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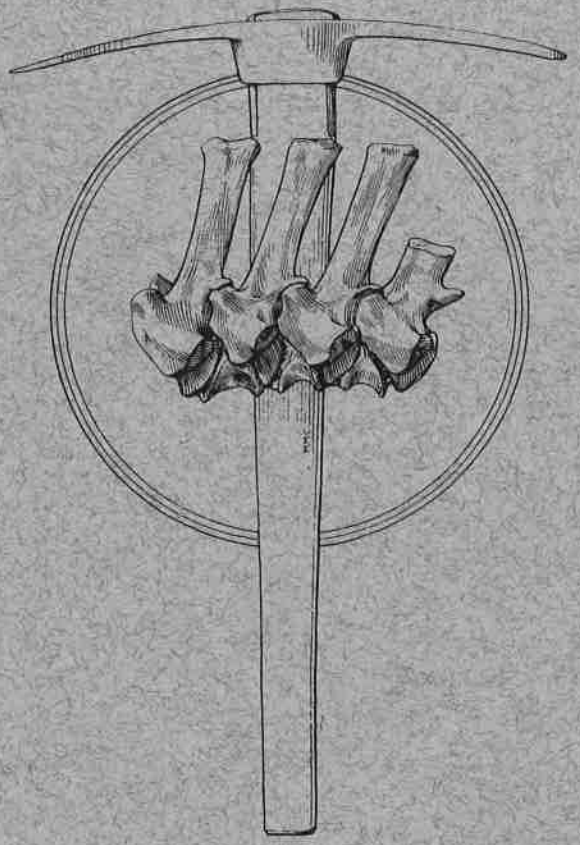
SOCIETY OF VERTEBRATE PALEONTOLOGY



NEWS BULLETIN

Number 46

February, 1956

SOCIETY OF VERTEBRATE PALEONTOLOGY

NEWS BULLETIN

No. 46 February 1956

FIFTEENTH ANNUAL MEETING

The S.V.P. met in the rare book room of Louisiana State University Medical School Library, in New Orleans, Louisiana, on November 7, 8, and 9, 1955; thirty-one persons attended the meeting.

Honorary Life Membership was extended to Dr. Erik A. Stensiö of Stockholm, Sweden, noted student of ancient fishes, and to Professor Dr. Bernhard Peyer, of Zürich, Switzerland, whose studies of marine reptiles of the Alpine Triassic have notably widened the horizons of vertebrate paleontology. The Society of Vertebrate Paleontology is proud to recognize the contributions these distinguished men have made to our science.

Fifteen new members and four new foreign members were elected; their names appear on a later page. Dr. Horace E. Wood, 2nd, was nominated for President, and Joseph T. Gregory was renominated as Secretary-Treasurer.

The Society has accepted the invitation to hold its next annual meeting at the American Museum of Natural History in New York, Thursday through Saturday, December 27 - 29, 1956. It also voted to hold a one day interim scientific session in conjunction with the Geological Society of America at Minneapolis, Minnesota, on November 1. The officers believe maximum benefit may be obtained from this arrangement if discussions of stratigraphic problems are planned for the Minneapolis meeting and problems of morphology and phylogeny stressed at New York. The Society for Study of Evolution will be meeting in New York concurrently.

The Society unanimously endorsed the efforts of the Antiquities Act Committee (ably reported on by Bryan Patterson) to obtain a revision of the administrative regulations under that act excluding fossils from purview of the act. The committee was instructed to continue to press for the needed revision. The Society also voted that fossil vertebrates on unreserved public lands were not in need of governmental protection; sites of extraordinary interest could be covered by making them National Monuments.

A special committee consisting of Bryan Patterson, Tilly Edinger, and E.H. Colbert, recommended that free distribution of the S.V.P. News Bulletin and Bibliography to 41 foreign institutions and the Osborn Library be terminated. This was approved at the meeting and the Secretary-Treasurer was instructed to inform these institutions of the action and reasons therefore, and to invite them to subscribe. The Geological Society of America is to continue to receive complimentary copies in view of its financial support of the bibliography.

It was voted that nominations for membership must be in the hands of the Secretary-Treasurer one month before the opening day of the annual meeting. It is hoped that this will lead to more orderly and less time consuming election procedure at meetings. Members sending in nominations for membership should be sure to include the correct mailing address of the candidate.

Tuesday afternoon, members of the Society were guests of Professor and Mrs. Fred R. Cagle, of the Department of Zoology, Tulane University, at a cocktail party in their home. The annual dinner that evening, at Glucks Restaurant, was arranged by Hod Sawin. Numerous private parties and excursions to Bourbon Street provided an abundance of entertainment for those attending the meeting.

The Society is still solvent, with a balance of $381.97.

New Members

Mr. Walter Auffenberg, Museum of Comparative Zoology, Harvard University, Cambridge 38, Massachusetts.

Dr. Wallace G. Bell, Department of Geology and Mineralogy, University of Wyoming, Laramie, Wyoming.

Dr. Pierce Brodkorb, Department of Biology, University of Florida, Gainesville, Florida.

Mr. Jack I. Fahs, Jr., Box 12, Alturas, California.

Mr. Burton Fedt, South Dakota School of Mines, Rapid City, South Dakota.

Mr. R.L. Hancock, 3646 Charlotte St., Kansas City, Missouri.

Mr. Gideon T. James, 216 Science Building, University of Houston, 3801 Cullen Blvd., Houston 4, Texas.

Mr. Newell F. Joyner, 101 Morrill Hall, University of Nebraska, Lincoln 8, Nebraska.

Miss Anita Long, Museum of Natural History, University of Kansas, Lawrence, Kansas.

Mr. Thomas Parsons, Department of Biology, Harvard University, Cambridge 38, Mass.

Mrs. Mary B. Patsuris, American Museum of Natural History, New York 24, N. Y.

Miss Sylvia Robinson, Museum of Natural History, University of Kansas, Lawrence, Kansas.

Mr. Harold Shearman, National Museum of Canada, Ottawa, Ontario.

Mr. David Techter, Chicago Natural History Museum, Chicago 5, Illinois.

Miss Marit Vangen, 3646 Charlotte St., Kansas City, Missouri.

New Foreign Members

Dr. Adrian S. Brink, Witwatersrand University, Johannesburg, South Africa.

Dr. Björn Kurtén, Geological Institute, Snellmansgatan 5 Helsingfors, Finland.

Rev. Edgar Y. Oehler, S.V.D., University of San Carlos, Cebu City, Cebu, Philippine Islands.

Dozent Dr. Erich Thenius, Paläontologisches Institut der Universität, Wien I, Austria.

XX International Geological Congress

Information concerning the XX International Geological Congress, to be held September 4-11, 1956, in Mexico City, and the numerous excursions arranged before and after it, may be obtained by writing the Comité de Organización del XX Congreso Geológico Internacional, Balderas 36, Despacho 302-A, Mexico 1, D.F., Mexico.

Excursion C-11, Continental Cenozoic of the Southern Ranges, Sept. 13-22, has been arranged particularly for vertebrate paleontologists. There is a possibility that it could be scheduled before the congress, when weather may be drier, if sufficient persons desire. The itinerary is as follows:

Leave the Mexico City Basin by Cortés Pass (3650 m.) between Popocatepetl and Iztaccihuatl volcanoes. An appreciation of the volumes involved in the Mio-Pliocene volcanism, responsible for the most of the topography to be seen on the Mexican highlands. Cross the valley of Puebla in its southern extension where Río Atoyac has exposed hundreds of metres of Cenozoic (?) redbeds, as well as some younger material. Río Acatlán, río Petlalcingo and lesser streams have thick, but limited alluviums. The Mixteca Alta, from Huajuapan to Nochistlán, shows a complex series of Cenozoic redbeds with considerable volcanics resting on Mesozoic. The latter is represented by beds as young as Maestrichtian (Méndez facies, Globotruncana marl of world wide distribution) and as old as mid-Jurassic, at least. East of the valley of Oajaca the sierra exposes several clastic complexes; an older one with plant remains may be Jurassic. Among the younger ones, the fossil horse Merychippus gives an Upper Miocene age (identification and age by R.A. Stirton); these beds lie in the intermontane valley of Nejapa and contain the Gramal local fauna, the highlight of the trip.

