

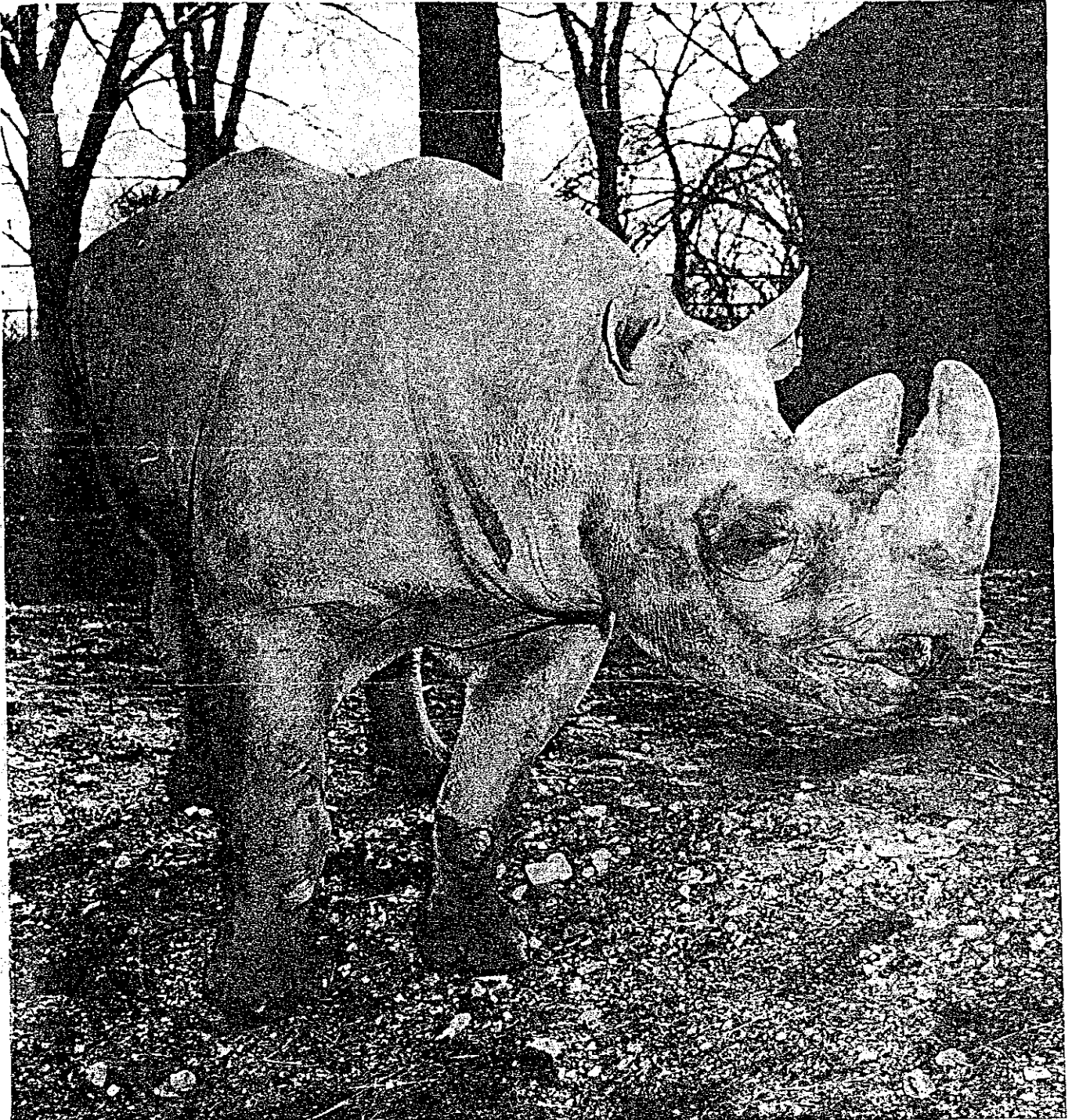
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Milwaukee Zoo News

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City Dwellers See Thanksgiving Stars In Exhibit At Zoo

(See Picture Below)

Urban visitors to Washington park zoo were treated again this year to the opportunity to see live Thanksgiving dinners.

