



AUGUST 1956

THE SMITHSONIAN

# TORCH





(Published monthly for the employees of the Smithsonian Institution)

August 1956

Number 18

Editorial BoardPaul Oehser  
Tom Clark  
Jack NewmanEditor

Ernest Biebighauser

Managing Editor

Daisy Fields

CoverFrank Dobias  
William CrockettCONTRIBUTORS TO THIS ISSUE

Grace Rogers	Daisy Fields
Leila Clark	G. D. McCoy
Alice Withrow	Paul Oehser
Charles Walstrom	T. D. Stewart
Ernest Biebighauser	

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

STARTS TENTH YEAR

The Smithsonian Bowling League will begin its tenth season in September.

In the fall of 1947, when the league was formed, 30 interested bowlers elected Dr. George Foster the first president and Lois Northcott the first secretary. Dr. Foster was director of the Institute of Social Anthropology, which was once a section under the Bureau of American Ethnology.

Other Smithsonian notables who have served as the league president are George Thomas, formerly with the division of medicine and public health; Jack Clarke, division of insects; Jason Swallen, department of botany; Vic Elstad, division of radiation and organisms; and Ed Roy, fiscal division.

There were six teams the first year, but the number increased to ten teams by 1950. During the past two years an attempt to maintain a 12-team league was made, but a return to ten teams was necessary for the coming season.

The main objectives of the league are good sportsmanship and fun. Ability to rack up a high score is tolerated but is of relatively low incidence. Averages range from the 70's through the 100's. O. C. Robertson of International Exchange Service has the distinction of being the only bowler in the league to roll a 400 set. Robbie rolled a 412 in 1949, and this record has not been broken.

The league bowls at the Greenway Bowling Alley, 3540 East Capitol Street, SE., just off Minnesota Avenue. Since automatic pin-setters

have been installed, the bowlers will have no pin boy to blame this year.

Any employee interested in subbing or bowling regularly who can reserve Wednesday evenings from 5:45 to 7:45 can get further details by calling Secretary Vera Gabbert (ext. 288) or President Grace Rogers (ext. 396).

ADDRESSES ARCHEOLOGISTS

As the after-dinner speaker at the Annual Meeting of the Archeological Society of Delaware on June 16 in New Castle, Del., Dr. Clifford Evans, associate curator in the division of archeology, spoke on "The Techniques of Pottery Classification."

APO APPOINTMENT

Theodore Eugene Sterne, professor of astrophysics in Harvard University, has been appointed associate director of the Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory.

Dr. Sterne, who has applied statistical methods to research in astronomy and in ballistics, until recently has been scientific adviser to the director of the Army Ordnance Ballistics Research Laboratories at Aberdeen Proving Ground, Md.

After earlier distinguished work in the study of variable stars, binary stars, and stellar radiation, he has served for 15 years in applying his scientific know-



ledge to such studies as ballistics, weapons system evaluation, and operations research in the Army and the Department of Defense. He organized the Army's first weapon system evaluation group, and has served as a consultant to the operations Research Office of The John Hopkins University and to the Sandia Corporation of the Atomic Energy Commission.

Dr. Sterne holds the newly created Simon Newcomb professorship at Harvard, a chair that honors a 19th-century American scientist who was one of this country's leading astronomers and who was associated with the U. S. Naval Observatory. This professorship is limited to members of the Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory.

Dr. Sterne, a native of New York, graduated from Princeton University.

As a National Research Council Fellow at Harvard, Dr. Sterne studied the equilibria of atomic nuclei at very high temperatures. He was a research associate of the Harvard College Observatory and a lecturer on astrophysics at Harvard from 1933 to 1946. With R. M. Emberson he designed thermo-electric devices for observing stellar radiation.

Dr. Sterne is a Fellow of the American Physical Society and a member of the American Astronomical Society and the Astronomical Society of the Pacific.

#### APPOINTMENTS ANNOUNCED

On July 24 Dr. Carmichael announced the appointments of Dr. G. Arthur Cooper as head curator of the department of geology, Dr. George S. Switzer as acting curator of the division of mineralogy and petrology in the department of geology, and Mr. Robert S. Woodbury as curator of mechanical and civil engineering in the department of engineering and industries.

