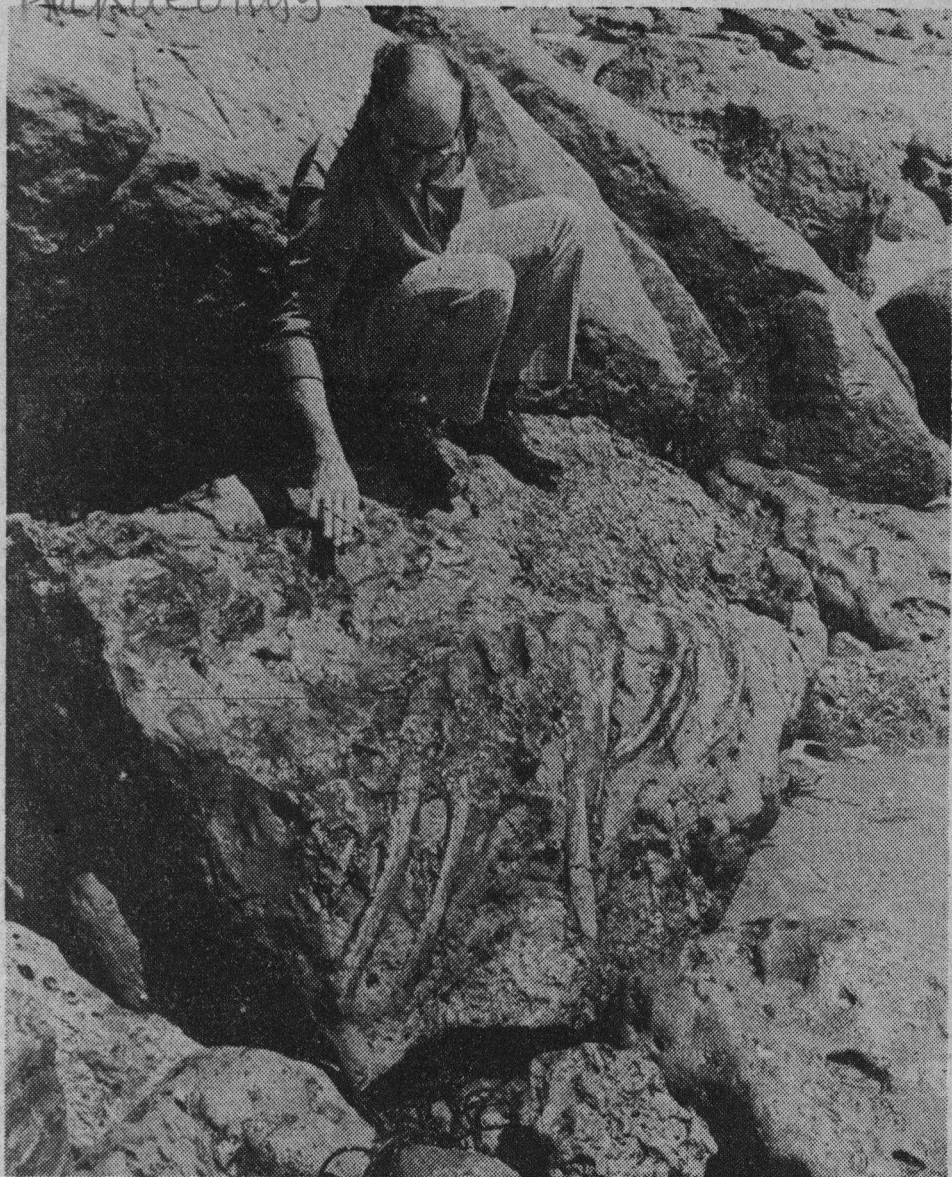


Archaeology



William Miller perches atop the fossilized remains of a Baleen Whale estimated to have lived from three to eight million years ago.

Note the ribs of the upper vertebrae in the foreground. (Sentinel Photo - Pete Amos)

Fossilized Whale Found In Capitola

Sometimes you find pretty big things when you amble along the beaches of Santa Cruz County, but have you ever the fossilized remains of a whale?

William Miller did exactly that a few days ago: spotting the fossilized upper vertebrae of a Baleen Whale in a huge chunk of rock southwest of Capitola.

Miller is a Soquel High School teacher, a naturalist, and the volunteer paleontologist for the City of Santa Cruz Museum.

The rock formation is estimated to be

from three to eight million years old, Miller said, meaning that the fossil is that old.

"I've come upon fossils before, but never upon one so big," Miller said. The ribs are sticking out of it. The whole thing, rock and fossil, must weigh around 15 tons."

Miller will lead a special hike Saturday at 8 a.m. to tour a tidal area with a high concentration of whale fossils. The tour is limited to about 35 persons. For reservations, call 476-3190.

may 3, 1977