

Geologist Lenhart Conducting Intensive Study Of The Albemarle Area

ELIZABETH CITY — million years ago. He studies strata of rocks and visual history of life on views the transitory lifestyles of Planet Earth, which locate the Albemarle Region underwater and south of the equator at that time.



HE SEES THE PAST IN ROCKS — Stephen Lenhart, stratigrapher and paleontologist at Elizabeth City State University, stands before a display of the earth as it was 400-million years ago, when North Carolina was underwater and south of the equator. Lenhart recently completed research for a doctoral dissertation on the Devonian Period, studying rock strata in Kentucky, covering 1,000 square miles. (ECSU News Photo)

The 34-year-old stratigrapher and paleontologist has joined the faculty of the Department of Geosciences at Elizabeth City State University, while also completing a doctoral dissertation for the University of Kentucky on the Devonian Period as documented in the "Stratigraphic Relationships of the Southern Bluegrass Region of Kentucky."

"Our continent was pretty much covered by ocean at that time," he said. "Rocks I'm working with (collected in Kentucky) were deposited on the bottom of that ocean embedded in these sediments are the animal life which lived on the sea bottom."

Lenhart identifies the Devonian Period as a dramatic moment — a moment covering "tens of millions of years."

It was the first time there were actually forests on the land," he explained. "Before this time there were very small land plants near the water. Plants had evolved in the ocean a couple of billion years earlier. When they finally invaded the land environment, they literally exploded in kinds and numbers and grew into forests, which are preserved in the rock record very soon after that migration—or invasion. Before the plants left the ocean, our land was totally barren with no life at all." But the Devonian Period is known as the Age of the Fishes. "This does not mean the first fish, but the period when fish began to expand in numbers and variations, developing the first bones, the first teeth. Before this, there were only very primitive fish," Lenhart said. The first sharks were known in the Devonian Period and have changed very little to date. "They are not the same species, but they are true sharks," he explained. They have, however, diminished in size. According to the stratigrapher, there were relatives of sharks up to 80 feet long, but they were a dying branch even then and became extinct, while the regular shark continued. Lenhart finds many analogies in nature and the survival of the shark is out. "The fact they have existed so long is because they adapt easily to the environment. The sharks were not so very specialized that they could not adjust to environmental change," he remarked. Describing the period also as a time of beginning for advanced life, Lenhart notes the mutation of lung fish as another incident of adaptation to environment, but with dramatic change of life form. "There were these fish, left in small potholes, which stored oxygen in small pockets near the brain and eventually developed lungs. They survived and reproduced and eventually evolved into amphibians."

Lenhart covered over 1,000 square miles studying life sedimentary rock in Kentucky, deposited 400-million years ago on the ocean floor at the same time and sedimentary deposits in Devonshire, England, which the Devonian Period is named. For comparison in time and earth action, the Albemarle Region Northeastern North Carolina only now is in the process of turning into sedimentary rock... "with relatively very, very new sediments." Asked for another comparison seen for North Carolina, he said he was studying the past week. Continued On Page 9-B

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Revival Services Are Slated

Revival services will be held September 14-19 at 8:00 P.M. nightly at Ballard's Bridge Baptist Church. The speaker for the special services will be Rev. O. R. Hardy, pastor of the Southside Baptist Church, Suffolk, Va. The combined choirs of Ballard's Bridge will furnish the music, under the direction of Mrs. Brenda Winborne, music director. A nursery will be provided nightly and the public has a cordial invitation to attend. There are no masterminds, regardless of the myths built up.

CETA Contracts

Continued From Page 5-B

positions of CETA responsibility. The most serious problems have surrounded CETA contracts awarded to Precision Graphics, a firm operated by state labor leader Wilbur Hobby. Those contracts apparently have not been accompanied by sufficient records and consequently, some repayment by Hobby to the state might be warranted. The Republicans have accused Hunt and Lee (Lee ran for lieutenant governor in 1976) of awarding the contracts as political payoffs for labor support in 1976. Still, most of the CETA dust had settled after Hunt and Lee had taken what seemed to be substantial steps to get the programs under control. Hunt had every reason to believe that the worst of CETA was behind him until last week when it was revealed that NRCDC had essentially given up on trying to settle the colossal differences with Precision Graphics. Instead, NRCDC has asked the U. S. Labor Department to step in and settle the score. That action had been initiated by a letter from NRCDC Deputy Secretary Walton Jones citing questions raised concerning the Department's objectivity in dealing with Precision Graphics. First reports said the governor supported this action but at his weekly news conference the governor had changed his mind. On Friday, deputy press secretary Brent Hackney said the governor was recalling Jones' letter to the Labor Department and planned to see that the NRCDC cleaned up its own mess. "The governor, as Director of the Budget, has subpoena powers to get the records NRCDC needs from Precision Graphics. If he has to, he plans to use that power," Hackney said.

NOTICE

The Chowan County Board of Elections will conduct two **EXTRA REGISTRATION DAYS** for the convenience of those persons who may not be able to get to the election office during the regular hours or who have not registered at the home of the Registrar or judges.

TIME: Saturday, Sept. 13; Saturday, Sept. 20
PLACE: Assembly Room of the Old Courthouse
HOURS: 10:00 A. M. until 4:00 P. M.

Requirements for registering: Resident of the State and Precinct for 30 days and 18 years of age by the time of the General Election in November. Persons should bring some type of identification.

The registration books will remain open at the regular hours and places until October 6, 1980 for the general election.

E. N. Manning, Chairman
Chowan County Board of Elections

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