

Ancient Houses Uncovered By Expedition In Arctic Alaska

PROVIDENCE, R.I. (AP) — A Brown University expedition has uncovered the remains of three ancient houses in Alaska that are among the oldest in North America. It also found flint knives believed to be 8,000 years old.

The expedition, headed by Prof. Froelich Rainey of the University of Pennsylvania, visited

the Onion Portage on the Kobuk River in northwestern Alaska, 50 miles above the Arctic Circle and 100 miles inland from the Chukchi Sea that separates Alaska and Siberia.

The discoveries may unlock the mysteries of the migrating tribes that have passed through Alaska since the end of the ice age, when a land bridge is be-

lieved to have connected Alaska and Siberia, a University announcement said today.

Remains of two of the circular houses were found at the 4,000-year-old level along with flint tools. The third was found 2½ feet below the first two. All three houses belong to the so-called Denbigh Culture.

The third house "is among the oldest yet found in the Arctic," said Mrs. J. Louis Giddings, curator of Brown's Haffenreffer Museum, where the artifacts brought back from Alaska will be studied.

The expedition reported finding 30 "cultural levels" at the site, including thick pockets of charcoal from man-made hearths and tiny stone knives and chips indicating that people had camped on the riverbank in immediate post-glacial times, 6,000 years before Christ.

At the top of the site was found remains of a large 13th Century house. Inside was the skeleton of a man believed to have been a "shaman," or wise man with magical powers, the university said.

