

# What Is It? Who Made It? What Does It Say?



By JOHN DICKINSON SHERMAN

WHAT is it? Who made it? What does it say? "It" is a carved chunk of granite just dug up on the western edge of Rocky Mountain National park in Colorado—a sort of rock image.

I haven't the slightest idea myself. That's not surprising. But neither does anyone else, apparently. And that is surprising, considering the expert knowledge of the men who frankly admit that they don't know, and can't even guess.

But it is evident that this strange chunk of granite cannot be dismissed with a shrug and a smile. For here is what J. Allard Jeancon, curator of the Colorado Historical and Natural History society, and former special archeologist for the Bureau of American Anthropology of the Smithsonian institution, says about it:

"If this stone can be proven genuine, it is the biggest find in all anthropological research and antedates anything on the American continent going to establish the remote antiquity of man. I have never seen such remarkable outlines of dinosaurs and mastodon."

Is it genuine? Aye, there's the rub. That's the first question I ask, and you ask, and everyone asks.

Genuine it is, in a sense, beyond a doubt. That is to say:

W. L. Chalmers, who lives on Willow creek, in the Grand lake district of Colorado, was enlarging the irrigation reservoir on his homestead. A man with a pick was breaking ground about six feet below the surface. His pick struck this chunk of granite. The chunk was unearthed. Naturally Mr. Chalmers was interested. He spread the news.

The tourist and publicity bureau of the Denver Civic and Commercial association got the details, photographed Mr. Chalmers and his carved chunk of granite and sent out the story with pictures. Good chance for publicity!

But the fact that the Denver Tourist bureau sponsors the story is pretty much proof positive that the finding of the stone is exactly as told here. You see, this tourist business is an important matter in Denver, which proudly claims to be the gateway to the national parks and national monuments and national forests of the scenic West. The bureau's publicity work is high class. The scenery of the scenic West is easy to look at, and attracts millions of visitors each year. Moreover, Colorado is well fixed in the matter of antiquities, with its world-famous relics of the prehistoric Cliff Dwellers in Mesa Verde National park. So the bureau doesn't have to do any faking. In fact, Harry N. Burhans, the live-wire executive secretary of the bureau, would probably lose his job if he did any.

So, it's safe to say that Mr. Chalmers did dig up by accident this identical chunk of granite on his homestead near Grand lake.

Now, as to the stone. The photographs reproduced herewith give a very fair idea of it. Here are some details:

The stone is fourteen inches high, nine inches across the tablet and about twelve inches through to the back. It weighs 66 pounds. It is granite of a bluish tint, and is about as hard as steel.

In effect the stone is the image of a sitting man who holds in front of him with hands that have but three fingers a tablet inscribed with unknown characters.

One picture shows the representation, above the arm and leg of the man holding the tablet, of a huge land reptile. Some of the experts say it is a sauropod, a vegetable-eating dinosaur.

Another picture shows a different kind of dinosaur. This, the experts say, is a carnivorous dinosaur. Beneath it is a carving of a mastodon, as anyone can see.

As to the symbols or hieroglyphics carved on the tablet, they are undecipherable to date. The experts say they are not anything known to archeologists.

What are the relative periods in the earth's making of man, mastodon and dinosaur? Well, here are the principal divisions of geologic time:

Cenozoic (recent life) era: Its duration is from 1,000,000 to 5,000,000 years, according to various estimates. This era is divided into two periods, as follows:

Quaternary period, divided into recent and pleistocene (great ice age) epochs. This is the "age of man," and of animals and plants of modern types.

Tertiary period. This is the "age of mammals," of the possible first appearance of man and of the rise and development of the highest order of plants.

The next era is the mesozoic (intermediate life), with a duration variously estimated at from 4,000,000 to 10,000,000 years. It is divided into three periods: Cretaceous, Jurassic and triassic. This era is the "age of reptiles," of the rise and culmination of huge land reptiles (dinosaurs), of great flying reptiles, of birds and mammals, of palms and hardwood trees and of coal.

