



ALIVE

ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY
OF MILWAUKEE COUNTY
FOUNDED 1906 / JUNE 1983

Don't Hit An Elephant, It's Cruel!

Ken Kawata, Zoo General Curator

We would like to know why our tax money is spent on zoo employees taking care of elephants that literally beat them over the head with tire irons to the point of hearing the thump and making the animal squeal. This was done in front of many school children that are very young and impressionable. When will this stop?

A written complaint by two visitors, at 2:00 p.m., March 16, 1983.

Of all the popular large animals in zoos, including great apes, giraffes and big cats, the elephant is the only animal which requires daily physical contact by keepers to ensure a sound management program. It is no exaggeration to say that the elephant is a very demanding animal. A zookeeper does not normally talk to an alligator, manicure a bear's feet or scrub a rhinoceros. Interestingly, these are the procedures on a list of elephant keeper's duties.

Take, for example, foot care. Asserts Dr. Michael Schmidt, veterinarian with the Washington Park Zoo in Portland, Oregon: "The feet of elephants, both in captivity and in work camps, are probably the single greatest source of medical problems which confront veterinarians working with elephants." Examples of commonly seen problems are split nails, overgrown nails, ingrown nails, overgrowth of cuticles, cracked sole, overgrown sole, and overworn sole. Day to day foot care program is the best answer for preventing such problems. But how can a zookeeper manicure feet of an animal that weighs several thousand pounds, an animal which definitely has a physical edge on him?

In short, it is necessary that elephants be trained to accept daily procedures in order for us to be able to ensure their health and well-being. It is mandatory that a zookeeper have control over the elephants and keep good rapport with them, since he should be able to touch and work on any part of an elephant's body surface without endangering himself.

Another point is the need for exercise. Captive animals are often bored. It is advisable to put elephants on a regimen of exercise, even 10 minutes per day, that can counteract the boredom of captivity, and make them alert. It is also a means of reinforcing zookeeper's

status as a boss. Moreover, by working them directly every day, a keeper can detect a slight change in his charges, both physical and psychological, strengthening a friendly relationship with the animals.

In Milwaukee County Zoo the exercise session can be seen at 1:30 p.m. in the Asian elephant enclosure. The session consists of several "control behaviors," such as "line up" (go directly to a designated spot), "hold steady" (stand still), "trunk" (raise trunk), "lead out" (walk with the keeper wherever he goes), and "present" (raise trunk, left front foot and right rear leg). This is not a circus animal act and the public enjoys watching the session.

Ironically, a performing animal may give the false impression of being tame, leading the public to assume that Tender Loving Care turns wild beasts into docile, loving, obedient, and cuddly sweethearts. Nothing is further from the truth. What the public sees in a zoo or a circus is merely the tip of an iceberg. An animal act is a well-polished final product, the result of months and years of hard work and strict training. Disciplinary actions are an unavoidable part of training animals. In the case of elephants, most of which are captured in the wild, there is also an initial period during which they have to accept captive life.

For thousands of years man has hunted elephants for meat, hide and ivory; he has used them for religious purposes and as war machines, entertainers and work animals. In log camps in southern Asia, elephants make up an essential work force. Colonel J.H. Williams, who spent 25 years directing work elephants in Burma's teak forests, gives an account on how a wild elephant, captured at 15 to 20 years of age, is introduced to a life as a beast of burden:

"It often takes a matter of weeks, while it is tethered to a tree with chains, and its continual struggling and fighting to break free causes the most shocking galling of the ankles and neck . . . attendant responsible for feeding and watering often retaliates with a spear stab in the cheek after the captive has lunged at him with its trunk."

An elephant is "usually covered with sores and wounds" by the time it allows a man to sit on its head. Captive-born calves do not need such a harsh "breaking" period. Yet, if they have not been trained properly, they could present disciplinary problems. When a



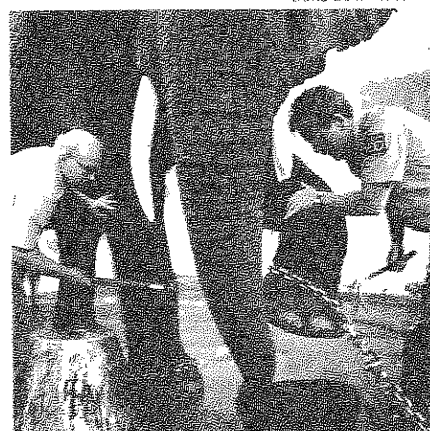
David Denematis Photo

calves developed a habit of chasing people in a work camp, it was decided that he be reprimanded with a six-foot whippy cane. "I was asked to give him the first twenty strokes, and what a behind it was to whip," Colonel Williams recalls. Then, at least a dozen Burmans were ordered to give him six strokes each, while the calf "squealed blue murder."

Fortunately, almost all imported elephants are calves, and they have been accustomed to the close proximity of humans when they land on U.S. soil. Still, no matter how tame and docile they may appear in the public's eye, elephants, young and adult, are extremely dangerous wild animals. And powerful, too. Each time a zookeeper enters an elephant enclosure, he is taking a chance. One will never sense the magnitude of impact until he sees an elephant pull down and kick a full-grown man as if he were a football. You may work in a zoo for years without ever seeing your elephant demonstrate even a fraction of its strength. Dick Richards, a former Bronx Zoo keeper who spent almost 40 years with elephants, tells about an interesting incident in his memoir.

Alice, an Asian female, was taken out for a walk about the zoo grounds. When a puma caught sight of her, he made a flying leap or two in his cage. Frightened, Alice took off and made an entry into the reptile house. Nobody could stop her. Inside, ". . . several cages were smashed in, several people were

David Denmark Photo



Zookeepers Ed Schroeder (right) and Roger Martens (left) position African elephant Lucy's front feet. The ankus (metal stick) helps direct the elephant's foot for soaking in a rubber tub.

bumped about, and Alice dumped one woman squarely into the pool in which the crocodiles were kept," Richards explains.

When Alice came out herself, guards in the reptile house promptly closed the big door. Alice then decided to go in again. "She went in anyway, taking the doors with her, and even tearing the door frame out and carrying it along as if it were a necklace." She stayed there all night.

Understandably, it is difficult for an uninformed public to realize what the nature of wild animals really is, especially their unpredictability and versatility. In urban communities, people grow up away from nature. Their concept of "animals" is formulated from dealing with only a few pet species; their exposure to wild animals is limited to TV animal shows. Some of the shows present animals as unrealistic fairy tale-like characters. This is what I call the fairy-talization of wildlife, which ultimately allows the public to fantasize, over glorify, emotionalize and humanize animals.

For an average member of the public, it may not be easy to grasp the size of a real elephant when seen in a circus ring, or viewing the animal across the moat in a zoo. If he were near an elephant inside the barn, he would begin to realize the animal's enormous size. However, merely standing in an elephant barn would hardly give you an insight into the animal.

One day a small group of people was taken into the service area of our elephant barn for a special behind-the-scenes tour. I remember hearing constant giggling and chuckling from the group, mixed with such comments as "How nice!", "Cute!", and "Oh, good girl!". It would be hard for them to imagine an eye-opening experience of a rookie zookeeper who steps in an elephant enclosure for the first time. In a way, it is comparable to an episode on a winter day when you hit an unexpected patch of ice and had a spinout.

Suddenly, swiftly, your world turns. You've changed from driver to passenger; the car seems to be driving itself. You twist the wheel, hit the breaks, but the car is going sideways then backwards and sideways again.

