The Relic Room's Spring Adventure

We were just getting caught up on sorting through the tractor-trailer load of artifacts, fossils, crystals and meteorites we brought back from the Tucson Gem & Mineral Show when we decided it was time to head right back out west to discover even more history for our showroom. At the Smoky Mountain Relic Room, we obtain many of the fossils, crystals and other artifacts we have for sale by collecting them in the field ourselves. Our most recent trip – we called it our "coronaventure" – also gave us the chance to film new episodes for our YouTube series, Chasing History, and to record new interviews for our podcast, Chasing History Radio.

We first headed to our friend's dinosaur site, located in Western Colorado's Jurassic-era Morrison Formation, where a group of dinosaur hunters from across the country gathered to hunt for new fossils. (All collecting we do is on private property, with full permission of the landowner.) Out of cell phone and Internet service, we truly felt like we were on another planet. After a few days of digging, we found a great number of dinosaur fossils from a variety of species, including the meat-eating theropod allosaurus and the gigantic plant eater brachiosaurus.

Aamon & Chantel Yeager of Northwest Montana fossils Discover a 3ft Sauropod Vertebrate of a long nech Bracheasoresaurus.

We heard rumors from local ranchers of prehistoric Native American ruins deep in nearby crack canyons. So we gathered our gear and set out for one of Colorado's vast wilderness areas to locate and document the site on film. After hours of strenuous canyon climbing, we discovered an intact prehistoric granary. Those were places in canyon walls where Native Americans would store corn and other food stuffs. We found a total of six of these granaries, all of which were previously undocumented. While we were there, we recorded the new archaeological site for our Chasing History series. That episode will be on our YouTube channel by this fall.

As if that weren't enough fun for one trip, we dropped down into the Badlands of Northern Arizona to hunt for early Triassic fossils in the Chinle Formation and to test a theory – to see if the petrified wood there would glow under short-wave or long-wave ultraviolet light.

After setting up camp, we set out in the dark with UV lights in hand. In no time, we came across our first petrified tree, and it was glowing a bright

Chase Pipes & Ty Lamph Filming the Discovery of previously undocumented Prehistoric Native American Ruins deep in a Colorado Canyon for the YouTube Channel "Chasing History" to air later this year.

Tennessee orange! To the best of our knowledge, this was a first for this kind of petrified wood in this formation. We did our best in the dim light to record our discovery for another future episode of Chasing History.

This is our mission at Smoky Mountain Relic Room – to discover and document historical artifacts, fossils, meteorites, crystals and minerals; to educate the public about this incredible planet we live on; and to show that there is still so much more to discover. And speaking of artifacts, we're happy to announce that Smoky Mountain Relic Room is back in business! After closing our doors for a month due to social restrictions, we have reopened and are operating on our regular schedule: Sundays through Thursdays, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Fridays and Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.