IRRESISTIBLE ATTRACTION—Something as climable as a triceratops is pretty hard for the younger to resist. Uncle Beaudry, the full-blooded Dakota, whose "Enormous Egg" TV show has stoically submitted to hordes of children dangling from his horns and sliding down his shaggy back since he went on display in front of MNH.

Institution to Begin 'Storing' All Collections in One Room

The Smithsonian will soon begin storing its 60 million items in one room on the third floor of the Arts and Industries Building.

It will be easier than it sounds, because the objects are only going into the memory of a computer the institution has ordered. The new mechanical mind in A&I will handle all administrative processing and begin cataloging the collections.

According to Director of Information Systems Nicholas J. Suszynski Jr., it could take 75 people working for a century to feed all the data on the Smithsonian collections into the computer. But for a start approximately 50,000 biological and geological specimens will be computerized.

A central storage place for biological and geological information is considered so worthwhile that the Office of Education has had UNESCO agreed to help pay for this operation. It is expected that scholars from across the country will want to use the computer's "knowledge" of these specimens.

The new machine, a Honeywell 1200, replaces an older and smaller system now in use. Suszynski says it will be linked to the computer at the Astrophysical Observatory in Cambridge, Mass., expanding the capabilities of both machines.

Future plans also include communications terminals in most museum buildings for easy access to the computer.

Besides cataloging, the electronic storage will take care of payroll lists and employee rosters. Suszynski says it

(Continued on page 4)

N.D. Attic Yields SI Whopping 17'2" Feet of Beard

By Jim Klobuchar

Physical anthropologists of the Smithsonian, a group of scholars seldom heard, admitted they are astonished by their latest find—a 17'2" foot beard rescued from a North Dakota attic.

(Following authentication by an expert, Dr. Lucile St. Hoyme of MNH said "the beard not only is an artifact but an all-time record."

For 40 years it has reposed, balled up and forgotten in the clutter of a farm attic near Barney, N.D., where it was last seen publicly coiled from the chin of the late Hans Langseth, its founder.

For nearly five decades, Langseth cultivated his remarkable growth, protecting it against the ravages of computerized life.

It was last seen publicly coiled from the chin of the late Hans Langseth in the early 1920s, changes the nature of the NCFA-sponsored presentation at the show opening September 15 in Anacostia.

"Because of the death of Edward Hopper, principal artist in the United States entry at the IX Sao Paulo Bienial in Brazil, changes the nature of the NCFA-sponsored presentation at the show opening September 15 in Anacostia.

"For the Smithsonian, it represents a reaching out to a local community in a manner most fitting for a great educational institution. For their part, leaders of the Anacostia community are devoting themselves to development of a neighborhood institution that can symbolize their hopes and aspirations even as it provides a local window on the great collections of the Smithsonian.

An active advisory committee of Anacostia residents has worked with the SI in establishing the museum and will operate it with Smithsonian support and cooperation.

Private foundations—The Carnegie Corporation of New York, the Eugene and Agnes E. Meyer Foundation of Washington, and the Ford and Richardson Fund of Connecticut—have provided a substantial portion of the funds required.

Director of the new museum is 30-year-old John R. Kinard. Kinard has engaged two local art educators, Paulus and Zuzak, to work with the Smithsonian people about it.

Replied J. Lawrence Angel of the Institution's division of physical anthropology: "I think that the Smithsonian is a proper place to exhibit a record-break--ing growth of hair, which has scientific interest as well as being an extraordinary achievement by its owner."

"But the beard stopped, never to flow again, when Hans Langseth died in 1927. The beard was removed and given to a son, Peter, for safekeeping. It was placed in a chest and by and large forgotten until Peter Langseth and his son, Russell, decided to inspect it a few months ago out of curiosity.

"It was amazingly wellpreserved," young Langseth said, and "I entered into a correspondence with the Smithsonian people about it.

The beard is to begin "storing" all collections in one room.

Mr. Klobuchar's article is reprinted in part from the MINNEAPOLIS STAR.

