



Debris from construction work in the old Herbarium above the Great Hall is removed via a third-floor window chute. Renovation will bring extensive changes to the Castle interior. See story below.

Photo by Albert J. Robinson

Work Underway in Castle, Other Smithsonian Buildings

by Mary M. Krug

The openings of the Fine Arts and Portrait Galleries may now be history, but restoration, renovation and expansion continue in other parts of the Institution.

In fact, work in the SI building is of such proportions that it has done away with a Smithsonian tradition. Former Secretary Charles Greeley Abbot no longer occupies the top of the tower. Construction work has forced him to return to a south yard office that he occupied for 20 years as director of SAO, but the 96-year-old scientist vows to re-occupy the tower in two years.

Main phase of the work on the castle is conversion of the old Herbarium space above the Great Hall into two floors of offices. The rooms will be used at first for temporary relocation of east wing offices while central air conditioning and a new heating system are installed, Robert Engle, engineering assistant to the Assistant Secretary told the TORCH. Permanent assignments of the much-needed facilities—both for administrative and academic purposes—will of course be determined at a later date.

Sizes of the new rooms have been varied to avoid a static floor plan. The west end will be kept open in a two-story salon to show the original architecture. The ground floor stack area in the west wing will probably become the SI archives, Engle says, with the room formerly occupied by the Smithsonian Associates converted into a common room.

The castle is closed to the public while construction is in progress. Although the Great Hall itself is being left as is, work is going on in adjacent areas. An elevator is being put in the south tower, and the west stair on the north side is being reopened.

When renovation is completed, about a year from now, the south entrance will be reopened as the main vehicle approach to the SI building. Ultimately, the south sheds will be removed, giving an unbroken vista from the castle entrance through L'Enfant Plaza all the way to the river.

A less extensive renovation is taking

place in A&I. The refrigeration unit for air conditioning the castle will be placed in that building, in anticipation of someday handling the needs of A&I as well. And office space is gradually being provided for groups moving out of SI.

But by far the most visible, and impressive, work being done is the restoration of the suite occupied by the staff of Frank Taylor, Director General of Museums. The northwest-corner rooms will soon look as they did when the building was first constructed. Paint has been removed from the panelling in hall and

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Year-Long Survey Seeks Visitors' View of Museums

Would you mind telling me how old you are?

Where is your home?

Why did you come to this particular museum?

What is your occupation?

Did you have difficulty finding a place to park?

These are among the nearly 50 questions being asked visitors to the Museum of History and Technology and the Museum of Natural History in an attempt to find out what people think of the Institution, its exhibits, its services, and how things can be improved.

The questionnaire also is designed to help the Smithsonian learn what kind of people visit the Institution.

"It's a kind of self-examination and research into the role of the public museum," explains Frank A. Taylor, Director-General of SI Museums. "We want to find out if we are having the impact we think we are."

Further, he said "We want to learn about the public reaction to exhibits in order to improve them. Are people having difficulty finding what they are interested in? Are orientation methods or other directing devices needed to help them? Is an excess of noise annoying them? Are they having parking problems?"



THE SMITHSONIAN TORCH

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Institution Considering Mid-America Center

by George J. Berklacy

A proposal submitted to the Institution by an Arkansas development group calling for a Smithsonian center in Hot Springs is being given careful consideration by Secretary Ripley.

To be called "The Mid-America Center of the Smithsonian Institution," it was proposed by the West Central Arkansas Development District, a non-profit corporation dedicated to the socio-economic development of a ten-county area in the Razorback State.

Under the proposal, the sponsors would construct in Hot Springs—a city of 50,000 people well known for its thermal baths and national park—a building to the Smithsonian's specifications, and lease it to the Institution for 99 years at a total cost of \$1, with the option of renewal as desired.

President Signs Bill Establishing Wilson Center

Congress passed and President Johnson signed a bill late last month to establish within the Smithsonian a Woodrow Wilson Center for Scholars—the culmination of seven years of work by the Woodrow Wilson Memorial Commission. "Under the guidance of a distinguished Board of Trustees, I am confident that the Woodrow Wilson International Center will further the ideals of scholarly excellence and of international understanding that guided the life and work of the twenty-eighth President of the United States," Mr. Johnson said at the signing.

The President first espoused the idea of such a center in his speech at the Smithsonian Bicentennial Convocation in 1965. He said at that time, "We can support Secretary Ripley's dream of creating a center here at the Smithsonian where great scholars from every nation will come and collaborate."

