

Ice Age monsters preserved at Prairie Edge Museum

This article is dedicated to alert gravel pit operators who for decades have thoughtfully salvaged from extracted gravels examples of fossils of extinct animals, many of which are now preserved at the Prairie Edge Museum.

Why this gravel-fossil connection? Simply because both gravel and the teeth and bones of extinct critters were washed into the same beds by Ice Age stream action.

Ten thousand years ago the Eagle Lake region was the home of a dying array of huge survivors of a time when continental glaciers extended as far south to what is now St. Louis.

How do we know all this? Simply by data obtained by geologists and paleontologists studying the rock layers and soils and preserved evidence of long extinct plants and animals.

By the time the Spanish and

French first visited the Texas coastal plain more than 300 years ago, the largest living creatures were our well-known black bears, cougars, spotted cats (jaguars), buffalo, and white-tailed deer.

Not so in the case of the first Americans, for we now know that Indians came here in time to associate with these Ice Age creatures and may have even been a factor in causing the demise of some of these monsters.

Citizens in the Eagle Lake area have been long aware of the existence of this extinct life, because fossilized bones of these creatures from local gravel deposits have occasionally been retrieved, as mentioned above, by sharp-eyed gravel pit employees.

One such observant person was the late John Beseda. He was employed in the 1960s and 1970s at the Jay-Ray Plant of the Thorstenberg-

Tamarillo Gravel Company operating in those years in the vicinity of Ramsey. Mr. Beseda took time out occasionally from other duties to retrieve fossils from the gravel which he was excavating. His remarkable collection was recently presented to Prairie Edge Museum by his son John Beseda Jr., of Kaleen.

The Beseda collection contains teeth of huge elephant-like mastodons (*Mammuthus americanus*), an extinct bison (*Bison antiquus*) and an extinct horse (*Equus*). These specimens add to our growing knowledge of the local Ice Age megafauna. Prairie Edge Museum thanks Walter W. Dalquest, vertebrate paleontologist at Texas Midwestern University, for

identifying the material.

Prairie Edge Museum wants to preserve more of the remains of this extinct life, and hopes alert gravel company employees can supply more specimens.

Fossils species not known from Colorado County but discovered in excavations in nearby counties include remains of giant sloths, huge armadillo-like glyptodons, saber-tooth tigers, American lions and extinct species of tapirs, capybaras, bears, wolves, horses, pronghorns and peccaries.

The chances are thus excellent that their fossil remains can be also retrieved from our local gravel pits.



Say 'Pizza'

Yes, pizza was the word at Garwood School one recent afternoon. Students were rewarded for participating in the "Book It" program sponsored by Pizza Hut with a pizza party. Teachers set reading goals for their classes and students had to reach these goals individually and as a class for four months to earn the party. Kindergarten, first, fifth and sixth grades achieved these goals. Garwood School staff would like to thank parents and relatives for their help at home. Please keep up the good work! Way to go kids!

Garwood School Photos



Nature Club plans High Island field trip

The Tom Waddell Outdoor Nature Club (TWONC) will hold its first out-of-town field trip of the year on Sunday, May 4.

The trip will be to the High Island nature sanctuaries. Most participants plan to over-night Saturday, May 3, in the Galveston area in order to meet Sunday at 8 a.m. on the Bolivar Peninsula in the parking area at the landing of the Galveston-Bolivar Ferry.

The group will be guided by personnel from the Houston Audubon

Society, knowledgeable about both the local bird and plant life.

TWONC will tour the Louis Smith, Smith Oaks and Bolivar Flats sanctuaries. Please wear field clothing and walking shoes or boots... and bring binoculars and spotting scopes.

Club members, prospective members and visitors wishing additional information should call either President Doris Laughlin, 409-732-8875, or Vice-President Susan Tomchesson, 409-234-5591.

Local PCA honored

A local agricultural lending cooperative was one of 12 honored by the Farm Credit Bank of Texas for outstanding performance in 1996.

Farm Credit Achievement awards were presented to the Production Credit Associations (PCA) of Lubbock; El Campo; Heart of Texas, based in Waco; Northwest Louisiana, based in Arcadia; Plainview; Rolling Plains, based in Stamford; South Texas, based in Harlingen; Stephenville; Texas, based in San Angelo; Albuquerque; Amarillo; and Agricultural,

based in Tyler.

The awards recognize the PCAs for meeting rigid financial performance standards for credit quality, capital management, earnings and liquidity. The awards were presented at the 10th Farm Credit District annual meeting in San Antonio on April 10.

The Farm Credit Bank of Texas is headquartered in Austin. PCAs provide short and intermediate-term loans to farmers and ranchers across Louisiana, New Mexico and Texas.



El Campo Production Credit Association was recently honored for outstanding financial performance. Pictured above, standing, from left, are Billy Ray Smith, director; Don Goldston, president; Mark N. Anderson of Eagle Lake, chairman; and Stephen J. Zapalac, director. FCB Photo

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Caused... Miss Mary Kay Stiles repre-

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sented the Thames River in the Rice Institute Archi-Aris Ball Saturday night when each of the ten honorees represented a famous river in the Saragasso theme...

