

Forgotten museum basements yielding fossil dinosaur bones

DENVER (AP) — When most people clean out their closets, they find useless clutter. But when Robert T. Bakker rummages through the closets of the nation's museums, he finds remnants of previously unknown species of dinosaurs.

"What we're in now is a new dinosaur gold rush," says Bakker, a University of Colorado paleontologist.

But the rush isn't to dig into the earth, it's to search the basements of museums, where fragments of dinosaur bones and skulls have been stored since they were discovered.

"Twenty or 30 new dinosaurs are found every year around the world," says Bakker.

"Most good specimens are in research storage ... like an ancient manuscript waiting to be read."

In the past few years, Bakker, 43, has "read" the remains of what he believes are four new species of dinosaurs, including two that have been researched and formally announced.

"The four I've found were dug up, glued together, waiting to be studied," Bakker says.

Sifting through bones and prehistoric fragments on the shelves of the Denver Museum of Natural History, Bakker came across a skull and bits of armor-like plating.

They since have been declared a new species of the plant-eating nodosaur family, of the genus *Denversaurus*.

It looked like a "two-ton armadillo-Godzilla hybrid with long spikes coming out of the shoulder," Bakker says.

The other find, announced in April, was a pygmy *Tyrannosaurus rex*, which stood about 8 feet and weighed about 500 pounds. Its skull was in storage at the Cleveland Museum of Natural History.

Still being researched are two other finds which are on exhibit in museums. One, he believes, is an early version of an allosaurus and the other is a relative of the stegosaur.

Bakker says he got hooked on dinosaurs when he was in fourth grade.

With a bachelor's degree from

Yale and a doctorate from Harvard, he has taught from kindergarten to graduate school and has made annual trips to Colorado and Wyoming to take part in dinosaur digs.

He and his wife, Constance Clark, moved to Boulder four years ago. He became adjunct curator of the University of Colorado museum.

The trail to find dinosaurs has taken Bakker to field sites and museums across the United States and Canada.

He says he knew about the *Denversaurus* skull but "had not looked at it carefully enough."

"I was interested in the very last dinosaurs ... the twilight of the dinosaur gods," he says. "I took a second look at it."

The skull was found in 1924 in the Badlands of South Dakota and misidentified, he says.

The *Denversaurus*, announced in October, was more advanced than other nodosaurs, he says. The eye sockets were at its sides, allowing the animal a 360-degree scan.

It was about 20 feet long, 5 feet

tall at the hip and 7 feet across.

"You'd need a forklift to turn one of these over," he says.

Bakker discovered a skull of the pygmy *Tyrannosaurus rex* in storage at the Cleveland museum. The specimen was excavated in 1942 near Bozeman, Mont.

The *Tyrannosaurus rex* weighed 10,000 pounds and stood 20 feet tall, but the pygmy was full-grown at 8 feet.

"There is no doubt the pygmy was full grown," he says. "The bones were together (in the skull)."

Similar to its giant cousin, the pygmy was a meat-eater, with forward eyes, much like those of a hawk. It had little hands and, Bakker speculates, was nimble-footed.

"It's a mystery animal because there is only one of them," he says. "It's very birdlike ... it has feet just like a turkey or a chicken."

Both the *Denversaurus* and the *Tyrannosaurus rex* — which were natural enemies — lived about 67 million years ago, during the last years of the dinosaurs.

Film classic returns to screen, restored after crude editing

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When film students, critics, historians and other buffs are asked to list the best movies ever made, "Lawrence of Arabia" appears with frequency.

And no wonder — this majestic epic is cinematic poetry.

When the David Lean masterpiece, which introduced an unknown actor named Peter O'Toole, landed in New York on Dec. 17, 1962, it opened with a few lovely and majestic touches including a program book complete with bibliographical and biographical material. Although called a "camel opera" by some wags, and homoerotic by others because of its absence of women and glorification of men with men, few could elude the movie's raptures.

enigmatic Lawrence.

T.E. Lawrence was an arrogant cartographer in the British army who is sent to Arabia to assist Prince Feisal (Alec Guinness) in the 1917-18 Arab revolt against the Ottoman Empire. He quickly adapts to the desert and the bedouin way of life — he drinks water only when his guide does; he eats the same tepid swill as they do. He also becomes a messianic warrior whose strategy and wisdom are matched only by ego and obsession.

With his almost virginal white robes, O'Toole struts about not with the swagger of the British gentleman but with the stance of a god. Indeed, the exploits Robert Bolt so craftily chisels in his excellent screenplay, paint Lawrence as a demigod.

In one scene, he rushes back into the deadly An Nafud desert, which he and his Arab army have crossed to surprise the Turks in a land raid, to find a man who fell from his camel. He is told that the man is certainly dead and he risks his own life by going back. He retrieves him, emerging from the steaming horizon like a hump-backed ant. Scenes later, he must kill the man he saved in order to stave off a squabble between tribes.

Unlike today's filmmakers who take their audiences to be simpletons, Lean has a keen eye for detail and strives for cultural accuracy. The costumes, props, blocking all hold up today — "Lawrence of Arabia" could have been made in the 1980s. The makeup, however, especially the shoe polish on Guinness, is dated.

