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A MASTODON FIND FROM SOUTHWESTERN ARKANSAS*

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Specimens of both Mammutus (mammoth) and Mammut (mastodon) have occasionally been recovered in Arkansas, but not in such quantities that new finds should pass unnoticed. The writer would like to call attention to such a find made during the fall of 1958, near Garland, in Miller County, southwest Arkansas. Precursory examinations show that the remains are probably of the genus Mammut, although the exact species cannot be determined on the basis of the present material.

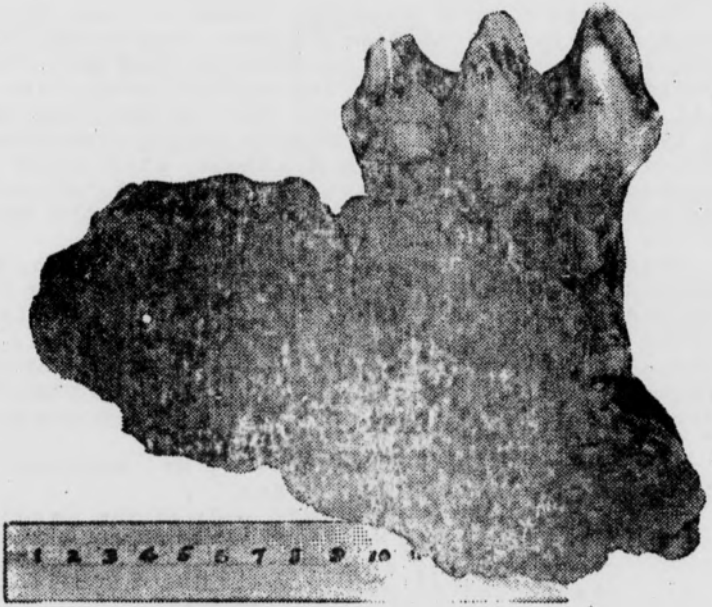
This new discovery, made by Lonnie Rayburn, was located approximately one-half mile north of the Garland City bridge, on the south bank of Red River. During overflow periods, the river appears to be gradually uncovering a gravel bed, in which the fragmentary remains occur. Preliminary observations indicate the possibility that the deposit is of Pleistocene origin.

The remains first recovered by Mr. Rayburn included the following specimens:

- (a) A fragment of the left side of the mandible (measuring 7.5 cm. in thickness, 5.5 to 10.2 cm. in depth, and 18.0 cm. in length), with the second(?) premolar in situ (bearing three cross ridges); the root cavities of the first(?) premolar are also present. The total depth of the jaw cannot be determined due to the angle of fracture. The jaw is of particular interest in that the tooth has become well "fossilized," or mineralized. The tooth, itself, measures 5.5 cm. in width, 7.0 cm. in length, and 8.5 cm. in depth (from the cusp top to the root depth).
- (b) An almost-complete specimen of a lumbar(?) vertebra, with only the left transverse process missing. The centrum body measures 5.5 cm. in thickness, 7.0 x 9.0 cm. width-length. The spinous process measures 11.0 cm. in length from the vertebral foramen opening, and is 2.6 cm. in thickness.

*Presented by title only.

ARKANSAS ACADEMY OF SCIENCE



**Plate 1. A mastodon jaw fragment found
in Miller County, southwest Arkansas.**

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- (c) The distal end of a femur, measuring 11.5 x 18.0 x 21.5 cm.
- (d) A sizeable fragment, apparently of the pelvis (left side?), but very incomplete and difficult to ascertain its exact positional placement; it measures approximately 10.8 x 11.8 x 30.3 cm.
- (e) Six fragmentary pieces of the scapula.
- (f) Three small rib pieces, and other unidentifiable bone fragments.

A second group of bones was collected by Mr. Rayburn from the same site at a later date. However, the majority of these were too fragmentary to identify, or not large enough to warrant measurement records. One exception was the head of a femur.

On November 16, 1958, the writer, in the company of Mr. Rayburn and his nephew, Ralph F. Cook (an anthropology student at Southern State), revisited the site to search for new specimens. Only two bone fragments were found on this occasion, these presumably having been overlooked on previous occasions. These included a fossilized metatarsal(?) (4.4 x 4.0 x 11.0 cm.), and an unidentifiable piece. It is unlikely, without excavation, that new material will be found until the river has had opportunity to rewash the gravel bed.

In the fall of 1957, the writer was called upon to inspect the tusk of a mastodon recovered near Cotton Valley, Louisiana, on Bodcau Creek--which is located approximately 70 miles southeast of Garland City. Only the single specimen was exhibited by the collector. The incomplete tusk measured approximately 5 feet in length, and weighed about 62 pounds.