

THE SMITHSONIAN TORCH



SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION, WASHINGTON, D. C.

NO. 4 (NEW SERIES), MAY 1965

AWARD FOR CREATIVITY PRESENTED SAO EMPLOYEE

Dr. Gerald S. Hawkins, SAO, has been presented the Boston University Faculty's Award for Creativity for his work on Stonehenge. Dr. Hawkins appeared on the stage in the auditorium of MNH in April to show his documentary to museum employees. For those who were unable to see "The Mystery of Stonehenge" (produced by CBS), based on Dr. Hawkins' research revealing the ancient monument as a computer associated with astronomical phenomena, the film will be repeated sometime this summer at the MHT auditorium.



Gerald S. Hawkins

RECORDING ITEM FOR COLLECTORS

Dr. Charles G. Abbot, former Secretary of SI, and now 93 years old, has a number of ten-inch long-playing 33 1/3 records of Boatswain Song, sung by himself at his 90th birthday party. In addition to the song there are two amusing recitations on the record, one an account of Congressman "Uncle Joe" Cannon at Smithsonian hearings of 1910. If you are interested in adding to your collection or annals of the Smithsonian, call Mrs. Lena Hill, ext. 5321, or Mrs. Eileen McCarthy, ext. 5021. Dr. Abbot has his office in the tower in the SI Building, room 514.



John C. Ewers, Director of the Museum of History and Technology, and one of the nation's leading ethnologists, received the "Exceptional Service Award," from Secretary S. Dillon Ripley, the highest honor bestowed upon an employee of the Institution. The award consists of a citation, gold medal, diamond lapel pin, and a \$1,000 honorarium. Ewers is one of the leading authorities on the American Indian. His completed manuscript for the book *The West Through Artists' Eyes* will be published next fall.

SUMMER MUSIC PROGRAM FOR THE MALL

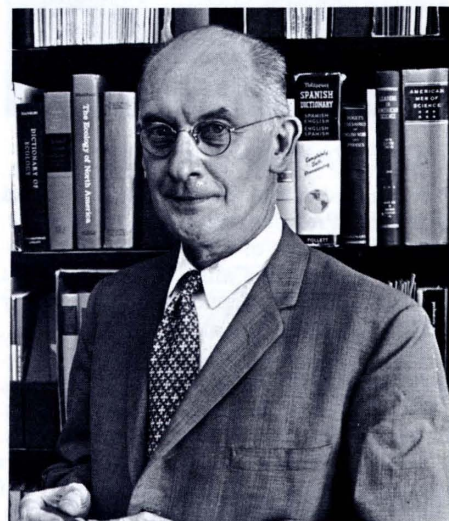
Music-on-the-Mall gets off to a strong start on Memorial Day, May 30th, with a concert featuring the National Symphony Orchestra. The 7:30 p.m. concert will be played on the south terrace of the Museum of History and Technology, with Howard Mitchell conducting. Adlai E. Stevenson will narrate Aaron Copland's "Lincoln Portrait," and the brilliant young pianist Andre Watts will play the Saint-Saens Concerto No. 2 in G Minor for Piano and Orchestra.

On June 1, music from the tower of the SI Building is being inaugurated on a weekly basis. The tower music, selected from a musical tradition that began as early as the 13th century, will feature pieces for small wind ensembles. These programs will be held every Tuesday until Labor Day and will last about an hour.

NAS ELECTS SI STAFF MEMBER

Waldo Rudolph Wedel, curator of anthropology, USNM, was among the 35 new members admitted to the National Academy of Sciences in recognition of their distinguished and continuing achievements in original research. Election to membership in the National Academy of Sciences is considered to be one of the highest honors that can be accorded an American scientist.

The election took place on April 27 during the business session of the 102d annual meeting of the Academy at its headquarters in Washington. The organization is a private one of more than 700 scientists and



Waldo Rudolph Wedel

scholars dedicated to the furtherance of science and its use for the general welfare. It was established in 1863 by a Congressional Act of Incorporation, signed by Abraham Lincoln, which calls upon the Academy to act as an official adviser to the Federal Government, upon request, in all matters of science and technology. This provision accounts for the close ties between the Academy and the Government, although the Academy is not a governmental agency.

Dr. Wedel has been with USNM and River Basin Surveys for the past 28 years. He received his Ph.D. from the University of California.