The second half of the excursion is largely geomorphologic, including a study of the Tehuantepec alluvial plain and shore features between Salina Curz and Arriaga. Widespread Anthropocene (Quat.) bone-bearing beds will be studied along the northern foothills of the sierra de Chiapas from Buenavista to Villa Flores. On the isthmus itself the thick gravels of the Chivela area will be examined. Conspicuous active dunes will be observed east of Alvarado, at the mouth of río Papaloapan. Crossing the Sierra Madre Oriental between Cordoba and Tehuacán, numerous intermontane

developments of Anthropocene will be seen. The striking tufa developments at Tehuacán, and the thick valley fills of the upper Puebla-Tlaxcala basin (including Pliocene (?) commercial diatomite beds of La Blanca, Tlaxcala) will be examined.

Short excursions to other vertebrate localities are being considered, as outlined on the circular distributed in January.

S.V.P. Field Conference 1956
Texas Coastal Plain
August 8-11, 1956

The International Geological Congress meets in Mexico City on the 4th to the 11th of September. Field trips prior to the Congress begin on August 14 and last until September 3. Since some S.V.P. members may wish to participate in the International Geological Congress field trips, including myself, the date of the S.V.P. field conference has been set so that anyone desiring can also participate in the Congress field trip.

There will be a pre-conference trip from Austin to Livingston, Texas, on August 8, at which time the geology of the Upper Cretaceous and the Lower Tertiary will be studied. A stop will be made at the Cretaceous-Tertiary contact, and several will be made in the Eocene marine and non-marine formations. There will be time to collect Gulf Coast marine invertebrates and Miocene vertebrates in Washington County.

The field conference will assemble at Livingston, Texas, on the evening of August 8. The first day of the field conference will be in the vicinity of Livingston studying the Hemingfordian. The night of August 9th will be spent at Huntsville. It is hoped that on the evening of August 9th we will have a speaker to discuss the subsurface stratigraphy of the Gulf Coast Plain. August 10 will be spent traveling from Huntsville to Beeville with stops on the Arikareean at Garvin Gully, Cedar Run, and other places farther south. The last day of the field conference will be spent at the prolific Barstovian localities near Beeville. Stratigraphy of the formations to be seen and faunal lists are given in: Quinn, James H., 1955, Miocene Equidae of the Texas Gulf Coastal Plain, University of Texas Publ. no. 5516, pp. 69-80.

It is hoped that as many as possible will come to Austin in time for the pre-conference trip, or will return to Austin in order to visit the laboratory and see the collections of the Bureau of Economic Geology, the Department of Geology, and the Texas Memorial Museum.

There is a state park near Huntsville which could be used the nights of August 9 and 10 for those who wish to camp. To my knowledge there is no park near Beeville, but tourist court accommodations will be available. All meals will be purchased by the individuals in cafes along the way. Registration fee will be announced later. It should only cover the cost of the guide book.

Expect hot, humid weather.

--John A. Wilson.

NOTES FROM MEMBERS

CANADA

The Royal Ontario Museum of Zoology and Palaeontology has been amalgamated with the two other Royal Ontario Museums under the directorship of Mr. T. A. Heinrich, formerly of the Metropolitan Museum of Art. Henceforth the V.P. activities at Toronto will comprise a Department of Vertebrate Palaeontology in the Division of Zoology and Palaeontology of the Royal Ontario Museum.

L. Sternberg reports from Toronto that he has completed preparation of several Eusthenopteron specimens from Maguasha, Quebec, and hopes shortly to pour additional casts of several spectacular dinosaur skulls for exchange purposes. Ralph Hornell is preparing a seemingly new hooded hadrosaur skull obtained by the 1954 field party.

Gordon Edmund is in the final stages of his studies on replacement of teeth in reptiles.

The big news at the National Museum at Ottawa is that the on again - off again move of the V.P. lab to the neighboring city of Hull, Quebec, is apparently off for good. A plan to demolish the old Garrison building where we are located precipitated a storm of protests from antiquarians who felt the 120 year old massive stone structure should be preserved as an historical monument and museum. Originally constructed as a hotel and barroom for an army unit stationed nearby, the building was later used to house the 150 man bodyguard of the Governor-in-Chief who in the 1860s feared assassination at the hands of the Finian raiders from South of the Border. Later the Garrison block again became an 80 room hotel, but in 1879 it was purchased by the government and has since housed a succession of federal agencies. Whether the present V.P. occupants will constitute one of the "historical" exhibits of the proposed museum is not yet clear, but for the time being we feel more secure than we have in several months. A fortunate result of the building controversy, however, has been the acquisition of a large fire-proof storage area for unprepared vertebrate fossils -dinosaurs in which this collection abounds require more space than some fossils. This is the first time in many years that we have not been faced by a possibility of losing the whole collection by fire.

In the laboratory Gus Lindblad was working on an Edmontosaurus skull when he was stricken by an illness that promises to keep him off the job for several months. His speedy recovery is wished by all. Harold Shearman still hammers away at our Gorgosaurus which struggles valiantly to retain its stony shroud. The issue is still in doubt!

Researchwise, L. S. Russell has completed about half of his review of the Tertiary Mammals of Saskatchewan. I have finished a bit of detective work on supposed sebecosuchians that can be interpreted as evidence that these crocodilians were not confined to South America as hitherto supposed. A description of a young hadrosaur from the Selma formation of Alabama is nearing completion. The specimen reveals certain cranial details not certainly seen before in hadrosaur skulls.

A recent visitor to the National Museum was Mr. Wm. Otto of Cal. Tech. I wish more V.P.s would call on us.

-- Wann Langston, Jr.

NEW ENGLAND REGION

Amherst College

Craig Black and I finished up a review of the Muddy Gap/Split Rock mylagaulids, which we have sent off to the Journal of Paleo. Although we only had isolated teeth, there was enough material to permit reconstruction of the entire dentition and determination of age changes with wear. The material is apparently late Hemingfordian. Craig is working up the other material from there, and finding a number of interesting things - he's got no cricetids, but quite a number of zapodids (Schaubeumys or Plesiosminthus or something). He's also got lots of squirrels and a bunch of heteromyids and geomyids; also a few aplodontids. Oodles of lagomorphs and insectivores, and a few other things. Mary Dawson, who's just been visiting for a couple of days, says that most of the bunnies aren't bunnies but are ochotonids.

The paramyids move slowly, but do move. I've only got a few thousand more drawings to make, and the whole thing to re-write and I'll be done - if no one finds any more paramyids for a while.

--Albert E. Wood.

M.C.Z.

Things are happening rapidly in the Stanley Olsen family. (1) Last month the Olsens became, for the first time, proud parents. (2) This month, amid tears and lamentations on our part, our friends leave for what we hope and expect will be a successful new career at Tallahassee.

With Patterson's arrival, mammalian paleontology here has taken on a new lease of life, although he himself has been mainly engaged the past few months in winding up a joint paper with Kraglievich on phororhacoid birds. With the aid of T.E. he is studying

an interesting endocranial cast of an Oligocene palaeanodont belonging to the Chicago collection and, with Dick van Frank, describing an apparently new genus of toxodont which, surprisingly, has turned up in a small collection of Santa Cruz mammals purchased from Handel T. Martin many years ago. Henry Seton is working on the ear region in a fine specimen of Ictops. A review of much of the Thomas Farm Miocene fauna is well under way.. Bob Bader has borrowed and studied our abundant horse material with the statistician's eye and, we trust, will presently have something published on the equid systematics. Dick van Frank is interested in the bats and Stan Olsen in the carnivores and Clayton Ray plans to study the artiodactyls.

