

Evidence supports antiquity of man claim

Unusual new evidence that supports Dr. George F. Carter's claim for the antiquity of man in America has been announced in California.

Carter, Piper Professor of geology here, maintains that man has lived on the North American continent 100,000 years, as opposed to 15,000 to 20,000 years.

A new technique for dating human bones bears out Dr. Carter's contention.

The bone protein dating system of Dr. Jeffrey L. Bada was applied to

fossil hominid bones from California sites. It more than doubled the generally-accepted time frame for man in the New World.

Carter contends that glaciation patterns require that the bones came from hominids whose forebearers crossed into the Americas in even more ancient times, 80,000 or more years ago. The early men were believed to have crossed on a Bering Sea land bridge, exposed by glaciation locking sea water into ice and lowering the ocean level.

The oldest direct dates so far determined for any New World hominids were announced at a press conference yesterday in La Jolla, Calif. The conference was based on a paper by Bada and Dr. Roy Schroeder of the Scripps Institution of Oceanography and Carter. The paper is to be published in "Science," journal of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

Hominid bones from sites near La Jolla and Los Angeles were found to

be from 6,000 to 48,000 years old. At intermediate steps were fossils of 26,000, 28,000 and 44,000 years age.

The Los Angeles samples, already radiocarbon dated, were analyzed by the protein technique as a check. Acceptable agreement was found.

The bones were dated by measuring their aspartic acid racemization reaction. Over long periods of geological time, certain amino acids found only in proteins of living organisms undergo slow racemization, or change, producing non-protein

amino acids. The ratio serves as a kind of clock.

By chemically measuring the extent of racemization in a fossil bone, its age can thus be estimated.

The samples were from a series of skeletal remains collected between 1920 and 1935 by the late M. J. Rogers for the San Diego Museum of Man. They have since been stored at the museum. Rogers once showed Carter the sites and circumstances of collection.

The dates "suggest that man popu-

lated the New World substantially earlier than 15,000 to 25,000 years ago, the last time the Bering land bridge existed," the paper states.

"The most important inference from the 48,000 year date is that man was already in Southern California before the last known possible corridor through the Wisconsin glaciation," Carter remarked. "It put a sea-to-sea blockade across North America."

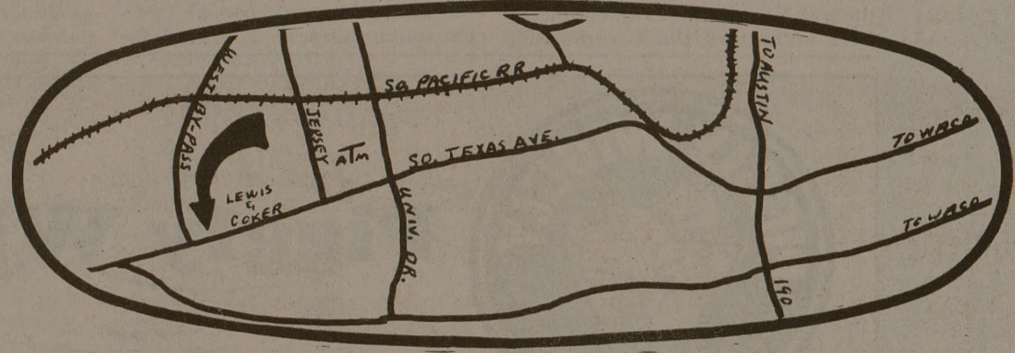
"For some time it was possible to argue that man first entered America through a corridor through the ice mass about 30,000 years ago," added the TAMU professor, recently named a Piper Professor through the Minnie Stevens Piper Foundation of San Antonio.

"But man in Southern California at 48,000 years ago, as shown by these new findings refutes such argument," Carter said.

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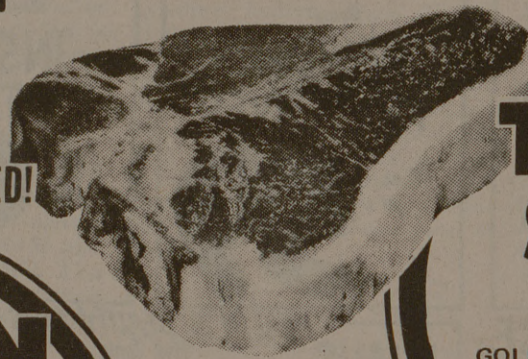
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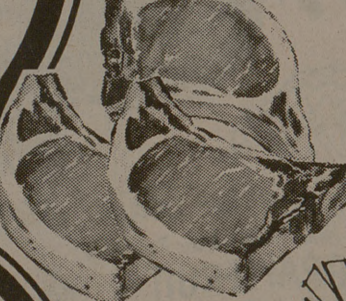
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