

INTERNATIONAL ZOO-NEWS



No.10.

November 1951

MR. HALLSTROM GIVES RHINO TO THE PERTH ZOO.

The Perth Zoo were recently favored by a very valuable personal donation from Mr. E. J. Hallstrom. F.R.Z.S., who is the President of Taronga Park Zoo, Sydney. This gentleman, a few months ago, arranged for the capture of a young rhinoceros in Africa, and shortly after the successful operation of running down a young female rhinoceros he offered the animal to the Perth Zoo as a gift from himself, and it was accordingly off-loaded at the Port of Fremantle, near Perth. This unexpected and valuable gift found the Perth Zoo unprepared as regards proper housing and yards, but they managed to accommodate the Rhino in a temporary yard. Mr. Hallstrom, when he realised the position, capped his generosity by advancing a sum of money to defray the cost of construction of entirely new concrete yards and house for the animal, which was named "Dinah" (short for Dynamite, which term more or less described her temperament the day she was released from her crate after leaving the ship.

However, Dinah is now the model of decorum. In three or four months she has settled down completely, and is now accommodated in the excellent new yards provided by Mr. Hallstrom, and which were officially handed over by him at a function a few weeks ago. (See photo - pg.7)

W.H.

Now that the Rotterdam Zoo has kept Saigas for over a year, whilst still they are in splendid condition, we venture to produce a photo of these strange antilopes (pg.7), so rarely kept in zoological gardens. There are still a lot of animals that are difficult to keep in zoos and the Saiga is one of them, just like the ibex, the chamois, and the roedeer.

F.J.A.

p

POLAR BEARS TO SAN DIEGO.

Three Polar Bear cubs, born in the last winter, arrived at the San Diego Zoo by air from Spitzbergen via Copenhagen and New York.

They are a male and two females and are now on exhibit in the enclosure formerly occupied by Pancho and Ruby.

Zz.

READ IN THE PAPER:

35 years - Zool. Soc. of San Diego.....pg.3
The Wisent..... ~ 2
Odense "Zoo-Tivoli".. ~ 5
Difficulties in a New Zealandian Zoo..... ~ 4
Five splendid zoo-photos..... ~ 7

ZEBRAS AND FLAMINGOS TO THE CHESSINGTON ZOO

Chessington Zoo, in Surrey, England, received six Chilean Flamingos by air on October 8th.

These species differ from the African and American flamingos in having greyish legs with red joints and feet, and the plumage is of a deeper shade of pink.

Also, two Grants Zebra, male and female, aged two years arrived on October 18th from Tanganyika. They have been placed in the paddock with "Peggy", the zebra already at the zoo. Peggy's mate died August 1950, and since then she has formed an unique friendship with a Guinea Fowl. It follows "Peggy" everywhere, and she will defend this strange companion.

W.F.W.

THE WISENT, THE RAREST MAMMAL.

Certainly we can call the European Bison the rarest mammal of the world. There are only little more than 100 specimens alive of this oxen, which in the antiquity lived in many thousands in the big forests of Europe. But when the civilization spread, the number of European Bisons, or as they also are called, wisents grew still smaller. And it was still worse, when we went into the 20th century. The World War I reduced the number strongly - as there 100 years ago were found 2000 wisents, only 54 specimens were left in 1920.

If active men had not done a great work at that time, undoubtedly to-day we could not count the bison among the now alive mammals of Europe. With Dr. Kurt Priemel from Frankfurt as the chairman there was started an organisation in 1923, the problem of which was to prevent the eradication of the wisent. The society, which later on was leaded by the well-known German zoologist Erna Mohr and after the last world-war by Dr. Jan Zabinski from Warschau, journalizes every pure-bred animal, and has doen a great work to increase the small herd to a much bigger one. It seemed impossible to have viable brood of 54 animals, as the danger of degeneration was very big. But they succeeded. By the last official count in January 1949 the number of wisents was 119, of this 67 cows - and since that time the number has been increased considerably. The readers of IZN will have remarked this by the frequent information about new-born wisents.-

The international society to protection of the European Bison, which has its seet in Warschau, issues with an interval of two years a pedigree book - a book, which besides telling about the last movements and changes by death, birth, and sale, brings a full list of all living wisents with a statement of sex, name, no., date for birth, father & mother, place of birth, and the owner. As to the last report 10 breeding places are found of which the best known are the Bialowieza forest in Poland, the Pszczyna-district in Poland, the Skansen Zoo in Stockholm, and the Amsterdam Zoo. Since the last report a few more breeding places have been started - f.inst. in the Copenhagen Zoo.

