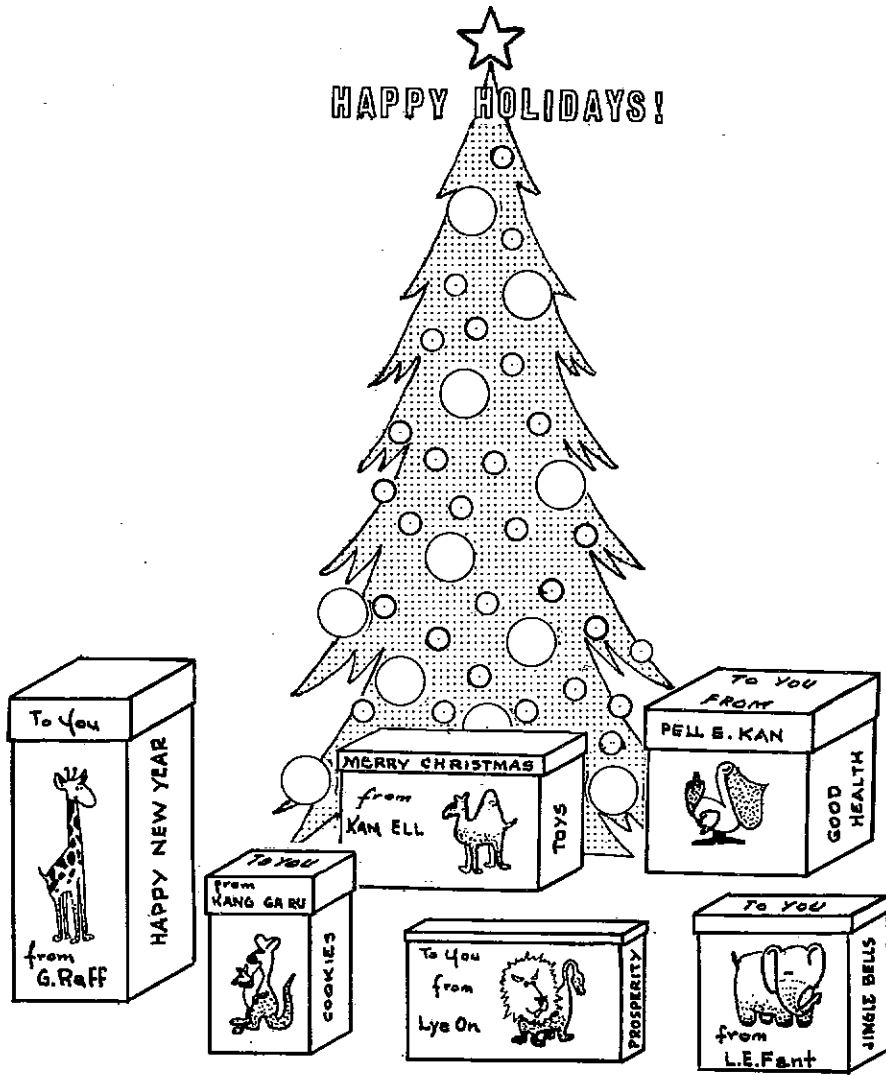


# animal talk

ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF MILWAUKEE COUNTY

NEWS BULLETIN NO. 40      Volume III      November, 1974  
Walter E. Kroening, Editor...7857 North Lake Drive..Phone 352-9272

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!



Do your Christmas Mailing (and Shopping) Early.

Fröhliche Feiertagen

## ANNUAL MEETING A SUCCESS

Over 400 persons attended the 64th Annual Meeting of the Zoociety. County Executive John Doyme gave a short talk commending the members of the Society for their active interest in our great zoo which, he said, has been hailed nationally as one of the finest in the nation and the world. George Speidel gave a tribute to his staff for the "togetherness" that results in great teamwork and which is a prime factor in the well-established success of our zoo.

