

REFERENCE

UNKNOWN EVERGLADES TRIBE

by Matthew W. Stirling

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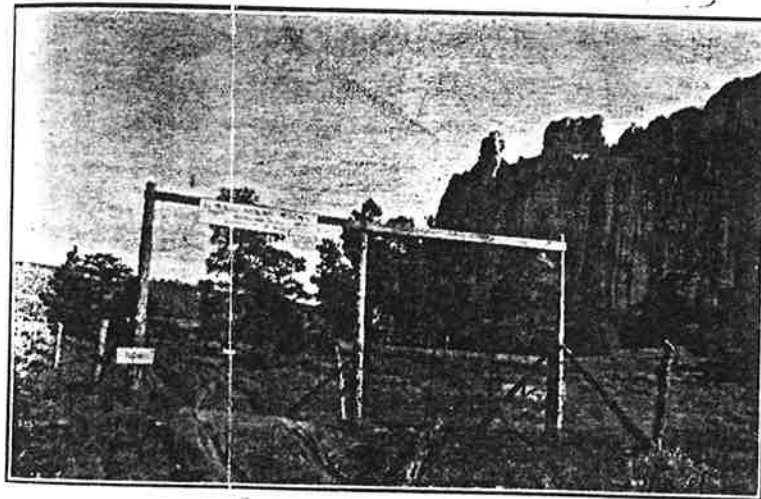
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GATEWAY TO EL MORRO NATIONAL MONUMENT, WHERE THE GOVERNMENT IS PLACING A TEMPORARY RANGER BECAUSE OF INCREASED TOURIST TRAVEL

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fications, is not likely to contribute much to an understanding of the particular subject in hand or of its deepest implications. A chemist who says that he does not care whether the substance which he compounds is used to produce food or is employed in blowing out the brains of a neighbor under governmental auspices, may be competent as a scientist, but he cannot well call himself civilized.

"And history, as actuality, seems to be struggling toward civilization, not backward to the slime of the Mesozoic age."

ZOOLOGY

Harvard Expedition to Australia.

AUSTRALIA'S rare and strange animals will be represented by one of the largest and best-balanced collections in the world in the Harvard Museum of Comparative Zoology, as the result of the labors of a scientific expedition from Harvard University to the southern continent, which will leave New York on July 25. The expedition, which has been made possible by the gift of an anonymous friend of the Museum, will be in the field for a year, visiting many isolated and little-explored faunal areas of Australia and Tasmania.

The collections to be made will include much more than the kangaroos, wallabies and wombats, which are the first things one automatically thinks of when the animals of Australia are mentioned. The birds, reptiles, insects and other forms of animal life of that long-isolated region, are as peculiar, in their various ways, as the more familiar mammals, and all these groups will receive their appropriate attention.

The personnel of the party will include Prof. William Morton Wheeler, famous entomologist, who will act as leader; Dr. Glover M. Allen, associate professor and

curator of mammals at the Museum; Dr. Ira M. Dixon, medical officer of the expedition, and P. J. Darlington, Ralph Ellis and William Schevill, graduate research workers.—Science Service.

BOTANY

Botanists Retraveling Track of Famous Explorers.

THE trail of Lewis and Clarke, as well as the tracks of other famous early explorers and pioneer scientists, will be retraveled this summer by two Philadelphia botanists, Prof. E. T. Wherry, of the University of Pennsylvania, and Dr. F. W. Pennell, of the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia. They have left Council Bluffs, jumping-off place for many of the famous old covered wagon trains, and will spend the next three months in the field, in an effort to re-discover the places where early botanists first found many of the species of plants common to the West. Their special interest will be in two plant families, one comprising the wild phloxes and their relatives, and the other including Indian paintbrush, beardtongue and kindred genera.

AMERICAN ARCHAEOLOGY

Unknown Everglades Tribe.

FIRST traces of the unknown prehistoric Indians, who lived in the Everglades, have been discovered by Matthew W. Stirling, chief of the Bureau of American Ethnology. Mr. Stirling has returned from several months of archaeological exploration in Florida.

On the very edge of the Everglades, near Lake Okechobee, Mr. Stirling encountered a great plan of earthworks, elaborately laid out in embankments and mounds,

and covering an area a mile square. So large and conspicuous are these earthworks, Mr. Stirling said, that it is surprising that no previous explorer has ever reported their existence or their significance. The nearest approach to anything like them are the famous Fort Ancient earthworks in Ohio, which were also made by prehistoric moundbuilding Indian tribes.

The most prominent feature of the Everglades site is a flat-topped rectangle of earth, built thirty feet high and 250 feet long. This was apparently the focussing point of attention for whatever ceremonies were held at the site. Earthen embankments enclose a court in front of this high place. Back of it a semi-circular bank of earth was raised.

This is only a small portion of the earthworks. A curious formation, consisting of a large semi-circular bank, extends in front of the high place and its court. And out from the semi-circle start a number of parallel lines of banks with circular mounds at the ends. Within the great semi-circle is a platform of earth six feet high and a quarter of a mile long.

"The whole plan is laid out with remarkable precision," Mr. Stirling reported. "The parallel lines are straight as a string, and the semi-circles are so perfect that we can imagine some Indian walking around a fixed point with a string held taut, to mark the outline."

Excavations into this important site will be made next season, Mr. Stirling said. In his exploration visit, he found potsherds on the edge of the site, showing that the inhabitants of the place were familiar with pottery. These Indians are the people who inhabited the Glades before the Seminoles came here from farther north in comparatively late times.

Excavation of a large burial mound, made of sand, was another achievement of the expedition. This mound,

south of Key Marco, contained 250 burials of Calusa Indians, together with their possessions. The Stone Age of prehistoric America was almost the Shell Age in this region, for the Indians had shell hoes and axes, shell cups and ornaments. Stone was scarce, though a few stone implements, brought in by traders from farther north, were had.

It is Mr. Stirling's view that this mound was the burial place of the Indians who left the "biggest shell heap in the United States," famous in Florida. The shell heap, representing the refuse of some very large settlement, is two miles from the burial mound.

ORIENTAL ARCHAEOLOGY

Ur of Chaldees Stood in Alexander's Time.

DISCOVERY of important tablets and ruins, which demonstrate that Ur of the Chaldees was a living city as late as 324 B. C. in the reign of Alexander the Great, has just been reported by C. Leonard Woolley, field director of the joint archaeological expedition of the University of Pennsylvania Museum and the British Museum.

The newest discovery, which extends the history of Ur, is announced in the final report of the season's work at Ur, made to the University of Pennsylvania Museum.

Mr. Woolley declares that there could be no more striking contrast than that between Ur of Abraham's time, some 2,000 years before Christ, and the last stage of Ur, which was built fifteen centuries later.

"Abraham's Ur was a huddle of close-packed houses, small in area, but solidly built with burnt and crude bricks, two and sometimes three stories high," Mr. Woolley states. "The houses were divided by narrow winding lanes, whose twists and turns were indicated by the accidents of private ownership."