

HRDLICKA RELATES HISTORY OF INDIAN

Brought Real Culture From Asia but Lost It Due to Struggle in New Land

Dr. Alec Hrdlicka, curator of the museum of natural history of the Smithsonian institute, en route to Kodiak island off the coast of Alaska where he will continue his investigations into the origin of the American Indian, was guest speaker at chapel period to students of Willamette university Friday.

This year's journey to the north marks Dr. Hrdlicka's eighth trip in behalf of the institute, and will be his third summer on Kodiak island.

During his talk, the anthropologist told of different conceptions of the origin of the American Indian; but dwelt largely on the present accepted theory, which is that many thousands of years ago, over a period of many years, peoples from the northeast of Asia came across the Bering strait, not in a large group but in dribs and drabs. After landing on the shores of Alaska, they in time by skirting the coastline, managed to get foothold on present-day Oregon and California. From here they worked overland, finally peopling the entire continent, having at the time of the coming of Columbus between 12 and 20 million people.

Migration Recalled
To back up this statement, he told of the difference of culture between the eastern continental Indians and those on the west coast. In the east they still retain in their folk lore the story of their migration across the continent, whereas in this section they have lost their historical background.

He told of his work in Alaska, where under great difficulties due to the continual frozen condition of the ground, he and assistants have finally retraced, piece by piece, the history of the red-men. In coming to the new world from the old, they brought with them a real culture, fine artistry, mannerisms, which left its mark on the remnants of the lost civilization. Through the ages, as they got farther and farther from the old things and through the pressure to maintain themselves in a different and hard climate, they lost these symbols of an earlier civilization. All this is shown in the different strata of soil into which the searchers have delved during their search on Kodiak island.

Dr. Hrdlicka was well received by the students; he typified the scientist, having massive head with straight gray hair, not over-large in stature, and talked with a decided accent. This was his second and last talk to students before he again heads north. He spoke to the students of Stanford university earlier in the week.

INSURANCE AGENTS TO GATHER MAY 24

The annual convention of Oregon state agents of insurance companies will be held in Salem May 24 and 25. Merrill D. Ohlms of Salem is president. Conference sessions will be held at the chamber of commerce and luncheon and banquet sessions at the Marion hotel. Hugh H. Earle, insurance commissioner, will give an address; also Secretary of State Earl W. Snell and John Beakey, safety engineer of the state highway commission. Others scheduled for talks are George L. Dutton, president of the special agents' association; A. V. Holman; Paul O. Landry, national councillor, Klamath Falls; Clifford Conley, chairman Oregon conference committee. Mayor V. E. Kuhn will give an address of welcome.

Much of the time will be devoted to discussion of technical problems in the insurance agency field.

Harvey Wells of Portland, former legislator, will be toastmaster at the banquet the night of May 24.

The local committee consists of August Hueckstein, chairman, Homer Smith, jr., and Melvin Johnson, and Mrs. Winifred Pettyjohn, ladies' entertainment. Ronald M. Hub is president of the local association and Clarence M. Byrd secretary-treasurer.

Decoration Day Planning Begun

Plans are going forward for the annual observance of Memorial Day, May 30, by the veterans' organizations of the city. The complete program will be announced early this week.

All the schools will commemorate the occasion and there will be a parade and services at the cemetery.

W. U. Glee Club to Give Home Concert Tonight



Willamette university men's glee club which has just finished a ten days' tour through Washington and will appear in its home concert tonight at the First Methodist church. The group was complimented by press and public on its tour which took it to Olympia, Everett, Seattle, Monroe, Centralia, Kelso, St. Helens and other cities. In Seattle last Monday the club sang before an audience of over 4000 high school students. Soloists for tonight's concert are Miss Helen Benner, contralto, and Hume Downs, violinist. Miss Clara Wright is accompanist. The public is invited to the concert which will be at 8 o'clock.

WRITES OF SHARE IN CONSTRUCTION IN 1873; MYERS HAD A PART IN BUILDING OF CAPITOL

The first person to be heard from who worked on the old state capitol during its construction is Luther Myers, formerly engaged in the sheet metal and plumbing business in Salem, who now resides in Maumee, O. He has written to Gideon Stolz, an old friend, on receipt of papers describing the fire. Mr. Stolz came to Salem in 1873. At that time the foundation walls were just appearing above the ground. Mr. Myers came two or three years earlier. Both men are now past 90 in age.

Here is the letter from Mr. Myers: "The Journal came to me May 2, I having received the Statesman the day before so I am well informed, but I believe there is lots of the building not damaged and can be repaired much easier than making new entirely. The first story was laid up with Roseburg lime and it was found out, it did not expand in stacking so they got other; but when they tried to cut some holes in it they found that it was the strongest kind of cement. You know when they were building it was delayed several years and the south walls were run up two stories and the walls were 12 inches thick at the top. I made copper conductors six inches in diameter and they were masoned into the walls, six of them, and they stuck up past the brickwork about six inches, and they wanted to cover the walls. They got me to cut off the pipes even with the brick walls and to do the work I walked on the walls all the way around. There was nothing to keep me from falling to the ground on the outside and the joists on the first story on the inside. Now when I think about it, it took some nerve.

