

# Cleveland Metroparks Zoo: A History to 2007

Prepared by Cleveland Metroparks Zoo Staff and  
Volunteers



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Prior to 1882 the City of Cleveland had no major park within the city limits, and so it was that on September 15, 1882, Jephtha H. Wade, Esq. deeded a tract of land of "about 73 acres" lying north of Euclid Avenue and east of Fairmount and Doan Streets. This tract, known as "Wade Park", along with fourteen "American Deer", (probably Virginia White-tailed Deer) was deeded to the City of Cleveland and was the birthplace of the first zoological park in the Forest City. One of the conditions imposed by Mr. Wade along with the gift of the park was that the city must spend \$75,000.00 within a three-year period for the beautification and improvement of the property. The city met this condition by spending \$77,906.08 between 1882 and 1885.

Jephtha H. Wade was president of the Western Union Telegraph Company, as well as president of a number of banks and railroads. He was also a director of a number of industrial companies and was highly respected in the business community. His philanthropic contributions were well documented, and his gift of land and animals bore witness to his generosity.

In 1884 a zoo building was constructed. The two-floored Victorian Gothic Carpenter edifice housed deer in the lower floor; the upper floor was for storage and keeper's quarters. The building was considered one of the outstanding architectural wonders in its day and for many years young architects visited the building to see it and study its construction. Total cost of the completed structure was \$4,133.00.

There was great interest in the deer and in the park where they lived. It was estimated that as many as 5,000 people visited the park in a single day in summer. In 1887 the annual report by the Board of Park Commissioners included a statement directed to Cleveland City Council about "the insufficiency of the

means provided by your honorable body for park purposes." Even in the embryonic stages of the zoo lack of funds was an administrative problem.

The 1888 report showed that a number of animal cages and enclosures were completed, and the animal inventory for that year listed "2 black bears, 2 catamounts (wild cats), a family of coons, a pair of foxes and a colony of prairie dogs as zoo residents." The commissioners added, "so great an attraction has this been from the outset, that it has been determined to enlarge the collection, and there is now in the course of construction an Octagon Building, 60 feet in diameter, intended for the smaller and more delicate animals, monkeys and birds. This building will be ready for occupancy in the spring." The popularity of a zoo was becoming evident and along with public interest was the need of developing more zoological exhibits and increased funding to support them.

In 1890 the Cleveland City Cable Railway Company saw an opportunity to increase its revenue by extending its lines to Wade Park. City Council, without approval by the park commissioners, passed a resolution to permit the cable rail extension. The assistant city solicitor rendered an opinion that the enactment was illegal and the park commissioners served notice on the president of the Cleveland City Railway Cable Company "prohibiting....entering or occupying any part of Wade Park." In defiance of the notice, the cable company deposited construction materials on the park grounds, but the park commissioners engaged legal counsel who requested and was granted a permanent injunction against any further construction activity by the cable company. Had this company been permitted to extend the rail line into Wade Park, the park would have been cut into two nearly sinking fund of such city, if

there be such equal parts, "destroying its integrity and constituting a menace to the public."

The first reference to the animal department in Wade Park as "the zoological department of the Cleveland Parks" was made in 1890. In that same year the educational and natural historical value of an animal collection was recognized above and beyond amusement and idle curiosity of and for the general public. The animal inventory for 1890 listed 80 specimens exclusive of a flock of 100 doves. (The doves were purchased for \$.50 each.) Among the more notable specimens recorded were two black bears, three alligators, one Bengal Tiger, one anteater, one armadillo, two coyotes, five red foxes, five prairie dogs, two wildcats, and fifteen monkeys of at least nine different species.

The new park commission president, Mr. J. H. McBride, waxed eloquently about the city's park system: "To the widely famed attractiveness of the Forest City as it has been known in the past with its many thousands of noble trees, adorning the humble thoroughfares as well as the magnificent avenues, given the added charm of a band of verdure extending about it and forming a harmonious union with the great body of water which in itself forms such possibilities for giving enjoyment to lovers of the beautiful; giant beeches, oaks and elms, with maples, poplars and other varieties of forest trees, standing upright in their primitive condition; drooping willows shading pellucid pools, wide stretches of green lawn with banks of sweet scented varicolored blossoms, tiny streams of crystal clear water running over beds of rock and sand; larger streams, flanking deep cool recesses where summer heat scarce finds itself able to penetrate, and passing under arching branches of foliage unrivaled in perfection, and rustic bridges over which a grand boulevard finds its way; musical cascades that play the harmonies of nature with a master hand and in all the various keys; depths of ravine, the magnificence of whose rugged grandeur causes the beholder to forget any fancied

importance of his own as he realizes the insignificance of man as compared with nature's might; in short, a harmonious development of sylvan beauty to which all are welcome, rich and poor alike, where all may find rest, inspiration and pleasure. Such, in brief, is the design of the park system of Cleveland."

In the two or three year period following 1890, administrative direction of the zoo declined somewhat. There were few, if any, animal purchases, and in 1892 the only improvement reported was the painting of the deer barn and animal cages. There were reports that a cultural center was to be established in Wade Park, specifically, that an Art Museum was to be "built upon the reserved grounds generously given by Hon. J. H. Wade . . ."

In 1893 the legislature of the State of Ohio passed the Park Act which stated, "There shall be a Board of Park Commissioners consisting of five members, who shall be electors of the city for which they are appointed. Two of whom shall be the Mayor and the President of City Council for the time being and three of whom shall be appointed by the trustees of the trustees; if there be none, then by the Court of Common Pleas of the county in which such city is situated."

In 1894, with the Board of Park Commissioners in authority, the zoo began to move ahead again. In the summer of 1894, 81 acres of land, the nucleus for Brookside Park, the site of the zoo when it was moved from Wade Park, was purchased. Another 68 acres in the same area was purchased later. Total cost of the 149 acres was a little more than \$58,000.00.

The public interest in the zoo remained high. In 1895 it was stated, "No attraction in any of the Parks in Cleveland excels in the matter of drawing and retaining popular interest, the collection of animals and birds in Wade Park. The value of this small 'zoo' as an educator in Natural History is not surpassed by anything of the sort in the city, and the size of the crowds that constantly throng the

various enclosures during the summer months testifies amply to the esteem of the public for the attractiveness of the collection. . . ." There were 321 animal specimens listed in the inventory, 200 of which were doves. Notable mammals were five wolves, two black bears, one elk, six deer, a badger and two martens.

In 1896 the need for a direct road in to Wade Park became more important as crowds increased. In order for this to become reality, Mr. J. Homer Wade, the grandson of the original donor of land for the park, donated additional land at the junction of the park and Doan Street. The access boulevard was then curved directly into the park instead of passing into Doan Street and then entering the park farther on.

The years of 1897, 1898 and 1899 saw few changes made at the Wade Park Zoo. Relatively few animals were purchased and no major additions were made to exhibit facilities. The cost of maintaining the zoo in 1899 was \$1,069.00.

Cleveland, in 1900, had a population of 381,768. It was Ohio's largest city; Cincinnati, the second largest, had a population of 325,902. Iron and steel were leaders in Cleveland industry. The Cleveland Automobile Club was founded in this year. League Park was secured for Cleveland baseball headquarters. The Rose building was completed on E. 9<sup>th</sup> St.; it was ten stories high and occupied over an acre of land, entitling it to be named "Ohio's largest building."

A new wire enclosure for the bird collection at the zoo was constructed. The old structure was badly deteriorated and needed replacement. It was also recommended that "the building used for monkeys should either be wholly abandoned for such use or the collection should be increased to respectable proportions both in number and quality of the exhibit. As it now exists the collection is a discredit rather than an attraction to the park and is a subject of sharp criticism from park visitors. The cost of increasing the number of specimens to respectable proportions would not be great, and, except in the small matter of

food, the cost of maintenance of a larger collection would be no more. To dispense with this feature of the zoo after it has been so long installed would doubtless bring forth a protest from lovers of natural history and from thousands of school children who visit the park." Subsequent reports shed no light on how the recommendation was received, but apparently the building continued to house monkeys, although the quality and quantity remained basically unchanged.

There was great excitement at the zoo in 1901; on July 16<sup>th</sup> Peter Sells of Sells-Floto Circus presented a pair of lions to the zoo. A street parade was held to show off the big cats as well as to advertise the circus and its performances in town. With a bottle of champagne broken over the cage of each lion, the newly arrived cats were named "Cleveland" and "Columbus". The Director of Public Works, Charles Salen, made an acceptance speech, and the great publicity generated so much interest that visitors forced their way to the lion cages until nearly midnight to catch a glimpse of the first lions to reside in the zoo here.

Residents in the Wade Park area began to complain about wolves howling in the middle of the night and the unpleasant odors emanating from the midst of the zoo. A flood of complaints directed toward the Wade family led to the legal firm of Squires, Sanders and Dempsey serving notice on the Director of Public Works for the City of Cleveland, Charles P. Salen, to remove the zoo from Wade Park. The date was August 29, 1901. Salen was unyielding and his stand to retain the zoo in Wade Park prevailed over any legal effort to the contrary. Apparently, nearby residents learned to live with the wolf howls or went without sleep.

With winter coming on, it was necessary to move the newly acquired lions from their outside quarters to the interior of the Monkey House. During the cleaning of the inside quarters, workmen found a cache of 50 pounds of dynamite that was inadvertently left by some careless contractor years before. A

potential tragedy was avoided by the removal of the explosives.

During 1901 and 1902 donations of animals to the zoo by private individuals were encouraged; 55 animals were given to the zoo in 1901 and 49 in 1902. The increase in the animal inventory also brought an increase in expenses for maintaining the zoo. The 1902 cost of operating the zoo was \$5,790.39.

A grizzly bear that had been captured in Yellowstone National Park and sent to the zoo here in 1903 created quite a stir among visitors. Another new feature at the zoo was a trout pond that utilized the clear, cool sparkling water of a natural spring in the area. A zoo superintendent, Mr. William Hadderath, was appointed at a salary of \$75.00 per month.

With the proposed construction of an Art Museum becoming reality in the immediate vicinity of the zoo in Wade Park, relocation of the zoo became mandatory. Mr. William Stinchcomb, an engineer and a pioneer in local park land development, recommended to city council that the zoo be moved to the Brookside Park area which had been purchased as city park land in 1894. Mr. Stinchcomb stated that although Brookside Park was not the ideal site for a zoo, it was better than any other available location at the time. And so, the zoo began its seven-year move from the east side to the southwest side of Cleveland. Commencing in 1907 and ending with the transfer of bears from Wade Park to Brookside Park in 1914, the relocation of the zoo was a monumental undertaking.

Construction of a major exhibit facility, the "Main Building", was begun in 1907 and completed and opened in 1909. But before the building was ready for occupancy, the zoo was the recipient of its first elephant, "Minnie". Under the sponsorship of the Cleveland Press, a "help buy an elephant for the zoo" campaign was initiated, and the children of Cleveland were invited to contribute pennies to buy and elephant. So it was that the buying power of a penny brought Minnie to the zoo. "Elephant Day" was celebrated on July 27<sup>th</sup>, 1907, and it was estimated that some 25,000 people visited

the zoo that day to see the wonderful Minnie and to watch eager and excited children ride her.

To accommodate the young riders, two wooden platforms were constructed with steps leading up to them. Minnie would walk between the two platforms and stand quietly while girls would board her from one side and boys from the other. The girls were all dressed similarly in high button black shoes, black stockings, white shirtwaists and skirts, and big ribbon bows in their hair. The boys were attired in knee pants, black stockings, high black shoes, white shirts and caps. Uniformed policemen on each platform would assist the children, three girls on one side and three boys on the other, on to the riding board placed over a heavy pad on the elephant's back. A handrail prevented the riders from falling off while riding Minnie. When all were secure, an attendant led Minnie around the track. It was very exciting!

Minnie was housed in a temporary building pending the completion of the Main Building. She was moved to her new quarters late in 1909, and her old shelter was divided and used for a llama and a sacred cow. A special ostrich building was built as well as a tile-roofed brick bird building. The latter housed eagles, hawks and vultures. The next year, 1910, zoo superintendent William Hadderath moved his headquarters to Brookside, although the zoo was still divided between Wade Park and Brookside. An assistant keeper was left in charge of the east-side zoo contingent. Some of the animals remaining at Wade Park were deer, elk, bears, lions, and many birds.

In 1911 a concerted effort was made to produce animal food on city property at Brookside. This program was highly successful and oats, corn, clover and other crops totaling 20 tons were raised for feeding the zoo animals. A 40' by 70' log cabin was built for deer and elk; all the birds remaining at Wade Park were moved to Brookside when the bird-house was completed. Among the notable species which were added to the animal

inventory were a pair of polar bears, a leopard, a Bactrian camel, a fallow deer, a pair of mute swans, three foxes, two black bears (cubs), two vultures, a great horned owl and a prairie dog.

During 1912 construction of new bear dens was begun so that the last exhibit animals at Wade Park, the bears, could be moved to Brookside. However, because of problems encountered in site selection and the lack of competent stone masons for the split-boulder type of masonry work required, the project dragged on until 1914, when the bear dens were finally completed and the last remaining animals in Wade Park were moved to the Brookside location. At last Cleveland had but one zoo. Operating costs of the zoo in 1914 were \$10,386.47.

World War I (1914-1918) took its toll as city government was concerned with needs considered of greater importance than the zoo, parks or other local civic interest organizations. In 1915 the aquatic fowl house and pond were completed at a cost of \$1790.00. The work also included a heavy six-foot wire fence around the pond.

Also added this year was another entrance to the zoo from West 25<sup>th</sup> Street. A Mr. Readinger who was a butcher by trade was placed in charge of the zoo.

In 1916 another superintendent was named, a Mr. J. B. Connors, whose previous experience with animals was working with hogs and cattle on an Ohio farm. The bear pits, completed just two years earlier, required relining to alleviate severe dampness which was detrimental to the health of the bears exhibited in that facility.

From 1917 until 1939 there were no official reports on the zoo at Brookside. First war years and then the depression contributed to general apathy regarding the zoo and its animals. Qualified animal personnel were not available and neither was financial support. Morale of employees and the general condition of the zoo deteriorated to a shameful state. In July, 1921, Minnie, the celebrated elephant died, and front page newspaper stories called the city to task for the miserable conditions at the zoo leading

to the elephant's death. Attempting to stimulate public interest in the zoo, Mr. E. F. Albee, head of the Keith vaudeville circuit, donated an elephant to the zoo. On September 6<sup>th</sup>, 1923, "Nemo" arrived with a trainer, Mr. G. E. Christie. Early records are clouded as to the elephant's sex. One account stated "she", and another, "he". Whatever the gender, the elephant was a resident of the zoo for only about two years. Christie was made zoo superintendent on the strength of his experience in handling Nemo. He was an itinerant circus man and really had no knowledge of zoo operations and no talent for the job. One of the tales that persists relating to Christie's tenure at the zoo concerns his prowess in handling Nemo. Christie was said to enjoy an overabundance of spirit beverages and would drink himself into a merry mood. Then at night he would take Nemo to the top of a hillside at the zoo and the two of them would slide down the hill with Christie riding on Nemo's front feet. No one but Christie could control Nemo and he/she was kept chained to a concrete platform built on the site of the present day Monkey Island. One day (in 1924) Nemo began pulling at the bars of the cage in the Main Building. Apparently in a state of rage and madness, no one could control or calm down the animal gone berserk. Nemo was destroyed! So ended the life of the second zoo elephant. After Nemo's death Christie left Cleveland and J. H. Kramer, a former barber, was appointed zoo superintendent, keeping the job until 1931.

