

**INTERVIEW WITH DR. PETER ROBINSON
UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO, BOULDER
JANUARY 9, 2018**

On Tuesday, January 9, 2018, I met with and interviewed Dr. Peter Robinson at the University of Colorado, Boulder. The hope was to obtain some historic information related to Dr. Robinson's participation in the National Academy of Sciences Committee which developed a report on Paleontological Collecting on Federal Lands.

NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES COMMITTEE

When I opened discussion regarding the NAS committee – Peter looked at me and rolled his eyes.

Peter stated that the NAS Report became a big political issue, which was not apparent at the start. “It was supposed to be a consensus report? Some of us were not happy with the wording of the report, but we had our hands tied.”

Peter stated that “people knew what they wanted to write before the committee started work. Some of those people are no longer with us.”

There were hand picked academics, along with federal managers.

Peter Larson was one of the initiators of the NAS Committee.

“A lot of us saw problems” with NAS Committee - came in 60 – 70 ways.

There were concerns about improper collecting without a permit. There was lots of amateur collecting taking place. Some of the amateurs were good people – like the Gunthers. Some were not and were in there for the money.

It did not take long to figure out what John Pojeta and Clayton Ray (fired) wanted to accomplish with the NAS Committee.

Clayton Ray was the principle individual behind the Peru fossil marine mammal collecting by Black Hills Institute. The Peru case did not only involve marine mammals, but also archeological resources.

?? S. Dillon Ripley (?? Secretary of Smithsonian – previously the Director of the Peabody Museum at Yale).
?? Obtained PhD at Yale where Ripley was director (high society scenario).

?? Benson (NAS), John Pojeta (USGS), Dave Raup, Farish Jenkins, Peter Larson – defined the tome of the report as it stands.

Benson was a geologist with the NAS. He had background from USGS. He had some involvement with a uranium company that was inappropriate and got into trouble.

Ostensibly Raup – only worked with data and never collected or described a fossil. He was malleable and part of NAS committee.

Farish Jenkins - “ax dulled badly”; “Jenkins forked up money to control SVP after his presidency in 1990. To get out of view of being a crony of Peter Larson.” SVP moved forward to get paleo law passed.

Shortly after the report came out – Sue was excavated and the FBI began their investigation. Several people got knuckles wrapped and the report went into limbo.

?? Don’t look at report with the events that transpired at the time.

Peter remembered Charlie McKinney as a NPS archeologist by training. He stated something about his interest in submarines and making money. Peter indicated that McKinney had some thoughts about archeological research versus paleontological research and he encouraged McKinney to publish this information. Somehow tied to Harley Armstrong.

GLEN CANYON DAM

1970 BOR & BLM were involved in the Glen Canyon Dam EIS. There were some paleontological surveys accomplished along with the archeological surveys of Glen Canyon. It was discovered that a BOR official during the surveys was providing copies of sensitive reports with archeological site data to a relative who was a relic dealer in Arizona. The belief was the information was being used to loot the archeological sites.

Once this was discovered, that there were different versions of the sensitive resource reports produced. The version of the report with the correct resource information was only given to the National Park Service and is archived in the Omaha Office. A dummy report, which did not disclose actual resource locality information, was given to the BOR general office in order to protect the actual localities.

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According to Peter, UC Boulder Museum has fossil collections from a few NPS areas including: ARCH, BADL, DINO, FLFO, GLCA and PEFO. There is a huge collection from FLFO which dates back to the first part of the 20th century. These collections are tied to Cockerell and Junius Henderson and consist largely of invertebrates and plants. More recent work has focused on vertebrates. Some of the Cockerell collections have been transferred to FLFO.

During the 1960s (1961, 1962-1964) the UC Boulder Museum received collections from John Clark obtain in BADL. These needed a repository since they were being published in monograph. This was period between when Clark was between SDSMT and FMNH and Clark needed a repository.

Russell Dubiel's collection from PEFO (between 1970s – 1990s) is at the museum. Dubiel was a student of Earl Kauffman. Dubiel found a phytosaur skull. This specimen was kept at the park, but the museum gained another specimen in exchange which is on exhibit in the museum.

Martin Lockley's vertebrate footprint collection has been transferred to UC Boulder Museum. This includes tracks from ARCH and GLCA, maybe other parks. Peter created maps of Lockley's localities.

Grinnel was a student of Marsh and discovered the *Uintacrinus* specimen from Utah (Cretaceous).

MISCELLANEOUS INFORMATION

Dr. Robinson reported on purchasing some fossil specimens from Ward's by mail. When the specimens arrived, there were numbers on them.

At the Tucson Fossil & Mineral show in 1980 there was a Uinta mammal specimen for sale.

VLS Comment - It is serendipity that both "Sue" and the BADL catfish both wound up in the FMNH.