

Lore

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LORE

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Members are requested to notify the editor promptly of change of address.

"Ed's" Column

We hope that our new method of mailing LORE to you— whereby copies simply are addressed to you and consigned to the care of the U. S. Postal Service, without wrapping and without sealing, is working out satisfactorily. Our purpose in so changing procedure was to economize with your money— spend more of it on improving the magazine and less of it for distribution costs. A heavier cover was adopted to insure against damage to the magazine en route. Please notify the Museum if copies are not arriving in good condition.

We note with satisfaction, and a pardonable amount of pride, that the Museum's TV program for young folks: The Explorer's Club of the Air, sponsored by the Ziegler Candy Co., has completed its third year, and is now the oldest "live" show on WTMJ-TV.

The members of your Museum staff are not without honor outside the boundaries of Milwaukee, as demonstrated by the following notes on personnel.

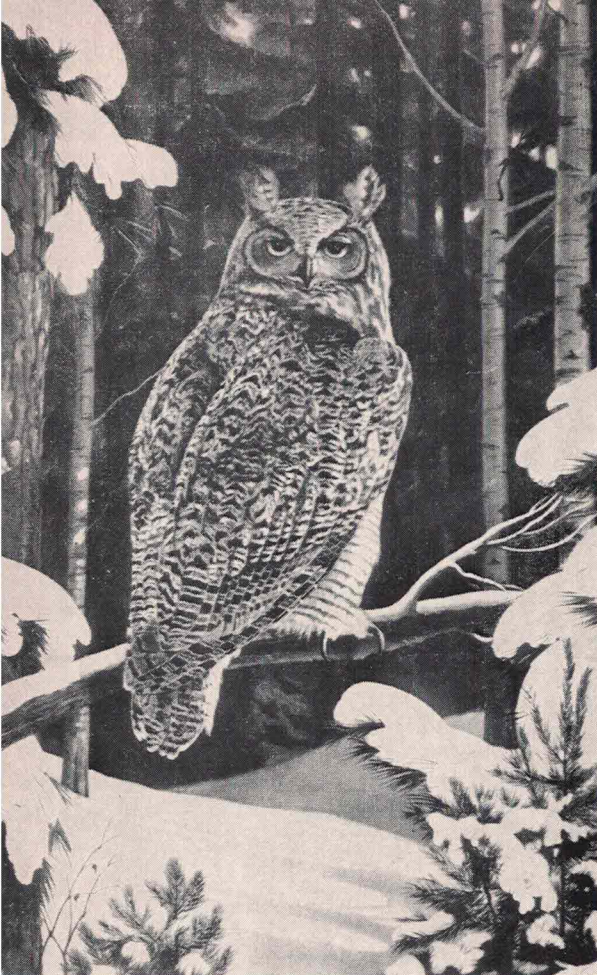
Dr. Robert E. Ritzenthaler, Acting Curator of Anthropology, has been granted a leave of absence to join the teaching staff of the Department of Sociology and Anthropology, University of Wisconsin, for one semester.

At the annual meeting of the Nature Conservancy which was held in Minneapolis on September 12, 1951, Albert M. Fuller, our Curator of Botany, was appointed chairman of the Committee for the Preservation of Natural Conditions. The Nature Conservancy, a national organization closely affiliated with the Ecological Society of America, is interested in the study of plant and animal communities and in the promotion of the establishment of natural areas in all parts of North America.



Falling leaves, the bite of frost, and the promise of snow foreshadow Winter's holiday season. The Museum board, your staff, and your editor convey holiday greetings to all readers of Lore.

—Ed.



PAINTED BY I. L. BIEHN, M.P.M. ARTIST

The State *versus* Mr. Great Horned Owl

by
HELMA L. WOLFF,
Librarian

Judge—Members of the jury, you are about to hear a case in which the Great Horned Owl is being accused by the State of being a menace to society and an undesirable citizen. It will be your duty, after hearing the testimony, to decide whether the defendant is guilty as charged or innocent. Will the clerk please call the first witness.

Clerk—Will Mr. John Hunter please take the stand. (After the witness is duly sworn in, the prosecuting attorney approaches the stand).

State—Your name?

Witness—John Hunter.

State—Mr. Hunter, you have a shooting preserve?

Hunter—Yes, sir, I have, located five miles east of Davysville.



State—Now, for the benefit of the jury, will you explain what a shooting preserve is?

Hunter—Well, we have leased some acres of land from the owners, and are raising pheasants in this area.

State—What do you do with these pheasants?

Hunter—We raise these pheasants for hunting purposes. We pay for the breeding stock, and must obtain a license from the state for permission to operate one of these preserves. These birds are hunted by sportsmen just as anywhere else, except that this is a restricted area and the hunters cannot shoot here unless so authorized by the owner.

State—Have you been successful in raising these birds?

Hunter—We have up until recently, yes, sir.

State—Until recently, you say. What has happened recently?

Hunter—Well, we have noticed a lowering in the percentage of our birds.

State—What is this due to?

Hunter—Owls, sir. The Great Horned Owl catches these birds and eats them.

State—How do you know owls are the reason for the depletion in number?

Hunter—We have set traps for them.

State—And you have caught owls?

Hunter—Yes, sir, quite a number.

State—Then you blame the depletion of your birds to the rapacity of the owl?

Hunter—Yes, sir, I do.

State—That's all. Your witness.

Defense—You say you have a shooting preserve. Tell me, Mr. Hunter, are all your guests who participate in these hunts expert marksmen?

Hunter—Oh, no, I wouldn't say that.

Defense—Then would you admit that some birds are crippled but not killed when being hunted?

Hunter—Very possibly.



Defense—Yet have you ever encountered any crippled birds in the fields?

Hunter—No, sir. Come to think of it, I haven't.

Defense—Do you think it would be reasonable to assume that the owl captures these crippled birds and puts them out of their misery?

Hunter—Well—that's possible.

Defense—Now, then, about these traps that you set. Do you catch only owls?

Hunter—No, sir.

Defense—What else do you catch?

Hunter—Oh, there are other birds.

Defense—Any song birds?

Hunter—Yes, sir, but rarely.

Defense—In other words these traps are doing more harm than good, wouldn't you say?

State—I object.

Judge—Objection sustained.

Defense—That is all.

State—Your name?

Witness—Mrs. Anna Birdlover.

State—You live where?

Birdlover—Just outside of the city, north of Lane Road.

State—Is it heavily populated there?

Birdlover—No, sir. We have many open fields.

State—State your case.

Birdlover—Living in such an open area, we are fortunate to have many song birds around our place. I've put up many houses and feeding trays to attract these birds. They made their homes here. We'd be awakened in the morning by their melodious songs, and every day we would be delighted by their presence.

State—You say "would be." Are you no longer?

Birdlover—No, no more. The horrible owl has invaded our area and taken our birds.

State—How do you know it was the owl?

Birdlover—I saw him perched up in the tree one night, and I know he eats song birds.

State—And, since seeing Mr. Owl in the neighborhood, you notice a scarcity of song birds?

Birdlover—Oh, yes, sir.

State—That's all. Your witness.

Defense—Mrs. Birdlover, you say you live on a rather large plot of ground on the outskirts of the city. Tell me, do you have any pets?

Birdlover—Oh, yes, sir. I have a couple of dogs.

Defense—Dogs. Any cats?

Birdlover—Oh, no, I wouldn't have any cats. But, my neighbors do have some.

Defense—Have they ever been on your land?

