



Think & Believe

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“Prehistoric Journey”

(by Dave and Mary Jo Nutting)

In the May/June 1992 issue of *Think and Believe*, we discussed the \$6 million evolution exhibit proposed by the Denver Museum of Natural History. This was to be an “evolutionary leap” in exhibits. Visitors would walk through electronically-controlled exhibits immersed in fog, sounds, smells, and breezes. Developers were hoping to depict ancient environments in a journey through 3.5 billion years of evolutionary history in a way that would impact even “numb parents and hyperactive kids.” (Rocky Mountain News, (RMN) 4/12/92)

The exhibit officially opened October 21, 1995 (to the tune of \$7.7 million). When we toured it, we did indeed see “numb parents” (and teachers) and “hyperactive kids.” We heard plenty of sounds of evolutionary indoctrination, but the only fog we saw was foggy logic; the only smell we noticed was a fishy odor of the lack of evidence for evolution; and the only breeze we felt was a cold chill realizing how much work we have left to do. We saw lots of evidence of speculation and artistic imagination. What we did **not** see was evidence of evolution!

The *Prehistoric Journey* begins with an imaginative video depicting as fact the evolutionary origin of Earth and life. Then the “Trail through Time”

leads to artistic dioramas which curator, Richard Stucky, says are “like snapshots of the past.” (RMN 10/20/95) Adjoining exhibits contain the supposed “evidence” upon which the dioramas are based.

Stucky admits that “it isn’t exactly perfect” and that paleontology is a young and still in exact science. He admits that “Some things we had to infer [and other times] we had to guess. But we looked at the natural world today and the patterns of evolution, and



this is as close as we can get to what the world looked like all those millions of years ago. ... We want people to see and understand what the fossil evidence is telling us about the history of life. [Ed: Talking fossils?! See Spotlight on Science] We’re not trying to convince them that we’re absolutely right about

everything, we just want to show them what we think we’ve learned, based on the best evidence we can gather.”

The trouble is, children and adults alike come to museums to learn about the real world and real scientific knowledge. Nothing in the *Prehistoric Journey* dioramas would indicate to visitors that this is in fact an imaginary excursion into fantasy land. They look just as “real” as the dioramas of existing ecological zones and visitors are led to believe that scientists “know” all these things with a high degree of certainty. In fact, we heard numerous parents and teachers “explaining” to their kids that “this is what happened.”

For many people, visiting a museum is almost a religious experience where they bow at the altar of evolution and “science.” Note the almost reverent mood in this RMN statement: “To appreciate the mysteries of *Prehistoric Journey*, you need quiet and relative solitude. ... This is, at heart, a deeply thought-provoking journey, unsettling in its ability to put *homo sapiens* in their place as a recent footnote in the vast development of life on this planet.”

It is estimated that over 75 million people will visit this “secular temple” over the next 50 years. How many will be led astray by **speculation and artistic imagination** presented as scientific fact? Don’t **you** be taken captive!

Notes & Quotes

■ The following quotes will give you a quick “mini-tour” of Denver’s new *Prehistoric Journey* exhibit hall.

□ **Pollution Alert!** About two billion years ago, life forms that could tolerate only low oxygen levels began to disappear. They were the victims of a deadly pollutant -- oxygen. The Earth’s early atmosphere and oceans contained very little oxygen, and early organisms were adapted to those conditions. BUT ... oxygen pollution allowed more complex multicellular life -- and eventually YOU -- to evolve! [Ed: They’re off and running with mere speculation! But read on for more.]

□ **Recipe for Life:**

Carbon	Hydrogen
Sulphur	Oxygen
Nitrogen	Phosphorus

Mix together in a warm, moist environment.

Dry out occasionally.

Add time and energy.

Allow to combine in orderly, patterned ways.

[Ed: Try this one at home. Let us know if you get life!]

□ **How Old is the Earth?** The Earth formed more than 4-1/2 billion years ago, at the same time as the moon and asteroids in our solar system. [Ed: According to Genesis 1:14-19, the moon was made on Day 4.]

□ **Touch the oldest rock on earth.** This rock is almost 4 billion years old. It was dated by the uranium-lead method of dating. [Ed: They didn’t mention the many problems with these methods.]

□ **545 million years ago there was an Explosion of Life!** Within 10 million years or so -- a short time, geologically speaking, an incredible diversity of life appeared in the fossil record. Most of life’s basic body plans got their start during this time, which is often called the Cambrian Explosion. [Ed: How do they know? They weren’t there!]

□ **Evolutionary Innovations:** Before the Cambrian Explosion, no animals had heads. Or mouths. Or eyes. Or most of the other body parts we take for granted. [Ed: Wow! They must have a Polaroid picture!]

□ **Animals at Last!** About 500 million years ago, some groups of cells began to develop as single organisms. They were the first multicellular animals. [Ed: Genesis 1 tells us the animals were created “after their kind.”]

□ **Guide talking to K-2 class:** “This is what the ancient seafloor looked like.” [Ed: Was she there? She didn’t look that old!]

