

striking the water with both feet together. Pig ducks I've heard these birds called somewhere, but had never appreciated the name before. Now I did as I heard the grunting noises they made.

ALL ARE 'DUCKS,' EXCEPT DUCKS

Several little grebes (*Colymbus*) were swimming about, but they were inconspicuous. The dark throat and the yellow iris were diagnostic. The boatman pointed them out as ducks, that I should shoot. But here, everything that swims is a duck: the coots, of which a dozen or so were swimming along the shore were "patos"; the cormorants were "patos." Anhingas, that are known to occur but were not seen, are "patos." But when we came to what I call ducks—the whistling tree duck—these the natives called "Pishishi." These are magnificent birds. First a flock came by whistling hoarsely—then I saw them on the water. The sun shines on their golden buff plumage until their brilliance rivals that of the spoonbills.

There were other things conspicuous, too: turkey vultures and caracaras feeding on the water's edge, presumably on fish, washed ashore; on a little grassy island were a dozen or more green herons that flushed one by one as we approached; a pair of bluewinged teal flushed, circled and alighted; a flock of about 20 Franklin's gulls bunched close together on the water; there were shore birds, too, in the marshy shore vegetation. We would have liked to have left the open shore and investigated some of the bays where reedy vegetation grew thick and tall; and the far shore where the forest rose at the water's edge. We knew that boat-billed herons should be here somewhere, as well as tiger bitterns, and that the hills above were the home headquarters of the king vulture populations of El Salvador.

As we put back for the landing and watched the curling crests of the waves whipped up by the freshening wind, marveling at the opaqueness of the green, algae-filled water, we thought that here, if our station was close enough, was material for a couple of months' work all by itself.

STAFF NOTES

Dr. Alexander Spoehr, Curator of Oceanic Ethnology, recently returned from Yale University and other eastern institutions where he has been studying documentary material related to his researches on Micronesia.... Dr. Theodor Just, Chief Curator of Botany, has returned from a field trip in Texas and Iowa. He also presented a paper on "The Classification of the Cycadeoidales" before the sixth annual meeting of the Society for the Study of Evolution held in Berkeley, California.... Dr. Julian A. Steyermark, Curator of

the Herbarium, recently conducted a series of botanical field trips in Missouri. In addition to his Museum explorations, he led a four-day field trip of the Central States Section of the Botanical Society of America into the Ozarks.

BOTANICAL FIELD TRIP COMPLETES WORK

The Museum's 1951 Southwest Botanical Field Trip has returned from five weeks of study and collecting in the vicinity of archaeological sites in New Mexico excavated by the Museum's Southwest Archaeological Expeditions of the past few years. Most of the time was spent near Tularosa Cave, scene of the 1950 operations. The wealth of wild and cultivated plant material unearthed by excavations there made it essential to study the vegetation now growing about the cave. The remains from Tularosa Cave cover a period of about 3,000 years or more and include several roots that could not be identified from herbarium specimens and descriptions of the plants of the region. Dr. Hugh C. Cutler, Curator of Economic Botany, and Jack Reeves, volunteer assistant, collected all the plants now growing in the region of the cave.

CURATOR TO COLLECT FOSSIL FISHES

Robert H. Denison, Curator of Fossil Fishes, will spend August on a collecting trip in Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and New York. One of the purposes of the trip is to obtain specimens of the armored, fish-like vertebrates called ostracoderms, that have been found in certain Silurian rocks in these states. They are of particular interest because they are among the oldest known vertebrates, and their structure and occurrence may help to throw light on the early history of this important group. Some time will be spent also in investigating the Late Devonian rocks in western New York state. A great thickness of shales was deposited in this region more than 300 million years ago as muds in the bottom of a sea. These shales have yielded a few well-preserved fishes mostly related to sharks and to a group of heavily armored fishes known as placoderms.

SUMMER LECTURE TOURS GIVEN TWICE A DAY

During July and August, conducted tours of the exhibits, under the guidance of staff lecturers, will be given on a special schedule:

Mondays: 11 A.M.—The World of Animals (general survey of the animal exhibits); 2 P.M.—General Tour

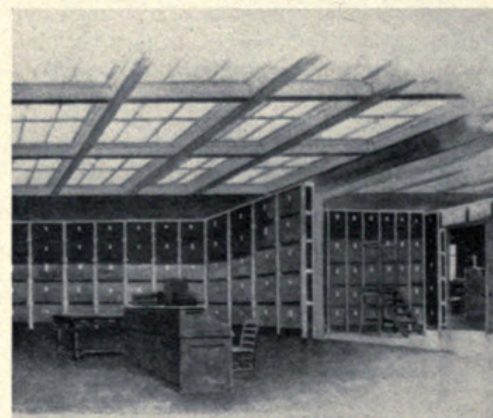
Tuesdays: 11 A.M.—Places and People (general survey of the anthropology ex-

FIFTY YEARS AGO AT THE MUSEUM

Compiled by MARGARET J. BAUER

From the *Annual Report of the Director* for the year 1901:

"It would seem from the permanent improvements recorded each year that the building is gradually being reconstructed. This, as a matter of fact, is true as concerns the offices, laboratories, etc., but the growing needs of the Museum and the expanding processes necessary to meet the demand of



OLD-TIME SCIENTIST'S QUARTERS

Office and laboratory of the Curator of the Department of Zoology when the Museum, located in its former building in Jackson Park, was known as the Field Columbian Museum.

the departments are but an index of the development of the entire institution. More and more each year the Museum finds itself equipped to perform all the necessary labor; not only the technical and scientific labor, but the ordinary mechanical work as well, and the circumstances are unusual when outside agencies are employed."

"*The Memberships.*—There still has to be recorded a decrease in the annual memberships, due, as has been previously reported, to the fact that no effort is made to increase the list." (In 1951, as for years past, the membership trend is upward and the total today is close to 5,000. Constant efforts toward further increase are now made.)

hibits); 2 P.M.—General Tour

Wednesdays: 11 A.M.—Green Magic (general survey of the plant exhibits); 2 P.M.—General Tour

Thursdays: 11 A.M. and 2 P.M.—General Tours

Fridays: 11 A.M.—Secrets in Stones (general survey of the geology exhibits); 2 P.M.—General Tour

There are no tours on Saturdays and Sundays.



1951. "Botanical Field Trip Completes Work." *Bulletin* 22(8), 7-7.

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