A great color movie, "Portrait of a Spring," filmed by Alan Root (the white African hunter who captured our hard-to-find and difficult-to-trap Bongo Antelopes), produced by The National Geographic Society and donated to our Zoociety by Board Member Richard Gallun, was enthusiastically received by the audience. (Whew, what a long-winded sentence!) Light refreshments followed.

Page nine lists the names of the newly elected members of the Board of Directors and its Officers.



"That's your solution to everything-eat a banana!"

## CHEETAH PROPAGATION UNIT COMPLETED

On November sixth, our new experimental Cheetah Propagation Unit went into operation. We thank the Walter and Olive Stiemke Foundation for its generous gift of \$20,000 which enabled the Zoociety to begin this undertaking and supplied the major portion of its \$26,000 total cost.

We are looking for a donor who will write us a \$6,000 check to cover the balance...completely tax deductible.

Cheetahs are difficult to breed in captivity, but it can and we hope that it will happen here. The first female will be named Olive and the second born will carry the name of the \$6,000 donor.

## 1972/1973 BIENNIAL REPORT ON THE WAY

I spent the major part of my summer weekends at home (Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays...Fridays being part of my vacation), putting together "from scratch" the Zoological Society's Biennial Report for 1972/1973. Much of the basic material was donated which helped to keep the cost down. All of the pictures were "for free" from the participating photographers... color print enlargements and the over 200 hours of composition and camera-ready paste-up work (above referred to as weekend homework), were contributed by ye editor...and the cover artwork was again an umzonst (no charge) product of the Frank H. Becker Studios. We expect to get the reports back from the printer some time before Christmas and with the help of dedicated volunteers, we will try to send them to each of our readers in time for the holiday season.

There will be 100 additional copies autographed by George Speidel and myself which will be available at \$5.00 per copy...a limited edition that might make a suitable gift for a member of your family or a friend. The report has full color laminated covers, with 40 pages of text and pictures, six pages of which are also in full color. Both Hair George Speidel and Samson think that this is an exceptional buy. Incidentally, Samson says that if you feel especially generous, you can make the check out in a larger amount and write it off as a zoo-worthy donation.

F A N M A I L

P. O. Box 251, ELKHART LAKE, WISCONSIN 53020

July 11, 1974

Dear Mr. Kroening,

Your letter with the elegant Tigerhead enclosed has only just arrived here in Elkhart, via Bummelzug, and I thank you and the Directors heartily. I will wear it always.

As for my analysis, geistreich war es nicht----but I thought the whole palm-reading idea too clever not to deserve an answer. Your Macaque acquaintance would hardly have consulted so ganz übergeschnappt an analyst as this Holmes who seems, like Moriarty at Reichenbach, to have gone somewhat off the deep end. Nevertheless I will treasure the reference to a Meister-Stück.

Nochmals vielen, vielen Dank für den wunderschönen Shere Khan.

*Susan Strecker*

THANK YOU ANIMAL LOVER FROM APPLETON

## Zoo staff nice to people, animals

Editor, The Post-Crescent:

I recently was given the wonderful opportunity of seeing the parts of the Milwaukee zoo that most visitors are not able to see. Such as the way the animals are fed and where they are kept. And from this experience I have learned a lot about people. Everyone, and I mean everyone, accepted me with open arms. I have never met so many nice people in my life.

The people of Milwaukee and Wisconsin should be proud of the personnel running the zoo. Only the animals best interest is kept in mind at all times.

The animals are only given food that would be eaten by a human. The bananas, as I found out, don't even have bruises. The commissary, or the place where all the different types of food are kept, is spotless. All the food is frozen and there is a daily food chart kept on each and every animal.

The zoo serves everyone. It serves, the handicapped, the aged, and even the all-around normal American. It also brings in business for other businesses, such as restaurants, hotels and so forth.

I at least want to inform the city of Appleton that I think we have the best zoo in the world down in Milwaukee.