As a rookie keeper, you are feeling awkward carrying an ankus (a tool for handling elephants) for the first time. Suddenly a towering



David Denemark Photo

Zookeeper Rick Pilak manicuring Asian elephant Lota's front foot.

wall comes toward you. Huge ears flap over your head like threatening rain clouds. A trunk probes your legs, thighs and arms — a trunk so powerful that it can carry a tree, yet so flexible and delicate it can pick up a pea. "Hold!", you command as you have been instructed to. Nothing happens. You jab, hit and pound with the ankus, but it does not stop the moving wall which is now rapidly pushing you toward another moving wall. A regular keeper cuts in, and at his sharp voice command, the wall quickly freezes. Relieved and a bit embarrassed, you feel as if your heart is ready to jump out of your throat.

Not everyone can have such a unique experience. From the public side, it may appear that this rookie keeper was abusing the elephant, somewhat comically. There is nothing comical about being squeezed between elephants. What you need is control over the elephants. In front of an elephant enclosure at the National Zoo in Washington, D.C., there is a sign that reads:

How do you control an animal more than 50 times your size?

"You control elephants the same way the animals control each other in the wild. Although a family of elephants browsing on a grassy plain may look peaceful and content, discipline within the group is forcefully and aggressively maintained. Using its tusks, the lead elephant pokes, pushes, and rams other elephants, keeping order in the herd. At other times, elephants affectionately entwine trunks, nuzzle, and bump each other."

"In a zoo, the keepers take the place of the lead elephant in the herd. Zookeepers carry an ankus, a steel hook that can be used as a kind of tusk. Using the ankus, keepers poke, push, and ram the elephants, keeping order in the zoo. Keepers also reward elephants with affection by patting, hugging, and praising them. Elephants are very social

A three-year old calf attacks a zookeeper; notice that she grabs the keeper and tries to crush him against the wall, instead of knocking him down; knowing this, the keeper drops to the floor; in spite of an attempt to stop her by a keeper on the left, she still goes after him.

animals who respond to the body contact and to the voices of their keepers. As the elephants obey commands, keepers discipline them less and reward them more."

Another sign reads:

Why are the elephants chained?

"For elephants to be well-managed, and to allow for periodic examination, they must be conditioned to a chaining routine. Since they do not submit readily to chaining, it must be done consistently, and daily."

"By chaining the elephants, keepers can condition them for such procedures as foot-trimming, pedicures, bathing, and examination and treatment by the veterinarian."

"Chaining also prevents elephants from getting into mischief at night, which they are prone to do. It also stops them from stealing each other's food during the night."

Our elephant training program started in early 1981, at which time all our elephants were already full-grown. Training should start at an early age. Naturally, it is more challenging to "break" adults than calves. Slowly but surely our program progressed, resulting in new additions to our animals' repertoire. In the winter of 1982-1983, "Tail up" (get hold of the tail of the elephant in front) was introduced.

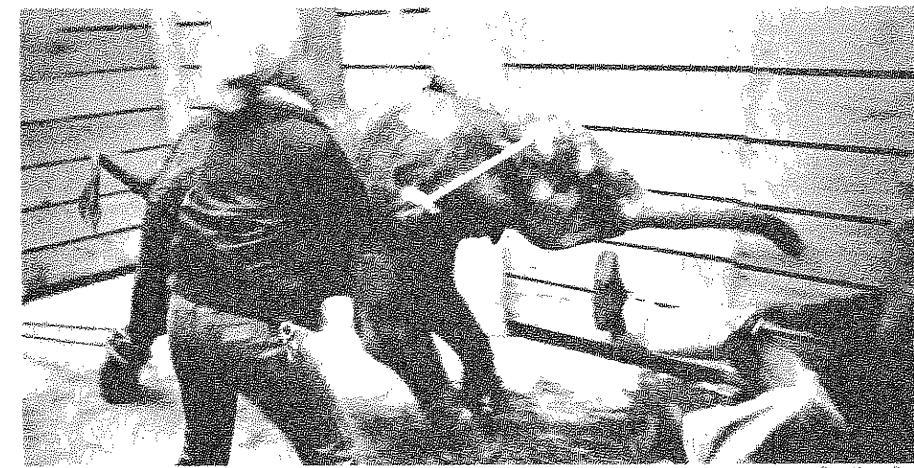
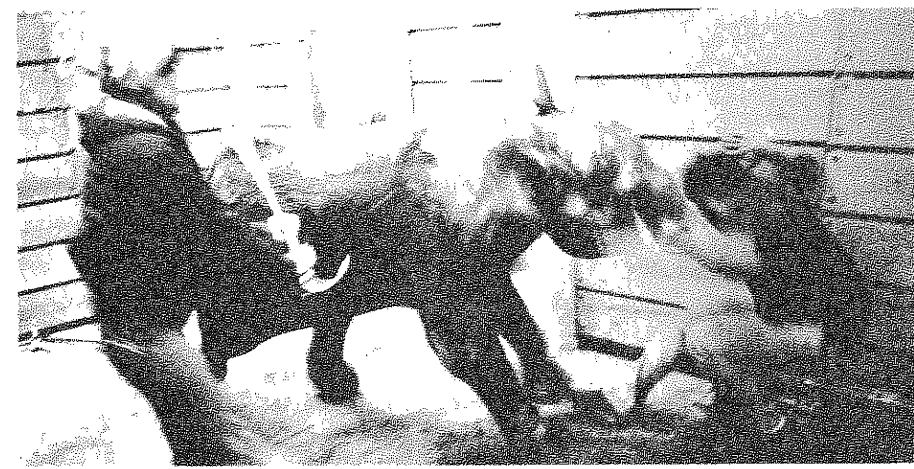
Back to disciplinary actions.

The incident that generated the complaint shown at the beginning of this article took place around 1:30 p.m. on the same day. It was a cool afternoon. All three Asian elephants were lined up and told to "tail up". Two of them refused to follow the command; one ran away while another started spinning.

When an animal disobeys, a reprimand must be applied then and there. If we fail to do this, especially in front of a crowd, the animal will learn to misbehave whenever the public is around. This could cause our program to backslide by several weeks. Every elephant will try to figure out how much it can get by with. Leniency can easily lead to deteriorating control and poor rapport with the animals, making them unmanageable.

After an immediate disciplinary action, all elephants were kept in line. What the complainants referred to as "tire irons" is the ankus, an extension of a keeper's arm. It is not a weapon, because it would not stop a charging elephant.

As mentioned before, the public's concept of "animals" is largely based on domesticated animals. In that respect, perhaps, in the public's mind, the zookeeper was wacking a dog, instead of an elephant. For, in essence, an elephant is perceived as an extension



Don Meyer Photos

of dogs and cats; the necessary transfer from small domesticated carnivore to huge pachyderm has not been made.

However, a rolled newspaper, which may work on your dog, certainly will not impress an elephant. Even the dog, a much smaller animal which has lived with humans for thousands of generations, may require punishment during training. "If you convince your dog you are ready and willing for a show-down, you probably won't need to have one," says James Lamb Free, author of *Training Your Retriever*. "But if he needs it, a good old-fashioned thrashing won't hurt him a bit, it will clear the air, and will save both you and the dog a lot of time and trouble." He recommends use of the strap if absolutely necessary.

One reason why the scene of animal training provokes negative reaction is the public's tendency to humanize animals.

Humanization of animals is deep-rooted and wide-spread in the public's mind. Some people equate animals with humans. Undoubtedly, animals must be appreciated and respected for what they are, and not as exotic forms of sub-humans. A person who equates animals with humans may associate captivity with punishment; likewise, he may regard a chain as a symbol of slavery. Thus, such expressions as "behind bars" and "being chained" will potentially possess a negative connotation. It may even be possible that when a zookeeper disciplines an elephant, some people "see" another person being brutalized. They assume that animals "feel pain" or "suffer" exactly the same way a human does. This is the result of attaching human emotion and characteristics to animals.

