

**Fishing Notes From All Over . . .****LAKE MICHIGAN IS CALLED AN 'AQUATIC DESERT'**

In conversation, the staff of the Department of Zoology often refers to Lake Michigan as an aquatic desert. We think of it as a sparsely populated habitat—excluding, of course, the human population. Deep, relatively cold bodies of fresh water, such as our Great Lakes, are not rich in animal life.

On the other hand, shallow, warm lakes in the tropics may swarm with life. One such place, the Great Lake of Cambodia, Indo-China, has a fantastic fish crop. Great Lake lies in the lower part of the Mekong River basin. Every spring the lake overflows its banks until it reaches four times its low-water surface area. This tremendous increase in size is brought about by the coincidence of the rainy season in Indo-China with the swelling of the Mekong River by the melting snows of the Himalayas 2,300 miles upstream.

Dr. P. Chevey of the Oceanographic Institute of Indo-China estimates the annual fish catch of Great Lake to be 100,000 tons, of which 23,000 tons are exported to Java. As the total surface area at high water is 3,800 square miles, the annual yield is about 26 tons per square mile. The surface area of Lake Michigan is 22,400 square miles. In 1946, a moderately good fishing year, 11,192 tons of fish were caught in Lake Michigan, or roughly one-half ton per square mile.

As we say, it's an aquatic desert.

ROBERT F. INGER  
Assistant Curator of Fishes

**DALLWIG RESUMES TALKS ON SUNDAY AFTERNOONS**

Returning from a month's out-of-town speaking tour, Paul G. Dallwig, the Layman Lecturer, will resume his Sunday afternoon talks at the Museum in March. His subject for the month is "A Museum Zoo Is Exciting Too," to be presented at 2 P.M. on all five Sundays—March 1, 8, 15, 22, and 29. The lecture, given partly in the Lecture Hall and partly among exhibits, covers incidents in the lives of wild animals that illustrate their intelligence and behavior under varied conditions. Among especially famous animals in the Museum whose stories will be told are the gorilla Bushman, the giant panda Su-lin, and the man-eating lions of Tsavo. A feature of the lecture is a dramatization of a day in Africa.

Members of the Museum may use their membership cards to attend these lectures without advance reservations. All others, with the exception of accredited representatives of the press, must make reservations in advance. Reservations may be made by mail or telephone (Wabash

2-9410). The lectures are free. They start promptly at 2 P.M. and end at 4:30 P.M., including a half-hour intermission for relaxation or for tea or coffee in the Museum cafeteria, where smoking is permitted. Admission is restricted to adults.

**GIFTS TO THE MUSEUM**

Following is a list of the principal gifts received during the past month:

**Department of Anthropology:**

From: Theodore Nakutin, Chicago—fur parka, Alaska

**Department of Botany:**

From: Prof. Eizi Matuda, Chiapas, Mexico—134 phanerogams, Mexico; Claude R. Mowry, Reno, Nev.—*Pinus washoensis*, *Quercus washoensis*, Nevada; O. A. Oaks, Wilmette, Ill.—plank of Fijian *Kauri*, plank of *Podocarpus*, Fiji Islands; Floyd Swink, Chicago—412 phanerogams, Indiana and Illinois

**Department of Geology:**

From: L. J. Blanchard, Bakersfield, Calif.—Horse Canyon agate, California; Mrs. Marion Rubens, Chicago—double strand seed-pearl necklace; Dr. William B. Thomas, Lyons, N.J.—collection of fossil fishes and concretions, Greenland

**Department of Zoology:**

From: American Museum of Natural History, New York City—3 weevils, South America; Bernard Benesh, Burrville, Tenn.—2 pupae of *Dynastes tityus* (rhinoceros beetle), Tennessee; Chicago Zoological Society, Brookfield—mammal specimen; Luis de la Torre, Ann Arbor, Mich.—94 ectoparasites of mammals, Guatemala; Dr. Georg Haas, Jerusalem, Israel—2 worm snakes, Israel; Harry Hoogstraal, Cairo, Egypt—2 frogs, 14 bats, Egypt, Giza, and Abu Sir; Richard I. Johnson, Belmont, Mass.—collection of fresh-water clams, New England states; Dr. Juan A. Rivero, Mayaguez, Puerto Rico—2 coral snakes, Venezuela; Dr. Wolfgang Weyrauch, Lima, Peru—collection of shells, Peru

**NEW MEMBERS**

The following persons became Museum Members from January 19 to February 11:

**Contributor**

Dr. Harold Trapido

**Associate Members**

Hamilton Allport, Dr. Abraham Goldstein

**Annual Members**

Arthur J. Bidwill, Mrs. Herbert A. Borland, Dr. Stanley Budrys, Raymond Canaday, Theodore Chandik, Bernard J. Cunningham, Dr. Leonard F. Farrell, Harry N. Gifford, Jr., Brimson Grow, Milan Herzog, William H. Hillier, John L. Hopkins, Rajko Lozar, Mrs. Frederick Orr Ludlow, Merrill W. MacNamee, Frederick Mayer, Fritz Mayer, L. R. O'Brien, Martin T. O'Brien, William L. O'Brien, L. O. Paul, Charles D. Peacock III, Ralph Pellow, Herbert J. Pulham, Miss Sadie Purvis, W. J. Stark

**On Saturday Mornings . . .****FREE MOVIE PROGRAMS OFFERED CHILDREN**

A series of eight free motion-picture programs for children will be presented at the Museum on Saturday mornings during March and April. On four of the programs, explorers who are to appear also in the spring lecture course for adults will tell their stories for the children.

The children's programs, under the auspices of the James Nelson and Anna Louise Raymond Foundation, will be given at 10:30 A.M. in the James Simpson Theatre. Children may come alone, accompanied by parents or other adults, or in groups from schools, clubs, and other centers. No tickets are needed. Following are the titles and dates of the programs:

**March 7—DESERT LIFE**

One film on American southwestern deserts and the Indians; a second film on desert of French Morocco and its people  
Also a cartoon

**March 14—THE RABBIT THAT RUNS ON SNOWSHOES**

Movies of the snowshoe hare, one of nature's most fascinating creatures, with story told by Earl L. Hilfiker

**March 21—ARIZONA**

All seasons in color film; life of the Indians; the Grand Canyon. Alfred M. Bailey will tell the story

**March 28—SPRING COMES TO A POND**

The first frogs, small mammals, birds, and flowers that appear in the Chicago region  
Also a cartoon

**April 4—WILD LIFE IN ACTION**

Strange and comical behavior of birds, mammals, reptiles, and other creatures, with Olin Sewall Pettingill, Jr., as storyteller

**April 11—ALASKAN ESKIMOS**

Films by Walt Disney of an Eskimo and his family  
Also a cartoon

**April 18—ADVENTURE IN BORORO LAND**

The story of cowboys and Indians in the Matto Grosso region of Brazil. Sasha Siemel, who made the film, will narrate his adventures, including wild-animal hunts

**April 25—OLYMPIC ELK**

One of Walt Disney's True Life Adventure Series  
Also a cartoon

Egypt's ancient culture from before 3000 B.C. is illustrated in Hall J.





Inger, Robert F. 1953. "Lake Michigan is Called an 'Aquatic Desert'" *Bulletin* 24(3), 7-7.

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