



Rocky Mount...Way Back When

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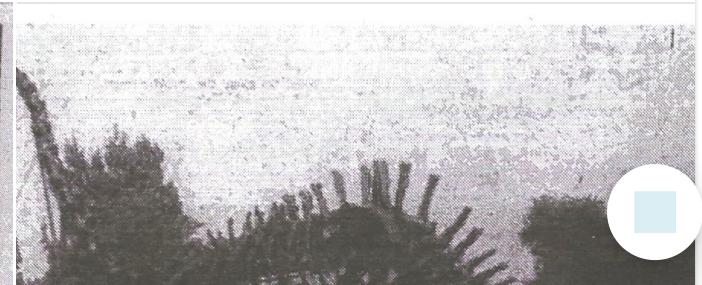


Gene Herring

October 12 at 10:51 PM ·

...

ROCKY MOUNT HAS A SKELETON IN IT'S CLOSET ... WE JUST DON'T KNOW WHERE IT IS. In 1960 while perusing some museum journals, Mae Woods Bell, Rocky Mount Children's Museum director, discovered that a set of Diplodocus dinosaur molds were available in Vernal, Utah. She quickly phoned the Utah Field House of Natural History to see if they had been committed to another museum. They had not! Excitedly she notified the Rocky Mount Children's Museum president, Harold D. Minges. Minges traveled to Vernal, Utah to seal the deal on the 600 piece mold set. In the early 1900's Andrew Carnegie had ten sets of the plaster molds cast to be used in museums around the world. The dinosaur skeleton was to be cast in concrete and displayed outside of the Children's Museum. The Diplodocus skeleton when completed would tower 21 feet tall and extend to a length of 76 feet. The Rocky Mount skeleton would be the 12th Diplodocus cast in the world. The molds arrived in Rocky Mount in April of 1961. Work began on casting the molds, but for some unknown reason, the project was delayed. The molds were stored in a building at the Avalon Airport on the Leggett Highway (Route 95). The molds were last seen in 1968. The million dollar question is, where are they today?





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Alan Anderson

I saw those molds in a building on Hill Street

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2



Bruce E Anderson

Alan Anderson I remember seeing there as well.

Like Reply Share 2w

1



Dianne Siler Poland

Alan Anderson I went with my dad one night to work on them at that building on hill.

Like Reply Share 2w

1



Mike Taylor

Dianne Siler Poland Bruce E Anderson Alan Anderson I am a palaeontologist working on a paper that is, in part, about the molds that he obtained from Utah. If you remember anything more about the molds (and their casts) in this building, I would love to... [See more](#)

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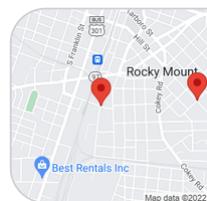
Alan Anderson

Mike Taylor East of the intetsection of Hill and Washington streets behind what was originally the Pepsi bottling plant was a warehouse that was i believe owned by the Minges family is where i saw them.



Mike Taylor

Alan Anderson Here? <https://goo.gl/maps/JJSsMfjiUKLKVkhF7>



GOOGLE.COM

South Washington Street to Hill Street

Like Reply Share Remove Preview 4d



Gene Herring Author

Alan Anderson Had the Pepsi plant already moved to N. Church St.? The truck garage was behind and attached to the plant. Could that have been the location?

Like Reply Share 4d



Alan Anderson

Gene Herring Yes the plant had already moved. My dad worked for Camasco that had moved into the front building. Harold Minges owned a Simmons Sea Skiff that was stored in the back building and we went there to get measurements of the boat. A Mr. Fountain went with us. Mr. Fountain had a large wood shop over off North Pine street near the Burlington plant. He cut all of the chines and made the stern and my dad, brother and I assembled the boat on the third floor of the Camasco building.

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Scott Warner

I found this photo of a man named William Turnage (employee of Minges) picking up the molds in Utah. The photo is dated 7-14-1960.



Digital Image © 2002 Utah County Library. All rights reserved.

