

# Field Museum News

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## NEW EXHIBIT OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL MATERIAL FROM THE AMERICAN SOUTHWEST

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After months of study and work, the Basket Maker Indian materials recovered by the 1938 Field Museum Archaeological Expedition to Southwestern Colorado have been placed on exhibition in Hall 7 of the Department of Anthropology.

Included in this exhibit are several classes of objects which should be of great interest to all who are interested in southwestern prehistory. For example, attention should be called to the skillfully restored pottery. All of this was in fragments when found, having been smashed by the weight of tons of earth which have lain upon these fragile objects for more than ten centuries.

Some red-on-orange pots are the most fascinating because they represent a very rare type of pottery—a type which was practically unknown up to a few years ago. This very beautifully made ware, which dates from about A.D. 700 (or possibly earlier), is a source of some mystery, because at present no one knows where it was first made. Further, the use of designs in red on an orange background is not in the accepted tradition of Basket Maker ceramics. Usually, Basket Maker pottery is plain gray or is marked with black designs of a simple nature on a plain gray background. Therefore, Field Museum is proud to be able to display this rare kind of pottery which has never before been exhibited in Chicago.

One of these red-on-orange pots merits special notice, because the shape is unique. This particular pot is provided with a basket-handle made of baked clay and decorated with a zig-zag design.

The painted pottery was never used for cooking purposes, but served rather as

containers for prepared food and beverages.

The plain gray pottery, which comes in various shapes and sizes, was what may be called the utilitarian ware. Some of it was used for cooking food and boiling water. The large narrow-necked jars were undoubtedly used as water containers. One very large, plain gray jar had been smeared all over with a red-ocher paint.

In addition to the pottery, there are dis-

matting, and wooden materials, have long since rotted away. This is unfortunate, because the archaeologist is confronted with the difficult task of reconstructing the history of these Indians from only three classes of objects: pottery, bone, and stone. Imagine how trying it would be for any archaeologist of the future to have to piece together a complete story of our complex civilization from only broken dishes, rusty

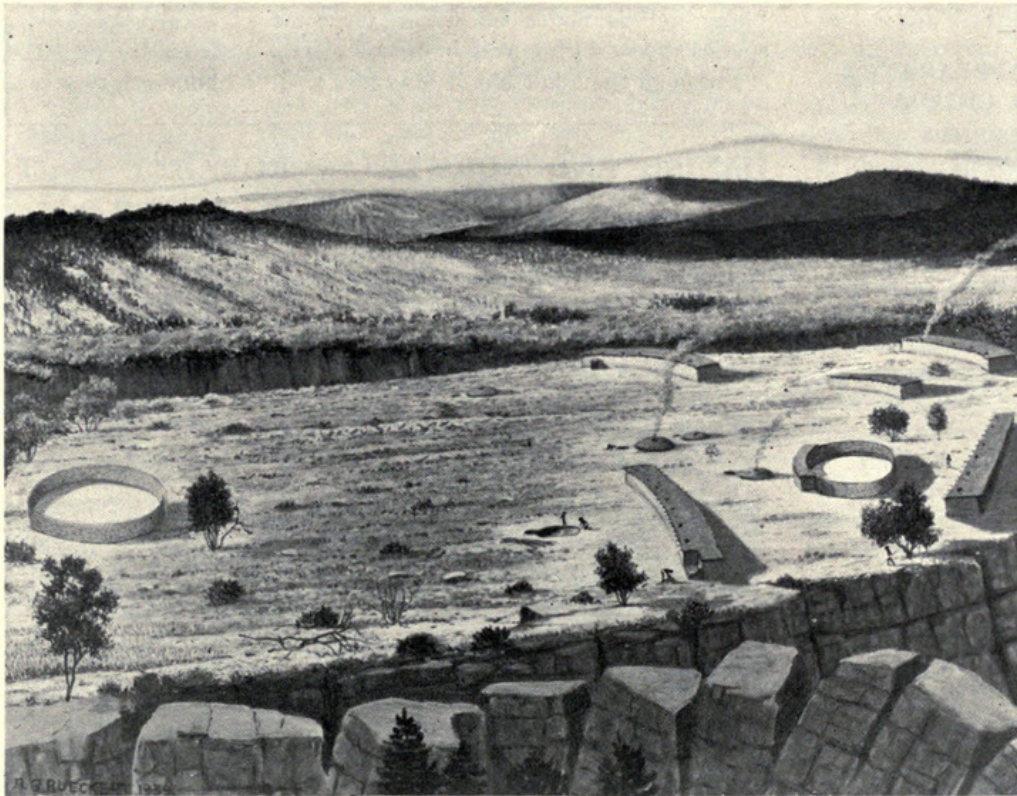
tools (the uses of which he did not know), and tin cans!

