

Dallas Paleontological Society

The Fossil Record

P. O. BOX 710265, DALLAS, TEXAS 75371



Vol. 11, No. 12, December, 1995

DECEMBER MEETING

'Tis the season for feast, fun, frolic and assorted fossils. Our December meeting will feature all four. Come to the meeting with a food offering and your fellows will sing your praises. Along with the festivities, we'll also elect the 1996 slate of officers.

The Advisory Board has made the following nominations:

President	Rocky Manning
Vice-President	Brita Bishop
Secretary	Ann McFarland
Treasurer	Becky Liberato
Editor	Cliff Barnes

As always, additional nominations are welcome. Call a current officer or mail in your choice of nominee. Remember that you must be an active (rather than associate) DPS member in order to vote. You may vote at the meeting or by absentee ballot. All absentee ballots should be mailed to the Society's address and must be received by December 12th.

NEXT MEETING
7:30 P.M. WEDNESDAY
DECEMBER 13, 1995
DALLAS MUSEUM OF
NATURAL HISTORY
FAIR PARK

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Dues for 1996 are due as of the first of next month. Please return your membership form as soon as possible. The deadline for renewal is March 1st. Please send in your renewal today.

SOME PERSONAL THOUGHTS ON CHUCK FINSLEY'S RETIREMENT

by Bill Lowe

As many of you already know, Charles Finsley has retired from his position as Curator of Earth Sciences at the Dallas Museum of Natural History and Dr. Tony Fiorillo has been hired as his replacement. We look forward to getting acquainted with Dr. Fiorillo and working with him in the future. However, it seems appropriate that we take this occasion to reflect on what Chuck Finsley has meant to the Dallas Paleontological Society since we began eleven years ago.

No one knows exactly when or where the idea which eventually became the DPS originated. We know that there were discussions among Chuck and a small group of museum volunteers during the early 1980's. When work began on reconstruction of the mammoth which is now on display, that group of volunteers was enlarged and the discussions intensified, leading to the inaugural meeting in November, 1984. Several people, most of whom are still involved with the Society, obviously had major input during its formation. However, I was in that original small group, and my memory is clear on one point. The first words that I heard about the dream that became the DPS were spoken by

Chuck Finsley. He was certainly a major player in all of the organization meetings, and provided invaluable guidance in its formation. Through the years, he has presented several programs that certainly rate as among the best. And almost every meeting night for eleven years, Chuck has patiently waited on his own time for the last few members to finally vacate the museum so that he could close up for the night.

As VP the first year and President in years two and three, I was presiding officer for most of our early meetings. When it was time for Chuck's input to the meeting, I usually introduced him as our "spiritual advisor." That term was tongue-in-cheek and obviously intended to get a chuckle, and it invariably did. However, as I look back, I realize that Chuck did have a major role in the creation of an organization that has spirit.

As he leaves the employment of the Museum, Chuck's relationship with the DPS will obviously change. He was one of our first honorary members, and that is a life-time appointment. However, we all hope and expect that he will also continue in some capacity as one of our Professional Advisors, and with more free time, perhaps participate even more in some areas. Through the years, Chuck has always been a strong proponent of field trips, and often expressed regret that his heavy museum schedule prevented him from participating in most of them. Perhaps he will now be able to take a more active role in encouraging and organizing such activities. Another area in which he can provide invaluable support is in organizing and conducting workshops and other instructional activities. Our future program Chairpersons will surely call on him for an occasional program.

I know that Chuck has already embarked on several new projects, including writing three or four more books. However, for the sake of the Society, I hope that he will make time in

his retirement schedule for continued guidance and participation in our future activities. If you agree, why not let him know?

LONE STAR DINOSAURS
-A REVIEW
by John P. Meyer

Louis Jacobs' *Lone Star Dinosaurs* (1995, Texas A&M University Press), while essential reading for the scholar of Texas dinosaur research, is actually rather badly mistitled. More correctly, perhaps, it is incompletely titled, The subtitle should run something along the lines of "*...and their Impact on the Big Picture of Paleontology.*" The book could easily serve as a general primer on the sciences of geology and paleontology, thereby extending its appeal beyond Texas-oriented dino-fanciers. Dr. Jacobs' down-home conversational style of writing may have been calculated to appeal to a broad, non-technical audience. On the other hand, maybe the guy just writes that way.

