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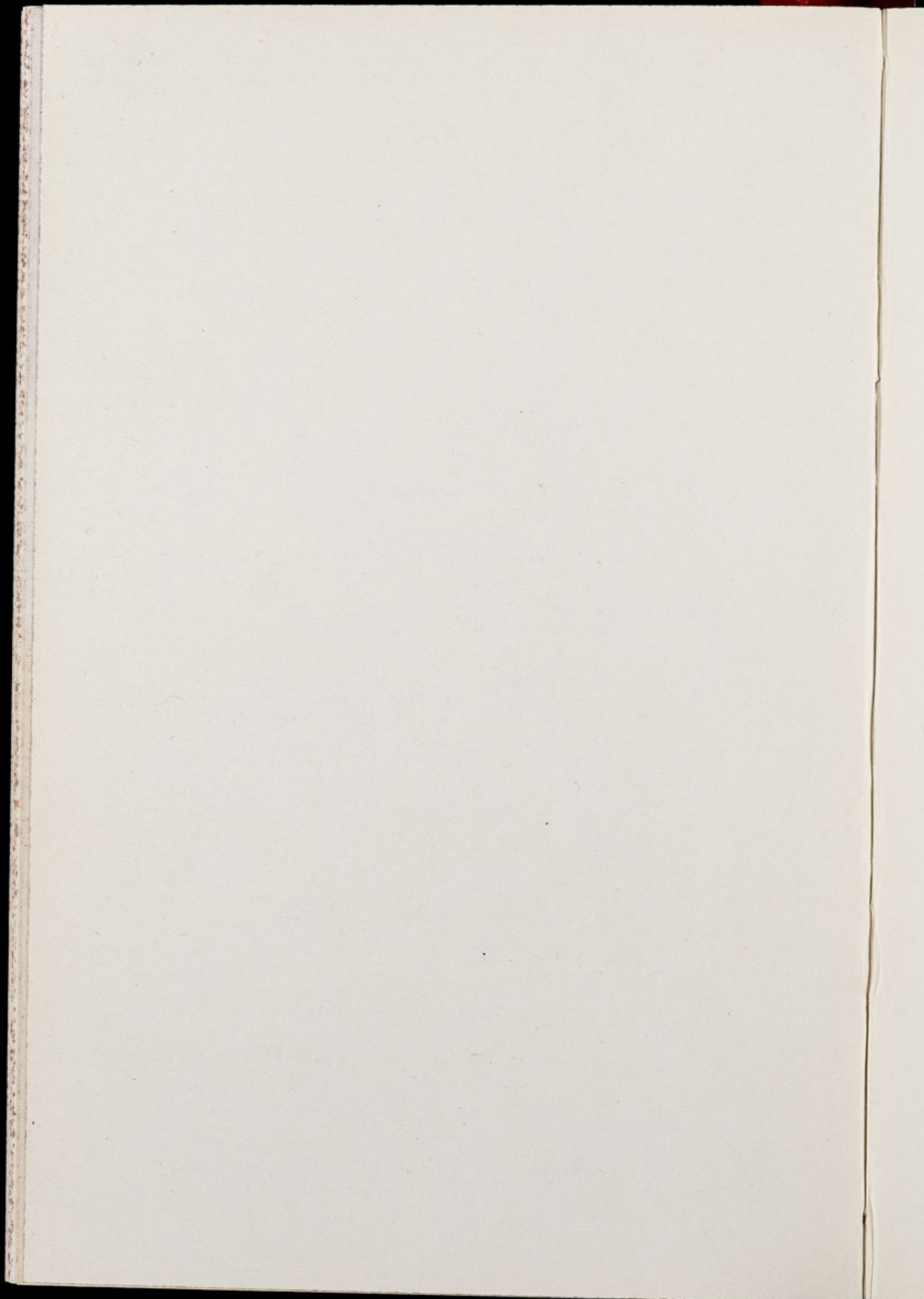
Chester Zoo News

AND GUIDE

THE NORTH OF ENGLAND ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY
ZOOLOGICAL GARDENS, UPTON - BY - CHESTER

September 1969

Price 1/-



The North of England Zoological Society
ZOOLOGICAL GARDENS, UPTON-BY-CHESTER

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COVER: This month's cover photograph shows Myra the Hippopotamus with her baby, Bimbo.

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BIRTHS AND POINTS OF INTEREST

Bank Holiday weekend was quite eventful in the Pachyderm House, as Myra, the Hippopotamus gave birth to a baby during the early hours of Sunday, August 31st.

Myra was between two and three years old when she first arrived in Chester during 1961, having been purchased from Nairobi. Generino, the male Hippopotamus was born in Italy and was three years old when brought to Chester from Naples by his keeper in 1963.

As is usual with Hippopotami their baby was born in the water and so far appears to be in extremely good health. The young Hippopotamus has already fitted into the established routine. During the mornings she wallows in the mud quite happily with her parents until about 4.30 p.m. when they make their way to the indoor enclosure where they eat and then settle down for the night. It is not at all unusual to see all three Hippopotami submerged in the mud outside the Pachyderm House. It is however very difficult to distinguish exactly where the baby is lying as she is small and seems to blend in with the mud. In fact, one would probably find it difficult to believe that she was present if one could not see her breathing or occasionally flapping her ears.

