

# 95th Birthday Finds Dr. Abbot Still at Work

Charles Greeley Abbot reached his 95th birthday May 31 with 72 years at the Smithsonian and no plans for retirement.

Dr. Abbot, who retired as Smithsonian Secretary in 1944, still comes in once a week to his office on the 11th floor of the SI tower. And, at an age when most people would be happy to find themselves merely mobile, he continues to put in a 10-hour workday at home, preparing two new publications for the printer.

To commemorate his milestone birthday, Dr. Abbot delivered the Sunday sermon at the Georgetown Presbyterian Church May 28, preaching on the same theme he had used there as a youth of 70, "If a man die, shall he live again?"

Since his retirement as Secretary, Dr. Abbot has been an honorary research associate of the Radiation Biology Laboratory, which he founded in 1929 as the Division of Radiation and Organisms within SAO. His 1923-1952 study of variation in solar radiation showed a regular pattern of fluctuation which correlated to rainfall over the same period.

From these observations he devised a system of long-range weather predictions that has received much notoriety. The two publications which Dr. Abbot has coming out shortly are forecasts for the United States in 1967-70 and for the same period in 23 foreign stations.

He has been assisted in their preparation by his 78-year-old secretary, Mrs. Lena Hill, who is at least as spry as her boss. She backs up his claim of a ten-hour working day, saying she is liable to get a call at 9 p.m. or early Saturday morning to dig up some statistics for him.

Dr. Abbot's weather predictions became so well



known that in one year, 1948, 14 brides consulted him on their wedding dates. He predicted fair weather for 13, and it was, and a chance of rain for the fourteenth. That day turned out cloudy with no rain, "so we were both happy." He made precipitation forecasts for St. Louis covering a 103-year period with phenomenal success. Predictions and the actual results were plotted in two line graphs on a sheet of paper that, unrolled, stretches 20 feet. Dr. Abbot wraps it around an oatmeal box.

Despite the success record of his forecasts and their popular acceptance, meteorologists until recently did not take Dr. Abbot's method seriously. About three months ago, however, he points out proudly, a German scientist, Dr. Franz Bauer, published a paper based on Dr. Abbot's work and revived scientific interest in it.

Dr. Abbot's 72 years at the Smithsonian, which the Civil Service Commission believes is the longest anyone has served in the government, have given him an unusual perspective on the changes that have taken place here. The biggest, he thinks, is the expansion of the Institution's scope and popularizing of its programs. He points out that the staff has grown from around 500 when he was Secretary to its current 3,000.

He said that in his 72 years here the SI staff has been "a happy family. There are very nice people here. When the staff was small everybody knew each other, but now that it's larger even the people who don't know me treat me as if they think I'm a nice person."

He refused to forecast what the next 72 years will bring SI ("I don't predict anything but the weather"), but he does have a few things to say about the world situation. In 50 years, he points out, "atheistic, materialistic governments have gained control of half the world's population. We're fighting in Vietnam to prevent their control of all Asia and maybe the whole world," but critics of the President are interfering with the pursuit of the war.

"The world is getting filled up so fast there won't be any room to stand on," he says. I'm just as glad I don't have any descendants who'll be alive to see it."

(continued on page 4.)

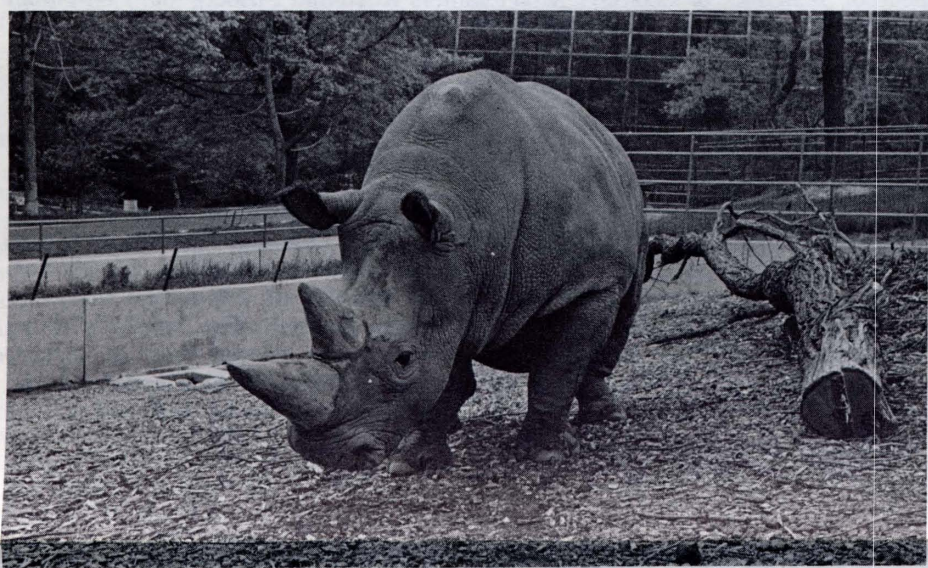


photo by George Lohman

**SIT-IN** — The Zoo's white rhinoceros looks placid enough in its new quarters, but getting it there was no easy task. For the rhino, the day's theme was "We Shall Not Be Moved"; for the Zoo staff moving day required "We Shall Overcome" determination. See story, page three.

