



Atlanta Meeting Is a Success

The 1955 meeting of the ANSS at Atlanta marks another milestone of progress for perhaps the oldest of the science teaching societies. Over a hundred members and friends of the society were in attendance at one or more of the meetings including the banquet.

Numerous fine and significant papers were read. The Nature Study Idea of Liberty Hyde Bailey was the theme for the Tuesday afternoon meetings. Dr. E. Laurence Palmer who has been instrumental in aiding over 4000 students to gain various degrees of insight into the philosophy behind the Nature Study Idea presented some highlights on the meaning of this philosophy. He had a movie of the early Cornell proponents of Nature Study among whom were John H. and Anna Bostford Comstock, Liberty Hyde Bailey and others. He also played a recording of an interview with Liberty Hyde Bailey in which the founder of the American Nature Study Society answered questions and clarified some of his philosophy.

In a second paper on the nature study idea, Dr. Walter Thurber gave a review of some applications of the Nature Study Idea to the elementary school situation. Through presenting opportunities to carry on observations and by providing a doing program children will grow in stature.

An evaluation of the place of the Nature Study Idea in the General Education Program at the college level was presented by Stanley B. Mulaik. He pointed out that some fine work was currently being done at some of the smaller liberal arts and teachers colleges. Many of the larger schools, however, were still motivated by textbook, lecture and classical laboratory methods which do not lend themselves to the type of doing program which might more readily have at least an undercurrent of the Nature Study Idea.

At the program featuring "The appeal of the Nature Writer to all Age Groups" there were assembled the finest writers and speakers. Roger Tory Peterson most ably discussed the place of the handbooks on natural history as aids to answering the perennial question "What is it?" Herbert Zim pointed out there was disappearing the idea of an age level in many good natural history handbooks. People are using the fine variety of these books from the lower grades to the advanced naturalist. This is truly "Extending Horizons" in the appeal of the nature writer.

Millicent Selsam discussed "Encouraging Early Research" and made a good case for evaluating and encouraging the young child to make independent discoveries regardless of how "trifling" they might be in the eyes of the graduate scientist. Through such activity, growth in stature is assured.

Ed Dodd, creator of *Mark Trail* showed that the comic strip is very effective in developing a sound conservation consciousness. However, it was necessary to carry on considerable research and field observation to gather sufficient material to make an accurate visual picture of the situation in nature being portrayed.

Charles Mohr set the stage showing how those trained in various aspects of natural history can enter into a great variety of occupational fields such as forestry, lumbering, game management, recreation leadership and many others.

Thanks

We extend sincere thanks for the arrangements to make the stay of the ANSS in Atlanta a most pleasant one to the committee on local arrangements and particularly to W. B. Baker who made arrangements for the ANSS and to Annie Sue Brown, group chairman for the Science Teaching Societies.

Dr. Bertha Chapman Cady Dies at 84

Dr. Bertha Chapman Cady who was the guest of honor at the American Nature Study Society banquet at Atlanta, and who addressed the group briefly, died in Atlanta, Georgia on January 26 at the age of 84. Dr. Cady was the tenth president of the American Nature Study Society serving for three years from 1928 to 1930. She was the only person to have served three terms.

For 15 years Dr. Cady was the naturalist for the Girl Scouts of America and was author of the Girl Scouts' Nature Program. She served for a number of years as executive secretary of the Coordinating Council on Nature Activities with headquarters at the American Museum of Natural History.

She taught for some time at Stanford University where she received a Doctorate in entomology and she became a national authority on the doodle-bugs.

Survivors include two daughters, Mrs. Victor J. Montoya of Vidalia, Georgia who attended the Nature Study Society banquet with her mother, and Mrs. Robert Woodman of Santa Fe, N. M. and a sister, Mrs. Robert L. Donald of Portland, Oregon. Dr. Cady's husband died some years ago.

Howard Weaver is New Treasurer

The new treasurer of the ANSS is Dr. Howard E. Weaver, and he is anxious to have the society membership grow. Plans are being laid for a membership campaign. He will welcome any ideas or volunteers as aids to implementing such a program. Send these to 202 Men's Old Gym, University of Illinois, Urbana, Illinois. Dues are also welcome at that address.

AMERICAN NATURE STUDY SOCIETY NEWS LETTER

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Editor

STANLEY B. MULAİK
 University of Utah
 Salt Lake City 12, Utah

Society Officers

President
 MALVINA TRUSSELL
 2011 Lee Avenue
 Tallahassee, Florida

Secretary

HELEN ROSS
 State Teachers College
 Fitchburg, Massachusetts

Treasurer

HOWARD E. WEAVER
 202 Men's Old Gym
 University of Illinois
 Urbana, Illinois

Vice-President
 RICHARD L. WEAVER
 P. O. Box 2073
 Ann Arbor, Michigan

From The Editor

The appeal of your editor to a portion of the membership of the ANSS brought gratifying returns. About fifteen replies came in from which were gleaned some very interesting items. Your editor wishes to thank those who responded, and in the few cases where he hasn't replied with a written "thank you," he will try to get one off a little later.

