

THE PREHISTORIC MOUND AN INTERESTING WORK OF NATURE, NOT A TOMB

The "Stone House" on the Little North Fork of the Santiam, Ten Miles Above Mehama, on the Elk Horn Road Gives up Secrets—Hand that Fashioned this Natural Monument Was the Hand of the Creator, Working in the Orderly Processes in the Great Workshop.

All doubt in the minds of the general public as to the composition of the prehistoric mound on the Little North Fork of the Santiam river, about 10 miles east of Mehama, will be settled by the report published at the conclusion of this article, made after an examination by Dr. D. C. Livingston, professor of geology at the Oregon Agricultural college.

This prehistoric mound is on the south bank of the river, and within 100 feet from the wagon road leading to the mining district 12 miles further up the river. The north side of the mound runs down to the very bank of the stream, and on that side the pile of rocks is at its base probably 150 feet below an imaginary line running even with the top of the pile. The base of the mound proper is about 50 feet wide from east to west, 75 feet long from north to south, and about 75 feet high from the base proper fronting the road to the top of the pile. It narrows to about five by eight feet at the top, which is flat.

Thought It a Tomb
The land on which this mound stands was formerly owned by Newell Quimby, father-in-law of the present owner, Charles Findley, whose present address is Mehama, Oregon, but he has spent the last 10 years in California, though he is a native of Oregon, born at Buena Vista.

Newell Quimby, the former owner, believed that this prehistoric mound was a tomb of some dignitary of a long extinct race. He held to this belief while he lived, and on his death bequeathed his wife to never part with the 40 acres on which the mound stands; to not let the title of what he called "the stone house" go out of the family.

Followed Ignis Fatuus
Mr. Findley conceived the idea that the mound is the tomb of two people, and that there are valuable articles in the tomb, including "money." He got this idea partly in the way of dreams, or what he thought were the promptings of good spirits; and Mrs. Findley shared with him the idea, and also the idea that the spirits of the imagined buried dignitaries were attempting to prevent the penetration of their supposed tomb.

So Mr. Findley has been digging and blasting a tunnel into the interior of the mound. He has gone in about 50 feet, and he has been working away faithfully at this self imposed task, assisted by members of their families, and encouraged by Mrs. Findley. The Findleys have had 10 children, some of them grown, and the youngest of them small tots; one a bright boy of about 12. The family is camped at the mound, and the work of digging and blasting has been going on for about eight months in all; and with implements that would be considered crude by a competent miner.

Very Positive About It
Mr. Findley has built up a theory that the stones that form the mound were put there by human hands, in regular courses, and cemented together. He has found nine different shades of this "cement," most of them reddish, as if formed partly by the blood of animals. He does not say this, but the inference of one man who examined the mound and the "cement" between the stones is that it may be that of the enemies of the tribe killed in battle.

Any way, the above was the gist of the theory that was built up, and Mr. Findley worked away and bought blasting powder and bent his back to the task of finding the bodies and the treasure.

Lured By Discoveries
He was lured by what he thought were hollow sounds, growing more distinct, day by day, when using his hammer on the walls of the tunnel; also by finding what he thought were petrified human bones in the "cement." The people of all the country around, and the mining men and summer resorters, have come to call the pile of rocks "King Tut's Tomb," and they have wondered if Mr. Findley might be long come, at the end of his work, upon discoveries that would render him a rich and famous man; in possession of treasure and relics that would bring tourists from near and far, paying admission to see the strange things brought down from a long forgotten age.

The speculation was heightened by the fact that the stones in the mound, some of them weighing 10 tons or more, are flat and more or less regular in shape, and that on the west side they form stepping stones like the blocks of the pyramids of Egypt. Also, by the fact



Photographic views of the prehistoric mound, taken last Sunday by Prof. J. B. Horner. The upper picture is the mound as seen from the southwest, with members of the exploring party and others in the front. The lower picture is a view of the south tunnel opening, with Charles Findley holding a hammer in the center of the group, and his fellow workers with him. Prof. J. B. Horner on the extreme left.

that the stones forming the mound are not like the other rocks found in the neighborhood. They are dark and very hard. They are basaltic rocks.

Their Hopes Blasted

This was the condition up to last Sunday. Prof. John B. Horner had been told of the "tomb" excitement by a Statesman reporter who had passed that way, and he immediately arranged to have it examined by Dr. D. C. Livingston, professor of geology of the Oregon Agricultural college. This visit, made last Sunday, brought quite a party to the spot, including General George A. White, Col. C. B. Bartram, Mrs. J. L. Brady of Salem, and others.