As head curator of the department of geology, Dr. Cooper succeeds the late

Dr. William F. Foshag. Dr. Cooper received his Ph.D. from Yale University in 1929, and was appointed to the staff of the Museum in 1930. He will continue to serve as curator of invertebrate paleontology and paleobotany, a position he has held since 1943.

In June the Smithsonian Institution published Dr. Cooper's 2-volume work on "Chazyan and Related Brachiopods." There is an article about this publication elsewhere in this issue.

#### MORE HELP IN RECRUITMENT

To help in recruiting personnel for the new Museum of History and Technology, Mrs. Helen Fentress has joined the staff of the personnel division. Mrs. Fentress comes to the Smithsonian Institution with many years of experience in recruitment and placement in the Federal service. Working with Mr. Newman and Mrs. Fields, she will shoulder a major portion of the recruitment program.

#### RIDE WANTED

Mrs. Helen Fentress, personnel division (ext. 449), would appreciate a ride to and from the vicinity of Glover Park (Wisconsin Avenue near Calvert Street.)

#### BUILT-IN PARKA

An animal that can pull its head almost completely into its neck has just been added to the mammal collections. It is the Ross seal, rarest of all the seal family in the Antarctic.

Our specimen was collected by the Navy's polar expedition last winter. It traveled frozen, and arrived in excellent condition.

This seal--about 8 feet long--is a dweller exclusively on the drifting ice pack of the Ross Sea. So far as known it never comes on land or on the ice shelf. It apparently feeds almost exclusively on cuttlefish and squid, which are abundant in Antarctic waters. Scientists say its teeth indicate it is not a fish-eater.

It is yellowish green on the underside and blackish brown on the top, the fur often being marked with pale streaks along the sides. On the drifting pack it has fearsome enemies--notably the killer whale and the writhing, snakelike sea-leopard, most savage of the seal family. This may account for the relative scarcity.

The outstanding peculiarity of the creature, probably unique among mammals, is the thick bloated neck into which the head can be withdrawn. This may be a protective development, although it hardly could serve the creature against the killer whale and the sea-leopard. On the other hand, pulling in the head may be a comfortable habit in the Antarctic.

#### PUT "LOAN DESK" ON IT

The Library requests that all

mail having to do with loans and signed sections cards be addressed to: Library, Loan Desk.

#### LIVE AS CHEEP AS ONE

Birds hold fencing tournaments on Barro Colorado Island.

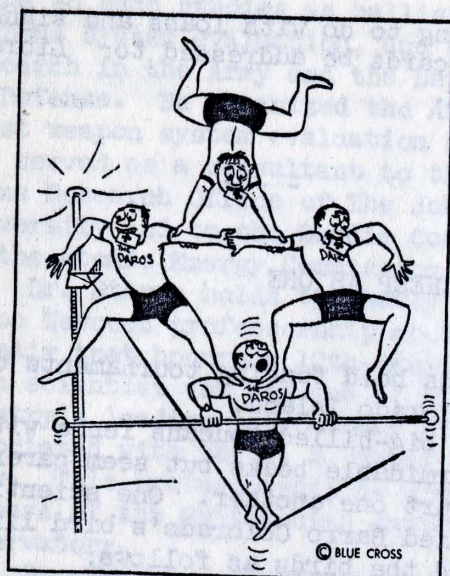
The big-billed toucans fence with their formidable beaks but seem careful not to hurt one another. One scientist who studied Barro Colorado's bird life described the birds as follows:

"I saw 14 toucans scattered about in a big leafless tree in the center of the jungle. Two appeared to be fencing. They stood in one spot and fenced with their bills for a half minute or so, rested, and were at it again. Presently they flew off into the forest and then I noticed two others that had now begun to fence. Then one of these flew away, and the remaining one picked a new opponent and fell to fencing again . . . . They did not move about much while fencing, although sometimes one climbed above the other as though to gain an advantage. They fenced against each other's beaks and never seemed to strike at the body. There was a fairly rapid give and take . . the bills clattering loudly against each other."

These fencing toucans are among the more conspicuous birds of the island, particularly because of their call--a shrill, froglike "cree," which is repeated over and over again and can be heard half a mile away. The call is most frequent in the morning and late in the afternoon, but it stops abruptly at sunset.