As a complement to Jacobs' easily accessible prose, Karen Carr's original illustrations - many of which have been purchased by the Ft. Worth Museum of Science and Nature - are dramatic and enlightening. The magic of a good paleo-illustrator is his or her ability to take the evidence of a few fossil bones and literally flesh them out to create a living, breathing - albeit two-dimensional - creature. Ms. Carr's work certainly exhibits this ability, and she stretches beyond the range of the great classical dinosaur artists by bringing the subject matter into the present through her use of imaginatively-employed multiple images. Not only are the beasts themselves of importance to her palette, so are the "characters" (and I use this term advisedly) who dig them up.

Lone Star *Dinosaurs* is organized into five chapters, with the first serving as an introduction both to the history of dinosaur paleontology in Texas and to the basic assumptions and practices of the science of paleontology. It's Earth History 101 in a nutshell.

Chapters 2 - 4 each cover a specific sector of the state of Texas. Chapter 2, "The Original Homestead," takes us to the dawn of dinosaurs as evidenced by the Triassic sediments of the Texas panhandle, with particular emphasis on Post quarry fossils such as Promavis and Shuvosaurus (the controversial Chatterjee twins). Chapter 3, "The Heart of Texas Dinosaurs," covers the mid- to late-Cretaceous of North Central Texas. The roll call of local amateur fossil hunters cited in this chapter should be enough to convince anyone of the importance of "hobbyist" or "weekend" collectors to the advancement of paleontology. Chapter 4, "The Land of Texas Giants," takes us to the latest Cretaceous of the Big Bend, home of *Quetzalcoatlus* and *Deinosuchus*.

The last chapter, appropriately titled "The Last Roundup" includes a discussion of extinction processes in general, and specifically covers the various theories advanced for the demise of the dinosaurs. For those interested in neat, tidy, "Hollywood" endings, I'm sorry to report that the numerous proposed answers to the question, "What killed the dinosaurs?," remain entirely equivocal. Lest we forget, Dr. Jacobs points out that extinction should be viewed as an ongoing process, to which we, Homo sapiens, continue to make vast and irrevocable contributions.

"Call me if you find something interesting," states Dr. Jacobs on the book's last page. Maybe, if you do, you'll find yourself written up in the next volume....

ON THE JOY OF WORKING WITH KIDS

by Bill Lowe

Like several other members that I know about, I am occasionally asked to talk to a group of kids about fossils or dinosaurs or whatever. At first I was apprehensive, but quickly overcame that feeling. It is now something that I look forward to very much. Probably my favorite group is the second grade classes at Foster Elementary in Arlington. With the younger kids, I often tell them that if they will write me with any questions they have, I will try to answer them. Following is my favorite letter, which came to me in printing on tablet paper. This is an attempt to recreate it in type, warts and all.

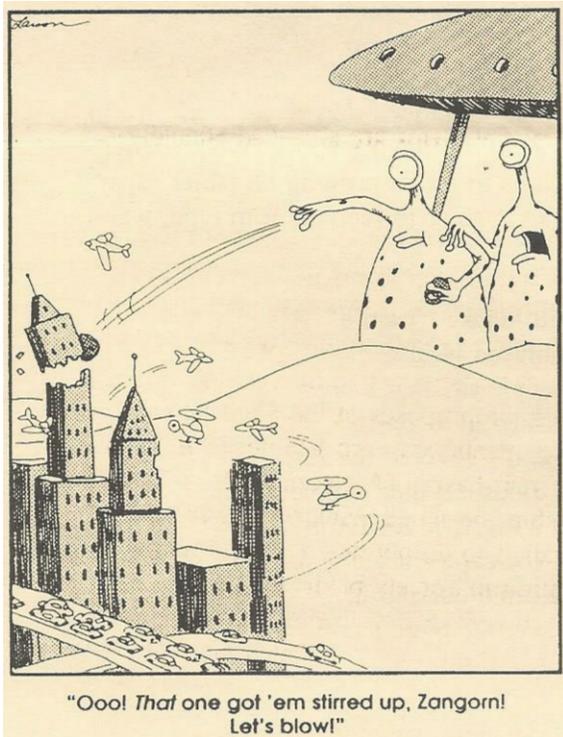
Dear Bill lowe I am a little confused because Some people say that a big roce crashed in to Earth and clowed's covered the sun and the dinosor's dide. Some people say that a big roce hit Earth and the vowcano shaked and the lava came out and it got all over the plant's and the dinosor's dide to.

