

FIELD BRIEFS

What's in a Name?

Animal hybrids generally look like perfectly reasonable, functional creatures, though their parents may view them with curiosity, suspicion, or even alarm. Their genes, too, may be in a state of discontent, for a good many such crosses are sterile, no matter how vigorously the animals may attempt to emulate the fecundity of their forebears.

Ken Grabowski, Field Museum library assistant, has noted that while hybrids often do not bear young, they frequently do bear names that have a certain felicitous ring to them, suggesting that Lewis Carroll, James Joyce, or even Doctor Seuss may have had something to do with their naming. Grabowski's research into the matter has yielded a collection of such names, including those on the list below. Attentive readers will note that the parents are sometimes subspecies within the same species, more commonly different species within the same genus, and occasionally species of different genera.

- asbra:** offspring of male donkey (*Equus asinus*) and female zebra (*E. burchelli*)
- carideer:** male caribou (*Rangifer tarandus caribou*) with female reindeer (*R. tarandus*)
- cattalo:** male domestic bovine (*Bos taurus*) with female bison (*Bison bison*)
- coydog:** male domestic dog (*Canis familiaris*) with female coyote (*C. latrans*)
- hinny:** male horse (*Equus caballus*) with female ass (*E. asinus*)
- huarizo:** male llama (*Lama glama*) with female alpaca (*L. pacos*)
- leopon:** male leopard (*Panthera pardus*) with female lion (*P. leo*)
- liger:** male lion (*Panthera leo*) with female tiger (*P. tigris*)
- llamahuanaco:** male guanaco (*Lama guanicoe*) with female llama (*L. glama*)
- llamavicuña:** male vicuña (*Vicugna vicugna*) with female llama (*Lama glama*)

- machurga:** male alpaca (*Lama pacos*) with female llama (*L. glama*)
- misti:** male alpaca (*Lama pacos*) with female llama (*L. glama*)
- mule:** male ass (*Equus asinus*) with female horse (*E. caballus*)
- onza:** male jaguar (*Panthera onca*) with female cougar (*Felis concolor*)
- ovid:** male goat (*Capra hircus*) with female sheep (*Ovis aries*)
- pacovicuña:** male vicuña (*Vicugna vicugna*) with female alpaca (*Lama pacos*)
- podiac bear:** male polar bear (*Thalarctos maritimus*) with female Kodiak bear (*Ursus arctos middendorffi*)
- tigon:** male tiger (*Panthera tigris*) with female lion (*P. leo*)
- yakalo:** male yak (*Bos grunniens*) with female bison (*Bison bison*)
- zebroid:** male zebra (*Equus burchelli*) with female horse (*E. caballus*)

Museum Operations Conference March 29-31

Commercial activities of museums, the ethical and legal implications of curator and trustee collecting, the new copyright law, and new federal regulations concerning handicapped museum visitors and job applicants, will be among the topics discussed at the sixth annual Conference on Legal Aspects of Museum Operations, to be held at Field Museum March 29-31. The conference is cosponsored by the Smithsonian Institution and the American Law Institute-American Bar Association's Committee on Continuing Professional Education.

Legal Aspects of Museum Operations will provide museum administrators, museum counselors, and other lawyers with up-to-date, practical information on legal problems confronting museums.

The registration fee for the three-day conference is \$225, which includes all sessions, study outlines and related materials, three luncheons, and a reception. Overnight accommodations

have been reserved at hotels within walking distance of the Museum.

For further information write: Legal Aspects of Museum Operations, ALI-ABA Committees; 4025 Chestnut Street; Philadelphia, PA 19104.

It is anticipated that scholarships for partial support of tuition and travel expenses will be available for those who cannot attend without financial aid. Persons interested in applying for such assistance should submit a statement justifying their request and a personal resume to Museum Scholarship Committee, c/o the ALI-ABA Committee.

Bushman Bust Located

The mystery of Bushman, Field Museum's celebrated gorilla, has been solved. The September 1977 *Bulletin* carried a feature article on Bushman, with an accompanying photo (p. 9) of a "bronze" bust of the gorilla. The photo caption read "The identity of the sculptor (the man in the photo?) and the present location of the fine bust are a mystery."

