

Dinosaur Ceremonies Climax 3-Year Project

An intensive three-year project was climaxed Saturday when Lions officials here for the state convention dedicated the diplodocus dinosaur skeleton on the lawn of Utah Fieldhouse of Natural History in Vernal.

Participating in the dedication were Dr. J. LeRoy Kay, curator of the division of vertebrate paleontology, Carnegie Museum, Pittsburgh, Pa., Arthur G. Nord, Ogden, retired national forest regional supervisor, and G. E. Untermann, fieldhouse director.

Although a great deal of the work on the huge 76 foot skeleton has been done in the past three years, the history of the project goes back to the early part of this century.

At that time the Carnegie Museum obtained the original bones of a huge sauropod similar to those found in Dinosaur quarry near Jensen. Andrew Carnegie, well known philanthropist, had plaster molds made of the original skeleton.

When Vernal fieldhouse was completed the Carnegie Museum offered the molds to the fieldhouse if transportation fees would be provided. Vernal Lions Club raised \$800 for the freight charges.

When the molds were received Mr. and Mrs. Untermann and Grant Merrell of the museum staff cleaned and prepared them for casting.

After casting was completed the fieldhouse staff weather-proofed, assembled and erected the 700 concrete casts. The skeleton weighs eight tons, compared with 30 tons the animal is believed to have weighed in real life. The animal's head surveys the country from a height of 21 feet.