circle the wraight one.
waset when the bowcano's shaked and brock.
waset when the clawed covered the sun.

by Mario

My answer to Mario was that we adults are also confused about the answer to his question, and that if he would continue to study about dinosaurs, maybe he would be the one to figure it out for sure and tell the rest of us.

May I suggest that the next time you are invited to talk to kids, go for it. You will be glad you did.



JAMES BRYANT TAKES A NEW POSITION

Editor's Note: The following is a press release concerning one of our long-time and highly regarded members.

As of November 28, 1995, James Bryant will be assuming the duties and responsibilities of Curator of Natural History at the Riverside Municipal Museum in the City of Riverside, California. This transition follows five years during which Mr. Bryant served as Director of the Pember Museum of Natural History, located in the Pember Library and Museum

building in the Village of Granville in upstate New York.

During his period at the Pember Museum, Mr. Bryant was responsible for the overall operations and management of the Museum, in addition to being the collections manager and supervisor of the Museum's Hebron Nature Preserve facility. Mr. Bryant functioned as contributing editor of the quarterly Museum newsletter and served on The Cornerstone, newsletter of the Small Museum Administrator's Committee/American Association of Museums. Total attendance at the Pember Museum for fiscal year 1995 was 13,403 (up from a 1990 total of 8,550).

Recently, Mr. Bryant has served as a peer reviewer and surveyor for the AAM/Museum Assessment Program; a member of the grants review panel for Museum Program-New York State Council on the Arts and the Washington County De-centralization Grants; founder of the Museums Heritage Group; secretary for the Washington County Tourism Association (1991-1994); and as a member of the Steering Committee for the creation of the new Slate Valley Museum in Granville.

At the Riverside Municipal Museum (an institution which includes history and anthropology departments), Mr. Bryant will be responsible for collections management, exhibit development and educational programming in natural history. Collections at the Riverside Museum include zoological, botanical, paleontological and earth science specimens.

Mr. Bryant's new business address will be:
Curator of Natural History
Riverside Municipal Museum
3580 Seventh Street
Riverside, CA 92501

James is no longer at this address.

PARTING THOUGHTS

by Steve Comer

Two years have passed since I first stood for election as Editor of the DPS. This time for me has been eventful, challenging, occasionally frustrating, but ultimately, a very rewarding experience. There are many people to whom I owe thanks, but I hesitate to name names as I'll surely omit someone whose contributions have been deeply appreciated; Let me simply thank everyone who contributed time, talent, and energy to the last 24 issues of this newsletter. Special thanks to John and Pat Hudson at Kwik-Kopy on Mockingbird Lane who went above and beyond the call of duty to publish this on numerous occasions. There are great days ahead for the Dallas Paleontological Society. Membership is growing and with that growth, many new challenges and opportunities lie ahead. We will succeed to the extent that you, every member reading this newsletter, decide to contribute your time and energy to the day-to-day tasks that are necessary to make this organization work for the good of us all. The Society belongs to you, not to the officers or the committee chairs, though without them, there would be no Society. Get involved: stand for a chair or an office; give some of your time; bake something for the next meeting; contribute an item for the next newsletter; suggest a location for the next field trip. Each of us can find a few hours each month to contribute to an organization that is surely worthy of our time.