The annual Thanksgiving exhibit of turkeys was opened two weeks before the holiday. Four fine birds, all gobblers, were installed in a pen just outside the director's office in the administration lobby. The turkeys were loaned by Ray Callahan, a keeper, who bought them from a Wisconsin farmer.

The festive birds were made to feel at home in a bower of cornstalks. Inside stood baskets of apples, cabbages and carrots, to add to the fall atmosphere. Children by the thousands, and many parents too, stopped to admire the colorful display of "domestic" livestock.

The turkey always has had an important place in American history, and even after 300 years, it has not been domesticated to the degree of chickens, ducks and geese.

The turkey, in addition to being honored at Thanksgiving each year,

has caught the fancy of the American public. It even has been mentioned as a replacement for the bald eagle as national insignia of the United States.

The turkey is a truly American bird, although the present day broad breasted, thick drumsticked specimen bears little resemblance—except in disposition—to its ancestors.

Contrary to general belief, promotion of the turkey did not begin with the Pilgrims. Years before that the Spaniards found flocks of turkeys in Mexico and Peru. It was considered the most noble bird ever seen. Actually, the turkey already had been "domesticated" for hundreds of years by the Indians, who raised them in their corn patches.

The Indians are credited with naming the turkey, not after the middle eastern country, but for its cry as it took off in stirring flight. Crates of turkeys were brought back to Spain by the Jesuit friars.

The turkey, despite his years of breeding, is credited with practically no intelligence whatsoever. "A fool of a bird," is the way it often is described.

The turkey's native stupidity is cause for constant worry by the raisers. It has an amazing facility for self destruction, even under present day methods of close control and careful feeding.

The turkey farmer always provides plenty of shelters for his restive birds. But if they suddenly are frightened, say by a scrap of newspaper or a low flying airplane, they stampede blindly into a single hut. They pile crazily one atop the other until the birds on the bottom are crushed and smothered to death.

Under present day methods, turkeys are raised for the first few weeks on sun porches, after having been brooded under an electric hover. The porches have wire floors which keep the feed of the young birds off the ground.

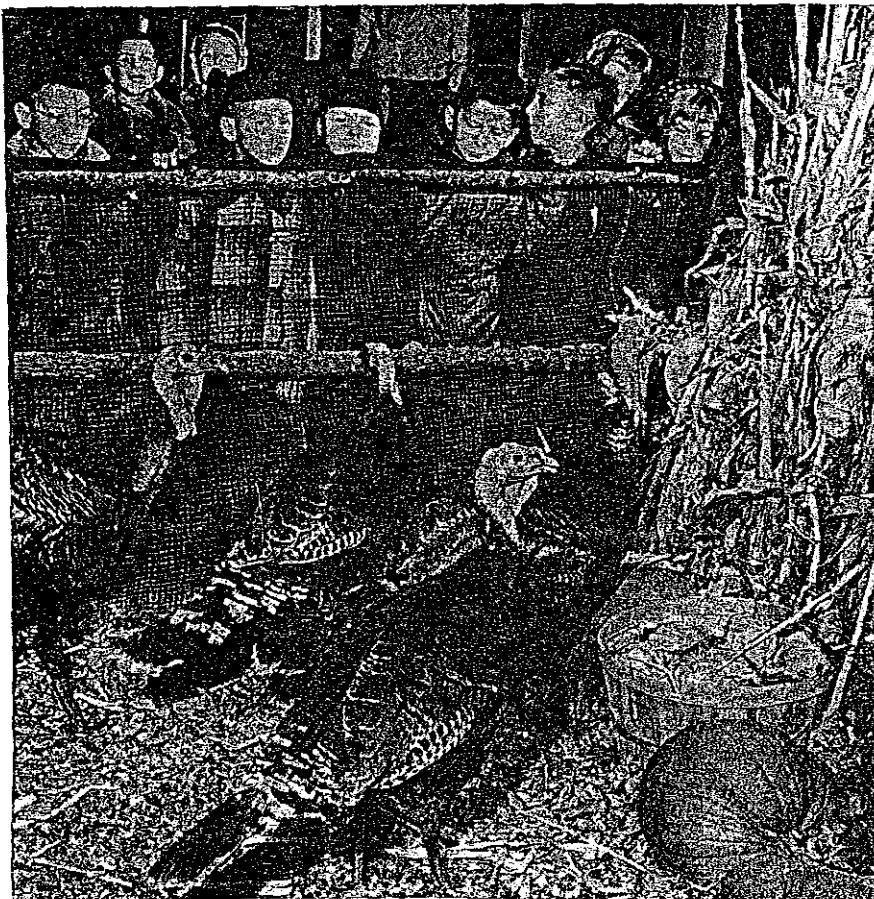
It is only in recent years that turkey raisers found that hospital sanitation methods must be used in their industry. This meant not just cleanliness in equipment, but new ground each year. Some of the early research on turkey growing was done by Dr. Billings of the University of Minnesota, Minneapolis. It was found that one of the most dread killers of turkeys—blackhead—was caused simply by a germ from chickens. So the warning went out: Don't allow turkeys on ground occupied by chickens. While the disease is contracted by chickens, it is seldom fatal. In turkeys, it is black plague.

