

Field Museum of Natural History

FOUNDED BY MARSHALL FIELD, 1893

Roosevelt Road and Field Drive, Chicago

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FIELD MUSEUM NEWS

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

A PEEK BEHIND THE STATISTICS

The broad extent of a museum's influence has frequently been alluded to in these columns and elsewhere. We have told, for example, how Field Museum's educational activities directly reach more than two million persons a year when the number of visitors is summed up together with the hundreds of thousands reached extra-murally by the lecturers of the Raymond Foundation and the traveling exhibits of the Harris Extension.

Only occasionally, however, do individuals who have benefited from the Museum reveal in detail what the institution has done for them. Such narrowed-down "case histories," when they do come, give a more vivid picture of the workings of the Museum's influence than do mass statistics, and further, they hint of the similar effects the institution may have upon hundreds of thousands not heard from who are comprised in the statistical figures. Under the title "How I Came to Collect Minerals," Miss Selma Jenner, of Mayfield, Wisconsin, tells in a recent bulletin of the Marquette Geologists Association what Field Museum has meant for her. Excerpts from her article follow:

"Here are some things that have turned to stone."—This statement was made by my father when he brought them from the depths of his numerous overalls pockets. He had cleared the willows and shrubs from a lowland, and was draining it and plowing it when the black soil revealed perfect Silurian petrified corals. . . . We then did not know

what they were, but our curiosity concerning them was greatly aroused. We treasured them highly and . . . I finally took them to Field Museum for classification, which revealed them to be honeycomb corals, chain corals, cup corals, organ pipe corals, a macaroni coral, a siphuncle of a cephalopod, and several others. . . . The geologists of Field Museum went a step further and told me that these existed 500,000,000 years ago in a tropical ocean extending over this part of the country to the North Pole. This was very thrilling to me, for I knew nothing of geology. On the strength of that I inquired how I could find out more about it. They then directed me to the Museum's Library . . . I also bought books and kept on nosing around in paleontology and geology myself until one day I complained to Chief Curator Nichols about not being able to find anybody interested in the subject outside the Museum staff. Again my requirement was graciously looked out for, and he directed me to a group of his friends who were organizing a geology club. . . . I have never missed a meeting. . . . I have gained knowledge of not only paleontology but also mineralogy and now have a collection of minerals—also a granite collection. . . . I am grateful beyond measure to the geologists and friends who have helped me in this very interesting hobby."

Mrs. James Nelson Raymond Again Contributes Funds

Continuing the generous contributions she has made at frequent intervals for years, Mrs. James Nelson Raymond last month again gave Field Museum \$2,000 for use in carrying on the manifold activities of the James Nelson and Anna Louise Raymond Foundation for Public School and Children's Lectures. The Foundation, established by Mrs. Raymond in 1925 with a munificent endowment, is a vital factor in the success of Field Museum's educational work, and its services to school children and their teachers have been notably expanded in recent years. Such expansion has been greatly expedited by the unceasing interest and support given by Mrs. Raymond.

Museums Win Over the Movies

(From the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*)

The results of a survey just announced at Northwestern University should make parents and teachers feel much more hopeful about the younger generation. For Professor Walter A. Anderson has discovered, by questioning 560 children, that 54 per cent of them would rather visit a museum than a neighborhood movie.

To any beholder of the noisy and enthusiastic audiences found in most movie theaters on Friday night or Saturday afternoon this will be an amazing discovery. However, a lot of that noise may be mass exuberance

rather than film appreciation. Interviewed alone, many a youngster has some pretty sharp criticism to make—too much "love stuff" or "same old troubles and then a happy ending" or simply "I have a headache."

Museums may seem dull to some adults, but then some adults are blasé, fed up and incurious. To the active and spongelike mind of a boy or girl the museum's marvels are a challenge, an inspiration, a source of perpetual wonder and miles of questions.

Maybe parents have been overlooking a bet by capitulating immediately when a trip to the movies is proposed and not suggesting that the museum might be interesting instead.

Colonel Roosevelt, Museum Trustee, Returns to His Regiment

Colonel Theodore Roosevelt, a member of the Board of Trustees of Field Museum, has been called to active duty in the United States Army, and is again in command of his old regiment, the 26th Infantry, at Fort Devens, Massachusetts. During the first World War, Colonel Roosevelt was a member of this regiment overseas.

The Blue Bull of Asia

Have you ever seen a blue bull? In Asia there is such an animal—it's a large antelope, and is also called nilgai. A habitat group of nilgai, which despite their name are not really blue in color, is on exhibition in William V. Kelley Hall (Hall 17).

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.



Boulton, Rudyerd. 1941. "Some Strange Birds." *Field Museum news* 12(6), 6–6.

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