

mingling elements from many cultures, has still combined these elements into a unity.

World War II devastated the Marianas and it will be years before its destructive effects will be overcome. The people on Guam, because it is an American possession, have received compensation for wartime damages. Those of the other islands have



A CHAMORRO KITCHEN

Preparing a meat dish over an open hearth for a wedding dinner.

not been compensated, and today are attempting to reform their communities and build their lives anew, with the assistance of the American administration. In addition to its archaeological work, a principal objective of the Museum's 1949-50 expedition to the Marianas was to observe how community life was re-forming in relation to present problems of adjustment and to investigate the processes of culture change underlying the contemporary period on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.

### *An Ancient Sea . . .*

## TEEMING PREHISTORIC LIFE RESTORED IN EXHIBIT

By EUGENE S. RICHARDSON, Jr.  
CURATOR OF FOSSIL INVERTEBRATES

The fecundity of the sea is a matter of awe and wonder to modern man. Fishes, shrimps, kelp, oysters, and many other living things of direct value to us are to be had for the taking because the supply is renewed annually by the astounding reproductive capacity of ocean life. It is, perhaps, natural for us to conclude that all this is especially arranged for our benefit. But even before man arrived on the scene and started his campaign of using up the earth's natural resources, marine life was just as abundant. The connoisseur of sea food can look hungrily at the fat oysters and the juicy clams in the habitat groups of ancient life in the new Hall of Invertebrate Paleontology (Frederick J. V. Skiff Hall—Hall 37) and mourn that he wasn't around to enjoy them. Man or no man, the sea

has been bountiful for half a billion years and will continue so indefinitely.

The record of the sea's abundance lies in the rocks deposited as mud and sand on its floor. Enclosed in these sediments are the hard parts of the animals that lived while the sediments were drifting to the bottom. Even the record of countless millions of microscopic animals and plants without hard parts is present, in bituminous rocks so full of organic matter that they will burn. But the record of life does not extend back to the oldest rocks we know on earth, although they, too, were once sediments on the ocean floor. Life, it seems, is not so old as our three-billion-year-old planet. It is not until we examine the rocks formed during the Cambrian period, beginning 540 million years ago, that we find the oceans supporting a full quota of plants and animals. But from that time to the present, teeming life has held sway.

The Ordovician habitat group shown on the cover of this issue of the BULLETIN is a good example of the crowded sea floor of millions of years past. In six square feet of ocean bottom are fifteen species of animals, not to mention a seaweed. Some of these are colonial corals and bryozoans that band together and build single structures for the housing of thousands of individuals. Counting these only by the colony, and the larger kinds individually, we find 153 animals in the group. We could have included twice as many without exaggerating the concentration that actually lived in the Ordovician sea.

A classic locality where Ordovician fossils are found is the vicinity of Cincinnati. Almost any piece of limestone from that area includes fossils crowded more densely than are the models in the Museum's group. Paleontologists have been collecting them for more than a century, and yet they seem as plentiful as before. Elsewhere in rocks of this age there is the same wealth of fossils—Nevada, England, Argentina, Ontario, even Southampton Island and Baffin Island on the Arctic Circle, where Chief Curator of Geology Sharat K. Roy made a large collection for the Museum in the late '20s and again in the early '40s.

Some parts of the oceans of today are not populated so densely as others, and that has also been true in the past. During the lifetime of the animals in this group, thick beds of sand and mud were being laid down in New York and Pennsylvania, and animals there were few. But the vastness of the sea is such that though part may be unfavorable, animal and plant life can always find some suitable area in which to exist in amazing abundance.

### Visiting Hours Change

Museum hours, which have been 9 A.M. to 5 P.M. in the autumn, change to the winter schedule: 9 A.M. to 4 P.M., November 1 to February 28.

## SATURDAY AFTERNOON LECTURES CONTINUE

The annual autumn course of free illustrated lectures on travel and science for adults will continue each Saturday throughout November. The lectures will be given in the James Simpson Theatre of the Museum and all will begin at 2:30 P.M. All of these lectures will be illustrated with color movies.

Limited accommodations make it necessary to restrict these lectures to adults. Members of the Museum are entitled to reserved seats on application. For children, free motion pictures will be presented on the mornings of the same Saturdays by the Raymond Foundation.

Following are the dates, subjects, and lecturers:

### November 3—EARTHQUAKE LAKE

Reelfoot Lake, fascinating wilderness in Tennessee

Karl Maslowski

### November 10—SHANGRI-LA ALASKA

Pioneering on our last frontier

Fred Machetanz

### November 17—EXPLORATION IN NEPAL

Difficult journey to the high Himalayan kingdom

S. Dillon Ripley

### November 24—ALGERIA

Sahara sand and oasis

Clifford J. Kamen

No tickets are necessary for admission to these lectures. A section of the Theatre is reserved for Members of the Museum, each of whom is entitled to two reserved seats. Requests for these seats should be made in advance by telephone (WAbash 2-9410) or in writing, and seats will be held in the Member's name until 2:25 o'clock.

## NEW MEMBERS

The following persons became Museum Members from September 10 to October 5:

### Associate Members

C. A. Crowley, Joseph Michael Newberger, Dr. H. R. Weinzimmer.

### Annual Members

Oscar A. Barke, John L. Behr, John F. Brent, Carlos B. Bumzahem, James J. Cronin, William J. Connors, Elliott R. Detchon, Jr., William S. Everett, A. V. Farr, Albert Leo Finston, G. N. Fisher, Dr. John T. Hart, Mrs. C. M. Kittle, Elmer Krause, M. F. Lynch, William J. Lynch, Jr., R. E. Moore, Lawrence S. Newmark, Donald J. O'Brien, Mrs. Joseph Sam Perry, Jacob C. Pratt, Jr., Nicholas T. Ritsos, Frank E. Selz, Allen K. Sewell, Frederick C. Shafer, Dr. Leon S. Shalla, B. L. Smalley, John H. Smalley, Orville Taylor, H. J. Trainor, George H. Watkins, L. E. Wybel, Sidney R. Zatz.





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