Aside from humanization of animals and lack of knowledge, human emotion often enters the picture, clouding judgement and victimizing reason. As such, elephant training becomes an emotional issue, not an issue of animal management per se. One day, after I had spent several minutes explaining to a young lady why disciplinary actions were an inseparable part of training, she criticized, "It is still cruel to pound an elephant". Logic and rationale were not part of her concern. Some time ago, a young man, after he had seen a zookeeper reprimand an elephant, walked away from the scene, steaming and boiling mad. "I'm gonna report you to the humane society," he snapped.

In fact, some humane society officials are fully aware of the situation. In response to a recent letter from a citizen regarding elephant training at the Toledo Zoo, Jeanne Roush of the Humane Society of the United States in Washington, D.C., wrote, in part:

"Maintaining elephants properly requires that zoo staff be able to approach and handle the animals on a routine basis for foot and skin care and general inspection. Also, should these animals develop any health problems, it is desirable for the veterinarian to be able to treat them without sedating them, a procedure which can be very risky in such large animals."

"In order to gain this type of control, trainers must chain the animals at regular intervals

during which time they are examined by keepers so they'll get used to such procedures. Most zoos with good training programs chain the elephants at least once or twice daily; often they are fed at these times so they will have a positive activity to associate with the chaining."

She also observed:

"Every year we receive many complaints from the public regarding elephant training. To be sure, it is difficult for people to understand why elephants must be chained and put through training regimens. We have made it our business to gain a good understanding of elephant management and we can, in good conscience, endorse a program such as the one at Toledo Zoo. I might also mention one fact that testifies to the need for ensuring that elephants adapt to handling by humans: Elephants injure more keepers than any other animal in the zoo."

Indeed, elephant training is also a critical part of zookeeper's safety. Injuries caused by elephants, minor and fatal, have occurred throughout the history of world's zoos. This may come as a rude awakening to the public who is under the wrong impression that zoo animals are tame. That raises the question: Are they mean? Vicious?

Mean and vicious — these are highly subjective, inaccurate human terms. Wild animals may be aggressive, dangerous, unpredictable and destructive to humans, but they are neither mean nor vicious.

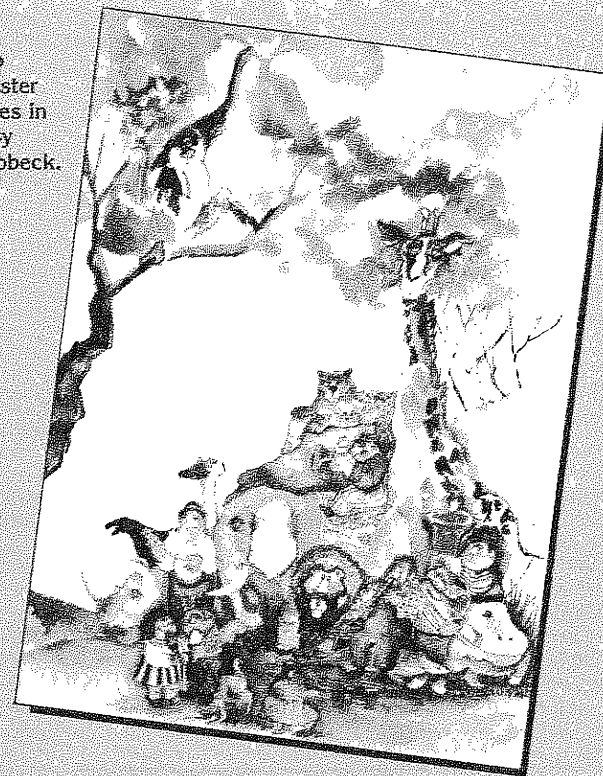
Elephants have survived in a diversity of ways during millions of years in the evolutionary process. Environmental components including vegetation, soil, lakes and herd leaders are replaced by hay and grain, concrete walls, pool and zookeepers. Every day, keepers have to deal with the elephant's incredible ability to forcefully cope with a broad range of situations.

Anything that has to do with an elephant is elephant-sized, and our dilemma is no exception. No zookeeper enjoys punishing an animal; no zoo visitor wants to watch an elephant being reprimanded. Still, training must be done.

In early 1982, we added "Stretch" (go down on elbows and knees) to our Asian elephant training program. In the process of roping, pulling and coaxing them to the appropriate position, there was a good deal of poking and ramming, as elephants resisted us persistently. In our zoo setting, training cannot be done "in private". Frequently crowds gathered, wondering what was going on. Individually, keepers would talk to the public, to explain our training program, not to apologize or defend it. Many questions were asked and answered promptly. No negative, emotional, or accusatory comments were noted.

As more zoos across the country adopt the concept of elephant training program, zoos will face tough questions and criticism, which necessitates an open line of communication with the public. Dialogue must and will continue.

1983 Zoo Picnic Poster "Zoo Blues in B Flat" By Don Nedobeck.



Coming Events At The Zoo

Members! Mark your calendars! THURSDAY, JUNE 16 is the night of the ANNUAL ZOO PICNIC for Society members and their Families. This wonderful evening which begins at 5:00 p.m., will feature the talented Don Nedobeck, his art and music.

The entire Zoo will be open and the train and Zoomobiles will be operating at half price. There will be music, mimes, Animals in Action and the excitement of twilight in one of the world's most beautiful zoos.

This will be a special time for Society members and their families to share the Zoo experience, so do plan to attend this wonderful event.

Zoological Society members have shown a great interest in the 1983 Annual Picnic invitation. Don Nedobeck, the artist, has agreed to sign a limited, numbered series to be available for purchase the evening of the picnic, June 16, 1983.

The color print, entitled, "ZOOS BLUES IN B FLAT" measures 18" by 24".

To reserve your personal, signed copy, please send your \$25.00 tax deductible contribution to the Zoological Society of Milwaukee County, 10001 W. Bluemound Road, Milwaukee, WI 53226.

Another twilight spectacular held at the Zoo this year will be the **Beauty and the Feast II**, Champagne Picnic and ANNUAL MEETING OF THE MEMBERS with special guest **Marlin Perkins**, to be held THURSDAY, JULY 14. Please watch for your personal invitation to both of these special events for Zoological Society members only!

The Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra will present its second annual "Summer Concerts" at the Milwaukee County Zoo July 9-31. The incomparable **Henry Mancini** opens the "Summer Concerts" July 9-10 in a weekend of Pops performances. **Elmar Oliveira**, recent winner of the prestigious Avery Fischer Prize, will perform Mendelssohn's **Violin Concerts** July 16-17, with Paul Polivnick conducting. Jazz artist **Mel Torme** will headline with the Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra July 22-23, while internationally acclaimed pianist **Byron Janis** joins Maestro Lukas Foss and the Orchestra July 30-31.

The Symphony will also present three additional major popular acts (to be announced), each performing one night only without the Orchestra.

Performances will be held at 8 p.m. under a huge striped tent near the Zoo train station with reserved and lawn seating for up to 4500.

Concertgoers may picnic or tailgate on the Zoo grounds before the performances, bringing their own food or choosing from the Zoo's fare. New this year are box dinners offered by La Boulangerie, which may be ordered in advance.

Ticket prices include a day at the Zoo, and a night of terrific entertainment under the stars. For ticket information and a brochure, call the Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra at 273-7121.

The "Summer Concerts" are sponsored by Miller High Life Beer, the Helfaer Foundation, and the Milwaukee Foundation.

Making The Zoo A Beautiful Place . . .

Making the Zoo a beautiful place and keeping it that way are two assignments that are emphasized in the Spring and early summer. As the crowds of Zoo visitors begin to increase with the warm weather, grounds maintenance becomes a bigger job. But the scent of beautiful blooming flowers also fills the air.

