

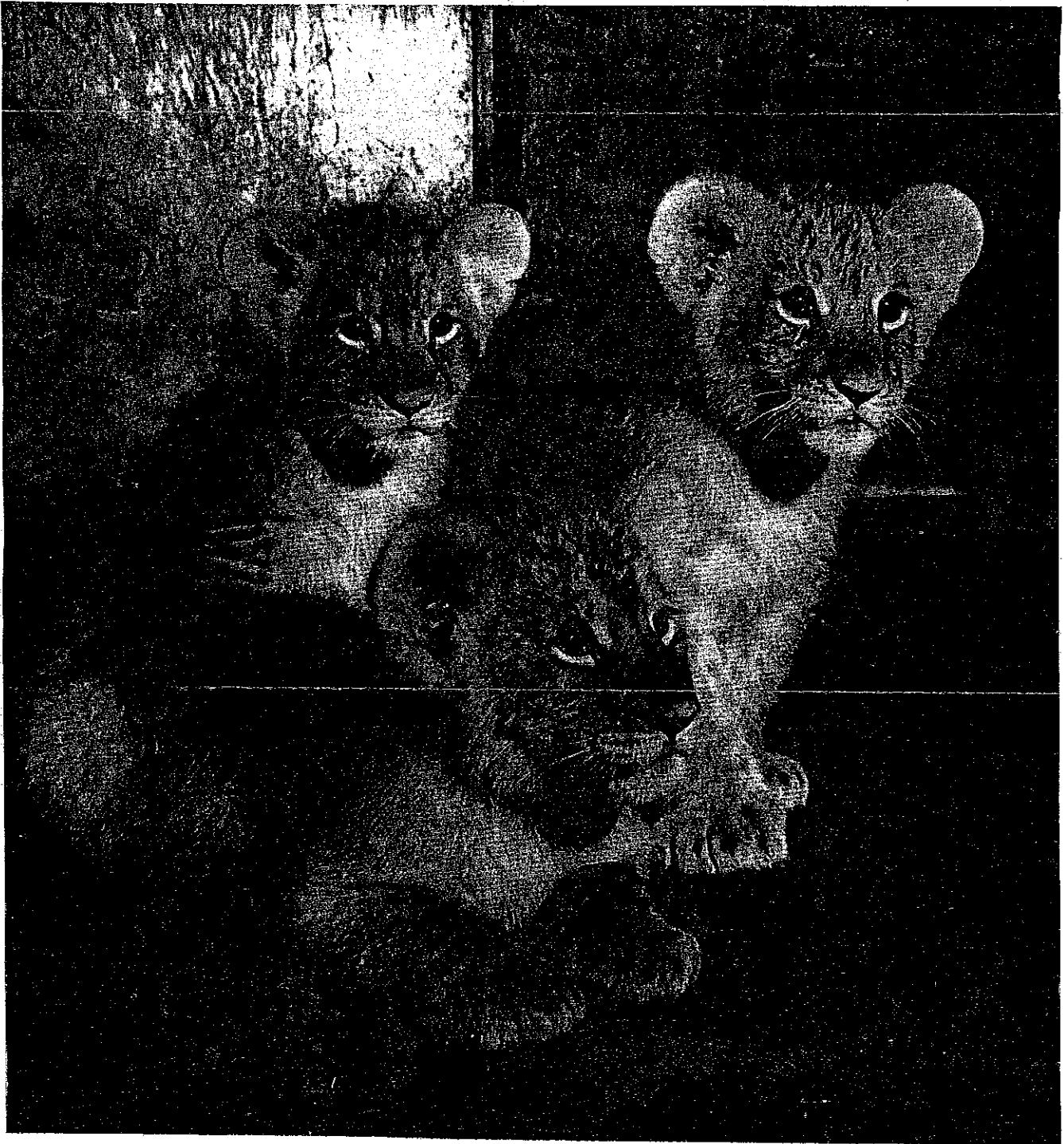
Zoo
Bulletin

Milwaukee Zoo News

Vol. IV

October-November, 1954

No. 4



William Lohse Again Chosen as Zoological Society's President

William Lohse was re-elected president at the annual meeting of the Zoological Society of Milwaukee County. Also re-elected were E. J. Copps, first vice-president; Larry H. Smith, second vice-president; Hartley Joys, third vice-president, and Charles P. Fox, secretary-treasurer.

A resolution was passed limiting membership on the board to two terms of three years each, with the provision that former members could be re-elected to the board after a lapse of one year. Present members of the board with more than 12 years service were exempt from the new ruling.

The plan will go into effect with the 1955 elections. At that time directors will be elected to staggered terms of one, two and three years so that in following elections seven directors will be voted on each year.

In his annual president's report, Lohse cited the work of the various committees, especially the purchasing committee and the new zoo committee.

He noted that 1954 was one of the best years in the history of the Washington park zoo for new arrivals. Newcomers included, by purchase, two baby elephants, a great hornbill and 15 Australian parrots, and by birth, twin moose calves, three jaguar cubs, four lion cubs, a zebra colt, and an undetermined number of monkeys, aoudads and birds.

