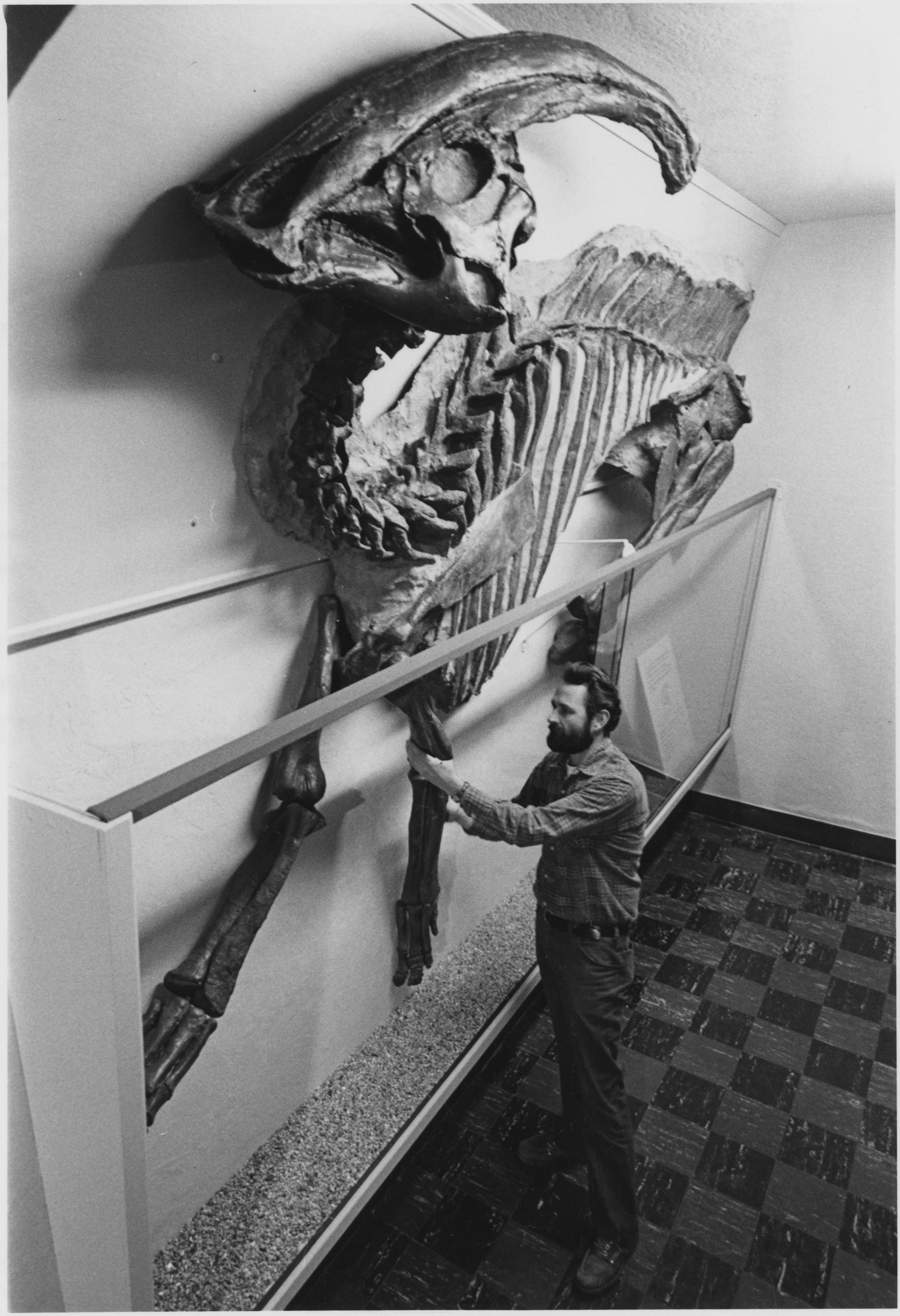

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DUCK-BILLED DINOSAUR--University of Kansas paleontologist Orville Bonner adjusts a foreleg of this newly-installed cast of a duck-billed dinsoaur skeleton, which greets visitors entering the third floor of K.U.'s Dyche Museum of Natural History. The skeleton, a fiberglas cast of the original in the Royal Ontario Museum of Toronto, Canada, is the first mounted dinosaur skeleton in Kansas. The original was found along the Red River in Alberta, Canada. The duck-billed dinosaur, Parasaurolophus walkeri, was a vegetarian and lived about 75 million years ago during the late Cretaceous Period. It was unusual because of the large, hollow crest on its head, through which air would pass from the nostrils before entering the lungs. The crest may have increased the dinosaur's sense of smell or could have been used to resonate sounds as for a mating call. The skeleton is about 12 feet long, but is minus the tail section, which probably would extend the length of eight feet. The animal itself possibly weighed six or seven tons during its lifetime. The cast was prepared and installed by Bonner and K.U. musuem artist Tom Swearingen.

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