A & I Building Will Have Victorian-Era Look for '76
By Kathryn Lindeman
Visitors to the Arts and Industries Building as well as employees have been aware of pounding and scraping noises in the building for more than a year, and have often been curious to know what is taking place behind canvas curtains and in fenced-off areas.

President Garfield on March 4, 1881.
Final cost of the building amounted to $315,400, though in subsequent years extensive roof repairs were necessary and galleries and mezzanines were added to form additional floor space.

Plans for restoring the A & I Building as closely as practical to its original configuration include the placing of encaustic tiles in the rotunda area. Encaustic tiles have inlaid designs fused into the tile by heat.

"The original encaustic tiles, when they became worn, were discarded," Mr. Perrot noted. "As encaustic tiles have not been manufactured since the 1930s, this alone should prove to be a challenging task."

In the center of the rotunda the installation of a fountain is also planned—probably a cast iron one from the 1870-1880 era.

Paint samples from the 1880-1890s found in the Warshaw Collection of Business Americana at the National Museum of History and Technology are being used to find wall colors appropriate for the use of the building and the period of its construction.

The original west entrance will again be opened as a main entrance, eventually leading outside into a Victorian garden on the west side of the building. The east entrance will be refurbished, the south entrance will be opened for use as an emergency exit, and a public elevator will be installed in the northeast court.

The general contractor retained for the construction work in the building is Glyn-Walsh Construction, Inc.

The design for the project was developed by James M. Murphy, chief; William L. Thomas, architect, and staff members of the Smithsonian's Engineering and Design Branch of the Office of Facilities Planning and Engineering Services, which formerly was the Engineering and Construction Division of the Buildings Management Department.

(Continued on page 2.)

Ripley to Head WWF-U.S. Board

Secretary Ripley has been elected chairman of the board of World Wildlife Fund-U.S. Appeal.

He succeeds Ambassador Francis L. Kellogg, who retains his position as President of WWF-U.S. Mr. Ripley was one of the founders of the U.S. affiliate of World Wildlife Fund and currently serves on the international board as well.

The Fund is an international conservation organization which since 1961 has financed more than $14.6 million for ecological research and conservation projects to save endangered wildlife and natural areas. It has worked closely with the Smithsonian in the field of ecological research, jointly sponsoring the current study of the ecology of the tiger in Nepal and a symposium on habitat improvement held last April. WWF-U.S. has also lent its financial support to and collaborated in conservation efforts with the International Council for Bird Preservation, of which Mr. Ripley is president.

A view of the east exhibit hall in the Arts and Industries Building, taken in the 1880s, shows original wall stenciling above the arches in the hall and beyond in the rotunda. Stencils like these will once again be applied to the A&I walls during the renovation. Some items on display then were the "John Bull" engine (extreme right foreground), presently on exhibit in the National Museum of History and Technology; farm implements; carts, and many others.

Grafton Tyler Brown, San Francisco artist and lithographer, from "Blacks in the Westward Movement," an exhibition at the Anacostia Neighborhood Museum.

Anacostia Exhibit Features Blacks in Frontier History
By Johnnie Douthit

The Smithsonian's Anacostia Neighborhood Museum opened its first Bicentennial exhibition, "Blacks and the Western Movement," on February 9.

The opening celebrated the beginning of Black History Week. The show will continue through April 7.

Using photographs, silk screens, text and artifacts, the exhibition tells the story of the blacks who explored, conquered and settled the western portion of America. Contrary to the views of many historians, blacks played an active and vital role in the settlement of the West. In the 16th century blacks were with the Spanish explorers of the Southwest and were among the first settlers in California.

They founded many towns in other western states, such as Kansas, Oklahoma, Nebraska and Washington. Eight thousand of the 35,000 men who rode the cattle trails were black. Four army units, the 9th and 10th Cavaleries, and the 24th and 25th Infantries, protected the settlers and land of America's frontier. These black men were government agents and marshals, as well as criminals. Many black adventurers and homesteaders flocked to the frontier and although discrimination and injustice followed them, many were able to settle and build successful lives.

