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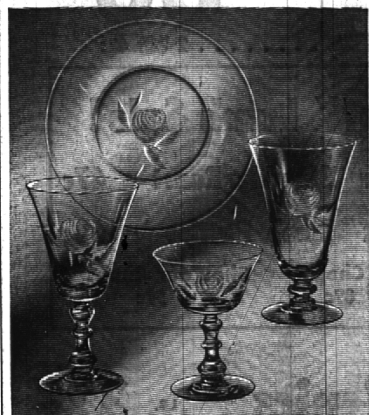
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Cranbrook's New Scientist Is a 'Regular Guy'

If you are one of those people who likes to believe that no scientist is really human, you should meet James Abbott Fowler, newly appointed curator of education at Cranbrook Institute of science, whose enthusiasm, breezy manner and out-door look immediately dispel any such prejudice. Fowler comes to Cranbrook from 10 years as director of education at the academy of natural sciences in Philadelphia, where he did a tremendous job of expanding the educational program, including "Expeditions for Everyone"—day and



New Cranbrook Curator

James A. Fowler, newly-appointed curator of education at Cranbrook Institute of science, comes to Cranbrook from 10 years as director of education at the academy of natural sciences in Philadelphia.

Deltas Plan Meet

Delta Delta Delta sorority will meet at the home of Mrs. H. M. Dahlquist, 909 Fairfax, Birmingham, for a toy party Nov. 12 at 8 p.m. Co-hostesses are Mrs. Elizabeth Page and Mrs. J. William Coffer. Mrs. Eleanor Osterbeck will be guest speaker. Members and guests are welcome.

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Like Walter P. Nickell of the institute of science, he firmly believes that field study should augment class room and laboratory.

Dr. Robert T. Hatt, director of Cranbrook Institute of science, has known Fowler for a number of years, has watched his work in Philadelphia, met him at museum and other conventions and invited him here to lecture, with his own color slides. This year, Dr. Hatt persuaded him to come to Cranbrook as a staff member at the institute, and booked him immediately for an illustrated nature talk on Dec. 10, at Cranbrook school auditorium.

FOWLER FEELS that at Cranbrook's smaller institute of science, he will be able to carry on the work he loves ("Most people in this work are dedicated people—as they must be in any educational work," he says), with an even greater opportunity to experiment and expand the program. "I find museum work," he states, "more challenging than regular teaching; one is less liable to succumb to routine."

The new curator will supervise and coordinate all the educational activities of the institute of science: film programs, junior member field trips, school programs, observatory and planetarium demonstrations; also meetings of the numerous organizations using the institute's facilities: camera clubs, garden clubs, nature clubs, boy scouts, girl scouts, etc.

Fowler, who is 41, was born in Skowhegan, Me., but has spent most of his life in or near Washington, D. C., where he was graduated from Central high school and George Washington university with a BS in 1940 and an M.A. in 1942. "To help pay my university expenses," he says, "I worked on the Washington Daily News, where I learned a great deal about writing and printing and publication in general that has been helpful in my later work." After graduation he worked for the U.S. Department of Agriculture as a para-

biologist. Subsequently he taught at a private school and worked summers as a ranger-naturalist for the national park service.

HIS SCHOLASTIC training has been as a biologist, with emphasis on zoology. His special interest is amphibians and reptiles, on which he wrote his master's thesis under the rather formidable title "A Distributional Study of the Amphibians and Reptiles of the District of Columbia and Vicinity."

He brought with him to Cranbrook, in fact, his own extensive preserved collection of Maryland amphibians in order to continue a program of research he has started in this field. "Moving that collection was a major operation," he says, "but I'm enthusiastic about continuing work on it."

Another of Fowler's avocations is taking color pictures of nature and wild life, most of which he uses on lecture tours. In the spring he will make a lecture trip in a wide circuit through the west and down into Florida, collecting on the way.

The new curator has already taken a field trip or two with Nickell and the junior members, and declares that Bloomfield and nearby fields and woods and streams and lakes, make "an exciting area" for exploration and discovery. —MHB

Altrusa Club Meet

Judge Arthur Moore will be guest speaker at a dinner meeting of the Altrusa club of greater Birmingham Nov. 11 at the Birmingham Community House at 8:15. His topic will be Camp Oak-

land Girls Ranch. Members of all service clubs are invited to attend.

Have You Met...

The residents of 4418 Squirrel road? Mr. and Mrs. C. M. Scherer moved from Grand Rapids on Sept. 4. Mr. Scherer is sales representative for Merck & Co., Inc.

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