Animal Lover

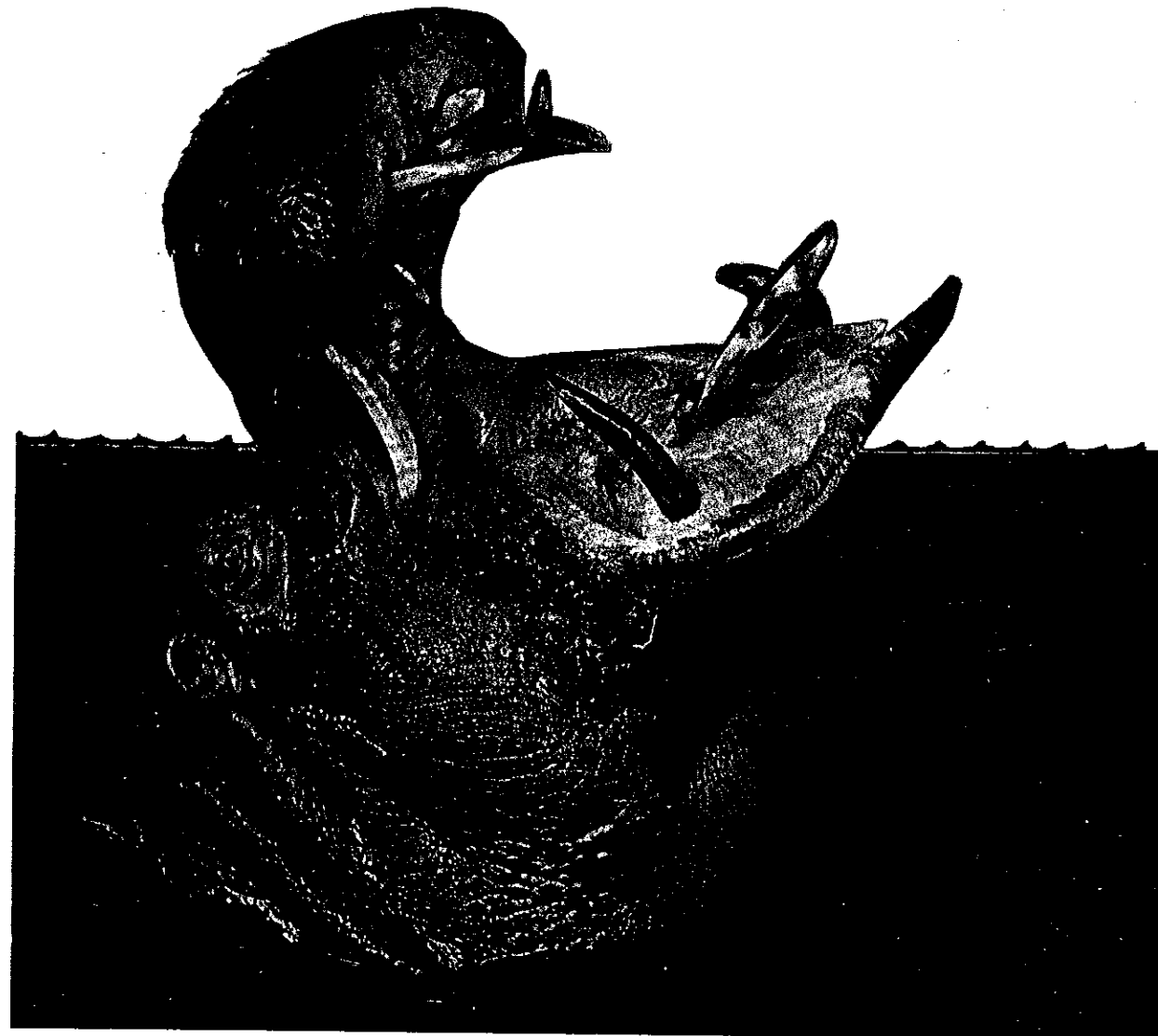
Appleton

TRY POST-CRESCENT  
CLASSIFIED ADS

# HELP!

SEE OVERSIDE FOR

WHY, WHAT, WHERE, WHEN AND WHO



YOUR ZOO NEEDS YOU!

MAKE YOUR 1975 NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION NOW!!!

