L. E. Laybourne, of Development, Dies

Lawrence E. Laybourne, 62, Coordinator of Membership and Development at the Smithsonian, died February 12 at his home in Washington.

A native of Ohio and son of a graduate of the Ohio State University, Mr. Laybourne came to the Smithsonian after a distinguished career in journalism, first with the St. Louis Post-Dispatch and then with Time, Inc. His assignments included Chief of Correspondents for Time, Inc.; Managing Director, Time International of Canada, and Time, Inc. of Asia; Assistant Publisher of Time magazine; International Editor, Time-Life Books, and most recently Vice-President and Director of Corporate Affairs for Time, Inc. in Washington.

"At the Smithsonian, Mr. Laybourne oversaw the merger of the Office of Development and the National Associates, and initiated the Regional Program in which Smithsonian activities have been shared with Associates in other cities across the country," Secretary Riplea said in an announcement. "Although his time at the Institution was brief, Larry Laybourne had already achieved, by reason of his well-directed efforts and initiatives, an important place for himself and significant accomplishments within the Smithsonian."

Mr. Laybourne was married to the former Dorothy Nesbit, and had three children. His family requested that expressions of sympathy take the form of donations to the Laybourne Fund at the Smithsonian.

RIPLEY HONORED FOR CIVIC SERVICE

Secretary Riplea was one of 16 distinguished citizens of the national capital who received a 1975 "Washingtonian of the Year" award from Washingtonian magazine and the Downtown Jaycees at an awards dinner January 25 at the Hilton Park Hotel in Washington.

Mr. Riplea was praised in a citation "for bringing the once empty National Mall to life and for planning the city's most meaningful Bicentennial celebration."

Host Families Needed

Host families are needed for the Office of Elementary and Secondary Education program "Inter's 76," which will bring 10 talented high school seniors to Washington for eight weeks this summer to take part in learning-service projects at the Smithsonian.

Those interested in opening their home to one of these carefully selected young people are asked to call David Estabrook (Extension 5607) for details.

'A three-dimensional look at the plans of Washington's successive planners and designers was unveiled February 23 as a Bicentennial exhibit. "The Federal City: Plans and Realities," opened in the Great Hall of the Smithsonian Building.

Shown inspecting two of the models in the exhibition at the Office of Exhibits Central workshop on North Capitol Street are (left, photo, from left) John Singleton, model maker; John Widener, Exhibits Central; Paul Perrott, Assistant Secretary for Museum Programs; Charles Conrad, Director of the National Capital Planning Commission; Wilcomb Washburn, curator of the exhibition and Director of the Office of American Studies; Charles Atherton, Secretary of the Commission of Fine Arts; Samuel Fraser, National Capital Planning Commission, and Donald Myers, Commission of Fine Arts. They are viewing a model of the city's central area as it was in 1900. In right photo are (from left) Mr. Washburn; Mr. Atherton, John Nolen, Jr., past Director of the National Capital Planning Commission, and Susan Hamilton, Smithsonian Bicentennial Coordinator. They are gathered around a model showing the Mall and Pennsylvania Avenue as envisioned by the Senate Park Commission in 1902.
Bern Dibner Receives Smithsonian Medalion

The James Smithson Society Gold Medalion was presented January 22 at the Smithsonian Board of Regents to Bern Dibner, the engineer, inventor and industrialist who last year presented the Institution with a collection of more than 25,000 rare books and other material to be housed in the National Museum of History and Technology.

The collection, the Dibner Library of the History of Science and Technology, includes the major holdings of the Bundy Library in Norwalk, Conn., which was established by Mr. Dibner in 1936.

In the above photograph taken at the presentation ceremony Secretary Ripley is showing Mr. Dibner the citation which accompanied the medalion. It reads: "To Bern Dibner, engineer and industrialist, how fortunate for the Smithsonian that an early age, possessed of bibliophily, you have turned your skills to making an epochal collection of books. You are allied in spirit with Joseph Henry, our first Secretary, in the keenness of your concern for the development of science and its revolutionary implications for the ever-inquiring mind of man. Allied to the specialties and interests of the curators of the National Museum of History and Technology and to its collections, your continuous stream of recorded discoveries and its processes in the mind of man, sets the capstone on this powerhouse of intellectual discovery. With Carlyle you believe that the true University of this days is a collection of books. May your gift inspire the generations of scholars present and to come, and may your career and your serene contemplation be an example to all who visit this Institution."