Subsequently, Field Museum members John Moyer and Norman H. Gerlach individually wrote to clear up most of the questions. The present location of the bust, they point out, is the library of Chicago's Adventurer's Club (310 S. Michigan Avenue), where it has been for a number of years. It is made of plaster, not bronze, and was completed in 1947. Moyer and Gerlach, both members of the Adventurer's Club, also identify the sculptor as C. J. Albrecht, Field Museum's taxidermist from 1926 to 1945. Albrecht retired many years ago and is believed to reside today in Clitherall, Minnesota. The man in the photo remains unidentified.

James H. Quinn

James Harrison Quinn, former chief geology preparator at Field Museum, died September 14 at the age of 71. He

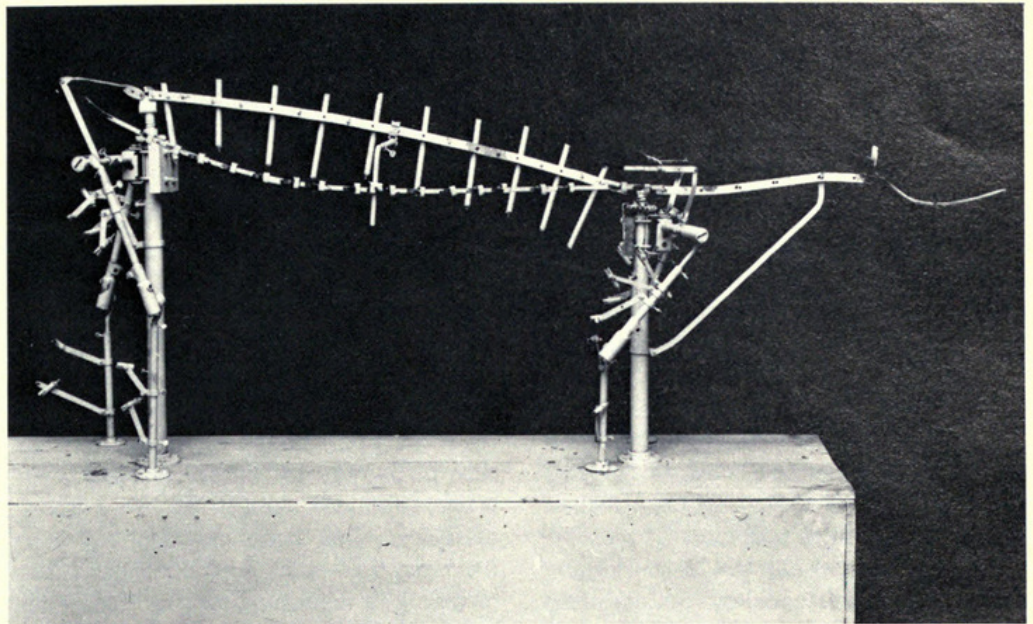
was killed in a rock fall while fossil-collecting on the Snake River, in north-western Nebraska. Born in Ainsworth, Nebraska, in 1906, Quinn came to Field Museum in 1930 at the age of 24 and left in 1947. His 17-year tenure at Field Museum was notable for his preparation of hundreds of fossil specimens and for two remarkable preparation technique which he innovated.

Quinn's secondary school education was delayed, but he managed by the age of 24 to secure his high school diploma, graduating as valedictorian. At 41, after leaving Field Museum, he began work toward his bachelor's degree at the University of Arizona where, in due course, he earned his B.Sc. Subsequently he received his Ph.D. in geology at the University of Texas. For the next 19 years—until his retirement—Quinn was on the faculty of the University of Arkansas, where he taught geomorphology and paleontology. His bibliography includes 55 papers, the final one appearing in Field Museum's continuing monograph series *Fieldiana: Geology*: "Sedimentary Processes in *Rayonoceras* Burial" (1977).

