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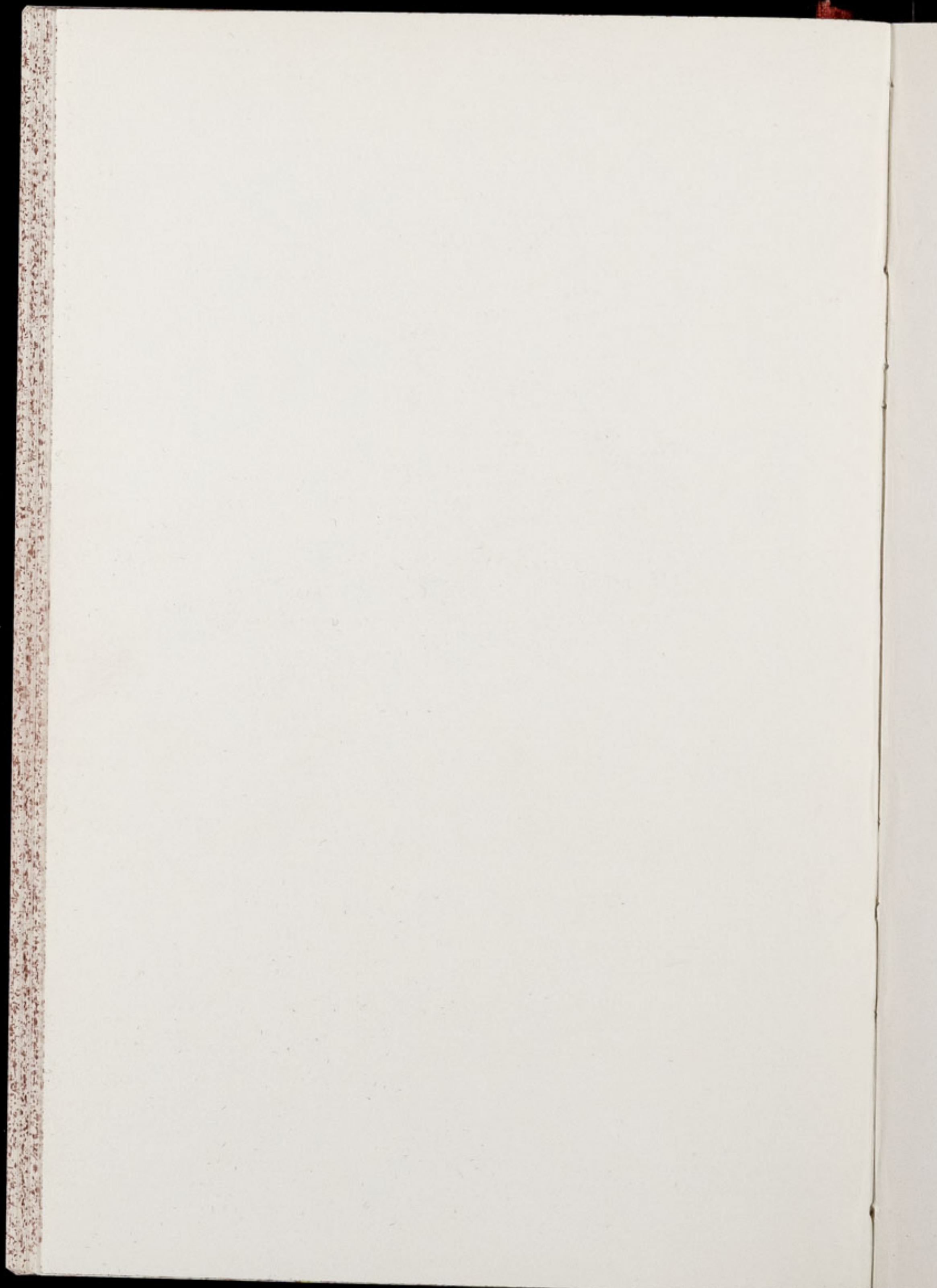
Chester Zoo News

AND GUIDE

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

May 1972

Price 6p



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

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COVER: H.R.H. The Duke of Edinburgh looking at aviaries in the
Tropical House.