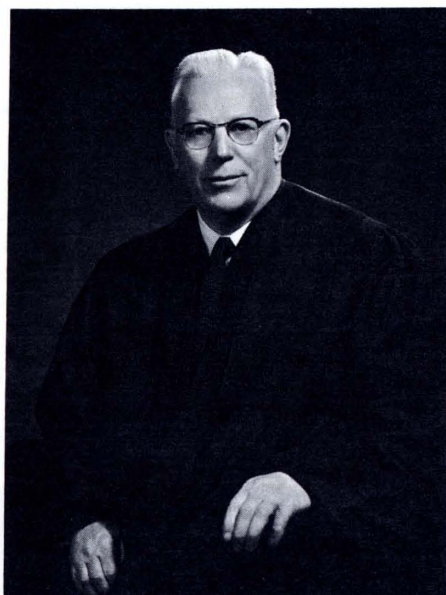
THE SMITHSONIAN TORCH



AN EMPLOYEES' NEWSPAPER, PUBLISHED MONTHLY

EDITORIAL BOARD: JAMES BRADLEY, PAUL H. OEHSE, WILLIAM WARNER
EDITOR: ELIZABETH BEVERLEY PHOTOGRAPHER: ALBERT J. ROBINSON

SMITHSONIAN REGENT



EARL WARREN, CHANCELLOR

Nominated Chief Justice of the United States by President Eisenhower Sept. 30, 1953; Governor of Calif., 1943-1953; attorney general of Calif., 1939-43; district attorney 1925-39; deputy and chief deputy district attorney, Alameda County, Calif., 1920-25; served as 1st Lt. in Infantry, U. S. Army, 1917-18; married Nina E. Meyers, 1925; children, James C., Virginia (Mrs. John Charles Daly), Earl, Dorothy (Mrs. Carmine Clements), Nina (Mrs. Stuart Brian) and Robert; B. L., University of Calif., 1912; J. D. 1914; born March 19, 1891 in Los Angeles, Calif., son of Methias H. and Christine (Hernlund) Warren. Recipient of numerous honorary degrees.

UNDERWATER SHIPWRECK SITES DESCRIBED IN NEW SI BOOK

Mendel Peterson, chairman of the Department of Armed Forces History, is the author of *History Under the Sea*, recently published by the Smithsonian Press. The book is designed to fill a gap for underwater sea explorers for, until now, there has been no single volume to which a serious underwater explorer might turn for instruction on exploration, recovery, preservation techniques, or for the identification of artifacts. The book's eight

AAM GATHERS IN PHILADELPHIA; NEWS OF FLIGHT ABROAD

Charles Olin, conservator, Conservation Research Laboratory, MHT, will attend the 60th annual meeting in Philadelphia on May 26 of the American Association of Museums and present a paper on "Material Technology." Meetings will be held from the 25th to the 28th.

The American Association of Museums has notified the Smithsonian that there are still a few vacancies on its 1965 Air France charter flight to Europe in June. The flight leaves from New York for Athens on June 12 with stops en route at Paris and Rome. The return is from Paris to New York via London on July 16. The cost of the round trip is \$335. Individual members of the Association may participate. The remaining seats will be filled on a first-come, first-served basis. Call or write the American Association of Museums, 2306 Massachusetts Ave., Washington, D. C., for any additional information.

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PUT TO THE TORCH

The hallowed halls of the Smithsonian have often echoed tributes to the great, but seldom have they rung with a fanfare to the common man or woman, as they did recently, April 27, in tribute to Mrs. Charles F. (Portia) Parker on the eve of her departure from the Natural History Building.

For three years Mrs. Parker has been in charge of the Macke vending machines, which might otherwise take our last coin, fumble change, spill soup, and just sit there sulking.

Portia left 'mid great tears and smiles to join her husband, a recent graduate of the Washington Baptist Seminary. She was presented with a gold wrist watch and two huge cards specially prepared by exhibits workers who took hourly sustenance from her coffee maker. EVERYBODY wished her well.

J. Harry Phillips, Jr. (SD)

* * *

chapters, supplemented by 56 plates, cover locations, condition, identification, and surveyance of undersites, including search and recovery techniques. One chapter on expeditions in the Western Hemisphere tells the dramatic story of the frigate *Looe* and the lost Spanish fleet of 1773.

SI INCREASES SCOPE OF PUBLICATIONS

The Editorial and Publications Division, which recently moved into its new offices in the Arts and Industries Building, held open house on May 17, and many employees had an opportunity to see the new quarters of the Smithsonian Press.

The Smithsonian today publishes about 100 titles a year. At least 10,000 different publications have been distributed since 1848 when the classic work in archeology *Ancient Monuments of the Mississippi Valley* was published by the Institution. Paul H. Oehser, chief of the Editorial and Publications Division, the publishing arm of the Institution, points out that the publications following that date have run from four-page leaflets to thousand-page multi-volume monographs.