Ernest Williams, having finished, in collaboration with Arthur Loveridge, a monograph on existing African turtles, is working on the fossil history of the chelonians of that continent; he has, further, studied a Tertiary Podocnemus, and continues to be recurrently disturbed by problems of West Indian zoogeography. Personally, the task of catching up with a half-year's accumulation of administrative "busy work" plus the annual stint of undergraduate teaching has tied me up so this fall that I've done little research except to finish a paper on Archeria limbs and girdles for the Case memorial volume. Nelda Wright and I have also had to devote considerable time to drearily going through two sets of proof for the reptile Osteology. The book should be out by spring. Our Florida guest, Walter Auffenberg, is completing a doctoral thesis on Florida fossil snakes and is working in the fossil lizards and frogs of the state, as well. Prentiss Shephard is studying our Texas Sagenodus; we have an abundance of material, mainly from one locality, which should give us some idea of intra-specific variation in lungfishes. Don Baird has been busily curating Paleozoic tetrapods, both the Texas Permian backlog and his summer's Pennsylvanian collection. Among the latter are parts of embolomeres, the pelycosaur Clepsydrops, and the snaky lysorophid Molgophis from fresh-water limestones of Ohio.

Tilly Edinger says that the year 1955 has brought her pleasure in that many people are beginning to take the point of view that paleoneurology is not merely a hobby of hers but a definitely promising field for research. This was evinced, for example, by the prominent part it played in the April Paris conference, and by the request of the editor of the Kukenthal "Handbuch der Zoologie" for a special chapter on fossil brains for the mammal volume.

--A.S. Romer.

Peabody Museum, Yale University

During the fall, Clifford Allderige and Paul Lemke installed a new exhibit of fossil and Recent crocodilians, and then commenced preparing a mosasaur skeleton. At this point we are undecided whether to exhibit it as a slab or a free mount.

I have at last commenced writing long overdue descriptions of phytosaurs from eastern New Mexico, collected in 1947. The Triassic still calls, regardless of other interests!

Dr. C.L. Gazin, Nelda Wright, Mary Dawson and Peter Robinson have visited Peabody Museum recently. Pete, incidentally is the proud father of a tiny daughter, born January 9.

--Joseph T. Gregory.

NEW YORK REGION

American Museum of Natural History

Dr. G.G. Simpson is drawing up plans for an expedition to South America this coming summer. This joint Brazilian - North American project will have as personnel Llew Price and other scientists representing Brazil, with George Simpson and one or two other North American scientists, accompanied by George Whitaker as collector, representing the Northern Hemisphere. The party will travel up the Rio Juruá, a tributary of the Amazon in extreme western Brazil. The geology and paleontology of the area are unknown but there are hopeful indications of late Tertiary and Pleistocene mammals. The men will start up the river on June first in anticipation of a three months' trip,with the return subject to some flexibility.

The Society will welcome the news that Dr. Simpson's second and final eye operation was performed successfully. His recovery was so uneventful and rapid that he was able to spend Christmas at home. By the time the Bulletin is in circulation George will be spending full working hours at the Museum.

Dr. Anne Roe Simpson gave the annual Phi Beta Kappa - Sigma Xi lecture at the Newark Colleges of Rutgers University on the Making of a Scientist. A measure of its success was thirty-five minutes of lively discussion by faculty and students following the address.

Dr. E.H. Colbert is continuing his research on Coelophysis, with detailed attention focussed on the skull, which is being further exposed and prepared. Mike Insinna is sculpturing an undistorted head model. Preparation of Tritylodon continues at a snail's pace (a really tired snail, that is) on account of the frustrating matrix. John Ostrom and Joe Nocera alternate their efforts on these two forms. Work on the Tyrannosaurus Hall has been complicated somewhat by delivery of materials and availability of workmen. Ned Colbert hopes that the coordination problems of these are solved and that the hall will be finished this spring.

In addition to working on exhibition plans, Dr. Bobb Schaeffer has been devoting much time and energy to the preparation of a new course for Columbia University entitled Vertebrate Zoology, to deal with comparative anatomy of fossil and recent forms, organ systems and adaptations and distribution. Bobb plans to visit Europe, accompanied by Mike Insinna as illustrator, spending the summer studying the fish of various museums. A tentative schedule lists a month in London, two weeks each in Copenhagen and Stockholm, with time spent in the museums of Paris and Germany, ending up in Zurich.

Dr. Donald Squires has joined the Department as Assistant Curator of Fossil Invertebrates.

Mrs. Mary Patsuris is coordinator of the departmental exhibition program now under way in the Paleocene - Eocene Hall. The Primate exhibition is near completion, and Colbert's series of the reptiles which survived the dinosaurs is all but complete. Gilbert

Stucker, formerly of Dinosaur National Monument, who joined the laboratory last October, has been drafting distribution maps of the crocodiles and turtles and working on the layout. The hall will have an exhibit showing kinds of fossils and types of preservation. Along with these will be demonstrations of methods of preparation for study and exhibit. For one aspect of this, Gil has prepared a series of Agate Quarry Diceratherium cooki skulls, starting with unopened plaster wrappings and proceeding to the completely prepared skull. In the process of the work he located a Diceratherium skull with the cranial cavity filled with a perfect geode of calcite crystals.

Carl Sorensen is making progress with steady chipping at an enormous Coryphodon block while reminiscing over his summer's good times in Denmark and Norway. Carl and Walter Sorensen took a day off exhibition and preparation in December to deliver a truck load of proboscidian restoration models and mastodont bones to the Peale Museum in Baltimore, thus reuniting fragments of one of America's most historic collections.

George Whitaker is convalescing from an operation, terminating the list of patients in the Year of Surgery for VPs.

Visitors to the department included Dr. C.L. Gazin who spent a week with us making Paleocene and Eocene comparisons. His Eocene ancestral chalicothere had suitably preposterous canines to equal the absurdity of Moropus's claws. Prof. Irajá Damiani Pinto, of the Institute de Ciencias Naturais, Pôrto Allegre, Brazil, was a departmental guest for several weeks, studying the museum's corals and ostracods. Miss Mary Dawson, a graduate student at the University of Kansas, and recently returned as a Fulbright Fellow at Edinburgh, devoted two weeks' study to the museum's lagomorph collection. The fossil rodents drew the attention of Stuart O. Landry, Jr., University of Missouri, John C. Donohoe of the Walker Museum, University of Chicago, and John J. Stephens from the University of Michigan. Elwyn Simons studied the pantodonts. Dr. A.S. Brink of the Bernard Price Institute for Paleontological Research, Witwatersrand University, Johannesburg, South Africa, paid us a short visit, as did Dr. Adolph Seilacher, a former student of von Huene's from the University of Tübingen, Germany.

Socially inclined visitors included Helmut de Terra, Ernest Williams, Dick van Frank, E. Raymond Hall, Stan Olsen and G.E. Lewis.

Dr. John Clark addressed the December meeting of the Geology Section of the New York Academy of Sciences. This dynamic talk on the Tertiary climates of Wyoming, South Dakota, Montana, and northwest Utah was spellbinding and wove together diversified lines of evidence relating to the Eocene - Oligocene transition.

A letter from A.R.V. Arellano is worthy of quotation as it relates to his trip to South America:

"There is considerable local interest in V.P. in the countries visited in South America. Colombia has given Stirton and his associates much encouragement. The same may be said of Ecuador in relation to Hoffstetter; the magnificent Quaternary collections studied by the latter are housed in the Polytechnic School at Quito under the custody of Prof. Gustavo Orcés working mainly on fishes - a very careful

curator (Escuela Politécnica Nacional, Quito, Ecuador), in whose care is also much of the literature on natural sciences available for exchange. Perú has a group of promising fine young people, but up to now nothing very significant has been accomplished in V.P. Chile, north of the fjord country, is very strategic for migration problems, and as in Perú I think the next decade will produce important contributions by local scientists. Argentina is well covered by Simpson's report (S.V.P. News Bulletin, June, '55). The team, Kraglievich - Reig, is most promising. Dr. Alfredo Castellanos (Alem 1626, Rosario, Argentina) although officially retired, continues work on glyptodons with the aid of several helpers; when he took me to visit his lab at the Instituto de Fisiografía y Geología (of his creation), Universidad del Litoral at Rosario, they were completing a large scute."

