Contributions are encouraged from all employees of the Smithsonian Institution. If you have an item for THE TORCH please give it to the secretary of your department or send it direct to Mrs. Fields in the personnel office.

 Contributions should be received by the last day of the month.
American Wildlife

TO

Chile, making

ing material

H. Rowe Gaither, Jr., chairman

of the board and president of

the Ford Foundation, announced the

names of the officers of the committee early in June. He said that Dr. Lee DuBridge, president of the California Institute of Technology, will be chairman and Dr. Carlyle Jacobsen, executive dean for medical education of the State University of New York, will be executive vice chairman.

There are 12 other members of the committee.

RATED OUTSTANDING

Dean E. Clark, specimen custodian on the staff of the Missouri Basin Project at Lincoln, Neb., was awarded an outstanding performance rating on May 26.

This performance rating was based on outstanding work in his department, which principally is that of receiving, processing, cataloging, preparing for storage, and maintaining archaeological materials.

Over the past 10 years, this work has involved more than a half-million specimens, and during that time there has not been a known instance where a specimen has been misplaced or lost.

Mr. Clark also has supervised a great deal of laboratory equipment. And he has done such an efficient job in his own work that it has been unnecessary to hire additional laboratory assistants on many occasions.

As a result of the saving in funds made possible by his efficiency, Mr. Clark also was presented with an award of Merit for the past year. This award carried with it a cash stipend of $90.

SATELLITE TRACKING

The Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory this month began a monthly supplement to Sky and Telescope, an astronomical journal.

The new supplement is called Bulletin for Visual Observers of Satellites.

In the first issue of the bulletin, for July 1956, Dr. Fred L. Whipple, director of the Observatory, and Dr. J. Allen Hynek, associate director of the tracking program, are authors of "A Message to Volunteer Observers," which is reprinted below.

A Message to Volunteer Observers:

The satellite program of the International Geophysical Year offers a unique opportunity for the volunteer visual observer to make a significant scientific contribution. On him will rest the responsibility for obtaining the first and the last scientifically valuable visual observations of these satellites. Such observations will support the early radio tracking and, will probably be the only observations available of the dying satellite.

The visual work will have particular importance for the calculation of the density of the upper layers of the atmosphere near the limit of measurements obtained with modern high-altitude rockets.

The early satellite tracking is necessary for the calculation of preliminary satellite-finding ephemerides, essential to aiming the photographic Schmidt telescopes that will make the precision observations of the satellites. Should a satellite's radio fall or some satellites be launched without the synchronized radio, the full weight of responsibility for the critical initial observations of the satellite will fall on the shoulders of the volunteer visual observers.

The earth satellite program has been developed by the U. S. National Committee for the International Geophysical Year. This Committee was established by the National Academy of Sciences to plan and direct the IGY program of the United States, and to coordinate our efforts with those of some 65 other nations, through a special international committee set up by the International Council of Scientific Unions. Thus the satellite program is part of an unprecedented study of the earth and its atmosphere, in which the principal scientific institutions and the leading geophysicists of the world are involved.

The National Academy of Sciences, through the National Science Foundation, has assigned to the Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory the initiation of an optical tracking program for the earth satellites. A vital part of this program can be carried out only by a corps of qualified visual observers, who in organized groups will man selected strategic observing stations.

We hope that publication of this bulletin from time to time will act as a means of dissemination of authoritative information about the progress of the satellite program, methods and means of observing and reporting, and related topics.

We at the Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory are grateful for your co-operation. The work required of the volunteer observer will be exacting and time consuming; but it will confer that most satisfying of all rewards to the person interested in science: the knowledge that he has contributed significantly to a unique international scientific effort of prime importance.
MINIATURE MONSTER

One of the earth's most fantastic animals—the three-horned chameleon of East Africa—has just been added to the reptile collections. It is described as a replica, in miniature, of the ancient monster dinosaur Triceratops, which has been extinct for about 75,000,000 years. However, the two are not directly related.

The three-horned chameleon grows to a length exceeding 12 inches. The curious horns, an inch to an inch and a half long, protrude from the nose and between the eyes of the male. Females are hornless.

These chameleons are extremely pugnacious animals and sometimes use their horns in fights to the finish. At times the contests develop into tedious pushing matches, with the horns interlocked. At other times a really vigorous fighter will dispose of a weaker adversary in a few minutes.

Males are brilliantly colored with blues, greens, and yellows. Uganda natives are terrified by the demonically-looking animals which actually are harmless to man. The popular superstition is that if one happens to see one of these lizards when it is angry and hissing the person will die in a few days. The curse of the chameleon may be partly averted, it is believed, by capturing and roasting it, and then wearing a part of the burned body as a talisman. Still the unfortunate person is supposedly sure to die quite young.

