

Excavation Shows Holt County Was Once The Home of Many Indians

By J. B. O'Sullivan

(Continued from last week.)

Jumping in our late model car, we should arrive at a point near Omaha right away, where Charles Nordin involved himself with the leaving of villagers of long ago and thus adjoined some valuable knowledge and interesting facts.

Nordin is a building contractor and he devotes some time to anthropology and ethnology. He found what he believed the works of people of long ago on the farm of Carroll Saunders, 20 miles west of Omaha, near the Elkhorn river and he plans on extensive investigations as soon as possible.

It was found that Carroll Saunders, about 21, son of the owner of the farm, had picked up many artifacts and in the collection were stone corn meal grinders, needles of bone, skulls and many other things. Part of the finds plainly were left by comparatively modern Indians but 14 houses of part underground construction and several halls or auditoriums indicated the prehistoric people lived there and left a rich material history of their doings.

There is evidence the people cooked their food with charcoal under their pots and what made the place seem very promising to Nordin is the fact the people may have practiced cannibalism during hard times. Bones of human origin in fire-charred condition were found in some of the cooking pots.

While yet we are in Nebraska it may be interesting to note that bones shaped for tools that are from the small three-toed horse, and the like, bones of 150 races of mammals, have been gathered here by members of the American Museum of Natural History, New York City. It has been thought at various times that the oldest traces of man in America had been found here. The finding of the oldest tools would be equivalent to that discovery for Nebraska. Most of these bones are of semi-tropical animals, too. A few of the bones have holes bored lengthwise and some flatwise and some have been polished.

As far as science could determine these tools were used as long as 500 thousand years ago, which is one-half million years. Tools of bone have been found which date back 40 thousand years and others later.

Man must have lived in America much longer than has generally been supposed. Near Frederick, Okla., a type of stone arrowhead is found which seems to date back one-half million years and these points are finely chipped, comparing favorably with the best work of the Egyptians.

It is hard to believe, but convincing evidence is at hand to show man lived in western Nebraska as long as five million years ago. A few thousand years would not be much in the way of time compared to that.

Dr. Earl H. Bell, who works with the Smithsonian and may come to O'Neill some time to see what we have here in the way of anthropological offerings, worked out a series of house ruins near St. Helena last summer and he found the houses measured up to 26 feet across. He pronounced the old homes more comfortable and better constructed, containing more and better tools and implements than those which whites had when they settled Nebraska. More comforts were at hand than some of the whites of today know. Corn was found. The homes there were constructed about 1,000 years ago, newcomers were they when looked at in the light of other finds.

How long this country had been occupied by the aborigine before the coming of civilization is in dispute and a very interesting question. For any one culture to spread itself over that territory which became the United States must have required thousands of years. Take the Mound Builders. Their works are well distributed over the East, we have them here in Holt county and late reports indicate they are incidental to parts of California. It is believed they exist in Oregon.

Those in California are found about one half mile apart in what is known there as the Delta region. Their size is from 400 to 160,000 square feet in area and they are from two to 15 feet in depth having the round or oval shapes. There the works were thrown up to contain human remains.

Both cremations and burials have been found, the burials close to the bottom and the cremations near the tops of the mounds. Artifacts galore are found in the mounds in California. There is a ceremonial type of obsidian spear, volcanic glass, arrowheads of obsidian, chert and quartzite and the workmanship is wonderful. The black obsidian was, in the eyes of the ancients here, valued much less than a red variety rarely found and a few of the spears there are of the red material.

One type of arrowhead found there is known as the "Stockton" type. This is serrated, has teeth on the sides, is slender and a few are five inches long, indicating they are war arrows.

Tobacco pipes found there are tubular, like a cigar, of Steatite, resembling black soapstone, and their length is from one to 12 inches. Some of the other things found there are pestles, mortars, metates, manos, charm stones, discoidal, perforated, rubstones, beads, rings, cooking stones, drills and ceremonial stones. The cooking stones are interesting especially because we may have the same type here. They are a sort of clay spool which were fired and were invented on account of a shortage of suitable natural stone there. So far, at only two points on earth have these spoils been found, along the Sacramento Valley and at the mouth of the great Amazon river. That fact alone should indicate a very wide spread of the Mound Builders. Elsewhere they may have used natural stone in cooking.

