

HUGE WHALE SKELETON RECEIVED AS GIFT

The Museum recently received by truck the skeleton of a California finback whale as a gift from the Wistar Institute of Anatomy and Biology, Philadelphia. The skeleton, which was originally presented to the Institute by the late eminent E. D. Cope and was exhibited there for many years, is 65 feet long. The finback skeleton is 15 feet longer than the right-whale skeleton that it will replace.

Because Chicago is remote from the sea, the skeleton of a right whale has for many years been one of the Museum's major attractions. It will be gratifying to replace it with one of the largest of whales.

Annual Attendance Over Million for Twenty-ninth Time

Attendance at the Museum in 1955 exceeded a million, reaching a total of 1,072,676 visitors. Since 1926, a period of twenty-nine successive years, annual attendance has never dropped below a million.

As in other years, comparatively few visitors (129,151, or barely over 12 per cent) paid the 25-cent admission charged adults on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Fridays. The overwhelming majority (943,525) came on the three free days or belonged to those groups to whom admission is free at all times (Members of the Museum, children, teachers, members of the armed forces, etc.).

The number of visitors coming into the building is, of course, an incomplete measure of the Museum's effectiveness. Hundreds of thousands of people are repeatedly reached through extramural activities such as the circulation throughout the school year of natural-history exhibits by the N. W. Harris Public School Extension and the lecturers with films and slides sent into the schools by the James Nelson and Anna Louise Raymond Foundation. Less directly the Museum's influence is spread to countless others by publications of the Museum press and by radio, television, magazines, and newspapers.

STAFF NOTES

Dr. Karl P. Schmidt, Curator Emeritus of Zoology, has been appointed to the American Institute of Biological Sciences' advisory committee on systematic biology to the National Science Foundation . . . **Dr. Sharat K. Roy**, Chief Curator of Geology, is spending several weeks in Washington, D.C., at the United States National Museum in research on meteorites . . . **Dr. Julian A. Steyermark**, Curator of the Phanero-

gamie Herbarium, recently lectured before the Evanston Garden Club on his Venezuela "lost world" expedition . . . **Loren P. Woods**, Curator of Fishes, recently was the speaker before the Conservation Council on "Conservation in the Great Lakes." . . . **Cameron E. Gifford**, formerly an assistant in taxidermy, has been appointed Preparator of Fossils in the Department of Geology. He received the degree of Bachelor of Science at Earlham College in June, 1955, before he joined the Museum staff.

NEW MEMBERS

(December 16 to January 13)

Contributor

Wm. McCormick Blair

Associate Members

Alfred S. Alschuler, Jr., Mrs. Robert T. Borchardt, F. B. Milhoan, Robert H. Reid, Mrs. William M. Scudder

Annual Members

Lore W. Alford, Milton R. Beasley, W. S. Bodman, Howard A. Carlton, Peter Coladarsi, M. M. Cole, Walter W. Denman, F. J. Dittrich, Dr. Jerome Fishman, Anthony M. Frale, Elton A. Herrick, Emil T. Johnson, Richard B. Keck, John O. Kindahl, Robert J. Koretz, Maxwell Kunin, Wenzel J. Love, Dr. Saul Mackoff, R. E. McGreevy, James P. McGuffin, Louis Nippert, J. V. Paffhausen, Lutz Pennigsdorf, Carl Dan Pierson, Dr. R. W. Pilcher, Mrs. William F. Ray, James A. Reynolds, Jr., Robert S. Russell, Aaron B. Weiner

GIFTS TO THE MUSEUM

Following is a list of principal gifts received during the past month:

Department of Anthropology:

From: Mrs. Edward R. Finnegan, Chicago—pottery jar, Dean's Island Arkansas; E. C. Holden, Chicago—object of horn and lead; Robert A. Stough, Chicago—Chinese rubbing, Hengshan, Hunan Province, China

Department of Botany:

