From The Director
by Dr. Kenneth Carpenter

I start this report to the members with a sad note that John Bird has decided to retire after 22 years at the Museum. John came to the museum in a roundabout way: he started as a seasonal employee at the Cleveland-Lloyd Dinosaur Quarry, and then transitioned to a full-time museum employee. He served under the previous museum directors Mr. Don Burge and Dr. Reese Barrick. He is perhaps best known for leading the excavation of the Gooseneck Site in the San Rafael Swell. We wish John the best of luck, but at least now he can do all those things he said “someday” or “when I retire.”

Prehistory Week in early May was a great success thanks in large part to meticulous planning by CVAS president Heidi Essex. Heidi also unveiled the What is Archaeology exhibit as part of the Family Day celebration. “Mr. Bones” was there and proved to be a big hit as always. There were several lectures that week, including a members’ only Dining with the Fremont by our archaeologist, Dr. Tim Riley. Another lecture by Mike Leschin, from the local BLM office, on the Cleveland-Lloyd Dinosaur Quarry, was followed by an unveiling of “Al” the allosaur, and the Camptosaurus.

As promised, the skeleton of the giant ankylosaur Peloroplites is now on display. It was featured in several news reports, as was a giant marine reptile I helped to name and describe. For these stories, as well continued on page 3

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My first year at the Prehistoric Museum passed quickly and a lot has happened in the Hall of Archaeology. Our new “What is Archaeology?” exhibit now greets visitors as they enter the Hall. This exhibit is divided into three sections, following the process of archaeology from excavation, through artifact analysis, to the reconstruction of prehistoric lifeways and the dissemination of that knowledge. There are a number of interactive components, including touch artifacts, located in the three drawers. This exhibit also highlights our new bilingual approach to exhibits, with Spanish and English labels. Additionally, the various touch components of the exhibit have associated Braille text, providing a broader experience for our visually impaired visitors. Stop by and examine the new exhibit for yourself!

We are also hard at work redesigning the Terminal Pleistocene exhibit, highlighting the Huntington Mammoth. The new exhibit will place the mammoth in a broader context of changing Ice Age environments and the human colonization of the Americas. It will also feature some of the recent genetic research on this specimen. This exhibit will be unveiled during the celebration of the 25th anniversary of the mammoth’s discovery, August 8th. The mammoth will also play a prominent role in our members-only tour of the archaeology of Huntington Canyon, where we will follow the traces of native cultures from the present all the way back to the end of the Ice Age 10,000 years ago.

Utah Archaeology Week, May 4th-11th, was a busy time here at the museum. In addition to the festivities during Family Day, there were two archaeological presentations at the museum that week. Rich Talbot, of BYU’s Office of Public Archaeology, gave a public lecture entitled “Who were the Fremont?” Rich has over three decades of experience excavating in Utah and is one of the foremost authorities on the Fremont archaeological culture. The lecture was well attended and quite engaging. I thank Rich and Lane Richens for making the trip over the mountain as well as Charmaine Thompson and Sara Stauffer of the Manti-La Sal National Forest and the Castle Valley Archaeological Society for organizing the event.

I hosted a members-only lecture “Dining with the Fremont”. This event focused on how we know what we know about Fremont diet and featured a four-course sample platter for attendees. The menu included venison with roast pumpkin seeds and dried pumpkin, dusky grouse breast with juniper berries and pinyon nuts, corn gruel with parched amaranth, and a cattail shoot and spring onion salad. I hope to host future versions of this event, expanding on the social role of food among the Fremont and exploring traditional earth oven cooking.

Recently, Amber Koski of the BLM Price Field Office and I recovered a basket fragment reported by a responsible local citizen. The basket, found tucked into a shallow alcove, appears to be a Numic winnowing and parching basket. There is carbonized residue from parching seeds or nuts. Future research on this artifact includes the identification of the plant materials used in the manufacture of the basket, microscopic and chemical examination of the residue, and radiocarbon dating of the basket to get a secure date. Look for a new exhibit highlighting this basket sometime in the fall.

