

# Civilization of Prehistoric New Mexico Indians 'Similar to Present Age'

By EDWARD S. KITCH  
 CHICAGO (U)—An anthropologist says life among prehistoric Mogollon Indians of western New Mexico wasn't too far different from that of today's modern white man—with some important exceptions, of course.

These primitive Indians lived in apartments, thrived on a farm economy, were devoted to religion and had itchy feet.

Paul S. Martin, head of the Department of Anthropology of the Chicago Natural History Museum, has supervised the museum's southwest archaeological expeditions for the last 12 years. He reports that this year's work in the excavations near Reserve, N. M., revealed important material on which to build a chronological history of the people whose beginnings reach back 5,000 years.

**Research Purpose**  
 Martin says the purpose of his research on early American life is designed to:

1. Learn why a particular culture or civilization develops.
2. Determine why and how it changes.
3. Why it declines and dies.

"These problems all have a direct bearing on our daily lives because their answers may help us to prevent our own civilization from withering," he said.

The reconstructed history of the Mogollon Indians begins when they moved from southern Arizona to the Pine Lawn Valley area and established a village many centuries ago. They left their homeland because the lakes and rivers were drying up.

At first they may have lived in skin tents and depended for food largely on gathering seeds, nuts, berries, bulbs and hunting small game. By about 2000 B. C., Martin said, the idea of farming corn, beans and squash was adopted. Later ideas of making pottery and building pit houses (religious centers) were borrowed from more southern tribes.

**Second Century**  
 By the beginning of the second or third century B. C., the nucleus of a civilization had come into being, Martin said.

An extraordinary feature of this fledgling culture was the presence of religious buildings found in the excavations. A large pit house or kiva was set aside in each village for devotional use even in the earliest times. Through the ages, while many other cultural changes were taking place, the church building was always found in each village. It gradually became more elaborate and larger.

About 1000 A. D., surface houses were built with rock walls. The compact village units contained 5 to 20 rooms, Martin said.

The ancient village was known to the museum expedition as "Foote Canyon Site," and is perched atop a low mesa some 75 feet high, around which flows the Blue River. Fifteen rooms were uncovered. The ceremonial chamber probably served as a religious center for other nearby villages.

**Copper Bell**  
 Another significant discovery at the dig was a tiny copper bell worn as bracelet or anklet piece. It was found on the plaza floor of the village. Slightly crushed, it may indicate that the Mogollon Indians traded with the

people of Mexico or the Indians of southern Arizona. The restlessness of the people was evident in the architecture. Rooms were added or altered in size as fancy moved the occupants, Martin said. Dissatisfaction with the apartments was demonstrated time after time. The Mogollons packed up and moved away about 1350 A.D. Why they did remains a mystery.

But Martin says the traditional story that the Apaches drove them from their homes is more fiction than fact because the Apaches didn't arrive on the scene until some 200 years later.

Exodus Dated  
 Martin places the date of the exodus of the Mogollon Indians at 1350 A.D. because of the presence of certain types of pottery found among the Zuni Indians

which were also found at the dig site. Radioactive carbon calculations have established the date of the pottery.

When they moved they took their most valuable and portable possessions, leaving behind mostly the heavy corn mills of stone and the large storage pits.

The Mogollon Indians were so named by archaeologists. It may be that the priests de-

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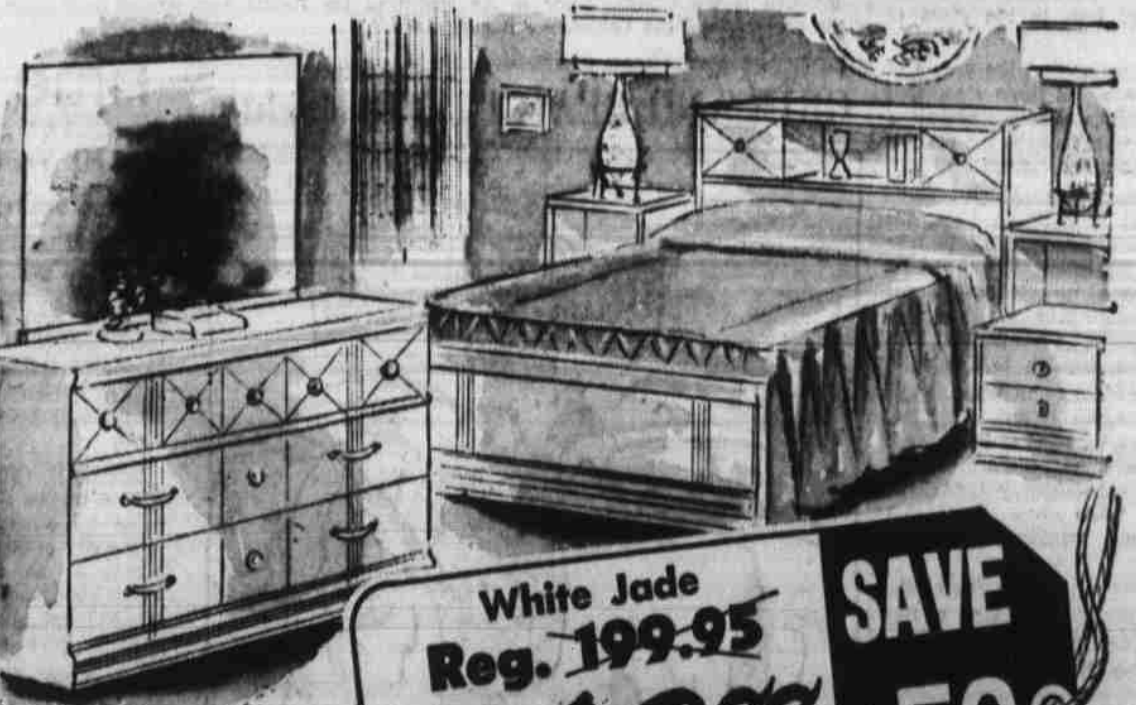
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## Adlai Critical Of Address on State of Union

CHICAGO (U)—Adlai E. Stevenson said Sunday President Eisenhower's report "was less a State of the Union Message than a state of the Republican Party message."

He called it "political in tone" and "very misleading" about the state of United States defenses and foreign policy.

The nation's relationships with other countries, Stevenson said, have "never been more perilous than now, from Iceland to Japan, x x x we have never been in more peril."

Stevenson agreed with the President that taxes cannot be cut now, but said low income groups should get some sort of tax relief.

A guest on a national television program, CBS' "Face The Nation," Stevenson said the President's message to Congress Thursday seemed to show more concern for domestic than foreign policy.

"It remains to be seen whether they (the Republicans) mean it more than before," he said. "x x x the Republicans always seem to appropriate the Democratic position in election years."

Stevenson, the first announced candidate for the Democratic presidential nomination in 1956, said the administration's farm and school policies—as outlined by the President Thursday—are a complete reversal from the past.

"After three years they've decided it is time to do something for the farmers," he said.

## Egyptian Scouts Reported Killed

JERUSALEM, Israeli Sector (U)—A government announcement said two Egyptian scouts were killed near Erez settlement close to the Gaza Strip in an exchange of fire with an Israeli army patrol Sunday.

Two submachine guns, ammunition and lists with observations on Israeli road traffic were found on the bodies, the announcement said. It recalled two other Egyptian scouts killed in the same area in similar circumstances Friday, with the capture of a third.

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