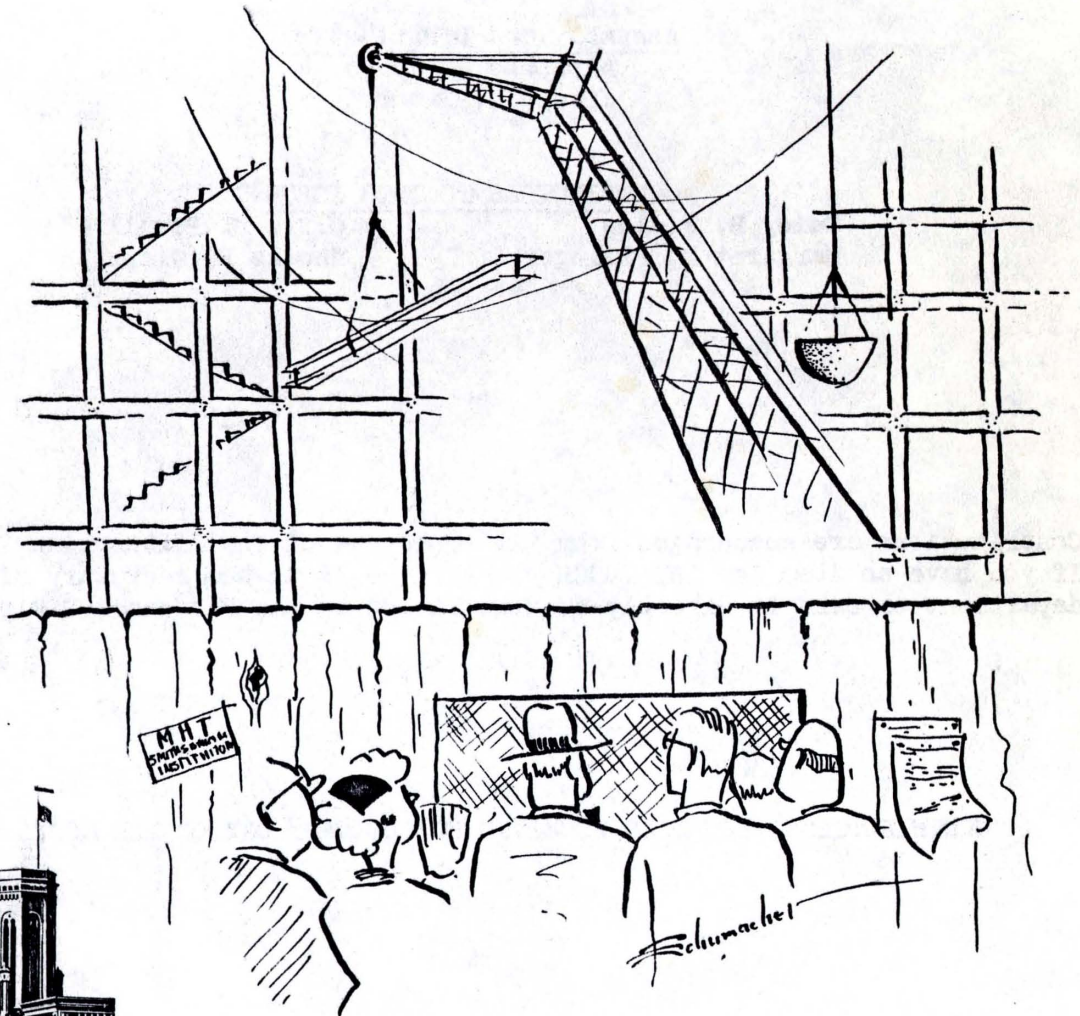


Mr. Lindsay



September 1958

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 directly to Mrs. Fields in the Personnel Division.

CONTRIBUTIONS SHOULD BE RECEIVED BY THE LAST DAY OF THE MONTH

September 1958

Number 43

GROUND BROKEN FOR MHT

The ground-breaking ceremony for the new Museum of History and Technology took place on August 22. The new building will be erected on the north side of The Mall between 12th and 14th Streets.