The Cleveland Press, through the efforts of reporter Edgar Bowerfind, initiated a "help the zoo fund" to buy new animals to help revive sagging interest in the zoo. The Press raised \$10,000.00 and a polar bear, sun bear, wolf, guanaco, axis deer, monkeys and birds were among the first animals to arrive. They were uncrated in Brookside and when they were all starting to get acquainted with their new surroundings, the Press decided it would be a good idea to put them on display at Public Square. So they all had to be re-crated and taken downtown. Apparently, more than one

of the animals was reluctant to be put back into a shipping crate for another trip!

Not to be outdone by the Press, the Cleveland Plain Dealer also got into the act. The Plain Dealer helped to place zoo money boxes in a number of chain grocery stores such as Fisher's, A & P, Piggly Wiggly, Sunbeam Stores and Kroger's. A thousand boxes were placed around the city, and citizens were urged to stop in one of the stores and contribute something to help purchase animals for the zoo. Historical accounts do not provide any insight into what the total was for the money raised in this manner.

Although the zoo was nothing to write home about, other aspects of the city's development were making significant progress. Cleveland Municipal Airport was opened this year (1925) and air service consisted of four mail trips east and four west. Some 100,000 people attended the dedication of the "biggest airport in the world".

With the zoo in a deplorable condition, city council formed a special zoo committee to seek expert advice from men knowledgeable in the field of animals and education. These men were Mr. Harold T. Clark and Mr. Paul Rea, secretary and director of the Cleveland Museum of Natural History, respectively. One of their first moves was to bring the director of the Bronx Zoo, Dr. W. T. Hornaday, to Cleveland. Dr. Hornaday, an eminent authority on zoo planning and management, suggested the creation of a master zoo plan and the formation of a non-political society to manage the zoo operation in cooperation with the city. His plans called for a five-year tax levy which would generate \$1,500,000.00 to be used for the construction of seven major buildings and twenty-two smaller buildings, plus roadways, trails, landscaping and other necessary appurtenances vital to the success of the new zoo.

The Hornaday plan also called for the expansion of the Natural History Museum when the zoo project was completed. The museum was proposed to be built in the park area vacated by the zoo. Funds for the museum

project were to be derived from private sources.

The administrating body that would govern the zoo, the museum, a proposed aquarium and a botanical garden would be a cultural group called the Natural History Association of Cleveland. There would be but one director responsible for the administration of all four facilities; competition for public or private funds would be eliminated and political manipulation would be ended. It was believed that such an organization would be economical, efficient and ethical. Newspapers editorialized the need and the climate for the dynamic zoo plan to become reality. But at the last moment City Manager William Hopkins decided that the zoo levy should be put aside in favor of a levy to build the Lorain Street Bridge, which Hopkins felt was (to him) more important.

Then came the depression. Hard times, few jobs and little money left the zoo in dire straits. Zoo help was poorly paid, ill-trained, and lacked motivation for taking proper care of the animals. There were few bright spots in zoo annals between 1929 and 1940. In 1931, a letter to the editor of one of Cleveland's newspapers pointed a finger at "the world's worst zoo". The letter writer's guest who accompanied him to the zoo was "thoroughly nauseated by what he saw and smelled". Even the zoo superintendent wrote to the newspapers. He felt that city council had disowned the zoo. When the superintendent was discharged, his successor, another in a long line of men who knew little or nothing about zoo operations, failed in his job as had the men before him. Little wonder, for the credentials of these men listed their employment experience in such non-allied jobs as barber, grocery clerk, butcher, naval officer, and one who had "never been in charge of anything".

The animal contingent of the zoo numbered 420 in 1931. The only problem was that of that number, 300 animals were domestics - ponies, ducks, geese, pigeons, rabbits, etc, etc.

The next superintendent named to head the zoo was Captain Curley Wilson. He served between February, 1931 and July, 1942. His background was in circus training. At least he had had some experience with wild animals that were kept in zoos. However, the economic period was bad, and several incidents, among them the death of a keeper killed by a bear (1932) because of carelessness, and an ongoing succession of acts of vandalism which destroyed many birds and mammals, created an almost impossible situation for any superintendent to gain prestige and respect for the zoo.

In 1933 Mrs. James W. Corrigan gave the zoo a boost in morale when she donated 28 African animals acquired while she was on safari to the dark continent. Three leopards, two cheetahs and three zebras were the most outstanding animals; even more outstanding was the \$5,000.00 monetary gift Mrs. Corrigan gave to help feed the new animals residents at the zoo.

In 1934 new directions for the zoo were taken. The Cuyahoga County Relief Administration, as part of the Federal Work Relief organization, decided to devote time and labor to the zoo. The Cleveland Press, Plain Dealer and News all got behind the effort to start upgrading the zoo. Press reporter Omar Ranney was assigned full time to the campaign and visited the zoos in Chicago, Cincinnati, Detroit, Toledo, St. Louis, New York and Washington, and wrote a series of articles on the value of these parks and what they offered the public.

The greatest advantage of the relief work to be performed at the zoo was that it would provide employment for several thousand men. The local economy would benefit. The first project in expanding the zoo was a "monkey island" based on similar exhibits in Chicago, Detroit and Toledo. Utilizing material from the old Superior Viaduct and the wreckage of the Ajax Building in downtown Cleveland, Monkey Island rose up like a "phoenix from the ashes of the depression" and was ready for occupancy. The new

structure was 150 feet long and 100 feet wide with a 20-foot water-filled moat to keep the monkeys confined to the island. Mr. Nathan L. Dauby of the May Company announced his store would make a gift of 150 rhesus monkeys to populate the new primate facility.

Official opening was Sunday, June 21<sup>st</sup>, 1936. Among the speakers were Mayor Harold H. Burton, Harold T. Clark, and May Company officials Nathan Dauby, Robert Gries and P. C. Baker. Before the monkeys were turned loose, they were examined by zoo veterinarians Drs. Harry Roberts and Clifford Wagner. Monkey Island became the most popular exhibit in the zoo.

City hall had a new administration that was interested in the welfare of the zoo. Mayor Burton, along with his secretary, Earl Hart, Parks Director Hugo Varga, Museum of Natural History Secretary Harold T. Clark, Museum Trustees Charles King, Courtney Burton and several other people interested in improving the zoo, went to the Detroit Zoo to see firsthand how that city's zoo met with success and to gain information there that would be useful to the operation of the Cleveland Zoo.

The Detroit Zoo was operated by a zoological society, and the visiting Cleveland contingent was so impressed by the efficiency manifested in the Detroit Zoo operation that it was decided that Cleveland should form a similar body to aid the ailing zoo here. On August 11<sup>th</sup>, 1936, the first Cleveland Zoological Society was formed. There were 47 charter members, and this large number was ultimately the cause of this body's failure. The newly-formed society had no authority to manage the zoo. When notices were sent to the society members, so many of them were vacationing it was impossible to get the majority required by law to elect officers and establish rules. Several months later the same thing happened, and so what had seemed a brilliant plan for a dynamic turnaround for the zoo turned into a dismal failure.

While the society plan was fading into oblivion, WPA (Work Projects Administration)



work continued at the zoo. A children's area was completed in 1937, but tragically, before it was officially opened, vandals severely damaged the facility. At that time the zoo was unfenced and security was wanting; consequently the zoo and its inhabitants were sometimes at the mercy of ruffians bent on the destruction of public property.

The ups and downs of the zoo were like those of a bouncing rubber ball. The highs were new animals and exhibits; the lows were lack of funds, disinterested animal caretakers and deteriorating facilities. Even the donation of the zoo's third elephant, "Trixie", a gift from Frank Buck, failed to stem the tide of apathy.

In 1938 thirty-six hundred WPA laborers were sent to Brookside Park. "With incomplete working plans", these men worked on a project to remodel the zoo and lay out a large athletic center west of the zoo (the area now occupied by baseball diamonds, tennis courts and soccer fields).

Then in October, 1938, tragedy visited the zoo again. Three artists, two men and a woman, were sketching bears. When keepers in the area were busy elsewhere the woman, Julia Zemnick, 21, went to the rear of the cages, climbed on the curved upper part of the restraining steel bars and sat down, her feet hanging part way into the bear enclosure. One of the polar bears stood up on his hind legs and pulled her down into the cage. Zoo personnel eventually drove the bear away from the badly mauled woman who, luckily, survived the bear's claw and bite wounds, but did lose an eye as a result of her disregard for safety precautions.

The Sea Lion Pool that had been started in 1936 was nearly finished in 1939. A surrounding fence was needed for completion, and when it came time for sea lions to be acquired to live in the pool, it was disclosed that the cost of a sea lion was only \$340.00, but the cost of feeding would be an additional \$600.00 per year. So the purchase of sea lions was turned down and the zoo had an empty \$60,000.00 pool. Such was the state of zoo affairs in the decade of the '30's.

Legislation was introduced in Cleveland city council early in 1940 to abolish the Brookside Zoo. "Its present deplorable condition is a shame, disgrace and nuisance, and the city would be better off without any zoo." So said 9<sup>th</sup> Ward councilman Ray C. Miller who introduced the legislation in council.

The matter of formation of a zoological society was once again proposed, this time by the Cleveland Federation of Women's Clubs. Mr. Harold T. Clark, President of the Cleveland Museum of Natural History, who had four years earlier attempted to form such a society without much success, suggested that what was needed was a small group of competent people.

Another study committee of twelve members was appointed by Mayor Burton to determine what course was best for the continued operation of the zoo.

At a public hearing conducted by the council parks committee, Mr. Clark declared, "Brookside Zoo is about the last thing that should be abolished in Cleveland. I see no reason why the zoo cannot become a spearhead to arouse public interest in a program that would bring the city a better zoo, an aquarium, botanical gardens and an arboretum. We have it in our power to have all these things. All we need is organization."

The special appointed zoo study committee voted unanimously that the zoo's operation be taken over by a private, non-profit organization under contract with the city. The council parks committee then passed a resolution proposing that the city begin negotiations with the Museum of Natural History.

Cleveland newspapers heartily endorsed the plan, and Plain Dealer columnist Philip W. Porter said, "Once in a while a governmental agency does something so full of common sense and logic that it is pleasantly astounding. Such a case is the decision of the city council to turn over the management of the Cleveland zoo to the Museum of Natural History. Of course, making a management contract with

the Museum won't perform a miracle, for it will take plenty of money to build a real zoo in Cleveland and it will obviously have to come from private sources."

On Monday, August 26<sup>th</sup>, 1940, Cleveland City Council turned the zoo over to the Cleveland Museum of Natural History, effective October 2<sup>nd</sup>. After lengthy discussion, council approved a contract to pay the museum \$50,000.00 per year to "manage, operate and develop the zoo". The city was responsible for building and maintaining roadways and paths, to maintain, landscape and police the grounds and to provide all public utility services previously rendered. The city attempted to cut the yearly appropriation by \$1500.00, but Mr. Clark refused to accept anything less than the original agreed upon amount (\$50,000.00) and the city then dropped the idea of the cut.

A board of control was established by the museum and thirty prominent civic-minded Clevelanders were asked to serve. Many of them were museum trustees with strong interests in the field of natural history and living animals. At long last the zoo would be taken out of the political arena and put into the hands of citizens who would look out for the interests of the animals, their keepers, and the general public. Harold T. Clark was at the helm, and the long-sought turnabout in the zoo's fortunes were at last to be realized.

Many wonderful things began to happen. In the spring of 1940, the fence required around the sea lion pool was installed and the I. J. Fox company renewed its previous offer to donate three sea lions as soon as the pool was ready for occupancy. Later on, in November, 1940, the famous Frank Buck, who had given the elephant, "Trixie" to the zoo in 1937, presented the zoo with a second elephant that had been appearing with him at Public Auditorium in a show called "World's Fair Highlights". The Cleveland News sponsored an elephant naming contest, with the winning name "Osa" submitted by a 12 year old boy from Cleveland Heights. However, the elephant had had a name, "Frieda," to which

she had responded for many years. It's extremely difficult to change names in the middle of an elephant's life, and a few years after the elephant had been living at the zoo, one of her ex-trainers happened to visit her and called her by her original name. She responded in dramatic fashion and from then on everyone called her Frieda. For a short while both Trixie and Frieda lived together at the zoo; however, there wasn't room for two elephants so Trixie was traded to a circus in exchange for a Bactrian camel and a zebra. Another animal deal involved the acquisition of a young male jaguar, three tahr and two sika deer in trade for surplus animals.

Within a year after the Museum of Natural History began operating the zoo, many accomplishments were evident. The sea lion pool was in operation, two bear enclosures had been completely renovated, main building animal cages had been painted, the heating system had been overhauled, uniforms were purchased for zoo personnel, new identification signs were installed on animals exhibits, and about 100 new animals had replaced old stock. The fresh new look of the zoo was a tribute to the leadership of museum president Harold T. Clark, who saw the zoo as an educational force, recreational center, tourist-attraction and wildlife sanctuary.

An unfortunate mishap marred the spring of 1941. Frieda, the elephant, had been trained to give rides and was a star attraction when the zoo opened for the 1941 season on May 24<sup>th</sup>. The first riders on opening day were Mr. Clark, his secretary Ruth Robertson, Press reporter Omar Ranney and News reporter Peter Bellamy. Two days later, with six children riding in the howdah, the elephant bolted and headed for her quarters. As the elephant pushed through the doorway the howdah, being too high to permit its entrance along with the elephant, was knocked off. Fortunately one of the zoo employees, Joe Chery, was at the doorway and broke the fall by catching the howdah in his arms. The most severe injury sustained was a broken forearm

by one of the little girls. After this accident the elephant rides were discontinued.

In July, 1941, the first Friends of the Zoo fund campaign was initiated. A goal of \$25,000.00 was set, and private citizens were urged to contribute to the fund to help the zoo grow and prosper.

City administrations changed a number of times in this period. Mayor Harold Burton was succeeded by Mayor Edward Blythin, and Blythin by Mayor Frank Lausche. All of these men were sympathetic to the needs of the zoo. Mayor Burton had a personal interest in the zoological park, and when he was a U.S. senator he arranged for a gift of some bears to be given to the zoo.

