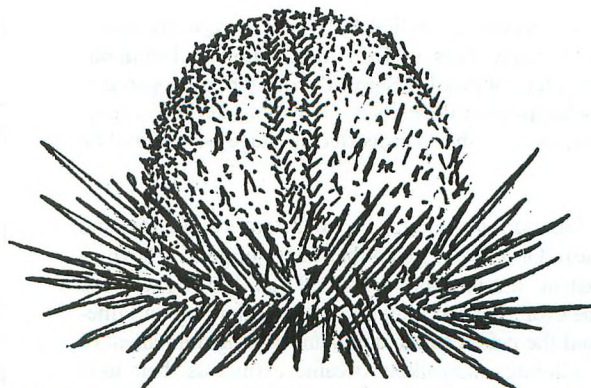
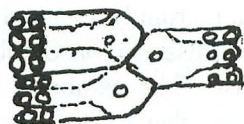
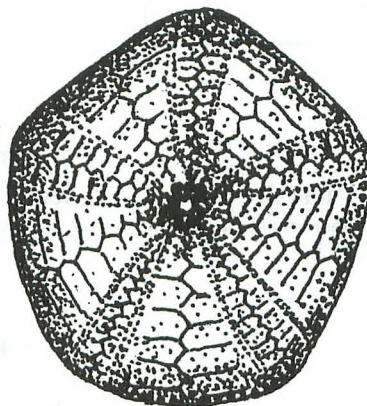
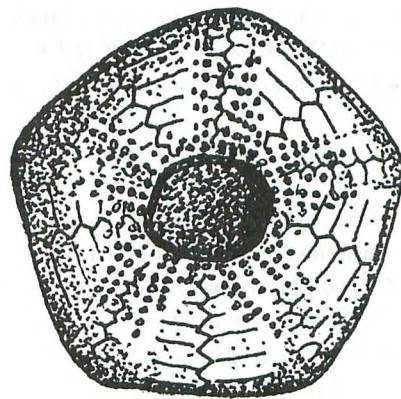
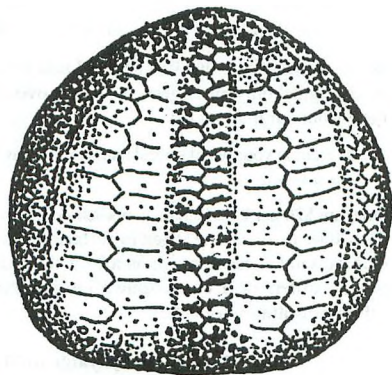


# M.A.P.S *Digest*

Official Publication of  
Mid-America Paleontology Society

Volume 20, Number 7  
October 1997



**MARK YOUR CALENDARS**

**Nov 15 MAPS MEETING.** Trowbridge Hall, University of Iowa, 123 N. Capital St., Iowa City, IA. Main Lecture Room, #125.

1:00 Board & General Meeting Combined  
2:00 Program

**Nov 15-16 ORLANDO, FL, FLORIDA FOSSIL HUNTERS SIXTH ANNUAL CENTRAL FLORIDA FOSSIL FAIR**

Florida National Guard Armory, 2809 S. Ferncreek Ave.

Nov 15: 9-6, Nov 16: 9-4

Contact: Terry R. Angell, 226 Palmyra Dr., Orlando, FL 32804. 407-277-8978. E-mail FOSSILFAIR@aol.com

**Feb 11-13, 1998 VI NATIONAL CONVENTION OF THE MEXICAN PALEONTOLOGICAL SOCIETY**

Sciences School, National Autonomous University of Mexico

For more information, contact:

Marisol Montellano

Departamento de Paleontología

Instituto de Geología, UNAM

Ciudad Universitaria, Coyoacan

Mexico. D. F. 04510

Ph: (52-5) 622-4280 or 622-4281

Fax: (52-5) 550-8432

e-mail: marmont@servidor.unam.mx

**Apr 17, 18, & 19, 1998 MAPS NATIONAL FOSSIL EXPOSITION XX--CORALS**

Western Illinois University, Macomb, IL

Fri., Apr. 17: 8 am - 5 pm

Sat., Apr. 18: 8 am - 5 pm

Sun., Apr. 19 8 am - 3 pm

**7/10 DUES ARE DUE**

Are your dues due? You can tell by checking your mailing label. The top line gives the expiration date in the form of year followed by month--97/10 means 1997/Oct. Dues cover the issue of the Digest for the month in which they expire.

