



ZOO NEWS

SUMMER 1980

Cleveland Zoo is Beautiful

by Margaret Corell

Recent articles in *The Cleveland Press* prompted an on-sight inspection of the Zoo. The headline, "Zoo Exhibits Scruffy Side To Its Visitors," followed by flagrant use of harsh words—messy, unkempt, filthy, dismal—called for an investigation of the complaints. As the emissary of Cleveland Zoological Society, I had to see what is "shabby and contemptible" at the Zoo.

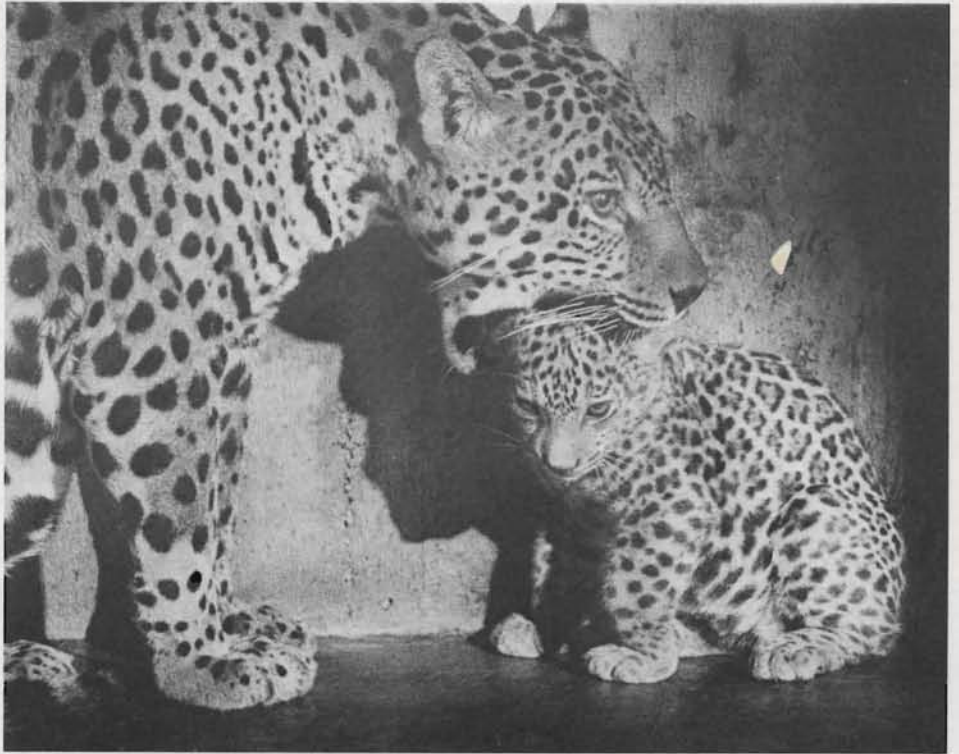
Both the cashier and her supervisor report that maps were available at the No. Two entrance. It is difficult to understand why the reporter could not get one.

Fortunately most visitors use the trash containers and attendants make rounds to empty them. The Zoo does not employ waiters to clear tables, nor is gourmet fare available at refreshment stands.

Management admitted that many exhibit description signs and talking box tapes were outdated. Remedial steps have been taken and responsibility has been shifted to the proper department.

Special attention was given to the "high grass" areas. Obviously the writer did not know the facts. Grass remains uncut in certain enclosures for bird and fowl cover, for nesting purposes, and for the well being of animals. The paddock for Barasingha deer is a good example. Mayweed is allowed to grow in wild profusion giving the deer a sense of protection as well as a cool place to lie.