On February 10<sup>th</sup>, 1942 Fletcher A. Reynolds, former curator of reptiles and mammals at the Toledo Zoo was named director of the Cleveland Zoo. "Captain" Curley Wilson, who had been superintendent of the zoo since 1931, would continue in that capacity. Mr. Reynolds' previous experience with animals included collecting wild animals for zoos and circuses, animal curatorial work at the Briarcliff Zoological Gardens in Atlanta, Georgia, and his Toledo Zoo position. Fletcher Reynolds had a buoyant personality and that, combined with his knowledge and affection for wild creatures, provided the leadership and creative thinking that would ultimately guide the zoo to a lofty position among members of the zoo fraternity in the U.S. and the world. In April, 1942, shortly after Mr. Reynolds assumed his role as zoo director, a taxpayer's suit was initiated to restrain the city from paying any funds to the Cleveland Museum of Natural History. The suit contended that operating a zoo was a governmental function, that it was more expensive when a private group managed the zoo, and that private management violated the rights of civil service employees of the zoo.

Judgement was rendered against the plaintiff, the opinion stating that the most important item in operating a zoo was the dedicated services of experienced people genuinely devoted to making the park an

outstanding success. The opinion further stated that the city had been "not wholly successful", and that the Museum personnel, with their broad experience, knowledge, and interest in all forms of natural history, would effect substantial savings to the city and increase the value of the zoo.

In July, 1942, Captain Curley Wilson was dismissed as zoo superintendent. He had been the boss of the zoo for 12 years and could not adapt himself to a secondary role. The same man who instituted the taxpayer's suit against the zoo in April filed another suit to prevent Wilson's dismissal, but at the Captain's own request the suit was dropped.

Fletcher Reynolds took hold of his job with enthusiasm and authority. Good housekeeping was his first priority, and one of his goals was to rat-proof all the buildings. Litter, rubbish and scrap metal were disposed of and a rat control program was instituted that produced a dramatic reduction of the unsightly rodents in short order. Animal enclosures were kept sanitary by meticulous cleaning, and feeding only the amount of food each animal would eat without excessive waste. A new look and a decrease in odors were evident. The wooden floor for the elephant quarters in the main building was torn out and replaced by a concrete floor with a drain so that it could be washed daily.

Reynolds examined the animal collection, and surplus animals were sold or traded to other zoos. Animals that did not belong were removed. No longer was every raccoon, skunk or opossum accepted. The zoo was in a transition state, emerging from amateur status to a recognized professional zoological entity.

The basement of the main zoo building was converted into an assembly and classroom, and a commissary was also installed in the basement.

A traveling zoo was instituted on June 23<sup>rd</sup>, 1943. It was sponsored by the Cleveland Press, the City of Cleveland recreation department, and the zoo. A truck with animal enclosures housing small zoo animals traveled to the city playgrounds during the summer to take the

zoo to the people, particularly children on summer vacation. It became extremely popular and continues its activity even to the present time. The animals change, the audiences change, the employees change, but the basic principles remain unchanged: an educational and entertainment program for children centering around living animals from the zoo.

In October, 1943, another tragedy struck the zoo. Because of a moment's lapse of attention a keeper, John Tomas, 62, was killed by a leopard as he was preparing to clean the indoor cage. He apparently had disregarded the rule that one man never worked alone while cleaning the cat cages. The cats were shifted to the outdoor quarters when the indoor areas were cleaned. Tomas must have thought that the cat was shifted but when he opened the indoor cage door the leopard was waiting for him, and locked its jaws around the back of Tomas' neck. Head keeper Joe Chery heard Tomas' cry for help and ran to the cage where Tomas was standing upright with the leopard still on him. Chery yelled "Paul!" The leopard, responding to its name and the shout, dropped its victim, but by then the unfortunate keeper was already dead. That was the last animal-related fatality recorded at the zoo. Safety procedures, constant vigil and common sense are always mandatory when working with wild animals in a zoo.

In 1943 preliminary plans for a mini-farm within the zoo were unveiled, but the plans were not approved and this zoo farm idea was temporarily shelved.

Few dramatic events occurred during the years of World War II. A miniature train was acquired in 1945. In the same year construction of the waterfowl sanctuary was begun, and it was completed in 1946.

The first Cleveland Zoo Guide-Book was published in 1946. It was written and edited by Omar Ranney (Cleveland Press columnist), and published by Max Axelrod, who handled zoo concessions.

City appropriations to the Museum of Natural History for zoo operations were increased from \$60,000.00 to \$65,000.00 in 1946.

A brand new streamliner miniature train replaced the older train acquired the year before. Director Reynolds drove a symbolic golden spike before the train took off on its maiden run.

The first of a series of catastrophic floods occurred in 1947, causing a total of 41 animal casualties (34 birds and 7 mammals).

Completion of the Fulton Road entrance to the zoo was ordered by Cleveland Mayor Thomas Burke in the fall of 1947.

Another flood in the spring of 1948 hurried up the Big Creek project, which called for putting Big Creek underground through three large diameter tubes. This project took about two years to complete.

The road through the zoo that allowed for a public thoroughway for automobiles was closed, a perimeter fence around the zoo was installed, and the culverting of Big Creek was completed by the end of 1949.

The zoo was enjoying a fine reputation and credit was accorded the two men directly responsible for the good public image: Fletcher Reynolds and Harold T. Clark. Fletcher enjoyed great popularity among his peers in the zoo world and had been elected president of the American Association of Zoological Parks and Aquariums in October of 1948.

In October 1950, the zoo's new Bird Building was dedicated. Among the celebrities at the dedication were Dr. Alexander Wetmore, Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C., Cleveland Mayor Thomas A. Burke, and Mr. Harold T. Clark who presided over the affair. The building was one of the finest of its kind at that time, and added a new dimension in the exhibition of ornithological specimens at the zoo. City appropriation for the zoo in 1950 was \$120,000.00. A safari to Africa, the first involving personnel from the Cleveland Zoo, was made in March of 1950. The safari, led by zoo director Fletcher Reynolds and accompanied by Cleveland Press reporter Joe Collier and photographer Albert Simmons, went to the French Cameroons in West Africa for the purpose of purchasing animals for the

zoo. Four baby gorillas were acquired, along with chimpanzees, a cheetah, leopard, monkeys and numerous birds. The cost of the trip was financed by a zoo benefit football game between the Cleveland Browns and San Francisco Forty-Niners, which raised \$25,000.00. The game had been played August 19<sup>th</sup>, 1949 at Cleveland Stadium (21-21 tie).

On August 17<sup>th</sup>, 1950 the zoo's new beaver and otter pool was dedicated. Supreme Court Justice Harold H. Burton, a former mayor of Cleveland, took part in the dedication ceremonies.

When new cages were installed in the main building in December 1950, the reptile display was moved to the basement where it was a major attraction until the flood of 1959.

A teacher was assigned to the zoo by the Cleveland Board of Education in January, 1951. His task was to conduct animal science classes at the zoo, a living classroom. As the cost of operating the zoo escalated, the need for more funds contributed by the city became greater; \$144,000.00 was the subsidy in 1951.

The zoo's first tour trains began operating in 1952. These were purchased from Greyhound Lines which had operated them at the Chicago World's Fair in 1933 and at the New York World's Fair in 1940.

In the fall of 1952 a beautification program was completed in the area surrounding the Bird Building and waterfowl lake. This was accomplished under the direction of plant expert and renowned orchid grower Leon Santamary, Sr. He donated much of the plant material used, and the Garden Center and Garden Clubs of Cleveland members contributed time and effort. Brooklyn Kiwanis Club gave a \$500.00 gift to help the beautification project.

Another major project accomplished in 1952 was the surfacing of the main parking lot off Brookside Park Drive.

An improved "children's zoo" was a great attraction in 1953. There were new rides and a fairy tale theme park on a small scale. Among the latter displays were a Bunny Village and the Goose That Laid the Golden Egg.

In 1954 a contract to build the zoo's new pachyderm building was awarded. The cost would be \$600,000.00. It would house elephants, rhinoceroses, hippopotamuses and, although not planned for originally, giraffes.

A new tour train was added to the in-grounds transportation system, bringing the total to four. There was even a tour-train providing transportation from the new parking area off Fulton Parkway to the Zoo grounds.

A pair of black leopards, about ten months old, were added to the collection and exhibited in the main building. Black leopards are a color phase of the common spotted leopard, and are fairly common in Malaysia.

A second zoo safari to Africa, this time by director Reynolds and zoo board of control members Frederick C. Crawford, Vernon B. Stouffer and Gordon A. Stouffer, plus Mrs. Crawford, Mrs. Gordon Stouffer and Reynolds' 18 year old son, Fletcher Jr., was made to East Africa for the purpose of obtaining animals to stock the new pachyderm building scheduled for completion in 1955. The expedition, made during June and July, 1955, was most successful. Besides three elephants, two rhinos, two hippos and three giraffes that were acquired for the pachyderm building, the safari principals also arranged for the purchase of oryx, gnus, cheetah, monkeys and birds. It was one of the largest shipments of animals ever to leave Africa bound for one destination. The animals were shipped to the port of Mombasa by rail, transferred to an ocean freighter which docked in New York, and again shipped by rail from New York to Cleveland. The animals were trucked from downtown Cleveland to the zoo. When they arrived in the fall of 1955, the new pachyderm building had not been completed, but since there were no other facilities to house them, they were placed in partially finished quarters. Construction was finished with the animal residents shifted and moved to accommodate the workmen. Friends of the Zoo funds were used to build a tropical greenhouse in which exotic plants and flowers would be propagated to provide greenery in

the bird building and other areas of the zoological park. Its 1955 cost was \$35,000.00.

During 1955 there were 30 peacocks roaming the zoo grounds, most of them hatched on the premises.

The new pachyderm building was dedicated on Sunday, May 13<sup>th</sup>, 1956. Thousands of visitors were on hand when Nancy Jane Reynolds, the director's daughter, cut the red ribbon to officially open the building. Striking in its appearance and enhanced by mammoth and mastodon terra cotta reliefs sculptured by Viktor Schreckengost for the entranceways, the building has accommodated many millions of people who viewed the zoo's largest mammals. Among the new residents of the Pachyderm Building were a pair of Malayan Tapirs. They were donated to Friends of the Cleveland Zoo following a zoo benefit played by the Ice Follies at the Cleveland Arena.

To help gain additional revenue to offset rising operating costs, a \$.25 admission fee for visitors 12 years of age and older was instituted on July 1<sup>st</sup>, 1956. Saturdays and Tuesdays were free admission days, and Cleveland school children in classes were admitted free at all times.

The 1955 zoo safari movie, "Jambo Porini - Welcome to the Bush Country" had its first showing at a benefit performance on February 26<sup>th</sup>, 1956. Proceeds went to the zoo.

On August 6<sup>th</sup>, 1956 Harold T. Clark resigned as chairman of the zoo board of control. It had been anticipated that Gordon Stouffer, co-vice chairman of the zoo board, would take over when Mr. Clark relinquished his post. However, Gordon Stouffer died suddenly of a heart attack two months earlier. Gordon's brother, Vernon Stouffer, accepted the chairmanship on August 17<sup>th</sup>.

When Mr. Clark stepped down from his zoo leadership post, he left a legacy of zoo greatness that will remain as long as the zoo itself. He raised the zoo from the depths of the depression to an entity that stands proud among the zoo fraternity of the world.

Frieda, the beloved Indian elephant, died on November 27<sup>th</sup>, 1956. Accounts of her age varied from 56 to 72. She was one of the older elephants in the country, and succumbed to a cerebral hemorrhage. The three young African elephants that came to the zoo from the 1955 safari had looked upon Frieda as kind of a mother figure for the time they had been together; suddenly she was gone.

The 75<sup>th</sup> birthday anniversary of the zoo was celebrated on March 13<sup>th</sup>, 1957. A movie, "Whose Zoo" produced by Fisher Brothers Company was shown, and Mr. Harold T. Clark was presented with a scroll honoring him for his dedication and service to the community.

The newly-formed Cleveland Zoological Society assumed management responsibilities of the zoo in April, 1957. Business and community leaders interested in the welfare and progress of the zoo comprised the nucleus of the Society which operated the zoo under contract with the City of Cleveland. Board Chairman was Frederick C. Crawford and President was Vernon Stouffer. The Society's high hopes for zoo improvements were dimmed by the failure of a \$1,000,000.00 bond issue on the November 1957 ballot.

One of the first projects of the Zoological Society was an improved and expanded Children's Zoo.

On December 13<sup>th</sup>, 1957, Fletcher Reynolds died of a cerebral hemorrhage. The zoo world had lost a dedicated man.

In January 1958, a fund of \$1,000.00 was set aside to study the possibility of a transfer of the zoo to county ownership.

A committee of Society members headed by Dr. Robert Stecher was formed to select a new zoo director following the death of Fletcher Reynolds.

On April 11<sup>th</sup>, 1958, the committee announced the appointment of Dr. Leonard J. Goss, formerly assistant director and veterinarian of the Bronx, New York, Zoo.

Thanks to the Rotary Club of Cleveland, construction of the new Children's Farm was begun in May, 1958.

Zoo admission fees were increased from \$.25 to \$.50 for visitors 12 years old and over. Saturday was eliminated as a free day, but Tuesday remained a free admission for all day.

Society trustee Colonel B. C. Goss traveled to Africa for an animal-collecting safari in behalf of the zoo. The expedition collected over 100 birds, but the biggest coup was the acquisition of a bongo antelope that, after an extensive quarantine period, would be making its appearance in Cleveland in July 1959.

The beginning of 1959 brought the flood that destroyed the zoo's reptile collection housed in the basement of the main building.

On January 21<sup>st</sup>, 1959, flood waters swept through the inadequate sewer system into the basement of the Main Building to a depth of 7.5 feet. The valuable reptile collection was wiped out, as well as an ocelot, a crane, an eagle, skunks and porcupines. In addition, food, drugs, medicines and housekeeping supplies were ruined.

On February 16<sup>th</sup>, 1959 Ronald Reuther was appointed the zoo's first general curator.

The first giraffe ever to be born in Cleveland arrived on March 23<sup>rd</sup>, 1959. "Patches", the mother and "Totem", the father, came to Cleveland in 1955 as part of the animal shipment from East Africa.

Another first, the hatching of streamer-tailed hummingbirds, was recorded on May 18<sup>th</sup>, 1959. The two chicks were the first of their species to be hatched in any zoo anywhere in the world.

On the same day the hummingbirds hatched, the Children's Farm with its domestic lambs, goats, calves, rabbits, guinea pigs and other barnyard animals, was dedicated. Cleveland Rotary Club members and zoo dignitaries officiated among the oinks, baa's, maa's, quacks and other animal vocalizations. One of the features of the Children's Farm was the "Pat a Pet" ring. Here children could touch animals such as goats, pigs, ducks, lambs, guinea pigs and rabbits.

Bongo Days were celebrated on July 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>, 1959. "Karen", the female bongo antelope was the world's only bongo in

captivity at that time. The old ostrich house was renovated and a new wing was added to accommodate the new darling of the zoo.

