

Dr. Giddings Diggings

Professor Plans New Alaskan Study

Beach ridges, believed to hold secrets of cultures thousands of years old, will once again draw a Brown University professor and a party of two to the far reaches of Alaska this summer.

Dr. James L. Giddings, who opened up a new avenue of archaeological approach to the Alaskan Indian via the beach ridge, said he intends to take two Brown students with him on the trip expected to last until next September.

The students are William Simmons, 3rd, a senior and assistant at the Haffenreffer Museum of the American Indian in Bristol and Samuel Friedman of Puerto Rico.

An associate professor of sociology and director of the Indian Museum, Dr. Giddings first began his explorations of Alaska in 1934.

But, when all three leave — probably June 1—they will set out to fill in many gaps that exist in archaeological sequences.

Aerial photographs taken by military and U.S. Geodetic teams have pricked Dr. Giddings' curiosity—especially ones

along the coastline of the Bering Strait, northward and eastward on the shores of the Chukchi Sea, a part of the Arctic Sea.

These photographs, Dr. Giddings said yesterday, disclose a consecutiveness in beach ridges.

Some of these ridges probed last summer in the Kotzebue Sound area uncovered artifacts believed to have belonged to a culture at least 6,000 years old.

Trim for his trip, Dr. Giddings said yesterday at the museum that he hoped this year's exploration would prove as productive as the one last year.

Included among the hundreds of pounds of material which now repose at the museum off Mt. Hope Bay are bone needles, snow goggles, fish hooks, harpoons, arrow heads, archery tools which are classified under the Western Thule culture and are all rated 1,000 years old and more. Some are 6,000 years old.

Also unearthed at the beach line was a 14 by 12 foot house which included a kitchen, con-

necting tunnels more than 12 feet in length, and a cache pit which cribbed precious items of the persons who once lived there thousands of years ago.

Dr. Giddings theory is that Indians lived on the ocean front. "There food was there and their boats were there."

The search leads to older and older beach ridges. Artifacts are identified through comparison with what is known and by measuring carbon.

Then comes the task of putting each of the items in its proper order "and at the same time learning the effects of climate changes," Dr. Giddings said.

Dr. Giddings is quite certain that vastly older cultures existed at one time beneath land now covered by about 200 feet of water.

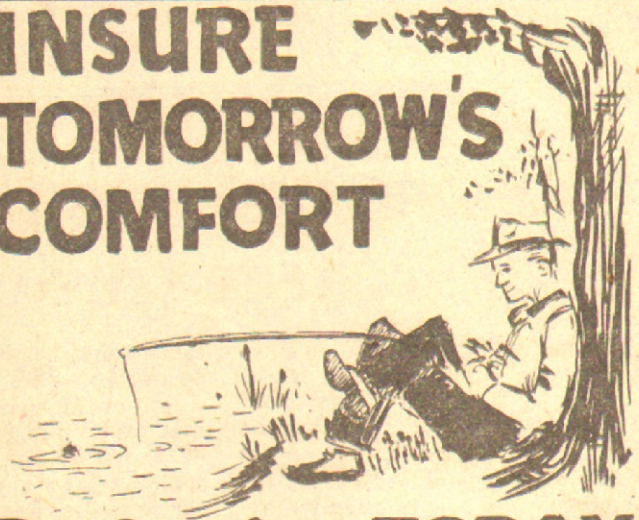
He estimated the water level in some sectors of Alaska has risen by at least 200 feet. It is understood, he said, that some sociological researchers have dived in the waters of Florida and Mexico in efforts to unlock knowledge of previous cultures.

How about diving in the waters of Alaska

"The trouble is you might freeze to death. Walrus and all that sort of thing. Not practical," Dr. Giddings said.

But then, if one was absolutely certain of a find—that's another story; the doctor conceded.

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Seekonk

PICKED FOR BOYS STATE

Three boys have been selected to represent Seekonk at the Massachusetts Boys State at the University of Massachusetts. They will be at Seekonk, June 18 through the

Dube in Portsmouth with Mrs. Seth R. Anthony president. Plans for the trip to Camp Hoffman May 29-30 were outlined by Mrs. Howard J. Earle.

The next meeting will be held June 1 at the home of Mrs. William R. Usher, on Bris-