You are the reason the Society exists. Without your involvement, it will cease to exist. Think about it.

SOCIETY PURPOSE

The Dallas Paleontological Society was founded in 1984 for the purpose of promoting interest in and knowledge of the science of paleontology. It is intended that the Society be a network for the exchange of data between professionals and serious amateurs in this field. The Fossil Record is published monthly, and several field trip are arranged annually.

Meetings of the Society are held at 7:30 p.m. on the second Wednesday of each month at the Dallas Museum of Natural History in Fair Park. Visitors are welcome. Membership in the Society is open to anyone 16 years of age or older who has an active interest in promoting the purposes of the Society. Dues for active membership are \$25 per year, on a calendar-year basis. (An associate membership, designed primarily for those individuals who do not desire active monthly participation in Society business and who do not wish to vote or hold office, is available for \$15 per year.) All family members over 16 are included. Dues are \$12.50; \$7.50 after June. Typed or legibly handwritten copy is acceptable; final word processing is done in WordPerfect 5.1 (3.5 inch or 5.25 inch disk). Deadline is the third Wednesday of each month.

Contributions to The Fossil Record are encouraged from all interested parties. Please send material to the address of the editor.

1995 DPS ANNUAL AUCTION RESULTS

We're pleased to report that the 1995 DPS annual auction, held during our September meeting, raised \$1098.00 for the benefit of the Society. Thanks to all of those who participated. As promised, we provide the following list of items contributed, along with the names of the donors and the amount that DPS received for each item. DPS is a non-profit organization; contributions are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law.

<u>Item</u>	<u>Item Description</u>	<u>Donated by</u>	<u>Amount</u>
1	Book Ends w/Book	H. Charles Martin	\$20.00
2	Shark Tooth Cast	Karen Samfield	\$ 6.00
3	<u>Dinosaur Heresies</u>	Roberta Dierken	\$10.00
4	State-wide Paleo Survey	Larry Shindel	\$11.00
5	<u>Father of Tx. Geology-Hill</u>	Cliff Barnes	\$21.00
6	<i>Peroniceras sp.</i>	Ken Smith	\$33.00
7	<u>The Ultimate Dinosaur</u>	Half-Price Books	\$13.00
8	Lamp	Roland Gooch	\$ 5.00
9	Plastic bags	Ignacio Sandoval	\$ 8.00
10	Dinosaur toys	Karen Samfield	\$10.00
11	Trilobite Cast	DMNH	\$21.00
12	DPS Newsletters	Mark Randall	\$45.00
13	<u>Quest for African Dinosaurs</u>	Louis Jacobs	\$16.00
14	<u>Quest for African Dinosaurs</u>	Bill Lowe	\$15.00
15	The Great Dino Mural/Yale	Cliff Barnes	\$15.00
16	Pleisiosaur Cast	DMNH	\$31.00
17	Echinoid slab	Ken Smith	\$22.00
18	Fossil Kit	Monte Weddell	\$25.00
19	<u>Lone Star Dinosaurs</u>	Louis Jacobs	\$50.00
20	DPS T-shirt	DPS	\$20.00
21	Fossil Collection (Hunt Co.)	Jim Chaney	\$35.00
22	<u>Ancient Sedimentary Environ.</u>	Brita Bishop	\$10.00
23	Darwin Decal	Jim Caddell	\$20.00
24	Amber w/Insect	Bill Lowe	\$65.00
25	Crushed Echinoid (Slab)	Dwight Bartholomew	\$70.00
26	Lighted magnifying glass	Roland Gooch	\$43.00
27	Florida Fossil Sampler	Lonnie French	\$43.00
28	Tenontosaur Skin Imp. Cast	DMNH	\$ 8.00
29	<u>Aspects of Vertebrate History</u>	Bill Lowe	\$18.00
30	<u>Origin of Sedimentary Rocks</u>	Brita Bishop	\$ 5.00
31	<u>Lucy's Child</u>	Roberta Dierken	\$10.00
32	Snalls	Larry Shindel	\$ 6.00
33	Shale w/Fern impression	Mark Randall	\$40.00
34	Lot of Dinosaur books	Sam/Becky Liberato	\$ 9.00
35	<i>Flexicalymani meaki</i>	Bill Lowe	\$25.00
36	<u>Dinosaurs Rediscovered</u>	Roland Gooch	\$10.00

