

while I was on stand near a game reserve I had two deer walk within three feet of me and one of them I could have poked in the ribs with the gun barrel. And I had a cow moose walk to within twenty yards of me, look me over and then walk away into the bush! It is a caution how close animals will come to you if you stand very still near a tree or bush and remain absolutely motionless while they are in sight.

The last and greatest disappointment occurred while I was trying to get my elk. A hunter came into the district in a large truck with a pony in the back and a toboggan to which he intended to hitch the pony. He put a red blanket on the pony and also a set of bells, and he and his pard drove all through the timber for miles in that district riding the

toboggan looking for elk. He would follow a bunch of elk tracks and chase the elk right out of the district, doing this day after day till the end of the season. The only thing he saw was a lot of elk tracks, and the elk sure made a lot of them for him! He never got within miles of the elk with that silly outfit he had; all he did was spoil the hunting for about a dozen other hunters. You can see the reason why this was one season I myself did not get my elk.

EDITOR'S NOTE: In response to frequent appeals in the past for contributions from hunters and members of the province's fish and game leagues, we have this delightful account of Mr. Morgan's hunting experiences. We feel that the hunter who takes a legitimate harvest of game within the legal limits of an intelligently planned game management programme plays an important role in the utilization of our natural resources.

New Elk Display at Museum



Sask. Govt. Photo

The above photograph shows the recently completed elk display at the Saskatchewan Museum of Natural History. The elk display was officially opened by Fred Bard, Director of the Museum, at an interesting ceremony held January 20 in conjunction with the regular monthly meeting of the Regina Natural History Society.

The habitat displays in the new museum have been planned to represent the variety of environments and wildlife characteristic of the province of Saskatchewan, Mr. Bard said in

opening the new display. The display of North American elk or wapiti in a natural setting—along the north bank of the Saskatchewan River east of the Fort à la Corne Provincial Forest—completes the series of 24 habitat groups.

The elk display shows a bull elk and his harem. The season is mid-September and the elk is at his prime; his antlers are fully grown and his bugling challenge rings across the river. A commanding ridge, such as the one seen here, serves as an excellent vantage point from which the

bull can challenge all comers. Before the season is over a single bull may collect as many as 40 cows in his harem.

A colour film on North American elk (made in Wyoming) shown at the opening ceremony followed the elk through the seasons. The calves are born in May or June and remain with the cows throughout the summer. By October they are weaned and able to forage for themselves, though they may remain with the cows for another six months. Young bull elk develop antlers the first year, and these are shed each spring.

The name "elk" was given this animal by early settlers who thought it similar to European elk. The Shawnee Indians called the elk "wapiti" and this name is still preferred by many naturalists. The North American elk belongs to the same genus as the European red deer, and its true place in the animal kingdom is indicated by its scientific name *Cervus canadensis*.

Elk may be found in several areas of Saskatchewan—along the North Saskatchewan River in the locality depicted in the museum display, at

Greenwater Lake, Moose Mountain, Cypress Hills, Meadow Lake, and Prince Albert National Park. Its numbers are not great, but it has been saved from becoming extinct through game management programmes in Saskatchewan and other provinces.

The bull elk in the museum display was taken at English Creek in late November a few years ago by a party consisting of C. McLean, I. Bunting and F. Bard. Mr. Bard recalls that in -26° weather a snow drift remained in the room of the shack in which they were camping for the four days of their stay there. The elk was shot on the bank of the creek, and had to be "packed out" on the men's backs to the camp site. The cow elk was collected in October of 1956 by a party consisting of F. Lahman, B. McCorquodale, A. Swanston and W. Niessen.

Many tasks are involved in the preparation of a habitat group, from the time the specimens are collected until the glass front is put in place. The preparation of a habitat group is a good example, said Mr. Bard, of teamwork among the members of the museum staff.

INFORMATION WANTED



Sask. Govt. Photo by L. Robinson
Cliff Paul holding the jaw bone and molar found in gravel pit near Pilot Butte.

The above photograph indicates the size and general appearance of molars from "Mammoths" or ice-age elephants which roamed Saskatchewan throughout the major part of the last million years. These molars have a laminated appearance due to the structure of alternating plates of dentine and cement which tend to separate upon fragmentation. Bruce A. McCorquodale of the Saskatchewan Museum of Natural History is undertaking a study of the distribution of this extinct genus. This study will be based chiefly upon records of discoveries of bones or teeth of the mammals. Any reports received from readers or their friends on the occurrence of mammoth teeth in private collections would be greatly appreciated by Mr. McCorquodale.