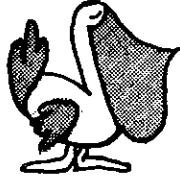
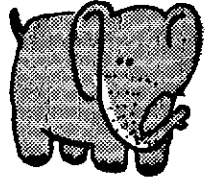




# animal talk



ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF MILWAUKEE COUNTY

Newsletter #52  
Walter E. Kroening, Editor

Volume IV

Fall 1978  
Phone: 258-2333



## ANNUAL MEETING

THURSDAY  
NOVEMBER 2, 1978  
7:30 P.M.

## SPECIAL FEATURE

"OTTO: ZOO GORILLA"

- Award Winning  
Documentary Film -

See Page 2 For Details

**68TH ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING**

THURSDAY EVENING, NOVEMBER 2, 1978  
AT 7:30 P.M.

No Reservations ... First Come, First Seated ... Room for 350

*Zoo Restaurant/Auditorium*

Following a short business meeting consisting of brief reports by Society Officers and Acting Director Robert Bullerman, and the Election of directors and officers, the award winning documentary film, "Otto: Zoo Gorilla" will be shown.

The film depicts the move of Lincoln Park (Chicago) Zoo's gorillas, chimpanzees and orangutans to their new homes in the Great Ape House.

It not only involves a change in quarters (their new condominiums are maybe five to six times the size of their old one-bedroom apartments) but also a complete physical (EKG, etc. --- but hold the barium) for each father, mother and child. And children they do have --- five baby gorillas is the current count -- But enuf come see for yourself.

A light snack will follow.

Once more - no reservations, first come, first seated, room for 350.

**KUDOS TO KIOSKERS**

Membership sales were boosted by 214 over a period from June 23 to Labor Day by a group of 26 Zoo Pride volunteers whose names appear on the outside back cover of this issue. Under the direction of Sylvia Rahn, this staff covered every hour of the 71 days (from 10:30 A.M. thru 4:30 P.M.) man/woman-ing the new Membership Kiosk.\* Without one single word of publicity or advertising, except for a few signs in the windows of the Kiosk, they were able to "sell" about 80% of the persons who stopped at their "office" either on their way into or out of the Zoo. Rules of procedure precluded volunteers leaving the Kiosk to buttonhole Zoo visitors who were lined up to pay admissions, since this approach, if successful, would reduce Zoo revenues - particularly from people living outside of Milwaukee County who have to pay almost double the rates of Milwaukee County residents. Obviously, the fact that a Society Membership Pass Card entitles parents and their minor-age children to free admission to the Zoo, is in itself a strong reason for any person to join our Zoociety.

Of the total number (214): ---

- 65 live in Milwaukee County..... 30%-
- 50 live in Waukesha County..... 23%
- 21 live in Washington County..... 10%
- 38 live in other Wisconsin areas..... 18%
- 41 live in states outside of Wisconsin ..... 19%+

Imagine, about 20% live outside of Wisconsin, mainly in the neighboring states of Illinois and Michigan - real Milwaukee Zoo boosters!

Free admission to Zoociety Members (effective December 15, 1977) has been an added incentive for joining. 605 new members were added to our roster between the beginning of the year and Labor Day, and that without any organized drive.

If you have a prospect, phone our office (258-2333) and a membership brochure will be mailed at once - giving your name as sponsor.

\*kēy'-ōsk,n. a small structure, somewhat open, used as a newstand, etc.

\*\*\*\*\*

To err is human... our apologies to the following members whose names were omitted from our "Triennial Report" Membership List:

- Miss Esther I. Blom
- Miss Lorraine Straszewski
- Dr. & Mrs. Jack Spankus

## KOA, FEMALE AFRICAN ELEPHANT: 1954-1978

At the age of 24, Koa, near death, was euthanized Saturday, Sept. 9th after ailing for the past two years from rheumatoid arthritis. Robert Bullerman, Acting Zoo Director, said that, "One would have to consider her fairly young as an elephant's normal life span ranges from 65 to 70 years." She was acquired in 1962 by the Zoological Society with funds donated by the Pabst Brewing Company.

