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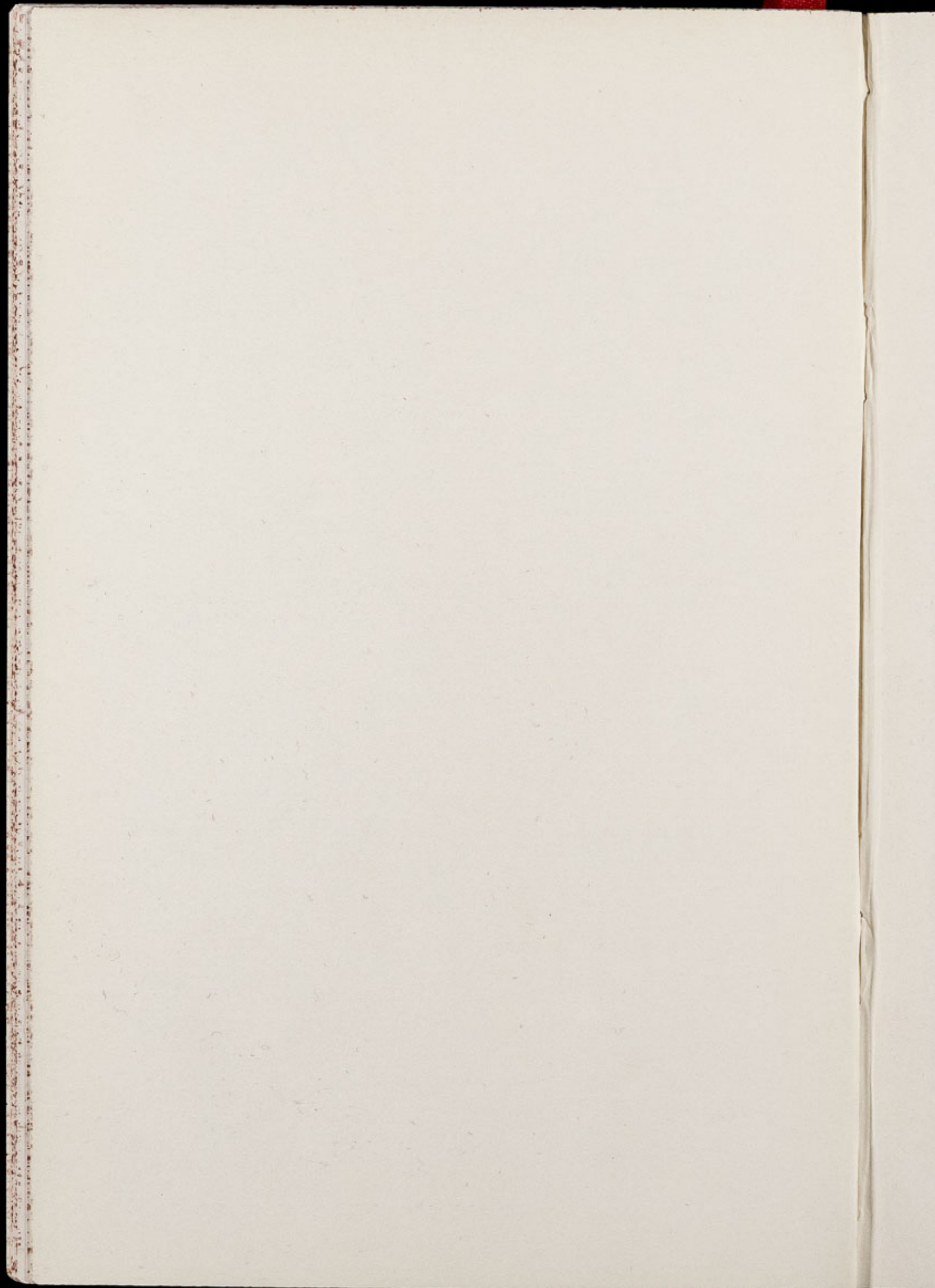
Chester Zoo News

AND GUIDE

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

March 1967

Price 1/-



Editorial

At this time of the year all our Catering Establishments, Kiosks, Pay Boxes, etc., are brought into full use. Maintenance staff are busy putting the motor boats in working order for the ever popular Waterbus rides and all the animal houses are having a Spring Clean ready for the forthcoming season.