Cheshire Observer

H.R.H. THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH WITH MR. G. S. MOTTERSHEAD

VISIT OF H.R.H. THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH

On the 24th April the North of England Zoological Society was honoured by the visit of H.R.H. The Duke of Edinburgh when he came to open the new Lecture Hall and Library. The glorious sunshine that we had all been hoping for did not materialise but at least the weather stayed fine and it proved a most enjoyable and rewarding day for everyone at the Zoo.

Local schoolchildren lined the approach road to the Zoo to greet His Royal Highness when he arrived shortly before 10 a.m. He was driven to the Oakfield Restaurant where the Lord Lieutenant of Cheshire, Lord Leverhulme, was waiting to receive him and to present Mr. G. S. Mottershead (Director-Secretary), Professor J. O. L. King (Chairman of the Society) and Mr. G. R. Pryor (Member of the Zoo Council), all of whom accompanied His Royal Highness on the tour of the Zoo.

The route was planned to enable His Royal Highness to see as much of the collection as possible and on the first stage the Royal Party drove past the Sea Lion Pool, toured the Parrot and Ape Houses and made a lengthy visit to the Tropical House. On his return to the



Cheshire Observer

H.R.H. THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH AND PROFESSOR J. O. L. KING
LEAVING PARROT HOUSE

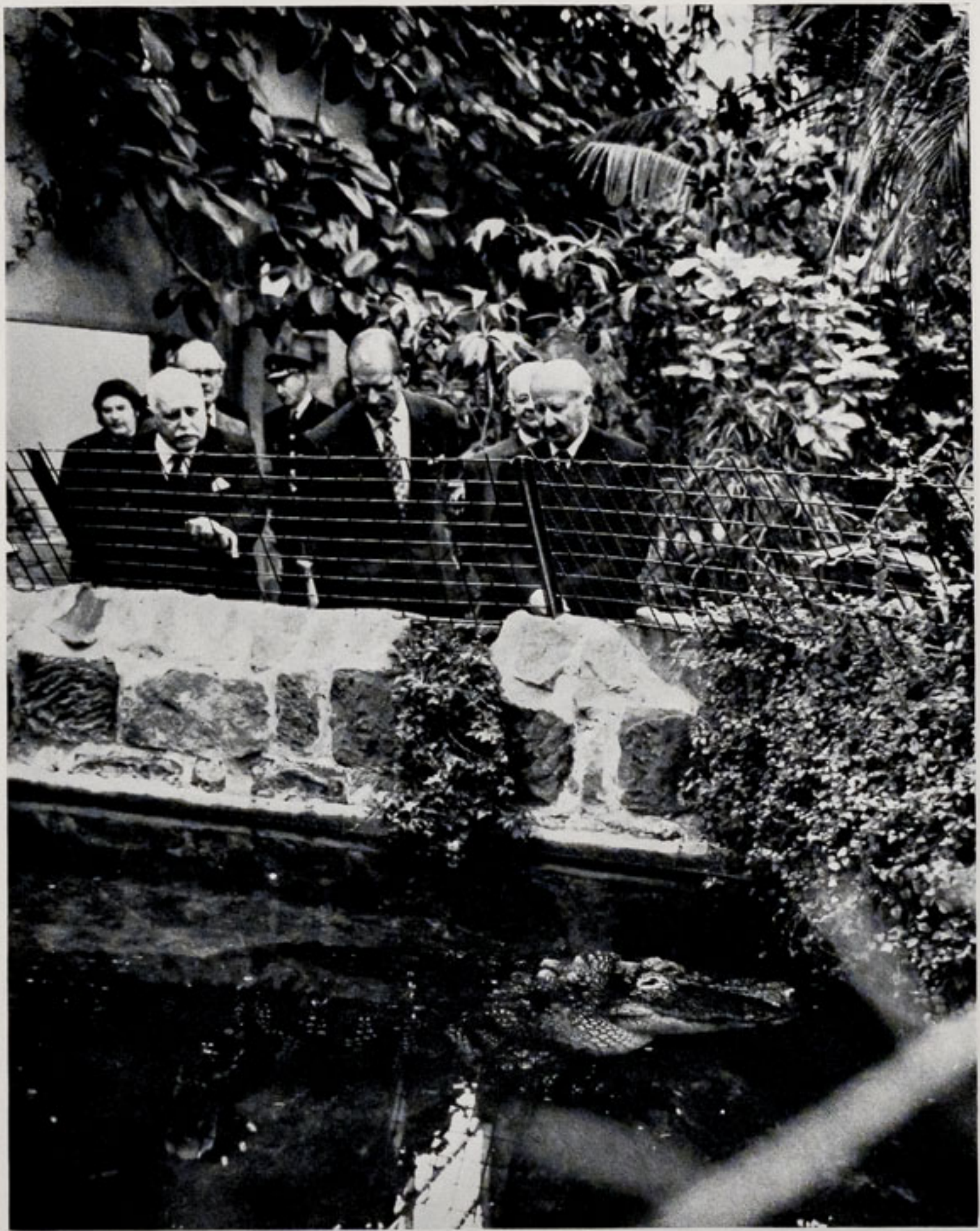


Cheshire Observer

H.R.H. THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH WITH MR. MOTTERSHEAD
CHATting WITH TWO MEMBERS OF THE KEEPING STAFF,
MISS CAROL WILLIAMS AND MR. ROGER AINSLEY

Oakfield Restaurant he also made an unscheduled stop to have a look at the Polar Bears.

During a short interval for coffee, His Royal Highness chatted with four members of the keeping staff and then the Royal Party resumed the tour. The second stage took them past the Ornamental Rock Garden, Cheetahs, Lions, Fountain Gardens and a variety of antelope enclosures. A tour of the Monkey House included a talk with keepers preparing food in the kitchen and was followed by a visit to the Pachyderm House where the Elephants