After the scientists had licked many of the turkey growing problems, they attacked the turkey's jumbo size. The turkey market still was small, because of the objection of many housewives that the bird was just too big. Families had grown smaller.

There was some attempt to sell half turkeys but the idea never really caught on. Then the animal husbandry division of the United States department of agriculture began a breeding program and developed the small Beltsville bird. It goes to market, dressed, drawn and all ready for the oven, at from five to 10 pounds. Since it is a mature bird, it is far superior in flavor to immature turkeys which had been put in the meat market, in an attempt to capture sales to the "apartment sized" family.

Now there is some movement to re-establish the native wild turkey, which fortunately never became entirely extinct. It is a difficult task, with all the problems of the domestic turkey raiser multiplied several times. But it seems certain that this, the greatest of all wild fowl, will remain a challenge to the hunter and turkey rancher alike.

So it is perfectly proper that the zoo offers its turkey show each year. For here is a bird that has withstood the deepest inroads of civilization and still remains a wild, romantic creature.



Lions Pick Winners In Lion-Naming Contest

The Milwaukee Central Lions club recently picked the winners of their "Name the Lions" contest. Names were selected for the three cubs born to King and Queen, the lions pair which the club purchased for the zoo.

Nine year old Carl Frederick Dudey II, won a double prize, two \$25 defense bonds, for his names, Kim, for one of the males, and Juno, for the female. The other top winner was Richard Kirchhoff, 10, who submitted the name of his dog, Rex.

