



SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION, WASHINGTON, D. C.

NO. 1 (NEW SERIES), FEBRUARY 1965

ZOO BIRDS MOVE TO GRAND HOTEL

The Zoo's remodeled and refurbished Bird House was opened to the public on February 14 after an invitational preview and reception on the evening of February 11 and a preview and reception for Smithsonian employees on February 13.

In the opening ceremonies, National Zoological Park Director Theodore Reed pointed out that the new bird exhibits represent advanced concepts of animal exhibition that have evolved over years of research. Wherever possible, Dr. Reed explained, the exhibits were designed for the eyelevel of a child rather than an adult, visual barriers were eliminated or minimized, and exhibits were placed on only one side of walkways.

With its 27 exhibit cages, large flight room, two indoor-outdoor cages, and modern facilities, the Bird House is a deluxe bird-hotel. Some of the cages have removable wall panels that provide flexibility in cage sizes; some feature independent control of temperature and humidity; and some have fronts consisting of series of vertical-tensioned, small-diameter wires that provide maximum viewing. Each exhibit is equipped with facilities to take care of the needs of a particular group of birds.

Included in the birds' room-service area, on the lower level, are a bird-kitchen and scullery with modern stainless steel equipment, a dumb-waiter, an incubator room, and seven "holding" or quarantine cages.

In the Central Flight Room, a tropical aviary, the visitor strolls along winding walks beneath the birds in flight, and enjoys an unobstructed view from 9-foot-high ramps along two of the walls. This room is 72 feet long, 51 feet wide, and 32 feet high.

One of the exhibit areas in the House has a community outdoor cage that opens into the House. The metal perches in this outdoor cage are heated slightly, enabling birds to enjoy the outdoors in winter.

The remodeled Bird House represents the first milestone in the Smithsonian's long-term program for modernizing the National Zoological Park.

KNOWING YOUR TEAMMATES

It is not easy to get to know your Smithsonian teammates when they work in such scattered areas as Cambridge, Mass., the Canal Zone, and many other stations around the globe. And we here in Washington have a difficult time keeping up with both sides of the Mall, the Zoo, Lamont Street, Silver Hill, the Exhibits Lab, and other units in the area.

It is hoped that *THE TORCH*, a monthly employee newspaper reactivated after a lapse of five years, will keep us all in touch with one another, with our new programs, research, expeditions, exhibits, plans for new buildings, and with the special achievements and activities of Smithsonian employees everywhere. Its success will depend greatly upon your keeping the editor informed of new items pertaining to your unit.

—S. Dillon Ripley

SMITHSONIAN PLANS BIG CELEBRATION

The Smithsonian is making plans to celebrate the 200th anniversary of the birth of its founder, James Smithson. Invited to participate in the celebration next September 17 and 18 are more than 700 prominent scholars, scientists, and representatives of universities, museums, and learned societies from more than 90 countries.

In addition to honoring the founder, the bicentennial celebration will pay tribute to the Smithsonian's distinguished past, affirm the Institution's intent to continue to fulfill its vital role in society, and to examine the nature of knowledge and creative discovery as conceived by Smithson and as understood today.

Heading up the Office of Special Projects, which is planning the celebration, is Robert Cunningham, a special consultant whose office is located in the Arts and Industries Building. He is being assisted by Hugh Latham.

(See SMITHSON, Page 2)



In the Central Flight Room of the Bird House, birds fly free in a simulated rain forest. Rods in the clear plastic ceiling have nozzles from which "rain" falls on areas planted with exotic trees and shrubs.

THE SMITHSONIAN TORCH



AN EMPLOYEES' NEWSPAPER, PUBLISHED MONTHLY
EDITORIAL BOARD: JAMES BRADLEY, PAUL H. OEHSER, WILLIAM WARNER
EDITOR: ELIZABETH BEVERLEY

Put to the Torch

To our cousin, THE TORCH—best of luck! Welcome to that challenging, rewarding field—the diffusion of knowledge among the increasers thereof!—*The SAO News*.

