

Chicago Natural History Museum

FOUNDED BY MARSHALL FIELD, 1893

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

'SO YOU WORK IN A MUSEUM!'

The above exclamation, in astonished voice, and its complementary question, "How come?" or variants thereof, are frequently heard by members of the staff of this and other museums when their occupation is revealed for the first time to friends and acquaintances.

The question was recently asked of Melvin A. Traylor, Jr., who at the beginning of this year terminated a career in business to join the Museum staff in a full-time position as Assistant Curator in the Division of Birds. The interrogator was a reporter for the *Chicago Sun-Times*, who scented a feature story behind the announcement of the appointment.

"Birds are better than business," the reporter was told by Traylor, for whom the new Museum job was a return rather than a beginning. He had first become associated with the Division of Birds in 1937 as a volunteer worker and was a member of a number of Museum expeditions. After gallant war service with the U. S. Marines, Traylor had resumed his volunteer activities at the Museum. In the next few years friends kept up a constant pressure, he told the reporter.

"They told me I was wasting my life. They said I would never know what I might

be able to accomplish in business if I didn't give it a try. I began to wonder what the answer might be."

Finally, in 1951, Traylor and two other young men formed the Allied Barge Company. A little later Traylor was offered and accepted the presidency of a toy-manufacturing company.

"I had offices in a Loop building opposite two second-hand book stores," he said. "I would spend most of my lunch hour in one or the other hunting for good buys in books on science. That became the one happy hour of my day. It was the only time I felt free of pressures. My business work did not leave me with the feeling I was doing anything constructive. In the Museum's work I had had a sense of accomplishment. The study of birds helps man toward an understanding of all of nature."

"Since my return to the Museum several businessmen friends have told me they envy me. They're not happy in their work but they have such a stake in it through time spent and big paychecks coming in that they can't bear to give it up and turn to something more appealing."

"But I haven't found any unhappy people working in the Museum. They're here because it's here they want to be."

BROTHER LEON

(Dr. Joseph Sylvestre Sauget y Barbier)
1871—1955

With the death on November 20, 1955, of Brother León the Museum lost one of its highly esteemed Corresponding Members. Born December 31, 1871, in Mesnay-les-Arbois, France, he was educated in Besançon and Dijon. He joined the order of Christian Brothers in 1885 and taught mathematics and natural science in France, Canada, and Cuba, where he spent the greater part of his life. His special field of interest was the vegetation of Cuba, particularly its palms. Renowned professor at the Colegio de la Salle in Vedado, Havana, he was one of the founders of that institution.

A monument to the founders stands in the patio of the Colegio in Vedado, but the monument entirely his own will be the herbarium he established and the publications he wrote. With Brother Marie Victorin of the University of Montreal, he collaborated in *Itinéraires Botaniques*, an account of their explorations of the vegetation of Cuba. His outstanding work is the *Flora of Cuba*, three volumes of which have been issued, while the fourth and last is still in the very competent hands of his pupil and collaborator Brother Alain of the same Colegio de la

DINOSAUR NIGHT
Tuesday, March 27

THIS MONTH'S COVER

The barriers that have aroused the curiosity of the young visitors in our cover picture will be removed on Dinosaur Night (the evening of Tuesday, March 27) to reveal to Members of the Museum and guests the completed exhibit of *Gorgosaurus* and *Lambeosaurus*. Details of this event will be found on page 3. On pages 4 and 5 are pictures of stages in the long and intricate process of preparation.

Salle, co-author also of the second and third volumes.

In recognition of his outstanding work, Brother León received in 1927 the degree of Doctor of Science, *honoris causa*, from Columbia University and many other honors from various institutions. On May 16, 1949, the Board of Trustees of Chicago Natural History Museum elected Brother León a Corresponding Member.

NEW MEMBERS

(January 16 to February 13)

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Hughston M. McBain

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1956. "Brother Leon, 1871-1955." *Bulletin* 27(3), 2-2.

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