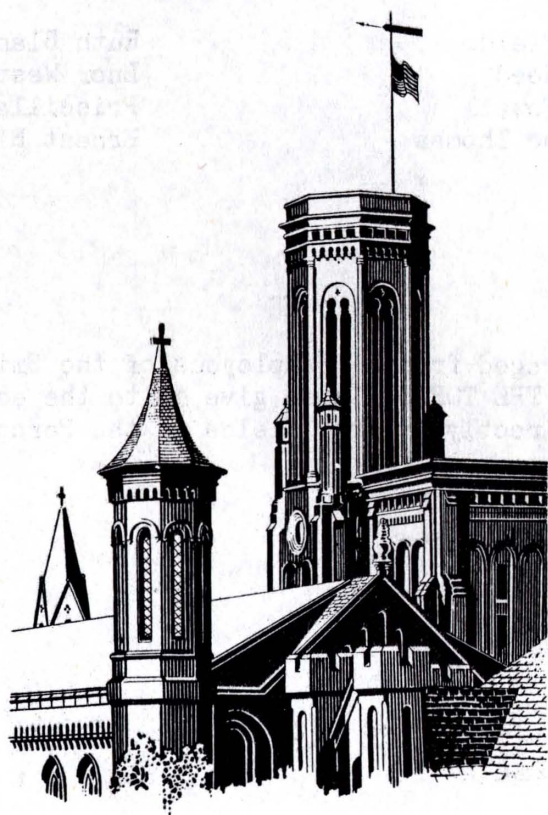




August 1959

THE SMITHSONIAN

TORCH



SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION • WASHINGTON, D. C.

August 1959

Number 52

CONTRIBUTORS TO THIS ISSUE

Daisy Fields
T. H. Reed
Olive Powell
Lorraine Thomas

Ruth Blanchard
Lnor West
Priscilla Lord
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 directly to Mrs. Fields in the Personnel Division.

ANDREW KRAMER

Andrew Kramer, who retired in 1953 after 61 years of service as an instrument maker at the Smithsonian, died on August 9 in Washington. He was 90 years old.

Mr. Kramer produced some of the most precise instruments known to science. Coming to the Smithsonian in 1892, he was one of the small group who worked with Secretary Samuel P. Langley on his famous airplane and the models that preceded it.

From then until his retirement Mr. Kramer was associated with the Astrophysical Observatory, which was started by Secretary Langley. Much of his work required the greater and greater refinement of such instruments as pyrheliometers and pyranometers, designed to measure extremely fine differences in solar heat radiation. Some of these instruments are sensitive enough to measure accurately the heat of a candle 20 miles away.

One of his greatest works was the construction of a chamber for the water-flow pyrheliometer designed by Former Secretary Charles G. Abbot. This instrument was said to be the only standard of solar measurements in the world.

Mr. Kramer is survived by three daughters and a son. His home was at 305 Longfellow St., NW.

LIBRARY CLEARANCE

If you are planning to resign, retire, or be away from the Smithsonian, the Library would appreciate your

checking with the Loan Desk prior to your last day of duty. It is necessary that all books and periodicals charged to you be accounted for before your clearance sheet can be signed.

- - -

SECRETARY PRESENTS AWARDS

At ceremonies in the Regents Room of the Smithsonian Building on July 2, Secretary Carmichael presented awards to the following:

Mrs. Margaret C. Blaker, Bureau of American Ethnology; Dr. Herbert Friedmann, department of zoology; Miss Lucile McCain, office of the registrar; Carl F. Miller, Bureau of American Ethnology; Miss Emily M. Ross, department of civil history, and Paul S. Willis, buildings management service.

Mrs. Blaker was given a certificate and cash award for consistently effective performance for over one year in a position properly allocable to a grade higher than the one she occupied.

In making the presentation of a certificate and cash award to Dr. Friedmann, the Secretary said they were "in official recognition of your special contribution to the scientific world."

"In April 1959 the National Academy of Sciences presented you with the Daniel Giraud Elliot Medal for your book entitled 'The Honey-Guides,' published in 1955. This award is presented by the Academy for the most meritorious work in zoology or paleontology published each year and is granted from three to four years behind the current date to allow adequate time for proper appraisal of the literature in the field.