R. S. Minnich, Safety Officer, Dies

Richard S. Minnich, Smithsonian Safety Management Officer, died January 23 at Georgetown University Hospital in Washington.

A native of Red Lion, Pa., Mr. Minnich came to the Smithsonian after working in the safety field with the U. S. Army in Europe and later with the General Services Administration in Washington. His tenure with the Smithsonian started with his appointment as chief of that unit, then the Safety and Protection Division.

In 14 years of service to the Institution, Mr. Minnich established the original Smithsonian safety program and guided it to the distinction of being nominated seven times to receive the President's Safety Award. The Institution won it in 1966 and 1972. He had received several letters of commendation for his work.

Mr. Minnich is survived by his widow Kathryn, daughter Linda, and two sons, Richard S., Jr., and Glenn.

NMHT Specialist Offers Information On Handicapped

The following article was written as an "Introduction to the Handicapped" by Joe Buckley, Special Education Specialist at the National Museum of History and Technology.

The terms "disability" and "handicapped" often denote a negative state, one in which the individual is less capable than his typical peer.

To clarify, "disability" can be defined as a mental or physical deviation, whereas "handicapped" may be referred to as barriers imposed by a disability between a person and his or her functional status. Although their definitions are different, "disability" and "handicap" can be used interchangeably.

Generally speaking, a handicap can be any encumbrance or disadvantage that makes an individual's goal more difficult to attain than if the handicap were not present. If we can accept that fact, then we can also accept the fact that the majority of people today are handicapped themselves to some degree. With this in mind, one must recognize that a person with a handicap must adapt, not only to his own limitations, but also to the demands of society in general.

One important factor is this: There is no guarantee that a person with a disability, whether it be mental or physical, will react differently from another person without such a problem. If people who do not have a handicap believe they have no role to play in a handicapped person's life, they are totally misinformed. If the general public's reaction is affirmative, then a positive self perception is achieved. If a negative response develops, then a handicapped person must find, and unconsciously use, a variety of defense mechanisms to protect himself against the threat to self esteem, and feelings of pain and anxiety.

Annuity Increase

The Civil Service Commission has announced that all retired federal employees and survivors would receive an automatic cost-of-living annuity increase of 3.4 percent, effective March 1. The increase will be reflected in annuity checks mailed April 1. In an announcement, it was stated that persons considering retirement should contact the Office of Personnel Administration for further details.

About SI Women

First Woman Keeper Describes Career

By Brenda Hall

In the late 1940's I began asking my parents to take me to the Reptile House at the National Zoo. I could spend hours looking at the animals and pestering Jack DePrato (Headkeeper, now retired) with questions. I had a few creatures of my own by then, collected in nearby Magnolia Park. If I couldn't find Jack, Dr. Mann was always a willing listener. Dr. Mann would also tell me facts about ants which I believe stimulated an interest in my second love, entomology.

In the years that followed I worked primarily as a secretary for various government agencies. At one point I was actually in the Reptile House, still keeping my own reptile collection at home. Then, in August 1970 I applied for and was hired as the first woman keeper at the National Zoo. If there was opposition to my being a woman, I did not encounter these feelings among my male co-workers. I did not start working in the Reptile House with the attitude that I was special. I readily admitted my limitations and asked for advice and help whenever it was needed. There were hundreds of situations I had never encountered and I was not ashamed to admit my fear or ignorance. The first time I had to go into the cage of "Buggy" the late, great saltwater crocodile I really believed I was going to have to resign due to nervous exhaustion or massive mutilation. Now, in 1976 I can look back and reflect. I feel confident in my ability as a reptile keeper. There are now 7 women keeping reptiles at the Zoo! Under the direction of Dr. Reed the Zoo continues to change and move forward, to become better and better. However, I feel certain sentimental pangs at the many changes that have taken place. The old Lion House where my office used to be has gone. I miss my office and the view I used to sit in while I looked out the window by my desk down into the cage of the magnificent tiger, Ramu, who also has left us.

Most of all, I feel very fortunate that, unlike many men and women, I make my living being where I want to be and doing what I love to do.

SMITHSONIAN TORCH
March 1976
Published for Smithsonian Institution personnel by the Smithsonian Office of Public Affairs, William O. Craig, Editor; Kathryn Lindeman, Assistant.