The new zoo, Lohse predicted, will become as great an attraction here as the Milwaukee Braves, and as modern and beautiful as any zoo anywhere in the world. It will include many barless exhibits, a children's zoo of small animals, and a geographical arrangement of animals with those from North and South America, Africa, Asia, etc., grouped separately.

Much progress has been made on the plans, he said. The 140 acre site has been purchased, the Electric Co. power lines will be moved, an eight-foot fence will be erected to enclose the entire area (at W. Blue Mound rd. and N. Barnekow av.), and studies are being made for the sewer system and parking facilities.

Immediately after the business meeting, Mr. Murl Deusing, Curator of Education at the Milwaukee Public Museum, showed a beautiful and interesting colored film on the Flori-



Milwaukee Journal Photo

Zoo Gets 3 New Deer

Three European red deer, above, have been added to the zoo's collection.

They include a stag, 2, a hind (female), 3, and a fawn born last June. None of the deer is related. The fawn was born to another pair of red deer.

The trio will replace a stag red deer that died this year. It had been at the zoo since 1927.

In the wild state, the red deer now are confined almost entirely to the British Isles, principally Scotland. They once roamed large sections of northern Europe, and even as far south as North Africa and Asia Minor.

The species is smaller than the American elk but larger in size than other old world deer. It is docile

by nature, but the buck when his antlers are full grown is as dangerous as any American deer.

In spite of their decline in Europe, the deer are prolific breeders. A few of the species were introduced in New Zealand in 1862, and there are now about 300,000 of them there.

Milwaukee Zoo News

Published by the Zoological Society of Milwaukee County for the Washington Park Zoo which is under supervision of the Milwaukee County Park Commission

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Queenie Is Proud; She's Mother of Zoo's New Lion Cubs

Four new lion cubs joined the inhabitants of the Washington park zoo. Queenie, the zoo's queen of beasts, gave birth to the princes and princesses (there were two of each) on Aug. 26.

The cubs were born—with their eyes closed—in a maternity box, and it was two weeks before anyone saw them. When they made their appearance, each had the usual spotted coat. One—a male—was noticeably darker than the others. He probably will grow up with a black mane, an individual color phase among lions, not a difference of species.

The cubs, because lions are easier to breed in captivity than most wild animals, will eventually be sold.

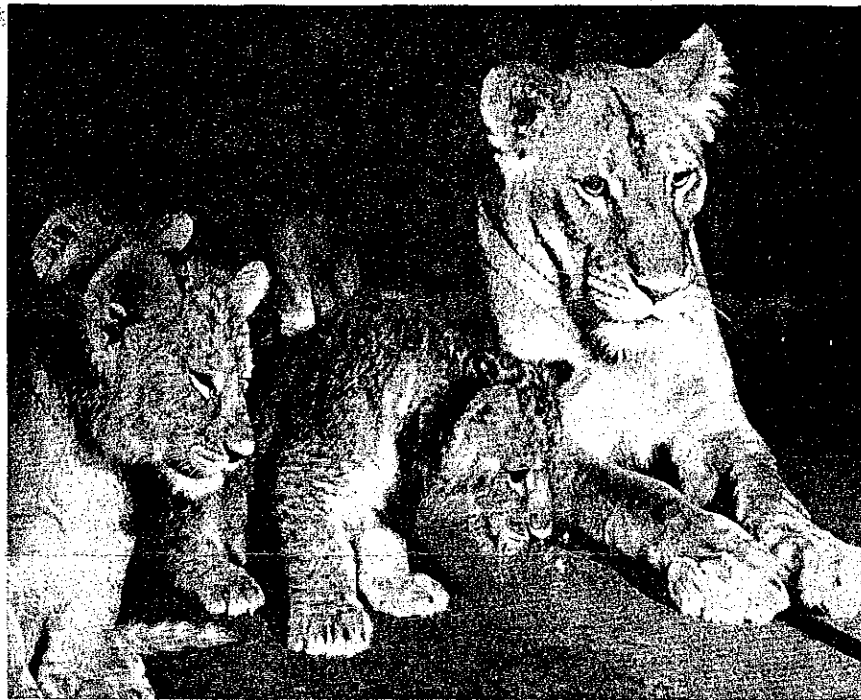
In the wild state the lioness would choose a cave or thick brush or long grass to have her cubs, which average from two to four, sometimes five, per litter. During the first two weeks—the period it takes for the cubs to open their eyes—she would keep them in the same spot. She would leave them for as much as 48 hours at a time to hunt for game, since there are no keepers to bring her food every afternoon at 2 o'clock.

While she is absent the cubs would make no noise, a remarkable instinct among newborn animals (which probably accounts for the difficulty keepers have in announcing births of zoo cubs until they actually make an appearance). If the game is abundant, the lioness may keep the same lair for months. If not, or if the site is dangerous for her family, she would shift her quarters while the cubs are scarcely able to walk.

