Anacostia Site Picked for Neighborhood Museum

THE SMITHSONIAN TORCH

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HOSPITAL ZONE—This cement-and-brick complex of hospital and research facilities will soon rise in the administrative area of the Zoo. See story on page 2.

QUALITY MERCHANDISE SOUGHT

MNH Shop to Be Built, Fox Says

"I would rather see every museum shop closed than permit them to function as emporiums for souvenirs. A museum shop can not be divorced from the total museum picture," says Carl Fox, who assumed the position of director of museum shops last month.

Each museum shop has already had an effect. Next month a brand new shop will open on the ground floor of the Museum of Natural History, and the closet-sized shop on the first floor will become a bookstore. Designed by Joe Shannon of the exhibition office, the new sales area will be on the right as a visitor enters from Constitution Avenue.

Fox's belief that shops should not be self-service—"We bear no relation to a supermarket"—will be applied in the new boutique. According to Shannon, the new facility "is not very fancy. It will be built in the most economical way pos­sible. Wooden cases and shelves will be used, and counters to be manned by personnel will be built in the most economical way possible." The shop will be embellished by display cases, wall hangings, and posts holding spotlights and hooks holding such as jewelry.

Sometime in the future the area will be decorated by wall screen graphics related to natural history, but, in keeping with Fox's goal of quality merchandise, "The shop will be well designed," says Shannon. "I think it will be one of the best shops in Washington and that people will come from all around to buy things there."

Another Fox innovation tentatively scheduled for June is a sales exhibition of applique works by Cuna Indians of San Blas. The exhibition, possibly accompanied by demonstrations, will be staged in the corner of the National Museum of the Smithsonian Associates, entitled, to a ten percent discount on purchases, will be invited to a special preview of this and future exhibitions and given first choice of merchandise.

Before his appointment as shops director, Fox spent three months at SI as a consultant, examining all aspects of museum sales from finance and merchandising policy to shop design. He made several proposals for changes. A museum of that study. He has suggested that the sales desk in AD be moved to the other side of the hall so it is in because the lighting is better ("The most beautiful things in the world would be for naught if they were not displayed adequately") and predicts that MHT will offer the greatest problems architecturally. He hastened to point out, however, that he is "not here to tear down walls. I hope to construct something.

He has also proposed a training program for shop personnel, in view of the conversion from self service to sales basis. He feels that the changes he has suggested will provide "opportunity, challenge and ever so much more fun" for the current staff.

His primary concern is that what the shops offer be the very best quality merchandise available. His criteria are that it be original, representative of the world's craftsman and related to the museum collection.

Eventually each museum will offer merchandise uniquely related to its own exhibits. Although Fox has many ideas for MHT, he thinks Natural History will be something of a challenge. He predicts that within the next few years, however, SI will be selling quality natural science items not available anywhere else.

Fox got his start in museum sales at the Brooklyn Museum. Employed in the

WASHINGTON ON NEW YORK?

'Grand Prix' Showing to Aid SI Associates

A special benefit showing of the new Cinematic transition "Grand Prix" will be held on May 25 for the scholarship fund of the Smithsonian Associates. The project is based on the idea that SI's Office of International Activities, which is tax exempt, will have an official activity. The movie, starring John Gielgud, will be shown at the Smithsonian Associates.

In June, a Cinerama film "Grand Prix" will be shown at the Scotch Theater. All tickets to the performance are being chaired by Mrs. Betty Holroyd, chairman of the committee which is organizing the benefit. The scholarship fund enables deserving young students to participate in Associates courses taught by members of the SI staff. In the first semester of courses offered last fall, more than ten percent of the total enrollment of 600 were scholarship recipients. "Grand Prix" is based on the world-famous European sports car race of that name. A special exhibition of one of the cars featured in the film, the 1903 Weymann and I, and a collection of early racing posters will be exhibited at the first floor of MHT beginning May 15, in conjunction with the benefit. The poster collection belongs to Anthony Goves, a former curator of civil history at SI and now head of American studies at the Univer­sity of London.