The hairdresser isn't the only one who knows for sure in the case of this 17'2" foot beard being held by physical anthropologists, J. Lawrence Angel, and T. Dale Stewart. The scientists had the record growth checked by the FBI hair laboratory to confirm its authenticity. Hairiness is a characteristic of the white race, Dr. Angel points out, and the specimen will enthrall the audience at this year's American Anthropological Association's Physical Anthropology Hall. It is "an accumulation of beard hairs" with probably no one strand extending the entire length, and is not, Dr. Angel emphasizes, a freak.
Ordinary Gift, Rare Delivery

By Sam Suratt

The National Institute for the Promotion of Science, a predecessor of the Smithsonian, received many gifts of specimens from amateur naturalists, but none so charming, diverse, or as the box of fossils and shells from J. Goldsborough Bruff, in August of 1843. Mr. Bruff became a resident member of the National Institute in 1840 and gave a number of things to their museum, which was housed at the Patent Office. This museum was taken over by the Smithsonian in the 1860s and all the specimens and records, including Mr. Bruff’s artistic rebus, became part of its collections.

J. Goldsborough Bruff was a graduate of West Point, but found the life of an artist more appealing than the Army. With the exception of a trip to California during the gold rush of 1849, Bruff worked in Washington as a draughtsman, while he tried to gain recognition as an artist. In 1859 the Washington Art Association showed some of his work. He later became an employee of the U.S. Treasury and designed various medals, one commemorating the laying of the Atlantic Cable.

Another example of Bruff’s artistry should also be in the Smithsonian. In 1844 he gave the National Institute an oyster shell, in which he had painted a representation of Neptune in his car, drawn by dolphins. Perhaps some day Neptune will surface from the ocean of 60 million objects.

Dr. Talbot Assists Life Magazine at Indonesian Nature Reserve

Dr. Lee Talbot, ecology and international conservation, set the pace for August-September Smithsonian travelers.

Dr. Talbot spent last month in Indonesia, where he helped Life Magazine with a nature study at the Java Nature Reserve of Ujung Kulon. The last native Javan rhinos are there, only about 20-40 of them. While there Dr. Talbot also surveyed the animals in the reserve to compare them with a previous census and set up International Biology Program research plans with Indonesian scientists.

Dr. Donald F. Squiers, deputy director of MNH, is in Australia and New Zealand until September 9, conducting research on terrestrial environments of the Antarctic and related regions. ... Also in the eastern part of the world are Ennui G. Menura, SOSC, collecting marine specimens in the Philippines until October, and Botany’s Thomas R. Soderstrom, visiting field research stations and discussing cooperative research programs in Japan, Indonesia, Thailand, and India, as well as England and France.

Henry E. Setzer, mammals, is on a collecting trip in Africa, gathering mammals and associated ecoregions in Kenya, Ghana, Togo, Dahomey and South Africa. He returned earlier in December.

Coming back sooner is Elvira Chien-Stein, internationale, who returned in Septem­ber 7 after professional meetings in Copenhagen and research in Oslo and London museums. ... Richard H. Benson, invertebrate paleontologist, will leave for London on the ninth, to attend a symposium at Cambridge and study the ostracod collection at the British Museum. ... Physical anthropologist J. Lawrence Angel will leave the same day for Greece and Turkey, to study the skeletons of the early farming populations. ... On nearby Cyprus, John H. Hustedt, birds, is conducting a survey of Palaearctic migrant birds. He will return in December.

NASM Offers ‘Lunch box’ Talks

“Bring your lunch and spend an hour in food for thought,” invites the National Air and Space Museum.

NASM’s Dick Preston and Ernest Robinson have organized a series of weekly lunchbox seminars open to all interested SI staff members. Informal talks on a variety of subjects are given each Wednesday—day from noon to 1 p.m. on the second floor of the A&I Building.


ABOUT SI PEOPLE

Paul Garber Will Retire After 47-Year SI Career

Paul A. Garber, senior curator and historian of the National Air and Space Museum, has been honored by Smithsonian Institution for 26 years longer than NASM itself. The world-famous aviation historian will retire in December after 47 years at the Institution.

Garber has been witness to the acquisition of almost every important item in the collections. When he joined the staff, four Langley aircraft, a “rather incorrectly made copy” of Strickfellow’s triplane, a Lilliputian glider, and the Wrights’ military airplane of 1909 were the extent of the air museum’s exhibits.

MNH SCIENTISTS GET HIGH AWARD

Museum of Natural History anthropologists Betty J. Meggers and Clifford Edmunds, and the Government of Ecuador, have received the National Order of Merit. Drs. Meggers and Evans, the first American scientists to be so honored, were cited for their “inestimable contributions in making known the scientific value of Ecuador.” While tracing Ecuadorian pre-historic, the husband-wife team also uncovered evidence that Japanese fishermen landed in the New World as early as 3,000 B.C. or before.

