

Compiled by JANET BROOKE

KENYA

ORPHANAGE:

A mare zebra foal and a male pygmy hippo calf have been born and the leopard, Beauty, has given birth to three cubs.



ON APRIL 10, the female pygmy hippo (*Choeropsis liberiensis*) at the Orphanage gave birth to her third offspring. But this time the baby has now survived almost three months and is healthy. The two previous babies died soon after birth.

This latest baby was born at 4 p.m. in the pool which had been built for the two adults. He weighed six pounds and was 16 inches long. The mother would not let her baby suckle much until after three days.

After birth, the baby hippo had to be taken out of the pool so he would not drown or be attacked by his father. He was moved with his mother to the nearby paddock where a garden sprinkler was set up to keep the skin of the hippo moist. He enjoyed playing under the sprinkler. Most of the time, the mother and her baby can be seen together in a small mud pond. Occasionally, the baby will run around the paddock and eat grass, although his diet is still predominantly milk.

Visitors to the Orphanage will take great pleasure in seeing this delightful rare baby animal whose parents are originally from Liberia.

Esmond Bradley Martin.

A male lion cub, about five months old, has been brought to the Orphanage. The cub was found stranded at Masai Mara Game Reserve. He is doing well and is named after the late Dr. Leakey.

A male chimpanzee has been collected from the Eden Roc Hotel at Malindi. He had become so wild, he could cause extensive damage if he broke out of his cage.

A 4½-year-old male rhinoceros, reared at the Orphanage and later transferred to the Oldonyo Sabuk National Park, broke his anterior horn when he caught it between two boards. The hanging remains were amputated and the wound dressed and cleaned. The animal recovered well but has lost some of his social status among the other rhinos.

Two stock raiding male leopards, one from Makuyu and the other from Langata, have been caught and were released into Masai Mara Game Reserve.

NAIROBI NATIONAL PARK

TWO female Cheetah, "Patience" and Penny", have given birth to 2 and 4 cubs respectively. Unfortunately Patience lost one cub but Penny's four cubs are doing well.

One female Cheetah was found with a loose snare around her neck not far from the Main Gate, despite the snare she managed to kill a bush buck. She was darted and the snare removed.

"Mkuki", the male Rhino was involved in a fight, presumably with another male and was badly lacerated. He had difficulty in walking and it was thought he might die, but he is recovering from the ordeal.

During the quarter 5 Wild Dog were seen at No. 8 on a young Kongoni but, as usual, they left the Park after several days.

The buffalo herd is regularly seen along the forest edge but the two big bulls remain isolated from the herd. Three calves were born, raising the total number to 46.

Two lionesses, "Tomasina" and "Karla", gave birth to 4 and 3 cubs respectively; the cubs were first seen in early January.

The forest pride has not yet separated although recently one male cub was missing and is suspected to have been killed by one of the two big males. Mating has taken place between "Anthony" (the younger male) and one of "Tomasina's" daughters. The mating period lasted for just over a week.

There has been a decrease in number of the Plain's Game especially in Zebra and Wildebeeste. After the short rains most of Kongoni moved into the Kitengala, where the grass is permanently short, while a few Eland returned to the Park.

The calving period of the plains game has taken place coinciding with the rainy season.

ABERDARE NATIONAL PARK:

The annual fire danger season this year only attained a relatively low risk, due to brief rainy spells and the success achieved by reducing grasses and debris during widespread control burns carried out over most of the moorland zones in October and November 1971.

The baby elephant, Miss Murogwa, has progressed remarkably well since the operation to remove the infected bone in her right foreleg carried out in January. She is able to walk almost normally. Latest X-rays are encouraging and indicate a complete recovery.

The new airfield at Fort Jerusalem at an altitude of 10,500 ft, has now been completed and favourable trials carried out with the Super Cub 5Y ACE equipped with the long-reach, fine-pitch propeller and balloon wheels. The old Queens (West) Gate has now been dismantled and moved to the new site at Fort Jerusalem. The newly named Fort Jerusalem (West) Gate will serve the main route from Naivasha and will also act as a ranger patrol base and fire lookout. Work will begin shortly on tarring the entire western escarpment. The road will be totally closed during the week days while this is being done but it will remain open to visitors during the weekends.

The Aberdare National Park and moorland will be accessible only from Nyeri and Mweiga.

Both Treetops Hotel and the Ark Game Lodge have enjoyed good game attendance. The rains commenced just before Easter with good falls over all areas. All roads were closed.

MOUNT KENYA NATIONAL PARK

THE NEW climbers hut at 15,700 feet was completed and formally inaugurated in February in a ceremony attended by members of the Austrian Alpine Club (who gave a substantial donation) the Mountain Club of Kenya (the builders) and Kenya National Parks. The event was duly recorded for both Kenya and Austrian television by cameramen who made the long march to the hut.

Construction on the self-help bandas at roadhead (10,000 feet) on the Naro Moru track is now complete. Water supplies, landscaping and interior decorating remain to be completed before they officially open in July. These bandas will accommodate 30 persons and will be used by unacclimatized climbers for the first night in an effort to reduce the incidence of Pulmonary Oedema among visitors to the mountain. They are of course available also to parties wanting a peaceful weekend in the high mountain forest.

The rescue team was called into action a total of 23 times during the past climbing season (December to March); most of these rescues involved walkers stricken by Pulmonary Oedema. There were four accidents involving climbers on the peaks, three of these

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