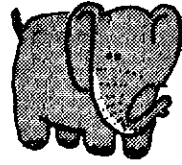




# animal talk



ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF MILWAUKEE COUNTY

NEWS BULLETIN NO. 43

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September, 1975

Walter E. Kroening, Editor...7857 North Lake Drive...Phone 352-9272

## annual meeting

THE ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING will be held at the Zoo Restaurant Auditorium at 7:30 p.m. on October 23, 1975. In response to numerous requests, arrangements have been made to show the film "Wonderland of Nature - Milwaukee County Zoo" produced by TV Channel 6 and narrated by Carl Zimmerman. All too few of our members saw this excellent presentation on TV.

Zoological Gardens Director Dr. George Speidel will talk on the past year's developments and experiences at our Zoo. The program will be preceded by a short business session and be followed by the usual nascherei mit kuchen and kaffee - which, in other words, means snacks, sweets, and coffee...all umzonst...free, this is. No reservations...Room for 350.

# PICNICK

## ANNUAL PICNIC A SUCCESS, BOTH WAYS

Over 3,000 Zoosociety members enjoyed the Annual Picnic Monday evening, June 23. The weather was ideal, Gemuetlichkeit prevailed and the affair was completely self-supporting. Admission fees (\$1.00 for adults and fifty cents for children) came to \$2,458.00 vs. costs of \$2,430.58 netting a "profit" to the Society of \$27.42; a dividend of about 9 mills per member. (This just about pays for this page of paper, which, by the way, is donated as is the entire cost of printing Animal Talk.)

Comparable "broken down" costs were:

	<u>1975</u>	<u>1974</u>
Ice Cream	\$ 376.32	\$ 306.00
Beer	517.60	710.22
Soda Water	532.50	465.00
Zoo Personnel	720.60	580.01
Cherman Bant	180.00	156.25
Ice and incidentals	<u>103.56</u>	<u>34.50</u>
	\$2,430.58	\$2,251.98
Minus Admissions	<u>2,458.00</u>	<u>470.00</u>
Total Cost to Society	(\$ 27.42)	\$1,781.98

Considering inflation and that a similar number of members attended last year's spring frolic at the Zoo, the new policy of pay-your-own-way was timely and appropriate.

### RUDOLPH C. ZIMMERMAN MEMORIAL FUND

Two more donations came in during the month...from Thomas S. O Byrne and Mr. and Mrs. Russell Lawson. The total contributions now stand at \$2,485.

There is still time to send in a donation, if you haven't already done so.

# BEFORE & after

THE NEW PRIMATE HOUSE ENVIRONMENTAL DECOR is under construction. The pilot re-do of two adjacent monkey exhibits will erase the previous "shower stall" tile interior through the use of fiberglass trees and vinyl foliage which are completely indestructible and readily hosed down to keep the enclosure spotless. The concept and execution is the brainchild of Immediate Past President, Bill Moomey, and Rush Studios of Chicago with Herr Docktor Speidel and the writer in supporting roles...Cheorge being a major contributor and me, acting in the role of Kibitzer. For those who missed the pictured before-and-after appearance, as included in the 1972/73 Biennial Report, the then-and-now illustrations are reproduced.



