

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

CONTRIBUTING EDITORS

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

FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK—

The Layman Lecturer

For the past two seasons Field Museum has offered a series of Sunday afternoon lecture tours given by "The Layman Lecturer." The membership of the Museum should be fully informed about these lectures, and particularly about the lecturer.



Daguerre Studio, Chicago
Paul G. Dallwig,
the Layman Lecturer

The Layman Lecture Tours actually began as a personal hobby. Prior to the fall of 1937 Mr. Paul G. Dallwig had developed the habit, born of his interest in Field Museum, of bringing in groups of personal friends on Sunday afternoons. When these repeated visits were brought to my notice, I sent an invitation to Mr. Dallwig to call upon me and tell me of his work. As a result of this interview I persuaded Mr. Dallwig to include in his informal groups not only his own friends but a much larger group of friends of Field Museum. It was felt that Mr. Dallwig, being closely associated with men in the business and professional life of Chicago, might have a different point of view in the presentation of the wealth of scientific information available at Field Museum. The experiment, now two years old, has amply indicated the correctness of this belief.

When the new series of lectures became known, they soon achieved such popularity that a limitation had to be placed on the size of the groups. Reservations were required in advance, and still the demand exceeded the approved size of group-lecture parties to the extent that many persons were unable to obtain reservations, although Mr. Dallwig spoke to groups averaging 84 in attendance during the entire past season.

The reasons for this phenomenal showing might well be worked into a typical success story. First of all, Mr. Dallwig carries into his work an enthusiasm and a desire for accurate information which would do credit to a true professional scientist. His research among his chosen subjects includes the facilities of his own splendid library, the library and collections of Field Museum, and frequent interviews with members of the Museum staff. He spares neither time nor effort in the preparation of his scripts, and he weaves into them material of great "human interest." His objective is to disseminate accurate scientific information in a non-technical manner and in terms readily understood and appreciated by his audience.

Mr. Dallwig believes that a good title is an asset in any lecture series. Certainly the interest shown seems to bear out his contention. "Digging up the Caveman's Past" is more alluring than "The Life of Prehistoric Man," and "Nature's 'March of Time'" seems more intriguing than "Prehistoric Life as Revealed by Fossils." His fascinating story on precious stones bears the title, "Gems, Jewels and 'Junk.'" His scripts are prepared in a similarly interesting and non-pedantic style.

I would feel that I had not properly completed this story if I did not emphasize the fact that Mr. Dallwig's activities for Field Museum are wholly unselfish. He receives no compensation, direct or indirect, from either the Museum or his audience. He is making a truly notable contribution in public service and in the dissemination of scientifically correct information.

—CLIFFORD C. GREGG, *Director*

Field Museum Participates in Television Programs

In recent weeks Field Museum has participated in a series of experimental programs of an educational nature over the television station (W9XZV) of the Zenith Radio Corporation.

The staff lecturers of the James Nelson and Anna Louise Raymond Foundation for Public School and Children's Lectures were speakers on these programs. They were televised while giving their talks, as were also the stereopticon slides, exhibition objects, living animals, and motion pictures they used to illustrate their subjects. The first program, "Introduction to Field Museum, Its Exhibits and Activities," was

presented by Mrs. Leota G. Thomas; "The Story of the Earth" was given by Miss Marie B. Pabst; Miss Miriam Wood spoke on "Native American Food Plants"; Mr. Loren P. Woods on "Life Stories of Snakes"; Miss Elizabeth McM. Hambleton on "Hunters, Herders and Farmers," and Miss Margaret M. Cornell, Chief of the Foundation, concluded the series with "Expeditions and Their Value to Chicagoans."

Officials of the Zenith corporation expressed themselves as highly pleased with the Museum's contributions to this new type of educational venture. The success of the undertaking indicates a broad field for this work in the future when television facilities are further developed.

Staff Notes

Mr. Sharat K. Roy, Curator of Geology, has been on a trip through the east during which he visited various important museums and universities to check the results of his research on the paleontology of Baffin Land with the work of other paleontologists. Mr. Roy's studies in this field were undertaken through his participation in the Second Rawson-MacMillan Subarctic Expedition.

Mr. L. Bryant Mather, Jr., Assistant Curator of Mineralogy at Field Museum, has been given an honorary appointment, as Associate Curator of the Department of Mineralogy of the Natural History Society of Maryland, at Baltimore.

Staff Taxidermist John W. Moyer recently lectured on "Behind the Scenes in a Museum" before the Cincinnati Art Club.

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"), interurban electric lines, and Illinois Central trains. There is ample free parking space for automobiles at the Museum.



Gregg, Clifford C. 1939. "The Laymen Lecturer." *Field Museum news* 10(11), 6–6.

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