This year, Zoo Gardeners will plant 9,400 flowers on the grounds. Impatiens, marigolds, salvia, petunias, and others including hollyhocks (the Zoo Director's favorite) will adorn the grounds as beautiful displays.

Particular areas of interest will be the Zoo entrance, the Lion Mall (the area between the Pachyderm Building and the Lion House), the Monkey House and the Zoo Train Station.

The spring planting will be overseen by Kurt Bartel, Gardener 2 Supervisor, who will be aided by one fulltime gardener, four seasonal gardeners, and several park attendants and laborers. Bartel hopes to complete the entire planting process by the end of May.

Both annuals and perennials will be planted. Bartel prefers annuals because they continually bloom and produce color while perennials bloom approximately two weeks and don't have to be planted each year.

"We have to stagger the planting arrangements so that we get color all season long," Bartel said. "All of last year's perennials, like the mums, should have survived this last winter. The year before, we had two feet of frost in the ground and we lost all of them."

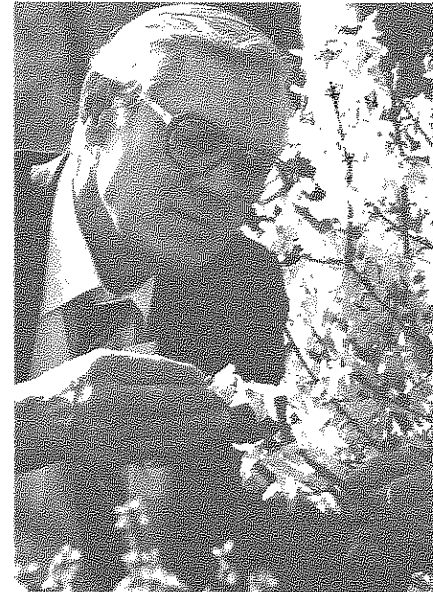
All of the plants are purchased from the County greenhouse located on the County Institution grounds. According to Bartel, the greenhouse provides high quality plants.

"The plants are all grown in individual containers as opposed to commercial suppliers who grow them in packs of six," he said. "These plants have more room for themselves and are healthier."

The County greenhouse supplies the plants and flowers for the Mitchell Park Conservatory Domes, Whitnall Park, the Airport, the Parks and the rest of the County grounds and buildings.

Tom Prince, Park Supervisor 5, said that the real push for bigger and better flower displays at the Zoo really began about five years ago.

"Before, the planting was all done as a part of the Park system planting schedule," Prince said. "But it really began expanding five years ago with, as an example, the red, white and

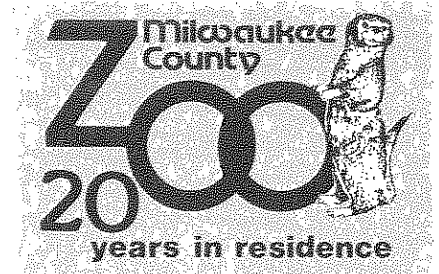


Tom Prince, Park Supervisor

blue flower display at the Zoo entrance for the Fourth of July."

Bartel said that they have experienced very few problems in maintaining the flower beds.

"The summer heat and plant diseases have caused problems for some flowers like petunias. The public has caused very little damage to the flower beds," Bartel said. "After a while, when the plants become stronger, the fences are removed from around the beds. We've had almost no picking of flowers. Generally, we have pretty good luck."



In conjunction with the Zoo's twenty year celebration, ALIVE will feature articles and photographs that detail the history and development of Milwaukee's outstanding Zoological Gardens. The article which follows is the second in a series of four articles.

The acquisition and preparation of the current Zoo grounds was a task that required the utmost in cooperation between a large and diverse group of people.

Land for the zoo project was initially purchased in 1947. Over the next 14 years, approximately 171 additional acres were purchased for over \$660,000. Fifty individual land purchases were made to secure the property.

Part of the land chosen, a subdivision called Forestdale, had some of the utilities in place. The only completed road was Barnekow Rd. which ran north and south just east of the present administration building. An existing house was used as offices while the project took shape.

The Zoo at that time was under the jurisdiction of the County Parks System. The Parks Department, under the supervision of Lee Egelhoff was responsible for the general layout of the grounds, details such as tree and grass plantings, modeling of the rock for exhibits such as the goat mountain and the bear exhibit, and the Zoo signage.

Robert Mikula, Director, County Department of Parks, Recreation and Culture, was a landscape architect for the County Parks System during the Zoo project.

"The main objective of those working with the project was to work with the terrain as much as possible. One of the reasons this particular site was picked was because of the beautiful woods," Mikula said.

"The object was to work with nature and save the vegetation. The Zoo was built into the ground. We did as little earth moving as possible. The land for the parking lot area was flat to begin with," he added.

Mikula said that special attention was given to adding greenery to the exhibits.

"Plantings, in pockets high in many of the rock work areas, required lugging sod, grass seed, and water by hand. On Monkey Island, we had to put a wire mesh over the newly planted grass to protect it from the monkeys. We were always experimenting with ways to provide vegetation for more natural looking habitats," Mikula explained.

According to George Speidel, writing in the 1964 annual report of the Zoological Society, "Close attention was given to the use of low maintenance materials that will last indefi-

And Keeping It That Way.

Next time someone around your house grouches or growls about cleaning the bird cage, remind them that there is a fellow at the Zoo, who daily cleans the Aviary — where there are almost 800 birds! And he does it with a smile.

This job is the responsibility of Zoo custodian, Jim D'Amato, who has been assigned to the Aviary for the past year.

To start the Aviary clean-up, every morning at 7 a.m. the zookeepers turn on the water from the overhead sprinklers and let them run for a half hour. D'Amato then uses a high pressure hose to push the water and debris along the slightly pitched floors to the built-in gutters. The Zoo Gardeners collect the branches and leaves from the gutter to check for and prevent insect infestations.

This process takes place in each of the three "flights" (separate areas in the building) which feature swans and herons, songbirds and exotic species, and macaws and shorebirds.

D'Amato then washes all the Aviary windows with a squeegee and his preferred solution of ammonia and water. The final touches are

the sweeping of litter and the clean-up of spills left by the visitors.

"When we get fifty or sixty busloads of kids they can really tear the place up," D'Amato said. "You wonder how we can ever get it back together. But we all work together and that's the best way to accomplish anything."

"We have to work around the crowds out here," he added. "In the morning there are people waiting at the gates to get in. You set up a work routine and stick to it and everything works out in time."

D'Amato thinks that the visitors are generally nice and well behaved. They understand that the work has to be done. And he enjoys helping them out when they have a question.

The birds in the Aviary are well behaved also and he has never been bitten while cleaning. In fact, the Red Billed Curassow, named Caruso, greets him every morning. This is a friendly bird that goes up to visitors and takes food right from their hands.

In his first two years at the Zoo, D'Amato was a Rover and cleaned in all parts of the



Jim D'Amato

Greg Anton Photo

Zoo. He says the Aquarium/Reptile Building is the hardest to clean because of all the glass exhibits.

He also has daily cleaning responsibilities in the administration building and helps during special events like outdoor concerts or parties in the restaurant.

D'Amato loves to work around the animals and hopes someday to become a keeper at the Zoo.

nately. Specimens in glass-fronted cages were plainly visible because the glass was angled to reduce reflection. Plants, flowers and water features were used, in abundance, in many buildings for backgrounds."

Mikula explained how the man-made Lake Evinrude was built.

"We knew that leakage from the lake was going to be a problem. So we graded the intended area and planted grass before the water was added. When the grass died, it acted as a seal on the bottom of the lake to prevent leakage. The lake is fed from some of the Zoo exhibits and has aerators to prevent it from freezing in the winter. It keeps its inhabitants here year round," he said.

