

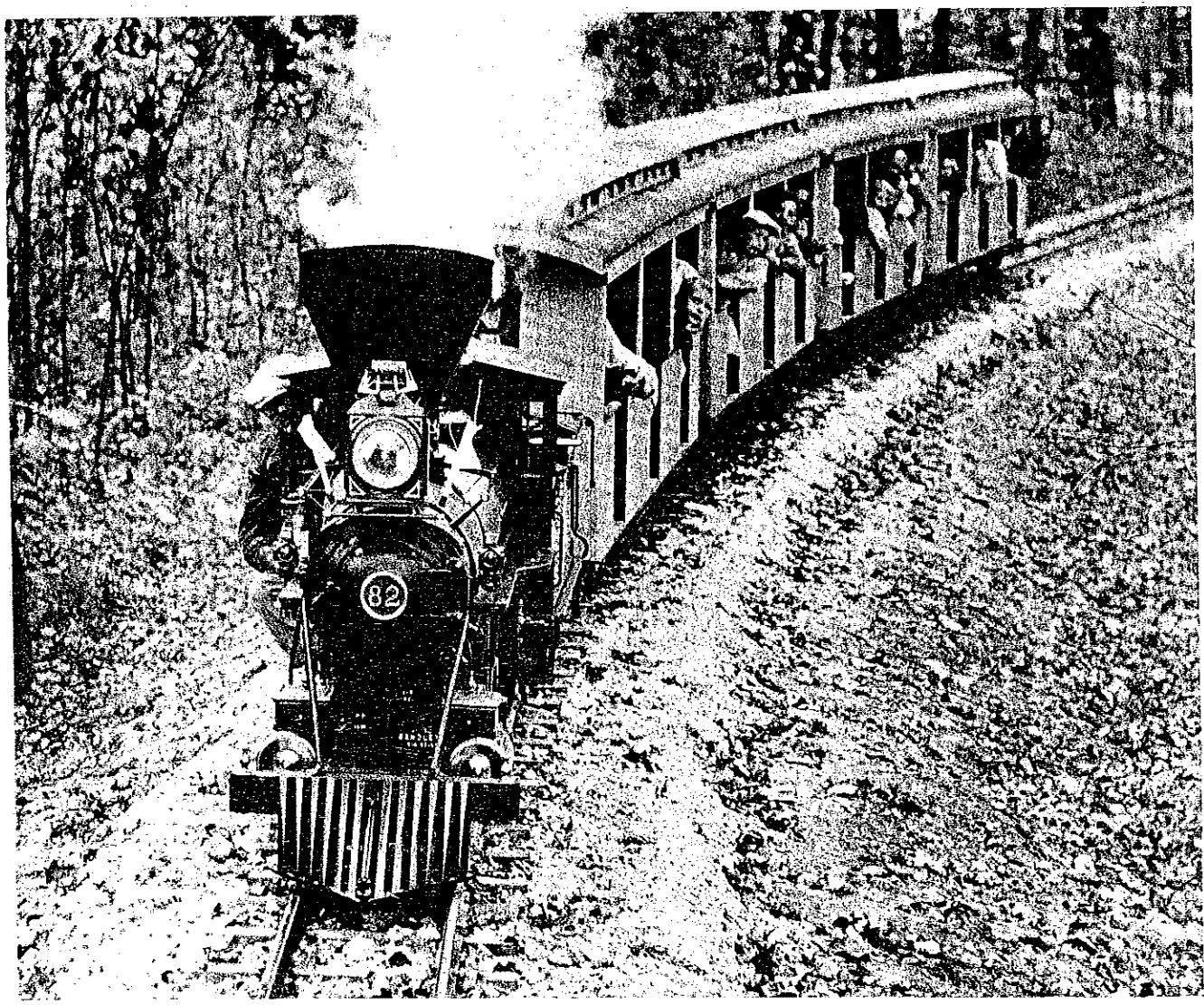
Zoo
Bulletin #12

Milwaukee Zoo News

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THE MINIATURE train at the new county zoo was just rounding a bend when this picture was taken. The train, in its first full season of operation, proved to be a real attraction. It hauled a total of 163,605

passengers, including 89,447 children and 74,158 adults. The railroad was donated by The Milwaukee Journal. Profits will go into acquisition of more equipment and specimens for the zoo.

All photographs in this issue are courtesy The Milwaukee Journal

Indian Rhinoceros Largest of Species

Rhinoceros unicornis, the great Indian rhinoceros represented by Rudra and Mohinija in Milwaukee county's zoo, are part of vanishing form of land mammals once very common.