Senator Clinton P. Anderson (N. Mex.), a Regent of the Smithsonian Institution and Chairman of the Joint Congressional Committee for construction of the building, employed the same spade in this ceremony that had been formerly used by Smithsonian Secretary Samuel P. Langley in breaking ground for the Museum of Natural History 54 years ago and by Acting Secretary Richard Rathbun in breaking ground for the Freer Gallery in 1916.

The new museum was authorized by Congress in June 1955 and will be of contemporary design but will retain a classical spirit so that it will harmonize with the existing monumental buildings on The Mall and on Constitution Ave. It will house extensive historic and scientific collections totaling more than a million and a half specimens, only a small fraction of which can now be displayed in existing Smithsonian buildings.

Public exhibition galleries will occupy the three main floors of the building and will be devoted to interpretation of the civil and military history of the United States and the history of science and the development of technology in America. Here will be shown the many unique specimens in these fields for which the Smithsonian

Institution has long been renowned, as well as many new items not previously exhibited.

In addition, the museum's extensive reference collections will be systematically organized and will be available for study by scientists, historians, inventors, writers, collectors, and others interested in such varied subjects as the history of science and engineering, light and heavy machinery, agriculture, printing, marine architecture, antique automobiles, early American furniture, ceramics and glass, textiles, stamps, coins, costumes and uniforms, guns and ordnance, medicine and pharmacy, and many other fields.

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RETIREMENT MARRED BY SON'S DEATH

The friends of A. B. Smith, laborer assigned to the Smithsonian Building who was to retire on August 31, had planned to meet in the office of the buildings manager on the afternoon of August 29 to present him with a cash gift and a "Smithsonian Retirement Card." However, Mr. Smith received word on the morning of August 29 that his son Calvin had died suddenly. The cash gift was given to him by Mr. Oliver at that time and Mr. Smith stated he would like to thank everyone for their kindness.

Sympathy is extended to Mr. Smith and his family.

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RIVER BASIN NEWS

The Fifteenth-and-a-half Plains conference was held at the Smithsonian Institution Warehouse at the airport in Pierre, S. Dak., on Saturday and Sunday, July 26 and 27. The sessions convened with 15 archeologists, a physical anthropologist, a geologist, and a number of field crewmen in attendance. Maximum attendance at the sessions was 35 persons.

At the Saturday morning session, discussions were centered principally around the definitions of pottery ware and pottery type. The Saturday afternoon session and Sunday morning session consisted entirely of discussions of specific pottery types and pottery wares, and how dependable they are in the terminology and meaning in which they are used by River Basin archeologists. On Sunday afternoon, conference members were treated to a personally conducted tour through the Oahe Dam area by Col. John Sibert, the area engineer who is building the dam. The conference then went to the Sully Site and several adjacent sites under excavation in the area nearby.

Visiting archeologists attending the conference were Dr. John M. Corbett from the National Park Service in Washington and Dr. John L. Champe of the University of Nebraska in Lincoln.

By the end of August, all field parties working in the Oahe and Big Bend Reservoir areas of South Dakota had broken camp, and most of the party chiefs had returned to the Lincoln headquarters. William M. Bass III returned to Washington on August 28. Dr. Robert L. Stephenson and William N. Irving remained in South Dakota for several days after the closing of the camps.

The season was marred by two accidents. Richard N. Baker, who was employed as the cook for the Fort Thompson Camp, was fatally injured in a diving accident in the Fort Thompson area on August 18. Funeral services were held in Fort Wayne, Indiana

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IT'S A JOKE

The following anecdote, titled "Story of the Week," appeared in the August 4 issue of Air Conditioning and Refrigeration News, Detroit, Mich.

"To an official of the Smithsonian Institution an eager young man presented a swatch of silk.

"This," he announced, 'is a piece of Martha Washington's wedding dress. Would you care to buy it?'

"Contemptuously suspicious, Mr. Official summoned the Smithsonian curator. The latter, surprisingly, pronounced the swatch genuine.

"However," he added, 'we already have the bodice of that wedding dress here, so your little piece would hold little interest for our customers.'

