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# Milwaukee Zoo News

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King, the Zoo's male lion, enjoyed the outdoor air long stilled over his cage. Story on page 3. (Milwaukee Journal photo)

## New Additions at Zoo Listed

Visitors to the Washington park zoo within recent months have been able to see several new arrivals, ranging from a kangaroo who flew into town, to a gibbon named Pennant.

The Evinrude people, who normally deal in boat motors, jumped into the animal world with the delivery of the California born kangaroo. Melbourne, a year old male, made the long hop from San Francisco to Milwaukee by an overnight freight plane to Chicago and then by Evinrude's private plane from Chicago to Milwaukee. On the Chicago to Milwaukee jaunt, he traveled with executives of the Evinrude Motors division of the Outboard Marine Corp., zoo officials, a reporter and a photographer.

Melbourne is the son of Sydney, a kangaroo who has appeared on several television programs. Sydney is owned by Tom Rooney, director of the San Francisco Sports and Boat show, who gave the kangaroo to Howard F. Larson, Evinrude sales director. Larson brought it here for the zoo.

The kangaroo, who only weighed about 40 pounds and stood 3½ feet high when he came here, showed definite athletic ability during the 30 minute flight to Milwaukee. By the time the plane touched down near the Evinrude hanger at Ge. Mitchell field, all hands aboard agreed that the kangaroo's vaunted boxing power is not merely a myth.

The 11th and 12th moose calves to be born at the zoo, and the third set of twins within one week, arrived this spring.

Mother of the newest two was the matron of the herd, Harriet. She and her mate, Christie, came to the zoo Sept. 26, 1951. Since then she has had seven calves, including three sets of twins. This spring's crop of moose babies began arriving when Mathilda, a daughter of Harriet, had twins, a male and female. That was followed by twin females from Hilda, another of Harriet's daughters and Mathilda's twin sister. These, however, both died within a few hours.

Milwaukee's moose have amazed

zoo experts for years. They are the only reproducing moose in captivity in America. Few zoos have even attempted to raise them, due to the peculiar diet demands of the species. This has been overcome here by a delicately balanced menu of vitamins and other supplementary feed and year round supplies of leaves and branches.

An alert, frisky zebra born at the zoo became the first large animal to be added to the zoo family in 1957. The zebra weighed in at about 25 pounds. Although zebras are not rare in their native environment, the cost of bringing them to the United States is high, hence making the new addition a valuable one.

The zoo's antelope family was increased to eight with the birth of a husky eland antelope. The baby weighed about 50 pounds and was 28 inches tall at birth. The eland species is a native of Africa and is the largest of the antelope family.

A litter of 10 was born to a pair of arctic foxes at the zoo, but were not discovered until a month after their birth. Keepers did not risk examining the den before, fearing the parents would harm the offspring. The average litter of arctic foxes is four. They are dark bluish in the summer but turn all white in the winter.

Three jaguar cubs, offspring of San Antonio Queen and Pedro, were born in June. Cubs of three previous litters of San Antonio Queen have died, but zoo officials attributed success with the most recent litter to the use of a special maternity box in the mother's cage.

On the day that the jaguar cubs made their first public appearance, a litter of lion cubs was born to Queen and King.

A Pennant finally has come to Milwaukee. It arrived several hours before the Braves opened their 1957 home stand at the Stadium. It wasn't a very big Pennant, to be sure, but the first of its kind in these environs.

Pennant, the zoo version, is a small, pink gibbon about the size of a baseball at birth. It was the first gibbon ever born at the zoo here and appropriately was named in honor of its birth on the day of the first home game of what is hoped will be a winning season



WALTER GAULKE, a keeper, welcomes a new zebra colt and her mother. (Milwaukee Journal photo)

for the Braves.

A gibbon born in captivity is a rare occurrence, zoo officials pointed out. Pennant weighed in at an estimated 6 ounces and was about 6 inches tall. The baby was the offspring of Dr. Len and Carol, who came here in February, 1955, after being purchased from the Bronx (New York) zoo. The parents are about five years old.

### \* \* \* Milwaukee Zoo News

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## Charles Stanke; Veteran Keeper, Retires After Long Service

Charles A. Stanke, a zoo man for almost 48 years, has retired as head keeper of the animals, birds and reptiles in Washington park. Charlie came to the zoo in 1909 when he started as a "temporary" employe under the late Edward H. Bean.

Charlie's father, Carl, was a Washington park attendant before any of the animals arrived. When the zoo opened in 1904 with 12 deer, a bald eagle, some white rats and assorted other creatures, Bean, the first director, asked Carl Stanke to become the first keeper. Carl, however, suffered a hip injury in 1909 and was forced to leave his job. Bean then asked Charlie to fill in on a temporary basis. He's been there ever since.