--Florence D. Wood.

The Frick Laboratory

Dr. Loren Toohey spent the summer in the Museum working on the Felidae. Weekends and part of his vacation were spent on active duty at Floyd Bennett Field with the USAF.

Mr. and Mrs. Morris Skinner returned to the Museum the first part of November from north central Nebraska, where Morris and Morris, Jr., now a second year medical student at the University of Nebraska, collected in the Pliocene deposits of that area. Mr. and Mrs. Skinner are now continuing the organization and study of the equid collections. Morris and Charles Falkenbach fill in odd moments between oreodonts and horses by the preliminary organization of the rhino collection.

My summer's program started with an enjoyable visit with Jack Wilson at the University of Texas. Also spent some time with our collectors: N.Z. Ward who is collecting in the Coldsprings area of Texas, and Will Chamberlain in the Panhandle of the same state. The balance of the season was spent in the Miocene of Nebraska and Wyoming. In connection with this work, C. Bertrand Schultz and I took several days to check the Miocene between Crawford, Nebraska, and Douglas, Wyoming. John Clark was also a welcome visitor and we spent some time in the Chadron beds of the Hat Creek Basin of Wyoming. A pleasant surprise was to meet Glenn Jepsen as he was passing through the Lusk area. Just before returning east, an interesting day was spent at the South Dakota School of Mines with Jim Bump, Reid Macdonald and Mort Green. A new subfamily of oreodonts is now in press with hopes it will be published early this year. It deals with small forms from the Oligocene.

--Charles H. Falkenbach.

Princeton University

In the bone lab Frank Goto has completed the preparation of some wing bones of Pteranodon and the specimen is now installed in the museum. As usual, mother nature had squashed the bones. The shaft of the humerus is now flattened to a mere 2 mm. This means that most of the bone, in life, was a hollow cylinder with walls only a millimeter thick. It was about an inch and a quarter in diameter. No trace remains of any internal cross struts or other supports for the bone.

Also placed in the museum is a temporary exhibit of Indian artifacts that were collected on the campus by the late Professor Shull when he was tilling the soil (on what are now athletic fields) for his genetic experiments on hybrid corn and evening primroses. Dr. Dorothy Cross, State Archeological Consultant, dates the collection as approximately from 3000 B.C. to 100 A.D.

John Clark's book on Central Asia is now in press (Funk and Wagnalls) and is scheduled to appear May 1. For the five dollars that it will cost, John's readers can follow him to Hunza and observe his work in the boys' school of crafts and arts which he conducted in 1950 and 1951. Fortunately, it will be unnecessary for us to join him in eating the horsehair-and-dung-flavored pancakes which were part of the regular repast in his living quarters in the Karakoram mountains. Despite the altitude of his abode at 8300 feet he claims it was not really high living.

He reports that the publisher has forced him to write rich purple prose and that when the book comes out he plans to leave for parts unknown, to avoid the jibes of self-styled humorists in our Society.

Clark and Dick Beerbower (Lafayette College) are completing a paper on the Chadron of South Dakota, and Clark is doing additional papers on the early Oligocene of Montana and on red beds.

Beerbower, as the only V.P. in the Lafayette area, does not report his activities very frequently in the Bulletin although he is usually up to something or other of considerable interest. He tells us that his second season of field work (last summer) in southwestern Pennsylvania, eastern Ohio, and northeastern West Virginia has produced (with an assist from Dr. Baird) a large collection of vertebrate fossils from the Permian. Preliminary study indicates the presence of Dimetrodon and a trimerorhachid as well as additional representatives of genera known previously from the Dunkard. He hopes that further work will establish the age of these beds and correlate the fauna with the Texas Permian. A microfauna of fish and amphibian jaw and skull fragments which has been prepared from a limestone with acetic acid is particularly intriguing and puzzling. He also reports a number of important specimens have been recovered from coprolites at one locality.

Elwyn Simons is busy on his doctorate thesis on Paleocene pantodonts. He hopes to study all the known specimens in this country--a goodly number of whole and partial skulls, jaws and skeletons. As

the study progresses the taxonomic aspects of the group become more complex. In other words, the pantodonts behave much like other kinds of mammals as they become better known.

Several interesting additions have been made to our growing collection of specimens that show tooth anomalies and stages of tooth replacement.

--Glenn L. Jepsen.

WASHINGTON, D. C.

U. S. National Museum

Since our last contribution to the News Bulletin, Mr. John E. Ott has joined our laboratory, and his previous experience as a dental technician has been turned to good account in many of our lab functions. We have hopes, moreover, of securing an additional man to aid in handling the exhibits work underway.

David Dunkle had a second field trip for the year this fall when he and Franklin Pearce took a crack at the Oklahoma Permian. Success, however, was achieved largely in having secured through an exchange with the University of Oklahoma a skeleton of the large pelycosaur, Cotylorhynchus, to aid in filling one of the blanks in our planned exhibition arrangement. Other exchanges for this purpose are pending and suggestions as to sources for exhibit-worthy materials of primitive vertebrate forms, either by collecting, purchase or exchange, would be most welcome. We are also on the lookout for exhibitworthy skeletons of Miocene and Pliocene (particularly) mammalian forms to round out a planned exhibit arrangement of Tertiary mammals.

Study of the Bison Basin Paleocene mammals has gone through page proof and should be out most any day. The study of the upper Eocene fauna from the Badwater area in Wyoming has also been completed and awaits the addition of Harry Tourtelot's contribution to the geology of the area. A short report on an occurrence of Paleocene mammals in beds believed to be the Evanston formation should appear this spring, and currently I have under way a short paper which should bring up to date the accumulating information on the somewhat enlarged but still scantily represented Almy fauna.

During the latter part of October and the first few days of November we had the pleasure of seeing Dr. and Mrs. A. S. Brink from the Bernard Price Institute of Johannesburg, South Africa, while on their extended tour of the United States and Canada. Dr's. Roy Kay and Graham Netting were with us for a day in October on business relative to the disposal of surplus Dinosaur Monument dinosaurs. Ed Lewis, on military leave with the Navy, dropped in a couple of times for a chat, and John Burke (unfortunately, while I was away) very kindly brought us a gift of some Devonian vertebrae from upstate New York.

--- C. L. Gazin

MIDDLE WEST

Carnegie Museum

Due to arriving back at the Museum too late, no report from here appeared in the last Bulletin so this report goes back to the past summer.

A field party consisting of J. LeRoy Kay, Ace Lloyd and later in the season, James Bodishbaugh, Martin Bender and Lee Davidson collected in the Green River of Utah, Bridger and Washakie of Wyoming. Paul McGrew joined the party for a short time in the Bridger Basin, and a few days were spent with Paul at Tabernacle Buttes.

The party did considerable excavating with the help of dynamite in the Green River at Powder wash Uinta Basin. Beside the specimens recovered at the quarry, a considerable amount of the most fossiliferous matrix was shipped to the Museum for the deep freeze method of extraction. The latter work is going on at present here in the laboratory. In the Bridger Basin the collecting was confined mostly to Horizons C and D, and a fairly good collection of macro-fauna was obtained.

In the Washakie, the usual specimens were found but very little micro-fauna which we were anxious to obtain for comparison with our Green River material.

The writer really enjoyed the short visit with Paul at Tabernacle Buttes area. A few specimens were collected and a brief examination of the condylarths and lizards show them to be very similar, if not identical, with the Green River material at Powder Springs.

Some collecting of Pleistocene to Recent material was done in Pennsylvania from caves and sinks. It is hoped to have some Carbon 14 dating on this material soon.

The work on exhibition is moving along slowly, too slow to suit the curator, due to the lack of help. A Cretaceous mural depicting the pterosaurs and some contemporaries was completed by Ottmar F. von Fuehrer. Experiments with lighting have been carried on with some degree of success.