We do not send notices but will let you know if you are overdue by highlighting your mailing label on your Digest. We carry overdues for two months before dropping them from our mailing list.

Please include your due date and name exactly as it appears on your mailing label--or include a label.

Dues are \$20 per U.S./Canadian household per year. Overseas members may choose the \$20 fee to receive the Digest by surface mail or a \$30 fee to receive it by air mail. (Please send a check drawn on a United States bank in US funds; US currency; a money order; or a check drawn on an International bank in your currency.) Library/Institution fee is \$25.

**Make checks payable to MAPS and mail to:**  
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4800 Sunset Dr. SW  
Cedar Rapids, IA 52404

**ABOUT THE COVER**

This month's cover was drawn by Yvonne Albi, Playa del Rey, California. The pictured echinoid is *Codiopsis* sp. from the Cretaceous of Texas.

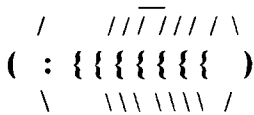
**RUSSIAN DINOSAURS IN ST. LOUIS**

The exhibit "Dinosaurs in the City," a collection of dinosaurs from Russia, will open at the City Museum in St. Louis, Missouri, on October 25 and run for at least seven months. The exhibit will consist of approximately 60 specimens that are 90-95% complete, plus nests of dinosaur eggs, fossilized skin, and various skulls and claws. The majority of the specimens on display came from the Gobi desert in Mongolia, the Ural Mountains, and the steppes of Asian Russia. This is the largest exhibition ever organized by the Institute of the Russian Academy of Sciences.

The Museum is located at 701 North 15<sup>th</sup> Street, St. Louis, MO 63103, and will be open from 9-5 M-F and 10-5 S-S. Phone: 314-231-2489.

**NEW TRILOBITE DISCOVERY!**

From Ottawa Paleontological Soc. Newsletter, 6/97, Robert Sensenstein, Ed. via Paleo Newsletter, 8/97, Jean Wallace, Ed.



*Asciaphus typographicus* (Qwerty)

A new trilobite was recently classified by Dr. I. M. Qwerty of the University of Kickinghorse Pass in British Columbia. *Asciaphus typographicus* (Latin for: DOS-lover Smith-Corona writer) apparently was found in the foolscap-paper deposits of the world renown Birdguts Shale which corresponds to the Wordperfectan stage of the middle Crayolian period.

It's estimated to be 530 million trilobite years old (that's a hundred and five for you and me). Dr. Qwerty noted that traces of pencil shavings were found in its midgut. It is therefore presumed that *A. typographicus* met its demise as the evolution and radiation of the roller ball and fine-line marker replaced the pencil as the dominant writing implement of the time. These trilobites then likely became extinct as their food source gradually disappeared.

## PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD

The October MAPS meeting was canceled because not enough board members were available to attend on the date of the scheduled meeting.

## MAPS VIDEOS AVAILABLE

These tapes are amateur productions! They don't have the "polish" of professionally produced productions, however, they do cover a broad range of paleontology. Tapes made by Gil Norris come with accompanying study guides.

## Videos by Gil Norris:

- I. Arthropods (Crustaceans and Trilobites)  
Mollusks (Cephalopids) and other classes.  
The fossil story and Wyoming stone fish.
- II. Echinoids and some other echinoderms.  
Crinoids  
Brachiopods, Bryozoans and Sponges.

## Videos by B. L. Stinchcomb

- III. A Geologic tour of Route 66--1950  
A 2,000 mile journey on famous U. S. Route 66 as it was in 1950. Emphasis is on geology and paleontology with human interest. Famous paleontological areas such as the Braidwood fossil occurrence, Ozark fossils, Springfield, Missouri, crinoids, Permian and Triassic redbeds and strata of the Grand Canyon, Pleistocene extrusives and fossils, Barstow California Miocene "bugs" and Kettleman Hills Miocene fossils are featured.