Location of the official memorial to the nation's twenty-eighth President is expected to be on Pennsylvania Avenue.

The development group also would furnish all utilities and insurance on the building, provide specified security, and assume all operating costs, including the salaries of the professional and technical Smithsonian staff.

The Arkansas group believes the extension of the Smithsonian into a central area of the nation would give a larger percentage of the population a chance to use Smithsonian facilities—the proposal notes that 6 million visitors would be attracted to the center annually.

The Mid-America Center also might be a new base "for the study of indigenous cultures," and it would give the Smithsonian an opportunity "to depart from a conventional approach in design and operation" the proposal states.

At a press conference following receipt of the proposal, the Director of SI's Office of Public Affairs, Frederic M. Phillips, told Arkansas newsmen, "We find the proposal very interesting, and we are happy to join with the people of the Hot Springs area in giving it serious study."

A couple of weeks ago, Frank A. Taylor, Charles Blitzer, and John Dobkin represented Secretary Ripley in exploratory talks with the development group. Governor Winthrop Rockefeller, a supporter of the proposal, took part in the discussions.

Following this meeting, a study of all aspects of the subject has been undertaken by Brian O'Doherty, a consultant for the Smithsonian. Areas to be looked at will include feasibility of the project, potential location, purpose, and design, possible audiences, financial aspects and other related matters.

O'Doherty—a former art critic for the *New York Times*, a native of Ireland, and a consultant for the Smithsonian's proposed Exhibit for the Blind a few years ago—plans an exhaustive three-month study of the Hot Springs area, the ten-county region and the state.

"If I knew what I was going to look for and what I was going to get," he told a local newspaperman, "I would be a

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Ripley to Open Zoo Talk Series

Secretary Ripley will open a year-long lecture series on "Our Wild Animal Resources" with an historical review of man's use and misuse of wild animals on November 25 at 8:15 in the Zoo Elephant House.

Sponsored by the Friends of the National Zoo, the series will include seven monthly lectures on such subjects as conservation, responsible treatment of wild animals, and misuse of animals by vested interests.

Further information on the series and other Friends activities is available from Robert Mason on 5811.

Art Guide Program Aims To Produce Professionals

by Benjamin Ruhe

An innovative information guide program is being operated by the Office of Academic Programs to interest students in becoming art museum professionals. It is part of the continuing Smithsonian attempt to provide new and improved visitor services.

The pilot project has been under way at the National Collection of Fine Arts since the start of summer. It will run one year.

An elite group of nine collegians from around the country completed the 13-week summer phase of the program. They worked full time and were paid a stipend. When the academic year began in September, 15 students from Washington area schools were recruited for the fall term. They are putting in a 12-hour week. A third group will be recruited for the spring semester.

Guiding visitors around is the principal duty for the students. But they do much more. They take their turn manning information desks. By their presence, they augment the security force. They attend seminars. And they do research in the library.

The summer contingent completed the term by preparing and delivering illustrated lectures to their fellow guides and to interested outsiders. Ellen Gross, of Cornell, delivered a talk on the Washington school of color painters that drew a prominent member of the school, Paul Reed, along with James Harithas, director of the Corcoran Gallery of Art, among others. The paper will be published in an art magazine.

lished in an art magazine.

All of the reports are kept on file for reference and for the use of docents and incoming guide classes. A number of the papers will serve as the basis for honors theses.

Laurel Arnold, a Mount Holyoke College student, did her paper on artist Jasper Johns. Why Johns? "Because I didn't understand him." Does she now understand him? "No." Miss Arnold's lecture about the painter was highly perceptive.

Linda Rozen of George Washington chose New York's Jack Youngerman to study. "I like his paintings, they make me happy," she explained.

Miss Rozen and Brian Murtagh, a Georgetown graduate now attending George Washington Law, are the only fall holdovers from the summer program. The current group includes four students from George Washington, three from the University of Maryland, and two each from Trinity, Howard, American University and Georgetown.

Smartly clad in blue blazers, the guides themselves offer visitors knowledgeable help. But each guide is also required to carry information request slips to supply to visitors whose questions cannot be answered. The student must research the question and type up a reply.

As program supervisor Patricia H. Chieffo points out, the queries can be knotty.

"How old are the trees in the courtyard?" was one of them. Answer: Civil War era. Research failed to produce a more precise answer.



