



QUASI - PERIODICAL INTERNAL NEWSLETTER

October 14, 1964

SPECIAL EDITION

SIGNIFICANT FOSSIL FIND ON SITE

Early this month, excavation work for the beam switchyard unearthed an exciting 25-million-year-old fossil of a distant relative of a hippopotamus. Actually the find is the most complete fossil ever found in North America of a "heavily built, quadruped, amphibious mammal" called a "paleoparadoxia." Previous to this find, the only remains ever found before in North America were just teeth. Unearthed already at the site are the rib cage and portions of the legs. It now appears that perhaps nearly the entire skeleton may be hidden in the embankment. Altogether the animal was somewhat bigger than a cow.

Discovery By Accident

The fossil would never have been found had not a man made a mistake. Excavation for the End Station B (south) fork of the beam switchyard had been staked out and earth removal begun. The man charged with reading the notations on the stakes and directing the drivers of the earth moving machines misread some stakes and had the machines excavate more of the south wall than planned.

This mistake uncovered the bones. One of the survey team chainmen reported the bones to his foreman who reported it to ABA. ABA and SLAC then alerted the Stanford Geology Department which rushed right out.



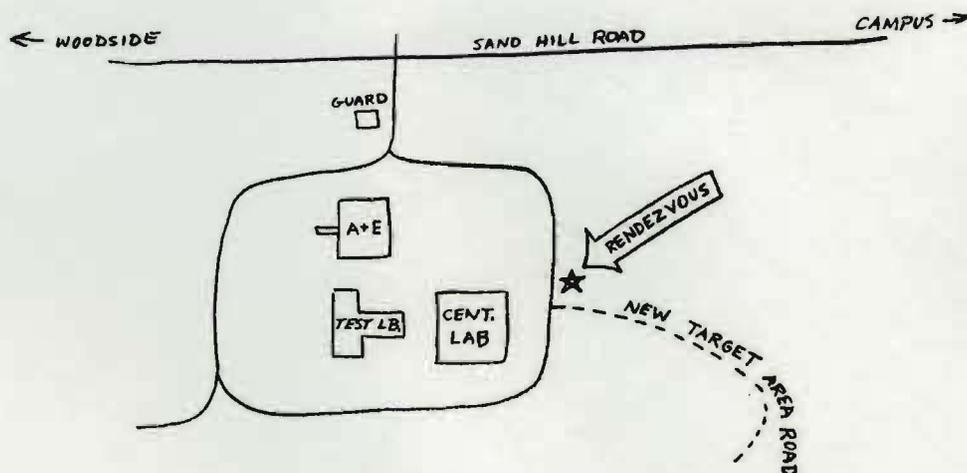
Widespread Interest

Initial work at the diggings was done by Professor Earl Packard (Emeritus, University of Oregon), now retired and residing in Palo Alto. Professor Packard said that he had been waiting forty years for this find. Others have since joined the excavation team, particularly geologist Raymond Cox of the Canadian equivalent to the U.S. Geological Survey, who is at present a graduate student in the Geology Department at Stanford. Acting in an advisory capacity is paleontologist Charles A. Repenning of the Department of Paleontology at UC, Berkeley, and of the U.S. Geological Survey in Menlo Park.

Visiting Arranged

Because of the very active and dangerous construction work being carried out in the beam switchyard area, ABA has asked that no unauthorized persons visit the diggings during working hours and that after working hours visitors be escorted. Therefore conducted visits have been scheduled for the next couple of weeks until excavation is complete.

There will be a tour each Thursday at 4:30 and each Sunday at 2:30. People wanting to see the diggings should rendezvous with the guide at either of these times at the beginning of the target area access road on the east leg of the loop road around the site buildings. (Be sure to come through the regular Sand Hill Road entrance. The construction access road from Alpine Road is for heavy construction machines only.)



Hot Wire Bulletin

As we go to press, another find has been made. What appears to be the skull of a pre-historic whale of the same vintage has just been found in the cut bank adjacent to the Control Building now under construction. This fossil won't be hurt by construction work now underway so excavation of this find will be postponed until after the "hippopotamus" is assembled and after the Control Building is finished.