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COVER: This month's cover photograph shows a Spring scene in the Zoo. For further details see page 6.

ARRIVALS AND BIRTHS

Three Red or Lesser Pandas were purchased and have been accommodated in one of the small dens inside the Camel House. These Pandas will join our original Panda in the walled enclosure (No. 4 on the Plan), where this species has bred successfully for many years. We hope to remove the original Panda and introduce all four into the enclosure at the same time, thus eliminating any territorial squabbles.

They are most attractive animals being a bright chestnut red with alternating dark and light bands on the tail and a white face with black markings. Their fur is very dense which gives them a rather bulky appearance, but this is disproved by their relatively light weight. They have a long, thickly furred tail and their overall length is just over three feet.

Lesser Pandas are found at altitudes of 7,000-12,000 feet on the forested slopes of the Himalayas and the mountains of Western China. Their diet consists of various leaves and shoots but bamboo is one of their favourite foods and captive Pandas are very fond of these leaves, which we collect specially for them.

A rare and rather beautiful species of Guenon arrived at the Monkey House during the past month. This species is known as Moloney's Monkey (*Cercopithecus albogularis moloneyi*) and is found in the forest areas of Zambia, Central Africa.

This animal, a female, which is said to be approximately a year old had been kept as a pet before coming to the Zoo. She was flown over from Zambia and arrived at Ringway Airport, Manchester, where she was collected by members of the Zoo Staff.

The Moloney's Monkey is a typical Guenon resembling the more common Vervet Monkey in general form but is more arboreal in its habits. All Guenons are extremely agile, having long tails and arms. The Moloney's is no exception to this rule and in addition is one of the brightest coloured of the group. Our female has black legs and feet, a blackish crown speckled with yellow, grey cheeks and body sides, pale grey underparts and a large area of chestnut red colouration on the back.



LESSER PANDAS

Another new arrival in the Monkey House was a Pig-tailed Monkey which was presented to the Zoo. The Pig-tailed Monkey belongs to the Macaque group and is rather Baboon-like in general appearance. Our new acquisition is a young female which had been kept in a private household.

The Pig-tailed Monkey is found in South East Asia; in Malaya it is trained to climb trees and dislodge coconuts for the natives.

Although these two Monkeys had been kept as pets, we must stress that we do not consider them in any way suitable as such. Most species of Monkey become extremely vicious when reaching maturity, even if they have been reared from small babies. They have well developed teeth and are surprisingly strong for their size. Any species of Monkeys which appear suitable as pets are in fact extremely delicate, requiring specialized knowledge for their well-being in captivity.

A Beisa Oryx was born during the month and is doing very well. The Oryx are housed in a large paddock (No. 101 on the Plan).

The youngster spent its first ten days in the inside quarters because of the strong winds which were blowing at the time. However, on the 16th March, the afternoon was warm and he spent a considerable time exploring the outside paddock. The photograph on page 5, is of an Oryx born several years ago—we have been unable to obtain a suitable photograph of the recent youngster in time for this issue.

Beisa Oryx are natives of the East African Savannah countryside, where they congregate in herds often in the company of other antelopes. One characteristic feature of these animals is their long straight pointed horns which are used as a means of defence.

From time to time, we exchange animals with other Zoos. A recent example of this was with a young male Eland bred at Chester Zoo during 1966 which was exchanged for a male Eland bred at Paignton Zoo during 1966. The idea is to introduce 'fresh blood' into our Eland herd. In-breeding which can occur with captive herds often produces deformities, lack of size and less resistance to disease.



BEISA ORYX

FILMING FOR NEW T.V. SERIES

On Saturday, February 24th, a camera crew from A.B.C. Television in London arrived at the Zoo. They had arranged to film part of a new Television Series entitled "Moloney on Animals". Peter Moloney a school teacher and well known T.V. personality can be seen in the photograph talking to Mr. Mottershead the Zoo Director in the Tropical House. The theme of the programme is the relationship between humans and animals and this was discussed at length with Mr. Mottershead and with a psychologist from Liverpool University.

