

Films of The Week

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FARM FRESH TO YOU. 16mm, color, sound, 13½ min. Describes the high spoilage losses in the marketing of fresh fruits and vegetables, then presents evidence of the reduced spoilage and extension of shelf life obtained through use of nuclear energy for radiation pasteurization of food. Audience: food industries, high school students, general public. Free loan information from Audio-Visual Branch, Division of Public Information, Atomic Energy Commission, Washington, D.C. 20545.

THE FRESHER THE BETTER. 16mm, color, sound, 13½ min. Explains how radiation pasteurization will extend refrigerated shelf life of fresh seafoods up to three times that of unirradiated fresh foods. Audience: food industries, high school students, general public. Free loan information from Audio-Visual Branch, Division of Public Information, Atomic Energy Commission, Washington, D.C. 20545.

GLACIATION. 16mm, color, sound, 12 min. After discussion of the North American Ice Age, film demonstrates how glacial movement is produced, and then shows examples of actual glaciers and the effects of glaciers. Audience: junior and senior high school courses in General Science and Earth Science. Purchase \$140 or rental information from McGraw-Hill Text-Films, Department WP, 330 West 42nd St., New York, N.Y. 10036.

MAYA OF ANCIENT AND MODERN YUCATAN. 16mm, color, sound, 20 min. Using Yucatan civilization as an example, film emphasizes that while American Indian civilization did not develop to the same height, it followed same pattern as others and reached far higher stage than generally realized. Audience: high school, college. Purchase \$225 or rental \$10 from Bailey Films Inc., 6509 Longpre Avenue, Hollywood, Cal. 90028.

SEEING IS UNDERSTANDING. 16mm, color, sound, 30 min. Explores the expanding scientific world of optics to show its important roles in technology, research and in daily life. Audience: colleges and universities, senior high schools, adult groups. Free loan to audiences previous mentioned from Sterling Movies Inc., 43 West 61st St., New York, N.Y. 10023. (Produced for Carl Zeiss Inc.)

SHEAR-LEACH PROCESS FOR SPENT NUCLEAR FUELS. 16mm, color, sound, 11 min. Illustrates the development of a mechanical method for reprocessing spent stainless steel or zircaloy-2 clad power reactor fuels. Audience: Professional. Purchase \$29.45 from Calvin Productions Inc., 1105 Truman Road, Kansas City Mo. 64106 or free loan information from Audio-Visual Branch, Division of Public Information, Atomic Energy Commission, Washington, D.C. 20545.

THE SEARCH FOR EXTRA-TERRESTRIAL LIFE. 16mm, color, sound, 28½ min. Scientist from NASA Ames Research Center describes and shows the tools used in this research. National Aeronautics and Space Administration, Code FAD-2, Washington, D.C. 20546.

VERTEBRATE PALEONTOLOGY — Alfred Sherwood Romer—Univ. of Chicago Press, 3rd ed., 468 p., illus., \$10. Standard textbook and reference work for the student of vertebrate evolution, with sections relating to fishes, amphibians, older reptile assemblages and the more primitive mammal types radically revised and thorough taxonomic index expanded.

WORKBOOK IN GENERAL BOTANY—A Problem Approach to Plant Science through Observation and Discussion—Clarence E. Taft and others—Harper, 3rd ed., 216 p., illus., paper, \$4.95. Not a traditional laboratory manual, but intended to aid the student to organize and evaluate material independently and guide him in developing scientific attitudes.

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Nature Note

Przewalski's Horse

The one and only truly wild horse still left alive on this planet is *Equus przewalskii*, or Przewalski's horse. This marvelously untamed creature stands only about three or four feet high at the shoulder, and has a large somewhat ungainly head and a long tail. It has a dark mane that stands straight up, and, unlike other horses, it has no forelock or clump of hair hanging over its forehead. Przewalski's horse is somewhat yellowish colored on top of its body and almost white on the belly. In winter, its coat becomes longer and lighter in color.

Throughout the centuries, these horses have constantly refused to be tamed or even ridden. They remain shy and leery of mankind, and all efforts to domesticate the species have failed. Thousands of years ago, they once roamed throughout central and eastern Asia, but now there may be only 50 such horses wandering the vast plains, somewhere on either side of the Altai Mountains in Mongolia—and these may not be completely pure-blooded, for they may have become mixed with domestic animals that become feral. There are, however, some 150 "pure" individuals, all under special protection in zoos and game parks—still refusing riders, but well tended in captivity and increasing in numbers.

People once thought that all true wild horses had been hunted out of existence. But in 1881, a Polish nobleman, Count Przewalski, returned from a journey through Mongolia and reported seeing herds of unusual horses. In 1900 the Duke of Bedford commissioned the capture of some of these rare creatures and added them to his conservation game farm. Thus the horses began a slow return from the edge of destruction.

All horses are members of the *Perissodactyla* order, the odd-toed hoofed animals which once thrived in great numbers on earth. Now only three families still remain—at least nine others are extinct. The three families include the tapir and rhinoceros, which are slowly dwindling. The horse, once about the size of a spaniel dog, has been one of man's greatest helpers through the long years of evolution—useful as a source of food and a means of transportation and of work. Some people think its usefulness on earth is over, since it is now relegated to luxury services of racing and private sports.

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