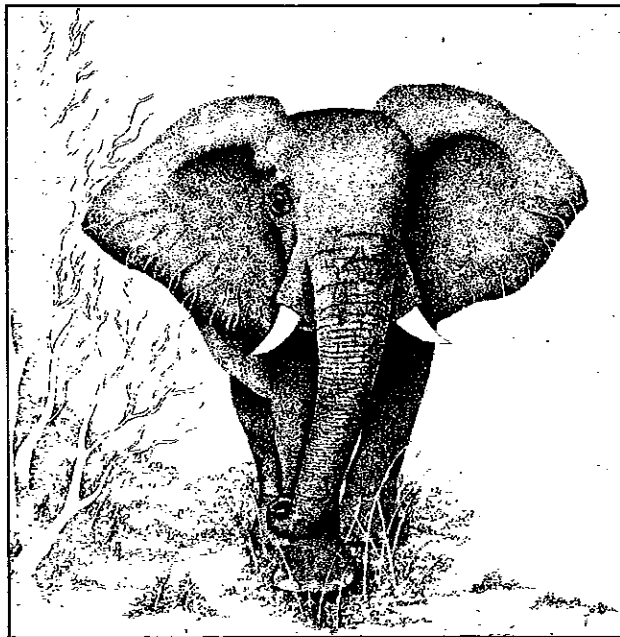
At about noon on Saturday, Koa suddenly went down in the outside yard near the pool. The other two sister elephants reacted by coming to her side, standing over her, touching her with their trunks and just milling about near her. They remained quiet without any signs of panic.

At Zoo closing time (5:00 P. M.) the sister elephants were brought inside, chained and tranquilized. Koa, was then euthanized and the post-mortem was performed between the hours of 6:00 P.M. and 1:00 A.M. with the aid of emergency lighting. A hydrocrane was brought in the following morning to remove the 6,000 pound animal.

Animal Talk is privileged to reproduce a letter addressed to County Executive William O'Donnell by Dr. Lawrence M. Ryan of the Medical College of Wisconsin at Milwaukee County General Hospital. Dr. Ryan is a rheumatologist specializing in arthritic conditions. The letter (facing page) contains further information regarding this unusual occasion as well as a deserved tribute to the Zoo staff.

It can be said that every effort was made to save Koa. Our Zoo staff veterinarians, Drs. Glen and Robert Downing, and Dr. Daniel Laughlin, a nationally recognized expert in the treatment of exotic animals, conferred with Acting Director Bullerman in early August and recommended procedures and special medication which were followed to the letter ... to no avail.

The Milwaukee County Public Museum now has Koa's head which will someday appear in an exhibit.



Mr. William O'Donnell  
County Executive  
Milwaukee County Court House  
Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53233

September 11, 1978

Dear Mr. O'Donnell:

I am writing to congratulate you on the fine organization which is operating at our County Zoo. In particular, I would like to cite Mr. Robert Bullerman, Acting Director, and Drs. Robert and Glenn Downing, staff veterinarians, and Dr. Dan Laughlin, consultant veterinarian.

On the evening of September 9th I was called at home and notified that one of the African elephants, Koa, was about to be sacrificed. Koa has suffered from rheumatoid arthritis for five years and was unable to rise from a lying position. Elephants inevitably die when they are in a lying position for over 10-15 hours, since fluid collects in their lungs. Consequently, the decision had been made to euthanize Koa, after she had fallen down the afternoon of September 9th and could not rise again. I am a staff rheumatologist who specializes in arthritic conditions at the Medical College of Wisconsin at Milwaukee County General Hospital.

After painlessly sacrificing the elephant, an autopsy was conducted under difficult conditions, from approximately 7:00 p.m. to 1:00 a.m. During this time I had the privilege of observing this autopsy and participating in the dissection of joints and obtaining joint tissues for study, since the elephant arthritis hopefully resembles human joint inflammation. During these proceedings, the zoo staff was cheerful, efficient, innovative in solving difficult mechanical problems, and scientifically splendid.

As a tax-payer, I have always been pleased with the Milwaukee County Zoo, and now I am doubly pleased to know that our animals are in such good hands. As a scientist and physician, I am concerned with any knowledge that can be gained in animal disease and applied to human disease. It is incredible that Mr. Bullerman and his staff would not only recognize that this illness may be related to human illness, but also that they would directly contact the appropriate individual on the spur of the moment. In other words, this staff has quality people who are intelligent, humane, and good scientists.

In this day of political negativism and government criticism, I thought you would be refreshed to hear that one government organization is running smoothly.

Sincerely yours,

Lawrence M. Ryan, M.D.  
Assistant Professor of Medicine  
The Medical College of Wisconsin  
Milwaukee County General Hospital

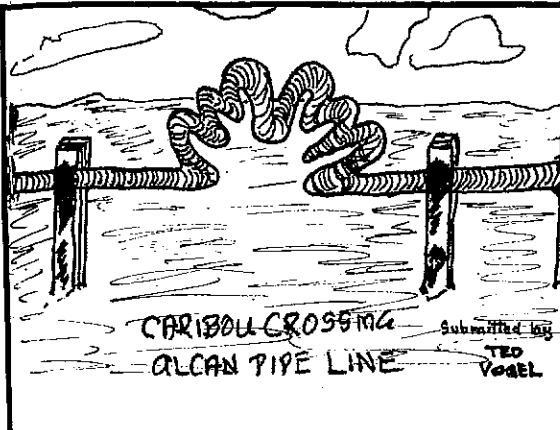
There are nineteen names of animals taking a trip in the flying Noah's Ark, spelled forwards, backwards vertically and also diagonally. Can you find the names of Zoo's Who?