37	Hat w/Fossil decor	Arlene Pike	\$ 5.00
38	Allosaur Claw cast	DMNH	\$25.00
39	Book ends (Teeth)	DMNH	\$60.00
40	<u>Men and Dinosaurs</u>	Terry Roe	\$16.00
41	Stuffed Dinosaur	Pepper Mintz	\$10.00
42	Stuffed Dinosaur	Pepper Mintz	\$ 7.00
43	Stuffed Dinosaur	Pepper Mintz	\$11.00
44	<u>Dinosaurs, A Global View</u>	Ron Morin	\$50.00
45	Dinosaur Cookies	Virginia Friedman	\$ 7.00
46	Dinosaur Mug	Arlene Pike	\$ 9.00

**NEW MEMBERS
(OCTOBER)**

Carl Allsup

Jack Kelly

Warren Levingston

Georgia Schon

Bill and Juanda Taylor

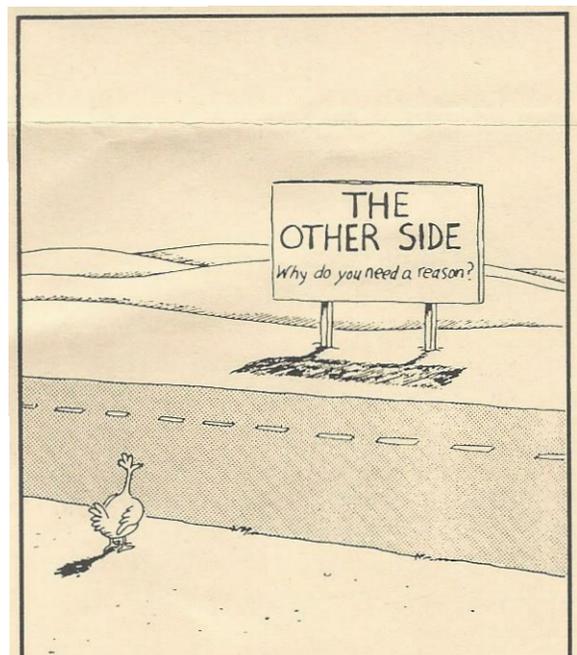
Steve Wheeler

**NEW MEMBERS
(NOVEMBER)**

Ingrid G. Center

Sigron Reimmann

John Wilson



FOR YOUR CALENDAR

December

- 1-3 Pfoossil Pfest (Central Texas Paleo Society). Old Settlers Park, Round Rock, Texas
Contact Don or Hollis O'Neill @ 512-251-2848
- 13 DPS Monthly Meeting, Annual Christmas Party, Dallas Museum of Natural History, Fair Park,
Dallas, Texas

January

- 10 DPS Monthly Meeting, Dallas Museum of Natural History, Fair Park, 7:30 p.m.
Program: TBA

SOCIETY OFFICERS

President	John Meyer
Vice-President	Rocky Manning
Secretary	Cliff Barnes
Treasurer	Becky Liberato
Editor	Steve Corner

SOCIETY COMMITTEES

Education	Donna Atwood	
Field Trips	Open	
Historical	Open	
Hospitality	Anne McFarland	
Mailings	Howard & Virginia Friedman	
Membership	Shirlene Chadick	
Programs	Brita Bishop	
Promotions	Paula Reed	
Publications	Steve Corner	Scholarships
	Roland Gooch	

ADVISORY BOARD

Roger Farish	Karen	Ken Smith
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Samfield

PROFESSIONAL ADVISORS

Charles Finsley, Dallas Museum of Natural History	Dr. Louis Jacobs, Southern Methodist University
Dr. M.K. Nestell, University of Texas at Arlington	