Myra is proving to be a devoted mother, although she does tend to be rather possessive towards the baby and often chases her mate away should he appear to be showing too great an interest in the young Hippopotamus.

The latest arrival appears to have caused great interest among the Elephants in the neighbouring enclosure. It is a most amusing sight to see two or three of them peering over the wall at the Hippopotami. This interest is reciprocated by the Hippos who in turn approach the wall to inspect the Elephants, Myra always taking great care to protect her offspring from them.

Soon after the birth was announced, the daily press issued photographs and captions to the effect that as yet the young animal

had not been named. On reading this, two nine year old school girls, Susan Lyon and Beverly McDermott were so interested that they discussed the matter with their friends at Leigh Central County Primary School and it was decided unanimously that "Bimbo" would be a very suitable name.

This suggestion was the first that the Zoo had received and as it was acceptable for a female, it was decided that the young Hippopotamus should be called Bimbo.

The children were so pleased that their name had been chosen for the baby that they have taken the welfare of the animal to heart and even sent a congratulations card to Myra, the mother, wishing both the parents and offspring well!

Chester Zoo has the only breeding herd of Red Lechwe in the country and so naturally the addition of two fawns during August were of great interest. These latest arrivals bring the total number of the Red Lechwe herd to eleven.

'Tin-tin' a female Bagot Goat was one of twins born on a very cold winter's night about three years ago. The two tiny goats managed to shelter under a hay rick but the next morning when they were found, only Tin-tin had survived.

A keeper took Tin-tin home and hand-reared her; at first it was not certain whether she would recover but it was not long before she was running around the house, even managing to climb the stairs and to oust the family dog from its position in front of the fire!

Tin-tin was put into her present enclosure last Christmas and to everyone's surprise has recently given birth to a female kid. Both Tin-tin and her baby seem to be in very good health and are proving most interesting exhibits.

Also in the Bagot Goat enclosure are a number of Soay sheep. When young they managed to escape through the fencing around their pen and were found eating the heads off a display of roses! Consequently they had to be kept in another part of the Zoo until they were too large to squeeze through the railings.

One of the Common Leopards recently gave birth to a cub and both the mother and offspring are in very good health. At present they are not on view to the public but will be seen in their outside enclosure within the next month or so.

NEW ACQUISITIONS

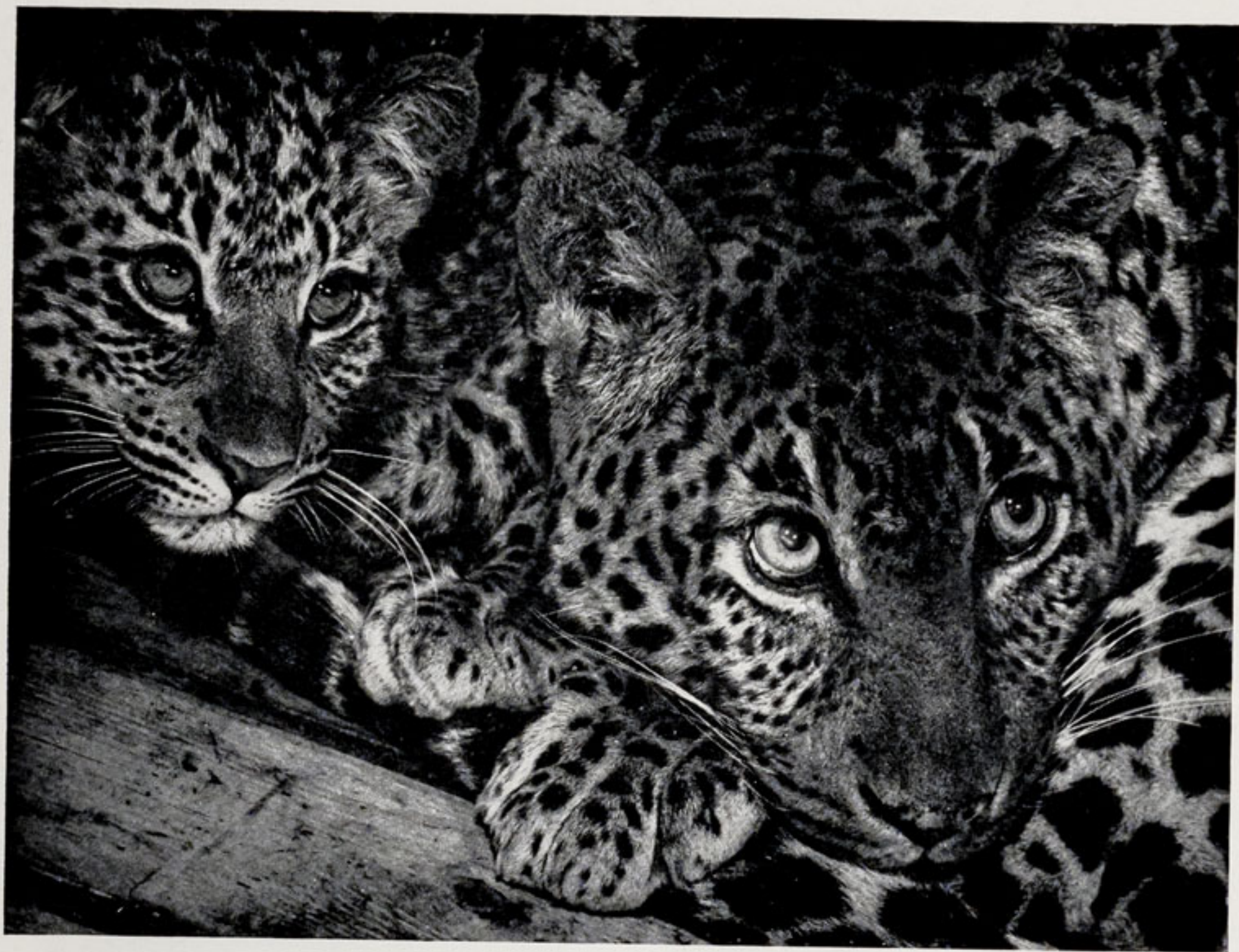
One male and two female Greater Kudu arrived at the Quarantine Station earlier this month. These animals are the largest and most striking of Antelopes living mainly in the forests and rocky bushveld of Africa. Kudu are brown in colour with thin white vertical stripes round the body, the male being easily distinguishable by the throat fringe, the white chevron marking on the nose and the large spiral horns.

