

ANTHROPOLOGY

Ancient Human Remains Discovered in Texas

PARTS of a human skull found near Brownwood, Texas, are causing much interest among scientists. Although the find was made on Nov. 14, no report has been given until now, pending preliminary geological and anthropological examination.

The find was made while rock was being excavated for road building. The men who first found the bones thought they were imbedded in solid limestone, as they were discovered following heavy blasting of rock. Closer observation, however, shows that the skeleton, of which a considerable part was probably present, lay by burial or otherwise in a rock shelter underneath a projecting heavy rock ledge.

The parts of the skeleton recovered were the entire lower jaw, the front of the skull, including the eyebrow ridges and most of the frontal bones, nearly all of the nasal bones and a disconnected part of the occipital bone.

The first bone found, the lower jaw, was picked up by J. H. Arlidge and John O. Palmer, contracting engineers. This bone was brought to the office of Drs. Ned and John W. Snyder, in Brownwood, by State Engineer Wesley Hall. The importance of the find was recognized and search was made for

other parts of the skeleton. The locality of the find, three miles west of Brownwood, was visited on Nov. 22 by Dr. E. H. Sellards and Prof. I. A. Pearce of the University of Texas.

The most striking characteristics of those parts of the skull that have been recovered are: exceptionally thick and heavy eyebrow ridges and the correspondingly small sinus cavities, and exceptionally thick and heavy frontal bone which is eleven millimeters thick. The nasal bone, although the extreme tip was lost in blasting, is exceptionally long and high. There had been possibly in life a slight injury at the left side of the nasal bone, but an X-ray made by Dr. Ned Snyder shows no resulting deformity or abnormality of consequence in the bone.

The upper ramus, or branch of the jawbone, is exceptionally wide and is at right angles to the lower ramus, which is very heavy. The chin prominence is well developed.

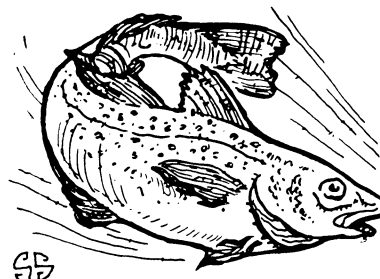
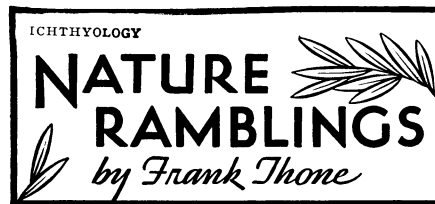
The jawbone indicates a man of large size, with strong muscles. There is, however, no evidence of abnormal size as compared to some large individuals of the present day.

The lower jaw was entire and the teeth are all sound and were all in place at the time of death. An X-ray of the teeth made by Dr. John Snyder shows that the teeth were in perfect condition and the bony structure of the jaw free from disease.

The locality is in the bluff of a small stream, Adams Branch, and near by is one of the "burnt mounds" common to this part of Texas, indicating an Indian camp site. Whether or not the skeleton represents the people who inhabited this site or an earlier Indian race is at present unknown.

In the absence of associated fossil animals or other evidence from the conditions of the occurrence, the age of the remains is altogether problematical. It is, however, in the opinion of the scientists a remarkable Indian skull, making it important that search be made for more complete representation of the race to which it belongs.

Science News Letter, December 10, 1932



Codfish

DEEP WINTER on the Grand Banks, off Newfoundland, where the Gloucester fishing boats go. Some of the romance went out when power boats joined the fleet, that once depended altogether on canvas, but by the same token some of the danger went out, too, and some of the anxiety in the little houses left behind on shore. Even as it is, there is still danger enough to make the business of the fishermen one of the more hazardous occupations.

The big fish that these men pursue well merits its position as the "sacred fish" of the great State of Massachusetts, for the wealth of many an old Massachusetts family came out of the little boats that plied between its shores and the cold northern waters that the codfish loves. And though over-fishing has made the catch smaller and harder to get nowadays, the barrels and boxes of salt cod still pile up in thousands on the wharves.

A fine business-like fish, the cod. A big, solid fish, just a trifle portly, as a successful individual should be, but not too stout to pursue his occupations vigorously, nor to depart from the shape of a properly orthodox fish. Acquisitive, too—his detractors say voracious. Individualistic as a good New Englander should be, not to be taken in mobs in a net, but requiring special attention with a hook. Plenty of big fins for a life on the high seas. And when he departs this life, he leaves an excellent heritage of codfish balls to an appreciative world.

Science News Letter, December 10, 1932

The gold color of the rocks forming the Golden Gate in Yellowstone National Park is caused by the color of an encrusting lichen.

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The Science Service radio address next week will tell what occurs

WHEN SCIENTISTS GET TOGETHER

It will be given by
Austin Hobart Clark
 of the U. S. National Museum

FRIDAY, DEC. 16
 at 12:45 P. M., Eastern Standard Time

Over Stations of
 The Columbia Broadcasting System