



# ALIVE

ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY  
OF MILWAUKEE COUNTY  
FOUNDED 1906 / SEPTEMBER 1982

## Society + Zoo + DNR = Barn Owls

If the establishment of a prestigious collection was the goal of a zoological garden before World War II, if successful in-zoo breeding and advanced housing were the goals of the past three decades, then perhaps reintroduction is the next logical step.

The thought came to me, when reading a National Geographic article, several years ago, about orangutans. The government of Malasia is carrying captive-born orangs through a feral stage and to a wild return on the island of Borneo.

One of the committees of your Society's board of directors is the education, research and conservation committee. Formerly the education committee, it was renamed and given a broader role by immediate past president Thomas S. O'Byrne.

This committee addressed reintroduction in 1982, and we first looked at moose. The department of natural resources advised us, however, that it would not be feasible to reintroduce moose because our white tail carries a brain worm, a parasite harmless to deer but fatal to moose. Moose, furthermore, do not tolerate a winter snow depth less than 30 inches.

The Society then entered a tri-partite agreement with the Zoo and the DNR to launch a cooperative effort to reintroduce endangered species.

James Hale, director of the office of endangered and nongame species, represented the DNR. We selected the barn owl as our first species to be reintroduced. In fall, we begin work with the pine marten.

Barn owls (*Tyto alba*) are *cosino-politos*, living on every continent except Antarctica, and, while central Wisconsin has always been at the northern extent of their range, they were formerly numerous in our state. In fact, they were most populous in the six counties surrounding metropolitan Milwaukee.<sup>(1)</sup> In 1981, however, there was but one documented breeding pair in the state.<sup>(2)</sup>

Peterson<sup>(3)</sup> has studied the Wisconsin barn owl population for many years. He confirms their rarity. He concluded after a five-year information gathering campaign, that during 1975-1979 there were about five reliable barn owl sightings per year. During this period there were no documented records of barn owl nests in the state.

Peterson speculated that colder winters, pesticides and decreased nesting sites may all contribute to the decline.

For all suspecting winters are getting colder, it is true. During the fifth, sixth and seventh decades of this century, winter average temperatures were increasingly colder and snow cover increasingly deeper.

The pesticide factor has not been confirmed, as it has been for certain hawks.

Certainly new agricultural construction (metal barns and efficient grain storage) does not provide the nesting nooks and rodent population of old. Few churches today have open belfries.

The DNR recommends a barn owl nest box which is easy to build and can be installed in silos and farm buildings. (Next page.)

Southern barn owls do not migrate. Northern birds may or may not migrate southward. Their main diet includes rodents, pigeons, sparrows and amphibians. Their concave heart-shape face is built like a sonar receiver, with tightly matted feathers sculptured to guide sound waves to the ears.

The left ear is higher and angled slightly downward, while the right is lower and angled upward. This allows the owl to triangulate sound waves horizontally and vertically — creating azimuth and elevation, just as is done with artillery — and can put the missile (the owl) on target in total darkness.<sup>(4)</sup>

In 1981 a Texas Zoo donated four barn owls to the DNR. These were in turn donated to the Zoo, but when Society director William Chester drove to Poynette to pick them up, they had already increased to seven. In January 1982 their cage was installed in the then closed Children's Zoo. Now the owls are in a more spacious and secluded area of the Zoo. They are very nervous birds.

Soon, one or more pairs will be allowed to fly in a larger enclosure and learn to hunt live rodents. Eventually they will fly free in southeastern Wisconsin.

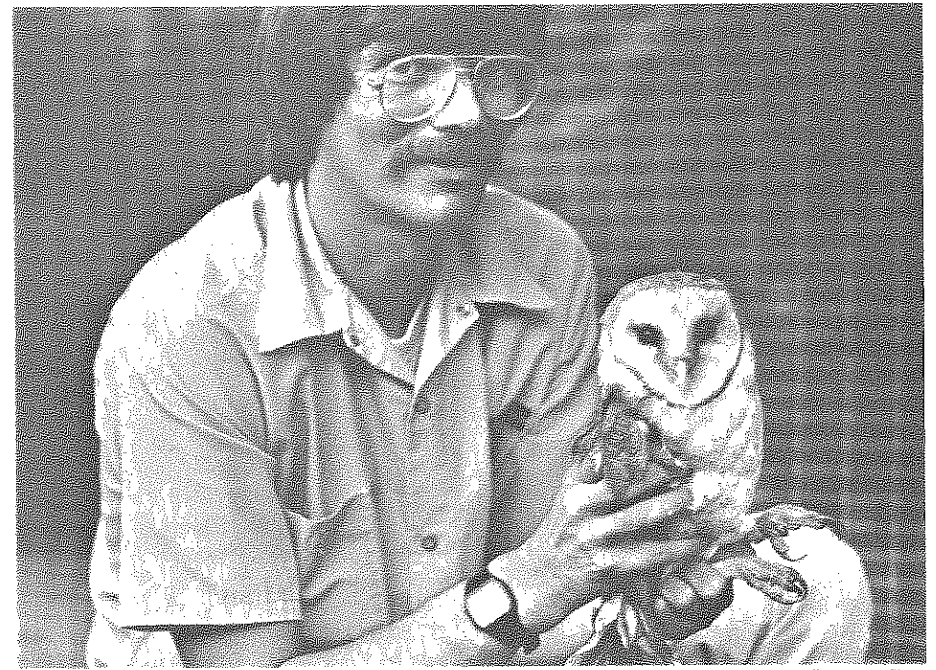
The Zoo will be responsible for the birds in captivity. The DNR will be responsible for relocating, banding, mapping and other field work. The Society will support the Zoo and DNR in every way it can: \$4000 has been budgeted for next year.

In late April three more barn owlets were hatched from eggs artificially incubated and all are doing well in the aviary basement.

Success of our program — your program — will occur when banded Milwaukee Zoo barn owls raise a brood in the wild.

#### References:

1. Gromme: *The Birds of Wisconsin*; 1963.
2. Wisconsin Natural Resources
3. Peterson: Department of Natural Resources Research Report No. 107; 1980.
4. Knudsen: *The Hearing of Barn Owls*, Scientific American, December 1981.
5. DNR Publication: Bureau of Research and Office of Nongame Species; September 1981.



Greg Anton Photo

By Rodney Crouse  
Area Supervisor Birds

## ... in Wisconsin Again

Milwaukee County Zoo received seven barn owls (*Tyto alba*) from the Wisconsin department of natural resources (DNR) in January. They were weighed and banded for identification purposes, then given temporary housing in Children's Zoo, three nest boxes of DNR design and a large flight cage. Search for a permanent breeding facility then began.

An old shed behind the Australian house was selected for its secluded location. However, due to unusually heavy snow that season, revamping of the shed to accommodate two breeding chambers had to be put off until warmer weather. It turned out to be too late. On March 25, one white barn owl egg was found in one of the nest boxes in the temporary facility.

To minimize disturbance, the box was not checked again until April 1. Four eggs were guarded by a very protective barn owl.

Two weeks later the new breeding chambers were complete. The situation at that time: two very protective birds guarding their clutch of eggs, in an area soon to be disturbed with preparation for the upcoming season, and an isolated new facility. The decision: move them.