"When the roof blew off I replaced it, also the lead and copper valleys. We found good cross-tin stood the heat and cold and would not buckle. When I think about what I did at Salem—put the roof on the asylum; put up-ramps of 20 miles of plumbing, piping in and lots of other jobs; the roof on E. N. Cooke's house; the roof on part of the shops at the pen; and have everybody to forget one so soon shows that an honest man is soon forgotten while a rogue is remembered.

"How I would like to get a letter from some old Salemite who knows me away back. Most all the old merchants and mechanics are all gone: Grover, Chadwick, Moody, Bush, Albert, Levi, Breyman, Walle, Dalrymple, Farrar, Dearborn, Holbert, Hughes, Steiner and my old hunter Bill Anderson and Zimmerman; all gone, and I still here. Why I am thankful that I am so active and mind, right, hearing, tasting all o. k."

Mr. and Mrs. Myers removed to Maumee about 1920.

Stopping Rural Relief Reduces County Payroll

Clearing Marion county's relief rolls April 30 of all rural cases showed up more noticeably than ever in the payroll for last week's SERA project operations. This payroll contains checks for 685 workers valued together at \$6431.93. The previous week's payroll of 899 checks amounted to \$7957.40.

As provided for in the state relief committee order discontinuing the rural cases, local relief social workers are granting re-interviews to rural persons on relief who seek reinstatement. A considerable number are being placed back on the rolls, relief officials say.

Rooms Wanted For Delegates

The convention committee for the Grand Lodge of Odd Fellows sessions here next week still is in a quandary as to where all of the delegates will be housed, members said last night. Anticipating 3500 visitors here for the occasion, the committee to date has signed up for accommodations for but 1500. Rooms in private homes are urgently desired.

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H. M. MERCER DIES AT INDEPENDENCE

INDEPENDENCE, May 11. — Henry Madison Mercer passed away today at the home of his son, Dwight Mercer, who lives south of Independence.

He was born in Monro county, Iowa, December 25, 1858. He was united in marriage to Retta Adams at Albia, Iowa, on October 16, 1885. To this union two children were born. They came to Oregon in 1911 and settled at Lyons, east of Albany. His wife died at Lyons October 15, 1924. From there he moved to Cottage Grove in 1925, where he lived until he came to Independence in 1932. He was a member of the Methodist church. He is survived by a daughter, Mrs. Florence Cannon of Albany, and a son, Dwight, of Independence; two brothers, Dr. Lincoln Mercer of Salem and John C. Mercer of Albia, Iowa; three sisters, Mrs. Ines Hiwatt, Mrs. Ida Newell, Miss Emma Mercer, all of Albia, Iowa, and two grandchildren. Arrangements will be announced later at the Keeney funeral home at Independence.

LOW TURKEY PRICE IS DUE TO QUALITY

PORTLAND, May 11.—(AP)—The late cut in the price on turkeys here which carried the dressed hen price down to 19c lb. generally to retailers, suggested lack of quality.

There was good demand for quality turkeys but practically nothing has been available recently that would come into that grade. Most of the stock received has been breeders and this showed poor to fair grade. Turkeys at the moment are far cheaper than chickens.

There continued a lack of price change for butter on the produce exchange even though there remained a premium generally for quality on the open market. Storage operations were general.

Recent advance in the price on eggs here was forced by the fact that outside markets were drawing supplies which usually come to Portland. No change in price for the day.

Improved trade conditions in the market for country killed calves and the late improvement in the price has placed all offerings on a firm basis.

There was a real shortage of asparagus here and sales were made at a further advance in price for the weekend. Cool weather in growing sections was assigned as the reason.

Arts League to View Dr. Hill's Movies Tuesday

Dr. David Bennett Hill, whose motion pictures of travels and the health film "The Life of a Healthy Child," have proven of wide interest, will give the program of the Salem Arts league next Tuesday night in the auditorium of the Salem public library. To this program, the last of the current year, the general public is cordially invited. Dr. Hill's pictures record impressions on the Columbia river highway, Black Hills of South Dakota, Century of Progress exposition, and afford an

hour and a half of interesting scenes. As this program closes the year for the arts league, a business meeting will precede the showing of the pictures. The annual election of officers will be held at this time. Mrs. W. F. Fargo, Mrs. Clifford Mudd and Dr. F. G. Franklin compose a nominating committee to suggest officers for the coming year.

STORE DECORATION EVENT RULES TOLD

Rules for the store front decoration contest the local convention committee will conduct looking to the convening here May 19 to 23 of the Grand Lodge of Odd Fellows and affiliated orders were issued last night by the committee as follows:

1. Outside front must be decorated by the official convention decorators.
2. Window displays consisting of ritualistic scenes will be considered. They may be made up of figures, merchandise or flowers, and will be judged on the basis of artistic display and appropriateness.
3. Judging will take place Monday, May 20. The judges will be chosen among out-of-town visitors.

Firms desiring to enter the contest may leave word at The Statesman office or telephone J. C. Formick at 5603 or 5886. First prize will be \$10 and second \$6.

Strike Delaying CCC Camp Task

The northwest lumber strike is delaying construction of buildings on the site of the new CCC camp in Silver Falls park, the national reemployment agency here has been advised. Scarcity of shingles is holding up the work. Twenty-seven local carpenters were hired early this month to put up the various structures needed.

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