The creature is most abundant in arid areas covered with low shrubs. It is an aerial Acrobat and can leap as much as 2 feet from branch to branch. The chameleon has a prehensile tail, like that of various monkeys, and with the tip of this tail alone it can hang from a branch. It sits motionless for hours at a time and feeds almost exclusively on flies, butterflies, beetles, and bees which may cuss within reach of its darting tongue.

The creature is a great blunter. Apparently it never tries to hide or run when confronted with an enemy. Instead it tries to frighten the foe, including man, by inflating its body so that the otherwise loose skin is drawn taut.

ATTENDS BIOLOGY SYMPOSIUM

Lucile Blome, museum aid in the division of physical anthropology, spent part of her vacation attending the annual Symposium on Quantitative Biology at Cold Spring Harbor, Long Island, New York. This year's topic, "Genetic Mechanisms," covered all phases of heredity—from the physical structure of nucleic acid components to the environmental factors which modify the expression of the genes in plants and animals. Some 300 scientists and graduate students from all over the world were present.

The sessions were planned to allow plenty of time for swimming, shop talk, and sightseeing. Local points of interest included St. John's Episcopal Church—the site of the wedding rehearsal which recently appeared on the cover of the Saturday Evening Post—and a whaling museum.

He also helped Smithsonian Secretary Samuel Pierpont Langley build his famous motor-driven flying machine in 1903. Although the machine failed it was one of the important early experiments in flight.

GENS PHD

Robert L. Stephenson, chief of the Missouri Basin Project, River Basin Surveys, at Lincoln, Nebr., recently drove to Ann Arbor, Mich., where the degree of Doctor of Philosophy in Anthropology was conferred upon him by the University of Michigan on June 16.

VISITS NEBRASKA OFFICE

Dr. Frank H. Roberts, Jr., director of the River Basin Surveys, visited the Lincoln office of the Missouri Basin Project at the end of May. He spent a week there, going over administrative matters and helping to arrange details of getting the summer field work underway.

FRANK COLE

Frank H. Cole, 90, a carpenter at the National Museum for 44 years, died at Be Deau Gardens, Forest Glen, Md., on June 14. Mr. Cole retired in 1937 as assistant superintendent of the National Museum carpenter shop where he had introduced several innovations. Among the devices which he developed was a thief-proof display case for valuable stamps.

During the early years of this century Mr. Cole supervised the exhibition of Smithsonian displays at 10 world's fairs throughout the United States. In 1907 he made two trips to Bordeaux, France, to arrange Smithsonian exhibits for the French Maritime Exposition.
THE DIVING HISTORIAN

An article about the Smithsonian’s diving historian, Mendel Peterson, acting head curator of history, appears in the July issue of American Magazine. There is an accompanying photograph showing Mr. Peterson with some of his “treasures.”

The story states that Mr. Peterson is an adventurous historian who uses his talents as a diver to do historical research, and it describes some of his underwater research at shipwreck sites in the waters off the Florida Keys.

The article also tells how Mr. Peterson, interested in diving as a hobby since his World War II Navy days, began his explorations in 1951 when he met Mr. E. A. Link, manufacturer of the Link Trainer, who is financing the undersea research project.

This interesting article was part of a swan song. The American Magazine ceased publication with the same issue.

RBS FIELD TRIPS

Five more field parties of the River Basin Surveys and four from other institutions have started digging in the Missouri Basin since the beginning of June.

On June 2, Harold Huscher, field assistant in the Missouri Basin Project, made an 8-man party to begin excavations at three archaeological sites in the Loveland Reservoir in north-central Kansas. This is a small reservoir, and the party is expected to remain there only about four or five weeks; they then will move to the Glendo Reservoir in east-central Wyoming.

On June 3, Carl F. Miller headed an 8-man party to begin excavations at the Hosterman Site, near Whitlocks Crossing in the Oahe Reservoir area, Potter County, S. Dak. For the next ten weeks this group will be excavating a deeply buried fortified earthlodge village.

On July 3, Dr. Robert E. Stephenson took a party of eight to the Sully Site near Pierre, S. Dak., to begin excavation of another large earthlodge village. He will map and test as much of this large area as possible, and on the basis of the results of these tests he is planning a longer season of excavation next year.

A group from the University of Wisconsin under the direction of Dr. David A. Baerreis began work in June at two earthlodge village sites in the vicinity of Mobridge, S. Dak., in the Oahe Reservoir area.

Also, the University of South Dakota has a party excavating at three similar village sites in the Oahe Reservoir area near the town of Alta, S. Dak. These excavations under the direction of Roscoe Wilmette, who carried on last season’s work by the University at the Swan Creek Site.

The State Historical Society of North Dakota is conducting excavations under the direction of Alan R. Woolworth at the Fort Yates Site in the Oahe Reservoir area near the border of the Dakotas.

