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234 Approx Word Total

AN ANCIENT STORY

by

Helen Gardner

Driving west from the City of Santa Clara on Old
Highway 91, the Gunlock turnoff leads across the Santa Clara
River Bridge and on up the hill opposite Old Shem Dam.

There below the old original dam on the east side of the canyon, among giant black lava boulders, the ancient artists and story tellers of the Anasazi and Paiute Indian Tribes left a legend.

It was to the black obsidian surfaces of the lava rocks, the ancient ones were drawn. There are many rocks covered with the pictures of these long ago dwellers.

The drawings are only steps away from the road.

Many Moons ago, before the Spanish Conquistidors made their way down the natural trail carved by the Santa Clara River, before the intrepid Mormon settlers bumped and skidded their wagons into Southern Utah to settle, the Anasazi and Paiute Indians strode silently along this meandering stream trail.

What messages did they leave for the ones who followed?

Photos indicate what may have been a sparkling sun, the rippling stream. Some primitive markings resemble men. Other lines could be a map or a trail.

Some of the rocks bear the marks of vandalism. Large sections are chipped away, taking part of the legend with them. These ancient Indian petroglyphs need protection. Otherwise, we may never know what the ancient ones of this land were trying to tell us.

THE END