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## Largest Animals Roamed Oklahoma Not what they used to be Stovall finds

By Edna Muldrow

Camels Leave No Trace, but Racing Rhinoceros was at 'His Best'  
By Edna Muldrow

"Oklahoma's Zoologically impoverished mammalian fauna," are the words of J. Willis Stovall, geology instructor at the University of Oklahoma. What he means is "Oklahoma animals are not what they used to be."

Stovall ought to know, for his life work is turning over prehistoric graveyards and reconstructing the animal life of 'what was but now is not.'

The time of the greatest Oklahoma animals was almost 25,000 years ago, Stovall believes.

In his small basement museum at the university Stovall has collected the bones of those ancient monsters. There he has the remains of a bison that had a six-foot spread of horn, a sloth the size of an elephant, and elephant 18 inches taller than the present day African, a wolf the size of a buffalo, a beaver as large as a black bear, an armadillo as big as a rhinoceros—all dug from the red earth of Oklahoma.

Huge herds of these beasts trampled our magenta-colored soil, fought, and without a single inhibition ate eat other, according to Stovall. That was a time when beasts were beasts, and the great open spaces cluttered with 13 ½ foot elephants.

"All that time the animal life was not only huge in size by many in the variety of species represented. For Oklahoma had substantially all the animals it now has, and many more," Stovall says.

The varieties each of lion, bear, racing rhino, tapir and peccary, ten of horse, six of camel, three of elephant, four of mastodon, 12 of deer, besides llama, musk-ox, giant beaver, and armadillo are a few of the fossils that have been unearthed by Stovall.

Not only were there many kinds of animals but many individuals in each species," Stovall continues. "Great herds of primitive horses, called the Texas horse, rivaled those of the buffalo in the nineteenth century. On the Oklahoma prairie they were pulled down mid-flight by the giant wolves, felled by one blow of the short-faced bear, or stalked by great cats surpassing a lion in size.

Foreign though they seem, the raccoon, the camel, the llama, the horse and the tapir, although in some cases it is no longer their home. All these species are migrants from Asia and South America.

Although numerous, the horse and camel died out sometime after the last glacial age. About 1600 horses were returned to their native soil by the adventurous Spaniards—Cortez, Zaldivar, and their successors. Some of these blooded Arabians escaped, became mustangs and wild animals returned to the west.

On the other hand, the camel did not return to America until about 1830 when the United States government attempted transplanting them to our desert west. Although they climate and food should have been congenial, these animals died. Not even their bones can be found.

An ancient camel, 20 hands high, larger than the largest Bactrian, in ten-foot strides once made his loose-hipped way over our spongy soil. Stovall's specimen was found with that of a prehistoric horse, where they had foundered in quicksand of an old river west of Cheyenne, centuries ago.

Oklahoma was once home of the racing rhinoceros. "What could be more incongruous than a racing rhino," Stovall says with a chuckle. "They looked very much like our horse except that the neck was longer, the head heavier and out of proportion to the body. Lightly-built, slender, and straight nosed, they were quite defenseless. It was a snort and away on three-toed spongy pads when the giant wolves rushed the herd. Speed along could save them.

"These wolves were twice as large as our lobo, and had long cat-like tails. Our specimens, which are fragmentary, were recovered in Cotton county," Stovall explains. "They were adapted to running by broad chests and powerful lungs.

"That is the fundamental difference between canine and feline carnivores," he explains. "The cat springs from ambush; the dog runs down his prey. As a result, the teeth of the cat are targets(?), his paws, weapons; his forelimbs able to move in any direction quickly—more quickly than the eye can follow; while the dog has small built, slender legs, strong lungs and high endurance."

In the cool, wooded places of the shrublands(?), that once were near the area of Chickasha, a ground sloth, the size of an elephant, pulled over and rooted up trees with his eight-inch claws(?). He moved as slowly as his modern descendants—an inch an hour, according to Beebe the American naturalist.

When attacked, his talons crept surely, ripping wide the bell of the imprudent, young sabre-tooth tiger that futilely whetted eight-inch scimitars against the tough leathery skin and coarse hair.

In 1805, this one of the three American sloths was named *Megalonyx* by Thomas Jefferson, who thought it a colossal lion that still lived in the wilderness back of the Alleghenies.

This assumption was based on the theory that no animal could become extinct. "for, if one link in nature's chain might be lost, another and another might be lost, until the whole system of things should vanish by piece-meal. That 'the whole system' was not a reassuring doctrine for the man who believed that all men are created equal." Stovall laughs. "The proponent of intellectual liberty refused to accept it."