came inside to meet him. Travelling past the Rhinos, Eland, Père David's Deer and American Bison the party made its way to the Laboratory and here Professor King introduced senior members of the zoo staff: Miss A. L. Howard (Assistant to the Director), Mr. P. W. Gallup (Head Gardener), Mr. G. F. Williams (Clerk of Works), Mr. W. H. Timmis (Curator of Mammals and Birds), Mr. D. C. Dinning (Laboratory Technician) and Mr. D. G. Lyon (Veterinary Officer). With several



Chester Chronicle

LOOKING AT MISSISSIPPI ALLIGATORS IN THE TROPICAL HOUSE



Chester Chronicle

H.R.H. THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH TOURING TROPICAL HOUSE

minutes to spare His Royal Highness remained in the Laboratory to talk to the staff and to examine various exhibits in the museum.

The Royal Party then walked across to the Lecture Hall where in the foyer Lord Leverhulme presented several local dignitaries: Councillor G. Mayers (Chairman of Chester R.D.C.), Mr. G. A. Morgan (Clerk of Chester R.D.C.), Lt. Col. A. J. W. Grubb (High Sheriff of Cheshire), Alderman H. J. S. Dewes (Chairman of Cheshire County Council), Mr. J. K. Boynton (Clerk of Cheshire Lieutenancy), The Rt. Rev. Gerald Ellison (Bishop of Chester), Alderman L. Edwards (Mayor of Chester) and Mr. H. Watson (Chief Constable of Cheshire).

While those who had been presented took their seats in the auditorium, His Royal Highness was shown into the new library and here he signed the Visitors Book. A few minutes later Professor King welcomed His Royal Highness to Chester Zoo; the audience included many Members of the Society. Professor King went on to describe a little of the educational facilities provided at Chester and ended by outlining the work that Miss Geraldine Russell Allen had done for the Society. His Royal Highness then spoke for several minutes about the need for conservation and the part which zoos can play in helping to preserve species. With a wish that the new Lecture Hall would enable even more to be done in the field of education, His Royal Highness formally declared the building open. Professor King thanked him and was heartily supported by the assembled company.

