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October 1958

THE SMITHSONIAN
TORCH



Agnes Chase



SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION • WASHINGTON, D. C.

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Contributions are encouraged from all employees of the Smithsonian Institution.
If you have an item for THE TORCH please give it to the secretary of your
department or send it directly to Mrs. Fields in the Personnel Division.

CONTRIBUTIONS SHOULD BE RECEIVED BY THE LAST DAY OF THE MONTH.

October 1958

Number 44

HONOR FOR BOTANIST

At ceremonies held in the auditorium of the Natural History Building on October 1, Mrs. Agnes Chase, distinguished botanist, was made an Honorary Fellow of the Smithsonian Institution. Only seven other individuals have received this honor. The certificate of award was presented by Secretary Carmichael.

Since her official retirement in 1939 as a senior botanist of the U. S. Department of Agriculture, Mrs. Chase, the dean of the world's agrostologists (scientific students of grasses), has held the honorary position of Research Associate of the Smithsonian. She has been at her desk in the Smithsonian's division of plants nearly every day since, including many a Saturday.

During this period she has completed two major projects: A revision of a manual of grasses of the United States and the preparation of a second copy of the index to grass species consisting of nearly 80,000 cards. She will be 90 years of age next April.

Since she began her botanical career in her native state of Illinois nearly 60 years ago, Mrs. Chase has made more than 70 contributions to the scientific literature on grasses, including several of book length. Her reputation is worldwide, and she has traveled extensively in connection with her research.

In 1956 she was selected as one of the 50 botanists to receive a certificate of merit at the 50th anniversary meeting of the Botanical Society of America, and in June 1958 the

University of Illinois awarded her the honorary degree Doctor of Science.

Recently, by decree of the President of Brazil, she was awarded the Merito D. Joan IV diploma and medal, created in honor of the 105th anniversary of the founding of the well-known Jardim Botânico at Rio de Janeiro. In the course of her career, Mrs. Chase made two extensive field trips to collect Brazilian grasses. Many of her collections proved to be species previously unknown to science or inadequately represented in herbaria. The honor conferred by the Brazilian government was a token of its appreciation of the service she rendered the country in helping it to learn about its grasses.

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OFFICERS OF AMERICAN LEGION POST

Three members of the Smithsonian staff were installed as officers of Bunker Hill Post No. 31, American Legion, at a meeting on September 20.

These officers are Anthony D. Fabrizio, commander; Mario Kidwell, finance officer and editor; and Thomas Council, sergeant-at-arms.

Past Commanders William Stiles, James C. Clarke, and John Thuenissen of the Smithsonian were given an ovation when they were introduced at the meeting.

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DOCENT SERVICE RESUMES

On October 15 our Junior League of Washington Docent Service began its fourth year of conducting elementary school children from the Greater Washington Area through recently modernized exhibit halls in the U. S. National Museum.

At the initial meeting last month, 32 dedicated young ladies were greeted by Dr. Carmichael and Dr. Kellogg, who told them how much their work meant to the children. Short talks by John C. Ewers, C. Malcolm Watkins, and Robert Vogel highlighted some of the more interesting features of their respective halls, where tours will be conducted. Indians and Eskimos, Everyday Life in Early America, and power.

A few days later, September 25, the docents were back for more indoctrination and orientation, part of which consisted of being conducted through those halls in the Natural History and Arts and Industries Buildings not included on their regular tours.

The new volunteer docents were under the guidance of their chairman, Mrs. Peter Macdonald, and of F. M. Setzler, director of the docent service for the Smithsonian. Mrs. Vera M. Gabbert, who has a new extracurricular job as scheduler for the tours, has reported there have been many telephone calls from elementary school teachers requesting guide service.