“As a result,” Ambassador Larrea said, “we are provided with a key to unlock the secret of the Origin of Man in America, and for Ecuador this is of enormous significance because it indicates that culture moved from south to north and not the reverse, as had been believed and maintained.”

TERMITE DAMAGE DOUBLES, SAYS SNYDER

The chances that termites are giving your house the “munch-over” have more than doubled within the past 10 years, according to Dr. Thomas E. Snyder of MNH. Dr. Snyder says termite damage to buildings in the U.S. has increased to $250,000,000 annually as compared to only $100,000,000 just ten years ago.

The 82-year-old entomologist calls termites “social cockroaches” because, unlike their older cousins (roaches), termites display an elaborate civilization—the oldest of any civilization, the most complex, and the most intelligent. Nevertheless they are still pests.

PETRUS LEADS SHIPWRECK SEARCH

Mendel Peterson, chairman of MHT’s Department of Armed Forces History and an accomplished skindiver, is leading an SI team in a comprehensive underwater survey of the Bermuda reefs and nearby waters to locate historic shipwrecks. Underwater findings in later stages of the expedition, just begun last month, will be exhibited in the newly opened Hall of Underwater Exploration in MHT.

SENIOR ZOOLOGIST AFTER MARINE LIFE

While Mendel Peterson is in Bermuda hunting shipwreck sites, SI’s senior zoologist Harold A. Reder is leading an expedition team collecting specimens of the marine life of French Polynesia. One of the world’s foremost experts on Southeast Pacific marine life, Dr. Reder is collecting mollusks, crabs, starfish, and small fish. These specimens will be added to MNH’s marine life collection, already one of the largest in the world.

WHITTLE TO OPEN ASSOCIATES SERIES

Dr. Fred L. Whittle, Director of SAO, will be the first speaker in Smithsonian Associates fall lecture series. Dr. Whittle will speak on “The Moon and Planets: Today’s Frontiers.” The lecture will be given at 8 p.m., September 19, in the MNH auditorium.

VISITING SCHOLAR HONORED

Dr. Roberto Donoso Barros, a visiting scholar here, has won Chile’s most important literary prize for his recently published book, Reptiles of Chile. Dr. Barros and Dr. James A. Peters, curator of the Division of Reptiles in MNH, are collaborating on a neotropical squamata catalog, which will cover lizards and snakes of Central and South America.

“DIG” SUBSCRIPTIONS OFFERED

SI anthropologist Waldo R. Wedel’s “dig” in Kansas drew so much attention that the Lyons Daily News offered a special subscription rate for its duration. In an 8 x 9 inch ad, the News declared that “One of Rice County’s most interesting continuing stories is that of the Smithsonian Institution’s archeological dig, 10 miles northeast of Lyons. ... Perhaps you know someone who is not subscribing to the News, but would be interested in reading this continuing story. Several persons from various towns in Kansas have already taken out subscriptions to the News for this very reason.” So far, no word from Dr. Wedel on how circulation has picked up.

FALL RECREATION

The otherwise healthy-looking young men hobbling around the Institution have probably been to the opening practices for the SI touch football team. Oliver Grant of duplicating, the team coach, invites all would-be-athletes to attend work-outs on Saturdays at 11 a.m. at the Amidon playing field. The team is sponsored by the Recreation Association and plays representatives of other government agencies. Other fall activities include bowling, gun clubs and the SI chorus. For further information call Jim Piper, 5944.
Olín & Co. Face Challenges In Restoring Works of Art

By Reed Hundt

The National Collection of Fine Arts and the National Portrait Gallery include:

—a 1835 portrait of Andrew Jackson that has spent the last century under two large glass cases.
—a 1635 portrait of Charles I of England
—a 1655 portrait of Abigail Lottie the danger of crumbling at any moment.

—Another abstract on which an anonymous collector has written: "Is this a trash?"

—And numerous old oil paintings disfigured by myriad cracks on their surfaces.

—With microscopes, hot wax, ultrasonic jackhammers, and steady hands the restorers in the NCFA/NPG Conservator Laboratory will turn the works almost as good as new and will also guarantee their preservation for years to come.

The miracles of restoration wrought by the Conservation Lab are to a great extent due to the unique scientific approach taken by Conservator Charles Olin. Olin spent three years at the Institute of Fine Arts at New York University learning the various skills of painting. In addition, he holds a degree in physics. His wife in the meantime has combined to assemble a striking range of equipment and techniques for conserving art objects.

