

# MUSEUM NEWS



## COBURN APPOINTMENT SPURS MUSEUM DEVELOPMENT

A new Department of Planning and Development was established by the Museum on January 1. Mr. Robert E. Coburn has joined the Staff as Development Officer to coordinate various phases of institutional development, including public relations, membership, and all other activities which communicate the Museum's program to the public. Our experience in recent years has clearly demonstrated that Chicago Natural History Museum must develop a broader base of financial support if it is to maintain and heighten its past distinction. The development department will aid in defining financial needs and in making them known to the community.

Mr. Coburn attended Northwestern University and has spent 43 years in development work. He joined the Community Fund of Chicago in 1943 as Associate Executive Director. He has served as Campaign Director of the Crusade of Mercy and the Community Fund campaigns each year since that time. He retired from the Community Fund-Crusade of Mercy at the end of December.

Mr. Coburn has been actively associated with one hundred and fifty fund-raising programs which produced over \$300,000,000 for many non-profit educational, health, and charitable organizations. He has served as President of the Indiana Society of Chicago, South Shore Country Club, and Bryn Mawr Community Church Board of Trustees, and as Director and Chairman of the Executive Committee of the Chicago Theological Seminary. Mr. Coburn was also one of the founders of the Chicago Society of Fund-Raising Executives. He lives at 6700 Oglesby Avenue in the South Shore section of Chicago.

## NEW BOTANY CURATOR STUDIES TROPICAL PLANTS

Dr. William C. Burger has just been appointed Assistant Curator of Vascular Plants. He will be concerned with the plants of tropical North America. His special field will be floristics of Costa Rica.

Dr. Burger was born in New York City where he attended Columbia College. He served in Germany and France, in the Army, after graduation. On his return he worked for a short while at the New York Botanical Garden and then moved to Cornell University where he began graduate work. He studied there under the direction of Professor Robert T. Clausen and received his M.S. degree for a thesis based on a statistical study of several populations of the Swamp White Oak, the Bur Oak and their putative hybrids. Dr. Burger received his doctorate from Washington University in St. Louis, where he studied at the Missouri Botanical Garden under Professor Robert E. Woodson, Jr., an outstanding American systematist. A study of several new-world genera of the mulberry family was the basis of his thesis—and subsequent contribution to the *Flora of Panama*.

Dr. Burger joined the Agricultural College staff of Haile Selassie I University at Alemaya in eastern Ethiopia and worked on a USAID project administered by the University of Oklahoma. During his four years there he collected extensively in Ethiopia, especially in the Harar highlands. He prepared illustrations and text for a manual of the woody plants of the Harar highlands and for a text on the identification of the families of seed plants in Ethiopia.

His recent return from Ethiopia took him through India, Thailand, Malaysia, and Australia where he investigated the many varieties of tropical vegetation. He will go to Central America in January to begin field work in tropical America. He will be joined by Chief Curator Louis Williams later in the season.

## NATURE PHOTOGRAPHY EXHIBIT

Outstanding nature photographs, selected from thousands of national and international entries, will go on display at the Museum during the 21ST CHICAGO INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITION OF NATURE PHOTOGRAPHY to be held February 4 through February 27.

Animal, plant, landscape and other nature photographs will be shown in the competitive exhibition, which is sponsored jointly by Chicago Natural History Museum and the Chicago Nature Camera Club.

More than one hundred prints in both black-and-white and color, and approximately 700 color transparencies will be exhibited. The color slides will be projected on two Sunday afternoons, February 13 and February 20, at 2:30 P.M. in the Museum's James Simpson Theatre.





1966. "Coburn Appointment Spurs Museum Development." *Bulletin* 17(1), 2-2.

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