG meeting, visit the Department of Geography's website:

www.geography.unr.edu

APCG 1999 RENO MEETINGS

In Memory of Margaret E. Trussell (1928-1998)

Margaret E. "Mees" Trussell, Ph.D. passed away in December at her home in Bodega Bay, California, following a struggle with cancer and Parkinson's disease. She was a long-time member of the AAG, APCG, and California Geographical Society. She worked tirelessly paving the way for women in geography and inspired many of her students to go into geographic education. She was an important mentor to many.

She received her B.A. degree (1949) and Secondary Teaching Credential (1951) from U.C. Berkeley. An M.A. in education followed at Long Beach State College (1957), and a second M.A. in geography at U.C. Berkeley (1960). A Ph.D. in geography was earned from the University of Oregon (1969). Her dissertation was in historical geography. She was dedicated to teaching throughout her career, serving at the high school, community college, and university levels.

Margaret taught high school and community college from 1951-1959, and served as a cartographer and teaching assistant at Berkeley between for two years. She was an Assistant Professor at Southwestern Oregon College (1961-1966), before becoming a Professor in geography at California State University, Chico, where she taught until her retirement in 1986. Margaret served as department chair at Chico for two years. She served the APCG as Secretary-Treasurer (1977-1980), Vice-President (1984) and President (1985). While President she helped establish the Women's Network which continues to flourish fifteen years later. She received the Association's Distinguished Service Award in 1996.

After retiring, she moved to Bodega Bay where she wrote several books, many articles, and a regular column for the local newspaper. She taught about the coastal environments she loved. She called herself "Walking-stick person in a call-waiting world" and escorted many visitors on her daily investigative walk along the beach and dunes. Margaret's unique spirit, creativity, and unbounded energy were a gift to us all.

Robert W. Christopherson



Margaret Trussell Memorial Fund

The memorial fund is initiated by contributions from David H. Miller and Teresa L. Bulman. Funds are used in aid of Margaret's great interest: the APCG Women's Network. Contributions to the fund may be made via : PSU Foundation Geography Gift Fund: Trussell Memorial, Portland State University, Portland, Oregon 97207.

Teresa L. Bulman

Geography at The Evergreen State College

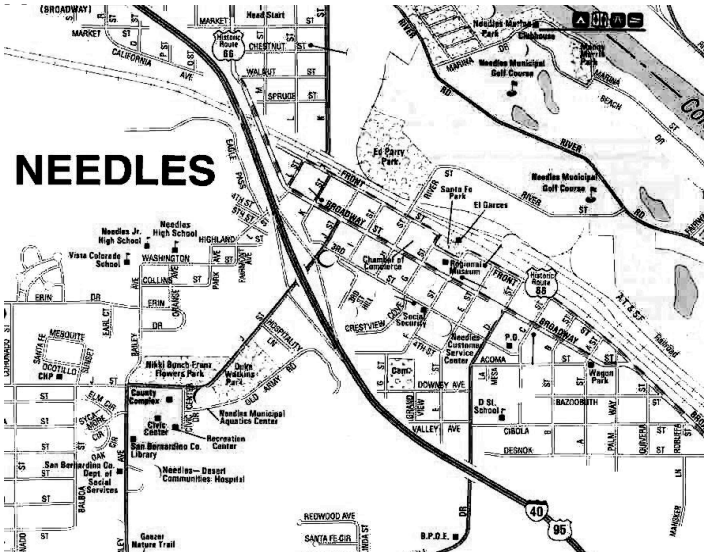
The Evergreen State College (TESC) is recognized as the leading public liberal arts college in the West. The college, founded 25 years ago as an experimental college, offers programs of coursework based on interdisciplinary teaching, collaborative studies, and field and internship training. The geographers at TESC are part of the Environmental Studies Area (faculty at TESC are not organized by department) and also teach across the undergraduate curriculum. In addition to undergraduate education, the geographers regularly teach in the Masters of Environmental Studies program. Recent curriculum taught by geographers included wilderness and ecological restoration, landscape ecology, environmental history, political ecology, and case studies in environmental studies.

Martha Henderson (LSU, 1988) joined the TESC faculty in 1995 and has taught in the masters program. She will move to the undergraduate curriculum this spring to teach a new program entitled "Geography of the Pacific Northwest. Next year she will teach a freshman level program entitled "Exploration." In 1996, TESC committed to staffing and expanding a GIS lab. Rip Heminway (Clark, B.S. 1988) was hired as a full time GIS support person. Rip manages the GIS lab and teaches GIS in coordinated studies with other faculty. The Environmental Studies faculty committed to teaching GIS within the context of liberal arts and supports pre-GIS training in cartography and spatial coordinate curriculum. In 1997, the entire faculty of TESC supported a second full time position in geography. Ted Whitesell (UC Berkeley, 1993) was hired as the result of a national search. Ted is currently teaching political ecology in the undergraduate curriculum and will move to the masters program next year. Student and faculty demand for a physical geographer resulted in the hire of Peter Impara (OSU, 1997) as a visiting faculty. Peter has been asked to continue as a visiting faculty for at least one more year.

