

SIX PROGRAMS FOR CHILDREN IN JULY AND AUGUST

A summer series of six programs of talking motion pictures for children will be presented at Field Museum on Thursday mornings, from July 6 to August 10 inclusive, by the James Nelson and Anna Louise Raymond Foundation for Public School and Children's Lectures. Animated cartoons by Walt Disney will be included on three of the programs, and several other novel feature pictures will be presented. The programs will begin at 10 A.M., and will be given in the James Simpson Theatre of the Museum. Admission is free, and children from all parts of Chicago and suburbs are invited. Following are the titles of the films to be presented on each program:

July 6—The Musical Farmer (Disney Cartoon); "Cimarron" (acted by chimpanzees); Hungarian Gypsy Dances; Grass—A Story of Persia.

July 13—William Tell—A Story of Switzerland.

July 20—Frolicking Fish (Disney cartoon); Footprints and Bicycles; Water Fun; Adventures of a Mongrel Pup.

July 27—The Gang (Boy Scout life).

August 3—The Busy Beavers (Disney cartoon); The Lovely Taj Mahal; The Navajo Demon; Babes in the Woods.

August 10—The Wedding of Palo (A Story of Eskimo Life in Greenland).

Fly Whisks

In Tibet the bushy tails of yaks are used to make fly whisks. In India the fly whisk is included among the insignia of royalty. Warriors of nomadic tribes in Central Asia attach fly whisks to the trappings of their horses as standards, and Chinese deities of Buddhistic origin frequently carry them in their hands as emblems of dignity. Some interesting specimens, collected in Tibet, are exhibited in Hall 32, Case 17.

A GIFT TO THE LIBRARY

A modern man practising an ancient art of prehistoric man was the late Fred Snare, flint-knapper, of Brandon, Suffolk, England. Of historic interest, therefore, is a collection of his correspondence, received by the Library of Field Museum, as a gift from Dr. Henry Field, Curator of Physical Anthropology. In the Department of Anthropology are a collection of Snare's flint-knapping tools, and samples of his work.

"As a craftsman, Snare was unsurpassed," asserts Dr. Field. "He alone was able to make small flint rings. He was the last of a family line of flint-knappers which dates back at least to the year 1066, for in Domesday Book one of his ancestors was ordered by William the Conqueror to repair a flint church wall. At the time of his death Snare was making gun flints on orders from Africa."

Dr. Field made Snare's acquaintance while conducting archaeological expeditions in Europe. Snare bequeathed his correspondence to Dr. Field.

SKELETON OF MOROPUS, STRANGE FOSSIL MAMMAL WITH CLAWED FEET, IS EXHIBITED

BY ELMER S. RIGGS
CURATOR OF PALEONTOLOGY

A fossil skeleton of *Moropus*, a strange mammal related to the horse and the extinct Titanotheres, but having claws on the feet in place of hoofs, has recently been placed on exhibition in Ernest R. Graham Hall (Hall 38).