Birdlover—Oh, I've shoed them off whenever I've seen them around.

Defense—Have you ever noticed them attacking your song birds?

Birdlover—Er, no, that is, I never give them a chance.

Defense—I see. You've seen owls in the vicinity but you have never seen them take any of your birds, and yet you are sure they're guilty. You have had cats on your property, but have never seen them snatch your birds, and so you are sure they are not guilty. That is all.

State—Your name.

Witness—Junior Jones.

State—Now, Junior, do you do any hunting?

Junior—Yes, sir.

State—Aren't you rather young for that? Do you know how to handle a gun?

Junior—Oh, yes, sir. I always go with my dad. He taught me.

State—What sort of game do you go after?

Junior—Well rabbits mostly. My dad says that's a good way to start learning to hunt.

State—And do you go rabbit hunting often?

Junior—We used to go a lot but not much now.

State—Why not?

Junior—There aren't any rabbits.

State—No rabbits? You mean there are none to hunt?

Junior—No, sir.

State—Why?

Junior—My dad says owls are responsible.



State—Why does he say that?

Junior—He's seen them there. He's heard them and he knows they like rabbits.

State—I see. That is all. Your witness.

Defense—Junior, do you know what tuleremia is?

Junior—Yes, sir. It's a disease rabbits carry which can infect people.

Defense—Have you ever met anyone who suffered from tuleremia, or have you ever shot diseased rabbits?

Junior—No, sir.

Defense—Haven't you wondered that you don't see diseased rabbits about?

Junior—Well—

Defense—That's all. You may leave the stand.

State—Your name.

Witness—Robert Farmer.



State—You are a farmer?

Farmer—Yes, sir, a poultry farmer.

State—You are having trouble with the disappearance of your birds?

Farmer—Yes, sir. The owls have made great inroads in my business. They have killed quite a number. I've suffered great losses through their killing of my flock.

State—You have seen these marauders in person?

Farmer—Yes, sir. I have.

State—That is all. Your witness.



Defense—Mr. Farmer, in your opinion is the owl the only attacker of poultry?

Farmer—The most prevalent one.

Defense—Answer the question. Is he the only attacker of poultry?

Farmer—No, sir.

Defense—What other predators would you mention?

Farmer—Well, foxes, mink, weasels, skunks.



Defense—Now, would you say there are any of these animals in your vicinity?

Farmer—There might be, yes.

Defense—Furthermore, isn't it true that your poultry are housed during the night?

Farmer—Yes, sir, they are.

Defense—You realize, of course, that the owl is only active during the night. That is all. You may leave the stand.

Clerk—Calling Mr. Owl to the stand.

State—Your name?

Owl—Great Horned Owl.

State—You have heard the testimony of the witnesses. Do you deny that you have been in the vicinity mentioned by these witnesses?

Owl—No, sir, I do not.

State—Is it true that your diet contains among other things birds of one kind or another?

Owl—Yes, sir, upon occasion.

State—You don't deny, then, that if the opportunity presents itself you would not refrain from swooping down upon a chicken coop, or a pheasant preserve to capture some helpless victim. Remember, you are under oath.

Owl—No, sir, I cannot deny this.

State—The State rests its case.

Judge—The Defense will present its case.

Defense—Your name.

Witness—James Orchard.

Defense—What is your business?

Orchard—I own a fruit orchard.

Defense—Have you been in business long?

Orchard—Yes, I have. About 15 years.

Defense—Would you say you have a successful business?

Orchard—I have, thanks to Mr. Owl.

Defense—Explain that statement.

Orchard—Well, when my trees are in the sapling stage I am in danger of losing a great number of them.

Defense—How?

Orchard—Well, for example, one winter when we had quite a bit of snow, we had an over-abundance of meadow mice. They nested in the deep snow and girdled the trees under the snow line where we were unable to find them until spring came, and then it was too late to save many of the trees.

Defense—What did you do then?

Orchard—We introduced a number of owls into the vicinity. They fed on the mice and kept down the population. Since then I have had no fear of my trees dying from being girdled by the mice.

Defense—That is all. Your witness.



State—Mr. Orchard, you speak of field mice. Tell me, isn't it true that rabbits also destroy these young trees of which you speak?

Orchard—Yes, sir, but we were only aware of the field mice.

State—But the fact remains that the rabbits are an evil factor, right? That is all.

Defense—Your name.

Witness—Bill Forester.

Defense—What is your business?

Forester—I am a forester, working for the county.

Defense—What evidence do you have to offer?

Forester—Our newly planted pine trees were dying at a great rate. When we examined them to find out the reason, we discovered that they had been girdled.

Defense—What did you do about the situation?

Forester—We determined it was the work of the destructive meadow mouse, so we brought in some owls to keep down the mouse population. In a short time the owls had cleared up the situation. We have had little trouble since. When we do, it is coincident with the depletion of the owls by hunters.

Defense—Aside from the fact that the meadow mice population definitely is lowered by the presence of the owl, have you any other evidence that the owl does away with the mice?

Forester—Yes, sir. We have examined owl pellets by the hundreds and find that the skulls and bones in these pellets are predominantly those of the field mice.

Defense—That is all. Your witness.

State—Mr. Forester, isn't one of your aims as forester to encourage birds to nest in the parks?

Defense—Yes, sir, definitely.

State—And still you will bring in a predator like Mr. Owl who is notorious for killing birds?



Defense—I object. It has not yet been established that Mr. Owl is notorious for killing birds.

Judge—Objection sustained. Strike that question from the record.

State—Well, then, you still introduce Mr. Owl into the vicinity where you wish to have song birds?

Forester—Certainly, he has helped us in this matter.

State—What do you mean?

Forester—The mice were also ruining our coverage and eating the food we had for our native birds. When Mr. Owl cleared up the mice, the birds came back.

State—Do you mean to tell me Mr. Owl didn't feed on the birds in the vicinity as well?

Forester—If he did, I was unaware of it. He had an ample diet of meadow mice to keep him busy.

State—But when he finished with the mice, didn't he turn to the birds?

Forester—Not that one could notice. He moved on to more lush places where the mice were in greater abundance.

State—That's all.



Defense—State your name and occupation.

Witness—Sam Conservation. I am a state conservationist.

Defense—Tell us what you can about the meadow mouse situation.

Conservation—It could be a very serious one if allowed to go on unchecked. By tests we have found that it takes 23 pounds of green food a year to support one meadow mouse. Under usual conditions there are about 100 mice to an acre. In instances there are many more than that. Thus you can see that this number will reduce the crop yield by a ton of green or a ½ ton of dry hay per acre.

Defense—In other words, the existence of the meadow mouse can be a serious menace to the farmer's crops.

Conservation—Definitely, sir.

Defense—Your witness.



State—Mr. Conservation, it has been stated that the owl has been introduced to check the growth of the meadow mouse. What about poisoning? Isn't that just as effective?

Conservation—We've tried that, but when you consider that a meadow mouse has up to 17 litters each year, consisting of all the way from 2 to 9 young in a litter, and that the young can breed within 25 days, poisoning is not too effective. It's only when there's an even balance in nature that the problem is solved. And that's where the work of the owl offers a solution.

Defense—Mr. Owl to the stand, please. Mr. Owl, these men have all mentioned what an effective job you do in clearing up the meadow mouse situation. Evidently you must prefer the meadow mouse to any other diet. Is that true?

