

Army aids dinosaur transport

DINOSAUR from Page 1A

because it was resting in a ravine where water collected, threatening to damage the skeleton. Normally they would have built a better road to the site and pulled the fossil out with a giant wrecker. But when Army officials heard about the discovery, they offered the helicopter.

A crew of volunteer quarrymen hope to remove the beast's tail, which was found separated from the body of the fossil, within the next few days. Paleontologists removed its head — only the second stegosaurus skull ever found — in June and took it to the Denver Museum of Natural History.

Stegosaurs roamed the Earth about 140 million years ago. They were big, plant-eating animals with giant bony plates along their backs and bony spikes along their tails, perhaps to protect them from their enemies.

Directors of the Garden Park Paleontological Society, who've been working with Denver Natural History Museum paleontologists Bryan Small and Ken Carpenter to uncover the stegosaurus, are planning a home for the fossil in a \$25 million visitors center they want to erect nearby.

"It will be displayed as found," lying on its side with its head twisted, said Garden Park volunteer Jay Hanson.

Small discovered the stegosaurus by chance while leading the museum's annual volunteer dig in Garden Park, north of Cañon City. The area became famous more than a century ago for the "Bone Wars" between rival paleontologists Othniel Marsh and Edward Cope.

Small was searching for turtle fossils one evening when he found a neck bone from the stegosaurus. Excavation revealed the skeleton was intact and at least 95 percent complete.

"This is a very exciting find," Small said. The only other stegosaurus skull ever found was discovered in nearby Fourmile Creek. The specimen, now in the Denver Museum of Natural History, was excavated in 1933 about 1,000 feet from the most recent find.

The recently discovered fossil is