

ARCHAEOLOGY

Home Life of "Folsom Man" Discovered in Colorado

In Steep Bank of Dried Arroyo Was Found a Camp Site Where Ancient Americans Rested After Mammoth Hunt

THE HOME life of America's oldest known humans has at last been uncovered.

In a steep bank of a dried-up arroyo in Colorado, a "prospector" of science has dug his way into a camp site and workshop of the most ancient Americans.

Thus the mysterious "Folsom hunters," whose trail of stone dart points has carried eager archaeologists to many an out-of-the-way place in the hope of new discovery, have been tracked home.

The discovery is announced by Dr. Frank H. H. Roberts, Jr., of the Bureau of American Ethnology in the Smithsonian Institution. Dr. Roberts has just returned from the important site, which he says he has merely prospected. The owner of the ground has posted it, warning off trespassers who might irreparably damage the prehistoric evidence, and the Smithsonian will renew excavations at the earliest opportunity.

The site, near the Colorado-Wyoming line north of Fort Collins, was detected when Dr. Roberts and an assistant were walking along the high bank of the dried stream. The assistant brought up a flint point, and showed where he had found it. Dr. Roberts probed the layer, buried 12 to 15 feet below the bank's surface, and the discoveries began.

Split Bones

That the place was one where the ancient hunters ate, worked, and rested is shown by many signs, plain to the archaeologist. Dr. Roberts found the bones of an assortment of animals, hacked and split for their marrow, just as the family circle would have left the remains of meals. What animals the bones represent, Dr. Roberts will ask paleontologists at the Smithsonian to determine. The bones are well on their way to being fossilized, and ring when struck like so much flint.

"We found not only Folsom type stone implements," said Dr. Roberts, "but we got the debris from the chip-

ping and flaking, showing that the hunters worked as well as ate at this place. There was a lot of charcoal and ash among the implements, so there is no question that this was a habitation ground.

"I think the shelters or house remains are there, but we did not strike them in our digging. Nor did we find any human bones, though some of the hunters may be tucked away somewhere."

Very Ancient

The "Folsom complex," as the home life of the hunters would be technically called, will establish a new and more ancient chapter in American prehistory. Heretofore, Basket Makers have been the oldest inhabitants whose manner of life was known from their settlements, but the Indian Basket Makers are considered no older than 1500 or 2000 B.C. The Folsom hunters may go back five or ten thousand years earlier than this.

No pottery or baskets belonging to the hunters have been found. They may have had neither. Any skins or fragile

materials used as containers would have long ago disintegrated from moisture, Dr. Roberts points out.

Attention of the Smithsonian was called to this region, when Prof. R. G. Coffin, geologist, of the Colorado Agricultural College wrote to tell of finding Folsom type points. Dr. Roberts set out for Colorado, and a quarter of a mile from the site where Prof. Coffin had found the flint weapons, the home of the elusive hunters was discovered.

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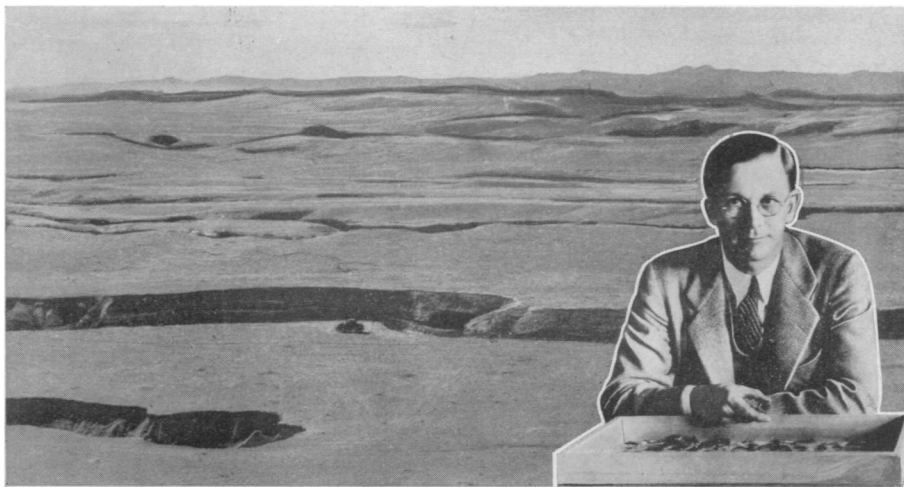
MEDICINE

Rheumatic Heart Disease Linked With Vitamin C

IT IS MUCH too soon to advocate oranges, tomatoes and cabbage for those who fear rheumatic heart trouble; but the U. S. Public Health Service reports experiments at the National Institute of Health in which "encouraging results have been obtained" linking the production of rheumatic-like heart lesions with vitamin C deficiency in guinea pigs.

Seizing upon the suggestion of University of California scientists, Drs. James C. Rinehart and Stacy R. Mettier, that a state of undernourishment approaching scurvy may contribute to the development of rheumatic heart disease, Dr. A. M. Stimson of the federal health bureau conducted research which seems to link the two conditions.

With characteristic caution, he says that "it cannot be stated that scurvy



WHERE OLDEST AMERICANS WORKED AND ATE

The oldest home site in America is in this gully of northern Colorado where Dr. Frank H. H. Roberts, Jr., (shown in insert) discovered remains of the work and feasting of prehistoric men. Stone dart points, held by Dr. Roberts, show that these people were "Folsom Men" who lived contemporaneously with the mammoth, perhaps 10,000 B.C.