

Excavation Shows Holt County Was Once The Home of Many Indians

By J. B. O'Sullivan

(Continued from last week.)

Browsing around the beginning, which admittedly is using the imagination mixed with fact, there is an accession of skeletal material in the Smithsonian Institution at Washington which was gathered in cave of the Big Bend section of Texas that shows the true cave dweller inhabited America.

The bones were found in a cave in a canyon of the Pecos river where it is believed dwelt a race of true cave dwellers a long time ago. Among the finds was one mummy in fine preservation in an upright position encased in a thick covering of wood ashes. This burial recalls numerous short burials ancients made in several foreign countries.

Seldom was there rain in the Pecos valley and very little water penetrated to the mummy which caused the skin to cure on the bundle of bones. The excavators reported the face of this mummy was so natural one might have believed the person alive. The hands were crossed in a strange way below the head, over which was a basket. Most of the body was wrapped in a robe made of the skins of rabbits. The hair was still in the mode of the time. Seven bodies were recovered here but only one was well preserved. One find was a woman lying prone beside the body of a man which was partly cremated. Several bundle burials were found, arrowheads, baskets, matting and sandals showing a very unusual series of weaves.

Nearly every skeleton was found to have either arm or leg bones broken and knit together by nature without any assistance. This cave is set about 150 feet above the flood plain and it is almost a perpendicular climb to it, indicating the dwellers often fell, probably accounting for the numerous broken bones.

It was surmised the cave dwellers of Texas are very ancient and there was some evidence gathered to show them relatives of the Basket Makers of the Southwest. The find was made by Dr. Frank M. Setzler of the Smithsonian. The doctor returned and found the culture widely distributed over the Big Bend country.

In each of the caves was found the skeleton of a child which was taken to indicate some sacrificial ceremony called for the burial of a youngster. In no case were adult bones with the small ones. Intense study of the skeletal material and artifacts is being made in hope of learning more about the cave dwellers of America.

Talk of the great period before the whites wrote history here, is called prehistoric and all known about it is adduced of relics found in beds of streams, refuse piles, mounds, sepulchers, graves, fields and ancient village sites and yet some wonderful and apparently true conclusions have been evolved as to what life was like here before our civilization arrived.

It is believed Europe and America were linked during the Eocene era by way of Greenland and Iceland and that a tropical climate prevailed here, making life easy and prolific. Man at first had for weapons his hands, teeth and nails and then came the Stone Age, meaning the period in any culture when only artifacts of stone and none of metal were in use.

It is fact there are many types of stone artifacts found here which were made in almost exact duplicate in many other countries thousands of years ago. There is strong belief the Ice Age began about 240,000 years ago and ended slowly thru intermittent warm and cold periods about 80,000 years ago. During the height of that great period of cold America must have been one vast refrigerator which edged away the connecting lands of Europe, Alaska, Iceland, Greenland and America, leaving America isolated and its primitive dwellers cut off from the rest of the world.

Specimens of stone have been found which show childish attempts at sharpening; these are coarse, rough, clumsy, and indicate a people beginning at the other end of the Stone Age. There has been found evidence the first pottery was evolved thru the habit of coating gourd and melon rinds with clay to protect them while using them for cooking utensils, the clay firing hard and giving early man an idea which resulted in the aboriginal pottery industry. Every stage in the development of man has been found in America; there are missing links and all. There were people here, in nations of thousands, who lived thru habits identical with those of animals.

One of the most interesting of cultures whose remains have been found is that of the Cud Chewers who ranged over a great portion of the state of Texas, perhaps becoming extinct from some unknown cause. The culture is believed to have flourished at its height about 2,000 years ago. When suitable sites were available, the people made homes in the sides of hills, classifying themselves with cave men and the material evidence found shows them to have been a civilization

as close to the stark wild as one could attain without actually turning animal. The culture is called Cud Chewers on account of their continually chewing, during waking hours, the leaf of corn cactus. This cactus supplied the people many things. The fibers were woven to ropes, blankets, clothing, baskets and other things.

