



P.O. Box 1171  
Lancaster, California 93584

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**Edra Moore  
(December 13, 1929 - May 21, 2018)**

This issue of the FAVIM Bulletin is dedicated to Edra Moore who served as the first professional museum curator of Antelope Valley Indian Museum from 1989 to 2007. Sadly, Edra passed away unexpectedly on May 21, 2018.

**Highlights from Edra Moore's Contributions  
to the Museum**

BY MUSEUM CURATOR, PEGGY RONNING

It would take 17 years to describe all of Edra Moore's contributions to the museum, including all the daily artifact cleaning, cataloging, documentation, and management. So I would like to highlight just four of the projects that she was most proud of.

1 - One of Edra's first projects upon arriving at the museum was to oversee the completion of the Great Basin Regional Indian Museum project, which was completed in 1994. Antelope Valley Indian Museum was proposed as a Regional Indian Museum as early as 1982, but the interpretive plan for the exhibits was not completed until 1987. Edra arrived in time to review the draft exhibit text for the Great Basin Room.

After completing the Great Basin Room, State Parks ran out of money for the Antelope Valley Room. It was left to Edra to design, write the label text, and assemble the objects for the Antelope Valley Room exhibits. This exhibit also includes rock art photographs taken by Edra's husband David.

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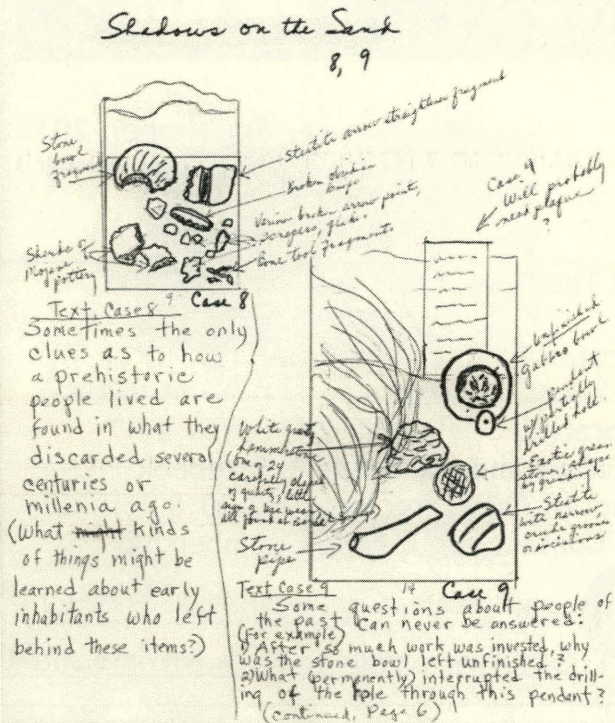
<http://www.avim.parks.ca.gov/info.shtml>

While Edra was frustrated by having to develop the Antelope Valley Room exhibit herself, her exhibit has stood the test of time better than the Great Basin Room exhibit. The trade network theme she developed is still used to put all the museum's exhibits in context, while the environmental determinism theme in the Great Basin Room has become dated.



**Edra Moore in the snow at AVIM in 1990**

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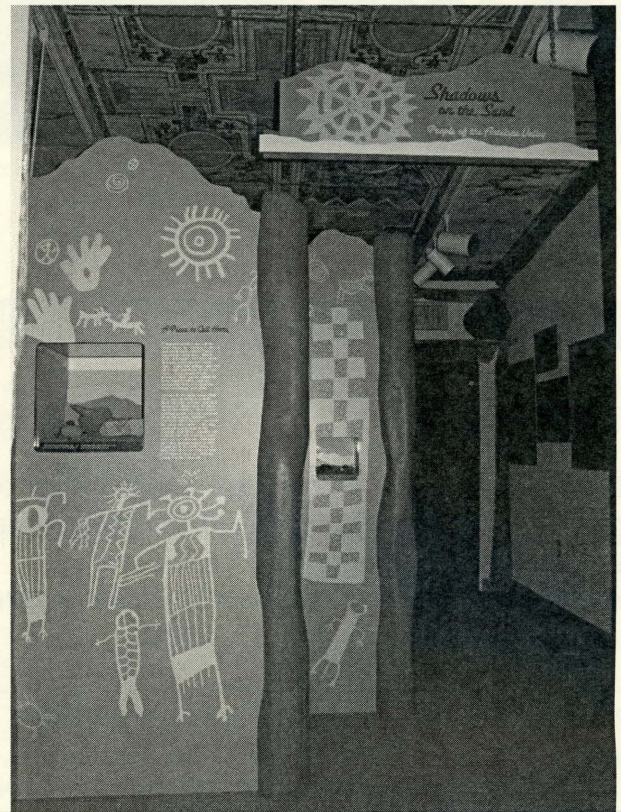


**Edra's notes for the Antelope Valley Room Exhibit**

Edra was hired as a museum technician, which is largely expected to be a specialized housekeeping position with some cataloging tasks. Obviously, Edra was taking on projects with much higher levels of responsibility. Finally, this was recognized in 1994, and her position was upgraded to Museum Curator I.