## 200 Summer Employees Coming on Board in June

Some 200 college and high school students will be coming here this month to spend their summer vacations in the pursuit of knowledge and cash.

About half of them will be working under the Office of Education and Training's research assistantships. Graduate students will be studying in almost every Smithsonian bureau, including two at STRI and four at SAO. Undergraduates will also be well distributed among the

bureaus and will include two foreign students, Vere H. Scott of Manitoba and John C. Brown of Dumbarton, Scotland.

Each student will have an adviser in his chosen field from the SI staff. In addition, they will learn about the general operations of the Smithsonian through a series of weekly lectures arranged by the education office for them and about 50 college students holding general administrative positions for the summer. Cynthia Maxim is in charge of the summer education programs.

The Institution will be taking part for the first time in American University's Research Participation Program for Senior High School Students. Ten outstanding science students from the area will be sent here by AU to work in unpaid research jobs. In its eighth year, the program places students in the laboratories of NIH, the National Bureau of Standards, Goddard Space Flight Center and others.

About 55 other high school students will be here as employees under the Youth Opportunity Campaign. According to personnel director Joseph Kennedy, this is "an educational program as well as a way to earn money." The students will be placed "where they may find motivation to continue their education or find greater interest in some subject area."

The professional staff will be asked to give some personal attention to the progress of Youth Opportunity employees, and an orientation on government operation and Federal job opportunities will be provided.

## NAFMAB Wins Tecumseh Battle

Apparently the Smithsonian has won "The Second Battle of Mobile Bay," according to a recent ruling handed down by U.S. District Judge Daniel H. Thomas.

A suit seeking to bar the Institution from salvaging the Civil War Ironclad, "Tecumseh," has been dismissed by Judge Thomas in Mobile. The much-publicized complaint had been filed by a Mobile businessman.

James Hutchins of SI's National Armed Forces Museum Advisory Board told the TORCH that the Smithsonian plans to send U.S. Navy divers down to examine precisely where the wreck lies and to determine if it can be raised.

If it can, the Tecumseh eventually will go on display at the planned National Armed Forces Museum Park in Maryland.

The famous Union Ironclad was sunk by a Confederate mine early in the Battle of Mobile Bay in 1864.



## THE SMITHSONIAN TORCH

Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C.

No. 23, June, 1967

## SITES to Bring US First Large Mosaics Collection

His Excellency Habib Bourguiba, Jr., Foreign Minister of the Republic of Tunisia, will open an exceptional exhibition of Tunisian mosaics in a private ceremony in MNH June 7. Chief Justice of the Supreme Court Earl Warren will also take part in the ceremony. The show, brought to this country by SI's Traveling Exhibition Service, opens to the public the following day.

The collection is "the only large and varied selection of mosaics ever exhibited in the United States," according to Dr.

Gus Van Beek, associate curator of the Division of Old World Anthropology, who is helping to set up the MNH presentation.

More mosaics are preserved and known in Tunisia than in any other country in the Mediterranean Basin, he says, and the exhibition includes an excellent selection of different styles and subjects popular from the first through seventh centuries, A.D. Although some American museums do have limited collections of mosaics, the time and style range covered in the Tunisian exhibition makes it unique.

SITES staff members Mrs. Erika Pasantino and Miss Barboura Flues and director Mrs. Dorothy Van Arsdale conducted the negotiations and arrangements for the exhibition. It was organized as a cooperative venture of the Musee National du Bardo of Tunis, the Rijksmuseum van Oudheden of Leiden, Holland, and the Roman-Germanic Museum of Cologne, Germany, and has been shown in four European museums.

Three frescoes, eight stone monuments, and 23 pieces of ceramic and terra cotta will be shown along with the 57 mosaics. Greco-Roman mythology, the Nile valley and early Christianity all provided subject matter for the Tunisian artist, but with a distinctly African interpretation.

The last show in which Dr. Van Beek had a part, the Dead Sea Scrolls exhibit, drew more people than any other temporary display ever put on at the Smithsonian.

## SI Receives 1966 Safety Award

The Smithsonian did more for employee safety last year than any other government operation of fewer than 10,000 people.

The Institution beat out 13 other agencies, including the Civil Service Commission, Department of Labor, and Securities and Exchange Commission, to win one of the three 1966 President's Safety Awards. Winners in the other size classes were the Department of the Navy and the Federal Aviation Agency.

Non-disabling injuries at SI were cut from 530 in 1965 to 255 last year. In addition to this record, the panel of judges evaluated the employee safety program in the areas of management leadership, assignment of responsibility, maintenance of safe working conditions, safety training and education, accident records and medical and first aid. The Institution's presentation to the judges was prepared by Richard S. Minnich, SI safety officer.

Minnich has been invited to the White House June 13, along with Secretary Ripley, Assistant Secretary James Bradley, Frank Taylor, director of the U.S. National Museum, Zoo director Theodore Reed, and Andrew Michaels, director of BMD, to receive the Smithsonian's award from President Johnson.

