

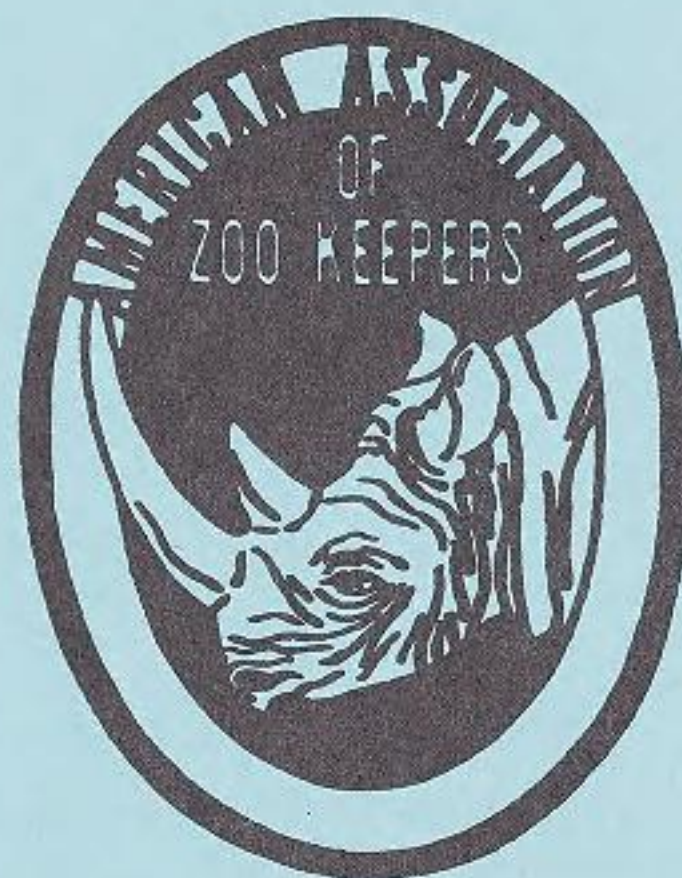
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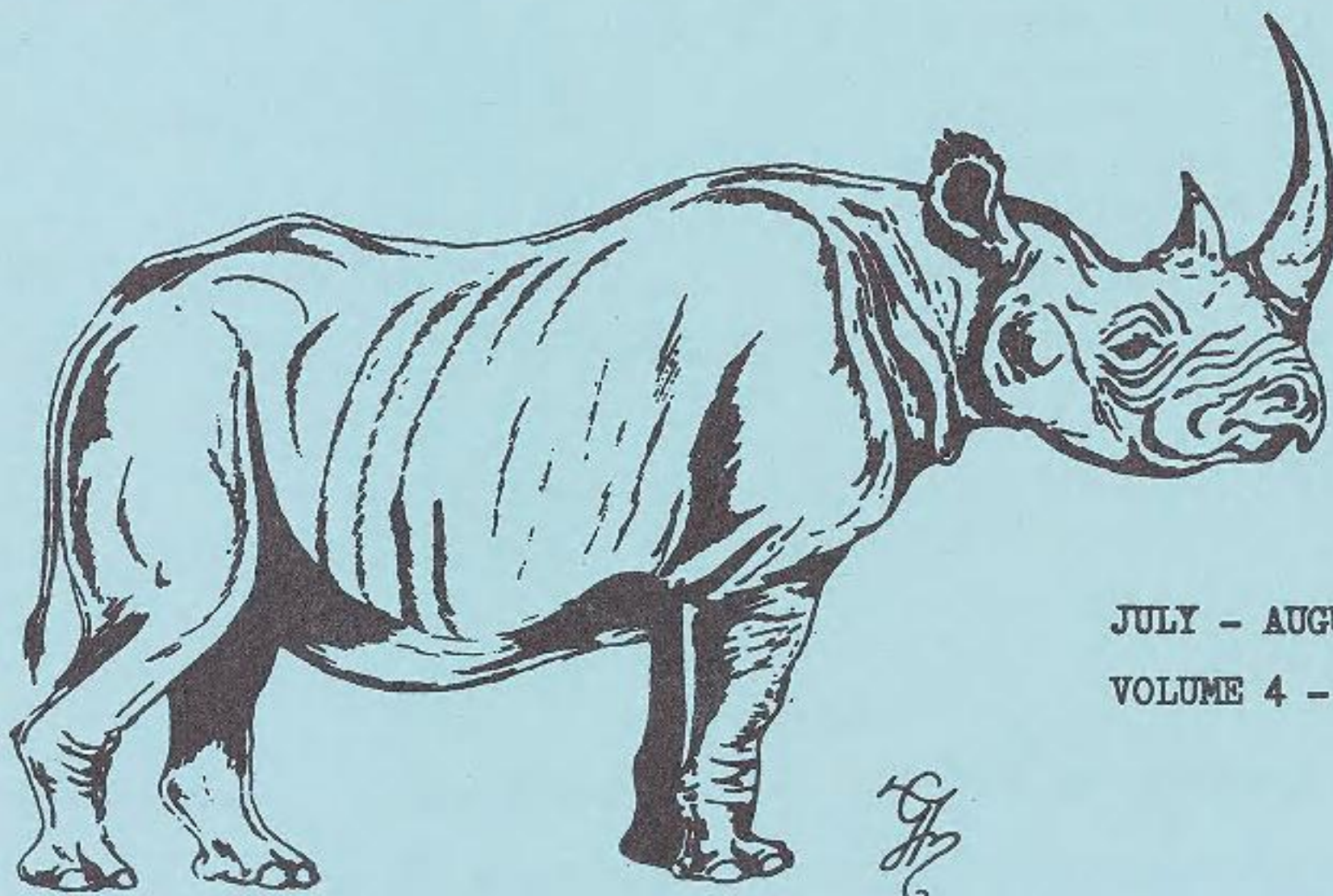
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BULLETIN