In spite of this difficulty, however, we have managed to reconstruct a reasonably clear history of the Basket Maker Indians of southwestern Colorado. This story, written in non-technical language, has been included in a report covering in detail the expedition's work, and the research conducted on the material brought to the Museum. This report, richly illustrated, will be released by Field Museum Press sometime during the summer, and it may then be purchased at the Museum.

One of the special features of the exhibition recently opened to the public is a sketch showing how a Basket Maker village actually looked. This

reconstruction is very accurate, as it was based on all the data collected by the expedition. A reproduction of the sketch is published with this article.

This village was built on a narrow promontory which juts out into Cahone Canyon, Colorado. The Indians built two types of houses: pit houses and surface houses. The pit houses (in the middle-ground) look like big ant hills; the surface dwellings are the long low structures. At the extreme left of the picture, and also toward the right, may be seen examples of circular structures called "great kivas." A *kiva* is a



Village of Basket Maker Indians, About A.D. 860

Restoration, by Staff Artist Arthur G. Rueckert, of an ancient site excavated by Field Museum Archaeological Expeditions to the Southwest, as the researches of Chief Curator Paul S. Martin indicate it must have appeared when occupied by prehistoric inhabitants. Circular structure at left is the largest known great kiva or ceremonial chamber. At right is a smaller kiva, close to the barracks-like rows of surface houses. The small circular structures from which smoke issues are pit-houses. Both house types were probably used as dwellings.

played other objects which were used in the daily lives of the Basket Maker Indians. These include: bone awls for piercing holes in buckskin; bone needles; bone scrapers; stone hoes, axes, and mauls; and *manos* or the upper portion of corn-grinding mills. Included also are some of the ornaments with which these Indians decorated themselves.

Since the ancient villages which were excavated by the Museum expedition had been exposed to the rains and snows of more than a thousand years, all the perishable objects, such as basketry, cloth, sandals,



place for holding ceremonies. These "great kivas" were probably used for celebrating large communal ceremonies. The larger of these two great kivas measured 83 feet in diameter, and is the largest structure of this type yet found. The lesser great kiva measured 43 feet in diameter. Neither of these structures was roofed.

In all, the writer and associated archaeologists have spent eight summers in the excavation of Basket Maker sites in Colorado. About the first of June the ninth expedition, sponsored by Mr. Stanley Field, President of the Museum, will resume this work, but a new field will be entered this year. The 1939 operations will concentrate upon the excavation of some ruins near Glenwood, New Mexico. The new sites belong to what is known as the Mogollon culture, and investigations will be conducted to determine whether or not there was a cultural connection between the early Mogollon and Basket Maker cultures.

### 1939 IS YEAR FOR APPEARANCE OF THE 17-YEAR CICADA

BY WILLIAM J. GERHARD  
CURATOR OF INSECTS

In many of the forest preserves in Cook County last month the ground under the trees was perforated with numerous openings or vertical burrows, some topped with capped mud chimneys. These burrows indicated that the compact brood XIII of the seventeen-year or periodical cicada—sometimes incorrectly called the "seventeen-year locust"—would again make its appearance in large numbers in woodland tracts of northern Illinois, eastern Missouri, southern Wisconsin and Michigan, and northern Indiana, during the spring of 1939.