John R. Kinard, Director of the Anacostia Neighborhood Museum, stated, "This exhibition represents a hallmark of research, skill, design, and creativity. It clearly establishes the Anacostia Neighborhood Museum as a forerunner in the production of exhibitions that tell a more complete story about many of the important epochs of American history."

"Blacks have struggled during difficult times to, in the word of the Founding Fathers, 'establish justice, insure domestic tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general welfare, and secure the blessings of liberty for all people,' for all times, wherever we found ourselves. Our contributions have been, and continue to be, parallel at least to the best efforts of others who also seek justice and peace.

"In addition, we have moved across great stretches of water and land to establish cities and towns on this continent with clear and precise vision, struggling to create a place where people can live together in peace."

"This exhibition has been created to spotlight the struggle, the achievements, and the compelling desire that we continue to explore and establish." The Museum has produced six copies of the exhibition to travel throughout the country in celebration of the Bicentennial. The Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibitions Service will handle the bookings and copies will be on display at the Washington Gas Light Company from February 10 to February 28. The company is joining the Museum in the opening of the show at the Museum.

TV Special

One of the most popular exhibits at the Smithsonian Institution, the Hope Diamond, will be the basis of the third Smithsonian special in the current television series.

"The Legendary Curse of the Hope Diamond" will be telecast on Thursday, March 27, from 10 to 11 p.m., on the CBS TV network. This "documentary" is drawn from "Father Struck It Rich," the autobiography of Iva­ly Walsh McLean, who owned the Hope Diamond for more than 35 years until 1947. The hour-long presentation is produced by the David L. Wolper Organization for the DuPont Cablecast of Television.

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Upward Mobility Committee Sets Objectives for 1975

By Joanna Scherer and Edith Marti

The Upward Mobility Committee of the Smithsonian Women's Council has decided on its objectives for the year. Any Smithsonian employee interested in helping the committee pursue its goals is welcome. Contact Joanna Scherer, Chairman, ext. 5091, for time and meeting place.

The committee plans to accumulate data on Smithsonian personnel activities for several years. The programs are presently concerned with GS or WG positions 2 through 7 and do not include career-ladder mobility, which is for grade levels GS-7 and up. The committee hopes to provide positions to museums and organizations where there is a need to fill positions but do not want to give up their present slots. Financing of all programs must come from each museum or division and represents a three-year commitment for each slot. OEO is also planning to hire an administrator for the UM program, thus broadening the amount of assistance they can offer each museum in its programs.

Signs of Progress

One very happy recipient of an UM position is the Museum of Natural History's Dr. Francis Chirlin, who has served the Institution well for 41 years. His service began in 1935 as a custodial laborer, but he continues to serve the Institution in the position of Analyst. His association with Alaska dates to 1955 when he served as biologist with the Arctic Health Project of the National Science Foundation. Before departing for Alaska, Dr. Williamson served as principal investigator on a project to enable America's arctic heritage to become more widely known and appreciated. The project, entitled "Visual Documentation of American Art: The Nation's Capital," will be funded by $50,000 grant from NEH and will develop a complete visual record of a select number of buildings in the nation's capital. The project will eventually become the core of a much larger central archive of visual documentation of all aspects of American art including painting, sculpture, and folk art.

Chirlin Joins Staff As CBCES Analyst

Gary R. Chirlin has joined the staff of the Chesapeake Bay Center for Environmental Studies as Biological Analyst. Under the direction of Dr. David L. Correll, Director for the Temperate Zone of the Smithsonian's Environmental Sciences Program, Mr. Chirlin is preparing mathematical models for the Center's study of the Rhode River watershed ecosystem. A native of Kenmore, N.Y., Mr. Chirlin holds a master's degree from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in civil engineering with specialization in water resources. His Bachelor of Science degree is also from MIT.

Dr. Williamson Named to Post In Alaska Cabinet

The Director of the Smithsonian's National Museum of History and Technology, Dr. William L. Scherer, has been appointed Commissioner of Health and Social Services by Alaska Governor Jay Hammond. Dr. Williamson, 48, has been granted a leave of absence from the Center, which he has headed since 1968.

