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Our Cover

The hot days are in the offing and swimming will be the popular pas-time throughout the nation. Today we feature an article by the well-known authority, C. P. L. Nicholls, supervisor of aquatics for the Department of Recreation and Parks at Los Angeles, California. This article deals more with the design and construction of pools but it will be followed by others devoted to use and operation. The cover illustration shows a pool in use. It is the Harvard Pool in Los Angeles, located at 6120 Denker Avenue. This pool is 50 yds. x 150 yds. and holds 236,000 gallons of water. The pool is manned by a staff of 12, including three lifeguards and a director. The 1952 attendance was 48,054. Lots of fun here.

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ARTHUR R. WATSON, *Editor*

Compound for Rhinos

By RALPH J. VIRDEN, General Superintendent, Zoological Garden of San Diego

How best to exhibit a pair of rhinos? That was the problem confronting the zoo staff when we learned that after a number of fruitless attempts we were on the verge of obtaining two Black Rhinoceroses from British East Africa. Or so it seemed, for a pair of young specimens had already been trapped and the shipping date was definite.

As soon as we were informed that the rhinos were being shipped, the question of where and how they would be exhibited was cause for considerable discussion. Plan after plan was conceived, considered and rejected for one reason or another, for the type of terrain available had its limiting factors. Due to the restricted amount of level ground in the area near the other large mammals, a moated enclosure seemed out of the question. Though perhaps the ideal compound for large mammals of this sort, a moated enclosure would have required far more area than was available. The next best plan, and the only feasible one, was a fenced-in stockade, and the most suitable place to put it was directly across from the hippo house.

The plan that seemed most practical, and the one finally approved, involved a long oval compound divided into two sections, each eighty feet long and thirty-five feet wide. The barricade surrounding the area consists of a three foot concrete wall with two inch pipe placed vertically and twelve inches apart. The pipes stand above the top of the wall and are connected at the top by a horizontal reinforced concrete

beam to "tie" them together. The result, we feel, is an excellent barrier combining perfect safety for visitors with good visibility of the exhibit.

The two yards are surfaced with decomposed granite. This material proves satisfactory in-so-far as the welfare of animals and their feet are concerned, yet it does not become muddy in wet weather.

At the rear of the yards is a duplex house which consists of two 20 x 20 foot rooms for the animals with a service and feed room, forty by ten feet, in the rear. The building is constructed of cement blocks with reinforced columns and beams. A frame roof is covered with split shake shingles. No

heating is provided for the sleeping quarters, but that can easily be added should it appear necessary.

The doors for the house and yards are made of two inch pipe frames covered with one-eighth inch steel plate. Since they are on rollers, they may be pulled out through wall slits and are thus accessible for repair at any time.

The enclosure has already been in use for seven months and thus far has proved more than satisfactory from both service and display standpoints. Unfortunately, one of the young rhinos died enroute to the zoo, but the other is active and lively enough to indicate both the serviceability and suitability of the enclosure. Impressive but simple, the stockade follows a plan that could be modified by any zoo and should be particularly appealing to smaller institutions of limited resources.



Photo San Diego Zoological Society

Compound for rhinos at San Diego Zoo