

# History of the Peoria Academy of Science 1930 - 1971

Louise V. White

"The objects of this Academy shall be the promotion and diffusion of scientific knowledge by the reading and publication of original papers, by the maintenance of a library and a museum, and by such other means as may be adopted from time to time to arouse interest in and to stimulate scientific investigation, and to cultivate the scientific attitude." (From 1933 Yearbook of the Peoria Academy of Science.)

Origin - - At the suggestion of Dr. W. H. Packard of Bradley Poly-technic Institute, Mr. A. L. Epstein of Peoria Central High School prepared the way for a Peoria meeting of the Illinois State Academy of Science. To entertain such a group properly it was thought advisable that a local Academy of Science be organized in Peoria. On May 26, 1930, eleven teachers of science met for this purpose. Those present were: Mr. H. D. Cation, Mr. A. L. Epstein, Miss Gertrude Harvey, Miss Garma Kinhofer, Dr. W. H. Packard, Mr. J. H. Sammis, Mr. V. C. Shepherd, Mr. J. M. Sommer, Miss Daphne Swartz, Mr. J. J. Voss, and Miss Louise White. Mr. Epstein was elected the first president. Other officers were: Vice President, Dr. Packard; Secretary, Mr. Sammis; Treasurer, Miss Harvey; Directors, Mr. Voss, Miss Swartz, and Miss White.

The Peoria Academy became affiliated with the Illinois State Academy on October 9, 1930, and successfully entertained the State Academy on May 8 and 9, 1931. In that first year of its existence, the Peoria Academy presented six programs on scientific topics. During 1931, many members engaged in collecting and studying natural science materials, particularly those of the Peoria region. In December 1931 at a meeting of the directors, Dr. C. D. Sneller suggested the division of the Academy into sections, based on scientific interest. Accordingly, such sections were organized with special emphasis on investigations in the Peoria area. The sections are given here in alphabetical order with the names of the first leaders: Astronomy - Mr. R. B. Grogg; Botany - Mr. V. H. Chase; Entomology - Mr. H. W. Biehl; Ethnology - Mr. A. M. Simpson; Opaque Microscopy - Mr. E. J. P. Fisher; Ornithology - Dr. W. H. Packard; Paleobotany - Mr. J. J. Voss; Paleontology - Dr. C. D. Sneller; and Paleopathology - Dr. M. G. Bohrod. By 1933, the following positions were added to the Board of Directors: Editor, Mr. J. H. Sedgwick; Librarian, Mr. H. W. Biehl; Director Junior Academy, Mr. J. J. Voss Custodian, Mr. V. H. Chase; Publicity Director, Mrs. G. Schoenbeck.

The first Constitution was adopted in 1932 and provided, among other things, for the publication and distribution of Transactions. It listed nine classes of membership. Membership was open to professional and non-professional people of the Peoria area. In January 1933 there were 85 members, including 55 charter members who had joined before May 9, 1931. January 1933 saw the Peoria Academy well launched on activities. The first official photograph of an Academy function was taken on October 1, 1933, at a picnic at the home of Mr. J. C. Tjaden (Figure 1). A listing of all officers of the Academy from 1930 through 1972 is presented in Table I. In addition to these leaders, many other members have served the Academy as directors and section leaders.