One of Charlie's lifelong goals was to stay with the animals for a half century, but he couldn't quite make it. He suffered a heart attack in November, 1955, and had a relapse a year later.

Charlie was born in Milwaukee 68 years ago and has lived here all his life. His first job was as a lineman with the Wisconsin Telephone Co. He worked there about a year and then got a job in the assembling department of the Cutler-Hammer Co. He came to the zoo when he was 19.

He has seen the zoo grow from one building in the midst of the park to its present status. In recent years he helped formulate some of the plans for the new zoo. Thousands of animals have come and gone since Stanke performed his first duty—cutting the weeds where the bear dens and monkey islands now are located.

His first love, though, was for the bears.

He gained nation-wide attention for his success in raising polar bears, starting in 1912 when the first polars were brought here. As keepers of the bears' dens for many years, he had charge of Sultana I, the famous female polar who gave birth to 12 cubs. Washington park was among the first zoos in the world to successfully raise bears to maturity. Charlie played a big role in caring for them.

He was made head keeper officially in 1947, but he had been the unofficial senior member for many years. As head man, he was in charge of the zoo's two dozen keepers. He not only trained keepers, but also had a hand in breaking in six directors over the years.

Ray Callahan has been named to succeed Stanke as head keeper.

## LIONS ENJOYED OUTDOORS WITH CUSTOM WEATHER

(See Photo, Front page)

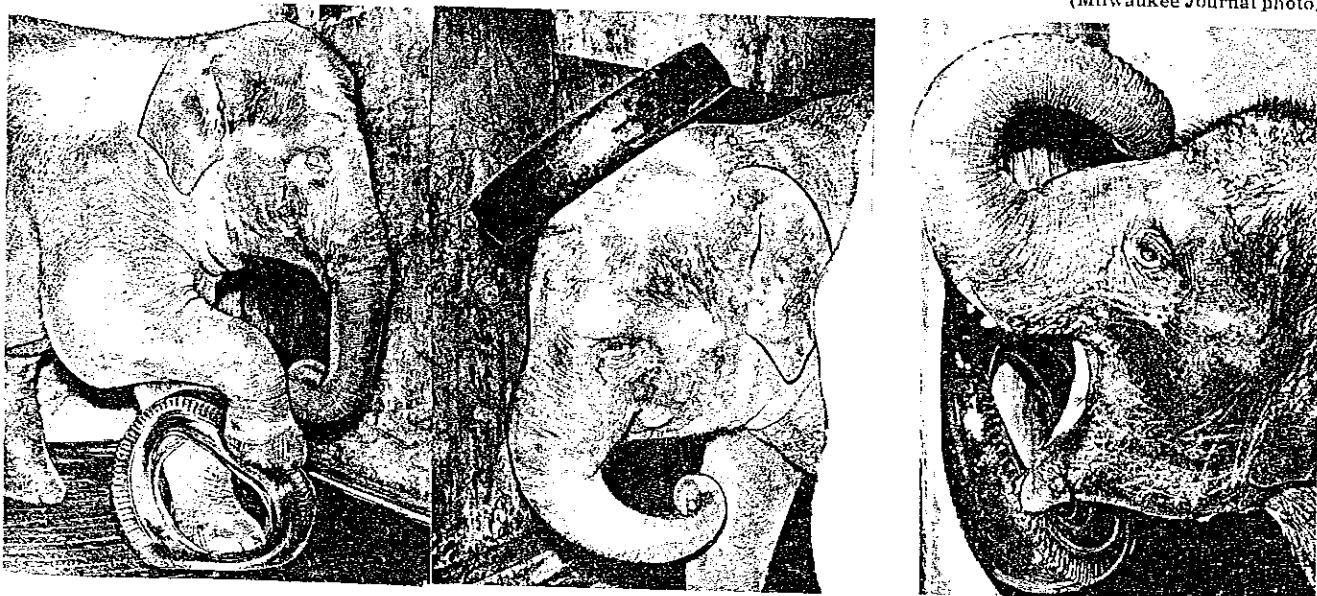
Long before the summer heat settled in Milwaukee this year, the king of beasts was out enjoying custom made weather at the zoo.

Startled zoo visitors found the big male lion, King, lounging on a concrete slab in his outdoor pen, disregarding the cold March winds. The temperature was in the mid-thirties, usually considered much too chilly for jungle beasts. The secret of the unseasonal appearance of King was a gas fired infra-red heating unit, mounted at the top of the cage. The gadget warms objects it strikes—in this case, the lion and his platform.