Mrs. Peter Macdonald is heading the SI Council of Associates which is organizing the benefit. A junior committee, which will distribute programs and refreshments at the performance, is headed by Mrs. Ian Cooper. Charles Gogolak, wife of the Washington Redskins' quarterback, is chairman. Tickets may be ordered from Mrs. Clyde Shorey, Jr., 3440-34th Place, N.W., Washington, D.C. Telephone 244-7475.
Design Approved for Zoo Hospital-Research Complex

Construction should begin this summer on a 55,000-square-foot animal hospital and research area for the Zoo. The design for the complex, by Alan B. Jacobs, William Motzoll, Jr., Associates, was accepted by the Institution last month. Facilities to be provided in the new building, phase four in a general physical improvement program for the Zoo, include an operating room, pharmacy, and pathological laboratories for use by veterinarian Clinton W. Gray. Research accommodations will include general laboratories, photo and sound rooms and climate control rooms. They were designed, according to staff engineer Frank Maloney, for study directed to determining the best means of caring for captive animals.

A pool for aquatic research, a unit simulating natural environments for tropical birds, warehouse, greenhouse, work shop and garage will be included in the complex. The facility will be adjacent to the existing Holt House administration building, away from the public areas of the Zoo.

Construction will be under the supervision of the General Services Administration and is expected to take 15 to 18 months. The buildings will have dark brick and glass exterior with a trim of white concrete.

Already completed in the 10-year improvement program are a perimeter road and parking lot, the bird house and flight cage area, sewer system and deer and hoofed stock areas. Among future projects will be shops and service buildings and a multi-climate house.

Letters

Support Asked

Sir: Nearly four years have passed since a request for support from the (E.W.R.A.), Employee Welfare Recreation Association.

To date, there are still a few very (but tiring) of us still trying to carry what seems to be an unbearable task. It is embarrassing when one of the few is attending a National Recreation Meeting, or even a monthly meeting, and we are asked: What is, or how is, the Smithsonian doing? All we can do is shake our heads and say nothing.

It has been said that our top people support their agencies morally. Let's build an organization where all of the employees at the Smithsonian, three; the last two were free. Two dances, $200 people per dance. With 250 people for all sections. The staff will be shops and service buildings and a multi-climate house.

Kiosk to Open

Guards in MNH should have fewer problems to answer beginning sometime this month.

"How do I get to the Capital?" questions are to be few and far between. The National Park Service kiosk which has been standing almost completely off the main plaza is scheduled to open on a full-time basis.

The booth will be maned by two uniformed Park Service employees, who will answer questions and provide information leaflets. It will be "the science of life."

The kiosk will be open seven days a week from 8:30 to 5.

Permit us to observe that exobiology, meaning the study of extraterrestrial life (something carried on by our Carl Sagan, Bishun Khare and others), is a word used often, without quotation marks, by NASA etc. The whole word may not be in any dictionary, yet it has two halves: with, in which the whole concept is carried, and "outside" as "seen or not seen"... .

If every possible compound word (bi-words? etc.) were coined, a dictionary that outnumbered with 10,000 monomer words would upwind with 100,000 (a centillion) polyglot leasages. What the hellam!

John White, SAO
Drivers are doing, and maintaining the group's weekly rehearsal in MNH 43.

The hobby might seem a bit incongruent from the point of view of most of the members, but Dr. Talbot explains the intricacies of the sport. "A wonderful exercise in high speed calculation and coordination of a car, road, or track. Racing demands more than merely guiding a car at top speed over a straight or oval track. Run in Europe on the open road, and in the U.S. on specially laid-out tracks, the race involves a combination of curves and straightaways that require a speed range from well over 100 miles per hour to an almost constant shunting of gears.

A professional driver, Dr. Talbot has raced in Europe, East Africa, South America - many of the same areas in which he has conducted his basic research in wild life and land use ecology. His enviable success record includes one period from 1956-59 when he never finished lower than fourth. Now he races only for points which accumulate for trophies. "We have a house full of them," he says, but it is hard to see how he finds time even to look at them. In addition to his regular work as a research ecologist and adviser and field trips, Dr. Talbot races occasionally, and shares his other interests to the point of acting as his assistant in the office and on field expeditions.

Despite the highs and twisting courses, Dr. Talbot feels safer on the race course than on a freeway. The Sports Car Club of America, which sponsors all the races and maintains rigid standards for participants, inspects cars before each race. Drivers must wear fireproof coveralls and tested helmets. Their cars must be equipped with approved safety belts, shoulder harnesses and roll bars.

At each curve is a flag man who signals conditions ahead, and a fireman. Ammunition, water, and crash kits are stationed nearby, and, if this weren't enough, "everyone is going in the same direction," the driver points out.

Dr. Talbot has found racing a profitable sport, as well as enjoyable, and he says he would provide him with not only cash, when he drove professionally, and cars from manufacturers who wanted him to drive their products, but even research time. In 1962 a British firm flew him from California to East Africa to drive its car in the East African Safari. In addition to his round-trip passage, they financed two months of field research in the area.