JULY - AUGUST 1971

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ounces at hatching are now healthy four year olds weighing over 50 pounds each. Nineteen more babies were reared in 1969 and an additional 15 in 1970. A clutch of eggs laid earlier this year are due to hatch within a few days.

The bird department has also been busy conservation wise. Co-operating with the State of Hawaii Fish and Wildlife Department, the Honolulu Zoo has contributed greatly to the preservation of three species of the State's endangered waterfowl, the Nene Goose, the Hawaiian Duck, and the Laysan Duck. Success with the breeding of the Hawaiian duck, or Koloa as it is called here, has been spectacular and a "liberty" flock of approximately 100 of these once endangered members of the Genus Anas (Mallard) now make their homes and raise their young in the Honolulu Zoo and nearby areas. A success that can be contributed to the efforts of foreman "Matt" Mattos was the raising of the mound building Megapods, Brush Turkeys, in one of the aviaries.

An affiliate chapter of the AAZK was recently organized at the Honolulu Zoo and the members of the animal department enrolled 100%. The membership plans to spare no effort in extending to the visiting keepers from the mainland a most pleasant Aloha during the 1972 National Convention.

NEPALI

by Michael Dee, Los Angeles Zoo

I was first introduced to the Indian Rhinos upon my release from the army in May of 1970. I took over the Indian Rhino section with some apprehension, as I had been away from the zoo for two years. The Los Angeles Zoo at that time had three Indian Rhinos; "Nepali" an adult female, "Herman" a 7 year old male (estimate), and "Radna", a 4 year old female (estimate). This was the largest group of Indian Rhinos in the United States.

This story is about the adult female, "Nepali" and my wonderful and tragic experiences with her. I would like to thank the zoo staff and the Hagenbeck Zoo for all the information I recieved on her, before I became her keeper.

"Nepali" and my wonderful experiences with her will begin with some background information. She was probably born in the Kaziranga Wildlife Sanctuary in India about 1956. In November of 1957, she was captured and taken to the Hagenbeck Zoo in Hamburg, Germany. Hagenbeck estimates she was sexually mature in 1962. She was sent to the Basle Zoo in September of 1962 and stayed until May of 1963 for breeding purposes. She was bred on May 5, 1963, and her first calf, a male, was born on August 11, 1964. Gestation being 15 months, 12 days.

"Nepali" was an excellent mother for the first 3 days, but she turned on the calf and it was taken away and hand raised on cow milk. The calf grew normally and was sold to the Berlin Zoo in August of 1965.

"Nepali" was shipped to Basle again in November of 1965 and stayed until April of 1966. She was bred again on January 1, 1966. This time she gave birth to a female on April 9, 1967. A gestation of 15 months 14 days. Again the calf had to be taken away and hand raised. Hagenbeck reported that "Nepali" came into estrus about every 50 days (I found this to be correct) and in her last few days of pregnancy she was very aggressive. They also report that at Basle she was put with the male Rhino only when in estrus.