Finally, I would like to use this space to thank John Bird for his dedication to the museum. John always had a smile for visitors and staff.
as others about the Dining with the Fremont, see the USU-Eastern website http://eastern.usu.edu/price. You may have noticed an increase in news stories about the museum and staff lately. The intent is to get the Prehistoric Museum more widely known throughout the state and region before I start fund raising for the new museum later this year.

With the “What is Archaeology?” exhibit completed, our attention is focused on redoing the Huntington mammoth exhibit. We plan to have this completed by August 8, the 25th anniversary of its discovery. Watch for special events in celebration. We are also thinking about modifying the children’s discovery area by installing a pithouse for children to crawl around in. Details have not been worked out, but will require doing this work well before winter. We will be using membership and admission funds to make this happen. You were notified that we had to raise our admission fees at the end of May (membership fees did not change). The raise was due to cuts in 2010 and 2011 from the State funds that we receive. We were able to delay their negative impacts on the museum until this year.

For field work in May and June, we were joined by the Friends of Dinosaur Ridge, a group from Colorado. We spent three days at the Suarez Sisters Site, before doing a tour through the Swell. The museum staff and volunteers found a fish jaw in the Mancos Shale near Thompson Springs, fragments of a mammal bone from Fisher Valley, east of Moab, and fragmentary dinosaur bones from the North Horn Formation west of Castle Dale. Except for the giant clam, exhibit quality specimens for the new museum elude us, but we have not given up. One new addition, however, is a transfer to the Museum of the concrete dinosaur skeleton “Dippy,” that used to stand outside the museum in Vernal, Utah. Yes, “Dippy” has a new home, but she needs some repair work before she can go on exhibit; first on the USU-Eastern campus, then in front of the new museum.

Thanks again for supporting the museum through Membership.

Lab & Field

Farewell
By John Bird

I have been told I need to write something, as I will be retired as of July 1st. This will be my last newsletter.

I thought about talking about the things I have accomplished while I have been with the museum, but that would only serve my ego and I hope my readers don’t think I am that shallow of a person. After all I have always believed our greatest treasures are our family and friends. So I hope you will indulge me for a while as I reminisce.

When Don Burge was the director everyone would gather together at the start of the day in the staff lounge. Some would have their morning “fix” of coffee. All of us enjoyed the comradery. The conversations would start out with the latest news, but soon we would be talking about our projects for the day. We all had our areas to work in but, if anyone needed help with a larger project, the help was given. We were a team and we knew we could count on each other for support.

Don Burge was the director. The museum grew from a collection of show-and-tell items collected haphazardly to a nationally accredited institution during Don’s 40 plus years of service. Of course he had some help along the way, a lot of help. One of Don’s greatest talents was his ability to inspire others to do what was needed. I think he had a little “Huckleberry Finn” in him. He was generous with praise and encouragement and that made the job fun. When I was a volunteer he would often tell me “I am going to double your wages, John.” But I noticed after I started collecting a wage, he was careful never to tell me that again.

Pam Miller was the asst director at the museum. She would take care of the details. She taught me the “how and why” of the museum. Like Don she was supportive and generous praise. She was also good at letting you know when you messed up, but usually in a constructive way.

Pam was a great planner. Museum events were always a success when she was the chairperson. She gathered a committee together and then the planning would begin. Everyone on the committee presented ideas, of course not all the ideas could be used but it wasn’t long until a workable plan was formed and all of us had our individual assignments. She made these times exciting and fun. Don and Pam knew how to bring the best out in everyone.

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Don and Pam also had the same eye situation and as Don was always loosing his glasses, he was constantly borrowing Pam’s to read or look at stuff up close.

Soon after I was officially hired on at the museum, I walked into the staff lounge for the usual morning event, Duane Taylor and Clark Warren were already there. They were talking or more accurately they were plotting together. When I entered they both looked at me and said “John since you are now an official employee of the museum, you will have to take your turn at making the morning coffee.” I smiled back at them and asked “Are you sure you want a g-o-o-d Mormon boy making YOUR coffee?” Their smiles dimmed a bit and after a couple seconds they decided I would not have to make morning coffee. I think they made a wise decision.