A multiplicity of activities plagues him as it does many others, and little notes of courtesy, or even big letters are often relegated to the background. This undoubtedly sounds familiar to most of you. This brings to mind a comment recently seen somewhere in reading at a newsstand (yes I get some free literature) that one of the greatest curses of national organizations is the feeling given to its members of being neglected. In this connection, the board of directors at their annual meeting decided that in the future new members will receive a warm welcoming letter from some of our past presidents who were glad to offer their services to this activity.

The ANSS has great prestige and honor, and the membership should cherish this and help it to grow. One way is through the good works its members perform. Members owe it to themselves and to the Nature Study Movement which is having a great rebirth to tell the world of these works. Your editor will welcome a few lines about your doings. Don't be one to hide your contributions under a bushel.

E. L. Will Conducts Visual Aids Study

Dr. Emery L. Will of State Teachers College, Oneonta, New York, is making a study of practices and trends in Audio Visual use in the country. This work is being carried out under the sponsorship of the National Association of Biology Teachers. A report related to this study was made at the Atlanta meetings of the National Association of Biology Teachers.

Resources Directory Available

Persons interested in our natural resources will welcome a new publication which is the 1955 Directory of Organizations and Officials Concerned with the Protection of Wildlife and Other Natural Resources. This may be obtained from the National Wildlife Federation, 232 Carrell Street, Washington 12, D. C. Enclose 25 cents with your order to cover minimum costs.

An Adult Camping Club

HURLEY GAYMAN

The formation of the Desomount Club of Los Angeles in 1951 was the result of having had nature-study field trips in L. A. State College made so valuable and charming that the registrants, having completed all courses available, were unwilling to terminate their studies in the field which had become a fascinating avocation. Their pleasure at having had their eyes opened to so many of the beauties and perfections of nature of which they were previously unaware, impelled them to form an organization for continued trips under competent leadership of local naturalists, specialists and numerous club members.

The study of desert, ocean, mountain (Des-o-mount) became an instilled hobby. Combined with the values of outdoor living was the enduring satisfaction of meeting, over and over, persons with the same intellectual and aesthetic sensitivities. The inroads of population on our most precious natural areas deepened their determination to make the most of what was still to be had, and to support all conservation campaigns.

As Emerson observed, "Every institution is the lengthened shadow of one man"—so the Desomount Club is largely an emanation of the personality of Roland Case Ross. His instruction is given in such a manner that all related details adhere to the theme as a whole; very little is ever lost.

All divisions of natural sciences are included in the interests developed on trips. Prominent is bird study, and the observation of all animal life, plant and flower identification, and occasional astronomy hours. Discussions on the geology, local history and sociology of the regions visited are fitted into the programs according to the facilities the area affords. Stalking the water holes of mountain sheep, trips through diatomaceous earth mines and processing plants, or gloating over the

gorgeously colorful beauties of undersea marine life from a diving bell, have been typically cherished incidents of recent trips.

Three indoor meetings, member pictures and professional showings, are called for in the constitution. Week-end and holiday trips scatter through the year; in winter south to Sonora, Mexico; in summer north to the redwoods; short trips of 200 miles, longer ones to 1200 miles. Desomounters are constitutionally campers, from sleeping-baggers to trailerites, and are strollers rather than hikers. Family groups are prominent, and children are so numerous a college youth is often employed to provide recreation leadership. The evening gatherings in camp, the great speakers, the group discussions, the intermingling smoke, song and sentiment, plus the reality of human goodwill pervading all, creates an aroma of permanence, a reaffirmation of the goodness of life.

Maine Protects Predatory Birds

Mrs. Paul E. Hannemann of Tenants Harbor, Maine, writes of progress made in that state for bird protection. On August 20 a state law went into effect protecting all hawks and owls excepting the great horned owl. The bill was sponsored by the Bird Conservation Club of Bangor of which Mrs. David House is president; and Mrs. Paul E. Hannemann is corresponding secretary. The Maine Audubon Society and several garden clubs gave active support to this bill.

It was not clear why the great horned owls were not protected since they are not numerous enough to make an issue. Farmers are permitted to destroy individual great horned owls caught in the act of destroying poultry.

Ellsworth Jaeger

PRESIDENT, 1951

All of the past presidents of the ANSS have been a credit to the Society, and Ellsworth Jaeger is no exception. We are happy to report that Mr. Jaeger is at present Curator of Education of the Buffalo Museum of Science at Buffalo, N. Y. This department has extensive contacts with the community through its divisions of Public School Extension, Adult Education and Junior Education.

