

A UNIQUE CREATIONIST EXHIBIT

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On April 13, 14, and 15, 1972, Bob Jones University presented an unusual creationist exhibit at Textile Hall, Greenville, South Carolina, as a contribution to a large regional science congress. Because of the eclectic nature of the major event, the total number of people viewing the exhibit was considerable—possibly in excess of 100,000. The Bob Jones University exhibit centered around paleontological findings that can be used to refute evolution, and that are not explained by conventional theories of the day.

Portions of the exhibit were based on work conducted by members of the Creation Research Society. Figure 1 concerns Dr. Clifford Burdick's palynology research in the Grand Canyon. Dr. Burdick kindly furnished color slides of pollen isolated from shale layers of the canyon, enlargements of which are shown at the four corners of the panel. Also a sample of Hakatai shale ("Precambrian"), the lowest level in which pollen was found, is displayed beneath the stratigraphic cross-section.

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The colorful panoramic view of the canyon was painted by Darell Koons, well-known artist and a professor of art at BJU. The four X's roughly mark the position of the shale layers in which the pollen was found. According to evolutionary theory, such pollen (that of higher plants such as conifers) should occur only at the uppermost of the four levels.

The occurrence of pollen at the lower levels, where it does not "belong," can be used to support the contention that as soon as plants existed, higher plants were present. Also it should be noted that there was no apparent "evolution" of the morphology of the pollen from the lower strata to the higher, even though hundreds of millions of years of development are supposed to have taken place from the "Precambrian" to the "Permian." (See *Creation Research Society Quarterly*, June 1966, pp. 38-50 and June 1972, pp. 25-30.)

Figure 2 concerns a small artifact found in Idaho. A baked clay figurine measuring 1½" in length, and broken as shown in the photograph, was unearthed by M. A. Kurtz in 1889 while drilling for water in Nampa, Idaho. Amazingly,



Figure 1. Research on fossil pollen in the Grand Canyon by Dr. Clifford Burdick refutes the theory of the evolution of higher plants from lower. See text for details. (This photograph and all others in this article were supplied by UNUSUAL FILMS of Bob Jones University.)