"The practical implications of your

studies, now being experimentally pursued, ultimately may be of momentous benefit to mankind."

Secretary Carmichael commended Miss McCain for exercising her right to suggest improvements that benefit employees and management. Miss McCain had suggested that a water cooler be moved to a more suitable location.

When the Secretary presented Mr. Miller with a certificate and a cash award he said:

"The National Geographic Society awarded you the Franklin L. Burr Prize for 1958 in recognition of your meritorious leadership of three field expeditions of the National Geographic Society and the Smithsonian Institution and your valuable contributions to knowledge of the pre-history of America through the archeological investigations of Russell Cave in Alabama.

"Services of the high caliber you have rendered contribute most substantially to the scientific prestige of the Smithsonian Institution."

Miss Ross received a cash award and was told by the Secretary that she had been granted an "Outstanding" performance rating because she had consistently exceeded the requirements of her position.

When Mr. Willis was presented with a certificate and cash award he was told by Secretary Carmichael that they were granted because of the ingenuity and engineering he had displayed in constructing an accurate, securely balanced frame on a small base that had facilitated assembly of the gigantic Olmec Head received from the National Museum in Mexico City.

RECENT PUBLICATIONS

Smithsonian Miscellaneous Collections.--"The Birds of Isla Escudo de Veraguas, Panama," by Alexander Wetmore; 27 pages.

"A Review of the Genus Hoplomys (Thick-Spined Rats), with a Description of a New Form from Isla Escudo de Veraguas, Panama," by Charles O. Handley, Jr.; 10 pages.

"Studies in Invertebrate Morphology," by various authors; 422 pages.

"Pueblo del Arroyo, Chaco Canyon, New Mexico," by Neil M. Judd; 322 pages.

Proceedings of the U.S. National Museum.--"A Revision of the Genera Theochila and Tatochila (Lepidoptera: Pieridae)," by José Herrera and William D. Field; 48 pages.

"Biting Midges of the Genus Culicoides from Panama (Diptera:Heleidae)," by Willis W. Wirth and Franklin S. Blanton; 246 pages.

"A Revision of the Grasshoppers of the Mexicanus Group of the Genus Melanopus (Orthoptera:Acridinae)," by A. B. Gurney and A. R. Brooks; 93 pages.

Title page, table of contents, and index to volume 106.

MESSAGE FROM HEART FUND

In a message of thanks to federal employees, Dr. William L. Howell, president of the Washington Heart Association, writes as follows:

"We would like to be able to thank personally every individual Government contributor to the Heart Fund. Since that is impossible, we hope that through the medium of your own publications, we can convey something of our very warm gratitude for the generous support which federal workers have given to us through their designations to the Federal Service Campaign for the National Health Agencies."

Dr. Howell reported that Government employees' designations for the Heart Fund in the 1959 Federal Health Services Campaign totaled \$78,202.

TEACHERS COMPLETE AVIATION COURSE

On August 13 seven District of Columbia teachers received graduate credits from American University for completing a 6-week course in air and space science. The course was offered by the Institute in Aviation Education for Science Teachers, made possible through a grant of the Link Foundation and the cooperation of the University and the Smithsonian.

At the award ceremonies, held here, Secretary Carmichael told the teachers that:

"In this age of technology, with so much emphasis upon science, it is heartening to find teachers who are interested and willing to spend time informing themselves of the impact of flight upon society. In doing so, you assume a leadership in a special field of education of which you may be proud."

Dr. Samuel E. Burr, Jr., director of off-campus programs at American University, presented the credits and scholarship checks to the teachers.

The Aviation Education Institute is conducted at the National Air Museum because of its unique facilities, which include the National Aeronautical Collection, a wealth of historical information in the Museum's library and reference files, and the research guidance offered by the curatorial staff.