Also on the tape are shorts on the geologic time scale, Coosa River Cambrian, Dominican Republic amber fossils, Labrador archeocyathids, St. Croix River Precambrian and Cambrian plus addendum to study videos by Gil Norris.

Specify which tape(s) you want: No. I, II, or III.  
Each tape approx. 100 min in length. \$12/tape.

Make check payable to MAPS. Send check and request to

Dr. Bruce L. Stinchcomb  
18 Patricia  
Ferguson, Missouri 63135

Include your Name, Address, City, State, and Zip Code.

20<sup>TH</sup> MAPS EXPO IN 1998

April 17, 18, and 19 are the dates for EXPO XX, held at Western Illinois University in Macomb. The theme of this year's show is Corals. Table, Hotel and other registration information will appear in the December Digest. No reservations are accepted before that time. We hope you are making plans to attend.

Friday and Saturday are the busiest days of the show. On Sunday many exhibitors leave by noon even though the show is officially open until 3:00, so you might take that into consideration if you can attend only one day.

SUE AUCTIONED FOR RECORD \$8.4 MILLION  
from information sent by John Mareing, St. Louis

Sue, the T-Rex found by the Black Hills Institute and confiscated by the U.S. Government, was sold at auction October 4 for a bid of \$7.6 million. A 10 percent buyer's fee raised the total to \$8.36 million. Nine bidders took only nine minutes to complete the record sale. The winning bid went to the Chicago's Field Museum of Natural History, McDonald's Corp., Ronald McDonald House Charities, Walt Disney World Resort, the California State University System and individuals provided the funds.

The 65-million-year-old, virtually complete 50-foot-long skeleton, will go on exhibit at the museum in the year 2000.

The bulk of the proceeds of the sale will go to Maurice Williams, the Sioux Indian, on whose land the dinosaur was found in 1990. Members of the Black Hills Institute had obtained permission from Williams to scout his Badlands property for bones. After finding Sue, they struck an agreement with him in which they paid \$5,000 for the right to excavate, remove and assume ownership of the bones.

However, in 1992 the government charged that the Institute had failed to obtain the necessary permission from various federal agencies to take a fossil from an Indian reservation and had therefore stolen the fossil. Court test upheld that action, and ownership was awarded to Williams.

The Black Hills Institute, however, claims to hold the trademark on the name Sue. If that claim holds up, the Field Museum will not be able to use the famous name for the dinosaur.

## SPOIL BANK COLLECTING

by Marc Behrendt, Somerset, Ohio

Pennsylvanian age material predominates eastern Ohio's surface formations. Amazingly, fossiliferous locations are few and far between, considering the size of the area involved.

Strip mining for coal and limestone is a major industry in these areas. Old strip mines are commonly seen offering opportunities to investigate large amounts of material; however, most operators are hesitant to allow collecting in their quarries. Permission is often acquired if the collecting efforts are to be centered on spoil banks, typically far away from any walls or pits.

I have permission in two such quarries. They are very different, both in design and material; however, each yields enormous opportunity to find quality specimens, including complete Pennsylvanian trilobites such as *Ditomopyge*.

The first quarry I received permission to collect is a coal mine with many strip mines in operation. On this rare occasion I was allowed to collect in an active quarry! I noticed several old dump piles along an old driveway. I found nothing in the active quarry, but during the day as I spoke with the foreman, I discovered the dump piles were dumped long ago when the operation first began.

My first step was to assess the site's collectability. Surface collecting can be a real boon if nobody has collected the pile recently. Also, flaky shale requires a bottle of super glue by nearby. Newer material will be harder and more stable.

On first examination, I found dozens of Euphamites gastropods lying atop the pile, many bigger than golf balls. Weathered coiled cephalopod pieces littered the ground everywhere. I got on my hands and knees and surface collected for the entire day. Later, after several phone calls, I was given permission to collect those piles any time, which the manager had absolutely no problem with since they were far away from active mining activity.

My return trips have yielded many gastropod species. Brachiopods abounded, although quality was, at first, a problem due to weathering. I constantly found trilobite parts, driving me to return time and time again, determined to find an intact trilobite.