# sworgåsbord

## FLYING SPEEDS

	MPH
Song Sparrow	17
Bronze Grackel	28
Starling	40
Bob White	49
Mallard	60
Homing Pigeon	92
Duck Hawk	180



H. Gordon Havens compiled a list of the 60 most commonly misspelled words in the English language. All are common vocabulary and the easiest to misspell. Is there one or more misspelled? It is a significant challenge of basic spelling abilities.

- |               |                |
|---------------|----------------|
| similar       | accidentally   |
| admissible    | innocence      |
| miniature     | chauffeur      |
| surprise      | achievement    |
| consensus     | liquefy        |
| benefited     | paraffin       |
| separately    | nauseous       |
| quizzes       | incidentally   |
| efficiency    | phenomenon     |
| peaceable     | desperate      |
| heroes        | battalion      |
| massacre      | assistance     |
| apparent      | rebuttal       |
| ecstasy       | superintendent |
| license       | inoculate      |
| imposter      | assassin       |
| changeable    | loneliness     |
| argument      | controversy    |
| embarrassing  | shriek         |
| hitchhiker    | silhouette     |
| cemetery      | guillotine     |
| hypocrisy     | indispensable  |
| dissipate     | hemorrhage     |
| seize         | deterrent      |
| innovate      | category       |
| exhaustible   | suffrage       |
| salve         | reminiscence   |
| miscellaneous | boundary       |
| icicle        | maneuver       |
| disapproval   | leisure        |



ED KOENIG, Zoo Maintenance Supervisor, read this on a wall of a building in Germany:

HE WHO WORKS HARD MAKES MANY MISTAKES.  
 HE WHO WORKS LITTLE MAKES FEW MISTAKES.  
 HE WHO DOESN'T WORK AT ALL MAKES NO MISTAKES.  
 HE WHO MAKES NO MISTAKES GETS PROMOTED.

"So gehts in die Welt." WEK

•Lions eat their weight in horse meat steaks in five weeks:

•Crocodiles (same weight as lion) eat fish only one-eighth their weight in the same period.

•Why? Lions are hot-blooded and crocodiles are coldblooded.  
 Eat like a Croc? WEK



# Getting Ed-Zoo-Cated at the booth

By JUNE McLEAN  
Special to the Sentinel

"Where is my husband?" demanded the indignant lady.

"Ma'am?" I questioned, puzzled.

"Well, you were talking to the both of us a short time ago and told us how to get to the ball park and then I went to the rest room and now I can't find him."

This is just one of the hundreds of questions I and the many Zoological Society, Zoo Pride volunteers, who staff the Information Booth at the Milwaukee County Zoo, are asked. I must admit most of the inquiries are of a much simpler nature and far more friendly.

Daily, as the happy people come swarming into the zoo grounds, many head for the Information Booth with questions such as: "Where is the Children's Zoo? Where can we get a stroller? Where do we get tickets for the Zoomobile and little train? Where's a rest room? Where's Samson? What time do they feed the tigers?"

There are many people from out of town who have heard about our zoo and come to visit. One woman approached the booth and asked, "I'm from Florida, could you tell me what brewery owns this zoo?" I told her that it was not owned by a brewery, but by Milwaukee County. She looked rather puzzled and said, "I thought all zoos were owned by breweries — ours is."

Besides answering questions on where, why and what, various little emergencies crop up that must be dealt with. Invariably, a number of children get lost. Either a frightened child comes up to the booth crying for his or her mommy, or worried parents come searching for their strayed youngster.

I was never the world's greatest brain when it came to directing people on how to get to places via expressways, etc., so I had to do a lot of boning up on directions with the help of my knowledgeable husband.

I get dozens of questions like, "What's the best way to get back to Des Moines? I'm kind of confused, where do I catch the tollway to Illinois? Where is the House on the Rock? How do I get to one of the breweries? Where are the Domes and the Museum?" With a map and a long written list of directions to "you name it, I've got it," I could finally direct people fairly intelligently to their desired destinations.

I even gleaned a better knowledge of some of the zoo animals, by questions people asked. One day a group of boys came up with the question, "Where is that cage where they have the great big rat?" This stopped me momentarily. I said that I didn't believe we had any rats in the zoo.