The American Indian must have had plenty of everything needed for living a full and happy life before the coming of the invaders and while we know some of this race at present is somewhat slovenly it must be admitted it changed greatly after the white man arrived; the contact changed his characteristics and the race slowly and surely deteriorated.

Near Saginaw, Michigan, there was found a man whose name is lost and who had been captured in Pennsylvania about 25 years before the Revolutionary War and the Indians who held him captive, the Conewaugas, permitted him to write a daily diary in which he wrote:

"They were polite in their own way and although they had good manners they were not accustomed to paying compliments, yet among themselves they were kind and good neighbors and good humored.

"They entertained strangers in the best manner, always giving them the best of food even though they could hardly spare it. They use few titles of honor. In their civil life there were only councilmen, chief or wifemen. These titles were not used in addressing them, but they were greeted as father, grandfather, or uncle, cousin, etc. The common mode of address was 'my friend, brother, cousin, mother or sister.'

"They paid great respect to age. In the military line the titles were only captains or leaders. No one could obtain a place of honor in the tribe except by merit. Either some exploit in war, or wisdom and ability as orator. That was the only way an Indian could get a seat in council. Even in case of merit, they were slow in advancing a member and then only near middle age.

"They invited everyone who came to their village or camp to eat. It was accounted bad manners or antagonism to refuse to eat. They were very tenacious in their mode of dressing and the painting of their faces and bodies and they never changed those fashions.

"They were very fond of tobacco and almost always mixed it with sumac leaves and pulverized red willow bark, killiknick. They made use of the pipe as a symbol of love and friendship. In time of distress they offered sacrifice to the Deity by burning tobacco in the campfire.

"In courtship it was the common thing for the young woman to make suit to the young man, though the first address may be made by the man. It is often related that in ceremony of marriage the man gave the woman a deer's leg and the woman gave the man a red ear of corn, but that was a fictitious legend. The idea was that the husband was to keep his wife in meat and she was to supply in return the bread. But the Indians themselves said they had never heard of this peculiar trading of tokens.

"When they tired of their partners they just went and got another. They have their children under tolerable command. They seldom beat them but the usual punishment was to duck them in ice cold water. Therefore, the children were much more obedient in winter time. They were peaceable and seldom ever wrangled and scolded, excepting when they got drunk. Then they were either very merry or very ill-humored or disorderly, at times even killing each other.

"There were no Indian kings and nothing like a European king. The whites gave that title to Pocohantass, King Powhatan, and in Penn's time Tammannee was supposed to be sort of a king. The chief of a nation was not a monarch or potentate. He could not declare war nor peace. He could not prorogue or adjourn a meeting, nor refuse his consent to the conclusions of a council, nor in any manner control it.

"There was no such thing as hereditary success, no title of nobility nor royal blood was talked of. The chief of a nation had to hunt for his living the same as anyone else.

"They had no penal laws and punishment mainly was by degrading the offender. He was humiliated in the eyes of the tribe and only allowed to do squaw tasks. A young warrior was not supposed to till the ground, help cook or sew, as that was regarded as woman's work. In fact the men did nothing but hunt for game and fight in war.

"They were generous with strangers and with each other. They regarded land in America as practically without value because there is so much of it.

"Contrary to the usual belief, the pioneers did not have opposed to them in warfare large numbers of Indians in army or massed array, as the Indians did not fight that way.

"At no time in the Colonial Period did the white man contend with more than 3,000 Indians fighting them. A small band of warriors could get the best of the Indians method of warfare by surprise attack, hiding behind trees or rocks as against their system of discipline and guerilla warfare.

"The Indians were under good command, acted in union and according to plan. They always scouted the enemy in advance and their line of battle was scattered and often a mile long. When they went into action they fought naked except with breech cloth, leggings and moccasins, so they could travel light and fast. Their object was to kill as many of the enemy as possible while losing few, and they generally made it certain to carry away their own wounded and dead.