Table I - Officers of the Peoria Academy of Science - - 1930-1972

Year	President	Vice President	Secretary	Treasurer
1930	Mr. A L Epstein	Dr. W H Packard	Mr. W. H. Sammis	Miss G. Harvey
1931	"	Mr. H D Cation	Miss G. Kinhofer	"
1932	"	"	"	"
1933	Dr. C D Sneller	Dr. J J Voss	Mr. F. L. Barloga	Mr. J. H. Sammis
1934	"	"	Mr. E. J. P. Fisher	"
1935	Dr. G C Ashman	Mr. A E Gault	Mrs. L. B. Hite	Mr. L. P. Elliott
1936	"	"	"	"
1937	Mr. V H Chase	Mr. F L Barloga	"	Mr. A. M. Patterson
1938	Mr. F L Barloga	Mr. F Luthy	"	Mr. E. C. Bessler
1939	Mr. C U Stone	"	"	"
1940	Mr. J H Sedgwick	Dr. J J Voss	Miss A. Tjaden	"
1941	Mr. A E Gault	"	"	"
1942	Mr. A R Buis	"	"	"
1943	Dr. J J Voss	Dr. G C Ashman	Miss M. R. Hagemann	"
1944	"	Dr. H M Teeter	"	"
1945	Dr. W W Grimm	Mr. L P Elliott	"	"
1946	Mr. L P Elliott	Dr. A K Smith	"	"
1947	Dr. A K Smith	Mr. R E Owens	"	"
1948	Mrs. . . Schoenbeck	Mr. V H Chase	"	"
1949	Mr. F Luthy	Mr. C E Rist	"	"
1950	Mr. C E Rist	Dr. D Morse	"	"
1951	Dr. D Morse	Mr. R V Belina	"	Dr. C. D. Evans
1952	Mr. R V Belina	Mr. W A Ryan, Jr.	"	"
1953	Mr. W A Ryan	Mr. H E Smith	"	Mrs. J. A. Robinson
1954	Mr. R P VanZandt	Dr. D Frazer	"	"
1955	Mr. A G Adams on	Mr. R A Larkin	"	"
1956	Mr. R A Larkin	Dr. D Carter	"	"
1957	Dr. D Carter	Miss I M . Cull	"	"
1958	Miss I . . Cull	Dr. R H Runde	"	"
1959	"	Dr. R G Bjorklund	Miss E . Denton	"
1960	Dr. R G Bjorklund	Miss M. R . Hag en an n	Miss B . Becker	"
1961	Dr. J F Pula	"	"	"
1962	"	Mr. E N Davis	"	"
1963	Mr. E N Davis	Mr. H E Sandstrom	Miss B "	"
1964	Mr. C A McCumber	Mr. G L Adams	Miss M . R. Hagemann	"
1965	Mr. P L Martin	Mr. R L Barthel	Mrs. A . Cox	"
1966	"	"	Mrs. C . L. Asher	"
1967	Dr. L H Princen	Mr. E B Myers	Mrs. P . L. Martin	"
1968	"	"	Mrs. A . Grebner	"
1969	Mr. E B Myers	Dr. R B Garrett	Mrs. M . Baumgartner	"
1970	"	Mr. P S Webber	"	Mrs. G. E. Princen
1971	Mr. P S Webber	Mr. C L Asher	Miss H Kowtaluk	"
1972	Mr. C L Asher	Mr. H O Sensing	"	"

Activities of the Academy as a Whole - - The Board of Directors has met monthly, and the annual business meeting has been held in December of each year. Occasional visits to museums and other field trips have been taken, beginning in 1932 with visits to Dr. C. D. Sneller's private paleontology collection and to the Dickson Mounds near Lewistown.

Public lectures by qualified speakers on scientific subjects have been held monthly, except during the summers. Topics have been of general interest, or dealt with the interests of a specific section of the Academy. Speakers have come chiefly from the University of Illinois, Illinois State Surveys (Natural History and Geological), Illinois State Museum, Bradley Polytechnic Institute (now a University), Northern Regional Research Laboratory, Peoria Park District, local industries, and from the membership of the Peoria Academy. For some years, each section has presented a monthly program.

During the early years of the Academy, the meetings were usually held in the Peoria Medical Society rooms and in Bradley Hall. Beginning in 1943 they were held at the Peoria Board of Education Building. In 1952 they were moved to Glen Oak Park Pavilion. Since the opening of Lakeview Center for the Arts and Sciences in 1965, meetings of the Academy and of the sections have been held there. The annual dinners, held in March, have featured speakers on a wide variety of scientific subjects, members' collections, and other exhibits. Picnics held in spring and fall have offered field trips and exhibits, besides good food and fellowship.

Library - - A librarian was appointed January 1, 1932, and organization of a scientific library was begun. In 1937, the Dr. Frederick Brendel Library of Natural Science was purchased. Dr. Brendel was an early botanist of Peoria, whose botanical collection was started about 1867. His son-in-law, Mr. Emil Wagishauser, was responsible for collecting \$500 in donations for the purchase. The 550 books filled 60 linear feet of shelving. In 1954, Dr. Chase, who had been keeping this collection in his home, asked to be relieved of the responsibility. At his request he was authorized to present the library to the University of Illinois, after members of the Academy had chosen the books they wanted to keep.

