



A Fort Carson Chinook helicopter lifts a plaster-encased stegosaurus skeleton Friday from a

rocky ravine near Canon City under the watchful eyes of the paleontologists who unearthed it.

DINO-SOAR

Stegosaurus skeleton gets airlift

By Dave Curtin/Gazette Telegraph

CANON CITY — How do you move a seven-ton dinosaur skeleton from a rocky ravine?

"Very carefully," said Brian Small, who discovered a 25-foot stegosaurus skeleton in June in the dinosaur-rich Garden Park area north of here.

Scientists entombed the 140-million-year-old specimen in plaster and then nervously watched Friday as a Fort Carson Chinook helicopter delicately lifted the prize out of a rocky ravine.

Because it was found 80 percent intact with the skull attached, it is considered a major find. The skeleton was taken to Canon City for storage. Eventually it will be moved to the Denver Museum of Natural History laboratory for detail work.

"Generally, we'd be happy to find an isolated limb bone or a tail, but to find a complete stegosaurus is very rare," said Small, a 35-year-old paleontologist from the Denver Museum of Natural History. "To be the first to see something like this is a rush."

The plant-eating stegosaurus had a small head, a row of plates along its back and four spikes at the end of its tail. It walked on four legs and was 6 to 8 feet in height at the hip. It roamed the area before there were Rocky Mountains, in a flatland of meandering streams and lakes.

Moving the giant skeleton proved to be a gargantuan task.

Paleontologists first moved the skull to a laboratory and then called on a mining company to drill underneath the skeleton, which was imbedded in rock. Scientists separated the tail

See DINO-SOAR/B10



Workers make final preparations to the scaffold of wood and metal beams built under the torso of the stegosaurus skeleton so that it could be airlifted by a Fort Carson helicopter.

tions, intends to ask Council next month an RV parking plan April city ballot.

If the council ball homeowners group have to collect about voter signatures to matter on the ballot.

The homeowners' the latest installment long-running feud on parking.

RV owners want to park vehicles in the ways without restriction year, the City Council a decade-old law so it can be parked in drive under certain conditions.

That angered neighborhood groups, which have complained that RVs are and difficult to see a

The new Council of Neighborhood Organization proposal would restrict back and side yards. don't fit, RVs could be in front only if set back feet from a homeowner property line.

That would effectively inhibit RV parking in many neighborhoods, since driveways are too short to accommodate a 30-foot-long vehicle set back.

"Everyone wants it restrictive," said Denster, president of the owners group.

Dino-soar/Skeleton flown out by chopper

rigged a sling to the precious cargo. He signaled to the pilot, who airlifted the skeleton less than a mile to the scientists' campsite where it was gently

tor. "Everyone has been briefed. It's the most delicate thing we've lifted. We have to move slow."

Pilot Ron Noga, a Vietnam

From B1
from the torso and encased both pieces in plaster. The tail will be taken out by truck.

The rest was run to Fort Car-

a new executive director A. Parish, who retired guiding the charitable fund for 16 years. Parish, 61 years old, worked for years, beginning his career in Texas. Under his leadership, the agency was named one of the best of its size in 1987. Complete report/B