The tortoise-like glyptodonts—the giant armadillos—appear the least mammalian of all milk-giving creatures. Twelve feet long and five feet high, they resembled giant haystacks as they crept over the spongy mud around Frederick. Boney plates like a banded mosaic sheathed them. They are the rank cane and rushing that grew on a sedgey lake shore. If an aquatic rhino attacked, this beast withdrew beneath its shell until the storm blew over.

"If a friend eyed the lady of his heart, the enamoured one lunged about, swinging his six-foot tail, armoured in seven overlapping rings and a long bony tube which ended in a clubby knob or spike." Thus Stovall reconstructs an ancient story of the eternal triangle. "The mace-like tails thwacked on carapaces until one crumpled. Then the red ants had a big meal

In the university's collection the heavy claw-like scimitar of the sabre-tooth lies innocently in a shallow box. It is thick-hefted, and has the color and polish of dark horn. Once it was a murderous instrument, made for puncturing thick hides of tapir, elephant, and rhino. The specimen, from Optima, is about four inches long, both both ends are broken way.

From a refilled river channel near Mulhall and from an old spring or sink-hole close to Miami, the Smithsonian has recovered specimens of the most majestic of all beasts—the Emperor—the largest elephant that ever existed.

He shunned the forest and mountain where the sabre-tooth might pounce upon him from ambush., ripping wide his hide with eight-inch teeth. The great beast might rush in a swaying race, screaming terror, but the stabbing cat would cling fast. He might in a death rage brush the gnawing cat against the trees and shrubs. IT just mean a Walton barbecue for the smaller carnivores, after the big tiger had gorged.

No wonder the monster preferred browsing on the Oklahoma plains, where he trumpeted defiance over three counties.

“Why his kind died after the extinction of his only enemy, the sabretooth, no one knows,” Stovall says. “Perhaps he had nothing left to live for.”

The Imperial rose to 13 ½ feet at the shoulder—18 inches higher than the largest African known. Stovall's specimen has a hip bone which measures 44 x 40 inches. The ribs are 45 inches around the curve; the upper leg bone is 51 inches long.

Two tusks of an Emperor, uncovered northwest of Edmond, are 11 ½ feet long and 10 inches in diameter at the base. Honestly, an African elephant aroused comment by a superb set of tusks—one, 10 feet and ¾ (?) inches long; the other, 10 feet 3 ½ inches. Combined they weighed 463 pounds. “Such weight requires a giant body and powerful muscles in the neck and head,” Stovall argues. “How much greater the weight of the Imperial's weapons must have been!”

Another elephant, found near Hitchcock, the Jeffersoni, is named after Thomas Jefferson, the first vertebrate paleontologist in America. “If was he who first cluttered the White House with old fossils,” says the Oklahoma professor dryly.

The Columbian elephant, towering 11 feet, once roamed south of the Arbuckles and in the western part of the state. In this variety, the tusks reached the limit of specialization. They grew so long they crossed at the tip and for this reason they were useless for either digging or defense. Because of this, the enormous brute became extinct.

The American mastodon and the northern mammoth are the most recent Oklahoma elephants. Both of these demure creatures measure 9 ½ feet at the shoulder.

The last of the golden-brown Americana may well have been killed by an Indian arrow. He fed upon leaved and branches along the valleys of the Arkansas river, which were then boggy forests, like the Canadian muskeg.

The northern mammoth is the best known of prehistoric creatures. In Siberia, complete carcasses have been found frozen in the ice. The bodies were covered with wool beneath long, coarse hair. That is why they are called woolly mammoths.

Other contemporaries of these animals were the bear, dogs that switched long cat-like tails as they circled the frontiers(?) of long-horned bison. Now the hunter and the hunted are extinct.

“Because in western Kansas an arrowhead has been found in associated with an extinct bison, the variety must have extended into recent times, while our buffalo is believed to have a history that almost reached the glacial era,” Stovall says.

Before 1853 the skull of a prehistoric bison was found near Fort Gibson, at the mouth of the Neosho where it empties into the Arkansas. An Indian was using it for a chair. Stovall’s specimen came from Lawton.

In the stinking underbrush of the Pleistocene, the hyena dogs slunk and fed upon carrion left by the leaping car and the running wolf. Now both devourer and devoured have ceased to exist.