When a wisent has been born, the birth must be reported to the society, and every breeding-place has its letters, which shall begin the name of the calf. So every wisent born at Skansen in Stockholm, must have a name with the initials STO. (F.inst. Stojare, Stor-Anna, and Stonnas). The letters are for the different breeding-places: BE-Berlin, PL-Pszczyna, PU & PO-Bialowieza, BR-Wroslaw, FR-Frankfurt, BO-Graf Arnim, SP-Springe, AR-Amsterdam, STO-Stockholm, AV-Avesta, SCH-von Beyme, WO-Woburn. The letters for the Copenhagen Zoo are not known yet, but are expected to be KO or CO.

The biggest number of wisents is found in reservations, but some zoos can show this rare animal, too. So the last report tells that the Warschau Zoo has 1 specimen, the Munich Zoo 1, the Amsterdam Zoo 6, the Basle Zoo 1, the Rome Zoo 1, Skansen, Stockholm 9, the Copenhagen Zoo 1, and the Praha Zoo 1. Since January 1949 these numbers have changed, f.inst. concerning the zoos in Amsterdam and Copenhagen.

Dr. Jan Zabinski, the director of the Warschau Zoo and the chairman of the society, says that future for the last big mammal of Europe promise better and better - if nothing unexpected happens, the day when we again can count the wisent among the wild-living animals is not far away - and only because the zoological gardens understood their problem and interfered in time.

AN ANIMAL NOT DESCRIBED BY BREHM.

Privat from Basle to IZN.

To the most precious birds of the Basle Zoological Gardens belongs an animal not described by Brehm; the Wood Raven (*Geronticus eremita*), a representative of the ibis family which once lived in Switzerland, but has been exterminated in the 16th century. Especially the young ones were considered a dainty dish! The Wood Raven also occurred in Germany and Austria, but to-day lives only in Morocco, Palestine and Asia Minor. The Basle Zoological Gardens have now 9 of these precious birds.

Mr. van Geuns, who has been capturing animals in Sumatra for "Blij-Dorp" Zoo in Rotterdam came home, bringing with him five splendid tigers, a lot of monkeys, some monitors, and python reticulatus.

He also brought a few pairs of Argus-pheasants, a couple of *Lophura rufus* and a few pairs of *Caloperdix Sumatrana*.

by Mrs. Belle J. Benchley, the famous Executive Secretary. Mr. Robert Sullivan is the President of the Society. --We are sorry that we cannot afford the space to tell the history of the zoo -- but we think that the greater part of our readers know it very well! --We want to congratulate the Zoological Society of San Diego with this milestone!

B.J.

REPTILE NEWS FROM SAN DIEGO ZOO.

A shipment of iguanas arrived from the Galapagos Islands where Mr. William H. Woodin collected speci-

F.S.R.

INTERNATIONAL ZOO-NEWS IS YOUR PAPER!

It is the only paper which is based on news from zoos --and the onliest international zoo-paper written in English.....

THEREFORE.....Help us by sending us your news!!!

mens of both the land and Marine species. The land iguanas represent a species which is found only on Barrington and differs somewhat from the form which inhabits other islands in the archipelago.

A group of reptiles have just been received in the San Diego Zoo in an exchange transaction from David Fleay in Australia. Species in this shipment included the Copperhead, Tiger Snake, Red-bellied Black Snake, and Whipsnake.

Zz.

THE DIRECTOR OF THE MUNICH ZOOLOGICAL GARDENS, DR. HEINZ HECK, TELLS THAT HE HAS SUCCEEDED IN RE-CREATING THE TARPAN, A HORSE-SPECIES WHICH WAS ERADICATED IN 1876. Further details have not been received, but we hope to be able to tell something about it in the next edition.

Springbok Baby in San Diego

The first San Diego-born Springbok in many a year made its appearance on September 7th. Its mother was acquired from the Philadelphia Zoo in 1950, and the father from Ruhe in 1947.

