

Believe Race Of White People Lived In State Before Indians

Ethnologists Find Evidence That Unknown Race Preceded Cherokees In Mountain Area

By J. B. Hicklin

Although ethnologists and archaeologists are unwilling to venture on such thin ice, they are privately intrigued with discovery of relics and conditions in Western North Carolina that strongly suggest that another race of people inhabited the region before the Cherokee Indians.

Legends of the Cherokees have persisted that when they migrated from the Great Lakes basin to the Southern Appalachian highlands they found and drove out a race "of white" or "fairer skinned" people. In a desperate effort to account for the mysterious disappearance of the first English colony planted in the New World on the shores of North Carolina, those with vivid imagination advanced the theory that the Cherokees captured Virginia Dare and the colonists and brought them into their mountain stronghold. They point out that the Indians' reference to the early white people may have been these and that the legend may have grown up around them.

But this fanciful explanation has been discarded by even the more imaginative since the region has become better known, and the mounds and caves of valleys and gorges have been explored. More and more have those toying with the idea of a previous race come to the conclusion that there is much convincing evidence to support the theory.

While unwilling to be made the authority for the statement, William Colburn of Detroit and Asheville, connected with Smithsonian Institute, found in one of his Indian mound excavations in the mountain region what appeared to have been a cremation oven. Since Indians did not cremate

their dead, and the find was made deep enough to warrant the supposition that the Indian mound had been built on top of an earlier creation, strength was added the idea of a former people.

Although the Cherokee Indians are believed to have dwelt in the many caves and cliff openings along the Nantahala, Little Tennessee, and Tuckasee Rivers in Western North Carolina it is fairly well established now that they were not the authors of the petroglyphs, figures or legends carved on rock, found in the cavities. Neither were the Indians responsible for the petroglyphs, or pictographs carved on the Judaculla Rock at Cowarts in Jackson County, Turtle Rock located on the farm of P. A. Mauney on Nottle River in Cherokee County, and Pot Rock Bald in Clay County, as far as can be ascertained. The Cherokees have always disclaimed authorship, and have no remote idea as to the meanings of the symbols.

On the Judaculla Rock, which has been donated to Great Smoky Mountains National Park Museum, are crude drawings of trees, animal tracks and other objects, thought to comprise a map or give a record of some type of treaty. On the face of Turtle Rock is a carving of a turtle about eight feet across, and near-by are two similar but smaller turtles. Pot Rock Bald gets its name from the likeness of a huge pot carved from a stone on the summit of the mountain. A rock on which are carved tracks of Beaver, deer and other animals is on the Acton McCracken farm on Crabtree in Haywood County.

The cave and cliff dwellings in the limestone formations in Nantahala Gorge, Swain County, about one-half or three-quarters of a mile up the steep side of Nantahala River are the best known. One of the caves can be explored for more than 100 yards, and one section resembles a large sitting room. There is evidence that the cave once extended much further back. In it, and others, are some very unusual and beautiful stalactites, one of which closely resembles a winged angel. Since stalactites are little in evidence on the floor of the cavern, it is supposed the tenants tore them away. The mouth of this cave is closest to Hewitt's Station on the Murphy branch of the Southern Railway, but a second entrance is believed to occur further down the slope. Several years ago a skeleton of a human being was found in this cave, but it was believed to be that of a man who mysteriously disappeared, and was believed murdered, in the region more than half a century ago. The bones of a deer were later found in the same cavern.

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Both Henry Ford and his son Edsel were on hand in Detroit to explain features of the new Ford product, the Mercury, a half-sister to the Lincoln Zephyr, to newspapermen gathered to view the new Ford cars. It is believed that the Mercury will retail for less than \$1,000, but the price will not be disclosed until Nov. 3. The Mercury will fill the price gap in the Ford line between the Ford de luxe and the Zephyr. The Mercury is longer and wider than the de luxe Ford and everything about it is bigger.

1938's Mont Unique Shot On Golf Course

Bretton Woods, N. C.—Frank Walsh, Bretton Woods' professional enters the following as the most unique golf stroke during 1938. Playing in the North and South Open championship in Pinehurst, N. C., he hooked his iron off the 17th tee into a clump of trees, 25 yards to the left of the green. The ball landed in a nest of pine needles, smack up against the trunk of a tree seven inches thick.