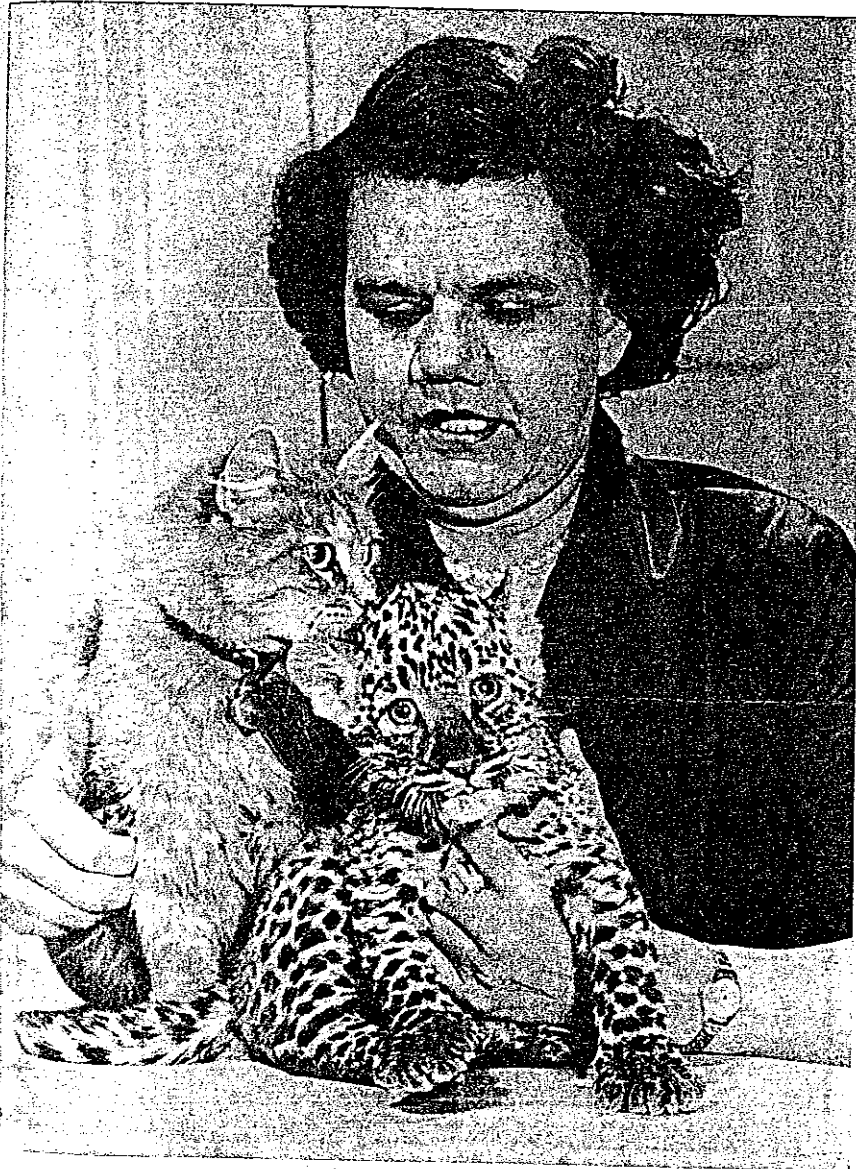
Ten dollar prize winners were Jane Stich, 11; Raymond Connelly,

10, and John Muckerheide, 13. The three youngsters who won \$5 prizes were Stewart Dyke, 11; Daniel E. Pluta, 7, and Thomas Huebner, 7.

The prizes were awarded in front of the lion's cage by Ray Etzel, president of the Lions club.

Bird Keeper Dies

Daniel Lawler, 62, the veteran bird keeper at Washington park zoo, died Nov. 3, 1952 at his home, 2332 N. 34th st., after a brief illness. Mr. Lawler entered zoo service April 12, 1924, when he was hired from a city paint crew which worked at the park. He spent his entire service in the bird department. He is survived by his wife, Anna.



Miss Viola Van Dieman holds Blue Baby, the cat which will receive the Puss 'N Boots medal and certificate, and the leopard cub which Blue Baby nursed to win national attention. The cub has now grown as large as its foster mother. (Milwaukee Journal Photo)

"Substitute Mother" Awarded an Honor

In a round about way, Washington park zoo has helped a Milwaukee cat get national attention. The cat is Blue Baby, a domestic cat which adopted the zoo's leopard cub after its mother, Betty, disowned it.

Blue Baby is to receive the Puss 'N Boots award, given by a cat food company. According to the secretary of the committee which makes the award selections, Blue Baby is cited for furthering "an interest in the intelligence and loyalty of cats and stimulating an appreciation of their true worth as companions of man."

The secretary, Dorothy K. Smith of New York city, wrote that the medal and accompanying certificate would be given to the cat's owner, Miss Viola Van Dieman of 1715 S. 15th st., Milwaukee.

Surely Blue Baby deserved a medal of some sort. For she is credited with saving the life of the leopard cub, which now has grown as large as its foster mother and dines on a special jungle cat formula.

However, the adoption caused some complications in the Van Dieman household of pets. Blue Baby had three kittens and they had to be taken over by a Pomeranian dog, Snow Flake, which had a puppy. Snow Flake's puppy was given to another dog, Jill, which also had one puppy.

The medal, according to the donor, is of bronze. It is inscribed:

"For contributing to human happiness and exhibiting other admirable traits, this pet has further elevated the cat as man's friend, loyal companion, vigilant protector."