The Cud Chewers once were numerous in the mountains of southwest Texas and they subsisted on meat of birds, bear, rabbits and the meat of the cob of the corn cactus as well as the leaves which formed the cud. Many half chewed cuds were found with cave remains of the people. Arrowheads of stone made by these people are classed as of highly skilled workers products and were fairly numerous among the refuse heaps examined. It is not at all certain the Cud Chewers did not extend entirely over this continent at one time and they may have held sway a great period of time. Thru trading, the cud material may have been supplied to distant points.

Human life here must have gone off on many odd tangents with no bible nor authority to direct them other than their own deliberations, the stars, dreams and guess-work of their priests and medicine men.

There is no chapter though, in the book of early man in America, as fascinating as is that of the Mound Builders, and study elsewhere and of other cultures invariably results in return to the study of the thousands who threw up thousands of tons of earth and rock to some god who held stern sway over a mysterious people who may be found to have covered all land available a long time. It was believed years the Mound Builders preceded the Indians here and became extinct, leaving none of their stock and that they covered a comparatively small territory along the highlands of a few major streams. Late findings would indicate these people were scattered over most of what is the United States and that they were highly organized and intelligent.

The Mound Builders are so called because they constructed, invariably wherever they lived, many great mounds of earth, sand and gravel and of various shapes, triangular, square, round oval and varying in length, height and width in nearly every instance. Some were built on hills, often on the sides of hills and some were made on level ground far from high areas.

By far the best known mound is the Cahokla in the state of Illinois. This work at one time covered about 16 acres and originally must have been more than 100 feet high. There are four terraces on this work and around it were 60 smaller works. Some of these appear to have been constructed for protection against enemies while others were for containing the remains of the dead and others must have been for marks of some kind. There are authorities who claim mounds were thrown up for feasting places. It is believed many of the larger ones were for ceremonial purposes, perhaps places where the captured or surrounding tribes or nations met death during some rite which called for the flowing of human blood.

The most interesting to many persons of the various types are the effigy mounds, chief of which is the Serpent mound on a hill near Brush creek in Adams county, Ohio. This great work long ago was enclosed in a park. The outline of the snake is about 700 feet long and where the mouth is represented there is an egg the snake is supposed to be attempting to swallow. The supposed egg is an elliptical mound about 160 feet across the long way.

When scientists want to find something out about vanished races they depend on their arrowheads and pottery more than on anything they may have left us and it may be enlightening to note the pottery characteristics of the Mound Builders. The clay seems to have been winnowed well and the products not over-fired. Much of it is dark gray and some of it was decorated with one of the shades of blue. Of the larger pots or water ollas, some hold up to 10 gallons. The smaller pottery vessels hold a few quarts. Specimens have been found which were painted black or gray and some were painted white, red, brown and yellow. The ornamentation sometimes is in various coloring with shading that indicates a high degree of skill.

There have been recovered Mound Builder handled vessels and a great number of these have covers which are close-fitting and serve their intended purpose well. Necked vessels are among those recovered. Their lamps were made mostly of black pottery. Cooking vessels are large and apparently served long over fires. They used basins, dishes and tobacco pipes. Principally, their dishes were a sort of bowl and it is presumed their meals largely were boiled foods of various kinds. On some of their pipes are strange faces which at once identifies the race that made them. Pieces representing the human face are so well executed they have been called superior to the same class of work turned out by the famous artists of ancient Mexico.

In making things of stone the Mound Builders had a penchant for polishing the article to a high degree of luster, which would indicate the making of a living then did not require all of their time and the desire for something artistic was expressed thru otherwise idle hours.

In mounds are found a great number of arrowheads but little else excepting ornaments of bones of small birds, perforated teeth, pearls, shells, claws of wild animals, rings and earrings made of copper which often is silver plated. One should expect a great many other forms in mounds of a people who knew how to plate copper with silver, but in many cases the excavator is mystified at finding nothing in the way of knives, spears or hammers.

The mystery of whence the Mound Builders came and what became of them is one of the stock questions starting scientists in the face. Some believe them the forerunners of the American Indian, that they are his ancestors, others aver the Mound Builders became extinct thru disease, war or moved, perhaps to the Arctic Circle country and the Eskimos are but children of the Mound Builders. Believe what you want to, but it has been suggested the Mound Builders, thought to have planted trees, made great irrigation ditches with which to irrigate crops of corn, melons and many other things, wove clothing, lived in half-cave houses and brought themselves to a high degree of intelligence thru practice of doing the right thing at the right time.