About Kiddieland, the reporter said three rides were not operating, quote: "'Had an electrical blow-out two nights ago,' said a disinterested attendant with a shrug." The facts are: only the pony carts were not in use because an employee was absent. There was no electrical malfunction; all of the rides are on the same circuit. The writer compared the attendant's attitude with that of uniformed summer crews at Sea World



Meet Seeka, our newest model Jaguar born May 5. The parents—Zora and Albert—were born at the Zoo six years ago. Native to South America, the animals are an endangered species. Mother gave birth to two cubs, one died the following day. Zora displays unusual behavior traits—she does not allow Seeka in the den area (hidden from people). From the beginning she has carried the cub out to the exhibit and keeps her there. The big cats are known to keep offspring secluded for as long as six weeks. Not our Zora.

and Cedar Point, profit-making amusement parks. Zoo Management will not tolerate rudeness or discourtesy to visitors by any employee. However, if Management is not immediately notified, there is no way to make proper identification of the alleged offender.

Reference was made to mud holes and mud caked plots. The elephants love their terrain. Simba and Tiani will never be deprived of the pleasure of mud or dust baths.

The writer's comment about a wolf den and the wolf being permanently out to lunch is another instance of ignorance of facts. The Zoo has no "wolf den." The exhibit referred to was built

as a bear cubbing den. It is not uncommon that exhibits will be unoccupied at times for reasons of mating, illness, quarantine, death, incompatibility, sale, trade, or unavailability of intended purchases.

The reporter's remarks about the inconvenience of Monkey Island being cleaned are absurd and require no explanation.

Likewise the sea lion pool. The Department of Agriculture controls aquatic marine mammal life. It is required the sea lions have a salt water bath at least one day a week. At the Zoo salt water is available to them at all times.

continued on next page

Cleveland Zoo is Beautiful *continued from preceding page*

The writer stated that solid, high barriers prevent small children from seeing the bears and parents have to lift children up and down. When the bear grottos were first opened, children climbed and sat on the wall surrounding the moat. A link fence was installed to keep visitors from approaching the structure. The purpose—people protection.

Repeated references to inconsiderate visitors are disturbing. The Zoo is a public recreation facility, not a library. We hope a police state is never brought to this park. If children in their enthusiasm tap on glass in the Cat and Primate building, is life to be made miserable by having a cadre of attendants constantly barking orders! Viewing of animals in the building is not impaired. On one side of the glass we have animals who, like children, are eager to touch, who want to get closer. That is the original concept, the marvel of the structure. On the opposite side of the glass we have active youngsters who cannot restrain themselves trying to attract the animals' attention. Picture the place if we didn't have hand prints and the sound of children's voices.

Here is the closing paragraph of the nit picking story: "The heat at the zoo—even on a low humidity day—is unbearable. The condition is intensified

by its location in the pit of a valley that locks in hot air and locks out any passing breeze." Evaluating the site of the Zoo in the high heat of summer is like judging a newspaper on a day nothing happens to make news. Brookside Park, the location of our Zoo, is acknowledged throughout the United States as being one of the loveliest sites brimming with natural unmined potential that will be realized as resources become available to develop it.

Journey completed, again I reviewed *The Cleveland Press* clippings. The absence of an indictment of any activity, the omission of constructive observations, and the inept attempt to downgrade the Zoo lead me to believe the reporter was searching for something to write about.

The fact that Cleveland Zoological Society no longer manages the Zoo does not diminish the concern and interest our Officers, Trustees and Friends of the Zoo members have in the Zoo. Constructive criticism is always welcomed *and it will be shared with Metroparks people*. But when scruffy journalism and degrading cartoons are used to excite readers and portray conditions that do not exist or are amplified by ignorance, we remind one and all that we are undeniably proud of our Zoo.

ZOO NEWS

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Cleveland Zoological Society
P.O. Box 09281
Cleveland, Ohio 44109

Editor: Margaret Corell

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Cleveland Zoological Society

P.O. Box 09281
Cleveland, Ohio 44109
Telephone: 661-6500

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Michael Vitantonio, *Zoo Director*
Donald J. Kuenzer, *General Curator*
Alan L. Sironen, *Assistant Curator*
Charles R. Voracek, *Public Information Officer*

Zoo Hours

Open daily, 9:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. During Daylight Saving Time, 9:30 to 7:00 p.m. on Sundays and holidays. Closed December 25 and January 1.

