

262 - 2 Ave N.E.  
Calgary Alberta  
January 15<sup>th</sup> 1969.

Dear Roy

I am writing you after a call I made on phone along, regarding John Kanwa, the man who created the dinosaurs at St Georges Island.

The Calgary Zoo has no plaque stating who the artist was who created the huge monsters.

John is one of my patients at the Bow View Nursing home.

John is now 85 years of age. I ask why not have a Bronze plaque erected, one tourists can photograph. Also some of the schools that are being built why not name a school John Kanwa School after all it would be a small gift for a man who helped put Calgary on the map.

Your friend,

Tommy Minhinnitt

OFFICE OF FARRAN  
ALDERMAN



**The City of Calgary**  
Calgary, Alberta, Canada

FEBRUARY 10, 1969

Standing Policy Committee on Community Services,  
City Hall,  
CALGARY.

Dear Sirs,

I enclose a letter, suggesting that a plaque be erected on St. George's Island to recognise the services of John Kanerva, the sculptor who built the model of Dinny the Dinosaur.

This seems like a worthwhile project to me; obviously Kanerva has contributed a considerable amount to the success of St. George's Island and has provided us with a well-known Calgary symbol.

Yours truly,

*Roy Farran*  
Roy Farran,  
Aldermen, Ward 2

CITY OF CALGARY  
RECEIVED  
FEB 11 1969  
CITY CLERK'S DEPT.

*ck. with Ted*  
*Letter from Parkes*



February 12, 1969.

Mr. H. Boothman,  
Parks Superintendent.

Dear Sir:

The attached letters are to appear on the agenda for the March 10th meeting of the Committee on Community Services.

Would you please confirm that there is not already some plaque at the Zoo to recognize Mr. Kanerva's contribution. You may wish to provide some other comments on this suggestion.

Yours truly,

H. S. SALES,  
CITY CLERK

ECC/es  
Enc.

Per: \_\_\_\_\_

c.c. Mr. W. E. Blackwell

OFFICE OF THE  
SUPERINTENDENT  
PARKS, RECREATION, AND  
CEMETERY DEPARTMENT



## The City of Calgary

Calgary 21, Alberta, Canada.

February 25, 1969.

Mr. I.S. Forbes,  
Commissioner of Economic  
and Community Services,  
Board of Commissioners.

Dear Sir:

Re: Plaque, Recognizing the Work  
of Mr. John Kanerva

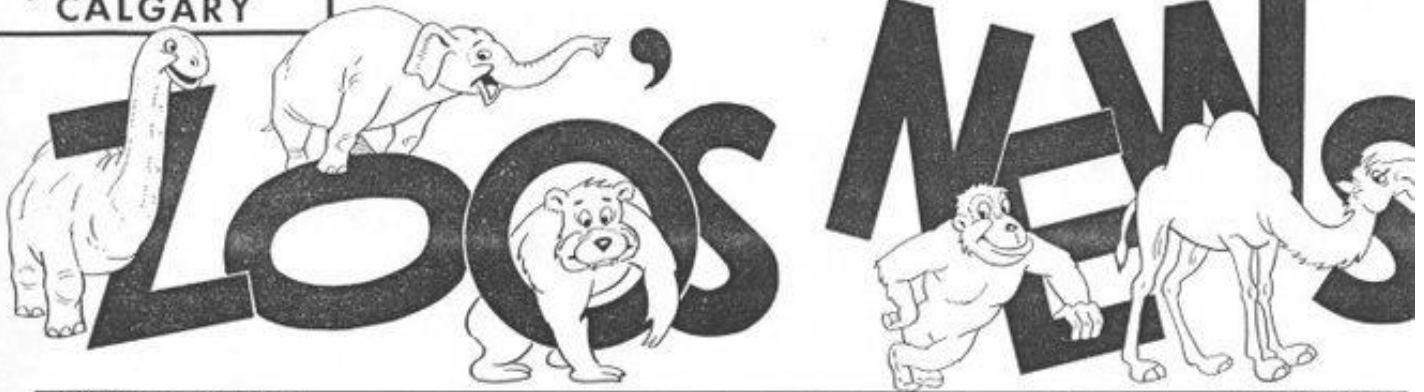
With regards to Alderman Farran's letter to the Standing Policy Committee on Community Services concerning a plaque recognizing Mr. John Kanerva, the sculptor involved in Calgary Zoo's Dinosaur Park, we have checked the dinosaur area and although there is no specific recognition plaque, his name does appear on some of the work there. Recently, the Calgary Zoological Society honoured Mr. Kanerva and the two other gentlemen who were involved in the establishing, design and building of the St. George's Island Dinosaur Park. It would be my opinion that should Council wish to install a recognition sign, that all three of the gentlemen involved should be named. I believe it is also important to note that many men have been involved in a voluntary capacity over the years with the establishing of the Zoo and the Dinosaur Park, but to date, we have not established a practice of erecting public recognition signs.