Mount Holyoke student Laurel Arnold explains a painting by Richard Linder to two young tourists at the National Collection of Fine Arts.

"What is the significance of the ball held in Jonah's hand in the Ryder painting?" was another. Diane Arkin, now at the University of Chicago, spent four hours researching that one. Her answer, in brief: The ball represents divinity and sovereignty. It is a traditional medieval religious symbol.

Designed with the long-term goal of attracting the brightest young art majors to museum careers, the innovative project has the valuable short-range effect of providing the short-staffed NCFCA with additional help.

Mrs. Chieffo sums up: "It has been terribly successful. The minimal and striped modern paintings offend many visitors. We've gotten many letters from the public saying that the students helped to educate them about contemporary art."

Watson In Japan To Establish Bird Treaty

Dr. George Watson, curator of vertebrate zoology, is in Japan this month representing the United States at a meeting to establish a migratory bird treaty between the two nations. The ornithologist will also consult with scientists in Thailand, India, Greece, the UAR, and Great Britain before returning November 18.

Other Smithsonian travelers for November include:

Dr. Francis S. L. Williamson, Ecology, in Poland to explore opportunities for cooperative research, and in France and England to confer with International Biology Program officials.

Dr. Lee M. Talbot, Ecology, in India, Pakistan, and Pacific Islands to develop cooperative research programs in connection with the SI Foreign Currency Program and the IBP.

Dr. Eugene Knez, Anthropology, in Pakistan to develop an anthropological program under the Foreign Currency Program.

Robert M. Vogel, Mechanical and Civil Engineering, attending a conference on "The Future of Industrial Archaeology," at Bath University, England.

Victor G. Springer, Fishes, studying blennoid fish specimens in various museums in Holland, England, Austria, and Germany.

Wilcomb E. Washburn, American Studies, attending a conference on "Nautical Science in the XV and XVI Centuries" in Coimbra, Portugal, and studying archival records in Spain related to the discovery of America.

Carl H. Scheele, Philately, in Mexico to attend an international philatelic exposition and supervise installation of an SI exhibit there.

Staff Rates Set For 'Star' Benefit

Special staff rates will be offered for the Washington premiere of "Star!" which will take place November 7 at the Warner Theater for benefit of the Smithsonian Associates' scholarship fund.

A champagne supper, with showing of the costumes from the movie, is available in MHT before the film. Regular prices for the event are \$7.50 for the movie only or \$15 for movie and dinner.

The Associates will provide around 1,000 scholarships for deserving Washington area youngsters this year to participate in courses given at the Smithsonian.

Another bargain the group is offering the staff is special membership rates. Single membership is \$5 per year, double \$10, and family \$15. For further information on Associates' programs, phone 5157.

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Freer Portrait Show Honors NPG

A small but highly select exhibition of old Japanese and Chinese portrait painting has been put on display by the Freer Gallery of Art.

The showing honors the National Portrait Gallery.

Selected from the museum's permanent collection, the Freer exhibition ranges over eight centuries of Oriental artistic expression and covers a variety of painting styles.

A number of the works have rarely been seen by the public. Some of the

paintings are realistic while others are idealized renderings executed, in some cases, hundreds of years after the death of the subject.

Dr. Harold P. Stern, Assistant Director of the Freer, says of the display:

"As a complement to the opening of the National Portrait Gallery, our exhibition at the Freer provides an exquisite and illuminating look at the magnificent portrait traditions of the East reaching back to the 11th century. Only the superb work of our Japanese conservator,

Takashi Sugiura, made it possible to show some of these paintings for which their delicate state made prior exhibition unfeasible."

Two matching Sung Dynasty portraits from the 11th century are the oldest masterworks represented. Very rare and very valuable, these Chinese album leaves were originally stored in a volume and taken out only for examination. The portraits are of the venerable gentlemen Fen P'ing and Wang Huan but the name of the artist, or artists, is unknown.

A striking portrait of the Japanese Confucian scholar Sato Issai (1772-1859) by one of his artist pupils, Watanabe Kazan (1783-1841), is the most recent work. Kazan was a Nanga School artist noted for his realistic portraiture.

The likeness is one of three almost duplicate versions of Issai done by Kazan. The other two portraits remain in Japan and are registered as important art objects.

Issai himself described the Freer portrait across its top. A precise translation of the classical calligraphy awaits deciphering by Freer experts.