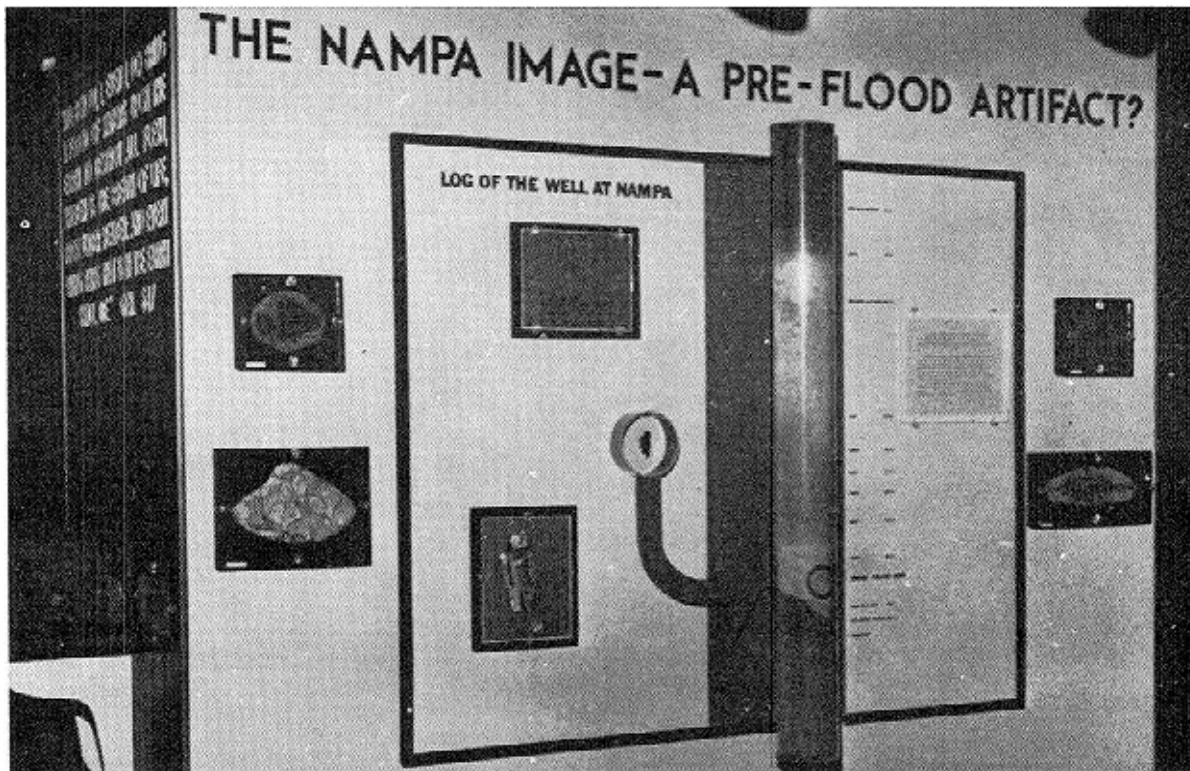


Figure 2. A small baked clay figurine brought up from 300 feet beneath the earth's surface may well be a pre-Flood artifact. The level at which it was found is said to be too "early" for man to be on the scene. See text for details.

it came from a depth of 300 feet, a level labelled "early Pliocene" by geologists who have studied the area.

Conventional evolutionary theory would place the object at a time when "large carnivorous animals were dominant," and "man as we know him had not yet arrived on the scene." Based on present stratigraphic reckoning the object would be somewhat more than 10 million years old! A more logical explanation would seem to be that the artifact was buried far more recently in a great catastrophic episode such as the worldwide Flood described in Genesis.

The "log" of the well, shown in the display, is based on official reports of Waldemar Lindgren, United States Geological Survey. The object was unearthed after drilling, in course, through 60 feet of soil, 15 feet of lava, 100 feet of sand and boulders, 1/2 foot of clay, 40 feet of sand, 1/2 foot of clay, 30 feet of sand, 15 feet of clay, and an additional 40 feet of sand.

No other artifacts or fossils were found in the entire operation. A factor speaking strongly for the authenticity of the find is its coloration, which matched that of clay balls brought up from adjacent levels.

The Nampa Image is located now in the Davis Museum in Boise, Idaho. We wish to express

our thanks to the Idaho State Historical Society for furnishing a substantial amount of information concerning this find, as well as several photographs. Though actual loan of the object could not be arranged, a remarkably accurate replica was produced by Carl Blair, prominent artist and member of the Bob Jones University art faculty.

Although virtually forgotten at the present time, the Nampa Image was reported in such journals as the *American Geologist* (Vol. 23, No. 4, pp. 267-272, 1899) and the *Proceedings of the Boston Society of Natural History* (Vol. 24, parts 3 and 4, pp. 424-450, 1890).

Figure 3 concerns objects found in coal that do not fit into any kind of evolutionary framework. On the far left is a sample of petrified wood with bark that has been changed to coal. This specimen was obtained from the Dorchester Horizon of the Buchanan Coal Field in Virginia. Such tree trunks give every evidence of having been washed into place chaotically by rapidly moving water.

Second from the left, although it does not show in the photograph, is a model of the gold chain found by Mrs. S. W. Culp of Morrisonville, Illinois in a lump of coal. The Morrisonville, Illinois *Times* of June 11, 1891, stated that Mrs.

