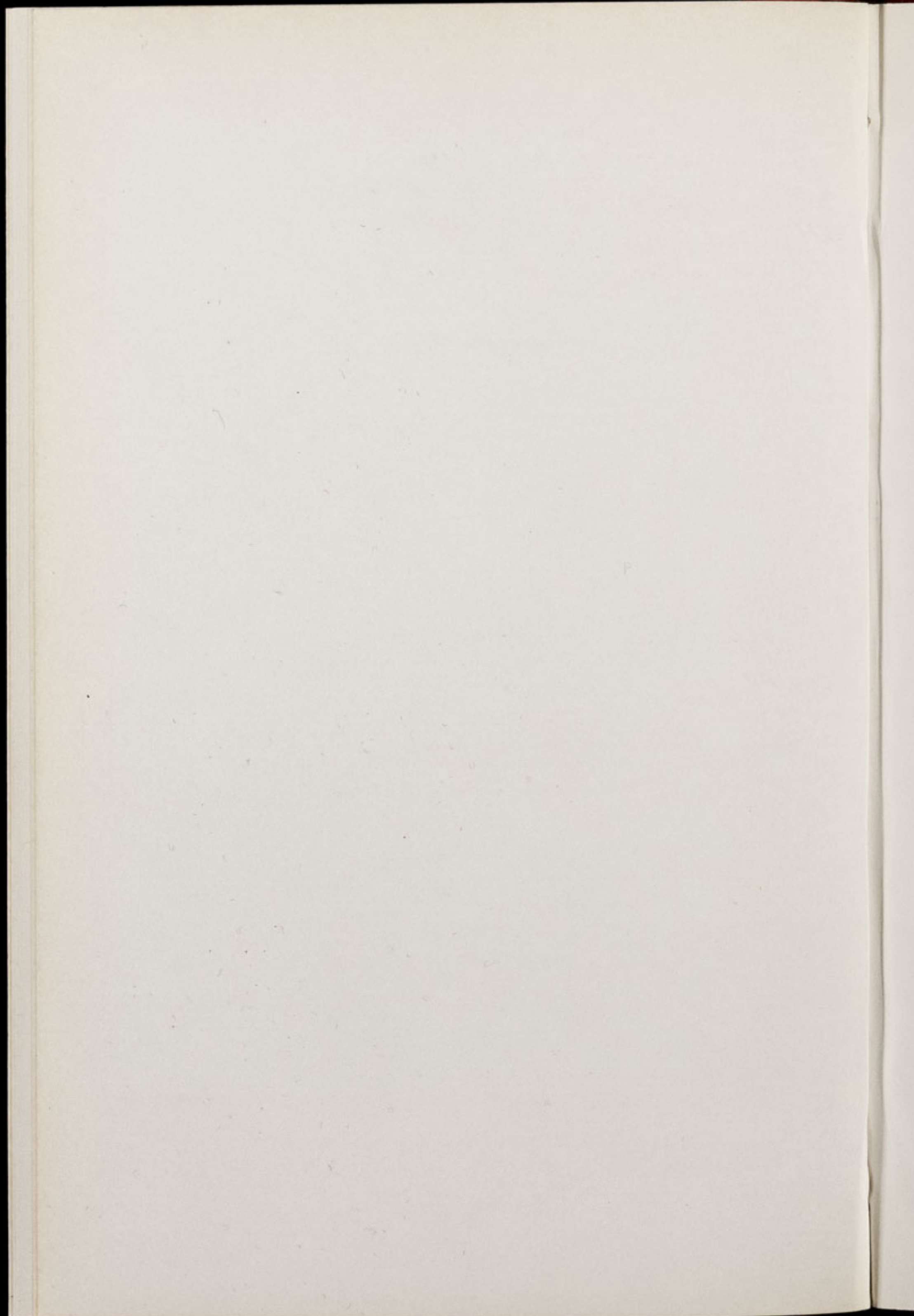


CHESTER ZOO NEWS

AND GUIDE

July 1977

Price 12p



The North of England Zoological Society

ZOOLOGICAL GARDENS, UPTON-BY-CHESTER

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COVER

"Jubilee", the baby elephant, in teasing mood.

By courtesy of P. Stubbs, Daily Mirror

Annual subscription — Two Pounds and Thirty Pence, postage paid
Telephone Chester 20106/7/8

SOME NOTES ON "JUBILEE" OUR BABY ELEPHANT

Like father like son they say—"Jubilee" is now performing various mischievous antics which the keepers recognize as being very similar to those observed in "Nobby" the Indian bull elephant who was the father. The youngster has started investigating on his own in the paddock, taking little trots and running away from the two females. At one period we were somewhat anxious when he approached the African bull "Jumbolino" (nick-named "Bubbles" by the keepers), but he is now obviously disinterested in him. We had felt there was a danger of him getting hurt on these occasions, but this phase has now passed.

