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This document contains transcripts of 16 newspaper articles discussing the skeletal remains uncovered at Ellensburg, Washington, in May of 1912. The reference (newspaper and date) is given in brackets before the text of each article. The number in brackets that follows corresponds to the identification number used in the database that I am compiling. The alpha-numeric designations in brackets are references used in my [blog post about these stories](#).

[*Morning Oregonian*, May 11, 1912] [286] [A-1]

BONES OF PRIMITIVE MAN ARE REVEALED

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Prehistoric Skeleton is Found at Ellensburg.

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2 ROWS OF TEETH IN UPPER JAW

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Fossils Countless Ages Old Are Well Preserved.

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Height 6 FEET 8 INCHES

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Scientist Visits Place Where Builders Unearth Scientific Lore and Says It Is of Earliest Clans.

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ELLENSBURG, Wash., May 10.—(Special)—A skeleton of a primitive man, with forehead sloping directly back from the eyes and with two rows of teeth in the front of his upper jaw, was uncovered here when contractors were excavating for an apartment-house on Craigs Hill today.

The hill is of the hogback formation and the excavation was made on the side hill about 20 feet below the surface and about 20 feet back from the face of the slope.

The skeleton was found in the cement rock formation, over which was a layer of shale rock. The rock was perfectly dry and doctors say that the skeleton could have remained in that formation hundreds of years without rotting. The jaw bone, which broke apart when removed, is so large that it will go around the face of the man of today. The other bones are also much larger than that of ordinary men. The femur bone is 20 inches long, which, according to scientific men, would indicate that the man was 80 inches tall, or approximately six feet eight inches.

Scientist Examines Spot.

Dr. J. P. Munson, Ph.D., M.S., professor of biological sciences in the State Normal School, and who lectured before the International Biological Congress in Austria last Summer, visited the spot this afternoon, and, after examining the bones, pronounced them to be those of a primitive man. The teeth in front are rounded down and the jaw bone, which, Dr. Munson states, is due to eating of uncooked foods and the crushing of hard substances.

The sloping skull, he says, shows an extremely low order of intelligence, far earlier than that of the Indians known to the white settler.

The skeleton, perfectly preserved, was exposed when a blast of dynamite loosened the cement rock so that when M. E. Root, who is employed by Mr. Belch, again approached the hillside he say, gleaming from the rock, a skull.

No effort was made to molest the remainder of the skeleton till later in the afternoon, when the small son of Contractor Belch was told by his father of the discovery. With the aid of a pick the boy uncovered a perfect skeleton.

Citizens Are Interested.

Craigs Hill, which runs along the eastern edge of the city, is supposed to be of glacial formation, although some believe that the hill is a delta of a river which flowed from the Nanum Canyon across the valley into Yakima Canyon countless ages ago.

The removal of a heap of debris is anxiously awaited by a number of people, as it is expected that more bones and perhaps trinkets will be uncovered.

The thigh bones are on exhibition at the Record office, together with a jaw bone of unusual size.

[*Kansas City Star*, May 11, 1912] [284] [A-2]

FIND BONES OF ANCIENT MEN.

Prehistoric People of Washington Had Practically No Forehead.

ELLENSBURG, WASH, May 11.—Skeletons believed to be those of prehistoric people, were found today in a deep hill excavation. The skulls showed practically no forehead, sloping sharply back from the eye sockets. One skull contained a complete double row of teeth in the upper jaw. One of the skeletons was six feet eight inches in height. The hill is being explored for other skeletons.

[*Daily Capitol Journal*, May 11, 1912] [434] [A-3]

The skeleton of a prehistorical man has been found near Ellensburg. The upper jaw had two rows of teeth, which shows reckless extravagance, as one row was no account with no teeth opposite them.

[*Tacoma Times*, May 11, 1912] [315] [A-4]

Prehistoric Man's Skeleton Excavated in Ellensburg

ELLENSBURG, May 11. —What Dr. J. P. Munson, professor of biological sciences in the State Normal school, pronounces the skeleton of a primitive man was found here today by workmen excavating for an apartment house.

The skeleton is that of a man about six feet eight inches tall. The forehead slopes directly back from the eyes. The jaw bone is so large it would go around the face of a man today, and the other bones are proportionately large.

Dr. Munson says the skull indicates the primitive man to have been of a far lower type of intelligence than the earliest known Indians.

[*Evening Standard*, May 11, 1912] [316] [A-2]

FIND PRE-HISTORIC SKELETONS.

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Ellensburg, Wash., May 11. —Skeletons believed to be those of pre-historic people were found today in a deep hill excavation. The skulls showed practically no forehead, sloping sharply back from the eyesockets. One skull contained a complete double row of teeth in the upper jaw. One of the skeletons was six feet eight inches in height. The hill is being explored for other skeletons.

[*San Francisco Call*, May 11, 1912] [317] [A-2]

PREHISTORIC SKELETONS FOUND IN WASHINGTON

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ELLENSBURG, Wash., May 10.—Skeletons believed to be those of prehistoric people were found today in an excavation at Craig's hill 20 feet below the surface. The skulls showed no forehead, sloping sharply back from the eye sockets. One skull contained a complete row of teeth in the upper jaw. One of the skeletons was 6 feet 8 inches in height. The hill is being explored for other skeletons.

