

Excavation Shows Holt County Was Once The Home of Many Indians
By J. B. O'Sullivan

(Continued from last week.)
South of the Sullivan farm is the old Cronin farm where three huge depressions in the earth often caused D. H. Cronin to speculate on the identity of those who seem to have lost a battle with nature in attempting to tame the prairies. A nationally known archaeologist told Mr. Cronin, had he excavated the floors of these basins, he would have found relic material that would have proved the places man made and occupied over a long period of time. Just what these depressions

were used for is not clear in this quarter. Their situation, size, shape and proximity to residence-size-hollows would suggest they were kivas, ceremonial rooms, "moving picture" houses, church, council houses, forts, communal dwellings, water basins or clay pits or perhaps something not even guessed by anyone. They must be the work of Mound Builders, who disappeared about 2,000 years ago, but they are undoubtedly the precursors of the Indians and may have been made thousands or hundreds of years ago. The old ideas of constructions may have prevailed a long time after the originators perished. A few arrowheads from these pits would yield a great amount of knowledge of

mighty interesting Holt countyans whose advent and exit have been hidden in the mists of time.
Bushels of arrowpoints made of the iron hoops of whiskey barrels were traded the Indians and these were so superior, bending instead of breaking, that the stone chippers ceased their labors around 75 years ago. One government archaeologist stated one may see stone points made today in New Mexico, but it is not known if old methods are used or what degree of skill is attained.
John Gruetsch, Jr., living on the old Kimborough ranch 18 miles northwest of here, has a wonderful collection of stone things left in fields there by ancients. John has a few of the finest ornamental stones, one crystal quartz bead that is worked, is almost as clear as water. He has many arrowheads that are of Pawnee manufacture. There are several fields on this ranch that yield bits of pottery, knives, scrapers and much broken stuff. There is much prairie in the vicinity and it is predicted sometime remains of one or more large villages will be found, perhaps on Honey creek, the Eagle or at the conjunction of the two. The Eagle has eaten its basin so deep and wide in its swift race to the sea, it must have wiped out nearly every trace of former occupancy.
A few months ago, William Gruetsch found a stone, rounded like a bowling ball, about that size and having two holes that correspond to finger and thumb holes on a bowling ball. It may have been used for some other purpose than one might guess. It could have been used as a pestle in a mortar to grind corn and rolled down hill it would be ideal for scattering enemies.
On the Fritz Green ranch, a few miles west of the Gruetsch ranch, several fields promise a great amount of relic material in the future, when prairie land is broken. A great many rough chunks of stone believed used as war and hunting club heads are found there. A few show signs of having been handled with thong and stick. The culture who used these must have been close to cave-folk, shiftless or very ignorant, or perhaps, too smart to do work not absolutely necessary.
Gliding down the Eagle valley to the ranch of John A. Robertson, where are two hill-tops that Mr. Robertson suggested may have been man-made, it may be stated these have not been

examined but the description available indicates Mound Builder burials and there must be many smaller works in this vicinity.
Out in the Redbird country home-steaders tell of an earthwork wall that is called an old fort. Time is said to have obliterated this interesting work and it is hoped artifacts left in the vicinity may be found to give clues to the identity of the folk who seem to have had big ideas a long time ago.
Reports were made a year ago of another supposed old fort somewhere in the upper Eagle section but no search has been made for this. Forts in the days before the whites arrived are believed a rarity, yet there are ruins known to have been thrown up for protection. It would appear that most of the grades, causeways or narrow hills built by so-called savages were for ceremonial purposes. There are many leads pointing to Aztec influence among the Pawnee and cultures down south are known to have spent a great part of their time performing ceremonials, beheading some prisoner in style, carving the heart from some beauty at break of day or casting selected girls into some black pool in the bowels of the earth to appease some god or atone for some shortcoming.
Away out south of Atkinson there is, according to several persons, a huge sand hill on which lay many artifacts. These are exposed after rains and winds. This hill is not thought to have been built by man, but the great number of stone things said to have been found there would point to an old burial ground. Some tribes placed their chiefs at the top of some hill and warriors and hunters and the stone chippers and so on, on the sides, the less important near the bottom of the hill. It is not thought this was done here. There are no hills. It does seem strange there are no mounds near O'Neill while there are so many along the Eagle.
The earth used there is the most durable kind of gumbo. Here sands flit about. Works of sand or loam could not have endured. But a few feet down in many places a similar gumbo is found in generous quantities. The Indians made pottery of it. A cigar-box full of potsherds was found on the Elkhorn and is intact here today. Why is it no mounds have been found near O'Neill?
It could have been the ancients who were at O'Neill had different burial and construction ideas than had those who possessed the Eagle valley. Or, they may have built mounds and they have been flattened by the elements. A low mound style, perhaps 12 inches high, like hundreds in Michigan, may have been made here. One of this style would be hard to locate now. Bones plowed from the earth would lead to belief such work had been disturbed.
Startling artifacts or pieces come to light frequently, if one spends much time searching out secrets of unknown and extinct people. In the Elkhorn one summer day, William Hammond, Jr., found an entire arrowhead. Later, up stream, was found a small cemetery, perhaps a clue to a very extensive one, because the ground a mile back from the water is virgin sod. No one knows what may be found there when the ground is broken years from now when population compels everyone to farm as intensively as is now done in China.
Lumps of mixed clay, wood-ashes, fine sand, or crushed musselshell or ground rock, or again crushed pieces of old pottery for temper, mixed with water, were found here and for a long time mystified those who found them. One day an expert came along and he explained that the women made the pottery and after a day at the kilns they gossiped and while doing so many formed the habit of nervously working a nodule of unburned pottery mixture in their hands, finally tossing them aside and making for their permanent lodges, some swimming hole, or, to some other task. These nodules of varying size now are like rock.
A young lad named Langan, now living on Eagle creek, exhibited here recently a small circular gun-spring of brass which appears to be hundreds of years old. From the twists in parts of this spring it seems some Indian had fashioned ear-rings. There were a few arrowheads, broken, and a piece of small child's skull, still bearing green paint, in this cache found north of Chambers several years ago.
(Continued next week.)

