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Our Fun 1000,000 Years Ago.

The "Clubman" Sneaking Home in the Wee Small Hours of a Primeval Morning.



Torturing the Mammoth, a Great Joke (Just Like the Bull Ring) Stoning Bad Musicians to Death a Favorite Jest (We Still Egg Bad Actors) Buying Fossil Shells the Delight of the Rich (It's Antiques To-day) And Women Wore Just as Funny Hats as Now!

EVERY one more or less looks back upon our prehistoric infancy as a time of terrific strife, bloodshed and brutality.

The cave-man has been depicted as constantly going about with a club in his hand and murder in his heart. Men's lives, and their wives, it has been understood, were then at the mercy of whomever was strong enough to take them.

The condition of the cave-woman was particularly distressing. It has been thought, indeed, that Cupid's target in those days was the head

feature about it being that it isn't true! At least, according to a remarkable series of analyses made by Professor De Foux, an eminent authority on matters prehistoric, the ancient dwellings of the cave-dwellers in Europe indicate that a million years ago we lived and loved pretty much as we do now.

M. De Foux has discovered that we were not shaggy, brutal people, of a color indeterminate, because we had not shed our ape-like hair, and we did not have pointed ears. On the contrary, we were white, had smooth skins and ears very much like those of to-day. Incidentally, we all had red hair, a fact which in-

cities whose heads are very much the same as those brutal looking skulls."

The cave-men even had a sense of humor. The French scientist gives some extraordinary instances of our jokes of a million years ago. They have been perpetuated in the shape of bones, skeletons, pits, drawings on the walls of caves and other fragments of those ancient days which have been found in the dwell-

ings of a pit just big enough to hold him, with cave-men assailing him with stones and arrowheads are numerous.

This pastime of "mobbing the mammoth" evidently filled our early ancestors with as much delight as the modern bull fight affords our Spanish and Mexican friends, for the carvings show that the function was well attended by spectators of both sexes.

According to M. De Foux, our troglodytic ancestors were club men in more senses than one. There is plenty of evidence of their convivial gatherings, and though the cup that cheered their prehistoric souls was nothing more inviting than the skulls of their enemies, containing a brew of brains and pottage, it seems to have answered the purpose very well. In a cave at Gourdan, France, have been dug up several of these broken skulls bearing the marks of flint knives. It is thought likely that (after the manner of some modern savages) these skulls were used as drinking cups, and the brains they had contained were mixed in pottage and partaken of as a great delicacy. This is a common practise among the head-hunters of the Philippines.

That this concoction had an intoxicating effect is quite probable, for some of the pictures on the cave walls portraying groups of these early bon vivants imbibing from the skulls indicate that some of the participants in the orgy were decidedly "under the weather."

How our inebriated forebears managed to find their way home after a celebration of this kind may better be imagined than described. It could not have been the easiest task under the most favorable circumstances to make one's way over the enormous boulders which marked the path to their crude cave dwellings, but with a cargo of brain-stew aboard in the bargain the journey must have been difficult in the extreme. One can imagine, perhaps, the enraged spouse in the cave lying in wait for her erring chief, with a boulder in one hand and the jawbone of a cave bear in the other, peering through the small opening which formed the entrance at the convivial cave man directing his zig-zag footsteps toward his humble dwelling in the wee, small hours of a primeval morning!

Recent research reveals, too, that our cave-dwellers were not unfamiliar with the pains of various diseases which afflict the present generation. One may well imagine that they became more or less immune to colds by reason of their constant exposure to the elements, but that they suffered from dyspepsia, gout and rheumatism is amply confirmed by the thickened condition of their joints and similar significant symptoms presented by their skeletons.

And if one imagines that the mandates of Dame Fashion are all of modern origin, the investigations of M. De Foux would seem to indicate that the idea is quite erroneous.

It may have been modesty which impelled the cave-woman to clothe her nakedness, but it was certainly vanity which suggested the elaborate costumes in which she attired herself at times.

skins of reindeer, made supple by rubbing them with marrow, and after being scraped and smoothed were cut in accordance with the prevailing fashion of the moment and sewed together with bone needles and tendon threads. Many of the scrapers and smoothers employed in preparing the hides have been found in the caves and marks of flint knives on reindeer leg-bones show where the tendons were detached for the purpose mentioned. The bone needles have been found in large numbers. They were not much longer than the steel needles used to-day, and were pierced with eyes.

