

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.

MUSEUM—ZOO CO-OPERATION

All good zoo animals go to Field Museum when they die—at least those that die in the Brookfield Zoo. The scientific value of an animal often is just as great after it is dead as while it was alive, and close co-operation between the Museum and the Zoo is designed to extract the maximum value from each specimen.

This program of co-operation dates from the very beginning of the Chicago Zoological Society's Brookfield Zoo. In the intervening years it has proved its worth many times over. The Museum has greatly extended the usefulness of these extremely valuable specimens by acting as a clearing house for those engaged in research in other institutions. Scientists working on special problems in medical schools and universities throughout the city leave "orders" with the Museum for particular animals or parts of animals that they require. As such specimens become available they are routed to the scientist who has requested them. In this way both the Zoo and the Museum are contributing directly to medical research and thus to human welfare. It may seem a long way from a kangaroo in a zoological park to a surgeon's decision in the operating room of a hospital, but the path can sometimes be traced very directly.

The practical difficulties of embalming large animals in the field and transporting them to laboratories where they can be studied are so great that most of our knowl-

edge of the internal structure of these creatures has come from zoo specimens. Some zoos, like that of the London Zoological Society, employ a considerable scientific staff, one of whom, the "prosector," has the duty of making anatomical studies of the rare or otherwise interesting animals that become available for dissection as they die. In the United States the zoological gardens of New York, Washington, and Chicago have allied themselves with the respective museums of natural history, so that the curator of the museum division of anatomy serves as the prosector.

Museum expeditions often bring back live animals, which are deposited in the zoo until they have lived out their life span, when they are returned to the museum. In this way the usefulness of animal specimens is doubled.

The Museum's taxidermists continually refer to the living animals in the zoo to check poses, attitudes, and colors of the animals they are mounting. The result of these studies are obvious when the stiff and unnatural animals that filled the museums of yesterday are compared with the lifelike exhibits of today. Occasionally zoo animals are even used for museum exhibition, and in rare instances an entire group may be made from zoo material. Field Museum's group of emperor penguins, for example, was made from birds brought back by the Third Byrd Antarctic Expedition and deposited in the Brookfield Zoo.

According to an old joke, the packing houses use every scrap of a pig "except the squeal." Field Museum recently received from the Brookfield Zoo a fine specimen of the babirusa (a curious species of pig from the East Indies), and the subsequent history of this animal shows that a rare wild pig may be used up almost as thoroughly for scientific purposes as a domestic porker is for food and commercial by-products. A mold was first made from the babirusa, and from this was prepared the lifelike celluloid model exhibited among the pigs of the world in Hall 15. The anatomy of this extraordinary species was inadequately known, so extensive dissections were made and the results published in the Museum's series of technical scientific publications. Then the skeleton was prepared and filed for future reference in the research collection of skeletons. Finally, organs to which special interest attached were stored with the anatomical collection to make them available for further study by specialists.

In this way co-operation in science extends the horizons of human knowledge.

—D. DWIGHT DAVIS

Of value, and of special interest to students of the Southwest, is Case 8 in Hall 7 which contains Pueblo Indian tools. They are arranged according to period, thus making it easy to trace the development.

LECTURE TOURS IN OCTOBER

Conducted tours of exhibits, under the guidance of staff lecturers, are made every afternoon at 2 o'clock except Saturdays, Sundays, and certain holidays.

Thursday, October 1—General Tour; Friday—Why Civilizations Differ From Place to Place (Miss Miriam Wood).

Week beginning October 5: Monday—Animals in Autumn (Miss Elizabeth Best); Tuesday—General Tour; Wednesday—Sugars and Spices (Miss Marie Pabst); Thursday—General Tour; Friday—How the Ancient Egyptians Lived (Miss Miriam Wood).

Week beginning October 12: Monday—Modern People of the Americas (Miss Miriam Wood); Tuesday—General Tour; Wednesday—Plants and Animals Through the Ages (Miss Marie Pabst); Thursday—General Tour; Friday—Game and Fur Bearers (Miss Elizabeth Best).

Week beginning October 19: Monday—Plant Products of Pacific Lands (Miss Marie Pabst); Tuesday—General Tour; Wednesday—Field Museum as a Vital Source of Information (Miss Miriam Wood); Thursday—General Tour; Friday—Animals of the Canal Zone and South American Jungles (Miss Elizabeth Best).

Week beginning October 26: Monday—Men of the Old Stone Age (Miss Miriam Wood); Tuesday—General Tour; Wednesday—Plants Prepare For Winter (Miss Marie Pabst); Thursday—General Tour; Friday—High and Low in the Animal Kingdom (Miss Elizabeth Best).

NEW MEMBERS

The following persons became Members of Field Museum during the period from July 16 to September 8:

Associate Members

Robert B. Ayres, David Borowitz, Frederick A. Cerling, George F. Fisher, J. A. Holmes, John P. Robertson, Sinclair G. Stanley, William G. Taylor, C. C. Whittier.

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