Admission

\$2—12 years and older. \$1 ages 2 thru 11. Under 2—free. Free admission 9:30–10:30 a.m. Monday thru Friday, except holidays.

Parking

\$1 per vehicle. \$2 per bus.



Setting up housekeeping in the Axis Deer plot, this pair of Sarus Cranes are beauty to behold. Planned parenthood, never more than two eggs in the nest. When mother tires of setting, gets up to stretch and walk around a bit, father takes over the chore. What is more, if two hatch, the male assumes the responsibility of feeding one of the offspring. The young ones may have to be separated because of sibling rivalry. (Continued in our next Zoo News.) Sarus are the largest known cranes, come from India. Killing the birds is considered bad luck.

FRIENDS OF THE ZOO DAY

Saturday, August 23, 1980—9:30 a.m.—5:00 p.m.

A FUN DAY FOR MEMBERS
at Cleveland Metroparks Zoo

In addition to

Free admission
Free parking
Free tour train rides
Free admission to Children's Farm

You get to

Feed the sea lions
Feed the bears
Feed the farm pets
Ride at Kiddieland

PLUS A SPECIAL TREAT

Organ Grinders with Trained Monkeys will be here to entertain you

PETE and POP
10:00 to 1:00

DANNY BOY and TOM
1:00 to 4:00



From the President

Robert S. Reitman

It is a pleasure to have this opportunity to greet all Friends of the Zoo—both loyal members who have been on Society rolls for years and newcomers who joined this summer.



I welcome the opportunity to talk about our Zoo. It is true I have an affinity for rhinos, but my interests extend far beyond that fascinating creature of the wild animal kingdom.

Our Zoo, only a few minutes from the heart of the city, is an oasis in the urban complex of Cleveland. Its confines hold a natural beauty that is unequalled. The hills, the valley, trees and plant life form a backdrop in which wildlife can be displayed and protected by the gentle hands of dedicated people. This park must be preserved for all time.

We are equally concerned about conservation. The world-wide problem of man's destruction of endangered species is awesome. Our Zoo's contribution toward stemming this chaotic practice may be small, but we must avail ourselves of every opportunity in the acquisition, breeding and procreation of wildlife and do whatever is possible and practical to assist in this preservation program.

Lastly, for humanitarian reasons we want to see Cleveland Zoo developed for the pleasure and benefit of all visitors. Those of us who have been to Africa are the fortunate few. I think about the countless people—school children and grown-ups, zoo buffs and curious spectators—who will never have the chance to view animals in the wild. Such is the uniqueness of zoos, and our Zoo has a commitment to be one of the outstanding recreation centers of Northeastern Ohio. It likewise has an obligation to serve education needs befitting its resources—flora, fauna, and the elements abounding in our park.

On behalf of the Cleveland Zoological Society, I want to express thanks for your support, and for your patience and understanding during the "quiet" time while we reorganized the entire Friends of the Zoo program. Friends of the Zoo Day is upcoming and this issue of Zoo News is the first of quarterly reports to let you know what is happening at Cleveland Metroparks Zoo.

ZOOS OFFERING RECIPROCITY (FREE ADMISSION) TO MEMBERS OF CLEVELAND FOZ

Alabama

Birmingham Zoo
Montgomery Zoo

California

Los Angeles Zoo
Oakland Zoo
Marine World-Africa USA,
Redwood City
San Francisco Zoo

Canada

Calgary Zoo, Alberta

Colorado

North American Wild Life Center,
Golden

Florida

Jacksonville Zoo
Crandon Park Zoo, Miami
Discovery Island at Walt Disney
World, Orlando

Georgia

Atlanta Zoological Park

Illinois

Miller Park Zoo, Bloomington
John G. Shedd Aquarium,
Chicago
Glen Oak Zoo, Peoria
Henson C. Robinson Zoo,
Springfield