□ **Reptile eggs evolved around 340 million years ago.** They were a stunning success -- eggs with shells provide food, water, gas exchange, and protection for baby reptiles -- all in one neat package. [Ed: Such a “stunning success” all by time and lucky mistakes? No way!]

□ **Where did the dinosaurs go?** Hint: You probably have some in your backyard. Answer: Surprise! Birds are descended from dinosaurs. [Ed: Have you ever thought about what it would take for a dinosaur to change into a bird? A fantastic imagination, that’s what!]

□ **Plants underwent big changes with the expansion of seed plants and the evolution of flowers.** [Ed: Genesis 1:12 says God made plants yielding seed, and fruit trees bearing fruit, with seed in them after their kind on Day 3.]

□ **Horse Tale:** [Ed: Great title!] Did you know that horses evolved in North America? ... Horse evolution used to be thought of as one continuous line -- from the dawn horse to the long-limbed modern thoroughbred. But in reality, like all evolutionary processes, it wasn’t that simple. [Ed: or true!]

□ **Legacy of Life in the Trees:** Primates like this 18-million year old species led to the evolution of modern apes and humans. [Ed: Why does just any **old** monkey have to be our ancestor? Besides, God created man in His own image on the sixth day. Genesis 1:27]

□ **Natural Selection:** Even the ancient Greeks were aware that life evolves. But Darwin was the first to recognize **natural selection** as a major mechanism of evolution. [Ed: It’s been a long war against God.]

□ **In the last 100 years, the population of peppered moths in England went from being mostly light to mostly dark, because pollution darkened the bark of their favorite trees.** There are many examples of evolution in action, but this one is often referred to because it has been so well documented. [Ed: Natural selection is **not** evolution. The moths are still moths. This is variation in a created kind.]

□ **Natural Selection Video Game** [showing moths changing colors]: When living things change over the course of many generations, it is called evolution. [Ed: Things can appear different over the generations simply because of the recombination of genes during sexual reproduction. This is not evolution. It is simply shuffling genes which **already exist**.]

□ **Some people have the impression that evolution is an idea at the outer limits of science -- rather than at its very core.** In reality, Darwin’s observations laid the foundation for our current knowledge and technology in medicine, biology, and paleontology. [Ed: Evolution has virtually nothing to do with true experimental science. It has, however, led to incidents of medical “malpractice,” like removing healthy organs thought to be useless evolutionary vestiges. Also note evolution is at the core!]

■ We hope you have enjoyed your brief “tour.” The next time you visit a museum, keep your eyes and ears open for evolutionary assumptions masquerading as science -- and be sure to point them out to your children.

Spotlight On Science

Dragonflies: Marvelous Flying Machines

Have you ever marvelled at the beauty and intricacy of dragonflies? The fossil record shows they were even more amazing in the past than they are today. Though virtually identical in structure to modern dragonflies, some actually had wingspans of 2-3 feet! Evidence of evolutionary change for these insects does not exist. The Denver Museum of Natural History had this amazing article on dragonfly flight tucked into its **evolution** exhibit! To us, it provides superb evidence of God's creative design, not evolution. See what you think:

"Other than shrinking in size, dragonflies haven't changed much over the last 295 million years. Yet their ancient design makes them better fliers than today's most sophisticated aircraft. These aerial acrobats are almost perfect flying machines.

"Dr. Marvin Luttges and others at the University of Colorado at Boulder spent years studying dragonfly flight. As part of their research, the scientists built this mechanical model. The model, which mimics the movements of a dragonfly's wings, was used in wind tunnel experiments.

"All things that fly must generate enough force -- or lift -- to become and remain airborne. Airplanes rely on a steady flow of air over their wings to create lift. Dragonflies create and use swirling, unsteady flows of air that are packed with energy. Dragonflies tap into this energy to give themselves phenomenal amounts of lift."

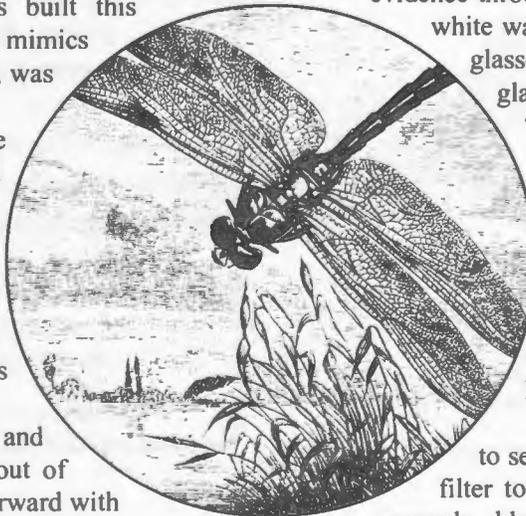
"Dragonfly wings don't just flap up and down. The front and rear wings are out of sync, and the wings rotate and move forward with each stroke.

