

ARCHAEOLOGY

# Great Attack Planned on Tennessee Valley's Prehistory

## Archaeologists Seek to Reconstruct Pre-Columbian Life Before Flooding Wipes Out Mound and Village Remains

ARCHAEOLOGISTS are expressing concern over an important job to be done in Tennessee before engineers begin rearranging the waters and the land according to the Tennessee Valley Authority plans.

The important job is to rescue remains of ancient Indian occupation in the area that will be flooded or torn up by excavations. Almost nothing is known about the kind of Indians who lived in the Valley region before Columbus. If American archaeologists do not work quickly, the evidence of what happened there in prehistoric times will be wiped out beyond all power of science to reconstruct it.

### Six-Month Survey

Efforts are being made by several scientific organizations to finance the rescue of this threatened historic material. The plan is to send a competent archaeologist to the region to spend about six months finding out what he can about the earliest inhabitants of the Tennessee Valley.

The land to be covered by water when Cove Creek Dam is constructed, one of the first projects anticipated, will be surveyed by this archaeologist for traces of mounds, villages, and burying grounds. Road building and grading work have already been started, and the archaeologist will make a point of examining anything that the steam shovels turn up that seems significant in Tennessee's ancient history.

Most of the archaeological digging in this region was done some years ago, when there was more interest in gathering collections of arrowheads and pottery than in learning who the ancient inhabitants were and all about them.

The mysterious Yuchi Indians, who are little more than a myth and a name, may come to light as real people in the Tennessee Valley.

"Early narratives mention the Yuchi as living in this part of the country and credit them with being a people of superior intelligence," says Neil M. Judd,

curator of archaeology at the U. S. National Museum. "But no Yuchi site, where the people had their homes or graveyards, has ever been explored archaeologically. We know that there was a Yuchi village site at Wilson Dam above Muscle Shoals, but when the dam was constructed the site was flooded and whatever material the ground contained is gone."

### Related to Mound Builders

The Yuchi may have been related to mound building Indians in their manner of living, Mr. Judd explains.

Traces of other Indian comings and goings may be hidden in the Valley soil. The Cherokee are known to have pushed down into southeastern Tennessee, but presumably in rather recent times, says Mr. Judd. In the northern part of Tennessee there were Chickasaw Indians. And it is known that Siouan peoples spread in that direction from southern Ohio. The ground that is to be dissected for roads or buried under tons of water may contain evidence that the expert can read into a

coherent story of Indian wars and wanderings and tribal friendships.

There is even possibility of finding older traces of habitation. Limestone caves in Tennessee may have been taken for shelters by wandering hunters who seem to have preceded the various forms of culture that are known as Indian. These ancestral, more primitive people are known today only through their stone dart points found with remains of animals long extinct.

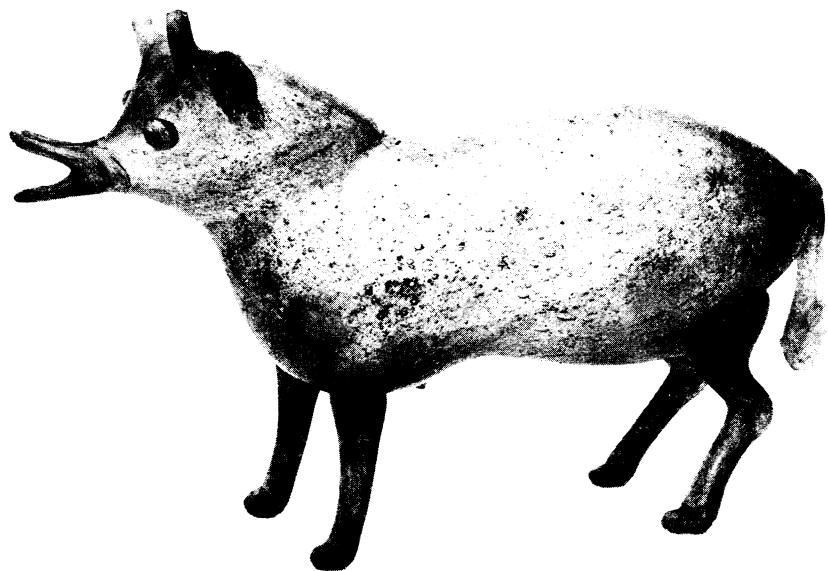
*Science News Letter, October 23, 1933*

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## Comical Glass Cow Held Perfume For Romans

IT TOOK a poet-humorist to point out to the modern world how delightfully ridiculous a purple cow would be. Now it appears that an artist-humorist of ancient Rome had a similar bright thought about purple cows. Only, instead of writing a verse, he made a glass cow tinged with purple. The comical cow has come to the Metropolitan Museum of Art, among recent gifts. The cow served as a bottle, the exaggerated lips forming a mouth for pouring perfume or other liquid. The bottle stands a little over four inches high.

That the Roman cow was really purple from the start, and not merely tinged by age, is indicated by experiments. The Museum chemist attributes the purplish streakings to particles of pyrolusite mixed in the glass. Some of these particles may still be seen as black



PURPLE COW, ANCIENT ROMAN MODEL