

HOVEY MUSEUM FOSSILS RECEIVED HERE

The Museum recently purchased the major part of the fossil collections of the Hovey Museum of Wabash College, Crawfordsville, Indiana. The specimens are now being unpacked, accessioned, and added to the study collection of the Department of Geology. Among a small number of vertebrate fossils is the type specimen of a primitive American camel, *Procamelus hesternus* (Leidy). Invertebrate fossils constitute most of the collection, including many fine specimens of Mississippian crinoids from Crawfordsville, a classic locality from which complete specimens were taken in great abundance two generations ago. There are few places where one may collect complete fossil crinoids, as these strange animals almost invariably disintegrate into millions of tiny pieces of crystalline calcite upon death unless buried rapidly in perfectly still water. The classic localities such as Crawfordsville are now almost entirely "worked out," so that it is a rare stroke of fortune to come upon a quantity of pristine specimens from such a place now.

The Hovey Museum was named for Edmund Otis Hovey, one of the founders of Wabash College, where he taught the courses in natural science. It was he who discovered the famous crinoid beds of Crawfordsville and presumably collected most of the fine crinoid specimens included in the collection. His grandson, with the same name, became a distinguished paleontologist and curator of geology at the American Museum of Natural History, New York, but had no recorded connection with the Hovey Museum. Both grandfather and grandson were original fellows of the Geological Society of America.

For the second time, the Department of Geology is assimilating the fossils of a small Indiana museum. In 1923, Mrs. George W. Robb presented the collections of the Borden Museum, of Borden, Indiana. The Borden collection, even larger than the Hovey collection, also includes many fine crinoids from Crawfordsville.

Before 1883, the Hovey Museum occupied a wing of Center Hall on the campus of Wabash College. It achieved a period of glory between 1883 and 1890 when it was located in the old college gymnasium. With the return of the gymnasium building to athletic activities in 1890, the specimens were scattered among classrooms and laboratories, and when geology was dropped from the curriculum in 1916, little use remained for the collection. In the study collection at Chicago Natural History Museum these fossils will henceforth be available for any scholar to examine and will facilitate the work of the Department of Geology in making determinations of fossils submitted for identification.

It is desired to express the appreciation

of the Museum to Dr. Frank Sparks, President of Wabash College, and to Dr. Eliot Williams of that college's Department of Zoology, for their action in making available to the Museum and to research scientists for all time to come the splendid specimens comprising the Hovey collection.

EUGENE S. RICHARDSON, JR.
Curator of Fossil Invertebrates

DECEMBER LECTURE TOURS, DAILY EXCEPT SUNDAY

Tours of exhibits, under the guidance of staff lecturers, are conducted every afternoon at 2 o'clock, except Sundays and certain holidays. On Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays, general tours are given covering all departments. Special subjects are offered on Wednesdays and Fridays. A schedule of these follows:

Fri., Dec. 1—Natural History of the Chicago Area. Illustrated introduction in Meeting Room (*Lorain Farmer*).

Wed., Dec. 6—Designs in Wood—Tree Growths that Result in Beautiful Patterns (*Miriam Wood*).

Fri., Dec. 8—The Earth Blows Her Top—Story of Volcanoes. Illustrated introduction in Meeting Room (*Anne Stromquist*).

Wed., Dec. 13—Sacred Animals (*Jane Sharpe*).

Fri., Dec. 15—Trademarks of Culture. Illustrated introduction in Meeting Room (*June Buchwald*).

Wed., Dec. 20—Earth's Natural Resources (*Anne Stromquist*).

Fri., Dec. 22—Toys. Illustrated introduction in Meeting Room (*Harriet Smith*).

Wed., Dec. 27—Web of Life—Interdependence of Plants and Animals (*Marie Svoboda*).

Fri., Dec. 29—Your Winter Vacation in Cuba—Natural History. Illustrated introduction in Meeting Room (*Jane Sharpe*).

Persons wishing to participate should apply at North Entrance. Tours are free. The Museum will be closed on Christmas and New Year's Day.

4-H Club Youths Throng Museum

Boys and girls from the farms of America, chosen in each state for excellence of achievement and sent to Chicago at the time of the International Livestock Exposition as delegates to the National Congress of 4-H Clubs, made their annual visit to Chicago Natural History Museum on November 27 and 30. Several hundred teen-agers and younger members of the rural organization came to the Museum on each day. Special programs were presented for them in the James Simpson Theatre by the Raymond Foundation, after which they made tours of the exhibition halls.

EXPEDITION TO MARIANAS COMPLETES WORK

Dr. Alexander Spoehr, Curator of Oceanic Ethnology, has just returned to the Museum after completion of the Museum's 1949-50 Anthropological Expedition to the Marianas Islands. Except for Guam, the Marianas Islands formerly were a part of the Japanese mandate. Today they are administered by the United States as a United Nations trust territory. The purpose of the Museum expedition was twofold: (1) an archaeological project, designed to uncover the ancient history of the Marianas before Magellan's discovery of Guam in 1521, and (2) an ethnological project whose purpose was the study of the modern native communities on the islands north of Guam. During the war, the Chamorros (the name of the local inhabitants) lost all their possessions and their lives were completely disrupted. Today, under American administration, they are attempting to construct new communities. A principal purpose of the expedition was to examine the process of the reformation of community life and to assess the nature of the problems that remain to be solved by these people. The project was conducted in co-operation with the Navy Department, which at present administers the trust territory. During the year's work of the expedition, headquarters were maintained at Saipan.

A comprehensive account by Dr. Spoehr of the results of the expedition will be printed in an early issue of the BULLETIN.

STAFF NOTES

Dr. Sharat K. Roy, Chief Curator of Geology, **Robert K. Wyant**, Curator of Economic Geology, **Bryan Patterson**, Curator of Fossil Mammals, and **Robert H. Denison**, Curator of Fossil Fishes, attended the Geological Society of America meetings held in Washington, D.C., November 16, 17, and 18. Dr. Roy is continuing his studies on meteorites at both the United States Geological Survey and the U. S. National Museum in Washington . . . **Dr. Paul S. Martin**, Chief Curator of Anthropology, will present a paper at the annual meeting of the American Anthropological Association in Berkeley, California, in the latter part of December . . . **Miss Elaine Bluhm**, of the Department of Anthropology, lectured on American Indian pottery November 21 at a meeting of the Chicago Potters Guild . . . **Robert Kanazawa**, Assistant in Fishes, has resigned to take a position at the U. S. National Museum in Washington, D.C. . . . **Loren P. Woods**, Curator of Fishes, and associates in his Division have been making a series of field trips to study cave fishes. Localities thus far visited include southern Indiana, central Kentucky, and Tennessee.



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