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B U L L E T I N

JUL.-AUG. 1970

VOL. 3 NO. 7-8

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TYPIST AND MIMEOGRAPHER

Virginia L. Sweeney

SAN JOSE, AMERICA'S CLEANEST ZOO by Marvin Jones

One of the most rapidly developing cities in the state of California is San Jose, located south of San Francisco at the end of the great San Francisco Bay. Population has literally zoomed upward in recent years, and a drive on one of the cities freeways affords a constant view of new housing developments and industry. Situated on the outskirts of the city is the rather small San Jose Zoo, operated by the San Jose Zoological Society in conjunction with the municipal government. The director is Peter Batten, a man of infinite skill in all areas of zoo management, and his attractive zoo attests to his abilities. There is no doubt that the zoo is the cleanest that this writer has ever seen, anywhere. It is probably unique in that with the exception of admission, nothing is sold by the zoo. There are no food stands, souvenir shops, or feeding devices. In addition, it has a staff that with the exception of the Director is totally female, no doubt the only zoo in the world with a 100% female work force. The animals are in top notch physical condition and each and every cage is spick and span. While one does notice trash containers about the zoo, there is a total absence of litter on the public walkways, in the exhibits, and even in the behind the scenes areas. The latter are sparkling, and the off exhibit animals are given excellent care. Admittedly the zoo grounds are very small, only a few acres, but the planting is well done, varied, and like the walkways in top condition. Labelling is excellent, and several new signs have been recently introduced which offer to the serious minded visitor about all he or she needs to know about the specific animal. There are cages, as well as open corrals, but these are large and adequate.

Admission is \$.50 for adults, children 15 years and under are admitted free, and this has been found sufficient to operate the zoo without any of the commercial attractions so many zoos feel are necessary. I noted on the day of my visit in April of 1970 the following animals on exhibit; several American Alligators, two very fine Llamas; several Humboldt Penguins which were nesting in the fine sand provided for them; local California Cormorants; two Northern Fur Seals, one California Sea Lion and a rather large bull California Sea Elephant sharing one large pool, the water of which was crystal clear; one Bengal Tiger; a Lar Gibbon that came in 1963; several Red-billed Blue Magpies, Buff-winged Trumpeter, Cuvier's Toucan, Troupial and Argus Pheasants in a well planted and quite large flight cage; a very fine Jaguar; two Malay Sun Bears; several Small-clawed Otters both from Borneo and Malaya; two Giant Anteaters in a large outdoor yard with a pool and lots of turf, a really attractive exhibit for them; two Lions; False Gavial; Indian Python; Two-banded Monitor (*V. salvator*); King Vulture, Rhinoceros Hornbill, Wreath-billed Hornbill in a large cage; several Black Pied Hornbills; Sumatran Herons; Lesser Adjutant Stork; Small-toothed Plam Civets; and off exhibit the sole survivor of some 36 Stellar Sea Lion pups captured a few months prior in Alaska by ABC Marineworld. This female was hand tame, in magnificent condition and with a really sleek coat.

The collection may be small, but is presented well, and certainly in fine taste. The many keepers are always present in the afternoons by their exhibits to answer questions about their charges.

THE WHITE RHINOS OF MILWAUKEE by Roger Martens

The information in this article was compiled from records and personal observation of pachyderm supervisor Gordon Hintz, who accompanied these animals from the docks in New York to Milwaukee, and has worked with them ever since; also, by assistant pachyderm supervisor Richard Pollnow, and keepers Robert Scott and myself, who have taken care of these animals for six, five, and four years respectively.

We received three African White Rhinos (*Ceraththerium simum*) on August 30, 1962, from the Umfolosi Game Preserve in Natal; one male and two females. The African names the animal dealer gave them were kept for the rhinos. The male is called Mtondo Htondo (meaning pillar of strength); the females are Misenda (heavy footed) and Melusha (the herder). They were estimated to be between two and four years of age and were under five feet tall. Now the bull is five feet ten inches, and the others are a few inches

shorter. Each probably weighs around four to five thousand pounds.

The rest of that first summer and fall was quite hectic, because the regular outside yards were not completed for the pachyderm buildings at this time. The moated elephant yard was tried first, but did not work, because the rhinos would walk right up to the edge and it appeared that they would fall off too easily. So, a small, temporary log pen was built where their yard is today.

The inside enclosures are about twenty-five feet square, and are divided by two inch steel bars. The rhinos are separated every night and all winter. The only time they are together is when they are in the outside yard. In spring they are let out when the temperature reaches 40 degrees F, and are kept inside in fall when the temperature remains below freezing.

Their diet at first was one quart crimped oats, one cup salt, one cup vitatone, one loaf of bread, two bananas, two apples, one mangle, and one quart ground rhino pellets per animal twice a day, plus alfalfa hay. This was gradually modified to what it is today, which consists of two quarts bran, five to six carrots, eight beets, one large mangle, eight to twelve apples, and four quarts rhino pellets plus one-third bale of alfalfa hay per feeding, morning and afternoon. One cup of vitatone and salt is added to the afternoon feeding.

Their disposition and temperament is similar to our Indian rhinos (see August-September 1969 Newsletter). The male and one female, Melusha, can be worked with directly, but Misenda seems too jittery or aggressive to be in with her. However, she, too, likes to be petted or rubbed through the bars or partially opened door. When they are outside, it is a different story. There Melusha is very hostile toward the others. She is a loner out there and holds her own against the other two.

