

of over 200 North American mammals mounted and placed in their natural surroundings. In December of 1939 Mr. Dickenson began painting the background for the panorama. After completion 13 months later, it covered 11,000 square feet at the cost of between \$1,700 and \$2,000. The museum reopened June of 1941. Between 1945 and 1950 two new exhibits, the Tropics and Desert, were initiated. In early 1950 the walls directly associated with the original stone walls of the buildings were furred out from the stone walls in order to provide an open space for circulation of air. By about 1956 the panorama was again open to the public. The reconstruction of the panorama (exclusive of the painting) was accomplished by James W. Bee (at least 90 per cent).

The panorama is one of the largest, if in fact the largest continuous exhibit of its kind in the world consisting of a series of biomes and ecotones. Its complex painted background has been praised by many for its dimensional effects, and according to many art critics is unsurpassed.

The Lawrence Journal World (3-23-40) in reporting on the first painting of the background says: "Although the scenes are just paint on flat wall, bushes and trees seem to live in the pictures. A student in the school of fine arts recently moved to within 10 feet of the wall painting before he would believe that it was not a live bush he was seeing. Visitors who have watched the work of renovating the museum have been amazed at the wall decorations, so realistically has Dickenson painted the scenes."

Mr. Dickenson died July 18, 1973 at the age of 88 yrs.

The Lawrence Journal World of July 19, 1973 carried the following obituary. Dickenson Services. Groveside funeral services for Samuel T. Dickenson, 88, of the Samaritan Lodge, 205 W. Mich., will be at 10:30 A.M. Friday at Oak Hill Cemetery with the Rev. Paul Durham in charge.

Mr. Dickenson, who died Wednesday at Lawrence Memorial Hospital, was born Sept. 24, 1884, in Russell County, Virginia. He was a staff artist at Kansas University and had painted the nature scenes at the Museum of Natural History.

He is survived by a sister, Miss Ina Dickenson, of the Samaritan Lodge. Friends may call until 9:30 A.M. Friday at the Warren mortuary.