

# Milwaukee Zoo news

Volume 5

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Number 2



HI THERE! My name is Red and I'm a macaw. This year I have the honor and pleasure of extending Holiday

Greetings to all our friends on behalf of the Zoological Society, the Zoo staff, and my fellow residents here at the Zoo.

# Park Manager Reports on New Zoo Buildings

Plans for the buildings which will make up the heart of Milwaukee County's new zoo will be completed by early 1958, Howard W. Gregg, general manager of the county park commission, has indicated.

Gregg, in a report to the annual meeting of the Zoological Society of Milwaukee County, said that work on the new zoo was moving along rapidly. He said that the primate house would be finished in December.

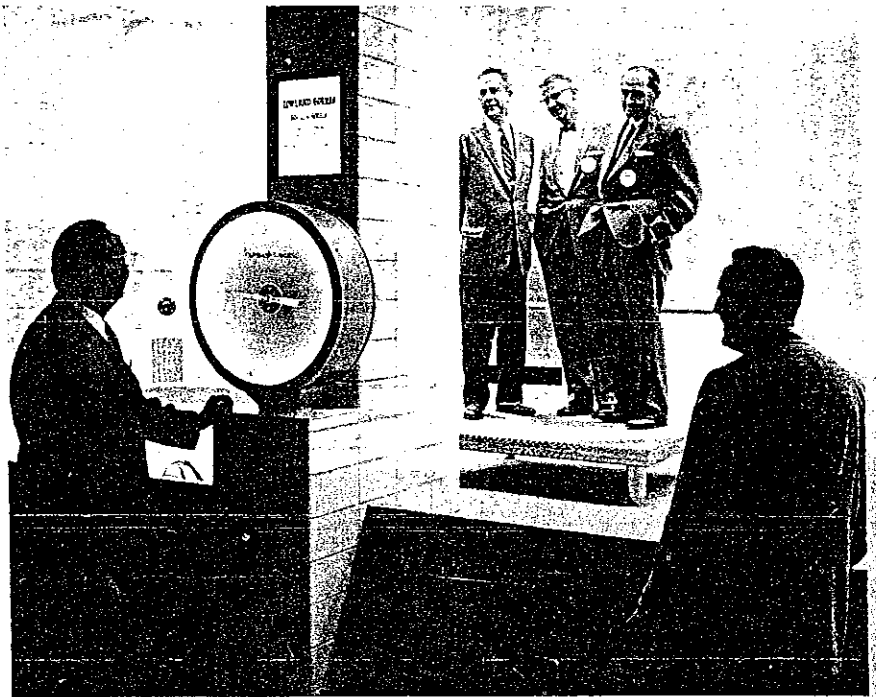
Three other buildings—the giraffe and bear quarters, and the feline and pachyderm houses—should be finished by late 1958 or early 1959, Gregg, said. The animals then could be moved into the buildings while outside rock and yard work is done. Gregg told the society that plans for the feline house would be ready in December. The giraffe house and two bear den plans should be finished and bids called for by January 1, he said.

Drawings of the pachyderm house will be completed during the first quarter of 1958. The zoo's miniature railroad, donated by the Milwaukee Journal, should be in operation by Memorial day, 1958, he added.

Gregg said that about \$1,250,000 had been spent on the zoo so far. Much of the grading for two lagoons and the underground system of sewers and water pipe has been completed at a cost of \$412,000. About \$800,000 has been spent on the primate house, which is about 95% complete.

The 800 member zoological society held its annual meeting at the Memorial Center. Larry H. Smith was elected president, succeeding George La Budde. Others elected for one year terms were: C. P. Fox, first vice-president; Robert T. Foote, second vice-president; and Allen W. Williams, secretary-treasurer.

Re-elected as directors for three year terms were Smith, Fox, Williams, William A. Lohse, Philip W. Orth, jr., William R. Pollock, jr. and H. S. Peck.