[*Morning Olympian*, May 12, 1912] [292] [A-5]

At Ellensburg they have unearthed a primeval man skeleton with two rows of teeth. What an opportunity for the old time dentists.

[*Yakima Herald*, May 15, 1912] [436] [A-6]

FIND GIANT BONES IN GLACIAL DRIFT

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Dynamiting for Excavations at Ellensburg Workman Find Skeleton of Primitive Man

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ELLENSBURG, May 11.—The bones of a primitive man were unearthed Thursday by Edward C. Belch, a contractor, who is making excavations for a 24-room apartment house on the site. The bones were found buried 20 feet beneath the surface of Craig's Hill. The skeletons, perfectly preserved, were exposed when a blast of dynamite loosened the cement rock, so that when M. E. Root who is employed by Mr. Belch again approached the hillside, he saw a skull gleaming from the hillside. No effort was made to molest the balance of the skeleton till later in the afternoon, when the small son of contractor Belch was told by his father of the discovery, when with the aid of a pick he uncovered the perfect skeleton. This was taken to the school this morning, where the teachers quickly decided that the shape of the skull was that of a primitive man.

J. P. Munson, Ph. D., professor of biological sciences in the state normal school, was told of the discovery this noon, and went to see the site. While there he unearthed a skull, which was broken by the pick. Mr. Munson stated that every indication pointed to the fact that the skull was that of an Indian of a low degree of intelligence, as the forehead was sloping, and the teeth of peculiar formation. The front teeth were worn off down to the jawbone, the result, as Professor Munson stated of eating uncooked foods, as was the habit of primitive people. He could not estimate the length of time that the

bones had been in the ground, but as the cement rock in which they were buried was perfectly dry, and beneath a strata of shale rock, conservative estimates place the age of the bones at many hundreds of years.

Craig's Hill, which runs along the eastern edge of the city, is supposed to be of glacial formation, although some believe that the hill is formed by a delta of a river which flowed from the Nanum Canyon countless ages ago.

The skeletons were found 20 feet beneath the surface of the hill, the graves apparently having been tunneled into the hillside. The femur of the largest skeleton is nearly 20 inches long. This, according to Dr. B. J. Moss, would indicate that the man was 80 inches tall, or 6 feet 8 inches, as the man's height is ordinarily four times that of the length of the femur bone.

One of the skulls was unusually large, and in the upper jaw has two complete and distinct rows of teeth in front, each set being perfectly formed. This was regarded as decidedly unusual by the normal school professor, who examined the skull closely. He did not regard the two rows of teeth as a racial attribute, but rather as a freak of nature.

The removal of the head of debris is anxiously awaited by a number of people as it is expected that more bones and perhaps trinkets will be uncovered.

[*Newport Miner*, May 16, 1912] [314] [A-7]

OLD SKELETON IS FOUND

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Bones of Primitive Man Are Found at Ellensburg.

Ellensburg.—A skeleton of a primitive man, with forehead sloping directly back from the eyes and with two rows of teeth in the front of his upper jaw, was uncovered here when contractors were excavating for an apartment house.

The skeleton was found in the cement rock formation, over which was a layer of shale rock. The rock was perfectly dry and doctors say that the skeleton could have remained in that formation hundreds of years without rotting. The jaw bone, which broke apart when removed, is so large that it will go around the face of the man of today. The other bones are also much larger than that of ordinary men. The femur bone is 20 inches long, which, according to scientific men, would indicate the man was 80 inches tall, or approximately six feet and eight inches.

[*Ellensburg Dawn*, May 16, 1912] [319] [B-1]

BELCH UNEARTHS A LARGE SKELETON

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Edward Belch, who has been excavating on East Third street on the side of Craig's Hill for the past two months for a large apartment house, unearthed last Friday a large skeleton fully twenty feet below the surface in a rock formation, over which was a layer of shale rock perfectly dry, and it is generally believed that it could have remained in that formation for ages without being entirely decomposed or lost.

The bones are exceedingly large, in fact the jaw bone is large enough to go around the face of an ordinary man of to-day. In fact all the bones are much larger than those of the ordinary man of this age

or any other age of which we know. The femur is twenty inches long, which indicates that it was the skeleton of man fully six feet and eight inches tall—a giant.

Dr. J. P. Munson, who is professor of biological science in the normal school, after examining the bones pronounced them those of a primitive man.

The teeth in front are rounded and worn flat, almost down to the jawbone, which Dr. Munson states is due to eating uncooked foods and the crushing of hard substances with the teeth. The sloping skull, he says, shows an extremely low order of intelligence, far earlier than that of the Indians known to the white settlers.

The head slopes directly back from the eye sockets and the upper jaw contains a double row of teeth in front. Everything would indicate that at one time it was the skeleton of a powerful man.

No living person knows anything about how the skeleton came there. Some profess to believe it was caught in a flood that at one time washed the sand gravel and dirt that created Craig's Hill, while others think that the tribe dug into the hill and made the tomb purposely for the body. The skeleton of which Mr. Belch has unearthed, the find being as much of a mystery and surprise to him as anyone else.