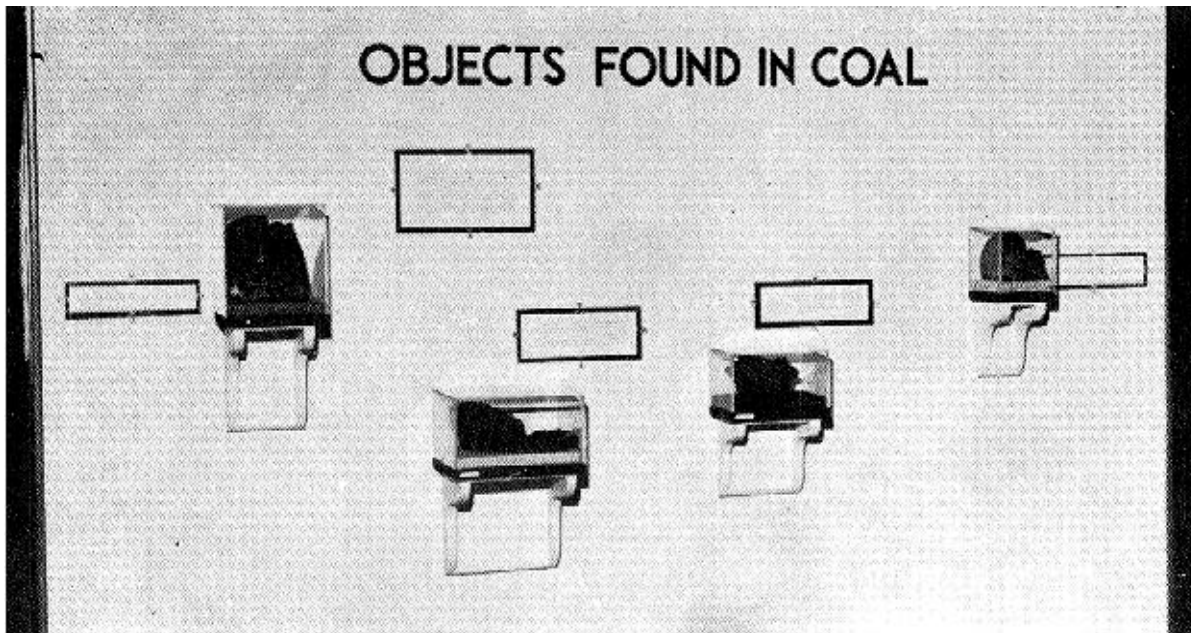


Figure 3. Many items found in coal cannot be explained by the conventional "peat-bog theory." Items displayed here are petrified wood, a gold chain (not showing in the photograph), an iron pot, and cobbles. See text for details.

