Cajun musicians stage an impromptu concert. The Louisiana entertainers will be among the numerous ethnic performers at the July 1-4 Festival of American Folklife.

All-out Effort Rounds Up Folkspe ple for Festival

by Reed Hundt

It took an all-out effort by the Museum Service to organize the Folklife Festival that will sprawl across the Mall this month.

To bring to Washington the 100 crafts, men, artists, and musicians who will create, dance, and sing in front of MHT and MNH over the four-day weekend, Museum Service Director James Morris first called upon two special consultants. Ralph Rinzler from the New York Folk Foundation and Henry Glassie from the Pennsylvania Historical Commission.

In January these men, assisted by Marian Hope, Kesa Sakai, Beth Fain, Jeannette Gladdstone, Leslie Schaberg, Tim Jeck and others, began seeking out the folklife candidates.

Letters went out to New Mexico mountain bandits, villages in the Florida swamps, igloos in the Alaskan snow, and houses in the back hills of Kentucky, Tennessee, and Georgia. He collected everything from handcarved dulcimers to appleface dolls.

Two special problems, however, were wool and cornshucks. The weavers and the cornshuck dollmakers had to have shucks.

The wool problem seemed more serious. Then ballad singer Norman Kennedy came through with the wool. He reported that he was a part-time weaver and his basement just happened to be full of fleece.

The wool crisis weathered, the final plans fell practically into place.

Along with the festival, Museum Service also managed to organize a folkfestival conference for July 2 and 3. Seventeen scholars from the U.S., Mexico, and Europe will attend. They will discuss ways of promoting and preserving America's traditional culture and suggest future Smithsonian programs in folkfestival.

Henry Glassie, chief organizer of the conference, said, "It is very important that more organized study of folklore be begun. We don't have too much time, and many traditional crafts are disappearing.

"This conference should help fill the need."

Summer Concerts Set for Mall Feature Symphony, Barber Shop

Working after hours this summer can turn out to be a treat instead of a chore if you keep your windows open. Special concerts will fill the Mall area with music every Monday, Wednesday and Friday evening.

The Mall Summer Orchestra, sponsored by the D.C. Recreation Department, local 161 of the American Federation of Musicians, and the Music Performance Trust Fund of the Recording Industries, will perform on the MHT Mall steps at 8:30 each Wednesday. On Fridays the same spot will be occupied by local chapters of the Society for the Preservation and Encouragement of Barber Shop Quartet Singing in America, in 8 p.m. concerts. Arrangements for both groups were made by Museum Service.

On Monday nights the Division of Musical Instruments' annual Tower Music concerts are staged on the SI Tower at 7:30. (See May TORCH.)

The Mall Orchestra is appearing at the Smithsonian for the first time after several seasons as the Watergate Symphony. Its programs will include an appearance by the Washington Civic Ballet Company July 3, opera selections on July 12, the music of Sigmund Romberg and Victor Herbert July 19, and a symphony concert July 26.

The barber shop groups will also be making their first appearances here after performing at the airplane-plagued Hearst Historyland Chorus, the Historic Columbia Chorus, the Washington Civic Ballet Company, the Potomac State Chorus and the Bartok Barbershop Chorus of the District of Columbia July 21, and the Singing Capital Chorus of the City of Norfolk, Va. Two special problems, however, were wool and cornshucks. The weavers and the cornshuck dollmakers had to have shucks.

But all the sheep were shorn months ago and corn is not in season yet.

The corn crisis was solved as Ralph Rinzler discovered a friend who had a store of shocks in his barn.
Between the Rickey sculpture, far left, and the dancers, tourists probably thought they were at the Cultural Center rather than a natural history museum. During the cultural programs that will be presented on the MHI steps July 5 at 8:30 p.m. the performance is a part of the Mall summer concerts. See story on page one.

Planning Already Underway
For Complex Celebration

"The American Revolution will be more complex in the celebration than it was in the fighting" promises one MHT official.

With the Independence Day Bicentennial almost exactly nine years in the future, work has already begun to insure the validity of that prediction. Although nothing specific has been decided this early, ideas have been flowing from, and to, sources of official and semi-official sources.

Keith E. Melder, chairman of Political History, and E. Peterson, chairman of Armed Forces History, and Wilcom E. Washburn, chairman of American Studies, have been appointed to develop MHT's part in the national celebration. Ideas that have been proposed include a major exhibit displayed from 1974 to 1976. However, making a number of halls, would give special prominence to the Washington headquarters tent and the gombet Philadelphia. Military equipment and uniforms would contrast the British professional with the Colonial citizen soldiers. Making the point that the Revolution was a people's war. 

