

# Milwaukee Zoo news

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Volume 4

December, 1956 - January, 1957

Number 12



HELLO FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS! I'm Pancho Thomas, former television personality and official spokesman for all the animals and keepers here at the zoo. I'm sitting pretty in the horn of plenty with lots of gifts for all of my friends here and I want to wish everybody a Merry Christmas.

You know, I got my name from Gordon Thomas of WTMJ-TV. I appeared on his television program more than 60 times. It was fun seeing all of you people through the television screens and now I want to wish you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!



PART OF THE ZOO'S Anodad colony "poses" for a group portrait on their rocky mountain top. (Milwaukee Journal photo)

## Annual Meeting Marks Progress Of Zoo Group

About 100 persons attended the fourth annual meeting of the Zoological Society of Milwaukee County in October, held in the auditorium of the lion and monkey house of the zoo. George La Budde was re-elected society president at the meeting.

Harold S. Vincent, outgoing secretary-treasurer, reported that \$470,783 had been pledged for the new zoo. He said that the fund campaign had exceeded by more than \$120,000 the original goal of \$350,000. Gifts have continued to come in since the end of the drive last spring.

A check for \$1,300 was presented for the new zoo at the meeting by La Budde, as a gift from his father,

Edward La Budde.

"The zoo is taking its place among the vastly growing cultural assets of Milwaukee county," George Speidel, zoo director, said at the meeting. "It lies about three and one-half miles west of the Stadium and it, too, has gone big league."

Three main objectives of the new zoo would be to provide healthful, appropriate housing for the animals, to give a maximum amount of pleasure to visitors and to facilitate an economical administration.

"Never in the history of any zoo in the world has anything happened as wonderful as the fund drive for this zoo," said Speidel.

He explained several methods that will be used in acquiring animals for the new zoo. He outlined the quarantine laws covering split of stock coming into the United States and told of permits needed to get animals out of foreign countries.

At a meeting after the regular society session the board of directors voted to meet bimonthly instead of

once a month, as in the past.

Other officers reelected were Lawrence Smith, first vice-president, and C. P. Fox, second vice-president. Robert Foote was elected secretary-treasurer, to replace the retiring Vincent.

### 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

#### BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY OFFICERS

George D. LaBudde ..... President  
Larry H. Smith ..... 1st Vice President  
Charles P. Fox ..... 2nd Vice President  
Robert T. Foote ..... Secretary-Treasurer  
George Speidel .....

..... Director, Zoological Gardens

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# Zoo's Island Monkeys Lose Annual "War"

Every year in the fall the zoo's monkey island becomes the center of attraction and excitement for the 80 monkeys in the colony and the zoo keepers. It becomes a battle of men against monkeys in the annual fall roundup.

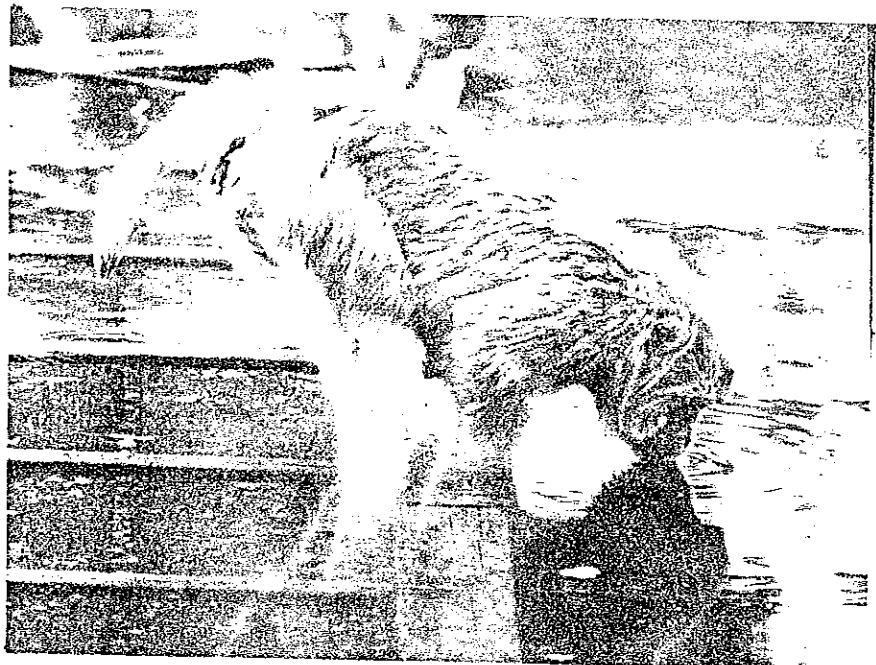
This November, as usual, the monkeys provided a big challenge for the half dozen zoo keepers who attempted to get them off their tight little island in the middle of the zoo and into warm winter quarters in the basement of the zoo's main building.

