

But there is another aspect that should not be forgotten. In this world, in which man seems to need the whole surface of the earth for his own use, the space left for wild animals dwindles every day. The spoiling of the natural resources of our planet goes on day by day. Man goes over the earth and his footstep is the desert. Streams are poisoned and even the oceans are getting polluted by chemicals, the waste material of our atomic period. A new Flood threatens, which will be man-made this time. The first to suffer are the large mammals. Many species are extinct already in the wild, many are on the verge of extinction and more will follow.

These will need a Noah's ark to save them from vanishing from the earth. For some species the Zoos came in just in time: The European Bison, Père David's deer, Mongolian Wild Horse, and the Néné could be saved. The fate of the Arabian Oryx still hangs in the balance. The first steps have been taken. The question remains whether Zoological gardens will find the space to accommodate the large breeding groups which are needed for this purpose and will be able to raise the funds. Another question is whether it will be possible to save every endangered species in this way and how long it will be before some of these species will show clear characters of domestication!

Anyway, the need to carry through large Nature conservation programmes is now extremely urgent. What is needed in the first place is the vivid interest of the public, the people that live in our cities, far from nature. And how can these people be interested in saving wild-life if they do not know what is going to be lost? And here the Zoo comes in, to make people acquainted with these threatened creatures. Zoos should join in the battle to save the wild-life that can be saved now, but will be lost tomorrow. Zoos have the ability to make propaganda for Nature conservation and can help to raise funds for this purpose. They can do so by using part of their periodicals for Nature conservation subjects, by making visual propaganda in the garden or by setting up a wishing-well in which visitors throw coins and collect this money for some project of the World Wildlife Fund.

Zoological gardens should be a valuable element in social life, a stronghold in the battle for a world in which Man can find happiness from direct contact with nature. Only in these respects does it make sense to maintain a Zoo.

I hope that International Zoo-News will keep us informed about our progress in this field for many more years.

Prof. Dr. Dr. B. Grzimek:

RHINOS BELONG TO EVERY BODY KENYA AND TANZANIA CONTINUE TO KILL RHINOS

During the last decade the danger to the African Black Rhino (*Diceros bicornis*) in most of its remaining territories has at last been realized. Its number in the whole of Africa was estimated at less than 10,000 specimens. Whereas elephants and other game give way to settlement and move to other places, rhinos mostly remain on the spot and are killed. Their rate of reproduction is small.

In consequence, following resolutions of experts and wild life organisations, nearly all African countries have put the Black Rhinos on the list of totally protected species. International organisations raised money to capture the last ones in new settled areas and to transport them to safer places. Everybody thought that the last ones are now well safeguarded.

But quite unnoticed by the public, the Game Departments — apparently in the endeavour to attract wealthy hunters — have quietly put rhinos on the hunting list again.

The Kenya Game Department complains in its last Annual Report that it had to give permits to capture animals for Zoological Gardens — a total of 212 mammals, nearly all of common and smaller species. In the same period it issued 1745 shooting licenses with large numbers of animals allowed to be shot on each of them. In Controlled Areas alone 4113 animals were shot, with 55 Grevy Zebras, and even Bongos and Greater Kudus included. But it is alarming that it gave special licenses to shoot 77 rhinos, allowed a further 48 rhinos in Controlled Areas to be shot, and reports that a further 25 were killed "in defense of life and property". We know in the meantime much more about the behaviour of rhinos to judge the real background of the famous stories of rhinos attacking and killing human beings everywhere.

One of the wealthy hunting clients writes: "During my last hunting safari to Kenya I realized that every hunter gets a license to shoot a rhino if he wishes. Of course the shooting of rhinos is not allowed in all areas, the license is limited to some of them. But if in such an area a white hunter books for one week, in this single section 30—40 rhinos could theoretically be shot. In this way a huge amount of legal rhino shooting is possible. I saw trophies of some rhinos, which showed them to have been really exceptionally young; this is not the way to protect a species."