Owl—Well, I do like meadow mice. With us it is not like with human beings. We don't need a variety of diet. All we need is food to keep us alive. When we get in a meadow mouse vicinity, there is usually such an abundance that we have no difficulty in satisfying our hunger.

Defense—Then it is availability of food that determines your habitat?

Owl—Yes, sir, it is. We abound where there is food.

Defense—Then your presence near a preserve can be due to the same reason?

Owl—Yes, sir. The birds are protected here and are easier to catch. But we do not eat nearly as many as some would suppose. Then we also take the sickly, the maimed, that cannot protect themselves as well. Actually, this makes for a hardier flock for we weed out the misfits. That goes for any of the wild life, too, such as tularemia-infected rabbits. The wounded and sick birds and animals are easier prey. However, we don't like being accused of all the killings. There are plenty of other animals that prey one upon the other. We are not the only ones.



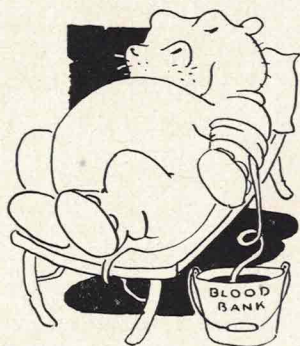
Summaries:

State—Gentlemen of the jury, the evidence you have heard should clearly indicate that the Great Horned Owl is a menace to the country side. He preys on private holdings. No poultry man, no hunter of small game, no everyday citizen is free from his rapacity. He attacks, he kills. He is a

marauder, warring on private property, causing owners to sustain great losses. Gentlemen of the jury, the evidence you have heard obliges you to bring in one verdict: guilty!

Defense—My client has been sadly maligned. He has been roundly accused of all acts of aggression. He has been the scapegoat, accused unjustly of responsibility for the sins of all predatory animals. Find him guilty and you will be doing all people concerned with nature and wild life a disservice. The evidence presented has shown conclusively that the good he does outweighs the harm in large measure, and has demonstrated his need as a balancing factor in the wild life picture. Consequently, he is not an enemy of society as charged. I know you will bring in a verdict of not guilty.

Judge—Members of the jury, you have heard the testimonies of the various witnesses. It is not for me to state whether you should vote guilty or not guilty. You have heard the evidence and you must deliberate in your own minds whether Mr. Horned Owl is or is not guilty as charged. You will now retire to deliberate upon your verdict.



Nope!

A hippo does not sweat his blood
In spite of what you've heard.
This age old tale is but a dud
And laughingly absurd.



AMORPHOPHALLUS TYTANUM, NEW YORK BOTANICAL GARDENS

THE LARGEST FLOWER (inflorescence) and corm in the world are produced by *Amorphophallus tytanum*, a close relative of the calla lily and a native of the dank jungles of Sumatra. It is a rare plant in flower conservatories in this country. One specimen in the greenhouse at the New York Botanical Garden bloomed in June, 1937, the first plant of this species to flower in the Western Hemisphere. The flower was approximately 8 feet high and 4 feet across, and the corm weighed over 113 lbs. A much smaller but quite similar plant, quite frequently grown in homes and conservatories, is the "Devil's-tongue," *Hydrosome rivieri*, occasionally listed in garden catalogs as *Amorphophallus rivieri*. The latter plant is a native of Cochin-China.

by **EMIL P. KRUSCHKE**
Assistant Curator of Botany



WHITE MOUNT *of* ANTIQUITY

by WILLIAM HERNING
Mexico City

One of the most dramatically interesting pre-Columbian sites in Mexico is Monte Alban, a name which means simply "White Mountain." Formerly it had the much more striking name of Osotepec,

which means "Tiger Hill." Monte Alban is situated about four miles southwest of Oaxaca, a city approximately 225 miles, as a crow flies, southeast of Mexico City. It is much farther than that, however, when traveled by roads, which are not directed "as a crow flies."

Here the top of the hill had been levelled by some "Archaic" people, and used as the place for the erection of an impressive series of buildings—possibly, a civic center. A large court-like area, called the "main plaza," is entirely surrounded with the ruins of stone platforms and pyramids, arranged to form a precise geometric pattern with all major axes extending parallel to each other. The temples surmounting these platforms have not withstood the ravages of time, and the stone platforms and pyramids themselves were largely covered with brush and trees when archeologists started excavation and restoration work about a generation ago.

The main plaza is 1000 feet long and 650 feet wide. The entire area on which the ruins stand is about 3000 feet long from N to S, and about 1500 feet wide. The pyramids rising from the structures surrounding the plaza are located around the square according to the four cardinal points of the compass.

The complexity of the platform structures, the great stairways giving access to platforms and pyramids, and the details or ornamentation combine to impress one with the advanced architectural and art concepts and creative ability of the builders. The style is simple, but strong and vigorous—monu-

mental, quite different from that of the Maya, Toltecs, and Aztecs who, successively, left the ruins of their cities and temples throughout Mexico and Central America, and who decorated the walls of their buildings quite profusely. At Monte Alban, the structural mass and clearcut design speak for themselves.

Standing on the temple pyramid at the southern end of the plaza, from which these pictures were taken, one sees at the northern end the great pyramidal platform of the main temple, of which segments of the broken columns still stand, columns almost seven feet in diameter. Behind this structure are several platforms where once stood various houses of religious significance.

In the plaza area, between the two temples marking the opposite ends of the area, are several pyramidal structures which are not parallel to those enclosing the plaza, particularly the outstanding construction by an earlier people, the so-called "Astronomical Observatory," or "Mound J," as it is unimaginatively called by archeologists. This is an irregular, many-sided structure, the only building of this type discovered so far in Mexico.

The very first explorations of the site were made in 1902 by a Frenchman named Batres. His work there was stopped because of lack of funds. In 1929, Dr. Alfonso Caso began his investigations of the history of Monte Alban for the Mexican Government. His noteworthy excavations at the site were begun in October, 1931, starting with the north temple. This temple pyramid is surmounted by means of a steep stairway 130 feet wide and 42 feet high, consisting of 33 high stone steps. As excavations proceeded, it became apparent that the structure represents three separate periods of construction, one superimposed upon another. The explanation for this probably is that some religious motive dictated that such sacred places be "rejuvenated" periodically. Similar practices are indicated as prevalent elsewhere in ancient Mexico, as at Tenayuca and Cholula. The temple walls are of hewn rock, cemented with clay and surfaced with stucco apparently painted red.

The "ball court," very similar to the one at Tula, was not discovered until 1936. These courts were carefully built arenas where the ancient peoples of Mexico played a variety of ball games, requiring great skill, which had both sporting and religious significance.

Some of the most interesting materials and information found at the site came from the ancient burials. More than 160 tombs have been explored. Some of the tombs, in addition to the skeletal remains of the inhabitants, contained pottery and articles of jade, obsidian, and shell. The walls of the tombs are equipped with recesses in which were placed offerings, or the figurines of gods.