If you would like to see what a toucan looks like, there are several of them on exhibit in the Bird Hall in the Museum of Natural History.





"Next time let's try it without the Blue Cross cards clenched in the teeth."

#### BRACHIOPODS ON THE ROCKS

About 350,000,000 years ago shallow sea bottoms teemed with "shelled worms."

Called brachiopods, they were perhaps the most abundant animals on the planet. The dry land probably still was almost devoid of life during this Ordovician period, the second major division of geological time since higher animals first appeared on earth.

These "worms"--actually they constitute a very distinct phylum in zoological classification--have persisted to the present although they are now greatly reduced in numbers and species.

The brachiopod has two shells and attaches itself to some object on the sea bottom by a stalk protruding from the larger shell. Through the ages the sea bottom mud, with the shell remains of these animals, was compressed into rock, and in geological upheavals this rock has been elevated into mountains. The shells of the brachiopods thus incorporated into this rock are conspicuous fossils today, and are of considerable value to geologists in dating rock sequences.

In many cases the shells that occur in limestone have become coated with or replaced by silica. When these rocks are placed in hydrochloric acid, the lime is eaten away but the silicified shells remain. Years of highly skilled labor would be required to chip out of the rock fossils which are recovered in a few days from the acid bath.

In this way over the past 15 years at the Smithsonian Institution literally thousands of brachiopod fossils have been obtained, usually nearly perfectly preserved, from rocks gathered from Labrador to Georgia and westward to Texas, Minnesota, and Nevada.

There is a bewildering variety of these ancient brachiopods, with numerous hitherto unknown families, genera and species. Hundreds of types which lived in a considerable segment of Ordovician time--the so-called Chazyan, named for Chazy village in the Adirondacks--have been classified and described by Dr. G. Arthur Cooper, head curator of the department of geology, in a monumental 2-volume work recently published in the Smithsonian Miscellaneous Collection.

From these fossils it is possible to reconstruct a vivid picture of the ancient sea-bottom habitats. The shells often were beautifully sculptured, some are like delicate jewels. During the lifetimes of the animals these shells apparently were quite elaborately colored.

The brachiopods were--and still remain--defenseless little animals, largely incapable of motion and dependent entirely on their hard shells for protection. Much can be deduced about the fleshy parts of the body from the interior markings of the shells. Specimens range in diameter from a fraction of an inch to more than a foot, but those of the Ordovician seldom were larger than 2 inches.

#### MITEY GOOD

George Goodwin, of the Library staff, recently gave a talk before the Institute of Acarology at the University of Maryland. His subject was "The Library and Mite Literature." A member of the Institute said, "George made the Zoological Record actually entertaining!"

#### A COVER COMES TO LIFE

About a week after the appearance of the Saturday Evening Post issue whose cover depicted a backing-up collision involving a couple of lady drivers, the scene was brought to life in the parking lot behind the Smithsonian Building.

Participants were Eileen McCarthy (big Hudson) and Jessie Shaw (big Oldsmobile). Eileen unquestionably was the winner. Jessie was left holding the bashed-in trunk.

The ladies were very calm about the whole thing. It seems to have been an unavoidable accident, since both drivers said they "looked before backing up."

The accident was not a serious one, but it points up the possibility that it might happen again. With so many cars backing out of parking spaces at the same time in this lot, the wonder is there are not more such bumps. We could all profit from this mishap by taking extra precautions about 5:20 p.m. each work-day.

#### SPENCER FULLERTON BAIRD

An interesting article on Spencer Fullerton Baird, the second Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution, appears in the April-June issue of The Historical Review of Berks County (Pennsylvania).

The author of the article is Prof. Elmer C. Herber, of Dickinson College, who for some time has been doing research on Baird material in the Smithsonian archives.

Following are excerpts from the article in the Review:

"There are over 50,000 Baird letters on file, mostly in the Archives of the Smithsonian Institution, which he served either as assistant secretary or as secretary for 37 years. . . .

"When Spencer Baird began his work with the Smithsonian Institution at the age of 27, after 14 years in Carlisle and Dickinson College, he was already respected as a naturalist and took with him 3,696 skins of birds, about 500 glass jars and barrels of reptiles, 600 skulls of vertebrates, numerous embryos, and a large collection of fossil bones from caves -- a total weight of about 89,000 pounds! . . . .

