

by reduced and fluctuating budgets, a small staff and lack of oceanographic equipment. Recently however a beginning has been made by the Fish and Wildlife Service along several lines. In 1953 the Fish and Wildlife research vessel *Cisco* began work in Lake Superior on the lamprey and lake trout. In 1954 the *Cisco* was in Lake Michigan studying chubs to see if this species was becoming stunted or poor.

INSTITUTE ESTABLISHED

Recently, the Great Lakes Research Institute was established at the University of Michigan to promote basic research particularly in Lakes Erie, Huron, Michigan and Superior. Associated with the Great Lakes Research Institute is the Great Lakes Research Committee of Canada.

In January, 1956, the Great Lakes Commission was established by the states bordering the lakes "to promote the orderly, integrated and comprehensive development, use, and conservation of the water resources of the Great Lakes Basin."

In addition to the Great Lakes Commission consisting of the border states, there recently was established a Great Lakes Fishery Commission between the United States and Canada. The commission will have as one of its major activities the application of sea lamprey control. In addition it is expected that this Fishery Commission will co-ordinate many of the disjointed efforts to do research on the Great Lakes.

Previous attempts to carry on large-scale basic research on the lakes have failed largely because of a lack of strong, active, organized leadership. This need appears to have been met. Now the need is for support. To date only minimal amounts of money have been allotted to government agencies for research on the lakes and these allotments principally for investigation of some immediate critical problem such as sea lamprey control. The establishment of organizations devoted to research on the lakes should have as one function that of educating the public at large and thereby gaining support and funds for furthering basic research.

Effective conservation measures for the Great Lakes fisheries can be brought about only when there is international and interstate agreement regarding regulations, gathering of statistics, and co-ordinated research.

Acting Auditor Appointed

Miss Marion K. Hoffman has been appointed Acting Auditor of the Museum, due to the vacancy occurring with the recent resignation of Robert A. Krueger, Auditor.

Miss Hoffman joined the Museum staff in 1952 as Bookkeeper, and was promoted to Assistant Auditor in 1955. She was

formerly employed in a similar capacity in a business concern.

Mr. Krueger left the Museum's employ to accept a commercial position.

LECTURES FOR ADULTS ON FOUR SATURDAYS

Four illustrated lectures on travel and science remain to be given on Saturday afternoons during April in the spring series provided by the Edward E. Ayer Lecture Foundation Fund. These lectures all begin at 2:30 P.M., and are presented in the James Simpson Theatre of the Museum. Admission is free, and no tickets are required. While only adults can be accommodated, the Raymond Foundation provides free entertainment for children on the mornings of the same Saturdays.

Members of the Museum are each entitled to two reserved seats at all lectures. Reservations may be made by telephone (WABash 2-9410) or in writing. Seats will be held in the Member's name until 2:25 p.m.

Following are the dates, subjects, and lecturers in the adult series:

April 7—The Challenge of Everest
Norman G. Dyhrenfurth

April 14—Saga of the Swamplands
Earl L. Hilfiker

April 21—Penguin Summer
Olin Sewall Pettingill, Jr.

April 28—Blizzards to Blossoms
William Parsons

Daily Guide Lectures

Free guide-lecture tours are offered daily except Sundays under the title "Highlights of the Exhibits." These tours are designed to give a general idea of the entire Museum and its scope of activities. They begin at 2 P.M. on Monday through Friday and at 2:30 P.M. on Saturday.

Special tours on subjects within the range of the Museum exhibits are available Mondays through Fridays for parties of ten or more persons. Requests for such service must be made at least one week in advance.

Venezuelan Botanist Here

Leandro Aristeguieta, botanist at the Instituto Botanico of the Ministerio de Agricultura y Cria in Caracas, Venezuela, has come to the United States for two years to study the Compositae (Sunflower Family) as represented in Venezuela.

Mr. Aristeguieta, after studies at the New York Botanical Garden and the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, is now engaged in work on collections at Chicago Natural History Museum, and consulting with Dr. Julian A. Steyermark, Curator of the Phanerogamic Herbarium.

EXHIBIT TELLS THE FACTS ABOUT CROCODILIANS

The Museum's program of exhibition of crocodilians—the group including alligators, caimans, crocodiles, and gavials—began in 1923 with the Marshall Field Expedition to Central America. One of the prime purposes of the field party, which consisted of Dr. Karl P. Schmidt, Curator Emeritus of Zoology, and former Taxidermist Leon Walters, was the gathering of materials for a habitat group of the American crocodile. The successful result of the trip was the excellent Lake Ticamaya habitat exhibit that has been on display in the Hall of Reptiles (Hall 18) since 1926.

Two years later Mr. Walters went to southeastern Georgia and collected the female alligator and nest, which he made into one of the fascinating exhibits of the Hall of Reptiles. In the intervening years, two models of small Central American crocodilians have been prepared.

A new screen on crocodilians, recently installed, rounds out our exhibition of this ancient and interesting order of reptiles. Prepared by Taxidermist Ronald J. Lambert according to plans developed by the Division of Reptiles, this screen emphasizes those aspects of the biology of crocodilians not covered by other exhibits. About one-third



SKULL OF MAN-EATER

This specimen, decorated by Filipino tribesmen who killed the crocodile, now is featured in the center section of new exhibits in Albert W. Harris Hall (Hall 18). The small cut-outs convey an idea of the size range of crocodiles and relatives.

of the screen is devoted to the basic adaptations of the order to its aquatic environment: propulsion by a flattened tail and exclusion of water from body openings by special valves. Another section presents some of the differences between crocodiles and alligators. Size, another topic that seems to interest the public, is also treated. And, finally, the question of man-eaters among the crocodiles is dealt with.

ROBERT F. INGER
Curator of Amphibians and Reptiles



Inger, Robert F. 1956. "Exhibit Tells the Facts About Crocodilians." *Bulletin* 27(4), -5.

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