Tomb 7 yielded one of the most important archeological discoveries ever made on the continent. Its explorations were started in 1932. More than 500 different objects were taken from this sepulcher, including three urns and other pottery specimens, and some of the most excitingly interesting

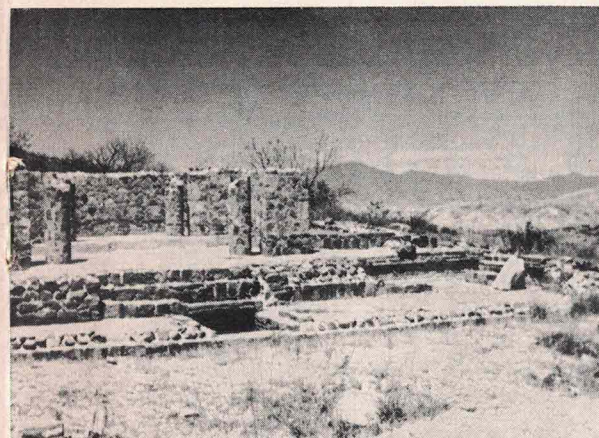
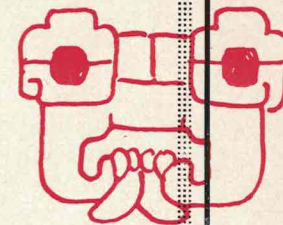
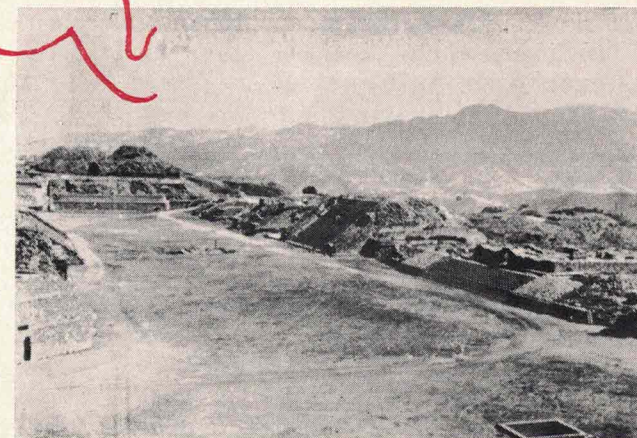
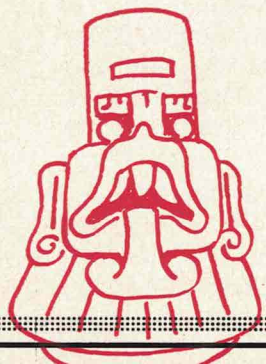
ornamental jewelry of gold and semi-precious stones, representing high standards of artistic concept and technical skill. These materials are divided between museums at Oaxaca and Mexico City.

Here the history of Monte Alban began to unfold. Whereas the construction of the tombs was characteristic of the ancient Zapotecs, and much of the pottery in the tomb was also attributable to this early people, some of the "ritual" ceramics, the most beautiful to be found in all of Mexico, and all of the jewelry are the products of the later Mixtecs. Apparently, the Mixtecs, who succeeded the Zapotecs at Monte Alban, employed the Zapotec tombs without bothering to replace them with those of their own construction, since they, like the Zapotecs, buried their dead rather than cremating them as the Maya, Toltecs, and Aztecs did. They both believed that to burn the dead was to destroy the soul. It was their practice first to make a temporary disposal of the body, after which special tombs were decorated and prepared, and the remains were reinterred, after a period of four years, together with those of his dog, to serve as protector and guide to Lioobaa, the "place of happiness" in the underworld.

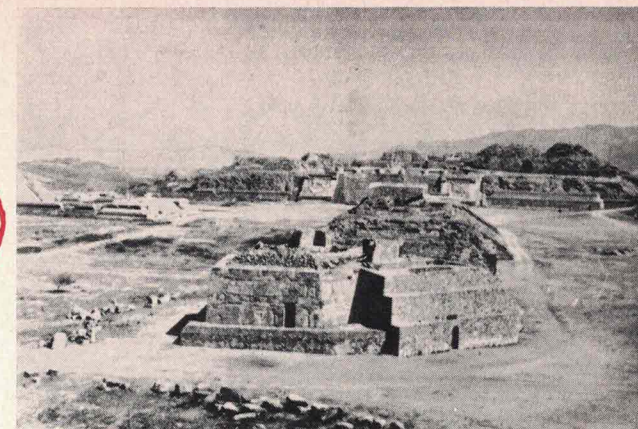
The bones in the tomb were painted red, the color for mourning of both the Zapotecs and Mixtecs. A mask was placed over the skull, and pottery vessels containing food and drink, garments, weapons, sacred idols, jewelry, and other materials were distributed around the body. A majority of the idols represent Cocijo, the Zapotec god of rain, whose hieroglyphic symbol is also the symbol for the year in the calendar. Other figures present represent Xipe, Seven Serpents, the Goddess of Maize, and the seated statue of the God of Maize. Strangely enough, the succeeding Mixtecs, exhibiting an extraordinary tolerance, did not destroy these "foreign" idols.

Elsewhere the excavations revealed additional facts on the history of Monte Alban. On two panels, respectively located on either side of the great stairway ascending the great temple platform, are hieroglyphs similar to those at Mitla. Other hieroglyphs on the "Astronomical Observatory" record the names of towns: Ixtepec, or "Flint Knife Hill;" Tolstepec, "Rabbit Hill;" Caltepec, "House Hill;" and Chiltepec, "Pepper Hill."

Certain large stones, situated between two pyramids in the western part of the plaza, bear sculptured figures in bas-relief which are known as "The Dancers." Apparently these represent priests, most of whom exhibit some



TOMB NO. 7



bodily deformity. It is evident, however, that these figures were carved long before the Zapotecs occupied Monte Alban. The North Temple, in the walls of which these stones were used as construction material, and where they were originally found, bears evidence of having been built by the Zapotecs. However, the sculptured work in no way is characteristic of Zapotec workmanship, and, consequently, must have been produced by some earlier people and incorporated in some earlier structure which later was torn down to furnish building materials for Zapotec buildings. So the Zapotecs were not the first people on the scene.

Dr. Caso's work, although it shows outstanding accomplishment in the excavation and reconstruction of Monte Alban, is particularly meritorious in that he has separated and identified the characteristics of each of the various cultures which, at various times, have contributed to, and left their tell-tale marks on this great structural, cultural development. The story of Monte Alban, insofar as it has been determined, runs as follows.

The origin of the earliest work at Monte Alban remains a mystery. During the "Archaic Period," probably before the beginning of the Christian era, a people, who may have been "Olmecs," levelled the "White Mountain," or whatever it may have been called at the time, and erected the first buildings there. The bas-reliefs called "the Dancers" were probably sculptured by them.

The Zapotecs probably arrived after the year 200 A.D. They brought with them an already high-level artistic and cultural development. They possessed a form of writing; an elaborately detailed calendar; a system of mathematical symbols in which the numeral five was represented by a bar, whereas the later "Teotihuacanos" and Aztecs used 5 dots; and the Mixtecs, both signs. They have been called the architects of this continent because of their appreciation of clean architectural lines and their avoidance of excessive decorations.

It is not known where and when they developed this architectural skill and simplicity of taste, but one thing is certain; it was previous to their arrival at Monte Alban. Various elements in the Zapotec culture suggest influence from the Maya, whose great civilization flourished south of them in southeastern Mexico, Guatemala, and Honduras: their use of the bar to represent the numeral 5, their use of the corbeled or "false" arch, the stylization of plumed headdress, and particularly the erection of stela, great sculptural shafts of stone probably serving to dedicate outstanding events.

Whether occupying a site previously deserted by the "Archaic" founders of Monte Alban, or actually conquering or driving out these people, the Zapotecs took over the place, rebuilt it to suit their own cultural tastes, and made of it a great cultural center. It probably remained in their hands through the "Golden Age" of the Zapotec civilization, which came to a close in about 1000 A.D.