It is conjectured further that the people, like every race which ever trod the earth, became mighty, proud and after long hearing of the riches and great people of Old Mexico made a united effort at conquering them and marched in thousands to Mexico where Inca, Maya or some other highly organized and numerous culture arose in the might of millions of highly trained warriors and not only drove the invaders out of their country but hammered them to their home land and in their wrath pounded on until only a remnant of the Mound Builders remained and these were harassed on far north of here where they finally became immured to bitter cold and deep snow and are Eskimo to this day. That is only a fanciful picture drawn from the slender crayons of the imagination but it may be true.

(Continued next week.)

IN DISTRICT COURT

The Travelers Insurance Company vs. Walter Rutherford, et. al. is a new case on the docket. The plaintiff alleges that on February 10, 1919, the defendant borrowed \$4,000 from the plaintiff and gave a mortgage on the following described property as security therefor: Southwest quarter of section 20, north half northwest quarter section 31, township 28, north, range 9 west. The original note and mortgage became due on March 1, 1924, and it was extended and became due on March 1, 1934. They allege that the interest had been paid on said loan up to March 1, 1932, and that none had been paid since that date. They further allege that there is now due and payable the sum of \$4,480 and they ask the court to determine the amount due and that if same is not paid within a reasonable time that the land be sold.

Another case is that of the Travelers Insurance Company vs. Walter Rutherford, et. al. In this petition they allege that they loaned the defendant the sum of \$3,000 on June 12, 1918, taking a mortgage on the northeast quarter section 4, township 27, north of range 9 and west half of southeast quarter of section 33, township 28, north, of range 9. When the mortgage became due it was extended and finally became due and payable July 1, 1933. They allege the defendants failed to keep up the payments and that they failed to pay the taxes on the property for the year 1931 and that there is now due and payable the sum of \$3,391.48. They ask the court to determine the amount due and if same is not paid within a reasonable time that the land be sold.

F. Dana Bigelow has filed suit in the district court against Joseph A. Miller and John Robertson, as executors of the last will and testament of Charlotte L. Miller, deceased, to quiet title in the plaintiff to the west half of east half and south half southeast quarter of the southwest quarter of section 8, township 31, north of range 16 west of the 6th P. M. The plaintiff alleges that defendants claims or appears to have some interest in the property when in truth and fact they have none as the plaintiff is the absolute owner thereof in fee simple, but that the claim of the defendants cast a cloud on the title of said plaintiff, and he asks that the title be quieted in his name.

The Old Line Life Insurance Company has brought foreclosure action against Frank Shober, et. al., and the northwest quarter of section 14, township 27, range 14. In their petition they allege that on November 29, 1924, the plaintiff gave his note to R. H. Parker for \$2,800 and a mortgage on the above property as security, which note and mortgage, was for

a valuable consideration transferred to plaintiff on April 6, 1925. That the principal and interest notes have been paid in full, but that default has been made in the terms and conditions of the mortgage as they failed to pay the taxes due on said land for the year 1924, but let them become delinquent and that the plaintiff had to pay the sum of \$66.80. They ask that this amount be declared a lien against the premises and that if same is not paid the land be sold to satisfy the amount found due.

The Aetna Life Insurance Company has brought suit against Oscar M.

Bing, et. al. to foreclose a mortgage on the southwest quarter of section 13, and northwest quarter of section 24, all in township 29, north, range 10 west of the 6th P. M. They allege that on December 31, 1923, they loaned the sum of \$5,000 to plaintiff, who gave a mortgage on the above described land as security. That on January 25, 1925, the defendant sold the land to Clarence M. Stevens, who on February 18, 1929, had the mortgage extended, the balance due then upon the land being \$4,900. They allege that they have failed to pay the interest due thereon on January 1,

1932, nor any of the interest due since that date. They also allege that they also failed to pay the taxes on the land for the years 1931, 1932, and 1933, and that there is now due thereon the sum of \$5,691.30. They ask the court to determine the amount due thereon and if same is not paid within a reasonable time that the land be sold.