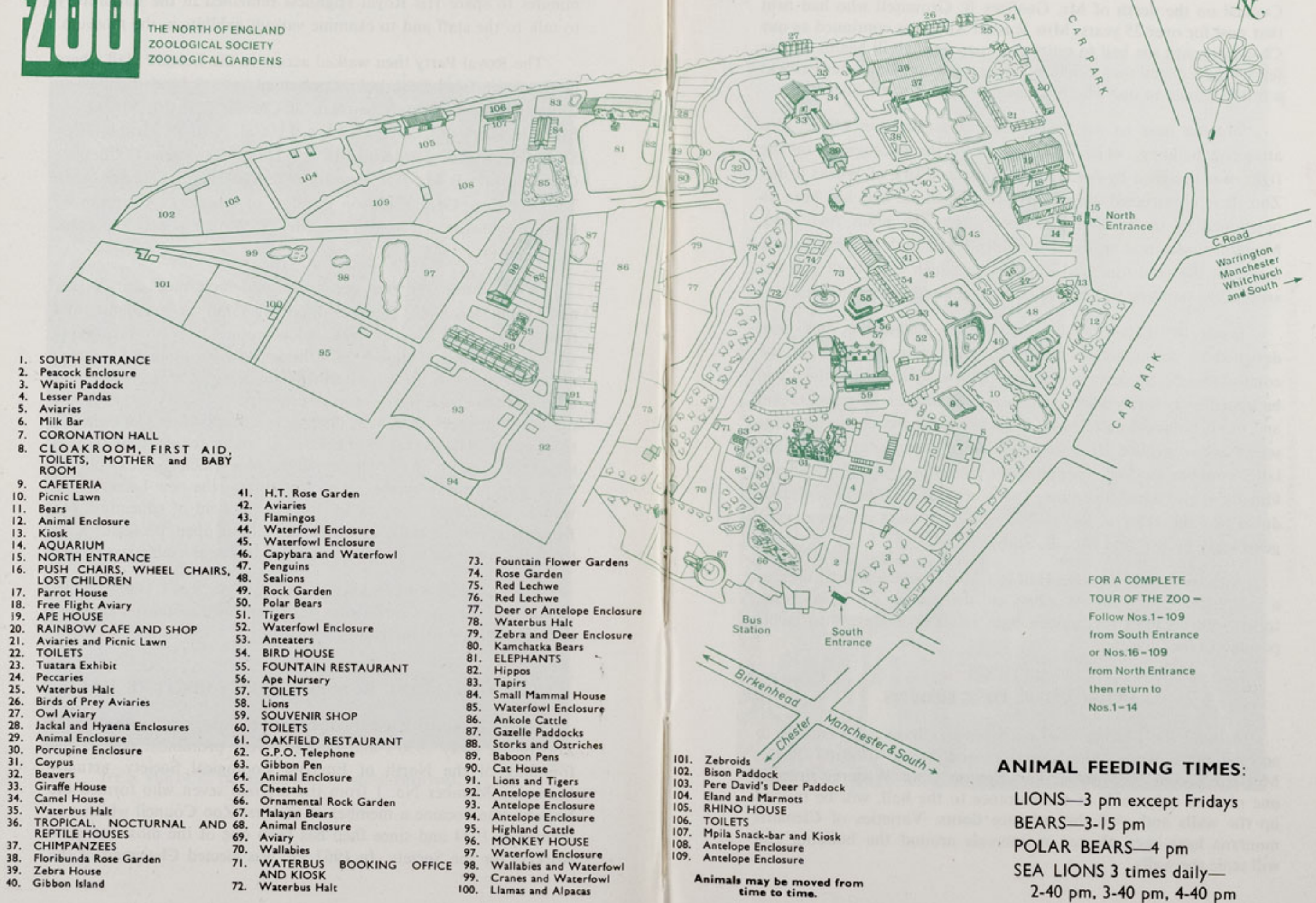
On returning to the Oakfield Restaurant His Royal Highness met members of the Zoo Council and was entertained to luncheon, before leaving at 2.15 p.m. for Hawarden Airport.