Five types now survive--the black and white rhino of Africa, the Javan, the Sumatran and the great Indian rhinos. The entire species is considered threatened with extinction, hence the increasing difficulty in export.

Marco Polo, one of the first white travelers to describe the rhino, wrote: "There are wild elephants in the country (Sumatra) and numerous unicorns which are very nearly as big. They have hair like that of a buffalo, feet like those of an elephant and a horn in the middle of the forehead which is black and very thick..."

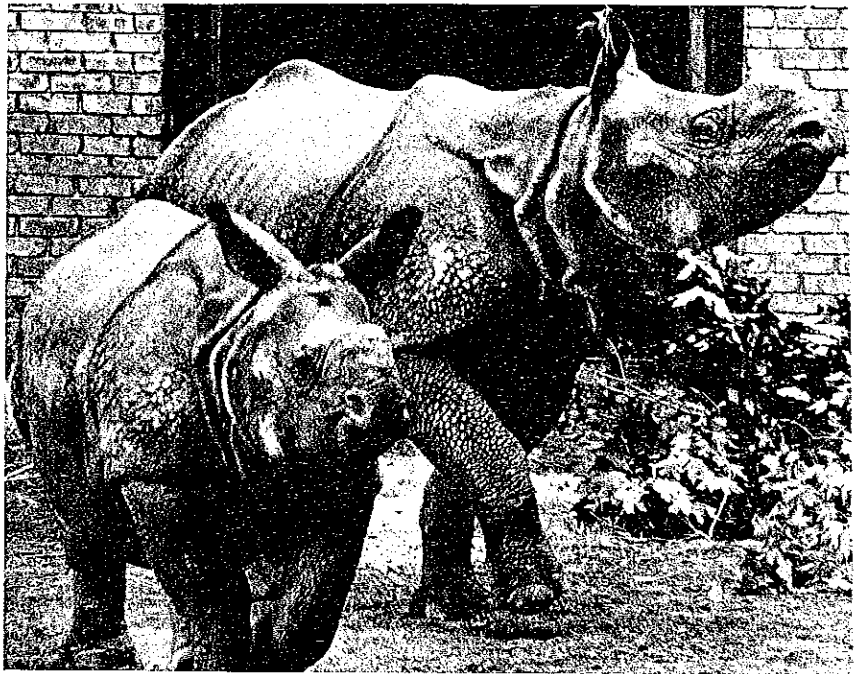
The rhinos which Marco Polo described in 1298 fit the Indian rhino except for the hair, which indicates the Sumatran type. The Indian is the largest of the Asiatic rhinos, some reaching six feet in height and fourteen feet long. The adult may weigh two tons.

The mark of distinction of the Indian is its thick hide, which hangs in folds resembling armor plate. The horn may reach two feet in length. It is little used in combat, since it is somewhat soft, growing from the skin like hair or fingernails. A heavy blow can knock it off. In fighting, the rhino uses its teeth, especially two sharp lower incisors which can rip and tear like a wild boar's.

In natural habitat, the rhino spends considerable time in wallows. They are strict vegetarians and feed day and night on grasses, water weeds, leaves and twigs.

Although many rhinos and other beasts have fallen before hunters' guns, killing is not the only way that species are weakened and disappear. Cultivation, draining, or flooding of the natural habitat can destroy an animal's food supply or its natural haunts and it soon disappears. The inroads of civilization sweep lower forms of life into oblivion.

One estimate is that a mammal species is exterminated each year, at the present rate.



MOST COSTLY ANIMALS ever purchased for the Milwaukee County zoo are Rudra and Mohinija, the rhinoceroses. They are recent immigrants from European zoos, will remain at Washington park pending completion of the new zoo.
—Milwaukee Journal Photo

Progress Seen in New Zoo Building

Milwaukee county's new zoo moved forward on several fronts in 1959. By year's end, zoo fans reviewing the progress could note these items:

First occupancy of a new building, with the removal of almost the entire monkey and ape collection into the new primate house.

Virtual completion of the carnivore house, with the exception of moat and rock work.

Monkey island completed, except for rock work.

Pachyderm house, half finished.

Bear dens, for grizzlies, polars, browns and blacks in various stages of completion, with the first contract for rock work let.

Lagoon dams and moose pens completed.

Underground work going on in all parts of the zoo.

While the structures took shape on the big wooded tract at N. Barnekow ave., and W. Bluemound rd., planning moved ahead on other projects. This is not just planning on paper, but the use of elaborate clay models in which details of the county's new zoo are developed.