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Karonga Can Rival Paul Bunyan When He Decides To Tidy Up

(See Cover)

Harold Borkenhagen and August Walberts, the two keepers in the antelope house at Washington park zoo still are talking about the most recent episode of their ponderous charge, Karonga, the rhinoceros.

Karonga was out stomping around in his yard when he suddenly became bothered with a dead tree that had stood in the pen for several years. Several men had tried to move the tree, without success.

But when Karonga decided to move the tree, it came down with one toss of his gigantic head. Unfortunately, the entire tree lodged across his snout. Karonga went tearing around the yard, raising a terrific dust storm. The entire top of the tree became kindling in a matter of minutes. The trunk of the tree, measuring several inches across, balanced across Karonga's nose. He tried to get inside the building with it, without success.

When Karonga and the tree finally were separated, it was found that the log made five cordwood lengths of fuel. Yet he carried it around like a toothpick. That might help answer the question, is the rhino more gentle now than in his younger years?

Still there is some evidence that the 22 year old Karonga is feeling his years slightly. His attendants notice that he is stiff on certain days, and moves slowly when he first gets up. He lays down more than he used to.

But Karonga's appetite has not diminished, the keepers reported. At a meal, he puts away a basket full of hay, 13 pounds of zoo bread, a quart each of bran, crimped oats and cracked corn, besides large quantities of vegetables, such as potatoes, carrots and an occasional

onion. (Karonga is in a position where he needs worry little about halitosis.)

Karonga weighed 2,580 pounds when he came here in 1943. Now his weight is estimated at around two tons. The huge beast, together with Tony and Cleo, the hippos, was donated by The Milwaukee Journal.

Some of the old timers of the Washington Park Zoological society no doubt vividly recall the troubles involved in negotiating for a rhino, and later, the troubles of unloading it at Washington park.

According to reports, Karonga was the largest rhinoceros to be brought into this country up to that date. The crate alone weighed 2,270 pounds. Karonga and the two hippos had been brought to Brookfield zoo, near Chicago, where they were coaxed into the boxes. The zoo's wildebeests also were brought here then.

Even before the convoy of trucks and automobiles left from Brookfield for Milwaukee, the enraged Karonga had splintered his crate, and hasty repairs of planking had to be made.

Three members of the society made the trip to Brookfield. They were George Waetjen, Otto L. Kuehn and the late Henry C. Fuldner. They had made the purchase from funds provided by The Journal.

It took a crew of 22 husky men to load the crates. When the procession finally got under way, it came up highway 45 and was met at the Milwaukee county line by a motorcycle deputy. A special police detail had been set up to hold back the crowds at the unloading.

While the hippos and wildebeests were unloaded, Karonga waited

with impatience, rocking the crate with his stomping.

Special precautions had been taken so the men would not be endangered. The crate was inched across the yard and onto a ramp which led to the outer door of the building. The crate was reinforced with heavy chains, so Karonga could not splinter it and attack the men in the yard.

At last the crate was opened. Karonga plunged backward out of it, into the house. He spied a keeper atop the catwalk and was enraged as only a rhino can be. While the huge steel doors were cranked shut, Karonga repeatedly charged the wall. The lights were extinguished, and the rhino finally settled down.

Karonga is one of several kinds of rhinos which still roam the jungles and plains of Africa and Asia. There are four distinct genera, and another, the woolly rhinoceros, has been extinct since the glacial ages of Europe.

One genus has a single nasal horn and thick skin in folds on its shoulders and thighs. There are two species, the Indian and the smaller Javanese. A second genus has a large and a smaller, frontal horn and tighter skin. A third kind has two horns, no skin folds and no lower incisors. This genus includes the black rhino of Africa. The now rare white rhino makes up the fourth genus. It is the largest living mammal except the elephant, lives mostly on grass and is found in Zululand and the Lado regions of the upper Nile. It stands up to five feet, eight inches high and may reach 15 feet in length.

The rhinoceros is strictly a vegetarian. While its sight is poor, its hearing and scent are very acute. One of the most interesting aspects of the rhino is the horn. It is made up of modified hairs, apparently held together by a glue like substance which is secreted around the base and hardens.