

FRIENDS OF THE ZOO NEWSLETTER

No Vacancy

The Woodland Park Zoological Gardens has been so successful breeding and raising snow leopards that we're running out of room. Initially the Zoo had only a single pair of snow leopards. Wild caught in Russia, Nicholas and Alexandra were donated to Woodland Park Zoo where they have given birth to 11 cubs. Most have been sent to other zoos in the U.S., Canada, England and Italy to encourage captive breeding of this endangered cat. One of those offspring, Marya, has remained at Woodland Park Zoo and is paired with a young male, Ivan, here on breeding loan from the Omaha Zoo. They have yet to breed, but we anticipate the birth of cubs in 1981. A more recent litter from Nicholas and Alexandra awaits the outcome of inter-zoo discussions. Sasha, a daughter, and Stasik, a son, are presently off exhibit because of space limitations. One of them will be exchanged for an unrelated snow leopard from another zoo. Then Seattle's Zoo will have a third pair for breeding.

Why so much emphasis on breeding snow leopards? These exotic cats are extremely rare. Found only in the high mountains of Central Asia in steep, rocky terrain, they have avoided scientists' attempts to learn more about their status in the wild. Almost all knowledge of their behaviors comes from captive studies.

With a dwindling wild population (400 ± 200), it is imperative to preserve their native habitat and to breed them in captivity. With three pairs of adults, Woodland Park Zoo hopes to contribute greatly toward that goal.

To resolve the resulting housing crunch, plans are under way to renovate the old giraffe yard into a large, natural mountain rock setting. The present small enclosures limit the cats' behaviors, and consequently limit what we can learn about snow leopards. By expanding their living quarters we will be giving them freedom to explore more kinds of activity. Further observations will result in a much

broader understanding of snow leopard management. A new, naturalistic enclosure also will give visitors a much more realistic view of these rare animals.

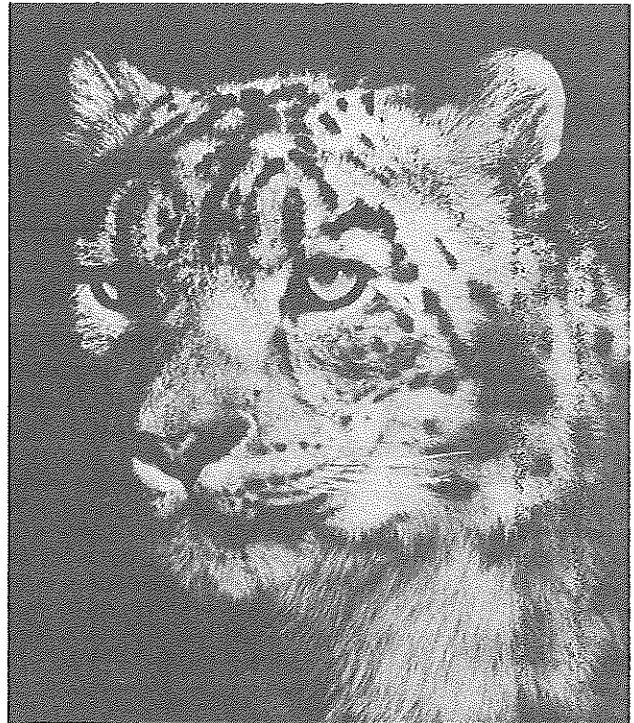


Photo by John Mackey

Construction of the new exhibit is being co-sponsored by the Seattle Zoological Society and the City of Seattle. Extensive fund-raising activities now are underway (see related article).

When the new habitat is completed, it will benefit both the Zoo and its visitors. But most important of all, it will benefit the snow leopards.



From the Director

Peace on Earth?

It is Christmas Eve. Outside a small town in Montana a man sets a steel trap which will later break the leg of a coyote. In a laboratory in New Jersey a woman drips a yellow chemical from a shampoo into the eye of a firmly-restrained rabbit: it is the seventh day of the experiment and the eye has eroded to jelly. In Arizona a truck driver loads thousands of eggs taken from debeaked chickens kept in tiny compartments under 24-hour red light. Peace on earth?

It is Christmas Day. A tiger in an Indian forest leaps onto the back of a small and spindle-legged deer, crushing its throat with bone-hard teeth. From a tree in New Guinea a cluster of bright blue feathers flutter down from the struggling body of a small bird trapped in the mouth of a snake. On the plains of Africa three lions rip into the hot guts of a fallen but still living zebra. Peace on earth?

From the time the first microscopic animals evolved on this planet and consumed others for protein and energy, no living thing has enjoyed peace and security. Always it has been a cyclical story of pursuers and pursued. Only vigilance can ensure temporary survival for the lone individual. No wild creatures, be they mice in an English hedgerow, butterfly fish in the corals of the Bahamas, or tapirs in the jungles of South America, can escape the persistent pressures of the hunt. Peace has never existed in the wild.

There is, however, real difference between the apparent cruelty of nature and the premeditated cruelty which humans practice on animals.