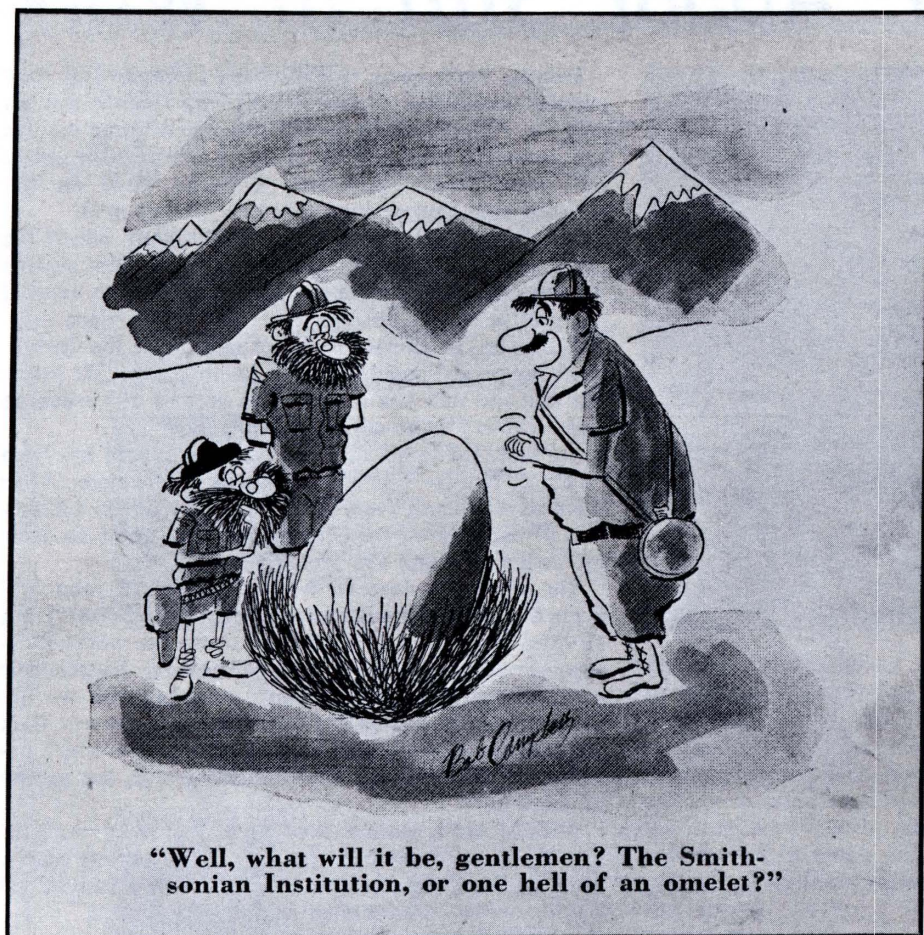
## Bridge Players Forming Club

Experienced players and complete beginners will both be welcome at an SI employee bridge club now being organized.

An organizing meeting will be held Friday, June 2 at noon in MNH W531 to set up the group's programs. The club will meet every other Tuesday after work to play duplicate bridge.

For further information call Mrs. Rosa Moore, ext. 5487.





courtesy of artist Bob Campbell

## STAMPLICKERS TO SEAMSTRESSES

## Volunteers Giving Services To SI Through Associates

Some 500 volunteers with skills from babysitting to engineering have offered their services to SI through the Smithsonian Associates. The bulk of them—from 200-300—are mothers helping to chaperon Associates' children's events. The others are working throughout the Institution or at home from a few hours a month to full time.

The young program was given an organizational boost by a volunteer, Mrs. M. King, who has been working full-time in the Associates office locating jobs suited to the skills of volunteers. A survey of department heads and other SI officials by Mrs. King to determine their needs resulted in a sample list of jobs accompanying a questionnaire sent to would-be workers. About 20 women responded to one curator's plea for someone to sew beads on a dress. Some 50 more indicated a willingness to polish minerals, and housewives who thought they had no needed skills learned that the Institution can use people to dust delicate objects in the collections.

Most urgently needed, Mrs. King discovered, are people with clerical skills. About 50 have been placed so far. Another 20 are supplementing the Junior League docents giving 20-minute lectures on various museum exhibits.

"We're determined to use everybody," says Mrs. Lisa Suter, Associates' program director, who adds that you don't have to be an Associate to volunteer. In fact, one woman had the volunteer form reproduced in her community newspaper, and responses have been coming in from that.

Almost every day there is someone in the Associates office stuffing envelopes. "We have some very distinguished stamp lickens," jokes Mrs. Suter, citing Cabinet and Congressional wives. One man who directs his own large staff as a chain store owner in Baltimore drives to Washington regularly to stuff envelopes for SI.

Children will also be helping out this summer. The mother of a boy who worked during his Easter vacation related that her son announced he is not going to go to camp this summer, he's going to work at the Smithsonian.

