

Skull leads to mammoth finding

SAN MIGUEL TOCUILA, Mexico (AP) — Joel Aviles and some fellow workers were digging a hole for a water tank when their picks struck something hard in the muddy, gray earth.

"We dug some more to see what it was, and that's when we found the skull," he said. "We were stunned."

No ordinary skull, though; it belonged to a mammoth that lived 10,000 to 50,000 years ago. When scientists were called in, they discovered one of central Mexico's biggest mammoth graveyards.

While skulls and bones of mammoths have turned up previously around nearby Lake Texcoco, those finds were nothing like the July 29 discovery in San Miguel Tocuila, which is 20 miles east of Mexico City.

Already, a pit about 15 feet deep beside a cornfield has yielded bones from at least eight mammoths as well as fossilized bones of ancient bison, flamingos and other wildlife.

"The find in San Miguel Tocuila is extraordinary," said Joaquin Arroyo Cabrales of the National Institute of Anthropology and History. "When we first got the call, we thought it would be just one mammoth skull."

Arroyo said the scientists had learned that since 1945, villagers had not reported at least a dozen earlier finds of mammoth bones, mostly bits and pieces.

Mammoths flourished during the Ice Age. For millions of years they roamed the North American continent and southward. Then they died out just as prehistoric hunters were spreading over from what is now Siberia, scientists theorize.

Some scientists think the huge beasts were hunted to extinction.

“They're just enormous! I've never seen anything like this!”

Laura Estrada
visitor to Tocuila mammoth site

Mexican paleontologists hope studies at the site in this high valley will provide new clues about the huge beasts.

A team led by Arroyo and archaeologist Luis Morett of the Autonomous University of Chapingo are seeking to determine when these "Tocuila" mammoths lived, whether humans co-existed and how the mammoths died.

"We are looking for evidence of human activity, though none has been found thus far," said Eduardo Corona, a researcher with Arroyo at the Paleozoology Lab of the National Institute of Anthropology and History.

Daniel Fisher, a University of Michigan paleontologist not involved in the find, said the fact that several mammoths had been found at one site could yield data about their movements, feeding habits and even climate changes.

"Interpreting growth layers in their tusks and teeth can say things about their age at death, their diets, the climates they experienced from year to year," said Fisher, a self-described "mammoth hunter."

Along with the scientists have come tourists.

People stream into town on the weekends to peer at the skulls and giant tusks of what once were beasts

weighing four tons or more.

"They're just enormous! I've never seen anything like this!" said Laura Estrada, as her 8-year-old niece Rosa tiptoed to squint through a chain link fence into the pit.

With trunks and lengthy tusks, prehistoric mammoths were closely related to present-day elephants. Some measured more than 14 feet high at the shoulders.

"Oh, it's so much bigger than an elephant!" said Rosa, admiring tusks twice her height and yellowed teeth as big as bowling balls.

Celso Ramirez, the owner of the property, had already built a small restaurant on his land before the discovery.

"It's been fascinating watching the archaeologists. Every day they find something new," said Maria del Carmen Patino, the restaurant's cook, hawking tortillas and soft drinks to passers-by.

Boiling a pot of meaty chicken bones, she watched as a scientist in the pit carefully painted mammoth bones with protective sealant.

"They are taking the soil out by the spoonful so they don't damage the bones. I'm sure they'll find more. They are so beautiful. I never get tired of seeing them," Patino said.



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Exhibit shows U.S. musicals

MUSICALS from page 12

Bowers sees the seed of the American musical in the diverse waves of 19th century immigration that centered in New York, which was also a center of musical life.

After them came such names as Lillian Russell, George M. Cohan, Jerome Kern, Oscar Hammerstein, George Kaufman, Alan Jay Lerner, Frederick Loewe, Kurt Weill, Richard Rodgers and Moss Hart — Kitty Carlisle's late husband. The exhibit has something about all of them.

"Red, Hot & Blue" is part of the 150th anniversary celebration of the Smithsonian Institution. The exhibit will be open until July 6, 1997. Admission is free.

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4 tickets NEEDED for Missouri game. Call Nate at 436-7984.

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200s Notices

210 Announcements

Flu Shots/Wellness Profiles Today
For students, faculty/staff and general public. - City Union, 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.

ANYONE WITNESSING THE VEHICLE PEDESTRIAN ACCIDENT, MONDAY, OCT. 21ST, AT 10:25AM, AT THE CROSSWALK IN FRONT OF HENZLIK PLEASE CONTACT JAYNE AT 402-496-4615 IN OMAHA/CALL COLLECT OR RICHARD DREWS AT 402-391-3712.

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Holiday Gift Ideas
Holiday Arts and Crafts Show, Nov. 8th, 10:00AM to 7:00PM. Nov. 7th, 9:30AM to 5:30PM. Great Plaza Room. East Union. Free Admission. Patron Parking in North Lot. Co-Sponsored by Student Involvement.

INTRAMURAL BASKETBALL MANAGERS

The Manager Meeting for Co-Rec Basketball will be held Thursday, October 24, at 5:00 p.m. in the Nebraska Union. Each team must have one representative present to be eligible for competition. Call 472-3467 for more information.

JOIN THE NSE TEAM!
New Student Enrollment Orientation Leader applications are available NOW at the following locations:
*Office for Student Involvement (both campuses)
*Multi-Cultural Affairs
*All Residence Hall Fount Desks
*Culture Center
*Office of Admissions
Applications are due October 28th, 5 p.m.!!

Psi Chi Research Fair
Thursday Oct. 24
5:00-6:30 City Union.

Would like to interview unclassified graduate students about their unique situation for paper. If you can give some time, call Kathleen 438-1413.

215 Meetings

Future Teachers!
Pi Lambda Theta is sponsoring a resume workshop for ALL Education Majors Tuesday, Oct. 29th, NE Union, room to be posted. A panel of administrators from Lincoln Public Schools will discuss and field questions on what they look for when hiring new teachers.

Habitat For Humanity
Meeting TONIGHT 8p.m., NE Union, room to be posted.

Marketing Club
meeting 6:00pm Thursday, Oct. 24 in the student union. Room will be posted. Speaker is Don Clifton of Gallup. If you have not paid your dues, please bring them.

SAA
Meeting Thursday at Wick. Plan to eat dinner with everyone at BW3's following the meeting. SAA...always a good time!

Society of Human Resource Management
Meeting Oct. 24, at 5:30pm in the NE Union, room to be posted. Speaker: Nichole Andersen, Hiring/Placement.

Student Foundation
Hey, Student Foundation Members!! We have a meeting Thursday the 24th at 5:15 in the Nebraska Union. Be there!!

The Publications Board will meet at 2:30 p.m. today in the Nebraska Union to discuss Daily Nebraskan policies. All are invited to attend.

UNL Model United Nations
Thursday nights 7pm in the City Union. Come join the FUN!

WATER SKIING CLUB
Meeting on 10/24 at 8 PM in the Campus Rec Conference Room. For more information, call 469-7297.

220 Greek Affairs

ΑΓΞ
Thanks a lot for taking us to Chuck E. Cheese. We'll come play games with you guys anytime. The DDD Pledges

XΦ
We had a great time Friday afternoon! Thanks for having us over! Love, the Ladies of Tri Delta

ΔΔΔ
Thanks a bunch Leola, Tara, Tracy, Shannon W. for helping out on Monday. Your hashers