

PALEONTOLOGICAL EXPEDITION LEAVES FOR COLORADO

A Field Museum paleontological expedition to western Colorado left Chicago at the end of May for a three and a half months' stay in the field. The personnel consisted of Mr. Bryan Patterson, Assistant Curator of Paleontology, and Mr. James H. Quinn, Chief Preparator in Paleontology; other persons will join the party for various periods of time. Other expeditions from the Museum have operated in this region during 1932, 1933, 1937 and 1939; the present one therefore carries on a well established program. Much interesting material, a large proportion of it previously unknown, has been obtained during this work.

The field of operations of the expedition will lie in Mesa and Garfield Counties, and the main objective will be to collect fossil mammals from early Eocene deposits. Specimens from this early horizon are of great interest to students of mammalian evolution. The Age of Mammals was then in its infancy; many groups that no longer survive were flourishing, and several of the dominant mammalian types of today were just getting under way. To take but one example, the horses of the early Eocene were no larger than foxes, possessed four toes in contrast to the modern horse's one, and were barely distinguishable from contemporary primitive tapirs.

Staff Notes

Dr. Julian A. Steyermark, Assistant Curator of the Herbarium, made a field trip to Missouri last month to collect plant material.

Mrs. Leota G. Thomas, of the Raymond Foundation staff, attended the annual meeting of the American Association of Museums at Columbus, Ohio, May 15 and 16.

Mr. Paul G. Dallwig, the Layman Lecturer of Field Museum, presented a special version of his lecture, "Gems, Jewels and 'Junk,'" on May 8 before the members of the Hoosier Salon Patrons Association.

Dr. Louis B. Bishop, of Pasadena, California, Research Associate in the Division of Birds, recently visited the Museum to consult staff members on the progress of work upon the Bishop Collection of Birds, for the formation of which he was responsible. Acquired in 1939, this collection contains approximately 50,000 specimens, and is one of Field Museum's most important accessions of recent years.

Mr. Rupert L. Wenzel, Assistant Curator of Insects, recently visited museums in New York, Washington, and Pittsburgh to continue research on various problems connected with bat flies and histerid beetles.

THINGS YOU MAY HAVE MISSED

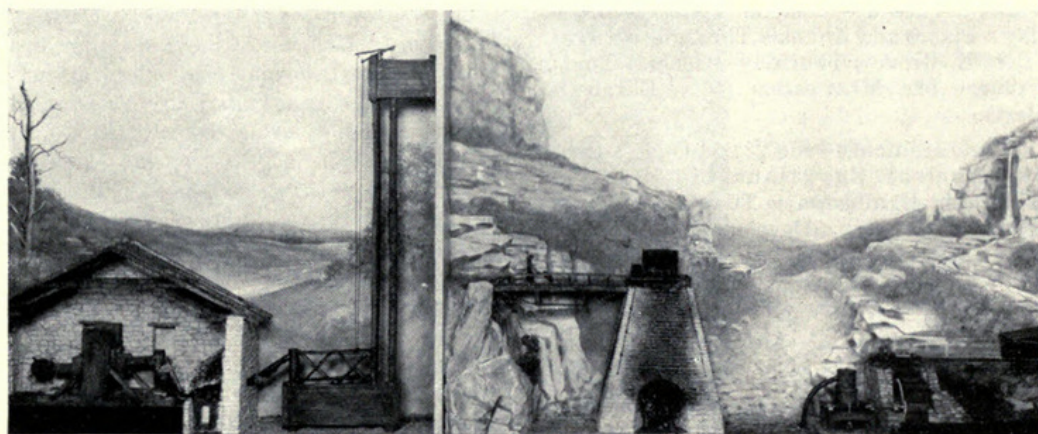
Models Show Predecessors of Giant Steel Furnaces That Work for Defense Today

Today, with the defense of his country uppermost in every American's mind, the nation calls for steel—millions of tons of steel—steel for ships and tanks and munitions, steel for rails and wheels, steel for motors and machine guns, steel for an almost endless variety of products. Hundreds of furnaces belch smoke and flame to the skies, each pouring forth every day from about 100 to as much as 1,000 tons of the vital metal. More than 30,000,000 tons were produced in the course of even a normal year before military requirements called for the super-production now demanded.

An interesting contrast is provided by the model (in Frederick J. V. Skiff Hall—Hall

represented in the model was capable of producing about thirty tons of pig iron per day.

Formerly of chief importance for its own product, iron, the modern blast furnace today is of more importance as a supplier of iron for further processing in open hearth furnaces where it may be converted by various formulae into the many different types of steel. Steel, being so much stronger and more workable, is more practical than iron for the wide range of demands made by modern industry. A large amount of iron, of course, is still required for many purposes, and heavy production of the iron blocks called "pigs" is still an important function of blast furnaces. Where a steel works is



Primitive Iron Smelting Plants

An exhibit in the Department of Geology. Model at left represents a Catalan forge of type in general use in Europe during eighteenth century, and in this country at the time of the American Revolution. Model at the right represents a cold blast furnace which was the type most common in the United States up to about ninety years ago.

37) of a Catalan forge which about 170 years ago did a good day's work when it produced a mere 300 pounds of iron each six hours. This type of forge was in general use in Europe during the eighteenth century, and in this country at the time of the War for Independence and for some years after. Forges of the same general type have been used among peoples of the more primitive cultures in relatively recent times, and they may have persisted in some places to the present day, says Mr. Henry W. Nichols, Chief Curator of Geology. The forge is small, not much larger than an ordinary blacksmith's forge.

Displayed with the Catalan forge are models of a cold blast iron smelting furnace of the type most common in this country about ninety years ago, and of a modern hot blast furnace. The cold blast furnace is so called because the blast of air by which it was kept in operation was not heated. It was the immediate predecessor of the hot blast furnace of today which has now completely superseded it. It was in general use in this country during and for some time after the Civil War. A furnace of the type

connected with the furnace plant, however, the molten iron as tapped from the furnace is conveyed in huge so-called "ladles" directly to the mills for conversion into steel.

Veteran Preparator Dies

Mr. Herbert Weeks, a preparator in the laboratories of the Department of Anthropology since 1918, died on May 13. Mr. Weeks was a skillful artisan and was responsible for the installation of exhibits in case after case throughout practically all divisions of the department. His final, and one of his finest installations was that of the Department of Anthropology's section of H. N. Higinbotham Hall (Hall 31, the Gem Room) which may be opened some time in June.

To understand animals, it is as necessary to study their internal structure as to observe their external appearance. For this reason Field Museum maintains extensive osteological exhibits in Hall 19 where may be found skeletons representing almost every important group of vertebrates.



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