

THE SMITHSONIAN TORCH

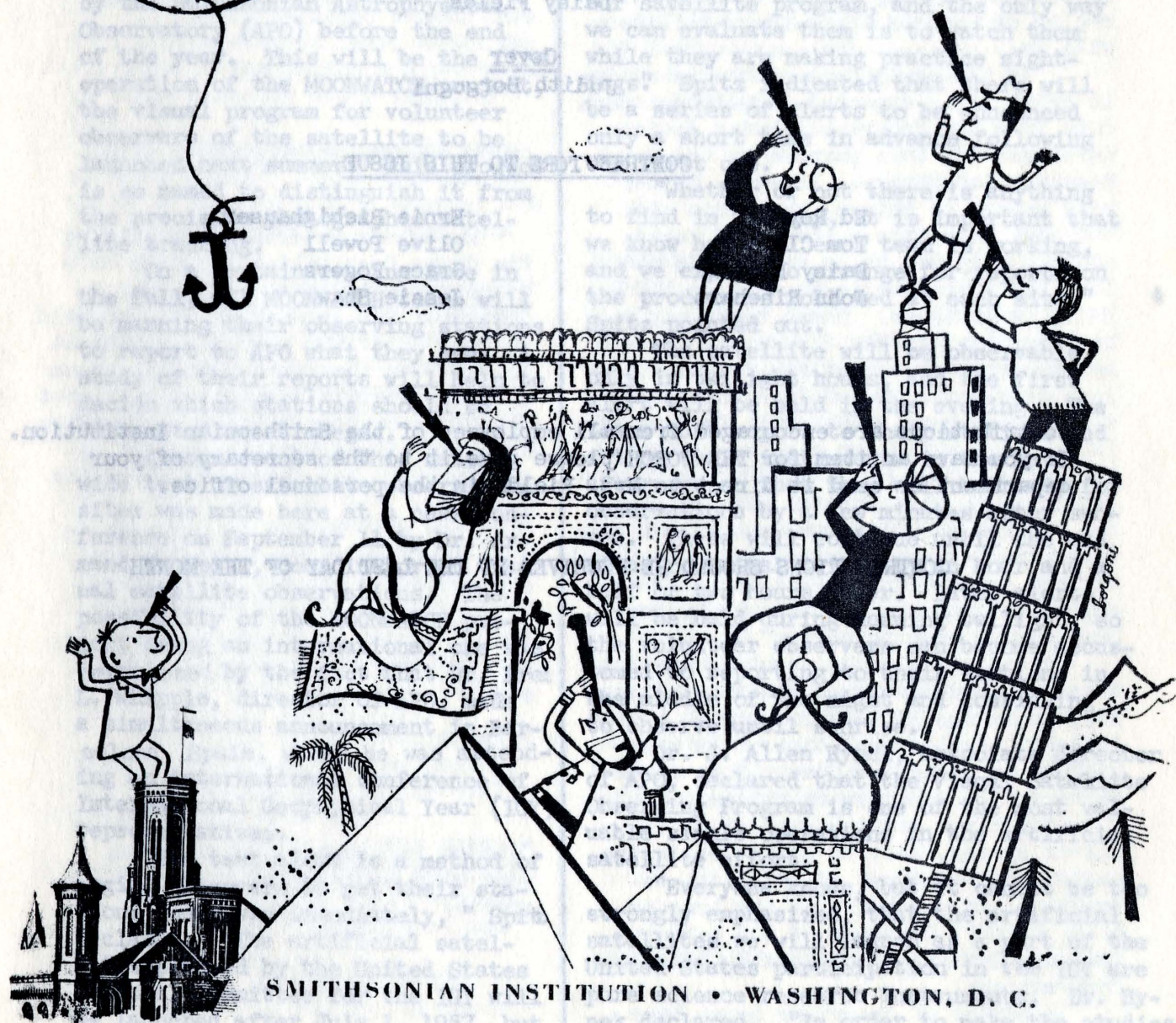
OPERATION

MOON
WATCH



SEPTEMBER 1956

THE SMITHSONIAN
TORCH



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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

SATELLITE WATCH ALERT

The first artificial satellite alert in history will be conducted by the Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory (APO) before the end of the year. This will be the first operation of the MOONWATCH project, the visual program for volunteer observers of the satellite to be launched next summer. This project is so named to distinguish it from the precision photographic satellite tracking.

On a certain evening late in the fall, all MOONWATCH teams will be manning their observing stations to report to APO what they see. A study of their reports will help to decide which stations should be designated as strategic.

Announcement of this nationwide test of satellite observation sites was made here at a news conference on September 11 by Dr. Armand N. Spitz, coordinator of visual satellite observations. The possibility of the MOONWATCH project being an international one was emphasized by the fact that Dr. Fred L. Whipple, director of APO, made a simultaneous announcement in Barcelona, Spain, where he was attending an international conference of International Geophysical Year (IGY) representatives.