Mrs. Carlton Putnam, a volunteer and member of the Ladies Committee, contacted every social service organization in the area to determine their needs for speakers. From that has grown the Associates' program of providing speakers for orphanages, old folks' homes and the like. Mrs. Suter believes it may be the only such program in the country sponsored by a museum associate group.

Volunteers with sewing ability are helping to prepare Cuna Indian appliques for this month's sales exhibition. Others will sell catalogs at the exhibit of Tunisian mosaics, work in the libraries, do translating, editing or research.

Curators with specialized needs should contact Mrs. Suter at 5157. There is a good chance that even the most esoteric skills are available.

## U.S. Membership In Rome Center To Be Sought

Legislation which would allow United States membership in the International Centre for the Study of the Preservation and Restoration of Cultural Property, better known as the Rome Center, has been drafted by the Smithsonian and will be sent to Congress soon.

Frank A. Taylor, director of the U.S. National Museum, Peter G. Powers, general counsel, and William W. Warner, director of the Office of International Activities, have worked with the Department of State in arranging for the membership. The proposed legislation would amend the National Museum Act to permit an American delegation.

Mr. Taylor and Mr. Powers visited Rome in April to observe the Center's General Assembly meeting and report to the Center on progress in the arrangements for U.S. membership.

Although memberships in the Center are held by nations and not individual institutions, SI would help to organize the U.S. delegation and would almost certainly be represented on it. The annual dues which each member country pays toward the support of the Center would probably be appropriated to the Smithsonian.

The 42-nation organization acts as a clearing house for exchange of documents and publications. It sends out consultants on the invitation of members to advise on specific restoration or preservation projects and sponsors training programs in conservation.

A conference on proposed U.S. membership in the Center was held at the Smithsonian in January, with representatives of other government organizations and private institutions participating. The Board of Regents authorized the Secretary to continue efforts to secure membership at its January 25 meeting.

## ABOUT SI PEOPLE

## High Honors to Ripley, Stefanelli & Moynihan

Secretary **S. Dillon Ripley** will receive the honorary doctor of laws degree from Dickinson College, Carlisle, Penna., at its 194th annual commencement on June 4. The SI's second chief executive, Spencer F. Baird, was a Dickinson grad, Class of 1840 . . . Mayor John V. Lindsay will award **Vladimir Clain-Stefanelli**, MHT's curator of numismatics, an honorary New York City citizenship at ceremonies scheduled for June 5 at the Hotel Plaza. The occasion marks the 75th anniversary of Ellis Island as an immigration depot. Dr. Stefanelli, born in Austria, will be cited along with other naturalized U.S. citizens who "have achieved outstanding success in various walks of life since coming to America" . . . Also on June 5, **Dr. Martin Moynihan**, director of the Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute, will be awarded the rare William J. Walker Prize from the Boston Museum of Science. Dr. Moynihan, who will receive \$5,000, is being cited in recognition of "his meritorious published scientific investigation and discovery."

## ECOLOGICAL SURVEY IN KOREA

**Dr. Edwin Tyson** of MNH is leading a research team in carrying out an ecological survey of the demilitarized zone that separates North and South Korea. "The infrequency of human intrusions upon this strip of land over the last 13 years," writes columnist Charles Bartlett, "apparently has caused a reappearance of some species of plants which the experts had believed to be extinct." The survey was set up under the direction of **Helmut K. Buechner**, head of SI's Office of Ecology. MNH staffers **Raymond Fosberg** and **Lee Talbot** also have made study trips to the DMZ. Thus far, the Tyson-led team, consisting mostly of South Koreans, has managed to avoid interference from Communist guerrillas.

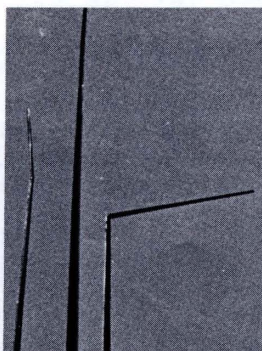
## INSTANT EDITORIAL

Near the loading dock of the A & I Building rests what, upon first look, appears to be a piece of junk ready for pickup. Closer examination, however, reveals an electric locomotive, 1889 vintage. This experimental six-wheeler, about 15 feet long and 4 feet high, once was operated on a two-mile Maryland track, achieving a speed of more than 110 miles an hour. The "exhibit's" label is barely visible, impaired by rust and corrosion and several years of neglect. The artifact, itself, is a sore sight for any eyes. It should be cleaned up and displayed where visitors can see it—or, shipped to Silver Hill where they won't see it in its present condition.

## PLANNED WORLD PRIMATE CENTER

**Dr. Sidney R. Galler**, SI's Assistant Secretary for Science, has announced the appointment of Dr. John Napier of the University of London, to examine the feasibility of establishing an international center for the study of primate animals. One of the world's leading authorities on primate biology, Dr. Napier will work with MNH's **Charles O. Handley** and other Smithsonian scientists in developing plans for a broad-based program combining the best resources of the U.S. and Great Britain for the training of primatologists and primate study.