2 - Edra began to involve the Native community in the museum as advisors. One of her first steps was to plan and host a day long symposium on October 5, 2002, titled: "Bridging Gaps in Understanding: A Day of Sharing American Indian Cultural Insights," for Park staff and the museum volunteers.

The purpose of the symposium was to network and interact with the American Indian community to foster 1) authentic interpretation of the American Indian culture groups from which the museum's collections were generated, and 2) quality educational programs that promote better understanding



**Antelope Valley Room Exhibit**

and appreciation of our society's rich American Indian heritage.

Edra recruited a panel of respected elders for the symposium including: Mark Acuna, Charlie Cooke, Dennis and Ted Garcia, Katherine Saubel, Lorene Sisquoc, Ernest Siva, and Mati Waiya.



**Bridging Gaps Symposium 2002: (l-r) Ted Garcia, Charlie Cooke, Dennis Garcia, and Edra Moore**



Edra Moore by Piute Butte pictograph panel in 2003

3 - Edra first became aware of the fertility carvings on Piute Butte in 1992. Throughout the 1990s she investigated the butte and identified many areas where humans modified the rocks. Several different members of the Native community informed Edra that they considered the butte to be a sacred landscape.

Then in 2001, rock climbers asked State Parks for permission to hold a bouldering event on Piute Butte. Edra spearheaded a multidisciplinary study to protect the butte from this damaging recreational activity.

The effort culminated in the museum's official classification as Antelope Valley Indian Museum State Historic Park in 2002, the butte's designation as a sacred landscape by the Native American Heritage Commission in 2003, and publication of a report titled *Toward Cultural Preserve Status for Piute Butte* in 2004.

4 - While Edra's cataloging and active conservation treatment projects provided a measure of preservation for the collection, Edra knew that she also needed to stabilize the museum's environment to provide passive conservation. As this would involve expensive modifications to a National Register of Historic Places listed building, she began an 8-year odyssey to plan and secure funding for the project. The project finally received a start date in June 2006.

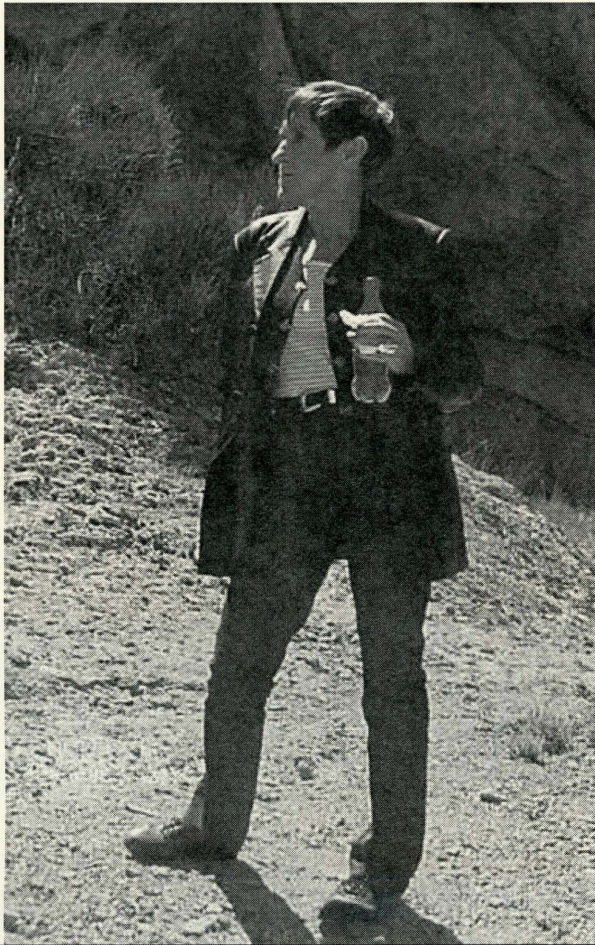
Once she has assured this important cornerstone of protection for the collection would take place, Edra finally felt able to retire at the age of 76.



Edra Moore and Christina Swiden packing the collection in 2007

However, she returned as a retired annuitant to pack up the collection in 2007 at the start of the project and again in 2010 to help put everything back on exhibit when the project was completed.

Even in retirement, Edra was always willing to provide information and advice to help out the museum. She will be sorely missed.



