A Statement From the Secretary

The tragic accident which befell the Smithsonian submarine, the John- son-Sea-Link, and cost the lives of Clayton Link and Albert Sover, gives pause to all concerned with undersea exploration. But the Institution can only reaffirm its support of the research program the little vessel was carrying out, and its belief in the skill not only of Edwin A. Link and his partner, J. Seward Johnson, but in its team.

Ed Link has become as famous in oceanography as he had been in scuba dynamics, where he is best remembered as the inventor of the Link Trainer. He designed and constructed his miniature submarine with great technological skill and infinite care, incorporating superb safety devices which were rigorously backed up. And he has continuously modified the little craft to improve the safety factors.

A year ago in March, totally unversed in operations, I made a test dive in the Johnson-Sea-Link to demonstrate to myself its manner of operation and the safety of its performance. I examined it on the deck of the mother ship, noting the lock-out chamber, fitted out for men in diving suits, the independent air and chemical life-support systems, the intercom and the sophisticated motor, communication and pressure-control panels. Then, sitting in the forward compartment, a huge acrylic bubble with its own life system, I felt a thrill of excitement as we were swung out over the side of the mother ship and towed to our diving station off a coral reef.

There was a rapid change from churning surf to stillness as we sank beneath the surface. Suddenly fish darted in all directions or ventured close to inspect the pilot and myself in our great air bubble. We slowly forged ahead toward the aqueous bloom of the reef edge. As we hovered 80 feet down, as delicately as a butterfly testing midair, Link emerged from the lock-out chamber and swam about with his lung attachment. He spoke to me on the intercom as he picked up shells and pieces of coral.

We drifted down under the surface...
Women's Council Charts New Course for SI Goals

by Karen Ulrich

Smithsonian Women's Council

What's that you ask? A fair question, indeed, and one that we, the members of the Council, are still trying to answer. To date we haven't made a viable impact on the Institution but we have been trying—and learning.

On September 11, Secretary Ripley appointed a Women's Council to function as a two-way channel for the exchange of information and ideas between women at the Smithsonian and the Director of Equal Employment Opportunity, the Director of Personnel, and members of the Secretary's Executive Committee. The establishment of the council was a recognition of the need and an effective means of voicing their ideas to the administration.

The nine women employees appointed to the Council were chosen from a group of 119 applicants who had demonstrated enthusiasm and needed an effective means of voicing their ideas to the administration.

Spokesmen for Service, Much in Demand

The National Speakers' Bureau is now a viable program providing Smithsonian speakers to clubs, organizations, and schools on request.

Since its inception in October, the speakers' bureau has responded to more than 200 requests. Demand has grown from five calls in October to 49 in March. During summer months, requests averaged 35 a month. Barbara Benson, manager of the program, is now planning for increased demands this fall. In order to respond to the increased public interest in Smithsonian activities, we have expanded the program to allow requests from individuals or small groups.

The council is also expanding the program to include schools recently opened to the service.

Requests Varied

Since January, 75 speakers have accepted speaking engagements. Many of the speakers' reports are humorous. As we bring more people together, we are encouraged by the interest shown by listeners.

The council has clarified its role within the Smithsonian. One member was surprised to find that the council is not the central planning board for the division. The council has begun to educate itself on the needs of the employees in this area and the options available for employer assistance.

The council has also been given the responsibility of soliciting employees' views on appropriate guidelines for their organizations. For example, we have attempted to solicit employees' views on appropriate guidelines for their organizations.

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Edward K. Thompson

Thompson Receives Medal for Service

Edward K. Thompson, founding editor of Smithsonian magazine, was awarded the National Medal of Arts by President Carter during the 1979 National Memorial Day. Thompson was one of the Nation's most distinguished editors.

The award was presented to Thompson in recognition of his contributions to the field of journalism. Thompson was the first editor of Smithsonian magazine, which was established in 1970.

Thompson has received numerous awards and honors for his work, including the Pulitzer Prize, the National Magazine Award, and the American Society of Magazine Editors Award. He has also been named to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and the American Academy of Arts and Letters.