PLAQUE PRESENTED — Mario Brunori, Exhibit Specialist in the Department of Exhibits Design and Production, National Museum of History and Technology, presented a plaque to the NMHT guard office commemorating Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Shown at the presentation ceremony on January 15 (Dr. King's birthday) are (from left) Jay W. Chambers, Chief, Protection Division, Office of Protection Services; L.J. Cleveland Regis, Company C, Protection Division, OPS; Mr. Brunori, and Capt. John Gibson, Guard Supervisor, Company C, who accepted the plaque on behalf of the guard office. As a hobby, Mr. Brunori began planning to produce plaques in memory of Dr. King after his assassination in 1968. This plaque was sculpted by Philip Vickers, formerly of the National Museum of Natural History. It is mounted on walnut paneling, is made of plaster covered with antique bronze paint, and is 12 inches in diameter.

Mr. MacDonnell

Vincent MacDonnell has been appointed Executive Assistant to Julian Fettel, Assistant Secretary for Public Service.

In an announcement, Secretary Ripley stated that Mr. MacDonnell will assist in integrating Public Service activities with the objectives of the Institution and will guide and counsel Public Service managers in administering their programs.

Mr. MacDonnell has been with the Smithsonian since February 1974 as Assistant Director for Personnel and Training. Prior to that he served as the Employee Development Officer at the National Capital Housing Authority. Mr. MacDonnell received an M.A. degree in philosophy from Boston College and an M.A. in drama from Catholic University.
Years of Labor by Dr. Robert Laughlin
Of NMNH Go Into Great Tzotzil Dictionary

It took Dr. Todd Johnson six years to complete his famous dictionary and now Dr. Robert Laughlin, after a comparable, monumentally patient lexicographic effort, has at last seen his The Great Tzotzil Dictionary of San Lorenzo Zinacantec.

Forty years ago when he started the project, Dr. Laughlin recalls, he was confident that he could finish the project. He quotes in his dictionary an letter he wrote to his secretary in the early sanguine days:

"An extensive dictionary of the Mayan language, Tzotzil, spoken today by 78,000 Indians of the State of Chiapas—which has not been completed since the 18th century. In 1960 a vocabulary of 2,000 items of the dialect of Zinacantec was collected by Lore M. Colby. I have expanded the vocabulary to 4,000 items. It is hoped that this material will be published posthumously in a few years."

He was wrong: It was to be 1973 before the book was ready for press, and in that interval, Dr. Laughlin noted ruefully, the population of the 78,000 Tzotzil Indians had grown with "feared" scariness to 125,000. The vocabulary of 4,000 items had mushroomed to more than 45,000, and he had undergone severe tribulations in the process of having the dictionary programmed—on a computer. It is the largest dictionary ever published on a western hemisphere language.

He says, "I have to competiting the dictionary had been made because it would permit easier print it was to be published. For future scholars to easily pull out whole classes of data for further investigation. On the other hand, some of the results are so eminently sensible, Dr. Laughlin says, but which he would not have arrived at by the endless succession of "bugs" that would plague and slow down the computer program until what he had hoped would take months, consumed six years.

"Tzotzil—Tzotzil"

Dr. Laughlin recounts in this introduction the difficulties in getting perfect "input" into the computer, the necessity to present my data in a consistent format, and tried with excruciating care to do so without ever dreaming that there could be so many minor irregularities. It became clear that just as numerical order by was the basis of computer technology, so literal rebelliousness was the hallmark of a dictionary, that the "Tzotzil" was attempting is impossible. The dependence of the program on perfect data produces bizarre results when a comma was excluded or a semi-colon substituted for a colon. English words would be considered "character" strings. Half a line would be dropped and another line repeated, lines would begin half-way across the page..." Endless proofreading always revealed new errors that had been overlooked. Each successive publishing of the dictionary brought new errors as she Corrections..."

Dr. Laughlin began his long affair with the Zinacantec language in 1949. That year as a Harvard postgraduate student he was invited to join the "Evol Vichy" Chippis Project. "During my "First year, he was weeping over the smoke, he said in Zinacantec that while recalling in a weary Clyde Kluksho's interview commitment to memory 75 words a day, as

and corpus, particularly brilliant lies themselves to the formal discourse, gossip, and spinning of tales which are the heart of Zinacantec culture.