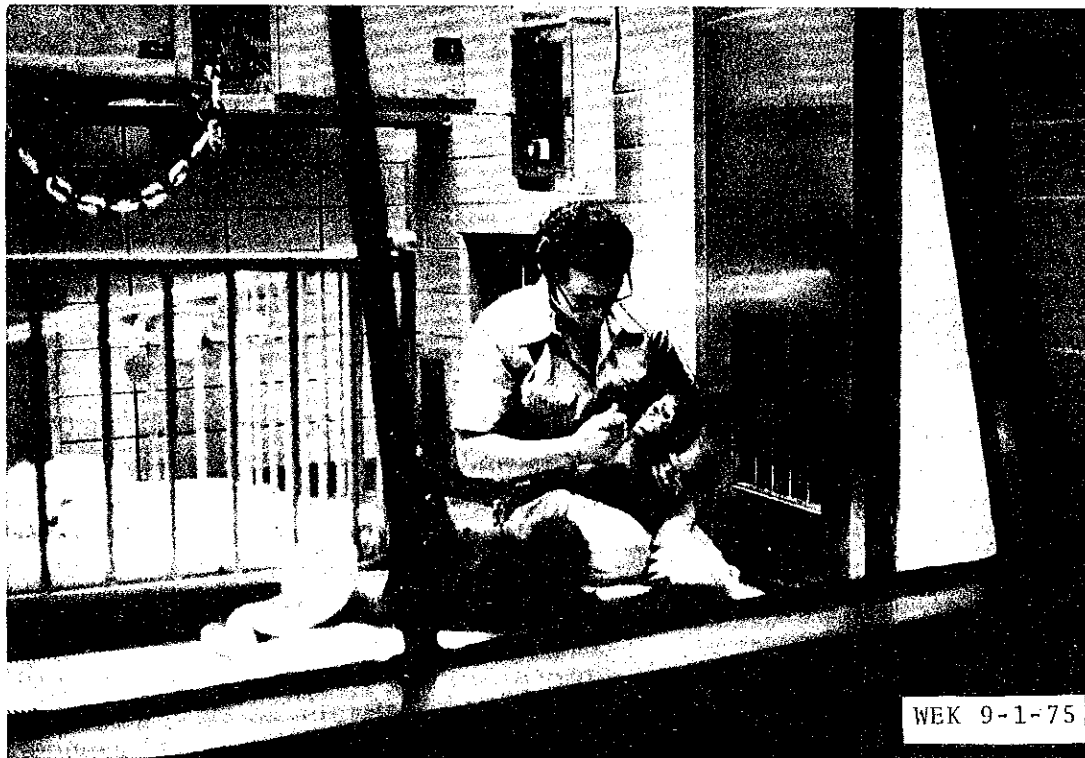
The new jungle-like interior will cost about \$35,000 of which amount, about \$15,000 is for the special molds and forms needed to cast the tree trunk, limbs, et cetera. The molds will be reused in differing patterns for the balance of the Primate House. The continued use of the molds and forms will bring the cost of a single unit in a price range of \$15,000 to \$20,000 depending on the size of the exhibit and its design.

It is the hope of the Zoological Society Board of Directors to transform the entire Primate House on a continuing program basis as soon as we find sponsors for one or more exhibits. As of this writing, several members have already expressed an interest in the possibility of sponsoring the first demonstration unit.

## FEEDING TWINS

In case you haven't seen Sam La Malfa of the Primate House feed the twin baby Orangutans you have missed one of the best acts of the season — and it's all for free at the Milwaukee Zoo. The tender, loving care with which he spoons out mush and carefully wipes the chins of his distant relatives is a real treat and always draws a large and a highly appreciative audience.

Sam puts on his feeding act regularly from 3:20 to 3:30 p.m. daily. Come early and get a good place next to the rail. You will find this amusing, instructive and heart-warming. Sam expects to be a father come next spring, so he says he is now in training should he be doubly blessed with twins and can take over the night shift if required. Watching his act gives one assurance that there is no question he will make a great father should the outcome be single, twins — or maybe even triplets? Good luck, Sam, and congratulations on the great job you are doing.



S A M   T H E   N U R S E M A I D

## NOSTALGIA

Some months ago, Honorary Director of the Zoological Society, Otto R. Kuehn, gave me a number of copper plates used years ago in the printing of a report of the then Washington Park Zoological Society, forerunner of the Zoological Society of Milwaukee County. Upon examination, I believed these would be great material to use in Animal Talk.

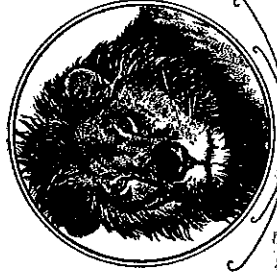
After a bit of research, I found that the date of the plates was circa 1944 at which time Ottie (as he is called by his peers) was President of the Society. Knowledgeable Milwaukeeans are aware that Ottie has made great contributions to our Zoo, not only financially but in aggressive leadership which resulted in the acquisition of our present Zoo site and the Zoological Gardens as we now know them...one of the best in the world today.

I consider it a privilege to devote the following pages to reproductions of these memorabilia as a fitting tribute to Ottie. It is a continuing pleasure for me to be associated with gentlemen such as Mr. Kuehn who exemplify the best in civic leadership.