Geography curriculum at TESC covers physical, cultural, historical, and regional geography, along with GIS and field techniques. We specialize in North and South American geography, especially the American West and tropical South America. All of our curriculum includes extensive field work. Our work is focused on human-land relationships and land use issues within the larger questions of environmental studies. Our hope is to put TESC on the map of geography programs in the U.S. and Canada as well as contribute to the students and curriculum of a leading liberal arts college.

FEATURE ARTICLE

(Continued from page 1)



(Map courtesy of Needles Area Chamber of Commerce)

for desert warfare. While years of military convoys deteriorated Route 66 road conditions, improvements in road engineering technology in the 1950s and 60s still could not disseminate the fear associated with this stretch of highway. Nevertheless, as the men returned from war, families packed up the car and headed out across the nation again, and Route 66 began its twenty-year heyday. The glory years ended in 1984 when the last stretch of the road was officially bypassed near Williams, Arizona. This marked an official deauthorization by the government that forever changed the towns who depended upon Route 66 for their livelihood.

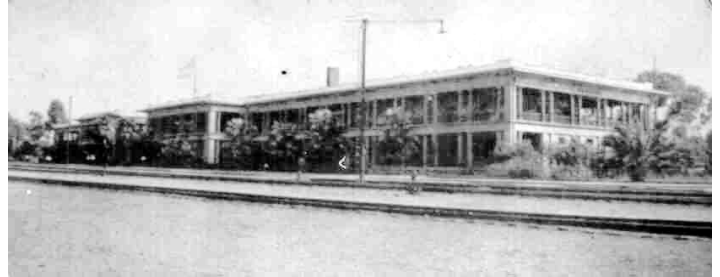
When Route 66 was inaugurated in 1926, Needles was one of the original towns chosen as part of the new highway system and remained so until 1973 when I-40 was opened to traffic through Needles. Even today with the increased traffic speeds on the interstate, the stretch across the Mojave is still feared. Emergency telephones dot the side of the interstate providing help for travelers. While the interstate has completely bypassed Route 66 across the Mojave, stretches still exist in some places which tempt the adventurous traveler with its memories and stories.

Where are They Now?

Parts of Needles have been left behind by the interstate; old buildings lay in ruin, decrepit and decaying, while newer, bigger and better buildings have since been built near the interstate exits. Repeat photography provides stunning visual imagery on how the interstate has affected the Route 66 commercial strip of Needles. In effect the interstate removed travelers from passing through the Central Business District (the Route 66 commercial strip) and instead carried them quickly along the southwestern periphery of the town. The CBD withers while the outskirts are choked with chain hotels, quickie-marts and the most expensive gas one can buy.

One of the best examples is El Garces. Built in 1906, this building was a Harvey House and train depot until 1949 when it housed the Santa Fe Railroad offices until 1988. While El

Garces was built for rail passengers, it sits along old Route 66 and is considered a landmark in Needles. Today the building remains except for a large section at the east-end. Rampant vandalism created the need for fences and barbed wire to prevent people from entering the area. Currently the Burlington Northern Santa Fe (BNSF) is the owner of the property and is selling it for a mere \$150,000. There are groups looking into purchasing and restoring it as a Harvey House. One of these groups, the Friends of El Garces, is locally sponsored. Another group is Main Tracks USA which seeks to restore ten Harvey Houses across the nation. Restoration of El Garces could potentially act as a catalyst for rejuvenation of tourism in Needles.



Today downtown Needles, directly across from El Garces, has many vacant buildings. In the older photograph taken during the 1950s, most of the buildings in the downtown area were occupied with motels, department stores, independent stores, and restaurants that catered to Route 66 travelers.



FEATURE ARTICLE

Today there are only a few establishments including a hair-dresser, a restaurant, a furniture store, and the Needles Museum. No antique stores or craft shops are there to draw people off the interstate and into town.

