

### Raymond Foundation Receives Gift From Its Founder

Mrs. James Nelson Raymond, founder of the James Nelson and Anna Louise Raymond Foundation for Public School and Children's Lectures, last month again gave Field Museum a contribution of \$2,000 to be applied toward the expenses of the Foundation's activities. This is a continuance of the generosity which Mrs. Raymond has exemplified several times a year since the establishment of the Foundation in 1925, at which time she provided a large endowment fund. Her gifts during 1941 now amount to \$4,000, as she had contributed \$2,000 earlier in the year.

The work of the Raymond Foundation is

recognized, both by authorities of Field Museum and those of the various public, parochial and private schools of Chicago, as one of the most important and valuable educational endeavors being conducted to supplement the regular curriculum prescribed for the children of this city. The benefits extended by this Foundation are manifold in form, and reach approximately a quarter of a million children every year.

When you see something in a Field Museum exhibit and would like to learn more about it than is available from the label, consult the Museum's reference Library on the third floor. The Library personnel will be delighted to serve you.

### Mexican Mammals Collected on Mount Tancitaro

Mr. Frank C. Wonder, of the Museum's taxidermy staff, recently returned from a season's field collecting in Mexico. He worked in association with a party of students from the University of Illinois, under the direction of Mr. Harry Hoogstraal, on Mt. Tancitaro, a well-isolated mountain on the escarpment of the Mexican Plateau in the state of Michoacan.

Mr. Wonder's collection of mammals amounts to 329 specimens, and because of the excellent quality of the skins and the interest of the region from which they come, it forms a most gratifying addition to the Museum's Mexican mammals.

## 30-FOOT FOSSIL MARINE REPTILE SKELETON COLLECTED IN A SOUTH DAKOTA PRAIRIE

After collecting the skeleton of a marine reptile, thirty feet long, in a South Dakota pasture near the town of Kennebec, the Field Museum Paleontological Expedition to the West returned to Chicago September 6. The members of the expedition were Mr. Bryan Patterson, Assistant Curator of Paleontology, who was leader of the party; Mr. James H. Quinn, of the Museum's staff; Messrs. John Schmidt, Robert Schmidt, and Ellsworth Shaw, all of Homewood, Illinois, and Mr. Edwin C. Galbreath, of Ashmore, Illinois.

Work was conducted in both Colorado and South Dakota. The Kennebec sea reptile, which lived during the Cretaceous period about one hundred million years ago when a great salt sea covered what now constitutes the middle western plains, was a distant relative of the lizards. A member of the group known collectively as Mosasaurs, it had a very large head, an exceedingly long tail, flippers to paddle its way

through the water, and many conical teeth. A notable feature was doubled-jointed jaws making it possible to achieve a wider gape for devouring the various other sea creatures upon which it preyed, according to Assistant Curator Patterson. The deposit from which it was excavated by Messrs. Quinn and Galbreath is known as the Pierre Shale. Hitherto Field Museum has had only a partial skeleton of this type of prehistoric animal, and the present specimen, nearly complete and much larger in proportions, will provide material for a much more effective exhibit. The Mosasaur preyed upon various fishes, invertebrates such as cuttlefish, and marine turtles which it probably devoured shell and all.

In Colorado, as reported in last month's FIELD MUSEUM NEWS, specimens were obtained of one of the earliest large mammals—the *Coryphodon*, a creature about the size of a hippopotamus but in its special characteristics unlike any animal living today.

Previously there had been only three reasonably complete *Coryphodon* skeletons known. These animals, which have no modern relatives, lived in the early part of the Eocene epoch, more than forty million years ago.

Less spectacular, but offering even greater possibilities scientifically are specimens of small insectivores and primates of the early Eocene. To properly assess their scientific significance will require months of research, says Mr. Patterson, but it is expected that some of them will prove to be of species new to science, and some may have special value in the further study of the relationships of the tarsiers, lemurs, and other primitive members of the early monkey and man group of animals. Also collected were specimens of early relatives of the horse, rhinoceros and tapir, primitive rodents, and groups of animals of which no members exist in the modern world. The total collection of the expedition embraces more than 500 specimens.



FLYING AND SWIMMING REPTILES, INCLUDING THE MOSASAUR

The huge grotesque animal in the center is Artist Charles R. Knight's restoration of a Mosasaur, a type of marine reptile recently collected in South Dakota by the Field Museum Paleontological Expedition to the West. On the left in the picture, which is one of the series of large mural paintings in Ernest R. Graham Hall of Historical Geology (Hall 38), are Pterodactyls, or flying reptiles which had wing-spreads of more than twenty-one feet. On the right is another contemporary, the gigantic sea-turtle of the genus Archelon.





1941. "30-Foot Fossil Marine Reptile Skeleton Collected in a South Dakota Prairie." *Field Museum news* 12(10), 3-3.

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