In Tanzania the black rhino was protected throughout the territory by the Fauna Conservation (Rhinoceros Protection) Order, 1964.

But in the meantime Tanzanian Wilde Life Development Ltd. started operations and tried to induce big crowds of overseas hunters to come in. Apparently competition arose between the similar institution which was founded two years earlier in Uganda and Hunting Safaris of Kenya. Therefore quite silently rhino hunting was re-introduced. By a new order of 21st January 1965, rhinos are again allowed to be shot in the Selous and the Rungwa Game Reserves, and the Kizigo Controlled Area.

It is exceptional that against the well accepted views of all experts, and the experience of the professional Game Wardens, a species still continues to be doomed just for commercial reasons. In the long run this attitude does much harm to the East African countries, because rhinos remain one of the biggest assets for tourism, which has already become one of the most important sources of income of these countries.

In Uganda rhinos are protected throughout the year.

MIDWEST ZOO PARK MEETING

Over 100 delegates were represented at the Midwest Zoological Park Meeting held in Colorado Springs, Colorado, U.S.A., the first of March. Host for the meeting was Don Davis, director of the Cheyenne Mountain Zoological Park. The program included discussion regarding zoo finances, zoo management and philosophy, and the adoption of an official symbol to designate endangered animals.

(P. & R. M.)

PROMOTIONAL HALF-HOUR COLOR MOTION PICTURE FILM RELEASED BY SAN DIEGO

Not everyone can come to the San Diego Zoo, but a new color film released by Copley Productions will take the Zoo everywhere. The 28 minute sound film entitled "The San Diego Zoo", is now available to civic, church and service groups locally and throughout the country, and will be seen by school children across America. Rex Allen, who is associated with Walt Disney studios, is narrator of the film which was nine months in production. The film financed by Copley Newspapers is Copley Production's second Zoo-related film. Three years ago this corporation produced a film on the capture of proboscis monkeys in Indonesia. Inquiries about the film should be directed to Howard Matson, Copley Productions, 7776 Ivanhoe Avenue, La Jolla, California.

(Clyde A. Hill)

The Tropical House at Chester Zoo

by George S. Motterhead,
M. Sc., Director-Secretary

In the 35 years since I founded Chester Zoo there have been many memorable events, but perhaps our greatest achievement was the building of the vast new Tropical House.

It is a combination of various structures — the first being built in 1956 to accommodate our collection of anthropoid apes. The Nocturnal and Pigmy Hippo Houses and a walk-throught flight for tropical birds followed, but it was not until the 13th of June 1964 that the entire House was first opened to the public.

Exhibited under one great roof are Mountain and Lowland Gorillas, Orang Utans, Chimpanzees, Pigmy Hippos, Alligators, Giant Tortoises and numerous other Reptiles, Nocturnal Animals, a magnificent display of the fabulous Birds of Paradise and over two hundred free-flying birds of seventy species.

The exhibits are set amidst a fantastic collection of tropical and sub-tropical vegetation, grown in our own greenhouses over the past eight years. There are Banana Trees and Lemon Trees, Pine-apples, Pomegranates, Bougainvilleas, Clerodendrons, Camellias and Orchids, to mention only a handful. Visitors can wander at will through the jungle-like conditions with free-flying birds overhead and around them.

The Tropical House is on two levels joined by ramps, so that the animals can be viewed at eye-level or from above. There are no bars in this unique building — the only confining barriers are low walls, ditches or wrought iron railings. Of course the valuable Birds of Paradise have to be accommodated in Aviaries but even these are attractively planted to give a completely natural setting for the birds.

In the thirty-six compartment reptile section, again with each cage designed to resemble the natural habitat of its inmates, there are Gila Monsters, Rhinoceros Iguanas, a rare Tuatara, Monitor Lizards, Cobras, Boas, Pythons and many, many more.

Throughout its first year the Tropical House has proved to be tremendously popular with our visitors and the exhibits have never looked healthier or happier.