

Clipping sent by dad and taken from the Provo daily Herald, <sup>dated</sup> May 5, 1955, Provo, Utah.

## Provoan Heads Expedition To Guatemala

James Bee brought back from a five-month, one-man expedition to Guatemala one of the largest specimen catches — for the time he spent in the field—ever recorded at the Kansas University Museum of Natural History. His average catch of 14 specimens per working day furthermore was accomplished under admittedly difficult conditions.

The one-specimen catch was made near the town of Languin, Guatemala, near the edge of the humid tropical jungle. In all, Bee's expedition produced 1,200 skins, 150 animal skeletons and 250 bird skeletons, for a total of 1,600 specimens. His best days produced catches in excess of 100 animals.

And although Bee did his hunting during the Guatemalan winter, from November to March, mosquito net and insect repellent rather than warm clothing and hunting boots were of prime importance in his equipment.

Bee's efforts contribute additional data to what already is known about the ranges and habitats of animal creatures of North and Central America. He is working on a research project, supported by non-State funds, which eventually will result in the publication of a comprehensive report.

By meticulously recording information about the circumstances of each catch, such as location, date and measurements of the specimen, researchers can derive a number of different sets of facts

from the information they get. Preservation of the skins and skeletons permits additional study in the laboratory by other researchers.

Bee was in Guatemala shortly after the recent governmental upheaval in that country. Among his numerous difficulties was the lack of his car for active productive field work for periods totaling 41 days. Once he was delayed eight days in Guatemala City while a railroad between there and Puerto Barros, on the Gulf of Mexico, was being cleared of a landslide; and he required five days to get the vehicle through customs. Travel within Guatemala was especially difficult because of the extreme tension due to the after-effects of the civil uprising. He was forced on a few occasions to leave the area where he was working. Even so, Bee collected specimens as far north as it is possible to go by car in that country. He even penetrated the wild, unexplored region of El Peten once by air, and collected specimens there.

Bee is a candidate for a Ph.D. at K. U. He, his wife and three children have lived in Lawrence for the past six years.

1233 Ohio St., Lawrence, Kansas  
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 May 5, 1955

- Photos of family (Kodachrome, 35 mm) taken this date.
- 550510-1 James Robert, Annette Christine, Mary Pauline Bee and kittens.
  - 550510-2 The above, each with their own kitten.
  - 550510-3 Mary on tricycle
  - 550510-4 " "
  - 550510-5 " "
  - 550510-6 Annette P. Bee
  - 550510-7 " " "