According to these divisions of geologic time, which are according to the standard table accepted by geologists, it looks as if the dinosaurs were pretty much extinct before man put in an appearance, and that the earliest man and the mastodon may have been contemporaneous. That being the case, the prehistoric man who carved this chunk of granite may have drawn the mastodon from life. But where did he get models for his two very lifelike dinosaurs?

This question, however, doesn't amount to a great deal. For every day in every way man is apparently getting older and older from a geological viewpoint. Time was when the Cro-Magnon man of the French cave was considered the oldest human exhibit, but he dates back only about 100,000 years. The Neanderthal man, found in Prussia, was perhaps 200,000 years old. Then the scientists found in Java the skull of an erect man-ape

(pithecanthropus erectus), reckoned to be about 500,000 years old.

And now Dr. J. G. Wolf, a Canadian anthropologist, has just found in Patagonia a fossilized skull, of which the fossilization is of sandstone of the tertiary period of the cenozoic era. Dr. Franz Boas, anthropologist at Columbia university, says that this skull, if authentic, will be much older, possibly by 500,000 years, than that of the "missing link" of Java. He declares that if it definitely establishes that man existed in the tertiary period it will upset all accepted scientific views concerning the American continent and the antiquity of man. This discovery, he says, may prove that man originated in the western hemisphere.

As between Colorado and Patagonia, every good American will rally to the support of Colorado.

Moreover, the Colorado stone was dug up in a spot that once was just the pet stamping ground for dinosaurs and such like. You see, before the Colorado Rockies rose up at about the end of the cretaceous period and the beginning of the tertiary period Colorado, the country to the north and south, was covered by a great inland sea and swampy plains. Here lived myriads of the grotesque monsters of the age of reptiles. The largest of these monsters were plant-eaters and some of them were 85 feet long and weighed 20 tons. Some of their carnivorous enemies were nearly as large. Many of these monsters got mired and we now find their petrified bones all the way from New Mexico to Canada.

So, if the carver of the Colorado stone dates back far enough he certainly had every opportunity to make his studies from life. And it is sure that the carvings agree perfectly with the restorations of these monsters made from a study of their fossilized skeletons by the museum experts.

A glance at the map given herewith shows Grand lake in its relation to Rocky Mountain National park. The village of Grand Lake is the western entrance to Rocky Mountain National park. Grand lake lies at an elevation of 8,376 feet and was dug out by glacial action. The Continental Divide runs diagonally through the national park. The Grand lake region is full of moraines deposited by glaciers working on the west side of the Divide.