The one boy insisted that his friend had told him, that "the biggest rat in the world was at our zoo." The boys said they had seen a picture of it, taken by a friend.

So I opened the County Zoo Official Guidebook and checked under rodents and found the big rat. It was actually an agouti, which is a rodent from the tropical areas and is about the size of a rabbit.

"That's it! That's it!" shouted the excited boys and happily headed for the area of the South American grouping.

During the summer months the free

Ed-Zoo-Cation Laboratory is in operation on the grounds. Children as well as adults have the opportunity to study and learn about the footprints of various animals. Then, using a microscope, they learn the difference between feathers, fur, hair and snake skin. They are also able to see, hold and pet some live animals. The Mobile Laboratory is advertised on the side of the booth, so many people stop to get more information.

One afternoon two women and their four children inquired about the lab. Being a real enthusiast about this project, I fairly bubbled over with information as to how great it was and how much they'd enjoy it.

"You can even touch the animals," I said. "You can hold a ferret or a turtle or the cute little hog-nosed snake. I've held them and..."

"Stop! Stop!" gasped one. "Look what you've done! Just look at my arm, it has all goose bumps on it because you talked about snakes — ohhhhhh. Come children, let's go."

For every shocker, there are a hundred smiles and chuckles, such as the incident with the little old lady who came by chartered bus with about 50 senior citizens.

I had directed their group leader to the office for specific arrangements. He had told the group to stand there and wait for a moment. This woman was talking very seriously to another senior citizen and finally said, "Wait, I'll find out from this lady in the booth."

She came over to me and, glancing over her shoulder as though not wanting anyone to hear, she whispered, "Miss Information, could you please tell me where the zoo is? I don't think our leader knows where he's at."

## INFORMATION BOOTH VOLUNTEERS - 1978

Chairman:	Mildred Gaul	Rachel Jones	Lucille Schoenleber
Jeanette Obendorfer	Rory Hemp	Connie Koelsch	Katie Tesch
Fae Anger	Mary Henricks	Fern Kruse	Charlotte Teweles
Linda Baymiller	Jeff Huntsinger	June McLean	Helen Thate
Othmar Bonlender	Jo Huntsinger	Helen Obendorfer	Judy Van Till
Mary Beth Carr	Chris Javins	Rosemary O'Byrne	Doris Wattawa
Pat Dieckelman	Grace Jessel	Dorothy Pain	Jo Wolf
Penny Dunker	Libs John	Sylvia Rahn	Faith Zentgraph
	Grace Johnson	Pepe Rodrigues	Robert Zentgraph

## WHERE OUR MEMBERS LIVE

MILWAUKEE COUNTY		WAUKESHA COUNTY	
City of Milwaukee	801	Brookfield	146
Fox Point/River Hills	496	Elm Grove	103
Wauwatosa	235	Waukesha	76
Shorewood	232	Hartland	32
Glendale	69	New Berlin	31
Greendale/Hales Corners	22	Oconomowoc	24
South Milwaukee	8	Menomonee Falls	22
Cudahy	7	Pewaukee	19
Oak Creek	7	Cedar Grove	18
Franklin	5	Butler	3
	1,882	Other Areas	33
			507
OZAUKEE COUNTY		RACINE COUNTY	
Mequon	145	Racine	12
Grafton	9	Other Areas	7
Port Washington	6		19
Other Areas	2		
	162		
OTHER WISCONSIN COUNTIES		OTHER STATES	
Washington	20	Arizona	3
Sheboygan	10	Pennsylvania	1
Fond du Lac	8	California	6
Kenosha	6	Maine	2
Walworth	5	Colorado	1
Others	19	Michigan	2
	68	Connecticut	1
		Mississippi	1
		Florida	8
		Minnesota	1
		Georgia	2
		New Hampshire	1
		Illinois	41
		New York	1
		Indiana	3
		Texas	2
		Oregon	1
		Virginia	2
			79

Current membership locations compared with the analysis made in 1973 show the following significant gains:

Waukesha County	From 227 to 507
Ozaukee County	From 85 to 162
States Outside of Wisconsin	From 22 to 79

With our new Membership Kiosk and the salesmanship of our Key Oscars, a substantial growth in membership outside of the Milwaukee metropolitan area is anticipated.

# NEW

## CONTRIBUTING MEMBERS

MR. & MRS. JOHN MATHEUS

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BERT FREDERICKSEN, INC.  
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BROTHER MARTIN PRIEBE  
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MR. & MRS. J. DAVID HOPKINS, JR.  
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DR. FRANK A. WALKER

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MARY BALWIT  
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ELLEN A. DISCH  
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KATIE GRIFFITH

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KEVIN HANLEY  
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SUSAN MUELLER  
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