One of the most popular Junior Education projects under his direction is the "Tepee Camporee" held at Humbolt Park each summer where 300 children ranging in ages from 6 to 15 gather during the day for four weeks Monday through Friday. This Camporee centers around a colorful Indian Village of painted tepees, and involves a program of nature study, arts and crafts, Indian Lore and Dancing, Folk Dancing, story telling, camp crafts, outdoor cooking, hiking, council fires and others.

The great variety of activities were geared to the children of the different age groups. Nature hikes provided opportunities to gather materials for crafts, and to study local birds, insects, trees and other wildlife. Campfire programs gave opportunities for development of skills in self expression. On trips to study local geology, some flints were obtained with which flint and steel fires were built.

Jaeger's other activities include writing for journals in the field of nature study and recreation. His *Tracks and Trailcraft* is a classic for the library of the student



Ellsworth Jaeger and one of his pet wolves taken near Hudson Bay when it was three month old.

Invitation to Audubon Shrine

Mr. J. d'Arcy Northwood is the busy curator of the John James Audubon Shrine, the first home in America of the Famous Naturalist, Audubon. This shrine is located near Valley Forge at Audubon, Pennsylvania, and is maintained by the Montgomery County Park Board where Mr. Northwood is always glad to meet groups and give a short talk on the history of the mansion and its association with Audubon.

This mansion is the center of a 120 acre wildlife sanctuary with five or six miles of nature trails and ruins of an old copper mine where a variety of mineral specimens may be found.

Persons interested in visiting this shrine or in getting information should write to Mr. J. d'Arcy Northwood, Curator, Audubon Shrine, Audubon, Pa.

Utahns Form Conservation Education Council

Recently a group of Utahns interested in promoting conservation education were called to a meeting in the offices of the State Board of Education for the purpose of initiating action toward the end that better conservation teaching be promoted in the schools. After some exploratory discussion a committee was appointed by the State Superintendent of Schools, Dr. E. Allen Bateman, to be known as the State Conservation Education Council. (Your editor was appointed to represent the institutions of higher learning.) Other members were chosen to represent the major agencies interested in conservation education such as the State Fish and Game Department, the Forestry Service, State Board of Forest and Fire Control, Soil Conservation Service, State Department of Education, and the Association of Soil Conservation Districts.

of nature signs and activities. *Council Fires and Easy Crafts* are two books which are valuable source materials for nature programs.

Mr. Jaeger's most interesting pets are two wolves which were taken when they were about three months of age from a den in the Hudson Bay area. These animals, Jaeger reports, "are quite mild, tractable animals as sweet and kindly as the best pet dog. They can be led on a leash and are frequently taken on walks in the park around the museum. When given food they first sing their hunting howls, a long smooth howl vibrating on two notes, and then fall to. This seems a regular procedure."

Summer Thoughts on Child Conservation

The following is an abstract of an editorial which appeared in the August issue of Parks and Recreation, written by Raymond Gregg, a director of the ANSS.

"Dog Days," whose August heat burns into the enthusiasms of June, give cause for refuge to air-conditioned space to think a bit. Let's think about how well we have met our responsibilities and realized upon our opportunities to make our parks and recreation programs serve the youth who move almost *enmasse* from classroom to outdoor living at the end of the school year.

First, how well, and what if anything, did we plan to make our areas and programs serve youth constructively this summer? Figuratively, in our programs are we merely stringing beads, or are we creating design. Have we served both body and mind and touched the spark of spirit? Did the child feel the sense of achievement, of new adventure, or a new interest in each activity?

Someone has said repetition makes the master. There have been some dull masters in the course of this Globe's history. Baseball, marbles, tag, ring-around-the-rosy, and tick-tack-toe can produce bored rowdies and dull people as readily as all bird-watching or moth-pinning can produce screwballs. Balance in program is the key to balance in the consumer. Yet often recreation staffs operating in city park systems well supplied with woods, field, brooks, rock ledges and trails include baseball experts, game leaders, playground specialists, etc., with never a specialist in such suitable activities as motivated hiking, path finding, orienteering, climbing, nature study, gardening, forestry, soil conservation, camp-craft and other outdoor skills!

Often we lose sight of the fact that childhood is a process of growth, not just one of loved or tolerated existence. Learning is the essence of living — we learn or we don't live long or well. Growing, learning, do not stop when the school doors swing outward in June. When day long guidance switches from teacher to parent, recreation leader, or no one, learning changes only in degree of formality, emphasis, orientation, and the good or bad portend for society. Many values available only in summer, and through contact with the outdoors, can never come to the child in the learning routines of extra curricular activities of the regular school year.

