

IN MEMORIAM: Frank G. McInnis

Frank G. McInnis, director of the Detroit Zoological Park, died on April 4, 1968. Born in 1901, he eventually chose landscape gardening as a career and after graduating from Michigan State University, he joined the Detroit Zoological Park in that capacity in 1929. Designed by the noted German zoo family the Hagenbecks and operated under the direction of John Millen, a former Hagenbeck employee, the then recently opened zoo was an almost solid mass of concrete construction. Under the administration of Frank McInnis, these structures were soon softened or blotted out by handsome plantings and rolling lawns, a condition that still exists today.

With constant exposure to animal exhibits and the animal's welfare always in mind in the formation of designs, Mr. McInnis soon found himself more zoologist than landscape planner. When the regime of John Millen ended in 1944, Mr. McInnis succeeded him. During the following 24 years, the Detroit Zoological Park upheld and enhanced its standing among the great institutions of this country.

A mere outline of his career cannot do credit to this unusual man. Tall, handsome, and dignified, Frank McInnis did much to raise the status of his profession and was repeatedly honored. He was president of the American Association of Zoological Parks and Aquariums (1952-53); president of the parent organization, the American Institute of Park Executives (1959-60); and chairman of the administration board of the National Recreation and Park Association (1966-67). He was also a founding member of the Wild Animal Propagation Trust.

He was awarded the Cornelius Pugsley bronze medal for outstanding achievement in zoological park design and in December, 1967, he received the gold medal of the American Institute of Park Executives.

Mr. McInnis is survived by his wife, Mary Ella, and their children, Douglas and Barbara.



INDIAN RHINO BORN

There are only about 600 Indian rhinos in the wild, according to India's Sri Chamarajendra Zoological Gardens (the Mysore Zoo). So zoo men in Mysore were naturally excited when, on February 13, a young male calf was born to the zoo's Indian rhino female, "Rani."

The calf, at birth, was "the size of a nine-month-old pig," brown in color with white facial marking at the site of the horn in mature animals. Only about a dozen Indian rhinos have been born in captivity.

ABOUT THE authors

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ILLUSTRATION CREDITS

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