

ACADEMY NEWS LETTER

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were made to realize anew that the common expression "as cold as a fish" is a very loose form of statement.

Emergency measures of various sorts were taken. With the electric pumps that circulate and aerate the water out of commission, air was supplied to the aquaria by an auxiliary gasoline-operated compressor. Wood, paper and coal were stuffed into the oil furnace, the normal operation of which is dependent on electric power. Employees went out into the park with axes to cut up fallen trees and branches to augment the supply of fuel. By such measures catastrophe was averted, and when the electric power was restored twenty-six hours later hardly a dozen fish had been lost.

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COINCIDENCE

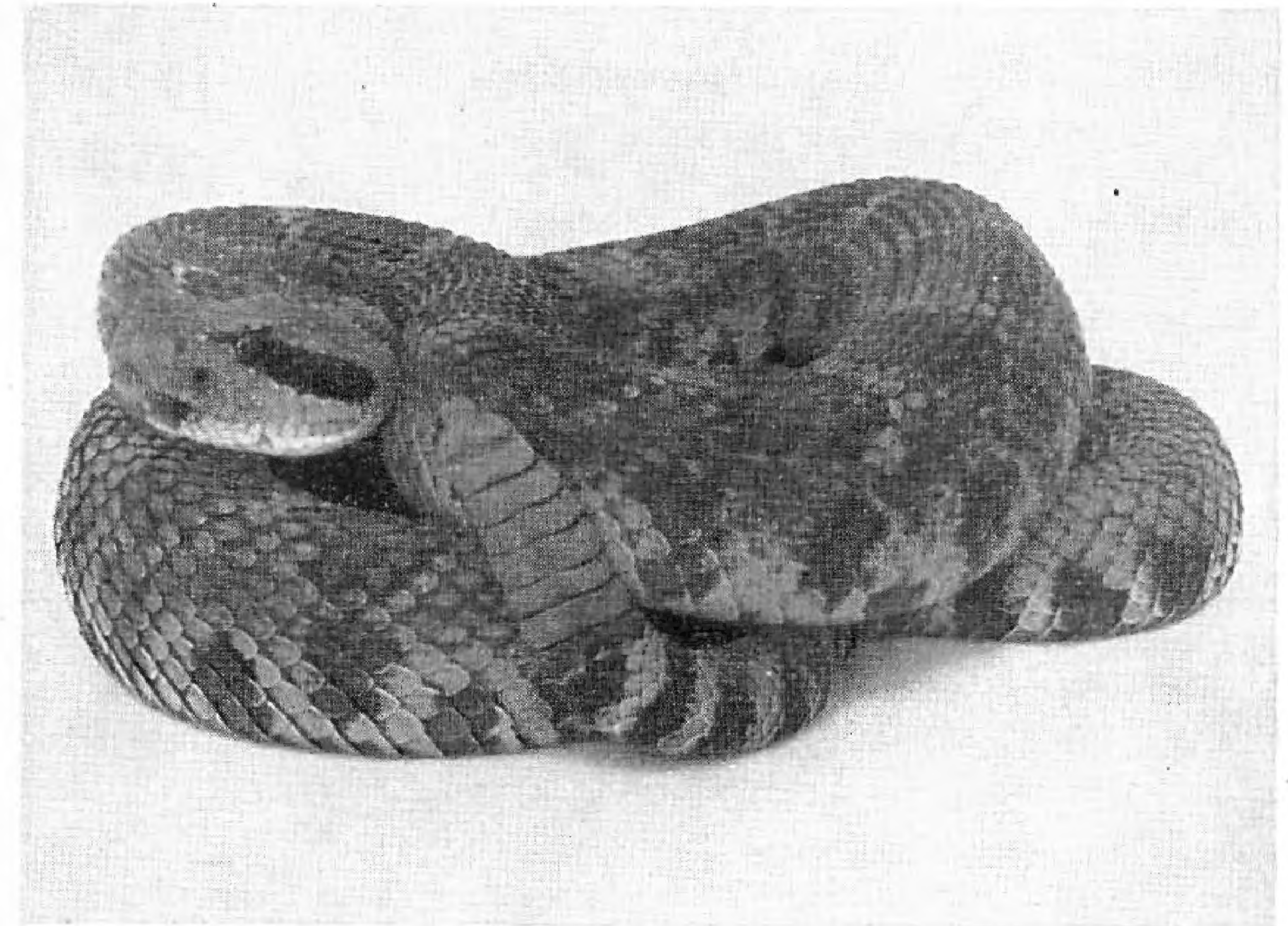
ON JANUARY 21, 1856, it is recorded in the minutes of the Academy that certain instruments were received from Dr. Henry Gibbons, including two thermometers, two hygrometers, one barometer, and one rain gauge.