Heating of outdoor enclosures is something new for the zoo. Zoo officials were enthusiastic about the early results of the experiment and the principle may be incorporated in some of the planning for the new zoo.

When the 8 year old lion first encountered the artificial heat, he studied the situation, casting his eyes upward, apparently to see if it was the sun that was keeping his platform so warm. Then he settled his 500 pounds down and enjoyed the heat. He stretched his nose out on his paws and took a snooze.

THE ZOO'S young elephants can have a whole lot of fun with the simplest objects.  
Here they enjoy themselves with a couple of old tires placed in their pen.



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## Honor Chairman of Fund Drive

Rudolph C. Zimmerman, who spearheaded the drive to raise funds for purchasing animals for the zoo, was honored recently at a surprise dinner at the Wisconsin club. About 35 persons, including society directors and county officials, attended the dinner.

Zimmerman, a vice-president and comptroller of the Pabst Brewing Co., was chairman of the Zoological Society of Milwaukee County campaign which raised \$472,291 for the new zoo being built at N. Barnekow ave. and W. Blue Mound rd. The original goal of the campaign, which ended last spring, was \$300,000.

He attended the dinner thinking its sole purpose was to permit society board members and county officials to meet jointly. The directors and members of the county board of supervisors and park commission held a similar meeting last spring.

Walter H. Bender, chairman of the park commission, cited the campaign's success under Zimmerman's leadership. "It was novel and it struck the public's fancy," he said.

Bender said that the zoo project stood at the head of the commission's projects. He also explained that the commission was pledged to provide the new home for the animals.

"We may be handicapped by the spiral of increasing prices, but we'll keep right on working for it," he added.

Bender reported that the first major building at the new site, the primate (monkey) house, is 75% complete. Work on a lagoon and clearing for other buildings also is underway.

Zimmerman was presented with

a plaque signed by 21 board members and given by Allen Williams, a board member. Two lithograph prints by Swiss artist Hans Erni were presented to Zimmerman by Harold S. Vincent, superintendent of Milwaukee public schools. The prints, one of zebras and the other of a leopard, are from a limited run of original plates.

### ATTENDANCE UP 100,000

#### IN 1956, COUNT SHOWS

Attendance at the Washington park zoo during 1956 increased by more than 100,000 over 1955, according to George Speidel, zoo director. An estimated 1,156,200 persons visited the zoo last year, as compared with 1,505,200 in 1955.

The record zoo attendance—1,879,625 persons—came in 1950 when the zoo's two gorillas, Samson and Sambo, were first exhibited. Zoo attendance is recorded daily, along with weather conditions and average temperature, by the park police. Zoo buildings and grounds are open every day—the buildings from 9:30 a.m. to 4:50 p.m. and the grounds from sunup to sundown.

The records go back to 1931 when 667,050 persons visited the animals. Attendance declined during the depression years and then rose in 1937 over the million mark for the first time. The figure fell off again during World War II and then climbed steadily from 1945 through 1950. Since 1950, the attendance has been erratic, varying as much as 800,000 during the five year period.

Attendance is generally highest during the summer when the weather is cloudy and not too hot. Beaches draw the crowds away on hot, sunny days. Highest attendance day in 1956 was Sunday, July 29, when 27,000 persons visited. Sundays are consistently the busiest days at the zoo.

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## Gorilla's "Foster Mother" Retires

Mrs. Edith Scott, the foster mother to Milwaukee's now strapping gorillas when they were babies, has retired as matron at the zoo.

Although she had to give up active care of the gorillas more than four years ago, when they could no longer be considered safe, Mrs. Scott said she would miss Samson and Sambo most of all when she left the zoo. She had worked at the zoo for 14 years.

Mrs. Scott's memories of the gorillas go back to the day they were brought here, Oct. 15, 1950, after a long journey from the French Cameroons, Africa. Sambo then weighed 15 pounds and Samson 12½. Anxious days followed, in which the infant gorillas were near death from respiratory troubles. They needed all the loving care Mrs. Scott and the keepers could give them. They were burped and cuddled and sat up with at night, just like human babies.

Gradually Samson and Sambo overcame their childhood ailments. They grew strong and rough, and in March, 1954, Mrs. Scott, near tears, said good-by to her charges. They then weighed about 150 pounds each, and have been growing bigger ever since. Although she could no longer enter the cages, Mrs. Scott continued to prepare meals for the gorillas. They get a wide selection of vegetables, prepared dog food, rice pudding and fruit.

Mrs. Scott, who lives at 2822 No. 1st st., has no definite plans for her retirement, except to rest for a while. And, of course, she will visit the zoo, she said.

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