

REBUTTAL TO
FLORIDA SPRING CONFIRMED AS 10,000 YEAR OLD EARLY MAN SITE

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by William R. Royal

Page 1, Paragraph 1:

Dr. Eugenie Clark is probably one of the top scientists in her field in the world and is author of over eighty scientific papers, including frequent contributions to National Geographic Magazine. The authors of the above publication belittle her by calling her "a marine biologist and author of popular books." Although it should not be necessary to qualify Dr. Clark, I might mention that she received her B.A. from Hunter College and her M.A. and Ph.D. from New York University. She has received numerous fellowships and scholarships, including a Fulbright, for marine research, and has taught at Hunter College, the New England Institute for Medical Research, and the City University of New York. At present, she is Professor of Zoology at the University of Maryland.

The writer doesn't like to be called a sports diver, since most of his 8,000 hours of diving have been in the field of scientific investigation underwater. Of these 8,000 hours, between 4,500 and 5,000 were spent underwater in Warm Mineral Springs.

Page 1, Paragraph 2:

The exact location of the specimens was not provided due to the Spring's popularity to sports divers who would have looted the site. This was the first time in history that underwater human remains have been found of ice age vintage. There was no precedent as to how one should excavate an underwater burial. The work was done very carefully. An underwater archeologist and anthropologist, Dr. Luanna Pettay, selected the carbonized wood from a half-burned log to be used for Carbon 14 dating. Dr. Pettay found human finger bones under the log. Dr. Clark and I found other human bones, a skull and jaw bone, next to and in back of the log. These bones were found in the presence of the three of us. Dr. Clark had already made arrangements with Drs. Hubbs and Suess of Scripps Institute of Oceanography for a C-14 dating. Since Dr. Pettay was an anthropologist, it was decided that she should select the material for the dating. The Carbon 14 dating was 10,000 \pm 200 years.

Recently, Dr. Reynold Ruppe has set up a scientific method of underwater excavation up to eight feet below sea level on a shell mound off Venice Beach.

Page 3, Paragraphs 1 and 2, Page 9, Paragraph 5:

Unfortunately, the two diving authors of this publication have had less than forty hours diving time in Warm Mineral Springs. The writer of this paper has had over 4,500 hours since 1958 to the present. The publication does not specify how the authors have knowledge of destroyed sediment in the 13 meter ledges. The fact is (with all the unauthorized divers included) that less than 15% of all sediments have been destroyed. If anyone doubts this, they are invited to come to Warm Mineral Springs to make their own survey of the facts.

Page 5, Paragraph 1:

We have positive proof that the hard packed leaves and debris beds were laid down in a dry or semi-dry environment with human and animal bones in layers of stratigraphy. This proof will be described in a later section.

Page 11, Paragraph 3:

At the height of the Wisconsin glacier 10,000 to 20,000 years B.P., it penetrated as far south as the Ohio River approximately 800 miles north of Warm Mineral Springs. Discovered at Venice Beach in a 10,000 to 15,000 year old pleistocene deposit was a Walrus tusk. The Walrus is a cold water mammal. This evidence indicates that the area of Warm Mineral Springs was at one time under sub-zero temperatures much like present day ~~Greenland~~ Ohio.

Page 22, 23, 24, 25, Paragraphs 1 through 14:

Stalactites are hanging down from 15 to 18 feet under the surface to 75 feet down. In 1958, one stalactite was observed approximately 180 to 200 feet below the surface. I can also show any interested scientist large stalactites lying in sediments into which they have fallen from the decomposed rock ceiling approximately 200 feet down and at least 40 feet back under the overhanging slope.

Page 22, Paragraph 3:

The hard packed leaves on the bottom cone of the Spring, which are 12 feet high on one spalled off section (125 feet down to the top of the leaf beds), were probably formed when the Spring was dry below that level. Personal observation indicates that an aqueous environment will not allow leaf beds to become hard packed. They are loose and unconsolidated.

Page 22, Paragraph 7:

Remains of fire with burned bones among charcoal may be found on a ledge 14 meters below the surface.

Page 24:Interpretation No. 1:

55 feet down are four holes approximately 2 1/2 to 3 1/2 inches in diameter. One hole has the bottom of a wooden peg in situ. We believe that these holes were used for wooden stakes or pegs to support vine rope ladders allowing pre-historic man to lower himself to the bottom levels of the Spring.

Interpretation No. 2:

Located under the 65 foot overhang on ledges approximately 8 to 10 feet back and at a depth of 80 feet are human and animal bones; on another ledge at 140 feet and 30 feet back is a 6 to 7 inch diameter log; and at 210 feet in the sediments and 40 to 50 feet back is another log. Pieces of wood, human and animal bones numbering in the hundreds are located on several ledges to a depth of 210 feet. Interpretation of the above indicates they drifted there when the waters in the Spring were at those levels; i.e., 80 to 210 feet below the present level. Further investigation should include C-14 datings of matter from the above ledges to a depth of 220 feet.

Page 26, Paragraph 2:

As established above, our findings indicate the water level in the Spring 10,000 to 11,000 years ago was below the 14 meter level.

Page 26, Paragraph 3:

It is agreed there are rock shelters; but the Spring also has caverns which are up to 30 feet deep and 4 to 6 feet in height. Sediment almost fills these caves. Several pre-historic animal bones have been excavated by professional archeologists from the sediment.

Page 26, Paragraph 4:

Restrained from diving in Warm Mineral Spring by the owners, Dr. Goggin never, to the best of my knowledge, dove in the Spring.

The ledges of sinkholes above the water level support the growth of underbrush and trees. Confirming their existence at the Spring, several roots of trees have been found on the 13 - 14 meter ledges. The trees and vine ladders mentioned earlier would have provided a means of access to the caves which a predator could not have easily followed.

Page 27, Paragraph 2:

The upper part of the human skull was in Zone 2 and the lower part in Zone 3.

Although invited to view this burial with Doris Davis (Sarasota County Historical Commission), Bates Littlehales (National Geographic photographer) and myself, Dr. Clausen did not attend. To the best of our knowledge, Dr. Clausen has never seen the referenced mandible.

Page 27, Paragraph 3:

This burial was examined in situ by prominent geologists and archeologists. They examined the stalactites packed around the burial and assisted in the excavation.

Conclusions:

- Zone 3 sediments were laid down approximately 9,000 to 11,000 years B.P. under a damp environment on the 13 - 14 meter level.
- Zone 2 sediments were laid down when the Spring water was just above Zone 3 sediments.
- The rising sea level was a long and slow process lasting thousands of years. The water level probably reached its present mark 500 - 800 years ago.
- The climate of Florida was much colder than present.

Conclusions: (Continued)

- We have substantial proof that Warm Mineral Spring was a sink hole before the last time the sea level was above the Spring and that it was a fresh water lake at one time as well. The connate or Boulder Zone water has invaded the Spring at least twice in its history.

Any qualified scientist interested in examining firsthand the physical evidence to support the statements made in this rebuttal are welcome to contact me at the address and telephone listed below.

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