Human cruelty to animals is neither necessary nor forgivable: a special stupidity exists in the fact that, if enough people wanted, it could be stopped. The prayer for peace on earth has been reduced to mere sloganism, but peace in our world is possible.

While poachers are killing the last elephants in Africa, while vast tracts of tropical rainforests are being laid to waste, while millions of wild animals in America are being killed by poison, kerosene and leg traps, and others sacrificed without cause in research laboratories... while all of this is going on unabated, the most powerful politicians and bureaucrats in the world are arguing about how big the bombs should be that could destroy everything we know.

Perhaps if we could learn a new way to look at the problem and recognize that peace, like charity, begins at home, we'd have more chance of creating peace on earth. A world without violence against animals would be a good place to start. People who have learned to respect other life should find it easier to figure out how to stop trying to kill each other. Peace on earth has a chance if we mean peace to all living things.

David Hancocks

Admission Fees Going Up

The cost of visiting the Woodland Park Zoological Gardens is going up. The price hike represents the first fee increases since 1977. Beginning January 1, admission fees for adults (18-64 years) will be raised to \$2.50. Students (13-17) will be charged \$1.00, but Juniors (6-12), Seniors (65 and over) and handicapped remain unchanged at 50¢. Children (0-5) will still enter free. The price of Annual Passes also will be raised as of New Year's Day: Individual and Family Passes will be \$7.50 and \$15.00, respectively, while Individual Lifetime or Group Passes will be raised to \$150.

Because of persistent problems with vandalism and crowd control, there will be no "free days" in 1981. Instead, 75,000 passes will be distributed to social agencies throughout Seattle and King County.

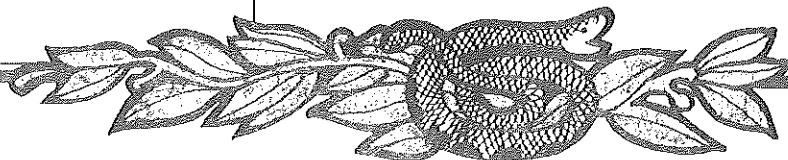
Despite the price increases, the Zoo remains an excellent bargain (especially if one takes advantage of an Annual Pass). Woodland Park Zoo is rapidly approaching a standard that few other zoos will be able to match. The changes in exhibit design make your Zoo tours even more enjoyable than before. Yes, the prices are higher, but the value is far greater.

No More Newsletter, But...

First the bad news: this is your last issue of the Friends of the Zoo Newsletter. Now the good news: in spring, 1981, as part of your Annual Pass membership, you will receive an entertaining and informative 32-page, full-color magazine called "Animal Kingdom". Published every two months by the New York Zoological Society, it features a wide range of animal-related topics, from conservation efforts around the world to successful breeding reports in zoos. In addition, there will be an eight-page section on activities at Woodland Park Zoo. So you'll be getting more than you had before, not just four times a year, but every two months. We're excited about this new offer, we're confident you'll like it, too. It's reason enough, by itself, to buy an Annual Zoo Pass.

Goodbye FOZ, Hello SZS

What's happening to the "Friends of the Zoo"? To be exact, on January 1, 1981, it will cease to exist. But don't be alarmed! The status of Annual Pass Holders is simply shifting gears. Beginning New Year's Day, all Pass Holders will automatically become members of the Seattle Zoological Society. Pass Holders will have all the previous benefits plus several new ones. As before, you'll enjoy unlimited admissions to the Zoo for one full year. The quarterly FOZ Newsletter will be replaced by "Animal Kingdom", a full-color magazine published six times a year. In addition, as a member of the SZS, you will be entitled to attend





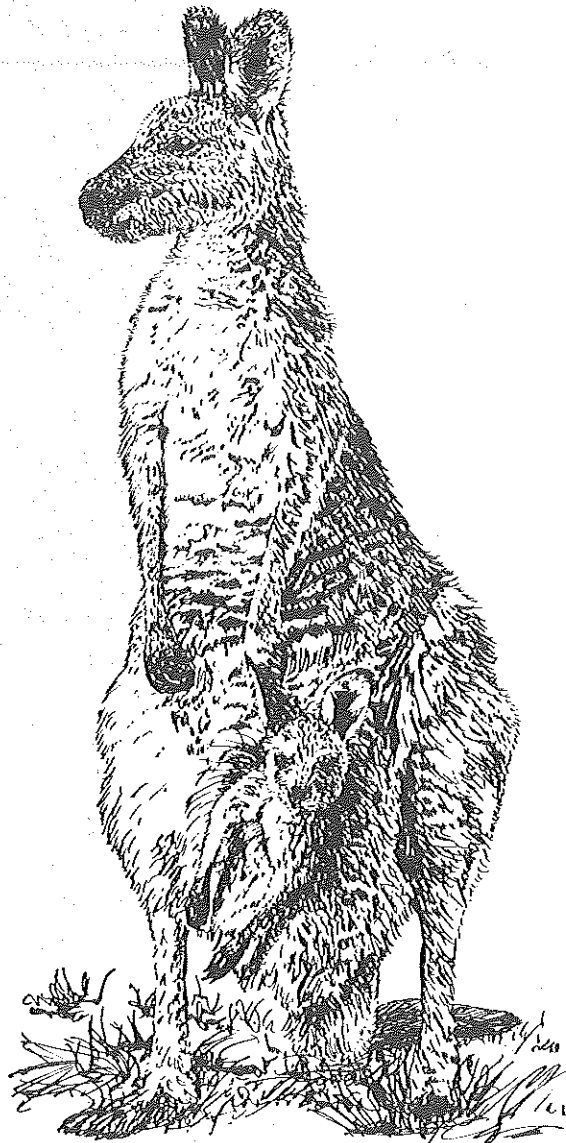
monthly membership programs free of charge. Discounts will be offered for special SZS events.

