

ARCHAEOLOGY-ANTHROPOLOGY

Stone Age Man in Alaska

Buried stone age dwelling sites found in arctic Alaska open up a new frontier of American prehistory. So far, no human skeletons have been found.

➤ **DISCOVERY** of two buried dwelling places of mysterious stone age men who lived in arctic Alaska long before the earliest Eskimos, probably 10,000 years ago, has opened a new frontier of American prehistory.

Working independently, Dr. Louis Giddings of the University of Pennsylvania found an old campsite on Seward Peninsula and Dr. Helge Larsen of Copenhagen's Danish Museum found a cave 35 miles from Deering, both of which had flint implements mingled with caribou bones, showing a new kind of neolithic culture similar to that of stone age men of Asia and Europe.

Their findings were presented to the Twenty-ninth International Congress of Americanists in New York.

Since the discoveries were made only a few weeks ago, the finds are not yet positively dated, but they are certainly long before the Christian era and they are proof that stone age men, following the receding glaciers of the Ice Age, lived in what is now Alaska.

The buried evidences of Alaska's stone age men were found in layers of the earth below those of the earliest known Ipiutak Eskimos who hunted whales and used some iron tools bartered from Siberia. Below the Eskimo culture layer there was found a layer of undisturbed clay that accumulated when human beings were not there. Below were the signs of the stone age people, who used a special kind of small flint scraper implements, called microliths, that were made by knocking a long flake off a core of the stone.

No human skeletons were found, and anthropologists and archaeologists will be searching Alaska next spring when the country opens up for possible burials of this ancient people, as well as additional sites.

The best judgment now is that the stone age Alaskans are not the ancestors of the modern Indians or the Folsom men who are known so far only by their special weapon points found in archaeological excavations in western United States.

But they are considered to be of upper paleolithic and perhaps even middle paleolithic age which makes them the most ancient Americans so far found.

Science News Letter, September 17, 1949

ANTHROPOLOGY

Yuma and Folsom Men Probably Contemporaries

➤ **EVIDENCE** that the two main groups of Stone Age "Americans" were contemporaries about 10,000 years ago was presented to the Twenty-ninth International Congress of Americanists in New York by Dr. John Hall Moss, Franklin and Marshall College geologist.

Dr. Moss this summer studied the geological formations at the Finney Yuma site at Eden, Wyo., where Yuma points had been discovered. The Yuma points have been considered generally earlier than Folsom points, but Dr. Moss' findings indicated that Yuma man had been in southwestern Wyoming right up to only about 10,000 years ago. This puts him well into the period of Folsom man.

Yuma man apparently began earlier than Folsom, but the new evidence indicates that he continued throughout the period of Folsom man.

Science News Letter, September 17, 1949

ENGINEERING

New-Type Rubber Lifeboat Rides Waves Easily

➤ **A NEW-TYPE** rubber lifeboat, now in production by the B. F. Goodrich Company, Akron, Ohio, while weighing only 186 pounds complete with emergency equipment, has sufficient buoyancy to support 12 men inside and 13 others clinging to lifelines hanging over the edges.

It is constructed of American-made rubber, is 14 feet long and six feet wide when in use, but on shipboard is a package four feet long and two feet wide. When thrown overboard in an emergency, a ripcord is pulled. The waterproof zippered cover unzips itself and pops off, whereupon the boat unfolds, inflates itself from gas cylinders and opens right side up in the water.

Two pounds of air in the twin-compartmented rubber tubes provide sufficient buoyancy for the load of 12 plus 13 men. Two inflatable floor partitions, each six feet square, can be tossed into the sea as life preservers for an additional 10 men. Already tested by the U. S. Navy and Coast Guard, it has been found to ride the waves easily even in a rough sea.

Equipment contained in the packaged unit includes a tent-like canopy, four wooden paddles, two air pumps, two carbon dioxide cylinders, a small boarding ladder, food and water rations, fishing kit, flashlight, signal mirror and dye sea markers. The canopy top can be used to catch rain water, as well as for protection.

Science News Letter, September 17, 1949



EMERGENCY RUBBER LIFEBOAT—Thirteen men can hold onto the lifelines alongside this boat while there is room for 12 men inside the boat. A Coast Guardsman is preparing to inflate the two six-foot square floor sections which can be thrown into the water to support an additional 10 men.