Yours truly,

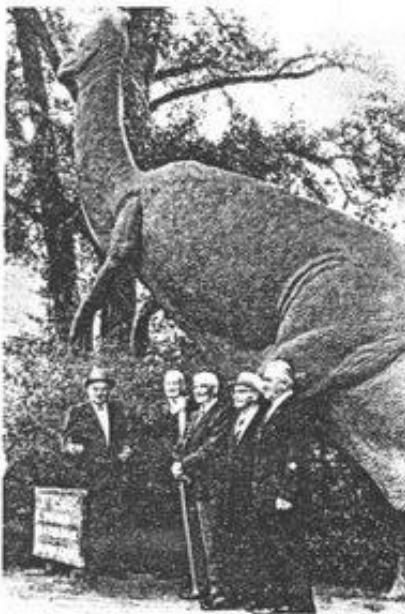
A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "H. Boothman".

H. Boothman,  
Superintendent,  
Parks and Recreation  
Department.

HB/fs,  
c.c. City Clerk's Department.



## Dinosaur Park Founders Honoured



Prehistoric Park Pioneers Charlie Biel, Tom Baines, A. C. Graves, Aarne Koskeleinen and Lars Willumsen.

More than 100 zoo officials, their wives and friends were present at a dinner in the new Aviary on June 17 to pay tribute to the founders of the world famous Calgary Dinosaur Park.

Lt. Governor Grant MacEwan presented life memberships in the zoo society to John Kanerva, originator and builder of the huge models, and to Banff sculptor Charlie Biel and Aarne Koskeleinen, who designed the first models for the park and devised methods for their construction.

Present also was Mr. Lars Willumsen, past president of the society, who obtained pictures of a German dinosaur park for the Calgary designers. He presented honor scrolls to the three developers and recalled the early stages of the park's development when with a \$100.00 annual budget — plans were drawn up and material was borrowed or scrounged for the first dinosaur model produced by Charlie Biel.

In 1928 Mr. Kanerva saw a motion

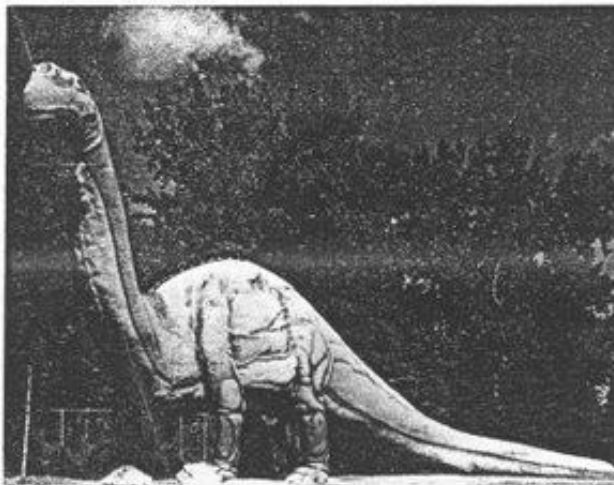
picture on dinosaurs entitled "The Lost World" which instigated five years of intensive study on the animals.

When zoo officials approached him at this time for new display suggestions for St. George's Island, he suggested a prehistoric park.

Mr. Biel, whose main fame arose from his bronze sculptures of cowboys in action, did pioneer work on the first reptile figures. He was joined on the project by Mr. Koskeleinen who was responsible for devising the method of construction on all the present dinosaurs — a wooden structure covered with steel netting and coated with cement. He was also responsible for laying the base of Dinny in 1934, the 120 ton Brontosaurus which has since become the symbol of the park.

The park now displays 55 life-scale models of monstrous reptiles and mammals and plans are being made to add one or two major models in the future.

## DINNY GETS NEW LOOK



In early June the Natural History Committee commissioned Taylor Decorating Ltd. to paint "Dinny" the Dinosaur and Tyrannosaurus Rex — our two largest reptile models. Dinny had been prepared for this event last summer when his old coat of paint was sand-blasted, his cement body was repaired and a protective sealer applied for the winter. Taylor Decorating spent two weeks dressing up the huge monster's and scaffolding was built to reach 32 feet up to Dinny's head. Spray painting and a bit of dazzling brush-work transformed "Dinny" and "Rex" into reptiles of beauty for the summer.

The Natural History Committee hired a young University lad to conduct guided tours of the dinosaur park twice a day and to patrol the area and keep it tidy. As a result the dinosaur park sparkled this summer. As a final touch to the park, the Committee installed floodlights in front of Dinny and the south diorama. These lights are attached to an automatic timing device which turns them on at dusk and off at midnight.