In the laboratory, the work for the most part has been the preparation of a block of Buettneria skulls and skeletal parts obtained from the National Museum, and the Green River material.

In the short time since the curator's return to the Museum, he has been concerned mostly with departmental details but hopes to get at the Green River material with a new microscope, which he calls a gift from Santa Claus.

--J. LeRoy Kay.

Cleveland Museum of Natural History

During the last few months a good part of my time has been spent in reorganizing portions of our vertebrate collection, and working toward getting the catalogue up-to-date. Both projects are well on the way to completion.

As I stated in my last epistle, we are working toward filling in the large gaps in our exhibit collection. Our most recent spectacular acquisitions are a mammoth skeleton from Denver and a Dimetrodon skeleton from Harvard. Both specimens required very enjoyable trips; I was most happy to get back to my old haunts at the MCZ, and Denver is my favorite city. We now have most of what we can use in our limited space from the Paleozoic, Mesozoic, Oligocene, and Pleistocene.

The new Museum project was somewhat delayed (where have you heard this before?) but the plans for the first unit are complete and official, and construction will start before summer. Some of the exhibits for it are being planned or constructed already.

I have done only a little on the Canon City dinosaur, but I have started preparation on our Eryops skeleton, which I hope to mount before long.

Since I sent in my last report, we have been visited by Dr. Glenn Jepsen, who discussed the new Museum project with us, and by Dr. John Clark.

--David C. Roberts.

Chicago Natural History Museum

Permanent installation of the Gorgosaurus-Lambeosaurus exhibit has begun at last. (Maybe there really is an end to a job of this scope after all.) A final behind-the-scenes "dress rehearsal" was staged to make certain that Gorgosaurus was well posed, and that his hidden structural irons were adequate to meet the tremendous task of supporting his erect and weighty bulk. The group promises to surpass our fondest expectations. The Lambeosaurus skeleton will appear in partial relief, in its death pose, and Gorgosaurus, supported by its hind legs, will tower overhead. The exhibit, located in the central hall of the Museum, can be viewed to advantage both from the ground floor and from the balcony archways. Orville Gilpin, Stanley Kuczek and Cameron Gifford (our most welcome, recent addition to the vertebrate paleontological staff) are bending all their efforts to this final installation, with an occasional assist from the rest of us. "Sidewalk engineers" have full view of the operation from the balcony, and it is reported that they take full advantage of their right to freedom of speech by offering numerous unsolicited comments, criticisms and suggestions. In spite of the time consumed and the magnitude of such an undertaking, it becomes most rewarding at this stage. Results are visible and evident and, most important, with the end in sight new projects can again be contemplated.

Leaving the preparation activities, I will report briefly on the pursuits of the rest of the staff. David Techter has catalogued some of the Romer - Miller South African, Karoo materials. We have gained additional knowledge of the stratigraphic positions of some of the specimens from conversations with our recent visitor from South Africa, Dr. Brink. Rainer Zangerl is continuing work on the Mecca project which he has reported on in some detail in the last Bulletin, and at greater length at the New Orleans meetings. He and E.S. Richardson, our invertebrate paleontologist, recently presented a most successful thirty-minute TV program over Chicago's Educational TV station. Their subject, naturally enough, was the Mecca shale and the ecological story told therein. They got across a good bit of basic information about geologic processes in so doing. Robert Denison has returned to his studies of the Utah arthrodires. He reports that the group is presenting some knotty systematic problems. Charles Reed, back from a year in the Near East (with the Braidwood party from the Oriental Institute), is working on problems relating to the domestication of animals. Turnbull has finished a note on a Lance formation didelphid and continues work on studies of mammalian masticatory apparatus.

--W.D. Turnbull.

University of Michigan

The spotlight of events at the University this Fall was the Ermine Cowles Case Memorial Lecture sponsored by the Museum of Paleontology and the Department of Geology. The lecture was given by Dr. Alfred S. Romer on the "Permian Redbeds, Fossils, and Vertebrate Evolution," before a group that filled the Rackham Amphitheatre.

Fortunately, Al was able to find a few minutes to look at some Permian fossils. We hope he can stay longer on his next visit.

It has been a quiet Fall semester at the Museum of Paleontology. John Dorr has been sorting some Cretaceous concentrate that he got by washing matrix last summer while collecting in Montana. He has recovered a small, fragmentary, but diverse fauna which consists of mollusks, seeds, fish, amphibians, reptiles and mammals.

Tom Oelrich has been busy proofreading his paper on the Anatomy of the head of Ctenosaura pectinata, which should be off the press in January.

Bayard H. Brattstrom spent a few days in September looking for the remains of snakes in the unsorted material from the Pliocene and Pleistocene of the High Plains. We hope his visit was profitable.

Mary Dawson of the University of Kansas was a visitor during the Christmas recess to study a skeleton of Palaeolagus.

--Claude W. Hibbard.

GREAT PLAINS-ROCKY MOUNTAINS

Dinosaur National Monument

One of the specimens of Camarasaurus occurred in a lens of bentonitic clay and was beginning to crumble. In order to save it we have removed it from the cliff for thorough cleaning and hardening of the bone. The bone is badly fractured which slows up the work somewhat, but on the whole we are making good progress. Eventually it will be replaced in the cliff in its original position.

During the process of cleaning the specimen we found short segments of ossification in the longitudinal (dorsal) ligament between the divided spines of the anterior cervical vertebrae (nos. 4,5,6 and 7). Such limited literature as I have at my disposal does not mention this feature in any of the other sauropods.

The skull was completely disarticulated before burial. We were very fortunate in recovering most of the parts. We were exceptionally fortunate in recovering the braincase in an excellent state of preservation and with only a slight amount of distortion. The braincase is fused into a solid mass of bone which completely encloses the brain with the possible exception of a small part of the olfactory lobes. The epipterygoid (alisphenoid) has been incorporated into the braincase and is fused to its fellow of the opposite side in front of the brain. If a separate orbitosphenoid exists in these forms it cannot be identified in this specimen.

--Ted White.

Carter County Museum, Ekalaka, Montana

Several display projects are underway at the Museum, including a Cretaceous exhibit. The skeletal mount of Trachodon is nearly complete, except for a section of the tail.

--Marshall E. Lambert

Fort Hays Kansas State College Museum

During the past few months the activities in the several Museum Departments have had little or no bearing on Paleontology or Geology. I am glad to say, however, that at last the work in the other branches of the museum have been taken care of sufficiently to allow more time for field work and preparation of fossils.

Mr. Myrl V. Walker, who has spent more than twenty years with the National Park Service, decided last fall to return to his Alma Mater and is now back with us at the college. Although teaching duties now fill up much of his schedule, we hope he will soon find more time for museum work. It has been my desire that some one sufficiently interested in the fauna of extinct marine life, which is to be had within driving distance of our museum, be on hand to take over and carry on the work of building the collections into a worthwhile fossil museum which will be a

credit to our school and Kansas. I cannot hope to continue in my present position, due to my age, very much longer and I feel certain that with the previous training Mr. Walker has had in this field he is the logical person to replace me. He has shown much interest in the museum, in the school, and in Kansas, where he was born. I am very happy to know that he is willing to work into this position as planned.

Recently we have had the very good fortune of having presented to the museum by Mr. M. C. Bonner a nearly complete plesiosaur skeleton, Trinacromerum osborni, from the Niobrara Cretaceous chalk of Logan County, Kansas. To the best of my knowledge, this is the third skeleton collected of this small (10') marine reptile. The job of preparing and mounting I hope to start very soon. Mr. Bonner and his son, Orville, did an excellent job of collecting the skeleton. The bone is in an excellent state of preservation. It is a skeleton of an old individual. We believe it will be the best skeleton of the three.

It was a pleasure to have Dr. Dave Dunkle and Don Guadagni working in our vicinity last summer. There were several other S.V.P. men who visited us this past summer and we hope more will come next year.