In their natural habitat Kudu live in small herds, often not being particularly active until the cooler hours when they emerge from the undergrowth to feed on leaves and young shoots.

There are no Kudus at present in the collection but when the new arrivals have completed their year in Quarantine they will be transferred to an enclosure at the Zoo.

PRESENTATION OF MASCOTS BY THE 1st BATTALION OF THE CHESHIRE REGIMENT

Earlier this month, Colour Sergeant Iggy, Flossie and their six month old youngster Cyd, were presented to Chester Zoo. These animals, all Hamadryas Baboons were donated by the 1st Battalion of the Cheshire Regiment which returned recently to England from Bahrain.



LEOPARDS

E. Kirkland, F.R.P.S.

All three Baboons were mascots of the Transport Section and when the Battalion was due to leave Bahrain the men decided to pay the Baboons' fare back to Chester, rather than have to face the possibility that they would be destroyed.

On arrival at Chester, Flossie, Iggy and Cyd were taken to the Zoo Hospital where they were given a thorough examination prior to being placed in a large enclosure with the Hamadryas Baboons already in the Zoo.

The three new Baboons seem to have settled in happily and in fact Iggy, the new male immediately began to assert his authority over the original male.

In the wild state Hamadryas Baboons are found in Abyssinia and South West Arabia. They were formerly found in the Nile Valley, where they were considered sacred by the ancient Egyptians.

These Baboons are silvery-brown in colouring, having a long flowing mane over the head, shoulders and chest; this is especially true of the male. The tail is over a foot long, thick and carried in a drooping manner, which is characteristic of all Baboons.

All Hamadryas Baboons have long canines and it was this factor which gave rise to the belief in Egypt that they were companions and oracles of the God Thoth. This theory was so strong that Hamadryas Baboons were even mummified at death.

PRESENTATIONS

Two young Chimpanzees have been presented to Chester Zoo recently. Both animals have a great deal in common, having been reared in private houses as household pets.

Freddie who comes from Sierra Leone, is two years old; Boris who is a little older, has spent most of his life in a New York apartment house. In both cases, these pets were given up reluctantly by their owners as naturally it is sad to part with animals that have become part of the family.



PRESENTATION OF MASCOT *R. Broster, Liverpool Daily Post*

GUIDE TO ZOOLOGICAL GARDENS

ANIMAL FEEDING TIMES

LIONS—3 p.m. except Fridays

SEA LIONS—2-40, 3-40, 4-40 p.m.

BEARS—3-15 p.m.

POLAR BEARS—4-0 p.m.

1. MAIN ENTRANCE
2. Bird Enclosure
3. Wapiti Paddock
4. Lesser Pandas
5. Aviaries
6. Milk Bar
7. CORONATION HALL
8. CLOAKROOM, TOILETS, FIRST AID AND LOST CHILDREN
9. CAFETERIA
10. CAFETERIA
11. Picnic Lawn
12. Bears
13. Animal Enclosure
- 13a. Kiosk
14. NORTH ENTRANCE
15. AQUARIUM
16. Push Chairs and Wheel Chairs
- 17.† Parrot House
18. APE HOUSE No. 2
19. RAINBOW CAFE AND SHOP
20. Aviaries and Picnic Lawn
21. TOILETS
- 21a. Tuatara House
22. Peccaries
23. Waterbus Halt
24. Birds of Prey Aviary
25. Birds of Prey Aviary
26. Owls
27. Jackal and Hyena Enclosures
28. Wolverines
29. Porcupines and Raccoons
30. Coypus
31. Beavers
32. Giraffe House