"Jubilee" is beginning to use his trunk to pick things up—he doesn't quite know what to do with them but nevertheless that is what he is doing now, using his foot to help him.

The youngster is beginning to taste food in the form of bits of hay and there has been an obvious weight increase. His height has also increased by about 6" since birth. For the first few weeks of his life he was able to walk quite comfortably under his mother, but now that the natural convex curvature of his back has developed he has to stoop to get under her.

* * *

Winners of the "Name the Baby Elephant" Competition

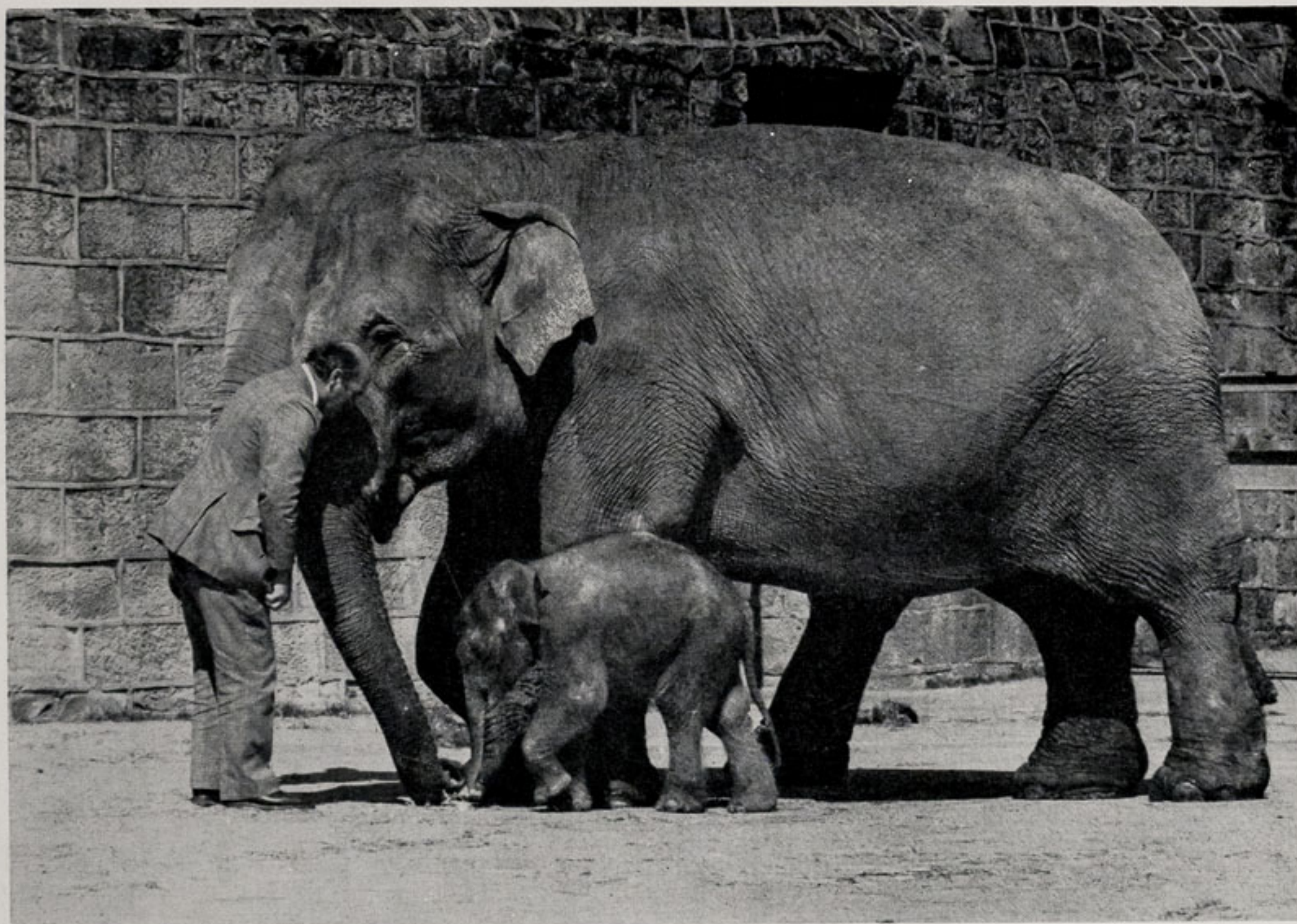
Readers of the magazine will be interested to know that there were approximately 7,000 competitors who suggested the name "Jubilee". This number exceeded by far the numbers suggested for other names. There was a ballot for prize winners which was carried out by the B.B.C. Television "Blue Peter" Programme. The prize was a free visit to the zoo and luncheon, with travel and accommodation paid for where necessary. Below is a list of prize winners.

Andrew McKinnow accompanied by his Grandmother Mrs. A. Smith from Lytham St. Ann's.

George and Sharon Leard accompanied by their mother from Londonderry, Northern Ireland.