The Astrophysical Observatory—for 75 years the “Space Station” of the Smithsonian—joins the other bureaus in wishing for THE TORCH a long, happy, and useful life.—*Fred L. Whipple, Director, Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory.*

THE TORCH thanks the SAO News and Dr. Whipple. And it invites all Smithsonian employees to make this column “long, happy, and useful.” THE TORCH does not intend to be a gossip house organ, nor will it attempt to report in detail on all the official events taking place in the Institution. It hopes to keep the employees informed on what is going on, and its success will depend on the way you cooperate by furnishing the editor with leads on items of news and human interest and by asking questions you would like answered. Jot down any items you think would be of interest, and drop a note to the editor or call her on Ext. 5192. Deadline for material to appear in each issue is the 25th of the month.—Editor

BLOOD DONORS

Employees who are not already registered blood donors in the Red Cross blood donor program may join in this particularly worthwhile project at any time of the year. Interested employees should call the personnel division (ext. 5559, 5620, or 5171).

CREDIT UNION MEETING

The annual membership meeting of the S. I. Employees Federal Credit Union will be held on March 9 at 3 p.m. in the auditorium of the National History Building.

FOLK ART RECEIVED

The Division of Cultural History recently received 350 items of American folk sculpture and paintings, comprising the famous collection of Eleanor and Mabel Van Alstyne. The collection encompasses a variety of shop figures, ship's figureheads, weathervanes, circus carousels and float carvings, paintings of steamboats, folk pottery, and other decorative ornaments and devices. The entire collection has been turned over to the Smithsonian to be used by professional curators and researchers for exhibition and study. It will be exhibited in its entirety during the late summer in the main temporary exhibit gallery of MHT. It will provide the Smithsonian with a major holding in the field of American folk art and the study of the material will serve as a major part of the Division of Cultural History's research and education activity.

SMITHSON from Page 1)

Assisting the Office of Special Projects is a Bicentennial Committee composed of John Ewers, chairman, Walter Cannon, Fenner Chace, Carroll Lindsay, Paul Oehser, David Scott, William Warner, Waldo Wedel, and Wilcomb Washburn. This committee has named the following as chairmen of subcommittees to handle working arrangements: Dr. Washburn, Program; Mr. Warner, Arrangements; Charles Nagel, Academic Procession; Mr. Oehser, Publications and Public Relations; Frank Taylor, Exhibits; and Theodore Taylor, Medals.

Principal speakers who have already accepted invitations to take part in the bicentennial include J. Robert Oppenheimer, Lewis Mumford, Arthur Koestler, G. Evelyn Hutchinson, Jerome Bruner, Herbert Butterfield, Kenneth Clark, and Fred L. Whipple.

PERSONNEL DIVISION LISTS JANUARY ARRIVALS

The personnel division reports that the following new employees were welcomed to the Smithsonian in January:

Robert E. Abba (PERS), personnel management specialist
Marcia P. Bakry (MNH-A), scientific illustrator
Lucile Biebighauser (E&P), clerk
Barbara Broughton (PL), clerk-typist
Roland Brown (BMD), laborer
Johnny Butts (BMD), guard
Ralph Clarke (BMD), laborer
Jackie Coleman (BMD), laborer
Wallace Conway (OE), exhibits specialist
William Cooper (BMD), guard
William De Lorey (BMD), guard
Dorr Dennis (OE), exhibits specialist
Harold Denton (BMD), guard
Albert Dodge (BMD), guard
Irvin Edwards (BMD), laborer
Joseph Falletta (OE), exhibits specialist
Charles Gearhart (BMD), guard
Christa Hauswirth (PERS), clerk-typist
William Haynes (BMD), guard
Clinton Holland (BMD), laborer
John Hunter (BMD), laborer
Richard Johnston (BAE), archeologist
Marsha Kadesch (BAE), museum aide
Mary Keen (SD), clerk
Marina Lee (SIE), biologist
Janet Legendre (S), receptionist
John Macnamara (MNH-E), museum preparator
Susan Mauss (SOA), museum aide
Michael McCrear (SIE), physical scientist
William McPhatter (BMD), guard
Johnnie Monts (BMD), laborer
Marion Morton (SMS), museum aide
Carol Muzyk (BMD), secretary
Alice Nicolson (MNH-B), museum aide
Samuel Oh (SIE), programmer
Lee Perkins (OSC), museum technician
Crimilda Pontes (E&P), art editor
Paul Richardson (BMD), guard
Nicholas Rosa (MHT-D), writer-editor
Feora Ross (BMD), guard
Lotte Schiff (PERS), clerk-typist
Marion Shaw (APO), physicist
Bobby Shifflett (NZP), tree maintainer
James Smith (BMD), guard
Jean Smith (SMS), librarian
Glen Stevenson (BMD), laborer
Elmont Thomas (NAM), mechanic foreman
Edwin Tyson (MNH), zoologist
Ashton Uter (MNH-E), museum preparator
Joseph Warter (BMD), guard
Sandy Williams (BMD), laborer
Luther Woodard (BMD), laborer
Frank Ziemba (BMD), guard



