

RAYMOND FOUNDATION OFFERS SUMMER ENTERTAINMENTS

A summer series of free entertainments for children will be presented at the Museum during July and August by the James Nelson and Anna Louise Raymond Foundation for Public School and Children's Lectures. Motion pictures of natural history subjects, adventure and travel, and story-hours and tours of exhibits conducted by members of the Raymond Foundation staff, will be features of the programs. There will be six entertainments to be given on successive Thursday mornings, beginning on July 7 and concluding on August 11. Following is the schedule:

July 7—Motion picture: "Winners of the West," at 10 A.M. and 11 A.M.

July 14—10 A.M., story-hour: "Life in the South Seas" (illustrated with colored pictures); 11 A.M., tour: South Seas Exhibits.

July 21—Motion picture: "Adventures in the Far North," at 10 A.M. and 11 A.M.

July 28—10 A.M., story-hour: "Queer Birds of Other Lands" (illustrated with colored pictures); 11 A.M., tour: Bird Exhibits.

Aug. 4—10 A.M., motion picture: "Glimpses of South America"; 11 A.M., tour: South American Exhibits.

Aug. 11—Motion picture: "Animals at Rest and Play," at 10 A.M. and 11 A.M.

The motion picture and story-hour programs will be given in the James Simpson Theatre of the Museum. On days when tours also are scheduled the parties will assemble at the Theatre doors at the conclusion of the motion pictures or story-hours.

Children from all parts of Chicago and suburbs are invited to attend. No tickets are necessary for admission. Children may come alone, or accompanied by their parents or other adults. Community centers and other local organizations are invited to organize large groups of children and bring them to the Museum.

THE DUNE CACTUS

BY PAUL C. STANDLEY

Associate Curator of the Herbarium

The cactus family is easily one of the most curious and remarkable in the plant world. By atrophy of their leaves and adaptation of their bodies for efficient storage of water these plants are able to flourish in regions where others find existence almost impossible. Among the bristling spines protecting their weird stems they often produce showy flowers of great beauty, in surprising contrast to their otherwise forbidding appearance.

Cacti are an American group of plants that have developed most abundantly in the deserts of Mexico and South America. They are essentially tropical in distribution; therefore it is almost paradoxical that a single enterprising member of the group has ventured northward even far beyond sub-tropical regions, and is able to endure the severe winters of Lake Michigan. Farther westward, however, one or two representatives of the cactus family range even farther north.

The accompanying illustration shows a lifelike reproduction of the dune cactus (*Opuntia Rafinesquii*), exhibited in Hall 29. This cactus, or prickly pear, grows commonly on the dunes about the lower end of Lake Michigan. In spring its joints or "pads," by the uninitiated sometimes mistaken for leaves, after having lain flabby and dormant on the sand all winter, become turgid and active and send forth from their edges new joints on which flower buds appear. The handsome blossoms, as large

as roses, with delicate yellow petals, open in late May or early June. They are truly beautiful, and interesting also because of the fact that the stamens bend inward abruptly if the center of the flower is touched—evidently a special provision for fertilization by insects.

It is only when in flower that the dune



Dune Cactus

Exhibit of interesting plant found on shores of lower Lake Michigan. Prepared in Stanley Field Plant Reproduction Laboratories, and displayed in Hall of Plant Life.

cactus attracts attention. At other seasons it lies inconspicuously in the grass, sometimes reminding a passing person all too painfully of its presence by means of its sharp spines.

The small, dark purple fruit of this northern cactus is dry and useless, but some of the Mexican opuntias that attain the size and form of small trees produce large juicy fruits that are eaten in great quantities, either raw or made into preserves, jellies, or various confections. Opuntia fruits or tunas, as they are called in Mexico, frequently reach the Chicago markets, together with other tropical fruits such as mangoes, papayas, and sapodillas.

Illinois Plants Studied

The large collection of Illinois plants in the herbarium of Field Museum has been thoroughly studied by Dr. H. S. Pepon and E. G. Barrett of the Illinois Natural History Survey, in connection with the preparation of a proposed enumeration of the flora of this state.

