Anacostia Exhibit Features Blacks in Frontier History

By Johnnie Douthit

The Smithsonian’s Anacostia Neighborhood Museum opened its first Bicentennial Curator’s Special Exhibit — “Blacks on the Western frontier” — on February 9.

The opening celebrated the beginning of Black History Month. The show will continue through June 1.

Using photographs, silk screens, text and artifacts, the exhibition tells the story of the blacks who explored, conquered and settled the western portion of America. Contrary to the views of many historians, blacks played an active and vital role in the settlement of the West. In the 16th century, blacks were with the Spanish explorers of the Southwest and were among the first settlers in California. They founded towns in other western states, such as Kansas, Oklahoma, Nevada and Washington. Eight thousand of the 35,000 men who rode the cattle trails were black. Four army units, the 9th and 10th Calvairies, and the 24th and 25th Infantry, protected the settlers and land of America’s frontier. These black men were government agents and marshals, as well as criminals. Many black adventurers and homesteaders flocked to the frontier and although discrimination and injustice followed them, many were able to settle and build successful lives.

John R. Kinard, Director of the Anacostia Neighborhood Museum, stated, “This exhibition represents a hallmark of research, skill, design, and creativity. It clearly establishes the Anacostia Neighborhood Museum as a forerunner in the production of exhibitions that tell a more complete story about many of the important epochs of American history.

“Blacks have struggled during difficult times to, in the words of the Founding Fathers, ‘establish justice, insure domestic tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general welfare, and secure the blessings of liberty for all people,’ for all times, wherever we found ourselves. Our contributions have been, and continue to be, parallel at least to the best efforts of others who also seek justice and peace.

“In addition, we have moved across great stretches of water and land to establish cities and towns on this continent with clear and precise vision, struggling to create a place where people can live together in peace.

“This exhibition has been created to spotlight the struggles, the achievements, and the compelling desire that we continue to explore and establish.”

The Museum has produced six copies of the exhibition to travel throughout the country in celebration of the Bicentennial. The Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service will handle the bookings and the copy will be on display at the Washington Gas Light Company from February 10 to February 28. The company is joining the Museum in the opening of the show at the Museum.

TV Special

One of the most popular exhibits at the Smithsonian Institution, the Hope Diamond, will be the basis of the third Smithsonian special in the current television series.

“The Legendary Curse of the Hope Diamond” will be telecast on Thursday, March 27, from 10 to 11 p.m., on the CBS-TV network. This “docudrama” is drawn from “Father Struck It Rich,” the autobiography of Eula Walsh McLean, who owned the Hope Diamond for more than 35 years until 1947. The hour-long presentation is produced by the David L. Wolper Organization for the DuPont Cablevision of Television.

Ripley to Head WWF-U.S. Board

Secretary Ripley has been elected chairman of the board of World Wildlife Fund-U. S. Appeal.

He succeeds Ambassador Francis L. Kellogg, who retains his position as President of WWF-U.S. Mr. Ripley was one of the founders of the U.S. affiliate of World Wildlife Fund and currently serves on the international board as well.

The Fund is an international conservation organization which since 1961 has financed more than $14.6 million for ecological research and conservation projects to save endangered wildlife and natural areas. It has worked closely with the Smithsonian in the field of ecological research, jointly sponsoring the current study of the ecology of the tiger in Nepal and a symposium on human impoverishment held last April. WWF-U.S. has also lent its financial support to and collaborated with the International Council for Bird Preservation, of which Mr. Ripley is president.

President Garfield on March 4, 1881.

Final cost of the building amounted to $315,400, though in subsequent years extensive roof repairs were necessary and galleries and mezzanines were added to form additional floor space.

Plans for restoring the A & I Building as closely as practical to its original configuration include the placing of encaustic tiles in the rotunda area. Encaustic tiles have inlaid designs fused into the tile by heat.

“The original encaustic tiles, when they became worn, were discarded,” Mr. Perrot noted. “As encaustic tiles have not been manufactured since the 1930s, this alone should prove to be a challenging task.”

In the center of the rotunda the installation of a fountain is also planned — probably a cast iron one from the 1870-1880 era.

Paint samples from the 1880-1890s found in the Warwick Collection of Business America at the National Museum of History and Technology are being used to find wall colors appropriate for the use of the building and the period of its construction.

The original west entrance will again be opened as a main entrance eventually leading outside into a Victorian garden on the west side of the building. The east entrance will be refurbished, the south entrance will be opened for use as an emergency exit, and a public elevator will be installed in the northeast corridor.