All plans had been made for Mrs. Sternberg and me to attend the S.V.P. meetings at New Orleans last November when she came down with a severe case of flu which ran into pneumonia and put her in the hospital for 30 days. Thus our trip and privilege of meeting with the group had to be abandoned. Here is hoping we can make it next year.

--George F. Sternberg

Museum of Geology, South Dakota School of Mines and Technology

The onset of a little more winter than usual has greatly restricted our usual outdoor activities during the last few months. Jim Bump has managed to get a few sections measured in the Badlands for a short paper on some local stratigraphy. A couple of trips to the Hesperornis locality in the Pierre shale has yielded quite a bit of additional skeletal material and some pterodactyl parts. The Oligocene subcommittee and the writing of glossary articles has kept Jim in the office most of the time.

Harold Martin is busy with an articulated Poebrotherium skeleton which he is preparing for mounting. He is keeping a hopeful eye open for bird bones as quite a bit of bird material was found with this block when it was collected in 1942.

Mort Green has been preparing early Miocene and White River hyracodons in order to compare the forms from these two horizons. He spent a few days in Lincoln during the vacation examining the Nebraska Arikarrean material.

Reid Macdonald has been working on the Mission sand pit specimens and is slowly getting a report written on this locality.

He has just completed a twelve week TV series on "The Story of Ancient South Dakota" for the school's extension division. We can't report that the studio door was ever mobbed by fans but on the other hand there was little talk of tar 'n' feathers and such.

In November the officers and directors of the National Geographic Society held an anniversary program marking the 25th anniversary of the Stratosphere flight from the nearby Stratobowl. Those who attended the 1951 field conference will remember that we ate a lunch at the Stratobowl. During this celebration the Museum of Geology played host for one morning to the distinguished visitors from the National Geographical Society, the Navy, and the Air Force.

Visitors to the museum included Dr. Alexander Wetmore who was here with the NGS and Dr. and Mrs. A. S. Brink of the Bernard Price Institute.

—J. R. Macdonald

Sanford Museum, Cherokee, Iowa

Late in October a mammoth skeleton was reported in a gravel pit along the Boyer River in western Iowa. Investigation revealed only a portion of it remaining--a bull-dozer had accomplished what time had not so that the skull was almost a complete loss. The two upper molars, mandible, and a fine pair of tusks were collected--the latter almost eleven feet long. The left front leg and miscellaneous vertebrae and ribs were recovered, in addition. Inquiry revealed that other bones had been found last year but were not reported so the opportunity to get a complete skeleton was lost.

The Midwest Museums Conference in Chicago on October 20-22 gave me an excuse to visit the VP Laboratory at the Chicago Natural History Museum where I saw Rainer Zangrel, Bill Turnbull, and Orville Gilpin. Rainer briefed me on his Mecca project and showed me some of the peculiar forms he is finding.

During Thanksgiving Vacation I spent a couple of days at the University of Nebraska State Museum with Bertrand Schultz and Lloyd Tanner working over the Lime Creek fauna and identifying a collection from Turin, Iowa, which I had taken with me. The latter project is to be resumed in the spring and promises to add some interesting information to knowledge of the Pleistocene in northwest Iowa.

--W. D. Frankforter

University of Kansas Museum of Natural History

In the preparation laboratory, Russell Camp is whacking away at a discouraging mass of rock, chiefly ironstone, from the Dakota formation in which is inbedded scattered fragments of a large reptile. It is one of those operations in which it is easier to remove the bone from the rock than the other way round.

The monster within is quite probably a small dinosaur, but nothing really definitive has been uncovered as yet. As relief from this job, Camp is giving fresh coats of paint to several exhibit cases.

The New Orleans meeting of SVP was attended by E. C. Galbreath and R. W. Wilson. New members elected at this meeting who are also graduate students at Kansas in vertebrate paleontology are Anita Long and Sylvia Robinson. There are now twelve members of the society on the Lawrence campus.

Research-wise, Mary Dawson is pursuing her work on mid-Tertiary lagomorphs with interesting results, and will have just returned from a tour of eastern research centers when this issue of the bulletin is received. Galbreath is engaged in sorting Heliscomys jaws from matrix, and in writing on the auditory area of Cynarctoides. Nicholas Hotton is designing models of the inner ear and testing them in regard to sound transmission. He says, "pelycosaurs did hear sounds received through their stapes." Right in line with all the local interest in ears, Dr. Peter Vaughn paid us a brief visit in December and addressed the Zoological Seminar on the chorda tympani and reptile dichotomy.

Dr. and Mrs. Adrian Brink of the Bernard Price Institute of South Africa were at the Museum in early January. We all had a most enjoyable visit.

--R. W. Wilson

University of Nebraska State Museum

The S.V.P. and G.S.A. meetings at New Orleans proved to be very worthwhile. The Nebraska members of the Society who attended included Mylan and Eunice Stout, Lloyd and Eileen Tanner, and Bertrand and Marian Schultz.

Morton Green of the South Dakota School of Mines was a visitor to the Museum in December. He was interested in studying various fossils from the Gering, Monroe Creek, Harrison, and Marshland of the Nebraska area. Dr. and Mrs. Adrian Brink of the Bernard Price Institute of South Africa were in Lincoln to see the old year out and to celebrate the arrival of 1956. The members of the staff of the Museum and Department of Geology enjoyed the visit very much. Mrs. Brink presented a special piano recital which was appreciated by all those present. Early in January, G. Ledyard Stebbins, Professor of Genetics at the University of California, gave an interesting series of lectures at the University on the principles of evolution. Stebbins spent some time at the Museum examining the fossil record of certain of the fossil mammals including the bison, oreodonts, rhinos, and rodents.

Work is progressing on the renovation of Elephant Hall. The mounted African elephants, which were in the center of the hall, have migrated to the south end. The skeleton of Archidiskodon maibeni will occupy the center of the Hall. Henry Reider and Don Martin are putting on the finishing touches to the Stegomastodon

skeleton which will soon join the "parade of elephants." Various displays of the geology, zoology, and anthropology divisions also are being moved and brought up to date.

John Howe has completed a stratigraphic study of the Oligocene rodent Ischyromys in relation to the paleosols of the Brule formation. The paleoecology of the Oligocene of Nebraska is the subject of a research problem completed by Cyril Harvey. Lloyd Tanner, Mylan Stout, and Bertrand Schultz are busy with various research projects along with their regular duties at the University.

--Bertrand Schultz.

WEST COAST

Northern California

California's usually magnificent climate has taken on a somewhat Pleistocene appearance lately, with December's rainfall being measured in feet rather than inches. But the floods have not affected VPs here in the Bay Area except to uncover a few fossils, such as some newly discovered proboscidean remains from near Sebastopol.

Field work since the last issue of the Bulletin has been confined almost entirely to the Great Basin. Accompanied by various of his students, Dr. Savage has made two trips; one to eastern Nevada and various Esmerelda sites, the other to the Owens Lake area to study the Coso formation. Both trips netted interesting new specimens and stratigraphic information. Savage's research activities have been concerned with Wood Committee affairs and the late Hemphillian and Blancan carnivores of the Texas Panhandle.

Dr. Stirton has recently compiled a history of the Paleontology Department and Museum here at the University of California. Eighteen Doctor of Philosophy and fifteen master's degrees have been granted on the vertebrate side of the Department since 1904, when W. J. Sinclair took his doctorate under J. C. Merriam.

Drs. Camp and Welles are well along with work on the 1949 - 53 bibliography, which is nearing the typing stage. Offset printing is planned this time. The hope is that the bibliography can be published as a GSA publication within about a year. In addition to their work on the bibliography, part II of Camp's long awaited Placerias monograph is being readied for publication and Dr. Welles' patient work with dilute acetic acid on the skull of a Cretaceous plesiosaur from Colombia has nearly reached the stage where a "brain-cast" can be made. This will be the first time such a cast will have been obtained, a suitable reward considering the two years put in on the job. Welles expects to return to his Moenkopi field work for at least part of the coming summer and will devote some time to further study of the stratigraphy of his Tuba City dinosaur skeleton. Camp will continue his quest for ichthyosaurs in Nevada at Ichthyosaur State Park, near Ione.