The following Junior Leaguers are enrolled in the docent service: Mrs. George Armstrong, Mrs. Harrison Brand, Mrs. G. Edwin Brown, Jr., Miss Joan Burke, Mrs. Dean Cowie, Mrs. Walter Edwards, Mrs. Walter A. Graves, Mrs. William P. E. Graves, Mrs. H. F. Gregory, Miss Mary Harbert, Mrs. R. David Herdman, Mrs. Edward Lamont, Mrs. Ralph W. Lee, Mrs. William McClure, Mrs. Robert McCormick, Mrs. John Manfuso, Jr., Miss Grace C. Marshall, Mrs. John A. Medaris, Mrs. William Minshall, Jr., Mrs. Minot Mulligan, Mrs. George Pendleton, Mrs. John Schoenfeld, Mrs. W. James Sears, Mrs. William D. Sloan, Jr., Mrs. Walter Slowinski, Mrs. James H. Stallings, Mrs. E. Tillman Stirling, Mrs. G. G. Thomas, Mrs.

David Toll, Mrs. Richard Wallis, Mrs. Marc A. White, Mrs. George A. Wyeth, Jr. Mrs. C. Clarke Gearhart is co-chairman of the group.

WAY AHEAD IN ASSETS

The annual report of the Bureau of Federal Credit Unions for the year ended Dec. 31, 1957, has just been issued by the U. S. Department of Health, Education, and Welfare. The report shows that there are 8,897,689 members. These credit union members had \$1,589,190,585 in shares and owe \$1,257,319,328 in outstanding loans.

Following is a comparison of our credit union with the average shown in the report:	Smithsonian	Average
Members	729	561
Assets	\$163,617	\$70,690
Average share holding per member	\$198	\$324
Average loan outstanding	\$365	\$514
Reserves	9%	5.5%

HIPPED ON THE SUBJECT

The following is a quotation from a highly selective bibliography issued by the Bureau of American Ethnology. "The map was also issued in the back pocket of Harold E. Driver and William C. Massey, Comparative studies of North American Indians...."

JAMES ZETEK HONORED

James Zetek who retired on May 31, 1956, as Resident Manager of the Canal Zone Biological Area after almost 50 years of service with the Federal Government, has received Congressional approval for his acceptance of the Vasco Nunez de Balboa Medal and Diploma. This honor, the highest decoration of the Republic of Panama, was conferred on Mr. Zetek in November 1948 "for outstanding work in the entomological and general biological fields and for his contribution to international relations."

Mr. Zetek was appointed entomologist with the old Isthmian Canal Commission in 1911. His duties were mostly concerned with the control of malaria, bubonic plague, and yellow fever throughout the Canal Zone. While in this position he discovered a method of determining the flight of malarial mosquitoes.

In 1913 he was appointed state entomologist of the Republic of Panama and later was named Director General of the National Exposition of Panama. Some of the buildings erected for this Exposition, held in 1915, are still in use in Panama City. For many years he was in charge of the laboratory of the Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine of the U. S. Department of Agriculture at Ancon, C. Z.

He was spokesman for a number of scientists who had formed the Institute for Research in Tropical America, and approached the Governor of the Canal Zone, Gen. J. J. Morrow, with the idea of setting aside Barro Colorado Island in Gatun Lake as a biological preserve. Governor Morrow approved the suggestion and Mr. Zetek was in charge of the Area from its inception. The Canal Zone Biological Area was transferred to the Smithsonian Institution in 1946.

COWBOY ART

The largest showing ever assembled of original art of Charles Marion Russell, the famous "cowboy artist," is being held in the foyer of the Natural History Building. The pictures will be displayed through November 2.

The massive group of more than 200 pieces of Russell art, including oil paintings, watercolors, pen-and-ink drawings, and bronze sculpture, is being shown under the auspices of the National Collection of Fine Arts. The show was arranged through the cooperation of the Historical Society of Montana, the Montana State Society of Washington, D. C., and other interested groups. The material was assembled from several public and private sources: the Museum of the Historical Society of Montana at Helena, Mont.; the Trigg-Russell Memorial Gallery at Great Falls, Mont.; the Gilcrease Institute of American History and Art at Tulsa, Okla.; the Hammer Galleries at New York; and the private collection of Frederick G. Renner of Washington, D. C.

In connection with the exhibit is a display of the 7-foot statue of Russell scheduled to be permanently installed in the Capitol early next year. This statue is the work of John B. Weaver, curator of the museum of the Historical Society of Montana.

Born in St. Louis in 1864, Charles Russell left home at 16 to become a cowboy. He lived for 46 years in Montana, Territory and State, and identified himself with the "wild-west" country. He grew up with the cattle trade, for a time lived with a band of Blood Indians, and in general gained a reputation as a rough character and something of a "vagabond on horseback."