Collections - - By 1933, library accessions and scientific collections (both private and Academy-owned) were increasing rapidly. Accessions of 700 plant specimens, collected and mounted by Mr. Chase, and a series of fossils were reported. In 1935, Dr. A. C. Noe borrowed specimens from our collections for his paleontological studies at the University of Chicago. Dr. Noe was considered the leading American paleobotanist at that time. In 1938, custodian Chase reported 4,724 botanical specimens in the Academy Herbarium. He had remounted botanical specimens of the old Peoria



Figure 1 - First photograph of some Peoria Academy members, taken on October 1, 1933, at a picnic at the Tjaden residence. Many early Academy presidents and other officers and section leaders were present with their families: Dr. C. D. Sneller (1); Dr. G. C. Ashman (2); Dr. V. H. Chase (3); Mr. F. L. Barloga (4); Dr. J. J. Voss (5); Mr. L. P. Elliott (6); Mrs. G. Schoenbeck (7); Mr. H. W. Biehl (8); Mr. A. Patterson (9); and the hosts, Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Tjaden (10, 11). Present Academy membership still includes Dr. Sneller (Life Member), Mrs. Tjaden (Honorary Member) and Mr. E. J. Voss (12) and Miss Eunice Tjaden (13).



Figure 1 - First photograph of some Peoria Academy of Science members, taken on October 1, 1933, at a picnic at the Tjaden residence. Many early Academy presidents and other officers and section leaders were present with their families: Dr. C. D. Sneller (1); Dr. G. C. Ashman (2); Dr. V. H. Chase (3); Mr. F. L. Barloga (4); Dr. J. J. Voss (5); Mr. L. P. Elliott (6); Mrs. G. Schoenbeck (7); Mr. H. W. Biehl (8); Mr. A. Patterson (9); and the hosts, Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Tjaden (10, 11). Present Academy membership still includes Dr. Sneller (Life Member), Mrs. Tjaden (Honorary Member), and Mr. E. J. Voss (12) and Miss Eunice Tjaden (13).

Scientific Association\*, and which were collected chiefly by Dr. Brendel and Dr. J. T. Stewart about 1867. Mr. Chase had spent 256 hours mounting 1,845 sheets. Miss Josephine Dodge donated her school herbarium, collected in 1892.

Museum and Arts and Science Federation - - Increasing size and value of the collections made the provision of a museum ever more urgent. Members of the Academy investigated several existing buildings for this purpose, but found none suitable, especially with respect to fireproofing. As early as the 1940<sup>f</sup>s, speakers at some of the public meetings of the Academy talked about the organization of a museum. In 1952, the Academy held a joint public meeting with the Peoria Regional Museum Society to determine all the possibilities of developing a suitable museum. In 1955, the Academy joined the newly-formed Federation of Science and Art Groups, and hopes for building a new Arts and Science Center were strengthened. In the meantime, Mr. Rodell Owens, Director of the Peoria Park System, announced that the Peoria Park Board would finance improvements to the Glen Oak Park Pavilion and make it available to the Federation. At that time, the Federation also hired an executive director. These developments increased the use of the Pavilion greatly, and it served the Federation members well as a temporary home. A new appointive officer was added to the Academy organization - a Representative to the Arts and Science Council of the Federation - with the function to coordinate Academy and Federation goals.

In 1958, the Academy, the Museum Society, and the Arts and Science Federation sponsored two exhibits: one from the American Museum of Atomic Energy, and the other a display of models and collections made by Peoria school children. Dr. Dan Morse and Dr. R. H. Runde gave much of their time and effort, as did many others, in preparing the museum in the Glen Oak Pavilion. Museum cases were bought or built by 1961. Many Academy section members helped to prepare exhibits and maintain them.