Mrs. Chester Konesheck entertained Thursday afternoon, March 10, with a birthday party for her daughter, Betty Ethel, who was five years old...

Dave Thomas was taken to Memorial Hospital in Houston last week for eye treatment, to be followed by an operation...

Mrs. C.W. Causey, whose home in Lissie burned last week, has been the recipient of a number of gifts from her friends and organizations of which she is a member.

Ring Services, Jewelry Repair Services, Ring Sizing, Ring Repair, Chain Repair, Bracelet Repair, Diamond & Colored Stone Replacing, Reproving, Retipping, Latch & Loop Buildup, Watch Batteries Changed

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Lay Witness Mission to be at Methodist Church

A Lay Witness Mission is scheduled to be held at the Eagle Lake United Methodist Church (UMC) this weekend, May 2 through 4.

Friday, activities will begin with a covered dish meal with fellowship at 6:30 p.m.; singing and witnessing will follow at 7:15 p.m.

Saturday, a breakfast at 7:30 a.m. begins the day's activities with a team meeting at 8:30.

Team members will escort witnesses to home groups at 10, followed by a luncheon at noon.

At 6 p.m. Saturday, the congregation and team will enjoy a covered dish meal followed by a second general session.

At 9 p.m., the sanctuary will be open for prayer and meditation.

Sunday School on May 4 at 9:30 a.m. will be led by the team with worship service at 10:45 a.m. conducted by the visiting coordinator. The local congregation will gather at 6:30 p.m. for celebration, visioning and planning.

A team of Lay Witness members from throughout Texas will be present to share what Christ has done and continues to do in their lives. They will be taking time to listen to others and share God's love. This will be an experience of sharing faith, witnessing, fellowship and prayer.

The Rev. Barry Bauerschlag, Pastor of UMC, extends an invitation and urges everyone to attend these meetings and to join in the 24-hour prayer vigil preceding the mission.

COLUMBUS LIVESTOCK AUCTION REPORT

Sale Every Thursday, 10:30 a.m.

We will be on the air at KULM, Columbus Wednesdays from 6:30 to 6:45 a.m. and Thursdays, live at ring side from 2:05 to 2:20 p.m.

If we can help you with marketing your livestock, please call George Hagan or Art Moeller, 409-732-2622.

If you need a truck or trailer or men to work cattle, we're as near as the phone.

Out of town, call collect; your calls are welcome. Try us on your next shipment.

Call George Hagan, residence 409-732-2553; Art Moeller, 409-732-2934; Roy Burger, 409-865-5042; or Kenneth Brune, 409-732-5815.

"We are at your service 24 hours a day, seven days a week," say George, Art, Ken, Roy and Charley. "We appreciate your business."

Market Report for April 24, 1997

Animals on hand: 1055; 4 horses, 10 sheep and goats

Packer cows: higher dressing quality & cutter cows, 35-41 per lb.; lower dressing utility & cutter cows, 30-35 per lb.;

lighter weight canner cows, 25-30¢.

Packer bulls: heavyweight bulls, 45-48¢; utility cutter bulls, 40-45¢; light weight canner bulls, 40-43¢.

Stocker/Feeder Calves/Earlings

Steers #1: 150-200 lbs., 90¢-\$1.05; 200-250 lbs., 90¢-\$1.09; 250-300 lbs., 95¢-\$1.12; 300-350 lbs., 90¢-\$1.11; 350-400 lbs., 94¢-\$1.08; 400-450 lbs., 82-92¢; 450-500 lbs., 78-88¢; 500-550 lbs., 78-91¢; 550-600 lbs., 78-88¢.

Heifers #1: 150-200 lbs., 75-82¢; 200-250 lbs., 79¢-\$1.04; 250-300 lbs., 80-90¢; 300-350 lbs., 81-94¢; 350-400 lbs., 81-91¢; 400-450 lbs., 79-89¢; 450-500 lbs., 77-87¢; 500-550 lbs., 74-84¢; 550-600 lbs., 68-78¢.

Stocker cows: good stocker cows & heifers, \$400-450 by head; medium stocker cows & heifers, \$300-350 by head; good cow & calf pairs, \$600-700 pr.; medium cow & calf pairs, \$500-600 pr.; common cow & calf pairs, \$400-500 pair.

Have a nice day, say George, Art, Roy, Ken, Max & Charley

WE'RE FIGHTING FOR THE CHILDREN.

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IT'S TOUGHER THAN EVER TO RAISE A CHILD RIGHT. AND PARENTS ACROSS AMERICA NEED ALL THE HELP THEY CAN GET. WHICH IS WHY MORE THAN 350 ORGANIZATIONS ARE NOW UNITED TOGETHER TO BE A STRONGER FORCE THAN THE PROBLEMS FACING OUR FAMILIES AND OUR CHILDREN.

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CALL US AT 1-888-544-KIDS OR REACH US ONLINE AT WWW.KIDSCAMPAIGNS.ORG. WE'RE FIGHTING FOR THE CHILDREN. WHOSE SIDE ARE YOU ON?

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Advertised Specials Effective: Wednesday, April 30, through Tuesday, May 4, 1997.

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