The general contractor retained for the restoration work in the building is Crandon-Walsh Construction Company, Inc.

The design for the project was developed by James M. Murphy, chief; William L. Thomas, architect, and staff members of the Smithsonian’s Engineering and Design Branch of the Office of Facilities Planning and Engineering Services, which formerly was the Engineering and Construction Division of the Buildings Management Department.

A view of the east exhibit hall in the Arts and Industries Building, taken in the 1880s, shows original wall stenciling above the arches in the hall and beyond in the rotunda. Stencils like these will once again be applied to the A & I walls during the renovation. Some items on display then were the “John Bull” engine (extreme right foreground), presently on exhibit in the National Museum of History and Technology; farm implements; carts; and many others.
The Upward Mobility Committee of the Smithsonian Women’s Council has decided on its objectives for the year. Any Smithsonian employee interested in helping the committee pursue its goals is welcome. Contact Joanne Scherer, ext. 5091, for time and meeting place.

The committee plans to accumulate data on Smithsonian personnel activities several years ago. The programs are presently concerned with GS or WG positions 2 through 7 and do not include college-level mobility, which is for grade levels GS-7 and up. Normally, it will try to provide positions to museums and organizations and to involve all programs but do not want to give up their present slots. Financing of all programs must come from each museum or division and represents a three-year commitment for each slot. OEO is in the process of hiring an administrator for the UM program, thus broadening the amount of assistance they can offer each museum in its own special way.

Signs of Progress

One very happy recipient of an UM position in the Museum of History and Technology is Mrs. Pryor, a former Janitor (WG-3) who had been employed at the Renwick Gallery, NCPA for about two years. Her new position obtained through the UM program is as Museum Attendant. The target position as an Exhibition Specialist can be reached, non-competitively from one grade to the next, up to GS-7, possibly within four years.

Mrs. Pryor feels this good fortune could not have happened to her at a more opportune time as she is also an urban homemaker. Thus the skills of carpentry, painting, janitorial, museum, and exhibit maintenance included in her training as an Exhibits Specialist will help her to do most of the interior repairs and refurbishing on her homestead.

We of the Women’s Council applaud the Institution for its program. "It allows us a chance to reach our fullest potential through the new Upward Mobility Program. We only wish that we could get more participants like her in this program.

Cancer Film

The Women’s Council is planning to show two films on breast and uterine cancer, both under 30 minutes, on March 14. If you have any questions about the films please contact Francine Berkowitz. Her phone number is Extension 5388.

Upward Mobility Committee Sets Objectives for 1975

By Joanna Scherer and Edith Martin

A & I Building

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Consulting architects for style, color, and interior decoration are the High Newell Jacobson and his associate, Paul Pavlicek. The refurbishing of the building and display of items from the Centennial Exhibitions of 1876 or items from that period will suggest by inference how far we have come in the last 100 years," said Mr. Perrot.

Robert M. Vogel, Chairman of the Department of Science and Technology, SI, comments that the SMITHSONIAN is in charge of coordinating the exhibition. Displays such as camp Aguila, early petroleum lamps, and steam engines will show the nation's growth. Even an early Otto steam elevator is planned for installation in one of the halls. Other exhibits will include furniture, manufactured goods, a railroad locomotive, civil engineering items, and many more.

Some exhibits could be classified into three types: actual items displayed at the Centennial Exhibition, twins of items at the fair in cases where the original is gone but an item just like it is available, and items that were made in the same period of time but were not on exhibit—things that might have been there," Mr. Vogel said. "The setting up of exhibits is a group effort and a central committee has been formed and meets regularly to go over any problems regarding space, authenticity, and availability of items, working with the Museum's curatorial staff. We must decide practically item by item what goes into the exhibit and what does not.

Items From 1876

"One common misconception is that the Smithsonian received all of the items discussed at the fair in 1876. Actually, since the Smithsonian was given more ethnological and fish specimens and a fishing gear and related items, rather than saleable items. Such saleable items were recovered by the exhibitors in most cases. Foreign exhibitors left many objects that would have cost more to ship than their country than the value of the item." One of the pieces that appeared at the Centennial in 1876 and exhibited in the A & I Building is a model of the United States Revenue Cutter "Aetna," which is 40 feet long and was used at Annapolis as a training device after the exhibit. "Aetna" was built at Annapolis exhibited at the Centennial Fair, then taken to Annapolis, where it was used as a training device. It is from the Naval Academy and is resting in exchange for the loan of the model.