A SCALE INSTALLED in the gorilla's cage at the new Milwaukee County zoo was tried out by three visiting zoo officials. Their combined weight tallied 518 pounds on the indicator outside the cage. The capacity of the scale is 2,000 pounds. Dr. Leonard J. Goss (left) of the Bronx (N.Y.) zoo, Earle F. Davis of the Columbus (Ohio) zoo, and Robert Bean of the Brookfield zoo near Chicago, stood on the scale platform. Milwaukee Zoo Director George Speidel (left) and Anthony Spencer, of the Sacramento (Calif.) watched from outside the cage in the monkey house on the new zoo grounds. Milwaukee Journal Photo

## Zoo Directors Inspect New Primate House

Zoo directors from all over the country inspected the primate house at the new zoo in September and agreed that Milwaukee will have one of the finest zoos in the country.

About 20 directors and their wives stopped off here on their way to Minneapolis, Minn., for the national convention of the American Association of Zoological Parks and Aquariums.

Their tour of Milwaukee's zoological facilities started in Washington park and continued through lunch at the new zoo at N. Barnekow and W. Blue Mound rds.

The primate house is the first structure on the new site and is nearly completed. Its modern architecture and zoological facilities delighted the experts. One feature that particularly appealed to the zoo men and their wives was the weight scale that was built

into the area reserved for the two gorillas, Sambo and Samson, and which can be read by the spectators outside.

Zoo Director George Speidel was one of the featured speakers at the association's national convention. His talk dealt with the problems involved in modern day zoo construction.

### THE ZOO NEWS

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Zoological Society of Milwaukee County  
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Milwaukee County Park Commission  
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ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY

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THE THANKSGIVING spirit was in evidence at Washington Park Zoo in the form of this huge rustic display. Six fat bronze breasted turkeys and a dozen mallard and wood ducks made up part of the display

in the lion house. Two Oneida Indians, Mrs. Sharon Baird and Cornelius Baird, and James Gallagher, a zoo employee, added Early American atmosphere. —(Milwaukee Journal photo)

### 3 Polar Bears Shipped to Jackson (Miss.) Zoo

Lured by their liking for cod liver oil, of all things, three of Washington park zoo's polar bears were put in steel lined crates in October and sent on their way to Jackson, Miss.

Faced with the necessity of making way for an expressway, which will occupy that part of Washington park where the bears were located, zoo official listed the three bears for sale, and they were purchased by the Jackson Zoo. Irl Bennett, director of the zoo, came to Milwaukee with a truck and the tricky job of getting the animals in the crates was begun.

Borealis II, an 850 pound 28 year old male; Susan, a littermate

of Borealis weighing 650 pounds, and Sultana II, a 650 pound 26 year old, were the animals involved. They were fed sparingly for several days to give them good appetites. Then cod liver oil was sprinkled in their three crates. Once the bears had been lured inside, the gates were snapped shut.

A county power crane was used to lift the crates to the top of the cliff over the bear dens. Zoo workmen watched anxiously as the cargo was hoisted aloft. A slip and they might find themselves sharing the outdoor den with several hundred pounds of angry polar bear.

But all went well and the three Milwaukee natives, part of a polar bear raising program that began with Sultana I about 50 years ago, were ready to head south for the winter.

### Two American Elk Go to German Zoo

Two American elk at the zoo have been shipped to the Cologne (Germany) zoo in a trade for birds.

The trade started when Dr. Wilhelm Windecker, director of the Cologne zoo noticed the elk on a surplus list. He wrote to the Washington Park Zoo and the trade was proposed, with Dr. Windecker to ship the birds of his choice, equal in value to the elk.

Born in June, the two female elk were part of a herd of eight here. They were shipped by rail to Montreal, Quebec, and then by boat to Hamburg, Germany. The birds are expected to arrive in Milwaukee when weather permits.

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## Lion Cubs Give Family Life Study

A study in Milwaukee family life-lion style-is available these days at the zoo.

For the first time since their cubs were born June 29, Mama and Papa lion are together in a pen along big cat row. The adults, King and Queen, seem proud of their tawny colored cubs and justifiably so.