Prof. Horner took a number of photographs while Dr. Livingston was busy with his examination. But Dr. Livingston saw quickly that the lure of Mr. Findley and his faithful wife was a cruel ignis fatuus; a creation of the imagination.

The writer of these lines is very much of a layman in the chemical field, so will not object to correction in the following words: The basaltic rocks of the mound, not found in the neighborhood, are there because they are very hard and durable. The storms and floods of a million or two million years have worn away the softer rocks. Nature has covered the country around with soil. The basaltic rocks at the top of the pile were even with the surrounding landscape, or fireplace, when they were belched forth as a molten mass. The softer rocks have worn away; the harder basaltic rocks have remained. The surface of the earth is never stationary. It is always changing. It has receded at that point 75 feet, leaving the top of this basaltic mound 75 feet higher than the land at its base. And the "cement"? That is precipitated from ore, washed into the seams of the rocks that were broken into seams when they cooled. Its different colors? Water carries many kinds of precipitates. Hence the varying colors. Iron ore is reddish, and basaltic rocks are 20 per cent iron. Hence the "red hills" south of Salem. They are volcanic ash of basaltic rock, spewed up in the long, long ago, when this world, or this part of the world was as hot as the hottest imaginary or real hell; and there was no living thing here. Not even a cactus plant or a fabled phoenix bird or a salamander. As to the supposed "petrified bones"? They are the solidified precipitates of rocks of that peculiar color carried in the water; and they were ages long in being gathered into the formations in which they are now found. (Here end the layman's words.)

But let Dr. Livingston tell his own story, which he does in the following, written after his investigations:
The Geologist's Findings
(Prepared by D. C. Livingston,

Professor of geology, Oregon Agricultural College.)

When molten rock rises from the interior of the earth it travels upwards through different types of openings in the rocks through which it passes. Some of these are roughly circular and give rise to volcanic mountains. Lava however often reaches the earth's surface through fissures, some of which are hundreds, and some only a few, feet in length. These fissures likewise vary considerably in width from a few inches up to a hundred feet or more.

When the lava cools it eventually hardens into solid rock. When it pours up through these fissures and spreads out over vast areas of country we see its effects as in the great lava flows, which the Columbia river has exposed above The Dalles. When it cools in the fissures it forms what the miner and geologist term "dikes." The solidified lava is often harder than the rock it pierces, and when this is the case these dikes are left standing above the surrounding country. The name dike was derived from this fact, which is due to the slow and constantly acting forces of erosion, wearing down the earth's surface and carrying the soil and rock into the creeks and rivers.

When lava cools it shrinks, like everything else. When it shrinks it must occupy less volume or space than it did formerly. Accordingly it will part or crack along certain planes, like drying mud on a river bed, and the formerly molten lava will, when cooled, consist of a mass of blocks separated by these planes. In differ-

ent lavas the different planes do not always meet at the same angle and are in some cases invisible. The quarryman, however, always knows that they are there and takes advantage of them in blasting. Sometimes these planes can be seen. The commonest lava in the northwest is basalt. Basalt when it shrinks parts along three planes which lie at 120 degrees to one another. These planes start from a number of different centers in the lava and, as the shrinking proceeds, the rock will be divided into a number of six-sided or hexagonal blocks. These blocks often extend completely across the flow or dike and form a series of columns. If the flow is horizontal the columns stand vertically, while if the lava is in the form of a dike the columns will be horizontal or nearly so. Sometimes these dikes look like a stack of hexagonally shaped cordwood sticks formed of rock. The columns, when present, always formed at right angles to the cooling surface.

This explains the curious formation on the Little North Fork of the Santiam river above Mehama, which has been taken for a prehistoric tomb constructed by the hands of men. The hand that fashioned this curious natural monument was the hand of the Creator, working by orderly processes in the great workshop of the earth. No race of men could have laid these blocks, which weigh several tons, in the manner in which they lie today. Man in the last 150 years has begun to know a little about the processes of the Creator, with the results that we all know and realize in the inventions and discoveries of these busy times. Geology is but one of the sciences which endeavors to explain these processes.