"Two weeks later the lad came back with a slab of wood which, he claimed, had been part of Noah's Ark. Again the curator was called, and he admitted that indeed it was an authentic whack from Noah's Ark.

"It's of minor importance, though," he deprecated. 'Noah's anchor, as a matter of fact, lies below in one of our storerooms. Hardly anybody cares about it.'

"Within a month the young man returned. This time a smug, cocky expression lit up his phiz.

"I have here," he produced, 'one of King Tut's ears. And ...before you send for that lousy curator again'... (he reached into a pocket)...

"Here's King Tutankhamen's other ear!"

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RALPH A. SILBAUGH

Word was received on August 18, 1958, that R. A. Silbaugh, former foreman of laborers, Natural History Building, had died at Bucklin, Kans. Mr. Silbaugh retired from his position at the Smithsonian on July 31, 1957, and moved to Bucklin, hoping that his health would improve in that climate. His many friends at the Smithsonian Institution extend their sympathy to his family.

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EL SALVADOR TRIP

O. L. Cartwright of the division of insects has reported an interesting trip to El Salvador during May and June. He tells of exciting experiences from the time his plane landed at Ilopango airport--near a beautiful crater lake in an extinct volcano a few miles from the capital city--until he returned nearly two months later.

He says that although El Salvador is a tropical country it was really warm only along the seacoast at Acajutla and La Libertad. Temperatures in the interior average between 70 and 80 degrees, less than here in Washington, and on the higher mountains, such as Monte Cristo, on the Honduras border, it was so cold a fire was needed at night. But it rained nearly every day for a short time at least, and during the "temporal" of June 12 and 13, general throughout Central America, the continuous rainfall measured 12 inches. Many roads and bridges were washed out.

Trips were made to several of the beautifully shaped volcanoes, all supposedly extinct except Izalco, which had not erupted in six months. The big lava flow from San Salvador volcano

in 1917 looked as fresh as if it had occurred only a few weeks ago. Two very noticeable earthquakes were new experiences for Mr. Cartwright.

Evidences of former Indian occupancy were impressive, especially the great pyramid of Tazumal, at Chalchuapa, and numerous others such as Cihuatlan still to be excavated. Several large and very fine private collections of ancient idols, pottery, and stone and copper objects were seen.

To a visitor from the United States the poverty and poor housing of the larger part of the people contrasted sharply with the apparent wealth and multicolored ultra-modern architecture of the fine homes of the more fortunate. The markets were filled with cheap native foods, dried beans, and many kinds of tropical fruits--avacados at 1 cent each!--but most other things we consider to be necessities were imported and very high priced. For a North American, living costs in El Salvador are higher than in the United States.

Collections for the division of insects were made in 11 of the 14 departments in all parts of the country--from the mountains on the northern border to the Pacific Ocean on the south, and from Chalchuapa in the west to Volcan Conchagua at La Unión in the east. The 30,690 specimens collected for the U. S. National Museum were a very welcome addition to the very few specimens previously acquired from El Salvador.

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IT'S A BOY

Mr. and Mrs. William Kidwell became the parents of a 9-pound 12-ounce boy on August 26. Muriel (former secretary in the personnel division) and Billy have named the boy Donald Eugene.

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ARE YOU DEPENDABLE?

A readily recognized mark of greatness of character is the quality of dependability. In any kind of job, large or small, this is the necessary foundation of confidence and trust. It is a necessary condition of any job being efficiently or even successfully concluded.

Here is a questionnaire on your dependability in three areas of common experience.

Punctuality

Am I habitually late for work?

Do I dilly-dally and put off the accomplishment of small but necessary tasks on the job?

If I promise to have a task done at a certain time, am I conscientious about meeting the deadline?

Is my lack of punctuality so pronounced that I am habitually late for appointments and meetings?

Am I easily sidetracked from definite obligations to others by chance meetings or conversations or passing interests?

Do I consider punctuality to be of little importance, or even half consciously fail to be on time because it makes me seem a person of importance?

Can I recall that I have frequently been the cause of impatience and anger in others because I made them wait for me?

Honesty

Have I taken articles or small amounts of money from the place where I work without any justification or authority?