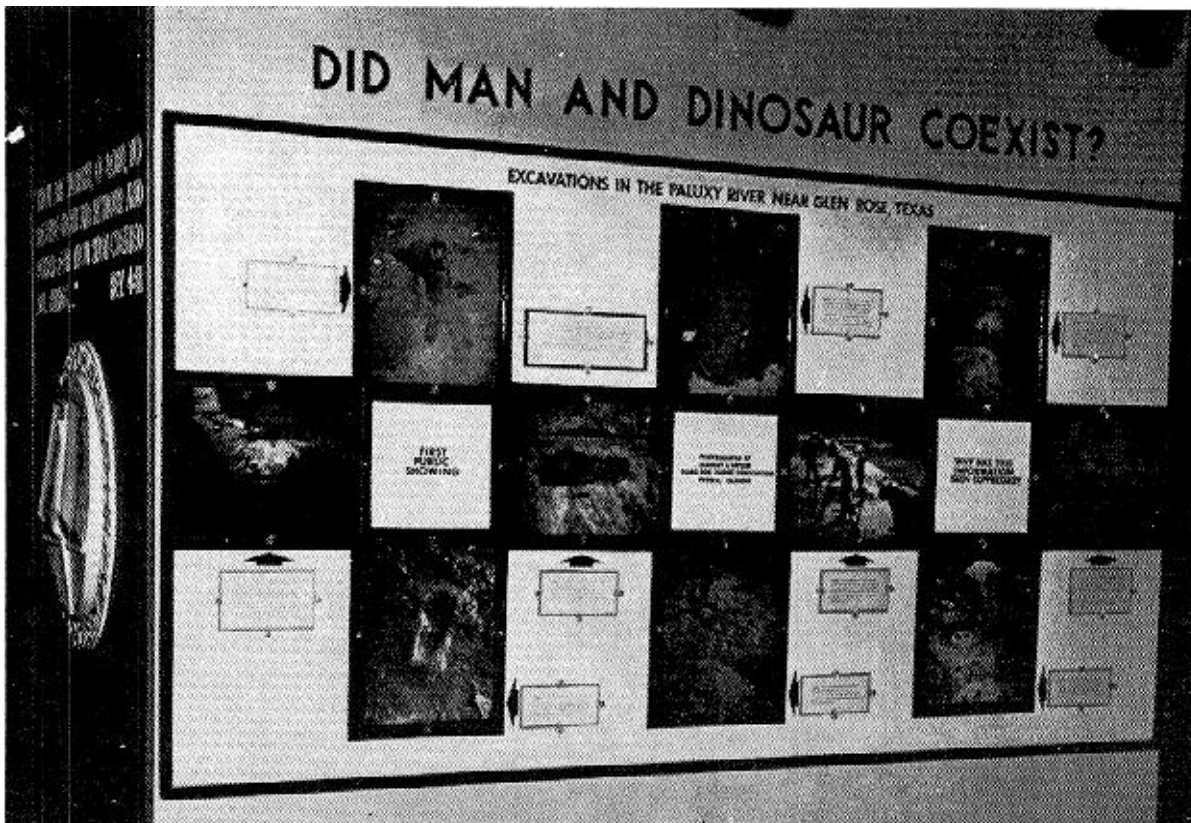


Figure 4. Excavations in the Paluxy River near Glen Rose, Texas. Photographs furnished by Mr. Stanley E. Taylor, Films for Christ Association, Peoria, Illinois. The evidence does not fit the idea of a 60-to-70-million-year gap between dinosaurs and man.

Culp broke a large piece of coal while transferring it to her stove. To her amazement she discovered a neatly coiled gold chain embedded in the middle of the chunk. Approximately 10 inches long, the chain was later assayed as 8-carat gold. As the piece of coal broke in two, the ends of the chain remained attached, one to each fragment. There is therefore no possibility that it had recently been dropped into the coal.

Third from the left in Figure 3 is a model of the iron pot found in coal and reported by Wilbert Rusch, Sr., in his paper entitled, "Human Footprints in Rocks," *Creation Research Society Quarterly*, March 1971, pp. 201, 202. Professor Rusch stated that the object had been traced to the Wilburton mines of Wilburton, Oklahoma, but that the alleged geological age of the coal had not been ascertained.

By writing to the Oklahoma Geological Survey we learned that the coal in question is considered to be "middle Pennsylvanian." The iron pot would therefore presumably be a 300-million-year-old antique. We would prefer to view it as a pre-Flood artifact.

At the far right of Figure 3 are cobbles found embedded in coal of the Dorchester Horizon, Buchanan Coal Field, Virginia. These cannot be satisfactorily explained by the conventional "peat bog theory" of coal formation. Erratics of this size could only have been washed in by powerful currents.

Figure 4 shows what proved to be the most popular part of the entire exhibit—ten beautiful color photographs of Paluxy River excavations

kindly furnished by Stanley E. Taylor, Films for Christ Association, Peoria, Illinois. These were on public display in this manner for the first time. Dinosaur and human footprints clearly show in the same "Cretaceous" limestone, in spite of the fact that there is supposed to be a span of 60 to 70 million years between the extinction of the dinosaur and the advent of man.

Figure 5 shows a diminutive fossil antelope (*Breameryx minor*) which was obtained as a loan from the Los Angeles County Museum of Natural History. According to museum officials, there is only one other specimen like it in existence. Both were obtained from the La Brea Tar Pits of Los Angeles. The caption on the display pointed out that scientists admittedly have no viable theory as to how the tar of the tar pits was formed, much less how so many different animals came to be preserved in it. Some kind of catastrophe would appear to be necessary to explain the observed facts.

Figure 6 concerning polystrate fossils shows a realistic three-dimensional model by the Bob Jones University art department and three photographs from N. A. Rupke's paper in the 1966 *Creation Research Society Quarterly* (Annual Issue). The captions explain that the sedimentary strata shown must have been laid down rapidly to preserve the tree trunks before they decayed. The theory of slow deposition seems quite inadequate to explain such findings.

Figure 7 (left-hand portion) shows an imaginary "mouse-to-bat" evolution presented by Byron Nelson in his book, *After Its Kind* (p. 96).

