



BROOKFIELD BISON

WHAT'S NEW AT THE ZOO?

Chicago Zoological Society

Vol. 9, No. 2 - 1974



WHITE TIGERS ENCHANT ZOO-GOERS!

Mohini and Rewati, two white tigers, arrived at Brookfield December 11 on loan from the National Zoo in Washington, D.C. These unique females were accompanied by Poona, our handsome male Bengal tiger who was sent to National Zoo on breeding loan in 1972.

The agreement to bring the white tigers to Brookfield was reached by Dr. Crowcroft and Washington's Director, Dr. Theodore Reed. The National Zoo is in the process of building a new Lion House and had to transfer their animals to alternate facilities until the new building is ready. Fortunately for Chicagoland zoo-goers, Brookfield had adequate housing for these unique animals. Dr. Mitchell Bush, National's veterinarian, Curator Myles Roberts and Keeper Russell Roberts flew in with the cats from Washington to help Dr. Chris Wemmer, Brookfield's Curator of Carnivores, and his staff in settling the cats in and to advise on their care.

Zoo personnel were delighted to see the white tigers coming to Brookfield, but were equally interested in getting Poona back. The productive animal has fathered over 40 cubs with the Zoo's two normal Bengal females, Prem and Chumma. Continued attempts will be made to breed Poona and the white females at Brookfield, although there is some speculation that the elder white tigress may be past breeding age.

Mohini, the "Enchantress", first white tiger in America arrived at National Zoo in late 1960. She was a gift to President Eisenhower for the children of America from John Kluge, President of Metropolitan Broadcasting Company and valued at \$35,000.

Rewati, a daughter of Mohini, was born at the National Zoo in 1969. She was hand reared by Mrs. Reed in their home. In 60 days this cat grew from a birth weight of 2½ pounds to 15 and was returned to the zoo.

"White" tigers are mutants of the orange Bengal cat which have inherited genes that produce a reduction of pigment. They have greyish-black stripes on a whitish coat and blue eyes. They are not albinos.

Most of the three dozen captive white tigers are in India. A pair at Bristol Zoo in England has produced several litters. The only white tigers currently on display in America are now at Brookfield Zoo.

For those interested in reading more about white tigers, the following should provide substantial information:

Reed, T. H. "Enchantress' Queen of an Indian Palace, A Rare White Tigress Comes to Washington." *National Geographic*, Vol. 119, No. 5, pp. 628-641, May 1961.

Gee, E. P. "The White Tigers." *Animals*, Vol. 3, No. 11, pp. 282-286, Feb. 18, 1964.

Reed, Elizabeth. "White Tiger in My House." *National Geographic*, Vol. 137, No. 4, pp. 482-481, April, 1970.

Leyhausen, Paul and Reed, Theodore H. "The White Tiger: care and breeding of a genetic freak." *Smithsonian*, Vol. 2, No. 1, pp. 24-31, April 1971.

NEW CHIEF OF POLICE!



Donald Gossling assumed the position of Chief of the Brookfield Zoo Security department late last year, following his retirement from a similar post with the Village of Riverside. The Zoo had been without a permanent chief since the retirement of Walter Buegle three years ago. Chief Gossling's credentials are impressive and the Zoo will benefit greatly from his wealth of experience in police matters.

Gossling joined the Riverside police force as a patrolman in 1953 after serving on their auxiliary unit for several years. Promotions to sergeant in 1956 and lieutenant in 1960 prepared the way for his appointment to chief in 1969.

In his new post, Gossling will work closely with both Riverside and Brookfield police departments since the Zoo stands in both villages. Gossling stated that he plans to be involved "not only with protection of the park, traffic control and the efficient operation of the parking facilities but to deal with our visitors needs and concerns. Zoo-goers are our guests and we must do all that we can to make their visits an enjoyable and satisfying experience. "There is a great deal of public relations involved in police work," added the chief, "and as the Zoo is dependent upon the visitors dollar for almost two-thirds of our annual budget, I feel that a concentrated effort should be made in this area."

Currently living in Riverside with his wife, Rae, Gossling has two children (Diane, 28 and Richard, 30) and 8 grandchildren.

MEMBERSHIPS.