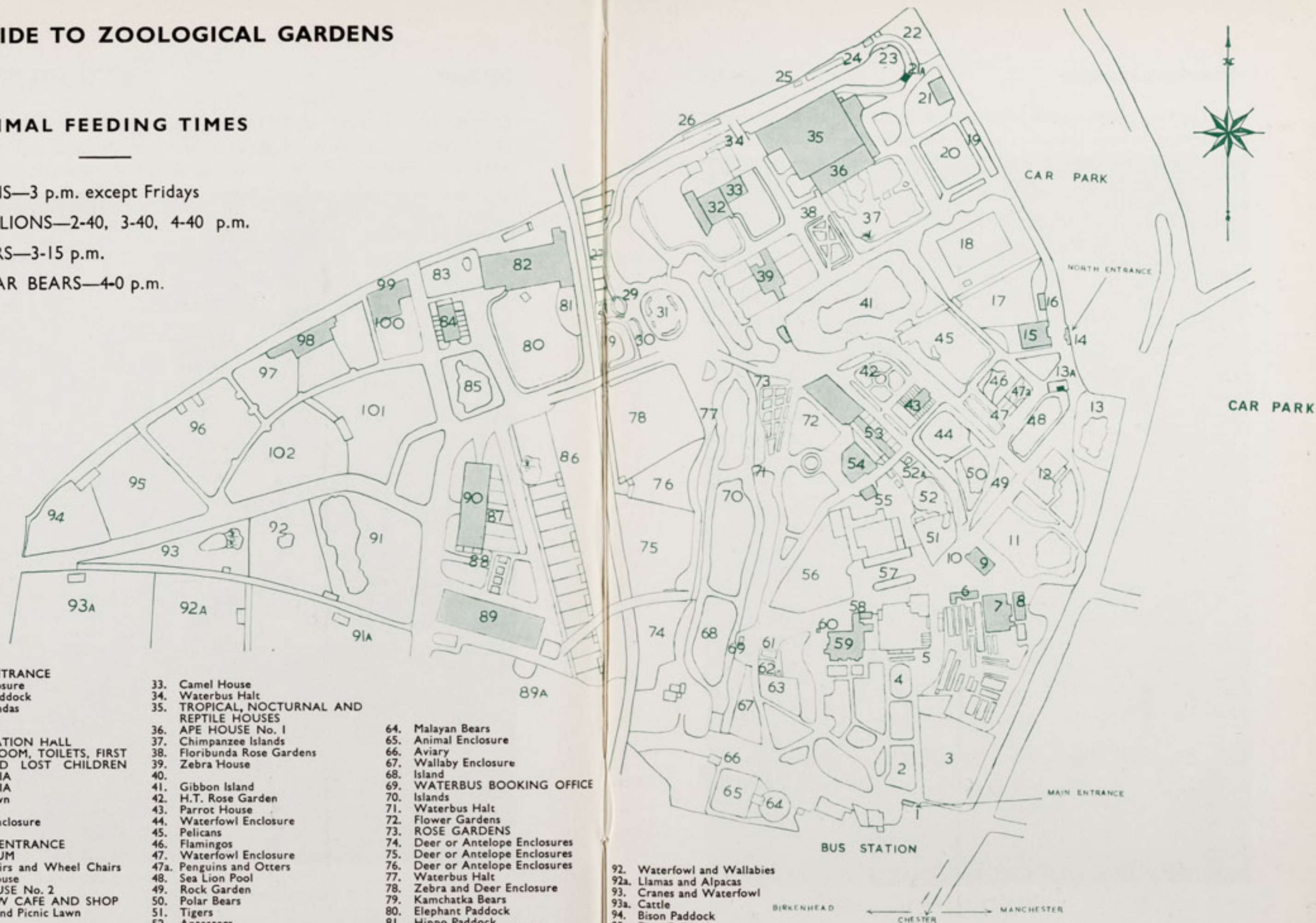
33. Camel House
34. Waterbus Halt
35. TROPICAL, NOCTURNAL AND REPTILE HOUSES
36. APE HOUSE No. 1
37. Chimpanzee Islands
38. Floribunda Rose Gardens
39. Zebra House
- 40.
41. Gibbon Island
42. H.T. Rose Garden
43. Parrot House
44. Waterfowl Enclosure
45. Pelicans
46. Flamingos
47. Waterfowl Enclosure
- 47a. Penguins and Otters
48. Sea Lion Pool
49. Rock Garden
50. Polar Bears
51. Tigers
52. Anteaters
- 52a. Penguin Pool
53. BIRD HOUSE
54. FOUNTAIN RESTAURANT
55. TOILETS
56. Lions
57. NEW ZOO SHOP
58. TOILETS
59. OAKFIELD RESTAURANT
60. G.P.O. Telephone Kiosk
61. Animal Enclosure
62. Animal Enclosure
63. Cheetahs

64. Malayan Bears
65. Animal Enclosure
66. Aviary
67. Wallaby Enclosure
68. Island
69. WATERBUS BOOKING OFFICE
70. Islands
71. Waterbus Halt
72. Flower Gardens
73. ROSE GARDENS
74. Deer or Antelope Enclosures
75. Deer or Antelope Enclosures
76. Deer or Antelope Enclosures
77. Waterbus Halt
78. Zebra and Deer Enclosure
79. Kamchatka Bears
80. Elephant Paddock
81. Hippo Paddock
82. PACHYDERM HOUSE
83. Tapir Enclosure
84. Small Mammal House
85. Waterfowl Enclosure
86. Antelope and Cattle
87. Stork Enclosures
88. Monkey Enclosures
89. Cat House
- 89a. Jaguars
90. MONKEY HOUSE
91. Cranes and Waterfowl
- 91a. Highland Cattle

92. Waterfowl and Wallabies
- 92a. Llamas and Alpacas
93. Cranes and Waterfowl
- 93a. Cattle
94. Bison Paddock
95. Deer Paddock
96. Eland and Marmots
97. Rhino Paddocks
98. RHINO HOUSE
99. TOILETS
100. Mpila Snack-Bar
101. Antelope Enclosure
102. Antelope Enclosure

Animals may be moved from time to time

†--Under construction.



