

In that particular commonwealth commercial pot hunting has increased since passage of the law. Two other states have laws designed to prevent vandalism of prehistoric remains, but these laws may be utilized to prevent the researches of non-residents. Six other states have considered or are now considering similar legal restrictions.

"In most instances these laws were introduced with the idea that they would put a stop to irresponsible digging by untrained individuals. What the laws will actually do is prevent serious investigation by all competent students who happen to live outside the state borders, and encourage ~~promiscuous~~ relic hunting by local curio dealers and others seeking personal gain.

"Unless a nationalistic spirit is maintained it is quite possible that archeological research throughout a considerable portion of the United States will eventually be so circumscribed that established museums and educational institutions of international prestige can no longer engage in constructive field investigations."

Mr. Judd pointed out that the real object of American archeologists is to acquire all possible data concerning different groups of America's prehistoric population, so that the unwritten history of those groups may be better understood and recorded. This can only be done by careful observation at old ruins and dwelling sites and by painstaking study of pottery and other articles just as they are found in rubbish sites, abandoned rooms or burial grounds.

"This research is necessary if we are to understand the part these early tribes played in the history of America and of the human race, and it is work for specialists," said Mr. Judd. "Generally speaking, the prehistoric artifact exhumed by unskilled hands and thus separated from data perhaps equal in importance to the specimen itself must always remain a mere curiosity. Every mound, every ancient ruin or shell heap has its own peculiar problems. They must be worked out there, on the ground, and only a man trained in seeing under the surface of things can work them out.

"Prehistoric Indians had no thought of our present state boundaries, and it is both unethical and unscientific for residents of one state to say that those who chance to dwell in another may not cross their state borders in pursuit of data pertaining to migratory aboriginal peoples," Mr. Judd added.

"NEW STAR" IS IN DISTANT UNIVERSE

Flashing out from previous invisibility to the thirteenth magnitude, bright enough to be seen with a large telescope, a nova or "new star" in a spiral nebula has been discovered at the Heidelberg Observatory in Germany by Prof. Max Wolf, the director of the observatory, and his associate, Dr. K. Reinmuth. Word of this discovery has just been received by the Harvard College Observatory from Prof. Elis Stromgren, director of the Central Astronomical Bureau at Copenhagen, Denmark.

The spiral nebula in which the nova has appeared has no name, but is known as Messier 61 after its number in Messier's catalog of nebulae and star clusters. It is also known as N. G. C. 4303 after its number in the New General Catalog of such

objects, and is located in the constellation of Virgo, the Virgin, which is directly south about nine o'clock in evenings toward the end of May.

While novae, or "new stars", which, from previous invisibility or obscurity, suddenly become more brilliant, are not especially rare, they generally appear in the Milky Way. As our system of stars, or "galaxy", is approximately the shape of a grindstone, with the sun and its accompanying planets located near the center, when we look in the direction of the grindstone's diameter we see a great mass of stars which form the Milky Way. Novae which appear in the Milky Way, therefore, are in the same system of stars of which the sun is a part.

The spiral nebulae, of which many thousands are soon in all parts of the sky, except in the region of the Milky Way, where the thick mass of stars obscures them, have been found to be other galaxies, or "universes", similar to ours, but outside its limits, by Dr. Edwin P. Hubble of the Mt. Wilson Observatory in California. In a spiral nebula in the constellation of Andromeda, Dr. Hubble has found more than fifty such novae by studying photographs made with the 100 inch telescope at Mt. Wilson. By comparing the average brightness of these novae with the average of those which appear in the Milky Way, he has determined the distance of the Andromeda nebula, which is about a million light years. A light year is about six trillion miles - the distance that a beam of light, which travels fast enough to go from Boston to San Francisco in a seventy-fifth of a second, will travel in a year.

According to the Harvard College Observatory, no new stars have ever been observed before in Messier 61, though they have been seen in a few other spirals. The brightness of the one discovered at Heidelberg, however, is much fainter than the average of those which have been discovered in the Milky Way, so that it is probably as distant as the Andromeda nebula. The outburst of the star, therefore, must have taken place at least a million years ago, though the news of it, borne on the wings of light, has just reached the earth, and since it could be seen at such a vast distance, it must have really been exceedingly bright.

NEW PLACE FOR ATTACHING TAXI METER WINS IN TEST

A new method of attaching a taximeter to a taxicab and how it proved satisfactory in a seven months' test was described by Capt. George F. Austin, sealer of weights and measures of Detroit, at a recent meeting of the National Conference of Weights and Measures.

By connecting the taximeter to the transmission drive shaft of a cab instead of the usual attachment at the front wheel, Detroit taxicab companies have saved hundreds of dollars in the past six months, Mr. Austin told the conference.

The usual objection to this rear wheel type of attachment, he explained, has been that on slippery or snowy streets the rear wheels of a car are apt to spin, and the passenger would be required to pay for the imaginary distance covered by the slipping wheels. It was shown, however, that a wheel would have to slip what would amount to 422 complete revolutions before the slippage would register a ten cent charge on the taxi meter, according to Detroit taxi rates.