

Your e-mail of 8/11/2003 was passed on to me by someone who was involved in the 2001-2002 excavation of the allosaur from my property. I was the landowner the film refers to, and thought it might be helpful, even though some time has elapsed, to pass along what transpired.

I quote from your email: *"I watched the documentary on the Allosaurus. It was the DeRosas and Doug Phillips' team that excavated it. I also understand that there was an agreement that what Doug Phillips' team found they could have. As far as I know Joe Taylor was not involved. The site is owned by a Christian home schooling couple, and the DeRosas have the fossil rights."*

First of all the Vision Forum group that came out was just a tour group. They were given an opportunity to dig some at a site that I had found the year before. We had already excavated some field jackets encasing parts of the allosaur's spine in 2001. This was done under Joe Taylor's direction and supervision. The DeRosas were there helping, but so were a number of others. The VF group in general was a fantastic group of people who helped move a lot of dirt and helped locate some important bones. They did no actual removal of significant bone material. During their digging they uncovered a neck vertebra at which point they were done. Joe Taylor came out after the VF people left and conducted the excavation of the vertebral column including the skull. The DeRosas were clearly involved, but they did not direct the removal of anything from the site. Joe did. (By the way, the vertebra that the Vision Forum group uncovered was removed in a separate jacket from the skull and was a dirt load of distance from it). Doug Phillips and VF had no rights to any of the bone material excavated. The DeRosas, Joe Taylor and my family all had a stake in the allosaur.

It is amazing that Joe's team, the main ones responsible for "raising the allosaur", are given no credit in the film at all. Joe's Mt. Blanco team is not mentioned. Let me repeat, those most responsible for quote "making the film" based on its given title received NO credit whatsoever. Additionally certain necessary others involved and our family as well are not listed in the credits. However, home schooled boys and girls out on an adventure with their parents are said to "raise from the ground what appears to be the most complete Allosaur...ever found in the history of paleontology (*gross overstatement of bone percentage*), including the monster's giant skull." * And Doug Phillips' name is listed everywhere. (*Taken verbatim from the back cover of the "Raising the Allosaur" video. Italics are mine.)

Other major problems with the film include the comment that I found the bones with a scintillator. The awareness of bones on the property came from a local old-timer and my actual discovery of my first bones came as a direct answer to prayer. Later, I did use a handheld scintillator in an effort to help find new sites, but this mostly led to dead ends. Most of my discoveries came from what I believe to be a God given ability to see the bone material and then the ability to follow it up to its source. The site that is called the "behemoth site" was discovered by my son, Evan. A paleontology student from Mesa College in Grand Junction discovered what the DeRosas have termed the "steg site". I found the allosaur site and had removed other bone from it before any excavators were ever on the property.

We were never involved with the Grand Junction Museum or the Museum of the Rockies. One of the world's largest dinosaur fossil museums did express an interest in partnering with me, but that is a far cry from "major, major museums...chasing after" me. There are other less glaring, yet important technical inaccuracies.

The video certainly conveys the idea that the DeRosas and Doug "did it all". It also incorrectly describes the landowner's story. I communicated with Doug Phillips about the problems with the film, but he never connected with me. Later, when I questioned Doug, based on the allosaur "documentary", about his qualifications to host a Christian film contest which cited integrity as a major standard, I received angry accusations from his establishment that I was simply looking out for my own gain.

Personally, we do not view this film as a documentary. It has too many flaws and promotes fantastical PR for VF and Creation Expeditions. Frankly I believe it has done a tremendous amount of harm. Not only does the film reduce the scientific value of the discovery because of lack of true reporting of the facts, but it also in the long run hurts the home school movement that the producer indicated that he was trying to promote. Hyperbolicism does not sit well with science and does not belong in the creationist's toolbox. Exaggeration eats away at the foundations

of integrity and virtue that we are trying to instill in the upcoming generation. There are other issues as well that I prefer not to go into here.

Vision Forum could tell their own story, but they had no right to tell or make any one else's story their own. For us, the film promotes a falsehood that masquerades as truth. I think you would find it hard if not impossible to find anyone who was originally part of the dig project on the Forbes Ranch that did not feel that way or worse about the film. This is of course magnified when one realizes the amount of money that VF probably made on the film as well as the other doors of opportunity flung open because of the falsely placed notoriety gained from it.

Hope this corrects some of the misunderstandings surrounding the history of the site. I am copying this statement to those that were indicated as having received your original statement.

Dana Forbes