Newspapers are continually urging you to do your Christmas shopping early. ANIMAL TALK is urging you, as a member, to make your number one New Year's resolution early. RESOLVE, THAT IN 1975, YOU WILL BECOME A VOLUNTEER WORKER FOR YOUR ZOO!

Whether you are young or old, male or female, working or retired, talented or like me, you can help and have fun doing it. The past six months, a small organized group of volunteers have been working at the Zoo and their venture proved so excitingly successful, that the group would like to enlarge its efforts, and that is where you come in.

There are numerous ways in which you can be of assistance for a few hours, a half day, a full day, once a week, once or twice a month, or whatever your schedule permits.

You say, "I'D LIKE TO VOLUNTEER, BUT WHAT COULD I DO?" You could work in the Information Booth--if you enjoy meeting and talking to people, you can't beat this for fun and satisfaction. Maybe you're good at clerical work--typing, filing, addressing envelopes, etc. Or, are you artistic? Could you make posters or signs? Are you in a position where you just can't conveniently get away from him but you have an unlimited telephone and a little free time? Are you a retired teacher or a teacher on summer vacation and would like to help in the educational facet of the Zoo? Or do you have other talents and interests, that you would be willing to share by volunteering?

WE NEED YOUR HELP

Please read over carefully the center insert sheet and decide where your interests and talents lie. Check one or more, then sign your name, address and telephone number, so you may be contacted. Tear out the sheet, put it in a stamped envelope and return it to Mr. O. L. Bonlender at the address listed on the bottom of the sheet.

MY NO. 1 NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION FOR 1975  
IS  
TO BECOME A VOLUNTEER WORKER FOR MY ZOO

PLEASE PRINT

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone No. \_\_\_\_\_

I am interested in volunteering my services for one or more of the following:

\_\_\_\_ Information Booth

\_\_\_\_ Clerical Work

\_\_\_\_ Artistic (Posters, signs, etc.)

\_\_\_\_ Educational

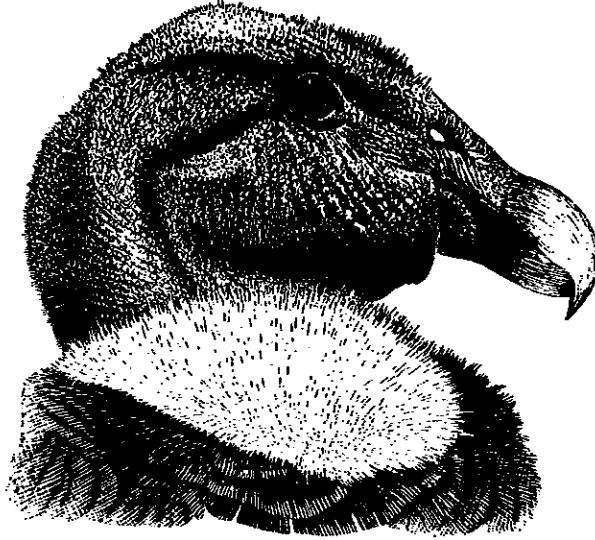
\_\_\_\_ Telephoning

OTHER (Describe) \_\_\_\_\_

THANK YOU!

We appreciate your offering to give of your time, talent and energy.

Please mail this to: Mr. O. L. Bonlender  
Zoological Office  
10001 W. Bluemound Road  
Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53226



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AND

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• - Indicates members elected at 1974 Annual Meeting

# Zoo Director Let Animals Out of Cages; Natural Settings Keep Them Healthy

MILWAUKEE, Wis. — (AP) — From his rocky plateau throne, the lion drowsily but intently gazes at a small herd of gazelles grazing only yards away.

He regally yawns and stretches, and a little girl a few more yards away clutches her mother's leg in terror.

"Mommy," she cries, "the lions are in the same pen with the deer. They'll eat them."

A zookeeper working nearby quickly quiets the child's fears, explaining that a moat invisible to visitors separates the predator from the prey.

The natural setting is common at the Milwaukee County Zoo, model for other zoos throughout the world trying to create realistic scenes for their animals.