The Arts and Science Federation presented a "Fair in the Park" each spring from 1957 through 1970. These Fairs, with variations in theme, presented imaginative and attractive exhibits with the aim of furthering interest and activity in providing a new building. Sections of the Academy furnished many displays. The Fairs were first held at Exposition Gardens, and then at Glen Oak Park. They were held at Lakeview Center after the new building was opened on March 28, 1965. An account of the activities of the Peoria Academy of Science was placed in a time capsule below the lobby of Lakeview Center at the time of the opening. Miss Irene Cull prepared that

\* The Peoria Scientific Association was founded in 1875. The organization was still active in 1899, but by 1902 it had stopped functioning completely. Between 1902 and 1930 there was no known effort in Peoria to form a similar organization.

paper. Fairs were continued at Lakeview Center through 1970. Since then, they have been discontinued because their purpose has been achieved.

Junior Activities - - The Junior Academy of Science with Dr. J. J. Voss as leader was one of the original sections of the Academy, but there is not much information about it in older reference material. In 1951, it became affiliated with the Illinois State Junior Academy of Science. In 1954, the Junior Academy had Astronomy and Ichthyology sections. In 1958, Miss Irene Cull, President of the Academy, organized a Science Series for children with field trips in warm weather and indoor programs on Saturdays the rest of the year. The field trips were later discontinued because of the cost of liability insurance required for the participants. Since then, indoor meetings have been held every year from October through April, on Saturday afternoons. Three or four consecutive programs form a series on one science. These programs, known as the Saturday Science Series, are presented by section members of the Academy and are open to adults as well as students. These programs are undoubtedly an important means of encouraging young people to become professional scientists. An account of the Student Science Series by Miss Cull has been printed in the American Biology Teachers' Periodical.

Audubon Screen Tours - - In 1948, Mr. Ferd Luthy was instrumental in arranging Audubon Screen Tours in Peoria - open to the public. They continued for about 10 years, as the records seem to indicate, and were stopped because of lack of public interest and financial support. After Lakeview Center was opened, the films returned to Peoria. The Academy and Lakeview Center cosponsor and present them under the able guidance of Mr. and Mrs. R. G. Prager.

Student Science Fairs - - In 1959, the first Student Science Fair was held. The Academy of Science did not initiate it, but has helped with planning and judging through the years. This Fair created so many entries that it threatened to outgrow Robertson Field House at Bradley University. It became necessary to screen entries at local schools, before sending the best to the Field House. The Fair has been sponsored by the Cosmopolitan Club, with cooperation of our Academy, Peoria Engineering Council, Peoria County Science Teachers Association, School Administrators, Arts and Science Federation, and Bradley University.

Memorial Scholarship Award - - This activity of the Academy was initiated in 1965 through a tragic accident that took the life of Donald Jackson, a promising science student at the University of Illinois and a student member of the Academy. Annual Scholarship awards are made from interest of accumulated funds exceeding \$4700, to deserving student members of the Academy in their pursuit of

scientific careers. Donations to this fund have been made in the memory of Donald Jackson, L. P. Elliott, V. H. Chase, A. L. Epstein, W. McCowan, J. J. Voss, and Mrs. A. Patterson. Ten awards have been made in the six years of existence of the Scholarship Fund.

Peoria Academy Members and the State Academy of Science - - Dr. C. D. Sneller was Vice President in 1934-35 and President of the Illinois State Academy in 1935-36. Dr. W. W. Grimm served as Treasurer and as Vice President, and in 1953-54 as President. Dr. J. J. Voss was Treasurer of the State Academy for several years.

Publications - - Dr. Sneller and Dr. Grimm presented papers to the State Academy, in their official capacities. Other members whose papers to sections of the State Academy were accepted, were Mr. A. M. Simpson, Mr. F. L. Barloga, Dr. J. J. Voss, Dr. Dan Morse, and Mrs. George Schoenbeck. This list is undoubtedly incomplete, but includes all names that were found in the reference material.

In 1951, "Illinois Wild Flowers" by Dr. J. J. Voss and Mrs. Virginia | S. Eifert was published by the Illinois State Museum. Dr. Voss took most of the photographs used in the book. Some of Dr. Dan Morse's many publications deal with diseases of prehistoric Indians of the Midwest.