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GIRLS PROVE GOOD SCOUTS

LEST THE foregoing statements regarding the alleged inclemency of our recent weather be regarded as giving aid and comfort to the enemy or to eastern newspaper columnists, we hasten to add that, on the day of the big storm, seventy-five Girl Scouts visited the Academy in a group for a conducted tour of the Museum. This was part of a program of museum education being sponsored jointly by Girl Scout leaders and the San Francisco Museum of Art, the M. H. de Young Memorial Museum, the California Palace of the Legion of Honor, and the California Academy of Sciences.

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STUDENT MEETING ON MARCH 6

THE NEXT meeting of student members of the Academy will be held on March 6. Announcement of the program will be made in the March NEWS LETTER.



"Don't Tread on Me!"

PACIFIC RATTLESNAKE

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February Announcement

THE ANNUAL MEETING of the California Academy of Sciences will be held in the Simson African Hall, East Wing of the Academy Buildings in Golden Gate Park, WEDNESDAY EVENING, February 17, 1943, at 8:00 o'clock, at which meeting the election of officers for the ensuing year will be announced, and the annual reports of the Academy will be presented.

All members and friends are cordially invited to attend the Annual Meeting. During the afternoon of February 17, 1943, between 2:00 and 4:30 o'clock the various research departments of the Academy will be open to those who desire to visit them.

Because of wartime restrictions on night driving in the Park, the Municipal Bus route entering the Park at Tenth Avenue and Fulton Street is the only approach to the Academy that can be used after sunset. The bus stops in front of the Museum.



APPLICATIONS FOR MEMBERSHIP

NOTICE is hereby given to all Corporate Members that the Council at its meeting on January 15, 1943, approved the applications of Professor Calvin Perry Stone and Mr. Robert Links, for MEMBERSHIP in the California Academy of Sciences. If no objection to the election of these applicants be received at the office of the Academy within two weeks after February 11, they will be considered elected.



WILBERT MCLEOD CHAPMAN JOINS ACADEMY STAFF

DR. WILBERT MCLEOD CHAPMAN, recently appointed curator of the Department of Ichthyology of the California Academy of Sciences, took up his duties at the Academy on January 4. Dr. Chapman has been associated with the International Fisheries Commission, the Washington State Fish and Game Commission, and the United States Fish and Wildlife Service. At the time of his appointment by the Academy he was serving as Director of the Washington State Shellfish Laboratory at Gig Harbor, Washington.

In addition to his duties as head of the Department of Ichthyology, Dr. Chapman will act as ichthyologist in the Steinhart Aquarium, which is one of the units of the California Academy of Sciences.

Dr. Chapman is the author of numerous papers on the life history, physiology, anatomy, and taxonomy of fishes.

REPTILE EXHIBIT

THE ACADEMY'S Department of Exhibits is busily at work on an exhibit of North American reptiles, with special emphasis on the various poisonous snakes. This display, however, will present no dangerous aspects as all of the forms shown will be made of latex, celluloid, plaster, or possibly wax. This will not in the least detract from their realistic appearance as Mr. Frank Tose and his staff in the Department of Exhibits have gone to great effort to import live specimens of species such as the eastern Copperhead and the Coral Snake from the southern United States so that exact duplication of the colors and patterns of the living individuals may be reproduced on the models. The artificial snakes are accurate in every detail, even to scale counts, being reproduced in any of the above-mentioned materials from plaster casts of the original reptiles themselves. Each will be shown against a background which is a replica of its normal environment.

In this way the public will be able to study in detail the structure and characters of the various species, both beneficial and poisonous, and furthermore witness some of the finest examples of protective coloration or camouflage found in nature.

This exhibit has been planned for some time as a feature of the Academy's program of exhibits on Public Health. It is being pushed to completion as rapidly as possible because of requests from official sources for material along these lines for the information of troops stationed in different parts of the United States.



FISH ARE ORPHANS OF THE STORM

JANUARY 21 was Stonewall Jackson's birthday, the moon was full, and President Roosevelt and Mr. Churchill were in conference at Casablanca. Residents of the San Francisco Bay region were, at the moment, less concerned about any of these events than about a forty-five mile gale that came whipping in from the Pacific, accompanied by a torrential downpour of rain. Persons approaching the Academy on that morning found their way both difficult and dangerous by reason of falling trees, snapping power lines and numberless new and unnamed lakes that had accumulated overnight.

By noon both the Museum and the Aquarium were without light or power, and worst of all, without heat. Curators, reminding themselves of frigid nights and days at alpine heights or in Alaska, took this in stride. Not so the tropical fishes in the Aquarium, who had no such memories on which to draw. Accustomed to a temperature of 76° F., they began to feel the pangs of winter when the water cooled to 72° and at length to 69°. On the other hand the trout, their private refrigeration system incapacitated by the failure of electric power, began to suffer from the heat at temperatures which for the tropical fish were positively frigid. Aquarium attendants