Russell had a natural talent in art. Though he had no formal training or much early encouragement, he developed prodigiously through self-instruction, and his drawings and paintings of cowboys, bucking broncos, and rough, dramatic frontier life soon began to be locally popular. It was some years, however, before he was able to make a living at his art, but he lived to see some of his works bring fabulous prices. He died in 1926.

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CLIMB A RUNG

Have you recently completed a course at one of the universities, taken a course offered by a Government Agency, or done any other work to further your education??

Have you been doing specialized work in your present position??

Have you acquired a hobby that calls for special skills, techniques, or training??

In other works, have you added to your qualifications??

If so, it might be wise for you to submit an up-to-date Standard Form 57 to the personnel division.

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EXHIBIT OF DUTCH DRAWINGS

A special loan exhibition of "Dutch Master Drawings," from Hieronymus Bosch to Vincent van Gogh is on display at the National Gallery of Art.

Organized in cooperation with the Netherlands Government, the exhibition presents the development of Dutch draftsmanship from the 15th century to the early 20th century through outstanding examples lent by more than twenty-five museums and private owners.

The exhibition is one in a series of major graphic shows originated by the Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service. Among others in the series were "French Drawings - Masterpieces from Five Centuries" (1952 - 1953); "Goya Drawings" (1955); and "German Drawings" (1955 - 1956). Because of the extraordinary value of the drawings, each tour was by necessity limited to a few leading U. S. museums.

A catalog with 53 illustrations has been published by the Smithsonian Institution for the participating museums.

The collection of Dutch drawings is the first of its kind ever to come to the United States. In fact, the subject has not been treated before with such completeness and breadth, even in Holland.

There are 150 rare and beautiful drawings by such masters as Bosch, Lucas van Leyden, Hercules Seghers, Rembrandt, Saenredam, Ostade, Van de Velde, Mauve, Maris, and Vincent van Gogh. Prof. Dr. J. Q. van Regteren Altena, director of the printroom at the Rijksmuseum, Amsterdam, selected the drawings from Dutch museums and private collections and prepared the text of the illustrated catalogue. He will travel with the exhibition in the United States.

Dr. J. H. van Roijen, the Netherlands Ambassador, formally opened the exhibition at the National Gallery on October 4, and, with the Netherland-America Foundation, will sponsor it during its tour of four other museums - in Boston, New York, Cleveland, and San Francisco.

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RIDE WANTED

To and from vicinity of 9200 block of Georgia Ave. Please contact Cyril Speizman in the Supply Division, ext. 351.

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ADVENTURE FOR NIGHT PEOPLE

The dark and eerie quiet of the Natural History Building was shattered on the night of September 22 when an unidentified charwoman working in the division of mammals put in a frantic call for help to Lieutenants Rufus Duggins and William Baird who were on guard duty.

"There's a snake down here! And its LIVE!"

The two guards rushed to the rescue. Lt. Baird located the snake with the help of a quivering, pointed finger belonging to the charwoman. She retreated to a safe distance while the lieutenant maneuvered the reptile, with a ruler, into the safe confines of a cardboard box.

Turning and advancing toward the rescued, he said: "Here you are; you found it, so I guess its yours." The charwoman was last seen by the lieutenants as she fled south down the foyer.

In due time, Dr. Doris Cochran received the specimen for identification. "Its a Thamnophis sirtalis," she reported. That, or course, means it was a harmless garter snake.

The obvious question was "Where did it come from?" One answer, considered most logical, was "It must have fallen out of a boy's pocket."

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RED CROSS BLOOD PROGRAM

Smithsonian Institution employees are asked to provide blood in order to maintain their eligibility for Red Cross blood services. We still need to supply 26 pints in order to meet our quota for 1958.

If you are able to go to the Red Cross to give a blood donation, we would be glad to have you join the group which goes the last Friday morning of each

month. To make an appointment or to request information call the personnel division, ext. 385.

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REPORT ON SALVAGE PROGRAM

A report titled "The Inter-Agency Archaeological Salvage Program After Twelve Years" was published last month by the Committee for the Recovery of Archaeological Remains.

