

SAN DIEGO

ZOO



OFFICIAL GUIDE BOOK • 50c

OFFICIAL GUIDE BOOK

of the

SAN DIEGO ZOO

BALBOA PARK • SAN DIEGO • CALIFORNIA

SIXTH
EDITION

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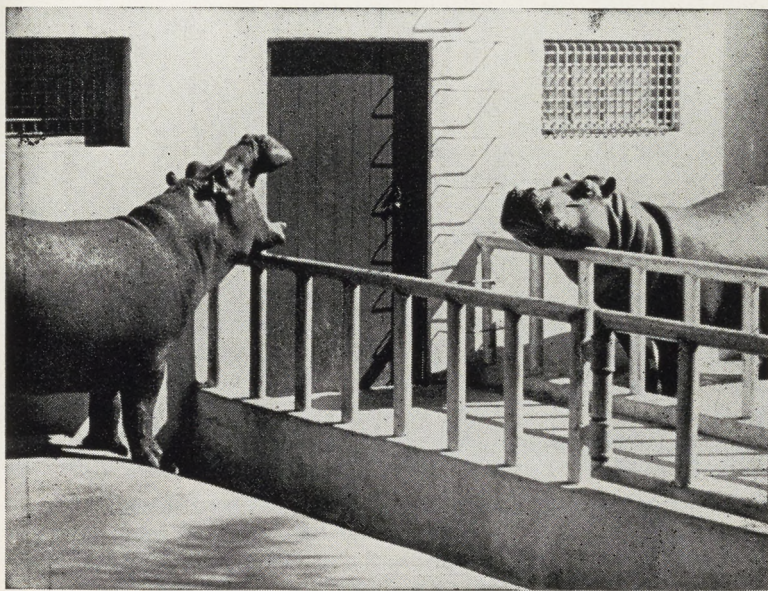
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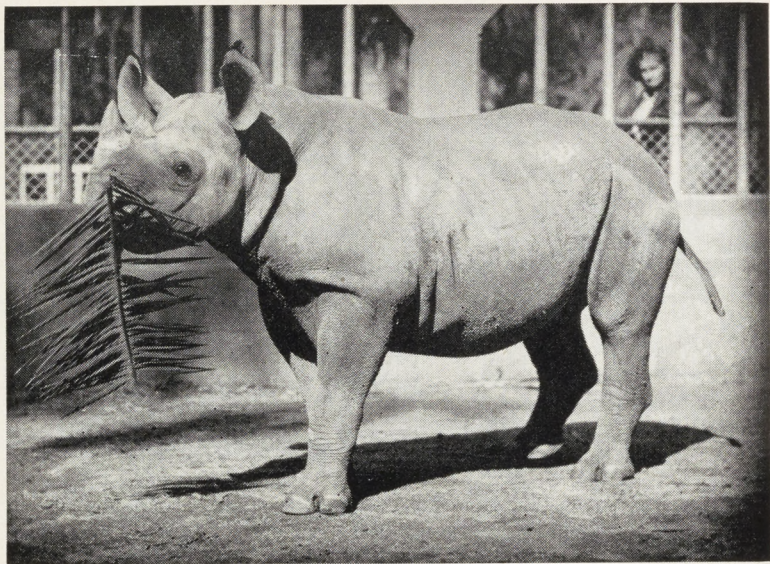
HEAVY MAMMALS, RODENTS AND MARSUPIALS

One of the most attractively landscaped sections of the zoo, C-Mesa, like each of the others, is plotted as a loop which at the eastern extremity adjoins roads from B- and D-Mesas and F-Canyon. In the center of the loop are three enclosures containing large tile-roofed houses. The first enclosure is divided into three parts, which are occupied by the giraffes; the second into four parts, for hippos; and the third (at the west end) into two sections for the elephants. On the north side of the loop are long pens intended for the display of tapirs. On the south side are stockades for rhinos and Pigmy Hippos.