Thompson is a native of North Dakota and received his A.B. degree from the University of North Dakota. He has served as editor of the University of North Dakota and received his A.B. degree from the University of North Dakota.

Thompson has been a member of the National Portrait Gallery's special exhibition, "The Black Presence in the Era of the American Revolution, 1770-1800," which opened in 1977. Thompson is also the author of "The First Americans: A History of the Peoples of North America before the Coming of the Europeans, 1500-1492."
Employees Retire From Key Posts In SI Divisions

Thirty veteran employees who held key posts at the Institution have retired, taking advantage of the 6.1-percent cost of living allowance which became effective July 1.

"We wish them the best of luck in their retirement and we hope that they will think of the Smithsonian as their home away from home and visit their many friends whenever they have the opportunity," commented Vincent J. Doyle, Director of the Office of Personnel Administration.

Those retiring were:

- Maria Bazyewicz, SI Libraries; Gilbert Brown, Buildings Management Department; John C. Carter, National Museum of History and Technology; Marian Davis, National Air and Space Museum; William Delorey, BMD; Arthur Ellicott, Radiation Biology Laboratory; Samuel Falmi, Office of Personnel Administration; Edwin Foley, Supply Division; Robert Harrison, RBL; Helen Hayes, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Science.

- Edgar Howell, MHT; Fruza Kussrow, National Zoological Park; Wilfred L'Abbe, Protection Service; Walter Male, NASM; Frank Maloney, NZP; Raymond Mayfield, Protection; Vincent Murphy, Protection; William Parker, NZP; Meridell Peterson, MHT; Jesse R. Price, National Collection of Fine Arts; John Rawls, MHT; Kermit Richardson, Protection; Henry Roberts, National Museum of Natural History; Velva Rudd, MNH; Charles Shelton, NZP; Dennis Smith, NZP; James Smith, NZP; Georgeview Stephenson, National Portrait Gallery; Sue Woodfield, BMD; John Woodson, Smithsonian Press.

Mrs. Gaynor Is Special Assistant

Mrs. Margaret Gaynor has been appointed Special Assistant to the Secretary of the Smithsonian.

In her position, Mrs. Gaynor will assist in the preparation of legislative materials; in developing and maintaining relationships with congressional staffs, and in explaining Smithsonian programs to Congress.

Mrs. Gaynor is a former member of the staff of the Senate Goldwater (R-Ariz.) in 1970 she became Special Assistant to the (then) Acting Associate Director for Congressional and Governmental Relations in the Office of Economic Opportunity. She was named Acting Associate Director of the Office of Economic Opportunity for Administration in April 1971 and became Associate Director in December 1971.

Women's Courses Offered at GW

George Washington University's program of continuing education for women has offered a variety of courses of special interest to employed women. Mrs. Laverne M. Love, Smithsonian Women's Coordinator, has reminded SI staff members.

A course on career development for women will be offered at three different evening locations in Virginia, Maryland and Washington. "Exploring Self-Awareness" will be offered as "a lunch and learn" course on the campus.

Other courses offered at convenient times for working women will be "Creative Thinking and Problem Solving," "Building and Managing Your Real Estate Portfolio," "The Psychology of Weight Control," and a supervisory skills workshop. Two special 12-month career oriented courses are also being offered—a legal assistant program and a landscape architecture assistant program.

The college also offers the degree of Master of Arts in Women's Studies. For further information about courses call 676-7036.

Dr. Kier Receives Degree

Dr. Porter Kier, Director of the National Museum of Natural History, has received a Doctorate of Science (D.Sc.) degree from Cambridge University. It is the highest degree from a British university that can be awarded to a scientist, given in recognition of superior academic achievement post the Ph.D. in one's field. Dr. Kier, a paleontologist, earned his Ph.D. from Cambridge in 1956 and 1957 and also did post-doctoral study there under a Fulbright Fellowship.

Guides of the Month Named

Outstanding members of the Smithsonian guard force have been named for the months of April and May by the commanding officers of each of the four companies that comprise the force.