Much to our disappointment, the adults quit incubating. We had no choice but to remove the eggs for artificial incubation.

We contacted Walter Crawford Jr., director of a raptor rehabilitation and propagation project in Missouri, whose direction guided our next efforts.

The eggs were placed in a Marsh Farms Rollex incubator with dry bulb temperature of 98.5 degrees Fahrenheit, wet bulb temperature of 87 degrees, and were turned once each hour automatically. April 16, to confirm fertility, we candled the eggs and found all four to have living, active embryos.

Six days later, a little fissure was made in one of the egg shells by the chick inside — the chick had made a "pip" in zoo language — and that egg then was transferred to a hatcher. The pip grew noticeably larger each day until finally April 24, the chick broke through the shell and could be heard peeping as it chipped its way around the eggs' circumference.

April 25, 12 noon, it hatched — naked, and seeming all beak and stomach. It was transferred to a brooder 11 hours later, and fed. It ate hungrily.

At 11 the next morning the chick was found dead. A post mortem by Zoo veterinarian Bruce Beehler offered no clues as to why.

A second egg hatched at 4:30 that day; the remaining, April 28 and May 4. All chicks appeared healthy and very eager eaters.

For the first two weeks, six times a day, 6 a.m. to 11 p.m., they received skinned laboratory mice, blended to the consistency of pudding and enriched with liquid vitamins.

Pieces of unskinned mice became the diet a week later, in order to simulate the food adult birds consume. In the third week since hatching, the triplets were taking food three times a day, gulping small whole mice, tearing the larger ones without assistance.

Growth was rapid. The second owl hatched at 18.3 grams (three-fifths of an ounce). Four days later it weighed 48.9 grams (ounce and a-half) and at age 10 days: 128.7 grams (4 ounces).

The hand-raised young reside in the basement of the aviary, now, waiting the second phase of the DNR-Zoo-Society barn owl project: to prepare them for life in the wild.

And after that? Release in Wisconsin to nest and propagate, it is hoped, in our state.

## You, Too, Can Build Barn Owl Nest

Not so long ago barn owls were commonplace in rural southern Wisconsin. Barn owls lived in the rafters and lofts of barns, silos, and abandoned buildings left over from bygone settlements. But the rural scene has changed. Today outbuildings are made of sheet metal with screened windows, silos are glass-lined. Barn owls are sealed from many favorite haunts. Hay and grains are stored by tight, clean-farming methods that discourage mice, rats and moles — the barn owl's diet.

Certainly these changes are for the farmer's own good, but unintentionally we've shut out barn owls from traditional nest sites and from our lives. DNR records show only two barn owl nests in Wisconsin from 1978-1980. Both of those nests were in 1980 and both sites were destroyed. The barn owl is an endangered species in Wisconsin. If you live in the southern half of the state, there's something you can do to help barn owls.

Part of the barn owl's problem is lack of nest sites. Nest boxes can help remedy this. A two-year study in Utah attracted barn owls to 28 of 38 nest boxes. Nest boxes should be located near barn owl food, and protect owlets and adults from weather, predators, and disturbances. Nest box building means a long-term commitment. Owls return to a site year after year. Barn owls arrive in Wisconsin in March, and eggs hatch in May or in June. Young leave in October and adult owls in January. If food is available over winter, barn owls may not migrate south.

The most important step in bird house construction is selecting the right site. It's best to choose a spot that resembles the bird's natural habitat as closely as possible. Keep in mind the following:

**Geography:** barn owls are native nesters in southern Wisconsin. Nest boxes placed north of Lake Winnebago are unlikely to be successful.



Former breeding range.

**Location:** when all of Wisconsin was wilderness, barn owls nested in caves, and hollows of huge, old trees. With settlement, barn owls started nesting in silos, barns, schools and church steeples. Barn owls favor rural areas over urban, but if undisturbed, they can nest close to people. A good way to start scouting nest box sites may be to check likely spots in your area.

**Disturbance:** barn owls are skittish and easily disturbed. Unused silos, abandoned barns and other rural buildings where people are not likely to bother the owls make the best sites. Barn owls should never be disturbed when eggs are in the nest. Predators also disturb barn owls. Raccoons, cats, and dogs make short order of owl nests. Nest boxes set into the wall of the barn, or high in a silo provide good predator protection.

**Sign:** the surest way to attract barn owls to your nest box is to place the box where barn owls have been before. Look for "whitewash" (barn owl droppings) and pellets (regurgitated castings of fur and bone) on barn floors and lofts.

**Food:** barn owls eat mice, rats, moles, and any other rodent they can catch. Farmers call them living mousetraps. Barn owls favor nest sites close to a marsh, fallow field or pasture where there is abundant prey. The amount of food available will often determine the clutch size and number of clutches. Barn owls can have both spring and fall broods.

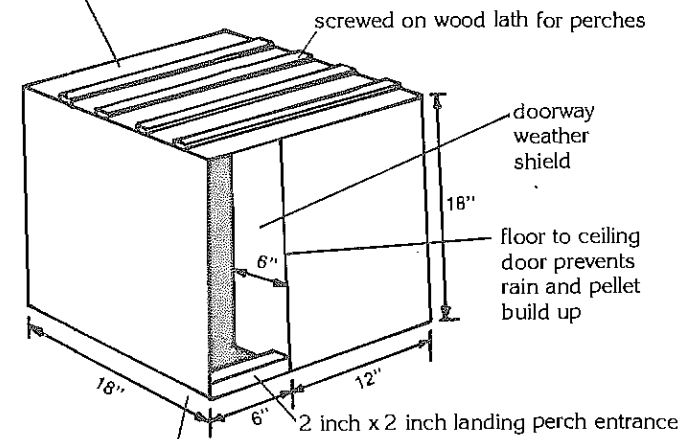
**Weather:** one of the basic purposes of any shelter is to guard its occupants from the elements — weather. The nest boxes below are designed to shelter barn owls from harsh winds and rain.

The best way to check if owls are using your nest box is to watch for owl activity near the site. Also, look for "whitewash" and pellets. Barn owls are most active at night so you'll have to become a "night owl" yourself if you want to see them. If you need to check the nest box itself, do so at night when the parent owls are more likely to be off the nest hunting mice.

To report barn owl sightings and nests, or for further information contact LeRoy Petersen, DNR/3911 Fish Hatchery Road/Madison, WI 53711/(608) 267-9429.

## Building the Box

(optional) aluminized roof sealer for a cooler box



drill six (1/2 inch) drain holes in bottom (a must!!)

### Materials:

1/2 inch plywood to build a cube 18-22 inches.

wood preservative on outside walls to seal the surface and waterproof the box.

black paint on inside walls to darken the box and prevent owl contact with wood preservative.

nails and wood glue used together to make double-strength joints.

wood laths to build perches on roof.

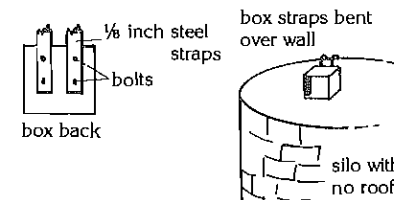
scrap wood to build 2 inch x 2 inch entrance landing perch.

wood shavings scattered 1 1/2 inches deep inside box for nest lining.