Briefs

F. K. Lee, one of our Hawaiian members sent some clippings regarding an attempt to control the giant African snail which has become a scourge to the Islands. Another snail, the moderate sized, canabalistic *Englandina rosea* whose native home is the gulf coastal area from Texas to Florida has been released in the hopes that its appetite for other snails may lead to control of the African monster which measures up to six inches.

What of Conservation?

At the Berkeley meetings of the ANSS discussion was carried out on some problems of conservation of which the world has many and in whose solution the American Nature Study has a stake. To attack the problems of conservation as is now often done is to center on the symptoms and not on the deep rooted causes.

The education of the American people is sorely needed to the end that they will grow in interest in our wildlife, our forests, grasslands, watersheds, and other facets of our natural world. Unlike the Europeans, the average American knows practically none of the common trees, birds, flowers, insects or other forms of outdoor life. There must be an increase in the numbers of those whose interests have earned for them the label of bird watchers. There must be an increase in the numbers of those whose avocational or hobby interests are in such related fields as flowers, ferns, insects, trees, mosses, spiders, molluscs, nature photography, and nature writing. The American Nature Study Society is in a strategic position to stimulate teachers, scout leaders and others to swell the numbers of young people who become deeply engrossed in a nature interest. Such people have an understanding of nature and its many ramifying interrelationships which is basic in understanding the problems created by disturbing severely the balance of nature.

We need within the society a strong committee which will investigate ways in which the Society can become more effective, and to initiate procedures to implement the findings. The logical question now is to ask for volunteers. There is a job to be done. We need people to dedicate themselves to the accomplishment of these worthy objectives.

Howard Palmer Piser is still deeply engrossed in the activities of the ARBOR DAY ASSOCIATION. The membership of the ANSS should not let Arbor Day slip up and slide by this spring without due recognition of its meaning. Harold Piser, writes in the December 1955 NATURE MAGAZINE that "Arbor Day is truly *every* day for *everybody, everywhere*. Let us then make 1956 the beginning of a new and greater Arbor Day, because in the words of its originator, other holidays repose on the past; Arbor Day proposes for the future."

Mrs. Harold E. Anthony is information chairman of the Palisades Nature Association which has the responsibility of developing the Greenbrook Sanctuary, an area of about 150 acres in Palisades Interstate Park. She writes of the beautiful view from the Palisades of the Hudson 300 feet below; of guided weekly field trips, illustrated lectures, and of a training course for potential conservation leaders. We wonder how many ANSS members have been in Palisade Interstate Park. Your editor was last there twenty-five years ago on a summer's bicycle tour.

Nature Study Expert Goes on the Air

Mrs. Janet Nickelsburg, one of the faithful members of the ANSS, has carried on an active program in the nature study field. One of the phases of her efforts is directed toward a 52-weekly television program in nature study where she shares the spotlight with young scientists ranging in ages from 6 to 14. This program entitled STOP, LOOK AND LISTEN comes over KQED, covers the bay area of San Francisco, and features gliding snakes, crawling turtles, and demonstrations and explanations of hobbies or collections from bats to rats, to stones and shells.

An earlier program called SIGNPOSTS FOR YOUNG SCIENTISTS ran for five years.

Mrs. Nickelsburg recently returned from setting up nature programs with camp counselors in 17 camps in California.

The ANSS is pleased to have such personalities among its members. She has served the field of nature study in schools, recreation departments, and museums for 35 years.

Costs Going Up

For many years the Cornell *Rural School Leaflet* and the *Canadian Nature* have been a source of ideas and inspiration for teachers at all levels. While all types of services and other items were rising steadily in price, that of these two fine leaflets remained fixed. However, recently it was announced that the price of each of these has gone up fifty cents. This will change the price of the membership in the various categories for the ANSS. The new listing is given below.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name.....

Address.....

- Group I \$2.00 membership, Newsletter, Cornell Leaflet
 Group II \$3.00 membership, Newsletter, Canadian Nature
 Group III \$4.00 membership, Newsletter, Cornell Leaflet, Canadian Nature
 Group VI \$4.00 membership, Newsletter, Nature Magazine
 Group V \$5.00 membership, Newsletter, Nature Magazine, Cornell Leaflet
 Group IV \$6.00 membership, Newsletter, Nature Magazine, Canadian Nature
 Group VII \$7.00 membership, Newsletter, Nature Magazine, Cornell Leaflet, Canadian Nature

Send Applications and Dues Payments to: Howard Weaver
 202 Men's Old Gym
 University of Illinois
 Urbana, Illinois

AMERICAN NATURE STUDY SOCIETY
 State Teachers College, Fitchburg, Mass.

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