

SPRING WILD FLOWERS—

If you like them, and want to know more about them, read, *Spring Wild Flowers*, and *Spring and Early Summer Wild Flowers*, two illustrated leaflets published by Field Museum. J. Francis Macbride, Associate Curator of the Herbarium, is the author. The booklets are on sale at THE BOOK SHOP of FIELD MUSEUM—25 cents each.

HEAD DEFORMATION

Endeavors to improve on nature by modifying in some way the human figure are very common. In many cases even the head form is changed by causing the developing skull to take a different shape under pressure. A peculiar contrivance for accomplishing this, used by the Milanaus, one of the Dyak tribes of Borneo, is shown in Case No. 39 in Hall G.

A padded block fastened to a wooden bar is placed on the forehead, and the ends of the bar are attached by two cords to a band around the back of the head. By tightening the cords the pressure can be increased. The cords are passed in opposite directions through a hole in a coin or similar object which can be used to twist the cords. In this way the pressure may be gradually increased. The cords fastened to the back band on each side pass through holes in the ends of the bar and along its front, the coin being about the center of the bar.

This apparatus is used on children while they are very young, beginning usually within the first month after birth. The pressure is not applied continuously, but only for about fifteen minutes on successive days or at somewhat longer intervals for a month or so, ten to twenty applications being sufficient to bring about the desired effect. The pressure is applied only when the child is asleep, and is relaxed if it cries.

The effect of this treatment is slightly to flatten and broaden the head, giving a more rounded face, this being the most admired form. Only female children, as a rule, are thus treated.

DO YOU KNOW THAT—

—people of some of the native tribes of eastern Siberia use clothing made of fish skins? Skins of large fishes such as carp, salmon and trout are treated so as to be almost as flexible as cloth and are then made into various garments for men and women. For ceremonial and other special purposes these garments of fish skin are ornamented with appliqué patterns made by sewing bits of dyed fish skin in patterns on pieces of cloth that are then attached to the garments. Garments made of fish skin are exhibited in several cases in Hall L (Asiatic Ethnology). —A.C.W.

FIRST WOMAN AVIATRIX OF CHINA VISITS FIELD MUSEUM

Miss Lee Ya-ching (formerly of Shanghai, and later of Hong-Kong), noted because of her accomplishments as the first woman in China to qualify as an aviation pilot, visited Field Museum on April 15. Dr. C. Martin Wilbur, Curator of Chinese Archaeology and Ethnology, acted as host, representing the Museum. Miss Lee was especially interested in observing how the Museum's comprehensive collections interpret the arts, sciences, and general culture of her country to Americans. These collections, the largest assemblage of Chinese archaeological and ethnological material in the Middle West, occupy three halls: George T. and Frances Gaylord Smith Hall (Hall 24), Hall 32, and the Hall of Chinese Jades (Hall 30) which contains more than a thousand exquisitely carved jade objects.

Miss Lee, who has served her country in the air at home, is now in America making a tour of our principal cities in the interest of United China Relief. She is flying her own airplane on many of her journeys in this country.

In recognition of the China Relief activities, Saturday, April 18 was designated as "China Day at Field Museum" by Lieutenant-Colonel Clifford C. Gregg, Director. On that day the Museum was the scene of a celebration by a group of children from Chicago's Chinatown, and their mothers. Dr. Chang-Lok Chen, Consul-General of China in this city, and officials of United China Relief, were present.

The exhibits in Hall 24 illustrate the development of Chinese civilization in all its varied

phases from its beginnings in the Neolithic period (about 2000 B.C.) down to the latter part of the 18th century. There are two main divisions: the ancient original culture of China prior to the intrusion of Buddhism, and the culture of Buddhistic China, as influenced and modified by religious and artistic currents coming from India about the third century A.D.

In Hall 32 modern Chinese culture is illustrated. Extensive exhibits explain the Lamaist religion of Tibet. One section is devoted to Chinese and Tibetan theatricals, and presents all the main scenes in a drama based on the conception of Hades which forms a part of the Taoist religion.



Chicago Daily News photo

FINDS MONUMENT OF HER HOMETOWN IN MUSEUM

Miss Lee Ya-ching, first woman aviatrix of China, inspecting marble lion which once guarded the entrance to a Manchu Empire government building in Peking, with Dr. C. Martin Wilbur, Curator of Chinese Archaeology and Ethnology, and Joanne Westphal (left center) and her sister Ruth. The little girls, whose home is in Stanton, Michigan, and Miss Lee, who is touring the United States in the interest of United China Relief, were equally fascinated by Field Museum's extensive collections from China.

Museum Fossil Hunter Returns from Honduras Expedition

Mr. Paul O. McGrew, Assistant Curator of Paleontology, returned to Field Museum April 20 from a paleontological expedition he has been conducting in Honduras since November. Assisting Mr. McGrew in his explorations were Mr. Albert Potter, Curator of the Museum of the Chadron (Nebraska) State Teachers' College; Señor Eliseo Carabantes, a Honduran school master, and

a Honduran Indian who served as camp man, cook, and muleteer.

Mr. McGrew obtained some 250 fossil specimens of mammals of both early Pliocene age (7,000,000 years ago) and Pleistocene age (500,000 years ago). He will publish an account of the expedition's work in the next issue of FIELD MUSEUM NEWS.

Much amethyst comes from the hollow agates which are found in Uruguay.



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