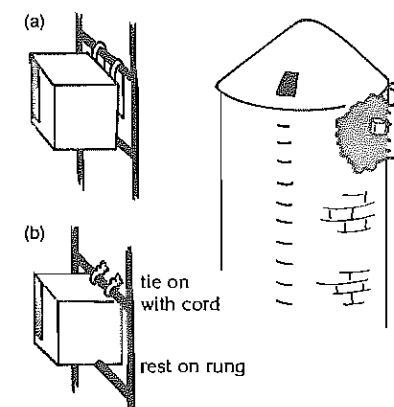
1/4 inch steel straps for mounting on silos or rafters.

## Silo Boxes

**Silos with metal roofs or no roof**  
Bolt 2 metal straps to box back and bend them to fit over the silo wall.

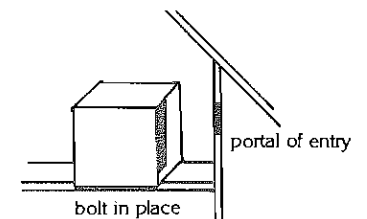


**Silos with poured concrete tops**  
(a) Bend steel straps to fit tightly on rung of silo chute ladder, or  
(b) rest box on ladder rung (may want to notch box bottom) and secure with heavy cord.

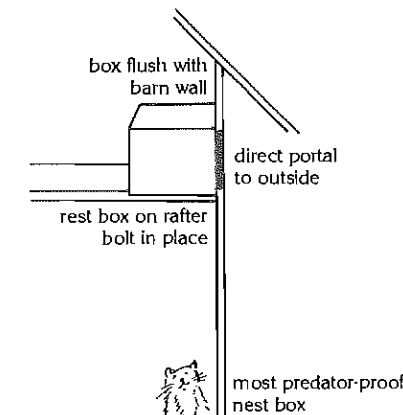


## Barn Boxes

Nest boxes can be attached tight against barn wall with an opening cut into the wall boards.



Nest boxes can be attached to barn rafters.





Greg Anton Photos

Joan Embery, San Diego Zoo nationally famous animal handler and goodwill ambassador for the whole zoo world, was featured speaker at the Society members meeting here July 16.

She came to Milwaukee as a friend of the Zoo, donating her time to help kick off the Society's animal adoption program in support of it.

Speaking from a few notes she wrote on stage before her introduction, she charmed the audience with her tales of her work with animals and some of her numerous network television appearances.

Embery ended on a serious note, stressing the importance of financial support for zoos and the need to save animals facing extinction.

In a luncheon interview Embery revealed she really is an animal person at heart who often longs for a quiet life with her husband on their ranch in Lakeside, California. There they raise horses, pigs, dogs, cats, macaws, chameleon, Amazon parrot, slow loris, zebra. And will someday, she hopes, add her favorite, an elephant.

Her name can be found on the All in Family credit board at monkey island, among those indicating support for our African elephant Babe.



## Beauty and The Feast

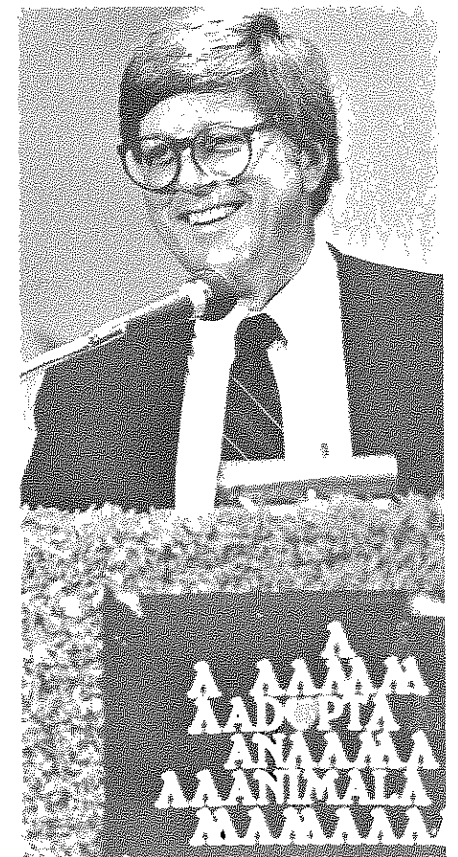
"Welcome to Beauty and the Feast. Welcome to the Animal Adoption kick-off. Welcome to the Annual Meeting of the membership of the Society, the best annual meeting in town — no reports, no elections, no business, no votes." (Applause and cheers.)

The speaker: acting president of the Zoological Society of Milwaukee County Richard A. Gallun as he called to order July 16 the first meeting of Society members to be held in the summer, because the Society now is too large to meet in any building at the Zoo, and Milwaukee Symphony had offered its tent — free.

"This in fact is the program portion of the annual meeting we used to have," Gallun continued, "when 200-300 would gather in the restaurant one autumn night to conduct business and enjoy a program." (Membership now is 10,000 plus, this attendance 2,800.) He said the annual business meeting will be held in October as before — this year, October 12 — in the restaurant, no program, no refreshment.

Gallun changed from vice president to acting president in April when president Richard D. Gebhardt became ill.

Joan Embery, opposite. Richard A. Gallun, right.





Gilbert K. Boese

Milwaukee County Zoo director Gilbert K. Boese reviewed the Zoo year briefly: Samson, Tanga, Diane, Mandara, endangered species breeding program, the remarkable number of births, the beginning in the Reptile-Aquarium building of what is to be zoowide exhibit renovation, increasing year-round use of the Zoo including the Symphony at the Zoo this summer, increasing revenue and attendance, increasing participation in special events and in programs offered by the Zoo education department — the latter now at the 50,000 attendance mark.

He especially praised the work of volunteers who serve the Zoo through Zoo Pride, who along with dedicated staff and supportive Society, make the Zoo an increasingly worthwhile institution.

Gallun called Boese "certainly the most important person in the Zoo of today. He is imaginative, energetic, knowledgeable," he said "a thoroughly professional zoologist and administrator."



Milwaukee County executive William O'Donnell got applause when he said Milwaukee county needs institutions such as the Zoo, the Museum and the Art Center to provide the quality that has enhanced life here for years.



The Platypus Society was founded by the Zoological Society last year, Gallun explained, to recognize the contribution made to the Zoo by corporate members of the Society, those enterprises paying dues of \$1000 or more a year. "Together," he said, "they make possible funding for projects that keep the Zoo vital and the crowds coming back.

"Since Milwaukee first had a zoo in 1906 (then a small collection of hoofstock and an elephant) one local corporation, The Journal Company, has stood out in its support of it," he said. He then called on Society past presidents William R. Pollock Jr. and George D. La Budde to present the Society's Emu Egg Award — the eggshell of a Milwaukee Zoo emu — to Journal chairman of the board Donald B. Abert and former chairman of the board Irwin Maier.