The program is a cooperative enterprise to solve the problems of preservation and interpretation of remains threatened with destruction by dam and reservoir construction. Coordinating agencies are the Smithsonian's River Basin Surveys and the Department of Interior's National Park Service.

Dr. Frank H. H. Roberts, Jr., director of the Bureau of American Ethnology and of the River Basin Surveys, along with others at the Smithsonian, was an original planner of the program. Dr. Robert L. Stephenson, director of the Missouri Basin Project, River Basin Surveys, has directed most of the program's field work in the Missouri Basin since 1952 and is the principal preparator of the 12-year report.

The 26-page, heavily illustrated pamphlet explains the objectives of the salvage program and depicts many interesting examples of the work that has been accomplished since 1945. Among the many pictures are those of Smithsonian teams at work in states from South Carolina to California.

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ATTENDS CZECH CELEBRATION

During the summer the division of physical anthropology received a series of letters from Miss Lucile Hoyme, who has been at Oxford on educational leave from the division of physical anthropology. Some of these letters concerned a trip to Kiel, Germany, where, by invitation, she read a paper at a meeting of the German Anthropological Society.

While in Kiel Miss Hoyme met the Czech delegates and learned they were planning a two-phase celebration of the 90th anniversary of the birth of the late Ales Hrdlicka, former curator of the division of physical anthropology at the Smithsonian. The Czechs invited Miss Hoyme to attend the first part of the celebration, which was to take place in Hrdlicka's home town of Humpolec.

Miss Hoyme accepted the invitation and arrived in Prague on September 3. Her account of the ceremonies on September 5 gives a good idea of the interesting experiences she has had: "...I was about to go with the others to see Hrdlicka's birthplace, but Prokopec (the leading Czech anthropologist) snagged me. I was due at the City Hall with them since I was one of the speakers at the ceremonies opening a new high school named after Hrdlicka.

"We went up to a room on the top floor, to wait for the Minister of Education -- and had another breakfast. I happened to be the only female present, so I was put with him at the end of a long table decorated with flowers. What happened from then on was strictly out of the movies.

"Fortunately the Minister spoke a little German and the man on my left good English (the head of Comenius University in Brno) spoke good English; so, I got along. Just as I was finishing, someone down the table proposes a toast to something -- I have no idea what. I watched what the others did and tried to act like this was old stuff to me.

"We were due at the high school, a few blocks away, at 11, so the Minister and I headed the procession down the street to the

school. There was a fair crowd outside, lots of kids in scout(?) uniforms lining the way and applauding.

"In the auditorium-gymnasium we went up on the platform and I was again with the Minister in the center of the speaker's platform. Dr. Skerlj from Yugoslavia was next to me. He, too, speaks good English and told me what was going on. Finally it was my turn, so I gave my little speech, Prokopec translating, and it was recorded for posterity on tape.

"When this was over, the Minister and I went down a long hall, again lined with kids. Some of the girls in pretty native costumes gave out flowers, and the Minister and a couple of others bowed and gave me theirs. At the end of the route there was another crowd and two little girls with bouquets, gladiolas for the Minister and red carnations for me. Then the Minister unveiled the bust of Dr. Hrdlicka while a men's chorus sang.

"Outside was pandemonium. I have never been photographed so much in my life! The girls in their costumes lined up with me in the middle, and everyone with a camera took a picture. Then we went to City Hall, signing autographs on the way. We waited a while, and then the Minister reappeared and we had lunch. He made a very pretty little speech to me, and I replied in the same vein. Then we went downstairs.

"At the busses there was more bedlam; everyone was autographing each others programs, and I was surrounded by a flock of kids. Great fun but pretty tiring. Really royal treatment.

"In all the excitement and dither I was the only one who did not get to see Hrdlicka's house, and I was probably the one who was most interested."

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FILTER SYSTEM

A farmer hired a city boy to help with the cows. One day he found the boy feeding the milk to the cow, and inquired as to why.

"Well," explained the boy, "just as I finished milking her, she stuck her foot in the milk, so I decided I'd better run it through again to clean it."