Large-scale treatment of Revolutionary life and times is also anticipated. According to Mr. Melder, SI's collections of cultural material are limited for this period and arrangements must be made in the near future to borrow or otherwise acquire items.

Lack of museum objects has already been a problem in the special displays Political History has put together on such pre-Revolutionary themes as the Stamp Act and one on the Townsend Laws - must be liquidated.

A coin collection said to be worth $1 million will be given to the Smithsonian according to a recent report by the Indianapolis Star. Assembled by the late Josiah K. Lilly, the 6000-piece collection is expected to become the property of the American people as soon as the Indian delegation in Congress can iron out a legislative problem associated with the disposal of the coins.

Vladimir Clain-Steffanelli, MHT's curator of numismatics, rates the Lilly collection "priceless" and a "national treasure." 

Dr. Stevanelli, who has been given the opportunity to examine and analyze the scope of the Lilly collection, said that "it surpasses any other collection of gold coins ever assembled by one person."

The United States section, for example, consists of 1,227 pieces with only the extremely rare $5 dollar coin of 1870 missing. Latin American coins number 1,236, including 665 8-escudo pieces. For comparison purposes, the famed Emilio Carles-Tolra collection contained only 256 8-escudo pieces. If the collection is turned over to the Smithsonian, if would probably raise the level of SI's array of coins above that of the Soviet Union.

If legislation is not introduced and enacted, the collection — under inheritance laws — must be liquidated.

Priceless Coin Collection to SI, Paper Reports

"The forebode Weems electric locomotive was the subject of an "instant editorial" appearing in this column last month. Jack White, new curator of MHT's division of transportation, wrote the Torch that the locomotive "was painted within the last three years, but time and weather have taken their toll since that time."

The locomotive, Mr. White writes, "is an important exhibit and was therefore not incorporated into the new MHT exhibit. I would agree that it is not attractive in its present state and orders have therefore been issued for its transfer to SI, Hill Building.

STAFF:
Mary M. Krug, Managing Editor
James Cornell, SAO Correspondent, Marion McClaran, Zoo Correspondent, John White (Features), Sam Surott (Specials), S. Robinson (Photos)

Published monthly by Smithsonian Institution personnel by the Smithsonian Office of Public Information. Submit copy to TORE, Public Information Office, Room 131 SI Building.

QUOTES OF THE MONTH

"Is Saul Steinberg still here?"
"Who?"

Mary K. Krug, Managing Editor
James Cornell, SAO Correspondent, Marion McClaran, Zoo Correspondent, John White (Features), Sam Surott (Specials), S. Robinson (Photos)
George J. Berkley, Editor

Published monthly by Smithsonian Institution personnel by the Smithsonian Office of Public Information. Submit copy to TORE, Public Information Office, Room 131 SI Building.
Greenery Enlivens Exhibits Through Ludes’ Efforts

Mary M. Krug
How does a sculptor get to be a duck at all? And, wherever possible, he does it. Mr. Jonas was an exhibit specialist when a “no artificial plants” policy was set for the museums. Now he is a horticulturist with the same responsibility not only for the greenery in all exhibit halls but also for the arrangements for openings and receptions and even care of the ducks in the Growth of the U.S. Halls.

Ludes’ back and grafted as a Kansan farm boy, has experienced qualified him in theory for the horticultural job he now holds, but he soon found out how much he didn’t know. ’Extreme ballheadedness and stubbornness are making up for a lack of knowledge.’ Ludes jokes. “You get to know a lot about plants when you work in museums.”

The Botany Department and Radiation Biology Laboratory provided the basic technical help that Ludes needed, and he learned that working with indoor plants meant “no bugs, but all kinds of glorious problems with mildews, viruses and other unexpected things.” He also meant contending with the “two enemies of plants in public buildings, air conditioning and lack of sun.”

Typical of the creative members of the exhibits staff, Ludes found that the usual ways of doing things just were not good enough, and began looking for a way to combine indoor plants with outdoor gardens. This month a new propagating laboratory will be completed in MNH, where Ludes can continue his promising experiments in condensing the process of photosynthesis. The openings of the same name by Mr. Francis H. Buttrworth, television effort between the NBC and the Smithsonian Institution, will be the very real, though not live, star of the show. The NBC is helping to provide the necessary decor for all of Sl’s indoor plants, applying its green thumb to some of the growth outside MHT.

H. A. Fehlmann and Charles F. Rhyno are among the most adventurous of SI’s July travelers. They are participating in a Department of the Navy scientific expedition that makes them the first SI people to travel to Diego Garcia Island, where they are collecting marine specimens. Diego Garcia, as we are told, “is an obscure dot in the Indian Ocean as well as in the records of the British Empire.”