The two Chimpanzees were at first housed in an enclosure in the Monkey House. Boris has now joined Bo-bo and Chi-chi, the two young Chimpanzees already on the island and Freddie is at present going into the nursery each day.

Recently 15 Jirds or Tamarisk Gerbils (*Meriones unguiulatas shawi*) were added to the collection. This species differs from the other true Gerbils in some of its habits as well as being anatomically different. Also presented were some Asiatic Gerbils which have joined others in the Nocturnal House.

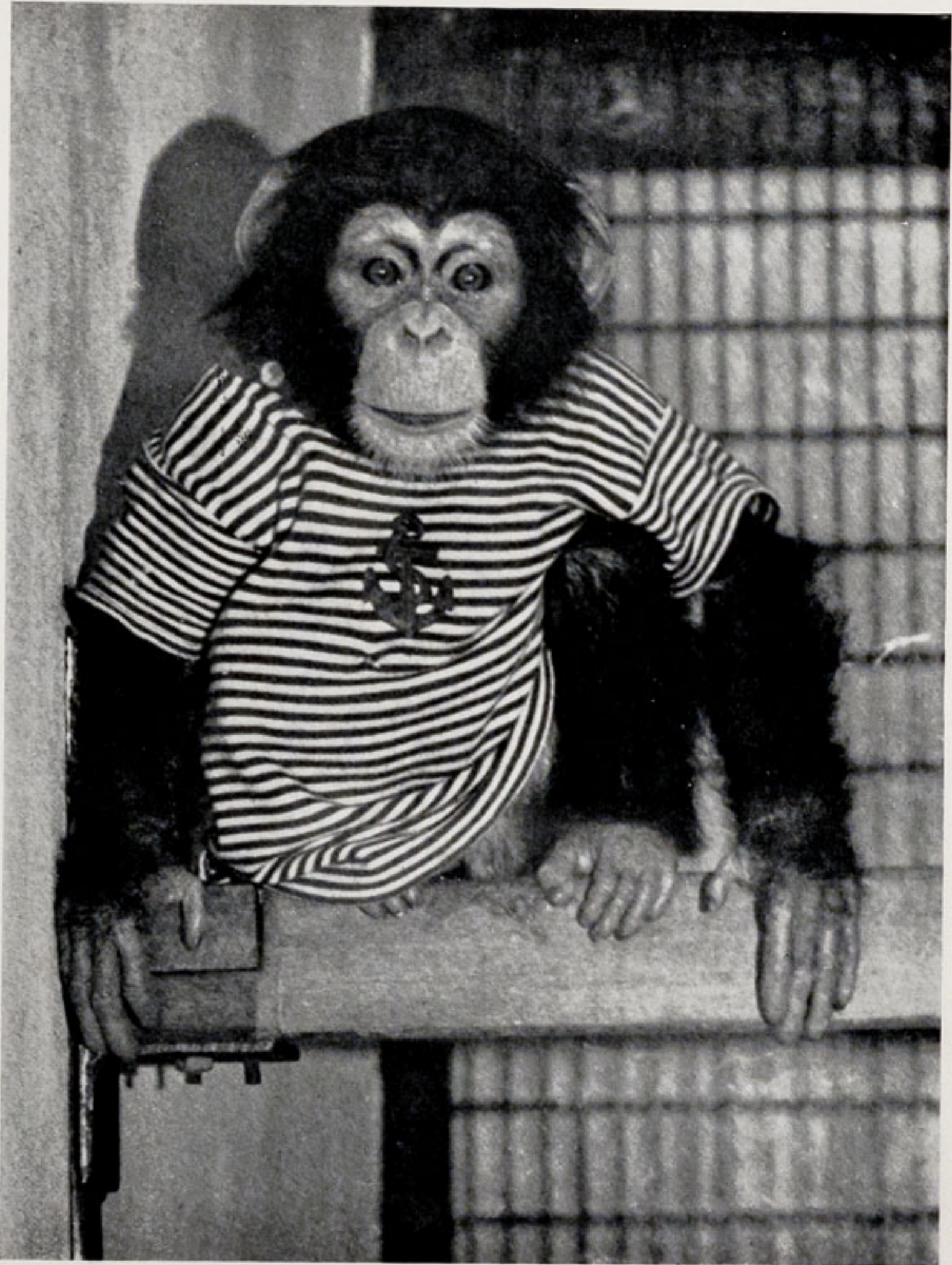
Gerbils are becoming more and more popular as domestic pets as they are not demanding in their needs. They are most attractive animals having very pale, soft silky coats. Their back legs are longer than their front legs which enables them to hop like Jerboas, although generally they run in typical rodent fashion. Gerbils are vegetarians and enjoy a simple diet which consists mainly of seeds and roots. By nature they seem very docile and this is another factor which recommends them as pets for they rarely bite the human handler.

A young boy recently found a large Caterpillar near a banana packing factory in Chester. His mother was convinced that it was a rare species and owing to the location in which the Caterpillar was found and its large size, insisted that her son should take it to Chester Zoo for identification.

Having established that it was in fact a Hawk Moth Caterpillar, it was placed in a glass case where it soon crawled under a dead leaf and began the process of pupaeting.