Each guard was chosen for the high level of his performance. Cpl. Lewis was cited specifically for detecting a fire at the National History Building. Pfc. Wall discovered unlocked jewelry cases in the National Museum of History and Technology.

Pfc. Carter discovered that batteries that charge scrubbing machines at MNH had boiled dry, causing a hazard from acid fumes. Pfc. Flipping aided in a search for suspects who robbed a vendor by the east door of the Air and Space Building. Pfc. Bruce discovered a fire in a coach on the third floor at MHT.

LEARNING NEW SKILLS—Clerk-typists who have completed the "Better Office Skills and Services Workshop" conducted by Brenda Howell of the Office of Personnel Administration were (top photo, seated from left) Laurnera Patterson, Wanda Srratt, Shirley Smith, Francine Free (standing, from left) Diane Crawford (guest speaker), Dinah Miles, Donna Hemen, Georgia Grafen, Mrs. Howell and Darsey Dunn. In lower photo are secretaries who have completed beginning shorthand and speedbuilding course conducted by the Learning Lab, also conducted by Mrs. Howell. The shorthand course took approximately eight weeks to complete and the speedbuilding course four weeks. Seated are members of the speedbuilding class from left: Christian Lynch, Marguerie DeNims and Waltraud Larson. Standing (from left) are members of the beginning shorthand class (from left): Marilyn Lee, Helen McGroge, Mrs. Howell, Judy Merryman and Frances Norfleet.

MONTHLY EEO CLASSES—Monthly classes on the supervisor's role in EEO (equal employment opportunity) are regularly conducted by the Office of Personnel Administration. Supervisors who attended the May and June sessions conducted by Jim McCracken were (top photo, front row, from left) L. M. Doun, Jr., John Oakley, Sterling Jones, Jennifer Burdick Stephens, George Terrell, Reggie Crighton, James McCracken (back row, from left) Andrew Wynn, Jr., James White, Joseph Sparragn, John Drobos, C. W. Bahnovicsite, Christopher Shepard, Claude Russell, Paul Haas, William Blansat (bottom photo, front row, from left) Herbert Stroman, Kenneth Gross, William Turner, Charles Lohrig, Mary Quinn, Dante Piacesi, Steptoe Wrenn, Hasten Queen (back row, from left) Joseph Kennedy, Philip Leslie, Edward Dubis, Kermit Lane, Levi Graham, Archie Grimmett, Robert Pine, Lee Schmeltz, Herman Thompson, John Fleming.

Coffee at the Commons

The Commons dining facility in the Smithsonian Institution Building is now open to staff members for coffee cake and Danish pastry from 9 to 10 a.m. weekdays, and for members of the Smithsonian Associates from 10 to 11 a.m. Continental pastries will be served from 2:30 to 4:30 p.m. The selections range in price from 50 to 90 cents. Coffee and tea will cost 25 cents (free refills).

New SI Guidebook

A new guidebook to the Smithsonian has gone on sale. Seeing the Smithsonian: The Official Guidebook to the Smithsonian Institution has been published by the CBS/Education & Publishing Group. It is on sale in the museums and in other shops in the Washington area. The 144-page guidebook has more than 200 pictures. It will be issued in five languages.
SUB INQUIRY From Page 1

accident, with particular emphasis on the vessel's operations and any technical problems which might have been the cause of the tragedy. The panel will present its findings and recommendations to Secretary Ripley.

Dr. Brooks stated that the panel would work in close cooperation with inquiries into the tragedy by the U.S. Coast Guard and other agencies.

He also announced that, by direction of the Secretary, the Johnson-Sea-Link, including all life support systems in the forward and after compartments, had been sealed on the morning of June 19 and forward and after compartments, had been sealed.

SMITHSONIAN TORCH July-August 1973

Published for Smithsonian Institution personnel by the News Bureau of the Office of Public Affairs, Room 107, SI Building.

Billings Is Safety Chief

David A. Billings has been appointed chief of the health and safety division in the Office of Protection Services. He will be responsible for planning, developing, directing, and coordinating comprehensive safety, health, and health programs for the Smithsonian. Mr. Billings has had 22 years' experience in the safety management field.