O. Smith, Jr., of Mechanical and Civil Engineering leaves July 6 for West Germany, where he will explore opportunities for a study of the German engineering profession. Also, in Western Europe is the Freez’s Rutherford Beazley, studying oriental art collections, techniques and technology until November. Dr. A. L. Smith from the University of Invertebrate Zoology, Morphology and Ecology of Recent Ostracoda in the Indian Ocean.

Uncle Beazley Comes to the Smithsonian

L. Paul Jonas
Early risers July 27 may think they should have had a few more hours sleep as the appearance of a full-size dinosaur lumbering down Independence Avenue greets them.

Actually, the appearance will be the very real, though not live, creation of “The Enormous Egg,” a children’s special that will be a part of a major cooperative television effort between the Smithsonian and NBC. “The Enormous Egg,” based on a book of the same name by Oliver Butterworth, is the story of Uncle Beazley, a triceratops who hatches from a child’s hen’s egg and becomes a child’s pet. His phenomenal growth continues for seven months he weighs in at 14,000 pounds—leaves his master no choice but to bring him to the Zoo.

Beazley starts out in MNH, but because of a law prohibiting the stabbing of large animals in the District, he winds up at the Zoo in the Elephant House. The 22-foot-long model used to represent full-grown Uncle Beazley will be given to the Smithsonian by the Sinclair Oil Company. It will be kept on display at the Zoo.

Louie Paul Jonas, designer of the famous Sinclair dinosaurs and a noted museum display artist, is building the large Uncle Beazley. Among his achievements are the outsize plants in the Smithsonian gardens; the delicate pink geraniums scattered among the mosaics, helping to soften the condition of outdoor plants for indoor living. This month a new propagating laboratory will be completed in MNH, where Jonas is managing to provide the necessary decor for all of Sl’s indoor plants, applying its green thumb to some of the growth outside MHT.

Mr. Jonas has taken the work of caring for some 5,000 plants or working on a new hall. Planting in an exhibit hall is not at all crowded.

The enormous egg: & SI

The smaller Beazleys are being made of resilient ceramic, a substance Jonas has developed which cures at a very low temperature. This makes it possible to put wire supports in the sculptures and results in some very graceful creations.

Even if the Smithsonian didn’t insist on it, the Beazleys would model themselves scientifically accurate as possible. Jonas himself is very demanding, and he shows off his creation with the pride and affection of a parent. Even the egg, he pointed out during his visit, has the leathery texture of a reptile egg rather than the smooth feel of a hen egg. Yet even this didn’t satisfy the exacting Mr. Jonas. He reported that a new, even more leathery enormous egg is now in the works in his converted dairy-barn studio in the HUDSON Valley.

“The Enormous Egg” will be a production of the NBC Children’s Theater. George Heine mann is the executive producer of the show, which will be broadcast in early 1968.

Horticultural designer Leonard Ludes, responsible for all of SI’s indoor plants, applies his green thumb to some of the growth outside MHT.
Protests Won't Change Plans for Zoo Hospital

The site for the new Zoo hospital-research center will remain as announced despite protests from the Kalorama Citizens Association. This is the conclusion of a statement prepared for the Regents in reply to the group's arguments.

The civic organization has submitted a letter and petition to Chief Justice Earl Warren, chancellor of the SI Board of Regents, objecting to the new facility's location near the Holt House administration building. The petition was followed up with a letter printed in the Washington Daily News last month.

The hospital site is quiet and secluded, and therefore ideal for nervous, excited or nervous animals and conducive to research observations, the statement reports. The building will be on land which cannot be economically developed for public use, and will not be readily visible from surrounding residential areas.

"The National Capital Planning Commission was especially pleased with the architect's solution of a properly sited hospital-an attractive building whose lines and proportions are in keeping with the setting," the report says. "Due to the very need for isolation of this animal facility the existing dense woods between the new facility and the Zoo, property line will be carefully preserved."

The group's specific objection was that Holt House is a landmark whose preservation has been called for by the National Trust for Historic Preservation. The report states that the recommended sating of the Animal Hospital and Research Center near the Holt House, a careful evaluation of its historical significance was made. A historical research report prepared by the Chairman of the Department of Civil History of the Smithsonian, reports Dr. Nicolson's conclusion that locating the new hospital facility in back of and downhill from the house would not conflict with the desire to preserve the approach to and views from the house.

The statement concludes that "Reallocating the research building to the main park area would unnecessarily reduce the space provided for animal exhibits and accommodations for over 4,000,000 annual visitors. Substantial planning costs would be incurred to redesign foundations and utilities and to otherwise revise the drawings which have now been completed."

CRUISE

Guid Leon Robinson and his Lords of Rhythm band will provide the music for the Recreational Department's annual moonlight cruise on the Potomac August 5. For tickets and information phone Mrs. Dorothy Lewis, 5226.

