



Smart, sleek lines accentuated by new jet-tube taillights and a new chrome molding through the center of the rear fender line are featured in the 1953 Ford Customline Fordor sedan. Outstanding mechanical feature is a new "miracle ride" which brings to the volume field for the first time the smooth riding characteristics of heavier, costlier cars. The new models go on display Friday, Dec. 12, at the nation's Ford dealerships, including the Birmingham agency, Harold Turner, Inc., 464 S. Woodward.

**New Donor Recruitment Chairman Is Appointed**

Mrs. James Wichert, 2757 Santa Barbara, has been named blood donor recruitment chairman for the American Red Cross Oakland county chapter. Announcement of her appointment was made by Mrs. John D. Monroe of Pontiac, chairman of the program.

Mrs. Wichert has been active in the Lathrop Women's club and civil defense affairs for some time. She will assist bloodmobile sponsors in their recruitment of donors in the Birmingham and south Oakland county area.

Newspaper submitted early necessarily in given preference over late items. So the "Early Bird" usually gets the space.

**NATURE NOW**

**Smithsonian Display Links Ages Together**

By Lydia King-Frehse

I write from the nation's Capitol, where today I once again visited that repository of Life's past called the Smithsonian Institute.

Here autumn comes late and the ancient sycamores still cling to their leaves. The Capitol dome stands guard as I make my way along the famous Mall to enter the rotunda of the natural science building for a day's browsing among the fossils. As I turn right to step across the threshold that leads into the east wing, I leave behind the Present and enter the Past.

Now a fossil is a dead thing, but it speaks of life. It is an imprint or mold in stone of some plant or animal that was alive. By its study the paleontologist is not only able to identify the species, but in many instances can reconstruct its life story, and relegate it to its proper place in the sequence of time.

As we enter the first of three halls a case to the right is marked "Most perfect marine fossil ever found."

The section of limestone therein is from a Cambrian sea and is more than 400 million years old. Here is the clear imprint, not only of shells and sea lilies, the tentacles and softer organs of a myriad of ancient sea creatures.

WE PAUSE LONG and often as we make our way along a case 120 feet long which extends the entire length of the left wall. Here, sealed to time, is a panorama of life from the earliest ages to the present, with the brief epoch of our human existence occupying only one foot of space.

A new perspective is gained by thus seeing life's pattern as a whole. Certain species stand out in bold relief. The armored fish of the Devonian, the huge coiled am-

monite shells of the Cretaceous, the monstrous rept of the Jurassic, the giant ferns of the Carboniferous, the clear imprint of tulip and saffron left by the mighty forests of the Tertiary; all these are in their rightful places. The rest of the room is filled with cases in which are spread out in orderly array, species and genus clearly marked, the visible remains of Life's long chain reaching up to the mammals. Among these are corals, sea lilies, mollusks, horn shells, trilobites and fishes.

Then, when Life decided to forsake the seas for land, it left behind the scorpions. These were the ancestors of the insect hordes which swarmed about the swamps and which have extended themselves to our present time.

OF THE THOUSANDS of fossils displayed in this hall, the most perfectly preserved are the "Amber insects." Here the actual specimen is embedded in clear resin leaving no doubt of every detail of its structure. These date back some 40 million years when a deep evergreen forest grew on the shores of the Baltic Sea in East Prussia. Over the years myriads of insects were caught in the clear amber pitch that dropped from the trees, imprisoning for all time crane and caddis flies, spiders, moths, grasshoppers, beetles and ants.

Prehistoric insects of this period differ so little from modern forms that the same orders are employed in classifying some 5,800 species including in addition to the above such varieties as butterflies, cockroaches and bees.

As one reviews the thousands of specimens in the cases, it is evident that certain life-forms have persisted throughout the ages, leaving their imprints in successive layers of rock.

AMONG THE MOST conspicuous of these which are still represented in the marine life of today, are the corals, infinite in variety, the colorful sea-lilies which are animals, but look like plants, and the large mollusk family to which belong the oysters, scallops and clams.

The fossil record shows that the trilobites which were also very abundant in the ancient seas, began their life's span in the Cambrian period, but became extinct some 300 million years later, at the end of Paleozoic times. They were

**Young Rated Third Among Nation's Amateur Cyclists**

A Birmingham cyclist has been rated third in the country by the Amateur Bicycle League of America.

Announcement of the high rating to Clair Young, 839 Smith, was made last week by Harry Berz,

**Really Sees the World**

Joseph H. Grand, aviation structural mechanic airman, USN, son of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph J. Grand, 566 Ann, has had his opportunity to see the world aboard the attack carrier USS Oriskany. The carrier visited major parts of 12 foreign countries and has sailed four of the seven seas. The carrier is now serving of Korea as a member of the East Carrier Task Force 77.

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