THE MARSHALL LAMBERT SYMPOSIUM

IN HONOR OF MARSHALL LAMBERT

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Marshall E. Lambert is well known outside of Ekalaka, Montana. His contributions to paleontology, particularly in regard to vertebrates, have become common knowledge amongst those studying Cretaceous and Tertiary fossils and rocks in the northern Great Plains. The fossils he has provided paleontologists for their study now have a "life" of their own, taking up temporary and sometimes permanent residence in museums and academic collections from coast to coast. But what people remember most about Marshall Lambert is his kind and generous demeanor and his willingness to share his knowledge of his field of study.

Marshall was born and raised in eastern Montana. He was intrigued at an early age by badland terrain and the fossils it contained. He graduated from Carter County High School in 1932. Shortly thereafter, having sold all but his hat and bedroll, Marshall attended Fresno State College (University of California). Although he preferred geology, he was directed by relatives and advisors to forego the earth sciences, as geologists were "starving to death." As a profession, paleontology has never been a discipline for the financially focused person. In 1939, Marshall undertook studies in education at the University of Alaska. He cleaned and prepared Pleistocene vertebrates for Otto Geist of the Frick Laboratories of the American Museum of Natural History. In Alaska, Marshall also worked in placer gold mining operations and, in his spare time, collected fossils that he sent back to the Carter County Museum.

During World War II, Marshall flew B-25 twin-engine bombers in North Africa and ferried multiengine aircraft around the world for the U.S. Army Air Corps. He was later recalled into the U.S. Air Force, and, once again, returned to Alaska, this time to become familiar with heavy equipment operation at the Romanzoff Radar Station.

In 1946, Marshall took a position as the science teacher at the Carter County High School and became the director of the Carter County Museum, a position he holds to the present day. He began his professional paleontological career by preparing dinosaur material in the museum’s collections. In 1949, he obtained experience, with C. Bertrand Schultz (University of Nebraska) and Weldon Frankforter (Grand Rapids Public Museum), preparing rhinoceros bones for display in the State Museum at the University of Nebraska, under the direction of preparator Henry Reider. In 1953, upon returning from military duty in Alaska, Marshall began the process of mounting the skeleton of *Anatosaurus* in the Carter County Museum.

The beginning of Marshall’s career in Paleocene mammalian paleontology began in 1956, with the discovery of isolated mammal teeth in the picturesque cross-beded sandstones of Medicine Rocks State Park. Coincidentally, in 1956, Glen Jepsen, a vertebrate paleontologist from Princeton University, visited the Carter County Museum and inquired about Mr. Lambert's knowledge of Paleocene vertebrate fossils. With just a few teeth to show, Marshall began his long association with students of vertebrate paleontology at Princeton University. The roster of
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acquaintances includes Don Baird (Princeton University), Elwyn Simons (Duke Primate Center), Claude Britt, Jr. (archeologist with the Ohio Department of Parks and Recreation), Ken Rose (Johns Hopkins University), Phil Gingerich (University of Michigan Museum of Paleontology), and Bob Emry (U.S. National Museum of Natural History). As an indication of his desire to enhance his paleontological abilities, in 1968, Marshall took a year’s leave of absence to work in the paleontology lab at Princeton. He undertook curation of the mammal teeth he had collected from Medicine Rocks. Marshall later spent the summer at the geology field camp of the Yellowstone Bighorn Research Association (YBRA) south of Red Lodge, Montana.

In 1975, Marshall retired from teaching at the Carter County High School and began the full-time job of constructing the present Carter County Museum facility. This undertaking involved the acquisition of many tons of petrified wood that would form walls in the new building. During this time, in 1976, Marshall was honored, as paleontologists are want to do, by having a fossil species named after him. The first was *Ekalakia lamberti* Bishop, a crab from the Upper Cretaceous Pierre Shale in Carter County (see p. 29). As with others, Marshall was responsible for the collection of a specimen that would become the namebearer of the species. As time went on, Marshall even more frequently became a source of knowledge on the geology and paleontology in the greater Carter County area. Marshall helped more than one of the symposium contributors, including Ed Belt (Amherst College), Bud Holland (University of North Dakota), Barbara Wehrfritz (University of North Dakota), and me (first at the University of Minnesota and later at the Energy & Environmental Research Center), with these efforts spanning vertebrate and invertebrate paleontology and general geology. To name a few, Marshall has contributed to the success (or even existence) of projects by Dave Archibald (San Diego State University), Jerry Clark (U.S. Bureau of Land Management), Bill Clemens (University of California at Berkeley), Roger Colton (U.S. Geological Survey), and George Frison (University of Wyoming). In addition to these efforts are the species of mammal fossils he found that bear his name, including the multituberculates *Taeniolabis lamberti*, named by Nancy Simmons (University of California at Berkeley) (see p. 1), and *Baiotomeus lamberti*, named by Dave Krause (State University of New York at Stony Brook) (see p. 31).

As is probably typical of many encounters, an example from my own personal experience with Marshall is enlightening. I had just begun my dissertation studies, and, on the advice of others, I wrote Marshall requesting an opportunity to talk to him about fossil mollusks. Over a few days in 1977, I examined museum collections and found a number of specimens of interest. From one locality, Marshall showed me a shoe box of well-preserved shells he had collected circa 1960. He gave me a portion of his sample and directions to locate the site, which I was able to find and sample. The discovery and initial collection of these freshwater shells by Marshall serve as the basis for my contribution to this symposium. This is just one example of many in which a seemingly small contribution was to grow from Marshall E. Lambert’s labor of love.

I wish to thank Brice Lambert of the Ekalaka Eagle and Dean Pearson of the Pioneer Trails Museum for providing many of the specifics mentioned in this brief history. Marshall is a very private and modest man; details a historian might like to know will have to wait for another time.
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PIONEER TRAILS MUSEUM

BOWMAN, NORTH DAKOTA

Symposium, Banquet, and Field Trip

June 19 & 20, 1993

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PROGRAM OF EVENTS

Saturday, June 19

Agenda — Symposium and Banquet

Sunday, June 20

Agenda — Field Trip

UPPER CRETAEOUS AND LOWER TERTIARY GEOLOGY AND PALEONTOLOGY OF EXTREME SOUTHWESTERN NORTH DAKOTA

Jointly Sponsored by the
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RESOLUTION OF THE SOCIETY OF VERTEBRATE PALEONTOLOGY
The 19th day of June, 1993

WHEREAS Marshall E. Lambert has had an abiding and keen interest in the study of fossil vertebrates for over fifty years, and

WHEREAS Marshall E. Lambert has made some of the most significant discoveries of Late Cretaceous and Paleocene vertebrates in the northern Great Plains of the United States, and

WHEREAS Marshall E. Lambert founded and erected the Carter County Museum for the exhibition of fossil vertebrates and other earth science and cultural materials, and

WHEREAS Marshall E. Lambert has, by example and through education, instilled a love and respect for fossil vertebrates in hosts of visitors to the museum, from school children to interested adults, and

WHEREAS Marshall E. Lambert has, for decades, befriended and unstintingly assisted both professional and amateur vertebrate paleontologists working in southeastern Montana and southwestern North Dakota,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Society of Vertebrate Paleontology acknowledges these contributions to the discipline of vertebrate paleontology and wishes to pay tribute to Marshall E. Lambert for a lifetime of dedication to his profession on this day set aside to honor his impressive achievements.