In the slime at the edge of a dam built by a bear-sized beaver, water hogs once rooted. They were not really hogs at all, but largely rodents. They had migrated from South America with the Canada porcupine. The porcupine still exists while his larger travelling companion has vanished.

South America still possesses the descendants of the tapis that once submerged beneath the still surface of the muddy streams around Chickasha. They buried themselves under water until the eyes, ears, and nostrils alone were through about the level. These organs grew on knobs so that the invisible animal might know all that went on in the swamp about him.

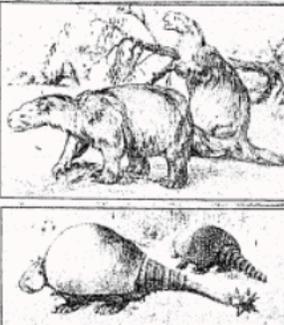
“Why all these animals no longer live in Oklahoma, where they were once plentiful, although some, such as the camel and elephant, prospered abroad, is an enigma to scientists,” Stovall concludes. “No great enemy appears among the fossils, Climatic changes did not so affect related groups, the deer and bison. A scourge of disease of insect may be the solution. Some hold the theory that these vegetarians are all the grass, thus allowing erosion to wash away the soil and preventing the return of their food supply.”

# Largest Animals Roamed Oklahoma NOT WHAT THEY USED TO BE STOVALL FINDS



Look-leave No Trace, But Early Hominines Was At The Root.

**BY EARL BISHOP**  
OKLAHOMA'S prehistoric landscape is a vast, open plain, a land of wide horizons and a sky that is always blue. It is a land that has seen many changes, but it is a land that has also seen many wonders. One of the most interesting of these wonders is the discovery of the remains of the largest animals that ever lived on this continent.



These drawings of a specimen of the mammoth and bison which were found in Oklahoma, show the great size of these animals.

The bones of the mammoth, which were found in Oklahoma, are the largest of any that have ever been discovered in this country. They are the bones of a creature that lived in the same region as the bison, but which was much larger than any bison that has ever lived. The mammoth was a creature of great strength and endurance, and it was able to live in the same region as the bison for many years.

When Stovall, the American geologist, discovered the bones of the mammoth in Oklahoma, he was the first to find them. He was a man of great skill and courage, and he was able to find the bones of the mammoth in a region that was then a vast, open plain. He was the first to find the bones of the mammoth in Oklahoma, and he was the first to find the bones of the bison in Oklahoma.

Stovall's discovery of the bones of the mammoth in Oklahoma was a great discovery. It was the first time that the bones of the mammoth had been found in this country. It was a discovery that showed that the mammoth had once lived in Oklahoma, and it was a discovery that showed that the mammoth was a creature of great strength and endurance.

The mammoth was a creature of great strength and endurance, and it was able to live in the same region as the bison for many years. It was a creature that was much larger than any bison that has ever lived, and it was a creature that was able to live in the same region as the bison for many years.

## Sweater Patterns Hit Novel Designs

PARIS, Nov. 22.—(AP)—Sweaters, in the winter, are now being made in novel designs. The sweaters are made in a variety of colors and patterns, and they are made in a variety of styles. The sweaters are made in a variety of styles, and they are made in a variety of colors and patterns.

E. F. GARDNER  
PRESIDENT

W. K. Y.  
Radiophone Company

THE OKLAHOMA PUBLISHING CO.  
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OKLAHOMA CITY, OKLAHOMA

THE management of WKY wishes that it might express to the people of this state their sincere appreciation of the overwhelming response to please made by WKY for funds to relieve the stricken storm sufferers of Belgium.

Never before has there been a more spontaneous demonstration of sympathy and unselfishness. People of means gave generously—and hundreds of persons who, perhaps, could hardly afford it, contributed their bit. Little tots contributed the contents of their savings banks—people with no money to give, offered their services. Everyone was anxious to help in some way. During 8 hours broadcasting time WKY received contributions from more than 5,000 persons, and the sum raised totaled more than \$50,000. Contributions were received from all parts of Oklahoma and from many states in the Union.

And let us say that the management of WKY was profoundly happy in having the opportunity and privilege of being of service in this tragic emergency.

W. K. Y.  
BROADCASTING STATION  
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## Women Like to Christen Ships; Fad Began in 1828

WASHINGTON, Nov. 22.—(AP)—More women are taking a keen interest in the building of ships than ever before, according to a report from the U. S. Navy. The report says that the number of women who are interested in the building of ships has increased in the last few years. The report also says that the number of women who are interested in the building of ships has increased in the last few years.

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