
When Hollywood filmmakers wanted to blow up the side of Sunset Mountain (now Sunset Crater) as part of an avalanche scene in a movie, Flagstaff townspeople objected. Fortunately, the U.S. Forest Service was able to prevent dynamiting due to the land's inclusion in the Coconino National Forest. Discussion soon swelled in support of designating the crater as a national monument. Dr. Colton and Dr. Charles Park, a University of Arizona geology student who worked at MNA, made a careful study of the crater soon after the suggestion of its being a national monument. They wrote a concise report of all the interesting features of the crater and its lava flows and, with the U.S. Forest Service, sent a letter and the report to the National Park Service in Washington, D.C. After a relatively short period, Sunset Crater received national monument status.

Later, Major Brady and an Australian friend were hiking near Sunset Crater and noticed potsherds entangled in upturned tree roots. Lyndon Hargrave and his crew then surveyed the area for pre-eruption settlement evidence and several excellent sites were found and subsequently excavated. This research and involvement in the preservation of Sunset Crater boosted MNA in the eyes of the Flagstaff community.

call for continued monitoring of endangered plants and species, and developing a Biodiversity Institute of the Colorado Plateau.

Botany

The Coltons began collecting area plants and trees in the 1920s, and area teachers would sporadically volunteer to help with the collections, but it was 1935 before the first Curator of Botany, Alfred F. Whiting, was brought on staff. He remained with the Museum until 1943 and, in that time, trebled the collection, published his important *Ethnobotany of the Hopi*, and studied Havasupai ethnobotany. He returned to MNA in 1975 after retirement and continued his studies in biology and anthropology.

COLLECTIONS

The botany collections of 57,500 specimens include the Walter B. McDougall Herbarium of over 29,000 specimens in a study collection of plants from northern Arizona. The Herbarium is especially strong in Grand Canyon plants and endangered species.

Zoology

Dr. Colton concentrated more on archaeology after his move to Arizona than on zoology. MNA zoology was pioneered by Lyndon Hargrave who built the Museum's collection in vertebrate zoology, with a special emphasis on ornithology. He is credited with developing the archaeo-ornithology field.

COLLECTIONS

The Zoology collections contain 15,500 specimens of southwestern fish, reptiles, birds, and mammals. Lyndon Hargrave's collection focuses on southwestern bird osteology. Insects of the Grand Canyon make up a 20,000-specimen collection.

GEOLOGY

Lionel "Major" Brady joined MNA at its founding in the late '20s as expert archaeologist, but then became Curator of Geology in 1930, holding that