Among the graduate students, G. D. Woodard is studying the notothere and macropodid fauna he obtained last summer from the Watut basin in the Morobe District of New Guinea. Don Russell is working up a Clarendonian fauna from Juntura, Oregon, originally discovered by J. A. Shotwell of the University of Oregon. Don has just completed work on the mylagaulids and is now deep in the proboscideans. A new type of shovel-tusker highlights the fauna. Eugene Giles is working on an analysis of the Rancho La Brea coyotes using Mahalanobis' D^2 statistic. Les Marcus is engaged in statistical work on fossil macropodids from Bingara, N.S.W., Australia. Dick Estes has been studying a collection of fossil stickleback fish from the "Truckee" formation near Hazen, Nevada. Malcolm McKenna has been studying a Miocene condylarth from Colombia and Harold Cook's Chadronia. The latter turns out to be an Oligocene pantolestid! Savage and McKenna will spend a good part of the summer prospecting for Cretaceous mammals.

In the laboratory Les Kent has completed preparation of a very fragile proboscidean tusk by saturating it with nearly boiling paraffin. Surprisingly enough, no explosion resulted, although numerous sidewalk superintendents predicted disaster. Those who would try this technique are warned to make sure the specimen is thoroughly dry!

--Malcolm C. McKenna.

Southern California

We of southern California are extremely proud to announce a major step in the advancement of V.P. in the West. Ray Alf of the Webb School in Claremont just informed us by phone (we hope to have more details for next issue) that the school's board has agreed to the building of a museum to house Ray's fine collection of fossil and recent specimens, to be named appropriately the Raymond M. Alf Museum, designed by the well known artist, Millard Sheets, with the viewpoint of artistic and educational presentation. Ray will be in charge of course and will be able to continue adding to the collection in the same manner as he has done before.

Ray also was considerably excited over his plan to fly to Berkeley (via piloting by Malcolm McKenna, a former student of Ray's) at the invitation of the University of California Paleontology Department -- purpose is to carry on cooperative and he hopes conclusive study of the remarkable "jellyfish" and "worm" fossils he retrieved from Unkar of the Grand Canyon.

From the Department of Zoology, University of California at Los Angeles, we submit a welcome addition to our local news by Frank E. Peabody, who reports that he has ... "apparently survived the major dislocation involved in forsaking the plains of Kansas for the shores of the Pacific." He has set up shop in a brand new Zoology building with a loan of Garnett reptiles from Kansas and a box of Captorhinus-infested clay from Oklahoma, but to date has had little time to spare from teaching general Human Anatomy to 170 assorted pre-nursing and physical education students. However, there has been time to miss a longstanding, congenial association with Bob Wilson of Kansas.

Peabody looks forward to a spring semester of Comparative Anatomy, to the introduction of graduate courses in Vertebrate Paleontology, and to continued work on four Garnett reptiles that figuratively plead for description. He was agreeably surprised to find that Professor Emeritus Loye Miller had assembled at U.C.L.A. a small but interesting study collection of fossil mammals.

The fall semester was enlivened for him by a most enjoyable November visit with the Society at New Orleans, and by a December visit from Dr. Adrian S. Brink and wife, Anna, of South Africa who by now must have visited nearly every practicing V.P. in the U.S. astride the controls of their trusty Nash sedan! As Peabody says, "Welcome visits from Ted Downs also rate mention since the teeming sea of human traffic milling between Westwood and the Los Angeles Museum is no mean barrier to communication, eye to eye." We at the L. A. Museum were also privileged to have a very fine visit with the Brinks.

Things have been rather quiet at the L. A. Museum since our return from Smith Creek Cave in Nevada. We were not successful in getting more Teratornis incredibilis but did succeed in getting much microfossil material and a few extinct large mammal fragments with good stratigraphic data accompanying. The excavations were only begun however. On our return trip Margaret Wheat of Fallon, Nevada, gave us an enjoyable Cook's Tour of Charles Camp's giant ichthyosaur quarry (now a Nevada state park). We were much impressed by the quantity of work already achieved by Camp and his helpers.

We had the pleasure of investigating another new late Tertiary locality found by William H. Hays -- Yale graduate student -- in the Mecca Hills of the Coachella Valley near the Salton Sea. The fauna is small but seems to correlate with our Vallecito fauna in the Anza Desert.

Publication-wise, Downs has a short paper out on "A fossil sea lion from the Miocene of the San Joaquin Hills, Orange County, California," Bull. So. Cal. Acad. Sc., vol. 54, 1955.

Phil Orr sent Hildegarde Howard an urgent letter from Santa Barbara recently. Said Phil, he had just acquired a huge fossil bird with bones of one wing measuring more than five feet, and a hooked bill with TEETH! Dr. Howard travelled to Santa Barbara post haste and reports as follows concerning this remarkable find: "Undoubtedly this large bird comes from the same Miocene deposit in which the little passerine bird (mentioned in the October SVP Bulletin) was found. However, the new find is obviously a marine bird of somewhat albatross-like proportions. Its amazing toothed beak, however, sets it apart from any living form. That this is not another Hesperornis is obvious, not only from the long wing bones, but the fact that the teeth are actually bony projections of the jaw, and are not set in grooves or sockets. It will take considerable study to determine its relationships, and I am indeed grateful to the Santa Barbara Museum for inviting me to make this study."

All members of the SVP will be interested to know that March, 1956 marks the fiftieth anniversary of the first scientific excavations at Rancho La Brea, by the University of California. Commemorating this occasion the Los Angeles County Museum, which administers the site, is arranging special guided tours of the Rancho, with lectures concerning the famous deposits, during the week of March 11 to 18, 1956.

--Ted Downs

Museum of Natural History, University of Oregon

Work is still progressing in the Museum display area in hopes of opening our new quarters to the public before summer. The lab is still struggling with Clarno material, some of which is in a poor state of preservation. Dale Russell is working on a large amynodont skull at present. This skull was associated with the lower jaws, pelvis and a number of cervical vertebrae. I am busy describing a series of new Hemphillian localities from along the Columbia River. They show an interesting diversity of ecological situations.

Malcolm McKenna and Don Russell flew up from Berkeley recently. McKenna spent several days studying the Clarno material. Don returned Christmas vacation to work on the shovel-tusked mastodon from our Clarendonian Juntura fauna. We are already making plans for our spring reconnaissance and as soon as the weather breaks will be on our way.

The draft and etc. have taken most of the field camp workers and so I'll be needing several more to fill their places this coming season. If you have any interested students have them contact me.

--J. Arnold Shotwell.

HENRY CROSBY STETSON

1900-1955

The Museum of Comparative Zoology announces with regret the death of a friend and colleague, Henry C. Stetson, on December 3 aboard the oceanographic vessel "Atlantis" off the coast of Chile. Before going on to earn distinction in the fields of sedimentation and oceanography, Henry Stetson was an active vertebrate paleontologist. Between 1927 and 1934 he served as curator of fossil vertebrates and made important collections of Devonian fishes in Scotland and New Brunswick. Although his research dealt chiefly with the archaic fishes Thelodus, Lanarkia, Birkenia, Dinichthys and Macropetalichthys, Stetson also published (with T. Barbour) studies on the squamation of Homoeosaurus and a revision of Pleistocene Terrapene from Florida.

--D. Baird

WESTERN SPELEOLOGICAL INSTITUTE-SANTA BARBARA MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY--NEVADA STATE MUSEUM played hosts to Dr. George F. Carter, Johns Hopkins University, Geographer and Soils expert; Dr. Carl L. Hubbs, Scripps Institution of Oceanography, Ichthyologist; Dr. Lon McGirk, University of Nevada, Geologist; Mr. Wallace Broecker, Lamont Geological Laboratory, Columbia University, Geophysicist, who accompanied Phil C. Orr on a tour of portions of Lake Lahontan, Nevada, and to Santa Rosa Island, California.