**Edra Moore in her Own Words**

Edra Moore wrote the following two Bulletin articles when she arrived at Antelope Valley Indian Museum in 1989. The first article describes her history and how she came to work at the museum. The second article describes one of her early discoveries as she began working with the collection.

**Historical FAVIM Bulletin article from Volume 7 Number 1 in 1989**

**Welcome Aboard Edra Moore**  
BY MUSEUM TECHNICIAN, EDRA MOORE

I grew up in the high desert and mountain Country of Western Colorado, and at an early age became interested in both the natural and cultural histories of the Great Basin, the Southwest, and California. In the mid 1950's, my husband David and I brought our 3 young children (**Monica, Michelle, and Mark**), to live

in the San Francisco Bay area in California, where I worked for many years as a speech, hearing, and language pathologist.

When our children all went off to college, I returned to school also, to pursue studies in the field I had always loved - anthropology, - completing the Master's program (with a focus on the subdiscipline of archaeology) at California State University, Hayward, in 1982. For the past four years I have continued my studies in the doctoral program at the University of California at Davis (where I remain currently enrolled).

Projects I have found most rewarding in connection with my career in archaeology include the following:

1. For more than five years I have worked (part-time) at the Robert Lowie Museum of Anthropology at the University of California at Berkeley assembling, researching, and describing a type specimen collection of some 1200 prehistoric stone, bone, and shell - California artifactual items for use by teachers and researchers.
2. In the early 1980's, I had the privilege of working with the Southern Sierra Miwok Indian group (whose ancestral territory was Yosemite Valley) on their petition for federal recognition as a tribe. This involved (among other tasks) taking oral histories or genealogical information from each member of the tribe, which provided wonderful opportunities for getting to know the people as individuals.
3. I worked in archaeology for the National Park System in Yosemite National Park. Since I worked as laboratory supervisor, I processed and prepared artifactual materials for curation in the Yosemite Indian Museum.

4. My dissertation research has focused on settlement and migration patterns of prehistoric hunters and gathers in the Great Basin and the Sierra Nevada Mountains.

I am excited about working with the State Parks and Recreation Department and all the dedicated people involved with the Antelope Valley Indian Museum. David (who is a photographer), and I are also looking forward to living in the Antelope Valley and becoming a part of the community. An added pleasure is that our son Mark and his wife Nalini live in Palmdale.

Historical FAVIM Bulletin article from Volume 7 Number 2 in 1989

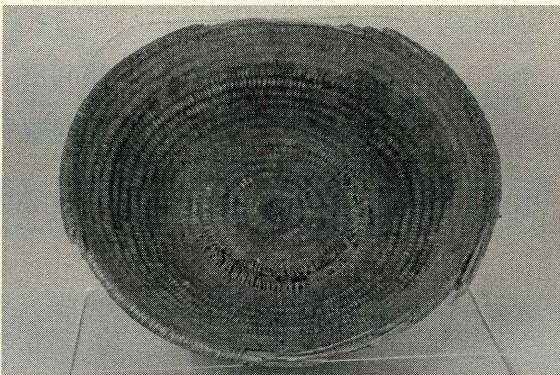
### Preservation has its REWARDS

BY MUSEUM TECHNICIAN, EDRA MOORE

Since my arrival here, there has not been a day that I have not discovered something "new" and fascinating in or about the museum.

For example, one of my current projects is cleaning the basket collection, working on one piece at a time as time permits.

Among the baskets in a case in the "work room" are two similar appearing ones which I have consistently avoided. They seem to stand apart from the rest of the beautiful collection. The thought that came to mind when I first noticed them was that they were really "awful looking" - the ugliest baskets I have ever seen.



Basket from Awatovi #082-309-248

They are utility baskets with no interwoven design (at least none discernable). One has what appears to be red stains on its inside surface. In places, their fibers are caked with clay-like dirt, and although the baskets are both generally intact, they look thoroughly dilapidated.

My attitude has been that trying to clean these baskets would be an exercise in futility. Nevertheless, I decided last week that it was time to deal with them. When I removed the first one from the case, I found that it had been sitting on a small card which explained that these two baskets had been excavated in 1938 by Harvard University's Peabody Museum at the ruins of Awatovi.

Awatovi had been a major Hopi Indian settlement (in Arizona) circa A.D. 1300-1700. In 1700 the pueblo was destroyed by neighboring Hopis and their allies from other Pueblo groups, in retaliation for Awatovi's persistent sympathy toward the Spanish clergy and Christianity after the Pueblo Revolt of two decades earlier.

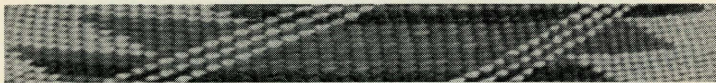
It had not occurred to me that the condition and appearance of the baskets could be factors of such time depth. I have seen numerous *fragments* of basketry between 1000 and 2000 years of age, but (although older ones exist) *whole, intact* baskets 300 or more years old are rare!

