

an Algonquin Indian town to which the survivors of the Raleigh colony were supposed to have gone. White, who visited Roanoke Island in 1590 found no trace of the luckless colonists except this name Croatan carved on a tree. From that clue the theories have been evolved.

The Croatans themselves, now farmers who make a fair living and send their children to school, can tell very little of their ancestry. They speak only English, and have entirely forgotten Indian speech which might aid in establishing their identity.

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## ZOOLOGY

## Pronghorn Triplets Born In Yellowstone Park

**T**HREE ANTELOPE babies are following one mother in Yellowstone National Park.

A ranger traveling off the beaten trail in the Lamar valley scared up out of its hiding place a tiny antelope. It took off at a great pace across rocks and sagebrush and was almost immediately joined by a mother and two other babies. There were no other adult pronghorns in sight and it is reasonable to suppose the trio belonged to one mother.

It is an interesting fact that antelope at birth and for some time thereafter have no body odor. A Yellowstone ranger recently had occasion to check this statement. A little pronghorn, less than six hours old, was found and handled. No trace of odor could be detected. Adult antelope have a very pungent and characteristic odor and this can easily be detected by anyone with a keen olfactory sense even from a distance. Absence of odor in the young, until they are able to escape from their enemies by their natural fleetness of foot, is a real example of natural protection.

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Among the palace treasures of Persia is mentioned a ten million dollar globe on which the seas are made of emeralds, countries are of rubies and other stones, and the frame is of gold crusted with diamonds.

A geologist points to the need of a durable, transparent waterproofing substance to protect Greek temples and other famous stone ruins from the disintegrative action of water.

## PALEONTOLOGY

# Find Eggs That Were Fresh A Million Years Ago

## Huge Fossils More Than Six Inches Long With Shells An Eighth of an Inch Thick Were Laid by Extinct Ostrich

**E**GGS laid by giant ostriches in drifting desert sands approximately a million years ago are being discovered in several regions of China. Eggs or fragments of eggs have been found at 21 localities, representing perhaps as many nesting areas of the fossil birds. The fossil eggs are of gigantic size, the largest being a little more than 6 inches long, or nearly  $1\frac{3}{4}$  inches greater in their long diameter and  $3\frac{1}{4}$  inches greater in girth than those laid by the ostrich of the present day. Not only are these fossil eggs much larger than any laid by the living species, but they also had much thicker shells, those laid by the early species in the oldest strata having been found to have a thickness as great as 2.7 millimeters—that is, a little less than one-eighth of an inch. It would certainly have taken some nerve on the part of the egg epicurean of that day to crack the shell of that egg on his breakfast table.

The ostrich living today is found wild in areas scattered from South Africa to Arabia. The extinct species which laid the eggs now attracting so much attention from geologists and paleontologists roamed over the oases and sands of eastern Asia in the day when the early loess was drifted about by desert winds and caught in the damp basins of vagrant lakes. Doubtless these great ostriches raced with the three-toed horses of that day, for both the bird and the progenitor of the later and fewer-toed horse were buried together in what geologists call the Hipparion red clays, and these date from about a million years ago.

Most of the fossil eggs were broken before burial, but two specimens are said to be in fine state of preservation, whatever that may mean—possibly a matter of taste, after all.

It is a curious coincidence that Chinese paleontologists, who now are finding the eggs of ostriches buried many hundreds of thousands of years ago, are of the same race and country to which we owe the art of preservation of eggs

by burial for long periods in the ground. Dried eggs have long been a product commercially exported from China. It is possible to dine in New Jersey and eat eggs dried by the Chinese. They are sometimes used instead of the fruit of our own native hen in the concoction of ice cream. What an egg-eating marathon might have been staged had there been some good American citizens scattered around those alkaline lakes in the ancient days of *Struthio Anderssoni* and the three-toed horse.

The fossil ostrich eggs, which are being discovered in China where modern streams have cut down into the deeply buried strata of wind-blown dust and clay, are much larger than the dinosaur eggs found by Roy Chapman Andrews and the American Museum of Natural History exploration party in Mongolia several years ago; but, on the other hand, they are not nearly so old by many millions of years. After all, when one stops to think of it, it is not a very far cry from a dinosaur to the ostrich, for the dinosaur comes close to being a lizard. So does the ostrich as it is a sort of feathered, toothless lizard. If you do not believe it, study the bird carefully and without prejudice after removing his feathers.

Since the ostrich which laid the giant eggs in the Chinese desert disappeared from the earth long ago, there have been several other large birds which have become extinct. Some of these have disappeared within the limit of human history. One, known as the *Aepyornis*, which lived in Madagascar until about 1,000 years ago, was a colossal bird, about 7 feet in height. Her eggs were considerably larger than those of any ostrich, past or present, being about one foot in length. Another famous bird was the Moa, of New Zealand, which was exterminated by the native Maori about 500 years ago. The egg of the Moa had a girth of about 6 inches, whereas the major girth of the eggs laid by the Chinese fossil ostrich was of the order of 18 inches.

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