Dr. Williamson said the Alaska cabinet post involves responsibility for a $79 million annual budget, amounting to more than 20 per cent of the state appropriation. His department includes about 15,000 employees.

Dr. Williamson earned his doctorate of science at the Johns Hopkins School of Hygiene and Public Health where he specialized in the ecology of disease. He attended George Washington University, San Diego State College, and the University of California at Berkeley.

Dr. Williamson attended the University of Maryland. He has published a number of scientific papers and articles.

He is a former editor of The Condor, the journal of the Cooper Ornithological Society, and BioScience.

During Dr. Williamson's absence J. Kevin Sullivan will be Acting Director of the Center. On January 30 Dr. Williamson received a letter from Acting Director Dr. W. S. Wilson, Assistant Secretary for Science at the Smithsonian, the Secretary's Medal Award for Exceptional Service. The award carries a $1,000 cash gift.

Dr. Williamson served as principal investigator for a long-term study of the Rhode River supported by the National Science Foundation and conducted by the Chesapeake Research Consortium. In addition to the Smithsonian center, the consortium includes the Virginia Institute of Marine Sciences, and research institutes operated by the Johns Hopkins University and the University of Maryland.

Before departing for Alaska, Dr. William­son was a resident of Arnold, Md. in December 1974. After 41 years at the Smithsonian, Mrs. Harvey came to the Smithsonian on August 2, 1948, as a custodial laborer, she was promoted to the former's position on February 26, 1956, and remained in that capacity until her death.

During her employment with SI, Mrs. Harvey received many letters of appreciation, commendations and performance awards. For the past two years, 1973 and 1974, she received a Sustained Superior Performance Award in recognition of her outstanding performance.

Taylor is Officer Of Dunlap Society

Joshua C. Taylor, Director of the National Collection of Fine Arts, has been named Vice President of the recently formed Dunlap Society and Chairman of the Advisory Council of the Society. The Dunlap Society was formed out of a concern for the neglect of studies in American art and the lack of research and visual material in that field. It is named after William Dunlap, who, writing in the 1830s, was the first historian to take pride in, and pay serious attention to, American art.

The National Endowment for the Humanities and the Dunlap Society recently announced a project to enable America's artistic heritage to become more widely known and appreciated. The project, entitled "Visual Documentation of American Art: The Nation's Capital," will be funded by a $50,000 grant from NEH and will develop a complete visual record of a select number of buildings in the nation's capital. The project will eventually become the core of a much larger central archive of visual documentation of all aspects of American art including painting, sculpture, and folk art.

Mrs. Harvey, Veteran SI Employee, Dies

Mrs. Myrtle S. Harvey, custodial laborer foreman at SI, died on December 3, 1974, after a federal career of 33 years and 10 months, including 26 years and 4 months at the Smithsonian.

The Upward Mobility Committee, as part of the Smithsonian's Affirmative Action Plan, began as a result of the Civil Service review. Thus the skills of carpentry, painting, dust control are needed. Mrs. Harvey is also an urban homes­

Dr. Williamson receiving the Secretary's Gold Medal Award for Exceptional Service from Assistant Secretary Challinor.

Earned his doctorate of science at the Johns Hopkins School of Hygiene and Public Health where he specialized in the ecology of disease.
SI Division Develops ‘SELGEM’ Computer System for Museum Use

The following account of a recent symposium on computer-assisted collection management and the SELGEM system at the Smithsonian was written by Reginald Creighton and John Cars of the SI Information Systems Division—Editor.

Over the past decade, the museum community has increasingly turned to the computer as a tool for gaining better control over the informational aspect of objects and the procedural facets of information processing.

