

July 27, 1956.

Theodore Downs  
Curator of Vertebrate Paleontology  
Los Angeles County Museum  
Exposition Park  
Los Angeles 7, California

Dear Ted:

Congratulations on your Board action with respect to the Diplodocus project.

For the record, I repeat in writing what we agreed upon verbally during your recent visit; the Diplodocus molds are yours gratis, just for the hauling away. We will be happy to help load them and it will not be necessary for the trucker to bring any help. The full load weighs 5 tons, and made 4 pickup loads with rack. A rack bed on a 20 foot truck will do the hauling job.

I am afraid I can't give you any worthwhile figures on hauling the load to Los Angeles. The distance is 900 miles and its doubtful if any trucker would handle the job for less than 50¢ per mile (figured on the one way load basis), that's \$450, but I'd play safe and figure \$500-600 to get the stuff hauled to the coast. The man who hauled the molds from Pittsburgh for us, a distance of 2000 miles, did the job for \$800 and just barely broke even, (He did it as a service to the community).

I think your best bet would be to locate a trucker or trucking company, in Los Angeles, (who or which is public spirited) and see what they'd send a truck up here for. There is always the question of interstate licenses which snarls things up. However, if you go to the Interstate Commerce Commission and tell them that this haul is a favor to the museum, they will arrange to get the truck through out-of-state states without the trucker having to buy licenses to cross those states. That's what we did for the man who hauled the molds to Vernal for us. Insurance is generally taken care of by the trucker. A small amount of padding will be essential, but the molds are rugged and ride well even without it.

It is apt to be sometime next summer before we would be through with the molds. We want to complete erecting the skeleton before we release them as there may be occasion to make replacement of parts damaged in setting the critter up. We will advise you when we have finished with them.

The only material we have on the history, preparation, and so on, of Diplodocus Carnegiei Hatcher, from which these molds were made in 1904, by Arthur Coggeshall, is contained in Vol. II, No. 6, Memoirs of the Carnegie Museum, entitled The Osteology of Diplodocus Marsh. This paper has a section on Hatcher's diplodocus. We have no photos or anything and you probably have the above paper in the museum library. When you

read it you'll know as much about the job as we do (which won't be much). As long as we get the old boy up without two heads and a bad sag in the middle, we'll be pretty pleased with ourselves.

Where you will be casting this critter in plaster you should have a much less difficult job than we have using concrete. Your plan for a comparative exhibit with the Blue Whale should be very excellent.

So much for the molds. How would you like to have two "complete" dinosaur fossils which their discoverer says are a red-pink color? A prospector named Alvin K. Joslin, of Moab, Utah, writes us that he has found two "complete" dinosaurs and wants to know what they would be worth to some museum.

I have written Mr. Joslin that unless his finds are on private property he hasn't anything to sell, other than the good will of some museum to whom it would be worth something to be shown where the material is. Also "the completeness" may be open to question until more excavation reveals the extent of his find. I mentioned that accessibility, character of matrix, condition of preservation, etc., all were factors in determining the "value" of his finds.

I didn't disillusion him by suggesting that his "bones" may be concretions, but that's too is an altogether too common occurrence. We get more "concretion-bones" than fossil bones among the great "finds" that people "reveal" to us.

We are not interested in any more dinosaur material ourselves, so are passing the word on to others. Ray Alf was through the other day and I mentioned the "bones" to him. He was interested but wouldn't be able to do anything about them until next summer. I told him that I was telling you about them too, just in case you wanted to investigate them, and he said he had no objection. You two are the only ones who know about this "find", as far as I know, so do what you feel is ~~##~~ in your best interest. I will still bet that the molds are the most "complete" dinosaur.

Best wishes from all of us here at the museum.

Most cordially yours,

*Ernest.*

G. E. Untermann