

PALEONTOLOGY

Record Size Mastodon Found By Indiana Farmer Boy

Lad's Stubbing Toe Over Eight Pound Molar Tooth Leads To Recovery of Bones of Animal with 12-Foot Tusks

ONE OF the largest mastodons ever discovered in America has been found in a dried-up pond on the Charles Feldheiser farm, a mile south of Cromwell, Ind., by a 10-year-old youngster who was hunting skunk holes.

The boy was Donovan Harper. He stubbed his toe over a smooth object protruding from the black mud. Investigating it, he yanked out a molar tooth weighing $8\frac{1}{4}$ pounds.

Elated by his find the lad lugged the treasure home. His story led Mr. Feldheiser and others to start digging on the spot where the huge tooth was found. An enormous jawbone soon was uncovered.

Scientist Sought

One of the neighbors knew a bit about geology and he advised Mr. Feldheiser to communicate with Dr. C. J. Fish, director of the Buffalo Museum of Science. Dr. Fish, accompanied by Watts Richmond, a millionaire sportsman of Buffalo, lost no time in visiting the Feldheiser farm.

The Indiana farmer had wisely refrained from further digging into the mastodon "pay dirt." What Dr. Fish and Mr. Richmond saw, however, induced them at once to lease the site of the mastodon graveyard. A few days later the Richmond Expedition of the Buffalo Museum of Science, headed by Dr. John T. Sanford, curator of geology and paleontology of the museum, reached the farm and started excavation operations.

The first act of the scientists after establishing themselves on the Feldheiser farm was to have a wooden shed erected over the spot where the mastodon remains rested, to protect the bones from the weather.

Armed with hand trowels, they began a long and slow task of removing a foot of muck and three or four feet of clay from the big beast's remains. The unusually large proportions of the mastodon were realized when the first tusk unearthed measured 12 feet 6 inches in length.

"This is one of the largest, if not

the largest, mastodon found," Dr. Sanford stated. He estimates that the monster probably lived about 10,000 years ago in the post-glacial age.

As the soil was thrown aside handful by handful most of the parts of the giant skeleton were disclosed. The pelvis measured 5.3 feet across. Ribs were 4.4 feet long. The lower jaw was 3.2 feet long. The measurements of the humerus, femur and ulna respectively were 3 feet, 3.6 feet and 2.2 feet. Six articulated lumbar vertebrae were 1.8 feet long.

In the belief that the dried up old sink hole may be a regular mastodon cemetery, the Richmond expedition will conduct extensive excavations there this spring.

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ASTRONOMY

Tiny Planet Has Come Closest to Earth

THOUGH Jupiter, largest of all the planets, and Mars, famous planet of controversy, are now conspicuous in the night sky, astronomers at present are more concerned over a tiny planetary body only a few miles in diameter and so faint that it cannot be seen at all without a telescope. This is the asteroid Eros, now closer than it has ever been since its discovery in 1898, and closer than any other permanent celestial object, except the moon. On Friday, January 30, its distance was only 16,200,000 miles.

On the average, the moon is at a distance of 238,840 miles. Venus, one of our two next-door neighbors, can come as close as 26,000,000 miles. Mars, our neighbor on the other side, at rare intervals approaches to a minimum distance of 34,600,000 miles, but at present, as it shines with its ruddy light in the eastern evening sky, it is much farther. Jupiter, the brilliant planet seen these evenings high in the east above Mars, is now almost 400,000,000 miles away.



HUGE PREHISTORIC TUSKS

In the earth from which they were uncovered by the Richmond expedition of the Buffalo Museum of Science.

Eros is one of the large family of some 1,500 asteroids, or small planets, that generally travel in the space between Mars and Jupiter. Its orbit is considerably stretched out from the usual nearly circular shape for the larger planets. So elliptical is this orbit that at one point it comes within 13,840,000 miles of the earth's path. It seldom happens that the earth and Eros are in the adjacent parts of their orbits at the same time, but now that rare event has been realized.

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PSYCHOLOGY

Student's Attitude Important to Success

PREPARATION, study habits, intelligence, and evaluative and persevering attitude—and the greatest of these is the attitude. These, Dr. M. E. Herriott, psychologist in the public schools in Los Angeles, calls the five major factors necessary for scholastic success.

He discussed them in a recent report to the Western Psychological Association, deploring the fact that so little attention has been given by psychologists and educators to the attitudes of students.

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