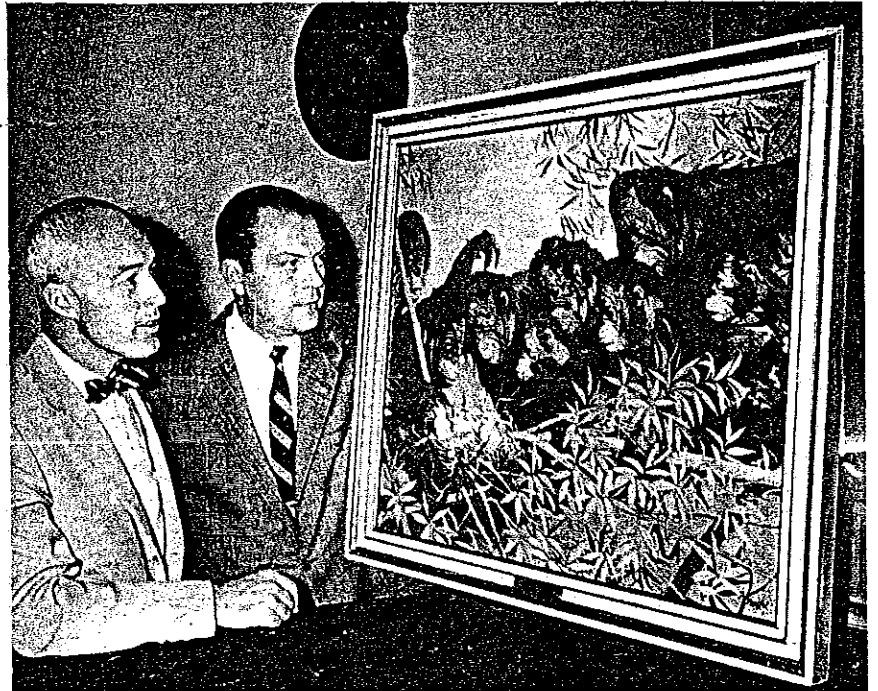
The lion father is as patient as any Milwaukee father, faced with three playful youngsters after a day at the office. He enjoys dozing in the pen, stretching his thick maned neck out along the bars. But the frolicsome cubs tumble over him, roll over his sides and play with his tail.

King, a creature of considerable dignity as well as restraint, stands this as long as he can. When the cubs are too bothersome, he gets up, stretches and retreats. He climbs onto a shelf, out of reach.

Although the lion parents have indicated domestic bliss so far, Queen kept as wary an eye on her mate as she would have on any other intruder, when he was first brought in after the births.

This is the third litter for King and Queen, who came here in January, 1952. The latest cubs have received part of their food supply from their mother, but also have developed a taste for red meat.

Nearby, another cat family of three also is growing up, but without Papa's personal supervision. They are the three cubs of San Antonio Queen and Pedro, the jaguars. Zoo workers refer to the male as "Sneaky," because of his stealthy habits. He is not allowed to be with the young. The cubs are just as playful as the lions.



A PAINTING OF ORANGUTANS in a Malayan setting, by Julius Moessel, a Chicago artist, was viewed by George LaBudde (left) president of the Zoological Society of Milwaukee County, and Larry H. Smith, vice-president. The painting was given to the society by the A. George Schultz Co. It will be displayed at the new zoo.

—Milwaukee Journal photo

## Karonga Dead, Was Oldest Rhino in U. S. Zoos

Karonga, the aged rhinoceros at the zoo, has died. Death was caused by a stroke. The rhino, one of the most popular exhibits at the zoo, was about 26 years old.

Karonga was the oldest rhino in captivity in the U. S. It weighed some 3,000 pounds. The black male animal was brought to Milwaukee in 1943 from Brookfield zoo. Before being brought to this country it was in the Amsterdam zoo, Holland.

The death of Karonga left the zoo without a rhinoceros. Among the plans for stocking the new

zoo is acquisition of a pair of rare white rhinos. The Jos. Schlitz Brewing Co. has pledged \$28,000 for such a purpose, but none has been bought yet. There are in the U. S. a pair of white rhinos in the National Zoo in Washington D. C. and a pair in the St. Louis (Mo.) zoo.

Karonga had been in failing health for three years, and appeared to have lost some weight. He had been treated by the zoo's veterinarian, Dr. Gordon Marold, who had been able to revive the animal in previous illnesses. Harold Borkenhagen, a keeper, was with the animal when it died, apparently peacefully.