"Essentially," he says, "we are scholarly publishers, and the Smithsonian is a member of the American Association of University Presses." Expanding research programs have introduced three new publications series in recent years: Smithsonian Contributions to Astrophysics—technical papers representing the research at the Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory,



Paul H. Oehser

Cambridge, Mass.; Contributions from the Museum of History and Technology—research papers dealing with the history of science and technology; and Smithsonian Annals of Flight—papers on the history of aeronautics and astronautics written or sponsored by staff members of the National Air Museum.

In addition, beginning about 10 years ago, the Smithsonian extended its publishing effort to the "popular" field to meet the great demand for publications that would especially appeal to the millions of persons who annually visit its museums. These publications mainly concern Smithsonian material.



Dr. Harald A. Rehder, curator in charge, Division of Mollusks, was one of the three judges at the 18th Annual Shell Show sponsored by the St. Petersburg Shell Club. Dr. Donald R. Moore, marine laboratory, Institute of Marine Sciences, Miami, and Dr. Norman E. Weisbord, Department of Geology, Florida State University, are the judges on the right. The Smithsonian Award, given to the outstanding exhibit of the show, presented since 1948, is in the form of a framed color plate of shells, suitably inscribed. V. Roger Dunn, president of the St. Petersburg Shell Club was the recipient for his extensive display of species of the genus *Conus*.

GREAT HALL IN SI CLOSED TEMPORARILY

Renovation of the Great Hall in the SI Building has begun and will continue for perhaps three months. The North Entrance will remain open from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. daily so that visitors may view Smithsonian's tomb. The Hall will be closed to the public during this time.



A kitchen from the post-Gold-Rush era has been moved from its original California ranch house (pictured above) board by board, and is now on display in the Hall of Everyday Life in the American Past, MHT. C. Malcolm Watkins, curator, Division of Cultural History, acquired the exhibit last autumn after a prolonged search. The house was built by a gold miner named George Washington Arbaugh in a remote valley of Siskiyou County, around 1860, under the shadow of Mount Shasta, a few miles from the village of Edgewood. Although no original furnishings have survived, interviews and other investigative measures have led to accurate reconstruction of the kitchen's interior. Appropriate substitute furniture, utensils, and stove (pictured above) were all used in California during the third quarter of the 19th century and now furnish the room, which is intact, shown above as found. The life sized California redwood figure of the hunter holding a gun and partridge served as a shop sign for a San Jose gun shop in the 1850's. (Standing beside the figure is Mr. Watkins.)

PEACE CORPS VOLUNTEERS TO HELP SMITHSONIAN

The current issue of *The Volunteer*, the Peace Corps' monthly magazine for its members, has an article by William Warner, Special Assistant to the Secretary for International Activities, explaining collecting and observation tasks which Peace Corps Volunteers can do for the Smithsonian in their spare time.

To prepare for this cooperative program, Mr. Warner's office canvassed all bureaus, departments, and divisions of the Institution concerning the type of help Volunteers might ideally provide. Suggestions have come from the Departments of Botany, Zoology, Entomology, Paleobiology, Mineral Sciences, Arts and Manufactures, Civil History, Military History, and the SAO. The suggested activities range from observing bright meteors to collecting plants, small mammals, insects, fossils, and minerals.

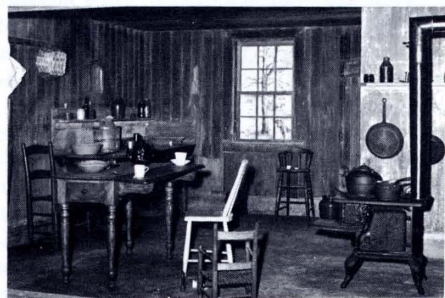
Asked about the potential of this Smithsonian-Peace Corps cooperation, Mr. Warner recently told *THE TORCH*: "I believe Peace Corps Volunteers will significantly enrich our collections and help our various research activities. There are now almost 8,000 Volunteers serving in 45 countries around the globe. They go to remote areas and they stay on the spot for a considerable period. In reality they constitute the most widely dispersed group of educated American citizens in existence. As such, they represent potential collectors and observers of the first order."



William Warner, Special Assistant to the Secretary, and David Long of the National Zoological Park's Education and Information Department, outside the new aviary, discuss plans for Smithsonian-Peace Corps collaboration. Both are Peace Corps "alumni." Before coming to the Smithsonian, Mr. Warner served as Executive Secretary of the Peace Corps, Washington staff, and Mr. Long taught English as a Volunteer in Turkey.

EMPLOYEES' AWARDS AND HONORS PRESENTED

The following employees received awards and honors at a formal ceremony held in the auditorium of MHT on April 20: Outstanding performances, Silvio A. Bedini (MHT) and William K. Henson (MHT); Sustained performance, William J. Jones (BMD); Special acts, Charles A. Hubbard (BMD) and Eugene I. Knez (MNH-A); Career service emblems, 30 years and over, Alfred Hewitt (NM-OR), Ardie W. Larkins (BMD), Joseph P. E. Morrison, (MNH), John L. Rawls (MHT), Samuel C. Reeves (BMD), Luaco T. Walker (IES), Earl J. Carey (USNM-OR), Joseph F. Bowers (BMD), Henry B. Collins (MNH-A), Bradley Crawley (BMD), Sarah E. Sherr (PERS), T. Dale Stewart (MNH).



