



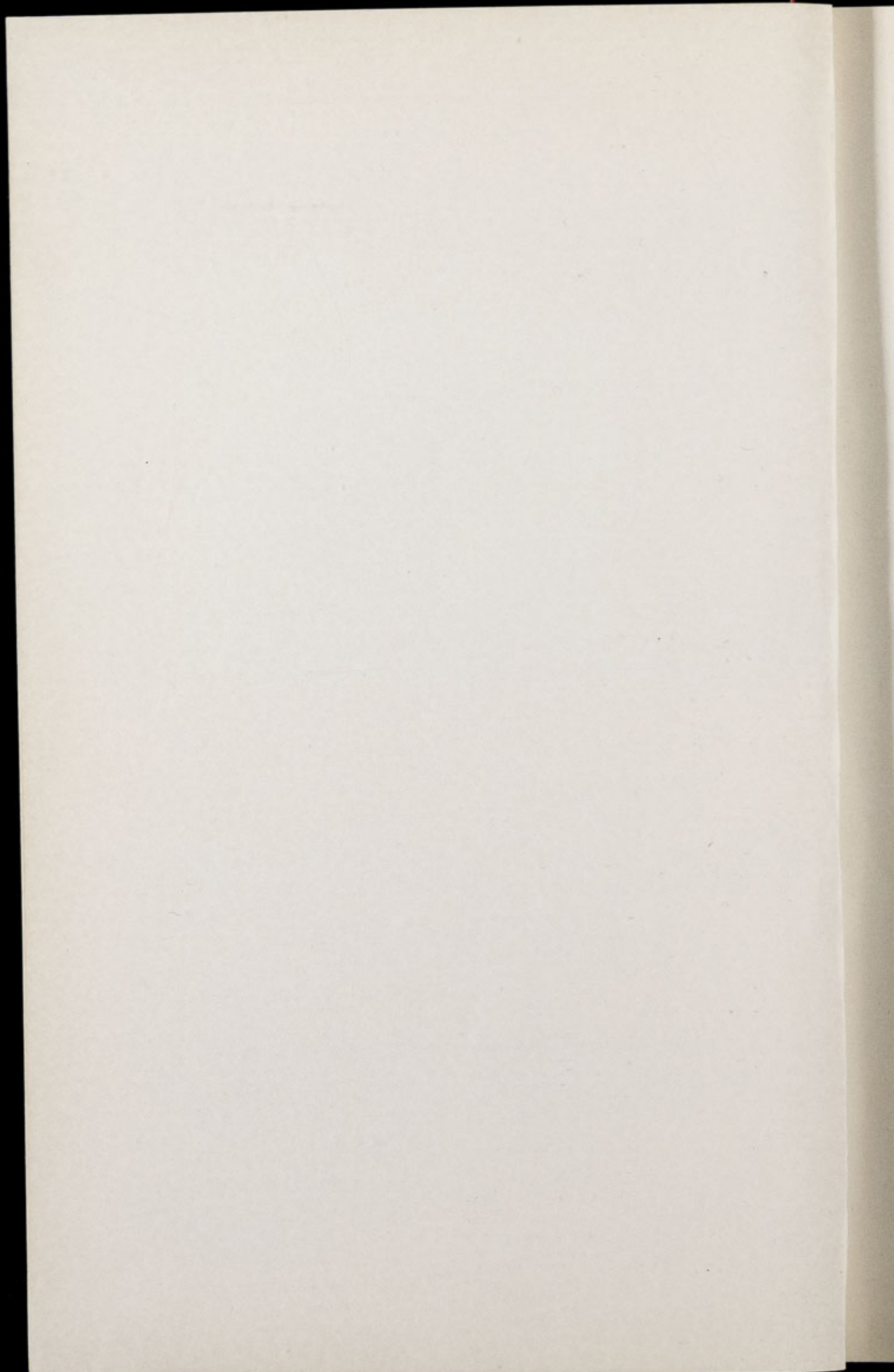
Chester Zoo News

AND GUIDE

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

January 1978

Price 12p



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

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CONTENTS

<i>page two</i>	Cover Photograph. Recent births
<i>page five</i>	General News. Bird Notes
<i>page six</i>	Aquarium News
<i>pages eight/nine</i>	Zoo Plan
<i>page eleven</i>	Reptile News. News from the Educational Service
<i>page thirteen</i>	New Construction. Waterways in the Zoo
<i>page fourteen</i>	Gardening Notes
<i>page sixteen</i>	Subscriptions

ILLUSTRATIONS

<i>page four</i>	Arabian Gazelles
<i>page ten</i>	D'Alberti's Python
<i>page twelve</i>	Albino Diamond-backed Rattlesnake
<i>page fourteen</i>	New Monkey House Enclosures

COVER

"Twink", with her two cubs

By courtesy of Peter Price, N.U.J.

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Telephone Chester 20106/7/8

COVER PHOTOGRAPH

The Cover Photograph is that of Common Leopard "Twink" (*Panthera pardus*) with her two cubs "Jomo" a male, and "Sukuma" a female.

