

will enhance the study collections notably. We discovered two interesting crocodile skulls; and a weathered-out, but nearly complete, little uintathere skull was found for us by young Mr. Potter, the son of Gardner Potter, operator of the Eversole Ranch. The Roy Eversoles, John Corsons, Elza Eversoles and the Potters have all been good, helpful neighbors and friends to us during these collecting trips and we are much in their debt for the help they have given us.

Now that the collecting phase of the work is finished, facing us is the task of getting the collections prepared before the materials can be studied in earnest. Several years of work with the Washakie collections lie ahead.

The expedition to Wyoming this year was financed by the Maurice L. Richardson Paleontological Fund.

## CHILDREN'S JOURNEY ON GIANT PLANTS

"How big is it?" youngsters often inquire. The query is a general one, asked indiscriminately about plants, animals, rocks, the earth, the universe. Children seem to derive a kind of satisfaction from knowing the size and weight of an object—"the bigger the better!"

Many giants are members of the Plant Kingdom. One of the oldest and largest of living things is a plant. Another giant plant is not only the largest of its kind, but it also grows at the almost incredible rate of 16 inches a day. Still another giant plant, surprisingly enough, consists mainly of water, being able to store up to 30 tons of it in its tissues during heavy but infrequent rainfalls.

Generally, giant plants grow in the warmer regions of the earth, but even the Chicago area can boast of one plant unique for its huge size.

Children can find out what these giant plants are on the Museum's Fall Journey (No. 19), "Giant Plants," offered during September, October, and November. It will direct children to some of the most unusual plants in the world.

The journey sheet is available to all boys and girls who can read. It may be picked up at either the North or South Door of the Museum. When completed, the journey sheet with the youngster's name and address on it is dropped in the barrel at either door.

A boy or girl who successfully completes four different journeys becomes a Museum Traveler. Eight different Journeys qualify aspirants as Museum Adventurers, and twelve as Museum Explorers. Upon the successful completion of 16 different Journeys, a youngster qualifies for a Special Journey, which may admit him to a Museum Club.

MARIE SVOBODA

Common wild flowers of the United States are well represented among the exhibits in Martin A. and Carrie Ryerson Hall (Plant Life, Hall 29).

## KATCHINA CULT TRACED BACK TO A.D. 1250

By PAUL S. MARTIN  
CHIEF CURATOR OF ANTHROPOLOGY

THE 1959 Archaeological Expedition to the Southwest under the leadership of the writer has found a remarkable ruin on the banks of the Little Colorado River, a few miles away from Springerville, Arizona. It

excellent and much better than that of the later walls.

Two large depressions probably indicate the location of kivas—ceremonial chambers or sanctuaries wherein were performed the esoteric parts of religious ceremonies. One of these may be excavated later this season.



MOUND IN SOUTHWEST YIELDS TRACES OF PAST  
Site of Museum expedition's excavations, near Springerville, Arizona.

is located on the ranch of Robert Hooper who has been most co-operative and friendly.

The ruin was first discovered and announced to scientists in 1917 by Dr. Leslie Spier, at that time a member of the staff of the American Museum of Natural History. Then, for approximately 40 years it was "lost" in the sense that archaeologists either did not know of the report in which the ruin was briefly described or were not interested in following it up. The local ranchers and collectors, of course, knew about it but did not realize its significance.

Work has not progressed very far as yet; but already we know that this ancient village was at least two stories high and that there are walls on top of walls, rooms upon rooms, walls under walls, sealed-up doorways deep down in the earlier parts of the town—all of which indicate earlier structures and changes in building plans. Thus the nickname "The Troy of Arizona." Other towns like this have been found; but the maze of earlier walls running under later ones is more complex than any we have ever before encountered and the nickname, although given in jest, seemed suitable.

### OLDER MASONRY BEST

The masonry of the earlier parts of the town, found many feet below the surface, is

Some of the earlier rooms had been despoiled by the later inhabitants who used the rooms as convenient garbage dumps. In this ashy refuse we have found many excellent tools of bone and stone plus discarded and broken pots and pieces of pots.

The dating of all parts of this hamlet is not yet fixed, but we feel fairly sure that the latest portions of it immediately precede Table Rock Site, dug last year. We also guess that perhaps the deeper rooms may be 50 to 100 years earlier than the latest ones—which are tentatively dated at about A.D. 1300.

### KATCHINAS DEPICTED

Two tantalizing fragments of a pottery bowl of remarkable significance have been recovered. When glued together, one can see two representations of masked figures called "katchinas." Katchinas were beneficent supernatural beings that, under certain circumstances, could be impersonated by a man wearing a mask. We cannot determine from these fragments whether or not several of these katchinas were depicted on the bowl interior, perhaps holding hands and dancing in a slow ceremonial rhythm, but we conjecture that such is probably the case.

Some years ago it was assumed that the katchina cult, masks, and other ceremonial

(Continued on page 8, column 1)



## TRAVEL LECTURES, FILMS START OCTOBER 3

The Museum's 112th series of travel lectures, illustrated with color motion pictures will be given on Saturday afternoons beginning October 3, and continuing through November 28. There will be nine programs, all starting at 2:30 P.M. in the James Simpson Theatre of the Museum. Admission is free. The lectures are provided by the Edward E. Ayer Lecture Foundation Fund.