Zapotec supremacy was undermined during an era of mass migrations and wars throughout the central Mexican plateau, marked by the fall of

Tula, the Toltec capitol, in the twelfth century, and by the beginning of the "Chichimec" period. Early in this period, the Mixtecs were pushed southward by such Nahua peoples as the Toltecs and Chichimecs, which brought them into uncordial relations with the Zapotecs. Gradually, as a result of the ensuing wars, the Zapotecs lost their power and cultural influence, and the Mixtecs attained victorious control, only a few centuries before the Spaniards invaded Mexico.

As the Mixtecs gained control, at Monte Alban and elsewhere throughout Zapotec territory, the Zapotecs returned south to Mitla, only to be driven from there a short time later toward their capitol, Zaachila, situated south-west of Oaxaca.

In the year "Two Rabbits," 1494, under the leadership of the "Emperor" Ahuizotl, the Aztecs, having by that time become supreme in the Mexican central plateau, conquered Monte Alban, and the Mixtec occupation was ended. A year later the victorious Aztec army occupied Zaachila. Failing, however, to entirely subjugate the Zapotecs, they agreed to terms of peace between the two nations, according to which the Zapotecs paid annual tribute to the Aztecs. To safe-guard the future of the pact, the Aztecs built the city of Huaxyacac, "Wooded Place," and established there a garrison. This was the origin of the present city of Oaxaca.

What would have happened in future centuries under more normal circumstances will never be known, for the powerful Aztecs fell before the swords and guns and mystery of invaders from another world. Before taking Tenochtitlan, now Mexico City, Cortez allied himself with the Zapotecs against the Aztecs, and in turn forced the Zapotecs to submit to his government in 1521.

This is the story of one ancient city, selected from the kaleidoscopic complex of elusive historic elements which dramatize the ancient history of an ancient country, Mexico.

FLOWERS IN MEXICO

Today I am wearing gardenia-scented perfume. Nothing recalls an experience more poignantly or vividly than a scent, and I am back again in Mexico. Flowers are everywhere. But it is not the flower-bedecked tables, or the flower vendors at Xochimilco, or the masses of colorful blooms in the market place in Mexico City that I am thinking of now. I am back at Fortin de las Flores, my nose buried in a bark cradle of camellias, gardenias, orchids, and tea roses and my eye straying to Pancho as he leans indolently against the tile-walled building, a gardenia perched jauntily behind his ear, giving him the appearance of a Polynesian from the South Seas.




Fortin was an experience for one from the States to remember for a long time. Where, in the United States, we are accustomed to paying \$1 to \$5 for an evening corsage, here we were deluged with scented blossoms that could be had for a song. We were amazed and somewhat ashamed that we could take them so matter-of-fact. Girls met us at the hotel with leis of gardenias which they threw around our necks—shades of Hawaii. They murmured softly, "My name is Carmen," or, "My name is Pepita, senorita. Please remember me." We luxuriated among the blossoms, but soon the heavy scent became overpowering and we tossed the leis on the tables or chairs where, bruised from handling, they began turning brown.

We looked at the swimming pool which was covered with a mass of the blossoms, and hurried into our swim suits and into the pool where we were covered with a beautiful white blanket of flowers. The garden was filled with exotic blooms, some familiar and some strange, all colorful, delicate, and carrying strange, heavy scents and rare colors.

When we left Fortin, Pepita, or Carmen, or whoever it was that had given me the lei of gardenias, came up to me offering a unique container of flowers. This container was made of banana bark bound in a long half-circle with the cores of the stalk fastened on either side. Inside, nestled in damp moss, was a most attractive array of blossoms. Mine had one delicate camellia, several orchids and tea roses, and a scattering of gardenias. For a small sum it was mine. I couldn't resist. Replacing the cover, so that the container had the appearance of a roll of bark, Pancho placed it carefully in the trunk of the car. Back in Mexico City the memory of Fortin returned every time I looked at the container. The flowers, in their nest of moss, undisturbed, remained fresh, their beauty undimmed, for several days. How I wish I could have brought it back home. Something like that must be seen to be fully appreciated.

—HELMAL. WOLFF, Librarian.



GUARDS AT TACT

by OTHMAR PETERSON
Museum Guard

A "POKER-FACE" is one of the main requisites of a Guard on the Milwaukee Public Museum floors. Tact and, contrarily at times, a veneer of hardness also help in dealing with the many-faceted creature we classify simply as "the Public." A poker-face is necessary in order to remain calm and unruffled, at least in outward appearance, when some startling request or question pops up in the daily routine.

It is on week-ends, that period of time when the public storms the "Citadel of Sugar-coated Education," that most of the amusing incidents occur. At this time tact is extremely essential. For instance, requesting incoming family groups to please refrain from consuming popcorn, ice-cream, and similar "floor-sliding nourishment" usually creates a side issue between the wife and husband. One berates the other with the familiar theme, "I told you so! But no, you insisted the kids could have popcorn!" Family harmony is restored when we tell them, "Eat a little so you'll be able to close the bag, and then you can proceed."

Only rarely does some disgruntled individual take us to task for a request of that nature. Here is another example: The wife and husband, receiving the request to leave the "baby-stroller" in the check-room, maintain a stony silence. But upon the enlightening statement that should another child or adult stumble over the stroller, it's the baby in the stroller that bears the brunt of possible injury, there is usually an immediate and even grateful acceptance of the ruling. This bears out the contention that a simple qualifying statement along with the original request brings an almost unanimous cooperative response by the Public.

Of course these are only minor items. The guards also have serious, and at times disagreeable problems to solve, sometimes with the aid of outside "Gendarmes." This will not be the theme of our dissertation—rather, the lighter side of the "Aisle Patrol" will occupy our attention.

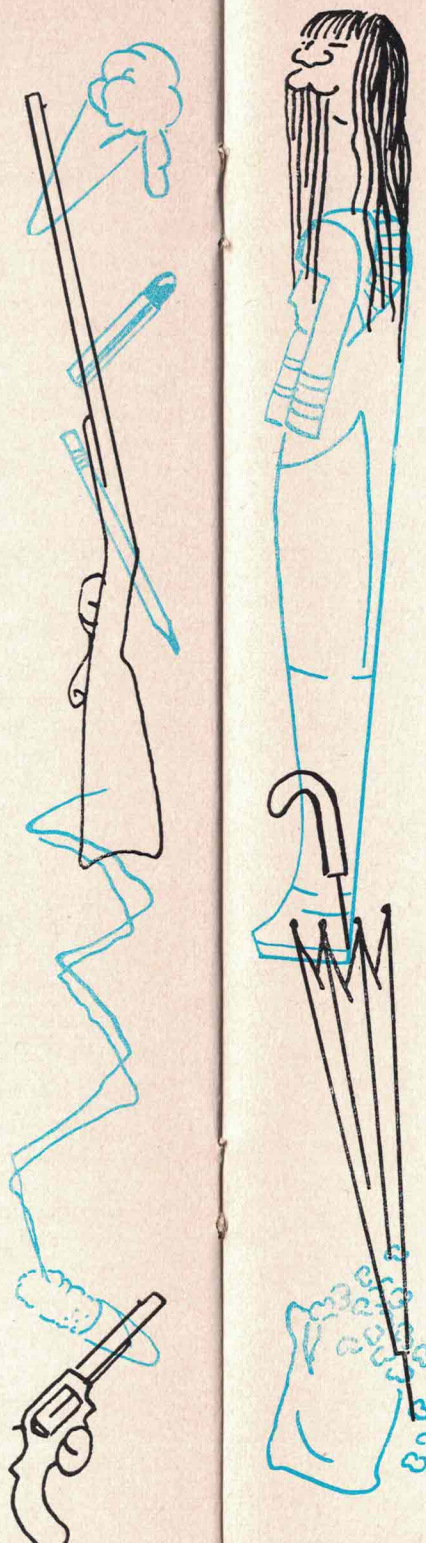
We get many requests for information on how to find various popular exhibits in the building. The children of our city schools and the citizens of our community who are acquainted with the wide variety of exhibits in the building and of the services rendered, do not distract us at all. Their requests are simple, answerable, and intelligent. The humorous and confused queries come mostly from tourists and that portion of our citizenry who last came to visit the Museum, as one put it, "Tirty years ago when I was a kit; we didn't have de tings kits got now."

