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FAMILIAR YET STRANGE

There is something vaguely suggestive of the open longleaf pine stand of our own South in a new mural painting recently unveiled at the Field Museum of Natural History, in Chicago. Yet despite this suggestion of familiarity the scene is utterly different. The trees are not pines, but the somewhat distantly related araucarias, which might be called the "Ersatz" pines of the Southern Hemisphere. The particular species shown in the new painting, with its curious umbrella-branched top, belongs to the southern Andes of Chile and Argentina. The artist is Charles A. Corwin, of the Field Museum staff.

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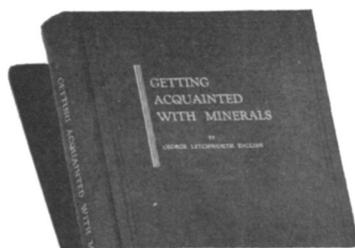
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ARCHAEOLOGY

Eskimo Bone Armor Is Archaeological Trophy

BONE armor worn in American battles a thousand years ago, when Europe's fighters went clad in mail, is among the trophies of an archaeological expedition just returned from Alaska.

Mounds of prehistoric rubbish yielded the slats of bone armor, and the arrow heads, fish lines, harpoons, combs, needles, children's toys, and bits of clothing of Eskimos who lived at Cape Prince of Wales, the most westerly point on the North American Continent. The expedition, led by Henry B. Collins, Jr., was a joint venture of the Smithsonian Institution and the National Geographic Society.

The makers of the ancient objects are identified as Eskimos of the Thule stage of Eskimo prehistory, by Mr. Collins. While this type of culture has been known, especially in Greenland and central Canada, Mr. Collins' latest expedition confirms the theory that this ancient culture spread eastward from Alaska. The digging also probed into an earlier stage of Eskimo culture, preceding the Thule people, and showed the transition from one to the other.

Science News Letter, October 24, 1936

CHEMISTRY

New Poisonous Gas Found By Western Reserve

BEFORE the eyes of visitors to the Great Lakes Exposition in Cleveland, the discovery of a new poisonous gas was made by two Western Reserve University chemists. It is thionyl chlorofluoride, intensely irritating to inside of nose and mouth, but the announcement of the discovery specifically disclaims its possible use as a war gas.

A chemistry laboratory from Western Reserve University was transported to the exposition as a working exhibit. There Prof. Harold S. Booth and Francis C. Mericola produced the colorless gas new to science.

The gas condenses to a transparent liquid that boils at 12 degrees Centigrade (56.3 degrees Fahrenheit) and freezes to a snow-like solid at minus 140 degrees Centigrade.

When, despite careful handling, the gas escapes into the air it reacts with moisture present to form three dangerous gases, sulphur dioxide, hydrochloric acid and hydrofluoric acid.

Science News Letter, October 24, 1936

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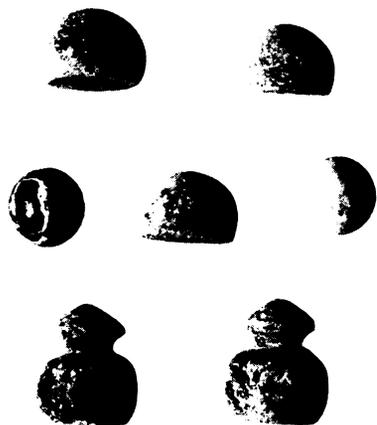
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