Tracey Tuke accompanied by her mother from Spalding, Lincolnshire.

Martin Lawrie, accompanied by his mother from Falkirk, Scotland.



By courtesy of Kevin Fitzpatrick, Daily Mirror

COMPARATIVELY SPEAKING . . .

A Class of 26 children of the Silverdale County Primary School, Staffordshire also came to the zoo. The children had entered the competition en block and Mr. Mottershead, the Director-Secretary, invited them all and five accompanying teachers. The prize consisted of free coach travel, entry to the zoo, and luncheon.

Mr. Michael Coupe, our Press Officer, was in attendance during the visits and was able to show the prize winners round and see to their luncheon arrangements. We think it would be true to say that our guests enjoyed themselves and we certainly had great pleasure in entertaining them. Richard Waite of Yelverton, Devon is also a prize winner and will be visiting the zoo later in the month accompanied by his mother. We look forward to welcoming them.

ARRIVALS AND BIRTHS

The following mammals have recently been bred in the zoo:

- 2 Northern Lynx (*Felis lynx lynx*)
- 1.0 Giraffe (*Giraffa camelopardalis*)
- 1 Wapiti (*Cervus canadensis*)
- 2 Fallow Deer (*Dama dama*)
- 1 Bison (*Bos bison*)

The Northern Lynx is a medium-sized cat, its fur being a spotted yellow-brown colour. An adult has an overall length of about 3-ft. Its tail is quite small being about 5" long. The shortness of its tail does not enable it to use it to express anger, for instance. However nature has provided this cat with long black ear-tufts which the animal uses to express various moods. It also has two throat "tassels" and when the animal emits a hissing sound, which it often does, these move outwards.

This species is the predator of rats, mice, rabbits, hares and some small ungulates such as the Roe Deer, North American Squirrels and lemmings. It is able to move very quickly in deep snow and can catch and kill small deer.

The distribution of the Northern Lynx, is Europe, Northern Asia and North America.

* * *

A son has been born to "Gwen", Reticulated Giraffe, and has



By courtesy of P. Stubbs, Daily Mirror

MOTHER AND SON

been named "Bertie". At the time of writing he is two weeks old and since birth his height has increased by 6-7 inches. His body weight has increased by 50/60-lbs. "Bertie" is a strong, healthy animal despite the fact that his mother deserted him and he is being hand reared by the keepers. He now drinks about two gallons of liquid a day in the form of goat's milk supplemented with about one part cow's milk. For this purpose we have purchased a goat and with one which we already had on our farm, manage to keep the animal well supplied.

The youngster is in a pen of his own in the Giraffe House, enjoying his popularity with the visitors. On a warm day he was allowed into the outside enclosure to have his photograph taken by the press. He now goes out into the open paddock almost daily.

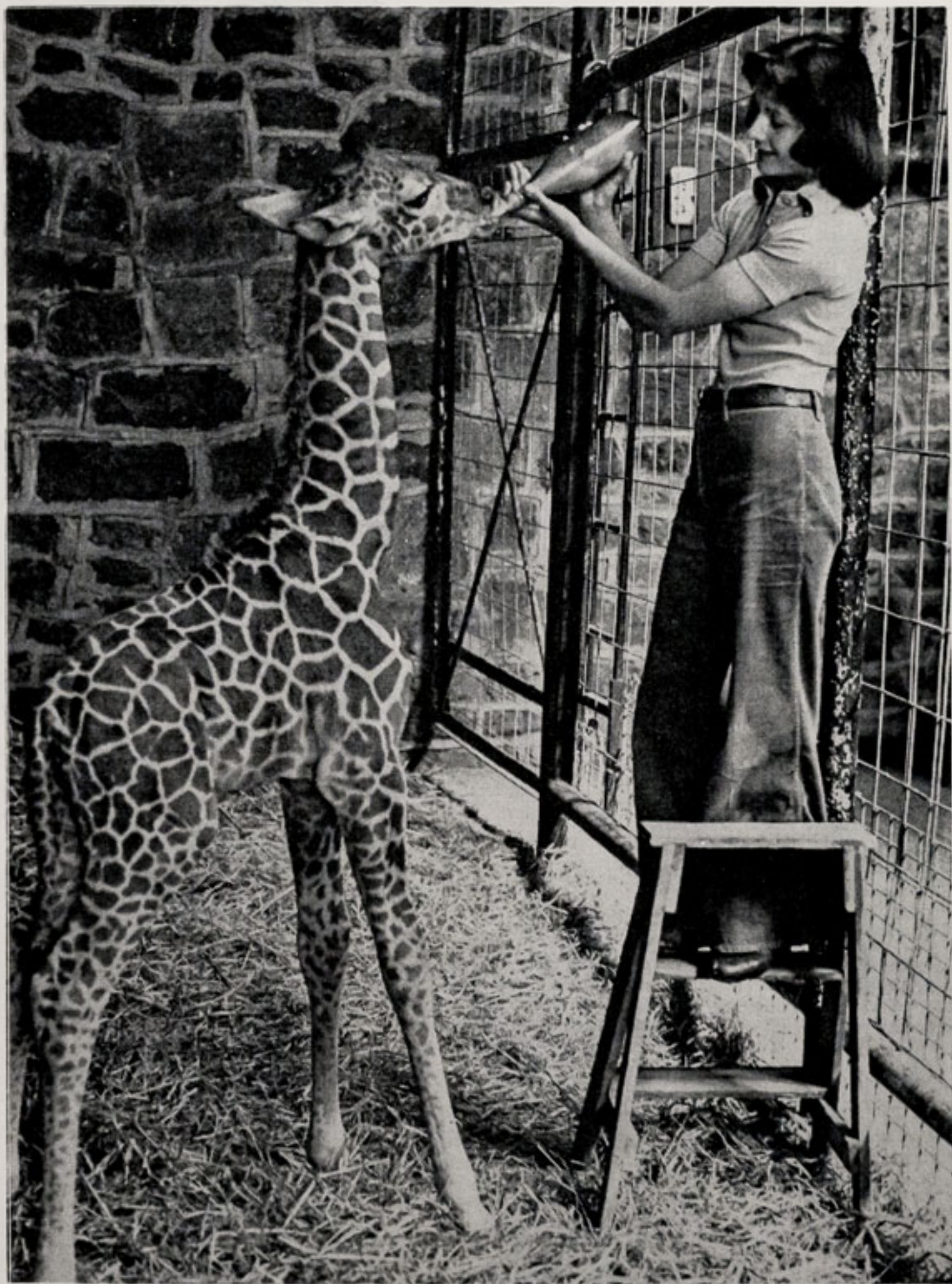
Fully grown, the Giraffe is the tallest of all mammals, reaching a height of approximately 18-ft. All animals have seven neck vertebrae, those of the giraffe being immensely elongated. The tongue of the giraffe is 17" long, and the lips are prehensile. Its predator is the lion, but with its enormous speed and defensive kick is not an easy prey. The lion attacks the giraffe usually when it is drinking.