THE GERALDINE RUSSELL ALLEN LECTURE HALL

Miss Geraldine Russell Allen became associated with Chester Zoo in the early 1930's and played a very prominent part in the founding of the North of England Zoological Society, actually becoming Member No. 1 from the original seven who formed the Society. She became a member of the first Zoo Council which was formed in 1934 and since then has been one of the most energetic workers for the Society. In 1963 she was elected Chairman of the

CHESTER ZOO

THE NORTH OF ENGLAND
ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY
ZOOLOGICAL GARDENS



- 1. SOUTH ENTRANCE
- 2. Peacock Enclosure
- 3. Wapiti Paddock
- 4. Lesser Pandas
- 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. Animal Enclosure
- 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. RAINBOW CAFE AND SHOP
- 21. Aviaries and Picnic Lawn
- 22. TOILETS
- 23. Tuatara Exhibit
- 24. Peccaries
- 25. Waterbus Halt
- 26. Birds of Prey Aviaries
- 27. Owl 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 AND REPTILE HOUSES
- 37. CHIMPANZEES
- 38. Floribunda Rose Garden
- 39. Zebra House
- 40. Gibbon Island

- 41. H.T. Rose Garden
- 42. Aviaries
- 43. Flamingos
- 44. Waterfowl Enclosure
- 45. Waterfowl Enclosure
- 46. Capybara and Waterfowl
- 47. Penguins
- 48. Sealions
- 49. Rock Garden
- 50. Polar Bears
- 51. Tigers
- 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. G.P.O. Telephone
- 63. Gibbon Pen
- 64. Animal Enclosure
- 65. Cheetahs
- 66. Ornamental Rock Garden
- 67. Malayan Bears
- 68. Animal Enclosure
- 69. Aviary
- 70. Wallabies
- 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. Gazelle Paddocks
- 88. Storks and Ostriches
- 89. Baboon Pens
- 90. Cat House
- 91. Lions and Tigers
- 92. Antelope Enclosure
- 93. Antelope Enclosure
- 94. Antelope Enclosure
- 95. Highland Cattle
- 96. MONKEY HOUSE
- 97. Waterfowl Enclosure
- 98. Wallabies and Waterfowl
- 99. Cranes and Waterfowl
- 100. Llamas and Alpacas

- 101. Zebroids
- 102. Bison Paddock
- 103. Pere David's Deer Paddock
- 104. Eland and Marmots
- 105. RHINO HOUSE
- 106. TOILETS
- 107. Mpila Snack-bar and Kiosk
- 108. Antelope Enclosure
- 109. Antelope Enclosure

Animals may be moved from time to time.

FOR A COMPLETE TOUR OF THE ZOO - Follow Nos.1-109 from South Entrance or Nos.16-109 from North Entrance then return to Nos.1-14

ANIMAL FEEDING TIMES:
LIONS—3 pm except Fridays
BEARS—3-15 pm
POLAR BEARS—4 pm
SEA LIONS 3 times daily—2-40 pm, 3-40 pm, 4-40 pm

Council on the death of Mr. Geoffrey B. Grounsell who had held that post for over 25 years. Miss Russell Allen has continued as our Chairman until she had to retire this year through ill health. It was felt by the Council that to name this new Lecture Hall after her was a fitting tribute to one who had done so much for the Society.