DIFFICULTIES IN A NEW ZEALANDIAN ZOO.

Visitors in the Auckland Zoo will notice a number of animals absent from this zoo which they might well have expected to see. These omissions can be traced to several regulations governing import and exhibition of animals in New Zealand. These can be headed broadly as:-

Livestock Disease. The prosperity of New Zealand depends to a very large extent upon its livestock industry. Naturally, therefore, the Government strictly prohibits the importation of any animals which might carry disease that could spread to the domestic stock. For that reason there is an almost total embargo on any animals from Africa, thus excluding giraffes, zebra, etc., whilst birds of the pheasant, duck, goose type are prohibited from most parts of the world. The fear of foot and mouth disease similarly limits the parts of the world from which we can choose stock.

Public Health. Monkeys from South America are prohibited because they could carry the germs causing yellow fever, whilst no birds of the parrot family are permitted in to New Zealand for fear of psittacosis (parrot disease).

Pest Danger. New Zealand has suffered a great deal in past decades through the unchecked introduction of animals into the country where they have developed, not only to the detriment of the native flora and fauna, but have also reached pest dimensions in many cases. Naturally, therefore, the authorities prohibit any undesirable animals for that reason. Poisonous snakes are not permitted to be landed, whilst other types of animals which if they were to become loose, might develop at large, are similarly controlled.

Fauna Protection Laws. The story of the destruction of much of New Zealand's native fauna is a tragic one. The authorities have, over recent years, brought down very rigid legislation controlling the killing or capturing of native fauna. These regulations which prohibit the keeping in captivity of the native birds, apply equally strictly to the Zoological Parks. Although recently there has been some easing of this restriction so far as the Auckland Zoological Park is concerned, there are still a number of native species which are not represented in the collection. This prohibition also affects us in another way. Many overseas zoos prefer to use their surplus stock as exchanges for rare fauna from other countries,
(to be continued page 6)

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN HELPING THE "IZN"?

If so kindly take a relief-subscription on the IZN. Such a subscription costs 25 Danish kroner, and is thus more expensive than the common subscription, but the purpose of this subscription is to give zoos, which normally receive the paper free of charge, an opportunity to help us if they want to. Kindly apply to your central bank for permission to transfer the amount to Denmark, to the account of ZOO-CENTRET in the "Bornholms Sparekasse", Rønne. When you have obtained the permission of your central bank, kindly let us know, and we shall send you a special receipt.

But remember! Even if you do not care to help us in this manner, you and every other zoo can help us by sending news and articles from their field of work!

GUIDES FORWARDED FREE TO INTERESTED READERS:

Rotterdam Zoo. Guide. Illustrated. (Holland).

- - - Booklet. - - -

Copenhagen Zoo. English guide. (Denmark).

Nykoebing F Zoo. Guide. Illustrated. (Denmark).

ODENSE ZOO AND SHOWGROUND IN DENMARK

It is becoming constantly more common that a Zoo is combined with a showground. It will always remain an open question whether the two things can be successfully combined - much may be said both pro and con. Economically it will always be an advantage, but seen from an animal-aesthetic point it will often be a drawback.

In Odense, Hans Andersens native town in Denmark, they have such a garden containing both Zoo and showground. However, here they have solved the problem in a good and natural manner, the Odense river, which intersects the area, forming the boundary line between the two sections.

The Odense Zoo was started by the well known Mr. Chr. Jensen, now deceased, who made a thing of beauty out of the garden. After the war he had the idea of placing a showground in a new area on the other side of the river. Tivoli, as it is called now, in time became a great attraction, so that this season they have had some 600,000 visitors in the "Zoo-Tivoli".

-Recently your correspondent visited the garden, and was shown the sights by Mrs. C. Jensen, the manager. In the zoological section they have recently built a modern elephant house and a new giraffe house. A tropical house has been rebuilt, and now contains two very lovely chimps, which were imported two years ago by Chr. Jensen and his charming daughter, Miss Birte Jensen. They are also changing some lakes in this section.

The showground they have closed down after a busy season. The main attraction here has been the switchback, which cost close to half a million kroner to build. As is the case in the zoological section, the buildings in this section are well maintained, and Tivoli bears the stamp of a sense of beauty, beautiful and idyllic lakes being contained in the area.