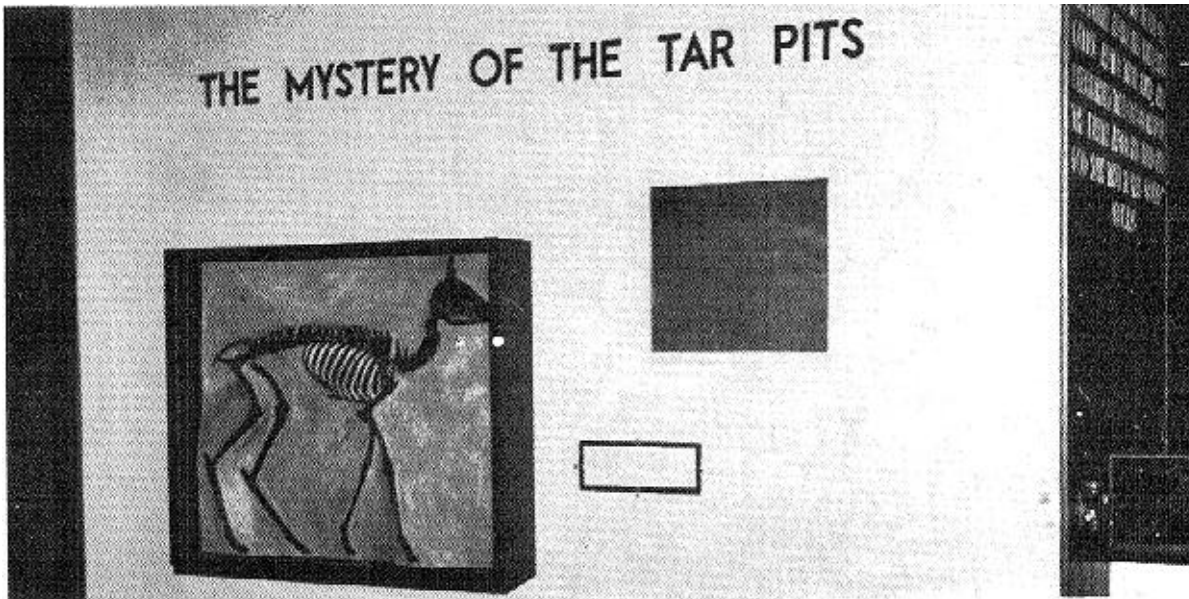


Figure 5. Actual antelope fossil from the La Brea Tar Pits on loan from the Los Angeles County Museum of Natural History. Scientists have no viable explanation for how the tar formed, much less how so many animals came to be trapped in it.

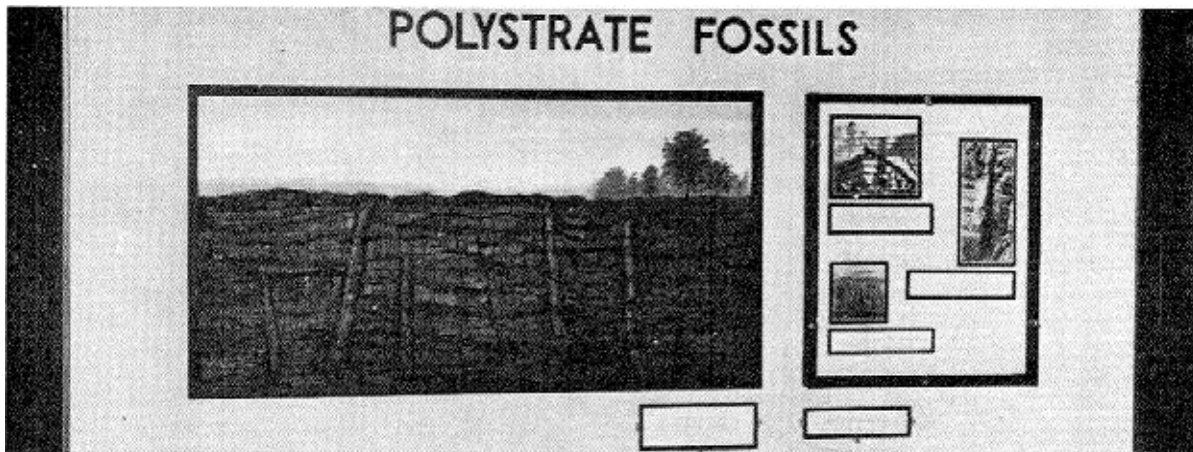


Figure 6. Polystrate (many-layer) fossils such as tree trunks are contradictory to the theory of slow deposition of sedimentary strata. The realistic three-dimensional model at left was produced by the Bob Jones University Division of Art. Photos at right are from N. A. Rupke's paper in the 1966 *Creation Research Society Quarterly* (Annual Issue).