Mr. Moloney was also filmed with the Gorillas, Bactrian Camels, Giraffes and Sealions in the background. He was finally filmed in the Monkey House inside one of the cages.

NEWS FROM THE REPTILE HOUSE

Reptile House staff were very pleased when eighteen Common Boas (*Constrictor constrictor*) were born at the end of February. The adult Snakes had been in captivity for some time and mated at the Zoo.

The Boa Constrictor is a native of Central and South America and can attain a maximum length of fifteen feet. The young Boas are only a few inches in length at the moment and are being kept at the rear of the Reptile House but will be exhibited at a later date.

Recent arrivals include a Red-eared Terrapin which brings our total to seventeen of this species. A ten inch long Common Iguana also arrived and brings the total number of this species to four. Iguanas are natives of South America and attain a length of three to five feet when fully grown.

SPRING SCENE

7½ tons of daffodil bulbs were planted in various parts of the Zoo a few years ago, and are a marvellous show at the moment. The islands (Nos. 68 and 70 on the Plan) are particularly outstanding. Previously island No. 68 had been used to accommodate Patas



S. W. Jacobsen, Liverpool Daily Post

MR. MOTTERSHEAD AND PETER MOLONEY IN TROPICAL HOUSE WITH PIGMY HIPPO

GUIDE TO ZOOLOGICAL GARDENS

ANIMAL FEEDING TIMES

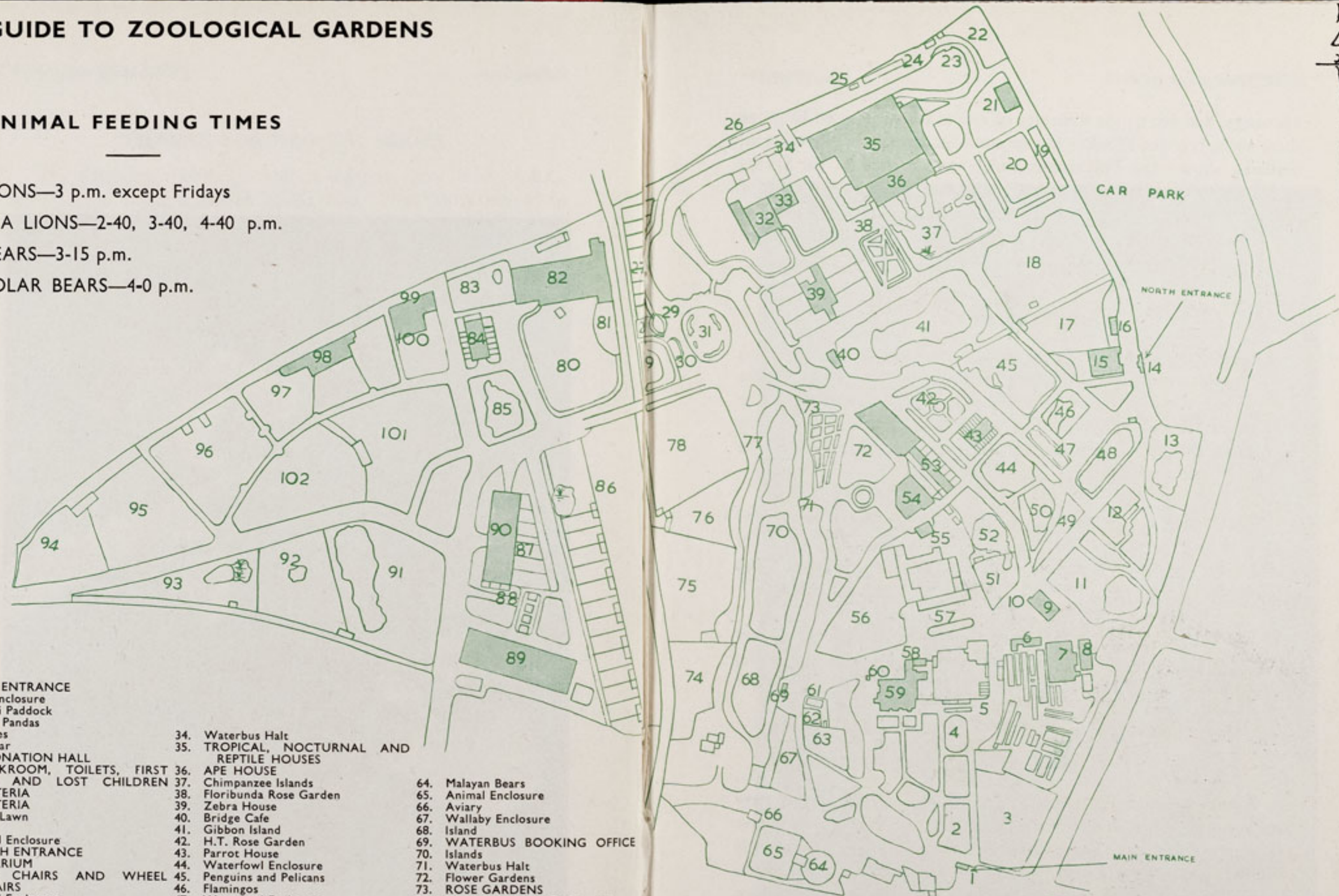
LIONS—3 p.m. except Fridays

SEA LIONS—2-40, 3-40, 4-40 p.m.

BEARS—3-15 p.m.

POLAR BEARS—4-0 p.m.

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|--|--|---------------------------------|
| 1. MAIN ENTRANCE | 34. Waterbus Halt | 64. Malayan Bears |
| 2. Bird Enclosure | 35. TROPICAL, NOCTURNAL AND REPTILE HOUSES | 65. Animal Enclosure |
| 3. Wapiti Paddock | 36. APE HOUSE | 66. Aviary |