Many birds, hard workers for humanity in eating noxious worms and bugs, have been going around here with their tongues hanging out a foot for a drink of water.

AMERICAN LEGION WAR PICTURES

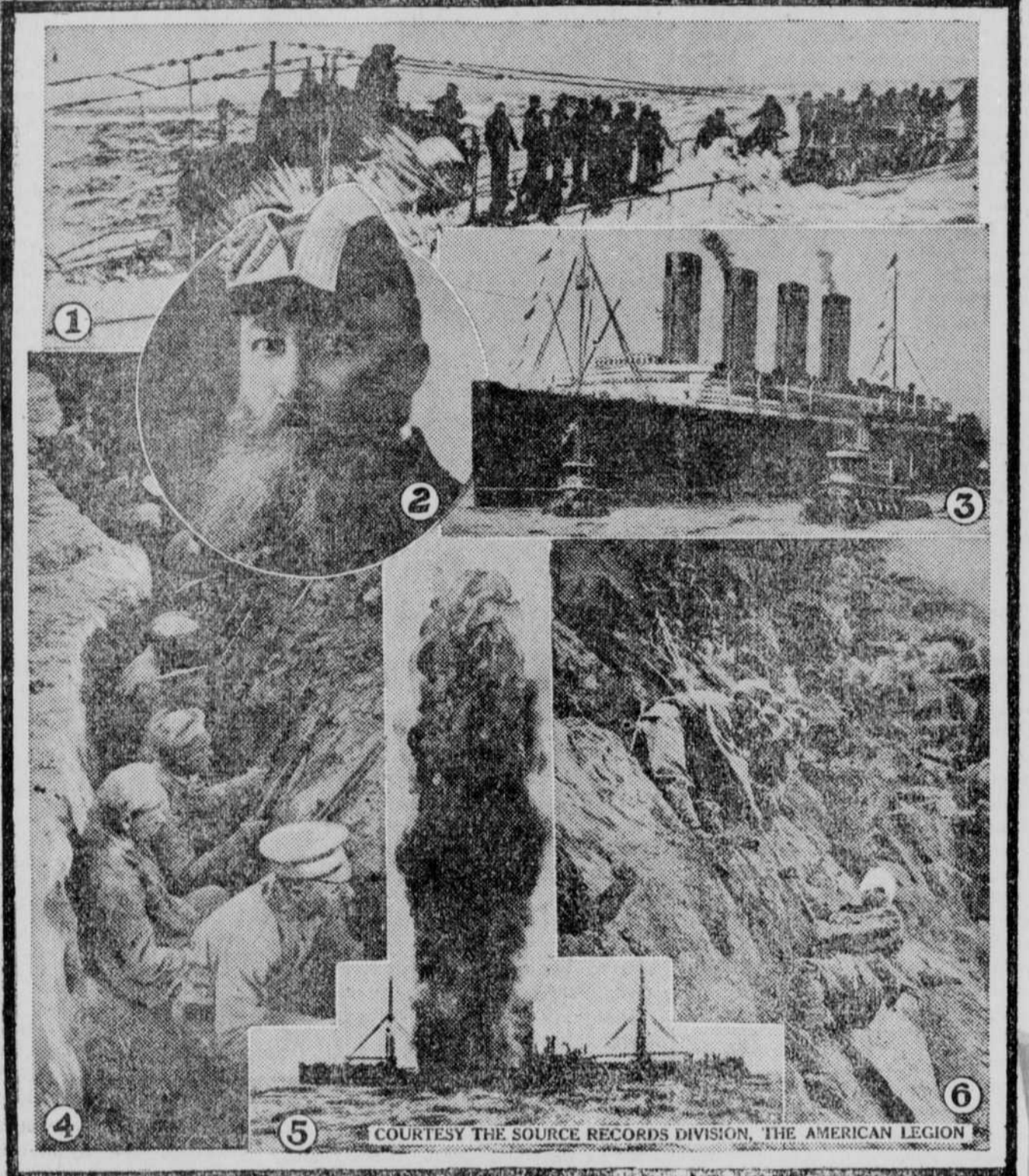
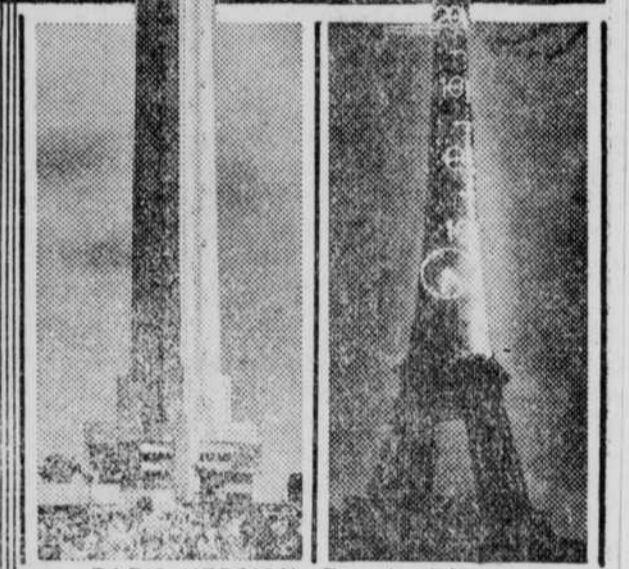


