

# Original Americans Migrated Here Over 20,000 Years Ago

(From JESSEN'S WEEKLY)

The ancestors of the American Indian first migrated to North America more than 20,000 years ago.

Later came the ancestors of the Eskimo.

Both came by way of a land bridge which at one time was about 200 miles wide — that connected Alaska and Siberia.

These conclusions are embodied in the first detailed, well organized theory of how this hemisphere was first populated.

The theory was presented for the first time just recently by Dr. H. Muller-Beck, the leading world expert on the subject, at an international conference at the University of Alaska.

A geologist, archeologist, and ethnologist, Dr. Muller-Beck has been studying the question of how this continent was peopled for the past five years under a grant from the national science foundation of Germany.

He hopes to continue on the study for possibly ten more years until with additional evidence gathered his theory is universally accepted as true.

His theory, which already has the backing of most world experts in the field, is as follows:

About 20,000 years ago, the Ice Age was at its maximum. Giant ice fields juttred down from the North covering immense areas. Alaska was part of Siberia, connected by a land bridge about 200 miles wide.

As the gigantic glaciers swept south, the sea level became progressively lower and the land bridge wider.

Sometime previously, perhaps about 26,000 years ago, the ancestors of the Indians became isolated in the area now the U.S. when the Canadian and Rocky Mountain ice fields merged, causing a barrier to further migration.

Later, date unknown, a people much more adaptable to the cold migrated across the land bridge to Alaska. They could not go south because the way was blocked. Instead they migrated north and across what is now Canada and Greenland.

The Paleo Indians migrated across the Bering Sea Land Bridge at a time when it was comparatively narrow. They were hunters and migrated in search of animals. They had what they called projectile point industries, that is they hunted with implements made of wood and chipped stone implements.

They migrated down to the central and southwest part of the U.S. where many of their artifacts have been found.

The ice fields merged and the paleo Indians were cut off from migrating north.

The paleo Eskimos who then migrated to Alaska had what he calls Aurignacoid industries, that is implements and tools made from bone. The Eskimos developed their culture, adapted to the cold climate of the Far North independent of the Indians.

Later as the ice shields melted and receded, a passage was again opened for travel between the Canadian and Rocky Mountain Ice Fields.

The principal evidence tying the paleo Indians with older projective

point people of Siberia and Europe is that of Folsom and projectile points found in the Southwest part of the U.S.

The principal evidence that the paleo Eskimo migrated to this continent from Siberia are a number of artifacts found from 1934 to 1937 on the campus of the University of Alaska. These are displayed in the University Museum.

According to Dr. Muller-Beck, these artifacts are from the Aurignacoid industries.

In arriving at his theory, Dr. Muller-Beck has traveled through the Soviet Union, Europe, the United States, and has drawn from the leading sources throughout the world.

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