

num and steel, insulated so that a three-inch wall is more effective than 14 inches of masonry in excluding heat and cold. Instead of the usual supporting walls of brick there are six slender columns of aluminum upholding cantilever beams from which outside walls are suspended.

Special glass is used to permit the penetration of beneficial ultraviolet rays of sunshine.

*Science News Letter, May 23, 1931*

## CHEMISTRY

## Mineral Oil Preserves Eggs on Large Scale

**M**INERAL oil seals and preserves between 1,500 and 2,250 dozen eggs an hour in a new electrically driven machine for processing eggs. The eggs remain good for more than a year.

After the eggs are properly candled, graded and cleaned they are put on an endless, moving belt in groups of three dozen and carried through a hot bath of mineral oil which hermetically seals the shells, the *Electric Journal* explains. It is said that no other chemical or physical change occurs and that weight, color and appearance remain the same.

*Science News Letter, May 23, 1931*

## PSYCHOLOGY

## Toy Highway Tests New Drivers Without Dangers of Road

**W**ITH THE AID of a miniature car on a "toy" highway, Dr. A. R. Lauer, psychologist at Iowa State College, Ames, has developed a means for measuring driving ability without endangering the safety of other drivers on the road. Dr. Lauer is a member of the National Safety Council, and is conducting research for the committee on the psychology of the highway of the National Research Council.

The small car is operated by remote control with the standard driving equipment of the ordinary automobile, the person tested being seated in a regular driver's seat. The "road" is placed in front of the hood of the life-size car, and the driver must guide the small car over its whole length, around curves, past railroad crossings, and through other difficulties familiar to the motorist. Each time the car leaves the road or the driver fails to observe his instruc-

## ARCHAEOLOGY

## Explorer Finds First Traces of Unknown Everglades Tribe

### Square Mile of Earthworks Near Lake Okechobee Are Largest Known Remains Left by Moundbuilders in America

**F**IRST TRACES of the unknown prehistoric Indians who lived in the Everglades have been discovered by Matthew W. Stirling, chief of the Bureau of American Ethnology. Mr. Stirling has returned from several months of archaeological exploration in Florida.

On the very edge of the Everglades, near Lake Okechobee, Mr. Stirling encountered a great plan of earthworks, elaborately laid out in embankments and mounds, and covering an area a mile square. So large and conspicuous are these earthworks, Mr. Stirling said, that it is surprising that no previous explorer has ever reported their existence or their significance. The nearest approach to anything like them are the famous Fort Ancient earthworks in Ohio, which were

also made by prehistoric moundbuilding Indian tribes.

The most prominent feature of the Everglades site is a flat-topped rectangle of earth built 30 feet high and 250 feet long. This was apparently the focusing point of attention for whatever ceremonies were held at the site. Earthen embankments enclose a court in front of this high place. Back of it a semi-circular bank of earth was raised.

This is only a small portion of the earthworks. A curious formation consisting of a large semi-circular bank extends in front of the high place and its court. And out from the semi-circle start a number of parallel lines of banks with circular mounds at the ends. Within the great semi-circle is a platform of earth six feet high and a quarter of a mile long.

"The whole plan is laid out with remarkable precision," Mr. Stirling reported. "The parallel lines are straight as a string, and the semi-circles are so perfect that we can imagine some Indian walking around a fixed point with a string held taut, to mark the outline."

Excavations into this important site will be made next season, Mr. Stirling said. In his exploration visit, he found potsherds on the edge of the site, showing that the inhabitants of the place were familiar with pottery. These Indians inhabited the Glades before the seminoles came there from farther north in comparatively late times.

Excavation of a large burial mound made of sand was another achievement of the expedition. This mound, south of Key Marco, contained 250 burials of Calusa Indians, together with their possessions. The Stone Age of prehistoric America was almost the Shell Age in this region, for the Indians had shell hoes and axes, shell cups and ornaments. Stone was scarce, though a few stone implements were brought in by traders from farther north.

It is Mr. Stirling's view that this mound was the burial place of the Indians who left the "biggest shell heap in the United States" famous in Florida.

*Science News Letter, May 23, 1931*

tions as to speed limit, slowing up for intersections, and so on, an electric recording apparatus automatically records an error.

The test in the laboratory is supplemented by one in a standard car out on a special test highway.

Dr. Lauer is also making a study of how signal lights and other safety devices can be changed to make the road safe for color-blind drivers, for the committee has found that safety would be increased by assuming that some drivers are color-blind all the time, and that all drivers are color-blind some of the time, under certain conditions. He is giving tests to determine what types of lettering and what color combinations make license plates most easily read and remembered. And he is making an effort to find out what training may be given motorists to increase the safety of the highway.

*Science News Letter, May 23, 1931*