The schedule for October is as follows:

### October 3—The Philippines

*Eric Pavel*

### October 10—People and Places in India

*John Moyer*

### October 17—A Missouri Story

*Alfred G. Etter*

### October 24—Mexico

*Phil Walker*

### October 31—Splendors of Persia

*Clifford Kamen*

## KATCHINA CULT—

(Continued from page 7)

paraphernalia were due to Spanish-Roman Catholic influences. More recently, the archaeologists from Harvard University uncovered murals on the walls of kivas that were certainly painted at about A.D. 1400—about



KATCHINAS ON POTTERY

Fragment of bowl unearthed by Museum expedition, showing heads of two impersonators of supernatural beings. Such a bowl is believed to have been imbued with extreme sanctity. Dating from about A.D. 1250, this and other specimens just excavated are the earliest extant evidence of the presence of the "Katchina Cult."

150 years before the advent of the Spaniards. In these murals, one can clearly see masked figures, undoubtedly katchina figures. The murals themselves may be altars, and painted thereon in colors are scenes that probably represent actual ceremonial performances. Since then a few other such murals have been found. These discoveries, then, exploded the idea that katchina masks and other details concerning the ceremonialism of the "katchina cult" were Spanish in origin.

The two fragmentary parts of a katchina

bowl that we excavated assume great significance, for now we know that masked men were impersonating katchinas or supernatural beings and that, in brief, the katchina cult was present by A.D. 1250 to 1300 at least, and possibly much earlier. It is my feeling that the religious beliefs concerning katchinas and the whole cult were probably Mogollon in context and may go back to the beginning of the Christian era. Present research suggests that the katchina cult and some aspect of the katchina ceremonies may be the result of stimulus from Mexico.

## NEW MEMBERS

(July 17 to August 14)

Non-Resident Associate Member

F. W. Pain

Associate Members

Samuel W. Block, Paul Caspers, John W. Cole, Earle M. Combs, Jr., Lee Cooper, Charles W. Desgrey, Joseph R. Ernest, Harry C. Faust, Mrs. James H. Ferry, Jr., Jones B. Frankel, Dr. Stanton A. Friedberg, Arthur Gettleman, Joseph J. Greeley, Thomas A. Harwood, Arent J. Jacobson, Horace W. Jordan, Joseph J. Kass, Samson Krupnick, Gordon Leadbetter, A. K. Maxwell, Jr., Joseph E. Nathan, Elmer G. Norell, Harry D. Perkins, Frederick Roe, Joseph H. Schwartz, William W. Sims, Francis B. Stine, J. McWilliams Stone, Sr., Paul Stratton, George Tiberius, William A. P. Watkins, Frederick F. Webster, Horace O. Wetmore, Harry J. Williams

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## MOVIES FOR CHILDREN BEGIN OCTOBER 3

The strange and fascinating wonders of the desert will come alive on the screen in Walt Disney's True Life Adventure story, "The Living Desert," on October 3 in the Museum's James Simpson Theatre to open the Museum's fall program of movies for children. The motion picture, which captures all the beauty of the desert in color, is the first in the series of films.

Children will be able to see these movies free every Saturday morning during October and November at 10:30, and are invited to come alone, accompanied by adults, or in groups. The series of free programs is sponsored by the James Nelson and Anna Louise Raymond Foundation.

Other movies scheduled include:

### October 10—Adventures of Huckleberry Finn

Mark Twain's classic story of the Mississippi River, and a sequel to Tom Sawyer

### October 17—Gulliver's Travels

The animated technicolor picture of Jonathan Swift's literary classic of Gulliver's travels to the Kingdom of Lilliput

### October 24—A World Is Born

The story of life on this earth in prehistoric times . . . Also a cartoon

### October 31—Between the Tides

Nature's mysteries of the sea—"the edge of the unknown" . . . Also a cartoon

A complete schedule of the nine children's programs for October and November will appear in the next BULLETIN.

## Malacologist Returns

Dr. Fritz Haas, Curator Emeritus of Lower Invertebrates, has returned from a field trip of three weeks in the northwest corner of North Carolina. Near the little town of Highlands, the highest incorporated town east of the Rocky Mountains, situated at an elevation of 4,000 feet, there is one of the few inland biological stations of the United States. There Dr. Haas had his headquarters, and from there he searched the surrounding mountains and woods for representatives of mollusk life.

## West Indies Fish Collecting

Fishes of West Indian waters from the vicinity of Puerto Rico to the Virgin Islands, and from the Saba Bank in the Lesser Antilles will be collected by Loren P. Woods, Curator of Fishes, this fall. He has been invited by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service to join a research and exploratory cruise aboard the motor vessel *Oregon*, on which in past years he has made several other expeditions.





Martin, Paul S. 1959. "Kachina Cult Traced Back to A.D. 1250." *Bulletin* 30(9), 7-8.

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