The modeling is the work of

Paul Marine and Richard Waystedt, who work in the basement of the new monkey house. Using a scale of one-fourth inch to one foot, they build miniatures which later become the basis for specifications.

The monkey house has proved to be all that was expected--and more. Spectators, which have streamed through the building all season, have enjoyed the broad corridors, flanked by the brightly lighted cages and the striking beauty of the center courtyard. They have had the unusual pleasure for zoo fans, of viewing the specimens in odorless air, a situation so noticeable that it moved the new zoological society president, C. P. Fox, to remark that he "missed the smell."

Just as remarkable will be the new carnivore house. Biggest attraction here will be a naturalized setting for a pride of five lions. It will have rockwork and foliage in the background, with glass walls. A pond with a log bridge will also be included. The outdoor area will resemble Africa.

The central feature will be the home of the Siberian tigers, open to the sky winter and summer except for bars. There will be seven smaller cages, for various jungle cats.

New Zoo Features Orangutan Pair

The pair of orangutans which are on exhibit at the new county zoo have given spectators a fine show--and zoo officials something new to hoot about.

Orangutans rank just behind the gorillas in size in the ape family. Full grown, they weigh 150 to 200 pounds. With their tremendous arm spread, they can take spectacular swings, up to seven feet across.

The female, which arrived first, appeared to be shy at first but soon made herself at home. She has gradually overcome this, especially since the arrival of her mate.

Zoo fans can look forward to fine accomplishments from the orangs. Like the chimpanzee, they are capable of learning complicated tricks. They can be trained to ride bicycles and open locks, although probably will not be given a chance at such pursuits here. Surely Zoo Director George Speidel wants no lock picking.

The orangutan matures in about 10 years and lives to an average age of 35. A few zoos, notably Philadelphia and St. Louis, have successfully raised young from orangutans.

The animals were bought with a \$5,000 gift made by the Harnischfeger Corp., during the 1956 fund drive of the Zoological Society of Milwaukee County.

Milwaukee Zoo News

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MEET GEORGE the orangutan, who recently came to the zoo as a mate for Tia. The pair of redheads is honeymooning at the new primate house.

Rhinoceroses Arrive Safely; Pabst Donates Gorillas

The county zoo moved forward in specimens as well as physical plant in the last year. Most of all, it moved forward on the ponderous feet of two Indian rhinoceroses, Rudra and Mohinija.

The arrival of the rhinos climaxed an adventurous trip for George Speidel, zoo director who escorted the beasts here. Rudra had been purchased from the Basel, Switzerland zoo and Mohinija from the Whipsnade zoo, near London. At \$15,000 each, they were the most costly animals ever acquired by the zoological society. Fifty-two firms donated to the rhino fund.

Despite a 20 day voyage, some of it on rough seas, Rudra and Mohinija arrived in good spirits. After a civic reception, they were hauled to Washington park where they will live pending completion of their quarters at the new zoo.

Rudra now is about three years old and Mohinija about two. They both were domestically born, a rare occurrence but one which zoo officials hope will be repeated here in a couple of years.

Spectacular though the rhino purchase was, it did not overshadow the acquisition of several other valuable specimens. In August, a female orangutan arrived from Hong Kong. Tia, the young lady, was joined late in

the year by a male named George, after George Waetjen, veteran member of the society's board. Object, again: Romance. The animals are enjoying their new quarters.

Other new residents at the new zoo monkey house are a Siamang gibbon, a pair of spectacled langurs and a pair of African sykes. They were brought here with the rhinos.

The African crowned cranes startled zoo observers in 1959 by hatching out two chicks. The parents, residents here for 35 years, also hatched a chick in 1955. Only one other crowned crane chick hatched in captivity, so far as is known, was at the San Antonio, Texas, zoo several years ago.

A new male Canadian moose also was added to the zoo, replacing Christy, the bull which has headed the herd for 10 years.

Pabst Brewing Co., the donors of Samson and Sambo, the gorillas, announced that it would finance purchase of two more gorillas, preferably a male and female. Samson and Sambo came to the zoo in 1950 and have been favorites since. The death of Sambo was followed almost immediately by the Pabst announcement.