As for their likes and dislikes, all three readily take to the mud hole they dug for themselves in their yard. Unfortunately, it is only large enough for one at a time, so the others have to wait their turn or fight for it. Only on extremely hot days will they make use of a shallow, concrete bottom pool. This pool will accomodate two of them. They do not care to stand under a shower or fine spray outside as our Indian rhinos do. During the winter months, we give them a shower once every two to three weeks. Then they seem to tolerate it for a while, but not any oftener than that. For extra skin care, they are also sprayed with neatsfoot oil twice a year, in the spring and winter.

So far, there have been no serious injuries due to fighting, although Melusha broke off her anterior horn in a fight shortly after they arrived here. Bott fly larvae was found three months after arrival, and all were dewormed then. Other than that, they have been in good health..

Breeding has not been successful, although several attempts have been made between Mtondo and Misenda. Melusha will not accept any advances from the bull or have anything to do with him whatsoever. To our knowledge, she has never had a heat period here. We cannot set any pattern or cycles of heat periods, but when Misenda is in oestrus, there is a wetness around the vaginal region and the bull will be following her around and resting his chin on her back and rump. When this is noticed, Melusha is kept inside.

The first attempt at breeding occurred on May 28, 1965, and continued part of the next day till Misenda went out of heat. The bull would mount her, but no copulation occurred.

On July 25, and October 31, to November 2, 1965, courtship was displayed again, but no breeding.

On September 26, 1966, Misenda came in heat again. This time they were left out all night and partial penetration occurred, but no pregnancy resulted. Her period of oestrus lasted approximately thirty hours.

Again, on April 10, 1968, Misenda came into heat. This time Mtondo was given twenty tablets of metrandren, but, again, no positive results to report. So far this summer nothing has happened, although we are still optimistic about all of our rhinos.

I would like to hear from other zoos about their Indian and/or White Rhinos in regard to diets, heat period cycles, breeding attempts or anything else about them for comparison.

Milwaukee does not have any black rhinos, so a comparison of their behavior in zoos

could not be made.

My address is: Roger Martens, 4121 North 97 Street, Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53222

JOHN WORTMAN TO LOUISVILLE ZOO by Gary Clarke

John Wortman, of the Topeka Zoological Park, has accepted the position of Curator at the Louisville Zoological Gardens, effective 1 July 1970.

He received his Bachelor's Degree in Zoology from Kansas State College of Emporia, and was in charge of the school's Natural History Reservation.

Mr. Wortman joined the Topeka Zoo as an Animal Keeper in 1967 and worked with a variety of animal species in all areas of the Zoo. He assisted in the elephant training sessions and was in charge of the young great apes upon their arrival at the Zoo, including Max and Tiffany, the baby Gorillas. He participated in the Zoo Management Trainee Program and recently was promoted to Zoologist, assuming some educational and administrative duties.

Mr. Wortman is a Professional Member of the American Association of Zoological Parks and Aquariums and a member of the Board of the American Association of Zoo Keepers. He served as Chairman of the AAZK's first National Conference, which was held in Topeka in May 1970.

The Topeka Zoo will miss the services of John Wortman, but is pleased and proud that he has this excellent opportunity for professional advancement in such a fine zoo. Louisville has a brand new and growing \$7 million Zoo that has recently completed first phase development under the guidance of Dr. Ivo Poglayen, Zoo Director. As Curator, Mr. Wortman will be responsible for the management of the animal collection and supervision of the Keeper staff.

Another former Animal Keeper and Zoologist at the Topeka Zoo, Mr. Howard Hunt, is now Curator of Reptiles at the Atlanta Zoological Park.

TOPEKA ZOO NEWS by Ken Kawata, Animal Keeper and Zoo Management Trainee

FIRST NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF AAZK IN TOPEKA: From 4 to 6 May, 1970, the first national conference of American Association of Zoo Keepers (AAZK) was held with the solid support of the City of Topeka. Nearly 100 delegates..Keepers, Curators, and Directors assembled from all over the United States and Canada. The conference was quite successful. Many interesting papers were given at the sessions; everyone made a lot of new zoo friends and was happy; some people stayed up to 4:00 a.m., talking about zoos and animals, and yet they attended the early morning session!

The Capitol Journal newspaper reported activities at the AAZK Conference every day. "I believe zoo keepers are the most dedicated professional in the world," said a Topeka radio reporter, after he interviewed several AAZK members.

NEW ENTRANCE: The Zoo completed a new entrance and admission booth recently. It gives a good first impression to visitors. A turnstile exit was also completed by the entrance.

FIVE TIGER CUBS BORN: On 13 May 1970, our Bengal tigress gave birth to 5 cubs(1.4). She has had 12 offspring in 4 deliveries since 1967. At this writing (3 weeks after birth) she is nursing all the 5 cubs earnestly.

SEASON OF BIRD EGGS: Our American Golden Eagles were observed mating several times last spring. They laid 5 eggs between 13 and 26 March. We placed 3 of them in an incubator, and let the birds brood the rest of the eggs. At least one of the eggs was fertile but did not hatch out. But still it is encouraging since we can expect another possibility next year. Most of the large birds of prey are threatened in the wild, and we believe it is very important to promote their breeding in captivity.

In the Australian Building, the Emus laid 8 eggs between 1 and 23 February. This is the first event for our pair. Six of them hatched out in an incubator, but only two survived. But again this is encouraging, and we are hoping for better success next year.

Rheas in the South American yard have laid 32 eggs since 21 April. The Trumpeter