"The test alert is a method of urging observers to get their stations under way immediately," Spitz declared. "The artificial satellites planned by the United States National Committee for the IGY will be launched after July 1, 1957, but it is important that all observers have practice in the teamwork which will be required to sight the satellite. The observing techniques are

completely different from any others in astronomical or sky search operations. There are many hundreds of communities and many thousands of individuals who have indicated their desire to help in our satellite program, and the only way we can evaluate them is to watch them while they are making practice sightings." Spitz indicated that there will be a series of alerts to be announced only a short time in advance following the first one.

"Whether or not there is anything to find in the sky, it is important that we know how well each team is working, and we expect to arrange for reports on the procedures followed at each site," Spitz pointed out.

The satellite will be observable only in twilight hours, and the first alert will be held in the evening. The teams must report to their stations and set up their instruments in the late afternoon so that they will be ready for observations by a few minutes after sunset. These will continue until the end of astronomical twilight, an hour and a half or two hours later. Later alerts will be held during morning twilight, so the volunteer observers can become accustomed to reporting to their stations in the middle of the night and continuing to observe until sunrise.

Dr. J. Allen Hynek, associate director of APO, declared that the Visual Satellite Observing Program is one of the most valuable single operations in the artificial satellite effort.

"Everyone knows, but it cannot be too strongly emphasized, that the artificial satellites we will launch as a part of the United States participation in the IGY are pure science research instruments," Dr. Hynek declared. "In order to make the studies of the earth and the atmosphere which have been established as the goal of this project we must make very accurate measurements of the satellites in orbit. These will be

made by a series of specially designed telescopic cameras, placed at carefully selected points throughout the world. These cameras must be directed to the area where the satellite can be found. They are not designed to do the finding, but rather to make extremely precise measurements of the satellite's position and motion, very small changes in which will give us the data required for our scientific studies. But our telescopic cameras must have knowledge of the orbit in advance so they can be trained on the region of the sky where the satellite will be.

"In the early days of the satellite in orbit it is expected we will get such data from the remarkable radio devices developed for this purpose by the Naval Research Laboratory. However, by the very nature of things, the radio will not last more than a couple of weeks, and our only way to be sure we do not lose the satellite is to rely on MOONWATCH volunteers. These teams may well be recognized in the future as pioneers in the greatest scientific research project ever participated in by nonprofessional observers. They will feed us the information which our electronic computers will digest and produce a predicted orbit. With this orbital data in hand, the special satellite telescopes can make their studies with the precision required for the scientific investigation of the upper atmosphere and other geophysical problems we hope to solve."

There are already about 35 station teams who have declared their intention to join in the MOONWATCH program, but it is hoped that several times this many will be in operation. From 12 to 15 observers will comprise each team.

The first station was set up in Silver Spring, Md., to study the instruments and procedures of satellite observing. It was built at the home of G. R. Wright, Chairman of the National Advisory Committee for Visual Satellite Observations.

A number of observing teams have gained the support of civic-minded business and professional organizations in establishing their satellite stations.

In Phoenix, Ariz., the station will be located on the top of a bank building, and the entire cost of building, equipping, and maintaining that MOONWATCH station will be borne by the bank as a public service.

In Denver, the MOONWATCH activities will be on the grounds and under the sponsorship of the Denver Museum of Natural History. In St. Louis, a soft-drink manufacturer has offered to construct a complete station on the roof of his building.

GROUP HOSPITALIZATION DRIVE OPENS

Employees interested in joining the Group Hospitalization will have an opportunity to do so beginning September 25. A meeting will be held in Room 43 of the National Museum at 11 a.m. on that date when Mr. Brown of Group Hospitalization will present the story of hospitalization benefits and give all persons present an opportunity to ask questions about the program.

This will be the only chance to join for another year, except for new employees who may join within 60 days of their employment date. You are urged to attend the meeting, particularly if you are not now a member.

"Wisdom is knowing when to speak your mind and when to mind your speech."

-----Evangel

NEW FUND-RAISING POLICY

The President has recently approved a new government-wide policy based on "true voluntary giving," for collection of contributions from Federal employees to recognized health and welfare organizations.

The basic principles of the new program are:

1. Every employee should have full opportunity to learn about the services to the Nation and the needs of those agencies which want his help.

2. Every employee should decide for himself which agencies he wants to support and be assured that his donation goes to the agencies he designates.

3. The employee reserves the option of disclosing his contribution or keeping it confidential.

The new policy recommends that fund-raising programs be adapted to the pattern of the community. In Washington, beginning this fall, the UNITED GIVERS FUND campaign will unite the Community Chest, Red Cross, and certain health agencies programs. The Smithsonian will participate in this united effort. For those health and welfare agencies not included in the UNITED GIVERS FUND, it is contemplated to combine their appeals into one drive early in the spring.