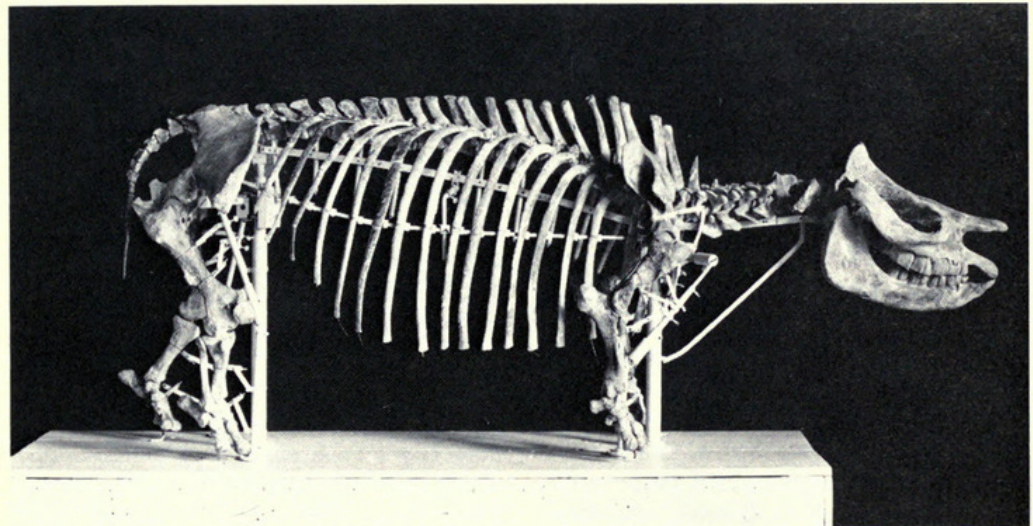
His best known preparation technique was a method (long used but now superseded) of making plaster casts of fossils with latex as the molding medium. Quinn also devised the remarkable "Quinn skeleton mounter," a familiar sight in the geology preparator's lab for many years. This consisted of ball-and-socket joints from steering columns, jacks, universal joints, and other automobile parts. Together, these provided an adjustable temporary support while a large skeleton was being posed, until permanent supporting irons could be formed and placed. Prior to Quinn's invention, a great clutter of miscellaneous support props would usually accumulate around a specimen being mounted, and every adjustment in pose would require a laborious disassembly and reconstruction of the unwieldy temporary supports.

A fine example of Quinn's work is shown here, with three stages of the reconstruction of *Teleoceras fossiger*, an aquatic rhinoceros that occurred in North America about 10 million years ago. Quinn's reconstruction may be seen today in Hall 38.

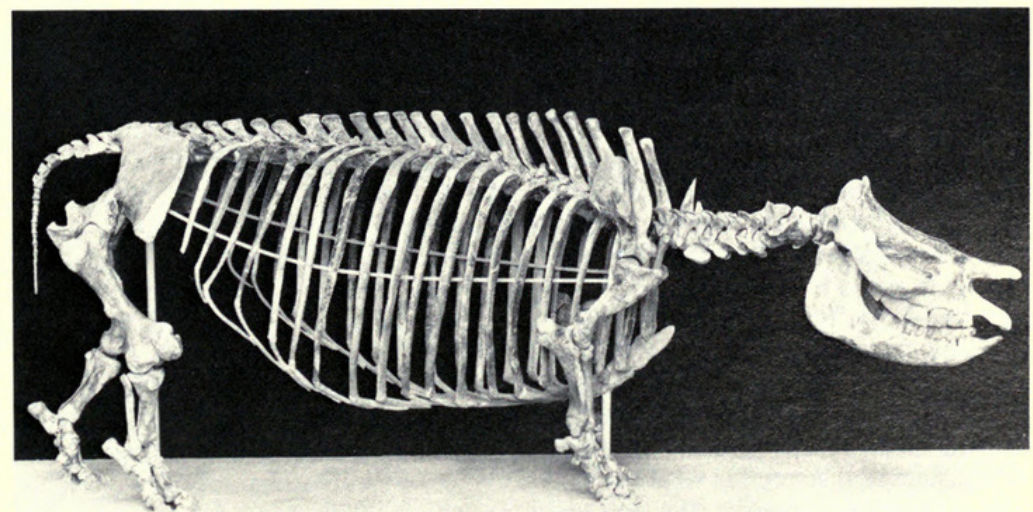
— William Turnbull,
curator of fossil mammals



"Quinn's skeleton mounter," an adjustable metal frame consisting of automobile parts.



Teleoceras fossiger with Quinn's device supporting the skeleton.



The complete *Teleoceras* skeleton with permanent irons in place of the temporary adjustable supports.



Turnbull, William D. 1978. "James H. Quinn." *Field Museum of Natural History bulletin* 49(2), 12–13.

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