Have I caused loss to my employer by my careless use of equipment and machinery?

Have I given tools or other articles or even money to others in the place where I work with absolutely no authority to do so?

Have I padded my expense account in a way that my conscience told me was completely unjustified?

Have I tried conscientiously to give a full day's work for a full day's wage?

Have I lost a lot of time for which I was being paid just by standing around idly and doing nothing?

Has my work been slipshod because of the

careless, half-hearted way in which I went about it?

Responsibility

Have I tried to develop a genuine sense of responsibility to my employers and to the public I serve in my job?

Does this sense of responsibility cause me to protect the legitimate interests of those who have shown trust in me by hiring me?

Have I sincerely tried to be patient and charitable towards the faults and failings and whims of employers and fellow employees, realizing that I also have faults and failings of my own?

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SECRETARY PRESENTS AWARDS

Secretary Carmichael presented awards for meritorious service on August 7 to Mrs. Evelyn B. Stewart, River Basin Surveys; Mrs. LaNelle W. Peterson, division of marine invertebrates; Mrs. Jeraldine M. Whitmore, division of archeology; Ulysses G. Lyon, division of cultural history; and Mrs. Gloria A. Bennett, division of insects.

In making the presentations the Secretary told the recipients that they were granted the awards because they had consistently exceeded the requirements of their positions and had rendered meritorious service to their particular divisions.

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Where there is progress, there is always mutual help.

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CREATIVE CRAFTS EXHIBIT

The National Collection of Fine Arts has announced the opening on August 27 of the Third Biennial Exhibition of Creative Crafts.

The Exhibit is sponsored by Ceramic Guild of Bethesda, Cherry Tree Designers, Clay Pigeons of Kensington, Designer-Weavers, and the Kiln Club of Washington. It is being shown in the Natural History Building and will continue through September 26.

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MAKING OUR CONTRIBUTIONS COUNT

It's happened to each of us. We've wanted to stretch forth our hands in comfort, hope, and help to others. We've wanted to do something and seemed unable somehow to find the way. Yet constantly we are approached by this organization or that service. We are asked to help as volunteers. We are asked to give and give generously.

Although we may feel this cause is important or that service particularly necessary, we obviously cannot give to them all. This is the dilemma that confronts us, and some of us shrug our shoulders, mutter something about the total impossibility of it all and go about our business as usual.

Yet the problem is far from insoluble. A way has been found out of this distressing dilemma. It's the method by which one single appeal a year is made through united giving to health and welfare services. And that time of the year is now. Included in this effort are the fields of service and care which cover child care, family services, care for the aged,

health and hospital care, youth services for leisure, recreation, community services, etc.

Sharing what we have with others by giving to the UNITED GIVERS FUND helps more people and saves more lives than can be measured. It saves campaign costs and saves valuable time. It's the ideal way to make sure our contributions count.

The annual drive for the UGF will get under way the latter part of this month, with Ed Roy of fiscal division as our chairman. All Smithsonian employees are urged to take advantage of this opportunity to help their fellow men.

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RECENT PUBLICATIONS

The Smithsonian Institution issued the following publications during July and August:

Smithsonian Miscellaneous Collections: "A Review of the Middle and Upper Eocene Primates of North America," by C. Lewis Grazioplene; 112 pages.

Smithsonian Contributions to Astrophysics: "The Statistics of Meteors in the Earth's Atmosphere," by Gerald S. Hawkins and Richard B. Southworth; 17 pages.

"Granulation and Oscillations of the Solar Atmosphere," by Charles Whitney; 14 pages.

Proceedings of the U. S. National Museum: "A Review of Some Galerucine Beetles with Excised Middle Tibiae in the Male," by Doris H. Blake; 43 pages.

"A Review of the Copepod Genus *Ridgewayia* (Calanoida) with Descriptions of New Species from the Dry Tortugas, Florida," by Mildred Stratton Wilson; 43 pages.

"Revision of the Milliped Genus *Pachydesmus* (Polydesmida: Xystodesmidae)," by Richard L. Hoffman; 38 pages.

Popular Publications: "Anthropology as a Career," by William C. Sturtevant; 18 pages.

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