Church Loyalty Crusade which the churches of Nebraska are putting on during the pre-Easter season.
Next Tuesday evening at 7:30 the Rev. Paul Hillman will preach for us and open our evangelistic campaign. This is the first time O'Neill will have the opportunity to hear him and we bespeak a large congregation.
Friday and Saturday of next week a party of our Leaguers will attend the mid-winter institute at Osmond. To help meet the expense a play will be given at the church next Monday evening. See notice in another column.

erty hereinafter described was fore-closed, I, Forrest Lear, as Special Master of said Court, by virtue of the authority in me vested as such Master, will sell at public auction to the highest bidder for cash, at the Court-house in Holt county, Nebraska, at the City of O'Neill, Holt county, Nebraska, at the usual place where sheriff's sales of land are made in said county, on the 14th day of February, 1934, at 11:00 o'clock in the forenoon, the following real property described in the bill of complaint and decree in said cause, situated in the County of Holt, and State of Nebraska, to-wit: The Northwest Quarter (NW 1/4), and the West Half of the Northeast Quarter (W 1/2 NE 1/4) of Section numbered Twenty-one (21), Township numbered Twenty-seven (27), North, Range numbered Nine (9), West of the 6th P. M., containing in all 240 acres, more or less, according to Government Survey in Holt county, Nebraska. To satisfy the lien described in said decree as follows, to-wit: In favor of the Penn Mutual Life Insurance Company, in the sum of \$5,330.50, with interest thereon at the rate of ten per cent (10%) per annum from the 7th day of December, 1933, and to satisfy the sum of \$75.68 costs and the accruing costs, all as provided by said decree and order of sale. Said sale will be held open for one hour.

DEBTS or Dollars—one can be accumulated as easily as the other. Which will prove of the most benefit in the years to come?

THE O'NEILL NATIONAL BANK
Capital, Surplus and Undivided Profits, \$125,000.00
This bank carries no indebtedness of officers or stockholders.

HOME TALENT PLAY

The one act play "Out of the Fog" will be given at the M. E. church Monday, February 12. Admission 25 cents. This is an interesting play centering around the story of two boys who find themselves confined to the house on a foggy day, and who think the entertainment provided by their mother too tame. So they concoct a plan which has unlocked for results. In addition to the play there will be other numbers including the Girl's and Boy's glee clubs from the high school.