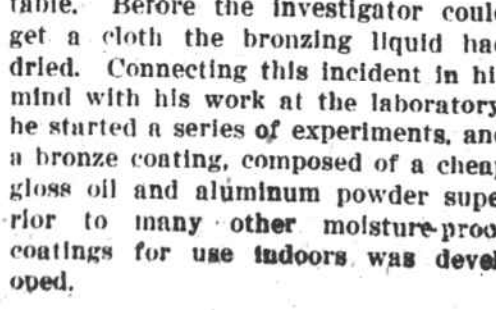
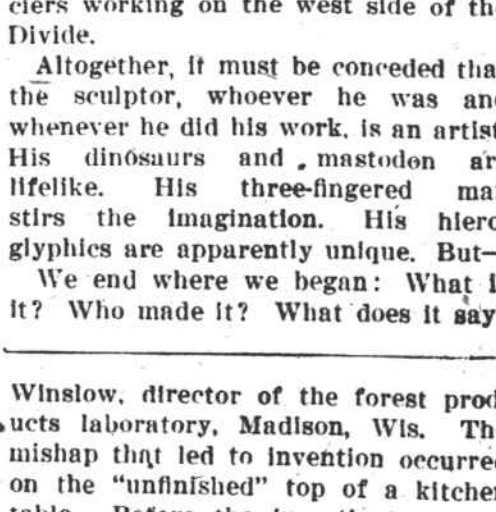
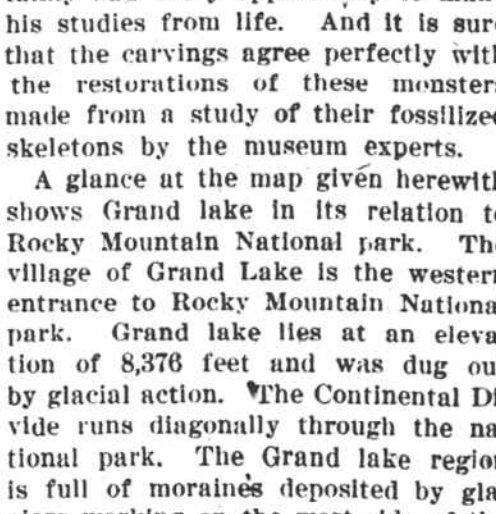
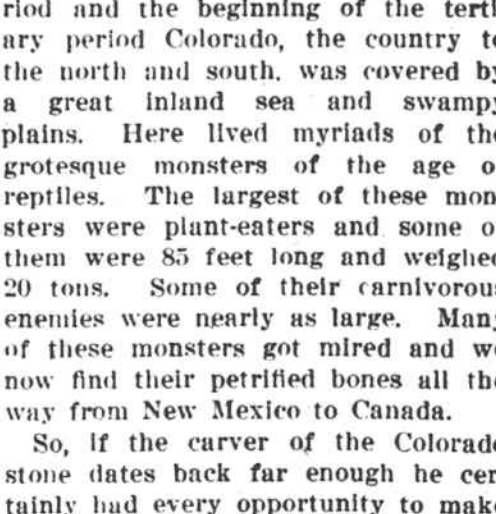
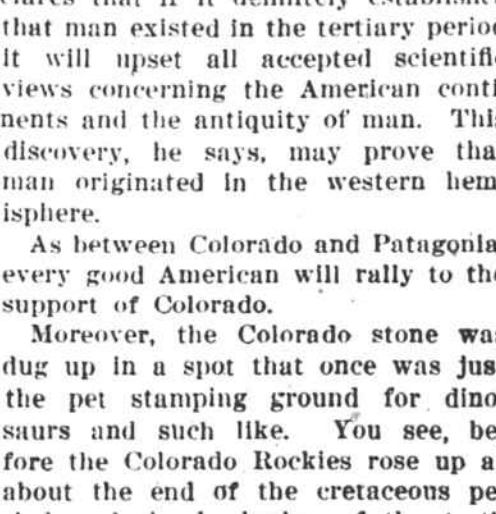
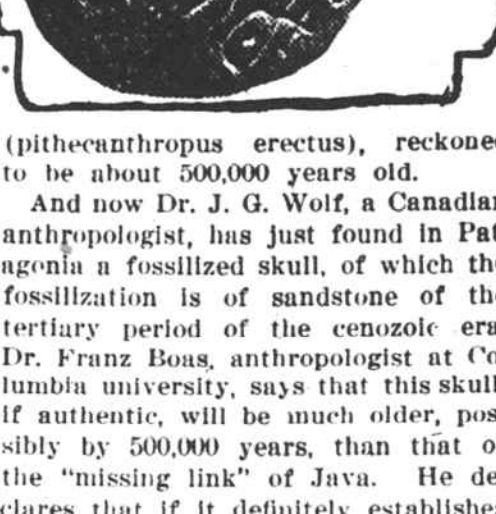
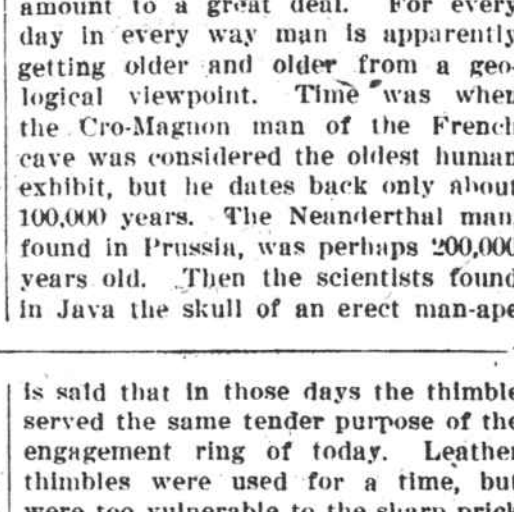
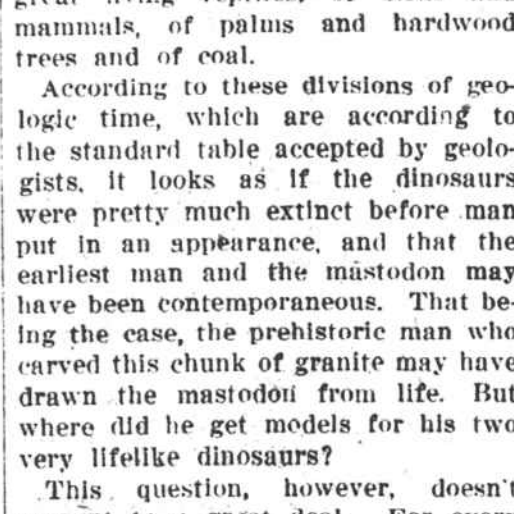
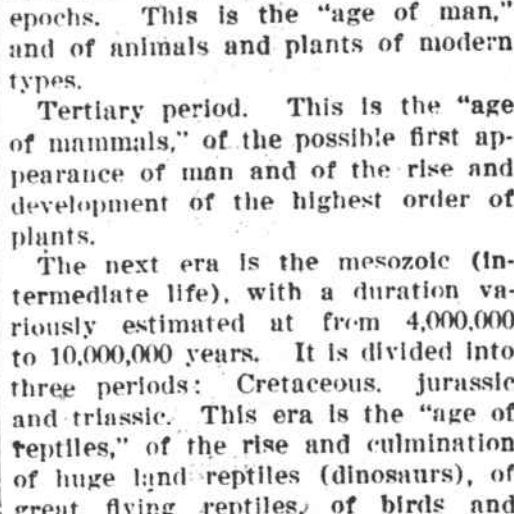