For ornamentation these gowns were decorated with various kinds of marine shells, the teeth of bears and tigers, plates of ivory and beads of clay d-fied in the sun and colored with various pigments. Fragments of necklaces and bracelets have been dug up in a number of places. On a skeleton in the

passed in exchange from tribe to tribe until they reached the valleys of Perigord. Only such traffic could account for an oyster shell from the Red Sea dug up in another French cave.

In these days when the chief occupation of the men was hunting and fishing, the implements of the chase must have been the principal articles of wealth. The man who possessed a dozen assorted flint-heads may have been considered in moderate circumstances, while the ownership of a dozen reindeer-horn daggers would mark a man as being comfortably "fixed." What these must be thought of the prehistoric Morgan who owned 20,000 flint hatchets and reindeer daggers? His cave has been found at Chauvoux, while that of the paleolithic Rockefeller, recently revealed at Ferigord, contained an equally large number of flint spearheads and various tools made of reindeer antler.

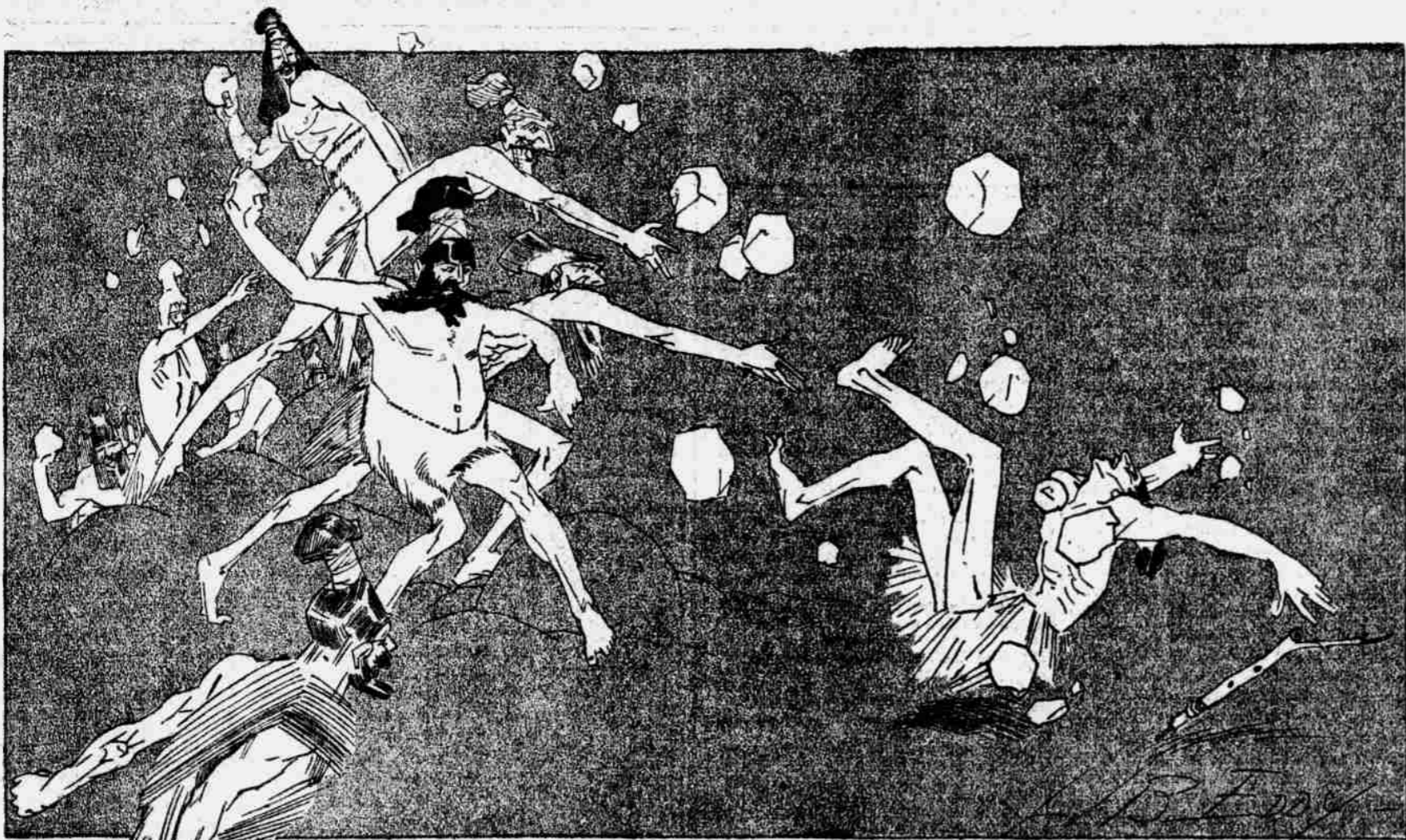
In these two caves, too, is plenty of evidence that the Morgans and Rockefeller of the cave age were just as much lovers of art as the magnates of the present day. The caves are covered with drawings (often in color) and with engravings, which may be considered as representing the very best specimens of primitive sculpture. They are carved and engraved with flint tools on bones and reindeer antler, and on the walls represent all sorts of animals. The pictures include whales and seals, and the likenesses of the species we know are so excellent that there is no reason to doubt the accuracy of those of extinct creatures, such as the cave-bear and the mammoth.

