

OVER THE PASS



TRINIDAD-RATON CONNECTION

“Are you old school?”

By **Tim Keller**
Correspondent
The Chronicle-News

Photos by **Tim Keller** / The Chronicle-News



“Some things you’re old school, some you’re not. You try to stay true to the values that your grandparents taught you: I get up and I go to work every morning. But there’s no way to go through life without keeping up with technology. I hate computers, but they’re a necessity.”

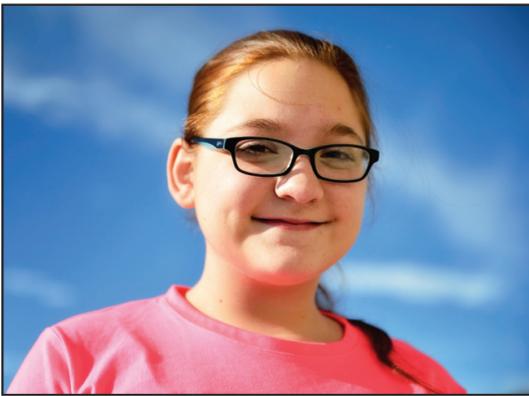
– Steve Bolton, owner, Coin Dancer Antiques (Trinidad)

“Probably not. I like my technology. I’m on my laptop all the time.”
– Brenna Simpson, ENMU college student (Raton)



“We’ve lived in Hospital Canyon since 1968 and we still have no running water, so I guess I’m old school.”

– Gene Powell, maintenance, LA County Courthouse (Trinidad)



“No, because I like modern days, because of technology and in the old days you had to make everything yourself and you had a harder time.”

– Autumn Martinez, sixth grade, Raton Middle School (Raton)



“I’m old school in spirit, perhaps. When you get to a certain age and you have children, you appreciate your quiet times. My husband’s that way, too. I think he’s a grandpa trapped in a young man’s body.”

– Jenna Waldschmidt, event coordinator (Trinidad)



“Yes. I don’t like computers. I’d rather have a dial telephone than a cell phone. Things are getting too fast. I just like a slower pace. Used to be you could shake hands and that’d be a contract. No more.”

– Gary Boggs, consultant, Boggs Machine & Supply (Raton)

NATURE & SCIENCE

Colorado mastodon bones show scientists ancient, warmer Earth

By **DAN ELLIOTT**
Associated Press

DENVER (AP) — A trove of ancient bones from gigantic animals discovered in the Colorado mountains is providing scientists with a fascinating look at what happened about 120,000 years ago when the Earth got as warm as it is today.

Evidence left behind by mastodons, mammoths, giant sloths and huge bison — along with insects, plants, pollen and other animals — offers a glimpse at how ancient animal adapted to climate change.

Among their findings: The warmer weather allowed forests to reach about 2,500 feet farther up the mountainside than today’s tree line, which is about 11,500 feet above sea level at the Snowmass site. Forests also may have been denser, and smaller trees and grasslands might have been more widespread amid drier conditions.

A team of 47 scientists has been studying material unearthed four years ago near Snowmass, a town just outside Aspen, when a bulldozer was enlarging a reservoir. The researchers published their first big batch of data in the journal Quaternary Research in November.

“The site is spectacular because it has a single continuous pile of sediment from the most recent interglacial period,” about 120,000 years ago, when conditions were similar to the present, said Ian Miller, chairman of the Earth Sciences Department at the Denver Museum of Nature and Science. He is co-director of the museum’s Snowmastodon Project, which is sifting through the material.

“It’s a beautiful record of the last time it was as warm or warmer than it is today,” he said.

The information gives scientists solid data to check their climate models against.

It also means that figuring out the impacts of human-produced greenhouse gases combined with natural changes might be more complicated than previously thought. “The point is ... if we haven’t seen all the natural variability in the system and we are causing warming, where are we going?” Miller said.

The Colorado site can point to clues about how life adapts to climate change — but it doesn’t answer the question, according to a climate scientist not working on the Snowmass site.

“It shows an example of a world that’s that warm and shows us some manifest examples of how animals react to that,” said Ted Scambos, lead scientist at the National Snow and Ice Data Center at the University of Colorado. “What we’re headed for is kind of a different situation where we’re turning the knob way up on climate in a very short period of time.”

The reservoir where the bones were found was originally a natural lake and sits on a ridge about 9,000 feet above sea level. The sediment and bones provided a record of about 85,000 years, from 140,000 years ago to 55,000 years ago.

The site yielded 35 mastodons, male and female, young and old. Researchers also found about 50 other species, including mammoths, giant sloths about the size of today’s grizzly bears, and bison that were half again as large as the modern-day versions.



AP/Denver Museum of Nature & Science

Mastodon bones found in the Colorado mountains provide a fascinating look into the past for scientists about climate change and global warming.

The site didn’t produce any information about why animals became extinct, but it did provide hints about what their lives were like, Miller said. For example, mastodon tusks grow a little each year, producing rings like trees do, he said. The size of each ring indicates whether times were good or bad.

“When it’s stressful, they grow very little, and when it’s nice, they grow a lot,” Miller said.

The bones are at the Denver Museum of Nature and Science and sediment samples are at a USGS site in the Denver suburb of Lakewood. Studies will likely continue for years, Miller said.

Online: Denver Museum of Nature and Science Snowmastodon Project: <http://www.dmns.org/science/the-snowmastodon-project/>

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9 a.m.
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Candles* Rawleigh Products* Aprons* Towels* Pot Holders* Bows*
Cinch Sacks* Scarves* Felt Animals* Photo Art* Christmas Clothes*
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B

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*No one under
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