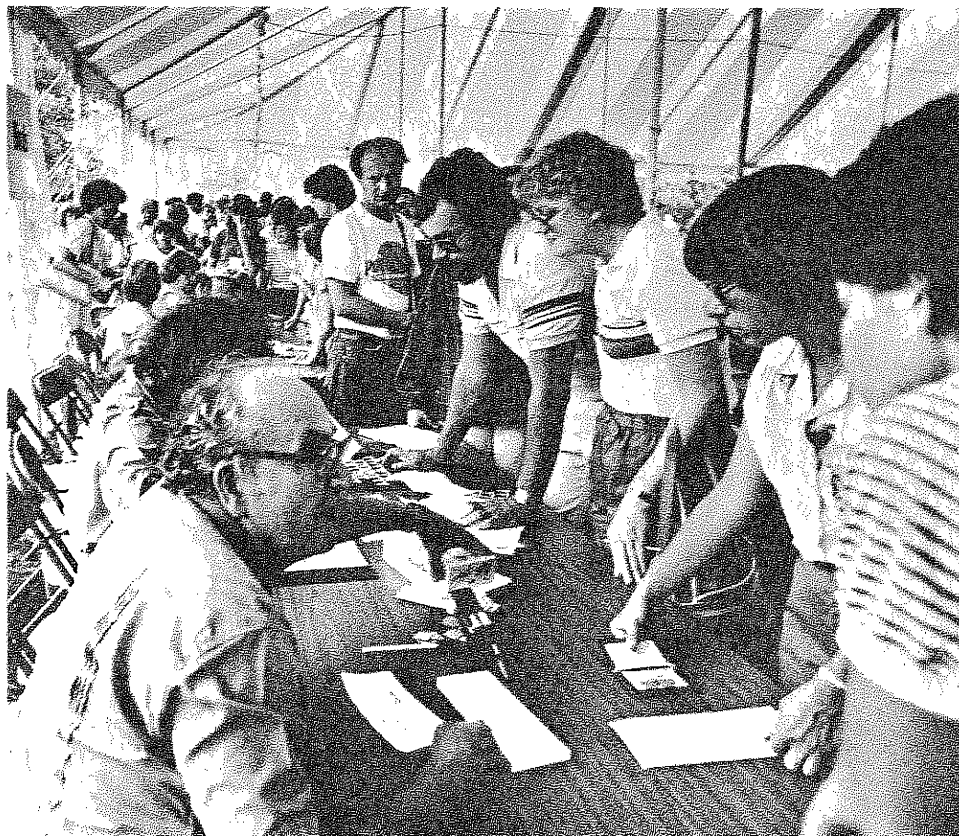
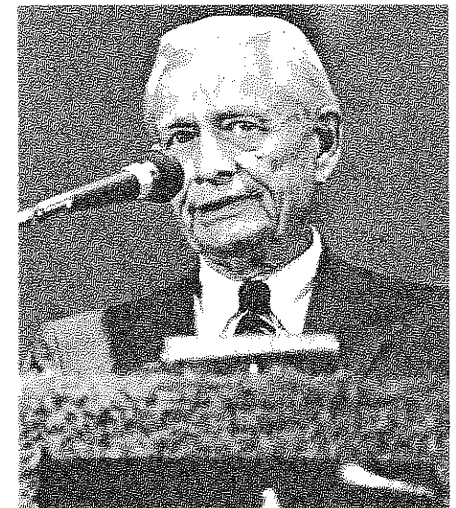
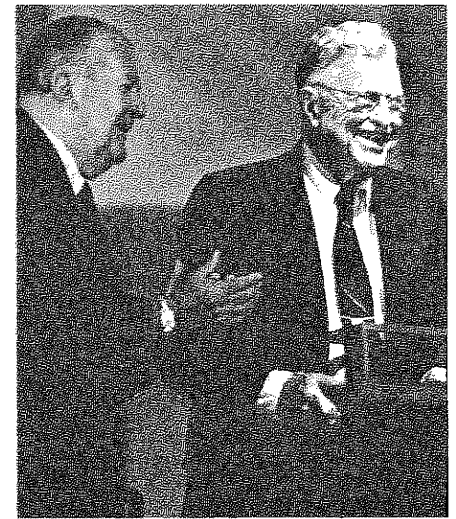
Pollock and La Budde recalled their individual leadership and corporate contribution began in the 30s with the formation of the Greater Milwaukee Committee which Maier helped found and lead. It identified the needs of the community and worked in the years following to fill them. On the original list: art center, war memorial, performing arts center, north-south expressway, stadium, sports arena, off-street downtown parking, citywide master plan, new museum, new zoo.

When the latter opened in 1957, The Journal Company donated the miniature railroad, including two locomotives and three cars, that has delighted zoogoers since. A third locomotive was purchased in 1978. Train revenues over the years have paid for all train operation and maintenance, and have been used for various Zoo improvements — among them, the fleet of rubber-tired zoomobiles.

In 1977 the Journal donated 10,000 copies of reporter Alicia Armstrong's book "Zooperstars" which became a best seller at the Zoo and also contributed to the improvement fund.

"These gentlemen represent the leadership of a company that has not only written and published the story of this community, but in many cases, and certainly in regard to the Zoo, has helped make it newsworthy," Pollock said.

William R. Pollock Jr. with Irwin Maier, top. Donald B. Abert, right. Rob Edwards, below.



WTMJ afternoon air personality Rob Edwards presented the animal adoption message and carried the evening through the adoption of Mandara for \$1500. Zoo Pride volunteers in the adoption center at the back of the tent were mobbed with eager adoptees, started at 5:30 and worked steadily through the evening.

Biggest money-makers so far: Mandara adopted by the Proud Popover for \$1500; Diane and Tanga, by the Milton Peck Family Foundation and Wiscold, Inc. for \$2500; giraffe Twiga, by his donors for \$1800.

In all, \$14,000 was raised that night. To date: \$35,000.



Fund adoptions are possible now. Hippo family Pinky, Paddy and Puddles, African elephant Babe, turtle Onasis (alone since Jackie died), Rudy rhinoceros and prairie dog town are among the offerings. Pay a specified minimum fee (they vary) and he, she, or they will be yours. Call 258-2223.





Gourmet box supper and picnics from home started the evening. They were accompanied by the Billy Mitchell Scottish Pipe Band parading and performing, and served and assisted by Zoo Pride volunteers and the new Zoo Pride teens.

Beer taps were open, soda poured. Romey Lee's band was onstage. It rained a few drops, stopped for good, stayed cloudy but warm. A nice evening.



Zoo Pride teen volunteer Chuck Witte, 15, Greendale, worked at the Animal Adoption kick-off. A Martin Luther High school sophomore, Witte worked this summer at the story hour and the artifacts table at the Aquarium-Reptile building, and edited the teen volunteer newspaper.

He is among 43 young people selected by interview to assist in the Discovery Center, Children's Zoo and Aquarium-Reptile facility. They work under the direction of Zoo Pride's Mike Huwateck and Joyce Weiss.



Volunteers researched each species and each individual creature in the Zoo collection (1982 inventory: 4,812) and wrote complete information on them for the Adopt An Animal program.

