



# *animal talk*



ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF MILWAUKEE COUNTY

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## what's in it for you

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**Are M&M Proboscis expecting?**

# Where we go from here

BY DR. GILBERT K. BOESE

In the past six months, I have had the opportunity to speak to many groups about the future of zoos, particularly that of the Milwaukee County Zoo.

The next decade will be most challenging, but also very exciting for zoological parks. The challenges will be great and foremost will be the zoos' role in addressing the endangered species problem. According to the Global Zoo study, initiated by the U.S. Government three years ago, we will face major changes in the next two decades. The human population will increase by 2.5 billion individuals while current available agricultural lands will have declined by thirty percent. The study projects that our tropical forests will be reduced by two-thirds and "that approximately 600,000 additional species of plants and animals will have become extinct."

These facts certainly state our future challenge! Zoos presently do and will definitely continue to harbor the only remaining individuals of many species. We, then, must prepare our zoo to take a very active role and join with other zoos in the preservation of certain selected species. For it is obvious, we do not have the resources to save all species facing extinction.

What are we doing at Milwaukee County Zoo? I am proud to relate that we are gearing up for this challenge in the tradition of excellence at Milwaukee County Zoo.

Data collected through surveys by Dr. Benjamin Beck of the Brookfield Zoo indicate that most of the gorillas held in the U.S.A. could be infertile and birth rates in captivity are decreasing. To address this problem, the Zoological Society of Milwaukee County has joined with the Chicago Zoological Society and the National Institute of Mental Health in sponsoring a workshop concerned with captive propagation of gorillas.

To further the work on this species whose numbers are disappearing rapidly in the wild, the Milwaukee County Zoo has sent Tara, our only female gorilla, to the Lincoln Park Zoo in Chicago on breeding loan. This loan could help in increased captive breeding and assure young lowland gorillas for Milwaukee County Zoo in the future.

In September of this year, we will give Tanga, one of our male gorillas, a fertility test. If Tanga proves fertile, we will then start negotiations to either bring females to Milwaukee or send Tanga to another facility on breeding loan. These tests and negotiations will be another step in our attempt to preserve the lowland gorilla, a truly unique animal.

What about Samson? Well, Samson will remain in his present role. The great charismatic ambassador for Milwaukee County Zoo and his species Gorilla gorilla gorilla.

This is just one example of the programs we are working on through the efforts of the Zoological Society of Milwaukee County and the staff of the Milwaukee County Zoo to be a zoo for the future.

Another focus of our efforts on behalf of endangered species is the development of animal groups with genetic diversity. This diversity will reduce the possibility of undesirable birth defects and greater offspring survival.

For example, we are now beginning to develop a program for the display and breeding of selected small cats. It is our assumption that the small felids will (if they have not already) face the same pressures for survival as the big cats.

In September we will receive five caracals, Lynx caracal, small, tufted eared lynx from Europe and the west coast of the United States. These five animals (natives of Africa and Asia), two males and three females, represent four different blood lines and will provide the Milwaukee



GILBERT K. BOESE, PHD.

County Zoo with two breeding groups. It is our hope to become a major breeding center for this species and other selected species. Included in this selected species list will be servals, Felis serval, Pallas Cats, Felis manul, Margays Felis weidi, and, perhaps, Ocelots, Felis pardalis.

The caracals and servals will be on display in the Lion House and the pallas cats, due to arrive in September, will be on display in the Small Mammal House.

It takes many hours of work to plan and negotiate to bring these exciting species to the Milwaukee County Zoo. The zoo staff, however, is committed to do its part on behalf of the animal world and with the support of the Zoological Society, many exciting achievements should be a part of the Milwaukee County Zoo's future.