In June 1960, an animal identification contest was sponsored by the Cleveland Zoological Society. Prize for the first place winners was a safari trip to East Africa. The winners would accompany several Cleveland Zoological Society trustees. Although the two boys, Victor Uhas and Don Kuenzer, were warned that East African natives were in a rather hostile mood at that time, they declined an offer of an alternate cash prize and went on safari in October.

A television series, "Shoot Them Alive" was made at the zoo and aired by KYW-TV during the summer of 1960.

Society trustee Ralph Mueller donated a carillon that was installed in the tower of the bird building in November 1960. For many years carillon bell music filled the air of the zoo.

Trustees approved a \$5,000,000 master development plan to give the Zoo a new face, figure and style. Under the new plan, animals are to be taken out of cages and placed in natural settings, removed from the public only by hidden moats. Emphasis will be on new exhibits for the animals, and not costly structures to house the public.

Doris O'Donnell, formerly a feature writer and reporter with the Cleveland News, became the Zoo's Public Service Director in April.

One of the big disappointments in 1960 was the defeat of the .1 mill levy in November. Passage of this issue would have affected the transfer of the zoo from city to county control.

On March 26<sup>th</sup>, 1961, to commemorate their golden anniversary, the Cleveland Council of Camp Fire Girls gave a totem pole to the zoo. It was placed in the picnic area west of monkey island. Each year since 1961 the Camp Fire members have participated in a Camp Fire day at the zoo. Over the years many trees of prehistoric origin have been planted in the so-called "prehistoric forest" located near the beaver and otter pools.

Ground was broken on June 16<sup>th</sup> for construction of a Lion and Tiger Moat, the first step in the sweeping modernization program in the Master Development Plan. The Moat will be at the west end of the Park in the vicinity of the bear dens.

Celebrity Walt Disney visited the zoo on August 13<sup>th</sup>, 1961. He was the guest of Cleveland Zoological Society president Vernon Stouffer.

For the second successive year an issue to transfer the zoo to county administration went down to defeat in the November, 1961 elections.

On April 25<sup>th</sup>, 1962 the new lion and tiger veldt was dedicated. In keeping with the newer type of moated outdoor animal enclosure, these new exhibits were of this design. The new outdoor cat exhibits were the gift of Frederick C. Crawford, Vernon Stouffer, Mrs. William C. Scheetz, Jr. and the Beaumont Foundation. The new display was given by the donors as a memorial to Gordon Stouffer who had contributed so much time, energy and financial aid to the zoo for many years.

On June 9<sup>th</sup>, 1962 the Teamsters local union representing the zoo's labor force called a strike, but it was amicably settled in one day.

The honeybee exhibit was installed in the pachyderm building in June 1962. It proved to be an extremely popular exhibit, featuring the zoo's smallest animals.

On September 4<sup>th</sup>, 1962 a female orangutan, "Gi-Gi", was the first of her species to be born here. Unfortunately, "Susie", Gi-Gi's mother, died within two weeks after giving birth and Gi-Gi was raised by Mrs. Anna Wendt, mother of zoo veterinarian Dr. Wallace Wendt.

On September 15<sup>th</sup>, 1962, the Cleveland Zoo celebrated its 80<sup>th</sup> birthday. The Zoological Park has come a long way since 1882. From the original 14 deer, the animal population has grown to some 1300 individuals of over 400 species. Annual attendance is nearly three quarters of a million persons each year. The Cleveland Zoological Society has ambitious

plans for the future to make this one of the finest Zoos in the nation.

The all-time one year high attendance record of 751,867 was set in 1962.

Gi-Gi returned to the zoo in May 1963. She was given tender loving care by her keepers and by Mrs. Wendt, who paid frequent visits to the orphaned orangutan.

After a four year wait, Karen the bongo welcomed a male to keep her company. "Biff", who had come from West Africa, was unveiled to the public on July 13<sup>th</sup>, 1963.

The first Cleveland Orchestra concert at the zoo was presented on Sunday, August 18<sup>th</sup>, 1963. A record attendance of 19,063 people attended the zoo that day.

On September 4<sup>th</sup>, 1963, a first birthday party was held for Gi-Gi. She received a cake and presents of toys. All her party guests were humans.

In 1963, four sculptures by William M. McVey, originally done for Leisy's Brewery, were donated to the Zoo by Leisy's. There were two goats, which are currently at the Metroparks Administration Building, and two Polar Bears that are in the Zoo gardens.

The Leonard C. Hanna Final Fund allotted the zoo \$300,000.00 for the construction of a new Administration-Education Center. The new building was dedicated on June 11<sup>th</sup>, 1964. In addition to the administrative staff offices, the Center contains a multi-purpose room which will be used as an auditorium, a science class-room, and a meeting room. The building is situated in a wooded area overlooking the Waterfowl Sanctuary.

A torrential rainstorm on July 28<sup>th</sup> caused the Zoo to be once again flooded by Big Creek. The downpour caused the creek to rise some three feet above its banks and spill into the Zoo. Greatest damage was done to the Ape and Cat building, which had been flooded several times previously. Fortunately no animals drowned in this latest flood. A lot of mud and debris were left by the floodwaters, however, and cleanup crews spent many hours in restoration.



One million dollars was earmarked for the zoo by the City of Cleveland, which received six million dollars in a bond issue passed in November, 1964. The money was to be used for construction of new bear grottos.

Cleveland Transit System's two special Zoo Buses received wide acclaim during 1964. One bus was painted to resemble a Zebra, and the other a Tiger. Painting was done by two senior students of the Cleveland Institute of Art. Design of the unusual buses was the creation of Charles R. Voracek, Public Service Director of the Zoo.

The death of Harold T. Clark on May 31<sup>st</sup>, 1965 saddened the community and the personnel of the many cultural institutions that had benefited from his philanthropic generosity, among which, of course, was the zoo.

In June 1965 the first Nationality Folk Festival was staged with dancers and musicians of many nationality groups performing for the enjoyment of zoo visitors.

The first pygmy hippopotamus born at the zoo made its appearance on June 29<sup>th</sup>, 1965.

Exciting ostrich races were run on the zoo's mall on July 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>, 1965. Several thousand people watched as celebrities from radio and television stations, print media, sports teams and political affiliations raced their feathered steeds on the straightaway race-course on the zoo's grassy mall. Winners were awarded trophies.

The Cleveland Orchestra performed at the zoo for the third successive year. The July 18<sup>th</sup>, 1965 performance was seen and heard by 17,521 visitors. All of the concerts played at the zoo by the Cleveland Orchestra were underwritten by Stouffer's and Society National Bank.

A mate for Gi-Gi, the three-year-old Orangutan, was purchased by Sealtest Foods for the Zoo. The young male came from Portland, Oregon, and was named "Bari."

The Greater Cleveland Kiwanis Clubs contributed six new display boards to the Zoo. These four-color map boards were erected at each of the three turnstile entrances, and one

each at the Bear Dens, Waterfowl Lake and Children's Farm.

Attendance at the zoo in 1965 was the third highest in zoo history, 720,266. The Children's Farm also set a new attendance record, of 140,273 persons for the year.

The ostrich races, which had proved so popular in 1965, were repeated again in June 1966 with equal success.

Bobo, Cleveland Zoo's 17 year old male Lowland Gorilla, died on March 24<sup>th</sup>, 1966. Cause of death was a brain lesion which began when Bobo was an infant, and had not caused any noticeable effects until a few weeks before his death. Bobo arrived at the Zoo in 1950, having been brought back from Africa as part of a Cleveland Zoo safari.

Teamster's Union Local #521, the union representing the Zoo's 48-man labor force of keepers, maintenance men, groundsmen, etc., went on strike at midnight, June 29<sup>th</sup> and remained on strike until midnight, July 19<sup>th</sup>. The Zoo remained open to the public during the 20-day strike, and more than 83,000 persons visited. Cause of the strike was the union's objection to a revised management clause and a revised graduated wage scale for part-time seasonal employees. Wages were not a basic issue in the dispute, since a wage increase for the 2-year contract had already been agreed to.

On December 4<sup>th</sup>, 1966, the zoo's male gorilla, "Timmy", was acquired from the Memphis Zoo. He had a chartered private plane fly him from Memphis to Cleveland. There were only two passengers: the pilot and Timmy.

The price of zoo admission was raised in June, 1967. Visitors 12 years and older paid \$.75 instead of \$.50.

On August 10<sup>th</sup>, 1967, zoo superintendent Joe Chery celebrated his 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary with the zoo.

Also in August 1967, public service director Charles Voracek and assistant superintendent Ronald Seeley presented animal programs outside the zoo for physically and mentally handicapped people, pediatric

ward patients, nursing-home patients and at other facilities where persons were not mobile enough to visit the zoo. The zoo brought joy to many hundreds of persons who were delighted to see live animals they might not otherwise have seen.

On August 16<sup>th</sup>, 1967 the one-millionth visitor passed through the barnyard gate of the Children's Farm. The Farm had then been in operation for nine years.

A zoo ground crew worker, Joseph Petkac, was severely injured by a chunk of concrete that fell on him from the Fulton Road bridge while he was loading salt into a truck parked beneath the bridge. He was totally incapacitated by the mishap and never returned to work after his injury.

On July 2<sup>nd</sup>, 1968, the Cleveland Zoo experienced a first in its animal collection when twin male Pronghorns were born. The parents had been hand reared by the Montana Fish and Game Commission, and arrived at the Cleveland Zoo in January, 1965. The twins were the mother Pronghorn's first, and the first ever born at the Cleveland Zoo.

The new Moated Bear Grottos and Hoofed Animal and Bird exhibits opened in 1969. The Bear Grottos feature four species: Kodiak, Eurasian Brown, Japanese Black and Malayan Sun.

The oldest tree on the Cleveland Zoo grounds succumbed to the ravages of time early in 1969. A White Oak (*Quercus alba*), which had been standing in 1796 when Moses Cleaveland conducted a survey party to the mouth of the Cuyahoga River and established a settlement there, was felled by a Cleveland Shade Trees Division crew. The tree stood near the Fulton Parkway entrance. A count of the rings revealed the tree to be at least 270 years old. Several cross section slices were preserved for display purposes.

Cleveland Metroparks System leased the zoo from the City of Cleveland between August 1<sup>st</sup>, 1968 and January 1<sup>st</sup>, 1970 (later extended to March 26<sup>th</sup>, 1970). The contract stipulated that on January 2<sup>nd</sup>, 1970 a sum of one million dollars would be paid to the city,

and the zoo would then be owned by Metroparks. However, approval of a .27 mill ten-year levy was necessary for the contract to be valid. Voters approved the November, 1968 issue so that transfer of the zoo could be effected as planned.

The new bear grottos and hoofed animal park were dedicated on June 20<sup>th</sup>, 1969. These exhibits featured spacious outdoor areas with pools of water, waterfalls, nicely landscaped surrounding areas, and excellent visitor viewing vistas.

Although originally scheduled for January 2<sup>nd</sup>, 1970, the actual transfer of the zoo from the City of Cleveland to Metroparks was accomplished on March 26<sup>th</sup>, 1970 because of a delay in completion of site survey work for deed purposes.

"Josie" the Jaguar was born at the Zoo in the spring of 1970, and was abandoned shortly after birth by her mother. Josie was then hand reared by the Ron Seeley family in Valley City, Ohio. Ron Seeley was an assistant superintendent of the Zoo.

On March 25<sup>th</sup> a female Pygmy Hippopotamus was born at the Zoo. The new youngster weighed a little over 16 pounds at birth.

A Women's Committee of the zoo was formed in June 1970. The first meeting of this organization had representatives of the Garden Clubs of Ohio in attendance. The committee sought financial help from that organization for a landscaping project in the polar bear and Kodiak bear areas of the zoo.

Another admission increase was put into effect in 1970. Visitors 12 years and over were now charged \$1.00, and children 2 through 11 years who were previously admitted free were now charged \$.25. The parking fee was raised to \$1.00 per vehicle.

In late September 1970 the original zoo building (the Deer House) located in Wade Park was moved across town to the Zoo where it was reconstructed at the north end of the waterfowl lake.

For a number of years there had been a teacher assigned to the zoo for City of

Cleveland school classes, but none for suburban students. During 1970 a teacher was hired to conduct classes for school students from outside the Cleveland school district.

Long time Cleveland Zoological Society executive secretary and trustee Wayne H. Thomasson passed away on March 19<sup>th</sup>, 1971.

In April 1971 the zoo hosted the Great Lakes Regional Workshop of the American Association of Zoological Parks and Aquariums.

Dedication of the relocated original Wade Park zoo building, renamed Wade Memorial Hall, was on May 28<sup>th</sup>, 1971. Descendants of Jephtha H. Wade, the founding father of the zoo, assisted financially in getting the building moved. Two of Mr. Wade's great-grandchildren, Mrs. A. Dean Perry and Mrs. Ellery Sedgwick Jr., cut the ribbon, officially opening the building. The other two great-grandchildren who supported the move, Jephtha H. Wade III and Mrs. Austin B. Chinn were unable to attend the ceremonies.

The second phase of the moated bear grottos was completed with the dedication in June, 1971, of the Kodiak and polar bear displays located on the site of the old bear dens.

The zoo's first public display of reptiles since the flood of January 1959 was held in August 1971. The Reptile Fair in the Pachyderm Building met with resounding success.

Construction of the new Servicer Building was begun in September, 1971. This building will house an animal care unit for animal medical and surgical care, a maintenance garage for zoo vehicles, maintenance shops, a commissary for animal food storage, winter quarters for animals, and an incinerator.

A severe flood deluged the zoo on June 23<sup>rd</sup>, 1972. Fortunately, no animals were drowned.

In appreciation for the generous contributions of 50 garden clubs to the zoo beautification project in the area surrounding the polar and Kodiak bear grottos, the

Women's Committee held a Family Day for garden club members and their families on August 16<sup>th</sup>, 1972.

The first Zoo-Logic course was taught in the spring of 1972. It was a joint effort between Cuyahoga Community College and the zoo, and 48 students enrolled in the first class. Teachers of the course were Richard Merrill, zoologist, and Charles Voracek, public service director.

During the spring of 1972, the Zoo, in cooperation with Cuyahoga Community College conducted a non-credit college course of instruction titled "Zoo-Logic." A total of 47 persons enrolled in the 10 week class that was planned and conducted by Richard Merrill, Zoologist, and Charles Voracek, Public Service Director. Certificates of achievement were given to all who attended the classes.

On August 24<sup>th</sup>, 1972, four lion cubs were obtained from the Omaha Zoo. A naming contest gained much publicity for the new cats.

The zoo lost one of its outstanding animal residents on October 6<sup>th</sup>, 1972 when Karen the Bongo died. A month later her mate Biff also died as he was enroute by truck to the Milwaukee Zoo where he was to join several females in hopes of siring bongo babies there.

The Stecher Animal Care Center and service building was dedicated on September 29<sup>th</sup>, 1972.

The zoo's own bus, donated by the Martha Holden Jennings Foundation, provided free transportation for groups and school classes desiring to visit the zoo. This service was instituted in May, 1973.

