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A With Honors Paper

05\04\2011

Who were the first Americans?

Most people living in America today have no clue as to how rich this geographical land is in history. The average American honestly believes that there was just a large population of humble, uncivilized Native Americans living here from time immemorial. This is far from the real history of this land we call the Americas. In fact when we look at it, there seems to be a layered history of a number of civilizations rising and falling not only in North America, but Meso-America and South America as well. The focus of this paper is to explore the earliest of the sites that traditional archeologists choose to recognize, the Clovis culture. Not much is known of these people due to the fact there is not much left behind from them. What relics are left behind has opened up much controversy in the world of archeology. We will first establish a clear view of who exactly the Clovis people were. Lots of people have information to share. We will examine a spectrum of sources. Next we will look at the few relics that are left behind from numerous Clovis sites from all over the Americas. Upon examination we will cross compare them with other sites and possibly other cultures. Last but not least, we will look into what exactly is all the conflict about regarding the dates of these sites. We will explore what some scientists claim to be a number of pre-Clovis sites in places long before there was a migration into the geographical region of the world known as South America. This is a hot debate in the

archeological communities all over the world. This paper is focused on giving all arguments a fair chance to contribute their information. In the end an analysis will be made off all strong points.

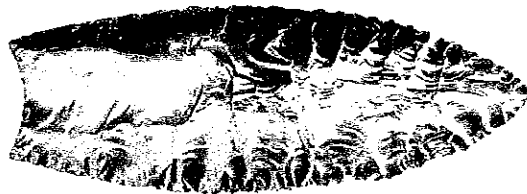
In the world of archeology today we seem to have some set walls established in the minds of the archeologists. There is a need to have well trained archeologists who understand what should be where and at what time. Archeologists have a neat systematic flow to which prehistory unfolds. This unfolding process of man correlates with the evolution theory of man. When evidence is excavated it must find its place within that series of events. However, every once and a while, some contradicting artifact or relic seems to come along and disrupt the whole archeological/ anthropological community. The scattered Clovis sites, is where it all starts in America. Archeological record shows these people to be the mothers and fathers of all civilizations in the Americas. These people got their name from the sites found in the 1930's near Clovis, New Mexico. The Clovis people were said to have come to the Americas 11,500 years B.P. during the last ice age, crossing over the land mass connecting Asia to Alaska later known as the Bering Strait. They are most famous for the bi-faced, fluted points that have been found in all of the Clovis sites excavated. These points have distinct features to them and that is what seems to be the common denominator in all Clovis sites excavated. The Clovis was thought to be the oldest culture in the Americas by archeologists for years. If anything was to be excavated that suggests it to be pre-Clovis or any artifacts excavated from a stratum that is lower than the Clovis line, strong opposition would be encountered by the archeological powers that be. The henchmen of this power have been named the "Clovis mafia" by some archeologists. They make sure that the Clovis are at the start of Pre-American history and anything that is pre-Clovis is met with ferocity. There has always been a primary focus amongst all American

archeologists to find out exactly who the first settlers were. There are a large number of extinct animals that the Clovis shared environments with. The Clovis are known to be the first big game hunters in the American record. The mega fauna they hunted ranged from woolly mammoths to large bears. Woolly mammoths have been found with these magnificent bi-faced points still lodged into the bones, which themselves date back to 11,000 years B.P. Here are a few examples of these fluted bi-faced points.

Example 1a.



Example 1b.



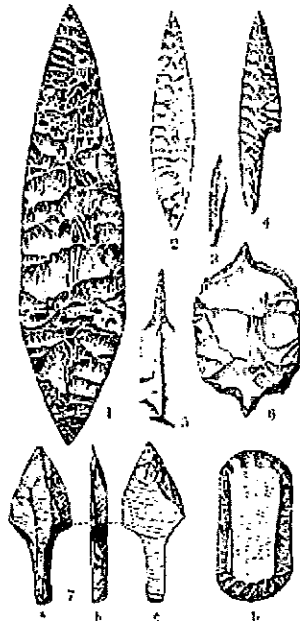
These points have been flaked from all kinds of rocks, even quartz crystal. This culture seemed to have come to an abrupt end and all of the mega fauna that flourished with it. Some scientists have hypothesized that a comet collided with the earth, consequently leaving a large percentage of the faunal and plant life extinct. There is also a visible line in the rock strata that suggests an event like this happened in earth's history. Gary Haynes, Professor of Anthropology, University Nevada, Reno, has documented a lot of this Clovis history in his book entitled "*The Early Settlement of North America*". He along with Michael Waters of Texas A and M believes that there was some kind of natural world wide, catastrophic event that unfortunately devastated this culture and the now extinct plants and animals. We can see when this culture came to an end by

examining the archeological record and studying rock strata. We now move on to see if maybe the genesis of this culture came from somewhere else. Some scientists have suggested that they have the missing links to some similar cultures that have the exact flint knapping and pressure flaking techniques. Also mysterious skeletal remains appear in a river in Kennewick Washington that puts a twist on history as we know it as well.