## Der Picknik

Five thousand four hundred and eighty-eight persons (3,175 adults and 2,313 juniors) enjoyed the fifteenth annual bring-your-own-lunchal fresco assembly and visit with our Zooperstars Thursday, June 19. Our new system of requiring the purchase of tickets prior to June 1st gave us enough lead time to mail about 90% of them before June 1. This method substantially reduced the waiting-to-get-in time and reduced to zero the number of freeloaders, estimated at more than 1,000 non-members last year. This last was accomplished by a "sweep out" of all visitors at closing time (5 p.m.) by the Zoo Staff and by the strict enforcement of the new rule that no one would be served free refreshments or allowed on the Zoomobile tours if the self-adhesive ticket-badge was not conspicuously worn or a Zoomobile ride coupon tendered. Our entire fleet of 5 Zoomobiles, with each carrying 60 passengers, were in continuous full-capacity operation from 5 p.m. until 8 p.m.

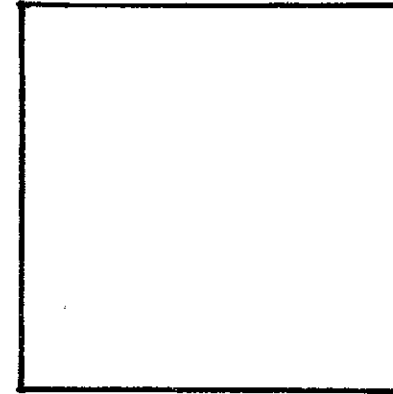
Refreshments consumed: 30-half-barrels of beer (equivalent to about 12,782 regular 12 oz. bottles; 400 Dixie Cups of ice cream and 700 gallons of Coke and Pepsi, about 7500 servings.

As a special treat, Zoo Pride sold 100 dozen heingemachte kookies mit reiner Hände gemacht und Qualitat eingebaken (with clean hands made and quality baked in).

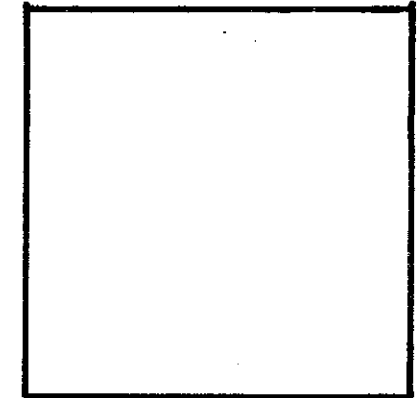
I spent most of my time tooling about on my 12-volt battery-powered scooter greeting old friends and indulging in the gemuetlichkeit of the event -- the weather was just right (once more, for the 15th time) and all present were obviously having a good time. I was also busy recording the occasion with my new 35 mm SLR camera to get pix suitable in quality for use in the forthcoming 1979-80 Zoological Society Operation Report now in preparation ... see opposite page for results.

It is most appropriate to publicly thank the many Zoo Pride volunteers as well as the paid staff that helped put this Picnik together, along with the many Zoo employees who worked after hours setting up refreshment stands and serving at them.

Shown on the opposite page are color pictures printed from my memory. Because of a malfunction of the automatic exposure metering device, every one of the 20 Ektakrome color slides was so badly overexposed to be unusable for reproduction. If anyone has color slides, I would appreciate their loan for use in the coming issue of the 1979-80 Biennial Report of the Zoological Society's operations. Please supply suitable captions and names of persons in the pix if they are known to you. Also, please print your name and address on the slides. If they are used, a credit line will be given.



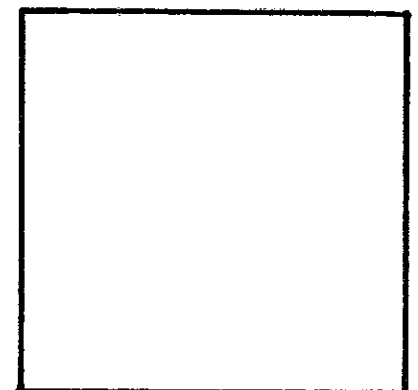
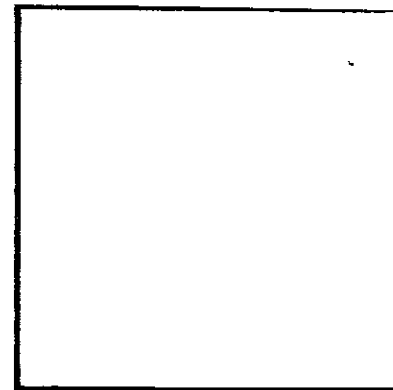
Looking west along Bluemound Road at about 5:30 p.m. Cars were backed up all the way to Highway 100, a distance of a half mile. Thanks to Zoo Pride Volunteers, cars passed thru the 4 entry ways at a rate of about 8 per minute.