A German zoo first tried the concept in 1907, but since then few have made such a total commitment to natural settings as the Milwaukee Zoo, which has no barred cages and uses the natural setting in one form or another for almost all its 700 species and 6,365 animals.

WHILE NO OTHER American zoos are as devoted to the natural setting, the San Diego, Los Angeles, Brookfield, Bronx and Detroit zoos are following Milwaukee's model and converting existing exhibits wherever practical.

Since few zoos have the acreage necessary to develop the rolling continental settings, they have to settle for smaller scenarios of the animal's natural environment. But the San Diego, Bronx and Evansville, Ind., zoos have managed to put together large continental displays representing Africa or Asia.

Milwaukee Zoo Director George Speidel, who was hired in 1949 and engineered construction of the entire complex in the 1950s, is modest about his achievements.

"It was a lot easier to make this a good zoo since we started from the ground up," says Speidel, hopping into a six-seat electric cart for one of his daily tours of the 185 acres.

Construction at the present site began in 1955, Speidel adds as the cart inches through the front gate crowds, and over the next decade animals were moved in from the old zoo at an inner-city park.

SPEIDEL, WHIRRING quietly now along the broad asphalt walkways, says most of the designs for the natural settings, arranged according to continents, were his own, including the network of underground catacombs where the large animals eat, sleep and winter.

"Used to be, zoo directors thought they were in competition or something," says Speidel, who became his family's black sheep 40 years ago when he chucked a promising accounting career to become a keeper at the then-new Brookfield Zoo near Chicago.

"But now we work together a lot more," he continues, adroitly avoiding a gang of schoolboys trying to hop a ride.

"We exchange ideas and information, and it's not uncommon any more to lend animals on a permanent basis to other zoos that need them or can use them for breeding."

Speidel's success with the natural settings has put him much in demand as a consultant for construction of exhibits. His work with the hidden moats that separate predator and prey has been the model for natural settings at many zoos throughout the nation, particularly the Bronx, Los Angeles, Brookfield and San Diego zoological gardens.

Speidel rescues a couple of wheezing old ladies whose legs gave out near Africa and whisks them back to the front gate, where they can catch steam train tours.

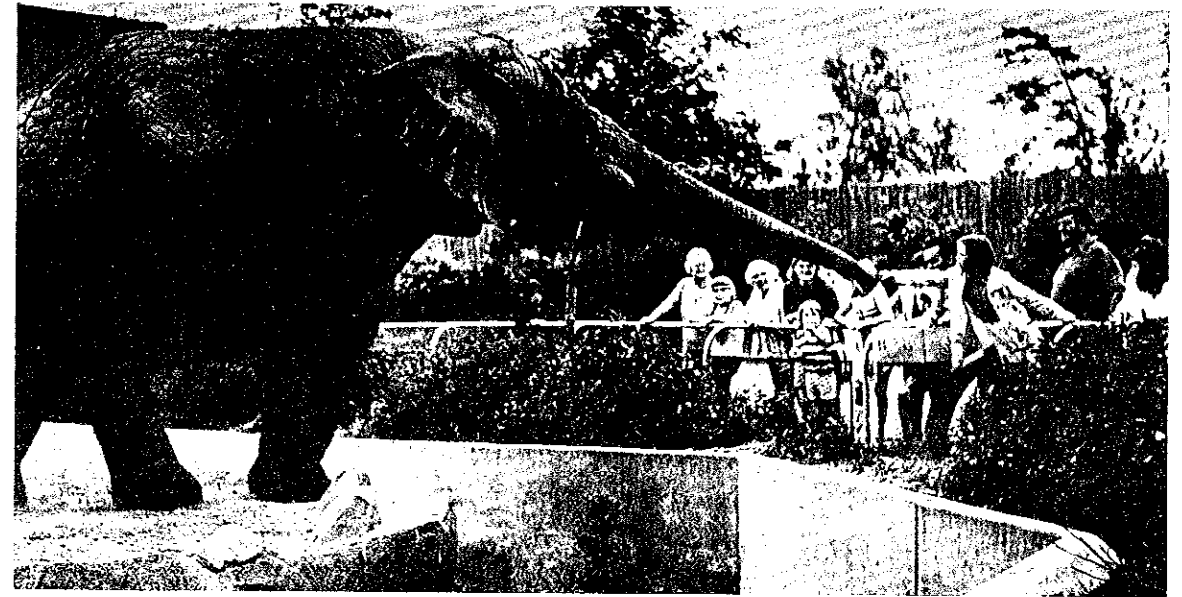
HE TALKS EAGERLY about how increased public awareness of conservation and endangered animals has fostered a greater appreciation of his natural settings.

