ARTIFACTS AS TIME MARKERS

• Chronologies reflect technological changes
• Glass bottles (maker’s marks, bottle seals, lips, finish, and color)
• Ceramics (maker’s marks, glaze, etc.)
• Cans (labels, seams, opening & closures, type of tops)
• Nails (round vs. square)
• Barbed Wire
• Ammunition
• Patented tools/equipment
• Bricks
**Figure 10** TYPES OF BOTTLE MOLD SEAMS

- **Dip Mold**
  - Ca. 1790-1810

- **Hinged Shoulder-Height Mold**
  - Ca. 1790-1880

- **Bottom-Hinged Mold**
  - Ca. 1810-1880

- **Three Part Dip Mold**
  - Ca. 1810-1900

- **Three-Part Leaf Mold**
  - Bimal era

- **Post-Bottom Mold**
  - Bimal era

- **Cup-Bottom Mold**
  - Bimal era

- **Automatic Bottle Machine**
  - 1904-

---

**Figure 11**

470 - NAIL STYLE BREAKDOWN

- **Early Machine Cut**
  - Cut 1790-1810s
  - Common nail

- **Early Machine Headed**
  - Cut nails
  - Ca. 1815-late 1850s

- **Modern Machine Cut Nails**
  - Late 1870s-present

- **Modern Wire Nails**
  - Ca. 1880-present

- **Modern Wire Nails**
  - Flooring nails
  - Finish nails
  - Common nails

- **Modern Wire Nails**
  - Usually have a 4-facet point caused by cutter die

- **Modern Wire Nails**
  - Marks of gripper die

- **Modern Wire Nails**
  - Cross section of cut nail Shank, about 1790-1810; and c. cross section of cut nail Shank, about 1810-present.

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ARTIFACTS AS CULTURAL MARKERS

- Historical artifacts are oftentimes diagnostic of various cultural groups
  - Chinese miners/fishermen/railroad
  - Native American miners
  - Japanese fishermen
  - Spanish explorers
  - Chilean miners
  - Russian fur trappers
- IMPORTANCE OF CONTEXT (both in time and in space)
TYPES OF HISTORICAL ARTIFACTS: THEMES IN CALIFORNIA HISTORY

• Discovery and Exploitation
• Mexican/Mission Period
• Early American Period (Fur trapping/homesteading)
• California Gold Rush/Mining
• Logging History
• Development of Agriculture and Horticulture
• Recreational History
DISCOVERY AND EXPLORATION

- Overlap between “prehistoric” and “historical” archaeology (protohistoric period)
- Trade items
  - Raw materials (glass, metals)
  - Glass beads
  - Weapons and metal tools
- European artifacts
- Ship wrecks
MEXICAN/MISSION PERIOD

- Archaeological remains dating to this period include:
  - Mix of Native American and Euroamerican artifacts
  - Exchange items
  - Farm/ranch-related items
  - Craft-related items (brickmaking, ceramic-tile manufacture, metal tools)

Figure 2.10 Iron artifacts from the historic cemetery at Solstice Canyon (LAN-210). Gun parts and a lead ball indicate use of guns by native cattle hearders. Riding of horses and use of guns by Indians were forbidden by law. Historic native cemeteries indicate the law was not enforced in the Santa Monica Mountains. The knife blades were probably made from barrel hoops by the Indians. (Southwest Museum Acc 1399-G numbers 75, 77, 49, 82).
EARLY AMERICAN PERIOD

- Influx of Americans associated with land grants
- Fur-trapping
  - Domestic items
  - Industry-specific items
- Homesteading
  - Domestic items
  - Structural remains
  - Orchards
- Emigrant trails/roads
  - Wagon parts, ox shoes
GOLD RUSH/MINING-RELATED ARTIFACTS

- Artifacts normally found in association with features
- Artifacts examples:
  - Mills, processing units, arrastras, machinery
  - Tools (buckets, axes, rakes, buckets, pans)
  - Domestic/camp-related items (cans, bottles, cutlery, tobacco cans, cooking utensils)
LOGGING-RELATED ARTIFACTS

- Associated with features
- Artifacts
  - Axe heads, log dogs, saws, wedges, undercutters, etc.
- Camp-related items (similar to mining camps)
• Ranches and farms
• Livestock/agriculture-related
• Tools, equipment, horse shoes
• Domestic features and items
• House, cellars, privies, wells, trash dumps, etc.
• Cans, bottles, buttons, etc.
RECREATION-RELATED ARTIFACTS

- Early tourism
- Gambling
- Sports
- Theme parks
- Outdoor recreation
  - Camping, hiking
  - Hunting, fishing
  - Skiing
You can date SOME bottles based on color alone, but normally need to look at other characteristics.
How to Date a Bottle Fragment: Body and Seams

Air/gas Bubbles

3-Piece Mold Seam (1900-1910)

Bottle produced in a Cup Bottom Mold

Side Mold Seam

Cup Bottom Mold Seam
HOW TO DATE A BOTTLE FRAGMENT: MAKER’S MARKS

Iowa-Illinois Glass Company

American Bottle Company: 1906-1909
HOW TO DATE A BOTTLE FRAGMENT: FINISHES AND CLOSURES

Applied finish on brandy bottle (~1830-1885)

Improved tool finish with external screw thread on flask (~1905-1915)

Note the side mold seam, air bubbles, plate mold, and suction scar on base
HOW TO DATE A TIN CAN: LID/CLOSURE

Cone-Top: 1935-1960s

Key-wind: 1866-present

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Hole-and-cap</th>
<th>Hole-in-cap</th>
<th>Vent hole</th>
<th>Sanitary</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1810-1820</td>
<td>Mid 1800s-1920s</td>
<td>1900-1980s</td>
<td>1904-present</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
HOW TO DATE A TIN CAN: SEAM TYPE

Hand-Soldered

Machine-Soldered