According to Dr. Carmichael when he announced the new policy, the Smithsonian Institution will have two solicitations:

1. The UNITED GIVERS FUND drive to be conducted in the fall as a cash or pledge solicitation with an over-all dollar goal and quotas.

2. The cash solicitation to be conducted in the spring combining appeals from those agencies not included in the fall drive.

Employees will be notified at the proper time through a memoran-

dum of endorsement concerning each campaign effort.

The work of soliciting is difficult. Remember that the Keyman who talks with you is doing so as a service to human welfare. Let us all help to make the work of these Keymen easier! When you are generous you help people who need all that you can give and you also help the Smithsonian Institution meet its quota. Only through the support of all Smithsonian employees can this great new fund raising program be made successful.

HONORARY FELLOW

On August 30, 1956, F. W. MacKay, of Arlington, Va., was made an Honorary Fellow of the Smithsonian Institution. Dr. Leonard Carmichael presented the diploma.

Mr. MacKay, a geologist and retired business executive, is presenting to the Smithsonian Institution his collection of Grand Crosses of Orders of Knighthood. This collection, the finest of its kind in existence, will be displayed in a special hall in the new building.

Mr. MacKay is chairman of a committee for orders and decorations which is devoted to increasing the collection through participation of leading collectors throughout the world.

ADDRESSES INTERNATIONAL MEETING

The Secretary gave the opening address before the Fifth Session of the International Congress of Anthropological and Ethnological Sciences

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on September 2 at Philadelphia.

Dr. Carmichael's topic was "Anthropology and the Smithsonian Institution." He summarized the role that Joseph Henry, the first Secretary, played in the development of anthropological research from the early days of the Smithsonian; and he pointed out that the great date for anthropology at the Smithsonian was 1879, when John Wesley Powell founded the Bureau of Ethnology, now the Bureau of American Ethnology.

Among the achievements of the Bureau under Powell that Dr. Carmichael mentioned were the publishing of nine large volumes of bibliographical material based on James C. Pilling's "Meticulous study of appropriate materials in the major libraries of this country and Europe"; a linguistic classification of Indian languages that resulted in the publishing of the famous "linguistic map of North America" in the Seventh Annual Report of the Bureau; and the preparation of Powell's synonymy "designed to eliminate the endless confusion of tribal nomenclature," to which almost all the leading anthropologists of the country became collaborators and which was finally published in 1907 as the "Handbook of American Indians North of Mexico."

William H. Holmes became head of the Bureau following Powell's death in 1902. Dr. Carmichael said that under Holmes, his immediate successors, and Dr. Matthew W. Stirling who presently heads the Bureau, the original program outlined by Powell has been continued with constructive modifications.

Among the more recent outstanding publications of the Bureau, the Secretary mentioned John R. Swanton's "The Indians of the Southeastern United States," A.L. Kroeber's "Handbook of the Indians of California," and the 7-volume "Handbook of South American Indians" edited by Julian H. Steward.

Dr. Carmichael also cited the importance of the National Museum's Department of Anthropology in the development of that science, and he said that Holmes must be thought of as creating the present active program of the Department.

The Division of Physical Anthropol-

ogy was created as part of the Department of Anthropology during the administration of the Smithsonian's third Secretary, Samuel P. Langley. Dr. Ales Hrdlicka came to the Smithsonian in 1903 to organize this new work. When Dr. Hrdlicka retired in 1942 there were more than 36,000 physical-anthropological specimens in the Smithsonian, Dr. Carmichael reported. The Secretary then paid tribute to Dr. T. Dale Stewart and Dr. M. T. Newman as two outstanding members of the staff who are carrying forward the important work initiated by Dr. Hrdlicka. He also reviewed the work of the Institute of Social Anthropology and of the River Basin Surveys, which, for the past 10 years, has been under the competent direction of Dr. Frank H. Roberts, Jr.

S. I. PROSPECTORS IN GOLDEN WEST

The prospector-flags that have been visible the last couple of months for several miles around the great Arizona Meteor Crater are not mining-claim stakes. They are markers to indicate where samples of meteoritic dust have been collected by members of an expedition of the Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory.

Under the direction of Dr. John S. Rinehart, assistant director of the APO, the expedition has been prospecting for and panning meteoritic fall-out in the neighborhood of one of Mother Nature's great experiments in terminal ballistics. The "panning" however, is done by means of a magnetic separator instead of by the old water method.

The expedition is trying to find out the size of the original meteorite projectile that plunged through the atmosphere at 10 miles per second or more to produce the colossal crater that is nearly a mile in diameter. The scientists are not yet certain whether that great explosion dwarfs

those that are now possible by the atom busters.

