From The Director

by Dr. Kenneth Carpenter

With the completion of the Paleo-Indian, work is now focused on redoing the Utahraptor skeleton for display. Progress has been slow owning to other obligations this summer, such as field work, but we hope to have the skeleton in place by the Holidays. Field work was greatly hampered this summer by rain (it’s not supposed to rain in the desert!). Nevertheless, several promising sites were found in the Upper Cretaceous North Horn and Upper Triassic Chinle formations. In addition, several trips were made to the Lower Cretaceous Suarez Sisters site near Green River. We hope to collect enough Falcarius bones to mount a skeleton for the new museum. Falcarius was a medium-sized plant-eater, whose closest relatives were meat-eaters, such as Utahraptor, odd as that may seem. Falcarius was in a lineage of carnivores that became plant-eaters, something that happened several different times during dinosaur evolution. This, and other weird but true stories will be featured in the new museum – watch for them!

In the last issue of the Raptor Review, I mentioned that we were assembling a plastic replica of a modern human skeleton, which would be a stand-in for a Paleo-Indian. That skeleton is now complete and joins the Huntington mammoth on its base. The human skeleton is of a robust Asian male, thus makes a good representative for a Paleo-Indian (Native Americans are thought to have immigrated from Asia during the latter part of the Ice Age). Although there is some doubt about the two projectile points allegedly found at the mammoth site, mammoth kill sites are known from elsewhere in the U.S. So, although no Paleo-Indian is known to have killed the Huntington mammoth, what is shown by the poses of the skeletons did happen elsewhere.

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Over the summer the field crew of the museum with the help of a few volunteers has been searching the Chinle formation in the San Rafael Swell. We have been looking for the remains of critters that roamed this area during the Triassic. The museum’s collections contain few specimens from this time and we are determined to find some specimens to expand our displays at the museum in the future.

We have been successful in finding some phytosaur material but so far we have not found what we need to create a display. So we keep looking. Phytosaurs looked a lot like crocodiles, only uglier.

We have also had some time to excavate in the Suarez site near Green River. The site continues to yield more fossil bone. Bones of the therizinosaur, Falcarius are the most abundant, however we have been finding more of the large nodosaur (unfortunately not the skull).

At the museum, my time is spent removing paint and a little prep work on the stegosaur and the camarasaur from Cleveland-Lloyd Dinosaur Quarry. In the 60’s when we acquired these specimens, it was a common practice to paint the entire mount. This way all the bones looked the same. Fortunately, today showing what is real and what is cast is more common. This modern practice is great for us since we have a lot of actual fossil bone on display.

We are continuing to expand our world class collection as the museum enters it’s 2nd half century. I wish to remember those who have worked at the museum and the many, many volunteers who put in so many hours to make the museum what it is today. I have had the privilege to meet many of them. Their labors are greatly appreciated.

Until the next news letter-

John
**Gift Shop**

**Blubandoo Products are great!**
The Neckbandoo (shown below) has a tie closure that can be worn tied around the neck or head. The cooling band is narrow and so it’s just the right size and lightweight, yet effective.

The Bandoorag (pictured below right) is for the trendier person or for those who may want a little added top-of-the-head sun protection. The cooling bandana includes a two channel, flat bandoo design for optimum forehead cooling. Bikers and young folks love this product!

The Sport Capbandoo (pictured below left) is solid cotton for top-of-the-head sun protection with breathable polyester mesh for fashionable look. Each Sport Capbandoo also includes an adjustable hook and loop closure to fit just about everyone.

The cooling Safari Hatbandoo has the Bandoo constructed right (pictured bottom center) into the hat to create surround-the-head cooling performance. This oversized brim meets and exceeds dermatologist’s recommended brim size. Great for outdoor activities!

**Plush WOWS and Wild Watchers**

Plush WOWS and Wild Watchers make cuddly friends!

**Dinosaur Ludo and Ladders Game**

Two Dinosaur Games in One!

DINOSAUR LUDO At each step of this exciting game of chasing and escaping you have to demonstrate the swiftness of the wild in guiding your dinosaurs to the safety of home, protecting them from other dinos on the prowl. If you can outsmart the other contenders, you become the rightful King of the Beasts!

DINOSAUR LADDERS Ride your luck to climb the ladder of success in the Dinos & Ladders game, but remember not to make mistake of landing on the dinosaurs, else you slide down their whole length till you drop down their tails.

We hope you remember the museum gift shop for your gift giving needs. Purchases from the gift shop are a great way to support the museum. The Holidays are just around the corner. Stop by for great gifts!

We have revised the memberships to include an individual membership for $25.00, which has never been offered before-and a $100.00 Utahraptor, (revised Sabertooth) level that includes different perks. This level includes Standard family membership benefits for two adults plus free admission for 10 children, grandchildren or guests per party per visit. This is exciting because it seems to fill a niche that has been needed for some time now.

In addition, gallery exhibit openings will be for members only. This gives members a sneak peek of the gallery event and a fun night out.

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**Plush Tumblers**

Plush Tumblers come in two sizes and a variety of species and colors. They make great gifts, stocking stuffers and are as cuddly as they look! With weighted feet, they can be “posed” in a variety of positions.
What’s New in Archaeology
d by Yvonne Wilson

Good news on the museum’s archaeology front—we have been given the okay to start the search for a new archaeologist. We have missed Dr. Renee Barlow’s expertise and passion for research. Perhaps the next newsletter will have an announcement of our new hire.