UWM zoology fellow Gay Reinartz did all the birds, reptiles and amphibians; Arthur Andersen accountant, Mike McDonnell did the fish (and ended up buying an aquarium so he could put his new knowledge to use). Mammals were handled by Zoo Pride members Jill Eaton, Pat Frédenberg, Leslie Grinker, Nan Leedom, Jinny Issel, Judy Van Till and Bill Zajicheck.

Adopters receive the information on their particular animal in the adoption packet.

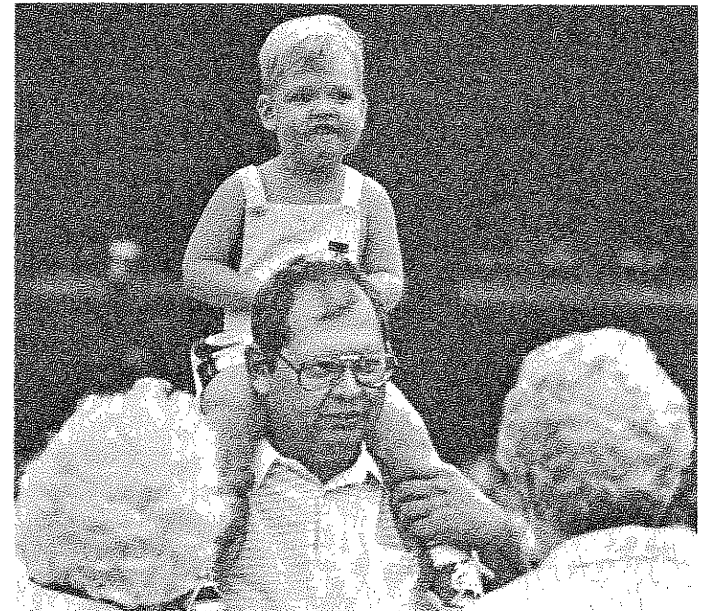


Presented to each participant in the Adopt An Animal program is certification that "the contribution of the above named . . . will enable one of the world's best zoos to continue its dedicated efforts to preserve and protect our natural world, and promote the judicious role of humankind in it."

It concludes with "the gratitude of the the Directors of the Zoological Society of Milwaukee County for the generous contribution . . . and records for all time the positive result of decisions to care, to become involved, to support."

Zoo Pride Teen Chuck Witte, right, among other picnic scenes.

Greg Anton Photos





Female upland gorilla, above, in the Virunga mountains, Rwanda, where gorilla researcher Diane Fosse did her world-renowned work: 20 mm lens.

Look at her. The face above. Imagine you are in a bamboo forest and it is cloudy and raining. You have been climbing at a 60-degree angle for three hours in the remote country of Rwanda in central Africa — and you are dead.

Well, sure, the last is in a manner of speaking, but you are straining and this is the last of three days of chances. And you live in Pewaukee and work in Milwaukee and you're 63 and this is the last of your chances — period — probably. So you ask to be up front.

Behind are Milwaukee County Zoo director Gilbert K. Boese and Milwaukee Journal photographer George Cassidy; beside, the government guide who knows the territory and the particular gorilla group you want to see. The latter keeps clearing his throat, a sort of ahem . . . ahem . . . ahem . . . gorilla talk.

She is there! Snap goes the camera. Screech goes gorilla. Up she jumps, arms up, running toward you. Down you go, face in the mud, following the rules. Stay low. Make no noise. No wild motions. Do not stare at them. If charged, do not run. Drop flat, face down, completely subservient. She comes over you, raises her arms, stares, walks away. And the trek goes on . . .

## James H. Kuehn: He's Been Around

By Carol Moore Waite  
Society Executive Director

James H. Kuehn Photos

So it goes in an interview with Zoological Society director and secretary James H. Kuehn, in an attempt to discover why he went, why he goes — what he gets out of it. The African jaunt is one of many.

"The gorilla," says Kuehn, "is an unbelievably intriguing animal; my favorite in the animal world and the zoo world. Though I like them all, the gorilla, I must say, is absolutely captivating."

"I came from a family that loved the outdoors and the presence of wildlife, and I naturally developed these interests," he said. "In high school I went on several Canadian canoe trips out of Camp Manitowish, I worked for two summers in Wyoming leading pack trips, I rode steers in rodeos — but that was it for adventure. I married, had children, learned how to run my business. I dreamed. You do not do these things at a certain period in your life.

"In 1956, corresponding with the federal government concerning the development of cold storage in Brazil, it became apparent that a trip to the country would be helpful, and I talked my father into accompanying me. We went to Sao Paolo and Rio, Lima and Caracas, and I got a taste of travel," he said. Ten years later he began satisfying it in earnest.

Invited to the wedding of a son of a Rotarian from Pakistan — the son marrying the daughter of the Emir of Bahawalpouir — in a general announcement to friends gathered in farewell, Kuehn said yes immediately. A wonderful decision, he calls it, one that took him and his wife Jeanne to a Pakistanian Eden via Rome and Beirut (then the banking capital of the Arab world).

The Emir's palace, surrounded by a 20-foot wall, guarded by soldiers in red uniforms on perfectly white steeds, with dinner at table for 60 with a servant behind each chair, housed an enchanting family. The Emir, a direct descendent of an uncle of the prophet Mohammed, his seventh wife, his 25 legitimate children (there were others, too, the result of unions arranged at his bidding, cheerfully, since he was Emir) all speaking English that results from half a year every year in London. Then on to Bangkok, Hong Kong, Tokyo, Hawaii . . .

In 1969, Spain. In 1970 New Zealand, and Australia — where he held a koala bear (very carefully since its hips are fused), saw the platypus, Tasmanian devil and kiwi, had bats barely warm for lunch, and wallaby Aussie style — shot and cooked as is for the afternoon, then gutted by natives who ate the innards, then filled the cavity with hot rocks to finish the roast — the last step being the scraping off of burnt fur.

Travel across the center of the continent, scuba diving over the great barrier reef, camping out in New Guinea "where the natives scared the hell out of my wife and I found a huge collection of bird of paradise," completed that swing.

1972, Alaska. A bittersweet memory, a hunting expedition (since they get you into areas otherwise inaccessible) for big game, grizzly, moose and Dall sheep. "The first time I shot, and the last," Kuehn related. "I didn't like it."

Kuehn below, with chief and cohort in Zululand, south of Durban, South Africa.





Male lion, above, Masi-Mara Reserve, Kenya: 500 mm lens; distance 50 feet.

Serval, opposite, also Masi-Mara. Kuehn calls himself "very, very lucky. Only one in 10,000 tourists would see this creature which is primarily nocturnal, let alone get a picture of it," he said.

1974, the Amazon. "I had been after Ken Starr (Milwaukee County Museum director) about sponsoring an expedition there, and it finally came about, a scientific expedition led by herpetologist Max Nicherson. Among its participants: ichthyologists, biologists, botanists from all over the U.S., the Zoo's snake curator Sherman Ketcham. And me.

"The environment and the Peruvian government were hostile, there was considerable deprivation. We would get up about 5, get river water, boil it, mix it with oatmeal, make hot chocolate — that was breakfast. We'd scrounge food for lunch, pineapple, a banana. Then have gruel of carrots, onions, whatever, for supper. Hotter than hell all day. Freeze at night.