"One brief word more about Baird's place among American men of science. His appointment as assistant secretary of the Smithsonian in 1850 meant more work and more responsibilities, but he was equal to them. In a letter written on March 15, 1852, to Baird by Dr. Darlington, a well-known botanist from West Chester, considerable respect of the six-year-old Smithsonian Institution is revealed. Darlington wished a national arboretum to be located somewhere near the Capitol, but he expressed to Baird his feeling that the arboretum would not be approved at any place 'excepting on the premises, endowed by the munificence of Smithson -- which neither politicians can corrupt, nor speculators break in and steal. I have the entire confidence in the persons who now have charge of the Institution.'

"His life and work laid foundations



for science in America. He is said to have originated what was later called the 'Bairdian School,' which is characterized by exact statements, concise deductions, and a careful analysis of data, in contrast with the older European custom of accepting without questions an author's description.

"His lifetime of almost daily toil, to which was added the burden of caring for his invalid wife for about thirty years took its toll in the form of a weakening heart, which finally became still at Woods Hole, Massachusetts, on August 17, 1887.

#### STANDARD NO-PROGRESS REPORT

A standard no-progress report has been proposed. It is reproduced here for the information of all concerned:

During the report period which ends (fill in appropriate date), considerable progress has been made in the preliminary work directed toward the establishment of the initial activities. (We are getting ready to start, but we haven't done anything yet.) The background information has been surveyed and the functional structure of the component parts of the cognizant organization has been clarified. (We looked at the assignment and decided that George would do it.)

Considerable difficulty has been encountered in the selection of optimum materials and experimental methods, but this problem is being attacked vigorously and we expect that the development phase will proceed at a satisfactory rate. (George is looking through the handbook.) In order to prevent unnecessary duplication of previous efforts in the same fields, it was necessary to establish a survey team which has conducted a rather extensive tour through various facilities in the immediate vicinity of manufacturers. (George and Harry had a nice time in New York.)

The Steering Committee held its regular meeting and considered rather important policy matters pertaining to the over-all organizational levels of the line and staff responsibilities that devolve on the personnel associated with the broad functional specifications. (Untranslatable-sorry.) It is believed that the rate of progress will continue to accelerate as necessary personnel are recruited to fill vacant billets. (We'll get some work done as soon as we find someone who knows something.) - - -  
From William Cohen, China Lake, Calif.

#### EXPEDITION TO IRAQ

Ralph S. Solecki, Smithsonian collaborator, sailed on August 5 to direct an expedition to explore archaeological sequences in Shanidar Valley, Northern Iraq, ranging from the Paleolithic period to the modern Kurds.

This expedition, sponsored by the Smithsonian, will be in the field from September 1956 through May 1957. It is a continuation of Mr. Solecki's researches at Shanidar Cave conducted in 1951 and 1953.

On the basis of carbon-14 dates, there is a chronological gap of some 16,500 years between layers B and C within Shanidar Cave itself, and an effort will be made to find connections between these two layers.

While in Iraq, Mr. Solecki will also examine in detail the remains of a child found in Shanidar Cave. This is the only Mousterian (Neanderthal) infant skeleton in the world, and was recovered by Mr. Solecki during his 1953 fieldwork.

#### SCHOOL TIME

Just a reminder to those who wish to pursue their education -- fall catalogs from local universities and colleges and the Department of Agriculture Graduate School are being received in the Personnel office. You are invited to come in and read the catalogs or to take copies where supplies are adequate.

- - -

#### POSTHUMOUS HONORS FROM CZECHS

The name of the late Ales Hrdlicka, formerly curator of Physical Anthropology, is still revered in his native country of Czechoslovakia. Back in 1953, on the tenth anniversary of Dr. Hrdlicka's death, the division of physical anthropology was asked to furnish information on his last publications. In return, the division received a large illustrated poster which was distributed as part of a celebration in honor of the scientist.

Now the city museum in Humpolec, Dr. Hrdlicka's birthplace, is planning to devote a special room to his life and work. Also, the site of his birthplace will be made into a garden. Either in this garden or in prominent place in the center of the city, perhaps on the street named for him, a bust of the doctor will be erected. To aid the sculptor in modeling the bust, the U. S. National Museum has sent to Czechoslovakia a copy of the Hrdlicka death mask made by A. Joseph Andrews. The letter returning the receipted invoice expresses gratitude for the mask and praises Mr. Andrews' skill.