"A council always was held to determine when and where the coming battle was to take place. No one had absolute command of an army, but after the fight started each one was expected to do his individual best while directed by an officer by loud shouts which were passed along and obeyed by all.

"They never got into a huddle at any time, but always made an effort at surrounding any enemy they happened to attack. They never started an attack unless they were reasonably sure of victory.

"At times they got the best of 3 to 1 or 5 to 1 of the white fighters by these tactics."

The American Indian, easily the most interesting and mysterious race of people to inhabit the earth, long has puzzled anthropologists and archaeologists as to his point of origin, how he got here or from whence he sprang. Most of the old school believe him of proto-Mongoloid ancestry and some of the newer school actually believe he sprang up on this side of the world and that people in other sections of the earth are descendants of a few who migrated from America.

Some students working the matter out without anything like a written history and examining whatever available facts are at hand think he came here about 25,000 years ago.

All of humanity as a unit have been divided into three grand divisions and these are the Caucasoid, the Negroid and the Mongoloid and it is generally accepted the Indian belongs properly to the Mongoloid division, that they are a branch of this group. It is not inferred they are of Chinese stock, but it does indicate they and the Mongolians sprang from a common ancestry and are of original proto-Mongoloid stock or ancestry.

These holding to this theory gathered many facts to bolster their surmise. Accurately recorded observations included the measuring of physical characteristics, the length and width of the head, the face, size of the nose, the distance between the eyes and the height.

Scholars accepting the theory agree the Indians arrived here in small waves of stragglers by way of the Bering strait and undoubtedly the migrations continued many years and were made for various reasons chief of which was the universal yearning for travel and contact with remote sections of the earth.

It is admitted there are few facts to indicate just when the red man, or more properly, the brown man, first reached the new continent. Some claim man has lived here during the ice age but there is no Neanderthal type of man at hand to prove this. As far as known every ancient skeleton found has been found to be of an Indian and very little different than those of Indians living here today.

Admitting that man did not arrive here until after the age of ice as many suppose, there is left the question of how long afterward did he enter the new land. In fixing the approximate time these men look at the pre-history of the old world and say that about 10,000 years ago those of other countries raised such things as wheat, rice, millet, barley and domesticated sheep, cattle and hogs, and that since it is concluded the Indians came from some of those countries in Asia it would be only natural they carried the seeds or drove some of the animals along.

It must be admitted it remained for the Europeans in the 15th and 16th centuries to introduce those things mentioned, to the Indians, and they never had seen them before.

Developing an accurate picture of what took place here before advent of the whites is a mighty slow but fascinating and adventurous system of building history and the little things often found are of absorbing interest. Here and there someone gets on some apparently inconsequent line of investigation and discovers things well worth while.

There is J. Wayman, a superintendent of schools at Naponee, Nebraska, who found a note in an ink bottle eight feet below the surface of the ground while digging Indian relics. The earth there had settled and came out only in large chunks.

This note bore date of April 10, 1868 and while later than one would expect for mentioning burial places of the type excavated, investigation revealed the information substantially correct. Beads were found near the bottle and scattered in the ground the same as in ossuaries used before the Indians had seen or traded with the whites.

(Continued next week.)

Nebraska News Items

According to William Paegelar, of near Cedar Bluffs, he saw a bull snake and male pheasant struggling and went to get his father. When he returned, both the snake and pheasant were dead, the snake's body tightly wound about the bird.

One eye was lost to Horace Haskins, farmer near Belden, when a cow he was leading suddenly swung her head and sent a prong of a horn into the eye. It is feared the sight of the other eye may be affected.

At Albion, 22 persons have asked for old age pensions and county officials there feared the cost of collecting the tax might be more than the receipts.

Some kerosene was drunk by Billie Shellhorst, small boy, at Dodge, from a brooder lamp. He choked, the oil working to his lungs. Now he has pneumonia.

At Neligh, John Porath, 79, committed suicide by drinking poison.

At Gordon, W. Maddox, W. Pfeiffer and R. Hoos dug out a den made by coyotes and found three coyote and four part dog and part coyote pups. Maddox kept two of each. The part coyotes are friendly, the others, savage.