## CASE OF THE POPPED SCULPTURE



Several weeks ago, A BMD team installed on the Mall terrace of MNH an interesting piece of kinetic sculpture, which, according to uncultured types, resembles a railroad depot "stop-and-go" sign. The delicate and graceful work was executed by George Rickey. A few days after it went up, the sculpture was introduced to Washington wind. The Big Blow won. One of the Sculpture's three blades (see cut) was tipped out of its orbit. Popped art, indeed. However, **Dr. David W. Scott** of NCFA, told the TORCH that Mr. Rickey is now repairing the wounded blade, and it should be just a matter of time before the Kinetic moves in unison once again.

## ONE-LINERS

**Jim Condon** (x5404) reports that the Credit Union is now offering SI employees Traveler's Checks from the First National Bank of New York . . . "I've tried many different kinds of seaweed and it's all good to eat," **Dr. Clyde Roper** of MNH told a Virginia school group. His point: the ocean as a source of food will be relied upon increasingly as the population continues to explode and doubles by the year 2000 . . . BMD's **John Clark** (x5613) is looking for interested employees who would like to build their own boat for one-third the cost. Mr. Clark heads the D.C. chapter of the International Amateur Boat Building Society . . . The recent Radiation Biology Laboratory's photobiology seminar was a big success, averaging 160 participants per session. **Walter Shropshire**, acting director of RBL, would like SI to sponsor similar programs with the area Consortium of Universities . . . **John S. White, Sr.** of MNH's department of mineral sciences and **Lisa Suter** of the Smithsonian Associates each have vineyards and make their own wine.

## QUOTE OF THE MONTH

From the Harrisburg, (Penna.) *Evening News*: "If the Smithsonian takes its planned slum exhibit too literally, the next urban renewal project in Washington could go right through the Institution."

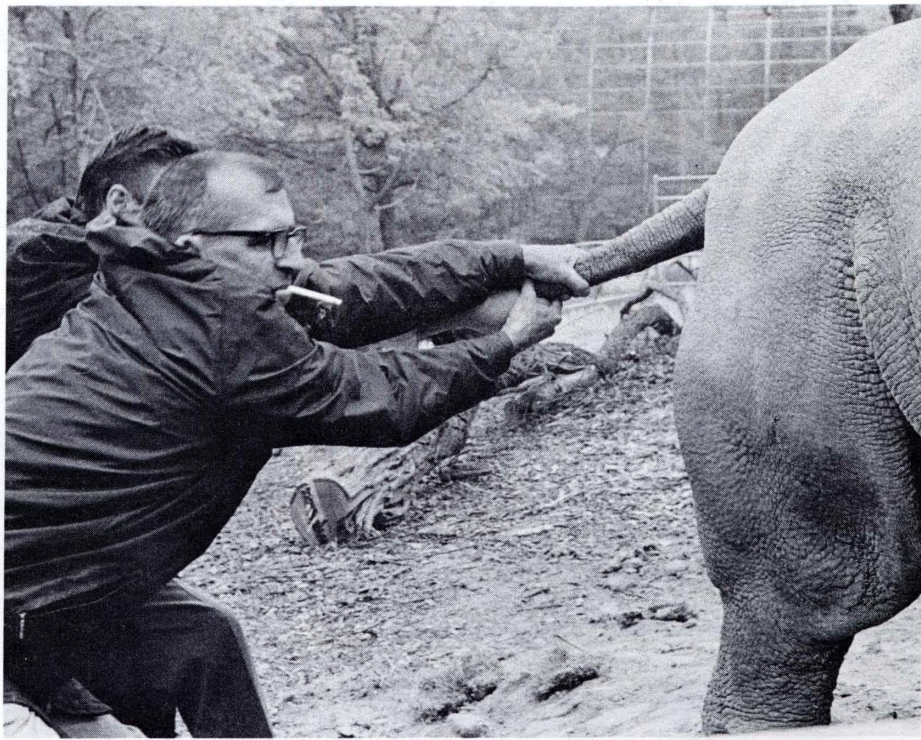
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# Reluctant Rhinos Prove Challenge to Movers



A gentle nudge moves the rhino toward its truck.



Veterinarian Clinton Gray coaxes the beast off the truck into its new home.

## Photo Story by George Lohman

Zoo veterinarian Dr. Clinton W. Gray proved an irresistible force and it was the immovable objects that gave — ultimately — as two white rhinoceroses were moved to new quarters last month.

The beasts, weighing 4,865 and 3,630 pounds, were carried by truck from the elephant house to the hoofed stock enclosure, where they have ten times as much space. The truck ride itself was uneventful, but getting the animals on and off it proved something of a challenge.

Dr. Gray and his crew of keepers began the job at 6 a.m. because of the potential danger involved in moving a wild animal. The rhinos were shot with a powerful new immobilization drug and then given enough of an antidote that they could be herded up the truck ramp. "Herded" turned out to be a wishful word.

Bracing themselves as much as possible in muddy ground, the keepers managed to shove the reluctant rhinos up the ramp. When they reached the new enclosure the process became a giant tug-of-war, with 11 men pulling at one end and two-and-one-half tons of tranquil beast at the other. The move took more than four hours to complete.