Mr. J. H. Sedgwick started publishing a periodical, "The Peoria Academy of Science," with the January-February 1933 issue. It was published from time to time for several years. On January 6, 1935, Mrs. G. Schoenbeck started "Round About Peoria", a series of articles on natural science, as a feature in the Peoria Journal Transcript, and it was continued until 1942. Mr. V. H. Chase started writing "Nature Rambles" in 1935 for the Peoria Sunday Star. The Academy also published some monographs, and started the publication of annual Proceedings in 1968, in which section activities and research papers of individual members are presented.

#### Activity of Sections

The formation of sections of the Academy was suggested in 1931 by Dr. Sneller. This idea has proved so successful, that it has become known as "The Peoria Plan," and has been adopted by Science Academies in other cities. The Peoria Academy has adhered to the idea of sections until today. The objectives of the sections are those of the Academy. They investigate in more detail the various scientific fields as they relate to the Peoria area. In general, the sections hold indoor meetings, monthly as a rule, and take field trips for observation and collecting. They provide programs for many general public meetings, by furnishing speakers, slide shows, and exhibits, as they have done in their own sectional meetings.

The meeting places have been members' homes, the old Board of Education Building until 1952, and then Glen Oak Park Pavilion until Lake-view Center was opened in 1965. Now, general and section meetings are held there. Of the nine original sections, several have operated continuously since 1932. Originally, the section chairmen were appointed by the Board of Directors of the Academy. Now some sections elect officers and charge small dues. A listing of all the section leaders since 1932 would show that many of them have given many years of wise and devoted leadership, and have contributed significantly to the success of the sections. Another factor in holding the sections together has been fellowship at picnics, potluck meals, and annual banquets. The sections have been responsible for giving the programs for the Student Science Series. Some of the activities of the various sections throughout the years are described below.

Anthropology - - This section was started in 1932 as Ethnology. It was active from the beginning with enthusiastic collectors in its membership, under the leadership of Mr. A. M. Simpson. The section investigated many sites of Indian villages and burial mounds in Peoria County and other nearby counties. By 1935, members had worked at the Kingston Site and at some near Mossville. In 1937, this section was renamed Archeology Section, and it entertained the Illinois State Archeological Society in October of that year. Also in 1937, Dr. Dan Morse began diggings in central Illinois, especially in Fulton County. That county is recognized as having the world's largest prehistoric Indian burial grounds. The Emmons Site and the Crable Site in that county are especially notable. At the latter, more than 2,000 skeletons have been found. Since 1956, the Steuben Site, consisting of a village and burials near Mossville, has been investigated. In 1949, the name of the section became Anthropology, to cover a wider scope of study. At this time Mrs. George Schoenbeck was leader. The Illinois State Archeological Society met in Peoria in 1955 and again in 1960. Collections made by members of the section have been placed in museums at the University of Illinois, Illinois State Museum, Smithsonian Institution, and Lakeview Center. Some collections are still privately owned. Many reports of the findings of this section have been published. In 1971, no new diggings were being investigated. The Anthropology Section meets now with the Geology Section, but retains its own identity. Its programs for the Saturday Science Series feature lectures and films portraying various cultures.

Astronomy - - This is one of the original sections. The first leader was Mr. R. B. Grogg, who held monthly observing meetings at his home, using a telescope that he had built. After being inactive for about ten years, the section was reformed. The Astronomy Club, which had been started in 1949 by Mr. and Mrs. Lyle Mehl, was accepted as a section of the Academy of Science. Since then,

it has been very active and is one of the larger sections in the Academy,

Introductory classes in astronomy have been held continuously. Advanced classes were offered for a time; now, lectures on the regular meeting nights have replaced them. The observatory on North-moor Golf Course is a prime achievement of the section. Mr. R. P. VanZandt and Mr. C. G. A. Rosen were responsible for making plans and collecting funds for it. Mr. Murray M. Baker, a Peoria businessman, was the chief donor. Much of the labor was done by the section members. Dedication of the Astronomical Observatory, which houses a 9-inch refracting telescope (donated by Bradley University to the Academy) and an assembly room, took place on June 23, 1955, after more than two years of devoted efforts. Star-gazing nights have been held in the summer since the opening of the observatory. One project has been locating grazing occultations of the moon. In 1961, a separate dome with a 12-inch reflector telescope was added at Northmoor. In 1957, Dean A. E. Gault of Bradley University presented to the section a collection of more than 100 books on astronomy and other sciences, and a file of magazines, to be housed at the observatory building.

