

Is That So?

By Eugene Burns
Ranger-Naturalist

EVER WONDERED what one of those giant prehistoric mammals truly looked like—not the stuffed, papier-mache jobs in a museum? One whose insides are there, whose bones are covered with meat and fat, and is wearing his honest-to-goodness birth-



day suit of natural fur? And, what he ate?

If so, wonder no more. Such prehistoric mammals have been and are being found.

Mammoth hairy elephants, last seen on earth 15,000 years ago, have been found intact, hide, meat and bones preserved in that great natural deep-freeze unit, the frozen Arctic wasteland of Siberia where for some mysterious reason these great animals made their last stand.

Part of Man's History
This most recently - extinct member of the elephant family roamed the earth perhaps a half million years ago. But yet, it is a part of human history—primitive man hunted it. Pictures of this hairy mammoth are found in hunter's caves and a fragment of a mammoth tusk has been found in France on which some early hunter had scratched a rough but unmistakable outline of the tusk's owner.

The first perfectly preserved head of the hairy mammoth, a super-elephant, was found in 1707 in Siberia. Subsequently many others have been found. Kept in the permafrost—the permanently frozen ground of Siberia where they are now being thawed out by the warming weather and river-bank cave-ins. They are so well preserved that dogs, foxes and wolves tear off chunks of the flesh and down it with gusto.

The unpalatable heavy ivory has been finding its way to market—in the last century.

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thousands of tons of these semi-fossilized animals have yielded their valuable tusks.

Fill into Ravines

How did these extinct monsters get there? Apparently, these lumbering beasts came to grief by tumbling into snow-filled ravines from which they could not extricate themselves, froze up stiff, and were covered with drifting snow which packed into ice. And there they stayed, deep-frozen, perhaps something like 150 centuries!

In contrast to today's elephant, these hairy mammoths were bulkier and heavier although perhaps not quite as high, standing about 10 feet 6 inches at the shoulder. Their great tusks were spiral-curved the tail was quite short and the ears were small, smaller even than those of the small-eared Indian elephant.

To withstand the rigors of the north, the mammoth had a four to six inch layer of pure white fat over its dark meat muscle, an extremely heavy inch-thick skin, and outside of that a reddish woolly coat covered with long black hairs up to 14 inches long. The guard hair grew in particularly heavy patches on cheeks, chin, shoulders, flanks and belly. Besides this heavy coating, it had a special adaptation to cold climate—its rear against the cold.

Apparently, the beast was constructed to contend with foodless seasons. It possessed two humps. One of them was above the shoulder, as one might expect for easy carrying, but the other, strangely enough, was on top of the massive head.

In the most remarkable find of its kind, even the last meal of one of these animals was preserved. In its mouth was still a chunk of food and its frozen stomach yielded 27 pounds of chewed undigested food consisting of willow, larch, fir and pine tips; some ground-up fir cones, grass, wild ferns, wild thyme, and two kinds of mosses. Poppy and buttercup seeds were still adhering to its great teeth.

Teeth Colossal
As for those teeth, they were colossal. The long surface of one molar measured 8 inches along the top grinding surface, 2½ inches across, and about 11 inches long. It weighed 12 pounds.

Its tusks—in reality teeth, too—sometimes reached a length of 10 feet and weighed 200 pounds! (The average African elephant's weight less than a quarter that much today.)

This hairy mammoth ranged through the northern hemisphere during the days when Siberia was a continuous land mass with Alaska, the North Sea was a fertile plain, and the British Isles were a part of the continent of Europe.

Where is the best place to find yourself a dead-frozen mammoth today? A tiny one was found only six years ago in Alaska, buried in the permafrost. No doubt others remain.

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Proof of Earth's Movement

By J. HUGH PRUETT

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Sincere seekers after truth are found among all ages. Recently two ninth grade girls wrote me regarding proofs of the movements in the solar system. The difficulty in explaining to pupils of that age is that many of the proofs may be beyond their ability to understand.

The old-time idea was that the earth was flat and motionless and was the center of the universe. All heavenly bodies were thought to revolve daily around this fixed and all-important earth. But there were a few deep students of nature long before the Christian era who held practically present day views.

One such was the Greek Aristarchus of Samos, who was most active around 250 B.C. The fellow countrymen of such men reviled them and accused them of trying to overturn the generally accepted religions of their time. The Italian Galileo in the 1600's was similarly persecuted for views now taught everywhere. Present-day seekers after truth often are denounced on religious grounds.

We have hardly more space here than to mention the proofs that the earth is round, rotates on its axis and revolves around the sun. The great Copernicus in the mid-1500's was thoroughly convinced of the truths of these ideas, but lacking proofs could only say they seemed more reasonable than the old views.

With the advance of knowledge, definite proofs are now at hand. Some of these cannot be understood without the knowledge of

college mathematics and science.

The proofs that the earth is spherical are the most simple. Ships sailing from land gradually sink below the horizon, the hull first, then the upper structure, and finally the smoke. World travelers have entirely encircled the earth. During eclipses the edge of the earth's shadow on the moon is circular. The other planets are seen telescopically as circular disks.

The heavenly bodies seem to circle the earth daily because of our world's axial rotation, but this is not definite proof of rotation. However, there are real evidences that it does rotate. Objects dropped from high elevations strike the ground a little east of the point directly under the place of release. Other proofs are the Foucault pendulum, the deflection of moving bodies to the right in the northern hemisphere and to the left in the southern, the Compton wheel and the fact that the other planets can be observed to rotate.

The sun seems to trace a complete circle among the stars in a year. This is due to the earth's motion around old Sol, but is not proof of it. The proofs—and these cannot be easily explained to high school freshmen—are the aberration of light, the shifting of the spectroscopic lines when our earth is approaching or receding from a luminous body, and the annual parallax of stars.

The M. H. deYoung museum is San Francisco's largest museum.

Copco To Complete Klamath Substation

Klamath Falls —(U.P.)—Klamath Falls substation of the California Oregon Power Company will be completed by Christmas day, District Manager Sam Ritchey said.

Total cost for the substation and transmission line is about

Sunday, December 19, 1954

\$3,750,000. The interconnection with Bonneville Power Administration is at Diamond Lake junction.

Ritchey said six reactors, each weighing about 4½ tons, have been installed on concrete mats and equipped with porcelain insulators. Their purpose is to lower voltage on the transmission line from the Columbia

river to 230,000 volts. Insulators on the line have the effect of condensers, Ritchey explained, and raise voltage above the 230,000-volt figure.

Texas has 106.5 trillion cubic feet of natural reserves, or 50 per cent of the United States total.

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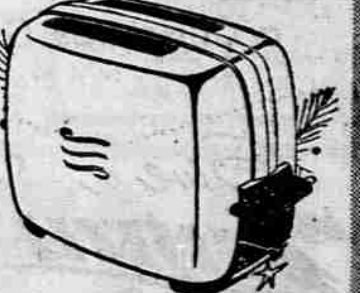
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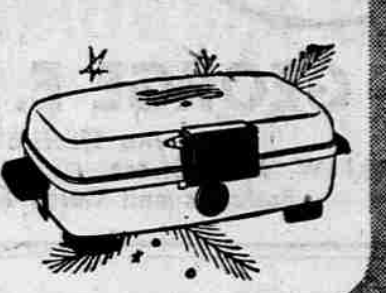
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