Orr and Calhoun of the Nevada State Museum-WSI expedition have discovered human mummies associated with Equus and Camelops which have been radiocarbon dated at 10,900 years BP by Broecker. Perfectly preserved fish mummies are being studied by Hubbs, and will be dated by Broecker. A complete complement of samples for radiocarbon analysis of the various lake tufas was made by Broecker, Mr. Jonez, of the Nevada State Fish and Game Commission and Dr. Lon McGirk Jr., Mackay School of Mines, U. of Nevada, cooperating in collecting samples from Anaho Island, Pyramid Lake, the classic locality described by Russell. McGirk expects to run accurate levels on lake shore features, and Broecker will run radiocarbon tests. If successful, this operation will do more to increase the geological time knowledge of inland lakes than any similar activity.

Carter examined soil profiles, which will be tied into the radiocarbon picture when completed. Orr and Calhoun have already (with the aid of Ted Downs) worked out the paleontological sequence of Fishbone and Crypt Caves where Equus and Camelops were cooked and eaten by man. Dr. Paul Sears, of Yale, is working on the pollen.

Completing the survey of Lahontan, the party through cooperation of Scripps Institution of Oceanography, University of California, La Jolla, traveled to Santa Rosa Island via the Scripps T 141 vessel, where as guests of the Vail Vickers Company, the dwarf mammoth beds were examined, also the overlying Indian deposits.

Many radiocarbon specimens were collected by Broecker and Hubbs from the third interglacial high sea stand to the present. Oxygen 18 tests for temperature will be run by Hubbs.

From samples of the Red abalone horizon collected by Orr and Finley of the Santa Barbara Museum in January, Broecker has determined a date of 7650 years BP for man and mammoth in the same stratigraphic level; a date of about 17,000 years was secured for wood identified by Cheney as Cypress.

Three exposures in fire pits were found which contained mammoth "kills" in which burned bone was found in place, and a "Carterfact" was found in place in one; "Carterfacts" were found in both other locations, though not in place.

It is hoped to make a complete archeological, paleontological, soil, Oxygen 18 and Carbon 14 "column" for this area and that of Lake Lahontan, which will serve to guide western investigators in late Pleistocene and Recent time measurements.

--Phil C. Orr (September 23, 1955).

The Evolution of the Horse

In the big Badlands when the earth was young
In the Oligocene, they say
A Titanothere and a Sabre Tooth
Had a little set-too one day.
"I'm Lord of this sphere," stamped the Titanothere
"I'm boss of the works," snarled the cat,
So they quarrelled and a wondering audience came
From the hills and the brakes and the flat.
Then a three-toed horse who had heard the row
Stretched up to his four hands high;
"Why quarrel," he asked, "over trivial things
When the King of the Range stands by?"
So the fight was on and the Fierce and the Strong
and the Fleet milled 'round and around
Till the odds stood two to a half of four
That the King couldn't stand his ground.
But on they ran for a million years
And a million more and then,
There came one day to the Big Badlands
a four-horse team and men
And the three-toed horse that was four hands high
In the garb of the horse of today
Gave a horse ha ha to the Titanothere
As they hauled his bones away.

--Earl C. O'Roke.

Interior, S. Dak., 1924. Composed while on a field collecting expedition. E.C.O.

Change of Address

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Hough, Jean, 111 N. Wayne St., Arlington, Va.
Konizeski, R., U.S.G.S., C/ Montana State University, Missoula, Mont.
Minick, James, P.O. Box 895, Lake Charles, Louisiana.
Robinson, Peter, Dept. Geology, Harpur College, Endicott, N.Y.
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Taylor, Dwight W., 2425 Wyoming Ave., Washington 8, D.C.
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The Moravian Museum in Brno, Czechoslovakia, wishes to obtain the S.V.P. News Bulletin on exchange for Acta Musei Moraviae. Any library desiring the latter publication may obtain it through this exchange by paying the subscription for the Moravian Museum.

FIRST MUSEOLOGIST-VP HONORED ON STAMP

For the design of a stamp to commemorate the sesquicentennial of its founding, the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts has chosen "The Artist in his Museum," a self-portrait of its founder, Charles Willson Peale (1741-1827). Though best remembered as an artist, Peale also qualifies as a vertebrate paleontologist: he was the first American to prospect for, collect, mount, and publicly exhibit a fossil skeleton. The father of museology, he established in 1795 the country's first public museum of natural history and pioneered many now-standard museum methods. (His proportionate devotion to Art and Science is reflected in the names of his talented sons: Raphaelle, Rembrandt, Titian Ramsay, Rubens, Charles Linnaeus, and Franklin.)

Painted in 1822, the portrait shows Peale displaying the Long Room of his museum in Independence Hall, Philadelphia. In the foreground are mastodon bones, and a turkey collected by son Titian on Long's expedition to the Rockies. To the left, portraits of Revolutionary characters surmount the bird collection, which contained most of Alexander Wilson's types (some now in the MCZ). A Quaker lady stares in astonishment at the great "Mammoth" (Mastodon) skeleton which is partly concealed by the curtain. Discovered in Orange County, N.Y., and set up in 1802, this was the first fossil vertebrate mounted in America, and apparently the second in the world. (It was more accurately articulated than some exhibited currently.) Not shown in the painting is Peale's lively picture "Exhuming the Mastodon" which was painted for exhibition with the skeleton. After the dissolution of Peale's Philadelphia museum, the historic mastodon was bought by J.J. Kaup for the Hessisches Landesmuseum in Darmstadt, where it now stands.

--D. Baird.

E.C. Olson is again editor of EVOLUTION, and reports that more paleontological papers are urgently needed by that journal.

The JOURNAL OF PALEONTOLOGY is short of manuscripts at present and can guarantee rapid publication.

The Society for Systematic Zoology is holding a symposium on taxonomy at the Linnean Biennium in Washington D.C., in December, 1958.

Surplus dinosaur material from Dinosaur National Monument has been "unfrozen." Anyone interested should contact J.LeRoy Kay at the Carnegie Museum, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

POSITION OPEN

It is with regret that we call attention to the imminent retirement of William H. Buettner, Preparator, on June 31, 1956, after many years of successful work at the University of Michigan. If anyone knows of a good young Preparator looking for a job, have him write Dr. Lewis B. Kellum, Director, Museum of Paleontology, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Michigan.

HOW THE ORNITHISCHIAN GOT ITS PELVIS

The archosaurs, you may have heard,
Gave rise to creatures like the bird,
And crocs that live on river beds,
And chew black swimmers into shreds.

Another line the pterosaurs
Are found on salty ocean shores;
But like Queen Anne of ghostly tread
Are mostly known for being dead.

The dinosaurs of massive spread,
Found first in the Triassic bed,
Are diphyletic even here,
Their pelvic region makes this clear.

The Ornithischia, herbivores,
Often descended on all fours.
But the Saurischia, be it said
Were (save the sauropods), biped.

The eating of plant celluloses,
Requires a gut like firemen's hoses
In ornithischians this tube is*
Squashed against the sloping pubis.

This, giving symptoms most distressing,
Has not old Mother Nature's blessing,
"Pubic retreat" gives great relief,
The time span must have been quite brief.

The biggish belly, unsupported,
By fatal hernias might have thwarted,
The noble future set in store
For those evading Dollo's law.

From the pubis soon there grows
A pair of bones; no synarthrose
Constricts the gut; and muscles long,
Grow short, and consequently strong.

And so a noble stock was saved,
(Though giving scions most depraved
Like Ceratops, whose boney head,
Made him more fought against than dead.

And stegosaur whose boney plates
Eviscerate his special hates).
Oh! please excuse that double rhyme,
This verse was penned past my bed time.

*The historic present I use here
Is meant to make things real and clear.

John D. Currey
(Brasenose College, Oxford)