Nepal Gives SI Plant Specimens

American botanists for the first time will have a chance to study a major series of specimens from the rich and relatively unknown Nepalese Himalayas. The Nepalese government has contributed 1600 herbarium specimens from the Botanical Survey of Nepal to the Smithsonian, reports Dr. Dan H. Nicolson, assistant curator of the Botany Department's Division of Phanerogams. Dr. Nicolson, who has recently been in Nepal for the past nine months on a Senior Fulbright Research Fellowship, and has collected some 1900 specimens himself.

The gift, the first official relationship between American botanists and the Smithsonian, and Dr. Nicolson's collection will provide a rare resource for the Smithsonian's research on the climatic and altitudinal variations, is rich in different kinds of plants ranging from tropical regions to the alpine regions.

The Phykos, a World War II Army freighter obtained by the Smithsonian for oceanographic research, is being renovated by the Southern Maine Vocational and Technical Institute under a cooperative agreement completed last week. Dr. E. Walten, head of the Office of Oceanography and Limnology, and chairman of the Smithsonian Ships Committee, announced the arrangement.

The ship had been sitting at the Navy Yard while the committee studied what facilities it should have and sought resources for putting it in operation. Under the recent agreement, the Maine institute is putting the vessel in condition in return for use of it during part of the school year. SI will have it the rest of the school year and during the summers, beginning this month.

Dr. Melvin J. Jackson, associate curator of the Division of Transportation and a specialist in ship architecture, has been the Ships Committee's consultant on the Phykos, and he will arrange to go along for all or part of the expedition. In addition to the now research-worthy Phykos, the Smithsonian has one other ship in its "fleet," the motor-powered sailing boat Ellida. Charged with deciding whether the Ellida should be used, the Ships Committee tried it out last summer and determined that it was not suitable for research. The Ellida is now up for sale, and proceeds will go into the Ships Committee Fund, to be used someday to help the Institution obtain its needed vessels.

Institution 'Navy' Sets Sail Under Maine-SI Agreement

The Smithsonian "navy" sets sail this summer. The Phykos, a World War II Army freighter obtained by the Smithsonian for oceanographic research, is being renovated by the Southern Maine Vocational and Technical Institute under a cooperative agreement completed last week. Dr. E. Walten, head of the Office of Oceanography and Limnology and chair­man of the Smithsonian Ships Committee, announced the arrangement.

The ship had been sitting at the Navy Yard while the committee studied what facilities it should have and sought resources for putting it in operation. Under the recent agreement, the Maine institute is putting the vessel in condition in return for use of it during part of the school year. SI will have it the rest of the school year and during the summers, beginning this month.

Dr. Melvin J. Jackson, associate curator of the Division of Transportation and a specialist in ship architecture, has been the Ships Committee's consultant on the Phykos, and he will arrange to go along for all or part of the expedition. In addition to the now research-worthy Phykos, the Smithsonian has one other ship in its "fleet," the motor-powered sailing boat Ellida. Charged with deciding whether the Ellida should be used, the Ships Committee tried it out last summer and determined that it was not suitable for research. The Ellida is now up for sale, and proceeds will go into the Ships Committee Fund, to be used someday to help the Institution obtain its needed vessels.

AS OTHERS SEE US—THE KITTY HAWK

by Al Robinson

The TORCH asked tourists what they thought of the presentation of the Wright brothers' plane "Kitty Hawk" and Lindbergh's "Spirit of St. Louis." The two fill the top of the entrance hall in A & I, but some visitors wished for a better view.

William Patterson of Media, Pa., thought the two planes were "a little crowded." He added, "it would be nice if you could get up and look in the windows (the "Spirit of St. Louis") and see what Lindbergh had to look at."

The height of the plane attracted some comment.
Mrs. Shirley Griffith of Bedford, Texas, said, "I expected something a little different. I didn't expect to walk in under it."

The length of the plane attracted some comment.
Mrs. Shirley Griffith of Bedford, Texas, said, "I expected something a little different. I didn't expect to walk in under it."

John Wisman from Baltimore said he would like to be able to go above the Wright's plane and see the cop. But he thought the Spirit was "okay the way it is."

Herbert Zeller of Columbus, Ohio, suggested that the "Kitty Hawk" ought to be lower "because those interested in the technical aspects of the plane might want to see the motor. But it really catches your eye up there."

And Elizabeth Eriksen of Sioux Falls, S.D., was afraid to put the planes lower "because then they might be touched. But it would be nice to see all sides of the plane, as you can see all aspects of the pendulum (in MHT)."

Though they had criticisms, Mrs. Eriksen and the other visitors were not really sure how best to display the planes, and left the question up in the air. 