



A cast of the *Diplodocus* skull was happily received at The Andrew Carnegie Birthplace Museum in Dunfermline, Scotland, a few years ago.

material deteriorated, and in 1989 these cast bones were used to recreate molds for new bones. This time *Diplodocus* was given a more dynamic shape, its neck curled in one direction while its tail curled in the opposite direction.

A fleshed-in-version over 80 feet long was created in the 1960s for West Yellowstone National Park. In 1977 it was moved to the "Dinosaur Garden" at the Utah Field House. Through the years this dinosaur has had different colors, going from elephant color grey with a green belly, to a more recent tan and brown. Dinosaur colors, like dinosaur sounds, are not in the fossil record and will probably always be a mystery to scientists.

Making an accurate model of an animal that became extinct 150 million years ago requires both guesswork and hard evidence. Paleontologist David Berman remarks that Ford cars did not become extinct when Henry Ford stopped making the Model T.—the Ford car simply evolved into new models, and is still with us today. Artist Michael Skrepnick, who is making a dramatic new mural of *Diplodocus* for Dinosaur Hall, is ready to argue the theory that dinosaurs are still with us—in the form of birds.

"Science is a successive approximation of the truth, not a set of facts," says paleontologist Chris Beard. All it takes, says curator Mary Dawson, is one convincing new fossil discovery—one trackways' sign that Dippy did drag his tail—to send scientists back to their evidence for a new, more accurate interpretation.

There's a New Dinosaur in Town! Join the Celebration

Diplodocus Anniversary Festival

Saturday, July 10, 10:00am–5:00pm

Sunday, July 11, 1:00–5:00pm

The party starts with the unveiling (at 9:50 am) of the life-size model of *Diplodocus carnegii* outside the museum on Forbes Avenue. There are tons of activities:

- Attend a dinosaur symposium the evening before: Friday, July 9
- See the movie *The Lost World*
- Visit vendors with special dinosaur merchandise
- Experience the Dinosaur Hall light show
- Go on a tour of Dinosaur Hall
- Visit Dinosaur Discovery Carts
- See the new exhibit of the discovery of *Diplodocus carnegii*
- Meet Pittsburgh celebrities
- Children's activities: See Science on Stage performances of *Dinosaurs!* and *Paleontology!* Join in a Scavenger Hunt (with great prizes!). Listen to dinosaur stories. Test your skills with these games:

Stones-in-the-Stomach, Gliding Pterosaurs, Dinosaur Tracks.

Call (412) 622-3131 for information.

Dinosaur Camps

Friday and Saturday, July 15 and 16

"Dinosaur Dig" for ages 4-5,

Monday through Friday, Aug. 2 through 6

"Trilobites to T.Rex" for ages 6-7.

Call (412) 622-3288 for information and the camp brochure.

Dinosaur Family Overnights

July 16-17, and Aug. 6-7

Spend Friday night and Saturday morning with the dinosaurs. Call (412) 622-3298 for information and a brochure.

Lunch with A Curator

Wednesday, July 14, 10:30 am- 1:30 pm

Dr. Mary Dawson tells you about *Diplodocus* and the dinosaur discoveries that made the museum famous. Fee includes a visit to the behind-the-scenes fossil collections, and lunch in the Museum Cafe. Registration required. Call 622-3228.

The Making of Diplodocus

Research Casting, International, of Toronto, made this life-size model. Peter May, the company president, is a recognized expert in making dinosaur molds and casts.

The museum's Pat Martin provided the illustrations of a fleshed-out *Diplodocus* from which Research Casting produced a 1/10 size maquette or working model. A copy of the maquette was made and then sliced into sections, and these sections were used as a template to make the full-size model. The basic shape of the dinosaur was carved out of Styrofoam. A 1/2" layer of plaster-cine was then applied to give the model its skin texture, which was based on the fossilized skin texture of a real dinosaur.

Next, latex was applied to the entire model to form the mold. The shape of the rubber mold was supported by a fiberglass jacket. For ease of assembly and future use, the mold was made in pieces. This mold was used to make the final cast of Dippy out of colored gel-coat and fiberglass. The cast is supported by an internal steel armature designed and built separately by Research Casting's metalworking team. At the site, a concrete platform supports the installed cast.

Carnegie Museum of Natural History now has the finest fleshed-out model of *Diplodocus carnegii* ever made, and the museum owns the mold and the cast, just as it did nearly a century ago when the first fossil skeleton was cast.

Dippy takes shape in the Toronto workshop of a company renowned for the accuracy of its dinosaur replicas. (Model and photography: Research Casting, International)

