



By DICK MILLER  
Highland School Librarian

THE FIRST MAMMALS, a Pictorial History of Sixty Million Years of Animal Life on the Earth from Dinosaurs to Domestic Animals. Written and illustrated by William E. Scheele, Director, Cleveland Museum of Natural History. World Publishing Co. \$4.95.

WHAT IS THE largest animal that ever lived? Has a complete extinct animal ever been found? How do scientists reconstruct an animal's shape from a fragment of bone? Were camels, elephants, and lions native to America? Why are mammal fossils more difficult to collect than those of dinosaurs? What did the map of the world look like 30 million years ago?

These are but a few of the questions answered by William Scheele in THE FIRST MAMMALS, the story of the animals that have dominated the

world for the past 60 million years. In tracing the history of this great family from its reptilian ancestor to the forms we know today, he deals with a dramatic subject often ignored in favor of the more spectacular and bizarre story of the dinosaurs.

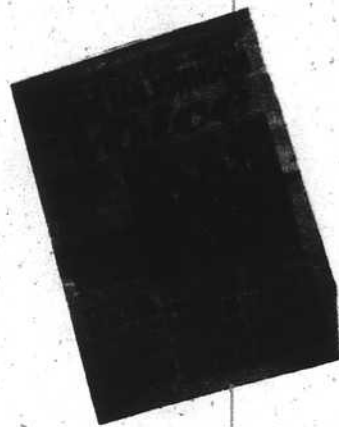


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But the mammals are fascinating in their own right, and their history is of direct interest to man. In both word and picture, Mr. Scheele describes the major steps in their development. A scientifically accurate text simply and readably told is matched by drawings of each animal as it looked alive, as well as skeletal drawings that clearly show evolutionary changes in the animal and its relatives. The development of the horse and the elephant, the differences between the stabbing and the biting cats are made clear to the reader in drawings both of the fossil evidence and of the scientists' reconstruction. Maps and charts help to round out the picture.

MR. SCHEELE'S museum experience makes him aware of how best to present his material to please both the scientist and the general audience and of the questions that most often come to mind regarding the subject. Here is a book that both children and adults will delight in.

William E. Scheele, Curator of the Cleveland Museum of Natural History, was born in Cleveland in 1920. He won scholarships in art and biology and was graduated from Western Reserve University in 1947. In November, 1939, he won the first annual Bird Art Contest, sponsored by the Cleveland Museum of Natural History, and the next day he was a member of their staff. In 1949, after army service had interrupted his career, he was appointed director of the museum; he is one of the youngest museum directors in the country. Mr. Scheele's outside activities include painting natural-history subjects (he has exhibited in many museums), gem cutting, and fossil hunting. All of his non-working hours are spent with his wife and three sons on their tree farm near Chardon, Ohio.



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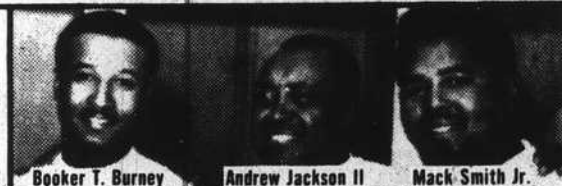
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