For some reason or other, mummies, shrunken heads, skeletons, and "stuffed Redskins" are the chief concern of the greatest number of this portion of our clientele. Perhaps it's the universal weakness of mankind—an insatiable, and at times morbid, curiosity about death. Of course, all types of questions take a back seat to that standard query at all public places and institutions, "Where is the rest-room?" The forms and variations of that basic question would supply enough material for a treatise the size of Gibbon's "Fall of the Roman Empire."

A great many of the questions thrown at the "Aisle Patrol" are unconsciously humorous, sometimes ridiculous, but at all times diverting. Young children usually have comparative questions, such as, "If a lion fought a tiger, which would win?" Or statements such as, "I wish I was an elephant, 'cause if I had a fight with my brother he'd be afraid of me." We hear any number of questions concerning Nature's superlatives—as to which is the biggest, longest, smallest, fastest, highest, strongest, etc.

The guard not only must maintain a poker-face, he must also be a mental Sherlock in order to fathom the strange and weird descriptions of objects seen in this Museum years ago, or possibly even in some other museum. Unconscious humor crops up in the questions of an inquisitive child, such as, "Where are the mothers? I guess you call 'em mammies; you know—the ones all wrapped up in cloth!" Answer: mummies. A request for "carved tad-poles" brings a "Third floor, Reptiles" answer from a guard. The indignant retort is, "No! Not reptiles. These tad-poles have carved faces." The guard quickly suggests that perhaps in the Chinese Room, the jade animal carvings would be the item sought. This brings another very definite "No! These are big tad-poles with many carved faces." The final deduction: totem poles!

Then we get ambiguous queries such as, "How do they stuff the stuff?" Or there is the incident of the dignified lady



who walked half-way through the exhibits on the first floor, and then inquired, "Where do you have the exhibits?" Or, the gentleman who, on a lovely Sunday afternoon, approached the guard stationed at the elevator, which is located in the center of the exhibit halls, and inquired, "Is the Museum open today?" Or, a similar question by an elderly lady who had progressed all the way to the third floor and then inquired, "Where are the exhibits?" The guard asked, "What exhibits are you referring to?" The lady answered, "Oh! Any exhibits." How does one answer a question like that?

A most amusing incident occurred a few years ago when fire exits and signs were being installed in various portions of the building. Particular emphasis was applied to the annexed portion of the main building, about which there was "much to do" in the papers, with the term "fire-trap" being used quite frequently. Shortly after the write-up appeared, a lady approached the guard stationed in the Annex and inquired, "Where do you keep your exhibit of fire traps?" The guard promptly answered, "Lady! You're in it!" Or take the case of the lady who was checking the mushroom display one cold February morning. She told the guard she had canned five varieties of mushrooms last Fall, and she was now checking to see if she had picked any poisonous ones. Admittedly, the checking was a bit late, as the family had been enjoying these same mushrooms in the interim!

Then there was the instance of the Museum guard who was naming the various planets on the model solar system for the benefit of a young couple and an interested pair of small boys. As often happens, curiosity on the part of youngsters prompted more questions. One little fellow asked, "What constitutes a light-year?" The guard proceeded with an explanation. All this time an elderly lady was listening to the conversation with a very suspicious glint in her eyes. Finally further restraint was impossible, and she burst out with, "Son, many a man has wound up in the insane asylum believing in that kind of nonsense. Take care!" Having delivered this homespun philosophy, she flounced out of the room with the distinct satisfaction of having placed another bewildered mortal in his proper place.

Another example of confused interrogation occurred when a newspaper announced that the Museum's Alaskan expedition had secured moose for mounting in a proposed Alaskan Moose diorama. On the week-end following this announcement, a pair of belligerent working men approached the "Aisle Patrolman" and inquired why the moose group had

been taken down before they had even seen it. Of course, even our efficient staff would need more than a week to return from Alaska, assemble the group, and take it down again!

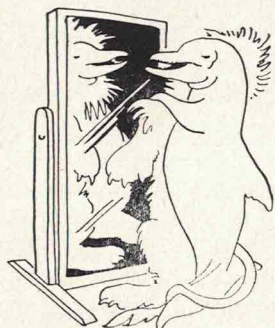
Another incident—the nice young couple looking with horrified expressions at the life-sized model of a fisherman and his net, and one of them exclaiming to the guard, “We’ve heard of people donating their bodies to scientific institutions, but this—(gulp!)—this is the first time we’ve ever seen one.” And similarly, an elderly lady gazing at the Indian figure dressed in a ceremonial bird costume, exclaimed to her companion, “My, how big the eagle grows—and look! Its feet are almost human.”

Then you have the unadorned question, “Where are the beds?” Guard: “Sorry, we only have benches.” Tough visitor: “Naw! I mean Pilgrim beds.”

Another question thrown at the floorman occurred on a busy Sunday afternoon, when a young lady approached the guard and said, “Where is Hell?” The guard, suspecting a “rib,” answered promptly, “That is something we can find out about later.” “Don’t get sassy, young man,” answered the lady, “I asked you a civil question, and I expect a civil answer. Where is your display of Hell, or perhaps YOU call it Dante’s Inferno.” The guard recovered sufficiently to inform the young lady that the diorama of an active volcano was located on the third floor.

Many people are continually confusing this museum with other museums, circus sideshows, and medical laboratories. Questions such as, “Where do you see the Birth of a Baby, Two-headed Babies, Screaming Snakes, and the like, are always being directed at some poker-faced Museum employee.

Once in a while it is the guard who winds up with a red face. For instance, one time a young man was requested not to smoke in the building. Slowly the young man turned around to retort, “Since when can you smoke a toothpick?” Or, the case of the guard who answered the lady’s query on how to find the “Meissen ware” by telling her that the “Mice are on the second floor, mammal side.” But the incident that topped all others in the questions-and-answers category occurred when a ten-year-old boy asked the guard, “Where are the Hysterical People?” Without batting an eye, the guard promptly told him, “You’ll find them on all floors wearing blue pants, grey shirts, and badges!”