The grass area south of the Aviary and the Humboldt Penguin Exhibit were fully occupied with member families, blankets, every variety of hamper, basket, cooler, folding chair and push or pull carts for transporting toddlers or provender. Conversation was at the sound level of a highly-successful cocktail party - at least 100 decibels.

Here goes a zoomobile with a 100% occupancy payload carrying many who are long-time friends. "Hello, Bob! Vegehts? Hi, Frank and Jane!" (three generations of Berckers who haven't missed a picknick in 15 years.) They wave, I wave back.

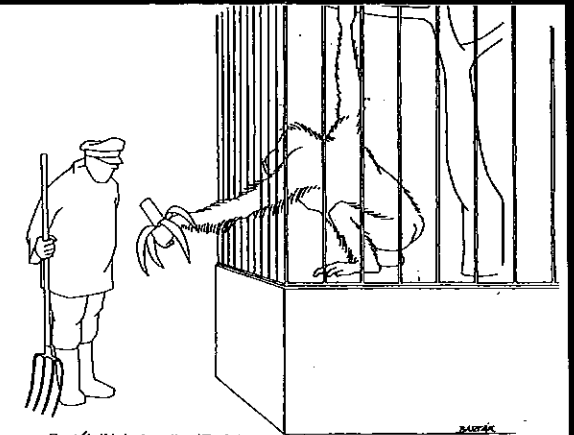
The Cherman Band plays Um Pah Pah and happy picknickers polka in the background



# sumorgästbord



Samson talked 1478 new members into joining the Society over the past year via 30 second TV/PSA (Public Service announcements.) Thank you Channels 4,6,12 and 18 for the free time spots. The cost of the production was \$5145.44 and the resulting increase in dues was \$14800. We now have 4489 members.



Barták/Nebelspalter/Zurich

World Press Review/July 1980

George Bernard Shaw: "The reasonable man adapts himself to the world. The unreasonable one persists in trying to adapt the world to himself. Therefore, all progress depends on the unreasonable man."  
*(Think about it) WJK*

"Never insult an alligator until you have crossed the river."