Olin has his own theories as well as techniques, however. Conservationists are usually art historians first. But Olin views the conservator as having skills of "historian, curator, connoisseur, and scientific analyst." Olin says the history is "nice to know." But as far as the conservator is concerned he conserves the paintings as material objects.

In handling each painting, Olin will first seek to uncover its basic form, by removing the marks of time, dirt, and paint. Olin says the Conservatory Lab takes the time to repair each crack. They are careful, says Olin, not to paint the restorers in the future as well as restore for the present.

Ritterbush Visits Unexplored Area

Philip Ritterbush, special assistant to Secretary Ripley, was one of an international party of eight that explored the mountain peaks of the Arctic last month on an Explorer's Club expedition. The group conducted a general reconnaissance of a new hitherto uncharted section of Baffin Island in the Canadian Arctic.

Ritterbush reports, was an ice-peak which at 5650 feet was several hundred feet higher than any other peak in the area. The group named the peak "Wind Tower," in honor of the late President Warren G. Harding. "The fact that nobody had been in this area before, that it was so uniform, that there was no one on guard, that it was a wonderful thing to experience," said Ritterbush, "led to the idea of the peak.

The group reached its expedition site by chartered plane, a fact that prompted Olin to note that his was one of the last 100 chartered planes that the NCFA/NPG conservators have used. For Olin, he notes, his period was so small that I could have taken a hundred from a painting and you would never know it," says Olin.

Photos and chemical analysis of the sample help Olin and his workers learn "everything there is to know about 'trashing'" and then "like a doctor" Olin can prescribe his remedies.

In the case of the abstract with "This is trash" scrawled across it, the treatment Olin has decreed is a painting of methylation of acetone. The chemical dries the paint quickly and when peeled off the painting with it. But only a fraction of a square centimeter can be done at a time: "It would take a hundred hours, Olin reports.

In many other instances the treatment involves putting on a new case with applied with hot wax, resin and air pressure.

But for the Olin abstract a new method will have to be invented, because the large globules of oil paint would crumble under the pressure. Olin has long solved this problem, and it serves to exemplify the difficulties modern artists pose for the restorers.

The new acrylics and other materials sometimes now use all have to be analyzed carefully to see how they decompose and how they can be saved. For the last two months Olin has been doing so. His effort, after uncovering and restoring, is preservation. Olin is still developing his own theories as well as techniques, future as well as restore for the present.

TWO VIEWS OF AN OCTOPUS

Author, Reviewer Discuss Book

By Thomas C. Witherpoon

A young lady who was employed at the Smithsonian for a number of years has heard to remark soon after she took up duties that "This is the most fascinating job I have ever had a chance to work at." A short time before her departure, she returned to work after she had heard to proclaim loudly, "This is the most ridiculous place I've ever worked at.

The account is without foundation in fact, but its persistence as legend provides a key to the proper approach to an appreciation of Geoffrey T. Hellman's story "The Octopus on the Mall," published in July by Lippincott ($3.95, 224 pages), after a three-year gestation. Hellman's "Octopus on the Mall" is one of genuine pleasure in the curious charm of a venerable and oh so multi­faceted institution. He does take us ser­iously, at least on occasions—well, he was in The New Yorker.

The book and serial are almost identical. Hellman's chosen title is the most striking difference. For Hellman's truly affectionate—the Sea of Knowledge—has decreed is a painstaking appli­cation of the word "octopus" to a painting which is much like a melodrama, despite the read­er's complete awareness of the facts of the case. Secretary Henry writes to Louis Agassiz, a Regent and opponent of the Smithsonian. Hellman's volume contains, however, many stories that have never appeared elsewhere, and his approach to the well known material, such as James Smithson, THE WILL, and the founding of the Smithsonian (at the same time the planet Neptune was discovered, for what that's worth) is refreshing, slightly irreverent, and probably completely accurate.

Hellman's story of how Secretary Baird in his own quiet way eventually tri­umphant over Secret ary Henry in turning the SI from an almost strictly research institution into a museum reads very much like a melodrama, despite the read­er's complete awareness of the facts of the case. Secretary Henry writes to Louis Agassiz, a Regent and opponent of the Smithsonian. Hellman's volume contains, however, many stories that have never appeared elsewhere, and his approach to the well known material, such as James Smithson, THE WILL, and the founding of the Smithsonian (at the same time the planet Neptune was discovered, for what that's worth) is refreshing, slightly irreverent, and probably completely accurate.