My fifth trip to the piles was the clincher. I'd pretty well cleaned up the exposed fossils and had begun splitting shale. I learned which type shale held the most promise. This shale was hard, and had barely weathered. Every split yielded some type of fossil with excellent preservation.

All morning into the afternoon I split shale. My body was in a rhythm, and my mind eased into blissful numbness. I may as well have touched a live wire, for my brain leapt into instant shock, as I looked at a piece I had just split open. There rested a complete *Ditomopyge* in all its perfect glory. The genal spines were safely in the negative, and all parts were present and accounted for. I carefully stabilized the bug and packed it for transport. Continuing into the same slab, two splits later, there was another *Ditomopyge* cephalon with the first thoracic segment leading into the matrix. Yet another trilobite, disarticulated but complete, set my adrenal glands on high. I was ecstatic!

From an old scrap pile of long ago discarded rock, I have built a very respectable collection of Pennsylvanian fossils. I've found no echinoderms besides crinoid stems, but I'll bet one eventually turns up. So far I have collected trilobites, both straight and coiled cephalopods, brachs, pelecypods, gastropods, conularids, coral, bryozoa, and trace fossils. All from an old dump pile.

Recently I had the fortune to acquire permission to collect at a local quarry. The rules were I could only collect when the operation was shut down, usually after 6 p.m. or on Sundays. This mine sought limestone. All coal and shale was dumped into the center of the pit. This strip mine continually moved, one side being exposed while the opposite was reclaimed. Fresh material was present every day.

Fossil material was a bit harder to find here. The quarry manager stated he'd seen days when "shells" sparkled in the sunlight, there were so many of them. The days I chose to collect were not those sparkly days. Pennsylvanian plant fragments were very common. One slab of limestone contained the impression of a *Lepidodendron* trunk about 3 inches in diameter and 3 feet long. My invertebrate interests kept me moving. Finally I located the type of rock which held the marine invertebrates. It was a very odd green color—locating the correct shale became pretty easy.

they do change daily. The time will come when a pocket of quality marine fossils will be unearthed, and I want to be there when it happens.

Spoil banks offer very productive and relaxing places to collect. The rock is usually in manageable sizes and splits easily. Permission may be granted to collect a spoil bank when no quarry collecting is the rule. Always ask permission and follow the quarry's directions, and you may be headed for a new unexpected honeyhole.

Gastropod molds coated the shale surfaces. Small brachs abounded. I found 2 pieces of trilobites, but nothing more. I continue to check out these piles since

## ***PETRIFIED FORESTS*—NEWLY RELEASED BOOK**

Ruth Kirkby, Scottsdale, Arizona

***PETRIFIED FORESTS*** by Rafael Herbst, Walter Jung, Alfred Selmeir, Friedmann Schaaraschmidt, Evagelos Vefitzelos, and Ulrich Dernbach. Translated from the German by Howard Fine. Published by D'Oro-Verlag, Heppenheim, Germany, 1996. Hardcover, color 13 1/2" x 9 1/2", 188 pages, \$79.95. reviewed by Sam and Ruth Kirkby, Scottsdale, Arizona.

The book is available from Nevada Mineral and Book Co., P.O. Box 4430, Las Vegas, Nevada 89116, or Ralph Thompson Books, 36 Smith Street, Northhampton, Maine 01060.

A magnificent new book has been written about the 31 most beautiful petrified forests of the world with specific directions for reaching them. Ulrich and Dorte Dernbach, a husband and wife team have spent the past 17 years traveling the world to locate these sites and provide the information about the primeval forests with wonderful photography. Their travels back and forth from Zimbabwe, Africa, to Arizona, USA, have provided the reader with a wealth of information.

Some of the top European paleobotanists have written a major section in this book to describe the developing groups of plants that are found in these forests.

There are 300 beautiful color photographs of the localities and close-up pictures of the woods in their brilliant colors. People who have helped in reaching the sites are not forgotten, but rather included in the story.

Ulrich has a passion for excellent photographs of petrified wood, but his wife Dorte owns one of the most prestigious publishing houses in Europe. Together they have presented a publication that should be in every library: for information, for the beauty of the pictures, and also as a guide for the traveler who is curious to see these sites for himself.

