



**MARVIN JONES**

On Tuesday, 4 April, well-known expert on zoological organizations and their collections, Marvin Jones, passed away. Jones served for many years as the official registrar of the animal collections at the Zoological Society of San Diego and was awarded the title of registrar emeritus in 1996.

Jones' interest in zoos began in 1944 when he began working as a volunteer with the Bronx Zoo in New York and the National Zoo in Washington, D.C. At that time zoological records of animal collections were not yet well developed and Jones began compiling detailed statistical information about the zoos he visited. In 1951, Jones was drafted into the U.S. Army and was stationed in Germany. During this time he visited many European zoos, joining the Zoological Society of London and the German Mammal Society, and continuing to compile statistical data about a variety of animal species.

In 1956, Jones became involved with the American Association of Zoological Parks and Aquariums (now known as the Association of Zoos & Aquariums, AZA), editing its member newsletter and serving as a volunteer on a number of committees overseeing the collaborative efforts of accredited zoos in the United States. During this time Jones began publishing a number of papers on the longevity of mammals in captivity, becoming one of the world's leading authorities on this subject. In addition to his work documenting longevity, Marvin Jones also maintained extensive records on the wild and captive status of the orangutan, pygmy hippo, golden marmoset, snow leopard and ruffed lemur beginning studbooks on most of these species.

In 1972, Jones retired from the U.S. Army with the rank of sergeant first class and moved to Southern California where he became a consultant for the Zoological Society of San Diego. In 1981, Jones was hired by the Zoological Society as its first registrar, maintaining its official animal collections records until his retirement in 1993. In 1996, the Zoological Society awarded Jones with the honorary title of Registrar Emeritus. Despite his retirement, Jones has continued to work with zoos around the world as a consultant and expert on animal data collection, longevity and zoological history.

Born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania on November 8, 1928, Marvin Jones died suddenly on Tuesday, April 4. He is survived by many close friends and a tradition of documenting animal care in zoos. ■

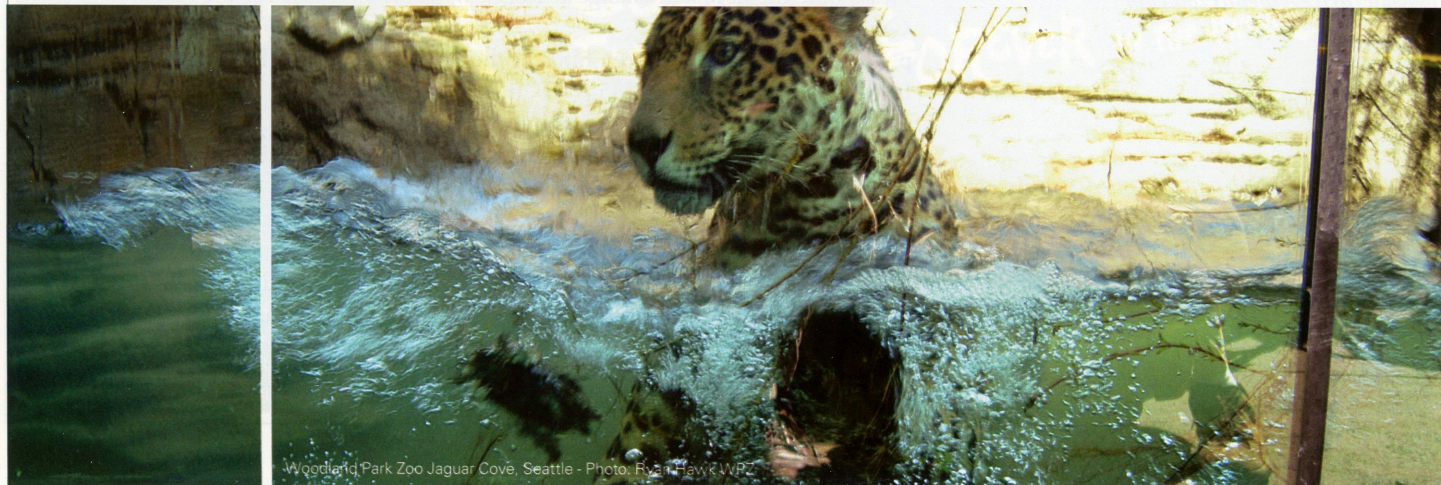
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Woodland Park Zoo Jaguar Cove, Seattle - Photo: Ryan Hawk/WPZ