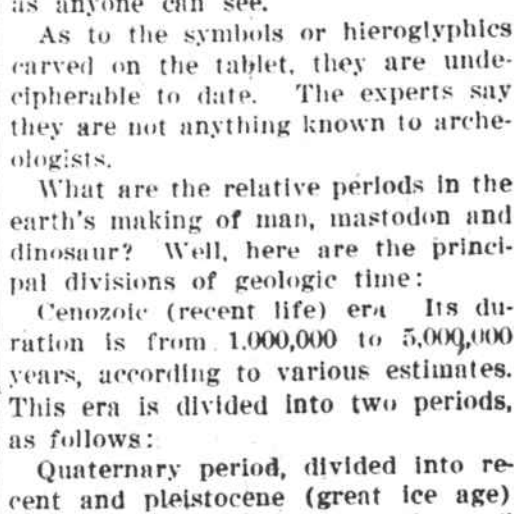
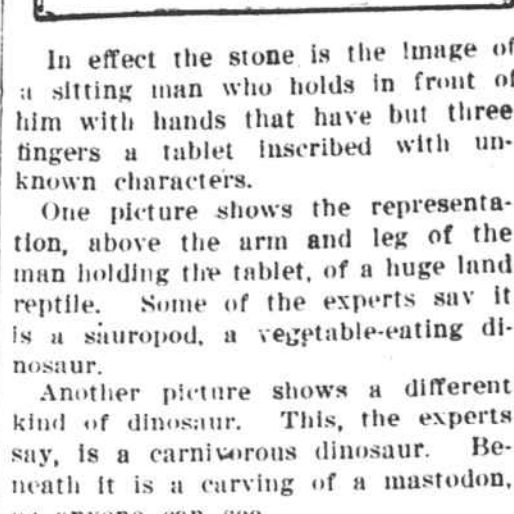
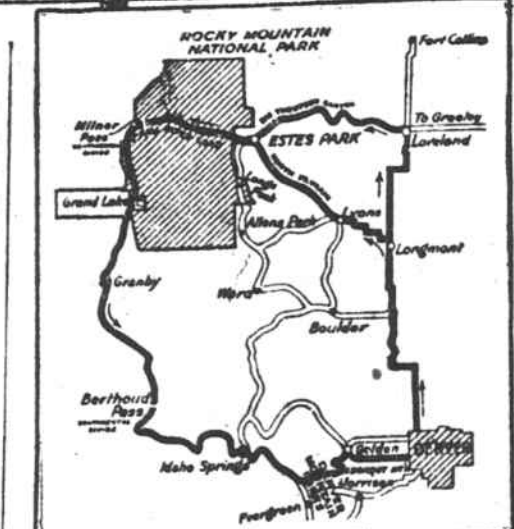
Altogether, it must be conceded that the sculptor, whoever he was and whenever he did his work, is an artist. His dinosaurs and mastodon are lifelike. His three-fingered man stirs the imagination. His hieroglyphics are apparently unique. But—