The Smithsonian Institution, with more than 180 university-affiliated museums on campus, is one of many museums that have invested in computer technology. The Smithsonian’s many facilities, including some of the 105 museums, have installed a computer-assisted system for information management. SELGEM (Systems for Evaluation of Lithic and Geologic Materials) is a computer application widely employed in the museum. The symposium below describes computer applications in the SI environment and identifies the capabilities of the system for research in community history and technology. Robert Organ and Merzbach and Ms. Anne Serio spoke of the use of SELGEM in the National Museum of Natural History and in the University of Arizona, and David Bridge told of their participation in the National Center for Health Statistics. Larry Manire of the Arizona State Museum and Pat Butler, of Johns Hopkins University, presented the use of SELGEM and its interfaced subsystems. The focus was primarily to acquaint and inform prospective users of the system’s capabilities for data input, correction, enhancement, retrieval, indexing, and report production.

Dr. Clifford Evans of the National Museum of American History, the National Air and Space Museum, the National Portrait Gallery, the National Museum of African Art, the National Museum of Natural History, and in the University of Arizona, and David Bridge told of their participation in the National Center for Health Statistics.

SELGEM’s development and of their management of the national collections. Although still under development, SELGEM has been recognized as a powerful tool for information processing, particularly in the museum community. At the Smithsonian Institution, the National Air and Space Museum, the National Portrait Gallery, the National Museum of African Art, the National Museum of Natural History, and in the University of Arizona, and David Bridge told of their participation in the National Center for Health Statistics.

SELGEM's modular structure, its sequence-independent application of programs, its independence from specific configurations of data and from particular computer systems provides a built-in capacity for potential and a bridge against obsolescence of the methodology, which is much appreciated by museum users with information about one system users with information about one...

Dr. David Stirling, SI Archeologist, Dies

Dr. Matthew W. Stirling, 78, an internationally known anthropologist and archeologist who had been chief of the Bureau of American Ethnology of the Smithsonian Institution, died January 23 at his home in Washington. Dr. Stirling retired in 1958, but continued as a research associate and archeologist emeritus. Since 1960 he had been an active member of the African Geographic Society research committee.

A specialist in Middle American archeology and anthropology, Dr. Stirling headed 13 expeditions to Mexico, Panama and Ecuador between 1938 and 1957. Born in Salinas, Calif., Dr. Stirling served as an ensign in the U.S. Navy, but was discharged with a medical discharge in 1943. He graduated from the University of California in 1920 and joined the Smithsonian in 1921....

He left a great impact on Mesopotamian archeology,” commented Dr. Clifford Evans of the NMNH Department of Anthropology. “Dr. Stirling had a fantastic ability to make pioneering discoveries, such as his finding of the Olmec culture at La Venta. He was well known for his work with the Jivaro Indians in Ecuador and the various collections of the Smithsonian. Many exhibits at NMNH are based on specimens he collected..."
Staff at NPG Begins Vast Peale Papers Project

More than 6,000 items have been received since September by staff members of the Charles Willson Peale Papers project at their offices in the National Portrait Gallery.

To collect these manuscripts, the staff has searched the archives of university libraries, state and local historical societies, and museums throughout the country, as far west as Austin, Tex. and San Marino, Calif., and in London and Paris.

Although the American Philosophical Society Library in Philadelphia holds the bulk of the Peale Papers, manuscripts have turned up at Harvard, Fordham, Duke, and the College of William and Mary among many other depositories. Private collectors and autograph agencies are also contributing copies and letters for inclusion in the definitive publication that is planned.

According to the editor of the Papers, Dr. Lillian B. Miller, Historian of American Culture at NPG, the Peale Papers project will take from eight to 10 years to complete. The project, which was established on September 3, 1974, under a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities, has received the endorsement of the National Historical Publications Commission.

The cataloging, recording, annotating, microfilming, and publishing of the letters and papers of Peale and his immediate family will make available to researchers and scholars a vast amount of material on the early American patriot, painter, and naturalist.

The Peale documents consist of autobiographies, museum accounts, diaries, books, letterbooks, farm accounts, and letters that cover approximately the years 1765 to 1826. Letters of his sons, Titian, Rubens, Franklin, Raphaelle, and Rembrandt, continue the record through 1815.

"Scholars of American science and art have long awaited the publication of the Peale papers for their wealth of new information on one of the most admirable figures in the American art gallery," said Dr. Lillian B. Miller.