Through the efforts of the zoo staff and GLAZA, "Nepali", a proven breeder was purchased from Hagenbeck for an amount in excess of \$20,000. She was shipped by boat from Germany on April 18, 1968 and arrived at the zoo on May 28, 1968.

When "Nepali" first arrived, she was about twice the size of "Herman". She was put in her new exhibit area and allowed to examine it. She was

fed a diet of apples, yams, alfalfa hay, etc, and was getting along fine. On October 18, 1968, she was noticed to be very listless by her keeper. She was sick and had a complete loss of appetite. She was treated with analgesic anti-inflammatory drugs and an antibiotic, but she did not seem to respond. A letter was sent to Hagenbeck inquiring if any of these symptoms had been noticed before. They reported it happened preceeding estrus, and was usually brought around with browse. She was hand-fed banana leaves and bamboo stalks. This was done daily and on November 4, she started to gain her appetite again.

Around December 9, keepers noticed "Nepali" first signs of estrus, a squirting of thick urine from her vulva. On December 12, "Herman" and "Nepali" were put together for the first time. They got along extremely well and spent the day running around the exhibit "playing with each other". From that day on, they were together everyday and seperated at night. "Herman" attempted to mount "Nepali" a few times during 1969, but was unsuccessful due to his small size.

When I took charge of the Rhinos in May of 1970, I had my doubts on how the Rhinos would react to a new keeper. "Herman" was now larger than "Nepali" and he seemed to test me on a number of occasions. I must admit I was somewhat fearful of what he could do to me accidentally. "Nepali" never showed any signs of hostility towards me at any time.

When letting the Rhinos out into the exhibit, "Nepali" was let out first. She would walk out, back up to the "dung wall" and defecate. Then it was straight to the pool for her 8 hour water nap. "Herman" was then let out and he too would go to the "dung wall", but he would first sniff "Nepali" and then deposit his on top of hers. (I might add this made cleaning a little easier) When letting them in at night, "Herman" was always waiting at the gate and "Nepali" waited patiently behind him. This was routine unless she was in estrus. This was somewhat of a hard time for me, as she would walk very slow squirting urine every 3 or 4 steps and "Herman" was anxious to get out into the yard with her.

On November 13, 1970, everything appeared normal, save "Nepali" being in estrus. Nothing unusual happened during the day, but at 3:30 PM "Herman" started chasing "Nepali" all around the exhibit. She had numerous superficial wounds and "Herman" was gashed in the forehead by her lower incisors. They were let in normally that night without any trouble. The next day "Herman" fully mounted "Nepali" for the first time. This took place in the pool and he stayed on her for an hour. During this time, he made pelvic thrusts at intervals of five minutes. Breeding was attempted again on December 11, but was given up after 10 minutes.

Not once after the first week with them, did they ever appear to be annoyed with me. I could walk out to the pool and feed them apples as I had done on a number of occasions. They stayed in the pool and opened their mouths for them. Twice "Herman" stood up and startled me, but this was due to his being at the far end of the pool and he could not reach the apples.

Around the middle of December, "Nepali" was acting very lethargic. She did not go into the pool as usual, but stayed up near the wall where she could get the days heat at it's best. When starting to lie down, her hindquarters would quiver and she was very vicious when "Herman" approached her. It was decided to put oat straw bedding and extra heat lamps into her stall, as it was getting very cold at night. This seemed to help, but she still would not go into the pool.

The tragic experiences began on January 1, 1971 at 4:15 PM, when a zoo patron asked me if the Rhinos always fought so hard. I went to the exhibit to see "Herman" slam "Nepali" against the wall of the exhibit. I then contacted my Principal Keeper and on the way back told two other keepers what was happening. Together, we tried to get "Herman"'s attention by

waving a jacket in front of him, hitting his hindquarters with a rake and shovel, and squirting him with a high pressure hose, but it did nothing to distract him. All this time the 4 of us were in the yard with them, but neither Rhino paid any attention to us.

More help was needed and we succeeded in putting a rope around the male's right rear leg. At first he pulled us all over the yard, still ramming "Nepali". We then wrapped the rope around a huge log and with 15 keepers, succeeded in holding him for a few seconds. He finally relented and charged at the keepers, who all scrambled for safety among the rocks. I ran into the barn area and yelled at him, jumping and waving my arms to attract his attention. He charged after me and we locked him in his stall. The fight lasted 45 minutes, without injury to anyone but "Nepali". She stayed in the pool and we were told it was o.k. to go home as there was nothing more we could do for her.