The remaining paintings in the exhibition are:

¶ A delicate portrait of the Japanese priest Muso Kokushi (1275-1351) created as a hanging scroll and dating from the 15th century.

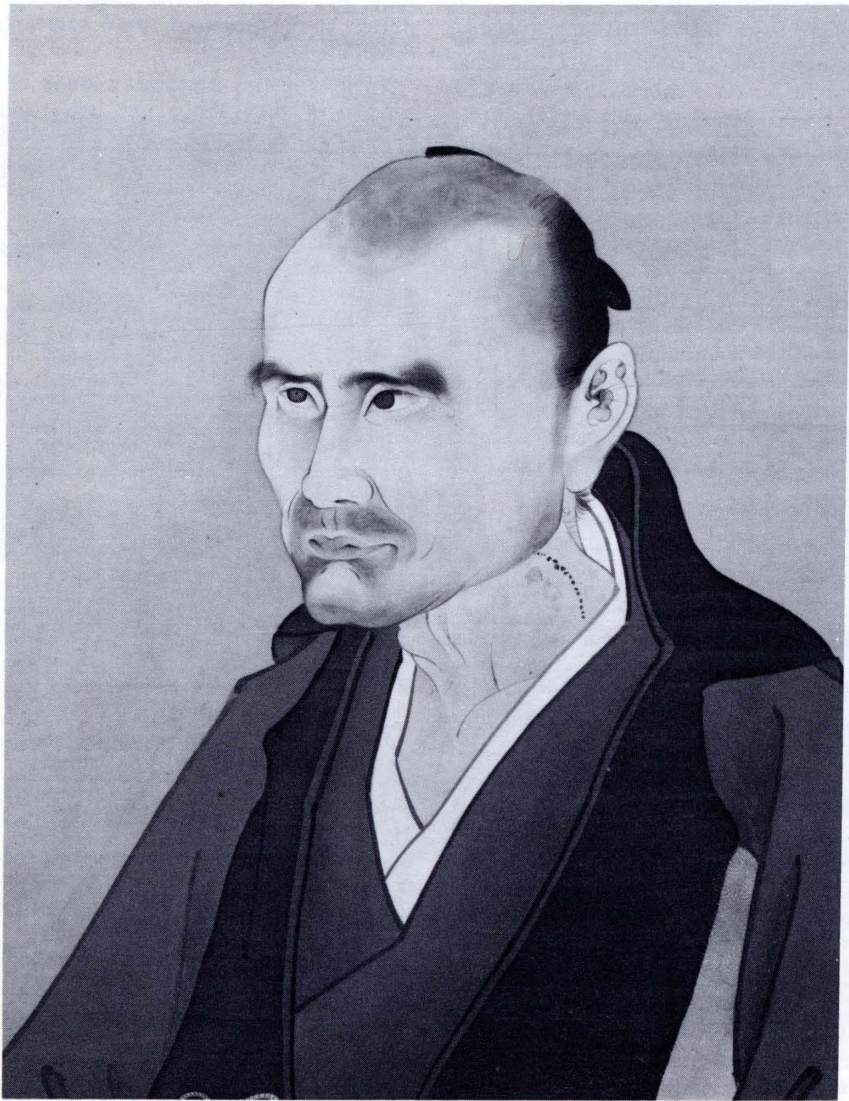
¶ A scene from the drama "The West Chamber" showing a lady with her lover and their maid go-between. This Chinese Ch'ing Dynasty work is dated 17th-18th Centuries.

¶ A Portrait of Prince Shotoku Taishi (572-621) at age 14, portrayed as Jizo—The Japanese work is of the Namboku-Cho period and dates to the 14th Century.

¶ An elaborately decorative Japanese portrait of Fujiwara No Kamatari (614-669) from the late 14th Century.

¶ "Shih-te Laughing at the Moon," by Chang Lu (1464-1536). Painted during the Ming Dynasty in China, it mixes profundity with humor in characteristic Zen fashion.

¶ A Japanese portrait of the long-haired priest Kao-feng Yuan-Miao (1238-1295) by Chuan Chinko, from the Ashikaga Period of the mid-15th Century.



Detail from a portrait of Confucian scholar Sato Issai by Watanabe Kazan, part of a special exhibition of portraiture at the Freer.

Picturesque Bhutan Poses For Mrs. Ripley's Camera



Bhutanese mule and muleteer on the trail in northern Bhutan.



Mrs. Ripley crossing a river on the trail in northern Bhutan, elevation about 11,500 feet.



