From The Director
by Dr. Kenneth Carpenter

This year marks the Museum’s 50th anniversary. In May we combined a small celebration with the State-wide Archaeology Week. Former Museum Director Don Burge gave an evening lecture on the history of the museum to accompany the photo exhibit in the Temporary Exhibits gallery, which I hope you will all see. The Castle Valley Archaeological Society, the Raptor Chapter of the Utah Friends of Paleontology (UFOP) and the Museum held a family day on May 14th. Overall it was a success despite a wind storm and rain shower (see Christine Trease’s Events report on page 4). A further celebration was held on June 3rd with free admission, with ice cream and cake in the afternoon. Lloyd Logan, aided by volunteer Ralph Escamilla, completed the mammoth base in time for the event. The variety of plants they added greatly improves the display. A plastic replica human skeleton, which is a stand-in for a Paleoindian, is now being assembled in the viewing lab to accompany the mammoth. It will show this early Native American using a throwing stick, called an atlatl, to hurl a spear into the mammoth. Several projectile points (“arrow heads”) were found with the Huntington mammoth when it was excavated by this museum in the 1960s. So to show what might have happened, and to discuss the arrival of humans in North America, we will use this scene to tell the story.

Another big event for the museum was cohosting, with the local Raptor Chapter of UFOP, the State convention for the Utah Friends of Paleontology. This meeting brought members from all over the state to attend field trips, hear lectures, and to socialize. Mayor Piccolo gave the opening remarks for the event. The logo for the conference featured the Prazen Utahraptor statue in silhouette. The pose of the statue is being used to remount the Utahraptor for the Museum lobby. The new mount will also incorporate evidence from more recent discoveries of Utahraptor, so that we will have the most accurate mount possible. We hope to have this skeleton in the lobby before the end of summer.

An attempt was made by a small group of us to explore in the Chinle Formation near Swinging Bridge in the Swell. These same 203 million year old rocks in Arizona have produced some of the earliest...
A Farewell and a Hello
By John Bird

Bill Hefner has been with the museum for several years, but has felt it is time to move on. He has great organizing skills and I will miss his life stories of his world travels. (I will also miss “Sage” his dog.) Bill fulfilled each project with enthusiasm and a willingness to serve. He has been missed.

I welcome Casey Dooms, a student attending classes here in Price. Casey has volunteered at the museum over the last few years and has an enthusiasm for Paleontology (and a little Archeology).

The last few months has been full. In April 14th to 16th the local chapter of the Utah Friends of Paleontology hosted the Annual State Meeting. The Field trips led participants to various areas of the San Rafael Swell, visiting a few of our excavation sites, collecting invertebrates and enjoying some of spectacular scenery of the area.

The meetings were full of informative presentations and plenty of great food. If anyone left hungry, they had only themselves to blame. The last week of April I attended two conferences held back-to-back in Kemmerer, Wyoming. The first was the Conference on Natural Resources. This conference deals with issues between paleontologist, volunteers and the various government agencies. I gave a presentation about the great success we had at the “Goose Neck Site”. The success was due to the cooperation between the BLM, the Museum and several local agencies.

Next I attended the Fossil Preparators Symposium. This was a good opportunity to see the latest technology used in the study and care of fossils. These meetings are a great chance to compare notes with fellow colleagues.

We have found it difficult to get into the field this year although we have made it out a few times, one time we were forced to return home because of bad weather. We are continuing to set dates for field work, check our field calendar, let us know if you would like to join us.
The Prehistoric Museum now has the Dinosaur train figures! We have a great selection with over 50 characters to choose from! Come get your favorites today! Just $3.99 and $4.99 each, what a great buy!

The museum now has a penny press machine. It has 4 designs for squishing your pennies and it only costs 50 cents per design. It is a hand crank machine. How fun is that? Come to the museum and crank out your keepsake penny today!

We also have a selection of Dinosaur Train DVD’s to choose from as well, each containing multiple episodes. Stop by the museum today!

We also have three cases of sale items, new T-shirts, a great assortment of books and toys and so much more. Purchases at the gift shop are a great way to support the museum. Please remember us for all of your gift giving needs!