Dr. Rinehart is accompanied by three assistants -- Messrs. Matalas, O'Neil, and Olson -- his wife Marion, his 13-year-old daughter Margot, and his 9-year-old son Eric.

To show that the pioneer spirit of the Smithsonian Institution is still lusty, we are quoting new lyrics (by Margot) for the ancient ballad "Clementine." What the lyrics may lack in meter is more than compensated for in meteor (apologies, but what meteoriticist could resist)

THE EXPEDITION SONG

On the desert, in Arizona
In an old museum house,
Lived three boys and all the Rineharts
And perhaps a snake or mouse.

(chorus)
How they slaved,
How they slaved,
In that burning desert air
Since it was for dear old science
They could die and never care!

Every morning, bright and early,
When the alarm clock sounded six,
They arose to eat their breakfast,
Grabbed their shovels, water, and picks.

(chorus)
Back by noontime, with their samples,
Just as soon as lunch was done,
Starting in to shake the shaker,
Sifting samples, one by one,

(chorus)
Samples bagged and numbered also,
Lined along the 'dobe wall,
Now they weigh them, by the hundreds,
By the hundreds, one and all.

(chorus)

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Meteorites and rusty particles
Separated from the rest,
Bottled, weighed, and stacked and
labeled,
Then they're given the nickel test.

(chorus)

Cast in plastic which is hardened,
Polished to a silver gray,
-Precious fragments of the Meteorite-
They're discussed till end of day.

(chorus)

TRAVEL EXHIBITION CATALOG

Dr. Annemarie Pope has announced that a special catalog of the Smithsonian traveling exhibitions for the 1956-1957 season has just been published. This catalog lists 56 exhibitions in the fields of painting and sculpture, drawings and prints, design and crafts, architecture, folk art and indigenous art, photography, oriental art, books, and children's art.

Of particular interest are a number of new exhibitions that will open their tours in October of this year, notably, "Dutch Art 1946-1956," "Canadian Abstract Paintings," "A. J. Miller Watercolors," "American Printmakers," "German Architecture Today," "Landscape Architecture Today," and "Contemporary American Glass,"

"Buck-passing never increases a person's stature; it only makes him smaller."

STUDY PERUVIAN INDIANS

One of the most complete biological studies of an isolated human group--over 1,700 Indians in the high cold valley called the Callejon de Huaylas in the Peruvian Andes--has been carried out during the past six months at a 36,000-acre hacienda rented and operated by Cornell University. These studies, made possible by Cornell's field facilities and by National Science Foundation and U. S. Public Health Service grants, were organized by Dr. Marshall T. Newman, associate curator of physical anthropology.

Dr. Newman made physical studies on the Indian school boys and men. He found them to be very small almost dwarfed in stature and especially low in body weight. Without clothing the adult man averaged less than 5 feet 1 inch in stature and 114 pounds in weight.

The boys appeared puny and underdeveloped and were almost never fat. On the other hand, many of the men were sturdy and well muscled, and had very large lung capacity, enough to supply oxygen for heavy work at 10,000-12,000 feet altitude. Only one or two out of over 200 men could be considered fat by our standards, says Dr. Newman. In large part their inadequate diet, the heavy work, and the cold high environment may account for the small size of these people and the poor development of the boys.

The adequacy of the diet was tested by Dr. Carlos Collazos, head of the Department of Nutrition in Peru's Ministry of Public Health. He studied the signs of dietary inadequacies in the school boys, and his laboratory is making vitamin analyses of their blood. A Peruvian dietician, Senorita Carmen Carceres, weighed and analyzed what a sample of Indian families ate each day; and a Peruvian anthropologist, Hector Martinez, added a supplementary study on the food customs and habits of the people.

Dr. Fred H. Allen, Jr., associate director of the Blood Grouping Laboratory, Boston, made studies on the Indians' blood types and ran hemoglobin tests on the school boys. Among other things,

the blood types indicate that the Vicos Indians are almost completely pure in a racial sense.

A final study, made possible by the cooperation of Dr. Ramon Vallenar, sub-director of Peru's Department of Industrial Hygiene, consisted of X-rays of the school boys' hands. These X-rays will provide information on bone density, likely to reflect poor calcium intake, and on bone development, which may be found to be considerably retarded.

The aims of these studies are to correlate the poor soils, inadequate diet, cold living conditions, and poor sanitation--most have intestinal worms--with the physical and medical status of these Indians, who are forced to eke out a bare subsistence in a relatively inhospitable environment.

PINS BEGIN TO FLY

The new bowling season began with a bang on the first Wednesday after Labor Day. The automatic pin-setters helped keep the games fast and interesting. A few of the regulars were still on vacation, so the demand for substitutes was already in full swing.

The Bowling League regrets that it was unable to sign up everyone who wanted to bowl regularly. However, a few regular bowlers drop out during the course of each season, and those who have expressed a desire to bowl regularly will be called on to fill the vacancies. Meanwhile, it is hoped that they will want to help out by acting as substitutes.