Throughout the dictionary the approach is to provide as much ethnomusical cultural context as possible with word definitions. Thus if the reader looks up the Tzotzil word for "thunder and lightning," ask, he learns that in Zinacantec "thunder and lightning are considered to be an aspect of the Lord's territory from the jaguar. During the dry season thunder and lightning are believed to lie mounted on deer collecting gunpowder for use in the rainy season. The soul of a person killed by lightning is believed to be flying among the arrows. A tree struck many times by lightning is said to conceal a treasure, another under its roots. Two people who eat green chilis, walnuts or coyol nuts together they may be struck by lightning." Mr. Laughlin concludes with an excerpt from this dictionary."

Dr. Laughlin says, "I was collected in Zinacantec and translated from secondary meaning not a few years ago. In making quite arbitrary distinctions between different shades of the same meaning and different meanings of the same word. Nevertheless, because of my aging in Zinacantec, I can claim a perspective in knowledge of Zinacantec that would be impossible to acquire in any book way."

Dr. Laughlin checking a computer print-out while the dictionary was in preparation.

Wands’ Talk to NMNH Visitors

"By-Word," the sound system that has been offered to visitors at the Smithsonian's National Museum of Natural History, is now being augmented with new plastic "wands" that replace the head sets used for the past six years. What is the source of this excitement, a device known as a "Word employee" is shown demonstrating how the wand is used to "talk" to a person through most of the Museum's exhibit halls, issuing a fund of information not covered in the written exhibit labels. Newly available, they are chatty and cheerful, and offer a guide to American and Eskimos, written and recorded especially for children by the Museum's Office of Education. The use of the wand was the result of a Smithsonian employee. Visitors can rent the wands at "By-Word" stations.

Marty Engle, By-Word's manager at NMNH, said visitors had complained that the head sets' gripped their heads or ears too tightly. The wands are also more reliable, she said, since they will work about 14 hours without a recharge. Last year about 200,000 people took a By-Word tour. A share of the receipts is returned to NMNH.
McNaught Joins Archives Staff

William McNaught has been appointed New York City Director of the Archives of American Art, a bureau of the Smithsonian Institution. He will be responsible for all collecting activities in that section of the country. The New York Center of the Archives is at 46 East 65 Street.

Mr. McNaught was curatorial assistant and lecturer at The Frick Collection in New York and later curator of the Nassau County Museum of Fine Art. In Portland, Ore., he was graduated from the Portland State University, received an M.A. at Oberlin College and is working on his Ph.D. in European and American painting at The University of Pennsylvania. He is a past recipient of a Kress Fellowship and Kress Travel Grant; NDEA Title IV Fellowship at the University of Pennsylvania; a scholarship at Attingham Park, National Trust Summer School in England, and a fellowship from the Irish Georgian Society.

An international symposium organized by the Smithsonian Science Information Exchange and held at the University of Washington in Seattle, October 27-29, was to discuss the preparation of a report on the volume of scientific information and the methods for organizing and using such information. The symposium, which was attended by representatives of the United States, Canada, and the United Kingdom, was organized by the National Science Foundation and was supported by the Office of Science Information Service of the National Science Foundation. The symposium was organized by the National Academy of Sciences and the National Academy of Engineering, and was sponsored by the Office of Science Information Service of the National Science Foundation.

The symposium was attended by representatives of the United States, Canada, and the United Kingdom, who were attending the meeting to discuss the preparation of a report on the volume of scientific information and the methods for organizing and using such information. The symposium was organized by the National Academy of Sciences and the National Academy of Engineering, and was sponsored by the Office of Science Information Service of the National Science Foundation.

SI Associate Newsletter Taped

At the request of Harold Snider, Coordinator of Programs for the Handicapped at the National Air and Space Museum, the Resident Assistant Program recently arranged to tape "The Smithsonian Associate" newsletter for use by the visually handicapped. This is an initial attempt by Smithsonian-wide projects to benefit this group.

The February Associate was taped by volunteer readers, duplicated by the Division of Special Services at the Martin Luther King Library, and will soon be circulated to blind, partially-sighted, and physically handicapped persons, enabling them to learn of the activities offered by the Program.

More than 40 Volunteers met with Martin Brownstein, a member of the Board of Directors of the Washington Metropolitan Handicapped and Mr. Snider on January 8 to discuss ways of transmitting Smithsonian information and exhibits to the visually impaired.

Some additional projects proposed were the making of special relief diagrams, or thermographs, to guide blind or partially-sighted individuals in their visual exploration of the world. In one, the making of "tactile" constructions or "tactile" books, one was able to "tactile" by the system of museum exhibits explained in braille; preparation of special exhibits for the visually handicapped; training of doctors to visualize exhibits for the blind, and reading of Smithsonian Press books for the visually impaired.

