CONTRIBUTORS TO THIS ISSUE

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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.
Vanguard I Orbit

The Astrophysical Observatory announced on May 13 that the orbit of the carrier rocket of the first Vanguard satellite had been derived from Moonwatch observations and confirmed by Baker-Nunn photographs.

Arthur S. Leonard, leader of the Moonwatch team at Sacramento, Calif., derived the orbital elements by using observations obtained at Albuquerque, N. Mex., and photographs made by his own team. This orbital data was then used to derive the orbit of the Vanguard I satellite tracking camera took the photographs from such a distance. It is expected that the photograph will be taken of a Golf ball 600 miles away.

The first observation was made at about 11:30 p.m. (E.D.T.) on May 11 by the Baker-Nunn Camera station at Organ Pass, N. Mex. The next photograph was taken at about 1:45 a.m. on May 12 by the Smithsonian's camera station at Maui, Hawaii.

On May 1, 3, and 4 the Smithsonian Optical Tracking Station at Woomera, Australia, photographed the Vanguard I at the apogee of its orbit, nearly 2,500 miles from the earth. The Baker-Nunn precision satellite tracking camera took the pictures.

No other object as small as this 6-inch sphere has been photographed from such a distance. It is comparable to aiming a camera at a golf ball 600 miles away.

VOCATIONAL TESTING SERVICE

The Graduate School, U.S. Department of Agriculture, has available a vocational testing service that includes tests of intelligence, vocational preference, aptitude, and personality. A written evaluation is made for each student tested.

Appointments for this service may be made by calling the Graduate School, code 111, extension 6337.

CSC WANTS RED TAPE CUT

The Civil Service Commission has opened an attack on problems of red tape and paperwork in positions classification.

CSC expects the campaign to simplify and reduce the length and number of job descriptions that must be prepared. A key objective of the program is to bring about preparation of job descriptions in simple, understandable language and to eliminate the tendency to clutter up descriptions with technical terms and personnel jargon.

CZECHS PRESENT BUST OF FAMOUS ANTHROPOLOGIST

A bust of Dr. Alas Hrdlička (1869-1946), world-famous anthropologist who was associated with the Smithsonian Institution for 40 years, was presented on June 2 to the National Museum by Dr. Miroslav Rusek, Ambassador of the Czechoslovak Republic to the United States.

The gift was made on behalf of several educational and cultural groups of Czechoslovakia as a monument to the recent observances in that country marking the 15th anniversary of Hrdlička's death and the 90th anniversary of his birth.

The bust is the work of Czech sculptor Milan Knobloch, based on a death mask of the scientist made by Andreas J. Andrews, Smithsonian sculptor. The original of the bust was unveiled last September in the entrance of the school that now bears Hrdlička's name in Humpolec, Czechoslovakia, the town where he was born.

Hrdlička came to America with his father in 1882. He studied medicine in New York and anthropology in Paris, and in 1903 was called to Washington to set up a division of physical anthropology in the U.S. National Museum. Here he spent the rest of his life and built up the collections in that department to rival those anywhere else in the world.

He was founder and first editor of the American Journal of Physical Anthropology, and founder and first president of the American Association of Physical Anthropologists. He encouraged anthropology in Czechoslovakia, especially at Charles University, Prague, by gifts of books and money, one result of which is the Hrdlička Museum in the Anthropological Institute of that institution.

PRESS WRITER WINS AWARD

Thomas R. Henry, Smithsonian press writer and science columnist for the Washington Star, has received the 1959 Honor Award of the Washington Chapter, American Institute of Chemists. He was cited by the Institute for his service to science as a professional writer and author.

Mr. Henry is the author of several books and has written many scientific articles for magazines and syndicates.

CHANCE FOR GOOD DEED

Vacation time is coming up for many employees. You will enjoy your vacation more if you let someone use your parking space while you are away. When your leave request is granted, dial the Buildings Management Office (387 or 266) and offer a temporary parking privilege to someone who has been on the waiting list for parking space.

CONTRIBUTES CHAPTER TO BOOK OF HISTORICAL ESSAYS

Dr. Wilcomb E. Washburn, acting curator of political history, has contributed a chapter to "Seventeenth-Century America: Essays on Colonial History," a book published May 30 by the University of North Carolina Press. Dr. Washburn's chapter is titled "The Moral and Legal Justifications for Dispossessing the Indians."
MISSOURI BASIN NEWS

Dr. Robert L. Stephenson, Richard Wheeler, Charles McNutt, William Irving, and Lee Madison attended the 24th annual meeting of the Society for American Archaeology in Salt Lake City held April 30, May 1 and 2. On the return trip, the group spent a day at Dinosaur National Monument, from where they drove back a station wagon that the project acquired from the National Park Service for fieldwork use.

William Irving returned from two months' leave of absence on April 24. He spent his leave time at Harvard University completing work on an Arctic project.

Carroll Burroughs of the Washington office of the National Park Service and Paul Beaubien of the Omaha office of the National Park Service visited the Lincoln laboratory on May 6th.

Dr. Stephenson was guest speaker at the April 15th luncheon meeting of the Beatrice (Nebr.) Kiwanis Club.

All of the professional staff took part in the April 17 meeting of the Nebraska Academy of Sciences. Papers were read by Dr. Stephenson, Dr. Caldwell, Mr. Wheeler, and Mr. McNutt. A paper by Robert Neuman (who is on detail outside the Missouri Basin) was read by Dr. Stephenson.

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RIDES WANTED

To and from the vicinity of Georgia Ave. and Forest Glen Road in Silver Spring, Md. Please call Dr. Maurice Margulies in the Division of Radiation and Organisms (ext. 323).

To the vicinity of American University (Mass. and Nebr. Aves., NW.) Tuesday and Thursday evenings, July 28 through August 27. Please call Peggy Pabst, Editorial and Publications Division (ext. 418).

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EMPLOYEE DISCOUNTS

A new buying program, strictly for government employees and members of the military, will be available in the Washington area early in August. It is reported that savings on purchases will amount to as much as 50 percent.

Membership costs $3.00, and there is a $1.00 fee for annual renewal.

Further details and an application form for membership may be obtained upon request to Miss Stern in the personnel office (Ext. 385).

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NEW OFFICE FOR CU

The Credit Union has moved to its new office in the east end of the Smithsonian Building basement. The office will be open for business each Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday.

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SI HONORS SCIENTIST

The Smithsonian Institution paid tribute to one of the Government's outstanding scientists on June 19 when Secretary Carmichael presented Dr. Robert Evans Snodgrass with the first copy of "Studies in Invertebrate Morphology," a book published in honor of Dr. Snodgrass.

Dr. Snodgrass, who will be 84 in July, is universally acknowledged to be among the foremost insect anatomists and morphologists of our time. His scholarly and painstaking work has won him the admiration and respect of his colleagues throughout the world. Eighteen of these colleagues have contributed chapters to the 422-page volume published by the Smithsonian.

Dr. Snodgrass, a native of St. Louis, served more than 30 years as entomologist of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, retiring at the age of 70 in 1945. In 1953 he was named honorary collaborator of the Smithsonian Institution, where he is still actively engaged in research and writing. Since his retirement he has completed 15 publications.