"The first building open at the new site was the Monkey House in 1958. This meant that the public was invited to see the exhibit while the rest of the construction was going on. Fences were erected to route people through the Zoo but out of the way of contractors and trucks.

"The cooperation between the contractors, the Parks Department, the Zoo employees and the Zoological Society was tremendous," Mikula said. "There were no major problems because all of the people involved were taking special pride in this project."

Counterclockwise from top: A. Scene looking west of Zoo grounds 1956, Bluemound Road on right, Barnekow Road across bottom. B. Scene looking northeast over construction in 1959. C. Scene looking east with Lake Evinrude in foreground, from 1960's.



A.



B.



C.

Zoo Education Department



Long Anton Photo

Growing At A Tremendous Rate

The Zoo Education Department is emerging as a major operating component of the Zoo and is coming into its own as a major community learning resource. Last year, over 46,000 children, young adults, parents and teachers participated in its programs. According to preregistration totals so far, 1983 attendance will go far beyond that.

The Education Department is growing at a tremendous rate and hopes to meet Zoo Director Gil Boese's goal of serving 100,000 participants each year by 1983.

William Kopp, Assistant Coordinator of the Education Department, thinks this Zoo is a natural education setting.

"I've seen a number of zoos and I think Milwaukee's is a gem," Kopp said. "The physical plant is exceptional and should be taken advantage of. The key part of the educational work here is that zoological concepts can be taught by using the exhibits. The set-up, the predator-prey exhibits, the continental groupings, the fact that much of the keeper work takes place in view of the visitors, is all inherently educational."

The African Water Hole exhibit provides viewers with the interrelationship of the different elements of the food chain from the grass the Antelope eat, to the predator Lions. The guided tours maximize the content of the exhibit.

Kopp has seen education concepts change over the years.

"Teachers are trying to use the resources of the community," he explained. "Those that come here want to give their students more than the experience of sitting in a classroom and reading a book. To see these animals is a real and unique experience."

Kopp indicated that the goal of Education Department programming is to provide people with an appreciation of wildlife.

"If we can change people's attitudes toward wildlife, that we all have an impact on wildlife, and to incorporate this into their values, then we have accomplished something," he said.

The Department's programs are constantly being upgraded and changed. Ideas for guided tours come from teachers, the Education Department staff, docent tour guides and other zoos. Kopp feels that the current department staff creates a positive attitude for developing and working on ideas.

Suggestions for new tours and changes in current curriculum are talked about as a group. The group discusses how a tour could be done, what exhibits would help describe the concept, the literature (activity and vocabulary sheets) and the follow-up materials for the teachers.

Some programs, like the basic fourth grade tour, "Animal Adaptations" have been very successful.

There are teachers that bring classes to the zoo year after year who often request the same tour each time.

The key to a successful Zoo visit is preparedness.

"We prefer to have teachers contact us in advance so we can get them their tour materials in time to work with them with their students," Kopp said. "This helps prepare the kids and informs them that this is an educational visit — not just a visit to the animals."

If the students are not prepared for a tour, then the tour guide has to teach the entire concept. The Education Department prefers to add to an experience that has already begun.

"The tour is a positive experience," Kopp said. "The negative aspect is that we only have the kids for ninety minutes and can't do much teaching in just that amount of time. That is

Left to right: Bill Kopp, Assistant Education Coordinator; Georgia Wright, Preschool Coordinator; LuAnn Brown, Assistant; Peter Feldner, Docent Coordinator; Tim Tews, Graphics Consultant; Mary Krause Thiry, Director of Education.

why the pre-visit and the post-visit work by the teachers and the students is so important.

The teachers are required to bring their own chaperones because larger groups are broken into smaller ones. A group of 60 would be broken up into four groups of 15 with a tour guide and a chaperone. Outside of a school environment, this size is the best for effective communication. The tour guides do not enforce discipline. The students are generally well behaved because a Zoo visit is exciting and they want to learn about animals.

Some of the docent tour guides have reported that "problem" kids are often the best tourists because the Zoo visit is a genuinely interesting experience.

"We have also handled groups with all sorts of handicaps and can adapt to meet any needs," Kopp remarked. "Our programs are flexible enough to meet the needs of any group that wishes to participate."

Currently, the Education Department is developing a consolidated core curriculum. New programs take a lot of energy to develop and the consolidation would allow them to branch out into other areas, and to give a better presentation to inquiring groups and teachers.

Teachers and youth group leaders are attending Education Department workshops and open houses at the Zoo to acquaint themselves with the use of the Zoo as an educational resource. Department representatives are visiting area faculty meetings to talk about the programs.

All of these activities are the result of the tremendous increase in the participation in Department programs and the public demand for greater services.

"The Zoo needs a strong Education Department," Kopp said. "We have an amazing resource here. The more it is used, the better."

"And of course the bottom line in all this is the thrill of seeing children discover things."

Teachers interested in more information about the tours can call the Education Department at 771-3040. The staff will be happy to explain how you can get involved in this wonderful program.

Educational Activities

The Education Department offers a number of educational and entertaining activities available to the general public year around such as a "cold climate animal" poster contest, a "National Wildlife Week" essay contest and animal classification puppet shows for young children.

Scavenger hunts are held throughout the year. The Halloween hunt reveals the truth about "scary" animals.

One special activity offered this summer is a reading program called ZOOTRON. It will run from June 20 to August 20 for children 6 to 14 years of age. Participants will receive a ZOOTRON booklet which they complete by reading ten animal related books and filling out a Discovery Sheet.

Upon receiving the completed forms, the Education Department will send each participant a ZOOTRON Certificate and an "I AM A ZOOTRONER" sticker. Participants may register by calling the Zoo Education Department at 771-3040.

Educational events planned for the coming months are listed in the "At the Zoo" section located on the back cover of ALIVE.

Education staff members are always looking for new ways to teach children about animals. Society members are encouraged to send in any entertaining and educational suggestions to the Education Department in care of Mary Thiry.



Greg Antor Photo

“Mandara-Mania” Hits Zoo

By Sharon P. Banzhaf
Coordinator — Special Events and Marketing

“Mandara-Mania” can be compared to Brewer Fever! April 5th was a big day for Mandara, the Milwaukee County Zoo’s baby lowland gorilla. On that day, Mandara turned one year old! The Milwaukee County Zoo staged an old-fashioned birthday party for her, complete with birthday cards, buttons, and cake, donated by the Shorewood Village Bakery and the Milwaukee County Sheriff’s Department Bakery. An artist’s sketch of Mandara drawn by Sam La Malfa, Primate Supervisor, highlighted one cake. However, Mandara refused to eat her own special birthday cake — pineapple and orange pieces in banana bread — made by Mandara’s Morns.

Mandara received more than 1,871 birthday cards, ranging from a genuine Bananagram to a three-dimensional sequinned card to a 5 foot banner, which were displayed on the walls throughout the Primate Building. Some of her fans even brought presents.

Each child, who brought a birthday card, received a Mandara button donated by Mandara’s “adopted parents,” Mr. and Mrs. Ronald Siepman of the Proud Popover Restaurant & Tavern.

Mandara is also of great interest to the zoo world as she represents a new lineage in the breeding of endangered lowland gorillas. Mandara, born at the Lincoln Park Zoo in Chicago, Illinois, weighed 4 lbs. 5 oz. at birth.

Her parents are Lincoln Park’s Frank and Milwaukee’s Terra, who is on a breeding loan.

When Terra was unable to care for her offspring, Mandara was brought to Milwaukee for hand-raising by Zoo staff and a group of volunteers called “Mandara’s Morns” who cared for her around the clock. Now that Mandara is one year old and weighs 15 lbs. 15 oz., Mandara’s Morns take care of her from 6:30 a.m. until 10:30 p.m. daily. As an adult female, Mandara will weigh between 150-250 lbs.