"The sponsorship of this project by the National Portrait Gallery seems most appropriate since Charles Willson Peale in 1794 founded in Philadelphia a museum that was the first portrait gallery in the New World, as well as a museum of natural history. Peale defined his museum as an effort to 'unite Art and Science.' He also organized schools for young artists and helped found the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts in 1805."

The staff working with Dr. Miller includes Dr. Michael D. Schaffer, Assistant Editor; Barbara Bares, Research Historian; Mrs. Rose Emerick, Assistant to the Editor; Barbara Bares, Research Historian; Mrs. Rose Emerick, Assistant to the Editor; Mrs. Anita McGonigle, registered nurse in the NIH health unit, reports that the nurses in the health units have had good results with the drive. Many employees have stopped to have their blood pressure checked and in this way some unsuspecting victims of high blood pressure have been found and referred to their doctors' care. The nurses believe the program is very beneficial and urge more employees to take advantage of the free blood pressure check, Monday through Friday at the Natural History Building and History and Technology Building, 9 to 11 a.m., or the Hirshhorn Museum, 1:30 to 3:30 p.m.

Blood Pressure Checks Available

In a memorandum November 12, Smithsonian employees in the Washington area were reminded that, in cooperation with the National Drive to Control Hypertension, they could have their blood pressure checked at any of the SI health units.

Mr. Anton McGonigle, registered nurse in the NHB health unit, reports that the nurses in the health units have had good results with the drive. Many employees have stopped to have their blood pressure checked and in this way some unsuspecting victims of high blood pressure have been found and referred to their doctors' care. The nurses believe the program is very beneficial and urge more employees to take advantage of the free blood pressure check, Monday through Friday at the Natural History Building and History and Technology Building, 9 to 11 a.m., or the Hirshhorn Museum, 1:30 to 3:30 p.m.

Desmond Appointed To Personnel Position

James M. Desmond has been appointed Assistant Director of Personnel for Recruitment and Placement in the Office of Personnel Administration.

Mr. Desmond is a native of Everett, Mass. He is a graduate of the College and did graduate work at Boston College and Georgetown University.

Prior to coming to the Smithsonian, he served as chief of recruitment in the Office of the Secretary at the Department of the Interior.

Mr. Desmond

Employees Receive Performance Awards

The following employees have received the Superior Performance Awards, in recognition of their outstanding performance:

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Desmond

Employees Advised About Benefits Cards

Because of the great volume of transactions during Open Season for Health Benefits, sometimes unavoidable delays will occur or a federal employee's health benefits identification card will go astray in the mail, the Office of Personnel Administration has warned.

The following procedures should be followed in such cases:

1. An Open Season enrollee who has not received an ID card by March 31, 1975 should send a request for ID card (obtained from the Personnel Office) to the address shown below. Be sure to include your current mailing address. The Carrier Control Number can be obtained from the Health Benefits Registration Form 2809.

2. If the ID card is not received within 30 days, the employee should obtain a copy of the completed Health Benefits Registration Form 2809 and have the Personnel Office contact the Payroll Office to verify payroll office number, and obtain (1) SF 2811 report number, (2) date of SF 2811 report, and (3) date SF 2811 report was mailed to carrier (Federal Employees Program Operations Center). The copy of the 2809 and other information should then be mailed to the FEP Operations Center, 550 12th Street, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20024.

Employees who find it necessary to use their coverage prior to receipt of their ID card and subsequently have a claim rejected because there is no record of their enrollment should follow the procedures in No. 2 above.

Employees Have Role In N.M. Festivities

Melendez Has Role In N.M. Festivities

Manuel Melendez, public information officer for the Division of Performing Arts, was recently invited to participate in the inaugural festivities for the new governor of New Mexico, Jerry Apodaca.

Mr. Melendez was in Santa Fe to sing for the New Year's Day Mass celebrated in the Santa Fe Cathedral and also for the swearing-in ceremonies in front of the State House of New Mexico. Mr. Melendez, a lyric tenor, has been a visitor to the Washington area with the National Symphony Orchestra, the Washington Cathedral Chorus, and many others and will soon be heard in a new recording of the Saint-Saens "Gloria."