The habitat of these animals is the open savannah, where they browse mainly on the leaves and twigs of acacia trees. Their distribution is the savannah of Tropical Africa.

Giraffes live in small herds which include one mature male protecting the females from any aggressive intruding males. The long neck and head are used in defence. This species emits a variety of whistling sounds, and side to side neck-swinging has been observed during courtship. Both male and female have short, hair-covered horns. After a gestation period of 443 days one young is born, being nearly six feet tall at birth.

* * *

We have been pleased to accept into the collection two young male Fennec Foxes (*Fennecus zerda*). They came to us on 14th June. These Fennec or Desert Foxes have been named "Monty" and "Rommel". The two are from El Borma on the Tunisian/Algerian Desert border. Monty is a fairly noisy animal, but reasonably tame. Rommel is inclined to be a little vicious. Prior to their arrival the youngsters were fed on cooked meats cut into small pieces, i.e., steak, veal and chicken with a little milk or water to drink. Here in the zoo we feed them on chicken, meat, eggs and fruit.



By courtesy of Mel Grundy

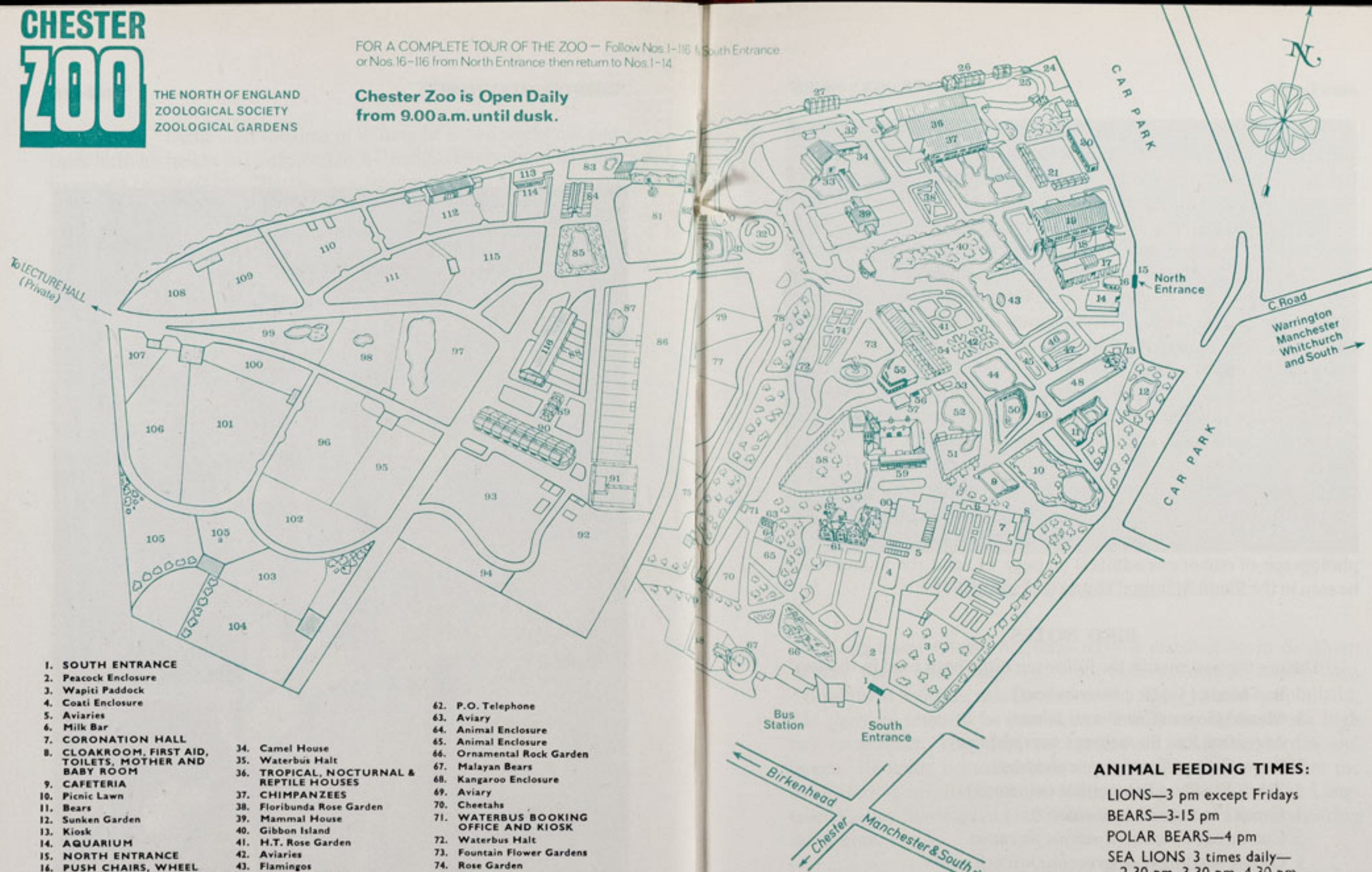
"BERTIE" AT TWO WEEKS OLD

CHESTER ZOO

THE NORTH OF ENGLAND
ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY
ZOOLOGICAL GARDENS