After about three months, the cubs can follow their mother with ease. Then, instead of eating her fill and returning, the lioness can bring her family with her to start their weaning. Cubs begin eating flesh long before they stop suckling.

While still very young they try, in clumsy fashion, to kill birds and small animals. By the time they are four or five months old, they sometimes try to assist the mother when she has pulled down some game which is not formidable. Soon afterward they begin to help her in hunting and to attempt to hunt for themselves. Their spots have disappeared and their coats blend with the open plains in which they dwell.

Eventually they would join a lion



QUEENIE AND THREE OF HER CUBS. The fourth was sold to a Chicago public relations firm before this picture was taken, and is reportedly doing very well.

hunting party, for lions commonly travel in groups. They take advantage of each other's mutual support, and kill much bigger game. When game is scarce, however, the younger lions starve, and thus nature maintains the balance of the various species. Sometimes lions travel alone, especially the older males. Often two adult males team up.

Lions have a variety of family relations; some are monogamous and others polygamous. Sometimes a male and female become devoted mates and form a permanent union. The male lion even remains close by before and after the birth of a litter. Other males, however, often have as many as four females in company, with a scattering of cubs from each in the party.

The male lion in the wild, while conceivably more resourceful than a captive lion, is generally not as handsome. His mane—which protects his throat in combat—often is torn and ragged from the African brush, while the zoo or circus lion always develops a luxuriously thick mane in about three years. He is full grown at six years of age.

Perhaps the greatest difference in wild and captive lions is their eating habits. Zoo lions are fed, usually six days a week, during the day and right on schedule—so zoo visitors can watch. Wild lions eat when hungry, and hunt only at night. Very rarely do they venture out during the day, but spend most of the time that the sun is up sleeping in the tall grass.

Topsy-Turvy



Our makeup man wasn't standing on his head when he printed the picture of the sloth in the last issue of ZOO NEWS. "Lazybones," who was shown upside down—right side up, that is (see top picture)—is actually right side up when he's upside down (see bottom).



THE MILWAUKEE ZOO NEWS
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"September" Is Name Of Dolly's New Colt

Another newcomer arrived during September. A colt was born to Dolly, the zoo's 20-year old zebra mare, and was appropriately named "September."

There are several species and subspecies of zebras. The most common in captivity is the Grant zebra. The zoo here has this subspecies.

Grant's are the most heavily striped zebras. The body and thigh stripes are broad and vivid, with no shadow markings between, as the Chapman zebra has. Moreover, this zebra is striped down to the hooves, unlike others in its species. It ranges over the highlands of Tanganyika up into the lower Sudan.

Among the other species, the Grey Zebra is the largest and most striking of the wild equines, with a particularly vivid pattern owing to the very narrow black and white stripes all over its body, head and limbs. It inhabits southern Abyssinia and British East Africa.

Other zebra species include the mountain zebra, the Hartmann mountain zebra and the Damara or Chapman zebra. The mountain zebra, now almost extinct in its native Cape Colony and Natal regions, is characterized by a loose fold on the throat and the widely spaced stripes on the thigh. The Hartmann inhabits the mountains of southwest Africa, and the Chapman is distinguished by the shadowy stripes between its large black stripes.

Herds of several thousands are often seen in the wild state. Their herd companions include the topi, wildebeest and gazelle. In spite of the concerted abuses of nature and man, zebras are the most common of the large African animals.

MILWAUKEE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

GARDEN HOMES SCHOOL

4456 N. TEUTONIA AVENUE

MILWAUKEE 9 WISCONSIN

HOWARD B. RUTHERFORD PRINCIPAL

September 30, 1954

Dear Mr. Smith,
Our class is happy and surprised to have received the Britannica Junior Encyclopedias won by Barbara Daly.

We are particularly interested in insects and have found a long article about them in the encyclopedia. Also we found much information about elephants. Two children are preparing to read these articles to the class.

Thank you for giving us these useful books.

Sincerely,
Fifth Grade Class
Room 29

THIS IS THE LETTER received by the Zoological Society from the fifth grade class at Garden Homes School thanking the society for the set of encyclopedias awarded the class in the contest to name the two new elephants. Larry Smith's answer is printed below.

October 11, 1954

Fifth Grade Class
Room 29
Garden Homes School
4456 North Teutonia Avenue
Milwaukee 9, Wisconsin
Dear Girls and Boys,

It was very thoughtful of you to write me recently a note of appreciation for the Encyclopedia Britannica, which your classmate, Barbara Daly, won in the Elephant Naming contest this past summer. I will pass this on to the other members of the Zoo Board at our next meeting.

I am sure you will find much interesting information in the encyclopedias as time goes on.

Before closing, I also would like to tell you that the elephants are doing just fine. When you are near the Zoo some day, stop in and see both Tamara and Lota.

Again, thank you very much for writing that letter.

Sincerely,
LARRY SMITH
Chairman
Purchasing Committee