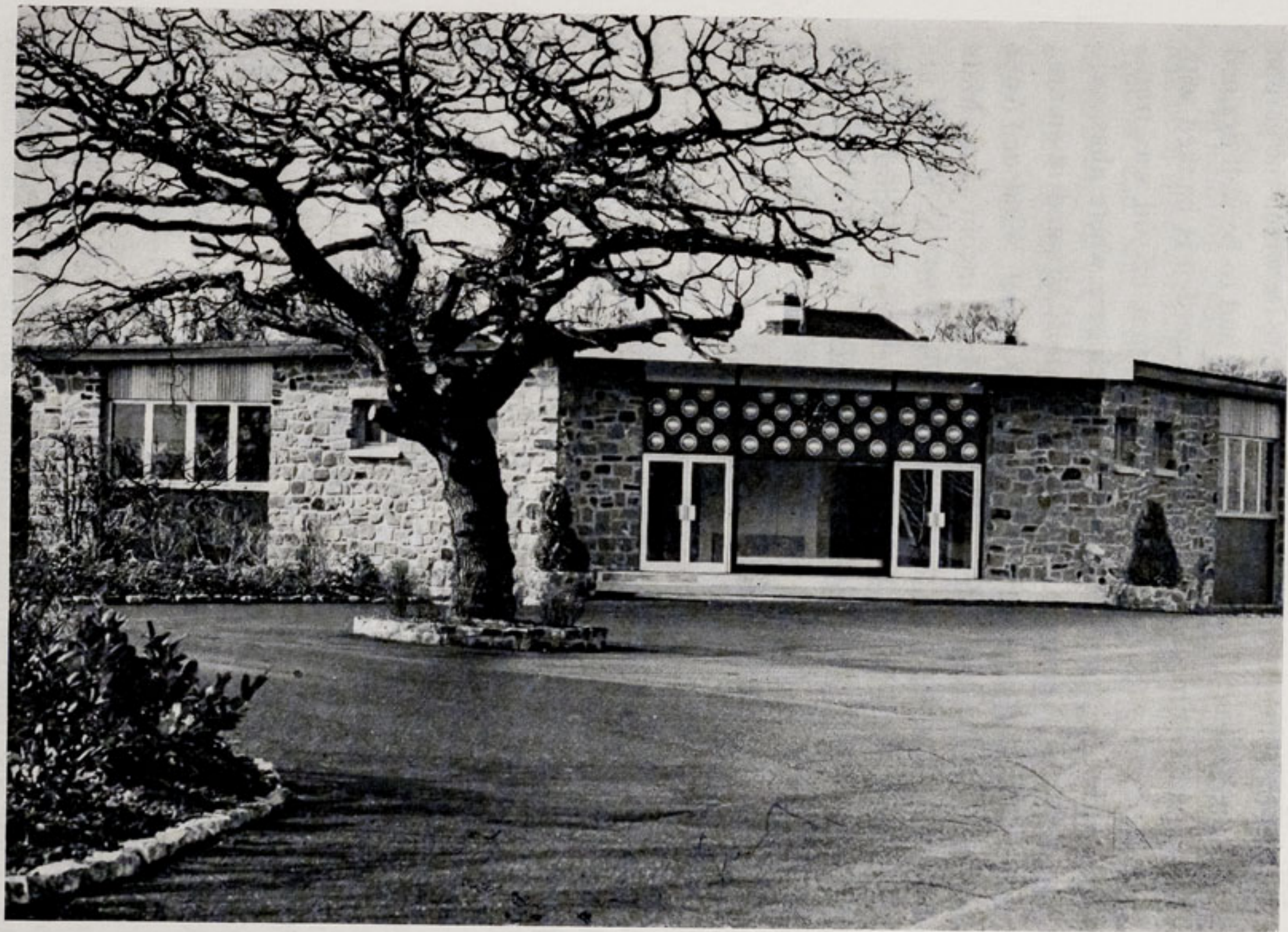
Situated near to the Green End administration offices, this attractive building, which may be seen in the photograph on the right, was designed by Mr. G. F. Williams, Clerk of Works at the Zoo. It is constructed mainly of local sandstone and has been so positioned as to be almost invisible from the main A41 road. Modernistic features in the design blend well with the more rustic aspect of the sandstone and the gardens which have been laid out around the building will provide a pleasant and colourful setting.

Inside the Lecture Hall the spacious auditorium has been designed to accommodate seating for 174 persons. Each of the comfortable tip-up seats is equipped with a writing leaf which can be folded away safely when not in use. The décor is in green, cream and mushroom and curtains on the windows and covering the large screen are controlled electronically from the projection room. The latter contains modern equipment for presenting both still and cine film and is also wired for sound. Two clocks, one above the entrance doors and the other in the auditorium itself, were presented most generously by Mr. and Mrs. E. Sorby.

Attached to the Lecture Hall is a library which will be used as a reference library for Members of the Society. A cloakroom, toilets and facilities for making light refreshments are also incorporated in the building.

LANDSCAPING OF GARDENS

Around the Lecture Hall itself borders have been created to accommodate Roses, the varieties used being Chicago Peace, McGredy's Sunset, Mischief and Bettina. Two *Wisteria sinensis*, one planted either side of the entrance to the hall, will be trained up the walls and over the entrance doors. Varieties of *Clematis montana* have been planted at intervals around the building and will scale the walls.