- - -

#### NEW APPOINTMENTS:

##### Junior Clerk:

Evelyn V. Sterling  
Mirosanda Adjemovitch

##### Museum Aide:

Jerry D. Hardy  
Philip L. Perkins  
James E. Fowler  
Sheila Goldman  
Edward M. Hamilton  
Robert E. Reiser, Jr.  
John J. Flynn  
Mary E. Mutchler  
Robert M. Finks  
Nancy E. Heers  
William Lehr, Jr.  
Peter Stone  
James Channing  
Everett A. Jackson  
Carol C. Clarke  
Rodris C. Roth  
Richard Bambach

##### Museum Curator:

Edwin A. Battison  
Robert S. Woodbury

##### Exhibits Worker:

Donald W. Holst  
Shelton P. Applegate

##### Laborer:

Charles R. James  
James L. Agnew  
Earnest B. Morris  
John H. Johnson  
Herman L. Crayton

##### Senior Clerk:

Sonia R. Cohen

##### Policeman:

Leon R. Van Ness

##### Clerk-Stenographers:

Mary B. Freeland  
Ellen L. Young

##### Physicist:

William M. Sinton  
Charles A. Whitney  
Luigi G. Jacchia  
Fred A. Franklin  
Nannielou R. Dieter

##### Supervisory Physicist:

Theodore E. Sterne  
J. Allen Hynek



Photographic Technician & Computer  
Pedro J. Kokaras

#### SEPARATIONS:

Selma C. Perry  
Edward S. Hunter  
Thomas Curran  
John Corriea  
Ernest R. Sohns  
Joseph Manning  
Asbury White, Jr.  
Smith H. Oliver  
Curtis G. Mudgett  
William E. Lewis  
Robert L. Burt  
Maryann Ferko  
Clarence M. Condrey, Jr.

#### NATIONAL GALLERY AWARDS

At an award ceremony in the National Gallery Lecture Hall on July 17, the Administrator and the Director of the Gallery expressed pleasure at the progress being made in the Incentive Awards program.

Awards for contributions and outstanding performance were given to the following Gallery employees:

Mr. Henry Beville, for a contribution in the design, manufacture, and use of an automatic camera for slide production.

Mr. Jesse E. Jones, for a contribution in the design and construction of closure doors which reduced the possibility of injury to visitors and increased the efficiency in closing gallery areas for official purposes.

Miss Anna M. Voris, for sustained superior performance in her position of museum aide.

Mrs. Rosa B. Larker, for her suggestion that ball-point pens be made available in the lounge for the convenience of Gallery visitors.

Mrs. Eleanor Y. Burgess, for her suggestion that chest X-ray facilities be made available annually at the Gallery for employees.

Mrs. Norma Jean Baker, for her suggestion for full-length mirrors in certain areas for the benefit of the public and for the National Gallery of Art employees.

#### MERITORIOUS AWARDS

Three members of the Library staff recently were given meritorious awards. Presentations were made by Dr. Carmichael in the Regent's Room of the Smithsonian Building.

Awards were made on July 10 to Mrs. L. Frances Jones, assistant chief of the Library's acquisitions section, and to Miss Coles Taylor, a librarian.

Mr. Lenford C. Thompson, messenger, was presented with a cash award and a certificate on July 31.

When presenting the awards, the Secretary remarked as follows to the honorees:

To Mrs. Jones: "During the performance rating period April 1, 1955, to March 31, 1956, you reorganized

the purchase records of the acquisition section by studying and devising ways and means to simplify them and by doing away with unnecessary duplication in maintaining them.

"In addition, as a result of your analysis of the serious problem of overcrowding in the library of the National Collection of Fine Arts, you efficiently planned and supervised the reshelfing of the entire collection of 13,000 volumes in proper order according to classification, removing all publications which were not of current significance."

To Miss Taylor: "You have been granted an 'Outstanding' performance

rating because you have consistently exceeded the requirements of your position in every respect for the entire rating period, April 1, 1955, through March 31, 1956.