FOR A COMPLETE TOUR OF THE ZOO — Follow Nos. 1-116 from South Entrance or Nos. 16-116 from North Entrance then return to Nos. 1-14

**Chester Zoo is Open Daily
from 9.00 a.m. until dusk.**



1. SOUTH ENTRANCE

- 2. Peacock Enclosure
- 3. Wapiti Paddock
- 4. Coati Enclosure
- 5. Aviaries
- 6. Milk Bar
- 7. CORONATION HALL
- 8. CLOAKROOM, FIRST AID, TOILETS, MOTHER AND BABY ROOM
- 9. CAFETERIA
- 10. Picnic Lawn
- 11. Bears
- 12. Sunken Garden
- 13. Kiosk
- 14. AQUARIUM
- 15. NORTH ENTRANCE
- 16. PUSH CHAIRS, WHEEL CHAIRS, LOST CHILDREN
- 17. PARROT HOUSE
- 18. Free Flight Aviary
- 19. APE HOUSE
- 20. Shop and Kiosk
- 21. Aviaries and Picnic Lawn
- 22. TOILETS
- 23. Tuatara Exhibit
- 24. Peccaries
- 25. Waterbus Halt
- 26. Birds of Prey Aviaries
- 27. Condor Aviary
- 28. Jackal and Hyaena Enclosures
- 29. Animal Enclosure
- 30. Porcupine Enclosure
- 31. Coypus
- 32. Beavers
- 33. Giraffe House

- 34. Camel House
- 35. Waterbus Halt
- 36. TROPICAL, NOCTURNAL & REPTILE HOUSES
- 37. CHIMPANZEES
- 38. Floribunda Rose Garden
- 39. Mammal House
- 40. Gibbon Island
- 41. H.T. Rose Garden
- 42. Aviaries
- 43. Flamingos
- 44. Waterfowl Enclosure
- 45. Waterfowl Enclosure
- 46. Waterfowl Enclosure
- 47. Penguins
- 48. Sealions
- 49. Rock Garden
- 50. Polar Bears
- 51. Cat Enclosure
- 52. Waterfowl Enclosure
- 53. Anteaters
- 54. BIRD HOUSE
- 55. FOUNTAIN RESTAURANT
- 56. Ape Nursery
- 57. TOILETS
- 58. Lions
- 59. SOUVENIR SHOP
- 60. TOILETS
- 61. OAKFIELD RESTAURANT