From: Roger Boe, Broadview, Illinois—2 fungi; Dr. Fay K. Daily, Indianapolis—alga, New York; Margaret Fox, London, England—alga, Sierra Leone; Dr. Leroy J. Gier, Liberty, Missouri—moss; Dr. Herbert Habeeb, Grand Falls, New Brunswick—892 algae; Institut National pour l'Etude Agronomique, Belgian Congo—52 samples of seeds of agricultural Leguminosae; Dr. Jacques Rousseau, Montreal—2 algae; Emil Sella, Chicago—2 lichens, Oregon; Dr. I. Umezaki, Maizura, Japan—3 algae; M. B. Valero, Quezon City, Philippine Islands—3 algae; Mrs. Marion Wolf, Lafayette, La.—fruits of *Cercis*, *Mimosa*, *Campsis*, *Ipomoea*, *Wisteria*, 3 herbarium specimens

Department of Geology:

From: H. J. Carlson, Anchorage, Alaska—jar of volcanic ash; University of Chicago—107 fossil plant specimens; Shell Development Co., Houston, Tex.—undetermined placoderm plate, Canada; Dr. and Mrs. R. H. Whitfield, Evanston, Ill.—*Lepidoderma*

MELVIN TRAYLOR JOINS CURATORIAL STAFF

Melvin A. Traylor, Jr., who has been associated with the Museum's Division of Birds in various capacities since 1937, has been appointed Assistant Curator of Birds. He assumed his duties last month.

Mr. Traylor's interest in birds began in his boyhood and continued as an adult hobby, finally leading to his decision to adopt ornithology as a profession. His serious work in ornithology got under way with two collecting expeditions in Yucatan that he conducted on behalf of the Museum in 1937 and in 1939–40. Upon his return from the latter, he joined the Museum staff on a volunteer basis as Associate in the Division of Birds, and later he was appointed Research Associate. In 1941 he was a member of the Leon Mandel Galapagos Expedition, and the Southwest Zoological Expedition. He also conducted an expedition in the Veracruz area in 1948. He is a graduate of Harvard University, where he majored in biology.

Mr. Traylor joined the U. S. Marine Corps in 1941, enlisting as a private. He served with distinction through the war and was commissioned successively as lieutenant, captain, and major and won the Silver Star for valor in the Pacific theater. After retiring from the Marines in 1946, he returned to his ornithological studies at the Museum; then for several years he was engaged in private business ventures. In his new position at the Museum Mr. Traylor will specialize in Old World birds, while Curator Emmet R. Blake will continue to give his attention primarily to the New World collections.

mazonense and collection of Pennsylvanian fossil plant specimens, Braidwood, Illinois

Department of Zoology:

From: Chicago Zoological Society, Brookfield, Ill.—mammal, Madagascar; D. Dwight Davis, Richton Park, Ill.—mammal; Frederick R. Fechtner, Champaign, Ill.—collection of fresh-water clams; U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Milford, Conn.—14 parasitic snailshells; Cameron E. Gifford, Valparaiso, Ind.—13 small mammals, Cook County; Harry Hoogstraal, Cairo, Egypt—43 frogs, 95 lizards, 27 snakes, 12 birdskins, 98 mammals; Gary Manda, Chicago—5 small mammals; University of Michigan, Ann Arbor—5 paratypical land-shells, South and Central America; John R. Millar, Skokie, Ill.—7 small mammals; Jack T. Moyer, Hamilton, N.Y.—225 birdskins, Japan; Oriental Institute, Chicago—11 bird skeletons, 2 birds, 6 mammal skeletons, Iraq; Dr. Ralph S. Palmer and Frances Benedict, Albany, N.Y.—800 labeled microscope slides of bat hairs; Dr. Julian A. Steyermark, Barrington, Ill.—mammal skin; Roland von Hentig, Chicago—3,142 insects, Borneo and Sumatra; Dr. Frederick J. Medem, Bogotá, Colombia—4 lots of nonmarine shells



1956. "Melvin Traylor Joins Curatorial Staff." *Bulletin* 27(2), 8–8.

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