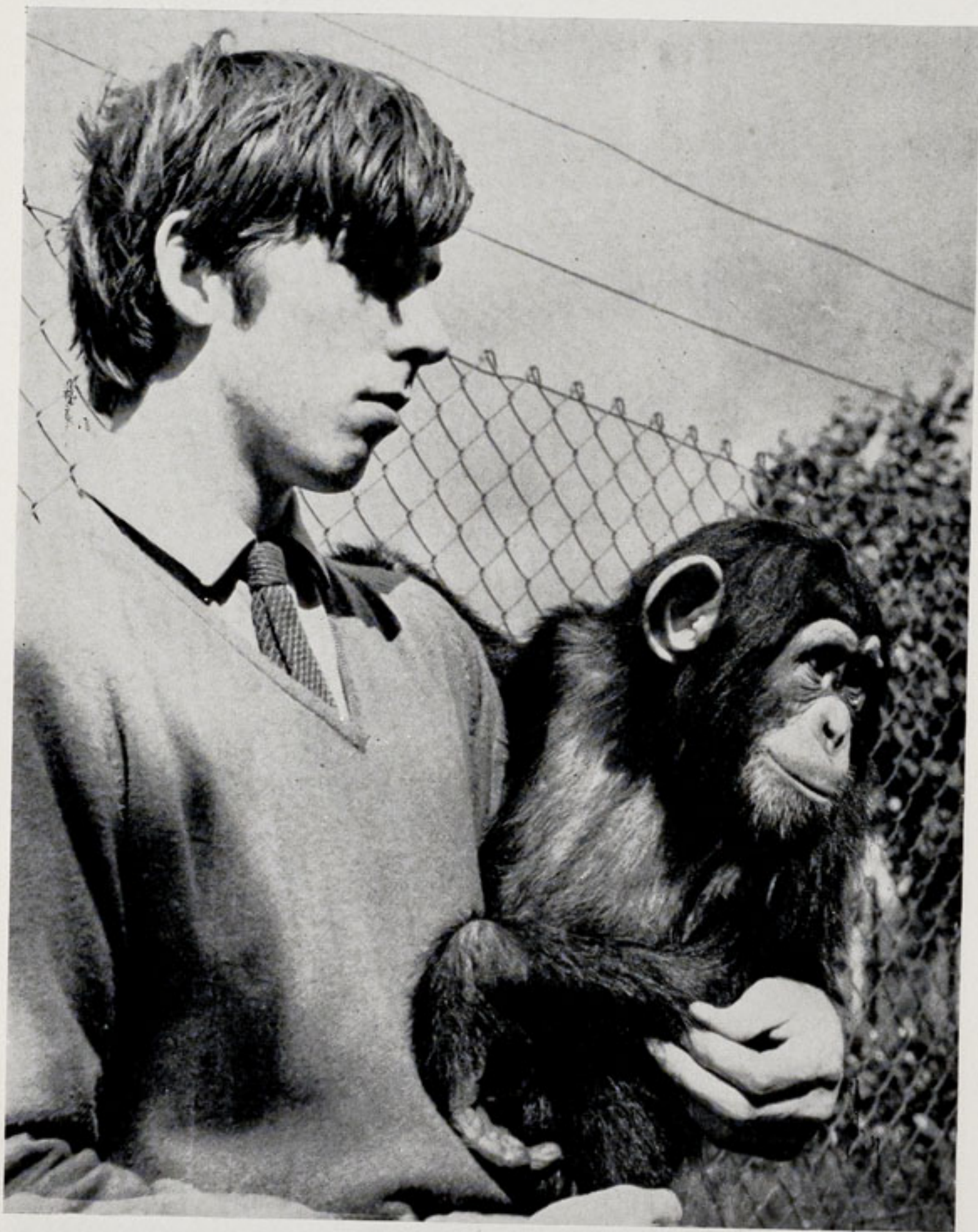
WINNER OF THE WORLD WILDLIFE JUNIOR COMPETITION

The winner of this year's World Wildlife junior competition was Stephen Howarth, aged ten years, who lives in Yorkshire. His prize included visits to Flamingo Park, London Zoo, Bristol Zoo and Chester Zoo.



"FREDDIE"

Mr. & Mrs. E. Sorby



R. Broster, Liverpool Daily Post
KEEPER DAVID ARMITAGE WITH CHIMPANZEE "BORIS"

On arrival at Chester earlier this month, Stephen and his father were taken on a tour of the Zoological Gardens by Mr. M. F. Coupe, a member of the Zoo staff.

During the course of their tour, Stephen and his father were met by press photographers who interviewed them. A most interesting morning culminated with luncheon at the Oakfield Restaurant.

Anglia Television is commencing a new children's series; it has been described as an inter-schools natural history competition and will be called 'The Survival Game'. The programme itself entails taking two competitive teams of children to the Zoo in order to gain information, prior to further questioning which will take place in a studio.

Two visits to Chester Zoo are to be made. The first tour was scheduled for 21st August when five school-children from Manchester, five school-children from Anglesey and a production team from *Anglia* Television, including Philip Wayre the compere of the programme arrived at the Zoo.

The visit began with luncheon at the Oakfield Restaurant and from there the teams were escorted around the Zoo by two members of Chester Zoo staff. During the first visit the children concentrated on Primates such as Chimpanzees, Gorillas, Ring-tailed Lemurs, Lion-tailed Macaques, Barbary Apes and Spider Monkeys.