Secretary Ripley describes the size of a rare bird to His Majesty the King of Bhutan.

Secretary and Mrs. Ripley spent the month of September on an ornithological expedition to remote Bhutan. Before the trip Mrs. Ripley received instruction in photography from the National Geographic Society (See June TORCH). The excellent results of that instruction are shown on this page. The pictures, all of which were taken by Mrs. Ripley except the one in which she appears, are courtesy of her and the National Geographic.



Indian road workers celebrate an autumn festival with a dance, as the Ripleys are enroute to Thimbu, capital of Bhutan.



Not Shangri-La, but the castle of Lingshi Dzong at an elevation of 14,500 feet in northwest Bhutan. In foreground at left is the Ripley camp.

Storage Area Added

(Continued from page 1.)

stairway to reveal the impressive natural oak below. The SI Cabinet Shop has built new panelling to match in the upstairs hall, as well as appropriate mouldings for inside the offices.

Flooring has been replaced with pine such as was used in the building originally. Electric light fixtures patterned after early gas lamps have been fashioned by Gordon Dentry to combine the authentic look with modern convenience. Doors, which were once lower with transoms over them, have been kept modern-day height but given false transoms.

Lloyd Herman, assistant to Mr. Taylor, has coordinated the project. Dr. Richard Howland, special assistant to the Secretary, advised on how to make the offices authentic, and photographs from the archives were consulted for the original appearance.

"The Buildings Management Division, and the Cabinet Shop in particular, should be commended for their very skilled and creative work in this restoration project," Mr. Taylor noted. "They have taken great pains and used considerable ingenuity to assure that an authentic appearance is achieved, and the assistance of Richard Howland was invaluable

in this effort. Their work will help draw attention to this building as architecturally and historically important in its own right."

Acquisition of additional off-the-Mall space will give the Institution additional storage area for uses similar to Silver Hill. Building 3 of the former Federal Records Center at Alexandria was turned over to the Smithsonian by GSA in July. Assistant Secretary for Science Sidney Galler is chairman of a committee to determine utilization of its 100,000 square feet.

The Armed Forces Institute of Pathology, home of the old Medical Museum, is due to be torn down by February to make way for the Hirshhorn Gallery. Final drawings for the new art museum should be completed by January, Engle says, and a contractor is expected on the site by sometime this spring.

Restoration of the Smithsonian's other new art facility, the Renwick Gallery in the old Court of Claims Building, is almost complete. The construction contractor is scheduled to be finished by the end of the year. After that, however, there remains about a year of preparation by the Buildings Management Division before the gallery will be ready to open to the public.

At the Zoo, construction is proceeding on a new animal hospital and research building. It should be ready by next June. Final designs are now being made for a multi-climate house, and construction should begin around July.

Mid-America

(Continued from page 1.)

month ahead. I want to learn what I have to learn from the people themselves."

He envisions an entirely new concept in educational exhibitions, and in the words of Mr. Blitzer, "the Smithsonian staff is hoping O'Doherty will invent a new kind of museum."

From O'Doherty's survey will come detailed findings that will help the Institution reach a "go" or "no go" decision. Results of the study will be presented to the Board of Regents when they meet at the SI in January.

One member of the Board, Arkansas Senator J. William Fulbright, is reported to have given this endorsement to the proposal:

"As a Regent of the Smithsonian, I feel the need of expanding the scope of the Institution and I am of the opinion it would be of the best interest to the public and the Smithsonian. The project has my full support."

If the Regents approve of establishment of the Mid-America Center, it would be at least two years before it opened its doors in Hot Springs, according to Mr. Taylor.

Shops to Show Curators' Books

MNH authors will be honored in a special display of curatorial publications sponsored by the Museum Bookshops in MNH November 26 through December 31.

Included in the exhibit, which was organized by Bookshops manager Florence Lloyd, will be original photos, models, and materials used in the books' preparation. The publications, which can be purchased in the Shops at a 10 percent employee discount, will be displayed to acquaint museum visitors with SI research activities.

Among the authors included will be Paul Desautels, Mason Hale, Clifford Evans and Betty Meggers, S. Dillon Ripley, Stanwyn Shetler, George Watson, Philip Ritterbush, John Napier, Nicholas Hotton, and John Ewers. Others will be added later.