We end where we began: What is it? Who made it? What does it say?

Winslow, director of the forest products laboratory, Madison, Wis. The mishap that led to invention occurred on the "unfinished" top of a kitchen table. Before the investigator could get a cloth the bronzing liquid had dried. Connecting this incident in his mind with his work at the laboratory, he started a series of experiments, and a bronze coating, composed of a cheap glass oil and aluminum powder superior to many other moisture-proof coatings for use indoors was developed.

**The Thimble in History**

One of the most interesting historical facts about the thimble is that in old Roman times, according to Seneca, the prestidigitator performed the "find the little pea" trick with the brass or bronze ancestors of the modern thimble. That was before the day of the modern "shell game." About 250 years ago the quaint custom sprang up of inscribing posies and "forget-me-nots" inside the thimble, and it



## Daddy's Evening Fairy Tale

BY MARY GRAHAM BONNER

SAUCY SYNURA

"I am going to tell you a story this evening," said Daddy, "about the Saucy Synura colony."

"Oh, Daddy!" exclaimed Nancy. "Now, really! Why, I haven't the slightest idea what you are talking about. I won't understand the story at all."

"I know what saucy means," said Nick, "and a colony is a kind of group."

"Well, knowing two out of three words is a fairly good percentage," said Daddy.

"But, of course, I will explain to you what Synura means. For I didn't know myself until only recently when I heard about them and their city visit."

"So they're city people, are they?" asked Nancy.

"Well, I'd hardly call them city people," said Daddy. "But we'll hear what they are right away."

"Synura are little creatures half-way between animals and plants. They are spindle-shaped and attach themselves in a colony, for they always live in numbers. They are light green in color."

"They give off a kind of an oil in the springtime, which makes the water taste fishy; but they do not make it unhealthful—only not very pleasant!"

"Scientists, or men who understand science, say they have been on the earth for thousands and thousands of years, so it must be said for them that they belong to an old family."

"When a colony has reached the number of forty or fifty individuals it splits up and forms other colonies."

"It takes a thousand colonies to make any fishy oil taste."

"Now, usually every spring, as I've said, the Synura become active and do a little sporting about—so that the fishy taste has been noticed before."

"Whether the Synura are active in other places I've not found out, but in this particular city I have in mind the Synura become busy every spring-time."

"Yet the water is perfectly pure and fresh and good."

"Well, this year, what do you suppose the Synura did?"

"I'm sure one could never guess what a Synura or a lot of them might do!"

"They decided they'd be fashionable and that they needed a change," so they began to be active right in the middle of the winter, and the city water began then to taste fishy."