Walsh's line to the pin was stymied by the tree. After giving this situation much thought and eliminating each club as being a weapon with which he could accomplish any results, he took his niblick out and bent the steel shaft over his knee into a L shaped curve or bow. He took a swipe at the ball with this improvised club, wrapped it around the tree, picked up the ball and saw it hit the green and run into the hole for a deuce.

and ceremonials that took place at gatherings of towns and tribes. These mounds are different from the Cherokee burial mounds, of course.

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38-inch Crescent bandsaw, \$175.00; 12-inch Crescent jointer \$150.00; 12-inch American floor sander, \$100.00. All good condition. A. M. Case, 116 N. Franklin, Brevard, N. C. Nov. 3.

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W. C. T. C. Student Is Contest Winner

The North Carolina state and southeastern district awards offered by the National Federation of Young Republican Clubs for oratory were won last week by Mr. Burke Ferguson, a sophomore at Western Carolina Teachers College and the son of Mr. and Mrs. G. P. Ferguson, of Cullowhee.

By winning in the North Carolina state contest, Mr. Ferguson won an award of one hundred dollars and a free trip to Knoxville, Tennessee where he competed successfully with representatives from ten Southern states and Porto Rico. Many of the competitors met by Mr. Ferguson are members of law schools in various universities of the South, the second place winner being a member of the law school at Southern Methodist University.

As winner of the district contest at Knoxville, Mr. Ferguson received an award of one hundred and fifty dollars and a free trip to the national contest held in Washington, D. C., during the week of October 30. The winner of the national contest will receive a cash award of \$1000. Second and third prizes of \$500 and \$250 respectively are offered. Eight persons have been selected from the states and territories of the United States to participate in this contest.

Speeches in the national contest will be broadcast on a national radio hook-up sponsored by the Republican National Committee.

Mr. Ferguson's oration is entitled "The Minority Party and Its Duty to the United States."

A reckless driver was arrested the other afternoon for going the wrong way on a one way street. His alibi was that he was driving on the sidewalk.

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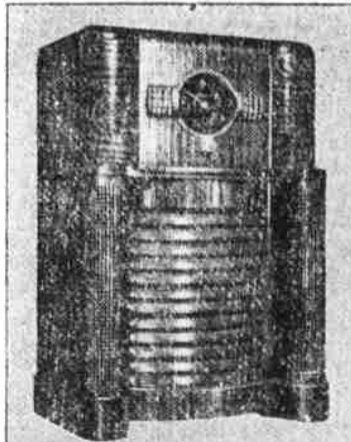
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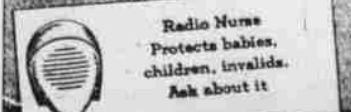
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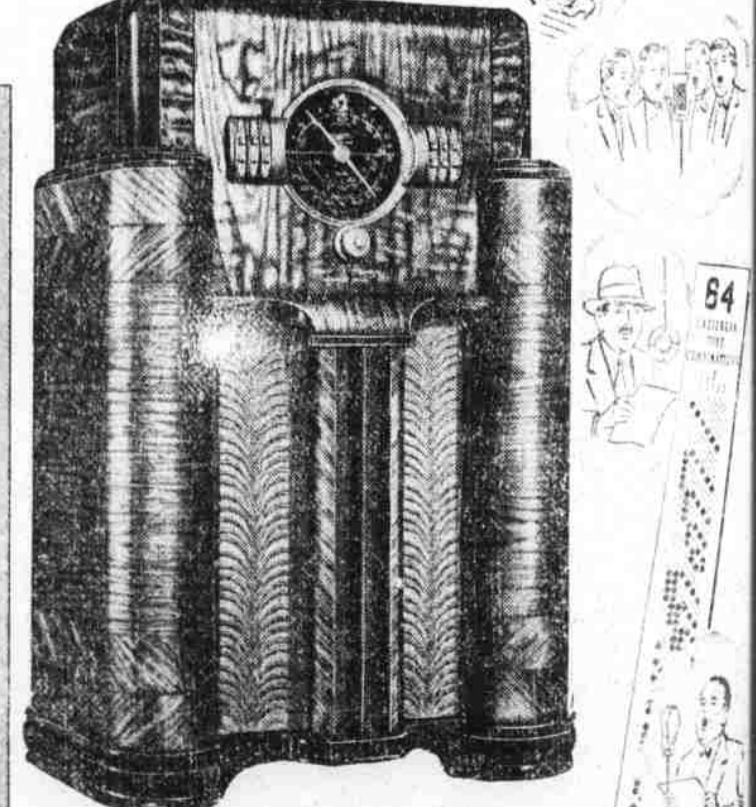
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