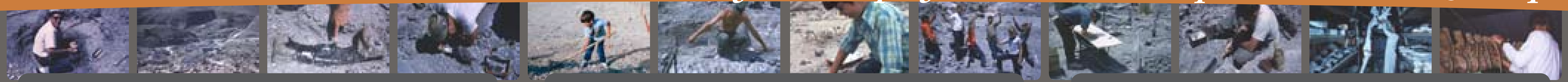
A Brief History of Cleveland-Lloyd Dinosaur Quarry



Earliest Explorers and Excavations

More than a hundred years ago, local cowboys and shepherds discovered large black bones. These were clearly not the bones of their livestock.

University of Utah geologists investigated the area in 1928 and 1929 and unearthed about 500 bones. In 1939, paleontologists from Princeton University started a three-year excavation of the quarry to provide bones for its museum exhibits.

Large wall photo: Kermit Horn on Barosaurus *femur, Bone #20, 1961.*

Cleveland-Lloyd is NOT a Person

W. Lee Stokes grew up in the nearby town of Cleveland. His family and others ran cattle in the area and knew of the dinosaur bones. While attending Princeton University in New Jersey, Stokes told his geology professors about the bones.

A crew from Princeton, including Stokes, excavated at the quarry from 1939-1941. Impressed by the results from the previous two years, Malcolm Lloyd, a lawyer in Philadelphia and fellow Princeton graduate, donated $10,000 to fund the 1941 excavation.

The quarry takes its name from Stokes' hometown of Cleveland, and Lloyd, a major financial supporter.

Educational and Research Opportunities

In 1960, the University of Utah began excavation in cooperation with several universities and museums. Institutions all over the world helped to fund the work and, in return, they received displays of dinosaurs found at the quarry.

Much of the work was done by paleontologist Jim Madsen under the direction of W. Lee Stokes, then professor of geology at the University of Utah.

In 2001 the University of Utah returned to investigate the deposit. The excavation tools were virtually unchanged from earlier projects, but the research focus has shifted.

Paleontologists now understand that bones alone don't tell the whole story. All details found within the deposit, including geology, vertical and horizontal bone placement, and orientation, are studied.