

size. The posts stood upright, so it is assumed that they supported a roof. No hearth has been found in the enclosure, but near the southwest corner is a depression containing many charred and split bones of food animals. The floor was of packed earth.

M. R. Harrington, curator of the Southwest Museum, who was in charge of the expedition, states that the dwelling may date from shortly after the close of the Ice Age. Stone spear or dart heads of the type recently named Pinto Basin culture were found in and near the old house site, so there is no doubt that Pinto Basin man built and lived in the hut.

Date of the Pinto Basin culture, first discovered near Twentynine Palms, Calif., by Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Campbell, has not yet been established. Estimates range from

as recent as 1,000 B. C. to as ancient as 8,000 B. C.

Earliest American habitations, aside from caves, are pit dwellings dating from the earlier centuries of the Christian era, when the Basketmaker culture flourished in the Southwest.

Science News Letter, September 4, 1948

GENERAL SCIENCE

SNL on News Stands Of New York City

➤ WHEN YOU ARE in New York City you may now buy the SCIENCE NEWS LETTER each week on many of the news stands of the metropolitan area. Look for it and tell your New York friends about it.

Science News Letter, September 4, 1948

Letters To The Editor

Biggest Ever

Your item (SNL, Aug. 21) about big hailstones reminds me of some in Cincinnati, Ohio, about 1900. Major Bixby (afterwards Chief of Engineers, U. S. Army) stared at them in astonishment, called a cab, then took off his coat and bundled up the biggest ones in it. These he rushed to an engineer friend at the cold-storage plant to be preserved as proof of his veracity. But his friend was a practical joker and found a way to make them grow to immense size (a little bigger at each call). So they, probably, were the biggest ever.—Gilbert S. Walker, Pittsburgh.

Reader's Page

I read your magazine and I think it is wonderful! It should be in all schools to promote science and American ingenu-

ity. Why not devote a page in your SCIENCE NEWS LETTER for the readers to write and discuss their amateurish ideas and inventions? Thanks.—J. S. Badon, Breaux Bridge, La. *Here's the page right here.*

Laws of Matter Up-to-Date

This compilation (SNL, June 19) is one of the clearest condensations that I have ever read. I am filing it for future reference.—M. L. Ballou, Arlington, Va.

Televised Ocean Bottom?

It would be a good idea if the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution would use television on its vessel "Atlantis" to see what is at the bottom of the sea (SNL, Aug. 14)—R. Youngblood, New York City.

Question Box

ARCHAEOLOGY

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operate? p. 157

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Photographs: Cover, p. 154, p. 155, University of California African Expedition; p. 147, M. R. Harrington, Southwest Museum; p. 149, The Kellogg Corp.; p. 151, Gulf Oil.

INVENTION

Salt in Auto Tire Helps Prevent Skidding on Ice

➤ SALT in an automobile tire is the newest aid suggested for driving on icy streets.

The salt is not just added to the tire. It is scattered within a new material developed for recapping worn tires. The material, developed by the United States Rubber Company, is called "Wintrac."

This new recapping material consists of a high quality tread stock into which thousands of pieces of rock salt have been mixed. As the tread wears down, the pieces of salt are released to form surface pores which grip the road.

Science News Letter, September 4, 1948

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