Extending along the drive which curves northward from the giraffe paddocks are enclosures for camels and their relations. Directly across from the camels is a series of arched cages surrounding two large,



HIPPOPOTAMUS (*Hippopotamus amphibius*)



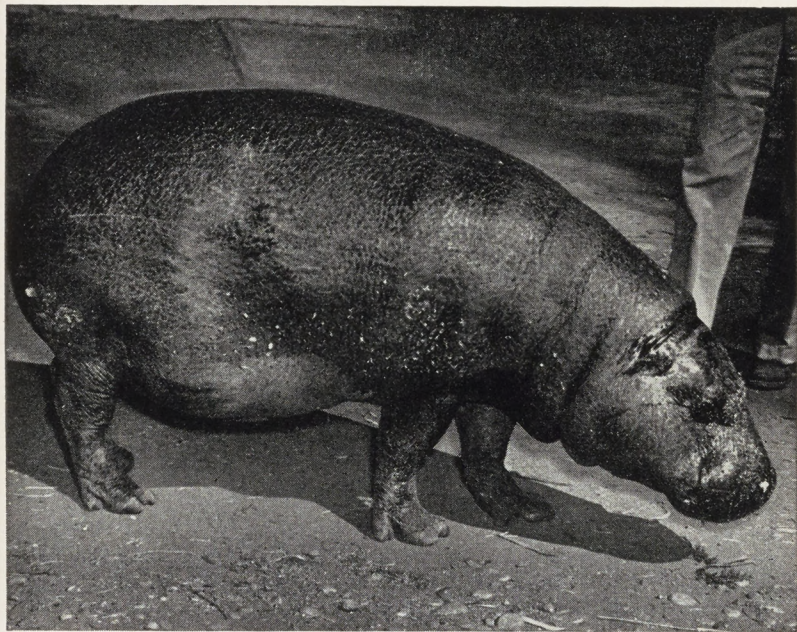
AFRICAN BLACK RHINOCEROS (*Diceros bicornis*)

central pens. Here are to be found various species of small mammals.

The visitor upon arriving at C-Mesa usually visits first the giraffes of which there are several specimens exhibited. The scientific classification of these long-necked beasts differs considerably from time to time; however, the present trend seems to be to combine all types into a single species which is divided into twelve subspecies or geographical races. The family to which they belong contains only one other species, the rare Okapi of the Belgian Congo. Both animals are characterized by hair-covered horns but the Okapi lacks the long neck and the spotted pattern of the Giraffe. Our giraffe belongs to the race known as the **Uganda Giraffe** (*Giraffa camelopardalis rothschildi*), native to East Africa. "Lofty" and "Patches," our original pair, arrived in San Diego in October, 1938, after a two month boat trip from Mombasa, Africa, and a journey by truck across the United States from New York. At that time, they stood about eleven feet high, the male being slightly shorter than the female. Judging from the growth of young born here, they could not have been more than two years old. The first calf was born to this pair late in March, 1942, which would indicate that the giraffe matures at approximately five years of age. The **Reticulated Giraffe** (*G. reticulata*) has also been shown here.

The **African Black Rhinoceros** (*Diceros bicornis*) has a most formidable reputation; it charges without apparent provocation. This characteristic is probably due, however, to poor sight and a resulting feeling of insecurity rather than to viciousness. The Black Rhino has been so persistently hunted that it is rapidly disappearing from the brush and forest lands in which it was once common. Rhinos are browsing animals, feeding entirely on vegetable matter. Their nearest living relatives are the horse and the tapir.

Second largest of land mammals, the **Hippopotamus** (*Hippopotamus amphibius*) inhabits the rivers and lakes of Africa. For the most part it is a peaceable and inoffensive creature, although when angered or frightened it can prove a formidable adversary. Several young have been born here, each in a shallow pool constructed as a nursery in the southwest corner of the hippo house. There the young are born and remain for the greater part of each day until the mother decides to wean them.



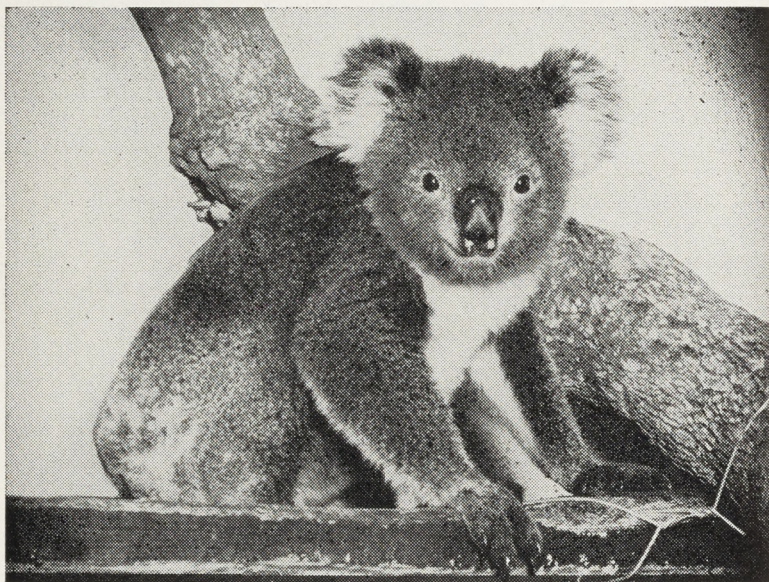
PIGMY HIPPOPOTAMUS (*Choeropsis liberiensis*)