A few inches below the burrow openings lay the waiting pupae that represent the third stage in the life-history of this cicada. For seventeen years (in the northern states) the young or larvae, which the pupae closely resemble, have lived in the ground, where they sucked the juices of roots and rootlets.

During some night, possibly in the latter part of May before this publication, or at least in the early part of June, the pupae were due to leave their burrows almost simultaneously and crawl up on some nearby object. When this occurs, a longitudinal slit appears in the skin of their backs, and therefrom emerge the flabby, white adults with little wrinkled wing pads. Within a few hours the soft wings expand, harden, and become nearly transparent, while at the same time the body hardens and assumes its characteristic color.

On the day following their emergence from the pupal stage the adults are ready to mate, and the females begin to lay their eggs in the terminal twigs and branches of trees by means of their sword-shaped ovipositor. As a result of this egg-laying habit the leaves of many terminal twigs soon turn yellow

and the twigs may also be blown to the ground by strong winds. While the females are fulfilling their mission in life, the males are busy producing their familiar, prolonged, buzzing sound. And in from four to six weeks their adult life is ended.

### MAY FLIES TO APPEAR AGAIN

Within a month or more countless numbers of fragile insects known as May flies will also again make their appearance in the Chicago area and elsewhere on or near the shores of the Great Lakes. They will annoy housewives because of their fondness for artificial light. Every year swarms of them descend upon this city and its suburbs.

These four-winged creatures, with their two or three hair-like caudal appendages, are of interest on account of their brief adult life, which may last only a few hours—rarely more than two days. Unlike other insects they molt or shed their old skin after their wings are fully developed. The name "May fly" is not a misnomer, for some species appear during May in certain places.

Although the adult life of May flies is an

ephemeral one, which is the reason why the Greeks of Aristotle's day called them *Ephemeron*, they are in fact rather long-lived insects. Their development from the egg to the adult or winged stage actually requires from one to three years. But except for a few hours or days they live as wingless nymphs in lakes, ponds and streams, where they feed mainly on low forms of plant life. Many of the nymphs in turn are eaten by fish. In some waters it has been found that nearly a fifth of the food of fish consisted of May fly nymphs.

When the nymphs are full-grown, they come to the surface of the water, and from a slit or fissure that appears in their backs the winged adults emerge. After finding a convenient resting place like a wall, tree, or blade of grass, the adults shed their old skin, including that of the wings, the skins remaining attached to the objects upon which they were shed. Unable to eat anything during their short adult life, they nevertheless are now ready for mating. The females lay their eggs on or in the water—hundreds to several thousands of them.

### DANISH AND NORWEGIAN ROYALTY VISIT FIELD MUSEUM

Twice recently Field Museum has been host to European royalty. On April 25, Their Royal Highnesses, Crown Prince Frederik and Princess Ingrid, of Denmark, were guests of the institution. On May 4, His Royal Highness, Crown Prince Olav, of Norway, was a visitor to the Museum.

Prince Frederik and Princess Ingrid were escorted to the Museum by Mr. Reimund

Baumann, the Danish Consul, and Prince Olav by Mr. Sigurd Maseng, Consul of Norway. Each of the royal parties was conducted on a tour of outstanding exhibits by the Museum Director, Mr. Clifford C. Gregg. All of the royal guests indicated especial interest in and appreciation of the Races of Mankind sculptures, by Malvina Hoffman, in Chauncey Keep Memorial Hall.



Photograph by courtesy of Chicago Daily Times

### Royal Personages at Field Museum

Their Royal Highnesses, Crown Prince Frederik and Princess Ingrid, of Denmark, on tour of Chauncey Keep Memorial Hall during their visit to Chicago. They were extremely interested in the Races of Mankind sculptures by Malvina Hoffman. Left to right: the Princess, Mr. Clifford C. Gregg, Director of the Museum, and the Prince.





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