

Field Museum of Natural History

FOUNDED BY MARSHALL FIELD, 1893
Roosevelt Road and Field Drive, Chicago

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FIELD MUSEUM NEWS

CLIFFORD C. GREGG, *Director of the Museum*.... Editor

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Members are requested to inform the Museum promptly of changes of address.

FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK—

Field Museum Pension Plan

For many years it has been the desire of the management of Field Museum to establish a pension plan which might insure a regular retirement income for faithful employees after their period of active service had been completed. As early as 1916, Mr. Stanley Field, President of the Museum, established a Museum Employees' Pension Fund, the proceeds of which gave to the employees the benefit of insurance protection for their dependents. While this benefit was greatly prized at the Museum, it was still felt by those responsible for the operation of the institution that the employee himself was entitled to protection and leisure in his declining years, as well as some security for his dependents.

Recently Mr. Marshall Field, a Trustee of the Museum who always has been deeply interested in the welfare of the employees, provided the means by which such a pension plan might be established, and on July 1, 1939, the Plan was instituted through a contract with the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company. Under the Plan each employee pays approximately 4% of his salary to the Pension Fund. The Museum contributes a much larger sum, and with the combined contributions purchases annuities amounting to 1½% of the employee's salary for each year of his membership in the Plan. Annuities for past service, amounting to 1% of the current salary for each year of service prior to the beginning of the Plan, will be purchased by the Museum without employee contribution. Normal retirement ages have been set at 65 years for men and 60 years for women. Retirement will automatically occur at those

ages unless the Board of Trustees requests that the employee continue longer in service, which invitation he may accept or decline.

It is impossible under any circumstances for an employee or his estate to receive from the Plan less than he has put into it. Upon leaving the Museum prior to retirement, the employee is entitled to the return of his money with interest compounded annually at the rate of 2½%. In the event of the death of an employee either prior to or subsequent to retirement, his estate is entitled to his entire contribution with interest compounded annually.

Another provision protecting the interest of the employee who leaves the institution after more than ten years of membership in the Pension Plan, is the so-called "vested interest" provision. This provides that an employee after ten years of membership is entitled to receive at retirement age the full benefits of the pension thus far purchased for him by both his own and the Museum's contributions.

The wide-spread approval of the employees is indicated by unanimous acceptance on the part of those eligible. Both the management and the employees rejoice in the assurance that a lifetime of faithful service at the Museum may be followed by leisure and freedom from financial worries in the later years of life.

—CLIFFORD C. GREGG, *Director*

Fish and Reptile Experts Meet at Museum

Field Museum was one of three Chicago scientific institutions which acted as hosts to delegates attending the annual meeting of the American Society of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists, September 13-16. At the opening meeting an address of welcome was made by Director Clifford C. Gregg. Meetings on succeeding days were held at the John G. Shedd Aquarium and the Chicago Academy of Sciences, with a banquet at the Medinah Athletic Club. Several reels of motion pictures made by Mr. Walter H. Chute, Director of the Shedd Aquarium, were shown. Open house was held at Locy Hall, Northwestern University. This was the first meeting of the society held in Chicago since 1922. Special exhibits for the visitors were arranged at Field Museum and the other host institutions.

Important Fossil Collections Reported by Expedition

A number of important fossil finds by the Field Museum Paleontological Expedition to Western Colorado were recently reported by its leader, Mr. Bryan Patterson, Assistant Curator of Paleontology. Outstanding is the skeleton of a prehistoric animal of the family Taeniodontia. This is a small group of early hoofed mammals—fore-runners of a similar but larger creature excavated by Mr. Patterson in 1933 and

known as *Barylambda*. The present specimen, Mr. Patterson states, may constitute a new genus.

Other specimens collected by the present expedition include multituberculates (a group of small rodent-like animals characterized by many cone-like prominences on their teeth), and prehistoric turtles. Work has been begun on the excavation of a fossil crocodile, and a large collection of small fossil animals has been made.

Staff Notes

Dr. Julian A. Steyermark, Assistant Curator of the Herbarium, and Mr. Loren P. Woods, of the Raymond Foundation staff, recently made a short trip to collect plants and fishes in a number of Missouri springs. Mr. Woods brought back 4,000 specimens of fishes, which are to be added to the Museum's collection. Dr. Steyermark collected several hundred specimens of plants. Among the plants is one new to Missouri, found several hundred miles north of its previously known range in the United States.

Assistant Taxidermist Edgar G. Laybourne has resigned to accept a position in Hawaii.

Mr. J. Francis Macbride, Associate Curator of the Herbarium, who has been conducting a botanical project for Field Museum in Europe since 1929, is currently at work in Geneva, Switzerland, and is believed to be safe from war hazards in that neutral country. During most of the past year his activities have centered in Paris.

A FEW FACTS ABOUT FIELD MUSEUM

Field Museum is open every day of the year (except Christmas and New Year's Day) during the hours indicated below:

November, December,	
January, February . . .	9 A.M. to 4 P.M.
March, April, and	
September, October . . .	9 A.M. to 5 P.M.
May, June, July, August . .	9 A.M. to 6 P.M.

Admission is free to Members on all days. Other adults are admitted free on Thursdays, Saturdays, and Sundays; non-members pay 25 cents on other days. Children are admitted free on all days. Students and faculty members of educational institutions are admitted free any day upon presentation of credentials.

The Museum's Library is open for reference daily except Saturday afternoon and Sunday.

Traveling exhibits are circulated in the schools of Chicago by the N. W. Harris Public School Extension Department of the Museum.

Lectures at schools, and special entertainments and tours for children at the Museum, are provided by the James Nelson and Anna Louise Raymond Foundation for Public School and Children's Lectures.

Free courses of lectures for adults are presented in the James Simpson Theatre on Saturday afternoons (at 2:30 o'clock) in March, April, October, and November.

A Cafeteria serves visitors. Rooms are available also for those bringing their lunches.

Chicago Motor Coach Company No. 26 busses provide direct transportation to the Museum. Service is offered also by Surface Lines, Rapid Transit Lines (the "L"), inter-urban electric lines, and Illinois Central trains. There is ample free parking space for automobiles at the Museum.



Gregg, Clifford C. 1939. "Field Museum Pension Plan." *Field Museum news* 10(10), 6-6.

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