As an illustration of some of the chapters in this beautiful book: There is one forest located in New Zealand that can only be seen at low tide, with some of the logs measuring 90' in length. If you visit the little town of Mata in the southernmost part of Brazil, you will see that most of the houses are built from petrified logs and their piazzas and streets are paved with the colorful petrified wood. Even walls and staircases are made from this natural material of the area. In Chemnitz, Germany, standing logs compete with the church steeple in height. I was impressed by the number of petrified forests in North America that everyone should have an opportunity to visit.

The forests of ancient times included many different tree ferns which are preserved in rock form. There are Tieteas, Osmundas, Psauronius and a wide variety of different fossil plants that have been preserved in as many different colors. They Cycads and the beautiful Araucarias are also described.

I was pleased to see that *Hermanophyton* was pictured from the Jurassic of Utah, since that is one of the rarest trees known so far from those discovered. In 1953, Dr. Chester Arnold, paleobotanist from the University of Michigan, and Dr. Herman Becker, a research associate from the New York Botanical Garden, Brooklyn, New York, went on an expedition to the Henry Mountains of Utah. In their party were four rock hunters who collect specimens to sell. Their agreement was that Dr. Arnold would be given any specimens, or a portion, that would have a scientific value to be recorded for future use.

They spotted a stem in the bottom of Hanson Creek at the same time, and all six of the men helped to excavate the specimen, which measured 11', broken into foot long sections. Dr. Becker took pictures of the specimen partially buried in the sandstone. When they had recovered the specimen, the men refused to live up to the agreement, and the rock hunters took all of the sections.

I happened to be studying paleobotany under Dr. Arnold at the University of Michigan at the time, and when he returned, he told us about this experience.

When I returned to my home in California, I was booked for a series of lectures in the Los Angeles area. After one of the programs, a young man asked if he could come and see us about trading for one of Sam's rock spheres. We arranged a date for a meeting at our home, and when he came, we were surprised to see a piece of this log from Utah. A trade was consummated, and then we cut a section to send to Dr. Arnold.

During the summer of 1955, Sam and I spent part of the time with Dr. Becker in field camp in the Ruby Range of Montana. It was a delightful experience, and I was able to prepare a paper about a very rare insect fossil for the Southern California Academy of Science.

Dr. Becker reported on the Ruby flora with numerous papers.