Mandara has 20 baby teeth. She eats a well-balanced diet of bananas, oranges, apples, celery, sweet potatoes, Gerber mixed cereal and Gerber meats, and iron fortified formula supplemented by poly visol vitamins.

Even though Mandara didn’t eat her birthday cake, she had a wonderful first birthday party thanks to all her faithful admirers. The Milwaukee County Zoo appreciates their interest and support and “Mandara-Mania”.

Tragic Fire Destroys Goat Barn

On a quiet winter’s Wednesday in March, tragedy struck the Zoo. The goat barn in the Children’s Zoo was destroyed by a fire believed to be caused by an electrical problem.

Six adult goats and eleven kids were lost in the blaze, which burned the structure to its foundation. Many of the animals were saved through the quick actions of the Zoo security force.

Since then, 21 goats and 11 sheep have been born bringing the herds to 51 goats and 30 sheep. These animals, currently being housed in the Cow Barn, will be moved into the goat yard once improvements to that area have been completed. The male goats will be moved to Goat Mountain for their annual summer stay.

The Zoological Society is currently looking for funding to replace the 20’ by 40’ barn. About \$25,000 will be needed for the new barn.

“If we are going to replace the facility and refurbish the goat feeding yard, we will need

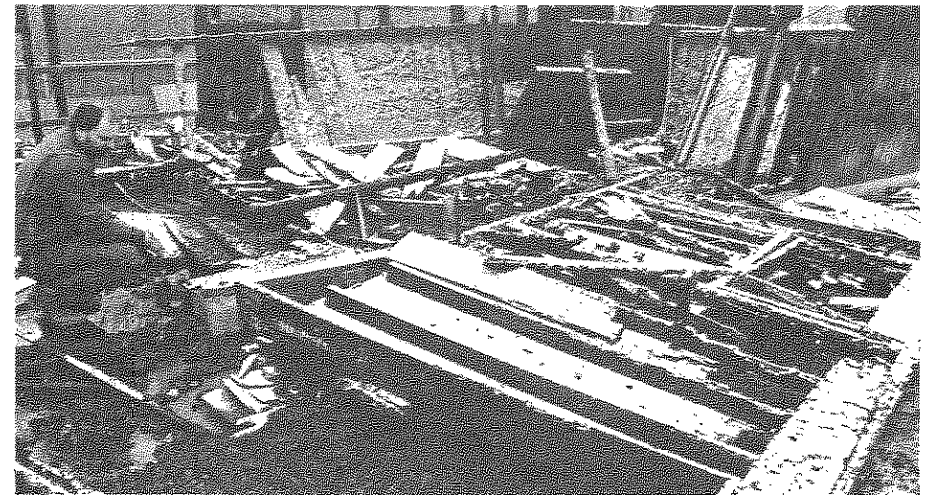
financial support from the community and perhaps from other county services,” Dr. Boese said. “The goat yard is one of the most popular attractions at the Zoo for children and adults.”

The barn will take about two weeks to build. It is hoped it will be completed before the Memorial Day opening of the Children’s Zoo.

So far the Society has collected several thousand dollars, mostly in small donations. Children have contributed the contents of their piggy banks. One man came to the Zoo, said he didn’t have much but he wanted to donate \$20. A sixth grade class in Shorewood has established a fund drive for the barn.

The Zoological Society appreciates the concern the Milwaukee community has demonstrated by the donations we have received. However, we still need help. Anyone interested in helping us rebuild the goat barn, may send their contributions to the Zoological Society, 10001 W. Bluemound, Rd., Milwaukee, WI 53226.

Milwaukee Journal Photo



Whoomph! Scratch, meow, aaheeh! All the time. Could you sleep? Or stand being awake? That’s life for the creatures in our small mammal building. Noisy! But thanks to the generous contributions of Zoological Society members, the noise level in this building will be significantly reduced and the residents will soon lead a more peaceful existence.

The Society’s Annual Appeal to its membership raised approximately \$10,000 for the purpose of soundproofing the Small Mammal House. The Appeal asked each society member to donate \$3.47 for this project.

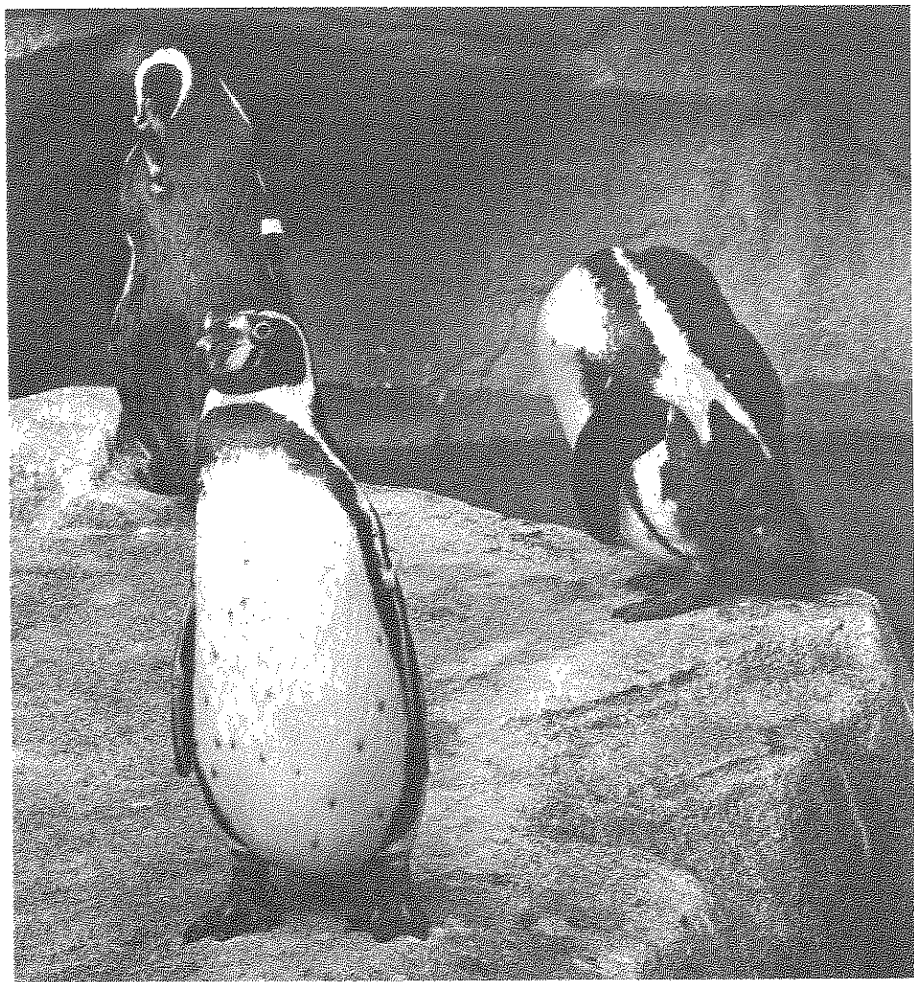
According to Ed Koenig, Zoo Mechanical Maintenance Supervisor, the work will begin around the end of April.

“The Small Mammal House will not be closed during the work,” Koenig said, “but sections will be closed off as it progresses.”

The work will consist of placing 768 acoustical tiles in the building. The tiles, called Geocoustic and manufactured by Pittsburgh Corning, are made of incombustible, low density, cellular glass. The interconnecting cells in the material form a series of chambers that disperse and dissipate sound energy.

Koenig indicated that they are currently waiting for the manufacturer to create black tiles that match the interior of the building.

