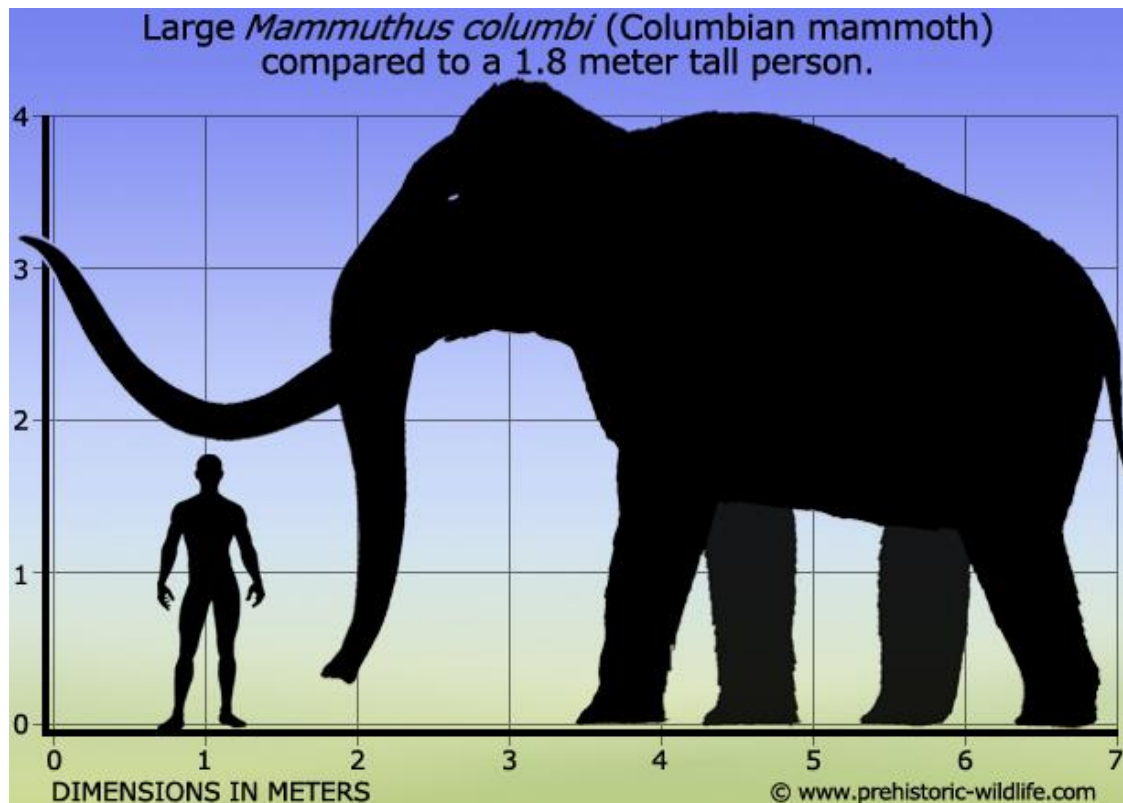


Columbian Mammoths walked... at Las Positas College! By Carol Edson



Even bigger than their more famous Woolly mammoth cousins, Columbian mammoths lived in warmer climates and did not have the dense fur. In November of 2009, construction was being done off the Loop road at LPC, by a backhoe. When about 8 feet down, the driver hit something very solid. It was quickly determined to be a large bone, and was treated as a significant fossil find by the State of California. PaleoResources sent Dr. Dave Haasl to stabilize and transport the bones to their lab.

After several months of hard work, the bones had been strengthened with epoxy-like substances, and Dr. Haasl had fitted them with supportive plaster jackets to protect them. It was determined that the find included the left front leg bones; the humerus, radius and ulna. At this point the state of California dictated that the bones go to the designated repository, at the Paleontology department of UC Berkeley.

I began working to get the bones 'loaned back' to the college for display. This has been a longer and more difficult process than I could ever have imagined...there is no protocol for such a unique find! The continuing turnover in college administrators increased the delays, because I would have to start over explaining this amazing opportunity to the new person...again and again.

Eventually, Dan Cearley from Anthropology and I were able to go measure the bones, and then a few weeks later, go pick them up. Mind you, this was in 2019; **it took 10 years** with all the snafus and staff changes. Bottom line- we have the bones on campus now, and are hard at work getting a display case ordered, and planning an art installation to show the size of the actual animal. Stay tuned- this saga has been long and complicated, but I have every faith we will get it done.