Scenes at the luncheon for Medal of Freedom winners given by the Smithsonian in the Museum of History and Technology on Inauguration Day. Left to right: James Bradley, Assistant Secretary of the Smithsonian, Dr. Paul Dudley White, noted heart specialist, and Dr. Richard Howland, chairman of the Smithsonian's department of civil history; Singer Teresa Coleman and John H. Sharon, acting host at the luncheon for President Johnson; John Macey, chairman of the Civil Service Commission, Ambassador Henry Cabot Lodge, and Secretary Ripley.



DURANT APPOINTED TO NAM POST

Frederick C. Durant III was named assistant (astronautics) to the Director of the National Air Museum in January. Mr. Durant has been serving as a consultant to the Smithsonian since last October.

Mr. and Mrs. Durant and their three children (boys 9 and 12 and girl 13) have been living in the Washington area since 1961. In the winter they are at 109 Grafton St., Chevy Chase, Md., but come summer they head for their cottage at Sherwood Forest, Md.

Mr. Durant's one big interest is the rocket and space flight program. He built model airplanes in the 20's, but after World War II, when he had served in the Navy as an aviator and test pilot, his enthusiasm turned to rockets. He has brought to the Smithsonian 17 years of active work in space flight programs, both in this country and abroad, and he is especially welcomed by NAM Director S. Paul Johnston to assist in the planning of the proposed new Air and Space Museum.



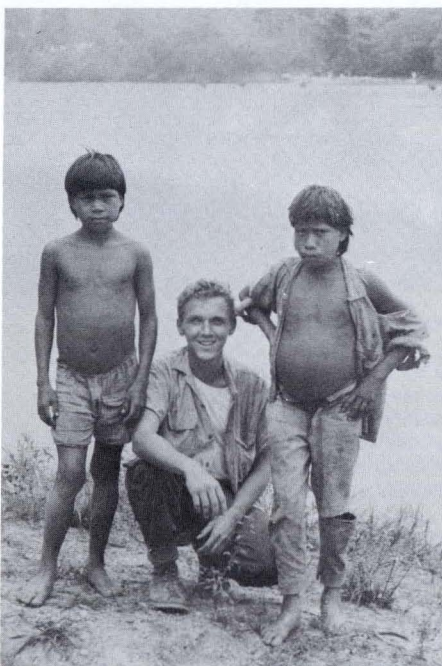
Dr. Charles G. Abbot, fifth Secretary of the Smithsonian, with Mrs. Louise M. Pearson at the latter's retirement party on January 29 in the Great Hall of the Smithsonian Building. Mrs. Pearson, who retired with the title of administrative officer, came to the Smithsonian in 1920 and served under five Secretaries. Her home address is 626 N. Ivy St., Arlington, Va.

SI GROUP DANCES

The Smithsonian's recently organized Employee Welfare-Recreation Association held its first dance on February 12. Free refreshments and a lively orchestra sparked the Valentine scene at the Presidential Arms in downtown Washington.

