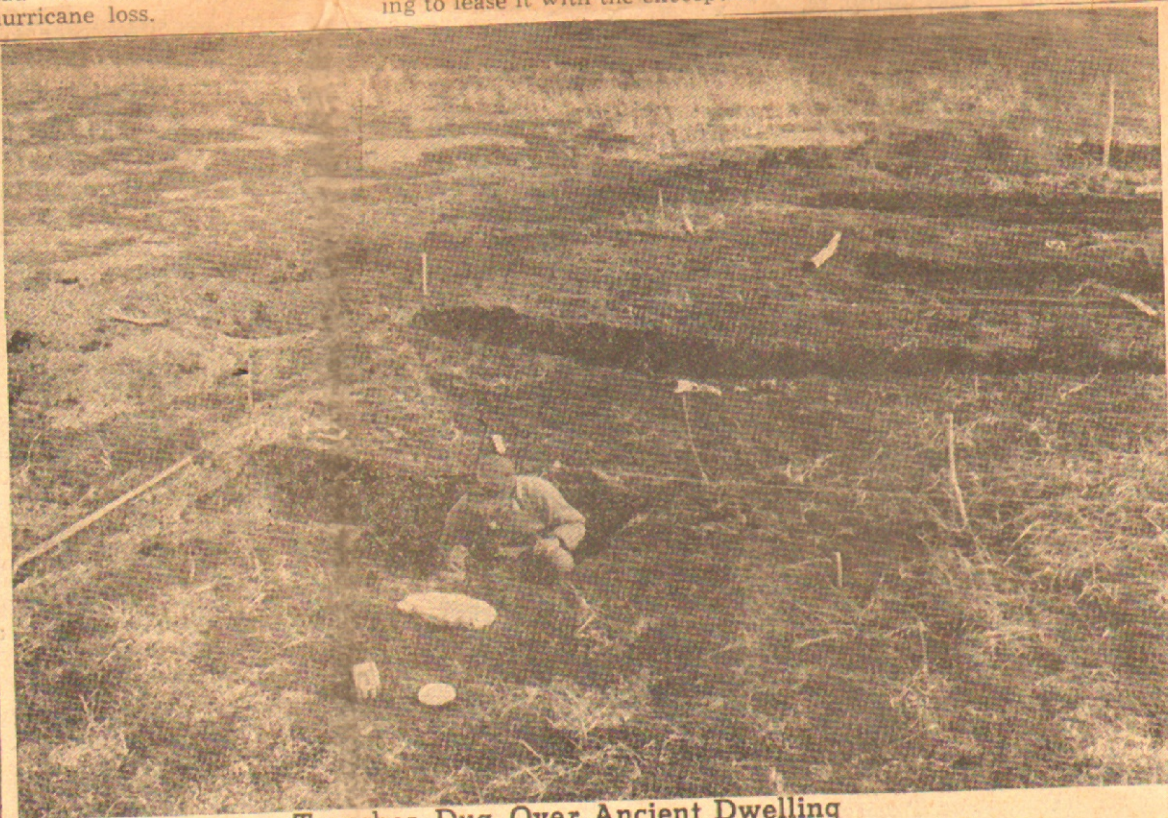


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would do everything he could to (continued on page three)



Trenches Dug Over Ancient Dwelling

## Rare Find in the Arctic Circle

A Brown University anthropologist, Dr. J. Louis Giddings, of the Haffenreffer Museum, who spent part of the past summer digging on an Alaskan beach, has unearthed traces of what he believes to be the oldest human habitation ever found in the American Arctic, possibly in the entire Arctic region.

This "house" is unique in that it is of a type entirely different

from any previously found.

The discovery fills in a gap in the chronology of the region. The flints, pottery and other artifacts found there place its former occupants as predecessors of the earliest Eskimos, yet later by centuries than still more ancient peoples of the Far North who, however, left no recognizable habitations.

The find lends added weight

to a theory now held by some scientists that the North American continent was not settled by "mass migrations" from Siberia. They believe instead that the Far North, from Siberia across the American continent to northern Europe, was once sparsely settled by peoples sharing a similar culture.

Whether these peoples moved from east to west or from west to east, or in both directions, is not known. But it is believed that their movements were casual, at the urge of hunting, fishing and trading, rather than in mass migrations.

The discovery was made by Dr. Giddings, formerly assistant director of the American section of the University of Pennsylvania Museum, during a field trip sponsored by the Arctic Institute of North America.

Accompanied by Melvin Reichler, a graduate student of Sociology at Brown, and Robert Ackerman, a trained archeologist from the University of Pennsylvania, Dr. Giddings began excavating in one of three oval depressions found on the shore of Eschscholtz Bay, an inlet off Kotzebue Sound, more than 100 miles roughly northeast of Bering Strait.

They unearthed an oval area about 42 by 24 feet, around which 10 posts had been imbedded, slanting toward the center. With-



Dr. Giddings Shows Pottery Fragments

in this space was a smaller area, which had formed the floor of the structure. Lengthwise within this area were two rows of posts, evidently for support of the roof.

While this "house" apparently shared with more modern Eskimo houses the features of a sod roof supported by poles resting on the upright posts, it was otherwise unique. Its oval shape is different from any human habitation ever found in the Arctic. All the ancient structures in the Point Hope area were either square or rectangular. That pattern also is found in comparable houses on the Asian continent to the west.

The nearest thing to the Eschscholtz Bay house is an early form of Viking house found

in northern Europe, Dr. Giddings says. Scientific papers have been written hitherto to show that there are no oval houses in the American Arctic. But here, unquestionably, is one.

Dr. Giddings thinks that this house probably was occupied by what archeologists call an "extended family" or a group of related families, rather than by what is termed a family today.

From this site Dr. Giddings brought back at least 200 artifacts, not counting about 150 pieces of broken pottery. There are harpoon dart heads, arrow and spear heads, an adze head made of caribou antler with openings for the flint blade and a handle.



Artifacts Uncovered in Arctic