The parties from the Universities of Wisconsin and South Dakota and the State Historical Society of North Dakota are working under cooperative agreements with the National Park Service and in direct cooperation with the Smithsonian Institution.

The final party operating in the Missouri Basin this season is that of the Nebraska State Historical Society. This group, under the direction of Marvin P. Kivett, is excavating the historic site of Fort Atkinson in the vicinity of Omaha.

They want to determine how much additional excavation will be needed in the area before it is inundated by the Big Bend Reservoir.

On June 5, Dr. Waldo R. Wedel, curator of the division of archaeology, and a party of seven left Lincoln to begin Dr. Wedel’s third season of work at the Cheyenne River Site at the mouth of the river in the Oahe Reservoir area in South Dakota. With him was his assistant, George Metcalfe. Both archaeologists are on loan to the Missouri Basin Project from the U. S. National Museum for the summer. Dr. Wedel’s party will conduct several weeks of intensive excavation to complete the work at the Cheyenne River Site. They will then move to a nearby area known as the Black Widow Site and excavate there for the remainder of the season.

On June 11, Robert Neuman joined the staff of the Missouri Basin Project as field assistant. The next day he took an 8-man field party to start work at three archaeological sites in the Love­well Reservoir in north-central Kansas. This is a small reservoir, and the party is expected to remain there only about four or five weeks; they then will move to the Glendo Reservoir in east-central Wyoming.

On June 21, Dr. Wedel’s party started work at two additional excavation sites, one in the vicinity of Mobridge and the other near the town of Alta, S. Dak., in the Oahe Reservoir area.

The expedition spent the remainder of the season excavating at the Sully Site near Pierre, S. Dak., to complete their work on another large earthlodge village. The party was successful in mapping and testing as much of this large area as possible, and on the basis of the results of these tests they are planning a longer season of excavation next year.

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"Frankly, I'm waiting for the day he carelessly lets his Blue Cross expire."
enough to cover board and lodging—are charged scientists and the day-to-day visitors.

Two of the important projects on Barro Colorado are what are called 'continuing ones.' For many years Mr. Zetek has experimented with various types of treated wood to find some barrier against omnivorous termites. He is too modest to admit it, but he is considered an outstanding authority on termites and their ways.

The other continuing experiment is carried on by the Tropical Research Branch of Eastman Kodak. In a special laboratory on the island, papers, films, lenses, glues, and other Eastman products are tested for the effects of the tropics, especially in connection with fungus and the effectiveness of various fungicides.

"Because of a recent bout of ill health, Mr. Zetek is not making many visits to the island right now. He runs its affairs from his Amador Road Office in a building which was built from the shell of the old Calebra Post Office. These he is ably assisted by Mrs. Gomez, who makes trips to the island at least once a week, assists scientists and visitors, and between times, helps with the voluminous paper work any such job entails. Last June the Smithsonian Institution paid tribute to her efforts. In the presence of more than 60 top scientists and officials of the Smithsonian, she was given a Certificate of Award for her 'outstanding accomplishments in the administration of the Canal Zone Biological Area.'"

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387) when you are taking leave, either sick or annual, so that somebody on the pending parking list may use your parking permit while you are away.

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THANK YOU

Margaret Pfleger of the Superintendent's Office thanks all the Smithsonian friends who were so thoughtful in sending cards and flowers and calling while she was ill.

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PUBLISHED IN JUNE


"A Revision of the Flies of the Genus Rivellia (Otitidae, Diptera) of America North of Mexico," by Royji Namba (Museum Proceedings, 64 pages).


"Chinese Porcelains from the Ardebl Shrine," by John Alexander Pope (Freer Gallery, special publication No. 4231, 194 pages).

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RESIGNS, WEDS AND MOVES SOUTH

Smith Hempstone Oliver, curator of land transportation in the division of engineering, resigned on July 13. He married Miss Hedwig Margarete Kohling in Washington on July 10, immediately after the ceremony the couple moved to Florida to make their home.

Mr. Oliver came to the Smithsonian almost 10 years ago. He has been active in the rebuilding of old automobiles and is the author of three books which were published as Bulletins of the U. S. National Museum.


A revision of the first book soon will be issued as Bulletin 213, with the title of "Automobiles and Motorcycles in the U. S. National Museum." The bride is from Bavaria, Germany. She came to Washington from there seven years ago, and Mr. Oliver says he met her the day she arrived. She has been attending George Washington University, where she recently received a bachelor of science degree in pharmacy.

On July 33 a farewell party was held for Mr. Oliver in the Arts and Industries Building, where his friends presented him with a gift.

The Olivers expect to reside somewhere in Palm Beach County. The former curator says his greatest regret is having to leave his friends at the Smithsonian, and that he would like to see all of them in Florida.

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AT LEAST WE'LL HAVE SOMETHING TO READ UNTIL WE'RE RESCUED!!!