I was contacted about an hour later and went back to the zoo. Zoo officials said we should get her into the warmth of her stall if possible. During my absence, they tried to coax her out of the pool (now drained) using the young female, and then apples. She tried desperately to stand, but her hindquarters seemed to be damaged. Bales of alfalfa hay were brought into the pool and placed around her. Oat hay was put inside the small enclosure and on top of her to give her warmth from the cold night air. A heavy tarp put over the enclosure to keep her dry if it happened to rain.

On Saturday, January 2, the vet reported she had no serious injuries other than muscle and soft tissue damage to the rear limbs. He then prescribed anti-inflammatory drugs for her. These were administered by cutting the core of an apple and placing the medicine inside, this way she ate the apple readily.

Monday, January 4, an oil-heated steam furnace was installed near the pool and she was treated by hot water flotation. The water was kept at 80°F. The flotation helped relieve the pressure from her limbs and the warm water acted as a hydrotherapy. A plastic tarp was set up over the pool to help keep the heat in during the near freezing nights. The water had to be drained every five days for sanitary reasons and during the whole ordeal she was hand-fed. She seemed to be doing fine and although she tried to stand up, she always fell back into the water.

On January 21, I noticed she was not feeding as usual and seemed to be losing the battle for her life. It was decided to remove her from the pool and support her in a large traveling crate. This was done on January 22, with help from a crane, but she was still unable to stand on either fore or rear legs when assisted with the crane and hoist. She was positioned in a sternal recumbant position within the crate by use of hay bales. She continued to eat in this position, although very little. She was checked once every two hours and was found dead at 8:30 PM, January 22. Necropsy was performed the following morning, with no evidence of pregnancy. Clinical diagnosis was attributed to damage to the spinal cord and peripheral nerves to the rear limbs.

NOTICE

Ecology pins are no longer available through AAZK Headquarters.

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48, 263 people visited the Zoo.

Despite an all time record attendance our one day of 67,780 on Sunday the 13th, the attendance in June was only 309,197 compared with 343,117 last year, due mainly to three wet Sundays. The annual attendance to date now stands at 907,785 compared with 911,493 to the end of June last year.

Improvements: The Northwestern corner paddock of the huffed stock range, a long standing area of mud and many deer, has transformed during the month of June. The landscaping work in this paddock involved the creation of a waterfowl pool, the planting of several good sized shade trees, the creation of gravel pathways around the steep slopes, the creation of a shrub area to mask the animal shelter from public view and the turfing of the whole area. As soon as the grass is established, this paddock will house a collection of Australian animals, namely, Wallabies, Black Swans, Manned Geese, Shelduck, etc. The trio of Mule Deer which were retained from the existing herd are now housed in the Moose paddock.

INDIANAPOLIS ZOO CHAPTER NEWS

by Toni Branham, Chapter Secretary

On June 6, 1971, AAZK, Chapter #24, Indianapolis Zoo held its first annual keepers party. Following a tour of the zoo, chapter #24 members and their guests from Brookfield, Lincoln Park, and Columbus, Ohio zoos adjourned to the Education Building for Dinner and a movie.

The evening abounded with lively discussions and exchanges of information.

After the zoo party, an informal gathering was hosted by Mrs. Jeanne Warrum at her home.

Chapter #24 wished to announce that this will be an annual event. We also wish to especially thank all those attending: They were, from Brookfield, Dewey and Wanda Garvey, Patrick Stout, Dan Baffa and Robert MacDonald. Visitors from Columbus Ohio were, Jim Yates, Pat Dillen, and James Lowery. Our guests from Lincoln Park were Pat Sass and Larry and Pat Sammarco.

LAST YEAR AT THE COLUMBUS ZOO

This report covers the newsworthy events that occurred at Columbus during the past year.

Births: 1.1 White-bearded Gnu, 0.2 Llamas, 3 1 Aoudads (quadruplets), 0.1 Wapiti, 1.1 Giraffe, 1.1 Thomson Gazelle, 1.0 Sika Deer, 1.0 Red Kangaroo, 0.1 Debrazza Monkey, 1.0 Dama Wallaby, 2 2 Bengal Tigers, 2.2 Black-backed Jackals, 1.0 Sloth Bear, 2 1 Jaguar.

