

### EXPEDITION WILL COLLECT FLORIDA MARINE ANIMALS

An expedition to collect specimens of marine animals, and study the invertebrate life of the shores along both the Atlantic and Gulf coasts of the Florida peninsula, will leave Chicago about May 10. Members of the expedition are Dr. Fritz Haas, the Museum's Curator of Lower Invertebrates, and Mr. Leon L. Walters, of the staff of taxidermists.

Specimens will be sought by Dr. Haas for addition to the collection in the recently opened Hall of Lower Invertebrates (Hall M). He will also make studies and collect material for possible use in habitat groups planned for the future. Mr. Walters will assist Dr. Haas, and will make special attempts to obtain certain important species of large turtles—loggerheads and green sea turtles. From the specimens collected he will make plaster casts for use in preparing reproductions at the Museum later.

The expedition is sponsored by the President of the Museum, Mr. Stanley Field.

### FOSSIL MAMMALS OF WEST SOUGHT BY EXPEDITION

A Field Museum expedition left Chicago on April 17 to collect skeletal material representing various species of extinct mammals in the Oligocene, Miocene and Pliocene fossil beds of northwestern Nebraska and eastern Wyoming. Mr. Paul O. McGrew, Assistant in Paleontology, is the leader. He is accompanied by Mr. John M. Schmidt, of Homewood, Illinois, and Mr. Orville Gilpin, of Chicago. The party drove to the region of operations in a motor truck, which will be used also for transport of the specimens excavated.

The expedition will seek prehistoric mammals of species not yet represented in the Museum's large collections. Previous surveys of the territory to be worked indicate that among the specimens which may be found are camels and rhinoceroses which once inhabited the American plains, small three-toed horses, and various rodents, carnivores, and insectivores. Some of the species to be sought lived as far back as forty million years ago.

Plans call for the continuance of the work until some time in July. The expedition is sponsored by Mr. Stanley Field, President of the Museum.

### RAYMOND FOUNDATION AIDS SCHOOL RADIO PROGRAMS

On April 13 the James Nelson and Anna Louise Raymond Foundation for Public School and Children's Lectures presented the fourth in its series of "Radio Followup" programs of the present school year, in co-ordination with the science broadcasts of the Public School Broadcasting Council.

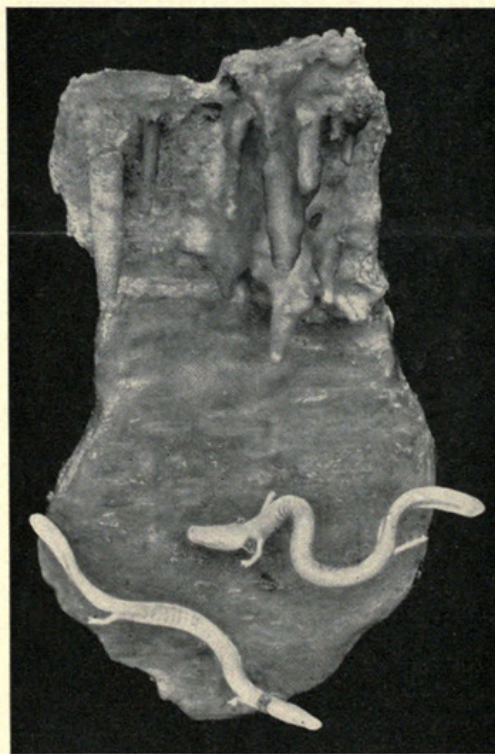
Two informal meetings for groups of children were held in the Lecture Hall of the Museum. The subject was "The Age of Trees." Many fine specimens showing annual rings were loaned by the Department of Botany. Each child who attended had an opportunity to observe different types of woods and to study the formations of the annual rings, as well as to ask questions. The discussions were followed by conducted tours to Museum halls containing wood exhibits, and to Hall 7 for the exhibit explaining tree ring dating and its use in archaeology. One hundred sixty-nine pupils from eighth grade classes were the guests of the Museum for these programs. Similar programs given in preceding months treated the subjects of birch trees, coal, and meteorites.

—M.M.C.

### THINGS YOU MAY HAVE MISSED

#### The European Cave Salamander

The underground waters of caves in the Carinthian and Balkan limestone region harbor one of the strangest of living creatures—a white, blind, and eel-like salamander. It is known in German as "Olm," and in English sometimes as the proteus (from its scientific name, *Proteus anguineus*). Its bright red tufts of gills on each side of the neck mark it as a larval form—one of those salamanders which even breed as aquatic larvae and have altogether lost the adult land stage into which we may presume their ancestors transformed. The olm is further remarkable among salamanders for producing living young, numbering only two at birth.



White, Blind, and Eel-like

The European cave salamander (or "Olm"), as it is represented in an exhibit in Albert W. Harris Hall.

The olm is not difficult to transport and may occasionally be seen alive in aquaria in this country. In spite of the very considerable numbers of specimens captured for sale to aquarists and to scientists, the remaining olm population in caves happily does not seem to have declined.

There are two cave salamanders, also white and with eyes covered over with skin, in the United States. One occurs in the caves of the Ozark region of Missouri and Arkansas, and the other lives in the underground waters of a limited area in the vicinity of San Marcos, Texas.

The European cave salamander is shown in Albert W. Harris Hall. —K.P.S.

### —and Things the Editors Missed!

#### A Correction

In the caption for the illustration accompanying the *Things You May Have Missed* article on page 3 of the April FIELD MUSEUM NEWS there occurred an error involving some 399,982,000 years, more or less. This caption placed glaciers in the Chicago region "during the Silurian period, some 400,000,000 years ago." The period of glaciation referred to was the Pleistocene, and it ended about 18,000 years ago. The Silurian period was the time of formation of the underlying rock of which the upper layer was planed off by the glaciers.

#### DR. P. S. MARTIN TO EXCAVATE RUINS IN NEW MEXICO

During the summer of 1939, Field Museum will again sponsor an archaeological expedition to the Southwest under the leadership of Dr. Paul S. Martin, Chief Curator of the Department of Anthropology. Resumption of this important work has been made possible by a gift from Mr. Stanley Field, President of the Museum.

Dr. Martin, who in recent years has completed eight seasons of field work in southwestern Colorado, will this season turn his attention to excavating some early ruins near Glenwood, New Mexico. He and his associates will leave Chicago about June 1, and will continue field operations until autumn.

Dr. Martin has concluded investigation of all of the various known manifestations in southwestern Colorado of Anasazi culture (i.e., the Modified Basket Maker Period, and Pueblo Periods I, II, and III). Two reports on his researches have already been issued by Field Museum Press, and another is in press now for release within a few months.

The ruins Dr. Martin will investigate in New Mexico this season belong to what is known as the Mogollon culture. It is barely possible that a cultural connection exists between the early Mogollon and the Basket Maker cultures, Dr. Martin states.





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