



John R. Millar in 1945, when he was on the staff of the Museum's Harris Public School Extension.

October Members' Nights Postponed

Field Museum's traditional Members' Nights, which had been scheduled for October 6 and 7, have been postponed to spring, 1978. The postponement is deemed necessary because many of the areas in the curatorial departments will be in the midst of renovation, making the accommodation of large numbers of visitors difficult or impossible. However, by spring, 1978, enough of the renovation work will be completed so that the customarily large Members' Night crowds can be easily accommodated.

John R. Millar Retired Deputy Director

John R. Millar, who served Field Museum for half a century, died in Chicago May 8, at the age of 78. He had been living for several years in Florida and was visiting in Chicago at the time of his death.

He joined the Museum in 1918 as a boy just out of high school and retired in 1968. During his career, Millar held the positions of preparator, Depart-

ment of Botany; curator of the Harris Public School Extension (an educational division of the Museum); chief curator of the Department of Botany; chairman, Department of Exhibition; and deputy director of the Museum.

In his position as preparator in the botany department he took part in a number of collecting expeditions including the Southern Florida Expedition of 1918-19; the 1922 Stanley Field Expedition to then British Guiana; the 1926 Captain Marshall Field Brazilian Expedition; and the 1938 Sewell Avery Expedition to Nova Scotia, of which he was the leader.

Almost as soon as he joined the Museum Millar became involved in its move from the original structure in Jackson Park to the present Museum building at Roosevelt Road and Lake Shore Drive. He directed several moving gangs and "accomplished the job easily and comfortably by using roller skates."

E. Leland Webber, president of Field Museum, observed that "Millar was among the leading staff members in the Museum's history, since he carried major responsibilities in more areas of the Museum than any other person before or since."

Ralph Gordon Johnson, Research Associate

The recent death of Ralph Johnson was a profound loss to the scientific community at large and in particular to the Field Museum, where he had been a research associate since 1962. He was also professor of paleontology and chairman of the Department of Geophysical Sciences at the University of Chicago. Johnson's work with Eugene S. Richardson, curator of fossil invertebrates at Field Museum, was concerned with the coal age fossils of Mazon Creek, in Grundy County, Illinois.

Johnson was one of the prime motivating forces in Mazon Creek studies since he first teamed up with Richardson. That collaboration, begun in 1966, produced the now classic paper which first formally delineated the differences between the Essex and Braidwood faunas of the Mazon Creek area.

His associations with Field Museum reflect a life-long interest in natural history. Born in Oak Park, Illinois, in 1927, some of his early contacts with wildlife came from association with Henry Dybas, Field Museum's curator of insects. A childhood interest in reptiles culminated in a Ph.D. thesis, in 1954, on venomous snakes, at the University of Chicago, under the direction of the Museum's famed herpetologist Karl P. Schmidt.

Johnson's professional association with the University of Chicago began in the early fifties, when he was asked to temporarily teach invertebrate paleontology; he stayed on for the rest of his life. His interest in invertebrate biology began in 1955, when he spent a summer at the Pacific Marine Station in California. Ever mindful of the dictum "the present is the key to the past," Johnson constantly strove to relate his findings in living biological communities to fossil ones. He became a contributor to one of the first compendiums on paleoecology, and is acknowledged as a pioneer in this field. Later he worked with the Marine Biological Laboratory in Woods Hole, Mass. Johnson was editor of the journal *Evolution* from 1966 to 1970 and a cofounder and an editor of *Paleobiology*. He was also a trustee of the Shedd Aquarium.

—*Frederick R. Schramm*



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