At the Smithsonian the teachers studied and heard lectures on such subjects as the chemistry and physics of air and space, weather, aircraft, and history of aviation. Also, they toured the National Airport and Anacostia Naval Air Station, where they witnessed and were told about the various operations; saw a helicopter demonstration at Davison Field, Fort Belvoir, and took a ride in a helicopter; and rode a Federal Aviation Agency flight to Baltimore to learn about instrument landings and radar air-traffic control.

The following teachers completed the course, which is the second to be offered by the Aviation Education Institute:

George Banks and L. R. Simms, Shaw Junior High School; Francis G. Di Misa and George H. Hunter, Hart Junior High; William D. Gray, Taft Junior High; Samuel Smith, Kensington Junior High; and James Murray, District social adjustment teacher.

Coordinating instructor for the group was William M. McRoberts, aviation teacher at Anacostia High.

Specialists lecturing in the Aviation Education Institute were Sidney Teweles, Harlan K. Saylor, and Dwight D. Kline of the U.S. Weather Bureau; Dr. Douglas Worf, George Low, Eldon Hall, Dr. G. F. Schilling, Dr. Maurice DuBois, and Dr. John H. Victory of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration; James V. Bernardo of the Federal Aviation Agency; Fred C. Klein of Capital Airlines; and Mrs. Jane Marshall of the National Aviation Education Council. National Air Museum curatorial staff members who assisted in providing material and consultation for the course included Philip S. Hopkins, Director of the Museum, Paul E. Garber, Louis S. Casey, and Kenneth E. Newland.

BLOOD DONORS NEEDED

To those Smithsonian Institution employees who have given so generously and faithfully in support of the Red Cross Blood Donor Program, a hearty "thank you."

If you are between the ages of 21 and 59 years, weight 110 pounds or more and are in good health, you too may perform a service to your community by volunteering as a blood donor.

There is a continuous need for blood to supply the civilian needs--3,700,000 pints are used annually--so please help us to meet this need. Our next group appointment is scheduled for August 28, 1959. If you can qualify, please call the personnel division, extension 385.

ADOPTED BY INDIAN TRIBE

Lawrence West, S. I. electrician, was honored by the Mohawk Tribe of the Iroquois on July 18 when he fulfilled the adoption ritual of the tribe.

The ceremony took place at the 32nd Annual Border Crossing from Niagara Falls, N. Y., to Canada, which commemorated the Jay Treaty signed with the Indians.

After the officiating Chief of the Tuscaroras instructed Mr. West on the duties of an adopted brave, Lnor Onontiyoh West, of the Freer Gallery, who sponsored her husband for adoption into the Turtle Clan of the Mohawks, bestowed the name Ga-roh-yak-da-deh ("Along the Sky").

Then, according to tradition, Ga-roh-yak-da-deh took part in the ceremonial dancing.

- - -

HOMELESS DOG RESCUED

A little black dog made her home at the Smithsonian for about five days, sleeping under the World War I tank outside the Aircraft Building. She got a crumb or two of hot dogs, and licked the metal ice at the vendor's stand.

Guard Gropper would give her part of his sandwich when she came around, but otherwise she was ignored.

The Animal Rescue League was sent for, but could not catch her. The League, in turn, sent for the District's dog-catcher, who also failed, even though he had two large nets.

Two days later Sergeant Virginio Graziosi searched for the dog and finally found her in a hole she had dug under a stack of stakes in a far corner of the fenced yard at the personnel division.

Guard Albert Montgomery had been wanting a dog for his two children so he took the foundling home. After a week with the Montgomerys the dog seems as pleased with her new owners as they are with her.

MOBILIZATION PROCEDURES

The office of Defense Mobilization has asked that Federal agencies once again remind employees of the procedure to follow in the event of enemy attack to facilitate locating and mobilizing the skilled services of trained Federal employees.

All Smithsonian Institution employees with or without emergency assignments should follow this procedure: If you are prevented from going to your regular place of work because of an enemy attack, or if you are prevented from reporting to emergency location, keep this instruction in mind: go to the nearest Post Office, ask the Postmaster for a Federal employee registration card, fill it out and return it to him. He will see that it is forwarded to the office of the Civil Service Commission, which will maintain the registration file for your area. When the Civil Service Commission receives your card, the Smithsonian will be notified and you will be advised where and when you should report back for work. There is another important reason why you should mail in a registration card as soon as you can do so. This card will also enable us to keep you on the roster of active employees, and enable the Smithsonian to forward your pay.