THE GERALDINE RUSSELL ALLEN LECTURE HALL

Jack Smith

A new garden in the shape of a half moon has been laid out on the opposite side of the road to the Lecture Hall and covers an area of 230 feet by 40 feet at the widest part. The site on which the garden has been made was a low part of a field and had to be well drained before layout commenced. At the back the garden is banked with a gradual slope to the front and a large amount of soil was transported to the site from the new Zebra enclosure where ahas were being excavated. The garden has six Rose beds situated in an area of lawn. The varieties planted here are Duke of Windsor, Anne Watkins, Alec's Red, Belle Blonde, Mr. Lincoln and Mala Rubenstein. Set into the lawn towards the rear of the garden are five standard flowering trees comprising three Cherry Kanzans and two *Malus floribundas*. Eighty *Cupressocyparis leylandii* have been planted around the back of the garden which will not only serve to separate it from the field behind but also act as an effective windbreak.

By the side of the new tarmac area surrounding the Lecture Hall a shrubbery has been planted. To complete this area some 250 shrubs were required which were propagated and grown in our nursery.

ARRIVALS AND BIRTHS

We are pleased to report that the following mammals have been born recently:

- 1 Capuchin Monkey (*Cebus albifrons*)
- 2 American Bison (*Bos bison*)
- 2 Highland Cattle (*Bos taurus*)
- 1 Soay Sheep (*Ovis aries*)
- 2 Spiny Mice (*Acomys cahirinus*)

There are now two baby Capuchin Monkeys in the Monkey House and these can be seen in adjacent enclosures. The mother of the latest youngster has been in the collection since 1965 and has bred for a second time.

The two American Bison calves are the first born this year and have been sexed as a male and a female. This species, which has an excellent breeding record at Chester, occupies enclosure No. 102.

In addition a young Red-bellied Wallaby (*Thylogale billardierii*) has been observed in its mother's pouch while in enclosure No. 95 visitors can see several young Bennett's Wallabies (*Wallabia rufogrisea*). As yet the number of the latter species can only be estimated but it seems more than likely that the total will at least equal last year's figure of nineteen Bennett's Wallabies bred.

At the present time a long-awaited arrival is undergoing a period of six months in quarantine at the new Ape House. She is a delightful young female Orang utan (*Pongo pygmaeus*) named Ramona, which was bred and reared in East Berlin Zoo. After her long journey she was installed in a warm den prepared specially to meet quarantine regulations and is now settling well in her new home. At three and a half, Ramona is approximately the same age as Rajang, the male which was born at Chester, and as soon as the quarantine period is completed she will be introduced to the group of young Orangs into which Rajang has now been integrated successfully. The group will then consist of four males and three females which when mature we hope will breed.

A Woolly Opossum (*Caluromys lanatus*) is a new arrival in the Nocturnal House. It has greyish dense woolly fur and measures approximately one and a half feet, with a very long prehensile tail that is naked towards the tip. This particular species is found in Central and South America though members of the Opossum family are found throughout most of the Americas and in some areas their range is being extended.

Opossums are extremely interesting animals since they are marsupials which manage to compete successfully with the more evolved mammals, unlike their Australian counterparts, many of which are declining in numbers. One of the reasons for the success of the Opossums is their adaptability. Fruit, insects and small animals are eaten mainly but other items, such as carrion, are also

acceptable. Opossums are both arboreal and nocturnal, making their nests in almost any dark holes they can find.

They are prolific breeders, some species producing litters of up to eighteen, though not all the young born are reared. The actual gestation period is about thirteen days and, in typical marsupial fashion, the young complete their development attached to the mother's teats. Some species have pouches while others, including the one we have acquired, possess mere folds of skin. When the young are born they climb to the teats along a strip of fur which is moistened by the mother. At about ten weeks they are able to leave the pouch and are carried, often rather precariously, on the female's back. Opossums become independent at three to four months old.

A very famous expression is "playing possum" which means "playing dead". The Opossum is one of several animals which feigns death in order to fool a predator.

A pair of Nile Rats (*Arvicanthis niloticus*) are also new exhibits in the Nocturnal House. This species is found in north east Africa and southern Arabia.