For those who are yearning to become more involved in the Zoo, here's your chance to learn, participate, or just enjoy expanded benefits.

See the Australian Savanna – and More!

Director David Hancocks was not able to visit the real African Savanna until after we had constructed our facsimile in Seattle. He was delighted to find that we had actually produced a very authentic copy.

For construction of the Australian Savanna, however, he is not taking the same risk. In the fall of 1981 David Hancocks will lead an unusually comprehensive tour of Australia.



Drawing by James Parsons

The tour is designed to include not only sights and explorations of the Australian savanna, but also a visit to Brisbane, capital of "The Sunshine State". Should you join the Director on this tour down under, you'll see koalas and wombats on your very first day in Australia. You start with a personal tour of Lone Pine Wildlife Sanctuary; then head to Heron Island, a coral cay on the Barrier Reef. Next you'll observe the wildlife of the tropical bushland surrounding Darwin; on the Perth, the capital of Western Australia, with caves, kookaburras and kangaroos. A two-night train ride on the "Indian Pacific" will take you across the great Nullarbor Plain to the vineyards of Barossa Valley outside Adelaide. Following a conducted tour of Melbourne's Royal Botanic Gardens and Zoological Park, you'll see the gold-mines at Sovereign Hill and the Fairy Penguin Parade by moonlight on Phillip Island. Other features will include an overnight stay at a sheep station, a tour of Taronga with Director Jack Throp, dinner and entertainment during an evening at Sydney's Opera House, and much more!

If you would like details on this unusual and rare opportunity, please contact Vicky Chester at 624-5357.

Docent Training

Docent Training Classes began September 15 and will continue every Monday through February, 1981. The four-hour sessions prepare zoo volunteers to conduct Zoo tours and educational programs. Instruction includes an in-depth view into the animal world and features such topics as animal physiology, behavior and conservation.

Over 40 trainees are presently enrolled. Upon completion they will join past graduates as volunteer representatives of the Zoo. Their tremendous support is invaluable, and their dedication is greatly appreciated.

To the new students – good luck! You are joining an elite group.

More than Books...

Are you frantically searching for that last-minute gift? Something that will be used over and over? Consider the Savanna Bookstore, a small gift shop on the Zoo grounds. Located between the new Giraffe House and the Lion Overlook, this specialty store is just the spot to find something for anyone who likes animals.

Books on natural history are the main feature, of course, and the Bookstore offers a wide selection including storybooks for children, novels for adults and texts for students.

There are many other products: T-shirts feature a wide variety of animals; special candles will light up your holiday spirit; postcards and buttons are





perfect stocking-stuffers; animal-related games help kids learn while they have fun; and for that empty space on the wall, there's a beautiful print commemorating the African Savanna. Created by Jim Hays, local artist, the silkscreen image is done by hand, so each print is an original.

If that's not enough to convince you to visit the Savanna Bookstore, there is one final consideration: a percentage of the profits goes directly to the Seattle Zoological Society, whose fund-raising efforts are assisting so many Zoo projects. By purchasing your Christmas presents at the Savanna Bookstore, you are not only finding attractive gifts for your friends and family, you also are directly helping the Zoo.

During the winter months the Bookstore is open on weekends from noon until 4 pm.

Concert to Benefit Zoo's Snow Leopards

To help raise money for the new snow leopard exhibit, singer/comedian Mike Murphy will donate a benefit performance on Monday, December 29, at 8:30 pm at the Northwest Passage in Bellevue. Sponsored by the Seattle Zoological Society and the Northwest Passage Restaurant, the concert is one of

several programs which will raise funds to develop a new naturalistic habitat for snow leopards.

Mark December 29th on your calendar, and why not include dinner in your plans? A percentage of your dinner bill also will be donated to the Zoo. Eat hearty, laugh your hat off and contribute to the Zoo, all at the same time. For reservations and show information, contact the Northwest Passage Restaurant, 1150 - 114th SE, 455-9944. We'll see you there!



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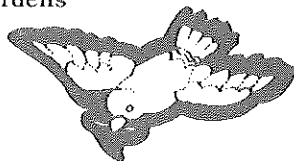
Curator of Reptiles

Hank Klein

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