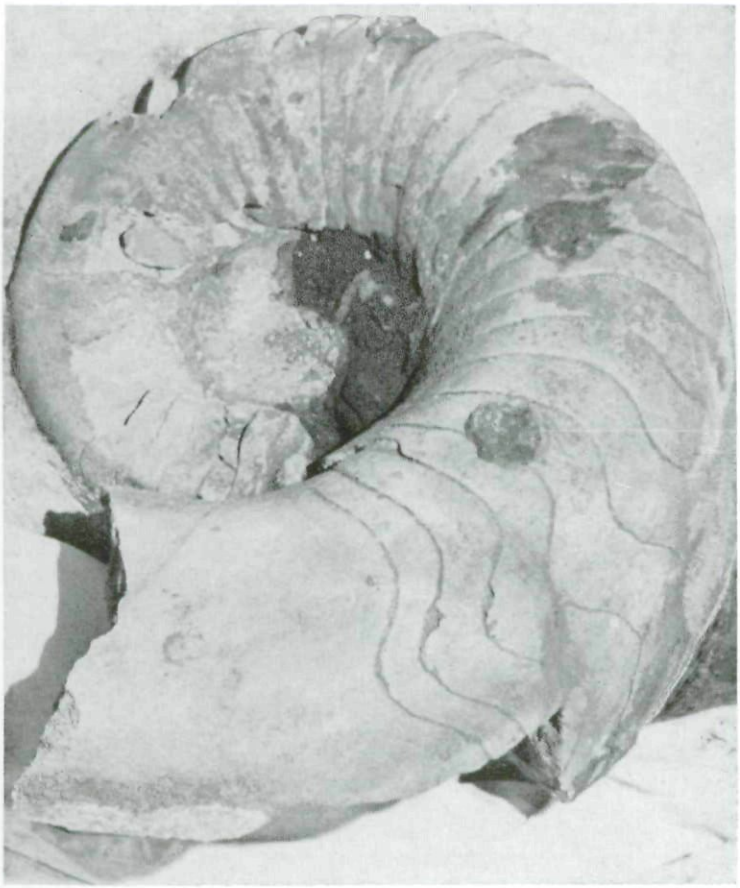
MUSEUM NOTES

A Nautiloid Cephalopod was found in a quarry one mile east of Winterset in early August and has been placed on display in the museum's geological exhibition section. The fossil (species *Titanoceras ponderosum*, Meek) is an inner shell mold of limestone with a thin limonite surface and is approximately twelve inches in diameter at its widest point. The fossil was embedded in a layer of white limestone above a black layer of shale, indicating this sea animal lived during



Register & Tribune Photo

Nautiloid Cephalopod.

the late Carboniferous period, at least 225 million years ago when broad, shallow seas covered Iowa and the adjoining states.

The Nautiloid Cephalopod is related to the octopus and squid and has no relationship to the snail as one might infer from the coiled shell. Though now extinct, the Nautiloids have a living relative in the chambered nautilus, a smaller marine animal found in the southwestern Pacific. Like his ancient ancesters, the nautilus lives inside a coiled shell divided into chambers by partitions. From time to time as the animal grows larger, it moves into a new chamber (secreted by its mantle) and seals off the old one. Tenticles near the mouth stretch out to seize food, are used in crawling along the ocean floor, and aid in swimming.

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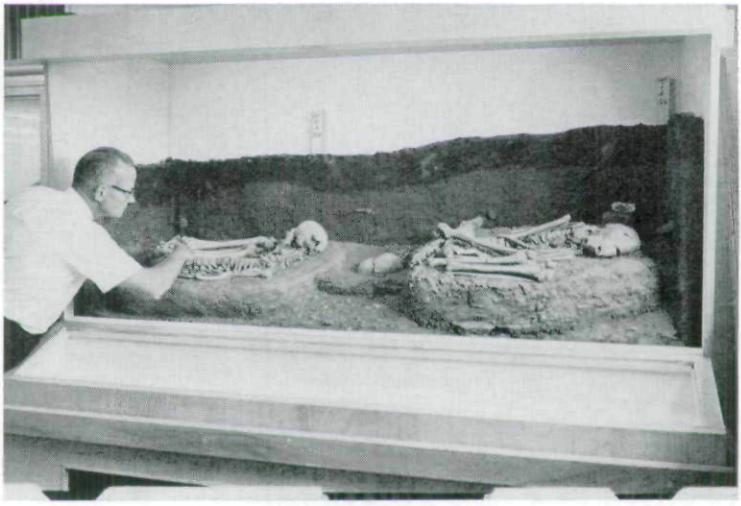
John Phipps, the new museum director, is shown at work on a recently completed case containing skeletons taken from the West Des Moines Indian burial grounds in July, 1963. The display portrays an actual archeological excavation designed to show the manner of burial and the various artifacts representative of the West Des Moines Indians, as well as to acquaint the observer with some methods and techniques of archeology.



At left is the flexed burial of a mother and child. In the center are the remains of two juveniles and at right, a male skeleton in flexed position. The specially constructed tray in front now contains artifacts discovered at the gravesite. These include potsherds, scrappers, rubbing stones, chert knives, beads made from sea shells, crosses made from clam shells*, and utility items made from animal teeth and bone fragments. Two restored chamberlain ware pots have been placed by the burials in the display case.

* See Otto Knauth, "The Mystery of the Crosses," *Annals of Iowa*, Vol. XXXVII, No. 2, Fall, 1963, pp. 81-91.

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Harrell L. Strimple, Department of Geology, State University of Iowa, and Richard Boyt, formerly of the Iowa Department of History and Archives, have discovered a new species of *Rhodocrinites* in the course of their studies on the LeGrand crinoid fossils. The new species of crinoid has been named *Rhodocrinites beanei* in honor of Dr. B. H. Beane of LeGrand, Iowa, discoverer of the famous LeGrand crinoid and starfish slabs and co-author of the only comprehensive study on these fascinating marine animals.

The 250 million year old crinoid and starfish slabs were purchased by the State Department of History and Archives where they are on permanent display. The principle speciman of *Rhodocrinites beanei,* freed from a segment of limestone, along with a paratype speciman which is part of a display slab, will also remain on permanent display at the museum.

For a complete description and comparative analysis of the new species, consult: Harrell L. Strimple and Richard Boyt, "*Rhodocrinites beanei,* New Species, from the Hampton Formation (Mississippian) of Iowa," *Oklahoma Geology Notes* (University of Oklahoma, Norman, Oklahoma), Vol. 25, No. 8, August, 1965.

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