

## Boaz Mastodon in U. W. Exhibit

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A diorama depicting the region near Richland Center at the time when mastodons roamed about is on display at the Geological museum at the University of Wisconsin.

Constructed a year ago by Fred Wilhelm, geology department staff artist, the diorama illustrates how the region looked 10,000 or 20,000 years ago when the whole region was inhabited by now extinct mastodons.

Together with Ray Wilcox, former curator of the museum, and A. H. Becker, photographer, Wilhelm visited the area near Boaz to gather information concerning the place where the mastodon's bones were first found in 1897.

The original skeleton of the mastodon is now on display at the museum. The ancient animal's skeleton stands 9 ½ feet high and is about 15 feet long.

The bones of the mastodon were dug up by the Dosch brothers in 1897 near Boaz on the property line between the farms of John Dosch and Fred Wolff. The remains were stored on the Dosch farm for some time before they were transferred to the University.

In 1915, G. M. Schwartz and M. G. Mehl of the University geology department reconstructed the skeleton and placed it on exhibition in the museum at Science Hall.

The original mastodons differ from the modern elephants chiefly in structure of their teeth. The mastodon's size approximates that of the elephant, but no mastodon's skeletons have yet been found which are quite equal in size to the largest of the African elephants.

During the glacial period the mastodons were said to have roamed over much of North America, from the Gulf of Mexico to New York and northwest to Alaska. They became extinct some time after the last North American ice sheet.

Topographically, the area during the period of the mastodon was much the same as it is today. The climate was then cool and more coniferous trees were prevalent in the area.

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