I remember one dig season, Duane really wanted to find a skull. Every time he would find something in the field, I would ask, “What is it?” He would answer “It’s a skull.”, but it always turned out to be something else. This went on all season long. Our last dig of the year was at Yellowcat, near Arches. The same thing, “I found something.” “What is it?” “It’s a skull.” I checked it out: IT WAS A SKULL! The power of positive thinking paid off for him that season.

Duane was the Collection Manager at the museum for many years and he did a great job keeping track of the collections. Duane was always striving for better ways to get things done. He wore many other “hats” at the museum. Don and Pam depended heavily on him. I always enjoyed working with him, in the museum or out in the field, he was dedicated to doing his best and was always willing to help others along the way. I have greatly missed Duane since his passing. I look forward to seeing him in the future and renewing our friendship.

Thanks to All: John
Greetings everyone. Spring has come and gone with characteristic abruptness (literally snow in the air one morning and 80 degree temperatures the next afternoon), leaving us with an early hot and dry summer.

Family Day was very successful as usual and the Children’s Art Contest (Draw a picture about the Fremont Indians) gave us nearly 200 entries that were displayed in the Hall of Archaeology for the Day.

The newly remounted *Allosaurus* chasing the remounted *Camptosaurus* made their formal debut during Utah Prehistory Week. These new mounts provide a glimpse into the interactions between these two species during the Jurassic when they were alive. The next to be mounted and join them will be our *Stegosaurus,* which has never been mounted.

We have been very busy with school tours during the month of May. In one two week period, we gave tours to over 550 school children, some times to as many as 3 schools with four groups per school, in one day. In addition to the many tours at the museum, I gave classroom presentations on Dinosaurs to three first grade classes at Huntington Elementary in early May to help prepare them for their museum visit the following week. The program was well received by both students and teachers and their visit to the museum re-enforced what they learned in the classroom.

The “What is Archaeology?” exhibit is up and running – in the three hands-on drawers, visitors are able to touch 9 different types of pottery, identify 6 Fremont projectile points, and compare many modern tools to their ancient counterparts. The change to tri-lingual signage (Spanish, English and Braille) makes this exhibit accessible to a broader segment of our visitors.

We are currently working on a new exhibit that will feature ice age mammals, including the Huntington Mammoth, and early man in Utah. This exhibit will be unveiled on August 8, 2013 – the 25th anniversary of the discovery of the Huntington Mammoth, and will include new information recently discovered about this remarkable mammoth.

I was recently asked to jury the entries for the Annual Scientific Illustration Show for the International Meeting of the Guild of Natural Science Illustrators, an honor I was happy to accept. The show was very difficult to judge since I had to narrow the field from nearly 200 very high quality entries to only fifty illustrations, paintings, fine art pieces, and sculptures. The art, digitally submitted and juried, was submitted from all over the world, with chosen pieces shipped or hand delivered to the exhibit venue after judging.

A new art exhibit, “Chasing the Light” by local artist Terry Willis (yes, she’s the wife of Board Member Dennis Willis) opened in the museum gallery on June 7th, 2013 and will run until September 6, 2013. The thirty-five oil and acrylic landscapes of regional scenery are spectacular – you owe it to yourself to stop by the museum and see this show. Three paintings have been sold in the first week of the show, who knows, maybe you will want to add one to your room décor. With your help, we may set a new record for the number of pieces sold during a museum show...

As always, many thanks for your support. Please stop by your museum, take a look at the recent changes, and let us know what you think. We really do appreciate your input.

Lloyd E. Logan
Stop by the museum and see if you can discover what this is.

WHERE IS THIS IN THE MUSEUM?

Prehistoric Museum
155 East Main Street
Price, Utah 84501
Visit us on the web at
usueastern.edu/museum

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