(Portland Journal)

For Buried Treasure

A hope for finding buried treasure, a belief that a huge pile of rocks in the Cascade mountains was the tomb of ancient kings, an imagination fired by dreams of the sensation that would come from the discovery of the kingly remains in their coffins with adornments of jewels and gold, has kept Frank Findley blasting tunnels into the huge rock monument for the past eight months. At last account, the tunneling was still in progress. The curious stone pile is in the Elk Horn district, a dozen miles east of Mehama, Marion county, in a spot where mountains are big and gorges deep and where nature is wild and picturesque, a fit burial place for ancient monarchs. The great stone monument covers almost an acre of ground, and is 100 feet high in the form of a pyramid, a form to which

BAYOCEAN

Cool and refreshing, between Tillamook Bay and Ocean. All advantages of other beaches. Plenty driftwood for bonfires, crabs, clams, fish, etc. Stargazing and hotels handy. Bungalows for three or four, \$12 week, with bedding, complete furnishings, water, lights and wood. Call for circular at Statesman office. For reservations send deposit of \$5.00 to Mrs. L. E. Latourette, 313 City Hall, Portland.

STAGES
Pacific City, Neskovin, Netarts, Ocean side, Garibaldi, Bar View, Rockaway, Manhattan and all Tillamook Beaches
Also to Dayton, Newberg, Sheridan, Willamina, Grand Ronde, Dolph, Hebo, Beaver and Tillamook (Via McMinnville)
Leave Salem Daily 7:45 a. m., 12:30 p. m., 4:30 p. m.
For Rates, etc., call Central Stage Terminal, Court and High Streets Phone 696
Portland, Newberg, McMinnville, Tillamook Stages, Inc. and Salem-Neskovinville Stages

SUCCESS
WE TEACH IT RIGHT!
There are positions today in business offices for those who are qualified in business correspondence. Everyone should have a thorough knowledge of business English and correspondence. We can give you this training.
START HERE! BEGIN NOW!
Capital Business College
SALEM OREGON

ancient minds seemed to turn. The stone is very hard and differs from the general character of that in the immediate locality. What seems to be mortar or cement, sometimes yellow and sometimes red, in the spaces between the stones, fill Findley with a conviction that human hands reared the monument, and surely no such colossal work and pains would be invoked to make a burial place for other than ancient kings.

And to further fire his mind, there was the recent history of the discovery of old King Tut's tomb and all the glittering gold and buried treasure unearthed with it. More to the point, occasionally as his two tunnels, one of 40 and the other of 50 feet were blasted into

the great piles he came across what seemed to be petrified bones, the effect of which was to keep him in a constant state of excitement in his quest.

Added to it all, the curious formation has long been the subject of speculation among those who have seen it. It is so unnatural in appearance and so much resembles the work of human hands that the fact of its existence and its strange character have long been the topic of comment and discussion in surrounding counties. Partly for this reason, Findley moved from Oakland, Cal., to the scene of the big stone pyramid to search for the tomb of the kings.

Last Sunday an outing party carried bad news to the man who has spent eight months in the quest for ancient trimmings of a royal tomb. In the party were Professor Horner of OAC, Dr. Livingston, Robert J. Hendricks and Adjutant General White, who told Findley that the pile of stones with supposed layers of mortar between is a natural formation, that it is not the work of human hands at all, that it is no burial place of kings, and that his eight months of toil is labor lost.

If you wonder why Findley launched his enterprise, call back to mind the thousands of old miners who spent decades in fruitless quest and arrived empty handed at the sundown of life, or remem-

ber how the human imagination is stirred and fanned at tales of dreams of buried treasure.

(The above, from the editorial page of the Portland Journal of Wednesday, has the name of Charles Findley incorrect; but it is otherwise a good portrayal of the pathetic picture. The man of science, the geologist, in such cases has a hard and unpleasant task. No matter how kind of heart he may be (as in this and other cases), he is bound to be considered a very 'hard-boiled' individual by the man or men whose hopes are blasted by his findings. But he must stick to the facts;

(Continued on page 4)



VISIT THE NEWPORT BEACHES

And use this road log. It will tell you the exact condition of the highway from Salem to Newport