The Zoo hopes that the rhinos, an endangered species, will reproduce in their spacious new quarters. The animals have never bred in captivity.

All this brings up a theological question. If Dr. Gray had so much trouble with two drugged rhinoceroses, how did Noah ever manage?

## Insects, Ferns Lure Staff Away

Elephants, insects and ferns are among the attractions drawing SI people away from Washington this month. The Zoo's **John F. Eisenberg** will be back from Ceylon June 7 after supervising a project on the behavior and ecology of elephants . . . **Oliver S. Flint** of entomology will be in Mexico and Central America all summer, studying aquatic insects of the New World tropics while the stay-at-homes use bug repellent on their patios . . . Tektites have drawn away two of the meteorites staff. **Brian H. Mason** and **Edward P. Henderson** are both engaging in field work collecting meteorites and tektites and studying collections in Australia and New Zealand. Henderson will go on to Singapore, India, Pakistan, Thailand, Malaysia, Lebanon, Greece, Switzerland, Germany and England to arrange for meteorite exchanges and loans . . . Botany's **Conrad V. Morton** will spend his summer studying fern collections in the museums of Western Europe, and two of his colleagues, **Edward S. Ayensu** and **Dieter C. Wasshausen**, are collecting botanical specimens in Dominica . . . Yet another botanist, **Thomas R. Soderstrom**, is attending the Association of Tropical Botany, Inc. meetings in Caracas.



"You'll really love it here if you only give it a chance." Keepers reason with the reluctant new homeowner.

# Lowe Used to New-Gallery Pains

When the inevitable headaches that come with establishing a new gallery strike NCFA director David Scott, he can call on a staff member who has been through on it all before.

Harry Lowe, NCFA's exhibits curator, was the first director of the Tennessee Fine Arts Center at Cheekwood, an elegant southern mansion. On a smaller scale his was the same challenge NCFA has been facing, adapting a fine old building to show contemporary art without sacrificing the best qualities of either.

"I think the labor pains are the same whether it's a mouse or an elephant giving birth," says Lowe, "but my position is different now, I'm sort of midwife for Dr. Scott." He adds that his experience establishing Cheekwood was probably one of the reasons Dr. Scott brought him to SI.

"Public response was fantastic" to the Tennessee center, where he developed education and exhibit programs. But response to NCFA's programs in Washington, a so-called cultural poverty pocket, has been as enthusiastic as that of Nashville, "the Athens of the South." "Clearly Washington wants the art," Lowe asserts, pointing to swelling attendance in spite of a proliferation of art museums around the city.

"NCFA has found such acceleration with Dr. Scott," he says, "other museums are staggered by what we're doing."

Lowe's job as exhibits curator — a position he says doesn't exist at most museums — is the staging of this "staggering" program. If the content of a show stands out from a background that enhances the art inobtrusively, he has succeeded, and the consensus seems to be that Harry Lowe is a tremendous success at his job.

The backgrounds in the Art Hall are

changed for each show, and Lowe was particularly happy with the burgundy walls for the Glackens exhibition. "But the last thing we want to do is prostitute the art for theatrical effect."

He tries to keep his planning flexible, and if a color chosen after lengthy and careful deliberation seems wrong for the art after it goes on the walls, the walls will be repainted. Paper for labels and wires for hanging are painted at the same time as the walls, typifying Lowe's concern that the smallest detail be properly attended to. "I can't just make a plan and leave it; I have to sweat through details to the end. We're fussbudgets about everything."

To aid in his flexible planning policy, he keeps a model of the Art Hall in his office and tries out different arrangements of moveable walls and furniture in it. For the Venice Biennale exhibition, he even

made models of the paintings.

Lowe passes the credit for his successes on to others. He has "perfect rapport" with his staff, who know his tastes so well that "I'm the most superficial person around here." He adds that exhibits chief John Anglim "saves my life every time I turn around."

The Venice Biennale has been one of his biggest challenges to date. Working under an impossibly tight schedule, he had to cope with such problems as having paintings packed to withstand travel by air, van and barge, foreseeing in the U.S. the hardware needs that would come up in Italy and preparing a kit to meet them, coping with a strike that held up delivery of catalogs, giving orders to assistants whose English was limited, and being thought mad for wanting the hanging wires painted, something the Italians had never heard of. Despite countless similar headaches, a show whose content was not determined finally until April 8 in the U.S. opened in a worthy setting in Italy June 14.

The Lowe attention to detail will be just as evident in the new gallery. He is seeing to it that the changing exhibition areas are made flexible, keeping in mind that the Smithsonian does more with memorabilia in connection with shows than other places and has to plan for a very varied public.

Making the old Patent Office Building's rooms suitable backgrounds for contemporary art is another challenge, which panelling will help meet. The new halls will make extensive use of lighting tracks, and NCFA is having some light fixtures especially designed.

Whatever show Dr. Scott has selected to open the new gallery in June of next year, it is bound to be attractively staged.