- 62. P.O. Telephone
- 63. Aviary
- 64. Animal Enclosure
- 65. Animal Enclosure
- 66. Ornamental Rock Garden
- 67. Malayan Bears
- 68. Kangaroo Enclosure
- 69. Aviary
- 70. Cheetahs
- 71. WATERBUS BOOKING OFFICE AND KIOSK
- 72. Waterbus Halt
- 73. Fountain Flower Gardens
- 74. Rose Garden
- 75. Red Lechwe
- 76. Red Lechwe
- 77. Deer or Antelope Enclosure
- 78. Waterbus Halt
- 79. Zebra and Deer Enclosure
- 80. Kamchatka Bears
- 81. ELEPHANTS
- 82. Hippos
- 83. Tapirs
- 84. Small Mammal House
- 85. Waterfowl Enclosure
- 86. Ankole Cattle
- 87. Emus and Cranes
- 88. Stork Enclosures
- 89. Baboon Pens
- 90. Cat House
- 91. Big Cat Enclosures

- 92. Antelope Enclosure
- 93. Antelope Enclosure
- 94. Antelope Enclosure
- 95. Zebras
- 96. Zebras
- 97. Waterfowl Enclosure
- 98. Waterfowl Enclosure
- 99. Waterfowl Enclosure
- 100. Blackbird
- 101. Wallabies
- 102. Animal Enclosure
- 103. Wallabies
- 104. Pere David's Deer Paddock

- 105. Llamas
- 105a. Llamas
- 106. Arabian Gazelles
- 107. Animal Paddock
- 108. Bison
- 109. Pere David's Deer Paddock
- 110. Prairie Marmots, Alpacas
- 111. Antelope Enclosure
- 112. RHINOS
- 113. TOILETS
- 114. Mpila Snack Bar
- 115. Antelope Enclosure
- 116. MONKEY HOUSE

ANIMAL FEEDING TIMES:

- LIONS—3 pm except Fridays
- BEARS—3-15 pm
- POLAR BEARS—4 pm
- SEA LIONS 3 times daily—
2-30 pm, 3-30 pm, 4-30 pm

**ANIMALS MAY BE MOVED
FROM TIME TO TIME**

This species of fox is quite tiny with a fluffy, cream-coloured coat. The Fennec or Desert Fox inhabits desert regions, hence the lighter colour of its fur in comparison with foxes from other areas. It has extraordinarily long ears and its keen hearing enables it to hunt at night when temperatures are lowered. During the daytime it remains in its burrow which it has dug with its rather large paws. It has a bushy tail, using it to protect its head from the heat of the early evening when it emerges from its burrow to sit in the shade of small desert plants. When darkness comes it trots about quickly but quietly, pausing frequently to listen for its prey in the form of insects, lizards, birds or desert rats. Food is very difficult to find in the desert and that which is not eaten immediately is buried for future use. After feeding the animal drinks at a waterhole, encountering other Fennec Foxes. Its burrow is lined with dried plant material, feathers and hair. Should it be alarmed when in the open desert it can burrow rapidly into the sand, disappearing almost vertically.

We have an adult pair of these foxes, and with the latest two males we hope to acquire some more females for our collection. A photograph of one of our adults is on page 11, and the animals can be seen in the Small Mammal House (Enclosure 84).

BIRD NOTES

During the past month the following birds been bred in the zoo:

- 3 Bar-headed Geese (*Anser indicus*)
- 1 Maned Goose (*Chenonette jubata*)
- 7 Argentine Red Shovellers (*Anas platalea*)
- 3 Snow Geese (*Anser c. coerulescens*)
- 5 Zebra Finches (*Taeniopygia castanotis*)
- 4 Green Finches (*Chloris chloris*)
- 5 Cut-throat Finches (*Amadina fasciata*)
- 1 Glossy Starling (*Lamprocolius nitens*)
- 1 Guiana Parrotlet (*Forpus passerinus*)
- 1 Kookaburra (*Dacelo gigas*)
- 2 Splendid Parakeets (*Neopheme splendida*)
- 1 Barn Owl (*Tyto alba*)
- 1 Bahama Pintail (*Anas bahamensis rubirostris*)

The following birds have been received in exchange:

- 2 Long-tailed Glossy Starlings (*Lamprotornis caudatus*)
- 0.1 Fairy Bluebird (*Irena puella*)



By courtesy of K. W. Green, A.R.P.S.

FENNEC OR DESERT FOX (*Fennecus zerda*) to be seen in the
Small Mammal House (Enclisure 84)

Long-tailed Glossy Starlings have a distribution in Southern Africa, where they range in South-eastern Angola, South West Africa, the Rhodesias, and Bechuanaland. Their habitat is woodland, and they are often to be seen in small flocks flying from one high tree to another. They feed on the ground on fruits, berries and insects. Roosting is in reed-beds at night. These birds perform the usual starling aerobatics before settling down. The call of the Long-tailed Glossy Starling is a loud whistling sound, and a harsh churring alarm note.

There are recorded breedings in Northern Rhodesia in October and November, Nyasaland in October to February, and Southern Rhodesia in December to February.