Indiana

Mesker Park Zoo, Evansville
Fort Wayne Children's Zoological
Gardens
Indianapolis Zoo

Kansas

Kansas City Zoo
Topeka Zoological Park
Sedgwick County Zoo, Wichita

Kentucky

Louisville Zoological Garden

Louisiana

Greater Baton Rouge Zoo
Louisiana Purchase Gardens and
Zoo, Monroe
Audubon Park Zoo, New Orleans

Maryland

Baltimore Zoo

Massachusetts

Franklin Park Zoo, Boston
James P. Heady Kiddieland Zoo,
Springfield

Michigan

Binder Park Zoo, Battle Creek
John Ball Zoo, Grand Rapids

Mississippi

Jackson Zoological Park

Missouri

Dickerson Park Zoo, Springfield

Nebraska

Lincoln Children's Zoo

New Jersey

Van Saun Park Zoo, Paramus

New Mexico

Rio Grande Zoological Park,
Albuquerque

New York

Ross Park Zoo, Binghamton
Buffalo Zoological Gardens
Staten Island Zoo, New York City
Seneca Park Zoo, Rochester
Burnet Park Zoo, Syracuse
Utica Zoo

North Dakota

Dakota Zoo, Bismarck

Ohio

Cleveland Metroparks Zoo
Columbus Zoo

Oklahoma

Oklahoma City Zoo
Tulsa Zoological Park

Pennsylvania

Erie Zoo
Hershey Zoo America
Philadelphia Zoological Garden
Pittsburgh Zoo
Pocono Wild Animal Farm,
Stroudsburg

South Carolina

Riverbanks Zoological Park,
Columbia
Greenville Zoo

South Dakota

Bear Country USA, Rapid City
The Great Plains Zoo, Sioux Falls

Tennessee

Knoxville Zoological Park
Memphis Zoo and Aquarium

Texas

Abilene Zoo
El Paso Zoological Park
Texas Zoo, Victoria
Central Texas Zoo, Waco

Utah

Game Bird Research &
Preservation Center,
Salt Lake City
Hogle Zoological Garden,
Salt Lake City

Virginia

Kings Dominion, Doswell
(monorail only)

Wisconsin

International Crane Foundation,
Baraboo

By special arrangement:

Cincinnati Zoo
Toledo Zoo

What's New At the Zoo?

by Michael Vitantonio, Zoo Director

Continued progress has been recorded toward the development of the Cleveland Metroparks Zoological Park in the first six months of this year.

The Waterfowl Lake was dredged and the Wade House renovated with a beautiful deck attached so that our visitors may browse in the gift shop or just relax and view the new Brown Pelican and Flamingo Exhibits or the many different species of waterfowl on the Lake.

The construction and development of the Southwest Quadrant is proceeding on schedule. This much-needed development will provide Zoo visitors with a new entrance consisting of a visitor orientation center, pathways with gardens leading to a picnic ground, a restaurant facility, a shelter house, the Cat and Primate Building, a new Cheetah Exhibit and finally, the elevated deck walk.

The deck walk was designed to provide a pleasing and convenient means of access from the Cat and Primate Building to an area just adjacent to the Waterfowl Lake. This structure will traverse the wooded slope behind the deer paddocks. It will be a ramped structure with railings on both sides and strategically placed benches and observations areas. The ramp will have minimum slope to accommodate visitors with physical handicaps, those pushing strollers and other Zoo visitors.

At each end of the deck walk will be a plaza providing seating and shade. The plazas have been designed to insure that visitors will have no difficulty in locating and using the deck walk. Completion of this \$945,000 project is scheduled for November.