The Women's Committee's first gala social affair of June 20<sup>th</sup>, 1973, "Zippity Zoo Doo", was a spectacular success, socially and financially. Proceeds were used for zoo beautification.

The zoo's all time single day attendance record was set on Saturday, July 14<sup>th</sup>, 1973. It was McDonald's Day at the zoo, and the great advertising hype two weeks prior to the event brought 25,923 visitors. The previous record had been 19,063 people in August 1963.

The zoo's first successful king penguin hatching and survival occurred in August 1973.

The first Siberian Tigers at the Cleveland Zoo arrived in the summer of 1973. The male, "Elliot", was born in the Lincoln Park Zoo, Chicago, and the female, "Princess", at the Baton Rouge, La. Zoo.

The Cleveland Zoological Park now has a volunteer group that was organized during the summer, and currently numbers 25 members. Docents, as the volunteers are called, serve the Zoo in a variety of ways. Tour guide service is provided to visiting groups. Other projects include the writing of an educational guide book for school classes, setting up of slide shows, taking animals to handicapped children's hospitals, and serving as guides for special career education classes of local school systems. Training of the docents was conducted by Dick Merrill, Zoologist, and Chuck Voracek, Public Service Director.

The first square dance ever held at the Zoo was sponsored by Cilo-Teens on Sunday, August 12<sup>th</sup>.

During 1974 a riding elephant was an exciting summertime zoo attraction. Elephant races were held on the day the rides began with much publicity by the local media.

Vernon Stouffer, president of the Cleveland Zoological Society from 1957 to 1967, and an ardent supporter of the zoo for several decades, died on July 26<sup>th</sup>, 1974.

Another king penguin was successfully hatched and raised during the late summer of 1974.

Early in 1975 the zoo issued its first set of Zoo Local Post stamps, commemorating the heroic deed of "Balto", the lead dog of the famous team of sled dogs which delivered diphtheria antitoxin to Nome, Alaska in February of 1925. Balto and six other dogs of the team lived out their lives at the zoo, hence the recognition on a commemorative stamp.

Donald J. Kuenzer was appointed to the position of Assistant Curator in charge of the animal departments effective April 1<sup>st</sup>. He first became acquainted with the Zoo in 1960 when

he and a classmate, after winning a Zoo contest, joined Zoo officials on an African Safari.

On June 23<sup>rd</sup>, 1975, construction was begun on a new Primate and Cat building, located next to the Administration-Education complex.

The devastating flood of August 24<sup>th</sup>, 1975 caused much damage to zoo grounds and parking lots. The worst loss was in the sea lion pool, where the California sea lions contracted hepatitis from the polluted flood water which overflowed into their pool. All the sea lions died as a result.

On October 28<sup>th</sup>, 1975, through an agreement with the Cleveland Zoological Society, the Cleveland Metroparks System assumed complete operating responsibilities of the zoo. On that date total zoo control was vested in Metroparks. The Society became a supportive agency for the zoo.

To celebrate the bicentennial year a second set of Zoo Local Post stamps was issued. The U.S. Postal Service was present at the zoo to service first day covers, and the July 4<sup>th</sup>, 1976 special cancellation was the only one posted in Cleveland on that date. The stamps issued were a \$.10 American Bald Eagle, a \$.05 American Bison and a \$.03 American Alligator.

The 1977 highlights included the birth of two giraffes, a Zippity Zoo Doo in July and the acquisition of a young male pygmy hippotamus which had been a family pet in Liberia for several years. The young hippo had been raised with a family dog, duiker antelopes and a very young girl. Besides fruit and vegetables, "Wolee", as the hippo was called, was fond of beer and saltine crackers.

The latest admission increase instituted in 1978 changed the fee to \$2.00 for visitors 12 years and older and \$1.00 for children 2 through 11 years.

Joe Chery, who had been employed at the zoo for nearly 41 years, most of them as general superintendent, retired in June of 1978.

The zoo's long awaited new Primate and Cat Building was completed in the spring of 1978. Dedication of the new facility was on Friday, June 23<sup>rd</sup>. The new exhibit building, the

first major building to be built at the zoo since 1956, featured monkeys, apes, big and small cats, small mammals of species other than felines and primates, and nocturnal mammals in a "Creatures of the Night" section. Interior rock work and simulated trees were furnished by many individuals, companies and organizations supportive of the zoo.

After nearly 22 years of dedicated service, zoo director Leonard J. Goss retired. A retirement party in his honor was held at the Primate and Cat Building on January 30<sup>th</sup>, 1979. Honors accorded him for his long and faithful directorship included a citation from the American Association of Zoological Parks and Aquariums, and dedication of the Primate and Cat Building in his name. This facility was the last major animal exhibit building to be completed during Dr. Goss' tenure as director.

On February 19<sup>th</sup>, 1979 Tara, one of the zoo's two 26-year-old African elephants died of a stroke. Many concerned area citizens contributed to a fund started for the purpose of purchasing a replacement elephant.

A new zoo director, Michael N. Vitantonio, was appointed on May 21<sup>st</sup>, 1979. He had been serving as interim director since December 1<sup>st</sup>, 1978.

The 1979 Zippity Zoo Doo on June 20<sup>th</sup>, 1979 was staged for the purpose of raising funds for the purchase of a young African elephant to replace the departed Tara. Although the party-goers were unaware, the replacement elephant was already at the zoo. Off display and in quarantine, the two-year-old female Asiatic elephant had arrived on May 27<sup>th</sup>. The purchase price, \$13,000.00, was covered by the contributions of private contributors and proceeds from the Zippity Zoo Doo.

A naming contest to name the new baby elephant was conducted by the Plain Dealer and zoo during the summer of 1979. The winning name, "Tiani", was selected from among the more than 5,000 entries submitted.

A New Year's Eve tragedy befell the barasingha deer herd on December 31<sup>st</sup>, 1979. An intruder gained access to the deer paddock

and killed one of the deer with a bow and arrow. A second deer, fleeing in panic because of the intrusion, injured itself so severely that it had to be destroyed. A third deer in the herd also died as a result of fright and exhaustion sustained in running from the malevolent archer. The culprit was later apprehended and jailed.

In February, 1980, Ellen Leach, a keeper in the pachyderm building, was shifting a male pygmy hippo from one enclosure to another and was knocked down by the animal and sustained cuts, bruises and broken ribs. Ms. Leach recovered quickly after a brief hospital stay.

During the summer of 1980 a deck extending from Wade Hall out into the waterfowl lake was constructed. Tables and umbrellas provided for delightful visitor viewing of the lake and its aquatic birds. On either side of the deck lagoons were created. On one side a brown pelican display was featured, and on the other a flock of flamingos.

Notable births and hatchings included four white storks, five Catalina macaws, several Geoffroy's tamarin, and best of all, the first polar bear cubs to survive more than a few days. The two cubs were born in November, but were not publicly displayed until the following March. They thrived and grew rapidly, and eventually were sold and shipped to Germany.

Eight black-backer duikers were acquired in November, 1980. This was one of the largest herds of this rare species of African antelope exhibited in captivity.

In January 1981, the zoo's first grizzly bear cubs were born. They also did very well, and were later shipped to another zoo.

March 1981 was the month of the gorilla. "Emmy", a female gorilla from the Columbus Zoo, arrived with great fanfare. To make room for her, "Yogi", the Cleveland Metroparks Zoo's female gorilla which had been in residence since 1950, was sent off to the Buffalo Zoo on a breeding loan. Emmy, also on a breeding loan, became somewhat of an animal celebrity, but when she was introduced to

Timmy, the male gorilla, he would have nothing to do with her. It was a cold romance that has not yet flowered into compatible courtship with baby gorillas as the bottom line.

In April, 1981 the zoo paired up its lone female lesser panda, "Marsha", with a male obtained on breeding loan from the National Zoo in Washington, D.C.

On April 20<sup>th</sup>, 1981, the Metroparks Board created a position of curator of education and appointed Mr. Richard D. Nemeth to fill it. The new education department was instituted to accommodate the needs of classroom students from pre-school age through the college level.

Completion of the deck walk along the hillside behind the primate and cat building and the opening of the new restaurant, picnic patio and shelter, and the entranceway at Fulton Parkway were accomplished early in 1981. The new section, called "Upland Commons" gave a fresh new attractive appearance to the southwest portion of the zoo adjacent to the administration building and primate and cat building.

After a one-year absence, Zippity Zoo Doo was held on July 15<sup>th</sup>, 1981. The Women's Committee benefit social affair was staged for the purchase of flamingos and for the construction of a new flamingo exhibit to grace the new entranceway, "Zoogate Commons", at the Brookside Park Drive entrance to the zoo.

The Sohio Amphitheatre, built on the site of the old City of Cleveland swimming pool, was dedicated on July 29<sup>th</sup>, 1981. The new facility featured a great variety of musical groups, theatrical performances, and other entertainers during the summer and fall following its opening. The major cost of the amphitheater was funded by Sohio.

In November 1981, contracts were let for the construction of a new sea lion and seal pool to be constructed near the polar bear grotto. Contracts were also let for the Zoogate Commons project which will provide for a new admission entrance, visitor information center, library, classrooms, auditorium, administrative and education department offices, exhibit hall,

gift shop, tour train station, concession facilities and a showcase flamingo display.

Among the more exotic animals born in 1981 were two leopard cubs, a zebra foal and, on the last day of the year, a llama. A male reindeer was purchased to pair up with the two females in residence.

During the latter part of December, the zoo's administrative-education center became the administration building for the headquarters staff of the Cleveland Metroparks System, which vacated its 55 Public Square offices. A complete renovation of the zoo building was necessary to accommodate the many departments and personnel relocated in the move.

1982 heralded the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Cleveland Metroparks Zoo. It was a year of many changes and additions, both building and animal wise. In January a trio of Kodiak bear cubs were born, the first animal births of 1982. By the end of April a ring-tailed lemur, a jaguar and a spider monkey were added to the list of new births for the year.

The official centennial celebration for the zoo was held on June 5<sup>th</sup>. The Board of Park Commissioners, Metroparks Executive Director and Secretary, and Zoo Director presided over ceremonies held in the Metroparks Administration Building. Zoo docents helped to pass out pieces of commemorative birthday cake at the Primate and Cat Building. Recognition was given to keeper Vince Rimedio for his 32 years of devoted service to the zoo.

The centennial year was highlighted by a Cleveland Zoological Society Women's Committee Zippity Zoo Doo on June 30<sup>th</sup>. Proceeds from this gala fund raising activity were earmarked for the zoo's Endangered Species Program.

The Seal and Sea Lion Pool Exhibit adjacent to the Polar Bear Grotto was dedicated on July 25<sup>th</sup>, 1982. The \$500,000.00 display included an electronically monitored, 50,000-gallon, continuously re-circulated filtered pool, and the wall facings were of natural stone obtained from Euclid Creek

reservation of Metroparks. Five California Sea Lions and four Harbor Seals enjoyed the new facility when it opened to the public.

September 5<sup>th</sup>, 1982 was the actual founding date centennial, but no special activities were planned to celebrate the day. This had been done earlier in the year.

During late spring and all summer the Education Department's "Zoo School" programs were presented to audiences in the Sohio Amphitheater as well as in classrooms of schools throughout greater Cleveland. The ten individual specialized programs were well received and additional programs were planned to further expand the Education Department's scope of activities.

On September 23<sup>rd</sup> the American Association of Zoological Parks and Aquariums gave the Cleveland Metroparks Zoo accreditation, meaning that standards and credentials were of the highest caliber according to the members of the official accreditation committee of the AAZPA. It was a fitting birthday present for the zoo during its centennial year.

A group of 21 animals was sent to Cleveland by the Cincinnati Zoo during September. These included ruffed lemurs, snow leopards, Siberian lynx and pampas cats. They were sent on a temporary basis to be kept in Cleveland until the Cincinnati primate and cat facility was finished, probably some time in 1984.

The outstanding animal births during 1982 came when the two adult polar bear females each gave birth to one cub. This was only the second time that polar bear cubs were born and survived here at the zoo. The first surviving cubs were born in 1980, and eventually sold to a zoo in West Germany.

The animal inventory on January 1<sup>st</sup>, 1983 listed 422 mammals, 690 birds, 52 reptiles and one amphibian in the collection.

During the month of February curator Don Kuenzer and veterinarian Dr. Anthony Lesh visited West Africa and made a number of important contacts there in the interest of establishing sources of animal availability.

Such sources will be very vital when new exhibit areas are completed at the zoo and no local sources for desired African fauna can be found. They also visited the Rio Primate Center in Rio de Janeiro.

The new public greenhouse was opened on Easter Sunday, 1983.

ZooGate Commons, the main entrance complex adjacent to Brookside Park Drive was dedicated on May 16<sup>th</sup>, 1983. The new area included the Administration-Education Center, Gift Shop, Refreshment Center, Flamingo and Macaw display and Photo Garden. The Education unit features an auditorium, classroom, library and exhibit hall.

During the latter half of May and early June zoo director Michael Vitantonio and Cleveland Metroparks System director of planning, design, engineering and natural resources Terry Ries went on a study tour of seven European zoos (London, Edinburgh, Amsterdam, Copenhagen, Frankfurt, Zurich and Barcelona). The Cleveland Zoological Society sponsored the trip in support of gaining information relative to use of space, exhibit design, botanical architecture, and other aspects of zoo planning for the purpose of keeping current with modern zoo technology and for future ideas and innovations implemented in the Cleveland Metroparks Zoo.

A joint cooperative research project was engaged in by the Metroparks Zoo, the Cleveland Zoological Society, the World Wildlife Fund and the Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute during the summer and fall of 1983. Carol Skinner, research associate for the zoo and the Cleveland Zoological Society, went to Panama to document the life history and population status in the wild of the Geoffroy's tamarins, small primates of the marmoset group. This study was conducted to aid the zoo's captive breeding project with the group of eleven Geoffroy's tamarins residing at the zoo.

On June 29<sup>th</sup> the Women's Committee of the Cleveland Zoological Society held its annual Zippy Zoo Doo, with the proceeds of

\$60,000.00 going toward the purchase of additional penguins for display at the new Birds of the World building.

The Cleveland Zoological Society contributed additional financial support to the Endangered Species Program and for educational purposes. Total Cleveland Zoological funds given to the zoo during 1983 was \$119,892.42.

An opera, composed for performance at the zoo, highlighted the Labor Day weekend. The zoopera, entitled "The Enchanted Garden", featured animal characters and was performed by the Cleveland Opera Company at the Sohio Amphitheatre.

Another stage production, "A Midsummer Night's Dream" was performed at the amphitheater during the latter part of August. Cleveland Public Theatre provided the cast.

Major animal births and hatchings during 1983 included two ring-tailed lemurs, two ruffed lemurs, three caracal lynx, a snow leopard, Grant's zebra, white-handed gibbon, a king penguin and several scarlet and military macaws.

The much-needed resurfacing of Brookside Park Drive between Fulton Parkway and West 25<sup>th</sup> Street was accomplished near the end of the year.