These birds nest in holes in the underside of horizontal branches of large trees at some height from the ground. A bird will perch on top of the bough and creep round it until it can get into the hole. They line their nestholes with fibre. The clutch is usually four pale greenish blue eggs.

In 1973 Mr. W. H. Timmis, Curator of Birds and Apes, was lucky enough to see the Fairy Bluebird (*Irena puella*) in the wild in northern Java. Two pairs of Fairy Bluebirds were received into the collection in 1976 and in September of that year one youngster was bred from them.

The distribution of the Fairy Bluebird is South-east Asia, ranging in South West India from Kerala to Belgaum, but also along the Bombay Ghats, in the plains of Andhra and in the Chitteri Hills of the Eastern Ghats. This bird is now a most rare visitor to Ceylon. The range also extends to the eastern Himalayan foothills from south-east Tibet and Sikkim to Assam, and in tea and coffee plantations of the south Indian Hills.

This is one of the most attractive birds ever to be kept in captivity. The male is most colourful, being dense black on the face, throat, tail, greater part of the wings and all underparts except for the under-tail coverts. The upper parts extending from the forehead back over the wings, and the tail coverts, are a glistening lavender-blue with a mauve sheen. The female is very lovely but is not so colourful as the male, being a dull greenish-blue all over except for the flight feathers which are brown.

Dense humid evergreen forest to be found in low country and also on foothills up to about 5,000-ft. is the habitat of the Fairy Bluebird. Parties consist of 7 or 8 birds perched in lofty tree-tops where they may be observed eating ripe berries. They are, however, often to be seen taking the fruit of low bushes, coming to ground to bathe on the banks of streams or smaller rivers.

Repeated call notes "peepit" or "what's it" in both sharp and mellow tones are used. These birds often feed with Hornbills, Green Pigeon and other frugivorous birds. Their food consists mostly of wild figs, berries and flower nectar, favouring the blossoms of *Erythrina* and *Grevillea* trees grown for shade.

CLASSROOM EDUCATION SERVICE AT CHESTER ZOO

For some time the Society had felt that because of the numerous school visits to the Zoological Gardens the need had arisen for the development of an educational section and in August 1976 this was put into effect.

It was thought that for various reasons some of the schools were

not making the most of a zoo visit from an educational point of view. For example, some teachers who had never been to the zoo before had the responsibility of planning a zoo trail for the children.

A classroom is now available for school and college parties. This is situated near the Lecture Hall at Green End and has been operational since April this year. The building can accommodate 44 persons comprising adults and children, in one sitting.

Mr. Charles Leach, our Educational Assistant, will be pleased to advise teachers of any general matters relating to the educational side of a visit. He will also see teachers by arrangement.

This in no way affects the current system of contacting the Director-Secretary when making arrangements for educational visits and the usual concessionary rates for school party bookings. Having contacted the Director-Secretary, requests are passed on to the "Party Office" responsible for putting these arrangements into effect. This also applies to talks, which need to be booked in advance.

Since September last the Educational Assistant has been meeting school and college parties on arrival at the North Entrance. He has spoken to many parties about their zoo topics and the following are popular—Classification, Adaptation, Camouflage, The Scope and History of the Zoo, and Endangered Species. The leader of the party should officially confirm the talks to the Director-Secretary, sending details of work schemes applicable to the zoo topic.

In the classroom parties can view various educational materials and visual aids and at the same time make use of the animal books available there. It is hoped that more parties will be able to take advantage of the facilities. No extra charge is made for these services.

Teachers might be interested to know that a number of information Leaflets are available upon request. Three booklets at five pence each, postage extra, are available for schools and colleges. A new educational booklet has completely replaced the former educational leaflets. General information about Mammals, Birds, Reptiles, Fish and Insects is given in the new booklet. Other details are included and "behind the scenes work" at Chester Zoo has been covered. The two other booklets are Questionnaires or Work Booklets. These were compiled after much thought and the needs of the schools were taken into consideration. Many requests for Questionnaires have

been received but the Society is not in a position to print a set of booklets for each request. However, the available booklets cover a wide range of topics and there is no reason why teachers should not adapt the questions according to the needs and previous knowledge of the children. In other words the questions can be used as models. Spaces have been left to allow the children to answer the questions and make sketches.

A junior booklet for the 8-12 age group consists of 65 questions, 18 illustrations and 15 possible essay topics for school. The other booklet for the 13-16 age group consists of 60 questions, 14 illustrations and the same possible essay topics as above. Questionnaire Booklets are not available for very young children because it is felt that such a scheme would not be practicable.

Mr. Charles Leach recently spoke to a group of teachers at the Liverpool Teachers' Centre, Gilmour. The subject matter was "Visiting Chester Zoo" and the talk was illustrated by 35mm. transparencies. The aim of the talk was to help teachers obtain the maximum benefit for their pupils when visiting the Zoological Gardens. Advice was given on planning routes, seeing new animals; details of refreshment facilities in the zoo were also supplied.