Acquisitions: 0.1 Cheetah, 0.1 Grant's Zebra, 1 0 Giant Anteater, 1.0 Mustache Monkey, 0 4 White-handed Gibbons, 1 1 Canadian Otters, 0 1 Chimpanzees 2.2 Hamadryas Babbons, 0.1 Timber Wolf, 0.1 South American Tapir, 0.1 Spotted Leopard, 2 Scarlet Macaws, 1 Military Macaw, 1 Blue and Gold Macaw, 0 1 African Elephant, 0.1 Black Rhino, 1 Timor Python Python timorensis, 2 Pacific Island Boa Canoia australis, 1 Madagascan Ground Boa Acrantophis madagascariensis dumerili, 1 Yellow Anaconda dun ctes notaeus, 1 Red Spitting Cobra aja nigricollis mossambica, 1 Klauber "Box Turtle Terrapene Klauberi, 1 Coahuila Box Turtle Terrapene coahuila, 1 Baird's Rat Snake Elaphe bairdi, 1 Berg Adder Bitis atropis, 1 Hind's Viper Atheris hindi, 1 Macklot's Python Liasis mackloti

On May, 1970, our new Children's Zoo opened to the public at a cost of \$528,000.00 this new attraction includes a barn with two contact areas where the children can feed and pet goats, sheep, ponies, llamas, deer, turkeys and pigs. A 32 foot high frame gibbon cage with a length of 37 feet and a width of 36 feet; mounted skunk and raccoon displays; a natural habitat exhibit

of prairie dogs and woodchucks; a mouse display and a round open-air macaw exhibit. Through the middle of the Children's Zoo runs an attractive lagoon on which we will place various waterfowl. A large party house is available to the public and this building will also be available for education programs. The third major building in the Children's Zoo is a modern nursery where the public can view the young animals from the zoo. In charge of the new Children's Zoo is Walter Halle, who has been promoted to Headkeeper from the ranks of the keepers.

Our latest natural habitat display in the bird department is now in full operation. Along with exotic species of birds, it features a wide variety of live plants and a pond complete with fish and 3 species of turtles. Most notable among the avian denizens is the Black and Red Broadbill which is uncommon in collections.

Turning to our aquarium we find that for only the second time in captivity the spawning of the Australian Lungfish, Neoceratodus forsteri, was observed. Throughout one day the female released approximately 500-600 eggs. However, at no time was there any sign of milt and, predictably, the eggs did not hatch.

In our reptile department we have had some notable breeding success. As of May 1970, the following have been born or hatched:

1 Cantil, Arkisrodon bilineatus (offspring of brother and sister who were born six years ago)

17 Mexican West Coast Rattlers, Crotalus b. Basiliscus

3 Black Rat Snakes (offspring of a brother and sister raised here for 14 years)

1 Intergrade Spitting Cobra (from ajan. nigricollis x n. mossambica)

6 Crotalus adamstrus x C. horridus atricandatus (this is the first captive breeding of these two rattlesnakes)

2 Litters (9 and 14) of Saw-scaled Vipers, Echis carinatus (this marks the 5th and 5th captive breeding of this species in two years. Three females shared in this accomplishment.)

10 Sistrurus m. hildarius x S. m. barbouri (captive bred)

The outstanding rattlesnake collection now contains 41 species not counting intergrades or hybrids.

THE FIRST MID-WESTERN REGIONAL CONFERENCE SUCCESSFUL

by Chris LaRue, Topeka Zoo

The Topeka Chapter of the AAZK hosted the first Mid-Western AAZK Regional Conference July 8 and 9 at the Topeka Zoo. Special guest speaker of the conference was Richard G. Sweeney, Executive Secretary of the AAZK.

Keepers attending the conference were treated to "Lunch on the Lawn" sponsored by the Topeka Friend of the Zoo. (TFOTZ). TFOTZ Board members served fried chicken to approximately 75 participants in attendance from 13 zoos of seven states.

Topeka Park Superintendant Dennis Showalter received an award and a life membership in AAZK for his work and support of the Topeka Zoo. Also receiving an award was John Wortman, General Curator and formally on the Board of AAZK, for his work in coordinating the First National AAZK Conference held in Topeka in May 1970.

PLAN TO ATTEND THE SECOND NATIONAL AAZK CONFERENCE

HONOLULU, HAWAII MARCH 27-30, 1972, QUEEN KAPIOLANI HOTEL

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