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## ACADEMY NEWS LETTER

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## RARE PINK MAGNOLIA BLOOMS

FOR THE first time anywhere in the United States, according to Mr. Eric Walther, assistant park superintendent, a pink magnolia of the species *Magnolia Campbelli* has bloomed in the Arboretum, not far from the Academy buildings in Golden Gate Park. This magnolia is a native of the Himalaya Mountains. The particular plant in question was imported in 1924, and has grown 16 years before coming into bloom. The flowers last about two weeks. Mr. Walther has kindly placed a specimen in the Academy's herbarium, as a record of the first blooming of this species in America.



A CORNER OF THE MEMBERS' ROOM

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GOLDEN GATE PARK · SAN FRANCISCO

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## *March Announcement*

THE REGULAR MARCH MEETING of the California Academy of Sciences will be held in the Assembly Room (third floor) of the San Francisco Public Library on Wednesday evening, March 6, 1940, at eight o'clock. The speaker of the evening will be Mr. Frederick H. Fowler, whose subject will be "The Life History of the Prairie Falcon, and Experiences in the training of Falcons and Hawks." The lecture will be illustrated with motion pictures and slides.

Falconry as a sport is of very ancient origin, having been practiced in China as early as 2000 B.C. and in Babylonia in 1700 B.C. After the period of the Norman Conquest in England, hawking, as it was then referred to, was a favorite pleasure of kings and nobles. In fact, the particular species of hawk carried indicated one's rank. Thus, royalty carried the gyrfalcon, an earl the peregrine falcon, a yeoman the goshawk, a priest the sparrow hawk, and a servant the kestrel.

The decline of this sport came about in the seventeenth century when the art of shooting on the wing came into prominence in sporting circles. An effort has been made, however, in recent years to revive this ancient sport, particularly in England, France, the Netherlands, and the United States. We have in North America country especially suitable for the pursuance of this sport because of the abundance of a number of varieties of hawks.

Mr. Fowler has spent many years studying the life history and habits of the prairie falcon which is one of the species most suitable in western North America for falconry. He has likewise devoted much time to the various methods of training these birds, thus contributing much toward reviving one of the world's historically oldest sports.

The public is cordially invited to hear Mr. Fowler.



### GIANT METEORITE TO BE ON DISPLAY

AT THE September meeting of the Academy, members and friends heard Dr. Earle G. Linsley of the Chabot Observatory give a lecture on the famous Goose Lake Meteorite, discovered in northern Modoc County, California, in 1938. This is the tenth and largest meteorite ever to be discovered

in this state, its weight exceeding the combined weights of all the other iron meteorites.

Through the courtesy of the officials of the Smithsonian Institution, this unusual celestial object will be on display at the Academy for the next several months after which it will be exhibited at the Golden Gate International Exposition. Three casts of the Goose Lake Meteorite are being made by the Department of Exhibits. One of these casts is to be placed in the Chabot Observatory in Oakland, another in the Griffith Observatory in Los Angeles, and the third to be kept permanently at the California Academy of Sciences.



### MODERN METHOD OF CASTING

WITH regard to the way in which casts of the Goose Lake Meteorite are being made, it is of interest to note that the most modern methods involving the use of Latex are being employed. This substance is being used more and more in exhibit work, particularly in casting. It is especially suitable for this work, being used cold, and capable of being diluted to the proper consistency with water. Upon coagulating, it becomes extremely tough, retains its shape, yet always remains flexible.



### MEMBERS' ROOM

THE ANNUAL MEETING, held February 21, 1940, was the occasion of the opening of the room set aside for members on the second floor of the Simson African Hall. It is hoped that members will make use of this room when entertaining guests at the Academy, or for reading, writing, or working on problems necessitating the use of the Academy's scientific facilities.

The furnishings have generously been supplied by friends. There are on exhibit here models of some of the proposed additions to the Academy's group of buildings which it is hoped may be completed in the relatively near future.



### CHANGING EXHIBIT OF FLOWERS

MEMBERS are urged to take advantage of the daily exhibit of flowers on display at the entrance to the North American Hall. Here, through the efforts of the Department of Botany, both cultivated and wild species are shown, with their common as well as scientific names. This month and next the arrival of spring wild flowers will offer an opportunity to become acquainted with many of the native species.