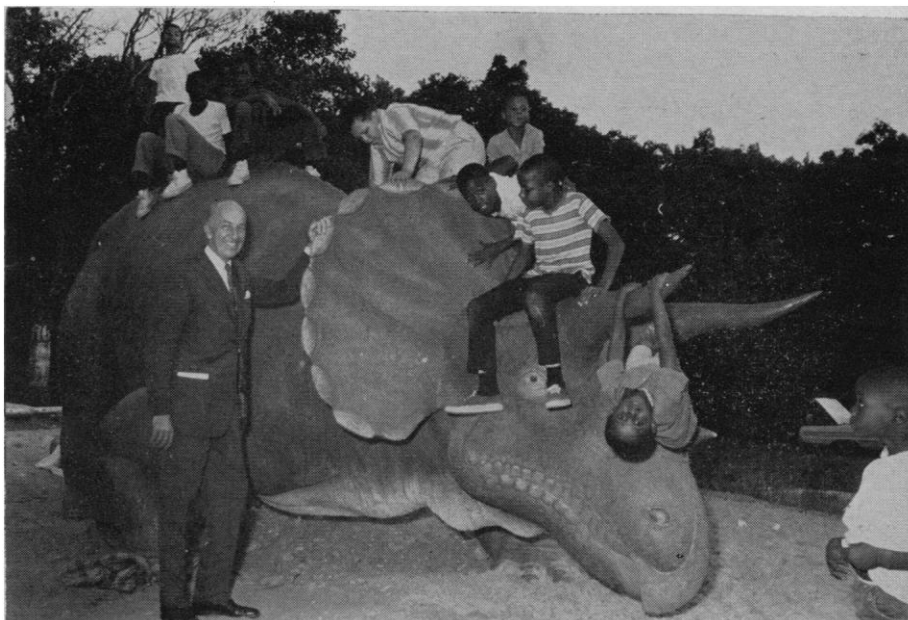


of a general store and post office of the 1890's, where a child can set himself up as storekeeper for the benefit of his friends. There is also a permanent exhibit of skeletons which can be disassembled and assembled.

The activities of the museum are centered around major changing exhibitions. At least two of these, one on Negro history and the other on Africa, seem to have induced neighboring schools to devote greater attention to these subjects. During the past 6 weeks the exhibition "This is Africa" has featured films, lectures, an African food fair, and programs of African drumming, dancing, and singing, as well as a display of African art and artifacts. Most of these artifacts were drawn from sources outside the Smithsonian.

Another feature which may help explain the popularity of the museum in its neighborhood is that neighborhood residents play a large part in running it. This direction comes not only from adults but also from teen-agers. Neighborhood boys helped finish the interior of the museum, and a youth council of 20 members was later established. One member of this council, Joyce Washington, describes the museum as "almost like a home away from home for us." Miss Washington says that the museum is "not like hitting the books; it's educational but it's fun." She thinks the museum gives an important outlet to the energies of neighborhood youth: "We really want people to know there are things we can do besides rock and roll." Some of the members of the youth council have been hired as summer employees of the museum; one of the tasks they have assumed is that of escorting younger neighborhood children on educational tours of the city, including trips to the main museums of the Smithsonian.

The neighborhood museum has acquired a good deal of local momentum, but since the Smithsonian is a low-budget institution, the funding for its Anacostia branch is something of a problem. Running the museum is proving more expensive than had been anticipated (it will probably cost about \$100,000 in its first year), and the desire for additional activities and classes continues to expand. The Irwin-Sweeney-Miller Foundation of Columbus, Indiana, recently gave the neighborhood museum a \$21,000 grant to be matched one-for-one from contributions; the museum has currently raised two-thirds of the necessary sum. In the



Smithsonian Secretary S. Dillon Ripley and some of the users of the Smithsonian's neighborhood museum, shown with "Uncle Beazley." The placid Triceratops spent 3 months beside the neighborhood museum in southeast Washington after its opening; "Uncle Beazley" has since returned to his home in front of the Smithsonian's Museum of Natural History on the Mall.

coming year, the museum is planning to run a large exhibition on Negro history, as well as scientific exhibitions.

The Smithsonian wants to found new neighborhood museums in other sec-

tions of Washington, if it can raise the necessary funds. One of Ripley's hopes in establishing the Anacostia museum has been that other cities will be encouraged to establish their own neigh-

Palomares To Get Desalting Plant

The State Department has announced plans to build a water-desalting plant in Palomares, Spain, where four hydrogen bombs were dropped by accident in 1966 when a B-52 bomber collided with a refueling plane. The desalting plant will be paid for from Defense Department contingency funds; the cost is estimated at \$150,000.

The American gift follows a 2-year study aimed at removing the psychological and political shock of the Palomares mishap. State Department officials said that after consultation with the Spanish Foreign Ministry, it was mutually decided that a desalting plant would be of economic benefit to the Palomares region. At present, the southeastern Spanish village obtains water by cart from surrounding areas.

State Department officials said that there was no evidence of any contamination of freshwater sources as a result of the accident. The U.S. Air Force, however, did settle claims totaling more than \$600,000 to Palomares residents, and fishermen and farmers are still filing lawsuits. When the B-52 crashed, the hydrogen bombs did not explode, but two of them broke open releasing plutonium oxide particles. Fields were affected and one bomb was lost off the coast for 80 days, restricting the operations of fishermen. In a clean-up program, AEC-supervised Air Force teams scraped off the affected topsoil and recovered the lost bomb.

U.S. Charge d'Affaires William W. Walker and Spanish Foreign Minister Maria Castiella signed the agreement for building the desalting plant in Madrid on 25 June. The plant, which will have a 70,000-gallon-a-day capacity will be operated as a public utility. The water will be sold to the villagers for about one-fifth of the present cost of water in the area.—M.M.