

Chicago Natural History Museum

FOUNDED BY MARSHALL FIELD, 1893

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THE BULLETIN

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Members are requested to inform the Museum promptly of changes of address.

ALFRED CLEVELAND WEED

1881-1953

News has been received at the Museum of the death on November 30, 1953, of Alfred C. Weed, retired Curator of Fishes. He was seventy-two years old. Mr. Weed joined the staff of the Museum in January, 1921, at the time the collections and exhibits were being moved from Jackson Park to Grant Park. His first major task, therefore, was arranging the fish collection in new sequence and relabeling most of it and unpacking, cataloguing, and labeling several stored and inaccessible large collections, a tremendous task that was carried on virtually alone. His principal efforts during the twenty-one years he was in charge of the Division of Fishes were directed toward adding to the study collections and improving the exhibits. This latter work (with Leon L. Pray as artist and taxidermist) produced the habitat groups and systematic series in the Hall of Fishes (Hall O), which was opened in July, 1941, two years before Mr. Weed was forced to retire because of poor health. He conducted



ALFRED C. WEED

a number of expeditions, usually with the double purpose of securing exhibition and study material. The most notable of these were to the upper Mississippi River in 1922 and to Louisiana and Texas in 1923 and 1924. In 1926 and 1927-28, he participated in the Rawson-MacMillan Subarctic Expeditions to Labrador, Greenland, and Baffin Island, and in 1937 he conducted an expedition to the coast of Maine to collect material for habitat and systematic exhibits.

STAFF NOTES

Dr. Sharat K. Roy, Chief Curator of Geology, Robert K. Wyant, Curator of Economic Geology, Bryan Patterson, Curator of Fossil Mammals, and D. Dwight Davis, Curator of Vertebrate Anatomy, attended the annual meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science held in Boston late in December. Chief Curator Roy and Curator Wyant participated in a symposium on the origin of meteorites, and Curator Patterson and Curator Davis took part in one entitled "Non-Human Primates and the Problem of Human Evolution." Dr. Paul S. Martin, Chief Curator of Anthropology, Donald Collier, Curator of South American Ethnology and Archaeology, and Miss Elaine Bluhm, Assistant in Archaeology, attended the annual meeting of the American Anthropological Association held in Tucson, Arizona, from December 26 to 30. Chief Curator Martin presented a paper on his 1953 excavations in New Mexico and another in the symposium on the Southwest. Curator Collier presented a paper on Peru in the symposium on "Comparison of Early Irrigation Civilizations" and served as chairman of the session on Southwest archaeology. In December Dr. Julian A. Steyermark, Curator of the Phanerogamic Herbarium, spoke before the Illinois Orchid Society on "Orchids of Guatemala" and before the Hinsdale Garden Club on "Exploring for Plants in the 'Lost World' of Venezuela."

GIFTS TO THE MUSEUM

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

Department of Anthropology:

From: Dr. R. W. Mendelson, Albuquerque, N. M.—a Bangkok hat, portion of Buddhist scripture incised on palm-leaf strips, and an embroidered-silk wall hanging, Siam

Department of Botany:

From: Agricultural and Mechanical College of Texas, College Station—24 Commelinaceae, Mexico; Holly R. Bennett, Chicago—460 miscellaneous phanerogams, Chicago, and 146 miscellaneous phanerogams, Montana; Illinois State Museum, Springfield—*Aster furcatus*, Illinois; Dr. Earl E. Sherff, Chicago—148 phanerogams, Hawaii, and 172 negatives, 172 prints;

THIS MONTH'S COVER

The whaleheaded stork of Africa, pictured on the cover, is one of the largest and most impressive species found in a continent noted for the wealth and variety of its birds. Although related both to storks and to herons, whaleheads nevertheless have distinctive anatomical features that place them in a separate family. The single species occurs only in central Africa, where it frequents the great marshes of the White Nile River in Egypt south to the Lake Victoria region of Uganda. Standing about 40 inches high and characterized by a remarkably massive bill, the whaleheaded stork is the most imposing bird of its habitat. The specimen portrayed is one of the central figures in a new and strikingly realistic habitat group (Hall 20) of the marsh birds of the upper Nile River (see page 3). All specimens and accessory materials for the exhibit were collected in 1952 by the Buchen East Africa Expedition.

Floyd A. Swink, Chicago—211 phanerogams, Chicago; Frank O. Smith, Ames, Iowa—*Physalis aequata* Jacq., Mexico

Department of Geology:

From: Mrs. Robert H. Whitfield, Evanston, Ill.—Pennsylvanian insect, Carbondale formation, Braidwood, Illinois

Raymond Foundation:

From: Mrs. Hermon Dunlap Smith, Lake Forest, Ill.—8 black-and-white slides

NEW MEMBERS

The following persons became Museum Members from November 16 to December 15:

Non-Resident Life Member

E. J. Knudtson

Associate Members

Edward McC. Blair, N. J. Lavezzorio, Carl E. Olin, John E. Stipp

Annual Members

Mrs. C. C. Campbell, Harry A. Coldiron, Willard Gidwitz, Wilson T. Herren, Earl Johnson, Walter C. Lindley, Jr., Herbert H. Lissner, Arthur J. Lowell, Robert B. Mahan, R. F. Malcolmson, Mrs. Andrew R. Melody, Miss Margaret Melody, C. W. Mercer, Francis K. Mettenet, Robert W. Mullenix, Donald C. Mullery, C. Frank Newburg, C. G. Newton, Miss Geraldine O'Leary, Henry R. Platt, Jr., Ernest H. Reed, H. Edward Reeves, Rollin W. Roach, R. F. Searson, C. H. Sethness, Jr., Dr. Kenneth P. Sharpe, John W. Shaw, Frank R. Walker, John Wieland, Frederick C. Williams, W. J. Williams



1954. "Alfred Cleveland Weed, 1881-1953." *Bulletin* 25(1), 2-2.

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