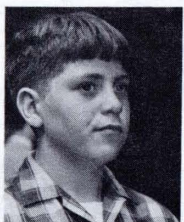


## "TO SEE OURSELVES

## AS OTHERS SEE US"

By Al Robinson

Asked what most impressed and most disappointed them during their visit to MHT, most tourists who talked to the TORCH seemed worried about insulting someone. They were reluctant to respond specifically to either part of the question, taking an "Everything's just wonderful" stand. Following are selected comments.



Seventh grader J. B. Tawner III of Chestertown, Md., likes "things about machinery" and found the train noises "pretty realistic," but he "didn't like the glass and china. That stuff's for girls."



C. Webster of Bridgeton, N.J., agrees. He enjoyed the Foucault Pendulum, but "I'm not too interested in the china and ladies gowns. The whole building seems more for the ladies."



As if to bear them out, Mrs. Cynthia Bruce, accompanying a group of elementary school students, said that her girls were "particularly thrilled with the doll house and first ladies' gowns." From the point of view of bringing children, she said the museum has no shortcomings. "The halls are wide enough and you can see far enough ahead to maintain control."



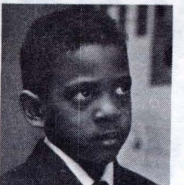
A. Owens Jr. of Danville, Va., thinks the Flag Hall needs plants. "It's a little cold looking. You need just a little life someplace." Particularly interested in furniture, he thinks the period rooms are "very well presented." He was also "impressed by the what do you call that out front?" (The de Rivera sculpture.)



Most impressed by the First Ladies' gowns ("Those beautiful old dresses are nothing like today's shifts"), Mrs. George Bowles of North Tarrytown, N.Y., was "amazed at the size of the building and how they can get large things like the trains inside." She thinks MHT is well planned for children and compares favorably with New York museums.



Trailways driver P. J. Giles of Richmond, Va., has been in MHT about a dozen times, and "it hasn't gotten boring yet. Lots of my passengers don't know this is the Smithsonian. They think only the old building is."



A man of few words, little Anthony Hall liked the trains best. Son of Museum Service's Cornelius Hall, the youngster kept Daddy's job in mind and wouldn't criticize anything.

Truss by Any Other Name  
Might Not Sell As Well

by Sam Suratt

If James Smithson had not left his fortune to the United States of America, would there ever have been a Smithsonian Medical Institute, a Smithsonian Baths, or even a Smithsonian Truss Company? Probably not, as these illustrious institutions were borrowing the name of Smithson's legatee, the Smithsonian Institution. Every Secretary of the Smithsonian has been bothered by the misuse of the Institution's name, usually when it is referred to as the "Smithsonian Institute." But taking the "toot" out of the Smithsonian has been only part of the problem.

Numerous instances of people using the name Smithsonian for their businesses, to add a bit of scientific luster or to defraud the public, could be cited. None of these erstwhile sister institutions have caused the Smithsonian any trouble, but they have often annoyed the administration and many of the Smithsonian's friends. Most of the name borrowers have been in the pseudo-medical business, and, just as often, have been named Smith (or so they say).

"Dr. B. J. Smith, M.D., Prof. Phrenology," had a three ring circus going at 635 California Street in San Francisco in 1876. The San Francisco Directory carried separate ads for the "Smithsonian Medical Institute," the "Smithsonian Baths, Electro, Russian, Turkish, Medical, and Toilet," and for "Hygienic Boarding at the Smithsonian Medical Institute." The use of the name "Smithsonian" by persons offering some sort of medicinal benefit has continued up to relatively recent times.

In 1940, Mrs. Bertella Blackburn wrote the Smithsonian asking for a jar of "Smithsonian Slim Cream." The Smithsonian replied that "the Smithsonian Institution has no connection with any alleged remedy known as 'slim cream' or any other whose purpose is to make fat persons thin." Since the Smithsonian has never had anything medical connected with it, the use of the name in this context must have been an attempt to trade on its national recognition and its scientific connotations.

One further example, which shows a change in the Smithsonian Institution's attitude toward people using its name, is that of the "Smithsonian Truss." This truss, a device barely deserving the title of a medical instrument, was sold by the "Smithsonian Truss Company," of Topeka Kansas.

The advertisements for the truss were

first brought to the attention of Secretary Langley in 1904. When his aides urged that something be done to stop this company from using the name, he replied "that the advertisement is a tribute to the public confidence in the Smithsonian name, and that nothing is to be done."

When an ad appeared in the Washington Herald ten years later for the "Smithsonian Truss" ("it holds in any position") the officers of the Smithsonian received it with stoney silence. But, in the 1930's, when the Smithsonian began to receive orders for the truss, Secretary Abbot replied with a standard "I beg to say that this Institution is not engaged in the manufacture of surgical appliances," and concluded with a statement that this firm had no right to use the name "Smithsonian."

In 1954, the rediscovery of the Smithsonian Truss Company brought forth a formal complaint to the Bureau of Anti-deceptive Practices of the Federal Trade Commission. What was done about the "Smithsonian Truss" remains a mystery, but the Smithsonian has not received any further orders.