ALLEN'S A Real Place to Eat. Sea Foods A Specialty. Dining room over the bay. Near boat landing. Bert E. Allen, Prop.
A. L. THOMAS Souvenir Store. Agate Cutting and Mounting. Oregon Pictures, Agate Jewelry. NEWPORT, OREGON
SEE LESTER MARTIN. If you are interested in buying a cottage or a lot to build on, price right, terms easy. Abby Hotel Bldg. Phone 7451. Insurance and Loans
Ashcraft Lumber Co. Building material of all kinds
The REDFERN COTTAGES. Neat, clean and attractive. Your comfort and satisfaction is our aim. For reservations address FRED D. COFFEE, Newport, Oregon
The Old Playgrounds. Overlooking Ocean. Cottages and Apartments by the Week or Month. Garage in Connection. We Appreciate Reservations. J. H. H. ANDERSON, Prop. Newport, Ore.
Newport's New Natatorium is open for the season. In connection with the natatorium we have the best dance hall in this part of Oregon, with a splendid orchestra. Our lunch room serves the best at all times. Only four hours' drive from Salem over excellent paved and graveled roads. Directly adjacent to the best part of the bathing beach. P. T. Coleman, Mgr.
HOT SEA BATHS. Gochnour and Read, Props. Opposite Hotel Gilmore at Nye Beach. Dr. M. Adell Gochnour, chiropractor physician with massage and electrical treatments. Hours from 10 a. m. to 9 p. m. Newly furnished housekeeping rooms in connection
NEWPORT-AGATE BEACH DEVELOPMENT COMPANY
HAVING Salem you follow the Pacific Highway to Jefferson which is 18 miles from Salem, then on to Albany 10 miles farther. This portion of the trip is all on paving and the streets of the towns are plainly marked with highway signs so you cannot miss the road. The bridge at Albany is closed, so you turn to the left at the foot of the bridge and take the east side route to Corvallis, 37 miles from Salem. This is an excellent gravel road. Follow the Newport highway signs out of Corvallis and you will find a gravel road taking you into Philomath, 45.5 miles from Salem.
LUNCHES. Confectionery, Fountain Drinks, Milk and Cream. Bakery with home-cooked products, pies, cakes, and other good things. POLLYANNA CAFE. Philomath, Oregon. After leaving Philomath the road is slightly rough for the first few miles but one is comfortable at a speed of about 25 miles. About 12 miles from Philomath proceed more carefully, as there is a rock crusher and a bridge under construction, both requiring short detours of a few feet on a rather narrow road. After these detours the road is excellent and fairly straight into Eddyville, which 75.1 miles from Salem. This portion of the road follows in succession the Marys, Little Elk, and Yaquina rivers. Anyone wishing to tarry and fish for a short time should stop and ask Mr. Mauch, proprietor of the service station and store in Eddyville to direct them as there is excellent fishing. EDWARD MAUCH. Service Station, Garage, General Merchandise. C. T. C. & Goodyear Tires. Eddyville, Oregon. The halfway station between Corvallis and Newport. From Eddyville to Toledo which is 93.2 miles from Salem, the highway is freshly graveled and a wonderfully scenic trip. The fact that there are numerous curves and rather heavy traffic requires that you exercise caution. On reaching the outskirts of Newport, if you wish to go to Agate Beach turn to the right at the first service station that you reach and follow the plank road for three miles. If you wish to go to Nye Beach follow the highway into town until you reach the stage terminal, 100 miles from Salem, then turn to the right and follow the plank road, or if you wish to go to the downtown section turn to the left at the terminal and follow the plank road. Carrier Pigeons Prefer Ships To Flight Across Channel. BREMERHAVEN, Germany. July 21.—American ships seldom make the trip between Bremerhaven and Southampton without having carrier pigeons as passengers. The crews of the shipping board vessels have made a practice of supplying the tired carriers with food and water, and they seem to have learned to identify the American flag and make for the Stars and Stripes whenever they are weary. Usually the birds seek the ships.
CASINO GARAGE STORAGE. Gas and Oil. Lincoln County's Largest Garage.
NEWPORT CAFE. (Formerly The Coffee Cup). "Where Highway and City Meet". Fast and personal service featured. Meals, Fountain, Lunches. Burt Humbarger, Prop.
Agate Beach Inn. Most scenic beach on the Pacific coast. Three floors of solid comfort. Dining room in connection. An ideal bathing and agate beach sheltered from the strong winds. For rates and reservations address Katherine George, Agate Beach, Oregon.
Nicolia Hotel. On Nye Beach. Newport, Ore. Bigger and Better. 50 Rooms \$1 Up. Running Water Steam Heated. 200 Feet From Ocean. RESTAURANT. Meals Served. A. J. HOWELL, Mgr. Phone 8805.
Cherry City Cottages. Clean Cottages. Reasonable Prices. For reservations please write to GEO. G. SMITH. Box 423. Newport.
Our Classified Advertisements Bring Results