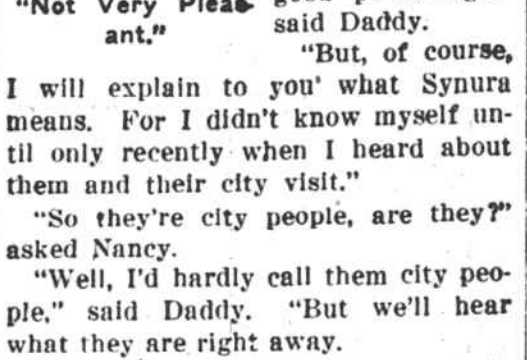
"People would boil the water so it would taste better, and I heard of a family of goldfish whose mistress boiled their water, too, for they didn't like the fishy taste, even though they were fish themselves."

"Oh, yes, when the fishy taste was so noticeable at first these goldfish lost all their energy and interest in life, and when their water was boiled for them they began to enjoy themselves once more."

"But the Synura were very bothersome. People would say to each other: 'How is the water today; very bad, or a little better?'"

"And here were the Synura having such a good time in their saucy synura style and saying, as they stretched themselves about: 'We needed a change earlier this year.'"

"And after I had heard about the Synura I made up a few verses about them for you children."



"Here are the verses:

The Synura is very gay,  
The Synura is out to play,  
What cares the Synura if it tastes fishy?  
What cares the Synura, I say?

The Synura came ahead of time,  
The Synura tho't it was sublime  
To tease the city people so,  
That's truth, as well as rhyme!

The Synura wanted to get acquainted,  
Even if the water they tainted,  
Though that's a slight exaggeration—  
They're not as bad as they're painted!

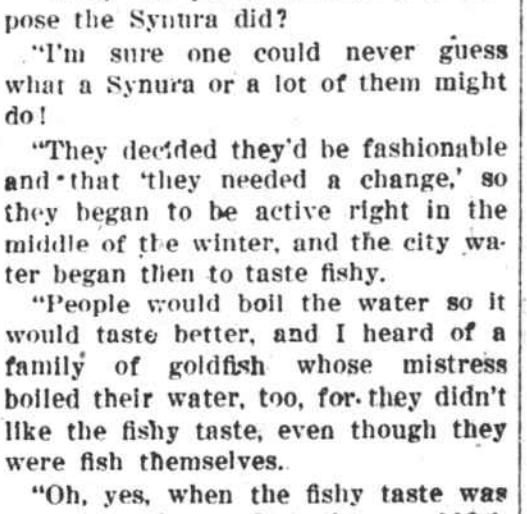
They're really harmless; that is why  
The little Synura did sigh,  
'We'll have to give the people a surprise.'  
And they did!

**RIDDLES**

What made the moon laugh?  
To see the star fish (starfish).

What cracker can you never set light to?  
A nut-cracker.

Why is E the most unfortunate of letters?  
Because it is never in cash and always in debt, and never out of debt.



**FOOLING THE BUGS.**

A motorist in the South once stopped for water at a dilapidated house where a barefooted man, leaning against a rickety fence, was gazing meditatively across a field that had grown up to weeds. "How is your cotton this year?" the motorist asked.

"Well, sir," replied the man, "I ain't got no cotton. I didn't plant none cause I was afraid the boll weevil might be bad."

"How is your corn?"

"Well," came the reply, "I didn't plant no corn neither, for I didn't know if we'd get rain."

The motorist hesitated. "How are your sweet potatoes?" he asked at last.

"Well, now, stranger," the man replied, "you see, it's just this way: I didn't plant no sweet potatoes cause I was afraid the bugs might take them. No, sir, I didn't plant nothin'. I just played safe."—Youth's Companion.

**POOR HUBBY!**

The bride's mother wanted to know how the groom was being treated, and asked what they had for dinner Monday.

"Oysters on the half shell," replied the bride.

