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MARVIN
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REPORT on the
ZOOS and AQUARIUMS
of JAPAN

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From the 25th through the 31st of July of this year, I was permitted to take a seven day leave of absence from my job here in Korea with the US Army guarding freedom frontier, and to visit a most charming and industrious land, that of Japan.

The main purpose of this trip was to visit as many of the Zoological Parks and Aquariums possible in this short period of time, and to report on them to my many friends all over the world. Japan today, is very close to both Europe and America due to the advent of jetliner transportation, however the cost of such a trip and the overall time involved still keeps many of our Zoo men from seeing some of the wonders of this modern and advancing nation. For this reason, I decided early in my tour here in Korea that while I would probably be allowed only one trip, that I would see as much as possible, and to share this information with others, as many of you know this has always been my policy when out of the United States. I regret sincerely that my time here in Korea is extremely busy, and that I have been unable to continue my previous lengthy correspondences, or to pass on zoological information.

Japan today is to my mind very similar to Germany of 1957 and 1958, and not necessarily to the United States. There are many situations which are similar. Both nations were of the losing end of the war, both suffered widespread damage from bombing raids, and both had rough financial going for the early years after the war. Both nations also are highly industrial now and were before the war, there being more urgency to rebuild and again become world leaders. The educational standards are about the same, each having many universities formerly operated by the Crown, and now under governmental supervision. And finally both have copied several mannerisms and habits from the members of their occupation forces which have resulted in many cities no longer looking like Japanese or German cities, but instead like „Little Americas“. The behavior of many of the younger generation reflect the change also taking place in the USA, however many still retain the thoughts and manners of the past. Finally both have a present day Zoological Garden and Aquarium trend that seems determined to continue for many years, with planning being focused far into the future.

I understand this also is a attraction at Tama Zoo. The performers at Osaka ride bicycles from their cage area to the outdoor show-place, a distance of several hundred yards, unassisted, turn several corners, etc. and perform very well. By American standards the show is quite mediocre, but in this area is „a horse of another color“.

Osaka is reconstructing the zoo as fast as finances will permit, and a modern Ape House which will be similiar to both Tokio and Nagoya, but larger is almost completed. A new exhibit to have been dedicated the day after my visit was a San Francisco Cable Car, a present from that city to Osaka, and housed in a special area of the childrens playground. It looked quite well, and they really thought a great deal of it. At the time of my visit to Osaka an infected leg and knee made progress extremely painful, and I am afraid that I did not share their enthusiasm for this street-car, since it necessitated walking several extra yards. San Francisco is a sister city to Osaka a practice that I found quite common in Japan, with each making cultural exchanges. I am sorry to say that the Zoos did not share in this effort to any degree, unfortunately, since it would be of benefit to both.

There are several quite large flying cages for Birds of Prey and it was nice to once again see an excellent, although as yet juvenile specimen of Stellar's Sea Eagle here. Excellent pairs of King Vulture and Condor also made an impressive show. Like so many zoos seen on this trip the waterfowl pond or area was just jam-packed with native waterfowl and no attempt was made to count the individuals present, there being many of Baikal, Falcated and Yellow-billed Duck.

The zoo was quite proud of the pair of Black Rhino which looked fine, as well as the Indian Elephants and an Argus Pheasant, which was hatched here many years ago. A fine specimen of Eastern White Pelican, in the „pink“ of condition, has been here 30 years. In the rare animals class was a single New Caledonian Booby, a brown and white Bird not at all handsome, but quite rare in collections. One had also recently died, as did the Tamandua that arrived in January. All of the rare animals are mounted after death and kept in the zoo offices, with the idea of a museum being built later. This was the practice at Tokio prior to the war, and allowed the visitors to see not only the animals living, but the great rarities of former days. Perhaps this is an idea that would work equally well in America.

As the checklist will show the zoo is quite excellent in animal collections and certainly deserves the plaudits that it has received.

(To be continued)

THE ZOOS OF QUEBEC, CANADA

BY GERALD ILES

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This brief report is intended for those readers who have little knowledge of the zoological collections existing in this vast Province. Most of Québec's area is still undeveloped — generally speaking it is only the southern part which has been „civilized“. Undoubtedly the best of the zoos is that situated seven miles north of the old and picturesque city of Québec. These gardens, under the management of the Zoological Society of Québec, are now nearly 30 years old. They are spacious and well laid out — a small river run along one of the boundaries — the main entrance is reached by crossing a stone bridge. This river has been used to provide a fine pond for waterfowl and a beaver enclosure. As may be expected, Canadian fauna is well represented and all the more common animals are to be found here. Among the rare species the prong-horn is an outstanding exhibit.

Apart from the buildings housing the Society's administration, restaurants, winter quarters and service facilities there are numerous stables for the hoofed mammals. The most recent structure of note is the large mammal house. This shows carnivores such as lions, Siberian tigers and leopards as well as anthropoid apes and monkeys. The lions and tigers have outdoor enclosures but the leopards and primates are shown indoors without acces to the open air and also without natural light. This trend towards the showing of animals in permanent artificial light is one which I deprecate most strongly.

My visit took place during early October, when I was interested in seeing so-called tropical birds still in their outdoor aviaries without heating or shelter. Toucans of several species were flying around in the near freezing temperature and all looked in splendid condition. Like the great majority of the birds in the Zoo they were about to be taken indoors for the long winter months.

This Zoo boasts over a thousand animals covering about 50 species of mammals and 200 species of birds. An attractive guide book with plan is published with text in both English and French. The director is Dr. J. A. Brassard while his assistant, who kindly showed me around, is Dr. Richard Bernard. The birds are under the excellent care of Curator Raymond Cayouette.

Québec's second largest zoo is situated at Granby, a small town 50 miles southeast of Montreal. This Zoo is perhaps the best known in the whole Province due to the showmanship of the Major of Granby, Mr. Horace Boivin. My first visit was made in April 1958. I was not pleased with what I saw. There seemed