C. A. Sorenson, ex-attorney general of Nebraska, has filed as a republican candidate for governor. Other republican candidates are Theodore Metcalfe and Dwight Griswold.

E. R. Johnson has received his commission as postmaster at Butte, Boyd county. He will fill the position June 1.

Elkhorn valley wild hay men indicated the 1934 hay crop is almost certain to be short but a fair yield may be harvested if rain comes within two weeks.

Fishermen who prefer frogs have resorted to grasshoppers. Angle worms also are scarce. Fish were reported to be biting greedily because their natural food is scarce.

Federal Re-Employment Director Cornell says there are employed now, 5,500 men on Nebraska highways and 600 on Missouri river work. Last week, state figures indicate, Holt county placed 101 men and three women at work.

Two sticks of dynamite wrapped in a newspaper were thrown into the entryway and merely burned out, at the newly opened Fox Hunt club at Omaha.

Bobby, young son of Mr. and Mrs. A. Ackerman, of Bridgeport, was shot at the base of his tongue by a BB gun as he spit shot in the muzzle to load it. The pellet is lodged and the boy is having trouble talking and swallowing food. Now his tongue is grooved.

A bottle containing carbolic acid upset and broke, throwing the fiery liquid over the lower legs of Wilma Kirstine, 12, of Meadow Grove. She was seriously burned.

Joe Cook, one of the lawyers in the Flannigan cases here about two years ago, successfully defended Don Cowles, Fremont barber, against a manslaughter charge resulting from an automobile accident, and now Joe wants Dodge county to pay him an attorney fee of \$500.

Dale, small son of Mr. and Mrs. Guy Farrens, of Arlington, died of lockjaw contracted thru a small sliver.

James Dobrey is to go on trial at Schuyler June 4 for the alleged slaying of William Henesch, 30 years his junior. Dobrey is said to have been jealous of Henesch's attention to Catherine Vondra, school teacher.

Remember the old fashioned platforms of 1932 which stood for economy and less government in business?

The number of automobiles traveling highway No. 281, south and north through here, is said to be greater than the number traveling the east-west No. 20.

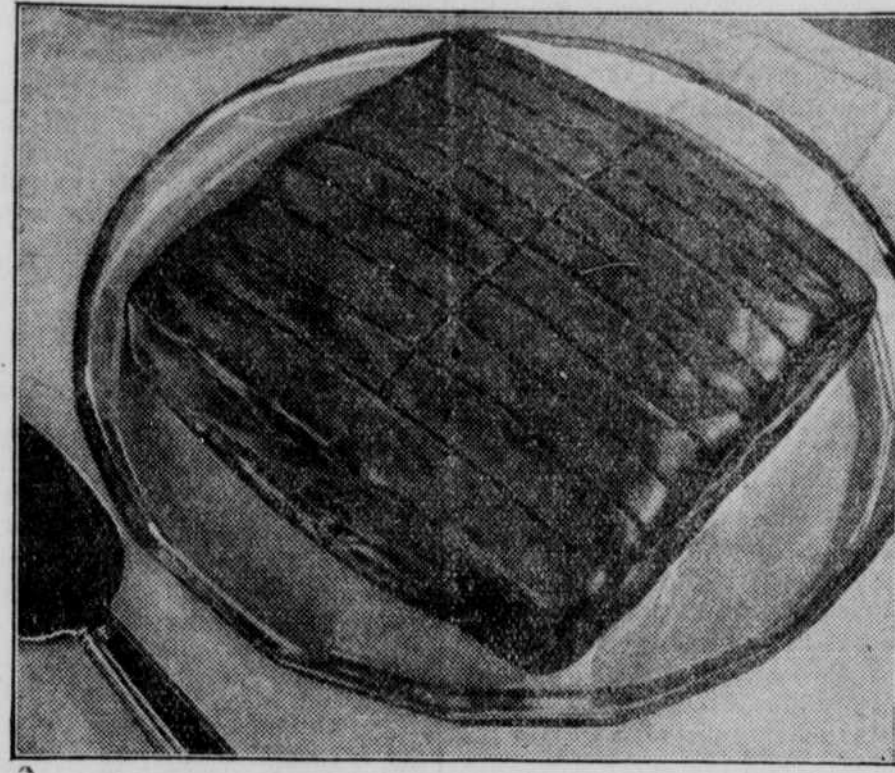
A scientist says that men and women learn better at forty-five than at fifteen. The trouble is that at forty-five they have done most of their learning, and what they get from then on doesn't do much good.

