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FOSSIL HUNTER RETIRES

Charlie Sternberg, the long-time fossil hunter is retiring. For over 30 years, Mr. Sternberg has spent summers searching for fossils, much of his time in the Alberta Badlands.

Sternberg was the first geologist hired by the Canadian government to collect fossils.

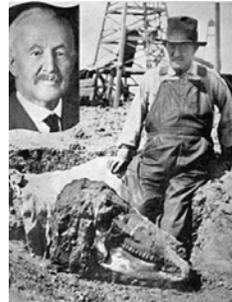
His work over the last 30 years has included many first-time discoveries, including the dinosaurs *Edmontonia* and *Pachyrinosaurus*.

We caught up with Mr. Sternberg to ask him how things have changed since he first started.

“Well, when I started, there wasn’t a lot known about dinosaurs. Now we know so much more.”

When asked about who he has admired in his career he said, “Of course, the famous American, Barnum Brown. He really opened up the whole world to fossils. He collected many, many specimens in Alberta that he sent to the U.S.A. for museums and universities.”

“Of course it would be nice, I suppose, if we were able to see those Alberta fossils stay here in Alberta- but without fellows like Barnum, we wouldn’t know half as much as we do now.”



Charlie Sternberg with a dinosaur find in the Alberta badlands.
(rareresource.com)

When asked about his greatest wish, he replied, “I do wish there was a way to keep track of all of the fossils that leave the country. So many scientists and tourists come to Alberta and leave with fossils. Most of the time we don’t know what they take. We still have so much we don’t know about

dinosaurs. Every summer there seems to be more and more dinosaur hunters, even families out for a weekend who take valuable fossils before we get a chance to learn from them. That is sad.”

Sternberg also talked about some of the missed chances to study fossils when they are found by oil workers who are busy exploring for oil.

“Sometimes I get a call when they find something, and I go get the fossils so we can study them. But other times the workers are on a busy schedule and when they find fossils, they just dig right through them and destroy the fossils. Oil is worth a lot more than our province’s history.”

ALBERTA’S GREAT DINOSAUR RUSH

Alberta is now world famous for our dinosaur fossils and we are in the middle of the Great Dinosaur Rush! Scientists and dinosaur hunters come every year to bring home souvenirs from the Alberta Badlands. Many of Alberta’s fossils have been taken to the United States and other countries for museum collections. There are also some private collectors who pay for giant skull or horn from these

dinosaur hunters. These adventurers spend months at a time digging and searching. This means a lot of money for hotels and restaurants in the area around the Alberta Badlands. Drumheller mayor Greg Kipper says, “Ever since Barnum Brown spent four years collecting fossils back around 1910, there have been a lot of people looking for dinosaur bones. That means a lot of

people spending time and money in Drumheller and nearby towns.”

When asked if he thinks if dinosaur fossils should be taken from Alberta, he said, “Well, there sure are a lot of them bones out there. It doesn’t hurt to have some of them leave Alberta.”

“Besides,” he added, “the government hasn’t decided to make a protected area, so I guess they don’t think the fossils need protecting either.”

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