The old movie house which opened in 1930 sits along Route 66. For ten years the movie house has been unused and is one of the few success stories for renovation in Needles although it is currently without a roof. A new one will be installed soon, and the building will be reopened to show movies and act as a new recreation hall providing a place for meetings, dances and



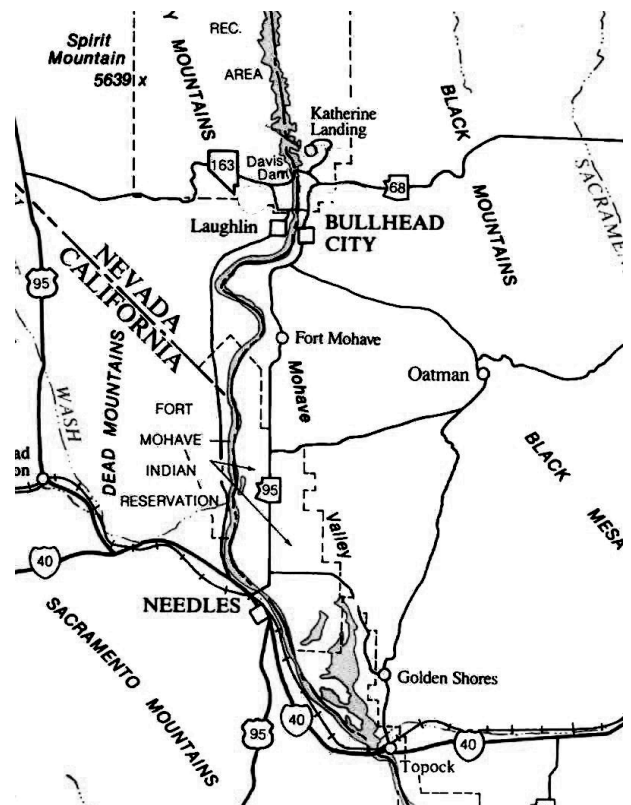
behind the wheel.

While time and technology have altered the role that Needles plays in the world, there are some things that have not changed. Needles remains the last town of more than 1,000 people a traveler passes through before journeying across the Mojave Desert. So Buyer Beware! Any stranded motorist will see dollar signs in the eyes of Needles. Even necessities require some extra cash; for example, in May of 1998, at a gas station located near an interstate exit the price of regular unleaded gas was \$1.39. However, ten miles north towards Laughlin, Nevada the price was only \$1.07.

The community of Needles will never be what it was during the Route 66 years. Outside influences, such as growth in surrounding towns is changing the role that Needles plays.



During the 1950s the Needles Chamber of Commerce built a welcome sign as a landmark and to provide Route 66 travelers with information about local activities. A portion of the landmark still exists today, however the reader board was knocked down a number of years ago. Local lore suggests the culprit was a truck driver who fell asleep



(Map courtesy of Rand McNally-River Cities Map, 1991)

FEATURE ARTICLE

Laughlin, Nevada located 22 miles north of Needles is rapidly becoming a new Vegas with its warm and sunny weather, less traffic and the Colorado River for watersporting activities. Laughlin has much of the glamour of Vegas without the hassle. The current population of Laughlin is around 9,000, but growth is predicted to increase 200% in the next twenty years. Across the Colorado River from Laughlin is the community of Bullhead City, Arizona which currently has a population of 35,000, but is predicted to increase by 100% in the next twenty years. By contrast, Needles is only predicted to grow by 50% over the next twenty years. With the growth in Bullhead City and Laughlin, developers are bypassing Needles to build farther north, away from the interstate and Route 66.

One reason for this bypassing has to do with the Fort Mojave Indian Reservation Agricultural (FMIRA) area which is wedged between the southern edge of Bullhead City and Needles. A traveler along the interstate sees ten miles of agricultural production on both sides of the Colorado River. The FMIRA is preventing Needles from simply growing into a suburb of Bullhead City. In many ways, however, this has already happened since most residents of Needles drive 20 miles north for groceries.

The End of the Road

Needles remains a community dependent upon the railroad for its livelihood. The BNSF continues to be the major employer of people in Needles. However, Needles is slowly tapping into other resources such as the Colorado River. In an effort to draw the watersporting enthusiast to Needles, the town has multiple Marinas that advertise free river access. In addition to the Colorado River, the influx of Snow Birds in the River Cities area (Needles, Bullhead City, Laughlin, and Lake Havasu City) has created a surge in retiree activities such as golfing.

Needles is a community that suffers from the lack of tourists coming through their town. Outside of several dedicated people, the town of Needles is not strong on rebuilding their Route 66 resources. This is a shame because the city has many resources from El Garces to the Colorado river that could draw interstate travelers off the "super-slab" and encourage them to spend time and money in the community. Needles, however, also has a charming old downtown area with plenty of storefront space for antique stores and specialty shops.