| 4. Lesser Pandas | 37. Chimpanzee Islands | 67. Wallaby Enclosure |
| 5. Aviaries | 38. Floribunda Rose Garden | 68. Island |
| 6. Milk Bar | 39. Zebra House | 69. WATERBUS BOOKING OFFICE |
| 7. CORONATION HALL | 40. Bridge Cafe | 70. Islands |
| 8. CLOAKROOM, TOILETS, FIRST AID AND LOST CHILDREN | 41. Gibbon Island | 71. Waterbus Halt |
| 9. CAFETERIA | 42. H.T. Rose Garden | 72. Flower Gardens |
| 10. CAFETERIA | 43. Parrot House | 73. ROSE GARDENS |
| 11. Picnic Lawn | 44. Waterfowl Enclosure | 74. Deer or Antelope Enclosures |
| 12. Bears | 45. Penguins and Pelicans | 75. Deer or Antelope Enclosures |
| 13. Animal Enclosure | 46. Flamingos | 76. Deer or Antelope Enclosures |
| 14. NORTH ENTRANCE | 47. Waterfowl Enclosure | 77. Waterbus Halt |
| 15. AQUARIUM | 48. Sea Lion Pool | 78. Zebra and Deer Enclosure |
| 16. PUSH CHAIRS AND WHEEL CHAIRS | 49. Rock Garden | 79. Kamchatka Bears |
| 17. Animal Enclosure | 50. Polar Bears | 80. Elephant Paddock |
| 18. Animal Enclosure | 51. Tigers | 81. Hippo Paddock |
| 19. RAINBOW CAFE AND SHOP | 52. Waterfowl Enclosure | 82. PACHYDERM HOUSE |
| 20. Aviaries and Picnic Lawn | 53. BIRD HOUSE | 83. Tapir Paddock |
| 21. TOILETS | 54. FOUNTAIN RESTAURANT | 84. Small Mammal House |
| 22. Peccaries | 55. TOILETS | 85. Waterfowl Enclosure |
| 23. Waterbus Halt | 56. Lions | 86. Ankole Cattle |
| 24. Birds of Prey Aviary | 57. NEW ZOO SHOP | 87. Stork Enclosures |
| 25. Birds of Prey Aviary | 58. TOILETS | 88. Monkey Enclosures |
| 26. Owls | 59. OAKFIELD RESTAURANT | 89. Cat House |
| 27. Jackal Enclosures | 60. G.P.O. Telephone Kiosk | 90. MONKEY HOUSE |
| 28. Wolverines | 61. Animal Enclosure | |
| 29. Porcupines | 62. Animal Enclosures | |
| 30. Coypus | 63. Cheetahs | |
| 31. Beavers | | |
| 32. Giraffe House | | |
| 33. Camel House | | |



