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George Young and Al Robinson talking to "Trapper Joe Chambers

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Public Information Office
FIRST ARCTIC TEST DETACHMENT
Fort Churchill, Manitoba, Canada
August 22, 1956

FORT CHURCHILL, Manitoba, Canada -- Three staff members of the Museum of Natural History of the University of Kansas who spent eight days at Fort Churchill, seeking a definite type of tundra moss and other Arctic vegetation, completed their job and returned to the United States, August 16.

The three--George Young, James Bee and Alfred Robinson--have been working on their display "Panorama of North-American Mammals" since 1950. They have been to Central America, to the high plains of the central United States, to the southwestern desert and into the pine forests collecting plants. trees and vegetation.

Their 570-foot display reflects their efforts to show the animals in natural habitat. It is one continuous area of the museum--not a series of small "picture windows." Beginning with the animals of the Arctic--walrus, seal, polar bear, caribou--the display, at some places, 100-feet in depth--runs through the mammals of the woods, the plains, the desert and the tropics.

During their stay at Fort Churchill, with the help of US Army personnel, the three men collected about 100 square feet of moss and lichens which were carefully boxed and sent back to the museum. The more perishible plants were preserved in formalin and sent to Kansas to be reproduced in plastic. It is thought that as many as 100,000 such leaves will be made for this display on the Arctic alone.

Some research was carried on during the trip also. Small Arctic mamels were collected and studies were made to determine the relationship between the animal and plant life.

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