Ottie, on behalf of the entire membership of the Zoological Society and the millions of people who have enjoyed the Washington Park Zoo, as well as our new Zoo, a doff of our collective hats to you, and may your kin inherit your admirable characteristics.

Of particular merit is President Kuehn's letter to the citizens of greater Milwaukee (unfortunately undated but obviously contained in a 1944 Zoo Publication) — an appeal for contributions to "purchase new and interesting species of animals"...and to achieve "a bigger, better Zoo as a desirable component of a bigger, better Milwaukee." (See P. 6 & 7) Another noteworthy exhibit of the past is a picture of two giraffes viewing a bronze plaque naming donors: "Gov. Julius Heil, Mayor Carl F. Zeidler, Boston Store, Willibald Hoffmann, Pabst Brewing Co., A. O. Smith Corporation, Jos. Schlitz Brewing Co., T.M.E.R. & Transport Co., Chester O. Wanvig." (See P. 8)

From an historical viewpoint the most interesting picture is that of Sultana I and her cub (the first ever to be born and raised in captivity) — which, as I have said before, was "the bear that made Milwaukee famous" throughout the world. (See P. 11)



# Washington Park Zoological Society

## OFFICERS

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CHARLES I. WESLEY, 1st Vice-President  
3445 S. 38th St.  
RICHARD H. TEWELES, 2nd Vice-President  
222 S. 3rd St.  
EDWARD H. BORGELT, 3rd Vice-President  
2101 E. Glendale Avenue  
ALBERT C. BIERSACH, Sec'y & Treas.  
2033 N. 53rd St.

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Milwaukee.

## TO THE CITIZENS OF GREATER MILWAUKEE:

The most popular year 'round attraction in all Milwaukee County is the Washington Park Zoo. The educational and entertaining features of the zoo attract annually about one and one-half million people of all ages. Approximately three hundred and fifty thousand of these visitors come from all parts of the Nation. This latter group spends hundreds of thousands of dollars during their stay in our community. Thus the zoo is a commercial asset of considerable value to local industries and merchants.

For the past forty years our Society has been sponsor, provider and prime mover for the zoo. It has literally raised the zoo "from a cub" since the days when this popular menagerie had little more than a single small frame building and a few families of animals native to Wisconsin and nearby states. Throughout these four decades animal acquisitions depended solely upon the Society's funds accumulated through members' dues and the donations of public minded citizens.

For many years your zoo has ranked with the finest in the country. During the past decade, however, the buildings and types of exhibits have become somewhat obsolete. More modern enclosures are desired to exhibit animals in surroundings simulating their native haunts. The Milwaukee County Park Commission has agreed to do everything possible to provide these enclosures, pits, etc. so that insofar as habiliments and atmosphere are concerned our zoo will once again regain its position as one of the best in the country.

The Society's interest is, of course, in the exhibits which will be housed in modern enclosures to be made available. A fund of \$150,000.00 is required to purchase new and interesting species of animals, birds and reptiles from sources in various parts of the world in order to modernize your zoo. In order to obtain these exhibits definite commitments should be made soon. The process of procurement is often slow because some of the wild life is not "kept in stock" awaiting orders, but must be hunted and trapped in its native habitat on far sides of the globe. Shipping likewise sometimes absorbs months.

These preparations must be, and are being made at this time for the development of the Milwaukee Zoo into an even greater civic asset than it has been heretofore. To achieve this, the Society solicits the aid of the Milwaukeeans who envision a bigger, better zoo as a desirable component of a bigger, better Milwaukee.

Cordially yours,

WASHINGTON PARK ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY

President

*It took a bit of search on my part to find a printer who had the type of equipment needed to make proofs off of these plates. I found the answer at the Locust Printing Company at 826 East Locust Street, where Al Hapka graciously applied his 40 years of experience in running proofs on a hand press and contributing the results without any charge...Thanks, Mr. Hapka.*

## AN OPEN LETTER TO THE VOLUNTEERS OF THE ZOO PRIDE

The 1975 summer season is over and the two big projects, "The Information Booth" and the "Zoo Survey" were a huge success, because of the enthusiasm, dedication and dependability of the volunteers who so willingly gave of their time and talents. Your thoughtfulness to call, when an emergency would keep you from your commitment, your willingness to fill in at short notice when needed, your excellent suggestions and comments in the daily record book, which will enable us to improve our future functions in the booth, and the many extras you gave freely and willingly, like maps, brochures, typed schedules, etc.—ALL these things were deeply appreciated.