This very effective illustration was prepared by Carl Blair.

Evolutionary theorists hold that the bat evolved from some ground dwelling creature such as the mouse. If this were true, we should expect to find a gradual merging from one type to another in the fossil record. It is remarkable that no fossils of the ten alleged intermediate forms have ever been found. Only the two kinds shown encased in plastic (mouse and bat) are actually observed in the fossil record. The "oldest" recognized bat fossil ("Eocene") already has the wings fully formed.

The right-hand portion of Figure 7 concerns the sandal or shoeprint found in Cambrian shale by William Meister of Salt Lake City. (See *Creation Research Society Quarterly*, December 1968, pp. 97-102.) Findings such as this can be used to point up the fictitious nature of the geological time scale. Though Mr. Meister had graciously agreed to loan the actual item for the three days of the exhibit, transportation details could not be worked out, unfortunately.

Figure 8 concerns what might be termed "age inflation." The chart at the far left, very masterfully lettered by Mrs. Robert Bell of Bob Jones University art department, shows how some commonly accepted, "inflated" age estimates have been greatly reduced as a result of radiocarbon dating.

Immediately to the right of the chart are specimens of fossil wood (white pine and redwood) furnished by the Iron Ore Company of Canada. Found in what was originally claimed to be "pre-Cambrian" rock, the wood was dated at only 4000 years of age by radiocarbon. Estimates of the age of the wood still range as high as 100 million years, and labels such as "late Cretaceous" are applied to it in spite of its high carbon-

14 content. (See Melvin Cook, *Prehistory and Earth Models*, pp. 332, 333.)

Next on the panel is a stalactite under study at Bob Jones University as part of a project funded by the Creation Research Society. Originally obtained from a cave in Mexico, the stalactite has been increased in size and weight by continually dripping a solution of calcium bicarbonate over it. The rate of growth is far in excess of conventional evolutionary estimates. (Full report to follow in a future issue.)

At far right is a color enlargement of the stalagmite at Carlsbad Caverns with an enclosed bat fossil that was depicted on the cover of the September 1971 *Creation Research Society Quarterly*. The point of this unusual find is that the rate of formation of the stalagmite must have been fairly rapid in order to encase the bat before the body of the animal completely decayed. Carcasses of the bat's contemporaries have long since disappeared from the scene.

Figure 9 shows a general view of the exhibit area. Location was excellent—close to the main entrance and approximately in the center of the building. Students and faculty members were on duty at all times to explain exhibits and answer questions.

An undertaking such as this is no easy task. Countless man-hours were expended by the art faculty, science faculty, and shop personnel. In addition to individuals already mentioned we would like to express our appreciation to Emery Bopp, Chairman of the Division of Art, and Paul Whitfield, Supervisor of Construction, who together masterminded the overall layout and execution of the exhibit. Lettering on the panels was done by Dave Appleman of the art faculty. Also, through the efforts of Dr. Joseph Henson, Chairman of the Division of Pure and Applied

