

Relics

W.Z. York now has in his cabinet the tusk of a mastodon. It was found thirty-five miles down the Yakima river.

The entire skeleton of a mastodon was discovered in the river some years ago and Mr. York put men to work getting it out but as soon as it was exposed to the air it quickly crumbled away--
Yakima Herald, October 9, 1890.

Prehistoric

Peter J. Olsen, who has given much thought and study to zoology, while plowing on his land a mile back of Zillah, and under the Zunnyside canal, unearthed the bones of a gigantic and probably prehistoric monster.

The lower jaw was in an excellent state of preservation while circular tusks measuring six feet in circumference were distinctly outlined although they crumbled somewhat upon exposure.

Mr. Olsen took measurements and drawings of these as well as other portions of the huge frame which would not stand moving. He also secured the socket joint of the forearm or leg which is entirely too large for any animal of these modern times.

From all indications the bones were those of the hairy Mammoth. That this country was once inhabited by these animal giants has long been suspected, as other bones of mastodons have been found in various parts of the Yakima country at different times, some of which are now in the Smithsonian institute.

The bones of another prehistoric animal can also be seen imbedded in the Yakima river between Zillah and Snipes mountain. It is apparently standing and six feet of the frame are above the river bottom.

Those who are versed in the subject believe that it is the hyracotherium, an animal of the ape division, which are supposed to have existed in the Eocene period.

Several ineffectual attempts have been made to secure these bones which are in a good state of preservation and another attempt, on more promising scale, will be made in the spring--Yakima Herald, Feb. 21, 1895.

C_urios--Stories

P.Y.Heckman kindly loaned his cabinet of curios to the display in the pavilion(Yakima Fair)

Mr. Heckman is an intelligent and enthusiastic collector. He has been in p rsuit of a petrified hand which was found by a young man now living in Kittitas county, near Zillah, in this county. All the fñangers even to the nails are in a perfect state of preservation. A portion of a mastodon's tooth was found at the same time which Mr. Heckman secured for his cabinet. The young man , however, still clings to his hand--

Yakima Herald, Sept. 28, 1899.

Ellensburg, May 11—The bones of a primitive man were unearthed Thursday by Edward C. Belch, a contractor, who is making excavations for a 24-room apartment house on the site. The bones were found buried 20 feet beneath the surface of Craig's hill.

The skeleton, perfectly preserved, were exposed when a blast of dynamite loosened the cement rock so that when M.E. Root, who is employed by Mr. Belch again approached the hillside he saw the skeleton gleaming.

J.P. Munson, Ph. D, professor of biological sciences at the state normal school was told of the discovery and went to see the site. While there he unearthed a skull which was broken up by the pick. Mr. Munson stated that every indication pointed to the fact that the skull was that of an Indian of a low degree of intelligence as the forehead was sloping and the teeth of peculiar formation. The front teeth were worn off down to the jawbone, the result Professor Munson said of eating uncooked foods as was the habit of primitive people. The bones were found in cement rock in which they have been buried and were perfectly dry and beneath a strata of shale rock, conservative estimates placing the age of the bones at many hundreds of years.

Craig's hill which runs along the eastern edge of the city is supposed to be of glacial formation, although some believe that the hill is formed by a delta of a river which flowed from the Nanum canyon countless ages ago.

The skeletons were found 20 feet beneath the surface of the hill, the graves apparently having been tunneled into the hillside. The femur of the largest skeleton is nearly 20 inches long. This, according to Dr. B.J. Moos, would indicate that the man was 80 inches tall or six feet eight inches as the man's height is ordinarily four times the length of the femur. One of the skulls was unusually 1

Spokane, Feb. 5-- Considerable interest has been aroused here over the tusk of a prehistori mammoth which was discovered in Whitman county south of here rec ntly and an exploration party may be formed by T.A. Bonser, curator of the Spokane museum to search for the skeleton, he has announced.

The tusk was found sticking out from an embankment made by a cut in the volcanic ash deposits in the southern part of the county between Penewawa, Wash. and Lewiston, Ida. Belief that the size of the mammoth was of e xceptional y large size was expressed b Mr. Bonser.

A man whose identity Mr. Bonser failed to learn found the tusk and brought it to the Spokane museum. The curator advised him to explore deeper in the earth for the remainder of the skeleton. I_n case no results are obtained from this search a party may go from Spokane.

Some time ago bones of a mammoth were unearthed in the szme location and are now in possession of the local museum. The skeleton of a baby mammoth was also discovered there recently by a road c^rew but not knowing its value they failed to preserve its find--Yakima Republic, Feb. 5, 1924.

Mastodon

Evidences of a great tragedy in the Granger district though one that occurred ages and ages ago, were unearthed ~~here~~ there yesterday by the workers at the clay pit of the Granger Clay Products company.

They are in the form of an opalized tusk, several feet in length and some similarly mineralized teeth, about eight inches long and plainly of a herbivorous animal and numerous other bones of giant size.

Alex Corbett of the company is convinced that they are the bones of some mastodon that generations back trumpeted his way across what is now a sagebrush desert but in those days was no doubt a tropical jungle covered with massive tree ferns, large enough to provide food for mastication by the giant grinders found.

Some years ago similar bones but in a far poorer state of preservation were found in the pit at the Granger end of Snipes mountain and were pronounced those of a mastodon by the "University of Washington geologists. It now appears that in those dim ages, the present gravel pit was a deep marsh and that as a band of mastodons charged across it, at least two of them were caught in the morass and buried for future ages to marvel at.

Corbett plans to keep the bones left in the pit covered with proper care and will probably present the valuable relic to the museum at the State university. Some of the smaller specimens he brought to Yakima are so beautifully opalized they look more like precious gems than bones and teeth--The Yakima Republic, Oct. 20, 1925.