The showground is closed at 11 p.m., which cannot be called very late, and the fact that the Zoo is situated on the other bank of the river causes that the animals are not disturbed by the noise a crowd of merry people will always make!!! People are also admitted to the Zoo at night and a very beautiful entrance it is indeed, the flamingo park just in front of it being illuminated, and broad paths leading down to the bridge connecting the two sections. The major part of the Zoo is, however, closed to the public in the evening.

The visitors like the combination very much, Mrs. Jensen says, and the press agrees.

B.J.

An article on

BARLESS CAGES. (from the Brookfield Zoo-guide)

Barless cages have been extensively used in Europe since 1900. The creation of this type of construction, in the modern way, is attributed to Ursus Eggenschwyler, a Swiss artist. On the side from which the visitors view the animals, empty or water-filled moats form intervening barriers preventing the animals' escape. Usually unscalable rock work is used to enclose background. The rock-work formations are artificial; for most scenes pillaric basalt has been reproduced. A small scale model is prepared and from it the steel skeleton is shaped; it is made of round steel rods of various diameters, from three-quarter inch to smaller sizes. These are wired together to form a pattern of twelve-inch squares. The skeleton is then covered with metal lath; a thin coat of cement and sand plaster is applied to the lath by hand troweling. A greater thickness of plaster is added by the cementgun - a device by which a premix-

(to be continued next page)

FROM THE EDITOR'S WRITING-TABLE:

Well, I know it - it is becoming so that this column contains very little but our worries - but I hope you will understand.

Now we have for the tenth time been able to issue the IZN, but this time with greater financial difficulties than before. Consequently we once more invite all zoos that are interested in the continued existence of the IZN to come to our aid with a contribution. Please note the article on this subject elsewhere in the paper.

We shall draw attention to the fact that we have managed to have an agency in Holland. It is managed by Mr. van Dam. The address is Mr. G. Th. van Dam Agent of the IZN for Holland, Nude 8a, Wageningen.-

If any of our readers should be interested in acting as our agent, kindly write us as soon as possible. BUT it is not a thing that will give you any financial profit, so the motive should only be your interest in the IZN.

And now just a tip to the managers: Give us ten minutes once a month and write us a letter containing your news. We shall also be glad to receive photos or - still better - printing plates or cliches (again the money!), which will be returned to you after use.

Sincerely yours,

BENT JØRGENSEN
Editor.

At next page, the photopage, we show you five pictures from four zoos. The two above ones are from the Odense Zoo-Showground, and show the showground section and the hippos in the zoo. Photo: Zoo, Odense. Then a photo shows the saigas in the Rotterdam Zoo (pg.1.). Photo: Diergaarde Blij-Dorp, Rotterdam. A photo introduces you to the interesting Egg-eating Snake, told about in a former edition. The egg is a sparrow-egg. Photograph by kind permission of Kemsley Newspaper, Manchester, England. Taken at Belle Vue Zoo and Gardens, Manchester. - The last photo shows

Barless Cages....

(continued from pg.5)

ture of sand and cement is applied through a tube under pneumatic pressure. About an inch of the material is sprayed against the unexposed surface. While the cement is still "green", that is, before the mixture crystallizes, it is sculptured and tinted with fresco colors. In connection with the barless cages the visitor will observe the unusual spaciousness of the accommodations and the use of accessory planting of foreign plants.

Difficulties in New Zealand....

(continued from pg.4)

The number of different species of native animals in New Zealand is not large, and as most of these are fully protected, we have little to offer in exchange by way of inducement to overseas zoos to make stock available to us.

International Finance. The present problems of soft and hard currency affect the Auckland Zoological Park as much as any other commercial organisation. Although the authorities have been most lenient, ethically we do not feel that we can ask to use hard currency if this can possibly be avoided.---

INTERNATIONAL ZOO-NEWS

No.10.

Vol.I.

Published mty. by Zoo-Centret.

Editor: Bent Jørgensen.

Business-Manager:

Mogens Kofoed Hansen.

All correspondence should be addressed to Zoo-Centret,

Rønne, Denmark.

Agency in Holland:

Mr. G. Th. van Dam,

Nude 8a,

Wageningen.

Taken at Belle Vue Zoo and Gardens, Manchester. - The last photo shows the rhino and its enclosure in

