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Dr. J. Eldon Dorman Passes Away

J. Eldon Dorman, one of the founders of the College of Eastern Utah Prehistoric Museum, passed away at his home on March 22, 2000. He was born on December 16, 1909 in Wray, Colorado. He was the Curator of Archaeology and served on the board of trustees at the Museum for 30 years. He wrote four books, “Archaeology of Eastern Utah” and “Prehistoric Art of the San Rafael” that was presented at the Australian Rock Art Association in Darwin Australia. Later, “Confessions of a Coal Camp Doctor” and “Reminiscences of a Coal Camp Doctor.” He was a member of several societies and received numerous awards.

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GUEST SPEAKER AT DINOFEAST

DR. ROBERT T. BAKKER

This year’s guest speaker for the 7th annual Dinofeast will be the Colorado based dinosaurologist and media star Dr. Robert T. Bakker. This event will be the kick off for the 2000 Prehistory and Heritage Week. The Castle Country celebration of Millenniaums of the Past will begin on Friday, April 28 at 6:30 pm. The annual Dinofeast and Auction fundraiser will be held in the new C.E.U. Student Center Ballroom.

Tickets are $25.00 per person and can be purchased at the C.E.U. Prehistoric Museum. Advance reservations are required and the deadline for RSVP is April 21, 2000 by 5:00 pm.

Robert T. Bakker is perhaps the best known paleontologist in the world. He is the author of the groundbreaking nonfiction book The Dinosaur Heresies. This book banishes to the dustbin, all of the outmoded misconceptions of gigantic Mesozoic lizardlike reptiles, blundering through swamps toward extinction. It paints a vivid picture of dinosaurs as being dynamic, hot-blooded creatures. His fiction novel Raptor Red is the compelling story of a female Utahraptor dinosaurs’ yearlong odyssey of survival. It paints a rich colorful picture of a lush, exotic prehistoric world.

Acknowledged as a rebel in his field, he acted as an unofficial consultant for the special effects artists who created the dinosaurs for the film Jurassic Park. While in the process of helping with this movie he was one of the first scientists to hear the news that Speilberg’s fictional raptors in the film had been discovered in real life in a Utah bone bed.

C.E.U employee Carl Limone had unearthed the claw of the Utahraptor. The rest is history.

WINTER QUARTERS MINE DISASTER EXHIBIT

The C.E.U. Prehistoric Museum is proud to announce the opening of a new exhibit to commemorate the May 1, 1900 Winter Quarters Mine Disaster. The Museum played a key role in the development of the exhibition which interprets the disaster through historic photographs. It is entitled “Disaster of the Century: The Winter Quarters Mine Explosion”. The gallery exhibit will close April 28 and be taken to Scofield for the 100th year commemoration, then travel throughout the state.
1999 CEU Prehistoric Museum Associate Members

Angela Kingery
David and Suzanne Nichols
Eldon Miller
Linda Gamber Keetch
Judy Esser
Helen O. Smith
Vena Willis
Jean Blackburn
Jim Shampel
Dawnette Tuttle
Dennis Willis
Paul Crookston
Harold Driver
Grace Hardy
Earl and Shirley Vitis
John and Rose Craven
Bob and Margene Hackney
Sterling and Mariella Potter
Lamont Arnold
Edmund and Nancy Nasief
Marvin and Jeanette Evans
Ramal and Carole Jones
June and Coleen McNulty
Fruita Times
Gary Lyon
Dalton C. Schade
Maggie Ireland
Paul M. Golas
Dr. Eldon & Maurine Dorman
Pete and Imogene Ferguson
William and Jean Kanes
Mark A. and Joyce Johnson
Clark and Barbara Warren
Bruce Burgess
Duane and Joan Taylor
James and Beulah Jensen
Sam and Colleen Quigley
Doug and Linda Johnson
Emma Kuykendall
Michael Leschin
Mr. and Mrs. Paul Cook
Jerry and Helen Hassemer
Charles and Jean Semborski
James Kade Stevenson
Rev. Courtney A. Shucker II
Maurine Beaudell
Blaine and Pam Miller
Brent and Nancy Livingston
Murray and Joyce Pierce
Theora Worley

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CAMBRIDGE- C.E.U. JOINT EXPEDITION

While attending the Society of Vertebrate Paleontology conference in Denver last October, Dr. David Norman, Director of the Sedgwick Museum located in Cambridge, U.K. discussed a proposed expedition to the Cedar Mountain Formation of Utah. He also spent some time discussing matters to do with the potential expedition with a variety of others who will be responsible for much of the organization, and its governance.

Norman regards Don Burge as a key player in the organization of the expedition, and lays out for him his general intentions and aspirations.

1. To collect scientifically and presentationally important specimens of fossils representative of the Cedar Mountain Formation of Utah.
2. To facilitate research programs on the fauna, flora, sedimentology, stratigraphy and taphonomy of the Cedar Mountain Formation.
3. To encourage and develop future research-led expeditions to the Cedar Mountain Formation and other geological formations within Utah.
4. To encourage and establish co-operative scientific research programs between institutions and researchers based in Utah (and neighboring states), Canada and England.
5. To promote public awareness of the paleontological record of Utah, through the construction of exhibitions that can tour widely (nationally and internationally) and promotional exercises including public presentations that can enhance scientific development.