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SNOW LEOPARD SKIN

A handsome snow leopard skin from the high Himalayas was presented to the Smithsonian Institution on October 8 at ceremonies in the Regents Room, where Secretary Carmichael received the gift from Mohammed Ali, the Ambassador of Pakistan, and Maj. Gen. M. Hayaud Din, the Embassy's military and naval attache.

The leopard was shot by General Hayaud Din in the state of Nagar in the high mountains in extreme northern Pakistan, part of the famous region generally known as "Roof of the World."

The snow leopard is a large cat about the size of the common leopard but with a very restricted distribution at high altitudes in the Himalayas. Hunting the snow leopard is an arduous and dangerous task because of the very rugged country in which it is found. General Hayaud Din's bagging of the animal points up his great ability as a mountaineer.

In his remarks at the acceptance ceremonies, Secretary Carmichael mentioned Ambassador Mohammed Ali's gift of a fine quality pink pearl to the Smithsonian a few years ago when he was prime minister of Pakistan. In 1954 Prime Minister Mohammed Ali and

his Begum were personally escorted through the Smithsonian Institution by Secretary Carmichael. Stopping before the gem collection, the Prime Minister noted that his native region was not represented among the pearls. Before returning to Karachi he removed the pearl from his own tie pin and sent it to Secretary Carmichael for the Smithsonian.

After accepting the leopard skin, Secretary Carmichael escorted the Ambassador and his party to the Gem Hall, where the pink pearl is on exhibit.

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FOR SUPERVISORS

Some of the ways in which a supervisor can develop a good attitude on the part of the employees are:

1. Satisfying the employee's legitimate curiosity about the job.
2. Encouraging the employees to think beyond the actual job.
3. Treating the employees with due consideration, and with respect for their dignity as human beings.
4. Refraining from affronting the intelligence or the self-respect of the individual employees.
5. Giving recognition for jobs well done.
6. Encouraging employees to develop pride in the organization, by making them feel the importance of their jobs.
7. Giving added responsibility, when possible.
8. Planning work so as to avoid "scraping" of jobs.
9. Avoiding partiality in making work assignments.
10. Being fair in assigning performance ratings.
11. Being careful not to reprimand an employee in the presence of others.
12. Abiding by the same rules and regulations that the employees are expected to observe.

- 13. Leaving no doubt in the minds of the employees as to what is expected of them in the way of conduct and good work habits.
- 14. Giving prompt consideration to grievances, and taking proper action to correct unfavorable conditions.

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WISENTS, DINGOS, PITTAS, AND OTHERS

The National Zoological Park made history last month when a baby wisent was born to Hera and Herold. The event marked the first wisent birth in the Western Hemisphere.

The wisent, or European forest bison, is believed to be extinct in the wild state and exists only in zoological parks and on a few private estates. The parents of the new arrival were obtained from the Munich Zoo in 1955.

Other recent births at the Park include a great gray kangaroo and a sooty mangabey. The baby kangaroo is still in its mother's pouch, but occasionally it peers out at visitors. The mangabey is the first-born of a monkey that has been in the collection since 1952.

Outstanding recent acquisitions include two Rocky Mountain goats, a baby Dall sheep, a Mediterranean ibex, two sitatungas or African marsh bucks, a trio of Australian dingos (wild dogs), two Indian pittas (birds), and two monitor lizards.

The Rocky Mountain goats were received as gifts from the Game Commission of the State of Montana through the good offices of Governor Aronson. It has been more than 30 years since Rocky Mountain goats were exhibited at the Zoo.

The baby Dall sheep was captured in Alaska by Martin Vorys, son of the Representative from Ohio. It is believed to be the only one ever shown in any American Zoo.

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RESEARCH AT FORT MCHENRY

As part of a broad historical and archeological research project, excavations were made during the spring and summer at Fort McHenry National Monument and Historic Shrine, Baltimore, under provisions by the National Park Service. Project historians have gathered a mass of documentary source materials now being studied. Object of the investigations is to supply additional evidence on the fort as it was during September 1814, when it was attacked by a British fleet during the War of 1812.

The excavations were conducted by G. Hubert Smith archeologist with the Missouri Basin Project, who is on loan to the National Park Service.

