

**METATES TO MERIT BADGES: THE CONTRASTING  
OCCUPATIONAL SEQUENCES OF LOST VALLEY**

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A Thesis

Presented to the

Faculty of

San Diego State University

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In Partial Fulfillment

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by

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The Contrasting Occupational Sequences of Lost Valley

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## **DEDICATION**

For Dr. Larry L. Leach, Who demonstrated numerous times, and in many different ways, that “the archaeologist, much like a boy scout, must always be prepared for the unexpected.”

In individuals, insanity is rare; but in groups, parties, nations and epochs it is the rule.

-Friedrich Nietzsche

## **ABSTRACT OF THE THESIS**

Metates to Merit Badges:  
The Contrasting Occupational Sequences of Lost Valley  
by  
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Master of Arts in Anthropology  
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Lost Valley, an apt place-name, is at present the remote site of a vast Boy Scout reservation, with facilities and campsites designed to educate boys in a multitude of skills to advance in the organization, earn merit badges, and to learn about life, nature, survival, first aid, and many other subjects in an atmosphere of peace and quiet, a far cry from the bustle of the not too distant cities. In a compromise forged between the Orange County Council of Boy Scouts of America and the San Diego State University (SDSU) Anthropology Department, annual summer field school students camped out on site while surveying and excavating units in the northeast corner of the valley. The scouting organization benefited in the agreement from having a SDSU graduate student volunteer instruct an archaeological field school for the boy scouts so that they could earn the rare and coveted archaeology merit badge. The excavation activities spanned seven years and have amassed a sizable collection that has thus far produced several masters' theses including this one. This work presents the final count of prehistoric artifactual evidence including three distinct occupations representing the prehistoric human presence from the Paleoindian to the late prehistoric, focusing on its lithic aspects. But, the work here is in no way complete. There remain uncountable avenues of inquiry yet to pursue, and the information gained thus far strongly urges continued research.

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