

ARCHAEOLOGY

Rush to Save Indian Relics Before Flood at Dam

THIRTY ancient Indian villages and numerous island graveyards along the lower Columbia River have been explored by science, in a race with time against flooding of a 60-mile area by waters of Bonneville Dam.

Herbert W. Krieger, of the Smithsonian Institution staff, has just returned from Washington and Oregon where he spent six months on this emergency expedition.

The region proves to have been thickly settled by American natives. In one valley, now arid and given over to sagebrush, the ethnologist counted and mapped remains of more than 500 houses, as dense a settlement as he had ever encountered.

This discovery supplements reports of Lewis and Clark, who journeyed up the river over a hundred years ago and mentioned the sparse and scattered habitations of the Indians. Lewis and Clark,

says Mr. Krieger, saw only fishing camps and summer settlements along the banks. Winter homes of the people were in more sheltered places, away from the wind tunnel which sends gales along the river.

Islands in the river were graveyards of these Indians. Some buried their dead under big sheds. Other communities piled the dead under canoes. One island graveyard, visited by Mr. Krieger, had been swept by fire so completely that even glass beads were fused, and charcoal lay all over the place. Inquiring among old inhabitants, he learned the story that early white settlers had turned the Indian cemetery into a crematory.

Flattening pliant foreheads of young babies was the regular practice of these Indians, said Mr. Krieger. Every one of these ancient Indians, if in fashion, had this artificial flatness. Again con-

sulting people with long memories, the archaeologist was told that the Cascade Indians used to hold christening day on a regular date, at a cove on the Washington shore of the Columbia near Cape Horn. Indian squaws brought their babies, with the little heads tightly bound, and at the ceremony the bandages and boards were removed. The flattening was all completed within the first few months of life.

One clue to antiquity of the villages and burials was found in a fir tree stump. The fir tree had sprouted and grown up in the center of an abandoned Indian house. A few years ago, woodsmen chopped off the tree, leaving the stump, and Mr. Krieger counted 257 rings of annual growth in this tree ring record. Many of the ruins are believed to be much older than this would indicate.

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PUBLIC HEALTH

Influenza Cases Increase Throughout the Country

INFLUENZA cases throughout the country increased from 2,889 to 4,965 during the first week of the new year, reports of 38 state health officers to the U. S. Public Health Service show.

These official reports do not give a true picture of the influenza situation, public health officials point out. Actually there may be 49,000 or more cases of the disease. The reported number of cases must be multiplied by five or ten or more in order to get anything like a true idea of the amount of influenza present in the country, since so very many cases of this disease never get reported, even during epidemics.

Confusion of influenza with colds and grippe adds to the difficulty of determining the amount of influenza in the country. Influenza is a much more severe ailment than grippe, while the latter is more severe than the common cold, health officials in Washington, D. C., explain.

Another fact that makes it difficult for health officials to size up the influenza situation is that this disease is not officially reported in three very populous states—Massachusetts, New York and Pennsylvania.

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Harvard's Fatigue Laboratory will send an expedition to a valley in India, 17,000 foot elevation, to study respiration and circulation in the inhabitants.



SLIDING FOR FUN IS OLD, OLD INDIAN CUSTOM

Young Indians long ago hadn't any banisters at home. But they knew all the joy and thrill of sliding fast down a nice, slippery, slanting rock. Craving for speed is nothing new in the world, says H. W. Krieger, ethnologist of the Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D. C. Mr. Krieger, just returned from Washington State, obtained for the Smithsonian records this photograph of Martin Spedis, chief of Wishram Indians, demonstrating an old rock slide where he played as a boy. Grooves four or five inches deep have been worn down this hard basalt rock during many centuries while countless little Indians and big chiefs, too, wore out their clothes and had their fun. The sliding rock is at Spearfish, ancestral home of Wishram Indians, and soon to be the far end shore of a 60-mile lake, when waters backed up by Bonneville Dam flood the region.