The two baskets were suddenly transformed in my eyes from ugly, worn-out items to important aesthetic treasures, small monuments to endurance. Although their survival is due in part, no doubt, to fortunate preservation conditions prior to excavation, they are, to a large degree, tributes to the amazing skills and craftsmanship of their maker(s).

I am looking forward to the time when they can be displayed and shared with everyone who visits the museum.



**Basket from Awatobi #082-309-249**



**In Memoriam of Edra Moore**  
BY FAVIM SECRETARY, DARRELL WALTERS

My first year of volunteering at the Antelope Valley Indian Museum (AVIM) in October at the Celebration of 2010 I met Edra as a new volunteer having my lunch break outside of Yucca Cottage, the sanctioned cottage of volunteers and the home of the AVIM Library.

From there we became friends about and of the Antelope Valley Indian Museum and colleagues. Edra supported my interpretative concerns. She had the wealth of knowledge to answer my questions after volunteering. Edra would graciously speak on the phone for hours regarding concerns for the collection, histories, and interpretation. Her humanistic interpretations were awe inspiring.

She and I would lunch at the Lemon Leaf. We would talk over a salad about the human condition, archeology and anthropology for hours.

Edra is a human being that I am at a loss to have lost.



**Save the Date - Annual Museum Celebration**  
BY MUSEUM CURATOR, PEGGY RONNING

This year, the museum's American Indian Celebration will be October 20 and 21, 2018. Come out to enjoy Native music, art, and food.

Michael Runningwind will return as the MC to keep things moving in the dance arena. The drum will be Buffalo Creek, led by Brendon Urdanivia. Ted and Dennis Garcia will share their Chumash stories and songs. Hungry visitors will enjoy Cecelia Begay's fry bread and Indian tacos.

**Antelope Valley Indian Museum**  
15701 East Avenue M, Lancaster, CA 93535

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Friends of the Antelope Valley Indian Museum (FAVIM) is online:

- [AVIM.parks.ca.gov](http://AVIM.parks.ca.gov) : Click on “Join” for information about FAVIM, and about volunteering at the AV Indian Museum
- [Facebook.com/IndianMuseumFriends](https://www.facebook.com/IndianMuseumFriends) : Photos, FAVIM announcements, and events such as Visiting Artists, Nights at the Museum, the Annual Celebration and more. “Like” us and support the Museum!

Online information about Antelope Valley Indian Museum State Historic Park:

- [AVIM.parks.ca.gov](http://AVIM.parks.ca.gov) : Museum website with information about the American Indians of the Great Basin, Southwest, and California coast; events calendar; virtual tours of the museum; and search the museum’s entire collection online.
- [Facebook.com/AVIndianMuseum](https://www.facebook.com/AVIndianMuseum) : Share upcoming Event announcements with friends!



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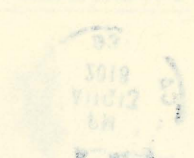
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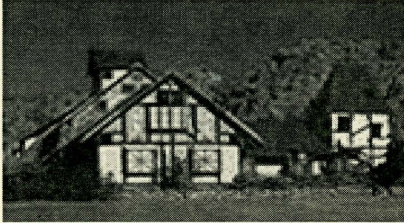
Antelope Valley Indian Museum  
State Historic Park

Is located at:

15701 East Avenue M  
Lancaster, CA 93534

(Avenue M between 150<sup>th</sup> St. & 170<sup>th</sup> St. East)

Phone: 661-946-3055



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We're on the Web!

Visit us at:

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and FAVIM is now on Facebook

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### Your Membership Is Important To FAVIM

FAVIM raises funds to support Projects and Activities at the Antelope Valley Indian Museum.

The membership is renewed each September, except in the case of Life Membership.

Please make membership checks payable to "Friends of the Antelope Valley Indian Museum" (or "FAVIM"), and return to:

P.O. Box 1171, Lancaster, CA 93584.

If you are not yet a member, and would like to support the Indian Museum, and receive a quarterly FAVIM Bulletin, and also receive a 10% Discount with Membership Card to use in the FAVIM Gift Shop, please send your check to the above address.

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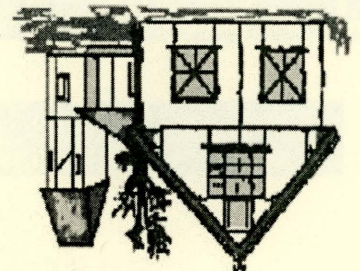
If your name or address is not correct, or you have moved, or you just need information about the Park or FAVIM, please call 661-946-3055.

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