Of major importance is the passage of the 0.5 mill levy to be submitted on the November ballot. The levy, if passed,



A newcomer in the Axis Deer herd is the fawn born June 11. The mother was born at Cleveland Zoo six years ago, and the father, same age, was born at National Zoo. The herd numbers six. Axis Deer have graced Zoo grounds for many years. Offsprings are traded or sold regularly.

will supersede the .08 mill levy that is due to expire in 1981.

The new levy will be used to expand and renovate all Metropark facilities including the Zoological Park. Specifically, the Zoo renovation and expansion programs will incorporate the "NEW DIMENSIONS FOR THE 80's" development program to create a zoological park outstanding in its education, cultural and recreational value to our northeastern Ohio community. This will allow the Metroparks Zoo to become a major facility in the zoo world for the preservation and propagation of animal species threatened with extinction within the next few decades.

Although the educational needs of all age groups, from pre-schoolers through college graduate and post-graduate students will be served, particular emphasis will be placed on the appeal of animals and animal exhibits. These include a new (new to Cleveland, not to zoos) concept of continental division with a multiplicity of fauna from a specific continent sharing an exhibit or general exhibit area.

Planned are Eurasian, African, Australian, South American and North American continental exhibits. In addition

are a series of colorful bird displays and free flight aviary for the birds of prey. Also planned is a spectacular tropical rain forest with a variety of South American animal species enhanced by dynamic settings of live plants, controlled climates and visitor participation.

Education is one of the most important areas that can be served by any zoo. The Cleveland Metroparks Zoo plans to expand its educational facilities and services by constructing an Education Center within the main entrance complex. The Education Center would house an auditorium for both day and evening use by student groups. It would also contain a library, laboratory and classroom space. The entire Zoo, as well, would serve as a living classroom, an extension of school classrooms, to meet the increasing needs of the educational community.

Although the welfare of the animals is of primary importance in a zoo, pleasant display of the exhibits and grounds is also a major concern. In the "NEW DIMENSIONS FOR THE 80's" well-designed floral displays and formal and informal gardens including a rose garden are projected for increasing the aesthetic appeal of the Zoo and enhancing the animal displays. Of additional horticultural interest will be a public greenhouse with changing seasonal displays of plants and flowers.

By virtue of a generous \$240,000 gift from Standard Oil of Ohio to Cleveland Zoological Society, an amphitheater is to be built on the site of the old Brookside Swimming Pool near the main entrance and parking lot. The Sohio Amphitheater will be the site of special Zoo programs.

If you have any questions or would like to know more about the "NEW DIMENSIONS FOR THE 80's," please feel free to contact me at the Zoo.



Zoo News thanks Arlington Elementary School of Parma for the gift of three male and twelve female Black-tail Prairie Dogs. Wild born in Texas, these members of the squirrel family get their name because they bark like a dog. They are shot in the wild; a horse can break a leg as a result of the Prairie Dog's excavation efforts. The colony will have a better life at the Zoo.

Flamingos and Brown Pelicans Grace the Shores of the Waterfowl Lake

by Charles R. Voracek, Public Information Officer, Metroparks Zoo

An entirely new dimension and certainly an improvement in the attractiveness of the area surrounding the Wade Hall Gift Shop at the north end of the Waterfowl Lake came about when a flock of flamingos and a group of Brown Pelicans were made to feel "at home" at that site. During the winter and early spring, a new deckwalk was installed at the Wade Hall facility. The deck extends out over the lake and makes visitor viewing of the lake's waterfowl inhabitants a most pleasant experience. The deck construction left lagoons on either side of the Wade Hall building and it was decided to enhance the area by putting a flock of flamingos on the shore to the east and Brown Pelicans in the lagoon to the west.