Folklife Festival Planners Busy With Program Details

By Anne Marie Ellis
Office of Public Affairs, Intern

Searching for 500 pounds of buffalo meat, singing trackers and evidence of traditional folkloric activity are a few of the activities staff members of the Division of Performing Arts are engaged in while preparing for the Festival of American Folklife next summer.

Locating people who will give performances of traditional music and dance is only part of the work. Employees will also be responsible for finding sites to buy more than 500 pounds of buffalo meat that DPA researchers seek to purchase. The meat will be cooked and served at the event.

DPA's American Folklife section is exploring possibilities for recruiting a singing tracker, to expand its presentation of songs that are written and sung by workers about their jobs. So far, they have been able to find a singing lumber worker, a cab driver, and a logger.

Meanwhile, DPA workers in the Family Folklore Center are inquiring throughout the nation about photograph albums, quilts, buttons, buttons, and other artifacts that families pass on as their portraits of heritage. Most of the fieldwork is completed and they are now evaluating information to be used in the various presentations.

Employees are arranging the Native American section, which will feature folk and designs from native Americans during the year and are now selecting which plans will be used. The design for the structure for the Indian market is 1962, one of the designs being considered include a design by the artist of a longhouse, a longhouse with variations on a modified tepee.

Focusing on the center designed by native Americans is one element that will be involved in this year's multimedia presentations of movies, photographs and video displays created by and about the native Americans.

Realizing that everyone cannot be included in the festival, DPA staff members are carefully selecting "clusters" that will be represented in their specific area of activity.

For example, the Working Americans section will present bakers, printers and other craftsmen, each of the work that they do. Some countries will celebrate holidays at the Festival while other countries will be in their homelands for special occasions.

While the Festival during the week of June 21, participants from seven Scandinavian countries will celebrate "mid sommar," an ancient custom commemorating the longest day of the year.

However, the Arabs will return to their countries. This year the Middle East will be celebrated 10 months after the Festival opened. In Jordan, where the Festival first opened, the Arabic tradition of the 1962 Festival of American Folklife will be celebrated as part of the 1962 Festival of American Folklife. The Dome of the Rock will be in the center of the Festival. The Festival of American Folklife will run from June 21 to September 7. The Festival will run from June 21 to September 7. The Festival will run from June 21 to September 7.

Virginia Drachman, a pre-doctoral Research Fellow with the Division of Medical Sciences at the Smithsonian National Museum of History and Technology, was interviewed for the Smithsonian in cooperation program. Drachman's research was on women's health. The interview was conducted on May 16, 1976.

Multicultural Festival Planned at Smithsonian March 1976

A legal course on the arts and legal aspects of museum operations, presented by the Smithsonian Law Institute - American Bar Association Committee, is continuing this year. The course will be held at the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of American History on March 22, 21 and 24 at the Los Angeles County Museum of Art. Each program is offered as a reading course in the field of museum studies.

Members of the planning committee, who also serve as faculty members, include Peter F. DeWitt, Assistant Director-General for Science, University of California, Berkeley; DPA Associate General Counsel, Stephen H. Schmick, Assistant Director of the Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, and Allen D. Ullberg, SI Associate General Counsel and Assistant Director of the Smithsonian Institution.

A legal course on the arts and legal aspects of museum operations, presented by the Smithsonian Law Institute - American Bar Association Committee, is continuing this year. The course will be held at the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of American History on March 22, 21 and 24 at the Los Angeles County Museum of Art. Each program is offered as a reading course in the field of museum studies.

Members of the planning committee, who also serve as faculty members, include Peter F. DeWitt, Assistant Director-General for Science, University of California, Berkeley; DPA Associate General Counsel, Stephen H. Schmick, Assistant Director of the Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, and Allen D. Ullberg, SI Associate General Counsel and Assistant Director of the Smithsonian Institution.

A legal course on the arts and legal aspects of museum operations, presented by the Smithsonian Law Institute - American Bar Association Committee, is continuing this year. The course will be held at the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of American History on March 22, 21 and 24 at the Los Angeles County Museum of Art. Each program is offered as a reading course in the field of museum studies.

Members of the planning committee, who also serve as faculty members, include Peter F. DeWitt, Assistant Director-General for Science, University of California, Berkeley; DPA Associate General Counsel, Stephen H. Schmick, Assistant Director of the Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, and Allen D. Ullberg, SI Associate General Counsel and Assistant Director of the Smithsonian Institution.