

PAPERS FROM THE PROGRAM OF THE GEOLOGY AND
GEOGRAPHY SECTION

THE GARRETT MASTODON

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To the writer fell the responsibility of directing the excavation of a comparatively well preserved Mastodon specimen, for which the name *Garrett Mastodon* is proposed. This skeleton was discovered by Mr.



Fig. 1. Part of the bones of the Garrett Mastodon before they had been moved from their original position.

Paul Dunn, a highway worker, on September 29, 1933, while he was probing in the ground for a drain tile. When the rod struck a solid object, he dug for the expected tile, and found instead a tooth. Further digging uncovered three other teeth, fragments of the lower jaw, and part of the pelvic girdle, which were removed, and several other bones which were covered again and left in place.

The find was located in the southwest quarter of the southwest quarter of section 10, Keyser township, Dekalb County, two miles south of Garrett, on the right-of-way of U. S. Road 27.

Mr. Verne Patty, of the State Museum, and the writer reached the scene October 5, and with the assistance of Mr. Dunn, Mr. L. L. Searfoss, highway patrolman, Mr. Fred Ballentine, Mr. Marion Hoyles, and Mr. Charles DeVeny, uncovered the remaining bones. Because of the

interest aroused among local persons, it was deemed advisable to complete the excavation at once, in order to prevent others from taking the smaller parts. The excavation was completed on Friday afternoon, October 6, and the bones were brought to Indianapolis October 7.

It was impossible to learn from the arrangement of the skeleton what position the animal had been in when it died, and it is likely that the bones were disarranged by other animals before they were buried beneath the marly clay in which they were found. The tusks and head were in poor condition, and the shoulder blades and pelvic bones were somewhat broken; practically all of the other bones were sound. The tusks could not be measured accurately, but were approximately seven feet long. Only five teeth were recovered, and these show evidence of great wear. The vertebrae were in two sections about eight feet apart, and the head was upside down, as though it had been thrown back over the left shoulder. The bones averaged four feet in depth beneath the surface, at about the present ground water level. The surface material was muck, and apparently the spot had been within the edge of a swamp.

Associated with the bones was a piece of wood about three feet long and two and one-half inches in diameter. This has been identified by Dr. Samuel J. Record of the School of Forestry of Yale University as a branch of *Larix americana*, or tamarack. Some of the mud which coated the bones has been examined by Mr. P. K. Houdek of the botany department of the University of Chicago, who reported that pine, fir, and oak pollen were present in it.

A mixture of methyl acetone and celluloid has been found satisfactory as a preservative, and the bones are being coated with this after they have thoroughly dried. No arrangements have been made for the mounting or permanent storage of the skeleton, but it will be stored temporarily in the State Museum.

SOME UNUSUAL GEODE FORMS

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Some time ago, Dr. C. A. Malott brought a peculiar form of geode to the writer's attention. Through his co-operation, the locality of occurrence of the geodes was found and a large number of specimens were collected.

The geode, as usually described, is a sub-spherical body consisting of a shell of compacted crystalline quartz, inside of which occurs crystals of quartz, calcite, and occasionally, other minerals. There may or may not be a cavity. The new form little resembles the normal, rounded geode. The unusual geodes are either sliver-like or elongated, faceted wedges which fit tightly together and make up the whole of a lens in the parent formation (See B, Fig. 1). They do exhibit, however, true