"The volume of work you have completed, the manner in which you have accepted your responsibilities, and the meticulous accuracy of your accomplishments warrant further acknowledgment in the form of a certificate of award in official recognition and appreciation of your special and meritorious services as a librarian."

To Mr. Thompson: "You have been granted an 'Outstanding' performance rating because of the exceptional manner in which you have exceeded the basic requirements of your position.

"You have acquired a basic knowledge of the two systems of classification in the library which has enabled you to render considerable assistance in reshelfing publications, thereby permitting the librarians to perform other professional duties.

"In addition, you have efficiently performed an extensive amount of packing, unpacking, and counting of volumes resulting from the greatly enlarged bindery program.

"At no time did you neglect the performance of your scheduled tasks while undertaking these special assignments."

#### NEW SERVICE

As a result of the recent reorganization of the mail and messenger service, Mr. Tilghman Hawkins has been assigned the duty of the withdrawing and filing of accession memoranda and other permanent file papers. Requests for

accessions or files may be made direct to him on Ext. 362. However, any member of the Registrar's staff will accept and handle such requests.

#### INTERNING

Under the Washington Summer Intern Program, sponsored jointly by Vassar and Wellesley Colleges, Miss Judith Jaffe of Los Angeles has started work in the Traveling Exhibition Service. Miss Jaffe is majoring in English at Wellesley and has complete her junior year. She is particularly interested in contemporary art and in assisting in every phase of exhibition work.

#### LANGLEY ANNIVERSARY

Of special interest to the Smithsonian staff is the exhibit-of-the-month at the Library of Congress. The August exhibit commemorates the 50th anniversary of the death of Samuel Pierpont Langley, third Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution.

The caption describing the exhibit reads as follows:

"As a boy in his native Roxbury, Massachusetts, Langley watched the stars through his father's telescope, and constructed one with his brother's help. His intellectual resources marked him for a distinguished career: without benefit of college, he became familiar with architecture, mathematics, physics, the great literary classics, history, and the fine arts. While director of the Allegheny Observatory in Pittsburgh, he standardized railway time-keeping, made classic drawings of sunspots, and invented the delicate bolometer to measure minute quantities of radiant heat,



especially in the spectrum. A letter to his fellow astronomer, Simon Newcomb, reveals their mutual interest in a transit of **Venus** across the sun, the positions of certain stars, and the solar corona. His famous essay, The External Aspects of the Sun (1874) contains an engraving made from one of his drawings of sun spots. His popular book, The New Astronomy (1888), is accompanied by a letter from Benjamin H. Ticknor, whose firm published it. As Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution, Langley established the National Zoological Park and the Astrophysical Observatory, enlarged the National Museum, and popularized scientific knowledge through his many reports and essays. The last twenty years of his life were devoted to pioneer experiments in aerodynamics. A letter to Ainsworth R. Spofford, the Librarian of Congress, illustrates the problems involved in that research. His Researches and Experiments in Aerial Navigation (1908) is opened to a photograph by Alexander Graham Bell, showing Langley's quarter-size powered model making a flight over the Potomac River, May 6, 1896. Wilbur Wright's letter to Charles D. Walcott, Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution, December 23, 1910, expresses the Wright brothers' opinion of Langley's place in aviation history."

#### NEW FUND RAISING PLAN

The president recently approved a new government-wide policy for the collection of charitable contributions from Federal personnel.

The new system provides for not more than three solicitation drives a year. In cases where communities have a united fund serving all the "recognized" agencies, only one solicitation will be necessary.

The three solicitations will provide for local community needs (Community Chest), emergency relief (Red Cross), and health (Cancer Society, etc.).

The employee may decide for himself which agencies he wants to support and whether to disclose his donation or keep it confidential.

Educational and solicitation material will be distributed to employees by "keyman" solicitors in the agency.

#### PUBLISHED IN JULY

"The Upper Paleocene Mammalia from the Almy Formation in Western Wyoming," by C. Lewis Gazin (Miscellaneous Collections, 18 pages).

"Meissen and Other German Porcelain in the Alfred Duane Pell Collection," by Paul Gardner (National Collection of Fine Arts publication, 66 pages).

"A New Pinecone Fish, Monocentris reedi, from Chile, a New Family Record for the Eastern Pacific," by Leonard F. Schultz (Museum Proceedings, 3 pages).

## DON'T BE TIMID --