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1 Reply



Mary Flood Dawes

Who was in charge of this project? Maybe ask their relatives?

Like Reply Share 2w

Gene Herring Author

Mary Flood Dawes It will be interesting to see if any new information



Write a public reply...



Leigh Minges Price

WOW! Harold Minges was my daddy! The family went on this trip! ❤️❤️❤️

Like Reply Share 2w



5



John Steven Guy

Leigh Minges Price my father worked for his brother in Lumberton 1960-1969.

Like Reply Share 2w



Leigh Minges Price

John...Uncle Herman!

Like Reply Share 2w



John Steven Guy

Leigh Minges Price yes



Like Reply Share 2w



Denise Odom Sherlin

Leigh Minges Price I was a small girl during the centennial. My dad was involved in many of the events. Your dad would always speak to me at these events. I thought he was such a nice man.

Like Reply Share 2w



2



Leigh Minges Price

Denise...how nice of you to say that! He was a very sweet man



Like Reply Share 2w



Richard Sykes

I have an idea about where the dinasour might be...it probably moved from the original museum on Sunset Park to the new museum on Gay Street...maybe check their storage area and inventory records...I really doubt they would have thrown it away...

Like Reply Share 2w



Mike Taylor

Richard Sykes Hi, Richard. I have traced the molds to the old Avalon Airport building in the 1960s. It seems though that they were destroyed before the museum's move to the new building.

Like Reply Share 4d



Write a public reply...



Dianne Siler Poland

I remember when they came in. They were in a warehouse on a street behind where edgecombe cc is. Behind Whaley's furniture. Nobody knew what piece went with what. Maybe they are still there.

Like Reply Share 2w



2



Mike Taylor

Dianne Siler Poland Would that be the same Hill Street that several people





Kim Jones

Wonder if Miss Mae would be able to remember. She is still around and is living at a local senior facility.

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Allen Dew

Wait no one wondering why we cast all the bones in molds... if they are fossils then it should be real bones of the animals... sounds fishy that they were MAKING dinosaurs to look like what the books say versus just displaying real bones...

Like Reply Share 2w

Gene Herring Author

Had you read the story, in the early 1900's Andrew Carnegie had 10 sets of molds cast from original fossils to be used in museums around the world. Nothing fishy here.

Like Reply Share 2w



Allen Dew

Gene Herring except when you see how Carnegie, Rockefeller, Morgan and many others took over our educational system.. History and science are just a few examples of controled information... Not saying dinosaurs werent real just alot of misinformation... [See more](#)

Like Reply Share 2w



Allen Dew

Gene Herring take this for example many scientists say a rock formation, however others say great petrified tree trunks, along with others worldwide... the book of enoch says they are from the original trees and cut down by the watcher's... So like i... [See more](#)



Like Reply Share 2w

Mike Taylor

Allen Dew Hi, Allen. Historian of palaeontology here. Nothing to worry about here: Carnegie funded a lot of museums and libraries but had virtually no influence over their contents or interpretation. In particular, the Carnegie Diplodocus was worked on... [See more](#)

Like Reply Share 4d



Suzanne Drake Parham

Wow!!!



Megan Oakley Liv

Wow that is amazing!! I would love for someone to find them & finish assembly. 



Like Reply Share 2w



Dean Jackson

I think the Avalon Airport was off highway 97 near the Barnhill Asphalt plant. You can still see the road which bears off 97.

Like Reply Share 2w



Tessa Wood-Woolard

I remember this!! She was my wonderful friend for most of my life! I miss her 

Like Reply Share 2w



Sherri Balkcum

Wow! That is a good question!! 

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Gail Finn

Hope y'all find them!!

Like Reply Share 2w



Lisa Duke

Somebody got offended and they did away with them!  Stating they no longer exist! It's not fair to dogs & cats! 

Like Reply Share 2w Edited



Randy Vester

Some dirty politician probably stole them and has sold



Like Reply Share 2w



Bob Perry

Best check with current government!!

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