As we move along, we take a closer look at other possible sites that may explain the Clovis points and give a better explanation of these people. Some scientists feel they have found that link between the Clovis and other similar cultures. Ruins excavated in France reveal a quite similar flint knapping technology to that of the Clovis of America. It is labeled the Solutrean. Some experts claim that the same flint knapping techniques were employed in the production of bi-faces in both cultures. There are no contradictions. Though there are, a hand full of correlations between Solutrean and Clovis flakes. Both commonly seem to be larger flakes that are hammered from a core. They both seem to be flaked on both sides (bi-faced) in the same mathematical pattern. Most of the neo-flint knappers only flaked one side of the points giving these Clovis style points a league of their own. Also they both seem to be fluted at the ends. This is a characteristic that is exclusive to these style points only.



Example 2a.



Example 2b.

This is very interesting that we have the Clovis people not coming over the Bering Strait more than 13,000 years B.P. The Solutrean points that have been excavated in France are said to be from a culture at least 19,000 years old. Radio carbon dates support these observations. Could this be? A group of skillful big game hunters in the geographical area of ancient France make it all the way across Asia, the Bering Land Bridge, through Alaska, migrated through Canada and was able to bring this technology to Clovis, New Mexico. To some archeologists, this was very valuable because they felt that this was a major victory for European archeology. Others felt that this ideal was more of an act of cultural robbery. Native Americans felt that the idea was simply another attempt by cultural imperialist to snatch away their cultural history. Even more bizarre is that some fringe archeologist began to talk about how these Solutrean people may have taken a short cut by somehow (no boats known archeologically for another 10,000 years) crossing the North Atlantic. Most professional archeologist, remain pretty skeptical of a

direct link between Solutrean and Clovis. For me, this journey just kept on getting more and more interesting as more lost history was revealed to me. Forensic scientist James Chatters believes he has an archeological find that will turn the archeological world upside down. In July 1996 the skeleton of a 45 year old male was recovered from near Kennewick, Washington. The skeleton was found on the Columbian River...shoreline. Based on the age of a well known spear point (cascade point type) lodged in a bone of the pelvis, as well as, direct carbon dating of a bone fragment, the skeleton is at least 7,000 and maybe as much as 9,000 years old. Chatters ultimately determined that the morphology of the skull displayed "some Caucasoid features" whatever that might actually mean. He however threw gasoline on a fire that said "European" if not French Solutrean. Within four days of this find the skeleton was seized by federal officials. The racial assignment by Chatters sparked a debate between anti-Native American racists and the Native American community upon who's reservation the skeleton was recovered. The debate was on as to who was the first people to settle here. The Native American's had laws like NAGPRA (The Native American Grave Protection and Repatriation Act) on their side. This gave Native Americans the right to all of the remains of ancient Americans. The racist archeologist headed by Chatters, on the other hand had, forensic evidence that they were not backing down from invested in the skeleton. The real bombs the scientists drop challenges the Native American history to the highest order. Scientist proved that the ancient Americans were a people that didn't even resemble the modern day Native Americans. The oldest mounds, burial sites and graves excavated show that some of ancient Americans to be in fact, members of an isolated population in the geographical location we call Japan today. It continues to get even crazier because these

same people look nothing like the modern day Japanese either. Richard Jantz, has examined the skulls of many Native Americans and has concluded that they seem to be a mixing pot of many of different phenotypes and not much resembling modern day Native Americans. This is where our story leads us to the real conflict. At this point we will step outside of the traditional flow of history and look at some cultures that make all of the above mentioned cultures look like more recent history vs. ancient history. We will now look at some of the cultural sites that have been tested to be even thousands of years older than that of the Clovis and other affiliated sites in the Americas. This time the sites are located in South America. At a time when the Clovis had not yet even come over the Bering Strait.