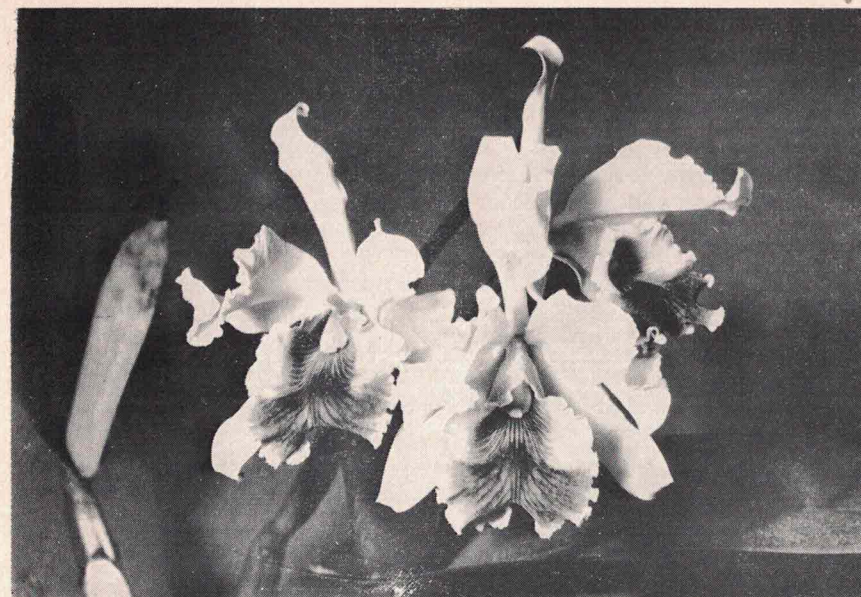
Yep!

The porpoise is a mammal true

And not a fish is he.

Where legs should be, fine fins he grew

To serve him in the sea.



You CAN RAISE ORCHIDS

by HOWARD BROSSMAN
Supervisor, Mitchell Park Conservatory
Milwaukee, Wisconsin

IT IS INDEED a thrilling reward to grow and bring to blossom orchids in the home, a joy and pleasure greater by far than that derived from growing and blossoming the ordinary house plants. It is actually easier to grow orchids in the home than it is gardenias. Especially is this true of the Cattleya or “species” orchids, as opposed to the various hybrid varieties, for they require less attention than the ordinary house plants. They do not require re-potting more than once in two years, nor is it necessary to provide them with fertilizer. They remain in bloom from four to five weeks if the blossoms are allowed to remain on the plant.

HUMIDITY

One of the most important requirements in raising orchids successfully is a high humidity. In order to maintain such a condition various methods can be employed, such as (1) the use of dinner plates as evaporating pans.

These should be placed around and beneath the orchid plant and a constant water level maintained in them. Another method of achieving the same result is (2) to construct or purchase a cookie pan, this to be filled with gravel (about pea-size) in which one-half inch of water is maintained. The orchid can then be placed on a wooden rack above the cookie pan, high enough so that the base of the flower pot that contains the plant does not come into contact with the moist surface of the gravel. However, the easiest method and undoubtedly the best is the use of a Wardian case.

A Wardian case is simply a glass box, constructed to whatever size is necessary to accommodate the particular number and height of plants you wish to grow. One glass panel should be moveable to allow for the exchange of air. The amount of air admitted will in great part be governed by the season of the year. In the summertime the windows of the house are frequently open to admit more air from outside, which will ordinarily raise the humidity in the room. This will in turn allow for more air to be admitted with safety to the Wardian case. In the winter, when the home is heated, the humidity will normally be lower and, therefore, not as much interchange of air should be allowed.

Observation of the case itself will indicate when a greater air opening should be permitted, for there will be a noticeable precipitation of moisture on the sides of the glass. An excess amount of moisture will cause spotting of the foliage. If new growth is forming, an extreme moisture condition may cause the leaves to turn black and die off. It is recommended that a humidity gauge be suspended inside of the Wardian case to show humidity percentage.

The bottom of this case should also have a shallow pan capable of holding at least one-half inch of water. It is best to use gravel (about the diameter of good-sized peas) in this pan. Here again the purpose of the gravel is to provide greater evaporation surface to maintain an atmospheric moisture content of at least 75%. A wooden rack should be placed over the pan, and the orchid plants placed on the wooden rack. I wish to emphasize the following point: *The orchid plant should at no time come in direct contact with the wet gravel in the pan beneath.*

LIGHT

During spring, summer, and fall, the plants in the Wardian case should receive only diffused light. In December, January, and until the middle of February, the plants should receive as much sunlight as possible. Proper shading of the plants is very important. If they receive too much sunlight the leaves will "burn." If they do not burn, they will at least turn a light yellow. The plants will die prematurely, but before doing so they will produce an excess of flowers. On the other hand if they receive too much shade, the plants turn a beautiful, healthy dark green, but fail to produce flowers; so it requires a little judgment, gained ordinarily through experience, to know the exact amount of light the plants will need.

WATERING

The next major consideration is the problem of watering. When a plant is first re-potted it is given a light spraying, just enough to moisten the *rhizomes*. This is the root-like portion of the plant that lies horizontal on the surface of the media in which the orchid is set—the osmundine fiber. The treatment required for all orchids, both "species" and hybrids, is as follows: Spray lightly with water until the structure known as a bud-eye has commenced to grow and a new root system forms. However, it will be noted that the new bud-eye on the forward growing portion of the rhizome is dormant over a longer period of time with the "species" than with the hybrid orchids and, therefore, the former requires a longer rest period. With the majority of hybrids the resting period is so short that it is best that one be governed by watching the development of the new bud-eye. As the new bud-eye advances, more water is given.

The amount of moisture in the flower pot is gauged either by the weight of the flower pot or by striking the flower pot sharply. If it is dry when it is struck, it has a clear ring. If it has sufficient moisture, this will be indicated by a dull thud. Moisture sufficiency may be gauged by lifting to determine weight. If it has sufficient moisture the pot is relatively heavy; when dry it is, of course, quite light.

When watering an orchid one main purpose should be kept in mind. Apply water in such manner as to keep the root system reaching for moisture. An excess amount of moisture will rot the root system or cause a bacterial wet-rot which will destroy the plant. Lack of sufficient water will cause the pseudo-bulbs to dehydrate, or induce a dry-rot which causes the death of the plant. When the root system is fully developed, the plant should receive a thorough watering at least once a week during its active growing period. However, it may require additional waterings each week depending upon the season of the year.

TEMPERATURE

The next item of importance is temperature. "Species" orchids of the Cattleya group which are raised by the majority of the commercial growers are synonymous with the average person's conception of an orchid. They are generally recommended for all amateurs because they are the most easily grown. For these, a sixty degree temperature the year round is ideal. Below are listed some of the more common orchid types that are easy to grow:

Cattleya trianae—blooms from November to February.

Cattleya Schroderae—blooms from February to April.

Cattleya Mossiae—blooms from March to May.

Cattleya gigas—blooms from May to June.

Cattleya Gaskelliana—blooms in June and July.

Cattleya Lueddemanniana—blooms in July and from January to February.

Dendrobium Phalaenopsis—blooms in June.

Oncidium tigrinum var. *splendidum*—blooms in February and March.

Vanda tricolor var. *suavis*—blooms in September and October.

POTTING

Orchids are potted on the average of once every two years. The necessary materials for potting orchids are as follows:

- | | |
|---|--|
| (1) Osmundine fiber. | (6) A thin, blunt-edged, steel instrument. |
| (2) Broken pot chips (broken to suitable size), needed for repotting. | (7) Pair of shrub pruners. |
| (3) Charcoal. | (8) Wedge-shaped potting stick |
| (4) Galvanized wire (No. 9). | (9) Small tack hammer. |
| (5) Green florist string. | (10) A pair of pliers. |

The blunt-edged instrument (Item 6 on the list), is used to cut the orchid out of its flower pot. The orchid root system is so tenacious that it binds tightly to the sides of the flower pot and cannot be knocked out as would an ordinary plant potted in soil. It must be cut out. Just enough of the old, rotted osmundine fiber is taken off of the back of the rhizome in such manner that the new root system is not disturbed.

