

## BIOLOGY

## Young Folks Build Museum In North Carolina Town

UNIQUE among museums in the United States is one in Washington, N. C., which has been developed and is operated in regular, full-scale museum style by the young folks of the town, mostly those of high school age. The Washington Field Museum, as it is called, is a full-fledged member of the American Association of Museums, and its youthful curators are even now spending part of their spring vacation time in visits to its larger sister establishments conducted by grownups, to learn some new tricks of the craft for their own use.

It all started back in 1923, when a few high school students pooled their amateur collections of butterflies, snakes, etc., in a tent made of sacking. They named their embryo institution "The Bughouse Laboratory."

Instead of dying out presently, as such ventures are apt to do, the Bughouse Laboratory survived. It moved into a backyard kitchen, then into an empty store building. The Bughouse Laboratory became socially "the thing"; membership on its staff was more desirable than a bid to a fraternity.

Successive school generations graduated and grew up, and their younger brothers and sisters took their places. The "founding fathers", still young folks, began to have influence in the community. They secured a plot of land, which has been developed into a neat little park. A lumber company donated building materials, WPA labor was secured, and presently the Bughouse Laboratory moved into its new quarters, and added to its title the more formal style of Washington Field Museum.

There is a full-time director, Miss Mary Shelburne, but the rest of the curators are still boys and girls from school. They pursue all branches of research and collecting, with special emphasis on natural history and early Americana. A number of live animals have been donated, so the museum is now in the process of developing a zoo.

*Science News Letter, April 23, 1938*

Artificial rubies and sapphires are to be manufactured in Russia for jewelry, precision instruments, and watches.

Apple varieties change slowly, because the apple is a crop planted to last about half a century and a farmer is apt to be cautious about new varieties.



YOUTH'S HOUSE OF SCIENCE

*The Washington, N. C., Field Museum (more familiarly and affectionately called the Bughouse Museum), started as a hobby of a few high school students, has grown to be a real civic center.*

## PSYCHOLOGY

## World War, Downfall of Nazis Predicted in Princeton Poll

### Experts in Social Science and Business Forecasting File Prognostications for Checking as Time Passes

A WORLD war in which the United States will be involved, a Democratic victory in 1940, passing of the Nazi form of government within 20 years. These are some of the prophecies made by the Mother Shiptons of our own present day as described to the Eastern Branch of the American Psychological Association by Dr. Hadley Cantril of Princeton University.

The soothsayer and oracle may have become outmoded, but civilized man has not lost interest in the future, Dr. Cantril said. Today, he turns to confidential business guides or public opinion polls for predictions of what lies ahead.

As a test of both professional and lay prophets, Dr. Cantril has sent a questionnaire asking for 70 different predictions to several hundred persons including experts such as outstanding bankers, newspaper and magazine editors, lawyers, life-insurance executives, public relations counsels, communists, historians, economists, sociologists and social psychologists.

Their predictions have now been tucked away to await the coming of

events. One prophecy has already been tested by time, and that has fallen down. In April, 1937, when the survey was made, more than half (56 per cent.) the group thought the President's proposal for reorganization of the Supreme Court would pass Congress.

Historians, newspaper editors, and laymen agree in their predictions most closely with the total group judgments, Dr. Cantril found. Bankers and communists feel most sure of their hunches, even though their predictions are generally opposed.

Here are some of the events in store, if these predictions are fulfilled:

The industrial union, as contrasted with the craft union, will predominate in the United States within five years, predicted by nine-tenths.

There may be a strong national Farm-Labor party by 1944, predicted by 45 per cent.

Democrats will win in 1940, predicted by three-fourths.

All electric power in the United States will be publicly owned in about 20 years, predicted by 70 per cent.