In 1959 the section became affiliated with the North Central Section of the Astronomical League. It has been host twice to this organization's annual meetings - in 1963 and 1971. The Planetarium at Lakeview Center was completed in 1963. Mr. VanZandt was instrumental in getting donations of money and labor, and in assembling the equipment. Dr. Ernest Landen has given much of his time and knowledge throughout the years to develop and build special projectors and to assure trouble-free operation. Daily planetarium operation has been in the able hands of Mr., and Mrs. R. B. Johnson since the opening. Other endeavours of the Astronomy Section include the quarterly publication of Starlite Newsletter, the Messier Club, telescope making and mirror grinding.

Audubon - - This section began as Ornithology in 1932 with Dr. W. H. Packard as leader and Mr. J. H. Sedgwick as associate. The activities at first consisted of indoor meetings and field trips for identification of bird species. In 1951 and 1954, the section made Christmas Bird Counts for the National Audubon Society. In 1953, the group was renamed Audubon Section. In 1963, the section became affiliated with the Illinois Audubon Society. Since then, the section has made annual Christmas Bird Counts and a Spring Census in both the Peoria and Chillicothe areas. It has also taken part annually in the Mississippi Valley Bald Eagle Surveys. Since 1963, the section has established several Bluebird trails in the Peoria area. Nesting boxes have been constructed and located in suitable places and are checked throughout the nesting seasons. Sunflower seed is provided every-winter for the Lakeview Park feeder.

The section has held monthly meetings with speakers, slide shows and films, and frequent field trips. Other activities include nesting surveys, special bird population studies with the Biology Department of Bradley University and Forest Park Foundation, bird seed sales to raise money for special projects, such as the purchase of land for Prairie Chicken refuges or the preservation and conservation of other lands and animals.

Botany - - Botany is one of the original sections and has been active continuously. Mr. V. H. Chase, the first leader, inspired the group to study plant structure, identification and classification, as well as the ecology and economic importance of plants. At the indoor meetings, plant specimens, reports, slides and movies were often used. Field trips were made to many plant habitats from Peoria cemeteries to the Morton Arboretum and Funk's Grove. Miss Irene Cull, who became section leader in 1952, instructed a class in botany for some time. Mr. Chase received an honorary MA degree from Kenyon College in 1949, and a DSc degree from Bradley University in 1950 for his many contributions in the field of botany. In 1933, Mr. Voss received a PhD from the University of Chicago.

Projects of recent years include transplantation of Hepaticas from the part of Bradley Park that was to be destroyed by the construction of Interstate Highway 74, to "Hepatica Hill" in Forest Park Wildlife Refuge; the development of a checklist of plants growing on the abandoned Rock Island Railroad right-of-way between Peoria and Princeville; the experimental planting of prairie vegetation along Interstate 74, in cooperation with the Illinois State Highway Department (this is certainly the first and apparently the only attempt in the Nation to beautify roadsides in this way); the planting of woodland wildflowers in back of Flanagan House, which is owned and maintained by the Peoria Historical Society; the preparation of exhibits for fairs and displays at Lakeview Center, and the collection and mounting of plant specimens for the School Loan Program of Lakeview Center and for the Bradley University Herbarium.

Entomology - - This is another of the original sections. For many years the section was led by Mr. H. W. Biehl and it has continued without a break since his death. It has conducted indoor meetings and field trips for collecting. In 1945, Mr. and Mrs. Biehl held the first Open House to show their fine collection of native and foreign insects. This became an annual affair for a number of years. Since the passing away of Mr. Biehl, the collection has been housed at Lakeview Center.

Collecting insects for private and area reference collections continues, exhibits are made for various purposes, and lecture programs are given regularly. A continuing and taxing activity is the maintenance of the Biehl and reference collections at Lakeview Center.

Geology-Rockhounds - - This section began in 1932 as Paleontology, and was led by Dr. C. D. Sneller. Early members were energetic collectors, especially Dr. Sneller, Mr. A. M. Simpson and Mr. L. P. Elliott, who also collected in other states. Some of their material is now placed in famous institutions, although much of it remained at Lakeview Center. In 1937, the section was named Geology, and in 1962 it became Geology-Rockhounds with Mr. P. L. Martin as leader. In 1965, the section affiliated with the Midwest Federation of Geological and Mineralogical Societies.