In the archaeology lab, the major project underway is a complete collection inventory. This inventory is not just a tallying of each object. It also will allow us to rediscover the depth and strengths of our collection. In order to plan our new museum, we are trying to identify artifacts that would make great exhibits. As with any museum, there are many objects that the public hasn’t seen. In general, archaeology collections are comprised mostly of pottery sherds and lithics because animal and plant products decompose quickly. So, yes, we have many more pot sherds than the average person would care to see. They are very important to the scientists, but they would overwhelm a visitor. Thus, large numbers of objects are kept in storage. Our inventory goes through all the items in storage, and every so often we find pieces that stand out. Objects made with true artistry for both function and aesthetics. Maybe a stone tool that is made of a unique and colorful rock. Maybe one pot sherd has a wonderful painted design or applied texture. For the archaeologist, these may not be the most important artifacts. Sometimes the average or ordinary objects tell more information about the lives of prehistoric people. But the beautiful ones do make great exhibits. They also show what people of the past thought was worthy of their significant effort and resources invested in making these extraordinary pieces. So in the lab we are keeping a look out for new things to show the public. Also, one other purpose of the inventory is to update the storage containers of items that came to us decades ago. We must protect these objects in chemically stable containers. As we perform the inventory we can change out any acidic storage boxes that might harm our artifacts.

A new batch of volunteers has arrived to help with our massive inventory project. Three members of the Castle Valley Archaeology Society and seven students in Dr. Pam Miller’s Museum Studies class have offered their time to the archaeology section. The inventory is an important process and we appreciate our new and current volunteers helping to make it possible. We would also like to extend a special thanks to volunteer David Cassidy, who teaches computer classes at USU Eastern. With new collection management software and Dave’s computer expertise, the museum can finally access an important database on a significant addition to our collection. Dave, we couldn’t have done it without you! If you are interested in volunteering with us, please leave a message for Archaeology Collections at 435-613-5765.

One last note: on September 22 we loaned the Mickelsen Pot to the Museum of the San Rafael.

We moved both the artifact and the entire exhibit case to Castle Dale. Casey Mickelsen found this Kayenta Hisatsinom (aka Anasazi) ceramic pot and a small fibrous mat tucked behind a boulder in Emery County, on Forest Service land. Forest Service archaeologist Charmaine Thompson gave an interesting lecture about the Mickelson Pot at the September meeting of the Castle Valley Archaeological Society. Emery County is extremely proud of this rare find, and we are happy to see the pot exhibited closer to where it was found. Perhaps our collection inventory will help us find a wonderful exhibit to fill the open space where the pot was.
Education and Exhibits
By Lloyd E. Logan

As I sit here at my desk deciding what to write for this newsletter, it is hard to believe that summer is winding down, children are back in school, school tours have already started, and fall is just around the corner – with winter not that far behind! As a child, I remember thinking that each year would never end but as I have gotten older, I have discovered that the laws of physics are suspended (or at least bent) as far as time goes. Years are not nearly as long now as when I was a child.

Since the last newsletter, we have been busy with a variety of projects. One project that I especially enjoyed was a survey trip for microvertebrate fossils near Joe’s Valley. On this trip I accompanied Museum Director Dr. Ken Carpenter, his wife Yvonne Wilson, new lab assistant Casey Dooms, and volunteer Ralph Escamilla in search of new fossil material for future exhibits. While we found very few microvertebrate remains, we did find some very promising leads for larger vertebrates. Despite rain nearly every day, clouds of biting gnats, and overeating Ken’s great cooking, it was a fun three days. I did discover that I was allergic to gnat bites when both of my ears swelled shut and I could hear nothing for over a day – but I am looking forward to going back soon to check out the leads we found.

The Huntington Mammoth base continues to evolve with the addition of a human (skeleton) with dart and atlatl attacking the mammoth. One dart has already lodged in the rib cage and the hunter is readying to cast another dart at the mammoth. Ken Carpenter, with his usual flair for dramatic action and anatomical accuracy, prepared this spectacular addition to the diorama. Many visitors have made positive comments about it since it was installed. If you haven’t seen it, be sure to stop by and see this latest update in the Hall of Archaeology.

The “Living Fossils” exhibit continues to evolve as well. Recent additions include a specimen of a modern green sea turtle, a genus that has been around since the Cretaceous. Other new additions to the display include a juvenile caiman skeleton and a fossil fresh-water turtle, both from the Eocene Green River Formation.

We also have a new exhibit featuring the skulls of the armored dinosaurs Cedarpelta and Anamantarx, which replaces the old armored dinosaur vertebrae exhibit. John Bird reconstructed the skull of Cedarpelta from skull fragments of two individuals and several pounds of clay.

I am currently in the planning stage for a new exhibit on rugose (horn) corals to help interpret a massive block of fossil corals found near Arches National Park. This exhibit should be complete by the end of the year.

The museum had a special visitor in late July; ten-year-old Douglas Rosa from Weehawken, NJ was a recipient of a trip to see Dinosaur National Monument and the Prehistoric Museum. Douglas is a special young man who was diagnosed last year with leukemia. He was ecstatic about seeing dinosaur bones and his parents and I were extremely happy to learn that he is responding very well to medical treatment and a full recovery is expected. His parents, Carlos and Kathy Rosa, were so impressed with the time and attention lavished on Douglas (and siblings) while they were here at the museum that they sent the museum a generous donation as a “thank you”. Hang in there Douglas, you are a special young man and I am glad to have met you.

Be sure to stop by before the 12th of November to see the temporary exhibit Snakes, Sheep, and Shaman, a joint show by world famous photographer Francois Gohier and award winning fine artist Joe Venus. This show will emphasize Utah Rock Art and the Fremont lifestyle. Both artists have had well-received shows at the museum previously and Joe Venus painted the Ice Age Mural in our Hall of Archaeology.

As always, come in and see our progress in making your museum a fun and educational place to visit. See you soon!
Prehistoric Museum
155 East Main Street
Price, Utah 84501
Visit us on the web at
http://museum.ceu.edu

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