

UNL professor back from eighth Egyptian dig—hopes for another

By Pam Siders

Lloyd Tanner likes studying history — especially 30-million-year-old history.

The UNL paleontologist and associate professor of geology recently returned from an expedition to Egypt, where excavators uncovered the second-known skull of *Aegyptopithecus*, a small primate believed to be a common ancestor of man and apes.

Tanner, 63, said he was fortunate to be part of the Egyptian expedition led by Dr. Elwyn Simons of Duke University.

"When Simons came to UNL to speak in 1965, I had the good fortune of being on the committee for his housing. After the lecture we started talking about his expedition, and I told him if he ever had an opening, I was interested. I didn't think I had a ghost of a chance, but the following September I went on my first expedition."

Since then, Tanner has traveled to Egypt eight times in search of ancient fossils. He has uncovered the remains of ancestral elephants, hippopotamuses and crocodiles, as well as turtles 30 million years old. Tanner said that although it's a desert now, judging from the fossils they've found, the Sahara Desert was once abundant with water and had trees at least 100 feet tall.

In 1979, Tanner's wife, Mary, a scientific illustrator and artist, and 4-year-old daughter Susan joined Tanner on an expedition. They spent four months in the desert, living in canvas tents and eating powdered food, 40 miles away from civilization.

"I remember we kept having to change camps that trip because there was so many poisonous snakes around. They enjoyed the trip though, and Susan had fun helping us dig."

Tanner's Nebraska excavation work has unearthed fossils of nearly the same age as some of the Egyptian fossils. These remains provide an important link in the Nebraska depositional history, Tanner said. During the past three years he has collected fossils at a site in Ash Hollow Park near Ogallala. He has unearthed bones from 18 different types of extinct bison, giving insight into how man butchered bison some 8,000 to 9,000 years ago.

Tanner, who has been collecting fossils since 1938, is curator of vertebrate paleontology and coordinator of systematic collections at the NU State Museum.

He was recognized last week at a luncheon for 35 years of service to UNL. Tanner is also a field associate for the Duke University Primate Center.

"Right now we're applying for money for another expedition," Tanner said. The expeditionists receive money through the American Museum of Natural History and the Egyptian Geological Survey.

"We're still hoping to find new information to give us a better understanding of life long ago," he said.



Lloyd G. Tanner

Photo by D. Eric Kircher

All Sundaes
1/2 OFF

with this coupon at

UNION SQUARE

(Good March 1-5 only)

All Sundaes
1/2 OFF

with purchase of any sandwich
and french fries with this coupon at

UNION SQUARE

(Good March 8-12 only)

Ice Cream Sundae
& Super Cookie
only 75¢

with this coupon at

UNION SQUARE

(Good March 15-19 only)

Craving for an ice cream sundae?
Just clip the above coupons and bring them in to
us for some big savings on some fantastic soft-serve.
Take your choice of fudge, caramel, or
strawberry sundaes for a special treat anytime!

Mon.-Thurs.
8 a.m. - 8 p.m.

Fridays
8 a.m. - 4 p.m.

UNION SQUARE



BRODKEY'S

*Signs of Spring...
from*

Orange Blossom®

The Most Beautiful Diamond Rings In The World

The most beautiful diamonds are flowering now, at Brodkey's. Each exquisite Orange Blossom diamond engagement ring is as special as a perfect rose... as expressive as a spring bouquet. And there are no finer diamonds in the world than those from Orange Blossom. See the glorious Orange Blossom collection of diamond engagement rings at Brodkey's now... while they are in full bloom!

"MEET THE BRODKEY BOYS... WEAR DIAMONDS"

BRODKEY'S
Centrum - Lincoln