

James Shanks Goldsmith

(- 3 Aug 1950)

Goldsmith, James Shanks. On Thursday, August 3, 1950, at his home, 1433 Fairmont st. n.w., James Shanks Goldsmith, beloved husband of Catherine Auldridge Goldsmith, father of Zachariah T. and James L. Goldsmith and Harry B. Goldsmith of Red Bank, N.J. Services at the S.H. Hines Co. Funeral Home, 2901 14th st. n.w., on Monday, August 7, at 10 a.m. Interment Congressional Cemetery.

The Evening Star, March 5, 1950, p. A10

James S. Goldsmith, 87, Dies, On Smithsonian Staff 55 Years



Mr. Goldsmith.

James Shanks Goldsmith, 87, for 55-years a member of the Smithsonian Institution staff, died Thursday night.

Mr. Goldsmith's death came at his home, 1433 Fairmont street N.W., after an illness of two years.

He began working at the National Museum as a messenger when he was 17. He retired in 1935 after more than 30 years as superintendent of buildings and labor.

In 1933, when he reached the legal retirement age of 70, Mr. Goldsmith was given his first extension by President Roosevelt. This was followed by another extension the next year.

During his long tenure, Mr. Goldsmith was in charge of installation of exhibits and directed many improvements in facilities in the nine buildings.

It was all in a day's work when he installed the 80-foot whale in the Natural History Building. He also set up the Theodore Roosevelt African collection.

Mr. Goldsmith was a close associate of Samuel Pierpont Langley, longtime Smithsonian secretary and famous aviation enthusiast. Before and shortly after the turn of the century he helped Mr. Langley in the construction of his power-propelled heavier-than-air machines, his family recalled.

Surviving are his widow, Mrs. Catherine Goldsmith, and three sons, Zachariah T. Goldsmith and James L. Goldsmith, both of the Fairmont street address, and Harry B. Goldsmith, Red Bank, N.J.

Funeral services will be held at 10 a.m. Monday in the Hines funeral home, 2901 Fourteenth street N.W. Burial will be in Congressional Cemetery.

The Washington Post, August 6, 1950, p. M16

J.S. Goldsmith Dies, Museum Superintendent

Funeral services for James Shanks Goldsmith, 87, buildings and labor superintendent at the National Museum who died Thursday at his home, will be held at 10 a.m. Monday at the Hines Funeral Home, 2901 14th st. nw. Burial will be in Congressional Cemetery.

Mr. Goldsmith, who lived at 1433 Fairmont st. nw., had been ill for two years.

His work on the staff of the National museum covered 55 years before he retired in 1935. He started at the age of 17 as a messenger at the museum and in 1905 took over supervision of its buildings and labor.

It was in this capacity that he handled installation of all exhibits in the various, buildings, including that of an 80-foot whale in the Natural History Building. He also set up the Theodore Roosevelt African exhibit. He also put up the museum's exhibits at fairs, including the St. Louis exposition.

Mr. Goldsmith was closely associated in his work with Samuel P. Langley, for many years secretary of the Smithsonian Institution, under which the museum is operated. It was Langley who pioneered in work with heavier-than-air craft.

Surviving Mr. Goldsmith are his widow, Mrs. Catherine Goldsmith and three sons, Zachariah T. Goldsmith and James L. Goldsmith of the Fairmont st. address, and Harry B. Goldsmith of Red Bank, N.J.