BRIEFLY STATED

Its a short road that has no turn-over.
Hay haulers report ungraded roads rough.
John Fuchs, of Wall, S. D., was here last Friday.
Several boys are building log cabins on the Elkhorn.
Mrs. Maurice Johnson has recovered good health after a brief illness.
Mrs. Irl Hicks entertained the Delta Deck Club last Wednesday evening.
Mrs. C. F. McKenna entertained the Martez Club last Monday evening.
L. V. Rasmussen, of near Harrison, Nebraska, had business here last Friday.
R. O. Anderson, of Ewing, was look-after business matters in this city last Tuesday.
Even a large crop of wild oats is assured under heavy and frequent irrigation.
Mrs. H. J. Hammond entertained a party with bridge at her home last Tuesday evening.
E. H. Allmond, of Auburn, Nebr., was in the Holt county seat on business last week.
Mr. and Mrs. J. L. Kratzert, of Grand Island, came here to attend to business last Friday.
Spring poetry: Soon naked trees shall make graceful boughs to rising and dancing saplings.
Charles Johnson, of Plainview, was in O'Neill last Sunday calling on friends and relatives.
According to Harry Bowen, a temperature of 59 above zero was registered here last Thursday.
The Grattan township corn-hog meeting was held Saturday in the public school building here.
Mr. and Mrs. Wilton Hayne, of Page, visited Sunday here at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Roy Johnson.
Reports of robins being seen here in town and country were made Sunday. The evidence could not be corroborated.
Peter W. Duffy, Holt county sheriff, was at Lincoln several days last week on business in connection with his office.
About 52 friends partook of an oyster supper at the Lett Johnson farm home west of town last Thursday evening.
Tom Edwards, who injured his back lifting a chunk of coal about ten days ago, obtained considerable relief the last few days. As he swung a large piece of coal, another lump on which his foot rested, turned, causing undue strain on back muscles.

FORREST LEAR,
Special Master.

(First publication Feb. 1, 1934.)
NOTICE OF FINAL SETTLEMENT
Estate No. 2305

In the County Court of Holt county, Nebraska, January 30, 1934. In the matter of the Estate of John Moler, Deceased. All persons interested in said estate are hereby notified that the Administrator with the Will annexed, of said estate has filed in said court his final report and a petition for final settlement and distribution of the residue of said estate; and that said report and petition will be heard February 21, 1934, at 10 o'clock A. M., at the County Court Room in O'Neill, Nebraska, when all persons interested may appear and be heard concerning said final report and the distribution of said estate.

C. J. MALONE,
County Judge.
(County Court Seal) 37-3

LOST AND FOUND

Strayed—White face yearling steer, weight about 400—Lee Taylor, Opportunity. 38-1

HELP WANTED

Man Wanted to supply customers with Well Known Baker Products in Holt county. Business established. Car required.—Write S. F. Baker & Co., Keokuk, Iowa. 38-4

FOR RENT

Three rooms.—Mrs. Viola Morgan.
For Rent or Sale—The Charles Wrede ranch. Consists of 1,800 acres. See John or Charles Wrede. 35-4p

FOR SALE

Two hundred and fifty egg (Super Hatcher) incubator, good as new; price \$15.00. Inquire at this office. 37-

Washing machine motor; used radiators for Dodge, Star and Chevrolet 4-cylinder; also rebuild generators for any make car; 4-wheel trailer.—At Vic Halva's Shop. 38-1p

Give you eyes a "New Deal." Get new glasses now before prices advance. See Perrigo Optical Company at Golden Hotel, Saturday, February 10. 37-2

Diamonds-Watches-Jewelry
Expert Watch Repairing
O. M. HERRE--Jeweler
In Reardon Drug Store

W. F. FINLEY, M. D.
Phone, Office 28
O'Neill :: Nebraska

DR. J. P. BROWN
Office Phone 77
Complete X-Ray Equipment
Glasses Correctly Fitted
Residence Phone 223

Dr. F. A. O'CONNELL
DENTIST
GUARANTEED WORK
MODERATE PRICES
O'NEILL :: NEBRASKA

PENNEY'S On the Job from Coast to Coast!
WORK CLOTHES!

Fleeced Lined SWEATERS
Just right for chilly spring mornings. 69c
Waist Band OVERALLS
The kind that give lots of wear. 98c
NATION-WIDE Cotton Flannel GLOVES
per pair 10c

Okay, MEN! Here They Are!
"OXHIDE" OVERALLS
Boys' Sizes 59c **89c**
Yes, the utmost in overall value! Wear—comfort—convenience—low price! Strong, durable fabrics, triple-stitched, bar-tacked! And lots of pockets—where you want them!



Storm Welt! RETAN LEATHER WORK SHOES
\$1.98
Made for service—priced for savings! Composition soles! Leather insoles, midsoles, counters! Moisture resisting!



ROCKFORD SOX
3 pairs for 25c
MOLESKIN PANTS For Service
per pair \$1.49
MENS Heavy Weight Cotton Fleeced UNIONS
only 98c



You'll Save BIG! WORK SHOES
Genuine Retan Uppers!
\$1.79
Composition soles! Leather insoles! Leather midsoles! Leather counters! Penney's rubber heels!

"J.C.P." Blue Chambray Work Shirts
Boys' Sizes 39c **49c**
MEN know the "J.C.P." label means full cut, long wear and lowest possible price. Button-through pockets. Sizes 14 1/2-17. Compare this value!



36-in. MEN'S Sheeplined MOLESKIN COAT
Large Wambino collar—and well made!
\$3.98

J. C. PENNEY CO. Inc.
O'NEILL, NEBRASKA