Members have conducted field trips locally and as far away as Iowa, southern Indiana, and southeastern Missouri. Indoor meetings provide for excellent lectures, study, and preparation of exhibits. The section is divided into workgroups on natural geology, minerals, fossils, and lapidary. Each of these groups conducts its own workshops. Crystal-lines is the section's periodical which was started in 1962. The big project of this section is the annual Rock Show. Since 1964 it has been held successfully during the Labor Day weekend. It has attracted as many as 5,000 visitors.

Herpetology - - This section, led by Mrs. Helen Gasdorf, began an independent existence in 1964, after having been active in combination with Ichthyology since 1960. Field trips and collecting were supplemented by indoor programs. In furnishing exhibits these sections have had the advantage of being able to show live specimens of fish, amphibians, and reptiles. In the spring of 1970, members of the section were able to catch and rescue many snakes from the area between Lakeview Center and K-Mart, that was about to be developed and built up. These snakes were released at Forest Park Nature Center, which provided a more suitable and safe habitat. In 1971, a survey of reptiles and amphibians of the Peoria area was undertaken.

Ichthyology - - In 1933, this section was organized with Dr. C. G. Blake as leader. It existed until 1937. In 1946, it was reactivated with Mr. S. F. Woodworth as leader. Although the section was very active for a time, detailed information about its activities is scarce in the available reference material. The section was chiefly concerned with the breeding and living habits of tropical fish and aquarium management. In 1953, the members prepared a permanent aquarium exhibit in Glen Oak Park Pavilion. Mr. H. E. Smith was particularly active in this project and in building museum cases. After a few inactive years, the section joined with Herpetology as mentioned before. The emphasis was placed more on local aquafauna, including animal life other than fish. Field trips dominated the activities of the joint section, which flourished until 1964.

Conservation - - A Conservation Section existed from 1943 until about 1955, and then again in the early 1960's. Actually, the main

reason why this section never flourished was the fact that the other sections have always been concerned with ecology and conservation.

Four Short-Lived Sections - - Opaque Microscopy (1 later Metallurgy), Paleobotany, and Paleopathology were started with the other sections in 1932. There was active collecting for Paleobotany for a short time, but other sections took over its work and that of Paleopathology. Also the Metallurgy section activity decreased rapidly and soon it became extinct. A Photography Section was started in 1935, and it was active for some years. Although a section has not been started again, the other sections have made much use of photography for records and illustrations for publications and programs.

#### Present Membership

The total number of individual and family memberships is now about 300. There are two life members - Dr. C. D. Sneller and Mr. R. P. VanZandt. Seven persons have been elected honorary members - Miss Irene Cull, Miss Magdalen Hagemann, Mrs. J. A. Robinson, Mr. H. E. Schweitzer, Mrs. J. C. Tjaden, Dr. Dan Morse, and Mr. C. G. A. Rosen. Of the 55 charter members, the following are now still members of the Academy: Mr. H. O. Sensing, Miss Garma Kinhofer, Dr. C. D. Sneller, and Miss Louise White.

#### Conclusion

The people who have made the Peoria Academy of Science live for the past 42 years have worked toward its purposes, as quoted in the first paragraph of this history. They have also lived by the words spoken by Mr. C. G. A. Rosen, at that time Development Engineer of Caterpillar Tractor Company, at a meeting of the Academy of Science in March 1952, when he called for the formation of a "fellowship of affection, worship, and work" and "the bearing, by each of us, of his cross of responsibility to save civilization."

I am grateful to the many people who have helped me with collecting information for this history. I wish that it had been possible to give credit to all persons who worked hard during all these years to prepare the museum exhibits, to lead the sections, to guide the Academy or its sections through the difficult periods, and to work to make the Academy what it is today. I would have preferred to include also a listing of all publications by Academy members, and to name all the junior and student members who have later become professional scientists. Much more information could have been found in the reference materials, if time and publication space had been available. But perhaps this is an excellent task to be completed at the 50th anniversary of the Peoria Academy of Science.