Today with revival of interest in Route 66 growing stronger every year, towns located along the old highway need to tap into its past. There are visitors coming from far away places to visit America's Main Street including large contingents of travelers from Germany, Canada and Japan. For the community of Needles to do more than just get by, they need to use their Mother Road history to carve out a niche for themselves as more than just the last stop before the great Mojave.

For Further Reading

Ross, Jim and Jerry McClanahan. 1994. *Here it is! Route 66 The Map Series* Bethany: Ghost Town Press.

Scott, Quinta and Susan Croce Kelly. 1988. *Route 66: The Highway and Its People*. Norman: The University of Oklahoma Press.

Snyder, Tom. 1995. *Route 66 Traveler's Guide and Roadside Companion*. 2nd ed. New York: St. Martin's Griffin.

Teague, Tom with Bob Waldmire and Lon Haldeman. 1991. *Searching for 66*. 2nd ed. Springfield: Samizdat House.

Wallis, Michael. 1990. *Route 66: the Mother Road*. New York: St. Martin's Press.

In Memory of Bobby Troup, singer and songwriter of the world famous ROUTE 66, who died January 31, 1999 of congestive heart failure at the age of 80.

A special thanks to the ladies of the Needles Historical Museum for providing me with the old photographs of Needles presented in this paper.

Lara D. Merriam is a M.A. student at the University of Wyoming.

Notes from the Editor

Feature Articles: In the tradition of the past two editors, Daniel Arreola and Martha Works, each issue of the *Pacifica* includes a feature article. Like my predecessors, I encourage these articles to be written by a wide range of geographers (and closet geographers), from students to full professors. I also encourage a diverse range of topics, methodologies, and even paradigms. Articles may include fairly scientific pieces stripped of much of its numbers and references to essays reminiscent of *Landscape*. While most of the feature articles are and will be written by APCG members and focus on western themes, possessing either one of these two traits is critical to me.

Northwestern California: One sporadic tradition is to link the feature article of the spring issue with the venue of the fall meeting. This has not always been feasible, but I like the idea. I request your ideas and your submissions for an article that focuses on Northwest California, the scene of the 2000 meetings. Let me know if you are interested in writing an article covering some aspect of this region.

Map Corner: On page 15, I present to you a color map depicting the San Joaquin Valley's general plan land use. This represents the first full-color depiction in the *Pacifica*, and hopefully new energy for the Map Corner. Let me clearly state that no APCG funds were spent for the production of this map. The funds were paid for by a grant from the Public Policy Institute of California and the Great Valley Center. Think of the possibilities for this portion of the newsletter. It is an opportunity to inform many western geographers about your research and about data sets that may be valuable to others. Most grants require dissemination of its results. Please consider the Map Corner as a potential venue to report your project's results and inform our members. Its cartographic nature makes it particularly attractive for applied research projects.

I encourage your thoughts and suggestions.

Michael Schmandt

MEMBERS

The APCG thanks the following Contributing Members who make up about 10 percent of the membership but who contribute about 20 percent of the dues. The extra dues they paid in 1998 just about equaled the money given as Student Travel Awards. Their extra level of support is very much appreciated.

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23 new members from
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MAP CORNER

Please see the "Notes from the Editor" section on page 13 for more information regarding this map.

Background

In much of this country our cities are growing outward and without order. It is sprawl. Nowhere is sprawl more consequential than in California's Great Central Valley. The American Farmland Trust has identified the Sacramento and San Joaquin Valleys which make up the Central Valley as the region most threatened by suburban development. Besides statewide regulations that encourage sprawl, the region is particularly susceptible due to its flat land and its fast-growing population which is largely the result of in-migrants seeking lower living costs. Jim Parsons suggested that:

Newcomers talk about trade-offs. They are no longer in the big city or near the Pacific beaches, but the Sierra is an hour drive, while the Mother Lode and the foothill reservoirs with fishing and boating attractions are even closer. To many harried city folk, the valley seems to be the last frontier of the "California Dream" (1986, 385)

Back in 1940, the Central Valley was home to about 1 million people. In 1995, it was estimated at 5.4 million. Population projections vary but suggest that there will be anywhere from 12 to 15.6 million inhabitants by the year 2040.

Perhaps the valley's most pressing problem associated with sprawl is the consumption of prime agricultural land. This is arguably the most important agricultural region in the nation. Six of the nation's top ten agricultural counties are located in the San Joaquin Valley. Fresno County leads the nation in agricultural production by value. This single county out produces 24 states.

Research Objective

The purpose of this research is to create a general plan land use map (and GIS database) of the entire San Joaquin Valley. Such a database is a prerequisite to determine the extent of the region's sprawl problem, to model potential scenarios, and to make informed policy decisions.