You should obtain and complete the registration card as soon after enemy attack as possible but not until you are reasonably sure where you will be staying for a few days. If you change your address after you have sent in a card, get a new one and send it in.

Even though you complete your registration card promptly, it may be a while before you are put back to work. In the meantime, you would be expected to volunteer your services to the civil defense authorities and do all that you can to help out in the emergency.

- - -

MISSOURI BASIN NEWS

Harold A. Huscher, archeologist, returned to the Lincoln laboratory on June 30 from Columbus, Ga., and will spend the next several months preparing his reports on the Chattahoochee River projects in that area.

Charles H. McNutt, archeologist; Lee G. Madison, field assistant; and a party of six crewmen left Lincoln early in July for South Dakota, where they will conduct archeological investigations in the Little Bend area of the Oahe Reservoir.

Dr. Alfred W. Bowers of the University of Idaho (temporarily attached to the Smithsonian Institution) and a party of five recently began excavations at the Rygh Site near Mobridge, South Dakota. Lawrence L. Tomsyck of the Lincoln office drove the project truck to South Dakota on July 12 to deliver equipment and supplies to Dr. Bowers. Mr. Tomsyck was accompanied by Herman L. Harpster, staff photographer.

William M. Bass, physical anthropologist, is a temporary member of the Missouri Basin Project staff. For about a month, he will analyze skeletal materials excavated in the Missouri Basin.

Dr. Frank H. H. Roberts, Jr., Dr. Robert L. Stephenson, and Mr. Cal Burroughs of the National Park Service left Lincoln on July 20 for a tour of inspection, visiting all of the MBP archeological camps as well as those of the various cooperators in the Missouri Basin. Nine field parties were visited in all.

The Missouri Basin archeologists and others actively interested in the work recently held a meeting in Pierre, South Dakota, for the purpose of coordinating current archeological efforts.

- - -

EXCUSING EMPLOYEES FOR VOTING

In a letter addressed to the Heads of Executive Departments and Agencies on April 14, 1958, Mr. Rocco C. Siciliano, Special Assistant to the President for Personnel Management, announced the President's new policy relating to excusing employees for voting. This policy states, in part, that "insofar as practicable, without interfering seriously with operations, employees who desire to vote or register in any election or in referendums on a civic matter in their community shall be excused for a reasonable time for that purpose...."

Detailed information as to times and places for voting in the metropolitan area is available in the personnel division. Please call Mrs. Fields on extension 277.

- - -

UNESCO CONFERENCE

The U. S. National Commission for UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization) will hold its 7th National Conference in Denver from September 29 to October 2. The conference, which will have as its theme "The Cultures of the Americas: Achievements in Education, Science, and the Arts," will enable delegates to learn more about our Latin American neighbors and strengthen the ties between our peoples.

- - -

SNOWSTAR

A female polar bear cub, about six months old, arrived at the National Zoological Park in June. It had been captured in Alaska by the Fish and Wildlife Service and was flown to Washington by Station WMAL-TV, which

conducted a contest to name it.

Miss Desha De Vor, of Takoma Park, Md., who is 5 years old, proposed the name Snowstar, and thereby won a trip to Alaska for herself and her parents.

The cub may be seen in the line of outdoor cages between the reptile house and the small mammal house.

In cooperation with the Fish and Wildlife Service, William Widman, senior keeper in charge of birds, made several field trips to the Eastern Shore of Maryland and the coast of

North Carolina, where he captured a number of sea and marsh birds for exhibition at the Zoo. These included herons, ibis pelicans, and royal terns.

Births at the Zoo during June and July have included a hippopotamus, sika deer, red deer, brown fallow deer, white fallow deer, American elk, Virginia deer, llama, hybrid gibbon, macaque, rhesus monkey, galago, peacocks, red junglefowl, kelp gulls, and wild turkeys.

- - -