Finally, we have acquired a pair of Steppe Lemmings (*Lagurus lagurus*) though these are not yet on show. Found in southern Russia and western Siberia these little animals are only about five inches long and are related to Voles. They inhabit steppe and semi-desert areas and live in burrows consisting of numerous tunnels. Their diet is vegetarian and Steppe Lemmings are primarily nocturnal animals. Like several other species of Lemming, they are subject to mass migrations when resident populations become too large but do not deliberately commit suicide by jumping over cliffs as is popularly supposed. However, in their frenzied search for fresh ground the Lemmings may well attempt to cross a lake, for instance, but become exhausted and eventually drown.

BIRD NOTES

In the Tropical House another Yellow-breasted Bunting (*Emberiza aureola*) has been reared to independence and in the moat which surrounds the Chimpanzee Islands a pair of Mute Swans (*Cygnus olor*) have hatched four cygnets.

There have been numerous new arrivals in this section including:

- 1.1 Kakariki or Red-crowned Parrakeets (*Cyanoramphus novaezelandiae*)
- 1.1 Peach-faced Lovebirds (*Agapornis roseicollis*)
- 1.1 Golden-throated Barbets (*Megalaima franklinii ramsayi*)
- 1.1 Yellow Grosbeaks (*Pheucticus chrysopheplus*)
- 1.1 Black-throated Laughing Thrushes (*Garrulax chinensis lochmius*)
- 2.2 White-crested Jay Thrushes (*Garrulax leucolophus*)
- 2 Plush-crested Jays (*Cyanocorax chrysops*)
- 1.1 Black Racket-tailed Tree Pies (*Crypsirina temia*)
- 8 Indian White-eyes (*Zosterops palebroza*)
- 8 Virginian Cardinals (*Richmondea cardinalis*)

The Kakariki or Red-crowned Parrakeet originates from New Zealand where its numbers have diminished considerably since the incursion of civilisation. Several closely related species in the *Cyanoramphus* family native to islands around New Zealand have either become extinct or are seriously endangered and listed in the I.U.C.N.'s Red Data Book. One of the main reasons for their decline is now all too familiar, being the inability of indigenous species to compete with introduced predators. The male and female Kakariki, a Maori name, are similar except that the latter has a smaller head and beak. The plumage is chiefly green becoming paler on the breast with red markings on the front of the crown, under the eye and on the flanks. Adult Red-crowned Parrakeets measure about eleven inches long. These birds occupy one of the outer aviaries adjoining the Temperate Bird House, No. 54.

The pair of Yellow Grosbeaks may be seen in the same building. These attractive birds are found in western Mexico where they frequent the foothills and highlands. They measure about eight inches in length and have large thick bills. The male has yellow plumage over most of his body with wings, scapulars and tail black with patches of white. The female has a similar general patterning but is duller and has greyish-brown streaks.

The Black-throated Laughing Thrushes which are native to

northern Thailand and the White-crested Jay Thrushes from the Himalayas have been released into the Tropical House, along with the Virginian Cardinals.

In the Tropical House also but accommodated in aviaries are the Golden-throated Barbets, the Plush-crested Jays and the Black Racket-tailed Tree Pies.

Golden-throated Barbets are found in the hills and mountains of northern Thailand. Their plumage is predominantly green with a rich assortment of colours on the head and throat including red, black, blue, orange and yellow. They have large bills and measure about eight inches from head to tail. The new pair of Golden-throated Barbets occupy one of the lower aviaries in the house.

In a nearby flight are the handsome Racket-tailed Tree Pies, a species originating from South East Asia. They have lustrous dark greenish-black plumage over most of their bodies and areas of black around the eyes. The total body length is some thirteen inches, about half of which is a long tail. This is fan-shaped with the central feathers longest and broadened at the tip. The bill and feet are black.

In one of the upper aviaries of the Tropical House are the Plush-crested Jays which have a range in South America from Brazil south of the Amazon throughout Paraguay, Uruguay and Bolivia to Northern Argentina. These birds have a very perky manner and frequently flick their tails while at the same time making loud chirping calls. The underparts and end of the tail are white, the plumage on the rest of the body, including a small crest, being black. In addition there is a light blue stripe above the eye and a light bluish sheen on the back of the head and nape, and also under the eye.

OBITUARY

It is with deep regret we have to report the death of Mr. W. P. Bland who had been a member of the Zoo Council since 1948. He will be sadly missed by us all.

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.