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New Home Awaits Monkeys in Spring

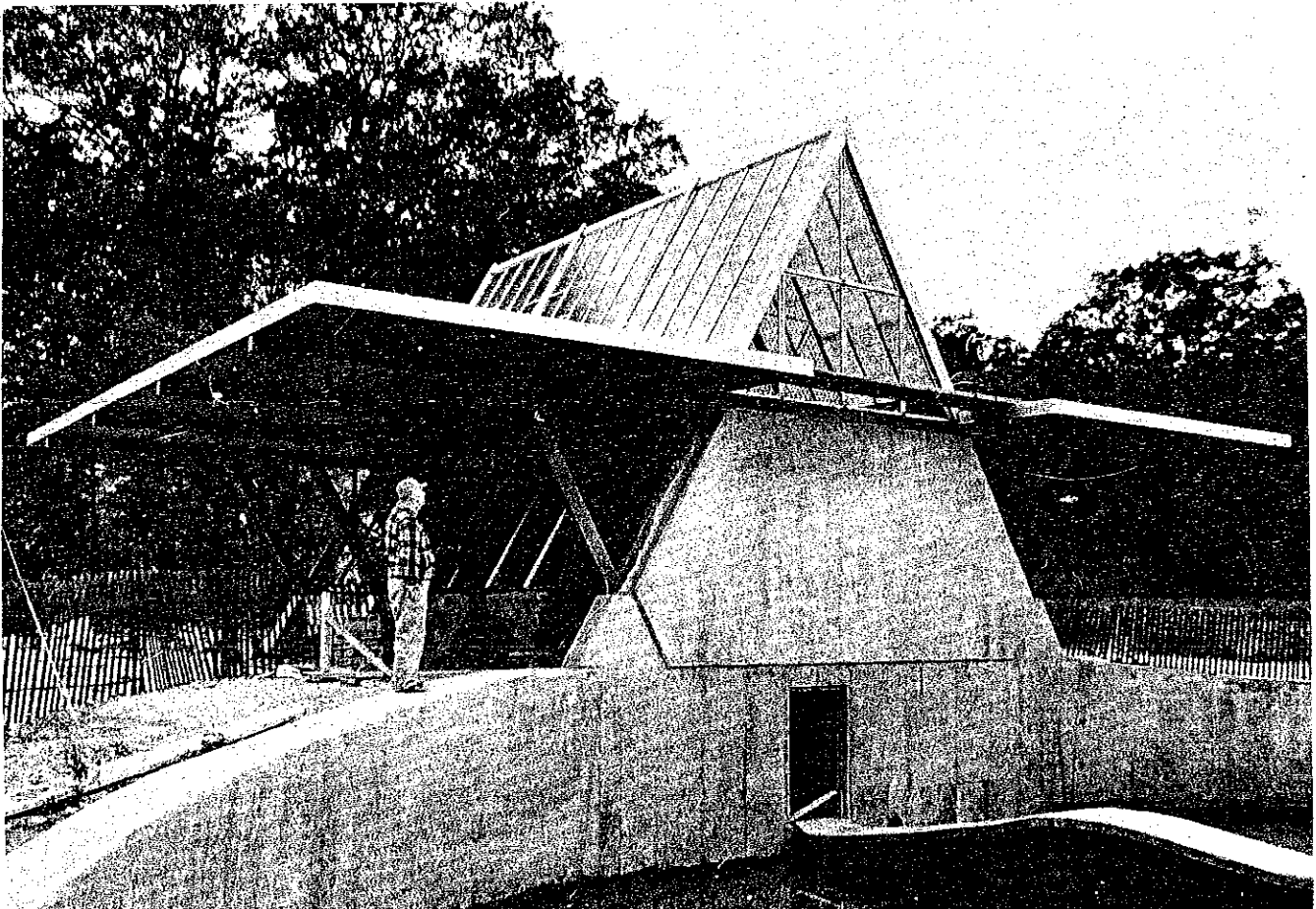
The rhesus monkeys, among the most popular exhibits of the zoo, are wintering in the basement of the "old" zoo, as usual. But come spring, the lively monks are in for a thrill--a brand new home.

The nearly completed monkey residence is attractive on the outside yet extremely utilitarian. What's more, it will be a year

round home ending the annual frolic when zookeepers had to round up the rhesus for winter confinement.

A cantilevered overhang on either side of the monkey shelter, plus an A shaped glass roof gives the structure a unique appearance. The lower level will be devoted to rhesus the year round. They also will use the upper part in winter, but in summer, it will be used for a variety of exhibits--bear cubs, young lions, baboons, chimpanzees or anything else that requires "spotlighting."

From the old zoo and new zoo
Reptiles, animals and birds:
The hippos and turtles and pelicans too,
The moose and the deer and the buffalo herds,
From the monkeys and apes
With their perch so illogical
From the keepers and - yes
The society zoological
Merry Christmas
and
Happy New Year!



NEW HOME FOR the rhesus monkey colony will be this modern structure, which has a glass roof and wide overhangs. In summer, the monkeys will share the house with other exhibits.