BOTANIST RETURNS FROM SOUTH AMERICA

Tom Soderstrom, the department of botany's curator of grasses, recently returned from an extended field trip in South America, where he collected specimens in Brazil and visited major botanical institutions there and in other countries. Dr. Soderstrom said that in almost all the institutions he visited he found someone who had direct connections with the Smithsonian.



Tom Soderstrom and two Xaranti Indians, in Mato Grosso, Brazil.

ZOOLOGY REORGANIZED INTO TWO DEPARTMENTS

The former department of zoology has been reorganized into the departments of vertebrate and invertebrate zoology, with Philip Humphrey and Donald F. Squires as acting chairmen of the two units, respectively.

The new department of vertebrate zoology consists of the divisions of reptiles and amphibians, mammals, birds, and fishes and the taxidermy laboratory. The divisions of marine invertebrates and mollusks comprise the department of invertebrate zoology. Present plans call for the division of marine invertebrates to be separated into the divisions of lower invertebrates, worms, and crustacea at the beginning of the fiscal year.

DIAL A SATELLITE

If you want the latest information about outer space—specifically, where to look for satellites—dial 737-8855. You will receive a different report daily and a longer report on weekends from SAO, as recorded by Smithsonian Press Officer George Brklacy.

NAME A COMET

If you want to get your name tagged on a comet—the spectacular space wanderers with the long, glowing tails—send news of a new comet discovery to the Central Bureau for Astronomical Telegrams, whose domestic wire address is RAPID SATELLITE CAMBASS and whose cable address is SATELLITES NEWYORK.

Telegrams from amateur astronomers should include the time and date of discovery, the nature of the telescope or observing method, and the observer's address. A special-delivery letter giving full details should be sent confirming the telegram.

At the request of the International Astronomical Union, the Central Bureau—an organization that confirms, catalogs, and designates newly discovered celestial objects—was transferred on January 1 from the Copenhagen Observatory to the Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory in Cambridge, Mass. The IAU requested the transfer so that SAO's extensive communications network might be utilized for more rapid dissemination of information. Under a grant from the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, SAO also maintains a network of field stations around the world that can be used for confirmation of reported discoveries.

GEODETIC DATA CENTER ESTABLISHED AT SAO

In addition to getting your name on a comet, perhaps you would like some information on the weight and waistline of Mother Earth. An information clearing house established at the Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory will soon provide U. S. and foreign scientists with a central file on the vital statistics of the earth's size and shape as determined by satellite geodesy.

Called the Central Bureau for Satellite Geodesy, the clearing house will be an independent agency for coordinating the collection and distribution of orbital predictions, observations, and other information pertaining to satellite geodesy. SAO Director Fred L. Whipple will serve as the Central Bureau's director.

COWAN HEADS NEW OFFICE

Richard S. Cowan, assistant director of the Museum of Natural History, has been appointed head of the new Smithsonian Office of Systematics. The new office will seek, receive, and administer certain grants for special taxonomic projects of interest to more than one department of the Museum.

Dr. Cowan received the appointment because he has done such a good job in advancing the Museum's research objectives by developing more effective techniques in taxonomy.



Interior scene of model of the proposed new Air and Space Museum to be built on the Mall opposite the National Gallery of Art. The strikingly modern building (784 feet long, 250 feet wide, and 97 feet high) was designed by Gyo Obata of St. Louis. According to S. Paul Johnston, newly appointed director of the National Air Museum, the new museum could be opened to the public in 1969 if Congress approves the plan and authorizes building funds early this year. Secretary Ripley has stated that the building "will advance the development and beautification of the Capital Mall and will implement the mandate of this institution to present the cultural heritage of our Nation and to help inspire the President's plan for a 'Great Society'."

TOASTMASTERS CLUB INVITES MEMBERSHIP

William Clark (OE), president of the Smithsonian Toastmasters Club, invites male employees to become members of the club, which was organized to improve oral expression and otherwise enhance members' ability to appear effectively before audiences.