Gifts to the Museum

Following is a list of some of the principal gifts received during the last month:

From American Friends of China—figure of goddess of mercy, Kuan-yin, carved from water-buffalo horn, China; from Mrs. Freeman S. Hincley—15 ethnological specimens, Fiji, Hawaii, Society Islands; from Mrs. Ira M. Price—22 ethnological specimens, Alaska; from Professor J. L. Shellshear—34 small fragments of prehistoric pottery and 16 fragmentary flint implements, China; from Byron Knoblock—6 large and 18 small stalactites, Kentucky; from University of Texas—338 herbarium specimens, Texas; from Dr. Forrest Shreve—38 herbarium specimens, Arizona and Sonora; from C. L. Lundell—60 herbarium specimens, Campeche; from A. C. Brade—29 herbarium specimens, Brazil; from William J. Chalmers—2 specimens petrified wood, Arizona; from Frank Von Drasek—33 specimens minerals and gems, Arkansas and New Mexico; from Lewis S. Thompson—6 specimens of bonefish and 4 specimens of "Permit" fish, Florida; from General Biological Supply House—7 deep-water sculpins, one trout perch, and 5 shells, Michigan and Florida; from Herbert Lang—62 frogs, one lizard, and 100 mammal specimens, South Africa; from John G. Shedd Aquarium—one specimen of Wrymouth (fish), *Cryptacanthodes maculatus*, Boothbay Harbor, Maine; from Bernarol Benesh—7 beetles, United States, Costa Rica, and Australia; from Dr. Charles E. Burt—19 snakes, lizards, and frogs, Kansas and Texas; from Miss Miriam Fork—2 milk snakes, Illinois; from Charles C. Sperry—one lizard, Colorado.

JULY GUIDE-LECTURE TOURS

Conducted tours of exhibits, under the guidance of staff lecturers, are made every afternoon at 3 P.M., except Saturdays, Sundays, and certain holidays. Following is the schedule of subjects and dates for July:

Friday, July 1—North American Indians.

Week beginning July 4: Monday—holiday, no tour; Tuesday—General Tour; Wednesday—Horned and Hoofed Animals; Thursday—General Tour; Friday—Prehistoric Life.

Week beginning July 11: Monday—Interesting Flowers and Seeds; Tuesday—General Tour; Wednesday—Egypt; Thursday—General Tour; Friday—Moon and Meteorites.

Week beginning July 18: Monday—Woods and Wood Products; Tuesday—General Tour; Wednesday—Marine Life; Thursday—General Tour; Friday—Chinese Exhibits.

Week beginning July 25: Monday—South American Archaeology; Tuesday—General Tour; Wednesday—Gems and Jewelry; Thursday—General Tour; Friday—Hall of Plant Life.

Persons wishing to participate should apply at North Entrance. Tours are free and no gratuities are to be proffered. A new schedule will appear each month in FIELD MUSEUM NEWS. Guide-lecturers' services for special tours by parties of ten or more are available free of charge by arrangement with the Director a week in advance.

Skiff Hall Reinstalled

Work on the reinstallation of Frederick J. V. Skiff Hall (Hall 37) is now practically complete. This hall contains collections of the ores of the heavy metals, building stones, and part of the non-metallic minerals. The backgrounds of the cases have been changed from black to the new light buff color being generally adopted in the Museum.

The former general order of arrangement of the collections has been retained, but the individual collections have been rearranged and much fresh material has been introduced. More complete and up-to-date descriptive labels have been provided and many cases now contain small maps showing where the specimens were collected.

NEW MEMBERS

The following persons were elected to membership in Field Museum during the period from May 17 to June 15:

Associate Members

Charles T. Atkinson, Mrs. Maude G. Brand, Mrs. John T. Llewellyn, Percy A. Robbins, Fred L. Thompson, Lawrence H. Whiting.

Annual Members

Peter M. Black, Mrs. James A. Culbertson, Mrs. B. A. Eckhart, Harold A. Fowler, Abraham J. Freiler, Charles S. Knapp, E. Fred Lechler, Mrs. W. B. Mundie, Mrs. John Roberts, Mrs. Charles W. Rockhold, H. Leopold Spitalny, Mrs. Ernst Stein, Miss Ada I. Sylvester, Lionel G. Thorsness.

MEMBERSHIP IN FIELD MUSEUM

Field Museum has several classes of Members. Benefactors give or devise \$100,000 or more. Contributors give or devise \$1,000 to \$100,000. Life Members give \$500. Non-Resident (Life) and Associate Members pay \$100. Non-Resident Associate Members pay \$50. All the above classes are exempt from dues. Sustaining Members contribute \$25 annually. After six years they become Associate Members. Annual Members contribute \$10 annually. Other memberships are Corporate, Honorary, Patron, and Corresponding, additions under these classifications being made by special action of the Board of Trustees.

Each Member, in all classes, is entitled to free admission to the Museum for himself, his family and house guests, and to two reserved seats for Museum lectures provided for Members. Subscription to FIELD MUSEUM NEWS is included with all memberships. The courtesies of every museum of note in the United States and Canada are extended to all Members of Field Museum. A Member may give his personal card to non-residents of Chicago, upon presentation of which they will be admitted to the Museum without charge. Further information about memberships will be sent on request.



Standley, Paul Carpenter. 1932. "The Dune Cactus." *Field Museum news* 3(7), 4-4.

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