

Subj: Pat Roy JOE TAYLOR ALLOSAUR
Date: 10/13/2002
To: Radio@CR.org

Hello pat:

Thank you for the letter of 10-07-02 and the CD of the radio show on the Allosaur.
Here is the story from our perspective.

In the spring of 2001, Dave Babbit, who does the site surveying for Carl Baugh and I, met Dana and Brenda Forbes at their church in Rangely, CO. They mentioned the dinosaurs on their land. Later that day, they met Carl Baugh at a nearby cafe and talked to him about it. He recommended me to them to develop a commercial dig there. Earlier on they had had another recommendation from Dave Nutting there in CO. I showed up on Monday as usual at our dig at the La Coste ranch. This is five miles from the Forbe's site. I had invited the De Rosas to come to Carl's dig to get some experience at hard rock dinosaur excavation. During the week, Carl and I decided to go visit the Forbes. I invited the De Rosas to come if they wanted. As it turned out, they had been expecting a call from CSI Tom De Rosa (not related) that night who was to tell them to go meet with the Forbes, as they had earlier contacted CSI. We looked at three sites that Dana had found. One was a big sauropod in hard, hard rock, as well as another huge one in hard, hard sandstone and the "Brown Dirt" site that later turned out to be the Allosaur. Frankly, I was not interested in digging out another sauropod from "cement." But when it came out how we all came to be there, it seemed to me and the others, that the Lord's hand seemed to be in it. So I decided to do something with them. Later, Dana laid some vertebrae parts on the couch to have me ID them. I told him, "Well there's your money. That's an Allosaur." Carl was not looking to be involved. Pete and I discussed things. We decided to plan a dig in the fall of 2001. CSI began working with Pete on this. Later, AiG, through Buddy Davis calling me about hunting in Texas, got interested in the dig. Through a series of events, AiG arranged to become involved financially as well as CSI. In September, 2001, The Mt. Blanco team of Don Yaeger, Phillip and Jordan Hall, Dave Babbit, Henry Johnson, and others joined the Pete De Rosas and Tom De Rosa and Mike Zovath and daughter Stephanie (who came to film) and Buddy Davis. I was paid \$2000 for my team to develop a plan, and prepare the site to show CSI and AiG the potential. We were not expected to do any excavation. We did plan to shore up under the spinal column which some college dummy had undermined, and get the site ready for the winter. By the way, a dig takes a week to get ready for and a week to unload and reorganize from. The money only pays expenses.

As it turned out, I decided that if we really worked at it, we could excavate a lot of it. And AiG CSI could really see what was involved. So we hit it hard.

The bones are dark brown. They're fragile and cracked and what was exposed, was in what looked like "dirt," but that was because it had frozen so many times. Further in the sandstone, the rock became jackhammer hard. Fortunately, our crew is used to hard rock and have 7 years of professional experience and the equipment. The largest block of rock we have taken out at our other site, five miles away, weighed 4,500 pounds. Carl had a trailer specially built to load it onto.

The Forbe's skeleton was eroded into from the bottom of it's stomach. All the ribs were gone, and I expected so were the hind legs. I decided we could manage three sections 4 feet long. Since the vertebrae were all just as the animal lived, the bones were articulated, and all the zygapophyses (I think that's what they are called -- no one ever seems to know) of the caudals were all overlapping each other. So, I used a new way to get between them and remove each jacket from the other without damaging the adjoining bones. Don Yaeger is always my best second opinion on these things. There was one tree limb right at the shoulders. I decided it was just necessary science to include it, even though it made the jacket heavier and harder to turn over. It was partly petrified and partly coalified. Under the skeleton, which lay on its left side, there was a greenish-brown layer. I kept going between, it being a mat of plants, or it's SKIN! Skin has been found in that area. We left the tail tip in the rock. I estimated that it was from 6 to 10 feet longer. This May, we took it out and it was only about 3 feet! I speculated that maybe it was chewed off in life? The bones were taken here to be worked on. This spring, we excavated the skull and jaws and neck. I will e-mail you that story later. I have to go now.

Thanks
Joe Taylor