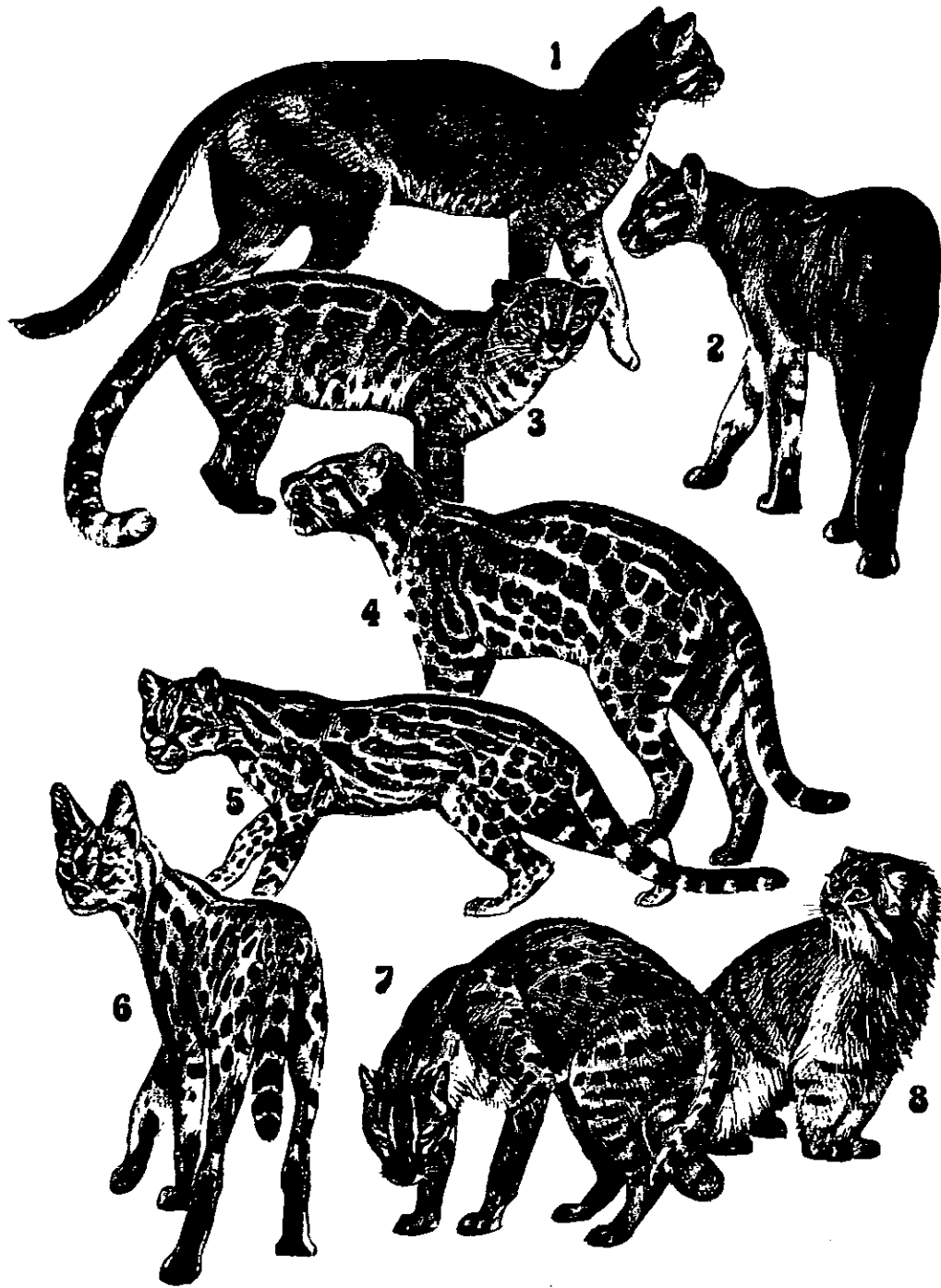


THE ROTARIAN/SEPTEMBER 1980

Many compliments have been received from Zoo-goers on the new bird identification signs (A) in the Aviary. Credit for the artwork goes to Vernon Kempf whose selection was made with the assistance of Jane Dowd, well-known Milwaukee artist and art teacher. Credit goes to Mrs. Ann McNeer, Zoo Pride volunteer, who was the liason agent with the artist, and who supervised the printing and paste-up work of the finished art.

Work will soon begin on the installation of 21 Directional Sign Units similar to that shown here (B). It will display a "You are Here" map of the Zoo printed in six colors. Thanks to Moebius Printing Co. for the artwork and color separations for not only the map but all of the other signs as well.

Each of the four parking areas will be identified by a different animal, each animal a different color on a white background; namely, Bear, Kangaroo, Gorilla and Tiger, (C) in Black, Red, Green, Blue and White. Total cost of entire project is estimated at \$50,000, Society funded.



1. Temminck's Golden Cat-Africa... 2. African Gold Cat - Africa  
 3. Marbled Cat - Himalaya SE to Borneo ... 4. Ocelot - S. America  
 5. Margay - Mexico and S. America ... 6. Serval - Africa  
 7. Fishing Cat - India & S.E. Asia ... 8. Pallas Cat - Central Asia

## KAUF LIST - Open to buy

This issue contains Dr. Boese's views and hopes regarding the future of the Milwaukee Zoo and his plans for the acquisition of various animals.