Data Collection

The 68 individual general plans (60 incorporated cities and towns and 8 counties) and their maps are the essential data sets that are pieced together to create one valley-wide map.

The purpose of any general plan is to formulate a long-term strategy to guide and direct future development. The plan looks at development within a jurisdiction's existing city limits, but it is also concerned with growth across adjacent land, within a city's sphere of influence. The general plan directs a locality's growth over the next 20 years.

These hard-copy documents are the project's primary data source. Twelve of these jurisdictions, however, also provided their digital general plan map already in a GIS format.

Data Conversion

One of the most common ways to enter spatial data into the computer is through the process of digitizing. Simplistically, this process can be seen as tracing (with a puck) various

geographical features from a hard-copy map so that they can be interpreted by the computer and viewed on the computer's monitor. Extensive attributes were added to the database such as land use name, floor area ratios, number of dwelling units allowed per acre, and various reclassification schemes. ESRI's ArcView and Arc/Info software were used for much of the digitizing and editing process.

Reclassification

The enclosed map was reclassified to remove the unique land use classification of each locality and present a single land use scheme over the entire region. Under current state law, land use planning is an activity under the purview of each individual jurisdiction. The result is an incredible array of general plans each with different land use classifications and even different definitions for each land use class. The reclassified map uses a modified Land-Based Classification Standard which is essentially an update to the 1965 Standard Land Use Coding manual.

Output

The database is constantly undergoing revision. Every time the project is almost complete, a city publishes a new general plan. The enclosed map represents our best efforts to depict the vision of these 68 jurisdictions today. There are, however, a couple omissions that this map does not depict including a number of residential regions in the eastern portion of Madera County and greater detail to the unincorporated cities of Tulare County. In addition, spatial and attribute verification are ongoing.

The enclosed map was printed by a Hewlett Packard 8500 Color LaserJet. The GIS database is available on the Internet at www.csustan.edu/geography/geohome.htm

Significance

This database serves as a flexible tool in this rapidly changing region. It is a valley of incredible prospect, but one that faces some tremendous problems. This project highlights existing and potential development patterns and provides accessible land use information to help answer key research and policy questions like:

- If the jurisdictions develop their planned areas, how much land will be devoted to agriculture or to other resources?
- Where should the potential high-speed rail be located?
- Can existing highways bear the foreseen traffic load?
- What are the housing capacities within the city limits and the spheres of influence?
- What is the capacity of land designated for commercial or industrial uses?

Bibliography

Parsons, James. 1986. "A Geographer Looks at the San Joaquin Valley." *Geographical Review*. 371-389.

This research is supported by grants from the Public Policy Institute of California and the Great Valley Center.

Michael Schmandt, California State University, Stanislaus

APCG MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

Founded in 1935 by a gathering of geographers including graduate students and faculty from universities, normal schools, and junior colleges, the Association of Pacific Coast Geographers has a long and rich history promoting geographical education, research, and knowledge. Members gather at the annual meetings for social and intellectual interaction. They receive the annual *Yearbook*, first printed in 1935, that includes abstracts of papers from the meetings and a number of full-length peer-reviewed articles. Members also receive the bi-annual newsletter *Pacifica*. Since 1952 the APCG has also been the Pacific Coast Regional Division of the Association of American Geographers, serving AK, AZ, CA, HI, ID, NV, OR, WA, BC, and YT.

Questions about membership should be directed to Bob Richardson at the address below, or phone (916) 278-6410, fax (916) 278-7584, or e-mail apcg@csus.edu. Visit our web site at <http://www.csus.edu/apcg/index.html> for various tidbits about the organization and for a new member application form.

ANNUAL DUES

The APCG has always been known for its low cost of membership: Regular \$15; Joint (2 people at same address) \$18;

Student and Retired \$8; Contributing \$20 or more (any contribution over \$15 is tax deductible). Joint members receive only one *Pacifica* and one *Yearbook*.

Dues are paid on the calendar year. Unless you indicate otherwise, checks dated before November 1 will be credited to the current year, while those dated after November 1 will be credited to the next year. Only current year members receive the *Yearbook*. Current members will be sent a membership renewal notice at the end of the calendar year.

HOW TO JOIN THE APCG

Send your check payable to "APCG," along with your name and address to the return address shown below. We can only accept checks in US dollars. For our next Membership Directory, please also indicate your title and affiliation, phone, fax, and e-mail. Indicate also if you are interested in the APCG Women's Network and the APCG Applied Geographers Specialty Group. Students must provide some form of proof of current status, such as the name, department, and signature of a faculty professor.

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