

Opportunity ...

NU Museum 'Important Unit' In Nebraska Educational Plan



Elephant Moving Day

Dr. Bertrand Schultz, Director of the University State Museum points out the fossil tusks of a Nebraska mammoth found in Campbell, to two Museum visitors from Syracuse, Roger Basset and Gerald Siefkin.

Naturalist Guide Newell Joyner is showing the boys around. The bones are the last of the fossils to be removed so the Nebraska elephant, the largest in the world, can be moved to the center of Elephant Hall. The Mu-

seum's African elephants will be placed in front of the newly painted background. The elephant excavated in Campbell was discovered during the digging of the foundation for the Campbell High School.

By SAM JENSEN

Editors note: This is the third article in The Summer Nebraskan's Opportunity series. Next week's feature will concern the Lincoln Chiefs Baseball team.

"I've seen you on TV," the small boy, about to have his picture taken, said to Dr. Bertrand Schultz, director of the University State Museum.

But, Dr. Schultz doesn't play the part of Captain Video in the educational "Great Plaits Trilogy" produced by the University, and the influence of the State Museum in Morrill Hall is not limited to the area reached by television impulses.

During the last six years 689 city and parochial schools and 560 rural school groups from Nebraska and several adjoining states have visited the museum. One day this spring over 20 groups went through the museum according to Naturalist Guide Newell Joyner who is in charge of the Museum guide service.

"The Museum has become a very important unit of the overall educational system of the state as well as the surrounding region," Dr. Schultz said, "Our exhibits are used as a classroom by University and secondary school groups."

Schultz said that the Museum's exhibits are being revised and new displays are being constructed that are of an educational nature.

Joyner said that the purpose of the exhibits is becoming more educational than purely recreational. It is our desire, he said, to make our facilities available to teachers when students are interested in some particular phase of study.

The Museum is divided into eight units, anthropology, botany-herbarium, entomology, geology, health sciences, invertebrate paleontology and zoology.

Many of the exhibits and the field and research work done by

the Museum are financed by private donation or through grants from the University Foundation.

The largest project now in progress is the new hall of Nebraska

Inside World Craft Instruction

Swedish weaving, textile painting, metal and wood work will be demonstrated in the Union Handicraft lesson to be held in the Craft Shop Tuesday at 7 p.m.

Miss Verna Snell is instructor of the class which has already taken part in projects involving copper enameling, leather work and basket weaving.

A new project may be started each week so it is not necessary to have attended the previous lessons in order to participate in the program.

Bridge Lessons

Mrs. Homer Honeywell will instruct the third in the Union series of bridge lessons in Union Parlors A, B and C Tuesday at 4 p.m.

The Goren point count method is being used in the class in which approximately 40 persons are enrolled.

Pi Lambda Theta

The regular weekly meeting of Pi Lambda Theta will be held in Union Room 316 at 4 p.m. Wednesday.

wildlife which should be ready this fall. The Hall will contain diorama displays of red fox, beaver, bison, white-tailed deer, bobcat, blue heron, pronghorn antelope and whooping crane.

The University Museum houses more kinds of fossil elephants than any other museum in the world including the largest fossil elephant ever found which was discovered in Lincoln County, Nebraska.

The Museum was established in 1874 and during its 80 years of existence has occupied four buildings - University Hall, 1874-1887; Nebraska Hall, 1887-1908; Museum Building, now Geography Hall, 1908-1927, and Morrill Hall, 1927 to present.

Free guide service through the museum is available to groups by writing to the Director, Morrill Hall, University, Lincoln.

An attempt is made to make each tour an enjoyable, educational experience, Joyner said, and there is no set, memorized lectures that the guides use—it is more of an informal discussion. Each tour is different and can be adapted to the needs and size of the group.

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Round

Nebraskan Work Cited At Program

Three Nebraskans received Superior Service Awards at the annual U.S. Department of Agriculture awards program, which recognized "achievements in research and administration that have helped to improve American life and save the public millions of dollars."

The Nebraskans honored are:

George Round, Agricultural Extension Editor and director of Public Relations, "for developing a highly successful program of disseminating agricultural information which has been responsible for promoting a strong and constantly growing extension program in Nebraska."

Dr. Frank Duley, soil conservationist with Agricultural Research Service, "for his participation in the origination and development of the stubble-mulch system of farming; sustained crop production; and conservation of farming areas of the West."

Robert Wallis of Scottsbluff, entomologist with Agricultural Research Service, "for planning and conducting research which provided a method now used for predicting potato psyllid outbreaks, thereby preventing major losses to potatoes and tomatoes in affected states."

The awards were presented before 5,000 spectators in the Sylvan Theater on the Washington Monument Grounds. Rep. Clifford R. Hope of Kansas, minority leader of the House Agriculture committee, was the principal speaker, and Secretary of Agriculture Ezra Taft Benson presented the awards.

The ceremonies were presided over by Administrative Assistant Secretary of Agriculture Ralph S. Roberts, and the Army Band furnished music for the occasion.

Twenty-four per cent of all drivers involved in fatal auto accidents in the U.S. last year were under 25 years old.

Fossil Reptile Discovered In Nebraska

A tropical sea bed which completely covered Nebraska more than a million years ago has been uncovered in northeast Seward County.

In addition to evidence of shark teeth, oyster shells, and small fish, the partial skeleton of a 35-foot-long water reptile, called a Plesiosaur, was found, Dr. C. Bertrand Schultz, director of the University Museum reported.

This find, the first of its kind to be uncovered in Nebraska, is approximately 100 million years old, Dr. Schultz said. Some scientists describe the Plesiosaur as "a snake strung through the body of a turtle."

The reptile had four well-developed paddles attached to the side of its broad and flat body which it used for swimming in rowing-like motion. The head, usually small, was set on the end of a flexible neck and could dart sideways to seize its prey, usually fish.

The sea bed was uncovered on a farm, located 15 miles northwest of Lincoln.

Dr. Schultz identified the stones as gizzard stones surrounded by the Plesiosaur's rib bones. Like birds and other reptiles, the Plesiosaur had a gizzard.

The evidences of the Plesiosaur have been removed to the State Museum's laboratories where they are being assembled for future public showing in Morrill Hall.

Dr. Schultz said that although a Plesiosaur has never been found in Nebraska before, it had been known that they lived in the area since similar evidences have been uncovered in both Kansas and South Dakota.

'So Big'

Jane Wyman, Sterling Hayden and Nancy Olson are the stars of "So Big," the Sunday evening Union free movie which will be shown in the Union Ballroom at 7:30 p.m.

The movie is based on Edna Ferber's Pulitzer Prize-winning novel which concerns an American family whose roots are embedded in the rich soil of the Midwest.

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