PICTURE PUZZLE—Chen Yew of Malaysia likes bridges. Or maybe it's America he likes, or maybe he just likes to paint. All Robert Vogel, above, curator of the Division of Mechanical and Civil Engineering, is really sure of is that he is heir to a charmingly primitive painting, on a sort of naugahyde, of the Verrazano Narrows Bridge, its designer, and such facts as "6 cars pass go and come, both upstairs and lower road." The painting, addressed simply to "Washington Museum, Washington, U.S.A.," went first to NCEA, without any enclosed explanation. It was passed on to Vogel, who is not sure what its ultimate fate will be but finds it too appealing to relegate to a file of bridge drawings.

Melson Chief Investigator On ESSA's Oceanographer

William G. Melson, supervisor of the Division of Petrology, last month went to sea as principal investigator aboard one of the nation's newest and most expensively equipped oceanographic ships, the Environmental Science Services Administration's *Oceanographer*.

It marked the first time ESSA's U.S. Coast and Geodetic Survey had turned over a vessel for the complete use of the Smithsonian, reports Dr. I. E. Wallen, head of the SI Office of Oceanography and Limnology and a member of the inter-agency committee that determines use of the ship.

Dr. Melson used the ship to study the petrology of the ocean crust near the Juan de Fuca Ridge in the Pacific. With

him from the Smithsonian were Thomas Simkin of the Oceanographic Sorting Center and Harold Banks of Petrology.

Dr. Melson studied the structure of the oceanic crust through rock dredging, piston coring, bathymetry (depth measurement), magnetics, gravimetry (density) and bottom photography.

On board the *Oceanographer* is \$1.5 million worth of computer equipment for immediate processing of data, a great plus for a scientist faced with the need to analyze findings.

Cooperating in the cruise were scientists from Princeton, Oregon State University, University of British Columbia, University of Washington, and the Seattle office of ESSA.

82-Year-Old Wetmore Has New Volume Just Published

"As General MacArthur said about old soldiers, we just fade away," Alexander Wetmore jokes about Smithsonian Secretaries. "I'm pleased at our longevity."

But the 82-year-old Wetmore, like his fellow former Secretaries, shows no signs of even fading. Volume two of his definitive reference work, *The Birds of Panama*, came off the presses in September, and at least one more volume is in the offing. It will be out "after I get it written. Don't pin me down," he says good-naturedly.

Dr. Wetmore, who was Secretary from 1925-44, began doing field work in Panama in 1946 and spent two to three months there each year until 1966. He is looking forward to another expedition early next year. "I am so much at home there that Panama is almost my second country," he says. He has explored it from north to south, including some of its outlying islands.

On a recent expedition, Dr. Wetmore went into the mountains by helicopter after advance men set up camp. On one of his first trips he went up the partly uncharted Rio Jaqué by dugout canoe. "Now we use outboards. In 1946 we rode horseback. Now we use jeeps. So times change," he observes.

Dr. Wetmore is writing his book from field notes arranged into looseleaf volumes by species, and from hundreds of study skins he brought back from expeditions and has stored in MNH. The completed project "will be a reference work that others may use for further writing and study. I am attempting to present a summary of what types of birds there are on the Isthmus and where and under what conditions they were sighted. Much work remains to be done," he notes.

The former Secretary, whose kindly face, white hair and posture seem to call for a clerical collar, has made the birds of Latin America the major research interest of his lifetime. He finds

the fauna of Panama especially intriguing.

Geologists say that South America was once separated from Panama by a strait at the Isthmus, he explains. After the continents were joined the Isthmus became the crossing point for migrating species, so it is interesting to see what has developed there.

Dr. Wetmore does not limit his attention to living species. Fossil birds of North America also demand his time. Writing about them "is a relief from this other," he says, nodding toward his Panama manuscript. "I suppose I've named as many fossil birds as living kinds, maybe 200 or more of the two combined."

Identifying bird fossils usually demands working from mere fragments, but the challenge does not shake Dr. Wetmore. "It's just like using a typewriter," he contends. "You know where the keys are."

With field research dating back to the last century, Dr. Wetmore probably knows where the keys are as well as any man.



Alexander Wetmore examines study skins collected on his expeditions for his next volume of *The Birds of Panama*.



ON HIS WAY—Smithsonian end Jimmy Dawkins takes a pass from quarterback Alan Avery and is on his way for a touchdown in a 14-2 Institution win over Federal City College. The SI team has started the season with a 3-1 record in the Federal Recreation League. They play Saturday mornings on the Ellipse.

Photo by Mary Krug