The tour enabled the children to see many of the animals at close quarters. In fact, Rajang, the young Orang-utan at present in the nursery was brought out of his enclosure to enable them to make a closer acquaintance with him.

The second visit to the Zoo is scheduled for later in September, when the main subject of interest will be 'The Wildlife of North America'.

THE GREY-WINGED TRUMPETER

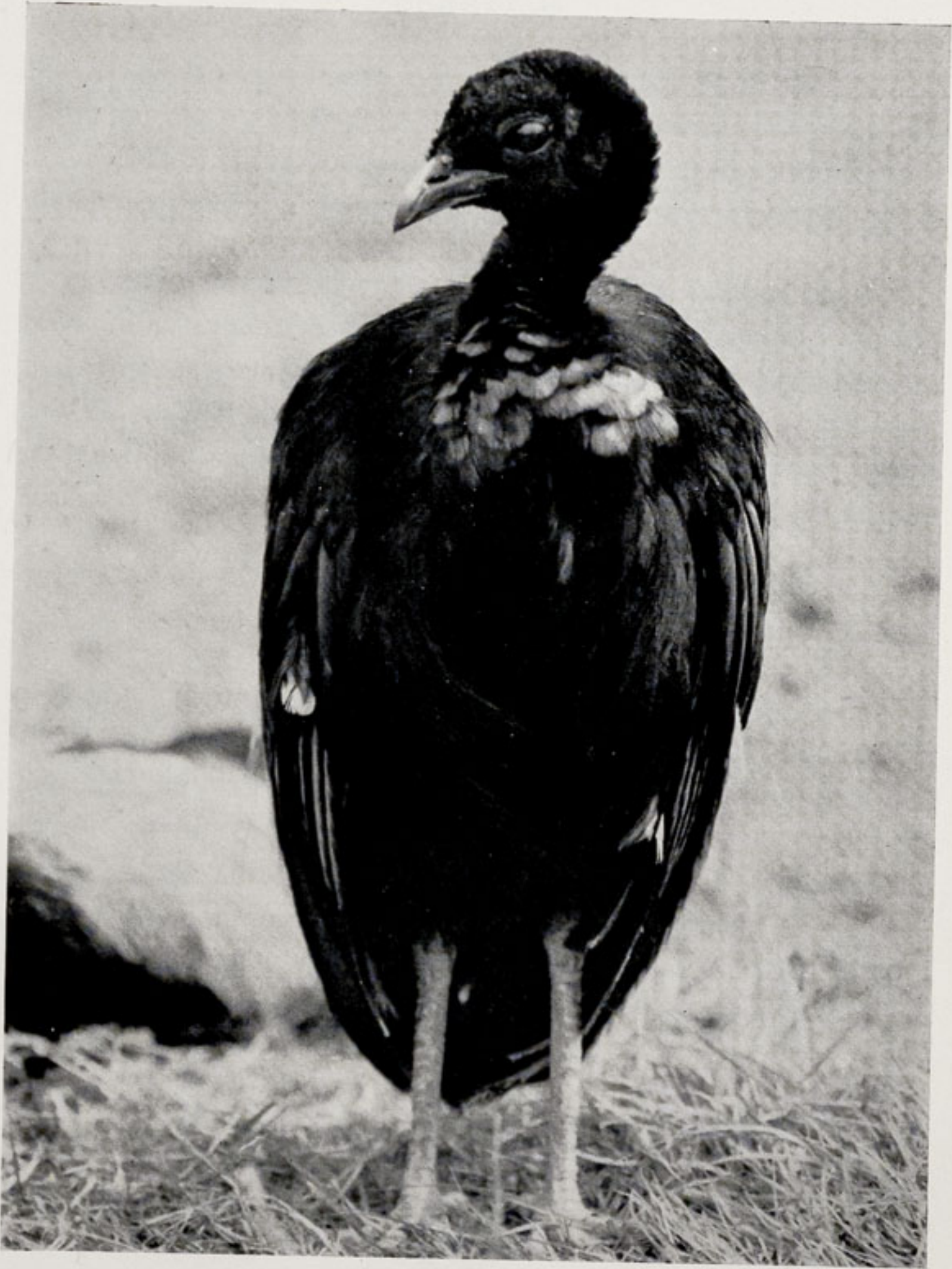
Among the tamest and most friendly of the birds at Chester Zoo are the Grey-winged Trumpeters. They are to be found in the Macaw flight of the Parrot House which they share with several species of Macaw, Weka Rail and Kestrel — all these species appearing to be compatible. The Trumpeters were at one time set at liberty in the 'walk through' section of the Temperate Bird House, but this proved dangerous for the birds as they showed no sign of fear even if they were almost trampled upon by visitors!

The Trumpeter receives its name from the strident call the male can make, which is a great contrast to the soft whistling notes made by these birds when communicating amongst themselves.

In their classification and structure, Trumpeters come between Cranes and Rails, being about the same size as a domestic fowl and weighing in the region of $2\frac{1}{4}$ lbs. As can be seen in the photograph their plumage is dark and soft, the feathers of the head and neck resembling velvet in texture.

Only two species of Trumpeter other than the Grey-winged are known to science; these are the Green-winged and the White-winged, which originate in South America and can be found from East and South Venezuela, to the Guianas, North west and North east Brazil, South east Columbia and East Equador.