Altogether, these recent discoveries indicate that the general ideas prevailing regarding life among the cave-dwellers are entirely erroneous. Although primitive in point of civilization, there is evidence, indeed, that they had even developed some notion of religion and a future life, for they invariably buried food, arms and ornaments with their dead.

The picture of the human race in this early stage, as science now presents it to view, is wonderfully vivid and striking, and indicates that in many respects their mode of life, their fables and their failings were not very different from those of the present day.



"Mobbing the Mammoth" One of the Principal Pastimes of the Cave-Men.



A Musician of the Cave-Age Stoned to Death, Possibly for Playing "The Maiden's Prayer."

icates that those of us who to-day have red hair are more or less a reversion to our cave-age type, and explains the illy governed tempers, the sudden fits of passion and the generally heated temperament which we have come to associate with auburn tresses.

"Our skeletons and the shape of our heads do not differ very much to-day from those of the old days. The Neanderthal skull and other human skulls of apparent ape-like formation were not representative of us at all," says M. De Foux. "They were simply low elements in the clan, probably murderers or idiots, and we can find men in all great

ings of the cave-men. The cave-men, it is found, were fond of music. Instead of resorting to their dens at night to escape the saber-toothed tiger or the unclad gentlemen with a stone, they sat around the fire and listened to their musicians.

It is true that their musical instruments were not exactly the kind favored by our symphony orchestras, but at least they made a noise, which is as much as some of our twentieth century artists accomplish. The principal musical instrument of this period consisted of a reindeer's foot with a hole bored in it, which made a servicable whistle.

On the rude instrument a range of five notes and two octaves was possible.

One can imagine the cave-man musician standing before the fire, surrounded by a horde of admiring music-lovers, tooting away on the whistle, accompanied by another who thumped two large pieces of wood together, while the birds, monkeys and other denizens of the forest primeval supplied an active if somewhat discordant chorus.

And woe betide the unlucky performer whose toots were not shrill enough or whose thumbs were not loud enough to satisfy his critical audience, for in those days, it would seem, it was regarded as a huge joke to pelt the incompetent musician with boulders weighing anywhere from three

own penchant for throwing eggs, delecting fruit and similar messages of regard at the actors who fall to please us, and the baseball fan who attracts the attention of an offending umpire by hurling a bottle at his head is only doing just what we all were doing a million years ago.

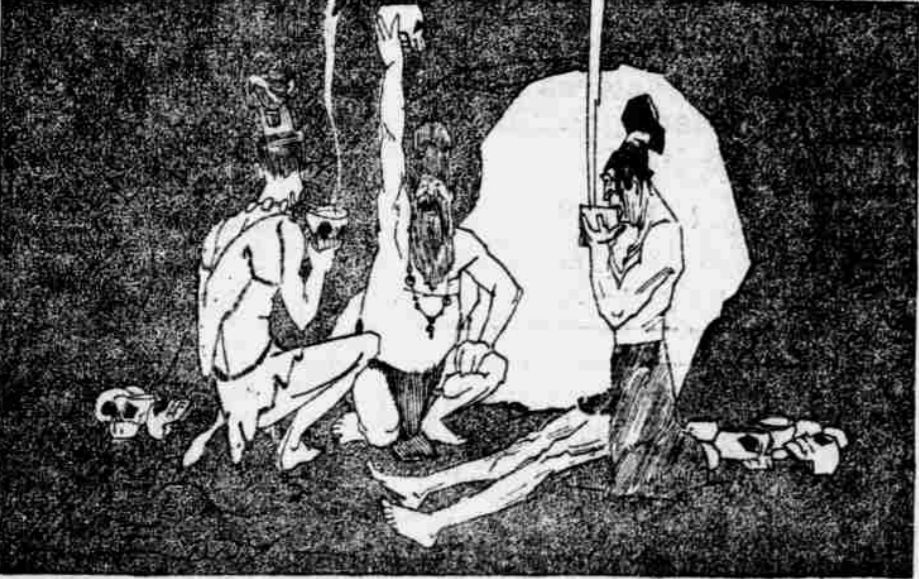
How do we know this? Because M. De Foux has found in the valley of the Vezere, in southwestern France, which seems to have been the site of a huge colony of cave-men, an amphitheatre containing the skeleton of one of those primeval musicians. The poor fellow would have returned a verdict of justifiable homicide.