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| 91. Cranes and Waterfowl |
| 92. Waterfowl and Wallabies |
| 93. Cranes and Waterfowl |
| 94. Bison Paddock |
| 95. Deer Paddock |
| 96. Eland Paddock |
| 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.

Monkeys, but due to the difficulty of access it was decided to move these animals to the Monkey House and concentrate on providing an aesthetic show. The Polyanthus which are the first of the Spring bedding plants to flower are not quite at their best at the time of writing but make a tremendous show in front of the Fountain Restaurant. In addition Pansies and Wallflowers have been planted in various situations throughout the Zoo.

SIBERIAN LYNX

The Keeper of the Cat House section has been busy constructing a breeding den in the outside enclosure for the Siberian Lynx. These animals are very hardy indeed and like to remain outside for the majority of their time. We thought the female would have more chance of rearing young if she did not have to come inside in the normal breeding and sleeping dens.

The breeding den has been constructed of natural sandstone rockwork; so well does it blend with the original rock that visitors looking through the plate glass window are unable to detect the difference.

The Siberian Lynx (*Felis lynx wranglei*) is a magnificent animal of very strong build and savage yellow eyes. As can be seen in the photograph on page 11, this species has very long fur and a black tuft on each ear.

BIRD NOTES

A pair of Lesser Patagonian Conures were purchased and have been accommodated in one of the Oakfield Aviaries where they have a large open air flight. These Conures are not a particularly brightly coloured species but are rather handsome, being mainly a brownish-olive colour with white markings on the upper breast and a yellow abdomen with an orange-red patch.

On February 27th, our White-browed Coucal (*Centropus superciliosus loandae*) died after being at the Zoo since August 1956. This bird was collected as a nestling early in 1956 and had been showing signs of old age for some time.



SIBERIAN LYNX

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

A pair of Leadbeater's Cockatoos have been given an aviary to themselves on the Polar Bear side of the Parrot House. In the past several Leadbeater's Cockatoos have bred at the Zoo and it is hoped that this pair will do likewise. The Leadbeater's is probably the most beautiful of the Cockatoos, being salmon pink underneath and pure white above, with a reddish crest.

Other Cockatoos to be separated into breeding pairs are the Blue-eyed and the Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoos; all these birds have been supplied with hollow nesting logs.



M. F. Coupe

CHINESE PAINTED QUAIL

The two Rainbow aviaries have been partially stocked with birds. Silver Pheasants, Californian Quail, Vulturine Guineafowl, Francolin, Assorted Doves and two Sclater's Crested Curassows bred last year have all been accommodated. Several species from the Temperate Bird House have been transferred to the open air Macaw Flight. The Night Heron, Avocet, Variegated Bittern and Weka Rail are already installed and Scarlet Ibis will be moved in the near future.

Two other welcome new arrivals in the Bird Section were a Grey Parrot and a Chinese Painted Quail. The Parrot has joined the others of this species in the Parrot House and the Quail can be seen in the long flight aviary near the Oakfield Restaurant.

FACTS AND FIGURES

In the February 1965 edition of "*Chester Zoo News*", we published an article on the amount of food consumed by the animals, the number of staff employed in the various departments, etc.

Recently we brought this article up to date and made duplicated copies for distribution as an educational leaflet. The cost and amount of food has increased greatly since 1965 and a few examples are given below. It must be remembered that there has been an increase in the number of animals in the collection over the past twelve months.

