

Dr. Earl H. Bell Publishes Article on Excavated City

Discoveries at Lynch, Nebraska Progress Slowly at First, Then Rapidly After Finding Traces of Ancient Indian Civilization.

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LYNCH, Neb.—Before we can more accurately estimate the age of our ancient buried village near Lynch, Neb., many more tons of earth must be removed. The work, however, of excavating this old Indian settlement is progressing rapidly, and we have every reason to believe that much needed scientific information will be obtained from this site before the summer is over.

This is the first time that any University of Nebraska excavating party has ever worked in the eastern Niobrara region, and I owe the good fortune of finding this site to one of my graduate students, George Wilcox, also a member of the excavating party, who brought me several boxes of arrow points, pieces of pottery and other artifacts which he had obtained near Lynch. Even a casual look at the pottery convinced me that this material was different from anything I had ever seen before. A few weeks later we drove to Lynch and I was amazed to see a site of such promise and in less than an hour I decided to bring a field party to this vicinity during the summer months.

Prepare for Work.

Days of preparation followed. The eight boys whom I planned to take had to be selected with care. They had to be able and willing to work, and above all to be intensely interested in the work of the expedition. On the morning of June 11, we established camp near our present site and began digging the same afternoon.

For a week things did not go well. The field was covered with surface material, and artifacts were found as much as eighteen inches below the surface. Nevertheless everything looked wrong. The plow had disturbed the soil and I had understood that in some places on the bluffs cultivated fields had eroded as much as six inches in one year. By the end of the week I had

not found any house pits. We therefore decided to sink a test pit into an uncultivated field nearby but again nothing showed up. I went deeper and the spade grated against something hard. I took out my trowel and found the bottom of the hole almost completely paved with pottery and flint chips. My first thought was that I had found an ancient house. We dug another pit farther up on the slope but found nothing but undisturbed soil. Then I felt sure the first pit had gone into a house.

Party Pursues Findings.

Our next move was to start a trench from my first pit and dig in the direction of the second. To my surprise, instead of ending, the stratum of dark earth not only continued but thickened and went deeper, that is, it became covered by an increasing thickness of clean undisturbed material. By now I could hardly wait for the progress of the trench. We then began to enlarge the second pit. As I dug deeper in this second hole my shovel uncovered fragments of pottery far below the clean yellow sand which I believe no man has ever disturbed. Undoubtedly the pieces of pottery were there before they were covered by undisturbed soil. On top of this clean yellow sand were twelve inches of soil somewhat darkened by long years of vegetation.

Discover Ancient City.

There was no recent accumulation. These remains have been there long before white men came. I wrote Dr. Willem Van Royen, physiographer of the University of Nebraska, with whom I have collaborated on archaeological-physiographic problems for the past five years, and asked him to come out. Dr. Van Royen and I while making surveys in other parts of the state had found old soil zones in low stream terraces and under accumulations of windblown sand. It is important to note that most of Nebraska's sand dunes are now "dead," that is, they are covered with grass and other vegetation except where man has disturbed them by building roads or making trails or by over grazing. Obviously climatic conditions must have been drier many centuries ago when the sands on top of our

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main culture horizon were deposited.

Climatic Changes Help.

Other scientists, notably Paul Sears of the University of Oklahoma, have looked at peat bogs through microscopes and found grains of pollen preserved there. Strangely, Sears found that these peat bogs carried a story of four major climatic periods since the waning of the last continental glaciation. Each of these periods lasted several thousand years. The pollen told the story, since during the different kinds of climate different kinds of plants appear. We find conditions in the terraces and sandhills which can best be interpreted as being the result of these post glacier climatic changes.

According to the peat bogs, previous to the present climate there was a long period of drier climate. We think the Nebraska terraces and sandhills tell the same story, and we may add it is possible that the village on Ponca creek was buried by the shifting sands which resulted from the more arid conditions which probably prevailed thousands of years ago. We suggest this only as a working hypothesis. We do know, however, that even now, dry as it is at the present time, where man has not interfered the soil is held beneath a blanket of vegetation. Such could not have been the case when our village was buried. Regardless of what we may discover to be the true age of the site, we know that it was buried during a much longer and much more severe drought than the present, and that it was before the invasion of the present Indians known as the Ponca. We also know that the covering on the top of the hills where we are digging has been there long enough that growing vegetation has stained the soil dark for a depth of 12 inches.

MISS SHANAFELT GOES TO PUPPETRY MEETING

(Continued from Page 1.) will be held in the Institute of Art building at Detroit. Enroute home Miss Shanafelt will visit the University of Chicago, the Kellogg bird sanctuary at Battle Creek, will stop at Chicago and will also visit the Milwaukee museum and zoo.

LUTHERANS TO HOLD SECOND PICNIC FRIDAY

The second all-Lutheran student picnic will be held Friday evening at 5:30 at Van Dorn park, Rev. H. Erck, Lutheran student pastor, announced. Students from all Lutheran synods are invited to meet in front of the Temple theater at 5:30. Those possessing cars are asked to bring them.

Chaperons for the affair will be Rev. and Mrs. Erck and Rev. and Mrs. R. E. Rangelier.

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HIGH SCHOOL SUMMER PUPILS TO PRESENT CONCERTS AS FINALE

(Continued from Page 1) these final performances: "The concerts will be the most artistic that have ever been given by the groups." The program for the band concert:

Part I.
March, H. S. Pride, Pinard.
Overture, "Safari," Holmes.
Cornet Duet, "The Solo Flight," Chenette.
Suite, "Atlantis," Safranek; I. Nocturne and Morning Hymn of Praise; II. A Court Function; III. "Love Thee"; IV. Destruction of Atlantis.
Children's March, Goldman.

Part II.
Overture, "Mirella," Gounod.
Selection "Beauties of Erin," Arr. by Lake.
Suite, "Ballet Egyptien," Luigini; I. Allegro non troppo; II. Allegretto; III. Andante sostenuto; IV. Andante espressivo, Allegro non troppo.
Marche Triumphale "Huldigung," (Jorsalfar) Greig.

Program for the all-state chorus concert:

Prelude to Act III, "Kunihild," Kistler.
(a) Up! Up My Heart, Bach.
(b) Jesu dulcis memoria, Victoria.

(c) Exaltate Deo, Palestrina.
(d) I Sat Down Under His Shadow, Bairstow.

(e) Easter, Gibbs.
Duet for Flute and Horn, "Serenade"; Babs Cheney, flute; Roger Manners, horn; William Gant, at the piano.

(a) Reverie, Fouconier.
(b) Sarabande, Handel.
String ensemble conducted by

Emanuel Wishnow.
Solo for bassoon, First Movement of Concerto Mozart, Mueller, (small orchestra accompaniment.)
Overture to "Merry Wives of Windsor," Nicolai.
(a) The Farmer's Daughters, Arr. Williams.
(b) The Wind-Brinde, Brahms.
(c) Rantin' Rovin' Robin, Arr. Samsel.
(d) On the Plains, Weelkes.
(e) Szecho-Slovakian Dance Song, Arr. Manney.
Marche Slave, Tschaikowsky.

SUMMER SURVEY CAMP TO ENTERTAIN SUNDAY

(Continued from Page 1.) and Red Cross life saving classes. Each student is required to pass a swimming test before credit for the surveying course is given.

Camp Nebraska is reached by highway No. 6. Visitors who wish to view the results of the practical field experience of the twenty-eight student engineers will turn north from highway No. 6, approximately two miles northeast of the Lincoln waterworks pumping station, east of Ashland.

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