"And Tuesday?" again the mother asked.

"Oysters on the half shell."

"What did you have Wednesday?"

"Oysters on the half shell."

"See here," demanded mother, "doesn't your husband care for anything except oysters on the half shell?"

"I suppose he does," answered the bride, "but it saves such a lot of dish-washing."

## "NOBLE RED MAN"

Indian of the Frontier as He Really Was.

Found Highest Enjoyment in the Infliction of Suffering, and Not Brave in Battle.

During the period of the Spanish risk in our West—it became, actually, an Indian risk—Indians killed nearly three hundred white men, women and children, and wasted, burned and destroyed a million dollars in properties. They were, more than anything else, destructive; they loved excitement; and what they preferred above all was running off the live stock of a caravan; then they could get some fresh meat and horses and fill the remaining horses and cattle with arrows, shoot them at point-blank range with old firelock fuses.

The Jicarillas were drunken pottery turners; the Utes were the best armed of all the local tribes, they were superior in war and hunting. But their war making was peculiar, and highly reasonable, in that they insisted on every circumstance favorable to themselves. Failing this they wouldn't fight! For attack they preferred the passage of the late moon; and it was their pleasure to happen on some detached woodchoppers, a lonely messenger or a small party of wagons in a narrow canyon.

Occasions like those gave their sense of humor and ingenuity full play; if they were in a hurry the murdering would be swift, the scalps secured without ceremony; but when the situation was safe they lingered over preliminaries and refinements. It was their ambition to lay bare terror and uncover pain, and their inventive faculties were endless; there would be more premonitory touches of steel and flame, little whisperings of torment, the feathery edge of agony, an eternity of hours before the blackened end.

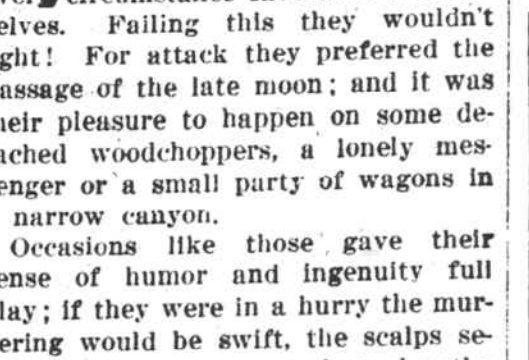
The Indian regarded this as normal, an end to be avoided, of course, but faced with the inevitable, they accepted it in the image of men of stone. The objections, the tenderness of the white race, seemed to them wholly unreasonable; the cries and expostulations they must have regarded as no less comic than contemptible.

Vanities both in conduct and appearance was the mark of a proper masculine carriage; the men rather than the women painted; they eradicated every hair from their beards; and eyelashes and eyebrows, and, slitting their ears to hold pendants, hung beads to the weight of half a pound from each. For the rest, they wore breech cloths, moccasins and leggings of treading, and a rug; they wore their hair with gum and paint, trinkets and feathers; and, at war, coated their faces with charcoal.

The bows they carried were three and four feet long, made of elastic wood, elks' horns, or, more infrequently, of buffalo ribs, but bone was inferior to the bois d'arc wrapped and lined with sinew. They carried, as well, lances, the inevitable scalping knives—in the South-west there were no tomahawks—and shields of elk hide painted with the signs of the enemies they had killed.

At peace in their villages the shields, and sheafs of pipestems wrapped in red and blue cloths, were hung on tripods before the lodges of buffalo hide rubbed soft with the brains of that indispensable animal—a buffalo liver dipped in gall they considered the greatest of delicacies—and there, to a little drum and a squeaking pipe, they indulged in dances of a most humorous obscenity; there they were domestic.

Solemnly they slapped their naked and solemn sons, and varied the smoking of their formal and informal pipes by the food with which they literally stuffed themselves. In their philosophy and existence, in their fate, there was no tomorrow.—Joseph Hergesheimer in the Saturday Evening Post.