The Chicago Zoological Society has been forced to raise the annual membership fee from \$10 to \$15 for individual members, effective April 1st. Although we wish we could say "April Fool" and say it really isn't so, increased costs have necessitated this action. The Society has, however, elected to soften this increase somewhat by allowing individual members free parking in the future. All other membership categories (\$25 Family, \$100 Supporting and \$1,000 Sustaining) remain as they have been.

Should you receive one of our mailings soliciting new members please pass the package on to a friend.

BROOKFIELD'S

RHINOS...

A pair of young black rhinos purchased from Africa U.S.A. in California, arrived at Brookfield Zoo on December 12, 1973. The acquisition of this new pair and a young female that arrived from Mombasa in November is another example of Brookfield's continuous efforts in the propagation and conservation of endangered species.

The first birth of a black rhino in captivity occurred at Brookfield Zoo on October 7, 1941. The male baby was delivered by Mary (shown below), a female who arrived here in 1936. This baby and another born in 1939 were eventually traded to other zoos. Incidentally, female wild rhinos breed every three years or so. Pharaoh, the father of these two rhinos died at the age of 34 in 1967, but mother Mary survives at age 41 in Brookfield.

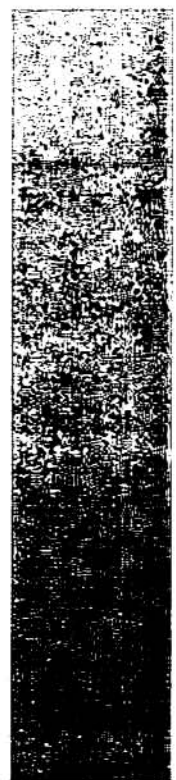




The black rhino, which is currently listed as endangered by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature, and other species of rhinoceros have been exterminated by man over much of their former range. Rhinos are killed for sport and the horn, which if not retained as a trophy can be sold to Asian merchants for the purpose of manufacturing an aphrodisiac. Destruction of rhinos and their habitat, under the guise of land reclamation has also reduced their numbers in many parts of Africa.

In addition to the four black rhinos, Brookfield has a pair of white rhinos. The latter is also called square-lipped or wide-lipped rhino. The name "white" appears to be a corruption of the Dutch *wijd* meaning "wide" in reference to the upper lip.

There are five species of living rhinoceros. Three species occur in Asia (Indian, Sumatran and Javan rhinos) and two in Africa (the black and the square-lipped or white rhino). The total number of wild Asian rhinos is about 1,000. Black rhinos in Africa numbered between 11,000 and 13,500 in 1960, but in 1972 the population had dropped to about 1500. White rhinos have thrived under protection and are now overpopulating some reserves. Nevertheless the total count is only about 4,000 head.



NEW CURATOR!



Dr. Peter Crowcroft, Director of Brookfield Zoo, has announced the appointment of Dr. Daniel Laughlin to the newly created position of Curator of Hoofed Stock. "We have long felt the need for a curator in charge of our hoofed animals," stated Dr. Crowcroft, "and Dr. Laughlin is the man to increase our breeding successes in this area as well as provide direction in the establishment of new animal exhibits."

The new Curator's credentials are impressive: bachelor's degrees in both zoology and veterinary medical science, a master's degree in biology education and his D.V.M. degree from the University of Illinois.

A native of Evanston, Dr. Laughlin brings a wealth of experience to the position including a stint at Brookfield as a keeper and veterinary assistant in 1969. He comes to Brookfield from Memphis where he was Veterinarian, Asst. Director and most recently, Acting Director of the Overton Park Zoo and Aquarium.

Dr. Laughlin's wife, Pamela, was raised in North Riverside and holds a master's degree in education from the University of Illinois. They currently reside in Evanston with their one-year old son, Joshua.

Perhaps the most challenging aspect of this position will be the establishment of the new African Waterhole exhibit west of the Elephant House. Future plans for this habitat call for the display of zebra, giraffe, hyena and several species of antelope and birds.

IN RETIREMENT:

Zoo employees have a reputation for longevity and loyalty to their jobs and there are as many reasons for this as there are employees. At Brookfield many individuals have exceeded fifteen, twenty and, even, thirty years of service. For many retirement age is the only reason for leaving. Sadly, that time has come for five of our friends and they deserve our heartfelt thanks for outstanding effort over the years.

Our sincere best wishes go to Keepers Knowell McGrav, Joe Geneser and Henry Tritt, Gate Guard Henry "Hi" Mueller and Mechanic Alex Youngren.