March 27<sup>th</sup>, 1984 marked the dedication of the new Birds of the World Building.

On May 22<sup>nd</sup> the new African Plain was dedicated. This exhibit occupies a six-acre site between the Birds of the World Building and Monkey Island. Divided into three compounds, it is home to giraffes, zebra, antelopes, vultures and other African animals. Visitors are separated by only dry moats, and can view all three compounds from several overlooks. The new lion exhibit is adjacent to Africa and illustrates the predator/prey relationship of animals. Separated by a dry moat, the lions overlook, but cannot reach, their traditional prey.

June, 1984 was proclaimed Zoo and Aquarium Month by Charles L. Bieler, president of the American Association of Zoological Parks and Aquariums.

On August 29<sup>th</sup> a white Bengal Tiger, "Jaipur" went on exhibit. Jaipur is on loan from the Cincinnati Zoo, and was at Metroparks Zoo until mid-November.

Fall of 1984 featured the Zoo Film Festival. A number of Animal- or Nature-related films were shown in the Auditorium on Saturday afternoons, free with zoo admission.

In September Ring-tailed Lemurs and White-handed Gibbons were exhibited on islands in the Waterfowl Lake.

Notable births during 1984 were two chimpanzees, the first ever for this species at CMZ, three polar bears, one snow leopard, one Humboldt penguin, one lion-tailed macaque and several Geoffroy's tamarins. Acquired during the year were two baby orang-utans, three black-backed duikers, two Masai giraffe, four blesbok, three red lechwe, four Beisa oryx and three roan antelope.

In the spring of 1985 the Zoogate Commons Picnic Pavilion was completed and opened. This facility accommodates 600-700 people.

Also in the spring the Cleveland Zoological Society announced that three separate donations had been made, totaling \$200,000.00, to be used for the White Rhino exhibit and African animal acquisition. In addition to this, the 1985 Zippity Zoo Doo raised funds for the White Rhino exhibit. This exhibit was constructed during the summer, and located next to Monkey Island.

On March 21, 1985, 10 Macaroni Penguins arrived at Cleveland Metroparks Zoo. They were wild, caught in Chile, and purchase for the zoo by the Cleveland Zoological Society.

During the summer and fall Monkey Island was renovated. There was a new gunite facing of the entire island, plus new landscaping and waterfalls were added. Construction of new winter quarters in a separate building was initiated, scheduled for completion in early 1986.

The Education Department continued to expand by adding six ZooSchool programs, bringing the total to twenty-four. Education Specialists conducted 479 classroom



presentations accommodating 28,336 individuals both in and out of the Zoo, a 38 percent increase over 1984.

The now-defunct Cleveland Aquarium in Gordon Park closed permanently in 1985 and moved its collection of fishes and invertebrates to the Zoo. A portion of the new Cat and Primate building was renovated and became the Aquatics Exhibit. It features a diverse selection of aquatic life from living corals and octopi to several shark.

In April, 1986 the Birds of Prey exhibit was completed. A nesting area was created for the bald eagles, and an additional pair of these birds was obtained as founder stock for the bald eagle breeding program.

In June the zoo opened 35 new Aquatic Exhibits at the Primate, Cat and Aquatics Building. The Aquatic Exhibit includes Australian lungfish, cuttlefish, yellow tang, freshwater stingray and blacktipped, lemon and leopard sharks.

Also in June, the three white rhinos were introduced to their new exhibit. Included in this display is an outdoor paddock to be shared by both white rhinos and cheetahs.

With the renovation of Monkey Island complete, the cougars were moved into their new outdoor exhibit (formerly the rhesus monkey holding area).

The Education Department addressed itself to the ongoing program of upgrading exhibit labels and graphics text throughout the zoo. The Primate, Cat and Aquatics Building received special attention in this regard.

The Fanner Co. building and land were acquired in 1986. The new Tropical Rain Forest complex is to be built around the foundation and walls of this building. Additional parking lot space will be added behind this building to accommodate overflow from the main parking lot.

On June 24<sup>th</sup>, 1987 Zippity Zoo Doo, the Cleveland Zoological Society's fund raising benefit was held, with proceeds to go toward the Rainforest Exhibit.

Summer of 1987 marked the opening of the renovated Australasian Exhibit and Outback Railroad and train station.

A wood deck-walk was built behind the pachyderm building for viewing hippos, tapirs and other animal exhibits.

On August 21<sup>st</sup> the Rare and Beautiful Animals of China exhibit opened, located in a special section of the Primate, Cat and Aquatics Building.

In 1987 the Horticulture Department began the process of categorizing all species and varieties of plant material at the zoo. This data will be developed into an inventory system describing location, type and usage of the plants.

A new educational program was started, called "Reading, Writing and Rhinos" for fourth grade summer reading classes.

The annual Zippity Zoo Doo was held on June 24<sup>th</sup>, 1987. Funds went toward the proposed Rainforest exhibit.

The seventh annual Zoo-Pendous Fun Day was enjoyed by 1,200 members, the largest attendance ever. Slide programs featuring the zoo and its animals were shown in the auditorium. The Animal Reptile Fair was held in the Exhibit Hall.

The Rainforest Exhibit entered the construction phase. The first phase entailed gutting the building, and construction of a new roof and addition, as well as mechanical and electrical work.

In November the Metroparks Zoo and Cleveland Zoological Society hosted a delegation from the Beijing, China Zoo and their interpreter.

In 1988 the Zoo Library received a donation of 543 Bird Books from Patricia Sutherland, a resident of Brooklyn. The books have been appraised at over \$10,000.00.

Al Sironen, Assistant Curator, attended an international conference of 450 specialists from around the world to discuss ways to save endangered plant and animal species. The conference was held October 9–12 in Cincinnati, Ohio.

In September the Zoo received a pair of clouded leopards from China, for permanent exhibit.

1989 brought Cleveland Metroparks Zoo a new director: Steve H. Taylor.

Wyse Advertising donated creative time and expertise to produce quality television and radio commercials for the zoo. One advertisement featuring faces of various animals and a child, won Best of Show in the 1989 Cleveland Society of Communicating Arts competition.

Another successful Zippity Zoo Doo raised \$110,000.00 for the zoo.

The birth of a siamang was the first ever in the history of CMZ.

A survey in August of 1989 revealed that 97% of the zoo's visitors questioned rated their visit to the facility as excellent or good.

The zoo established its first Conservation Day, held in June, and its first Recycling Day, held in August.

A mission statement, as follows:

*The Cleveland Metroparks Zoo is first and foremost dedicated to the responsible stewardship of our natural environment through exhibition of living animals and plants and programs in wildlife education and conservation. The zoo will be recognized as a quality attraction for people of all ages and the pride of Greater Cleveland.* was adopted March 22, 1989 by the Board of Park Commissioners.

With the help of the Cleveland Zoological Society, the zoo hosted a City Council Night on June 29<sup>th</sup>, 1989 during which all the Cleveland City Council members and their families toured the zoo. In addition, the Visitor's Bureau of Greater Cleveland chose the zoo as the site for its membership mixer on September 21, 1989.

A new Curator of Education, Robert Mindick, was added to the staff in November, 1989. Prior to his appointment, the Education staff, along with the docents did an excellent job of implementing various programs, and even adding some new ones.

Dr. Albert Lewandowski became the zoo's first full-time veterinarian in April, 1989.

Rhonda Kesek was hired as the zoo's first veterinary technician in October, 1989. Dr. Lewandowski organized the hospital and purchased equipment to ensure a first-class animal health facility.

A registrar was also added to the animal care staff in 1989. Pamela Krentz, formerly of the Houston Zoo, is responsible for animal records and inventories.

Operating expenses for the zoo in 1989 were \$4,986,780.00.

On February 1<sup>st</sup>, 1990, Stan Searles joined CMZ as Curator of Birds. Stan was most recently Vice President/General Curator of Sea World of Ohio.

The Birds of Prey Shows began on May 26<sup>th</sup>, and continued daily through September 3<sup>rd</sup> at the Amphitheater. Presented by the Tyson Raptor Center, the shows are exciting and educational. They are free with regular zoo admission. There are three shows daily.

Kribi Kate, a 37-year-old female gorilla arrived in May on loan from the Kansas City Zoo and was successfully introduced to the Zoo's male gorilla, Timmy.

More than 37,000 visitors attended Earth Day, 1990, the largest crowd ever recorded at the zoo on a single day.

The "Meet the Keeper" and "Get Close" programs, as well as the new Animal Resource Karts (ARKS) provided the public with one-to-one dialogue with Zoo staff and docents. They also allowed visitors a hands-on experience with live animals and biofacts (skulls, fur, etc.).

Zoo attendance in 1990 hit a new record of 872,713 visitors.

Operating expenses for the zoo in 1990 were \$5,455,713.00

In 1991 the Education Division was the recipient of a new van donated by the Ryan Foundation. The van, named "Ryan's Roving Rainforest", was painted brightly with rainforest plants and animals, and is used by the Education staff for outreach and other educational programs.

Recreational programs were expanded in 1991. "Boo at the Zoo" was expanded to five evenings, and 26,887 people attended,

compared to 10,000 people who attended in 1990. Holiday Lights was expanded to ten evenings in 1990, and was once again extremely successful. Other major 1991 events included: Zoopendous Fun Day, Reptile Fair, Earth Day '91, Old Brookly Days, Birds of Prey Shows, Ryan's Run, Jelly Paws Birthday, Rhino Awareness Day, and Cleveland Cool Day.

Zoo operating expenditures for 1991 were \$5,648,405.

In 1992 historic Wade Hall, built originally in 1884, was restored to its original grandeur. Instead of deer and hoofstock, however, the building was modified to house a Victorian Ice Cream shop.

On June 17<sup>th</sup>, 1992, a litter of four male cheetahs was born at CMZ. The cubs were the first for the mother and father, and also the first cheetahs ever born at the zoo. Cheetahs typically do not breed well in zoos, and birth survival rates tend to be low.

More than half of all second graders in the zoo's taxing district (both public and private schools) visited the zoo as part of the Education Division's nationally-recognized second-grade curriculum. In addition, the zoo's free bus transported over 16,000 area school children in 1992.

The highlight of the year, of course, was the opening of the Rainforest on November 14<sup>th</sup>, 1992. 796 people attended the Opening Gala. Many of the guests were new to zoo events, but their enthusiasm insured that they would return for other zoo activities. During the first six weeks the Rainforest attracted 102,636 visitors. Total zoo attendance for the year was a new record, 935,006.

In 1993 the zoo greatly improved its visitor services by utilizing Ogden Entertainment Services to operate food service. Along with improved food quality and service, all food concession stands were renovated with new equipment, tables and counters. The old main concession stand was demolished and replaced with the Roaring Lion Cafe. In addition, Novelty Ventures, the zoo's gift concessionaire, renovated or built from the ground up four gift shops.

In December 1992, a permanent part-time librarian was hired to spearhead the 1993 reorganization of the zoo's 3,000-volume library.

Dr. Hugh Quinn, former director of the Topeka Zoo and curator at the Houston Zoo, was hired as General Curator.

Annual attendance hit a new record of 1,439,948 visitors.

Cleveland Metroparks signed a ninety-nine year lease with the City of Cleveland for Brookside Park, 141 acres located next to the zoo. The acquisition allows for zoo expansion on part of the new property.

In April of 1994, EarthFest '94 was the highest single-day attendance in the zoo's history, with more than 50,000 visitors.

The RainForest Connection, the zoo's 6<sup>th</sup> grade education program, won the Education Award for Excellence from the American Zoo and Aquarium Association.

A new logo was developed for CMZ.

Contract was awarded for schematic design of Wolf Wilderness and the Australian Family Ranch.

CMZ recorded its second highest annual attendance in 1994 with 1,262,059 visitors.

The research program took a big step forward during 1994 when the zoo received an Institute of Museum Services grant to hire a coordinator of Scientific Research. Dr. Patricia McDaniel started in that position early in 1995.

The veterinary services section expanded this year with the addition of a part-time veterinarian and a veterinary extern program.

Two clouded leopards were hand-raised in 1994 because of a concern for the kittens based on previous parenting behavior of the adults. Keepers cared for the babies at the Zoo during the day, then took them home at night to feed and give them the attention they needed. In six weeks the kittens made the Zoo their permanent home, an important step in conditioning them for life with other clouded leopards.

Cleveland Metroparks Zoo and the Cleveland Zoological Society were saddened by the death of Frederick Crawford on

December 9<sup>th</sup>, 1994. Frederick Crawford, as everyone may not be aware, was Chairman of the Cleveland Zoological Society when it took over management of the zoo in 1957.

1995 brought some births to the animal population. Rosenberg's Tree Frogs and Orange-Fronted Barbets reproduced, this was the first time either of these species had ever reproduced in any zoo, worldwide.

Along with the births, however, there were, unfortunately, deaths. Two African Elephants, Simba and Tribby, died in 1995. Also Oscar, an older male gorilla, suffered a fatal heart attack.

During the summer the Public Greenhouse was transformed into a Tropical Butterfly Garden. Visitors walked among 25 species of butterflies. These butterflies were farm-bred in Malaysia and the Philippines.

A visitor survey was conducted during the summer of 1995. Respondents expressed overall satisfaction with their Zoo visit with 98% saying they were very satisfied or satisfied, would visit again, and would recommend the Zoo to others.

During 1995 the Zoo Society hired a consultant to complete a Strategic Feasibility Study. This report clearly demonstrated that the Society could increase its commitment to the Zoo. The report recommended sixteen action steps which would position the Society to contribute two million dollars annually to the Zoo by the year 2000.

Hand-held audio wands were acquired for The Rainforest and sponsored by Cellular One. The Cellular One Rainforest Audio Adventure offers visitors a more personal, narrated educational tour of the exhibit.

Rose Wolf, the Zoo's first part-time librarian, retired in 1995. Holly Gamble was hired in May and has expanded services by offering the public access to the library two days a week.

Okpara, the two-year old son of Cleveland's well-known gorilla Timmy, arrived at CMZ this year. Timmy was transferred to the Bronx Zoo in 1991 amidst controversy. The purpose of the move was for

him to realize his reproductive potential, an important element in the conservation of gorillas. Timmy's life in the "Big Apple" has been highly productive, as he has now sired four babies. Okpara was accompanied by Little Joe, another two-year old who was born at the Bronx Zoo.

Bob Mindick, the Zoo's Education Curator since 1989, resigned in 1995 to take another position.

Work began in 1995 on a 3,000 square foot production greenhouse for winter holding of display plant material, and holding tropical plants for the Rainforest.

The Animal Care division began a keeper training course in 1995. The seventeen-class course reviewed such topics as zookeeping basics, animal behavior, zoo safety, animal handling and restraint, and animal nutrition. All keepers were required to attend, and all new keepers will take the course during their first six months on the job.

The Animal Care division was restructured to allow curators more time to scientifically manage the animal collection and participate in conservation initiatives. The restructure was also designed to improve communication and to better utilize the skills of lead keepers.