Frank Hodach and Harold Lawton took charge of the operations.

Hodach, who usually feeds the monkeys and is therefore considered a friend on the island, made the first move. He walked the plank across the water that separates the island from the mainland and reinforced the screening in the island's cage-like enclosure. He then attached a long wire to the door of the enclosure and stretched it across the water into the hand of Lawton on the mainland.

Some of the older inhabitants, including the colony's leader, a male named Joe, were dubious and remained a proper distance away from the food in the enclosure. The younger monkeys fell into the plot.

After the monkeys went into the



(Milwaukee Journal photo)

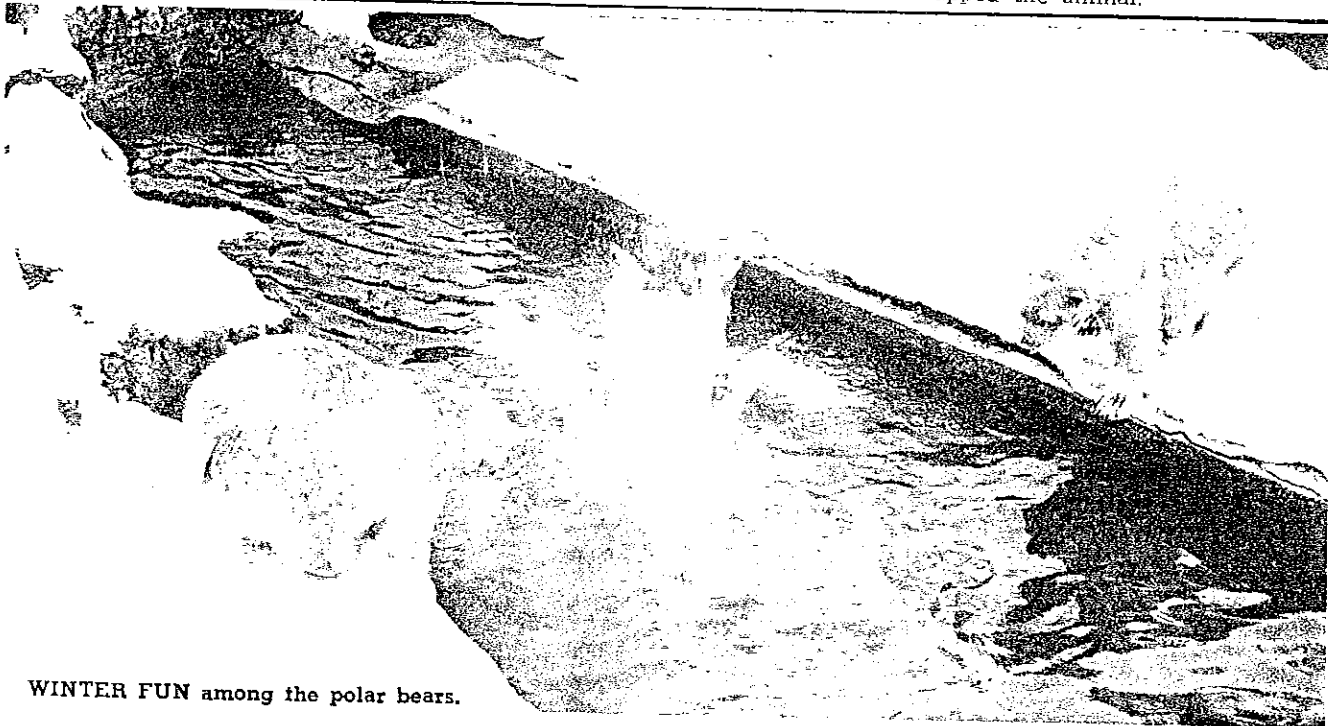
**ONE OF THE PARTICIPANTS** in the annual "Battle of Monkey Island" pauses for refreshment during the hostilities.

enclosure to get the food, the trap was sprung. Lawton pulled the wire, the door slammed shut and 18 monkeys were caught inside.

The keepers worked for three days catching the monkeys and succeeded in rounding up all but one. The one who escaped apparently had figured out the system and hid behind a rock. Just as the keepers were stretching a plank across the mainland to the island, the monkey hopped to the island, the monkey darted out from behind the rock,

hit the middle of the plank and darted to the left, away from the grasp of the keepers.

A tame fox was credited two days later in helping to catch the frisky monkey. The fox is the household pet of Mrs. Emile Weiner, 1436 N. 48th st. Mrs. Weiner spotted the monkey near her home and the next day the monkey perched in her backyard. Mrs. Weiner persuaded it to come into the hallway of the house by feeding it a banana, closed the door behind it and trapped the animal.



