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# Domebo

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# DOMEBO

(a mammoth kill site in Grady County, Oklahoma)

by *Glen V. McIntyre*

We had been trailing the gray hairy one for three days,  
 our stomachs knotted in hunger,  
 our legs stiff and sore from running  
 our lips so cracked with thirst they bled  
 when we ran thick tongues over them;  
 she was slowing now, as exhausted as we were,  
 tried to sink down, rest a while,  
 but then the wind changed and she scented us again  
 and trumpeted in fear;  
 we saw a dry ravine ahead of us—  
 it was a dry time, had been for many years now,  
 the old fathers of our tribe said the rains no longer came  
 as they once had,  
 summer long and hard,  
 the sun like a thousand campfires in a cloudless sky—the hunt leader gestured and we circled her,  
 Crying and clapping our hands together,  
 pushing her by our noise into the ravine,  
 there she thrashed about,  
 stared up at the sullen sky and our few spears  
 and shrieked her agony;  
 I stood on the bank, stared down at her,  
 awestruck by her size, her nose like a great snake,  
 and her two terrible tusks,  
 she trumpeted again at me and I trembled,  
 though I held my spear tight, angry to show fear before the  
 others,  
 though now the rank smell of her fear came up to me,  
 giving me strength;  
 I threw my spear at her, the spirits were good,  
 it pierced her left eye, the blood gushed over me,  
 hot, warm, and sticky,  
 the others also thrust at her,  
 soon made short work of her,  
 we butchered her there and sent runners to the women,  
 the tribe ate for weeks;  
 it was a good day,  
 they clapped me on the back and gave me a name,  
 Bather in Blood,  
 and called me a man. ■

*GLEN V. MCINTYRE* of Kingfisher is a museum curator vocationally and a writer avocationally.

"Domebo" is one of his many contributions to *WESTVIEW*.