In some cases the deterioration of items on loan shows that the fair items must be handled carefully and it is necessary for display since the items should look as they did at the exhibition in 1876. If an owner doesn’t want the item restored, it cannot be used. Mr. Perrot commented: "This will be a good chance to compare the Centennial year to the Bicentennial year, to see how far we have come, and to promote the nation's interests in maintaining our architectural heritage and preserving for the present and future enjoyment of the American people, such objects as the 'whaling ship' and other valuable items ." This is a splendid building; it has charm, grandeur, and features, and is colorful. It has served the Institution well for nearly 100 years. With some love and care, it will continue to be an adornment to the Mall and a useful member of the "Smithsonian quadrangle ."

Estes Succeeds Collins

John E. Estes, Assistant Director of the Department of Change Service, Department of Change, Acting Director, effective January 1. He succeeds Joseph E. Klippel, who retired December 31 after 41 years at the Smithsonian.

Mrs. Harvey, Veteran SI Employee, Dies

Mrs. Myrtle S. Harvey, custodial laborer at SI, died on December 3, 1974, after a federal career of 33 years and 10 months, including 26 years and 4 months at the Smithsonian.

Mrs. Harvey came to the Smithsonian on August 2, 1948, as a custodial laborer, she was promoted to the foreman's position on February 26, 1956, and remained in that capacity until her death.

During her employment with SI, Mrs. Harvey received many letters of appreciation, commendations and performance awards. For the past two years, 1973 and 1974, she received a Sustained Superior Performance Award in recognition of her outstanding performance.

Taylor Is Officer Of Dunlap Society

Joshua C. Taylor, Director of the National Collection of Fine Arts, has been named President of the recently formed Dunlap Society and Chairman of the Advisory Council of the Society. The Dunlap Society was formed out of a concern for the neglect of studies in American art and the lack of research and visual material in that field. It is named after William Dunlap, who, writing in the 1830s, was the first historian to take pride in, and pay serious attention to, American art. The National Endowment for the Humanities and the Dunlap Society recently announced a project to enable America's art heritage to become more widely known and appreciated. The project, entitled "Visual Documentation of American Art: The Nation's Capital," will be funded by a $50,000 grant from NEH and will develop a complete visual record of a select number of buildings in the nation's capital.

The project will eventually become the core of a much larger central archive of visual documentation of all aspects of American art including painting, sculpture, and folk art.

Dr. Williamson Named to Post In Alaska Cabinet

The Director of the Smithsonian's Chesapeake Bay Center for Environmental Studies, Dr. Francis S. L. Williamson, has been appointed Commissioner of Health and Social Services by Alaska Governor Jay Hammond.

Dr. Williamson, 48, has been granted a leave of absence from the Center, which he has headed since 1968.

Dr. Williamson said the Alaska cabinet post involves responsibility for a $79 million annual budget, amounting to more than 20 percent of the state appropriation. His department includes about 15,000 employees.

Dr. Williamson earned his doctorate of sciences at the Johns Hopkins School of Hygiene and Public Health where he specialized in the ecology of disease. He attended George Washington University, San Diego State College, and the University of California at Berkeley.

His association with Alaska dates to 1955 when he served as biologist with the Arctic Health Research Laboratory. After leaving the state in 1964, Dr. Williamson became frequent visitor to continue his research into bird populations of Anchita Island. He has published a number of scientific papers on the subject of birds.

He is a former editor of The Condor, journal of the Cooper Ornithological Sociey, and Bioscience.

During Dr. Williamson's absence J. Kevin Sullivan will be Acting Director of the Center. On January 30 Dr. Williamson received from David Challinoff, Assistant Secretary for Science at the Smithsonian, the Secretary's Gold Medal for Exceptional Service. The award carries a $1,000 cash gift.

Dr. Williamson served as principal investigator for a long-term study of the Rhode River supported by the National Science Foundation and conducted by the Chesapeake Research Consortium. In addition to the Smithsonian center, the consortium includes the Virginia Institute of Marine Sciences, and research institutes operated by the Johns Hopkins University and the University of Maryland.

Before departing for Alaska, Dr. William­son was a resident of Arnold, Md. in Anne Arundel County.

Chirlin Joins Staff As CBCES Analyst

Gary R. Chirlin has joined the staff of the Chesapeake Bay Center for Environmental Studies as Biological Scientist.