"It also keeps the animals in better shape," he says, nodding toward bison, elk, deer and various waterfowl gamboling within a stone's throw of sleek cougars in a craggy overhang.

"Both the predator and the prey stay more alert when they can see each other in such close proximity, even though they can't get at each other."

He says the natural settings also make animals more at home and more active than the steamy, cramped, barren cages that have characterized most American zoos.

"Plus you see something different every time you walk by," Speidel says, pausing at one end of the panoramic African setting to take in the rhinos climbing out of



—Associated Press

**African Elephant Reaches Across Moat to Get a Peanut From a Visitor**  
... Cageless Milwaukee County Zoo is a model for others around the country

their lowland pond, giraffe munching at treetop leaves, elephants spraying themselves with water and lions and cheetahs lounging serenely in their mountain dens.

From any angle except actually inside the vista, it is almost impossible to discern the hidden moats or tell that the scattered rocky terrain serves as an effective fence.

"I NEVER GET TIRED of the zoo," says Speidel, who personally raised the first panda ever imported to the United States, in 1937 at Brookfield. "I really enjoy it. I've trained myself to look at things as if I was a visitor."

The zoo is run by the County Board of Supervisors, currently on a \$2.2-million annual budget. The private Milwaukee Zoological Society, a group of local philanthropists, purchases all the animals.

The society also gives Speidel a blank check for travel to tour other zoos, search for rare animals for new exhibits and observe an animal's natural habitat to construct more convincing natural settings.

Speidel makes several trips a year, usually including stops in Africa, South America, Asia and Europe as well as the United States.

"If we thought there were animals on Mars, we'd send him there, too," says Walter Kroening, a Zoological Society member who frequently stops by the zoo to shoot dozens of photos with the expensive cameras he carries around his neck.

Like most other society members, Kroening is an animal lover: with the time and money to make the zoo his hobby and the animals his babies.

SPEIDEL CREDITS much of the zoo's success to the support of the community and the pride of everyday citizens who make it a point to bring their out-of-town relatives to the zoo.

For example, the Milwaukee Symphony each summer stages a "Zoomphony" concert on the grounds, the Zoological Society's gala fund-raising banquet is one of the prime events of the social season, and the Milwaukee Journal has a regular column called "Zoooperstars."

Speidel, who is also laying plans for an extensive wolf woods, believes zoos may become more important as American society becomes more urbanized.

"For many people, the only place they will be able to see these animals, including a number of endangered North American species such as the timber wolf and coyote, will be the zoo," he says.

For this reason, one of his dreams is a vast breeding farm to be run by the zoo 30 miles west of the city.

Speidel, who will start the breeding farm later this year with cheetahs, says zoos ultimately will rely on their own resources for animals by breeding their own instead of capturing them in the wilds.

THE SAN DIEGO ZOO is already experimenting with the concept at a sprawling breeding farm near San Pasquale, Calif., and the Toledo, Bronx, and National zoos are also considering full-scale breeding projects in rural areas.

THE ABOVE ARTICLE WRITTEN BY TIMOTHY HARPER OF THE ASSOCIATED PRESS APPEARED IN SEVERAL HUNDRED MAJOR NEWSPAPERS. THANKS, MR. HARPER, FOR YOUR SINCERE APPRECIATION OF OUR ZOO AND FOR THE INVALUABLE PUBLICITY.

**Zoological Society of Milwaukee County**

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