Flamingos are primarily wading birds and they took to the shallow water like iron filings to a magnet. Occasionally they go into the deeper water to swim and to bathe; it's a sight to enthrall and excite birdwatchers in particular and zoo viewers in general. The flock of Metroparks Zoo flamingos includes four different kinds or species. Of the eight flamingos displayed, five are of the American species, with one each European, Chilean and Lesser. The Lesser Flamingo is the smallest and also the lightest in color; it is a native of the shallow soda lakes of Africa. Plumage color ranges from pinkish white to deep salmon in the various species; the American Flamingo is the brightest. The diet of the flamingo in the wild is mostly mollusks and crustaceans which are sieved through the mandibles of the bill held in an "upside down" position in the water. The special flamingo diet in the zoo consists of high protein trout chow, liver, carrots, fish, vitamins, and a carotenoid, flamen oil. The latter material is added to enhance the coloration of the plumage. Those ingredients are ground up together and placed in a shallow pan and covered with water so the flamingos can sift out the solids of their choosing. Breeding of flamingos in captivity is not a common occurrence. Some zoos have been successful—the San Antonio, Texas, Zoo reared 11 in 1979, but in general, captive breeding is a rarity.

Brown Pelicans are natives of the coastal shores of the U.S., from the Carolinas to Florida, Louisiana and Texas, and on the west coast from



Three young Brown Pelicans, on loan by the Federal Government, came from Florida Wildlife Sanctuary. Hatched in the wild, the birds cannot fly because of wing injuries and will not be returned to native waters. Their diet includes saltwater smelt, but still they search Waterfowl Lake for food.

Lower California to the state of Washington. The basic diet of all pelicans is fish, most of which are species of no commercial value to man. Brown Pelicans get their fish by diving from heights of 20 to 60 feet, the height of the dive depending upon how deep the schools of fish are. Dives are made with the wind; the birds then surface into the wind. There are six other pelican species, but their method of fishing consists of swimming along and dipping their big bills below the water surface to scoop fish out. A pelican's lower bill pouch is large enough to hold approximately four gallons of water. Like flamingos, pelicans do not readily breed in captivity. In their natural breeding grounds, hundreds of birds nest in colonies; nests are built from straw, grass, leaves, sticks and twigs. The eggs are white, and usually three are laid. Incubation period is 30 days. The newly hatched pelicans are blind, naked and would win no beauty contests in the bird world. The young birds are dependent upon their parents for food and protection for a number of months before they can fend for themselves.

The three Brown Pelicans at the zoo are juvenile birds; young birds of this species are a uniformly light brown color. As the birds mature, white stripes mark the sides of the neck, and there is a spot of white at the top of the head. Winter plumage of adult birds is different—the whole head and neck are white.

In winter the flamingos are taken indoors; these tropical birds would be unable to cope with freezing temperatures and are put in the Bird Building basement where warm temperatures and a pool of water are to their liking when old man winter prevails in Cleveland. Pelicans, too, will be taken indoors during winter. There is a possibility of their being put into one of the aquatic areas in the public viewing section of the Bird Building; visitors would then see them all year round.

Flamingos and pelicans—attractive additions to enhance the Waterfowl Lake area of the Metroparks Zoo; shutterbugs, birdlovers and casual zoo visitors will all enjoy the beauty of the birds and the new deckwalk viewing area adjacent to Wade Hall Gift Shop.