A couple of "subs" are needed almost every Wednesday night. Incidentally, "subbing" is one of the best ways to get to know the other bowlers and the teams.

Sometimes it is difficult for members of a section to understand why they cannot merely say they want to organize their own team and then

join the league. There are two reasons why: there must be five regular bowlers on each team and, since two teams bowl against each other each night, there must be an even number of teams.

At pre-season time this year there were 10 organized teams, and they had been organized for at least three years. There were a couple of vacancies on these teams that had to be filled. If, after these vacancies had been filled, there had been 10 additional people who wanted to bowl regularly, two new teams could have been proposed. Perhaps there will be enough bowlers to add new teams next season, and some of them can be organized as sectional teams.

SETTLED DOWN

Smith Hempstone Oliver, former curator of land transportation, recent bridegroom, and owner of Florida real estate, sends greetings to his Smithsonian friends.

He writes that he bought a 6-room, jalousie-windowed home at 320 Columbia Drive in Lake Worth. The home came equipped with furniture, fruit trees, and an avocado-supplying neighbor.

"Hedy and I feel that the summer weather here is no worse than D.C.'s, and probably a little more comfortable. And everyone here says this is the hottest summer in many years!

"Tell the Torch readers that I'd like to see them all, when they come this way."



"... Well, have you tried getting them all into Blue Cross on a Group plan?"

DIG THIS COOL CAVE

More than 8,000 years ago, Indian families sought haven deep in the dark, limestone recesses of Russell Cave near what is now Bridgeport, Ala. Housekeeping was comparatively simple in those days. Instead of using a convenient garbage disposal, bones and other litter were scattered over the floor of the cave, and when conditions became unbearable--a vacuum cleaner not being handy--a cover of earth was spread over the debris.

Carl Miller, in charge of the joint National Geographic Society-Smithsonian Institution expedition to uncover the secret of these early Indians, has been able to piece together a comprehensive history of the oldest form of human life yet known in the southeastern United States. From the mass of weapons, bone tools, and bones he has determined that the early occupants made stone weapons from flint and quartz and used these sharp points as spear tips. Although the cavemen were slight in stature, they were mighty as hunters, as evidenced by the bear skulls and the bear teeth necklaces, for the women, that

were found in the cave.

The first layers of earth, peeled away inches at a time, revealed Indian deposits dating back to about 1650--before the first white traders reached Alabama.

One item of particular interest was that the deeper the digging, the more artistic were the stone points. Pottery fragments were not found below the 5-foot level. A grass-fiber basket filled with small charred seeds was found at about 7 feet.

The deeper layers revealed small stone arrowheads of the Woodland period, roughly A. D. 1100 to 1000 B. C. Digging down about 14 feet into the Archaic age level (before 1000 B. C.) a part of an "atlatl" was found consisting of a stone pierced by a man-made hole. Other interesting discoveries will be reported in a forthcoming issue of the National Geographic Magazine.

Mr. Miller plans to continue the work in the spring, perhaps gaining other and more amazing evidence of Early Man to add to the knowledge of the past.

EARLY X-RAY TUBE

One of the first X-ray tubes used by Wilhelm Konrad Roentgen was presented to the National Museum for exhibit on August 24. The tube was purchased from a private owner in Germany and presented to the Smithsonian Institution by the General Electric Company's X-ray Department of Milwaukee, Wis.

Roentgen, professor of physics at the University of Wurzburg, Germany, in 1895 discovered a new radiation that could penetrate wood and other dense objects. These rays were called "X-rays" by their discoverer because of their unknown nature, but they are now also known as Roentgen rays.

The newly acquired apparatus was Roentgen's third X-ray tube. His first

two tubes are preserved, respectively, at the Physical Institute in Wurzburg, Germany, and at the Deutsches Museum, Munich.

In arranging the transactions for the acquisition of the tube, Mr. John H. Smith, general manager of the General Electric Company's X-ray Department, observed: "I am very happy we were given the opportunity to participate in a move to bring an heirloom of such a significant scientific development as the X-ray tube to this country. . ."

Final transactions for the purchase of the tube were handled through the courtesy of Trans World Air Lines, which flew it to New York. It will be exhibited in the Gallery of Medical History, Arts and Industries Building.

RIVER BASIN NEWS

Dr. Warren W. Caldwell, who recently received his Ph.D. from the University of Washington, joined the permanent staff of the Missouri Basin Project of the River Basin Surveys on August 22. Dr. Caldwell and party of six left Lincoln on August 28 to conduct archeological investigations in the area of the Coralville Reservoir near Iowa City, Iowa. The party will be in the field for a period of from six to eight weeks.