Norman hopes to come up with a formula that Don will be happy with so they can form a central organizing committee—that is to say the people who will keep in touch and make

PREHISTORY AND HERITAGE WEEK

The annual Utah Prehistory and Heritage week, is a statewide celebration that is sponsored by the Utah Historical Society, the Bureau of Land Management, the USDA Forest Service, the Utah Geological Survey and others to help promote education and awareness of Utah’s unique and diverse history and culture. This year’s events Millennium of the Past will take place in Castle Country starting April 28, 29 and May 1, 6, and 13th.

The CEU Prehistoric Museum has helped to celebrate Prehistory and Heritage Week for several years. The event will start with the 7th annual Dinofeast and will be followed later by lectures, field trips and Museum Family Day. A complete schedule of events can be found in the insert of this issue of Al’s Archives. If you have any questions call the Museum at 1-800-817-9949 or 613-5060.

CHICKEN BONE DINOSAURS

The CEU Prehistoric Museum has many ongoing education programs. One of the classes in the curriculum has been the “dinosaur chicken”. The students in the Local Interagency Council program have been constructing apatosaur dinosaurs made out of chicken bones. The newest theory is that dinosaurs are the ancestors of the birds. The students are setting out to help prove it.

The book “Make Your Own Dinosaur Out of Chicken Bones” by Chris McGowen, outlines the basics of anatomy and gives procedures for making a scale model of a sauropod or long neck dinosaur. Using the bones of three chickens and assembling them helps teach the anatomy of dinosaur bones. This project has been going on at the bone lab every Tuesday since early February. Lab technician, John Bird teaches this class with the aid of instructors, Julia Whitehead and Nikki Lauriski. Volunteers Penny Arriola and Sue Jonas are also there to assist. Most of the students enjoy working on the projects and have admitted that its really fun. The finished chicken bone dinosaurs will be displayed at the museum when they are completed.
COLLECTIONS MANAGEMENT PROGRAM UPGRADE

For the past eight years, the collections department at the College of Eastern Utah Prehistoric Museum has been cataloging the museum collection using the ANCS (Automated National Cataloging System) designed by the National Park Service. This program was a quantum step forward from the system in place before then. Since that time over 600,000 artifacts have been catalogued. Certainly impressive numbers, but they pale before the possibilities of the new collections management program “Rediscovery” which offers multiple screen object records that can maintain virtually unlimited documentation about each article. The images on-line module can integrate and will capture up to 999 digital images per object. The image capture function is executed from the standard database screen. The resulting image is immediately available for display and printing. The module supports both thumbnail and full-size views for two and three dimensional objects. This program allows much more flexibility in accessing information from the database both for the museum’s use and for visiting researchers to utilize the museum’s collection for scientific study.

—Duane Taylor

GIFT SHOP NEWS

Now that the winter season is over and visitors are starting to increase, it is time to stock the Museum Shop shelves with new and existing merchandise for the busy summer season. Trying out new merchandise and helping to design new t-shirts, postcards and other products for the shop is always exciting.

Throughout the past year, not only have we expanded our book, ceramic and toy selections, but we have also designed a new Utahraptor t-shirt, with another one in the works.

Along with our variety of custom and stock-image t-shirts, we also have our Mammoth, Utahraptor and Nine Mile mug collections, belt buckle collection, dinosaur teeth and claw replicas, Utahraptor claw key chains, and museum related postcards. We work at continually raising museum visibility into every detail of the shop.

Last summer we had over 30,000 people visit the museum and achieved over $55,000 in shop sales. This summer we are hoping to exceed those figures and will continue to increase retail performance. Our sales fund museum exhibits, so the public can see the results of their support.

We are looking forward to a great summer season. Thank you for your help!

—Shummy Wilson

CEU MUSEUM STUDIES PROGRAM

The second course in the CEU Museum Studies program was started on March 3rd and continued on Saturday the 4th. The instructor was Museum Curator of Archaeology, Pam Miller.

There were 17 students enrolled and they met again on March 10 and 11th. The final classes were held on March 24 and 25. The students learned about Museum Administration. The class was divided into three groups and each group had to design an imaginary museum. They were to give it a name and write up a whole program, including a trustee’s manual with a constitution and by-laws. The students enjoyed the classes and they are looking forward to the next course. The classes are held on weekends to encourage employees and volunteers of other museums to attend. The next course will be on Museum Collections and Management Ethics.
the decisions that they can all live with happily.

The museum staff is interested in Norman's proposed expedition and would like to move forward with the preparations. However there are many details that need to be determined: naming of possible new dinosaurs, writing publications, funds for preparations and exhibition development, and so on.

Burge suggested that with the proper scheduling, they could use the college dorms and cafeteria. There could also be a field camp set up depending on how long the expedition lasts. Timing is critical so he suggested that between mid-July and the end of August would be the best time. The museum expects the work to be conducted under the museums permit with the Bureau of Land Management.

The museum would be the designated repository, specimens could be loaned to other museums as part of a temporary exhibition, and reproductions can be made for all participating institutions. The museum staff agrees that the expedition needs a figurehead. For additional members of the committee they recommend Ken Carpenter for his work on ankylosaurs. He seems to be a team player.

Museum Volunteer Program

The volunteer program is proceeding very well. 2,060 hours have been logged since last April. There are 36 young volunteers from the ages of 12 to 18. During the winter, because of school there have been six students working from 3:30pm until 5:00pm. During the week, 14 adults have been helping every day with tours, library cataloging, classroom instruction, lab work, dinosaur chicken bone construction and more. The volunteer supervisor is board member, Clark Warren. On behalf of the board and staff he would like to thank these volunteers for their work. If anyone is interested in becoming a volunteer call the museum at 613-5060.