[*Evening Herald*, May 17, 1912] [435] [C-1]

OLD TIMER MUST HAVE BEEN A BIG FELLOW

Skeleton Discovered at Ellensburg Indicates the Original Must Have Measured Eight Feet—Is Regarded as of Great Value

PORTLAND, May 17.—“That discovery of the bones of a human giant at Ellensburg is one of the most interesting anthropological finds made in the Northwest,” said Chief of the General Land Office Field Division L. L. Sharp. “I just returned from Ellensburg, where I had an opportunity to view the bones. The skull jawbone, thigh and other parts of the largest skeleton indicated a man to my mind at least eight feet high. A man of his stature and massive frame would weigh fully 300 pounds at the least.”

The head is one of the most remarkable I have ever studied among prehistoric skulls. It is massive, with enormous brain space. While the forehead slopes somewhat, not averaging the abrupt eminence of our present race, the width between the ears the deep, well rounded space at the back of the head are convincing testimony of high intelligence for a primitive man. The cheek bones are not high, like those of the Indian, nor has the head any resemblance to the Indian skull. I am convinced that this skull is of a prehistoric man who was one of a remarkable race of people who inhabited this part of America some time prior to the Indian control. The spot where the bones were uncovered is fully twenty feet beneath the surface. There is the usual gravel formation on top, then the conglomerate, a strata of shale and in a bed of concrete gravel beneath the shale were the bones of this giant and of a smaller person. The shale would indicate tremendous age, perhaps more than 1,000,000 years, for the deposit in which the skeleton was found. But this I deem impossible, and presume that the bones were put beneath the shale by means of a tunnel, perhaps, or some other system of interment. I cannot think it possible that a human being of the advanced stage indicated by this great skull could have existed at the period when the shale was formed.

“The jaw is remarkable, and contains many teeth, chief among which are the massive grinders. These are worn down, probably from the habit of the man eating nuts, grasses and other food in a rough state. The strength of the jaw is very apparent. Both skeletons found are incomplete. The head of the smaller is badly broken. Not a very clear idea of height can be gained, but the thigh bone, if not disproportioned, indicates far greater height than that of the present race of man.”

In the valley where Ellensburg is situated, the sedimentary formation is very deep, at some places exceeding 1,000 feet.

[*Milwaukee Sentinel*, June 8, 1912] [318] [A-8]

PRIMITIVE MAN A GIANT

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From the Seattle Post-Intelligence.

Eleven skeletons of primitive men, with foreheads sloping directly back from the eyes, and with two rows of teeth in the front of the upper jaw, have been uncovered in Craigshill, at Ellensburg, this state. They were found about twenty feet below the surface, twenty feet back from the face of the slope, in a cement rock formation over which was a layer of shale. The rock was perfectly dry.

The jaw bones, which easily break, are so large that they will go around the face of the man of today. The other bones are also much larger than those of the ordinary man. The femur is twenty inches long, indicating, scientists say, a man eighty inches tall.

J. P. Munson, professor of biology in the state normal school, who lectured before the International biological college in Austria last summer, visited the spot and pronounced them the bones of a primitive man.

The teeth in front are worn almost down to the jaw bones, due, Dr. Munson says, to eating uncooked foods and crushing hard substances with the teeth. The sloping skull, he says, shows an extremely low order of intelligence, far earlier than that of the Indians known to the whites.

[*Kenna Record*, July 5, 1912] [437] [A-9]

RACE OF MEN WERE GIANTS

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Bones Recently Found Show Gigantic Stature and a Low Order of Intelligence

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Eleven skeletons of primitive men, with foreheads sloping directly back from the eyes, and with two rows of teeth in the front upper jaw, have been uncovered in Craigshill at Ellensburg, Wash. They were found about twenty feet below the surface, twenty feet back from the face of the slope, in a cement rock formation over which was a layer of shale. The rock was perfectly dry.

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[*Republican News Item*, July 5, 1912] [438] [A-9]

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[*Turners Falls Reporter*, July 10, 1912] [257] [A-9]

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BONES OF ANCIENT GIANT

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Amazing Discovery in Oregon is of Great Interest to Anthropologists

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The discovery of the bones of a human giant at Ellensburg is one of the most interesting anthropological finds made in the northwest, according to L. L. Sharp, chief of the general land office. "I just returned from Ellensburg," said he, "where I had opportunity to view the bones unearthed. The skull, jawbone, thigh and other parts of the largest skeleton indicated a man to my mind of at least eight feet high. A man of his stature and massive frame would weigh fully 300 pounds at least. The head is one of the most remarkable I ever have studied among prehistoric skulls. It is massive, with enormous brain space. While the forehead slopes down somewhat, not averaging the abrupt eminence of our present race, the width between the ears and the deep, well-rounded space at the back of the head are convincing testimony of high intelligence for a primitive man. The cheekbones are not high, like those of the Indian, nor has the head any resemblance to the Indian skull. I am convinced that this skull is of a prehistoric man who was one of a remarkable race of people who inhabited this part of American some time prior to the Indian control.

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