The cost of feeding the animals in the collection for a twelve-month period has increased from just over £25,000 in 1965 to £29,141 during 1966. The amount of meat consumed last year was 43 tons, an increase of 3 tons and 22 tons of oats were consumed as opposed to 17 tons in the previous year. Milk consumption increased by 1 gallon per week to 71 gallons and 8 cwt. of apples were consumed each week — an increase of 1 cwt. Other items increased by smaller amounts; pears from 2 to 2 $\frac{1}{4}$ cwt. a week, grapes from 1 to 1 $\frac{1}{4}$ cwt. a week and bananas from 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ to 3 $\frac{3}{4}$ cwt. each week.

These commodities are only part of the enormous quantity of food used at Chester Zoo as the various catering establishments also have to be supplied.

It must be mentioned that all animal foodstuffs are of first grade quality — certain members of the public seem to think that animals can be given inferior food. In actual fact, a large number of animals are very susceptible to intestinal disorders if their diet is in any way faulty. To guard against this, food must be fresh and a high standard of hygiene must be maintained.

The Animal Breeding Unit where livestock is reared for animal foods, has been replaced by a new building. The number of animals reared for feeding was slightly lower during 1966. due to the difficulties when setting up a building of this type. During 1966, 5,000 fowl, 633 rabbits, 3,540 rats and 5,785 mice were fed to the various carnivorous animals in the Zoo.



SEA HORSE

AQUARIUM NEWS

This month the stock of Fish and Plants in the Aquarium has been increased in preparation for the coming season.

A new heating system has been installed in the Marine Section and we hope this attempt will prove more successful. The Marine Turtles, which were small enough to sit on the palm of one's hand eighteen months ago are now approximately eighteen inches in length. They are being moved once again this time into a twelve foot tank, which is being heated and prepared especially to accommodate these attractive reptiles.

Recently two small Electric Eels arrived at the Aquarium, and have settled down very well. Many new Tetras and Characins are on show and much of the original stock has been moved around and displayed in larger tanks.

Several fish tanks of various sizes have been acquired and we have completed a small Quarantine Section to house sick fish and newly bought stock.

During the month we received Lyre-tailed Black Mollies which at four inches are the largest specimens we have seen; recently they produced some hundred and fifty youngsters. Other recent acquisitions include two young Collosoma species, a rare fruit-eating fish from the Amazon region, Beacon Fish, Lemon Tetras, Spiney Eels, Bumble Bees, Black Angels and Red Wagtail Platies. Among a recent consignment of Sea Horses were several which gave birth to a number of youngsters which are proving a big attraction.

RECENT BUILDING WORK

Work is in progress on the construction of a new Jaguar Pen at the far side of the Cat House. The Jaguars are too strong to be kept in their present accommodation in the Cat House. The new enclosure is constructed of tubular steel supports covered with link mesh and is similar in general outline to the enclosures used for Apes, Baboons and Birds of Prey. Lavish use is being made of natural sandstone blocks, which will produce a very pleasing effect.

The small wooden Kiosk at the rear of the Sealion enclosure has been replaced with a permanent structure, and should prove popular with visitors.

The largest of the Birds of Prey aviaries was severely damaged during high winds last year. This old aviary was constructed of wood but the replacement is of tubular steel. Plastic covered link mesh is being used — this has the advantage of greater elasticity and longer lasting qualities than the conventional mesh. If a bird happens to fly into this type of mesh it is far less likely to sustain any injury than with the more rigid traditional wire mesh.

Building staff are also concentrating on new accommodation for Llamas and Alpacas at the rear of the Crane Paddock. The area where these animals are housed at the moment is designated for re-development in the near future.

STRANGE HAPPENINGS IN THE TROPICAL HOUSE

On a recent Monday afternoon, visitors to the Tropical House were amazed to see a number of people dressed in tropical clothing posing for "On Safari" pictures amongst the lush vegetation in this building.

The gentlemen concerned in this project had motored all the way from London, setting out very early in the morning; they took photographs all day and returned home in the evening. Mr. Gallup, the Head Gardener, was in constant attendance throughout operations to give any help required and to make sure none of the plants were damaged in any way. The idea behind this was to take photographs to promote a new cosmetic unspoilt by the climate and temperature, thus the Safari.



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