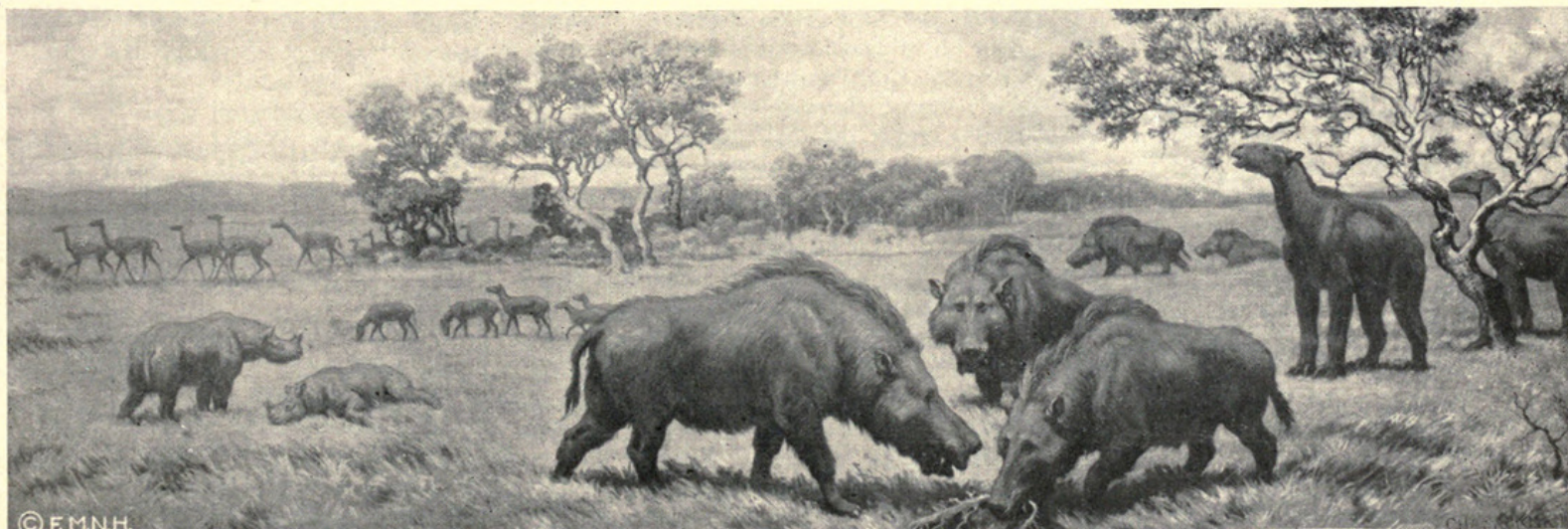
This specimen was found in Nebraska where it had been preserved in a sandstone formation characteristic of the Great Plains region. The animal lived in the Miocene Age (about 20,000,000 years ago).

Moropus was as tall as a draft horse, but of a heavier and more massive build. Its head was about as large as that of a horse, but the eye was placed farther forward on

the face, and the teeth were more like those of a rhinoceros. The neck was rather long, the body moderately heavy, the shoulders massive, and the leg bones heavy. The animal's unique feature is the structure of the foot. While related to such hoof-bearing animals as the horse and the extinct Titanotheres, *Moropus* walked upon heavy pads under the first joints of the toes, and was armed with stout claws similar to those of the great ground sloths. In fact, the first bones of this animal, found in 1877, were those of the foot and claw, and for this reason they were mistaken for bones of the ground sloth. In 1905 some specimens of jaws and vertebrae were found among a great accumulation of bones at the fossil quarries of Agate, Nebraska.

Moropus was a plant-eating animal. Its teeth were fitted for feeding upon leaves, twigs, and other vegetable matter. The great claws on the feet may have served to give the animal a firmer footing on sandy ground, but they were probably used also in digging in the ground for the roots and tubers which undoubtedly constituted a large part of the creature's food.

While *Moropus* is a member of the family Chalicotheridae which was widely distributed through Europe, Asia, and Africa in periods ranging from the Eocene to Pleistocene, our present knowledge would indicate that they lived only a short time in North America, and that they probably came to this continent as immigrants from Asia.



Moropus, and Contemporary Miocene Animals

The two animals at extreme right represent the strange fossil mammal with clawed feet which lived in Nebraska some 20,000,000 years ago, as science indicates it must have appeared in life. An articulated skeleton has been added to the exhibits in Ernest R. Graham Hall. The other creatures shown in this mural painting by Charles R. Knight, in the same hall, are (left to right): *Oxydactylus* or prehistoric camel; *Diceratherium*, a small species of rhinoceros; *Parahippus*, a tiny three-toed horse; and *Dinohyus*, the giant pig.



Riggs, Elmer S. 1939. "Skeleton of Moropus, Strange Fossil Mammal With Clawed Feet, is Exhibited." *Field Museum news* 10(7), 3-3.

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