The Toastmasters Club holds luncheon meetings at noon on the first and third Tuesdays of the month in the MHT dining annex. Membership is limited to around 30, and the initiation fee and regular dues are small. Interested employees should call Joe Eberly (PERS) or Harold Cohea (BMD), the club's sergeant-at-arms.

In addition to Mr. Clark and Mr. Cohea, officers of the club are Anthony Wilding (SD), educational vice president; Edward Kohn (SIE), administrative vice president; James Jones (OE), secretary; and Charles Hubbard (BMD), treasurer.

Smithsonian ladies interested in organizing a Toastmistress Club should call Mr. Eberly.

SMITHSONIAN BUILDING DECLARED HISTORIC

Secretary of the Interior Stewart L. Udall recently announced that the Smithsonian Building has been declared a registered national historic landmark along with 27 other sites which commemorate America's scientific and technical advances.

COUPLE FINDS PIONEER KITCHEN

Most people want a modern kitchen, but not Malcolm and Joan Watkins. The curator of MHT's division of cultural history and his wife recently spent more than a month in California scrounging around for an old one. They wanted a frontier kitchen, something that would go well in the Hall of Everyday Life in the American Past.

Their diligence paid off. They found an authentic old kitchen in a frontier ranch house that had been abandoned for 40 years. This kitchen, unlike most, had not been remodeled once since its installation in the 1850's.

George H. Watson, specialist for all the period rooms in MHT, and his chief carpenter, Chuck Rowel, flew out to California and literally removed the old kitchen, which will be exhibited in its new location around the middle of May.

REMINDER FOR SI PARKERS

If you have an SI parking permit in the Mall area, please arrange to have some other employee use it when you plan to take leave or go on a field trip. If you plan to be away for three days or less, you may designate who will use your space. Notify the lieutenant of the guards who has jurisdiction over your parking area, letting him know the name of the employee and license number of his car. If you will be away longer than three days, please notify Mrs. Pflieger (BMD).

ARTIFACTS FOR THE FAR-OFF FUTURE

The Smithsonian will be represented in the group of items to be placed in the 350-pound Time Capsule II, which will be lowered into its steel burial shaft next October when the World's Fair comes to a close.

The Smithsonian capsule item is a microfilm copy of the paper titled "Aboriginal Cultural Development in Latin America: An Interpretative Review," authored by Betty J. Meggers and Clifford Evans of the department of anthropology. Cliff is curator of the division of archeology, and Betty, his wife, is a research associate in archeology. The Meggers and Evans paper was published in Smithsonian Miscellaneous Collections (vol. 146, no. 1, 1963) and was selected by a 14-man committee headed by Former Secretary Leonard Carmichael, who is now vice president for research and exploration, National Geographic Society.

The capsule's 40 items will cover subjects ranging through art, science, industry, world events, religion, communications, sports, and everyday life. Among them will be samples of rock from the moon, filmed charter of the United Nations, recordings of the Beatles, and a videotape of President Kennedy's "Profiles in Courage."

The complete contents of the capsule will be on exhibit at the Westinghouse Pavilion during the 1965 season of the Fair.

ARMY BUGS OUR JUNGLE

A team of Army specialists has just finished an investigation that involved the planting of microphones in the jungle of Barro Colorado Island, the Smithsonian's wildlife preserve in the Canal Zone.

The Army wanted to find out if it could discover whether a man is in a jungle by distinguishing the noises he makes there from the noises made by the wildlife chorus. If it could do that, then it could detect the presence of guerilla forces in a jungle.

The specialists moved more than two tons of equipment into the jungle and used more than 15 miles of magnetic recording tapes. The noises were recorded from microphones set up as far as a mile away from the base station.

The results of this experiment in jungle eavesdropping have not been announced.

FREE HEALTH TESTS

The D. C. Department of Public Health is offering free health tests for persons 40 years of age and older at its mobile health unit at 14th St. and Park Road, N.W.

Examinations are given between 9 and 11 a.m. Monday through Friday, and they take about 30 minutes. Smithsonian employees should call TU 2-9630, ext. 27, for an appointment.