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Nota di contenuto

Part I. Introduction. Chapter 1: Fossil Hunting in the Badlands of South Dakota -- Chapter 2: Harold Rollin Wanless and Researching the Badlands -- Part II. 1920 Expedition. Chapter 3: June 20 to June 26 - Chicago to Scenic -- Chapter 4: June 27 to June 29 - Freight Train to Interior -- Chapter 5: June 30 to July 3 - Collecting Fossil History at Cedar Pass and the Wall -- Chapter 6: July 4 to July 8 - White River and the Rain -- Chapter 7: July 9 to July 13 - Back to Scenic and Hart Table -- Chapter 8: July 14 to July 17: Finding the Giant Pig -- Chapter 9: July 18 to July 22 - Farmers, Fossils and Heat -- Chapter 10: July 23 to July 26 - Jerks and Gentlemen -- Chapter 11: July 27 to July 29 - The Past = The Key to the Present -- Chapter 12: July 30 - Nearly Trapped on Sheep Mountain -- Chapter 13: July 31 to August 3 - Collecting in Bear Creek Pocket -- Chapter 14: August 4 to 5 - Research Back up Sheep Mountain -- Chapter 15: August 7 to 9 - Wild Stallions & Broken Springs -- Chapter 16: August 10 to 12 - Golf Ball Hail and Fossil Dogs -- Chapter 17: August 13 to 15 - Sabre-Tooth Tigers -- Chapter 18: August 16 to 18 - Final photos and samples -- Chapter 19: August 19 to 22 - Shipping and Heading Home -- Part III – 1921 and 1922 Expeditions to the Badlands. Chapter 20: Summer 1921 Tackling the West in the Rachael Jane -- Chapter 21: Summer 1922 Completing an Ancient Story -- Part IV – Harold Rollin Wanless and the Badlands after the 1920s. Chapter 22: Harold's Life and Science after 1922.

Sommario/riassunto

Through the original writings and photography of renowned geologist Harold Rollin Wanless, this book paints a thorough and engaging picture of the White River Badlands' landscape, geology, biology, pioneer settlers, and how life was lived 100 years ago in a harsh, challenging, remote setting. In the summer of 1920, Harold Rollin Wanless, fresh from an undergraduate geology degree at Princeton, spent the first of three summers in the Badlands of South Dakota camping, hiking, and collecting fossil vertebrate skulls. Harold produced a fascinating and thorough diary and report, illustrated with over 100 image plates, in which he explains the geology, biology, and climate of this famous area. Wanless became deeply involved with and vividly records the life, hopes, trials and character of the new homesteading pioneers of the area, and the people and livelihoods he encountered are reflected in the diary as well. This is an engaging look at the history, environment, people and geological character of a unique portion of the American West. Combining a first-hand look at the White River Badlands and its people a century ago with the fossil history contained in its Cenozoic sediments gives a well-rounded historical presentation. This diary was found, compiled, and edited by Drs. Harold Rogers Wanless (the diarist's son and an accomplished geologist himself) and Emmett Evanoff. In the introductory and concluding chapters of this book, they provide a broader perspective of Harold Rollin Wanless's life and his significant achievements beyond the Badlands venture described here. In addition, this narrative - written "only" a century ago - provides a stark contrast with how we travel, communicate, conduct research and survive today, yet shows that human curiosity and kindnesses have not changed.