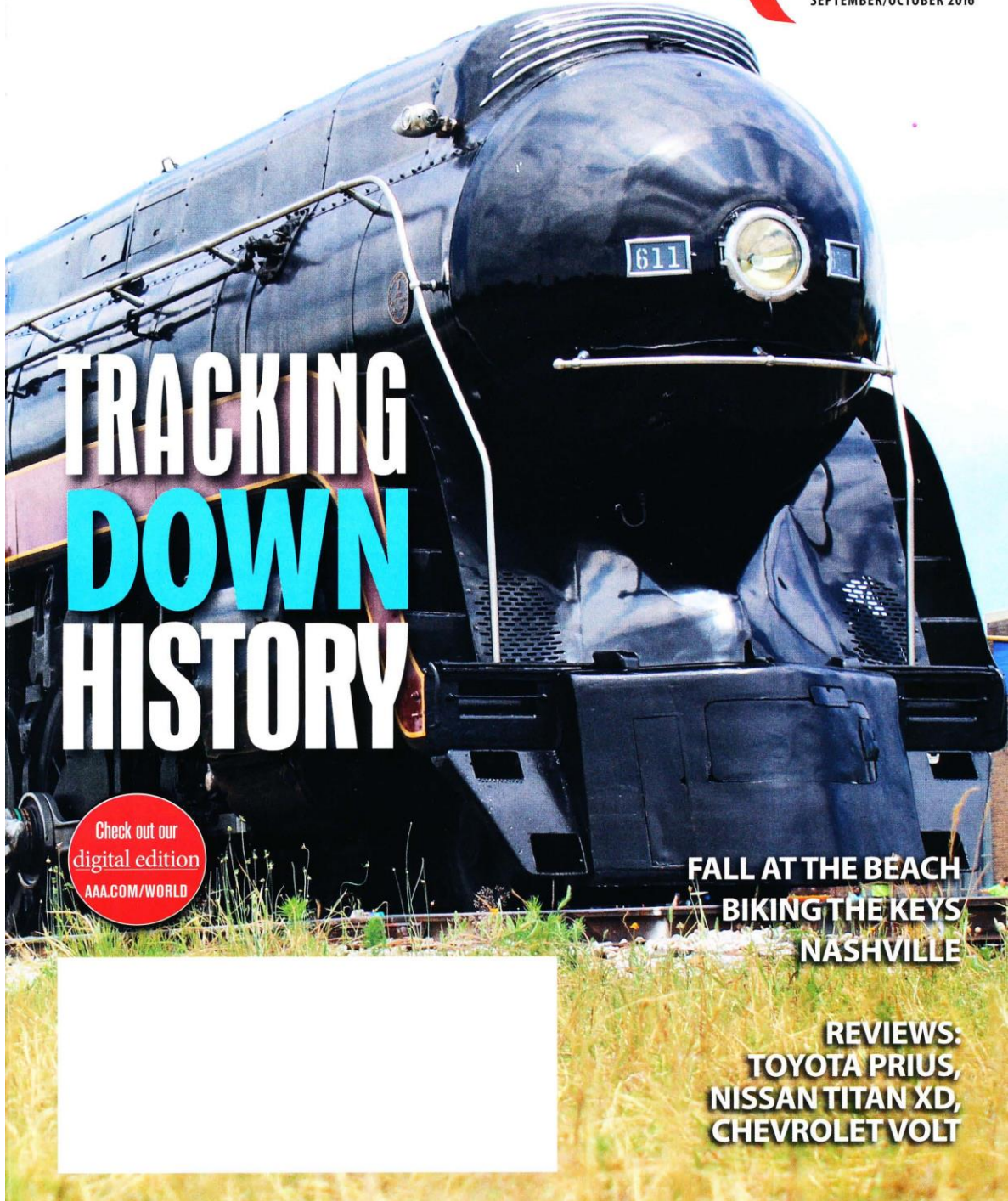


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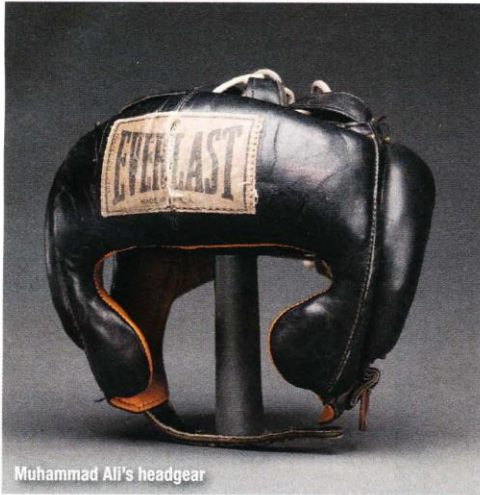
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Smithsonian's Latest Set to Open



COURTESY OF NMAAHC

Muhammad Ali's headgear

The much-anticipated Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture opens to the public September 24, some 13 years after President George W. Bush signed legislation to establish the museum. The opening will be the focus of a three-day festival (September 23–25) showcasing popular music, literature, dance and film.

"We are prepared to offer exhibitions and programs to unite and capture the attention of millions of people worldwide," said museum founding director Lonnie Bunch in a press release announcing the opening. "It will be a place for healing and reconciliation, a place where everyone can explore the story of America through the lens of the African American experience."

The museum will open with 11 inaugural exhibitions that will focus on African American history, culture and community. The three history galleries include the Slavery and Freedom gallery (covering the 15th century through the Reconstruction), which is the centerpiece of the museum, as well as galleries on the Era of Segregation and the Civil Rights Era to the present. Among the community-focused galleries will

be those devoted to sports, military history and 10 case studies of places associated with African American culture, including Chicago, known for its black urban life; South Carolina's Lowcountry, which tells the story of life in the rice fields; and Greenville, Mississippi, where the focus is on life under segregation. Cultural galleries showcase the significant contributions of African Americans to this country's music, visual arts, performing arts, fashion and more. nmaahc.org

Rock Impresario Remembered

The Grateful Dead, Jefferson Airplane, Janis Joplin, Jimi Hendrix, Santana, The Who, Fleetwood Mac, The Doors, Led Zeppelin, the Rolling Stones—aside from being icons of rock-and-roll, one thing these musicians and groups all have in common is that concert promoter Bill Graham played a vital role in their careers. A new exhibit at the National Museum of American Jewish History in Philadelphia will give rock fans an insider's look at the career of this rock impresario, who immigrated to New York in 1941 at the age of 10 as part of a Red Cross effort to help Jewish children fleeing the Nazis. By the 1960s, he was living in San Francisco's counterculture scene and producing shows in the Fillmore Auditorium.

"Graham entered the music scene at a pivotal moment and harnessed the spirit of the 1960s, marked by the Vietnam War and the Civil Rights Movement," says Josh Perelman, the museum's chief curator and director of exhibitions and collections. "His genius was to understand the opportunity that the energy and idealism of the times presented to make rock-and-roll the voice of a generation."

Bill Graham and the Rock and Roll Revolution, on exhibit September 16 through January 16, features concert posters, rock memorabilia, photographs, films and ephemera as it explores the momentous cultural transformations taking place in the 1960s, '70s and '80s. Many of the 200 objects in the exhibit are being shown in public for the first time, including Graham's personal scrapbooks. nmajh.org



PHOTO BY ROBERT ALTMAN

Bill Graham enlightens Beach Boys management: "Your band is late." Berkeley Coliseum Stadium, Berkeley, CA, June 1971