FOCUS: Joseph Henry, Smithsonian's First Secretary 1846-1878

Joseph Henry was born in Albany, N.Y., on December 17, 1797, and died in Washington, D. C., on May 13, 1878, "in the plenitude of his years, his labors, and his honors." There is nothing in his childhood or youth to suggest one whose death would be felt as a nation's loss.



Joseph Henry

His father died when he was seven, and he was adopted by an uncle, lived with his grandmother, attended the district school until he was ten, read secretly in the library, turned to the theatre, and only a short illness, which kept him in bed, and a copy of Dr. Gregory's popular lectures, drew him from the stage to a continuation of his education and a life devoted to the acquisition of knowledge.

Henry took evening courses in the Albany Academy, became a teacher in a country district school, served as a tutor to the family of Gen. Stephen Van Rensselaer, and studied chemistry, anatomy, and physiology. Abandoning his hope of graduation in medicine, he took on an arduous appointment on the survey of a route for a state road from the Hudson River to Lake Erie, through the southern tier of counties. Offered a position as engineer on a canal in Ohio, he spent the five months until leaving devoted to the exploration of geology in New York with Prof. Amos Eaton of the Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute.

In 1832 Professor Henry moved to Princeton to fill the chair of Natural Philosophy in the College of New Jersey, which later became Princeton University. Here he found congenial duties, sympathetic associates, and finally after the first year (when he gave lectures on chemistry, mineralogy, geology, astronomy, and architecture, plus natural philosophy) he was able again to continue with his electrical investigations. He spent a year in Europe and returned to go on with his investigations with enlarged views and more efficient apparatus.

In May 1830 he married Miss Harriet

Alexander, of Schenectady, N.Y., the sister of Professor Alexander of Princeton. In August 1846 when Congress at last acted to fulfill James Smithson's will, the Regents' choice of Secretary guaranteed the new institution distinction: they selected Joseph Henry, already dedicated to fundamental research, and certainly one who would see that some part of the Smithsonian funds went into the "increase" of knowledge rather than entirely into the "diffusion of knowledge among men." Henry had advocated some support for applied research. He arranged soon after he came to Washington to have telegraph offices in every part of the country send in regular weather reports on the basis of which meteorologists could in time evolve a weather forecasting system. The function of the Smithsonian, he argued, was "to give an impulse to original thought, which, amidst the strife of politics and the inordinate pursuit of wealth, is of all things most desirable."

Projects of purely local benefit Henry regarded as of subsidiary importance. The many-sidedness of both his intellect and his taste spurred Henry on to give his services outside the field of SI. He served on the Lighthouse Board when it was organized in 1852. He also was one of the founders of the National Academy of

Science and served as its president for 10 years.

If the first secretary had any eccentricities or prejudices, they were those of the philosopher. He was himself a person whose mental qualities drew affection and respect, and in addition he was a modest person, calculated to win confidence.

INVENTIONS AND PUBLICATIONS

A very brief incomplete listing of Henry's scientific investigations and discoveries might include a sketch of the topography of the State of New York; organization of the meteorological system of the State of New York; development, for the first time, of electromagnetic power in an electromagnet sufficient to sustain tons in weight, in soft iron, by a comparatively feeble galvanic current; expositions of the method by which electromagnetism might be employed in transmitting power to distance and the demonstration of the practicability of an electromagnetic telegraph, which without these discoveries was impossible; investigation of the spark discharge from the Leyden jar, determining that it was oscillatory in nature; experiments to be used as fog signals; interpenetration of solid metals with each other. These are but a few of Henry's experiments in physical science.



Before Professor Henry came to the Smithsonian he lived in a spotless yellow brick house that now stands on the Princeton University campus and looks newer than the surrounding buildings. The house is actually 128 years old. The only hint of the building's age is a bronze plaque bearing Joseph Henry's name. The house has been designated a National Historical Landmark by the Department of Interior. It was built for Professor Henry in 1837. In 1946 one Princeton alumnus joked that the great inventor should have devised some wheels for his house. The building has sat in four different places at Princeton—moved around the campus three times from its original location behind Nassau Hall on the right. It now stands to the left of Nassau Hall. The most peaceful, and to Henry perhaps the most profitable, part of his life was spent in this house. It is here he installed his telegraph between his office and his house, 150 yards away, to wire his wife if he would be home for lunch!