Photo No. 1 a German "U" Boat with its crew prepared to leave its docks to board an Allied vessel on the high seas. No. 2 is Admiral von Tirpitz, the Kaiser's Minister of the Navy. No. 3 the ill fated Lusitania leaving New York on her last voyage. No. 4 Russian soldiers in the trenches in Poland ready for the German. No. 5 an Allied freighter being blown up by a torpedo from a German "U" boat. No. 6 Austrian soldiers lowering one of their wounded down a mountain side.

In The WEEK'S NEWS



JUST LIKE GRACIE ALLEN—She would give George Burns a key to New York City's famous Central Park. Somebody had to celebrate the arrival of summer properly, but George has to keep off the grass just the same.



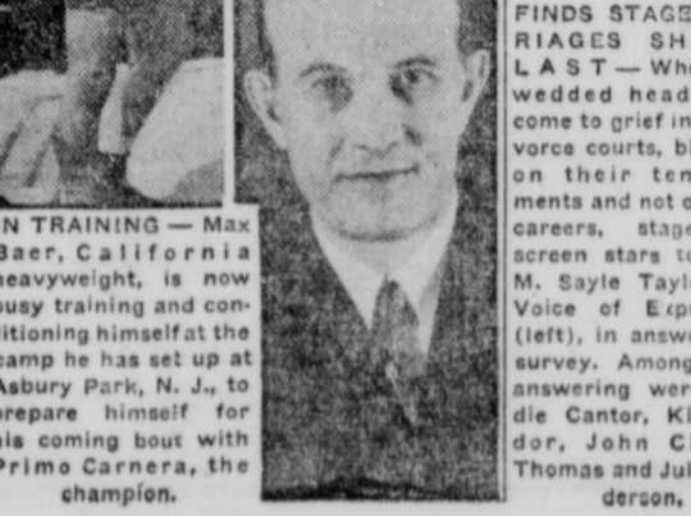
PARIS VERSION—French visitors were so impressed with the giant Havoline Thermometer (left), landmark of both the 1933 and 1934 World's Fair, (right) that they took the idea back with them. Now the Eiffel Tower has been converted into an illuminated thermometer, visible for miles.



IN TRAINING—Max Baer, California heavyweight, is now busy training and conditioning himself at the camp he has set up at Asbury Park, N. J., to prepare himself for his coming bout with Primo Carnera, the champion.



FATHER AND SON IN PRISON—Luke Lea, former United States Senator, and his son, Luke Lea, Jr., dressed in their prison outfits. They were convicted in the failure of the \$17,000,000 Central Bank and Trust Company of Asheville, N. C.



FINDS STAGE MARRIAGES SHOULD LAST—When two wedded headliners come to grief in the divorce courts, blame it on their temperaments and not on their careers, stage and screen stars told Dr. M. Sayle Taylor, the Voice of Experience (left), in answer to a survey. Among those answering were: Eddie Cantor, King Vidor, John Charles Thomas and Julia Sanderson.



"GIT ALONG"—A San Francisco police officer escorting none too gently one of the striking longshoremen after he had attempted to storm the headquarters of strike-breakers.