The **Pigmy Hippopotamus** (*Choeropsis liberiensis*) from West Africa is not as large as a six-month-old Nile Hippo. If it were not for its enormous mouth and the general clumsy build it might be mistaken for a hairless swine. These creatures live in the deep for-

ests of Liberia, are quite solitary and are considered dangerous animals in zoos. They are not so completely amphibious as their giant cousins. A full grown pigmy weighs about four hundred pounds as contrasted with three or four tons for the big hippo.

The pen which houses the elephants is divided into two sections: one for general living purposes and the other, which contains a large tank, for bathing on warm summer days.

The **Indian Elephant** (*Elephas maximus indicus*) of tropical forested Asia is the species which is most frequently seen in zoos and circuses. The **African Elephant** (*Loxodonta africana*), which occurs throughout Africa south of the Sahara, is much rarer in captivity. The African Elephant is larger and more lanky than its Indian cousin and its ears are much greater in size. Contrary to general belief, the African Elephant is no more difficult to train than the Indian; it has proved quite tractable at experimental training stations in the Belgian Congo.



KOALA (*Phascolarctos cinereus*)

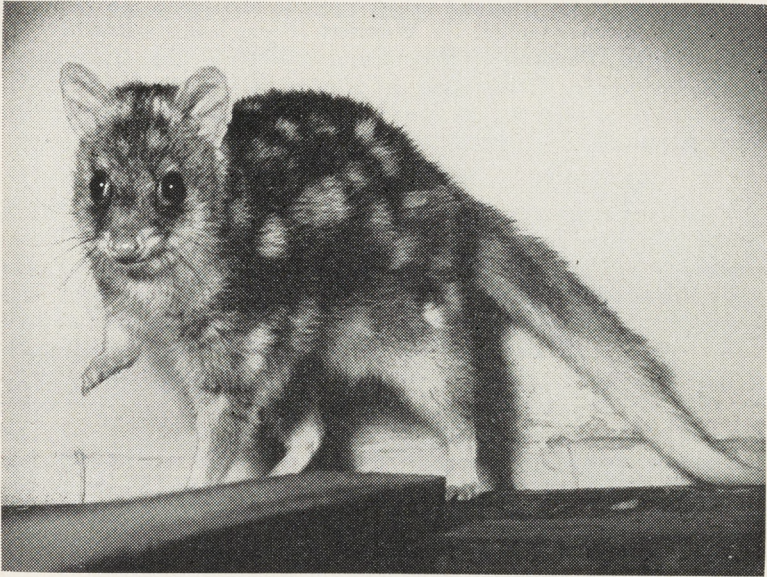
Pens intended primarily for the exhibition of tapirs occupy the north side of the C-Mesa. These, however, are versatile pens and can be used to house large rodents, the Pigmy Hippopotamus, or wallabies and kangaroos when not in use as tapir pens.

Of the four species of tapirs to be found in the tropical regions of America and Asia the zoo has exhibited three species, the **Baird's Tapir** (*Tapirus bairdii*) the **South American Tapir** (*Tapirus terrestris*) and the **Malay Tapir**, called the "Saddle-backed Tapir" (*Tapirus indicus*). While the tapirs are related to the horse and the rhinoceros, their habits are much more like those of the Common Hippopotamus. They are largely aquatic and feed on water plants.

MARSUPIALS

Eventually the exhibit of Marsupials or Pouched Mammals will be housed in a section of their own but for the present they are to be found on C-Mesa in the pens which face the giraffe and hippopotamus enclosures.

With the exception of the familiar **American Opossum** (*Didelphis virginiana*) and a few related species in Central and South America, the Marsupials are restricted in distribution to the New Guinea-Australian region and the nearby islands. They are represented by varied and contrasting forms, the most familiar of which are the kangaroos and the Koalas. Many forms of kangaroos have been exhibited here, and the collection usually contains specimens of the following: the **Red Kangaroo** (*Macropus rufus*), the **Wallaroo** (*Macropus robustus*), and



NATIVE "CAT" (*Dasyurus quoll*)