We can now move on to the real explosive archeology. In 1977 at a site near Monte Verde, Chile there was an archeological find that would push the interpretation of classical history of the Americas back to square one. University of Kentucky archeologist Thomas Dillahey excavated this site and found it to be radio carbon dated at 14,850 years old. This evidence was so heavily disputed at the time, it was not until 1997 when a group of die hard skeptics made their analysis of the site and said it to be dated correctly. Ruth Gruhn of the University of Alberta, Canada, expressed how she felt Monte Verde to be a turning point for archeology. The Clovis first story was now after so many years starting to deteriorate. Thanks to the peat moss that covered this site when archeologist discovered upon their arrival, a wealth of knowledge that had been preserved about these people and their culture. Unlike the Clovis sites, we find that there is a little more evidence left behind of this lost culture. When we look at the artifacts we do not see the traditional band style big game hunters that you read the Paleo-Indians to be. We see

there was actually a settling down at this common campsite in Monte Verde year round. There were remains of mastodons so that shows they were still big game hunters. They also found tools that suggest they hunted smaller game as well. They also ate a wide variety of plants. A number of tools indicated this to be the case.

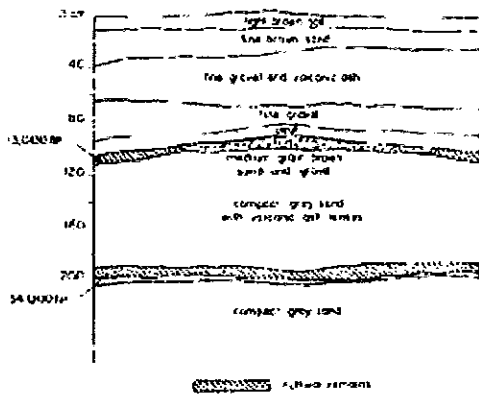
It seems like just as the impact on the Monte Verde discovery was being absorbed by the archeological community, other new sites were being reported. We have large rock shelters that date back 40,000 years B.P., in Toca do Boqueirao da Pedra Furada. We also have cave sites in New Mexico that clearly date to 14,000 years B.P. (Pendejo Cave). Traditional Clovis sites of New Mexico would have been occupied at a later time when there was surely no modern day Native Americans. We also have sites in Pennsylvania that have graves dating back further than 19,000 years ago. There seems to be a wanting to cover up or just refusal to look at these cultures as being valid.

Lots of people in the archeological community consider these sites to be a hoax and don't even take them serious. The reality that there may be older history than what historical record has revealed terrifies some people. We can take a look at these sites and judge for ourselves.



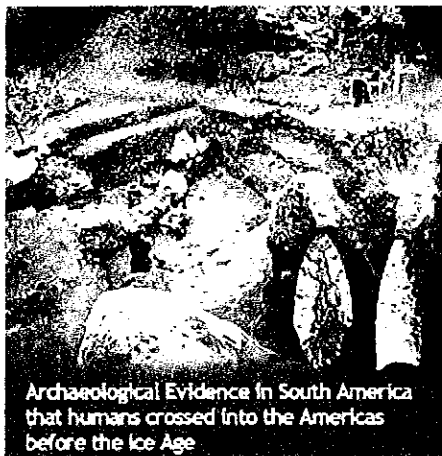
Example 3a.

Above is an actual photo of the pre-Clovis excavation site in Monte Verde.



Example 3b.

This illustration shows the depositional sequence reported for Monte Verde shows how rock strata, is constructed. There are certain levels that can clearly reveal the dates of artifacts found in them. The graphic reveals markers of zones that indicate areas that are between 13,000 and 34,000 years old. Artifacts have been found within these strata.



Archaeological Evidence in South America that humans crossed into the Americas before the Ice Age

Example 3c.

The next illustration comes from an archeological magazine, showing a correlation between the bi-faced Clovis technology and the lithic artifacts found at Monte Verde. The bi-face is not exclusive to Monte Verde, but all of the related pre- Clovis sites that have been excavated.

Let us take a moment to look at everything we have covered. We have a Modern Native people that history has for so long stresses the fact there was no other people outside of these people present, prior to their ancestors crossing the Bering Straite. As time proceeds and we make more archeological discoveries, the story may be poised to change. Can it be possible that ancient America was in fact much more of a mixing pot of all races, than we know? What if tomorrow's archeologists are doing work that shows there to be previous high civilizations that existed prior to the ones currently known? What will this say of today's leading archeologists? These are the questions that we stand to be faced with if we don't shake off the preconceived notions that we have about the unfolding of history. What if there is no coincidence between the pressure flaking technology that we see in these points that seem to be scattered out all over the world and in different cultural settings. There seems to be a lot of clues that point to an earlier part of human history that suggests there was some kind of world order that we have totally forgot about. Tomorrows archeologists have a lot to contend with when it comes to sorting this all out. There are lots of people who have a belief of the way history unfolds and they are ready to fight in order to make sure it stays like that. There is also a small group that is emerging out of the chaos that sees the truth and wants to fight twice as hard to set it free.