If you have questions about the gift shop please contact Christine K. Trease by email at christine.trease@usu.edu or by telephone at (435) 613-5757. We hope to see you soon!
The museum has had an exciting spring and beginning to summer between Family Activity Day and their 50th Anniversary celebration.

Utah Archaeology Week took place from May 7th through May 14th. The museum partnered in the festivities and held the following events in conjunction with the museum’s 50th Anniversary Celebration.

The events were sponsored by the Castle Valley Chapter of the Utah Statewide Archaeological Society, Raptor Chapter of the Utah Friends of Paleontology and the Prehistoric Museum.

Saturday, May 7th, was a San Rafael Rock Art Tour.

Thursday, May 12th, was a lecture by Don Burge, Founding Director of the CEU Prehistoric Museum, where Don gave a history of the beginning of the Museum and his tenure as Director.

Saturday, May 14th was Family Activity Day. There were children’s activities such as corn grinding, face painting, pipe cleaner figurines tipi, cordage demonstration, dinosaur bone preparation. Mother Nature decided to whip up some strong winds and rain, but the festivities were brought inside and the day came off with little interruption.

Friday, June 3rd was the museum’s 50th Birthday Celebration. Cake and ice cream was served to the public by Dr. Carpenter, The museum’s director, in the museum gallery and free admission was offered for the day. The celebration ended with a public viewing of the live feeding of the museum’s alligator, soft-shelled turtle and monitor lizards. There were 222 people in attendance for the day, 149 of which came specifically for the birthday party event.

Museum membership is a great value at $39.00/year and it is also a great way to keep up on what is happening at the museum. For membership information contact Christine K. Trease by email at christine.trease@usu.edu or (435) 613-5757.
The “spring rush” from area schools is finally over and the galleries of the museum are much quieter without the voices of dozens of excited students on their annual “end of the year” field trips to the museum. The final week, in mid-May, had the museum providing educational tours for 625 students and teachers in only 3 days, with one additional hour on the fourth day. My voice may never recover. Many volunteers, too numerous to mention individually, helped with the many school tours this year. My thanks to all of you for your assistance with these tours, I know it wasn’t always easy!

Please join us in wishing a Happy 50th Birthday to the Prehistoric Museum. This exciting destination first opened its doors on June 3, 1961 – a brainchild of Don Burge and one of his night classes.

We currently have a 50th Anniversary Exhibit on display in the Temporary Gallery. Compiled by our very own John Bird, this exhibit showcases some of the important museum personnel throughout the years, as well as some significant milestones in the museum’s history. This show will run until early September.

Accompanying the 50th Anniversary Exhibit is a sister exhibit, From Our Collections. In any museum, there are many thousands of items in the collections that are not visible to the average visitor. The items chosen for this retrospective exhibit are items from our collections that may or may not have been used in previous exhibits. If you visited the museum regularly the last few years, you will have noticed that some of the old exhibits have evolved into new or improved exhibits or even been totally replaced by different exhibits. This continual evolution of exhibits helps keep the information in a museum current or allows us to showcase new discoveries. These changes are also one way of keeping the museum fresh and interesting for repeat visitors. Please enjoy this 50th retrospective: From Our Collections and visit the museum often – many changes are in store over the next few years.

In mid-September, the temporary gallery will host a dual exhibit, Snakes, Sheep, and Shaman by photographer Francois Gohier and fine artist Joe Venus. The primary focus of this exhibit will be Native American Rock Art, especially art from Utah. This show will run through mid-November.

If you haven’t been by the museum in the last couple of weeks, you need to stop by and see the new vegetation on the Huntington Mammoth Base. Snow has disappeared from the mountains, leaving a profusion of grasses and wildflowers around a boggy area with the mammoth skeleton walking through this wet meadow.

Don’t forget to renew your family memberships; only $39 provides a year of education and a fun destination for children and adults alike. Better yet, also buy a gift membership for a friend’s family and introduce them to the best deal in town!

Have a great summer and visit YOUR museum often to see the changes that have taken place, and are taking place, to make the Prehistoric Museum an even more exciting destination than it already was!
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Visit us on the web at
http://museum.ceu.edu

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