Areas of the site of Ft. McHenry tested include those of an early reservation boundary-wall and adjacent tavern, two large water batteries of special importance during the British attack, and several smaller areas within the surviving pentagonal bastioned fort. At the site of the batteries, earth-moving equipment was used to get samples of early deposits beneath a heavy overburden of relatively recent origin.

At a site inside the Star Fort, following a plan of 1803 (the earliest surviving detailed plan of Fort McHenry), the braces for an early flagpole, massive timbers probably of oak, were found. These timbers may have supported the flagpole from which the American flag was flying during the attack in 1814. The sight of this flag early on the morning of September 1814 led Francis Scott Key to compose the National Anthem. The original flag has long been a part of the collections of the National Museum.

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RIVER BASIN NEWS

Dr. Warren Caldwell addressed the North Omaha Neb. Kiwanis Club at its luncheon meeting on September 9. Dr. Caldwell's topic was "Archeology and the Missouri Basin Development Program."

Dr. Robert L. Stephenson recently participated in a museum-planning conference at the Fort Randall Dam power house, along with personnel from the Region Two office of National Park Service in Omaha and Corps of Engineers personnel.

Charles H. McNutt is conducting an excavation project at Fort Laramie National Monument, Wyo. in connection with the reconstruction of the wings of Old Bedlam, which is perhaps the oldest building in the state. Further plans call for work on the old guard house at the fort.

Harold A. Huscher, who has been hospitalized in Pierre, S. Dak., since August 24 as a result of a fall from a ladder he was using to take site photographs, returned to Lincoln last month and entered Lincoln General Hospital.

The Missouri Basin Project is preparing an interesting window display in the form of a miniature earth-lodge village constructed by Herman Harpster, staff photographer. Since the office is located on the main business street of Lincoln, this miniature will do much to enlighten the public on the way of life of the prehistoric Indians.

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RICHARD G. PAINE

Richard G. Paine, former aide in the division of archeology, died on September 29 in Arlington Hospital.

A native of Charleston, S. C., Mr. Paine came to Washington in 1896 to

accept a Civil Service appointment. He became an aide in the department of biology in 1902 and transferred to the division of archeology in 1919, where he served until he retired in 1945. After his retirement he became an illustrator in the Arlington County courthouse, from which position he retired in 1955. He was 83 years old at the time of death.

In his off-duty hours, Mr. Paine pursued a variety of hobbies. He was an accomplished animal sculptor, exhibiting his work in Washington and Philadelphia. He was deeply interested in herpetology, and long-time employees in the department of anthropology well recall the brown paper bags and coffee tins that from time to time reposed on his desk containing snakes on their way to the Washington Zoo. Ship-model building was another favorite hobby.

Mr. Paine is survived by his wife, a son, and three grandchildren.

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PLAIN ENGLISH

Someone has written in that he overheard the following conversation in a hardware store:

"Do you have any four-volt two-watt bulbs?"

"For what?"

"No, two."

"Two what?"

"Yes."

"No."

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PUBLISHED IN SEPTEMBER

Smithsonian Miscellaneous Collections.--

"Mississippian Fauna in Northwestern Sonora," by William H. Easton and others; 87 pages.

"New American Paleozoic Echinoids," by Porter M. Kier; 26 pages.

Special Publication.--"The Gown of Mrs. Dwight D. Eisenhower" (Supplement to "Dresses of First Ladies of the White House"), by Margaret Brown Klapthor; 8 pages.

Freer Gallery of Art Occasional Papers.--"The Lohans and a Bridge to Heaven," by Wen Fong; 64 pages.

Smithsonian Contributions to Astrophysics.--"Catalogs of Meteor Radiants," by Gerald S. Hawkins; 3 pages.

Bulletins of the U. S. National Museum.--"A checklist of the Millipeds of North America," by Ralph V. Chamberlin and Richard L. Hoffman; 239 pages.

"A Review of the Parrotfishes, Family Scaridae," by Leonard P. Schultz; 143 pages.

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GROUP HOSPITALIZATION DRIVE

Last call for membership in Group Hospitalization Drive for this year. If you haven't already submitted your notice to Mrs. Gabbert please do so immediately.

There will not be another group opening until October 1959.

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