There is an old saying that you never can tell what a woman will do but the same thing applies to a state legislature.

It is remarkable how the real Republicans have commenced sticking out their chests and perking up since the Pennsylvania primary.

Some people are expecting General Johnson of the NRA to do some "cracking down" while others seem to believe that the NRA itself will soon do some cracking up.

Cakes That Can Go to Picnics



HERE is a cake that can stay at home or can go to a picnic—with its luscious chocolate icing as well!

This is how you take a Holiday Cake to a picnic: After it is baked, remove from the pan and let it cool. Then return it to the pan, wrap pan in waxed paper and tie it up.

Make the frosting a few days ahead of time, if you prefer. Put it in the ice-box in tightly covered jar. Pack it with the picnic lunch and frost cake at picnic grounds.

But—if you are asked to bring the cake for a big picnic, a Chocolate Nut Loaf is the cake to take, for it is a big cake.

Chocolate Wonder Frosting
 3 ounces (1 package) cream cheese
 2 to 3 tablespoons milk
 2 cups sifted confectioners' sugar
 2 squares unsweetened chocolate, melted

Dash of salt
 Soften cream cheese with milk. Add sugar, one cup at a time, blending after each addition. Add chocolate and salt and beat until smooth. Makes enough frosting to cover tops of two 8-inch layers, or top and sides of 8x8x2-inch cake, or about 2 dozen cup cakes.

Holiday Cake
 2 cups sifted cake flour
 2 teaspoons combination baking powder
 ¼ teaspoon salt
 4 tablespoons butter or other shortening
 1 cup sugar
 1 egg, unbeaten
 1 cup nut meats, chopped
 ½ cup milk
 1 teaspoon vanilla

Chocolate Nut Loaf
 2½ cups sifted cake flour
 ¼ teaspoon salt
 1 teaspoon soda
 1 cup butter or other shortening
 2 cups sugar
 5 eggs, well beaten
 1 cup walnut meats, coarsely broken
 3 squares unsweetened chocolate, melted
 1 cup sour milk or buttermilk
 2 teaspoons vanilla

Sift flour once, measure, add salt and soda, and sift together three times. Cream butter thoroughly, add sugar gradually, and cream together until light and fluffy. Add eggs and beat well. Add nuts and chocolate and blend. Add flour, alternately with milk, a small amount at a time, beating after each addition until smooth. Add vanilla. Bake in greased loaf pan, 12x8x3 inches, in slow oven (325°F.) 1 hour, or until done. Serve plain, or spread Chocolate Frosting on top of cake. This frosting is sufficient to cover only the top of the above cake.

Beatrice Fairfax Analyzes Laments of Alimony Husbands



Donald Cook confesses to Barbara Stanwyck that it's all his fault, which, according to Beatrice Fairfax is one of the best ways of avoiding marital troubles.

"It's all my own fault."

THAT'S the one lament never heard at the Alimony Jail, reports Beatrice Fairfax, after visiting that stronghold of the unhappily married to gather new material for her heart problem dramas on the NBC red network every Saturday at 9:30 p. m. Eastern Daylight Saving Time.

"Every one of those bitter, unhappy husbands was full of complaints—against life—against mothers-in-law—wives, children and famous authority on love and happiness, who has made it her mission in life to cure the heartaches that make headlines and spoil lives.

"If our lives had been different, married life would have been perfect," said these men who are embittered with matrimony. They failed to recognize the truth that the first step in getting on with other folks is to get on with ourselves. When home life is unpleasant, it doesn't do any good to say that the trouble would be cured if someone else would change. But even a husband in an alimony jail can make himself over into the kind of person who would be happier, if he'd stop bemoaning his tough luck. By dramatizing the folly of self pity in my radio dramas, I give self number one for happiness."