So far this year Team Vroom has two firsts and two seconds in the four races entered. How many more wins are piled up in the 1967 season depends on the demands of science.

**Anacostia Facility**

(continued from page 1)

"Natural and normally as they patronize a supermarket."

The facility as he proposed it, and as it is being dully pruned, will be of services without a formal theme or elaborate exhibits. It will have objects which, Secret Ripley has suggested, would ideally be "touchable and as many as possible should be workable by the visitors." (See Widening Horizons story, page 4.)

If the museum is successful, Mr. Ripley believes, versions of it could expedi-ted by local museums in depressed areas across the country. The neighborhood chosen for the experiment was the scene of a much-publicized recent "incident." In August at the 11th Precinct police station.

A JOYFUL NOISE-Toussaint Wallace directs the new SI chorus in a spiritual at the group's weekly rehearsal in MNH 43.

**UFOs Not From Space, Dr. Menzel Tells Editors**

There is absolutely no evidence whatsoever to support the idea of unidentified flying objects from outer space, said Dr. Donald Menzel, former director of the Harvard College Observatory, told members of the American Society of Newspaper Editors April 22.

Participating in a UFO panel discussion at the ASNE convention, Dr. Menzel said that 90 percent of the sightings solved by the Air Force "Project Blue Book" are the results of optical objects -airplanes, balloons, kites, space experiments, searchlights on clouds, and even birds.

Another type of sighting being brought to light for the first time, he said, is not recognized by the Air Force. It is an effect in the chemistry and physiology of the observer's own eye, producing a phe-nomenon similar to the after-image seen by flashbulbs.

Dr. Menzel refuted the arguments of another panelist, meteorologist James E. McDonald, who said in a prepared paper that Dr. Menzel "seems to calmly cast aside well-known scientific principles almost with abandon, in an all-out effort to be sure that no UFO report survives his attack."

McDonald claimed that Dr. Menzel's explanation of optical phenomena does not apply to some close-up sightings, using an incident in Salt Lake City for instance, Dr. Menzel countered that weather conditions in the city that day were conducive to a visual hallucination which is "as real as a rainbow."

The two men agreed, however, that "Project Blue Book" should be abolished, but for different reasons. McDonald called it "not a grand cover-up, a grand feed-up." Dr. Menzel suggested its abolition because there has been no evidence of any significant UFO sightings, and by its very existence the project makes people believe there is something to substantiate their claims.

"It is time to stop chasing hothegoblins," said Dr. Menzel. "As for the flying saucer believers, bless their little hearts, they will go on thinking what they want."

An interview with Dr. Menzel in an upcoming issue of THE TORCH will explore his views on UFOs more fully.

**Tower Concert Schedule Set**

Heralded each performance by the stirring sounds of THE KING'S FAN- FARE, by 16th century Netherlands composer Josquin De Prizc, the Smith- sonian Tower Concerts will commence Monday, June 5, 1967. The summer long performances will continue through the summer season until August 28. During the last two seasons, the concerts from the North Tower of the original SI building proved a popular drawing card for music lovers and visitors to the Mall.

Utilizing brass instruments, the concerts will be largely devoted to Renaiss ance and Baroque compositions. Lovers of contemporary music, however, will not be neglected. Some modern compositions for brass instruments will be included.

In announcing the new band concert series, John T. Fesperman, associate cura tor in charge of the Division of Musical Instruments, said, "The Tower Music programs use music taken from 17th Century German reper toire for brasses. It was intended for out door performance and, in its day, was a familiar kind of music—often heard from the steps of the church or other public buildings. "Monday Music on the Mall" will be the motto for music lovers in the Washington area this summer.
Exhibits Display Impresses Job-Ninded Ninth Graders

Book 29 at the Widening Horizons Job Fair was crowded with ninth-graders pressing to get a better view, ask questions, try their hands at model-making and pick up a silk screen print, and a turtle. Turtles were out-drawing fish 50 to one.

On the other side of the tables, just as enthusiastic, were members of the SI exhibits staff, demonstrating their skills to show what kinds of jobs are available to kids who stay in school.

The D.C. public school students came by the busload for five straight days, April 10-14, to be exposed to various types of occupations, sip free cokes and fill their Widening Horizons shopping bags with vocational pamphlets and souvenirs. At book 29 they found much to hold their interest.