Dr. Robert L. Stephenson, chief of the Missouri Basin Project of the River Basin Surveys, addressed the Sertoma Club of York, Nebr., at its luncheon meeting on August 29. Dr. Stephenson's topic was "Salvage Archeology." G. Hubert Smith took the same topic in a talk before the Pierre-Ft. Pierre (South Dakota) Rotary Club, which met at Pierre on July 10.

Alfred Johnson, an anthropology major at the University of Kansas, will conduct archeological investigations in

the Toronto Reservoir area in Kansas during the autumn months. He expects to start this field work about mid-September.

NEW APPOINTMENTS:

Clerk-Typists:

Jeanette F. Fisher
Helen M. Beattie
Christine C. Buckman
Josephine A. Federico

Clerk-Stenographer:

Betsy H. Scott

Exhibits Workers:

Judith S. Borgogni
Robert B. Widder

Guards:

Alfred A. Brock
Philip L. Cagle
William D. Crawley
Philip W. Farrell
Calvin E. Wilkerson

Archeologist:

Warren W. Caldwell, Jr.

Gardener:

Michael Dubik

Chauffeur:

Alexander M. Thompson

Placement Assistant:

Helen R. Fentress

Physicists:

Edward L. Fireman

Max Krook

F. Behn Riggs, Jr.

Elevator Mechanic:

Theo U. Gillum

Accounting & Fiscal Clerk:

Kathryn I. Hodges

Administrative Assistant:

Mary M. Katalinich

Junior Clerk:

Sara E. Kelder

Computing Analyst:

Don A. Lautman

Museum Aides:

Gary Myers

Judith Wade

Luis de la Torre

Ethnologist:

Saul H. Riesenber

Supply:

Michael Santoro

Carpenter:

William H. Wright

Professional Associate:

Rhoda Stolper

SEPARATIONS:

Jack Brannum

Edward Jenkins

Herman L. Crayton

Sonia R. Cohen

Anne C. Budlong

Sally L. Budlong

John H. Johnson

William M. Bass III

Deborah B. West

Albert C. Smith

Thomas Curran

Selma C. Perry

G. Milton Harley

D. C. INCOME TAX

"Of all sad words of tongue or pen
The saddest of these--It's tax time
again."

Federal, State, and District taxes fall due in September. To make it "easier" for District residents to pay their income taxes, a recent law requires employers to withhold a specified amount from salaries in the form of a withholding tax similar to the Federal withholding tax. This payroll deduction will begin with the pay period beginning September 9.

It is very important that S. I. employees who reside in the District of Columbia file a withholding certificate with the Fiscal Division so that the proper amount may be withheld from their salaries.

If you reside in Maryland or Virginia be sure to file a nonresident certificate, otherwise the Fiscal Division will have to withhold District taxes from your salary. It makes no difference what State you claim as your legal residence. If you reside in

the District of Columbia, income tax must be withheld.

All of us were pleased when the new Retirement Act granting more liberal annuities was passed; but with the greater benefits the cost will increase. Beginning October 7, the amount of retirement deductions withheld from your salary will be increased from 6% to 6½%.

In order that those who are under Social Security may not feel slighted, we assure them that they have not been overlooked. Beginning January 1, the social security tax will be increased from 2% to 2¼%. As has perhaps been noted, the folks in the Fiscal Division certainly have "taking ways."

September taxes always seem the most difficult to meet. Perhaps because of the expenses of summer vacations, the reopening of school with the cost of new clothing and tuition, the replenishment of the fuel supply, and other reasons, we never seem to have enough money on hand to meet our needs. If this is your situation, don't overlook the Credit Union, which is available to help you over your difficulties. It is much cheaper to borrow from the Credit Union than to pay the penalties for delinquent taxes.

OF BLADES AND BLOOD

"Here is a safety tip from the Personnel Division.

A razor blade, many typists claim, will do a neater job than an eraser. This claim may be right, provided the blade is used with a light touch so that it doesn't scratch holes in the paper.

And there is another proviso. Since a razor blade can be dangerous, you should use single-edged blades only. After use, keep the blades in a folded piece of cardboard held together with a rubber band.

Most accidents result from someone's inadvertently grasping an uncovered blade for instance, while fumbling in a desk

drawer for something or gathering papers from the desk. We witnessed one gory accident recently. It happened when an uncovered blade slid off the desk and the girl instinctively grabbed for and caught it.

So, if you like to erase with a blade, be extra careful. And if your boss doesn't want you to use a blade, realize that his rule is not arbitrary. He's thinking of your safety."

ORIGIN MYTHS OF NAVAHO

There are two hereafters and four underworlds in the mythology of the Navaho Indians.

The creation story of this tribe, together with much other Navaho mythology as revealed by one of its chiefs to Aileen O'Bryan of Santa Fe, N. Mex., is related in Mrs. O'Bryan's book, "The Dine: Origin Myths of the Navaho Indians," recently published by the Bureau of American Ethnology.