**WINTER FUN** among the polar bears.

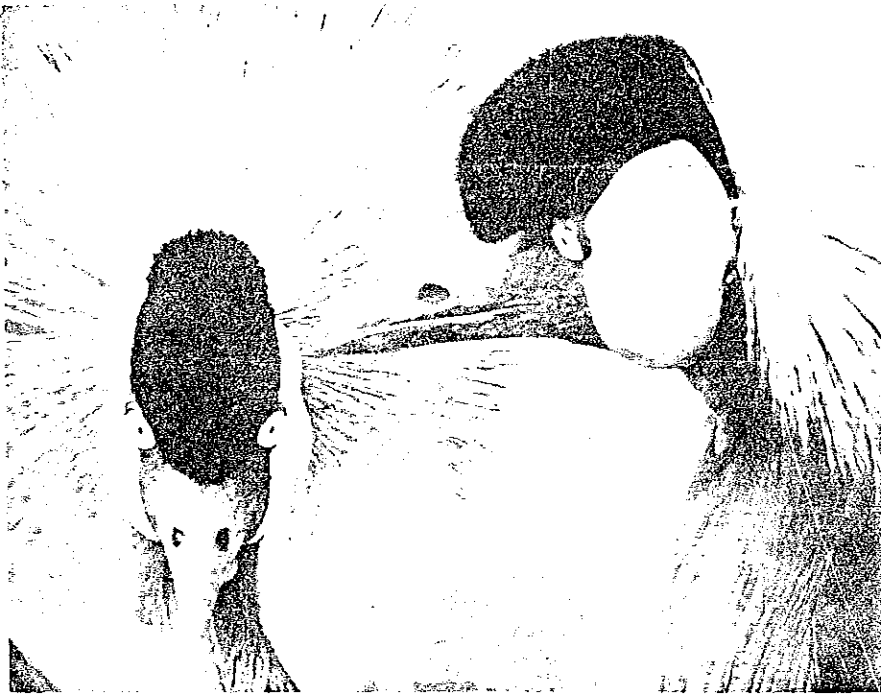
(Milwaukee Journal photo)

THE MILWAUKEE ZOO NEWS  
Zoological Society of  
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Milwaukee 8, Wis.

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(Milwaukee Journal photo)

THE ZOO'S PARENT African-crowned crane, whose chick was the subject of a Life magazine story in September, 1955, did not have a chick this year. The crane's have been zoo residents for about 30 years.

## German Director Surveys Zoo Site

Dr. Heinz Heck, the man who re-created the forest horse and the aurochs as director of the zoo in Munich, Germany, surveyed the site for Milwaukee county's new zoo recently and found it excellent.

With Zoo Director Speidel, and George Waetjen, a member of the purchasing committee of the zoological society, Dr. Heck toured the 137 acre site where the new zoo will be opened within the next three to five years. He also inspected the 22.8 acre site in Washington park.

Dr. Heck had special words of praise for the plans for a glass enclosed structure at the new site to house apes and monkeys. All of the foundation work is now completed. He examined blueprints showing

the form the building will finally take.

Recently his nephew, Dr. Heinz Heck, also visited our zoo. He works with his uncle at the Munich Zoological Gardens.

## Zoo Experimenting With Aquarium Exhibit

Preliminary planning on a pioneering scale is under way for the aquarium in the new zoo. The fish displays will be in the aquarium and reptile house of the zoo.

For the last 11 months, Leonard Pampel, a Washington park zoo keeper, has been temporarily assigned to conduct the experimental aquarium work.

Present plans, which are still highly tentative, call for three main aquarium units: a large replica of a lake which would be inhabited entirely by fish that are native to Wisconsin; a cross section of a natural trout stream, and a display of tropical fish.

## Samson and Sambo Mark 6th Anniversary

Samson and Sambo, the zoo's prize gorillas, celebrated their sixth anniversary of residence at the zoo recently and got their first taste of ice cream.

The anniversary was also a time for comparing the gorillas' vital statistics. When they arrived at the zoo Oct. 15, 1950, Samson weighed 12½ pounds and Sambo 15. They were believed to be about a year and a half and one year old, respectively, when they were brought here.

Now, Sambo weighs an estimated 275 to 300 pounds and is almost 5 feet tall. Samson, who has always been the smaller of the two, weighs about 250 to 275 pounds and is about 4 feet 6 inches tall.

## Zoo Fund Drive Featured on TV

The fund drive for Milwaukee county's new zoo was featured recently on "Industry on Parade," a National Association of Manufacturers film presentation featured on television stations throughout the country. It was seen locally over WTMJ-TV, sponsored by the Marshall & Ilsley bank. The program emphasized the cooperation of business and industry with the zoological society in conducting the drive.

"Local business leaders regard the zoo as their business, simply because it is a part of their community," the narrator stated.

"Milwaukee can expect before long to have one of the very best zoos in the whole world."