John Widener, supervisor of the plastics lab, put together a crowd that included silk screening, freeze dry, and three different types of model-making techniques, with someone to demonstrate each skill. James Campbell pressed out an SI owl coin on a machine normally used to make leaves, then asked who'd like to try. A school teacher would have given a week's salary for the response that he drew.

Sun Won't Set On SI Offers

James Smithsonian's Institution has at least one thing in common with his native Britain. Again this month, the sun will not set until 10 p.m. On the other side of the globe where the action is is M. C. DEDALINOF of entomology, collecting mosquitoes in Thailand, Cambodia and the Philippines for the Southeast Asia Mosquito Project. Polychaete collections have drawn MARIAN PETTI­ bomp of worms to European marine sta­ tions and museums until June 28. DAVID L. PAWSON, echinoderms, won't be back until 1968. He's lecturing at Vic­ toria University, Wellington, New Zea­ land. . . The Graphic Arts Division will be holding its fourth annual convention today and tomorrow. . . David Botany's WALLACE EATON to western Europe and the USSR . . . The route of KARI KRAMER, ornithology, and SAMI HAMRINEN of marine sciences reaches Egypt. . . Egbert Halberg is doing field in systematic biology and Hamniren is studying Arabic manus­cripts and Arabic and al-Italia scholar, art school there, he was distressed at the educational value of their programs is to try to give the kids a sense of individual worth and let them know they can hope for something better than the labor type of jobs in school himself.

Carson is being trained at the Smith­sonian under a Neighborhood Youth Corps program. When he finishes his 3 to 30 workday at Sh he goes on to Spring­ ton High School for six hours of classes, and he thinks it's fun. "I used to get to school from school and have nothing to do," he says. "Now I learn at SI, where the work is something, which is nothing like being in school, then go to school and learn other things to benefit me."

As Campbell patiently showed each student how to operate the machine, Winchester commented that he esti­mated that at the lowest level to get the response reflected in­terest or just a desire to get a souvenir, but at least they were getting exposure.

A stereoform outline of a ram was rapidly taking on a woody dimension as bits of pre-mixed paper mache were ap­plied by the visitors. James MacBeth, watching over the intricate sculpture, ex­pected it to be ready for painting by the last day of the fair. "It shows that all these kids are really interested in doing something," he said.

There were molds of turtles, snakes, fish and frogs to be filled in with a plastic liquid. As soon as they solidified they were returned to the shopping table, first, and Arthur Lanier was hard pressed to keep the supply of plastic com­ing.

Silk screen prints of medieval music­ians went just as fast, but the technique also drew specific job questions. Isaiah Carson explained each step of the process as he did it, and advised his audience to get a high school diploma and then com­pete in the trade. He could give kids advice without sounding like a preachy and learned man in school himself.

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SuperSir on SI Subcommittee

Pell Museum Man in Own Right

by John White

The TORCH has long been profiling the eminent members of the Smithsonian Board of Regents; let us now therefore chronicle a few of the extraordinary talents of the board, and without further ado, we are proud to announce to you, the eminent, equally Smithsonianophilic,tor Claiborne Pell of Rhode Island.

Sir Claiborne is a rare bird. He is involved in a public service—and one that has been particularly serviceable for us, members of the Subcommitte of the Smithsonian Institution's Committee on Rules and Administration—but he is also very much his own man. Not surprising. He comes of a remark­able family, with a strong tradition in public service, with a man who has never, without firing a shot, privately cap­tured a kingdom. He is a superSir—he was also knighted by the Arch­bishop, later Cardinal of the Catholic Church. . .

In 1960 he was busier than ever. The Senate, and many others, would like to affect the course of events: "here I can make dreams into realities."

Two of his wildest, widest, most ex­citing and potentially most future-shaping dreams are of transportation and the sea. He has written of these in two just­published books, Megalopolis Unbound (Prange) and Challenge of the Seven Seas (with Harold Leland Goodwin, Morrow). His Megalopolis is the "great city" that now stretches unchecked from Boston to Washington. There are already several other such vast supercities, and by 1980 there may be 25 of them, containing 170 million people, more than twice the number of the country's total population. How will these people—"we" travel?

For short distances, underground in little electric "urbomobiles"; for middle distances, in "megamobuses" run­ning through tubes, and in high-speed trains; for long, intercontinental distances, in radially arranged "megaplanes" for all of these, and/or other even more imaginative motion-methods, should be­gin—now before there is "strangula­tion" of a basic freedom, mobility.

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