

I was assigned the responsibility of forshortening the time for rebuilding and assembling the north American Panorama after the complete dismantling of the exhibit when the new walls were furred from the old stone walls. my active involvement constituted approximately 90 per cent of the reconstruction, exclusive of the background painting.

The new furred walls were necessary because the original paintings on the plaster coated surfaces on the old stone walls of the building were staining and cracking from bleeding of moisture from outside atmosphere.

Preparatory to the construction of the new furred walls, which was to provide an air space between the old stone wall and the new furred wall on which the new background of the panorama was to be painted by Sam Dickinson, I removed all the mammals from the panorama and placed them in the exhibit viewing area. (now closed to the public), where they were repaired, cleaned and wrapped to protect them from dust.

During the construction of the new walls, the scaffolding used by construction workers was anchored to the cement floor some 2'-3' below the false floor of the panorama. For these areas I replaced and refinished the false floor and also modified the floor to fit the needs of the new exhibits. Remodeling of the false floor required extensive wood forming and great amounts of plaster surfacing, all performed in an enclosed area of ancient dust + airborne plaster.

Some background ledges and cliffs were built or modified including structures in the Kansas deciduous forest exhibit, the cliffs supporting the mt. sheep and mt. goats, the cliffs of the Dall sheep and the cliffs of the Arctic beyond the polar bear section of the exhibit. The sand dunes in the desert, roche moutonnée in the moose exhibit, the ground polygons of the arctic tundra and other areas were modified from the floor of the exhibit. The pond remained without much modification except for waterproofing the stream and building the beaver house.

After the floor was finished I returned all the mammal specimens to the panorama and affixed them in place according to the new arrangement.