STEFANELLI Receives Medal

Dr. and Mrs. Vladimir Chaim-Stefanelli, numismatic curators at the Smithsonian Institution, have been presented the Secretary's Exceptional Service Gold Medal Award. Presented by Secretary Ripley, the award was given "in recognition of their successful acquisition and display of the Josiah K. Lilly Collection of Gold Coins and their many other achievements and accomplishments in the numismatic world and for their tireless devotion to the development of one of the world's finest numismatic collections." The Lilly collection, described as the greatest ever assembled by one man, consists of 6,125 gold coins and is set aside in an entire room of the Numismatic Hall in the Smithsonian's Museum of History and Technology. The collection includes the nation's first gold coin, a half-sovereign showing a primitive design of the American eagle, made privately in 1787 by a New York goldsmith named Ephraim Brasher.

New Personnel Staffer

Katherine L. King has joined the staff of the Office of Personnel Administration as a Personnel Clerk (Typing), in the Administrative and Technical Support Section. Before coming to the Smithsonian, Ms. King worked as a Starring and Personnel Clerk for the Bureau of Engraving and Printing.

MHT CURATORS ELECTED

New officers of the Association of Curators of the National Museum of History and Technology for 1973-74 are Audrey B. Davis, chairman; Rita Adrosko, vice-chairman; Jim Weaver, secretary-treasurer; Terry Sharrer and Hal Langley, council.

MISS LECKIE ON PROGRAM

Miss Doris Leckie, research assistant in medical science at the National Museum of History and Technology, recently presented a paper on "Interpreting the History of a Medical Specialty Through Its Instruments—The Evolution of Cupping Cups," at the annual History of Medicine meeting in Cincinnati.

Three SI Press publications have received certificates of merit from the Art Directors Club of Metropolitan Washington:

National Parks Centennial Catalogue (Cooper Hewitt), and H Ej Electromagnetic Processors of the Presidency, 1796-1817 (SPC), designed by Stephen Kraft.

The Press has again won recognition from the Federal Editors' Association. FEA's Blue Pencil Awards were presented at the Press luncheon for "The Papers of Joseph Henry, Volume I." (Category: Hardcover publishing; not popular or technical); and to Louise Heseltine for H Ej Electromed . . . (Category: Popular publication, more than 48 pages).

Statement From Page 1

depths, then after a two-and-a-half-hour cruise returned to the surface. The ease and precision of the operation astonished me. All augured well for the future, I decided.

But in any probing of a strange environment, Man must face danger, no matter how complete his precautions. One of my predecessors, Secretary Samuel P. Langley, risked the life of his pilot, Charles Muntz, when his "aerodrome" failed to get into the air over the Potomac River in 1903. Yet what Professor Langley learned added to our knowledge of flight. Other tragedies have suffered by the United States and the Soviet Union in our exploration of space.

It was inconceivable that the Johnson-Sea-Link's safety features could fail in any situation, yet two fine men died: one a veteran of more than 20 years in submarine navigation, the other, poignantly, the inventor's own son. Yet, again, knowledge has been gained.

The Institution is deeply grieved, but its oceanographic programs, using submarines, are just beginning. So we join the Link team in looking forward to the next step of research to help illuminate the problems of the oceans and of Man's place in the undersea world.

—S. DILLON RIPLEY

MHT Records Over 1 Million Visitors in April

More than a million visitors made their way through the Smithsonian's National Museum of History and Technology during the month of April—the first Smithsonian monthly building count ever to reach and pass the million mark.

The high count caps what has been in recent years a steady rise in museum attendance—in 1972 almost 7 million visitors—"which, we like to think, means we're on the right track—meeting the interests of a diverse audience, and sparking public enthusiasm and comment," said Dr. Daniel J. Boorstin, MHT Director. "Needless to say, we are very pleased.

"The museum staff is trying hard to engage members of the public—in exhibits with which they can identify, in demonstrations of many musical instruments, in exhibits of paintings, prints, and photography, through Saturday Talks given by curators and museum specialists, and special lectures and filmstrips. It's a vigorous effort."