The chief, Old Man Buffalo Grass, related the myths as they were told to him by his grandmother and by medicine men.

First was the black world, an island floating in mist. In the sky above it were four clouds--black, white, blue, and yellow.

The black cloud represented the female being, or substance, within whose darkness were contained the forms of life. The inhabitants of this black world were the mist people who had no definite form or bodies.

The white cloud was the male principle of creation. When white and black cloud met, the first man was formed. Once the races of plants and animals had been formed by the meeting of the clouds, these clouds themselves became transformed into worlds.

The new creatures climbed into the second world, that of the blue cloud. They found it already inhabited by the birds--especially the bluebirds, blue hawks, bluejays, and the blue herons. The birds resented the intrusion and the humans "found an opening in the world of blue haze." They climbed through this into the third or yellow world.

Here occurred the great flood, a legend which the Navaho apparently share in most primitive peoples, probably including all Indian tribes.

"After this the people saw white light in the East and in the South and West and North. One of the deer people ran to the East, and returning, said that the white light was a great sheet of water. The sparrow hawk flew to the South, the great hawk to the West and the kingfisher to the North. They returned and said that a flood was coming. The kingfisher said that the water was greater in the North and that it was near.

"When first man learned of the coming of the water he sent word to all the people and told them to come to the mountain called Sisnájín. He told them to bring with them all the seeds of plants used for food. All living beings were to gather on top of the mountain.

"The water rose steadily. First man discovered he had forgotten his medicine bag. Now this bag contained not only the earth from the six sacred mountains but also the medicine he used to call the rain down upon the earth and to make things grow. He could not live without his medicine bag, and he wished to jump into the rising water. So he asked kingfisher to dive into the water and recover the bag."

But the flood itself did not subside and the people, together with most of the animals, climbed through a hollow reed into the fourth world--that of the white cloud, or male principle. This fourth world, however, was a small,

barren land. Again the reed was planted and through it life climbed into the fifth world--that which man now occupies.

But beyond this, the Navaho medicine men teach, there are two other worlds. First is that of the spirits of living things. Still higher is the "place of melting into one."

ALMA PERDIDA

In the eerie hours before the jungle's pale pink dawn the ghost lady wails.

Natives call her "alma perdida," the lost soul. The indescribably sorrowful call heard by visitors to Barro Colorado Island, the Smithsonian's tropical preserve in the Canal Zone, is that of a relative of the North American whippoorwill.

"I have never heard such a human sound from a brute before," wrote the late Dr. Frank M. Chapman, noted ornithologist of the American Museum of Natural History, who made intensive studies of the island's bird life. "It made the gooseflesh rise all over me. It was a soft, but loud, sad, flutelike note."

The sound also has been described as "a woman's voice, a deep, mellow contralto calling in hopeless grief."

Local Indians sometimes have attributed the mournful sound to the voiceless sloth. A Balboa woman said that when she heard it she thought the wife of a neighbor was being beaten.

The bird itself is seldom observed. It is almost entirely a creature of the jungle darkness.

"It's what you learn after you know it all that counts."

CHECKLIST FOR SECRETARIES

Recently a representative group of secretaries were talking about on-the-job shortcuts at a meeting of the National Secretaries Association.

The following queries came out of the session, and the Personnel Division wants to pass them on to you members of the desk set.

- ☐ Do you attach to the incoming mail any pertinent material which will expedite dictation?
- ☐ Do you underline phrases in incoming mail which require definite action; e.g., "send us" or "call tomorrow" or "return the sample," etc.?
- ☐ Do you put the day's date in the lower right-hand corner of your notebook pages? This speeds up a search for any particular day's notes.
- ☐ In taking dictation, do you write on every second line? This allows for the insertions, corrections and changes most bosses feel obliged to make from time to time.
- ☐ Do you get the most out of your shorthand by employing all the shortcuts taught you in school? Have you made up your own brief forms or contractions for the nomenclature of your particular business?
- ☐ Do you have letterhead, carbon, and onionskin so positioned in the desk slots as to be in correct sequence for insertion in the typewriter?
- ☐ Is your stationery kept in the second drawer? Motion-study experts have found this to be the best location.
- ☐ Do you make an extra carbon of letters that have pending subject matter, or of letters that need follow-up? These carbons should be kept in a "Pending---Follow-up" folder and discarded when the particular business is concluded.
- ☐ When subject matter is not specifically referred to in a letter, do you make a note on your file carbon to aid in future reference?

- ☐ Do you keep a notebook in the boss's office, thus saving the time of running back to your desk if he has a whim to dictate at unexpected moments?
- ☐ Do you keep abreast of the latest secretarial aids? Expensive equipment is up to the boss, but there are a number of inexpensive items which are timesavers for the secretary or typist.