**AVOID SUNSCALD IN WINTER**

If Alternate Freezing and Thawing Continues Bark on Exposed Side of Tree Dies.

Just from the sound of the name one would think sunscald a summer trouble in the orchard. It is true the hot sun in summer, especially in some regions, may cause the trouble, but sunscald may occur in its worst form in winter, as well.

During many winter days, the sun's heat may warm up the southern or southwestern sides of trunks and branches to the thawing point. At night the wood freezes again. If this alternate freezing and thawing continues for any considerable length of time, the bark on the exposed side of the tree will die and split off. The broken bark offers a point of entrance for fungus tree diseases of many kinds which may ultimately kill the tree.

Where conditions are especially bad it will pay to shade the southwest portions of the trunk and branches. Cornstalks, straw or similar material bound about the branches will give excellent protection.

**SPRAY TO CONTROL INSECTS**

Use of Lead Arsenate When About 90 Per Cent of Blossoms Have Fallen, is Urged.

It will still be worth while for owners of peach trees to spray for the control of curculio and other insects. The best spray for this purpose is lead arsenate, using one and a half pounds in 50 gallons of water and applying when about 90 per cent of the blossoms have fallen.

**GET RID OF WATER SPROUTS**

Rubbing Off in Spring After Heavy Pruning Will Save Much Needed Nourishment.

After heavy pruning is done in the spring, especially in the case of apple trees, there is an unusual growth of water sprouts. These may be readily rubbed off with the hand, thus saving nourishment which otherwise would go into water sprouts. Getting rid of water sprouts now also will save time in pruning later.

**Horticultural Points**

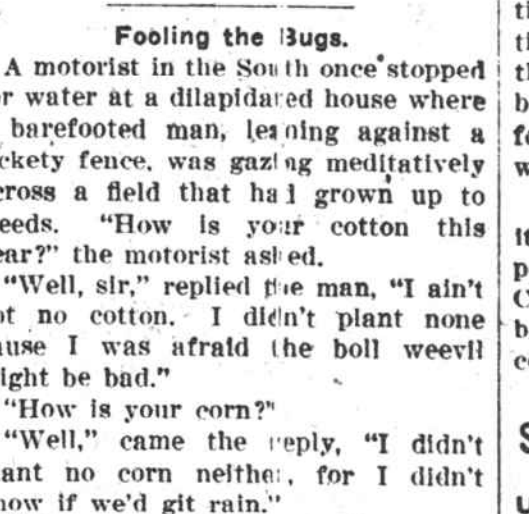
GOOD CARE OF RASPBERRIES

Canes Should Be Cut Back in Spring to Desired Fruiting Height—Look for Disease.

The New York experiment station has sent out a circular on care of raspberries.

With the close of the fruiting season horticulturists at the experiment station at Geneva are recommending the removal and destruction of the fruiting canes in all raspberry plantings. These old canes are no longer needed by the bush and they harbor disease organisms or insect pests which might infest the new growth. The removal of the old canes will give more room for new growth the next season.

In the spring the canes of red raspberries should be cut back to a desired fruiting height, usually three or four feet from the ground, depending on the vigor of the bush. Black raspberries require more severe pruning than the red varieties as the old fruiting



**A Bundle of Ranere Raspberry Plants**

canes should be removed and the new growth checked in the summer by pinching off the succulent tips of the new canes at about two feet from the ground. Since the new canes do not all grow at the same time it is necessary to go over the bushes several times during the summer. In the spring the side branches which have developed as a result of this summer pruning should be cut back from one-third to one-half their length.

Raspberry growers are urged to be on the lookout for plants affected with mosaic or yellows and to remove and destroy all such plants, including the roots and suckers, as that is the only way in which the disease can be stamped out. The mosaic is characterized by the mottled appearance of the leaves and the dwarfing of the canes. In setting out new plants care should be exercised that only disease-free stock is used as any part of a diseased plant will bring the disease into the patch where it will gradually spread to healthy plants.

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