The rather hunched stature of these birds has given rise to the local name of Camel-back which describes their appearance admirably. Very little has been discovered about Trumpeters in the wild state; the known authorities vary in their opinions, one saying that they are ground nesters and another that they nest in holes in trees. It is certain, however, that these birds are highly gregarious; as many as a hundred have been observed in a flock, and as they rarely fly, a great deal of their time is spent in searching for fruit, berries and various ground insects.



GREY-WINGED TRUMPETER

K. W. Green, A.R.P.S.

TUATARAS

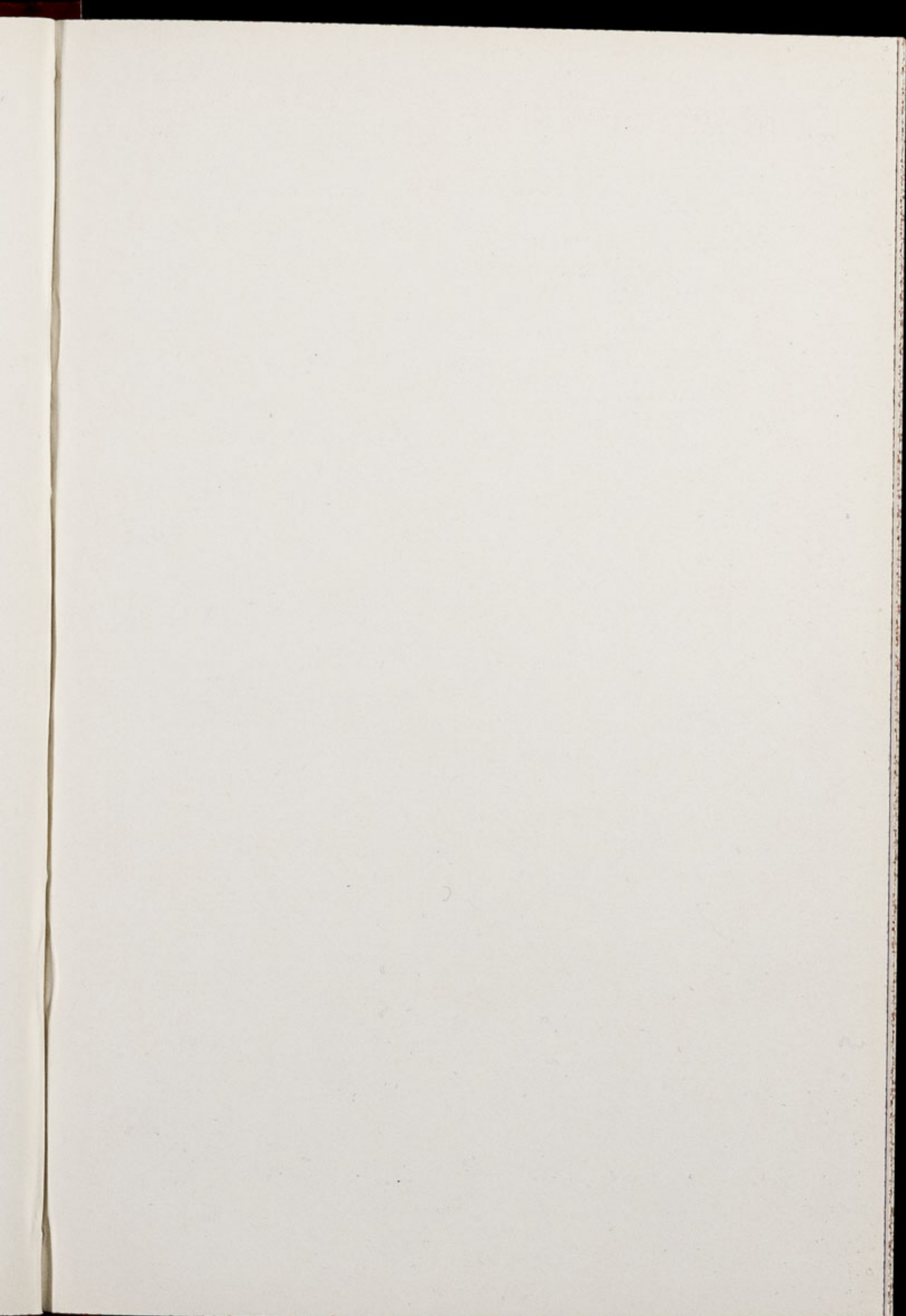
Chester Zoo's pair of Tuataras are progressing extremely well. They are to be seen on the bank of the lake in an enclosure which was constructed specially for them. These reptiles are found on only twenty islets off New Zealand, but are thriving in the British climate.

These reptiles are the sole living representatives of the order *Rhynchocephalia*, meaning 'beak head'. Fossil remains of *Rhynchocephalia* have been found in Europe, North America, Africa and Asia, dating from the Triassic period onwards; in fact the Tuatara shows no signs of significant skeletal change after two hundred million years.

The life span of the Tuatara is very long as they do not mature until the age of twenty and can live for over one hundred years.

It is extremely rare to find pairs of these reptiles in captivity and so one can imagine how exciting it was to find that the female laid eggs only four weeks after arriving at the Zoo in September 1967. The incubation period for Tuatara eggs is fifteen months and although Roger Ainsley, the Curator of the Reptiles kept the eggs in an even temperature for seven months, they proved infertile. However, the pair are still together and it is hoped that they may possibly mate and produce eggs some time in the future.





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