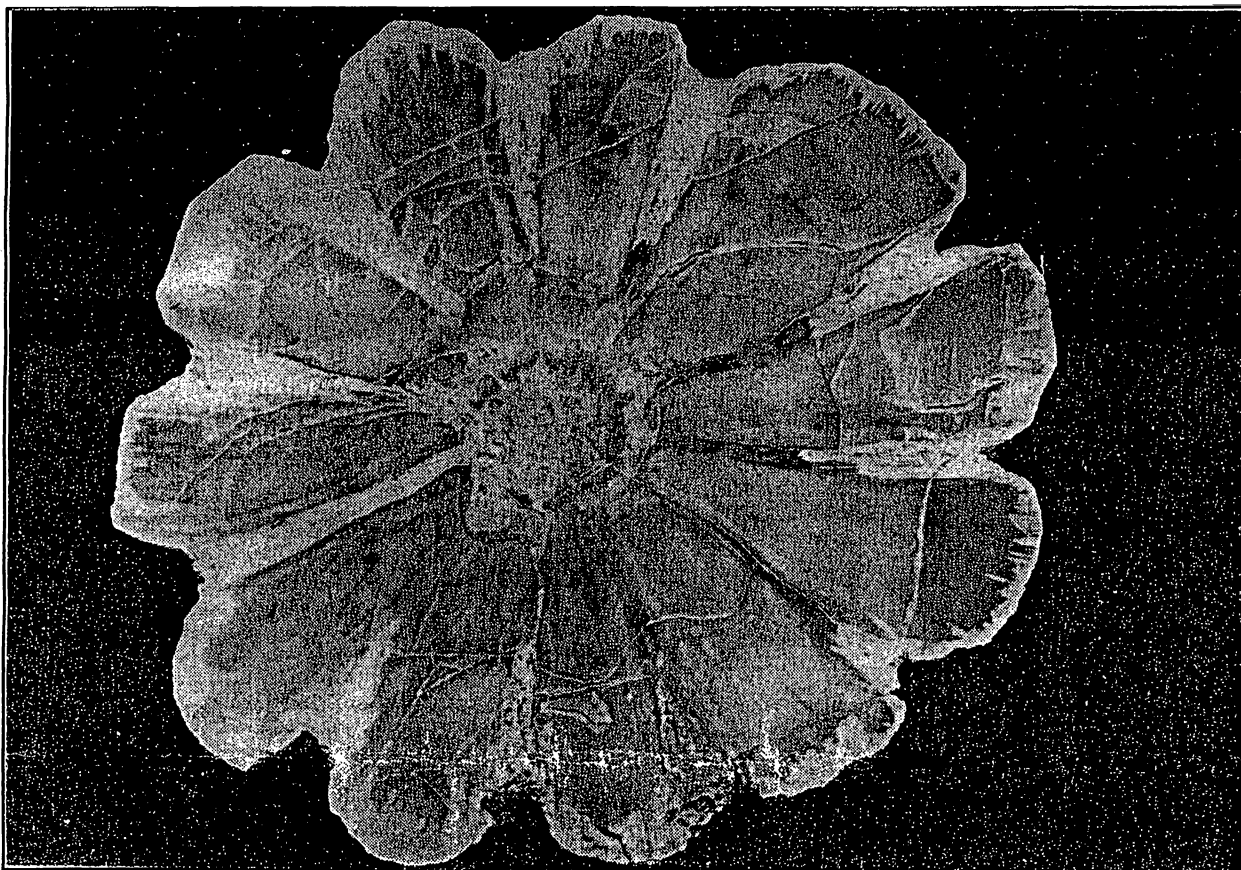
Field Camp in Montana 1995  
Herman Becker and Ruth Kirkby

In the September 1962 issue of the American Journal of Botany we were thrilled to see a paper by Dr. Arnold about the fossil log which is of the *Rhexoxylon* group of plants, naming the specimen *Hermanophyton* after Dr. Becker and *kirkbyorum* after Sam and me. We then cut another section and sent it to Herman. He donated it to the New York Botanical Garden Museum, where it was placed on display.

In July 1971, we received a phone call from a press photographer requesting permission to take a picture of the log of *Hermanophyton*. He told us that while the New York Botanical Gardens were doing some repair in the museum, they had moved the showcase into the hallway and someone had broken into it and removed that one specimen. Dr. Becker was heart-broken, so we cut another slice and sent it to him.

*Hermanophyton* is one of the most beautiful logs you will find. The flower-like pattern of the wood in a corn-flower blue color is very different from most petrified woods that you have seen. Utah is fortunate to have been the home for this rare plant in early Jurassic forests where so many wonderful fossils are found among the spectacular eroded sediments.

Hours of pleasure will be found when reading this magnificent and treasured book on the 31 most beautiful forest of the world.



*Hermanophyton kirkbyorum* Arnold, 1962  
Morrison formation, Upper Jurassic Period, Utah  
Photograph by Sam Kirkby

### AMATEUR TOM KAYE ADDS TO CHICAGO'S FIELD MUSEUM COLLECTION

Several hundred mammal and dinosaur fossils have been added to Chicago's Field Museum collection, thanks to the efforts of MAPS member and Chicago businessman Tom Kaye. Specimens include a rhino skull and lower jaw, several titanotheres jaws, teeth from a saber-toothed cat, the dome and tooth of a dome-headed dinosaur known as a pachycephalosaur—a first for the Museum—teeth and other material from a *T-rex*, and the frill and teeth of a *Triceratops*.

Digging for fossils as a hobby since 1992, Kaye organized and funded the Fossil Frontier Expedition to the Badlands of Wyoming and Montana in the summer of 1995. The group consisted of four graduate students from the University of Chicago and Tom. Kaye spent about \$20,000 for living expenses and to rent equipment for the month-long expedition.

The team used ground-penetrating radar, a hydraulic diamond-blade chainsaw, laptop computers and CD-ROMs installed in the group's vehicles, and location and mapping software based on a satellite positioning system to search for and collect the fossils.