RECEIVES BOTANY AWARD

Mrs. Agnes Chase, research associate in the National Herbarium, has been cited for merit achievement by the Botanical Society of America.

Mrs. Chase was among 50 recipients honored by botanists from all over the world at special ceremonies on August 29 as part of the convention of the American Institute of Biological Sciences held at the University of Connecticut.

The citation described Mrs. Chase as "one of the world's outstanding agrostologists and preeminent among American students in this field."

Mrs. Chase flew to Storrs, Conn., to accept the award. All her "grandsons"--many of whom received their first introduction to grasses from her--and her many friends throughout the world are extending congratulations and best wishes.

VISITORS FROM ALL OVER

At the close of the 5th session of the International Congress of Anthropological and Ethnological Sciences which met in Philadelphia September 2-9,

many of the delegates and members found their way to Washington. Among the foreign scientists who visited with colleagues in the National Museum and the Bureau of American Ethnology were the following:

Dr. B. F. Debetz, Dr. D. A. Olderogge, and Dr. I. I. Potekhin, representing the Akademia Nauk, Moscow, U.S.S.R.; Dr. and Mrs. Charles Archambault, Societe des Etudes Indochinoises, Musee Blanchard de la Brosse, Saigon, Viet Nam; Dr. Helge Larsen, Nationalmuseet, Copenhagen, Denmark; Dr. Masao Oka, Tokyo Metropolitan University, Tokyo, Japan; Dr. Helmuth Petri, J. W. Goethe Universitat, Frankfurt am Main, Germany; Dr. Hisashi Suzuki, Japanese Science Council, Tokyo, Japan; and Dr. and Mrs. Henri V. Vallois, Director, Musee de L'Homme, Paris, France.

CHINESE PORCELAIN

An unexpectedly important and hitherto almost unknown collection of Chinese Porcelain preserved for some three centuries in an ancient Muslim shrine near the shores of the Caspian Sea is described in a comprehensive study just published by the Freer Gallery of Art.

Dedicated by Shah Abbas the Great in A. D. 1611 to his ancestor the Sheikh Safi, the porcelains remained in the neglected shrine until 1935, when they were transported by the Iranian Government to the Archaeological Museum in Tehran. There they were first thoroughly studied and catalogued in 1950 by John Alexander Pope, assistant director of the Freer Gallery, who has presented the results of his research on the subject in the newly

published volume "Chinese Porcelains from the Ardebil Shrine."

Beginning with an outline of the historical background and including what may have been an eye-witness account of the ceremonies of dedication, the text also includes the comments of those European travelers who saw the porcelains during the past three centuries and gives an account of the two major trade routes between China and the Near East: by camel caravan across the hazardous 3,500-mile mountain and desert trails of Central Asia, and by ship on the even longer voyage around the Malay Peninsula and India into the Persian Gulf. The first part of the book concludes with some notes on the study of Ming porcelain in general.

The second part is concerned with a description of the porcelains themselves taken in chronological order over the two and a half centuries represented in the collection. The earliest wares appear to have been made about 1350, and the latest probably shortly before the terminal date of the collection in 1611. Most of the pieces bear the dedicatory inscription of Shah Abbas cut into the glaze in preparation for their deposit in the shrine.

Says Mr. Pope: "No other collection in the world is so precisely documented that we can say with assurance that nothing in it is later than the Ming Dynasty; and this provides an unparalleled opportunity to study the evolution of the formal and decorative aspects of Chinese porcelain from a period soon after they began to decorate with underglaze blue almost to the end of the dynasty in which this art reached its zenith. It was at the same time perhaps the most important period in the ceramic history of the world; for these wares, gradually making their way to the Near East and to Europe, made an impact on the taste in decorated porcelain that has never been forgotten."

The 805 surviving pieces include an astonishing number of wares of the highest quality, and while some three-quarters of them are blue-and-white, the collection

also includes plain white wares and those decorated over the glaze with enamel colors as well as a good selection of large caladon dishes and vases. About 135 pieces, many of them in more than one view, are shown on the 142 plates, and these are selected as typical examples of the various periods to illustrate the course of development outlined in the text.

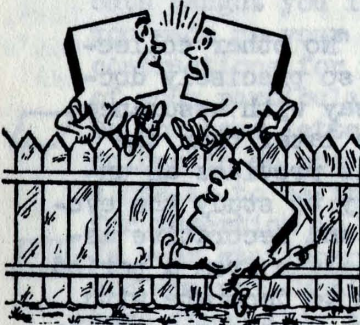
PUBLISHED IN AUGUST

"Small Arms and Ammunition in the United States Service, 1776-1865," by Col. Berkeley R. Lewis (Miscellaneous Collections, vol. 129, 338 pages).

"National Aeronautical Collections" (9th ed.), by Paul E. Garber (Special Publication 4255, 166 pages).

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**BIG MINDS TALK
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