

• Hobby Department

AT LEAST one member of the American Oil Chemists' Society is not worrying about what to do with his retirement leisure. That is Dale V. Stingley, of the food research department, Armour and Company, Chicago, Ill. His project in five or 10 years will be to write a book on shells, of which he has a collection numbering 20,000. He is more than a student of shells or conchologist, he is a malachologist, interested in mollusca, the organisms which live within shells.

In 1954 the Chicago Tribune pictured some of the fascinating shells Mr. Stingley has collected and described his retirement undertaking as "compounded of beauty, research, foreign correspondence, and travel."

The beauty is self-evident from the shells, which bear such descriptive names as sun dial, telescope, elephant tusk, tiger cowrie, lion's paw, kitten's paw, razor clam, window pane, hammer oyster, watering pot, and angel wings. Variety is rampant in design, pattern, and shape.

Research for his book will be a pleasure for Mr. Stingley for his profession has taught him the techniques and his enthusiasm for his hobby has given him fascinating information about the application of shell design to architecture, fashion, economics, and religion.

Correspondence links Mr. Stingley with fellow shell and mollusk students the world over, with a concomitant exchange of specimens and books.

As for travel, Mr. Stingley has collected on the Atlantic Coast from Massachusetts to Florida, around the Gulf Coast to Texas, on the Pacific Coast from the Mexican state of Sinaloa to Oregon, including the Gulf of California. He has also done his diving in the Bahamas, Puerto Rico, and the British Leeward Islands in the Caribbean.



The photograph shows him examining a tray of shells from Mazatlan, Mexico, which he collected in 1957. The large shells on the cabinet above his head were taken in the Bahamas in 1958.

His A.O.C.S. activities include membership on the Smalley Committee since 1956 and Nominating Committee in 1959. He was secretary of the North Central Section of the Society in 1956-57; vice president in 1957-58; and president in 1958-59.

So when he does retire, he can look back on a full life as a chemist and collector and he can look ahead to great fun as a writer and collector. The collection will provide the continuity between his two worlds.

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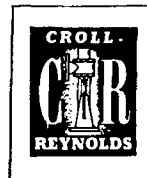
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