A "thank you" also goes to clerical volunteers who were very helpful in getting cards typed up for mailing. A special "thank you", too, to the volunteers who worked with Mr. Brunn in the ED-ZOO-CATION MOBILE LAB. He was extremely impressed and commented, "What a knowledgeable group...they did a beautiful job."

Some more special "thank yous" go to Mrs. Moomey for supplying the booth with very attractive signs, Mrs. O'Byrne for obtaining such excellent publicity for the ZOO PRIDE in the Milwaukee Sentinel, and Mr. Bonlender who went far above and beyond the call of duty. I know he put in many a "26 hour day" between his weekly Wednesdays in the booth and keeping all the volunteer cards and records in order, making all the calls for replacements of cancellations and doing the monumental job, on one day's notice, of calling and filling over 70 positions for the survey. To ALL of you who took part in our ZOO PRIDE endeavors...THANK YOU. WE'RE PROUD OF YOU!

THE ZOO PRIDE!...A PRIDE is a "family." A successful family is one that works together. You've proven this summer, that our ZOO PRIDE is a family that can really accomplish something. And because it is, we can look forward to expanding our horizons. Our next project will be VOLUNTEER ZOO GUIDES. So stick with us! Tell your friends about the ZOO PRIDE and have them join the fun!

June McLean - Acting Publicity Chairman - THE ZOO PRIDE



OLD WASHINGTON PARK BIRD HOUSE

# watch it!..

Herr Docktor Speidel will be featured on CHANNEL 10 for a complete series of 13 programs all of which are devoted to the Milwaukee Zoological Gardens. The dates and titles of each program follow. Each appears at 6:30 P.M. on TUESDAYS (right after the news). This is a great series and an opportunity for you to learn more about your Zoo. Ask your neighbors and friends to watch the programs and solicit them as members of our great Society.

- October 7, 1975.....Awakening Zoo
- October 14, 1975.....Asian Continental Group
- October 21, 1975.....Aviary
- October 28, 1975.....Outside Aviary
- November 4, 1975.....S. American Continental Group
- November 11, 1975.....Monkey Island / Ape House
- November 18, 1975.....Commissary
- November 25, 1975.....Reptile House
- December 2, 1975.....Baby Animals in Children's Zoo
- December 9, 1975.....Small Mammal House
- December 16, 1975.....Zoo Hospital
- December 23, 1975.....N. American Continental Group
- December 30, 1975.....Tranquility at Zoo

REMEMBER...CHANNEL 10 @ 6:30 P.M. TUESDAYS

RIP OFF AND SCOTCH TAPE THE ABOVE ON YOUR TV



SULTANA I AND CUB

# Zoological Society of Milwaukee County

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## BOOK REVIEWS

THE POLITICS OF EXTINCTION, The Shocking Story of the World's Endangered Wildlife; Lewis Regenstein, Macmillan Publishing Co., 280 pages, illustrated, \$9.95. A very comprehensive and thought-provoking dissertation on various political and non-political organizations which are pro and con on the preservation of wild life...numerous specific cases on vanishing and endangered species set forth in an interesting manner...behind-the-scenes lobbying by commercial interests...the plight of America's wolves, grizzly bears, prairie dogs, cougars, Australia's Kangaroos and many others.

AMONG THE ELEPHANTS, Iain and Oria Douglas-Hamilton, Viking, \$14.95. The story of five-years' experience living in elephant country in the Lake Manyara National Park in Tanzania. The first part of the book deals with his work and adventures all told with humor and word economy. Knocked down and trampled by charging rhinos, prostrated by fever and poisoning, he managed to survive all the perils of the wild. The latter part of his book deals with his further adventures after he married Oria, a native of Kenya, of French-Italian parents. His wife, also a splendid writer, became a dedicated researcher and overcame her initial fear of the huge beasts. At one point she says, "I could stand up to a charging elephant and call his bluff with a wave of my arm, then walk away. It was not bravado. I just knew what I was doing."