The performances by a rash of stars who also include Omar Sharif in his Western screen debut and Anthony Quinn, are excellent. But the movie's real star is the desert with its smoldering dunes and poetry of colors.

Maurice Jarre's rich soundtrack with separate themes for the British, Lawrence and the Arabs, is still masterful. But above all, "Lawrence of Arabia" accomplishes what few epics ever did: the artistic fusion of intimacy and adventure.

Farm 'king' finds fame in broccoli

ROCKDALE (AP) — Five years ago, Perry Luetge had never tasted broccoli. In fact, he said he had never heard of the popular dark green vegetable.

Today, the 67-year-old farmer has achieved a measure of fame in Milam County's farming community as the "Broccoli King."

County Agent Bill McCutchen said Luetge probably is the only commercial broccoli producer within a 100-mile radius of Central Texas.

Luetge's acquaintance with the vegetable came out of an experiment conducted by the Texas Agricultural Extension Service.

"If it hadn't been for those people, I wouldn't have known what it was," Luetge said, as he stood amid a small forest of knee-high broccoli plants.

Luetge, who epitomizes the image of the overall-clad American farmer, said he likes to experiment with crops. Broccoli is only one prolific product of Luetge's farming efforts. He plants the vegetable as a fall crop under the remains of his spring and summer gardens.

"He always fooled with tomatoes, corn and peppers during the spring, and mustard and turnip greens in the fall," said Ezra Johnson of Gause, who works with the agricultural extension service's Intensified Farm Planning Program in Milam County.

"But there is a small space between October and December where most small farmers lose income."

Luetge filled this unprofitable void with broccoli.

McCutchen said Luetge was equally successful with cauliflower, but the care and feeding of that vegetable was too time consuming.

Broccoli farming requires a great deal of manual labor, and the grower must have an available market for the crop.

Luetge has accomplished both, McCutchen said. Luetge markets his freshly cut broccoli at numerous Milam County stores.

Luetge also produces some of the largest heads of broccoli ever seen by extension agents, McCutchen said.

"I had one the other day that weighed 3 pounds," Luetge said. "It just barely fit in a 5-gallon bucket." Smaller heads are preferred by stores.

"The year before last, I sold 4,100 pounds of it and I cut every bit of it myself," Luetge said proudly. "I can cut 100 heads an hour. I am the Broccoli King south of the river."

For years, broccoli has been a popular addition to small kitchen gardens in Milam County, but Luetge is the undisputed pioneer in producing the vegetable as a commercial crop, Johnson said.

The key to success in the broccoli field is irrigation, fertilizer and careful tilling to avoid root damage, Luetge said.

This winter's crop was divided among five varieties, including Green Duke, Emperor and Green Comet. He also grows Chinese cabbage and traditional heads of cabbage in his fall garden.

Luetge's broccoli plants have been known to produce from the fall to early spring. They thrive in cool temperatures, but will die if exposed to 20-degree temperatures, Luetge said.

Luetge does the harvesting by hand. He walks through the three-quarters-of-an-acre patch, carefully looking for a perfectly formed head, which he cuts and trims by hand.

77-year-old station attendant still pumping gas after 50 years

MIDDLESBORO, Ky. (AP) — Charles Siler started in the service station business when "service" was more than just a name.

In 1938, he came to Middlesboro from Williamsburg as an \$18-a-week assistant manager at the Standard Oil station on the corner of 19th Street and Cumberland Avenue.

"Fill 'er up, sir?" the nattily dressed attendant would ask cheerfully as he cleaned the windshield and offered to check the tires and look under the hood at no extra charge.

"We had to go to school on all that stuff — how to wait on a car," says Siler, who completed 50 years at the station at the end of December.

At 77, he shows no sign of slowing down as he moves out the door to pump gas then back again to make change, fill out a credit card slip and trade banter with three or four buddies, each of whom he calls "Hoss."

"I still get up at 5:30 every morning, and I don't usually go home to eat supper until about eight o'clock

at night," he says.

Pumping gas really meant pumping gas when he first began in the business, Siler recalls.

"Gas sold for about 25 cents a gallon, and the pumps had a handle on the side for you to pump the gas up by hand into a little glass globe and

"It's a sight now the people who come in here and there's not even that much oil showing on the stick. People seem to want to wait on themselves now, but they don't always do a good job of it."

Charles Siler, service station attendant

then let it out," he says.

These days, he says, with few full-service stations available, motorists

tend to neglect the service on their cars until they have problems.

"It's a sight now the people who come in here and there's not even that much oil showing on the stick," he adds, pinching his thumb and forefinger together.

"People seem to want to wait on themselves now, but they don't always do a good job of it."

Siler has never had any real problems at the station, except for the one time he was robbed.

"This fella came in here and he had a gun, and we asked him if that thing would shoot. And he went 'blooey' and shot a hole in the roof," Siler says.

The bullet hole is still there.

Although Siler is 77, he says the idea of retirement never has crossed his mind.

"I've got to have something to do," he says. "I've worked in a garage or a service station all my life. That's all I've ever known. I love this place. It's home to me."