As all Zoo-goers know, the process of acquiring new animals is far more difficult than it was years ago when a single phone call might locate an animal available for purchase. With the embargos in effect in countries of origin of the species wanted by zoos, there is considerable paperwork required, assuming that a Zoo Director has been fortunate enough in locating a needed animal of the proper sex and age. With increased activity on the part of all zoos in breeding programs, competition for such animals that are available is keener than ever. On page 3 of this issue, Dr. Boese lists a number of animals that he has located which, together with another group that he has made commitments for, are listed below with the hope that donors can be found among our membership to make contributions to be used for their purchase. The donor's name will be shown at the exhibit on the sign identifying the animal in each instance. I am sure that our members know that such a contribution is tax deductible.

Commitments have been made by Dr. Boese for each of the following animals pending receipt of contributions:

One male KUDU; Memphis Zoo .....	\$1,500
Two female PALLAS CATS: Denver Zoo; \$1,250 each .....	\$2,500
One male CARACAL: Seattle Zoo .....	\$ 800
One male CARACAL: Zeehandelaar .....	\$1,500
One female CARACAL; Zeehandelaar .....	\$2,500
Two female CARACALS: Zeehandelaar; \$2,500 each .....	\$5,000

It will be noted that the list contains three different species of small cats. Each will be exhibited in simulated environmental habitat. There is a fourth variety, and possibly a fifth; namely, the Ocelot of South America and the Margays. The acquisition of these felids is an exciting development and should produce an interesting collection of litters of mixed bloodlines so that the Milwaukee Zoo might become a leader in the Zoo world as a source of supply of a threatened, if not yet vanishing, group of species.

As soon as we locate either of the Margays or Ocelot, we will let our readers know their purchase price. In the meantime, we feel quite fortunate in having located sources for the ones on which we have made commitments.

## ARE THE PROBOSCIS EXPECTING?

Several weeks back, on Sunday, July 20, Primate Curator, Sam LaMalfa (with the approval of Director Boese), permitted our pair of Proboscis Monkeys the use of the only outdoor fenced-in area we have as a part of the Primate House structure. This back yard has several good-sized trees, a lawn and shrub plantings and heretofore has been the sole domain of the Proboscis' neighbors, the Colobus family. Sam reports that after doing some tree-to-tree gymnastics, the pair were observed mating. This is the first observation of its kind with the Proboscis, though it does not preclude it has happened anytime before. Obviously it is not practical to exercise a 24-hour watch over every possible mating pair in the Zoo. However, - "where there's 'life' there is hope" ... also, "a single swallow doth not a summer make." So it could be that in 166 days, the average gestation period recorded for the few monkeys of this unusual species, which would bring us to about sometime in February 1981 for a most unusual, rare blessed event. There will be no external signs; however, since the mother-to-be (if we are so lucky) normally shows no evidence of pregnancy until about two months prior to birth.

We acquired the male in 1968 - he is now 14; and the female in 1969 - she is about 12 years old. They were contributed by the Zoological Society.

