



Sanford Mauduin

## The Redbud Café

Museum goers and other campus diners looking for a different mealtime experience will be pleasantly surprised by the quality and variety offered at the SNOMNH's Redbud Café. The café, which can accommodate nearly 60 diners, overlooks the Conoco Oil Pioneers of Oklahoma Plaza.

The Redbud menu features hearty soups, salads, and made-to-order sandwiches on fresh-baked breads, as well as pastries from Oklahoma's gastronomically beloved La Baguette bakery, and gourmet Starbucks coffees and espressos. Among OU Food Services' most unique venues, the café is open to the public from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Saturday and from 1 to 5 p.m. Sunday.

## Excavations

Since folding the SNOMNH up in your pocket is not possible, Jin Gentry has come up with a few other ideas. Gentry oversees Excavations, the museum store that specializes in the unusual and unique.

"We have merchandise that nobody else has, and we've looked far and wide for it," says Gentry, who has compiled an impressive inventory that includes artwork by such noted artists as Allie and Sherman Chaddlesone, Woody Crumbo, and Doc Tate Nevaquaya; T-shirts; books; posters; Burt's Bees facial and body products; Asian artifact replicas; and an extensive jewelry collection.

Excavations literally offers something for everyone, with prices ranging from five cents to \$1,500. Gentry says the shop's most unusual and most popular item with children is the Triassic Triops, a crustacean that resembles a horseshoe crab, has yet to evolve over thousands of years and is a near cousin to the infamous Sea Monkey.

If the SNOMNH's role is inspiration and education, Excavations' job is making sure that those lessons last beyond the museum's doors. "The reason we're here," Gentry says, "is to enhance the visitors' experience and let them take a little bit of the museum home."



Robert Taylor

*"We have merchandise that nobody else has, and we've looked far and wide for it."*

Ask any shopper; there is no better place for the truly unusual gift than museum stores. A stop at Excavations has become the perfect way to top off a visit to the SNOMNH.