Under the direction of Dr. David L. Cor­rell, Director for the Temperate Zone of the Smithsonian’s Environmental Sciences Program, Mr. Chirlin is preparing mathematical models for the Center’s study of the Rhode River watershed ecosystem. A native of Kenmore, N. Y., Mr. Chirlin holds a master’s degree from the Mas­sachusetts Institute of Technology in civil engineering with specialization in water resources. His Bachelor of Science degree is also from MIT.
The Smithsonian Institution operates a general purpose information processing system called SELGEM to help manage information in the context of the Conservation Analytical History and Technology. Robert Organ and Dr. Robert Chenhall told of the history of SELGEM in the National Museum of Natural History more than 2 million specimens are referenced through the SELGEM modular structure, its sequence-independence of application programs, its independence from specific configurations of data and from particular computer centers provides a built-in network of potential use in interchanging of system ideas and computer programs. MESH is by and for techniques-oriented people. The focus is on "how to" rather than "what to." Many problems of information exchange become trivial from the technical point of view. Many formidable problems concern the system and user semantics remain a challenge as do the future development of SELGEM.

The importance of computerization continues to be much discussed, with/without runs as follows:

Depending on the size, condition, and variability of a collection, objectives can often be met without the computer, but because users fail to see the computer in a context of implementation, they may reflect on your informational capabilities and responsiveness. MESH is not a clearing house for museum data.

One MESH product is a newsletter that provides SELGEM programmers and system users with information about another Inter-user communication provides an exchange of ideas, programs, and documentation. Distribution of the newsletter is limited to actual SELGEM users. MESH encourages the development of information processing skills for future users.

The belief that enhanced local capability increases threedimensional thrust forward human information exchange becomes signal. The use of SELGEM among museums places on the same format, the problems of information exchange become trivial from the technical point of view. Many formidable problems concern the system and user semantics remain a challenge as do the further development of SELGEM.

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accredited service with the Smithsonian. ZOO
a new shovel at the presentation held January 9 in the Lion's Den. At the same ceremony,

The cataloging, recording, annotating, microfilming, and publishing of the letters and papers of Peale and his immediate fam-
ily will make available to researchers and scholars a vast amount of material on the early American portrait, painter, and
nationalist.

The Peale documents consist of autobiographies, museum accounts, diaries, books, letterbooks, farm accounts, and lectures that cover approximately the years 1763 to 1826. Letters of his sons, Titian, Rubens, Franklin, Raphaelle, and Rembrandt, con-
tinue the record through 1888.

"Scholars of American science and art have long awaited the publication of the Peale papers for their wealth of new infor-
mation on one of the most admirable figures in America's early history, Charles Willson Peale.

The sponsorship of this project by the National Portrait Gallery seems most ap-
propriate since Charles Willson Peale in 1794 founded in Philadelphia a museum that was the first portrait gallery in the New World, as well as a museum of natural his-
tory. Peale defined his museum as an effort to 'unite Art and Science.' He also or-
terminated his museum, it is particu-
larly fitting that the National Portrait Gallery include the publication of his letters in its celebra-
tion of the Bicentennial of the Decla-
ration of Independence," Dr. Miller said.

Blood Pressure

in a memorandum November 12, Smith-
oneyographers in the area of American art and cul-
ture. His museum was the first portrait gallery in the New
World, as well as a museum of natural his-
tory, "Con gratulations are extended to the se
employers for their outstanding efforts.

Employees Advised
About Benefits Cards

Because of the great volume of transac-
tions during Open Season for Health Bene-

The interns have diverse backgrounds,

The interns visited their museum placements on a limited basis to orient themselves with the layout of their museum placements and to learn about the functions of their assigned department and the museum as a whole. This spring the internships will be working on a full-time basis, de-
vveloping projects or working on existing programs in areas such as docentry, outreach programs and in-museum education activities.

The interns are Sally Kingsbury and Kelly Coleson, Hirshhorn; Jane North, NPG; Orna Silverman and Robert Hall, NCPA; Laura Lehman and Earl James; Renwick; Kathy Bell and Barbara Meyer, SITES; Marlene Robinson, National Zoological Park; Nancy Lepow, NASN; Gina Morea, OESE; Alice Yelen, Smithsonian Bicentennial Project; and Andrea Kline, NMNH.

Melendez Has Role
In N.M. Festivities

Manuel Melendez, public information of-
ficer for the Division of Performing Arts, was recently invited to participate in the in-
augural festivities for the new governor of New Mexico, Jerry Apodaca. Mr. Melendez was in Santa Fe to sing for the New Year’s Day Mass celebrated in the Santa Fe Cathedral and also for the swearing-in ceremonies in front of the State House of New Mexico. Mr. Melendez, a lyric tenor, was invited to the Washington area with the National Symphony Orchestra, the Washington Cathedral Choir, and will soon be heard on a new recording of the Saint-SAëns “Gloria.”