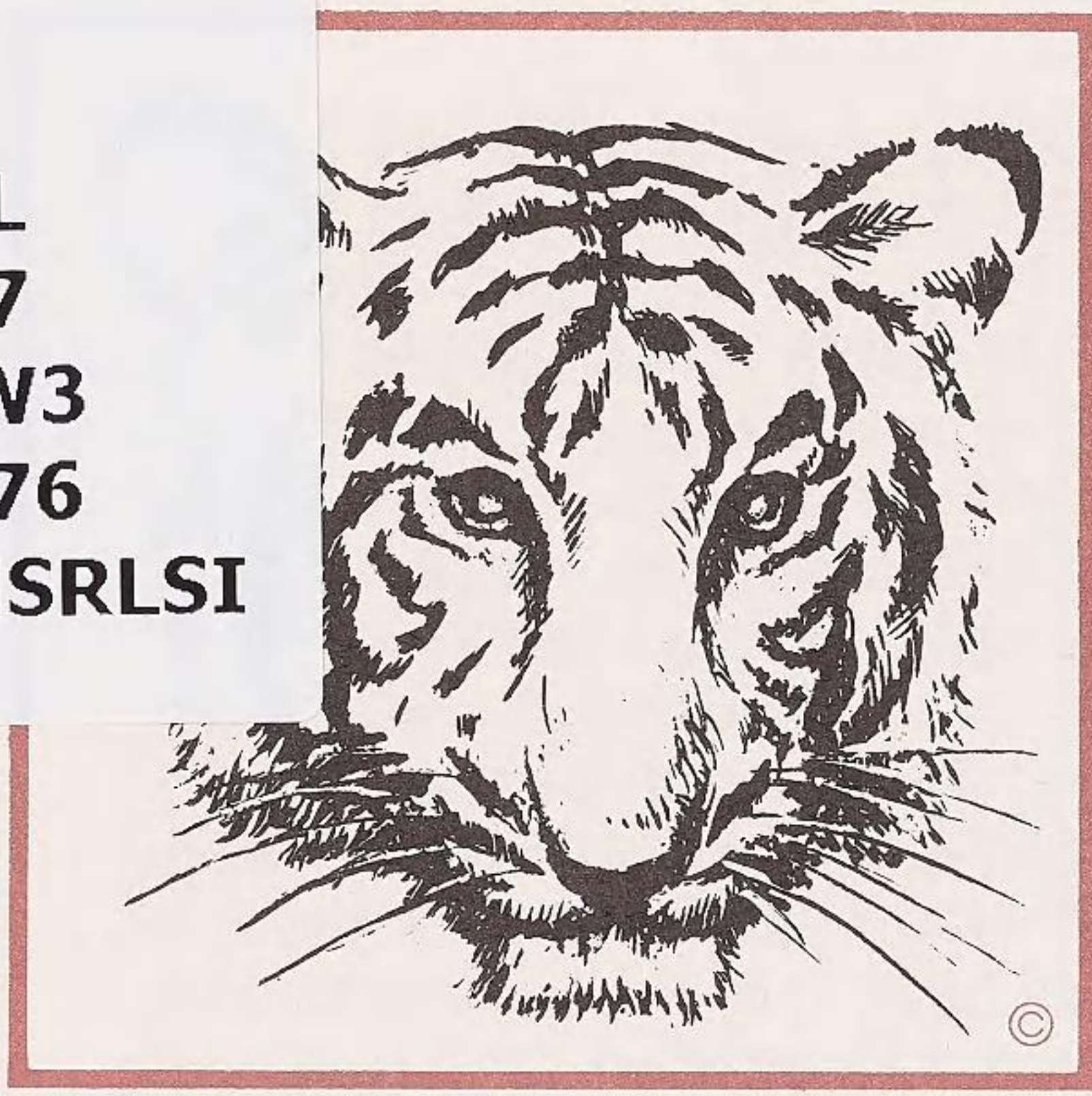


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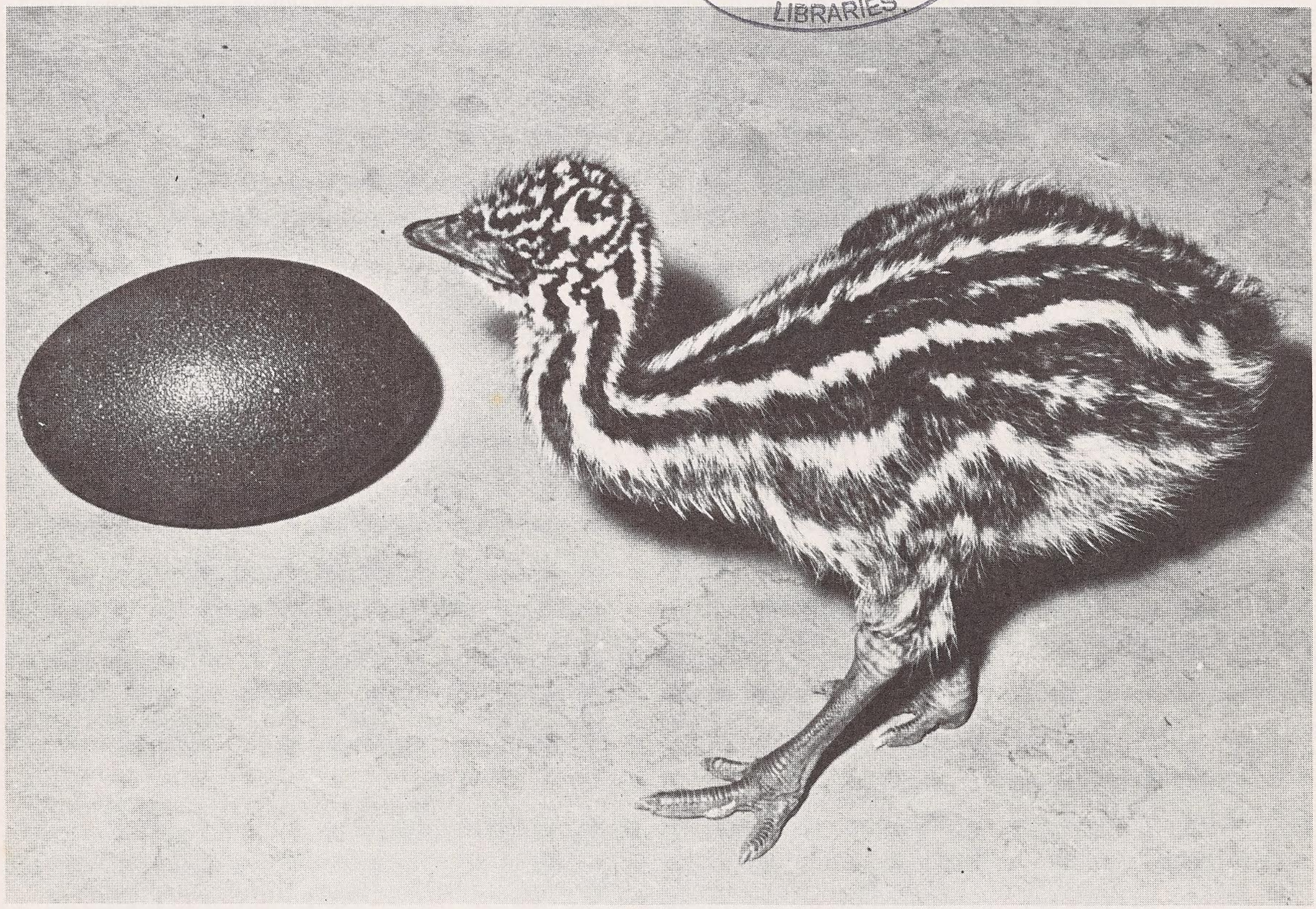


SPOTS and STRIPES

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Summer 1967



An emu egg bears a strange resemblance in size and color to an avocado. Here a two-week old emu chick regards an egg that has not yet hatched. A caption suggested for this picture was "Which comes first, the chicken or the egg?"

(Photograph by Smithsonian Institution)

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"The National Capital Planning Commission was especially pleased with the architect's solution of adapting a very low building to the existing terrain," the report says. "Due to the very need for isolation of this animal facility the existing dense woods between the new facility and the Zoo property line will be carefully preserved."

The group's specific objection was that Holt House is a landmark whose preservation has been called for by the National Trust for Historic Preservation. The report states that "Prior to recommending siting of the Animal Hospital and Research Complex near the Holt House, a careful evaluation of its historical significance was made. A historical research report prepared in 1962 by the Chairman of the Department of Civil History of the Museum of History and Technology, who was also serving as Chairman of the Consulting Committee for the National Survey of Historical Sites and Buildings, states that there is no evidence to indicate an association of the Holt House with persons of National significance."

Holt House was included on a list of historic landmarks in the District of Columbia prepared by the Joint Commission on Landmarks of the National Capital Planning Commission and the Fine Arts Commission. Subsequent conferences with the Landmarks Commission brought the decision that the building should be preserved for Zoo use but not restored to its original internal plan.

The Landmarks Commission concurred with the Institution's conclusion that locating the new hospital facility in back of and downhill from the house would not conflict with the desire to preserve the approach to and views from the house.

The statement concludes that "Relocating the research building to the main park area would unnecessarily reduce the space provided for animal exhibits and accommodations for over 4,000,000 annual visitors. Substantial planning costs would be incurred to redesign foundations and utilities and to otherwise revise the drawings which have now been completed."