Each day the team members went out in different directions with four hand-held global positioning system units that pinpoint exact locations using signals from a satellite. At day's end, the team fed the information into the computer to make one master map. The radar allowed the team to see, on computer screens, as deep as 20' below the surface. The method enabled them to cover a large area without duplication, and to have the information available for the future. The application of this technology to paleontology is in its infancy.

*CONTINUED ON PAGE 8*

**ADVERTISING SECTION**

Ads are \$5.00 per inch. Send information and checks payable to MAPS to : Mrs. Gerry Norris, 2623 34<sup>th</sup> Avenue Ct., Rock Island, IL 61201. Phone: (309) 786-6505  
This space is a \$5.00 size.

To extend currently running ads, please send request and remittance to Editor by the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month. We do not bill. Ads do not run in the EXPO issue (April). Ads can be printed in different sizes of type to fit a 1" space.

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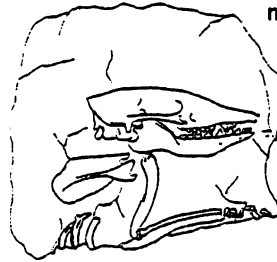


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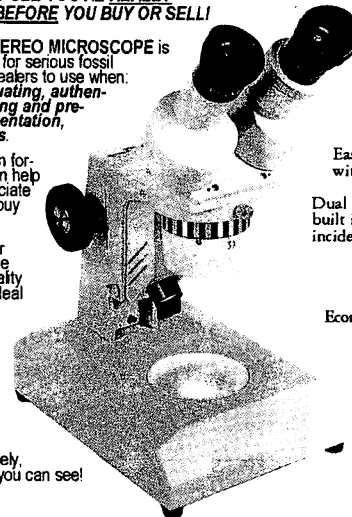
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*KAYE, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6*

Kaye and graduate student Michael Alfaro worked with John Flynn, curator of fossil mammals and chairman of the Museum's Department of Geology, to map out the expedition. Kaye's extensive connections with ranchers in the Hell Creek Formation site near Forsyth, Montana, and the late-Eocene/Oligocene Lance Creek site in the White River Formation of Wyoming enabled the group to excavate and remove fossils from previously untapped private lands as well as nearby Federal lands for which the Museum obtained a permit for the dig. In all, the expedition yielded more than 1,000 fossils.

**Sources**

Dorfman, Ron. Fossil frontier expedition. The Bulletin of the Field Museum, Ja/Fe/96

Ihejirika, Maudlyne. Field museum digs its new fossil 'find'. Chicago Sun Times, 12/14/95.

Mays, Gary. Fan of paleontology hits pay dirt. Chicago Tribune, 12/14/95

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Professor. Will trade. Major interest trilobites.  
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Paralegal. Has for trade small amount brachiopod,  
Ordovician coral. Member of Kentucky Paleo Soc.  
Wants to learn more about identifying fossils,  
where to find them, how to prepare & display them.

**PLEASE NOTE THE FOLLOWING CHANGES OF ADDRESS OR CORRECTIONS:**

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The Mid-America Paleontology Society (MAPS) was formed to promote popular interest in the subject of paleontology; to encourage the proper collecting, study, preparation, and display of fossil material; and to assist other individuals, groups, and institutions interested in the various aspects of paleontology. It is a non-profit society incorporated under the laws of the State of Iowa.

Membership in MAPS is open to anyone, anywhere who is sincerely interested in fossils and the aims of the Society.

Membership fee: One year from month of payment is \$20.00 per household. Institution or Library fee is \$25.00. Overseas fee is \$20.00 with Surface Mailing of DIGESTS OR \$30.00 with Air Mailing of DIGESTS. (Payments other than those stated will be pro-rated.

MAPS meetings are held on the 2nd Saturday of October, November, January, and March and at EXPO in April. A picnic is held during the summer. October through March meetings are scheduled for 1 p.m. in Trowbridge Hall, University of Iowa, Iowa City, Iowa. One annual International Fossil Exposition is held in April.

MAPS official publication, MAPS DIGEST, is published 9 months of the year--October through April, May/June, July/August/September.

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Dated Material - Meeting Notice

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