The Zoological Society would like to extend thanks to all members who contributed to this Gift of Quiet. Your concern and support help us in our efforts to maintain this zoo as one of the finest in the world.



David Detzner/Photo

Adopt-An-Animal Adds Penguin's

The newest addition to the list of creatures available in our Adopt-An-Animal Program inhabit their very own exhibit outside the Aviary Building. The Humboldt's Penguin creche (denotes social group) occupies this beautiful exhibit which was constructed in 1977.

The keepers are ecstatic over the possibility that at the time of this printing, a new member of the creche will have been hatched from the egg currently being watched by its expectant parents. Another egg laid in early April failed to produce, but the keepers are hopeful that the new parents will be successful.

The Humboldt's Penguins' creche is now available as a shared adoption. For \$25 one can become a member of their extended adopted family and of course, be listed on the credit board, which is near their exhibit. Persons purchasing shares will also receive a certificate of adoption suitable for framing, information about the creatures, and an invitation to the special Animal Adoption Picnic that will be held the evening of August 18th at the Zoo.

The Humboldt's Penguin is one of the families of Penguins that are not found in the Antarctic region, like the Adelie's, Chinstrap and Emperor. The Humboldt's Penguins, found along the western coast of South America from Chili north to Peru, have adjusted beautifully to Milwaukee's climate.

The cold climate Penguins are very susceptible to aspergillosis, a respiratory disease, which requires the control of humidity, temperature and bacteria free sanitation, which they receive in their glass enclosed bird house quarters.

All Penguins are maritime birds, well adapted to swimming and diving. Penguins are countershaded — black backs which blend with the ocean when viewed from above and white fronts which blend with the daylight when viewed from below.

The Humboldt's Penguin front is marked with a thin horseshoe-shaped black band around the chest. A white semicircle runs over the black head from the eyebrow down to the throat.

They feed on small fish like anchovies. They nest in caves, crevices and shallow sand burrows. Two eggs are laid per mating period.

Your contribution will help maintain the Humboldt's Penguins' exhibit as a fabulous habitat for the propagation of this beautiful species.



Do You Remember Irma?

An I-Can-Read Story for Children

By Wilma B. Boese

Do you remember Irma? She is a wild turkey who lives at the Zoo. Two years ago the Zoo had one female wild turkey which could be seen in the company of the Zoo's flock of peafowl. I named this lone turkey Irma in a short story I wrote for you in ALIVE. The story was about Irma Turkey who kidnapped 3 peafowl chicks from a peahen. The chicks stayed with Irma for 3 weeks. Then they disappeared. No one knew what happened to them. Irma was all alone again.

The Zoo staff decided that Irma needed a friend. Konrad, a male wild turkey, came to the Zoo to be with Irma. Konrad and Irma mated and had four beautiful chicks last summer. Irma raised three of the chicks. The zookeepers in the Bird House raised one small, weak chick for Irma.

Irma is a good mother. She is always watchful with her small chicks. When danger is near she teaches her chicks to lie very still and flat in the grass. When the sun is hot, the chicks climb into the flower beds by the food stand. They rest until it is cool. Irma and her chicks do not eat the popcorn and food that people throw to them. They scratch the soil for tidbits and eat insects. At sunset Irma leads her chicks up the big rocks to the roof of the elk barn in the elk yard. The wild turkey family roosts there. Here they are safe and can see foxes, raccoons, and skunks that are about the Zoo at night.

The Zoo bought more wild turkeys. They were put in the Zoo Park late last winter. They stay in the park with Konrad and Irma because there is food for them. They are all strong flyers and can fly above the trees and out of the park. But they stay in the park. Now the Zoo has a flock of wild turkeys.

Wild turkeys are beautiful. Adult male turkeys will spread their tails in a fan shape like a peacock. They want the attention of female turkeys. During the spring and summer turkeys do not have feathers on their heads. The skin on the head of the male turkey is brightly colored red and blue at this time of mating season. Female turkeys are drab and dark like the earth and dead leaves. Their drab color protects them when they are on the nest with eggs.

Irma and Konrad have a grown son who is very noisy. He gobbles and gobbles.



Irma

He doesn't like me. When he sees me out for a walk in the park he runs to me and circles around and around me. He gobbles at me. Once he flew against the back of my legs. I try to talk to him and make friends with him. Once I showed him my bright yellow pencil. He grabbed it with his beak and broke the eraser. He tried to take the pencil away from me. He is very strong. Some keepers think he is a "stinker". I agree with them.

Come see Konrad, Irma, and our other wild turkeys and their chicks. They are interesting and fun to watch.

Vocabulary:

wild turkey a large ground dwelling bird found in Wisconsin

flock a group of birds that stay together

peafowl large ground dwelling birds from India

kidnap to take chicks away from the parent peahen

peacock a male peafowl with a long beautiful tail and a crest

peahen a female peafowl with a crest on her head

mate the female bird's eggs will hatch into chicks

stinker slang for not being very good

Zoological Society Corporate Members

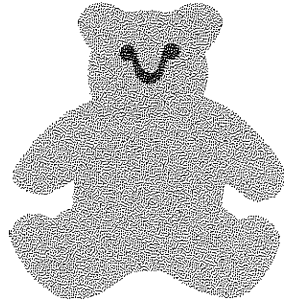
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You are invited to join these members and patrons in their effort to maintain the excellence of the Milwaukee County Zoo. Inquiries are welcome: Zoological Society of Milwaukee County 258-2333.

ZOO PRIDE



Teddy Bear Days

Bears of every size, color and variation will be the order of the day when the Zoo celebrates **Teddy Bear Days**, June 15-19.

Zoo Pride is sponsoring the five days of bear fun and activities that will feature events for every bear in your family.

There will be displays of teddy bears from collectors, antique dealers and celebrities from Milwaukee and around the country.

Zoo Pride volunteers will conduct "Bear Walks", tours of the bear exhibits complete with fact sheets, leaving from the Camel exhibit every half hour from 10-2.

Children will be able to add their own "Bear-fitti", draw a bear and sign their name, on the Teddy Bear Murals, from 11:30-3 at sites yet to be announced.

On Saturday, June 18, the great Teddy Bear Parade and Costume Judging Contest will take place. Anyone with a costumed teddy bear will be admitted free and can join in the festivities on the Flamingo Lake Cafe Terrace. For participants under twelve years of age with teddy bears, the parade begins at 1:00, for those twelve and older it begins at 2:00. Celebrity judges, including Dr. Gilbert Boese, will award three prizes in each age group.

On Father's Day, Sunday, June 19, papa bears will be admitted free accompanied by a baby bear. After 10:00 they can participate in the **Baby Bear Three Meter Crawl** for baby bears 15 months and younger. The event will be staged just north of Monkey Island and the admission fee will be one big bear hug between papa bear and his contestant.

All papa and mama bears are encouraged to bring their entire bear families to join in the fun during Teddy Bear Days at the Zoo.

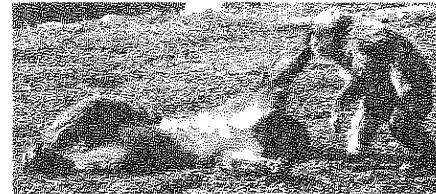
Collectible Teddy Bear displays provided by the Puzzlebox in the Grand Avenue Mall, and Finch's Nest in Waukesha.

Trip to Toronto

Zoo Pride is planning a weekend trip to the Toronto Zoo in October. The group will be accompanied by Dr. Boese. For more information please contact the Zoo Pride Office, 258-5667.