"The front wings create energetic swirls of air. The rear wings intercept the swirls and use their energy to create more lift. For an instant, a dragonfly can generate lift equal to fifteen to twenty times its own body weight!

"A dragonfly creates continuous lift of more than twice its weight. In contrast, a high performance aircraft can carry only 1.3 times its own weight."

"Once we find ways to harness the energy of unsteady flows (just as dragonflies do), we can create aircraft that are more maneuverable and agile, improve the performance of helicopter rotors, and make wind turbine blades that last longer. A pattern from the past can point the way to the future..."

Did time, chance, and evolution produce these tremendously complex flying machines? No way! God thought of flight first!



Dead Bones Don't Talk!

We were amused with the museum claims that the fossils tell us all kinds of great information. In reality, paleontologists tell great stories! Dead bones don't say anything -- they just collect dust! Dead bones don't come with little tags saying they lived millions of years ago and preferred to eat medium-rare stegosaurus steaks either -- nor do they come equipped with a snapshot showing them with their girlfriends. No, the pictures and reconstructions are not provided by Kodak, but instead are concocted by very imaginative artists. Furthermore, the rock layers that contain the bones don't talk either, but geologists say things about them that these layers never dreamed of saying.

We were also amused when different scientists with equally impressive credentials gave us totally conflicting stories about the same pile of bones. How can this be? It's because the stories and the artistic pictures are dictated by biases, not by the actual evidence. It's like looking at the evidence through "different colored glasses." Just as a white wall appears red when viewed through red glasses, but blue when viewed through blue glasses, if we have on glasses with "evolution" written all over them, we will see evolution everywhere we look. When viewed through evolutionary glasses, a pile of bones will be interpreted to support evolution. With different "glasses," the same pile of bones could be interpreted many other ways including one which would support the Biblical record of a worldwide flood.

"Colored glasses" not only cause us to see what is **not** there, but can also act as a filter to screen out clues to what really is. For example, blood-red evidence could easily be overlooked when viewed through red glasses. Dave spent a lot of time when he was younger looking for dinosaur fossils in an area of Colorado. As an evolutionist at that time, he naturally saw the rock layers through his evolutionary glasses. After Dave became a creationist, features of these rock layers he had never noticed before just jumped out at him as if they were bright red. He realized that biases had kept him from seeing certain things that were there and had made him see things that weren't there.

When viewing museum exhibits or hearing park explanations, we must understand that the ones telling the stories did not see it happen. They don't know for sure what really occurred. They are merely interpreting the evidence through their "colored glasses." That's right. Dead bones don't talk, but people with biases do.

EVENTS

- Feb 4,5: Hutchinson, KS:** Westside Baptist Church
Contact Church 316-662-6262
- Feb 6-8: Cherryvale, KS:** Area Seminar, Cherryvale Christian
Contact Cherryvale Christian Church 316-336-2533
- Feb 11,12: South Lake, TX:** Countryside Bible Church
Contact Church 817-488-5381
- Feb 13-15: Palestine, TX:** Tentative
Contact Jenny Gillis 903-731-4128
- Feb 16,17: Sugarland, TX (Houston Area):** Sugar Creek Baptist
Contact Church 713-242-2858; Toby Perry 713-265-1485
- Feb 18-20: Point Comfort/Victoria, TX:** First Baptist Church
Contact Terry Backen 512-987-2710; 512-987-2542
- Feb 28,29: Alpine, TX:** Area Seminar, Location TBA
Contact Chuck Barron 915-837-5534
- Mar 3: Albuquerque, NM:** Christ the Ray of Hope Church
Contact Church 505-828-0172
- Mar 4-6: Los Alamos, NM:** Area Seminar, The Christian Church
Contact Church 505-662-6468
- Mar 24-29: Estes Park, CO: Natl Homeschool Sports
Tournament,** Contact FEAST 210-342-4674
- Ap 8-13: Juneau & Hoonah, AK:** Area Seminar, Location TBA
Contact Pastor Vannatta 907-945-3271
- Ap 14-17: Sitka, AK:** Area Seminar, Location TBA
Contact Doug Stude 907-747-8115
- Ap 20-28: Grand Canyon, AZ: ICR Grand Canyon Adven.**
Contact ICR, 619-448-0900

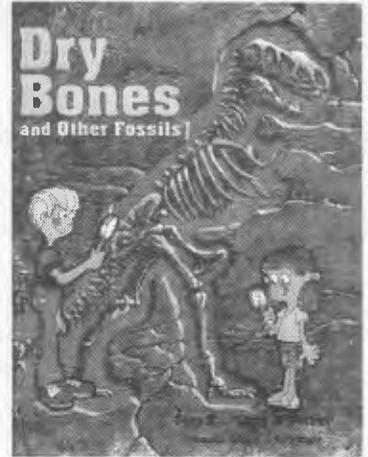
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GREAT FOSSIL BOOK NOW AVAILABLE!

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- Dead Bones Don't Talk**
- Denver's New "Prehistoric Journey"**
- Creation Vacation Registration**

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