"What did I get out of it? Personal satisfaction! I made it, I lost 30 pounds, and I saw a lot of wildlife I could see no other place on earth, the pigmy marmoset, the three-toed sloth — alas, no anacondas."

1976, India. A three-week Audubon wildlife tour of India with 49 companions (too many, says Kuehn) from New Delhi to Jim Corbett National Park, the mountains, Jaipur, Agra, the Taj Mahal, Calcutta, the Indian rhino preserve Cazaranga above Burma.

At the latter, Kuehn explained, he began negotiations for two of the endangered beasts, which ended with confirmations on both sides: the Society to pay \$50,000 F.O.B. India for two rhinos for the Zoo, to be paid, Kuehn specified, on delivery. "That was the last we heard from them," he said.



(The New York Zoological Society paid for three in advance and did get two, according to Kuehn.)

1979, South America. Buenos Aires to the Valdez Peninsula, the Falklands, the Galapagos. "In the Valdez," he explained, "we saw great sea lions, elephant seals, whales, penguins, rheas (the South American ostrich or emu) and guanaco, which belong to the llama family."

1980, U.S.S.R. To Moscow, Ulan Bator (the capitol of Outer Mongolia), the ruins of Genghis Kahn, the Gobi Desert where he slept in a yurt (tenthouse of the region), saw Bactrian camels, the ibex, Lake Baikal — 450 miles long, 40 to 50 miles wide, 1000 feet deep. (Power plants on the Angara river out of Lake Baikal furnish most of Moscow's electric power, Kuehn said.) Then via Tashkent, Bukhara and Samarkand, across Marco Polo's trade routes to the corner of the Union from which the Soviets marched into Afghanistan; to wind up in Leningrad and St. Isaac's Cathedral.

1982, Africa. The Seychelles (No, not Eden, he said. Just like any other resort. Very pretty. Very pleasant.) The wildlife preserves of Kenya. Rwanda for gorilla treks. Camping in South Africa, Kruger National Park, Swaziland, Zululand, trekking in the Drakenburgs, Johannesburg, Victoria Falls, Karuba Dam lake (the largest man-made lake in the world, 250 miles long, which has increased rainfall in the area by 30 percent at least). Then 18 days in Namibia, through the Kalahari Desert to Etosha Park

and the bushman paintings, Swakupmund, the Fish River canyon, Kimberly mines and Cape Town.

And the next trip? Singapore, Malaysia, Indonesia, Bali, to see orangutans and Komoto dragons.

I have seen a lot of the world — and I have never been disappointed, Kuehn says. "I leave home with full expectations, expecting hardship and undaunted by it, and end up with memories of everything I've seen in the wild — and little of what I've seen in cities — which I suppose indicates my preference.

"I have always been curious. I'm a third generation stamp collector. The stamps have been instrumental in my knowledge of world history and geography, and helped create a strong desire to travel.

"I cannot tolerate the closed vision of some Americans. They say of others, they are wrong. No, I reply. They are not wrong. They are different. It is a valuable lesson," Kuehn says.

A Director of the Society since 1974, Kuehn is also a director of the International Crane Foundation, Baraboo. He is owner and chairman of the board of Wiscold, Inc., engaged in the freezing and storage of perishable foods. His was the first cold storage in the U.S. to go into refrigerated trucking as a further service to customers.

A refrigeration engineer, he started pitching freight there at age 14 and has held every job in his business.



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

## Siamang Breeding Successful Again

By Sam La Malfa  
Primate Area Supervisor

Our young adult siamangs, Unk and Suzie, were brought together to begin zoo life here in 1960. Unk, now 29, was purchased from Germany's Hanover Zoo in 1959 when he was seven; Suzie, then a pet in Seattle, when she was five.

After three attempts at introductions over a few months, they were successfully pair-bonded. Unk was tranquilized for the first attempts, and for the third, received both tranquilizers and injections of female hormones. (The risk to a male receiving female hormones was not known then.)

Adult siamangs in captivity are difficult to introduce because, unlike most other primates which are group-oriented, they are pair-bonded. Thus successful introductions of siamangs in zoos usually require juveniles.

In July 1962 after 230 days gestation, Unk and Suzie presented a one-pound female — we named her Marcie — the first siamang born and (to be) raised by her mother in captivity. Milwaukee County Zoo that year was awarded the prestigious Ed Bean award for a rare birth in captivity by the American Association of Zoological Parks and Aquariums (AAZPA).

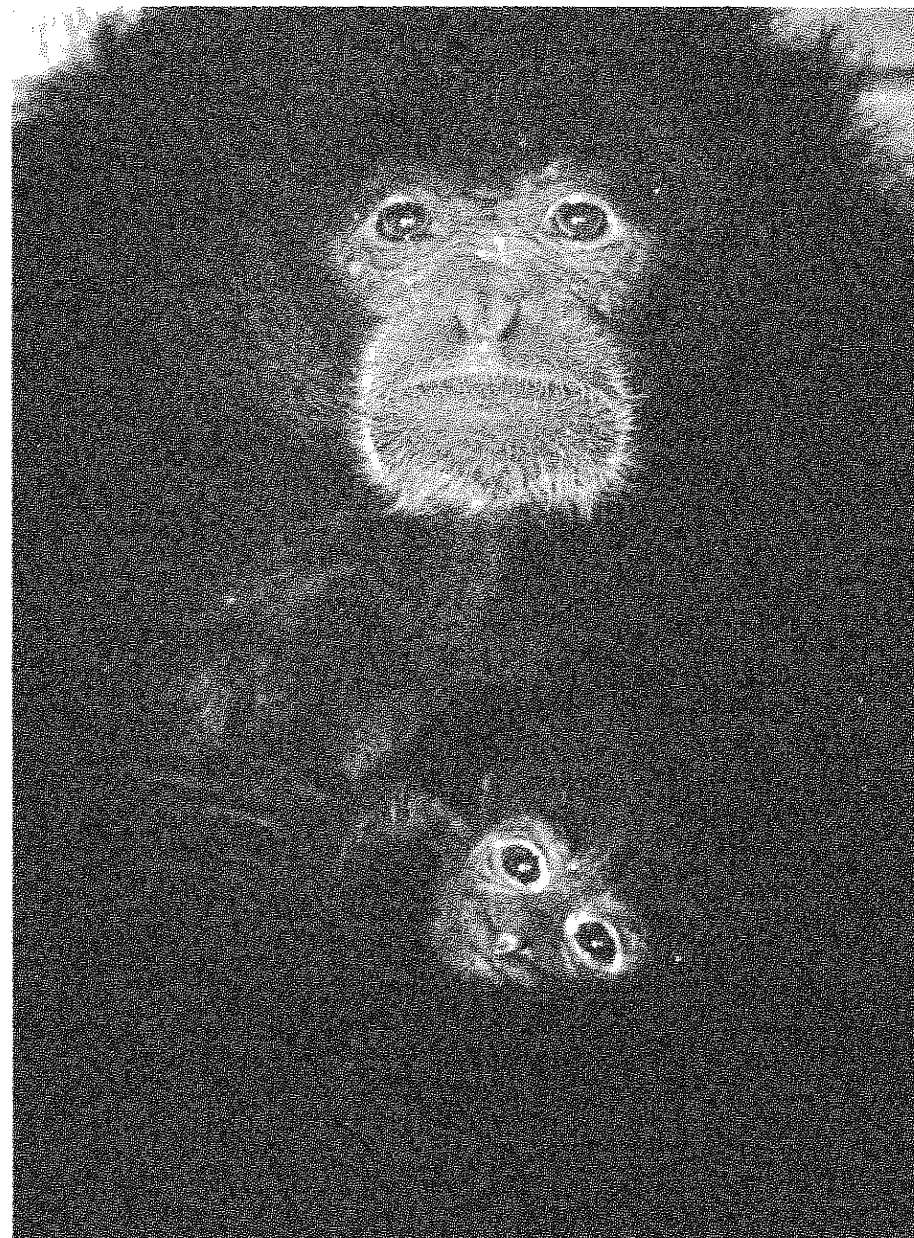
Marcie went to the Cincinnati Zoo on breeding loan in 1974. She died in 1976.