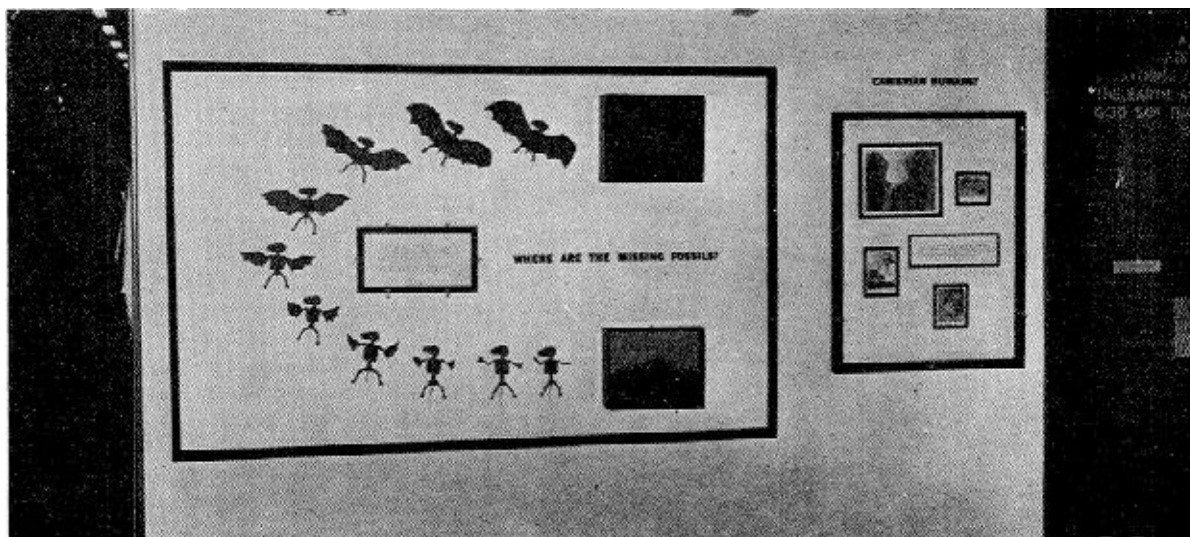


Figure 7. Display at left emphasizes the lack of intermediate species in the fossil record. The ten imagined in-between forms in the alleged rodent-to-bat evolution have never been found. At right is William Meister's human footprint in Cambrian shale. (See December 1968 Creation Research Society Quarterly).

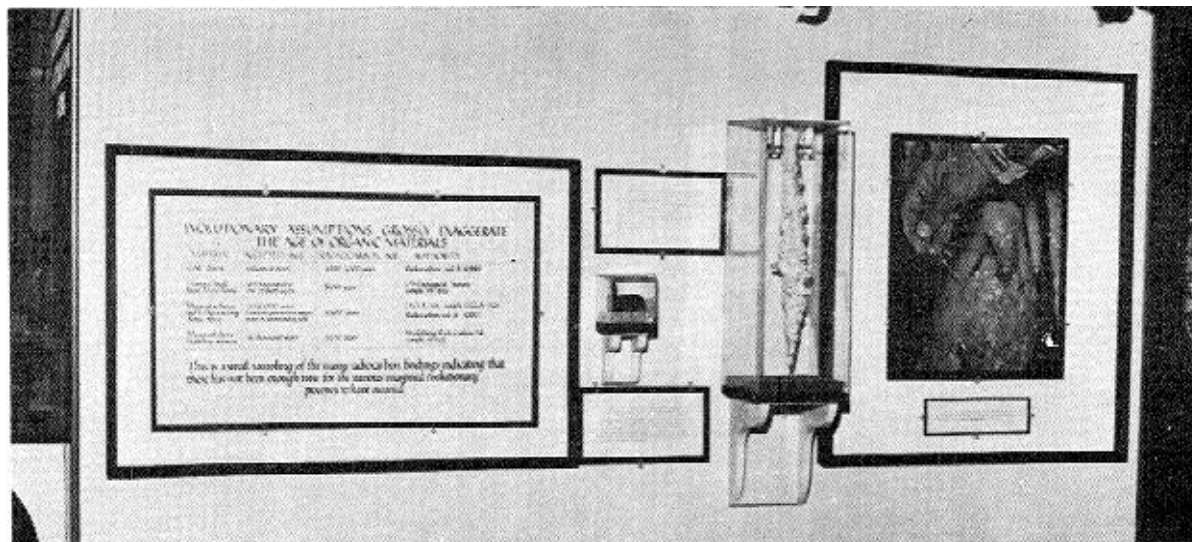


Figure 8. Some evidence of "age inflation" perpetrated by evolutionists. Radiocarbon findings show many former estimates of age to be greatly exaggerated. Stalactite at right is part of dripstone research being conducted at Bob Jones University. See text for further details.



Figure 9. General view of exhibit area showing Prof. George Mulfinger at far left. At right of information desk is Dr. Joseph Henson, Chairman of the Division of Pure and Applied Science at Bob Jones University.

Science, the very beautiful specimens of petrified wood and encased cobbles from the Buchanan Coal Field in Virginia were obtained for the exhibit. Finally, Dr. Guenter Salter, Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, should receive special mention for the outstanding job he did in

coordinating the various departments that participated.

Most of the exhibits depicted here are being placed on permanent display in the Howell Memorial Science Building on the Bob Jones University campus.

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