

used such non-scientific apparatus as a couple of her mother's washtubs to build her snow-maker. She built the unique equipment as an exhibit for the Rhode Island Science Fair. Naturally, the judges were "snowed under" and gave her first prize. Since then, Miss Roan has shown her home-made snow device to Vincent J. Schaefer, the General Electric Company scientist who first "made" snow. He suggests snow-making may become a hobby of many young scientists.

Miss Roan first made a refrigerator from a small wash tub placed inside a larger one, with rock salt and chopped

ice between the tubs. By breathing into the smaller tub when the temperature inside it had dropped below freezing, the young scientist produced a super-cooled cloud in which the water droplets remained liquid though the temperature was actually below freezing.

Then, dry-ice was sprinkled over the cloud, and snow crystals appeared.

Other equipment used by Miss Roan included a lamp inside the wash tub to illuminate the snow-making process, a packing case for the tubs and sawdust for insulation.

A little snow might look mighty nice one of these hot summer days.

*Science News Letter, July 12, 1947*

#### PALEONTOLOGY

## Bones of "Hand Animal"

Prehistoric animal that got its name from the prints made by a foot resembling human hand may now be studied for first time. Bones found in Arizona may be his.

► BONES of the "hand animal," the dinosaur's granddaddy which dominated the world from about 150 to 200 million years ago, may now be in the hands of scientists for the first time.

Chirotherium, which got his nickname because of the amazing resemblance of his hind foot to a human hand, left beautiful footprints all over the world in the mudflats of the lower triassic period of geological time.

But paleontologists have been a little uncertain of what he looked like because they could find no fossils of an animal which might have made such tracks.

Dr. Frank Peabody, of the University of California Museum of Paleontology, has been studying some well-preserved footprints of Chirotherium found in the dull red sandstone beds between Winslow and Flagstaff, Ariz. From these same beds he has recovered fragments of the pelvis, jaw, and skull of an animal which he believes is probably Chirotherium.

The footprints the "hand animal" left in Arizona are so perfect they could have been plaster-of-Paris impressions. So clear are the prints the phalanges of the foot can be counted. The print of the largest specimen is about 15 inches long.

By analyzing the prints and trackways—interval of step, size of print, gait—Dr. Peabody and others have reconstructed Chirotherium's appearance. Members of the Chirotherium group are estimated to have ranged in size from that of a modern chicken to a monster

standing six feet high or more at the hips. They had a tendency to be bipedal, with front feet about half the size of the hind feet.

"University of California field parties have already found bone fragments which almost certainly represent Chirotherium, but as yet positive proof in the form of a complete or nearly complete skeleton has eluded them," Dr. Peabody said.

*Science News Letter, July 12, 1947*

#### ORNITHOLOGY

## Sea-Faring Bird Goes To Philadelphia's Zoo

► A WINGED landlubber that strayed 300 miles out over the Gulf of Mexico is now safe in the Philadelphia Zoo.

The wandering bird, now safely in a cage at the zoo, is a smooth-billed ani, a native of South America and the West Indies. It is larger than a robin, with black plumage and large hump on its bill.

The bird flew aboard the S. S. Fredericksburg as the tanker ploughed through the Gulf of Mexico.

Other sea-going birds which have gone to the zoo in recent years include a snowy owl, picked up off the coast of Greenland, and an Indian crow that flew aboard a ship 100 miles off Hindustan.

*Science News Letter, July 12, 1947*

#### AGRONOMY

## Paper-Mill Waste Good For Liming Acid Soils

► FARMERS in northern Wisconsin have found that a paper mill waste—the greenish, ill-smelling sludge dumped by the mills after pulp is processed for paper—is rich in lime and just the thing for acid soils.

The mills are gladly cooperating with the farmers in making the sludge available to them, because getting rid of the waste has always been a serious problem. County agricultural agents, too, are cooperating by making available testing facilities to determine whether soils need lime.

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