Quarterly Animal Report

By Robert Bullerman
Assistant Zoo Director



This report covers the first quarter of 1983. Due to Milwaukee's winter weather, January, February and March are normally quiet months in regards to activities in the animal collection. Airlines do not accept shipments of animals when temperatures are below 20°. We restrict shipments to animals heading south into warmer climates. If we are shipping an animal south, we arrange an escort to the aircraft to ensure that the animal will not be placed on a cold loading dock. The animal is insulated with styrofoam as an added protection against the cold. The people at the airline freight offices are generally very cooperative.

Although animals are classed as "first freight," we always think of the animal's welfare. How

Volunteer Night

Zoo Pride held a very successful Volunteer Opportunities Night on March 30. Ninety-seven potential volunteers attended the program and were signed up by the Chairmen of the various Zoo Pride Committees. The volunteers enjoyed chili and tours by Zoo Commissary Supervisor Tiny Tiedjen. Special thanks are in order for Sandi Moomey, who chaired the event.



Zoo Pride Volunteer Judy Mueller.

the shipment is handled depends upon the individuals involved.

Nevertheless, we did have some activity during this time period. A clouded leopard that was here on breeding loan from the Minnesota Zoo was sold to the Little Rock Zoo. We shipped it to Little Rock for the Minnesota Zoo. A female Geoffroy's cat was shipped on loan to the John Ball Zoo, Grand Rapids, Michigan. In this case, we were able to go right to the aircraft and the Grand Rapids Zoo personnel picked up the Geoffroy's cat directly from the aircraft. Needless to say, this takes planning and the cooperation of the airlines.

Three female kangaroos were shipped to Texas, a male blacktail marmoset went to the National Zoo, and a ruffed lemur was sold to the Grand Rapids Zoo.

Eight patas monkeys left the collection to make room for the mandrills, who were moved to make room for the orangs, who were moved to make room for Tino, our new male lowland gorilla arriving from West Germany in May. Kind of a musical cages affair! Other animals shipped included five patagonian caviés and two female common marmosets.

We received only one animal, a female tree shrew, from the Lincoln Park Zoo.

A tragic fire destroyed our Children's Zoo Goat Barn on March 9, 1983. Seventeen domestic goats were lost in the fire that completely destroyed the building.

A male lar gibbon, on breeding loan to the Michigan City Zoo, died and a female wande-roo macaque died while on loan to the Louisiana Purchase Gardens and Zoo. Probably our greatest losses during this period were a female grey zebra on January 30 and a female white rhino on February 11.

Also born were a common marmoset, seven patagonian caviés and a male mandrill, the first born at the Milwaukee County Zoo. Unfortunately, he died several days after birth. A Bennett's wallaby was born to a female brought here last fall from South Bend, Indiana.

Zoo Honors Local Communities

Milwaukee County Zoo Celebrates 20 years in Residence by honoring local communities throughout the summer.

May 21 - Bayside, Fox Point, River Hills Day;
May 28 - Brown Deer Day; June 4 - Cudahy Day;
June 18 - Franklin Day; June 25 - Glendale, Whitefish Bay Day; July 2 - Greendale Day;
July 9 - Greenfield Day; July 16 - Hales Corners Day;
July 23 - City of Milwaukee Day; July 30 - Oak Creek Day;
August 6 - St. Francis Day; August 13 - Shorewood Day;
August 20 - South Milwaukee Day; August 27 - Wauwatosa Day;
September 3 - West Allis, West Milwaukee Day; September 10 - Milwaukee County Day.

AT THE ZOO

May 28 Blue Ridge County Line Band, 12-4;
May 29 & 30 From 1-5.

May 28, June 18, 25, July 9, 16, 23, 30,
August 13, 20, 27, September 3 Tripoli
Clowns In Children's Zoo, afternoon.

May 29 Kandu the Magician Magic Shows 2
afternoon shows.

June 4, 5, 11 & 12 Bobby Nelson Band 12-4.

June 11 & 12 MC Zoo Days Youth program
for children through McDonald's Birthday
Club.

June 12 & 26 Magic Shows In Children's
Zoo, afternoon.

June 20 Discovery Center Opens.

June 20 Puppet Shows Begin, daily.

June 25 & 26 Brunner Brother's Band 12-4.

July 2 Country Impressions Band 12-4;
July 3 & 4 From 1-5.

July 9, 16 & 30 Blue Ridge County Line
Band 12-4; July 10 & 31 From 1-5.

July 9 & 10 Milwaukee Symphony Pops
Concert Evening.

July 13 WISN Day Visit with DJ's, Sock
Hop 9-5.

July 14 Zoological Society Beauty and the
Beast II, Champagne Picnic, 5:00, and Annual
Meeting of the Members, 7:30.

July 16 & 17 Milwaukee Symphony Classical
Concert Evening, Lukas Foss, Conductor.

July 17 Brew County Rounders Band 1-5.

July 17, 24 & 31 Magic Shows In Children's
Zoo, afternoon.

July 22 & 23 Milwaukee Symphony Pops
Concert Evening.

July 23 & August 27 Lost Marble Band 12-4.

July 23 & 24 Preschool vision screenings
by Wisconsin Society to Prevent Blindness.

July 24 & August 28 Mountain Laurel Band
1-5.

July 30 & 31 Milwaukee Symphony Classical
Concert Evening, Paul Polivnick, Conductor.
(Note: additional dates to be announced.)

August 6 Blue Ridge County Line Band 12-4;
August 7 From 1-5.

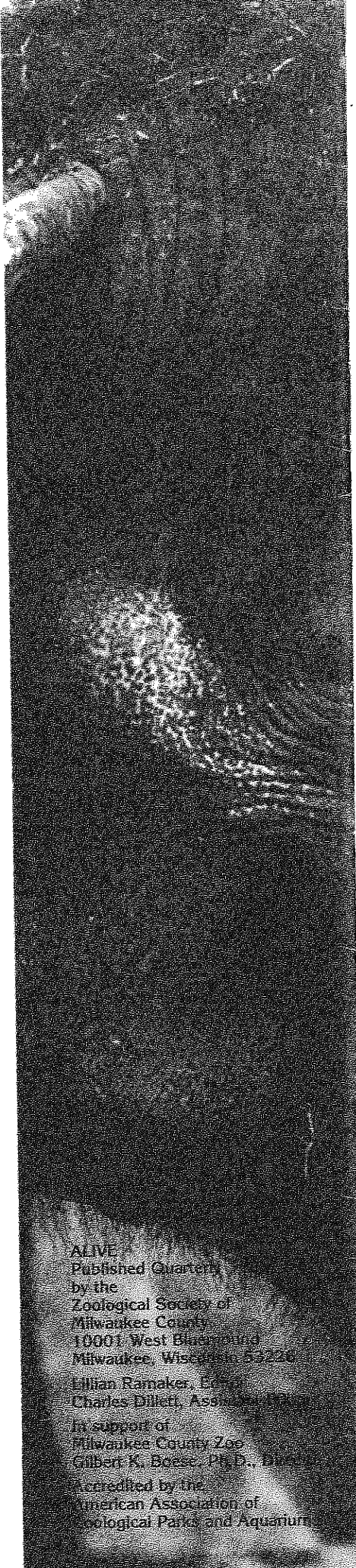
August 7, 14, 21 & 28 Magic Shows In
Children's Zoo, afternoon.

August 12 WZUU Day Events to be announced.

August 13 & 20 Brunner Brother's Band
12-4; August 14 & 21 From 1-5.

August 18 Animal Adoption Parent Picnic
5 p.m.

August 27 Nickelodeon Days Performances
by the Nickelodeon Road Show's Pinwheel
Character Favorites, special events to be
announced.



ALIVE
Published Quarterly
by the
Zoological Society of
Milwaukee County
10001 West Bluemound
Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53226

Eillian Ramaker, Editor
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In support of
Milwaukee County Zoo
Gilbert K. Doess, Ph.D., Director
Accredited by the
American Association of
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