12-Capital Journal, Salem, Ore., Tuesday, December 6, 1949 precedence over all other places.



Seacoast city ruins, said to be the oldest in the world.

By FRED J. ZUSY

Baghdad-Scientists delving into the hidden past of mankind will set to work anew this fall at a desolate site in Iraq reputed to be the oldest city in the world. The city is Eridu—a temple site said to have been dedicated about 6,500 years ago to the worship of the water god, Enki,

about 6,000 years and of wis-the 14 buried temples represent dom.

a period of 1,500 years—with the earliest one probably dating from about 4509 BC. Dr. Napi Al-Asil, director gen-eral of Iraq's antiquities departeral of Irad's antiquities department, says that Enki is believed to have been the first god wor-shipped by primitive man; at least the first god to whom a temple was dedicated. The antiquities department be-excavating at Eridu two ered the art of writing.

gan excavating at Eridu two ered the art of writing, years ago. Work continued last The earliest literary years ago. Work continued last year, and this season Dr. Al-to Eridu dates back only to 2500 Asil expects to finish the work. BC. Even then it was reputed to

. . . be the oldest city in the world Eridu investigation has pro-duced several notable finds thus far. In the litercature of the Sumer-duced several notable finds thus

Traces have been found of veh-the creation of Eridu takes what is believed to be the car-liest known building in the world; and a model boat, shaped of clay have been discovered which is described as the oldes representation of a water craft in the history of man.

The Eridu site is an unusua one All that was visible when excavation work started was a mass of crude brick work-the ruins of a giant ziggurat or tem-ple tower erected during the third dynasty of Ur, about 3000

B.C. But careful investigation revealed that beneath these ruins were the remnants of 14 earlier temples—each built on top of the ruins of the one preceding

Archeologists have concluded by pottery and other finds that



The Sumerian legend of crea- Speed-up for tion, carried on into later miltion, earlied that "all lands Ienlums, observed that "all lands Stalin Ordered

When Eridu was founded the Persian Gulf was believed to have extended as far inland as Eridu. Excavations beneath the 14th and carliest temple have revealed virgin-green sea sand. Today the ruins are in a desolate desert waste with the sea 100 miles or more away. Traces of fish offerings to Enki were numerous. Beside the Station constitution. The papers also carried re-(Berlin's Soviet, licensed)

Traces of fish offerings to Enki were numerous. Beside the earliest temple was found rem-nants of a round oven--similar munist) democracies of prepara-had started work on a planetar-

to ovens used today to bake tions for celebrations there to ium to be given Stalln as a birth-bread in primitive Iraq com-honor the Soviet leader's anni-day present. The Red press said the instruments would be the believed to have been unit offerings. Leading papers also carried most modern in the world. munities used for burnt offerings

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portraits of Stalin in honor of (Swedish communists also an-Sheridan Eagles auxiliary will the state convention. celebrated throughout Russia today. The papers described at length the importance of the document, which they called the Stalin constitution

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