

N. W. HARRIS SCHOOL EXTENSION ENLARGES ITS SERVICE

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In the October issue of *FIELD MUSEUM NEWS*, Mr. Stanley Field, President, stated as one of the Museum's chief wartime aims that "...earnest efforts must be made to avoid any cessation of the institution's educational projects (both juvenile and adult), particularly those for the benefit of school children..."

One of the effects of wartime restrictions on the use of automobiles and chartered

the kind and order of arrival of exhibits. Nevertheless, the fact that the system keeps the bulk of available cases in circulation throughout the year, and provides the greatest number of schools with seasonal material at times when it will be of greatest utility to the teacher, seems to be the best compromise with a difficult problem.

To compensate for the lack of flexibility in the circulation of the more formal exhibits, other types of material have been developed to provide teachers with visual

to both the teacher and the child during the learning process.

The entire project is one to supplement, rather than supplant, the ability of the individual school or teacher to acquire, and keep on hand at all times, illustrative material for teaching the natural sciences, or to provide extra-curricular interests for pupils. However, with the restrictions imposed by government on certain kinds of collecting, and popular sentiment in favor of conservation, it is apparent that the Museum performs an important function in collecting, preparing, and lending to schools many of the things that are useful for instructional purposes and increasingly difficult to obtain and preserve.

Staff Notes

Miss Virginia Drew and Miss Jeanne Bailey have been appointed as guide-lecturers on the staff of the James Nelson and Anna Louise Raymond Foundation. Both have prepared for this work at the University of Chicago.

Staff Taxidermist John W. Moyer has enlisted in the United States Navy as a Chief Specialist in cinematography for the Bureau of Aeronautics.

Dr. Paul S. Martin, Chief Curator of Anthropology, gave a lecture before the Woman's Alliance Unitarian Church on "Race, Language and Culture," November 10, and on November 12 addressed a seminar at the University of Chicago on archaeological work in New Mexico.

Dr. C. Martin Wilbur, Curator of Chinese Archaeology and Ethnology, gave a lecture on November 16 to students in Chinese history at the University of Chicago on "Economic Conditions in China During the Former Han Dynasty."

Dr. Wilfrid D. Hambly, Curator of African Ethnology, recently attended a meeting in Washington, D.C., of the African Committee of the Ethnographic Board, held under the auspices of the National Research Council.

Pvt. Emmet R. Blake, Assistant Curator of Birds, in service with the U. S. Army since June, has been promoted to Corporal, and assigned to specialized duties.



MATERIAL FROM "SPECIMEN LIBRARY" FOR PUBLIC SCHOOLS

The now familiar type of portable exhibit of the Museum's N. W. Harris Public School Extension is shown here with other kinds of illustrative material that may be borrowed by Chicago teachers.

busses is to increase the difficulties of bringing groups of school children to the Museum. Under the circumstances prevailing, the work of lending portable museum exhibits to schools and other educational organizations of Chicago assumes considerable added importance.

The preparation and circulation of natural history exhibits in the schools is a function of the N. W. Harris Public School Extension of Field Museum. This fall, more schools are receiving the benefits of this Museum service than ever before in the history of the Department's thirty years of existence. Nearly 1,000 cases are now in regular circulation among 497 schools and other educational or social service organizations of the city. During the course of the school year, each borrower will have the use of thirty-four portable cases containing birds, small mammals, plants, and other objects useful as visual aids to instruction in subjects covered by courses of study in the elementary and high schools.

The present system of distribution of cases in the schools may be considered somewhat arbitrary because it involves simple rotation of exhibits from school to school, and the individual school is unable to choose

aids in the form of museum materials at times when instruction in a particular subject is being given.

These materials include birds and small mammals in transparent tubes; pressed plants of the Chicago area prepared in transparent, protective coverings for handling, and accompanied by accurate identifications; insects in small handcases, as well as in individual mounts; specimens of rocks and minerals; seeds, soils, and sundry economic products in small jars and bottles; and a limited amount of ethnological material, chiefly American.

Teachers may now come to the Museum to borrow specimens from the Harris Extension in much the same way that they would borrow books from a public library. Or by writing or telephoning the Department, they may have the collections delivered to their schools at the next regular visit of the Museum's delivery truck. Individual attention is given to each request in an attempt to assemble specimens that will aid in the accomplishment of the teaching aims of the instructor. Besides timeliness, a merit of the new type of material is the fact that it can be handled by pupils, a procedure that is generally recognized as helpful

MUSEUM TO CLOSE CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR'S DAY

in order to permit as many employees as possible to spend the holidays with their families.



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