Volunteers had a tremendous impact on the Zoo's operation, particularly with educational and visitor programs. 450 volunteers contributed a total of 45,679 hours in 1995.

Cleveland voters overwhelmingly passed a ten-year Cleveland Metroparks renewal levy which significantly affects the Zoo.

CMZ's operating expenditures for 1995 were \$8,330,831.00.

1996 marked the beginning of construction of the Wolf Wilderness Exhibit. Wolf Wilderness was the most significant capital project since the 1992 opening of the Rainforest.

In addition, work was begun on the design of Kookaburra Station, the Australian Exhibit that will replace the Children's Farm, and should open in 1999.

In April the Zoo transferred its single remaining African Elephant, Tiani, to the Gladys Porter Zoo in Brownsville, Texas. The temporary absence of elephants allowed the staff to renovate the Pachyderm Building with an elephant-restraining device. This will provide better safety for elephant keepers and their animals by limiting direct contact between the two.

Also in April, Vicki Davison, formerly of Zoo Atlanta, was hired as Curator of Education.

Zoo staff worked with the Ohio Department of Natural Resources on trumpeter swan reintroduction. Eggs were collected in Alaska and hatched at the Zoo. Thirty birds were taken to the WILDS in central Ohio to be raised until they were old enough to be released throughout Ohio.

Two young female Siberian Tigers, born at the Denver Zoo, arrived at CMZ in the spring. Also, one male and three female sun bears, which were confiscated as illegal pets, were also obtained from Malaysia.

KeyBank sponsored the return of ZooKeys in 1996. These new ZooKeys feature a more high-tech, magnetically-coded key card that plays two different messages from a memory chip inside a solar-powered story box. Over 25,000 KeyBank ZooKeys were sold. A portion of the proceeds helped support rain forest conservation programs.

The Zoo entered cyberspace in 1996. Along with Kaleidoscope, Inc., Zoo Marketing built an interactive web site that can be found at [www.clemetzoo.com](http://www.clemetzoo.com).

A part-time librarian and twenty-five volunteers operated the library for Zoo staff from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. daily, and for the general public two days per week. Circulation increased from 1,672 items in 1995 to 2,011 in 1996. In addition, 1,548 information requests were answered, a 36% increase from 1995. Questions come in via mail, telephone, personal interviews and e-mail. An automated catalogue system was also installed in the library.

Dan Moreno retired in 1996, and will be missed by the Animal Care staff. Dan was

formerly the director of the Cleveland Aquarium, and transferred to the Zoo when the Aquarium closed in 1986.

Late in 1996, Susan Marshall became the first-ever Executive Director of the Cleveland Zoological Society.

On Friday, May 9<sup>th</sup>, 1997 Wolf Wilderness opened to the public. This new exhibit is home to a pack of five wolves, plus beavers, bald eagles, and many other animals. The exhibit presents 260 specimens representing 32 species of invertebrates, fishes, amphibians, reptiles, birds and mammals.

A female orangutan, Chiquita, arrived from the Toledo Zoo. She is a hybrid Orang and is not part of a breeding program. However, she had excellent mothering skills. Should a baby orangutan be abandoned by its mother at any North American Zoo, Chiquita may be enlisted to care for the infant.

In June three new elephants joined the Zoo's animal collection. Jo, age 30 and Moshi, age 21 came from Wildlife Safari in Winston, Oregon, and Kiah, age 13, came from the Erie, Pennsylvania Zoo.

Two Persian Leopards were obtained from the San Diego Zoo, and CMZ also imported a female black rhinoceros to provide a mate for the male black rhino.

Several animals were sent from Cleveland to other zoos, primarily for reproductive purposes. These included a clouded leopard to Ireland, an orangutan to Toledo, and two four-year old gorillas to Boston. Two young gorillas, Little Joe and Okpara, were sent to Boston to form a family group with a pair of adults, enabling the youngsters to learn appropriate social skills necessary to become functional, reproductive adults. Llamas, guanacos, miniature horses and Patagonian Cavies were sent to other institutions to clear the site that will be the future home of Australian Adventure.

For the fifth consecutive year, the Zoo attracted well over one million visitors. Attendance in 1997 was 1,247,125 people. June and July were two of the best attendance months in CMZ history.

Parks Victoria in Melbourne, Australia participated in a staff exchange with Cleveland Metroparks by loaning the services of Joanne Davies and Caroline Pitcher to the Zoo Education Division from September through December. Joanne and Caroline helped authenticate programs and exhibit design for Australian Adventures.

The Horticulture Staff contributed a great deal to the successful opening of Wolf Wilderness. The plants provide seasonal interest while creating a forest environment inside the exhibit and along the walkways. Over 100 deciduous and evergreen trees and 250 shrubs and understory trees were added to the area. The "sod" roof on the gift shop is one of the unique landscape features of this exhibit.

Dr. Patricia McDaniel left her permanent position at the Zoo to live in Venezuela and become the Zoo's coordinator of Latin American Programs. Dr. Tamara Bettinger, formerly with the Tulsa Zoo, replaced her in Cleveland as Coordinator of Scientific Research.

The Zoological Society formalized a contractual agreement with Cleveland Metroparks Board of Park Commissioners. The Society agreed to transfer a percentage of gross revenue from membership sales to Cleveland Metroparks (55% initially which will increase over three years to a maximum of 70%). In exchange, Zoo members will have the benefit of unlimited free admission to the Zoo and the Rainforest. The agreement formalized the Society's commitment to support the Zoo and it acknowledges the vital interdependence of the two organizations.

1998 Highlights include the winning of two achievement awards from AZA - one for the Wolf Wilderness Exhibit, and one for the Wolf Wilderness Educational Programs.

Also, in 1998 the Zoo's staff and programs were featured in a local children's television show entitled "KaZoo: Kids at the Zoo." It aired every Saturday morning beginning in June.

The Board of Park Commissioners awarded a construction contract for Australian

Adventure, the new children's area. Construction began in May, and opening is scheduled for May 2000.

Zoo attendance reached nearly 1.2 million, due in part to a white alligator display in the Rainforest, an innovative bird show in the Amphitheater, and the Butterfly Garden.

The Zoo's involvement in Latin America continued to grow, although Venezuela continues to be a primary focus. We currently support Venezuelan programs involving the reintroduction of Andean condors, conservation education focusing on condors and spectacled bears, and a field course, "Tropical Ecology and Conservation Biology.

Horticultural Improvements for 1998 were many and diverse. The staff officially moved into its new Horticultural Resource Center. There is a reference and design area, and storage space for equipment and supplies.

Six future capital projects were considered, and top priority was given to a new Veterinary Hospital and Research Center. This project was spurred by an initial gift of \$1.5 million from an anonymous donor.

To help visitors find their way around the Zoo more easily, a new gate brochure was produced, "You Are Here Maps" were placed at various locations around the Zoo, and new area banners and directional signs were installed.

In the spring of 1999 Tammie Bettinger, Coordinator of Scientific Studies, and Dr. Hugh Quinn, General Curator, traveled to Uganda. They began a population census of reptiles and amphibians, paying particular attention to the effects of logging. They also explored the possibility of setting up a field study course for U.S. and Ugandan university students, similar to the highly successful Zoo-CSU course in Venezuela. In addition, they met with park researchers on a primate habituation project, designed to accustom the animals to close—but hands-off—observation by tourists.

Dr. Leonard J. Goss, director of the Zoo from 1958 until his retirement in 1979, passed away in Asheville, North Carolina on March 6<sup>th</sup>, 1999. In 1971 Dr. Goss brought an

important piece of history to the Zoo by having the original Wade Park deer barn moved to the Waterfowl lake.

1999 was an award-winning year for the Zoo's Education Division. The distance learning program, "Ohio Wetlands - Ruin, Reintroduction and Recovery," earned a significant achievement award from the AZA. The program also received a second place award from the National Association of Interpreters, and first place for its corresponding website, "Return to the Wild."

A visitor survey conducted during the summer of 1999 evaluated quality of food, gifts, tram use and courtesy of employees. Those categories received good to very good ratings. In addition, respondents rated their overall satisfaction with the Zoo visit and the value for dollar spent on a scale from "1" (extremely dissatisfied/poor value) to "10" (extremely satisfied/excellent value). The mean score for satisfaction of visit was 8.5 and value for the dollar was 8.0.

The horticulture staff installed landscaping throughout the Australian Adventure area to simulate various Australian environments such as grassland, bushland, and wetland. Plants were selected based on their similarities to bark, leaf and overall growth characteristics for native plants.

The Cleveland Zoological Society surpassed its goals for growth in both membership and fund-raising. The contribution to Cleveland Metroparks set a new record: \$2,315,134. The Capital Campaign for Australian Adventure concluded with a total of \$4.6 million, exceeding the original goal of \$4 million.

On October 16<sup>th</sup>, 1999, the Northern Ohio Association of Herpetologists celebrated their 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary by offering a program at the Zoo featuring Richard Bartlett, naturalist, herpetologist, wildlife photographer, lecturer, and authority on the captive care of amphibians and reptiles.

Some of the major accomplishments by the Zoo included:

\* New streetlights and asphalt on the walkway from the Welcome Plaza to Australian Adventure.

\* "Public misters" which produce a very fine spray of water to refresh Zoo guests on warm days.

\* A new thatched-roof observation hut near the zebra yard, and an African-style rope and post fence.

New animals acquired for Australian Adventure were: Bennett's Wallabies, Feather Gliders, Frilled Lizards, Goodfellow's Tree Kangaroos, Gray Kangaroos, Koalas, Kowaris, Lorikeets, Merino Sheep, Parma Wallabies and Wallaroos.

The Zoo had its first-ever birth of a sloth in 1999. In addition, the birth of a pacarana was significant, as there are only eight of these large rodents in zoos outside South America.

We were saddened by the loss of Tammy, the Zoo's elderly chimpanzee. She was afflicted with an incurable brain disease.

We look forward eagerly to the opening of the Australian Adventure in June of 2000. Also, in 2000 staff will begin working with architects on the design of a new Veterinary Hospital.

In May of 2000, CMZ, AZA's Bear Taxonomic Group and Northwest Airlines helped rescue and transfer ten Malayan Sun Bears from Borneo to the U.S. These bears were all former pets that were confiscated according to Malaysian law governing endangered species. They were considered "nonreleasable" to the wild. Along with ten others that were rescued in 1996, they will form the nucleus of a zoo-held, Malaysian-owned, protected breeding group in Cleveland and nine other American zoos.

Beginning June third, 2000, and continuing on through the seventh, various preview events at the Australian Adventure exhibit were held. The official opening to the public was on June eighth. Several new animals were on display there, including Koalas, Wallaroos and Lorikeets. This was also the reopening of the miniature railroad, which runs through the Australian exhibit. The

Australian Adventure exhibit boosted attendance for 2000 to 1,344,311 visitors, a 13% increase over 1999.

In late afternoon of August 31<sup>st</sup>, Inge, our Black Rhinoceros, went into labor. She delivered an 80 pound baby, temporarily named "Anna." Later there was a contest in the Cleveland Schools to name the new baby. The winning name was "Azizi", which is the Zimbabwe word for "precious". This birth was significant, as black rhinos are critically endangered. Today it is thought that there are fewer than 3,000 remaining in the wild.

For the third consecutive year, CMZ conducted a Zoo Biology and Management course in conjunction with Oklahoma State University. The course provides senior or graduate level university students an opportunity to learn the science behind managing a progressive zoo. The course has become known as "Zoo Boot Camp" and lasts eight hours a day for two weeks.

The Zoo website, [www.clemetzoo.com](http://www.clemetzoo.com), now averages nearly eight million hits per year. It is updated weekly, and offers secure credit card transactions, generating thousands of dollars in revenue. It features live camera images, a virtual tour, interactive puzzles, a monthly newsletter, and job postings.

An elevated viewing platform was added to the African Savanna exhibit. The overlook was designed and built by Zoo maintenance staff. African artifacts were purchased to enhance the experience. The raised deck has a long access ramp for wheelchairs and strollers.

In October the RainForest was closed for a two-week renovation and general spruce-up. The fabricated trees were structurally reinforced and refinished to give them a more realistic look. New carpeting was installed on the first floor in the main viewing gallery.

Work was begun on the creation of the Prehistoric Plant Garden behind Gum Leaf Hideout in Australian Adventure. Dawn Redwoods, Gingko trees and other "Living Fossil" plants will be seen by Zoo visitors in 2001.

The Cleveland Zoological Society had its most successful year ever, attaining the highest membership numbers in Zoo history, the largest annual fund campaign, and the most corporate sponsors and members.

2001 will always be remembered for the tragedies of September 11. Many people found reflection and renewal through a connection with nature at the Zoo, experiencing the wonders of wildlife or just relaxing.

In April, twin male & female Siberian Tiger cubs were born. This was the first pair of tiger cubs born at the Zoo in 16 years. Following a public debut, the Zoo initiated a successful naming contest to name the cubs *Dasha* (male) and *Danya* (female).

The Zoo participated in three multi-institutional projects studying behavioral dynamics of gorilla groups, polar bears, and the reproductive cycles of female clouded leopards.

For the fourth year, CMZ directed the Zoo Biology and Management course in conjunction with Oklahoma State University. The course provides senior and graduate level university students the unique opportunity to study zoo biology in a zoo setting.

The Prehistoric Plant Garden debuted in 2001 with boulder-edged pathways, life-size dinosaur footprint castings and an assortment of prehistoric plants. The species, including ferns, conifers and cycads, remain virtually unchanged since the Cretaceous period of the Late Mesozoic era, roughly 135 million years ago.

Jo, Moshi and Martika, the Zoo's three female African elephants, began painting as an enrichment activity. A limited number of original paintings and prints were made available to elephant art lovers. Proceeds from this sale benefit the Elephant Managers Association (EMA) Conference to be held in Cleveland in 2002.

Don Kuenzer, Senior Curator of The RainForest and Aquatics, celebrated his 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary with Cleveland Metroparks Zoo.

Zoo Marketing and Public Relations received two awards of Excellence from



Communications Concepts. One for the Australian Adventure print collateral, the other for the Australian Adventure Media Campaign.

The Zoo was awarded the AZA's International Conservation Award for the conservation program BIOANDINA: Conserving High Andes Habitat in Venezuela.

Continuing a decade's trend of increased yearly attendance, the Zoo recorded 1,274,631 visitors in 2001. The single best-attended day was July 2, when 21,675 attended.

A redesign of the Zoo's website, [www.clemetzoo.com](http://www.clemetzoo.com), updated its look but, more importantly, made the site easier to navigate with more animal and event information than ever before.

Grants allowed the continued expansion of the Distance Learning program, which uses the Internet and videoconferencing technology to reach schools in Ohio and beyond, and of the Theatrical Interpretive program, which promotes visitor "immersion" in the Zoo's newest exhibit areas.

A new ZooTram was purchased in 2001, and the tram stop roof was replaced with thatching.