Unk and Suzie had ten more offspring, with three reared to adulthood. Smitty, named after a Milwaukee Journal photographer, was one of the latter. He was sold to Cheyenne Mountain Zoo, Colorado Springs, when he was nine.

Leslie, a female, born in 1969, was traded to Portland Zoo for Penny, who now resides in our Primate House.

Sam was born in 1972. A handsome baby from the beginning, he became the image of father Unk. There were no more births until 1980 when Suzie produced two, a premature and a stillborn. A premature birth again last year emphasized the improbability that Suzie at her age would ever again reproduce healthy young. Zoo veterinarian Bruce Beehler performed a vasectomy on Unk, then 29 years old.

In 1980, Franklin Park Zoo (Boston) siamang brother and sister came here on breeding loan. Female Bucky, 5, was introduced to our Sam, then 8, with some difficulty. He bit her viciously, once on the foot, once on the rump.



Greg Anton Photo

Sam had been born in the exhibit in which they met. Since siamangs are highly territorial, and Sam treated her as an intruder, a different environment was proposed. An exhibit with glass front and back was selected, in hopes the visibility of the outdoors which he had never seen, might curb Sam's aggression.

Bucky was placed in it first, Sam put in the adjoining exhibit, separated from her by a closed door, which prevented Sam seeing Bucky and the world outside.

Introductions began, always taking place in Bucky's cage. Months passed as many pairings were attempted. More and longer periods together were allowed until, eight months later, they bonded as a mated pair. Hugging, grooming and copulating were observed regularly. They produced a one-pound plus healthy baby this May.

Bucky carries the baby low on her abdomen and keeps it there at all times. This is in opposition to Suzie who carries her infants clinging to her forearm or glued to her knee

while brachiating about the play bars.

It is also interesting to note that Bucky's nature is totally opposite from Suzie's. Suzie is always gentle and passive, while Bucky, always aggressive, is more so since the birth of her baby.

Sam could not be a more gentle, model father while Unk has always displayed an aggressive nature.

Our youngest and smallest pair is comprised of Gus, 4 years old, Bucky's brother, and Penny, 3, the Portland-born baby. They hit it off beautifully from the start, probably due to their youth. Along with the considerable play that is normal for primates, mock copulating has been observed a number of times. They should reproduce in another two or three years.

This new siamang birth at Milwaukee County Zoo represents a second captive-born generation. We are confident that our program for the breeding of this unique species is under way now successfully.

This editorial appeared in The Milwaukee Journal August 21 and is reprinted with permission.

## Don't Severely Zap the Zoo

It's spoken of as the Milwaukee County Zoo, but the designation is misleading. The Zoo is, in reality, a major regional resource. Indeed, it's a major state asset.

Thus, all Wisconsinites should be concerned by the Zoo's fiscal problems, which result from Milwaukee County's tax-levy crunch. While a strong case can be made for developing a system of regional support for the Zoo, there is equal merit in arguments for substantial state support.

Of immediate concern, though, is the county's ability to provide an adequate level of property-tax support to the Zoo in the 1983 budget. Budget-makers should not zap the Zoo too hard.

County executive O'Donnell admittedly faces a severe problem. In order to finance basic services mandated by state law and to stay within the tax-levy limit simultaneously imposed by state law, he will have to make deep cuts in many budget requests. That inevitably means squeezing support for such amenities as the parks, the Museum and the Zoo.

Yet, county officials cannot forget that the county's quality of life is important too. In the case of the Zoo, excessively-stingy tax support would jeopardize one of the area's major resources. The Zoo is a prime tourist attraction. It not only produces a sizable amount of revenue for county government, but also has a substantial economic impact on the community. Zoo director Gilbert Boese estimates that the Zoo may generate as much as \$35 million in tourism-related revenue.

Moreover, the Zoo — under Boese's guid-

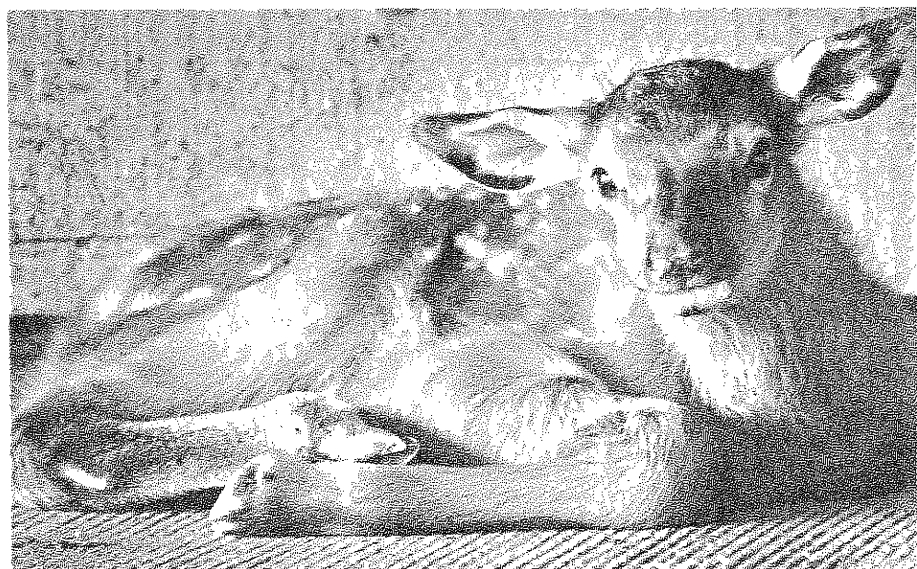
ance — has made strides in producing county revenue and in improving attendance. An impressive program of winter activities is being developed to produce year-round income.

Perhaps there can be some pruning of expenses. However, the cost of year-round care and maintenance of the animals is relatively fixed. There is little stomach for (and there would be little wisdom in) another round of increased Zoo fees.