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15 on Armed Forces Radio

America's military personnel abroad will soon learn that happiness is a Canela Indian quality and how the harpsichord developed.

They will hear about these and other interesting subjects from Smithsonian staff members over the Armed Forces Radio Network.

So far as five-minute tapes for the network, which has some 300 stations in 35 different countries. The citizens of these countries who listen to AFTRS programs will swell the audience for Smithsonian programs beyond the military total.

Participants so far include:

James Cornwell, SAG; Dr. William H. Crocker, cultural anthropology; Paul Desautels, minerals; John C. Ewers, North American anthropology; Paul Garber, NASM; Dr. Nicholas Hutton, vertebrate paleontology; Dr. Brian H. Mason, meteorites; Mendel L. Peterson, armed forces history; Virginia Purdy, NPG; Dr. Theodore Reed, Zoological Society; Dr. David Scott, NCA; Robert G. Stewart, NPG; James M. Weaver, musical instruments; Peter C. Welsh, GOUS; and Robert B. Widdner, MHT exhibits.

The computer will also do what is called information storage and retrieval work (ISR). This means that when a user walks in, the computer says, "How many Ph.D.'s from Yale who have been to the North Pole are working at the Smithsonian," it will be able to pull the answer out of its memory in seconds.

The machine will do scientific calculations as well.

Computers

(Continued from page 1)

(Continued from page 1)

Cooper 'All-Time Master' in Paleobiology

By Mary M. Kriig

G. Arthur Cooper, former chairman of the Department of Paleobiology in the Museum of Natural History and now a senior scientist, is a quiet man who has been called by a colleague "not only the outstanding living scholar, but the all-time master" in his field.

As Dr. Cooper puts it, his lifelong concern with "beasts"—brachiopods and other fossil invertebrates—"is so important to the science of evolution and knowledge of the past."

The study of these little beasts is not usually considered dramatic—"one of the crosses you bear in this kind of game," Dr. Cooper will say—"but a pretty good many people in the world care for them."

But if the research itself does not appear dramatic to most people, the statistics are certainly staggering. Dr. Cooper's most recent studies, years of concentration on the Permian brachiopods of Trans Pecos, Texas, have resulted in more than 60 tons of stone processed to yield literally millions of fossil specimens that fill 1,500 drawers in MNH.

Collecting these specimens has demanded unusual physical as well as mental exertions of the 65-year-old scientist. "Most paleontologists carry only a hammer and a collecting bag and collect loose specimens from the surface; Cooper goes to the field with a heavy sledge hammer, pinch bars, and a truck and will quarry and break tons of rock to get what he wants," says a colleague.

The average stone Dr. Cooper brings from the field weighs between 100 and 200 pounds. He once took a sample that required four people to get it into the car. These large blocks have forced him to become a "mass producer." He photographs and breaks specimens on a limited scale in recovering specimens. He etches the fossils from the rock in an acid bath.

Large vats in the basement of MNH hold the acid-covered blocks. "An improvised sounding machine called a "shop lifter" lifts the blocks into the vat, a job that was done by hand "before the Institution became opulent enough to buy a machine."

In those less opulent days Dr. Cooper was also his own photographer and even typist. Now, in his 38th year at the Smithsonian, he is, according to a distinguished British geologist, "universal recognition of the U.S. National Museum as one of the great world centers in palaeobiological research."

After etching comes the really tedious but most important step in Dr. Cooper's fossil hunt, "picking the goodies out of an enormous amount of debris of decalcified rock." It demands of the paleontologist a strong pair of eyes to match his strong back. Then the fragile little creatures, some of them still with spines so delicate as hairs after 250 million years, must be classified.

This very basic research, says Dr. Cooper, is "laying down the foundation—the kind of paleontology that has to be done before theoretical considerations can be made."

Two or three years from now other paleontologists will be able to build on this foundation, when the book on Dr. Cooper's Texas research is completed.

Dr. Richard Grant of the Interior Department, who worked with Dr. Cooper in the research project, is also cooperat­ ing in preparing the book. The manuscript now runs to 5,000 pages.

Dr. Cooper's other published works are already recognized as classics among his fellow scientists. "Through much work, he is known to stratigraphers and paleontologists everywhere in the world, not one of whom would dispute the opinions that he is the greatest living systematic paleontologist," says one of them.

"Very few indeed," concludes another, "have earned so deservedly an interna­tional reputation in palaeontology."