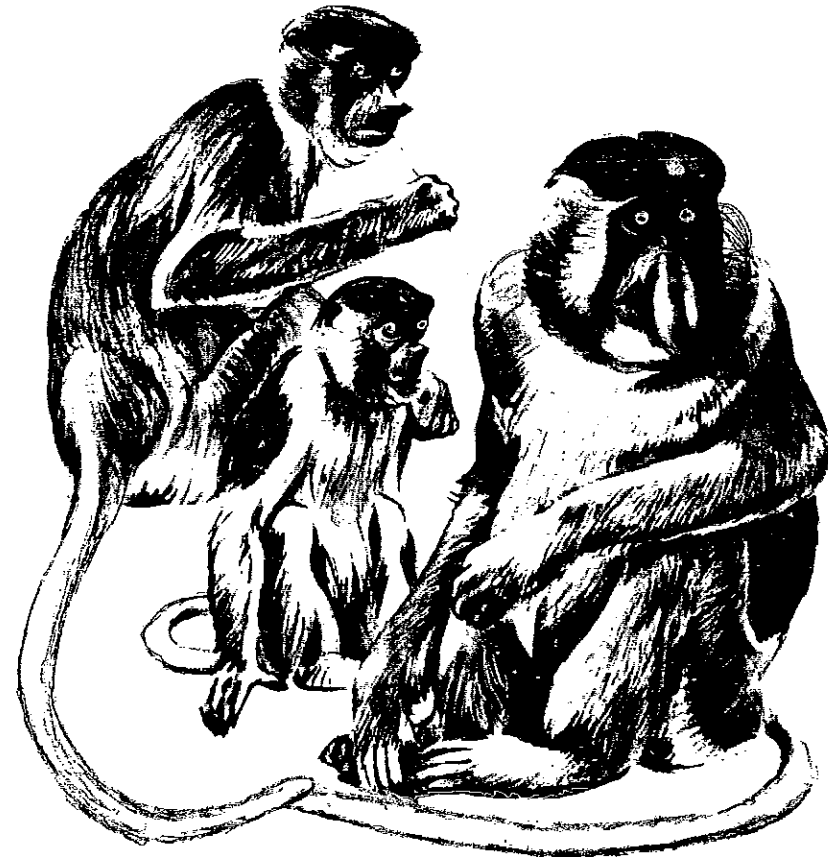
Did you know that our Zoo is the only one in the U.S.A., besides the New York (Bronx) Zoo, to have Proboscis Monkeys? The Bronx has 2 adults and five young born at the zoo. Repeated efforts to keep these monkeys in captivity have not been too successful. In many cases they lived only a few days after delivery to the Zoo.

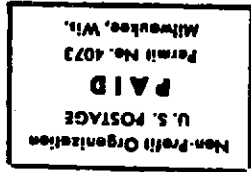
One of the difficulties in raising Proboscis in captivity is that leaf-eater monkeys are very fussy about their food. Its diet in the wild consists exclusively of budding flowers, shoots, blossoms and mostly leaves of a few carefully selected plants in its environment - the Mangrove Forests of Borneo along waterways and swampy areas. At our Zoo they are fed leaf lettuce, willow leaves and twigs, cucumbers, apples, banana peels, peanuts, orange juice on white bread, celery, canned green beans, sweet potatoes, onions and monkey chow vitamins. They also nibble at the grass when they are out in the back yard they share with the Colobus family. They are on an equal time basis with the Colobuses; they have the afternoons and their neighbors, the mornings.

Both the Proboscis and the Colobus are colorful members of the leaf-eater order of Primates which has in its membership over 60 varieties, each different from the others. All are ungulates. In order to get the most nourishment from their simple vegetarian diet, the digestive system of these peculiar monkeys consists of a chain of several pouches connected by narrow openings, each pouch works on a meal with its special digestive

juices then passes it along to the next until the meal has been fully digested by the last pouch and all of its food value has been extracted. This type of stomach construction is found in other mammals which feed on vegetation. Among them are cattle, horses, swine, tapirs, antelopes, goats, deer, sheep, camels, giraffes, elephants and rhinos.

The most striking feature of the Proboscis Monkey is its nose, the male displays a pendulous cucumber-like appendage that hangs down over his mouth and must be pushed out of the way when he eats. Such a schnozzola would have put Jimmy Durante out of business. The absence of cheek-pouches accents this facial adornment. Females have upturned noses and all young are born with the nose in the air. The male uses his nose in communication. Excitement makes his nose longer. He also uses his basson-like bugle in producing his mating call, the sound of which has been likened to the honk of a goose, a long drawn-out "kee bonk" or just plain "honk" like a long deep note of a bass viol worthy of a Met basso-profundo.





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## recent donors

Daniel Cabunac .....	Endowment Fund
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Walter E. Kroening .....	Male Blackbuck Antelope
Vilter Foundation .....	Special Fund
Lowell Warshawsky .....	Endowment Fund
Wiscold, Inc. ....	Gorilla Workshop
Funding Total .....	\$4,175