From the position of his body there is no doubt that he was stoned to death, the only question remaining to be settled being the nature of his particular offense. It has been suggested that he may have been unwise enough to have rendered "The Maiden's Prayer," in which event, of course, even a modern jury would have returned a verdict of justifiable homicide.

That these early ancestors of ours found amusement in vaudeville performances of a sort not very different from those of to-day is indicated by numerous drawings rudely carved on the walls of their caves, on the antlers and bones of reindeer, mammoth ivory and stones. The main attraction of these performances seems to have been the torturing of the mammoth. Pictures of the huge beast safely con-

rather than the heart, and that the current method of popping the question was to club the chosen one into insensibility, the courtship comprising the period between the time she fell and the time she was dragged into the cave of her captor.

It is a depressing picture that has been drawn of our naive and clothesless childhood, the only redeeming



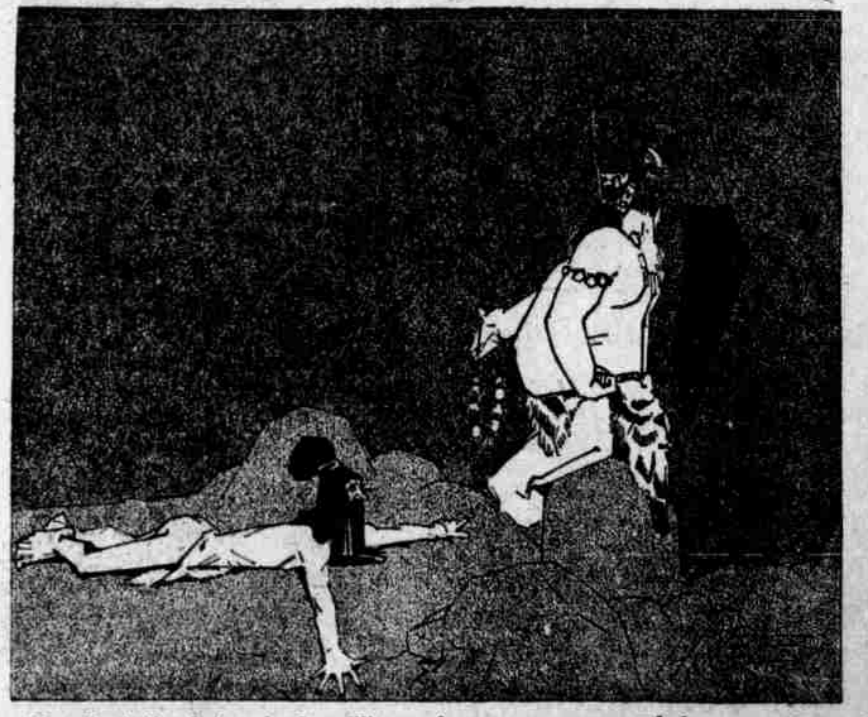
"The cup that cheered when the world was young consisted of brains stewed with pottage in the original cup."



The "Latest Mode" as Worn by a Cave-Woman of Fashion.

cavern at Laugerie Basse were found twenty pierced shells in pairs on different parts of the body. Evidently they had been arranged in a symmetrical manner on the clothing.

But strangest of all the recent discoveries along these lines is the fact that our early ancestors of the paleolithic age were antiquarians! Fossil shells dating back to even paleozoic days, millions of years before the advent of the cave-men, have been found among the bones of the cave-dwellers. Many of them could have come only from the Isle of Wight. They were doubtless regarded as precious jewels in those days, and were



"Fossil shells dating back millions of years were regarded as precious jewels by the Cave-Man. Here is the Pierpont Morgan of that day."