Actor shows diversity in Broadway portrayal of New York ex-mayor

NEW YORK (AP) — Tony Lo Bianco gives casting directors, not to mention audiences, fits.

The difficulty with playing LaGuardia, who died in 1947, is that many people still remember the way he looked and the way he talked. Not only from their own memories, but from newsreels, old radio programs and even Tom Bosley's Tony award-winning portrayal of him in the 1959 musical "Fiorello."

"Hizzoner!" which was written by Paul Shyre, has been in the works since 1983 when it was commissioned by a New York public television station.

Shyre thought of Lo Bianco for the role. The two men had known each other since they worked together in Harold Clurman's acting classes.

Lo Bianco's research took him to the LaGuardia archives in Queens to pore over their material and photographs to capture the man's expressions.

He read books about the man as well as LaGuardia's autobiography, "The Insurgent."

Still, it took the actor a while to decide to do the role.

He worried about not only having to capture the man's physical mannerisms but the sound of his voice as well.

The play begins on LaGuardia's last day in the mayor's office and flashes backward to his youth, to his days as a lawyer and a congressman when he upset the corrupt Democratic machine and won election as a Republican, and finally to his election as mayor.

The Brooklyn-born Lo Bianco doesn't remember LaGuardia but remembers his father, a taxi driver, remembering LaGuardia.

The actor recalls his parents' romanticized stories of the tough times during the Depression and at the center of these troubles responsibility fell to LaGuardia.

Now, his own passion for the man is just as fierce.

"It's a cause," the actor says. "I don't look at doing this play as just doing a play. It's more than that to me."

"What LaGuardia stood for — truth, honesty and no corruption — is something that we should all aspire to live in our lives. He almost never leaves me. I feel it's as exciting for me to play the role as it was for him to be mayor."

Guardia Airport, and even balanced the city's budget.

But the air has been filled with the sounds of building since C.B. "Buddie" Newman embarked on another venture.

Clarence Benton Newman, former speaker of the Mississippi House, is building a railroad museum.

A cool breeze skips across a plowed, flat Delta field and picks up, then scatters, sawdust particles to the tune of beating hammers and screaming circular saws as the work progresses.

"I've always wanted a caboose," Newman says.

Now he has one, plus a flatcar, a boxcar and a couple of motor cars. Newman also has part of a railroad to park them on.

He has a half-mile of railroad tracks that run behind his house and along his Issaquena County cotton fields.

When construction is finished and Newman gets all of his railroad paraphernalia into the depot, built of cypress atop the flatcar, he'll have a museum. He says he plans to make it free to visitors and there "for the children around here."

Newman was in the Legislature

for 40 years, speaker for the last 12. He was regarded as one of the most powerful men in the state — perhaps the most powerful.

But since retiring in 1987, memories of his youth have filled his mind.

The tracks that the museum will be located on are the same tracks that Newman romped along as a boy in Valley Park. His father moved the family to the lower delta in 1917 to become section foreman for the Illinois Central Railroad.

The house where he grew up is across the tracks from Valley Park Plantation where he now lives.

The railroad provided jobs and

boats along the tracks during the floods so residents of Valley Park could get about.

The worst flood ever to hit the quiet Mississippi town came in 1927 and Newman remembers it well.

"When the wind blew at night, water would slap under the house and come through the floor," he says.

When Illinois Central decided to abandon the rail line as unprofitable, it allowed property owners along the line to either keep the tracks or have them ripped out.

"I wanted to keep the railroad intact because of the floods," Newman says, so he kept his half-mile strip and then went looking for a caboose.

Retired congressman building train museum along old railroad

"I've always wanted a caboose," Newman said. Now he has one, plus a flatcar, a boxcar and a couple of motor cars. And he has a half-mile of railroad tracks that run behind his house and along his Issaquena County cotton fields.

He found one in McComb and got it to Valley Park before he realized there wasn't enough room for his collection.

His search for a flatcar ended in a creosote yard in Bossier City, La., where he found one made in Canada in 1916.

transportation for cotton out of the Delta and into markets.

Its tracks, elevated a few feet, served as a levee when spring rains caused the water to swell out of the Mississippi River, 12 miles from Newman's back door.

Newman recalls mooring fishing

He works up to 6½ days a week, 14 hours a day.

His life has come full circle. Now it is Monhollen who speaks to Scouts and school kids about being a wood carver.

"I'm happy," he says.

Woodworker carves nature's art

CRITTENDEN, Ky. (AP) — In a colonial cottage on a wooded hillside in Crittenden, David Monhollen lives and works as a wood carver.

Soon after he and his family moved into the house, he put a bench in the back woods so they could sit and watch the deer and raccoons.

At 44, Monhollen has carved out a life that's very much the way he wants it — carving wood in the natural setting that feeds his soul — and making enough money to provide for his family.

His wildlife carvings range from rough-hewn ducks to a pheasant of such exquisite detail that each of the 2,000 feathers is separately carved.

The pieces sell for \$1,000 to about \$50,000 each.

Monhollen's carving began when he was 8, when a man showed his Scout troop how to sharpen their

... a real long time.