AN OPEN HOUSE AND HERPETOLOGICAL MEETING AT U.S. NATIONAL MUSEUM

INVITATION:

It is our great pleasure to be able to invite you and your (VHS) membership to join us on December 31, 1966. (Saturday) when we will hold an open house in the Division of Reptiles and Amphibians, US National Museum, for the Herpetologists League and assembled (state) herpetological societies. During the afternoon of that day, we will have an opportunity for presentation of information and notes, as we did at the first open house at the end of last year. Dr.Carl Gans, University of Buffalo, will present a film showing some of the work that has been done during recent years in his laboratory on functional anatomy, including high-speed photography of the bite of poisonous snakes. We hope, also, to be able to have a showing of the color photography by Dr. Nathan Cohen during the afternoon.

We are holding this open house this year in order to permit the members of the Herpetologists League to visit the Museum, and also to meet with the enthusiastic members of the (state) herpetological societies. It would be hoped that some of the members of VHS would be interested in coming a day or two early to participate in some of the meetings of the League, which has a program scheduled for the 29th and 30th of December, at the meetings of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS).

Cordially,

Division of Reptiles and Amphibians, U.S.National Museum, Tenth & Constitution NW Washington, D.C. 20560 (Dr.) Doris M. Cochran (Dr.) James A. Peters

(dated) September 28, 1966

SUCCESSFUL, INTERESTING, VHS STATEWIDE MEETING, FALL '66

An enthusiastic group from many areas of the state, and a few hardy out-of-staters, made the trip to Camp Brady Saunders for the statewide meeting, October 15 and 16, 1966. We are most indebted to those who presented illustrated talks. Among these were: John H. McLaughlin, Chief Law Enforcement Division, State Commission of Game and Inland Fisheries, Richmond; R.E. Goetz of Hampton, Va., who has been

active in his area on TV-radio and in the schools talking on reptiles; Wally Evans of Richmond; Gerald C: Schaefer, Biology Professor, University of Richmond; Naturalist Les Southall of Petersburg, Va.; Robert Weems, Randolph-Macon College student, who spoke on fossil turtles from Miocene strata along the Potomac; and Dr. A.J. Bullard a North Carolina Dentist who gave an excellent presentation on the various tree frogs of the region.

SHIPPING SMALL AMPHIBIANS

by Jeff Richmond, VHS Ashland, Virginia

At the past VHS meeting, a question arose concerning how to go about shipping small amphibians. It is hoped that the following suggestions will help to get that prize salamander from point "A" to point "B" in good shape, or to prevent an extremely active frog from disrupting the mail carrier's daily appointed rounds.

Shipping containers are simple, cheap, and as near as your kitchen. Ordinary plastic refrigerator containers used to package prepared salads, cottage cheese, or left-over food, are ideal. The fitted snap-on lid is sufficient. Even a tin can with a plastic or fabric taped across the top been used. In any case, the container should be well ventilated. Holes may be made with an icepick or some similar instrument. Since amphibians will dry out quickly -if placed in a dry environment -some provision must be made maintaining a moist surrounding. Sphagnum moss is ideal for this. The moss holds moisture well. is easy to handle and is generally easier on the animal. However, moist paper towels are sufficient in most cases. The toweling must be crumpled in the container. The container should then be placed inside a stout cardboard box and well padded. Either excelsior or

newspapers are well suited to the purpose. Glass containers may be used for the specimens, if their tops are perforated. Especially good padding in the cardboard box is essential. The advantage of a non-breakable container is obvious. The cardboard box, also ventilated well, should be tightly sealed to prevent accidental opening. good tape will do. It is important that the box be marked as to the nature of its contents. labels as: PERISHABLE, SCIENTIFIC MATERIALS; LIVING MATERIALS, AVOID EXTREMES OF HEAT OR COLD; HANDLE WITH CARE, BIOLOGICAL SPECIMENS, etc., should be applied.

For short distances, Parcel Post is sufficient. The sender may request Special Handling at a small additional fee. Specimens that must be shipped over long distance should be sent by Air Parcel Post or AIR FREIGHT. If well packed, specimens will survive for greater periods. For more valuable specimens, shorten the shipping time to reduce the chances of mishap.

NOTICE: Fellow VHS members:
I am presently engaged in a study
of the taxonomy of the Cricket
Frog (Acris). I need information
concerning any aspect of this genus, as well as specimens for this
study. All assistance is welcome.

Cricket Frogs (Acris) This frog is about one inch to one and a quarter inches in length. It is generally dark green or brown with some suggestion of a stripe down its back of a lighter green or brown. The most consistent marking is a small triangle on the head between the eyes. The triangle points to the rear of the animal. This frog is a non-treeclimbing frog. It is common along the edges of ponds, lakes, rivers or streams, almost all year around. Any specimens will be ap-

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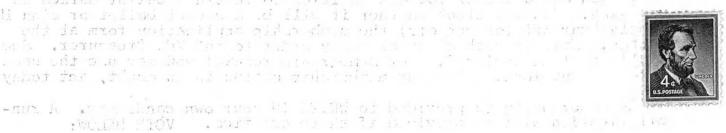
An opportunity is provided to WRITE IN your own candidate. off election will be provided if there are ties. VOTE BELOW:

OFFICE:	(X)	VHS NOMINEE WRITE IN VOTE: (X)
PRESIDENT	(Dr. Harry G.M. Jopson (Vertebrate Zoologist, Bridgewater College, Va.)
SECRETARY	()	Franklin J. Tobey, Jr. (public information officer, bio-medical programs, US AEC)
TREASURER	()	Dr. Phoebe H. Knipling (Science Supervisor, Arling- ton, Va., County High Schools)
CO-CHAIRME	IN	(FC	R NEXT YEAR'S STATEWIDE IN WILLIAMSBURG, VA. AREA)
	()	James R. Martin, Norfolk, Va. R. Ed Goetz, Hampton, Va. O. King Goodwin, Newport News
VHS REGION	IAL I	REF	RESENTATIVES: (Approval only) () WRITE-INS
VALLEY TIDEWAT PIEDMON HIGHLAN	T		Robert P. Kern, Winchester, Va. R. Ed Goetz, Hampton, Va. Robert J. Gagnon, Mechanicsville, Va. Costello M. Craig, Bedford, Va., and R. Wayne Hodges, Pulaski, Va.
BOARD OF D	IREC	CTO	RS (BIOLOGISTS AND ZOOLOGISTS FROM COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES, () VIRGINIA SECONDARY SCHOOLS) (APPROVAL ONLY)

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> Franklin J. Tobey, Jr. 4706 Tallahassee Avenue Rockville, Maryland 20853

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Thank you, VHS

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