More than 450 adult volunteers and 65 teen volunteers contributed their time and talents to the Zoo. Volunteers donated 50,579 hours to the Zoo in 2001.

In 2002 the Zoo staff brought back the ever-popular tropical butterfly exhibit. Butterfly Magic 2002 featured hundreds of butterflies representing 60 different species.

In addition, the Zoo procured a motion simulator from SimEX!!werks and featured the movie "Wilderness Adventure", which was sponsored by Cleveland Public Power. This "ride-the-movie" also conveyed a strong conservation message, and proved to be popular among Zoo guests.

New animal acquisitions included Wolf's Guenons and a Pallas's Cat. Significant births included: a Goodfellow's tree kangaroo, a tufted deer, a red-flanked duiker, a Callimico monkey, emperor tamarins, and the hatching of a white stork.

A regional gorilla meeting brought keepers, curators and veterinarians to the Zoo in November. About 40 professionals from 11 regional zoos discussed gorilla diet and nutritional needs, infant development, medical management, enrichment, training and exhibit design.

The RainForest Discovery Center opened on November 19 as part of the celebration of the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of The RainForest. The Discovery Center incorporates some of the concepts developed for The RainForest Connection, a program for 4 - 6<sup>th</sup> graders.

The Zoo welcomed 1,259,609 visitors including record attendance of 72,503 for ZooLights.

CMZ hosted the 24<sup>th</sup> Annual Elephant Managers Association Conference in the fall. 125 keepers, veterinarians and researchers from around the world came to Cleveland to exchange ideas and information about elephants.

More than 440 adult volunteers and 70 teen volunteers donated 47,617 hours to the Zoo in 2002. These volunteers educated visitors about wildlife and conservation, and added a valuable personal touch to the visitors' experience.

New in 2002 was a partnership with Cleveland's Spanish-American Committee to celebrate the organization's 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary with a reception and Latin music concert.

The horticulture staff created a new Japanese garden featuring a waterfall, stream and pool; planted a specialty garden in Australian Adventure that interprets the importance of fire to ecosystems; renovated the wetland aviaries in Wolf Wilderness with new soil, deadfall and plants; and refreshed exhibits within the RainForest.

Many improvements are being made to the parking lot including the installation and renovation of pedestrian tunnels, walkways and entrance, a new ZooTram service stop and signage. The lot will provide Zoo visitors with safe and "seamless" parking and entry.

2003 was an incredible year for CMZ. The Zoo had its second best attendance ever with

1,363,371 guests, and the Zoological Society now has 42,000 member households.

There was also a remarkable string of significant animal births. A male bontebok, born in March, is one of only seven reported births in North American zoos. In April twin slender-horned gazelles arrived. A second set of twins arrived in July. Carl, a 14-year-old Grant's Zebra sired two offspring. Walker, our 9-year-old Masai giraffe fathered 3 giraffe babies, each one 6 feet tall at birth. And, in August Inge, the Zoo's black rhinoceros, delivered a female calf. This was the Zoo's second rhino birth, and one of only two births of this sub-species reported in American zoos in 2003.

DINOSAURS! was a huge undertaking, and the largest seasonal exhibit ever attempted at the Zoo. Twenty-one *animatronic* dinosaurs were exhibited, in the wooded area around Waterfowl Lake. Educational materials accompanied the exhibit, and interpreters interacted with guests. The dinosaur exhibit is scheduled to be repeated in 2004.

Construction began in earnest on the Sarah Allison Steffee Center for Zoological Medicine. This 24,000 square foot facility is to open in 2004. It will be a state-of-the-art veterinary facility. The Zoo Society provided half of the total funding for this project, and was instrumental in securing the donation of a CT Scanner from Philips Medical Systems.

Planning got underway for the next project, a renovation of the Zoo's elephant exhibit. It is to be called the "Elephant Oxbow", and will feature elephants, hippos, warthogs, meerkats, African savanna birds, reptiles and more.

The American Crocodile, exhibited in the RainForest, was moved to a new home at the St. Augustine Alligator Farm. She was replaced by an Indian gharial and some aquatic turtles. Gharials are critically endangered, and CMZ can help conserve these species.

The Zoo imported two pair of captive-born Cheetahs from the de Wild Cheetah and

Wildlife Centre in Africa, adding a new blood line to North America's captive population.

Other conservation efforts include Asian turtles, and butterflies of Northeast Ohio.

The Zoo made history as the casting site for Cuyahoga County's Bicentennial Bell, celebrating Ohio's 200 years of statehood. Over Memorial Day weekend, a "foundry on wheels" turned five hundred pounds of bronze ingots into a new commemorative bell, dedicated and rung for the first time at the Zoo.

In 2003, more than 450 adult volunteers and 70 teen volunteers contributed their time and talents to the Zoo. Volunteers donated 44,635 hours to the Zoo in 2003/

Other special events included "Meet Your Best Friend at the Zoo", "ZooBlooms", "Photo Safari", "Senior Celebration Days", and a summer jazz concert series. "Boo at the Zoo" attracted 35,000 visitors, and nearly 72,000 visitors braved December's chill over 23 nights of ZooLights.

In September Cleveland played host the 30<sup>th</sup> National Association of Zoo Keepers (AAZK) Conference. Two hundred eighty-six delegates from 34 states and two countries exchanged ideas and information at the five-day conference, which was coordinated by the Greater Cleveland AAZK Chapter.

Institutional Awards and Staff Honors were too numerous to list here.

2004 is notable due to two significant accomplishments. The Sarah Allison Steffee Center for Zoological Medicine opened, and voters passed Issue 120, a ten-year levy for Cleveland Metroparks and the Zoo.

The Center includes a unique visitor's center - the Reinberger Learning Lab - which offers visitors a behind-the-scenes look at zoo veterinary medicine.

There were many other noteworthy events. The birth of four fossas is worthy of mention. This rare carnivore from Madagascar is an important part of the Zoo's endangered animals.

Other new animals include Puerto Rican crested toads, Chilean flamingos, Emperor

Geese, White-backed vultures and Siberian red-breasted geese. These animals were part of a breeding program to maintain strong zoo populations.

The total animal inventory at the end of 2004 was 2,292 specimens, representing 567 species.

The Research Department at the Zoo was increased to four members, and the department was moved to the new hospital.

As an adjunct to the new hospital, the new "Rising Waters Safari Camp" replaced the old camp area.

A new exhibit, called "Free Flight Falls" was opened. The area is dominated by a 50-foot natural stone waterfall. The waterfall cascades into a gravel and stone-filled containment area. Plants representing prairie, woodland and wetland habitats were installed, to attract birds and butterflies.

The DINOSAURS returned for another visit to CMZ, and were well-attended.

The Zoo's next capital project, the Elephant oxbow, began the planning stage. This will be the largest project built in the Zoo since the RainForest. The Oxbow will provide a habitat for a small herd of African elephants, including adult males. They will roam among four or five unique habitats. Other species in this exhibit will be hippos, warthogs, meerkats, naked mole rats, savanna birds, etc.

More than 430 adult volunteers and 70 teen volunteers donated 45,870 hours to the Zoo. These volunteers provide creative interpretation, hands-on education opportunities, and quality customer service.

In 2004 the Zoological Society provided \$3.7M to the Zoo. Donations from generous individuals, foundations and corporations helped support new exhibits, facilities, general operations, educational programs, wildlife conservation and understanding of endangered species.

2005 saw additions in the fields of Education, Science and Conservation. The Rising Waters Safari camp offers educational and recreational learning experiences both day and night. It is also the home to the Zoo's

Summer Day Camp, where children aged 5-12 can spend a week learning about wildlife and conservation.

Another education program added in 2005 was the DR. ZOOLITTLE WILD ANIMAL SHOW. This program is performed three times per day throughout the summer in the Zoo Amphitheater.

The Conservation and Science staff also made tremendous progress. Housed in the Sarah Allison Steffee Center, the staff now consists of five full-time scientists who work on a variety of diverse projects.

An important addition to the animal collection was the birth of a male snow leopard. To publicize the event, a "Dub the Cub" contest was arranged and promoted. The response was enormous, with nearly 3,000 entries. The winning name was "Panja", which means "to pounce" in Hindi.

In 2005, more than 430 adult volunteers and 70 teen volunteers offered their talents to the Zoo. 45,870 hours were donated by volunteers.

The Zoological Society provided nearly \$1.6M in operating support as part of its overall support of \$2.45M for Zoo operations, conservation and research in 2005.

Despite the fourth hottest summer on record in Cleveland, the Zoo welcomed 1,119,478 visitors. The temperatures reached 90 degrees or higher 23 times during the summer. CMZ was again the most heavily attended year-round attraction in Cleveland.

The Zoo hosted 538 private functions in 2005 that earned revenue totaling \$575,850.

In addition to beautification, the Horticulture staff addressed the challenge of non-native invasive plants. A newly developed Plant Collections Policy will ensure that all non-native plant introductions at CMZ are monitored.

In partnership with Ohio State University, CMZ developed an epidemiology program for monitoring animal health and assessing disease. The program is directed by Pam Dennis, DVM, PH.D., whose research into phosphate depletion in Black Rhinos has led to

improvements in their management and diet in captivity.

Design development continued on the future African Elephant Crossing exhibit.

In an effort to fulfill its Mission Statement in part by "providing education and conservation programs which encourage respect and stewardship of the natural world and a better understanding of our place within it", the Cleveland Metroparks Zoo brought TOUCH! AMAZING RAYS & SHARKS to an 11,000-gallon saltwater tank on Savannah Ridge during the summer of 2006. A truly interactive attraction, nearly 300,000 persons had a chance to touch and even sometimes to feed Cownose rays, Southern red Stingrays and Leopard sharks. It was so successful that the attraction will be back in the summer of 2007.

Zoo attendance in 2006 was 1,203,403, the 13<sup>th</sup> straight year with attendance over 1,000,000. July was the Zoo's busiest month with 205,246 visitors and July 3 attracted 23,684 guests to become the busiest day of the year.

The great attendance was undoubtedly due to the outstanding string of special events, which made the Zoo *the* place to be in 2006. A new event called "Winterrific", featured a sled-dog camp and behind the scenes visits with the polar bear keepers. Other new events included "Snow Leopard Day" in February, which gave visitors a chance to see the young cub, Panji. Old favorites Boo at the Zoo, Meet Your Best Friend at the Zoo, DreamNight, Creature Comforts, Thanksgiving at the Zoo and December Days were capped on December 31 with Noon Year's Eve, a big success with traditional New Year's Eve activities.

April saw the birth of a Bornean orangutan, the third of his species to be born at the Zoo. June brought the births of a male reindeer, a bontebok and one of two koalas born at the Zoo in 2006. Other births or hatchlings included two bettongs, an Allen's swamp monkey, a Wolf's guenon, a wattled jacana, a scarlet ibis, five Aleutian Canada geese and the first Puerto Rican crested toad ever born at the Zoo. Animal acquisitions

included red pandas, six smooth-sided toads and a pygmy marmoset. Unfortunately, the Zoo said goodbye to a few animals that died, including the popular Nova, an aged female Masai giraffe, and Lhasa, a male snow leopard. The animal inventory for 2006 stood at 568 species, 2,525 specimens and 54 colonies.

Under a cooperative agreement with government of Brazil, two rare ocelots arrived at the Zoo in August. The breeding pair is now living in the RainForest.

To fulfill its goal to "be a leader and innovator in wildlife conservation and research", the Zoo now has Regional Conservation Coordinators in Africa, Asia, Latin America as well as right here in Cleveland. And the Zoo and the Cleveland Zoological Society directly support wildlife conservation and research at home and abroad through two competitive grant programs: the Conservation and Research Small Grants Program and the Scott Neotropical Fund.

In order to provide "a high quality and diverse conservation education", the Zoo's Distance Learning Program went wireless in 2006. That means that students nationwide can now enjoy the Zoo's exhibits in the RainForest, Ballarat Theater, African elephant yard, bear keeper area, Center of Zoological Medicine and the Primate, Cat & Aquatics Building without leaving their classrooms. Dr. Zoolittle's Wild Animal Show returned for the second year to the Amphitheater and 14 colorful information stations were installed throughout the Zoo inviting visitors to learn about invasive plants, turtle conservation, bears, condors and animal enrichment.

The retirements of two longtime Zoo leaders occurred in 2006. Dr. Hugh Quinn left in September after 12 years as Curator of Zoological Programs. He founded the Conservation and Science program and was an internationally respected herpetologist and friend to turtles. RainForest Curator Don Kuenzer retired in December after 44 years of service. He was the driving force to build the RainForest.

More than 420 adult volunteers and 70 teen volunteers donated 45,196 hours to the Zoo in 2006. They enhanced the Zoo's guests' experiences in a myriad of ways by providing creative interpretation, hands-on educational opportunities and quality customer service.

The year 2007 was a year of anniversaries for Cleveland Metroparks Zoo. The Zoo celebrated its 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary, the Zoological Society marked its 50<sup>th</sup> year and Steve Taylor completed his 20<sup>th</sup> year as Zoo Director.

These milestones exemplify the hard work and determination of all the employees and volunteers to meet the many goals set for the Zoo in 2007 despite having to work around the demolition of the 80-year-old Fulton Road Bridge that spanned above the Zoo.

The goal to "provide responsible care for the health and well being of the animals in its care" was achieved in part by celebrating the 40<sup>th</sup> giraffe birth in 40 years and the Zoo marked its 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of caring for elephants. Other notable births included a black rhino named Zuri, an endangered red panda, a black howler monkey, a northern spider tortoise and 19 Puerto Rican crested toads. The Zoo also added a pair of North American black bears. Sadly, we said goodbye to polar bear Little One, sent to Cincinnati to breed with their females. We lost a koala that had sired 10 joeys and a 31-year-old sea lion to death.

Geoff Hall joined the staff as General Curator of Zoological Programs. He leads a staff of 75 scientists, veterinarians, animal keepers and curators.

The Zoo's Conservation and Research goal continued during 2007 by contributing \$381,525 to worldwide wildlife conservation and research projects. The Zoo also supports local conservation initiatives. The staff released more than two dozen garter snakes in Wyandot County, Ohio; and employees and volunteers removed invasive plant species from the Zoo grounds and along the Big Creek. The Conservation Education department continues to work with schools and teachers to bring the work of the Zoo to the community.

In keeping with the goal of the Zoo "to be an enjoyable year-round facility for all ages and incomes", it opened two major summer exhibits: DINOSAURS! and TOUCH! AMAZING RAYS & SHARKS, together attracting nearly 500,000 persons. Boo at the Zoo, the popular Halloween program, set a new attendance record when more than 41,000 people turned out. Nearly 12,000 well wishers turned out for the ZOObilee, the official celebration of the Zoo's 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary. For the second year in a row, the Zoo celebrated Noon Year's Eve which attracted 10,000 people. Zoo attendance topped 1,200,000.

Of course, much planning for the future African Elephant Crossing project took place during 2007. A \$1 million gift from Lauren and Steve Spilman and \$9 million raised by the Zoological Society enhanced the project.