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July 1967

MOVING DAY

Thanks to Judy Block of the Animal Department, the moving of the white rhinoceroses from the elephant house to the hoofed-stock area, 500 feet away, has been faithfully recorded:

May 11, 1967

A. M.

- 6:00 Everyone assembled and truck with ramp is in place at outside gate.
- 6:16 Male rhino shot by Dr. Gray in hind-quarters (morphine derivative).
- 6:18 Starts slowing down, head nodding. Dr. can handle horns; quiet but still inquisitive.
- 6:25 Standing very still, eyes drooping.
- 6:27 Keepers enter enclosure; Sonny Stroman starts to push, animal resists but not actively (still, rhino passive resistance is quite effective). "Bill" backs up to the tree in his yard, at right angles to truck.
- 6:32 Seven men push, one man pulls with rope around horns; Bill starts to move.
- 6:40 Dr. Gray gives a shot behind the ear to counteract the first drug.
- 6:45 Bill sitting on his hind legs (rather endearing).
- 6:49 Gives a lurch to the left and is up again. Everyone pushes.
- 6:55 Bill is in the truck and the rails and tailgate are put in place.
- 7:05 Truck weighed: 14,285 lbs. gross (Bill weighs 4,865 lbs.).
- 7:09 Tailgate goes down in new area. Bill does nothing.
- 7:20 Head nodding, leaning on front of truck, mostly asleep.
- 7:35 Bill wakes up and suddenly backs out all by himself. He's a bit shaky in the hind legs, but goes on to explore his new area—rear end first.
- 8:00 Female rhino, "Lucy," hit with a dart of narcotic. She jumps, turns around, and continues to look around in a lively manner.
- 8:05 Somewhat slowed down.
- 8:06 Dr. Gray tests by holding her horns.
- 8:11 Keepers jump into the enclosure and start pushing.
- 8:15 Antidote shot behind left ear.
- 8:16 Sits for a moment on her hind legs; then is up and moving.

- 8:18 Rest period for everyone for a moment; Lucy sits down again.
- 8:20 Lucy is led (and pushed) up the ramp into the truck; she's leaning heavily on the left side of the ramp and truck.
- 8:25 Bars and tailgate closed; she's restless, so a two-minute wait takes place before the truck moves off.
- 8:33 Truck weighed: 13,050 lbs. gross (Lucy weighs 3,630 lbs.).
- 8:37 Truck arrives at new area, bars and tailgate taken down.
- 8:41 Lucy tries to sit down in the truck; Dr. Gray discourages her with a slight prod of his foot.
A long wait.
- 9:20 Lucy is awake but not moving.
- 9:29 Try to tug with ropes; nothing.
- 9:43 Start truck to try to startle her; nothing.
- 9:46 Since she's going forward slightly everyone pushes forward expecting her to resist and go backward; nothing.
- 9:50 Lucy goes to sleep.
- 9:53 Ropes are passed around her body and everyone heaves together. Heave.
- 9:59 Lucy is finally out. She moves off unsteadily, but head first and tail waving jauntily.

NEW ARRIVALS

The National Zoo recently received two spotted hyena pups from the Pretoria (South Africa) Zoo. Other than being extremely affectionate, they seem exactly like any other hyena pups, but they are different in that they were born in Africa by caesarian section. The mother was shot after she was found in a poacher's snare near the Kruger National Game Park. After she had been shot it was discovered that she was carrying young. Upon performing a high speed operation it was astonishing to find three babies with their eyes open and able to walk immediately. One pup died shortly after but the remaining two thrived with hand-feeding. These remarkable little pups are now on exhibit in the Puma House.

* * * *

The reptile house has been the scene of great activity recently as new specimens have arrived in such quantities that the keepers have been kept jumping to get them all counted, catalogued and properly exhibited. The reptile division has been overlooked in the past few animal purchase budgets due to the necessity

of buying birds for the new bird house and great outdoor flight cage, and then hoofed stock for the new hoofed stock areas. At last some money was found for more reptiles and Jack DePrato was in snake heaven poring over price lists, his want list, and budgeting his money. Orders were sent to three different suppliers but before these orders had been filled a large shipment of reptiles was received as a gift from Dr. Harry Hoogstraal of Cairo, Egypt. The same day another gift of many specimens was received from the Zoo in Pretoria. The following day, snakes arrived from two different suppliers, plus a gift of reptiles from the Houston Zoo. Three days later another batch arrived from a supplier and Zoo personnel returned from a collecting trip with eight specimens to add to the rapidly expanding inventory. During this five-day period an assortment of 150 snakes, skinks, lizards, tortoises and bullfrogs was accessioned. Some were rare and exotic, and others were commonplace, and Jack's joy was supreme—even though he is still hoping that some day he will have a fifteen-foot bushmaster.

FONZ Annual Dinner Meeting

The 9th Annual Meeting of the Friends of the National Zoo was held on May 31, 1967, at fellow-member Gordon Leech's Explorer Restaurant in Rockville, Maryland. Mr. Leech is well known for his efforts as host of the Anteaters Association and the dinner was certainly a tribute to his culinary genius.

Since the menu contained such items as reindeer tidbits and Chukkar partridge, it was a sensitive diplomatic task to reassure the congregating animal lovers that the dinner did not constitute a compromise of conservationist or other principles. Once the members were aware of the U. S. Government's involvement in fostering local food industry programs among the Eskimo reindeer herders and the Pakastani partridge raisers, most of the diners resigned themselves to enjoying a delicious meal. For the recalcitrant few it was necessary to point out that the program chairman had chosen the partridge for the main course in lieu of roast hippopotamus.

Outgoing President Dr. Malcolm Henderson was as spectacular in his role as master of ceremonies as he has been in leading the organization through a most productive year that saw the launching of the coloring-book project and the establishment of concession