The pruner (Item 7) is needed now, for if the plant has more than one forward growing portion with at least four pseudo-bulbs on this portion, it is strong enough to survive the shock of dividing. If it has only one forward growing portion, it may be necessary to cut off just the last pseudo-bulb or two. The reason for this is that they cause a drain on the vitality of the plant and have a tendency to dehydrate. Cut these off and transfer to a flower pot one inch to one and one-half inches larger than the former size, which will be just large enough to accommodate two years of growth for the remaining portion of the plant.

Broken pot fragments and charcoal, in equal proportions, are used to fill the flower pot approximately two-thirds full. A piece of osmundine fiber is placed on this, and the orchid plant is then placed in the flower pot with the back portion of the rhizome against the edge of the flower pot. The wedge-shaped, wooden potting stick (Item 8) is used for pressing more osmundine fiber into the flower pot. The potting stick is placed between the flower pot and the osmundine, thus forcing the fiber toward the center of the flower pot. Continue the operation until the plant is packed absolutely tight, and the rhizome is lying right on the surface of the fiber. When the potting is completed, a straight piece of No. 9 wire is pushed into the osmundine fiber and the plant is tied with a green string. It is placed back in the Wardian case and the rhizome is lightly sprayed with water. This spraying is to be continued as previously mentioned under the precautions for watering orchids.

INSECTS

Insects as a rule are not a problem, but as an added precaution to prevent scale or thrips attacks, spray at least once a week with either Wilson's O.K. plant spray, or Doggett-Pfeil's spray. Both are very good insecticides. If the plants are clean, this spraying is only a precaution but the old saying, "An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure," applies fully in orchid culture.



SUMMARY:

To summarize: (1) The humidity must be 75%; (2) nine months of the year they require diffused light; (3) be very cautious in watering when the plant is in its dormant stage which occurs right after it has completed its blooming period; (4) maintain a temperature of 60 degrees; and (5) it is recommended that species of the *Cattleya* genus be grown until the individual has obtained sufficient experience to try other more difficult groups.

If there is any doubt as to the source of supply of any of the materials needed, it is best to inquire at any of the dealers that handle greenhouse supplies.



C. P. FOX PHOTO

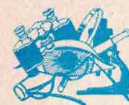


A GOOD EXAMPLE OF PROTECTIVE COLORATION

Barbara Fox who is feeding this orphaned fawn on the game farm of Wallace Grange at Babcock, Wisconsin, is quite conspicuous in her white dress, while the fawn in its spotted coat blends well with the natural surroundings.

This fawn is a true orphan of the woods, its mother having died while giving birth. Most fawns found in the woods are not orphans, their mothers having only momentarily left them.

—Walter C. Pelzer.



EYES OF THE PEOPLE

In this column are contributions from people who, regardless of their vocational interests and occupations, have eyes and use them, have interests and cultivate them, have ideas and express them. Many eyes cover more territory than a single pair, and many people other than specialists contemplate and appreciate the phenomena of nature at work. Here we record glimpses of the earth and man on the earth as seen through the eyes of the people.

THE LITTLE LOAFER

Some jokers talk about "snow flies" and other peculiar forms of life, but when my son and I caught a number of suckers in the Milwaukee river we saw "fish-lice" for the first time, and now we are not so skeptical. One of the suckers had what seemed to be movable scales, and on lifting one up I found it was a small creature with ten legs and two large eyes. It was evidently a parasite and, being curious, I brought it to the Museum to ask the boys in the Lower Zoology Division just what it was. It was identified as a fish-louse.

In a few minutes I learned that the fish-louse is a relative of shrimps and the daphnia that I feed to my tropical fish. The "eyes" I had seen were sucking disks, with which the little fellows attach themselves to the gills and flesh of the fish. They attach themselves so tightly that the fish cannot rid itself of them. Then they insert a long mouth-part into the fish and draw out blood on which they feed. When breeding season comes, the fish-louse leaves the fish and drops to the bottom, there to lay eggs.

Some kinds attach themselves to various fish, both fresh-water and salt-water varieties, as well as to tadpoles and other animals. There are about nine or ten kinds in North America, and they are known as Argulus, "the little loafer" by the scientists.

—Rudolph Boettger.

Yep!

Front up first is for the horse.

Just the opposite for boss

When getting up, of course,

Because she's not a hoss.





QUERY QUADRANT

Conducted by the Museum Staff

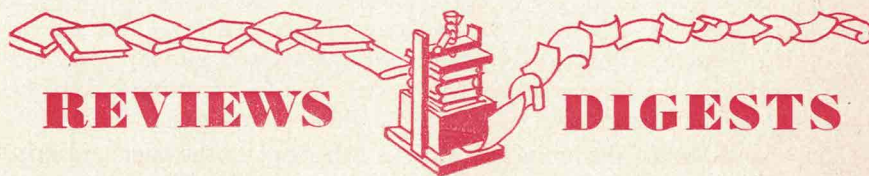
As you make your daily contacts with the world about you, you are confronted with questions—often regarding usual things, in instances originating from new observations or experiences, but in any case questions for which the answers are not readily available. Send your questions to LORE, and let us attempt to answer them. Be sure to sign your name.

What is the difference between an ermine and a weasel?

Ronald Mayer

The ermine and weasel are in reality the same animal. They are brown in summer and develop a white coat for winter wear, except for a black tail tip. The word ermine is generally applied to the white winter coat when used as fur.

—Walter C. Pelzer, Mammal Taxidermist.



The Living Tide, by N. C. Berrill; 246 pp, 28 half-tone illus. Dodd Mead & Co., New York, 1951.

A series of interpretations of the author's observations from Maine to Florida and along the coast of England. He writes of the coral reefs, mud-flats, rock-pools and many other spots, and the inhabitants of each, telling of complicated life histories in every-day language. The book is readable and absorbing. For example, in telling of the flounders (p. 159), he says: "The young fish swim in the upper water like most fish. But just before they are ready to go down to the bottom, one eye migrates slowly across the bridge of the nose, coming to rest on the same side of the head as the other. Not only that, but the nose skeleton, which would ordinarily be in the way, dissolves and leaves a passage for the eye to take even before the movement begins. Finally, the young flat fish lies with one blind white side against the sea floor and the other side pigmented and looking up into the watery world with both the left and the right eye."

—W. E. Dickinson.

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There are three classes of adult annual membership: Active Contributor, awarded for a contribution of not less than \$5.00; Sustaining Contributor, awarded for a contribution of not less than \$25.00; and Associate Contributor, awarded for a contribution of not less than \$3.00. An applicant of not more than 21 years of age may be awarded the classification of Student Contributor for a contribution of not less than \$2.00. The membership fee for libraries is \$2.00.

There are three classes of life membership: Fellow, awarded for a contribution of not less than \$100; Patron, awarded for a contribution of not less than \$1,000; and Benefactor, awarded for a contribution of not less than \$10,000.

THE EXPLORER'S CLUB is the membership for children. For \$1.00 a year, our young explorers receive 52 copies (one each week) of the Explorer's Log, a quiz-fun sheet.

Address all communications to Mr. Ambrose Bauernfeind, Milwaukee Public Museum, 818 W. Wisconsin Avenue, Milwaukee 3, Wisconsin.



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