

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.

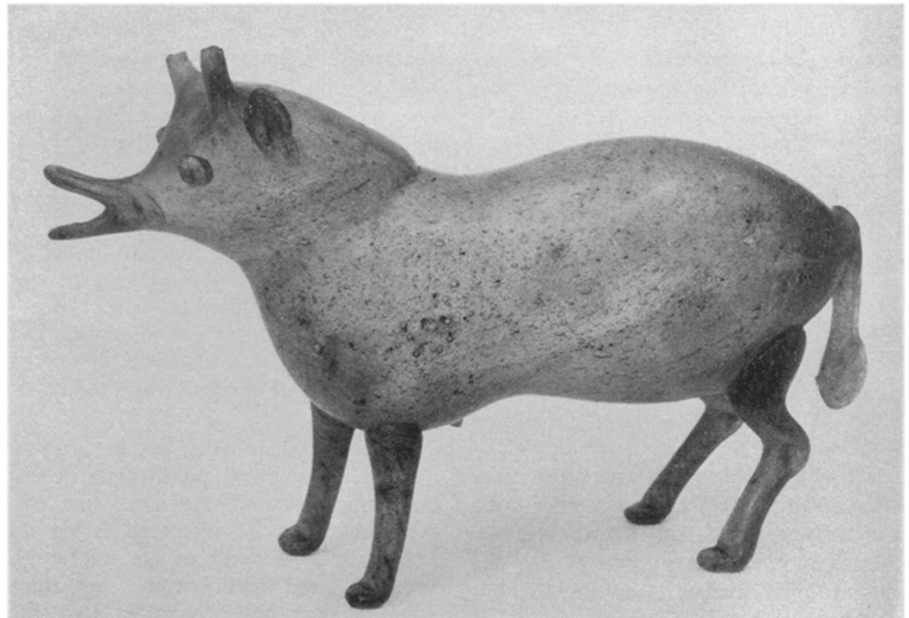
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ARCHAEOLOGY

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

spots. A sample artificially made in the laboratory by adding some pyrolusite to molten glass gave this same purplish streaked effect.

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ASTRONOMY

New Comet Discovered By Harvard Astronomer

A NEW COMET discovered by Dr. Fred L. Whipple of the Harvard College Observatory, is at present in the constellation Taurus, the Bull, a little south of the familiar compact group of stars, the Pleiades. These two constellations may be seen low in the east at about nine in the evening. The new comet is moving slowly in a southwesterly direction.

Whipple comet has been spotted on a photograph taken with the 16-inch Metcalf telescope at the Oak Ridge, Mass., station of the Harvard Observatory on Oct. 15 and also on several plates taken Oct. 20. Prof. George Van Biesbroeck of Yerkes Observatory confirmed the discovery.

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ENDOCRINOLOGY

"Instinctive" Behavior Provoked by Human Extract

NEST-MAKING by female rabbits, long regarded as a typical example of purely "instinctive" activity, has been artificially provoked by injecting a commercial drug containing an active principle from the glands of pregnant women. Results of experiments producing this result are reported by Esther Bogen Tietz of Longview Hospital, Cincinnati, in *Science*.

A female rabbit always makes a nest out of her own fur just before her young are born. She plucks this fur from the lower side of her body, and cards and fluffs it with her claws. When the young are born, she covers them up with this loose fur, most carefully, presumably to keep them warm and to keep their tiny wet bodies from drying off too rapidly.

The whole thing is a procedure quite alien to anything a human mother does, yet the gland extract from expectant human mothers has sufficed to provoke this typically maternal reaction in non-pregnant rabbit does.

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ECONOMICS

Machine Age Benefits Upheld; Better Distribution Demanded

THE MACHINE to some in this modern world has become symbolic of the unhappy economic conditions in which the world finds itself. In some quarters there is a sincere, if mistaken, cry for the return to manpower and handicraft.

"To abandon the machine is unthinkable." This conclusion of an editorial in the *Engineering and Mining Journal* expresses the more informed opinion of today. Says the editorial:

"When, less than two years ago, technocracy and those who preached it had the world by the ears, and when, somewhat later, the idea seemed to have been dismissed in disgrace and ridicule from the public mind, few suspected that before twelve months had passed one of the leading industrial nations of the earth would be deliberately attempting to modify the structure of its economic and social system so that unemployment might be abolished the while that the benefits of mechanized industry were retained. The prophet-technocrats were indeed extravagant in their assertions; doubtless they greatly underestimated the time element involved in the changes of which they spoke, but there was a vital truth in their recognition of the fact that only disaster lay in refusing to note the inevitable effect of the machine upon society and to plan the needful readjustment. For it is society that must change and not that the machine must be abolished. As sane for Athens to have killed its slaves, thereby making impossible at that time the lofty achievement of the Periclean age, as for the United States or any other nation to abandon the machine and revert to hand labor. It is the machine that will ultimately make men free from drudgery and give them time to think. And when that day at last arrives it will be the dawning of a greater age than that of Pericles.

"The apparent dilemma in arguing that invention must not be retarded at the same time that one urges that employment must be increased is no dilemma. The two theses are not at all opposed, and this becomes apparent when at last one recognizes that the social structure and the habits of in-

dustry can and will be changed if a sufficient number of the people rouse themselves to demand it.

"To abandon the machine is unthinkable. Who that has become well accustomed to the typewriter will return to longhand? In considering this simple, personal operation the folly of the suggestion becomes apparent. It can be made equally plain, no matter what more complicated application of the machine is selected for analysis. And it is less foolish only in degree to advocate the partial scrapping of equipment and the throttling of invention. The machine is a boon, mankind's servant. But mankind must see to it that the production and benefits of the machine are properly distributed."

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ZOOLOGY

Buffalo Meat Again To Cheer Indians

SURPLUS buffalo from Yellowstone Park again will be distributed to nearby Indian reservations, according to Supt. Roger W. Toll. The purpose is twofold—to augment the Indians' food supply, and to bring back to them a bit of the glamour of the past when buffalo roamed the range in almost countless numbers and they ate bison meat every day.

Authority for the disposition of surplus buffalo from the Yellowstone was granted by Congress when it was found that these animals, at one time almost extinct, were increasing at such a rate that it was necessary to determine the maximum number the park range would support and keep the herd down to that number. For the past decade at least the effort has been to keep the buffalo to a maximum of 1,000 head.

This year, owing to poor range conditions, the short hay crop at the buffalo range, and a shortage of funds with which to furnish enough additional hay to feed 1,000 of these great animals, it has been decided to reduce the herd to 900.

Between 200 and 235 buffalo will be available for disposal.

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