This change in the Smithsonian's attitude toward the misuse of its name may reflect a growing concern over its image. But with the Smithsonian recently expanding into new areas and activities, it may also reflect a concern that any future misuses of the name may go unnoticed. "Say George, does one of our bureaus make a truss?"

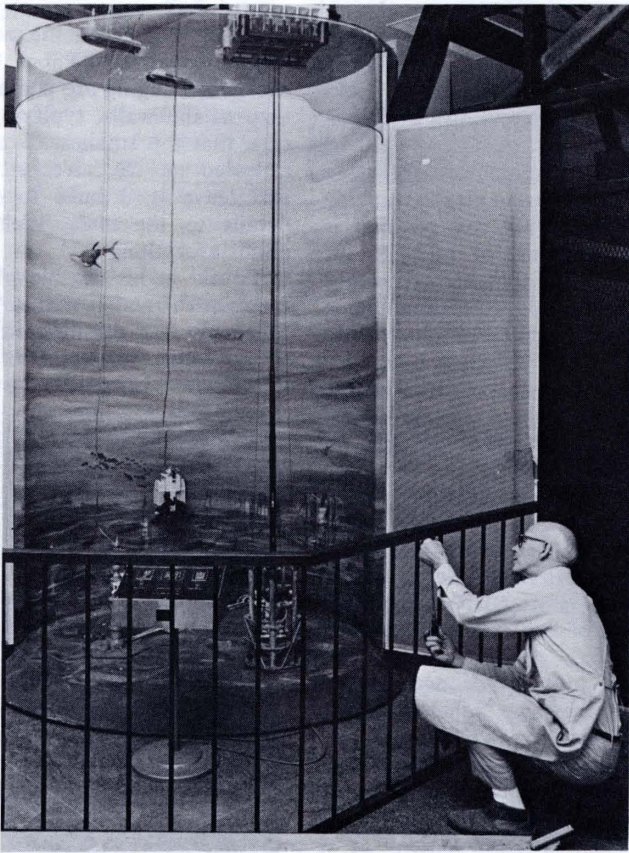
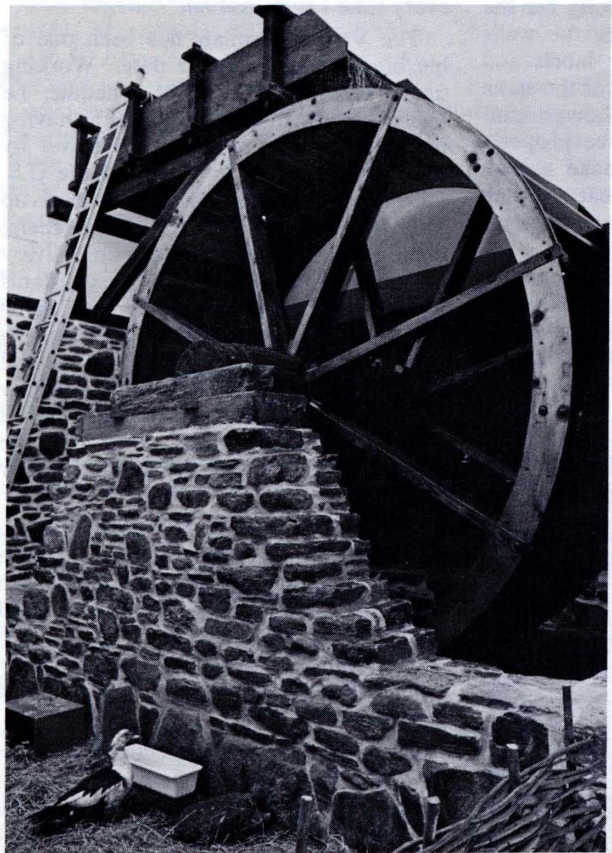
## ABBOT

(continued from page 1)

Dr. Abbot's interest in current events is just one indication of a mind unusually alert for a man his age. Asked where he gets all his energy, he quipped, "Well, I've been eating. Where do you get yours?" He added that "I didn't learn to smoke or drink and never used coffee until I was 50. I wouldn't drink it now but I like the sugar and cream they put in it."

The amazing former Secretary, who points out that he has had "two wives who took very good care of me," does not intend to stop climbing the tower and foreseeing the weather "unless I have to."

As someone recently remarked, on hearing for the first time about Dr. Abbot's endurance, uncanny forecasting record, and office atop the castle, "Are you sure he's not Merlin?"



**COMING ATTRACTIONS** — Three important halls open this month in MHT, including the eagerly anticipated sections two and three of the Growth of the United States halls. Now referred to as the Gous Hall, it may soon be called the duck hall — two of the Muscovy ducks living next to the 18th century grist mill are sitting on eggs due to hatch any day. The Growth halls open June 6. A diorama illustrating

underwater drilling is one of the features of the Petroleum Hall opening June 28. Visitors will see the steps in petroleum production from the geology of oil-bearing land to the commercial gas pump. Divers in all sorts of gear will highlight the underwater exploration section of Armed Forces History. It goes on view to the public June 26.