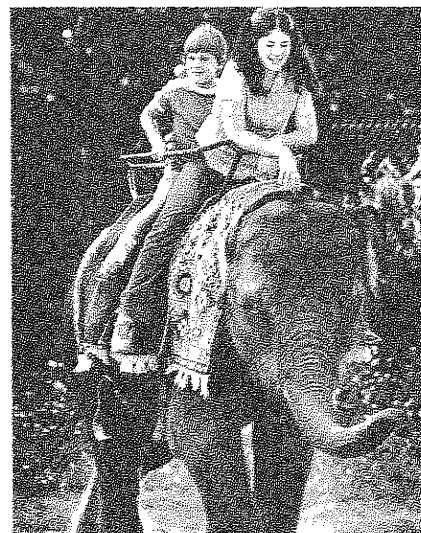
Thus, to the maximum extent possible, the county should provide a substantial level of tax support for the Zoo. It may not be possible to provide the full \$3.1 million in levy money that has been requested, but something well above \$2 million seems reasonable. Unhappily, that may mean slicing into other cultural and recreational budgets. Painful as the suggestion is, budget-makers may have to ask further sacrifice from the parks system, possibly suspending some laudable but unaffordable programs at individual parks.

At the same time, however, there must be attention to the Zoo's long range needs. It would help if the state lifted the levy limit on the county and diversified the county's revenue-raising powers (a step that could reduce reliance on the property tax in general). If the state would absorb a greater share of welfare costs, the county also would have an improved fiscal flexibility.

However, perhaps the fastest and simplest way to help the Zoo cope with its financial problems would be for the state to kick in a direct subsidy. In short, let's treat a state asset like a state asset.



Milwaukee Sentinel Photo



Milwaukee Journal Photo

A total of 31 separate in and out transactions took place in the second quarter, April-June: 21 shipments out involved 43 mammals; 10, the receipt of 15 animals.

A number of primates left the collection by sale, breeding loan and return of breeding loan, among them, a male Japanese macaque sold to Detroit Zoo and a pair of wanderoo macaques sent on breeding loan to Chicago's Lincoln Park Zoo.

A pair of blackbuck was sold, the male going to Iowa, the female to Audubon Park Zoo, New Orleans. The remaining blackbuck along with the remaining axis deer were shipped out so the area could be developed into a Bactrian camel exhibit.

A South American tapir went to Lincoln Park Zoo, an even trade. A year ago, Lincoln Park purchased a male tapir from Duluth Zoo and gave the animal to us. Our tapir going to Lincoln Park completed the even-trade agreement.

Two other tapirs left the collection: a male South American went to Knoxville Zoo on breeding loan; female Malayan, our Danielle, went to Memphis Zoo on breeding loan. Danielle was born here on Father's Day last year. The placement of her in Memphis came after a number of zoos had expressed interest in having her. Memphis was chosen because it had just imported 1.1 Malayan tapirs from Europe. This will result, eventually, in our receiving young with a new European bloodline. This is long-range planning, but we must continue such projects if we are to have some of these endangered species 10, 20, 30 years from now.

In a cooperative activity with Bronx Zoo, we shipped our male proboscis monkey there on breeding loan. This offers several options for pairing. It is the only Zoo in the U.S. to hold proboscis monkeys at this time. They are not available from the wild due to restrictions placed by the countries of origin, which are determined by the size of the wild population, at this time believed to be minimal.

Among new arrivals are three armadillo — gift from Houston Zoo — a female Diana

Aminal rides earned over \$30,000 for the Zoo this summer. North American elk, below, left, two days old, born August 18.

## QUARTERLY Animal Report

By Robert Bullerman  
Assistant Zoo Director

monkey, and baby gorilla Mandara from Lincoln Park Zoo. Mandara actually was a return of breeding loan, that status having been determined when she was born to our Terra, on breeding loan to Lincoln Park.

A trio of masked palm civets was received from Tokyo's Ueno Zoo, a gift arranged through MCZ general curator Ken Kawata. We had sent bowfin fish to Ueno earlier. Masked palm civets are uncommon in zoos in this country.

The first Bactrian camel exhibited here arrived May 11 from Minnesota Zoo. Named Gobi, he has settled down, has learned to lead, to cush (lie down). A female from National Zoo arrived later. We are waiting for a female from Toronto Zoo.

A male reticulated giraffe arrived from Knoxville Zoo. Named here by his donors, Twiga (Swahili for giraffe), he introduces a new bloodline to our giraffe herd. We are searching for several females.

A female ringtail lemur from Indianapolis Zoo was received to replace our breeding female that died. Katie had produced 11 offspring in the six years she was with us, and it is hoped the new female will be as prolific.

A male Malayan tapir named J.R. was received on breeding loan from St. Louis Zoo, in June.

Spotted hyenas have always been popular here in Milwaukee. Hyena Valentine died several years ago, and people still ask for her. So on June 29, a pair of spotted hyenas arrived — gift from National Zoo.

Twenty-three births occurred in the mammal collection: Japanese macaques, Dall sheep, impala, snow leopards, elk, marmosets, wallaroo and Geoffroy's cats. One of the most notable was May 5 when a female, now named Kim, was born to our young Pallas cat — a first for our Zoo.

A siamang was born May 17. A male, he belongs to Boston Zoo according to the terms of the breeding loan agreement. We will, of course, hold the animal here for at least two years.

# AT THE ZOO

September 1-7 Registration for Preschool Art Program.

September 4 Brew County Rounders Band on Flamingo Patio 12-4.

September 5 Brew Band again 1-5. Kandu the Magician in Children's Zoo 1:30 and 3.

September 6 Brew Band wind-up 1-5.

September 7 Registration begins for Fall Tours: K-12 any Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday; Youth Groups, Saturday. Call Zoo Education Department.

September 7 Docent Drive begins. Adults interested in guiding school and youth-group tours on voluntary basis, call Zoo Education department: Peter Feldner.

September 10 Senior Citizens' Day. Free admission and entertainment for those at least 60 years old. Guides in Aviary, Primate and Small Mammal Houses, Reptile/Aquarium and Feline Buildings. Slide presentation in south dining room 10, 11, 1 and 2. Rhythmaires from Washington Park Senior Center on Flamingo Patio 11-3. Call Zoo Pride.

September 14-15 New Docent Training.

September 21-24 Preschool Art Program for ages 4-5: \$2. Call Zoo Education Department: Georgia Wright.

October 2 Day Safari to Chicago's Brookfield Zoo. Leave 8. Return 5.

October 5 Fall Tours start.

October 12 Annual Business Meeting of Society in Zoo restaurant.

October 15 Zoo Pennant Contest deadline.

October 16 Preschool Animal-Movement Workshop for ages 4-5.

October 18 Registration for Turkey Days.

October 20 Zoo Pennant Contest winners announced.

October 30 Halloween Scavenger Hunt and Costume Contest 10-1:30.

November 1 Zoo Animal Election winners announced.

November 6 Youth Workshops for ages 8-10. Cost for Society members \$6.

November 8 Registration for Animal Ornament Days.

November 18-23 Turkey Days.

November 23 Fall Tours conclude.

December 7-10 Animal Ornament Days.

December 11 Caroling with Santa.

December 29 Teacher Open House.



## ALIVE

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