GARDENING NOTES

The flower beds are now planted for the summer; this work took the best part of four weeks. During that time there was a good amount of rain which has given the plants a better chance to develop growth and new roots. This has suited the Fuchsia border in particular which contains 600 of these plants. The border can be seen in Enclosure 41 which is called the Hybrid Tea Rose Garden.

Sixty baskets have been hung in the animal houses. These are made up with Fuchsias and Begonias. From the varieties of fuchsia were chosen the most suitable such as La Campanelle, Marinka Cascade, Display, Brutus, Flying Cloud and Lena. These are hung in the Bird House, Elephant House and the Rhino-House.

Begonia pendula, with mixed colours, is also used in the baskets and these can be seen in the Monkey House and in the Tropical House.

A group of Anthuriums are now staged in the Tropical House for the summer. The common name for this plant is "Flamingo", sometimes called "Tail-flower". Climbing up a pillar opposite the



By courtesy of Roy Granger, Chester Chronicle

At the official opening ceremony of "The Queen Elizabeth II Silver Jubilee Garden" and the unveiling of the Fountain "Noah and the Four Winds." Reading left to right—Mr. Sean Rice, the Sculptor, Mr. G. S. Mottershead, Director-Secretary, Dinah, Lady Tollemache, Member of the Council, and Professor J. O. L. King, Chairman of the Council. Lady Tollemache officially opened the garden and unveiled the statue.

group of Anthuriums is a variety of the Yam. This is an ornamental plant called *Dioscorea discolor*. Some are also growing in pots staged in the group by the Kiosk. The Yam is the well-known vegetable in tropical parts of the world. With us the plant is allowed to die down in the winter, so that the tubers can dry off. In the spring it will be re-potted and started off again.

The tree *Paulownia Imperialis*, named after a Russian princess, was described in the June 1976 issue of the magazine. Unfortunately it has not come into flower this year as the frost during the winter was too severe for the buds which formed in the autumn. Several of these trees are growing at the rear of the Tropical House.

In a large shrubbery in the same area there are six *Ginkgo biloba* trees, about 20-ft. high. These were planted twenty years ago. Ginkgo is the Chinese name for "Maidenhair Tree", the latter being its common name. This tree of slender habit is deciduous and in the autumn has attractive ornamental tinted foliage.

Growing in the same area are three *Catalpa bignonioides* trees. This species has a North American Indian name, its common name being "Indian Bean Tree". It is a flowering tree, with ornamental leaves. Nearby is a tree called *Ailanthus glandulosa*, its common name being "Tree of Heaven". This is a handsome tree with ornamental pinnate foliage and can grow up to sixty feet high. Ours is quite a young tree and is only about 15-ft. high so far. The "Tree of Heaven" originates from China, the name given to it signifying that it is tall enough to reach to the skies.

* * *

In the last issue of the magazine we included an article on the official opening of "The Queen Elizabeth II Jubilee Garden" and the siting of the bronze statue in the centre of the garden. We now have some colour postcards depicting the statue "Noah and the Four Winds". These can be purchased at the souvenir shops.

* * *

SUBSCRIPTIONS

New readers of the CHESTER ZOO NEWS who would like to receive the magazine regularly may be interested to know that subscription forms can be obtained from the souvenir shops. An annual subscription (12 issues) costs £2.30, postage paid, which can either be handed over the counter at the shops or posted with the completed form to the Director-Secretary, Chester Zoo, Chester.

**The following notice is displayed on several boards in the grounds
Please comply with it at all times**

FEEDING OF ANIMALS AND BIRDS

IT IS AN OFFENCE for any member of the public to offer food of any description to any Animal or Bird in Chester Zoo.

This regulation is made for the sake of the health of the Animals and Birds. Since the **NO FEEDING** rule was introduced, the number of deaths has dropped appreciably and sickness due to wrong feeding has been virtually eliminated.

What you may be offering to an animal may only be a sweet or an inoffensive piece of bread, but it can mean a death sentence for the animal. For example, a cough drop, which may relieve your cough, can cause instant death to many Animals and Birds in the Zoo.

You must not lose sight of the fact that you are only one of over a million visitors who visit the Zoo annually. If for instance an elephant had one bun from only one tenth of a day's visitors during the summer, it would eat between three and four thousand. You can guess the result.

We realise what a temptation it is for visitors, particularly children, to feed our Animals and Birds and this is why we invite members of the public to be present at the official feeding times.

This is a polite warning to you, asking you not to feed the animals. If you ignore it, the Keepers are authorised to ask you to leave the Gardens.

If you really love Animals and Birds, you will appreciate the wisdom of the ruling — No feeding by members of the public.

**PLEASE HELP US TO KEEP OUR COLLECTION OF
ANIMALS NOT ONLY ALIVE BUT IN FIRST CLASS
CONDITION**