**COMING
LABOR DAY
WEEKEND**

**UP
WITH
PEOPLE**

Saturday—August 30

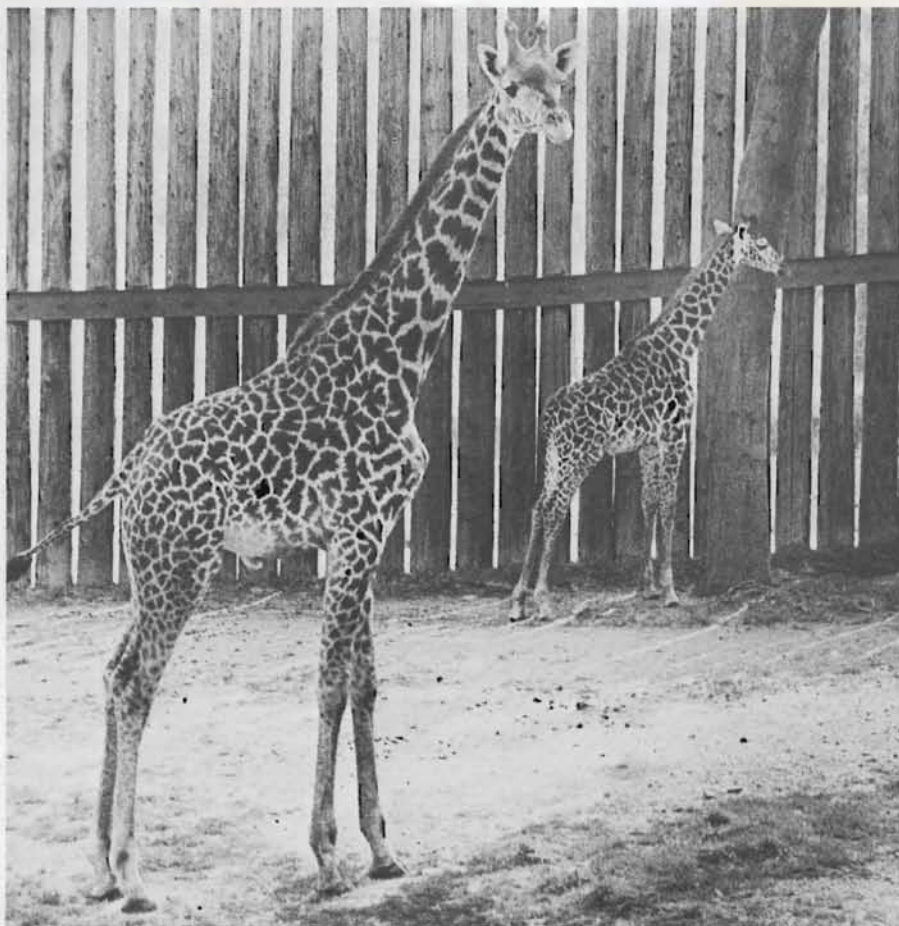
Sunday—August 31

Monday—September 1

Three Shows Daily at the Zoo

11:00 a.m.—2:00 p.m.—5:00 p.m.

Regular Zoo Admission



Coolidge, a handsome addition to our Zoo, celebrated his second birthday August 8. You know the story of Lyle, bottle and bucket fed by anxious keepers when his mother, Lulu, died the 27th of October. Father, Totum II, died New Years Day. Cleveland Zoological Society's Executive Committee authorized a \$5,000 expenditure to purchase the Masai Giraffe from National Zoo. Coolidge, named for our 30th president who did not choose to run, is now the gift of two very generous Friends of the Zoo donors who do not choose to be named, and he is expected to carry on a great Cleveland Zoo tradition with Twiggy, who did not choose to be photographed.

MEMBERSHIP IN FRIENDS OF THE ZOO

What you get

- Free admission and parking
- Free admission to Children's Farm
- Free Tour Train rides
- Free admission to reciprocating zoos

- Story Book Key
- Subscription to Zoo News
- Annual Friends of the Zoo Day

APPLICATION

- \$15 Individual
- \$25 Family
- \$26-\$99 Contributing
- \$100-\$499 Sustaining
- \$500-\$999 Patron
- \$1000 and up-Benefactor

Enclosed is check for \$_____ (Make check payable to Cleveland Zoological Society)

Name to appear on Membership Card: (Circle)

Mr. Mrs.
Miss Ms.

Street _____ City _____ Zip _____

Mail to: Cleveland Zoological Society
P.O. Box 09281
Cleveland, Ohio 44109

(For tax purposes, Individual Members may deduct \$5; all others may deduct any amount over \$20)



A double take. The twin Rhesus Monkeys were born April 7. Monkey Island census stands at 50 adults and nine 1980 additions. Rhesus is a sacred monkey in India. Look for this duo next time you visit.

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Cleveland, Ohio 44109

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