

ANTHROPOLOGY

Earliest American Girl May Have Met Violent Death

Well Preserved Ice Age Skeleton With Injured Shoulder Blade Shows More Ape-Like Traits Than Modern Woman

VIOLENT DEATH, perhaps even a murder of passion, ended the brief career of a seventeen-and-a-half-year-old girl who promises to become America's most famous prehistoric inhabitant, after having been covered by glacial silts for some twenty thousand years. Her youthful skeleton, marvelously preserved, may clinch the argument for the existence of ancient peoples in America.

Dr. A. E. Jenks, University of Minnesota anthropologist, described the death of the ancient Indian maiden when he laid before the National Academy of Sciences in Ann Arbor a detailed report on what was appraised as "one of the best authenticated finds in North America."

In the historically remote days when a great ice sheet covered northern North America, there lived in prehistoric Minnesota this girl who is now the center of discussion by scientists. She was mongoloid in her features and her rounded nose openings indicate a closer relationship to the apes than is the case with modern women.

Little she cared about these scientific facts to be deduced by racially remote scientists of a future of which she did not dream. The rigors and pleasures of primitive life undoubtedly occupied her existence until her death.

How she was killed is suggested by Dr. Jenks' investigations which if the death were more recent would be presented before a coroner's jury instead of to the court of scientific opinion.

The Minnesota maid was about a half mile from the shore of an ice age lake that has since dried up. Probably she was on a raft or in a canoe. An arrow, or perhaps a spear, was projected toward her and its point entered her bosom, piercing the right lung and perhaps entering the heart, causing instant death. The mortal blow was struck from the front, not behind her back. Dr. Jenks knows this from a gouge in the right shoulder blade of the youthful skeleton.

She toppled over into the water, sank to the depths, and the mud and silt of

years sealed her bones into a natural grave which was disturbed only twenty millenia later, when Minnesota road repairers dug out her skull and skeleton.

Who wielded the weapon will never be known, nor has the weapon been recovered. But shell ornaments to hold her hair and others with a sexual significance found with her skeleton undoubtedly adorned her. An antler dagger found nearby may have been carried by her at the time of her death.

Dr. Jenks was called into this investigation when a ditching machine on a state highway in Ottertail County, Minnesota, exposed the (*Turn to Page 342*)

PUBLIC HEALTH

Dropsy Outbreaks Traced To Protein-Deficient Diets

EPIDEMICS of dropsy, or edema, have been occurring regularly at certain seasons in Tennessee, Dr. John B. Youmans of Nashville reported to the

ASTRONOMY-RADIO

Meteors Cause Reflection Of Short Wave Radio Signals

By **DR. A. M. SKELLETT**, radio research engineer for Bell Telephone Laboratories.

DURING the Leonid meteor shower which occurred on the night of November 15-16 radio pulse measurements were made at the Bell Telephone Laboratories at Deal, N. J.

In the opinion of J. P. Schafer and W. M. Goodall, who carried out these tests, the results confirm my theory that meteors cause sufficient ionization in the layers of the upper atmosphere to reflect short wave radio signals.

It is a well-known fact that there are two ionized regions which reflect short wave radio signals. Coincident with the

American Society of Tropical Medicine. The condition seems to be the result of a diet low in calories and in proteins. This diet is more the result of habit and custom than it is of poverty, Dr. Youmans said.

"In itself the edema probably causes little harm," he said, "but the chronic starvation, particularly of protein, that it apparently represents may cause serious disorders.

"The principal remedy is to be found in public health education, in which more attention should be paid to diet."

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ARCHAEOLOGY

Arizona Indians Ate Turkey 1000 Years Ago

ARIZONA Indians ate turkey nearly a thousand years ago. They also ate hawks, owls, coots and robins as well as the more appetizing quail, if bones found in two Arizona ruins dating between 1000 and 1100 A.D. are any criteria. The bones were found by Lyndon L. Hargrave of the Museum of Northern Arizona, and identified by Dr. Alden H. Miller of the University of California Museum of Vertebrate Zoology. The turkeys, Dr. Alden says, could have been obtained by the Indians in the neighborhood of the San Francisco Peaks, a prominent mountain range in Arizona.

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occurrence of visible meteors overhead, the ionic density of the lower layer was often observed to increase. This ionization was usually found to last from twenty seconds to two minutes; at times, much longer.

The same investigators had previously made observations during all the more important meteor showers of 1931 and 1932, but unfavorable weather conditions had prevented a direct correlation between the measured increases in ionization and the passage of meteors overhead. This correlation has now been obtained, although at times during the night clouds obscured part of the sky.

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