These youngsters are usually to be seen some time during the day when they take a little exercise and get used to the outside world. They have now had their feline enteritis inoculation. This is usually injected at about three months old. Enteritis is an infection from which the big cats suffer, and we have found that inoculation at an early age is well worthwhile.

RECENT BIRTHS

Recently a male was born to Orang-utan "Lola" (*Pongo pygmaeus*). Both mother and baby are very well. "Lola" is proving to be a perfect mother, rearing her offspring without the assistance of the keepers. The youngster has been named "Karau". Mother and son will not be on show to the public for several weeks. They are at present in an inside enclosure.

"Lola" was purchased for the collection in November 1971. She gave birth to a youngster in February 1974 but her baby lived only until April 1976. The father of her second youngster born on the 8th December 1977, is "Barry". The mother was about 4½ years old on arrival at the Zoo and is Sumatran.

The colour of the coat of the Orang-utan is a reddish-brown, the hair being rather shaggy. The profile of the skull is more sloping than that of the Chimpanzee and the Gorilla, with very little of the ridging on the brow. Adult orangs, old males in particular, have cheek pads. The mouth projects, and the lips are thin. The species has small, hairless ears; the legs are short and fairly weak, but the hands and arms are very powerful.

Orang-utans are found only on the islands of Sumatra and Borneo, where they inhabit low lying forests. The overall length of an adult is about 1.25 to 1.5 metres. When the animal stands erect its arms reach to the ankles and have a spread of approximately 2.25 metres. Females average 40 kilogrammes in weight, the males 75 to 100 kilogrammes.

In the wild, Orangs are to be found singly, in pairs, or in small groups possibly representing a family unit. In the daytime they move about slowly on the ground, walking on all four limbs, placing the knuckles of the hands towards the ground. Orangs are mostly peaceful and gentle, often showing a kindly curiosity towards humans. When provoked however, they can be extremely dangerous. During the night they sleep in trees, where they build stick and vine platforms, some "shelters" being used several times, but often new ones are made each night. During the rainy season the animals protect themselves with large leaves.

Orang-utans feed mainly on fruit, in particular that of the durian, local movements corresponding with the seasonal ripening of the fruits. Also included in their diet are leaves, seeds, bark, eggs, and young birds.

The gestation period is 8/9 months, and the weight of a youngster at birth is in the region of 1.5 kilogrammes. The offspring is nursed for some time by the mother, possibly for two years. Orangs are not fully grown until they are 10/12 years of age, but sexual maturity can occur much earlier. Life expectancy is 30 to 40 years in the wild, but in captivity they often die prematurely as it is not easy to keep young orangs alive and healthy. They are particularly sensitive to pulmonary infections usually carried by man.

Over the past century orangs have been greatly reduced in numbers. They are however protected by Game Laws, at least in British Borneo. Unfortunately these laws are difficult to enforce. Large numbers of Orang-utans are exported from Indonesian Borneo, mostly to American and European zoos and circuses. The method of capture is to kill the mother and take the youngsters. In Borneo the species is most numerous in north Borneo south to the Sembakong and north-eastern Indonesian Borneo.

* * *

Another Arabian Gazelle (*Gazella arabica*) has been bred in the Zoo. The youngster has been taken away from its mother for hand-rearing by Mr. Peter Wait, Curator of Mammals. These animals are very delicate and often need special care and attention. Mr. Wait has hand-reared several Arabian Gazelles, a photograph of one of them being shown on Page 7 of the June 1977 issue of the



By courtesy of Peter Price, N.U.J.
MR. PETER WAIT, CURATOR OF MAMMALS, WITH TWO OF THE ARABIAN GAZELLES

magazine. The herd can be seen in Enclosure 106 where there is all the year round accommodation for these animals.

Mr. Wait says that it was a struggle to keep alive this last youngster during the first four or five days, but it is progressing quite well now. A charming photograph of Mr. Wait with two of the Arabian Gazelles hand-reared by him is on Page 4. The animals obviously know him and are not afraid. These gazelles are naturally very timid.

* * *

There has been a recent breeding of a Green Monkey (*Cercopithecus sabaesus*) and mother and baby are on show in the Monkey House.

* * *

An Alpaca (*Lama pacos*) has also been bred recently in the Zoo. Our herd now consists of ten specimens and can be seen in Enclosure 110.

GENERAL NEWS

A female Black Panther (*Panthera pardus*) has been received on breeding loan in exchange for a cub born in July last year at Chester Zoo.

* * *

On Page 2 of the December 1977 issue of the magazine we mentioned that Chimpanzee "Chad", hand reared by Mrs. Joan Timmis, was ready to be brought into the zoo. However, as we hadn't a companion of the right age for him, and as Bristol Zoo were looking for a youngster to keep their baby gorilla "Naomi" from being lonely, we have sent him there and the two will grow up together.

BIRD NOTES

A pair of Red-capped Parrots (*Pionopsitta peleata*), bred in the U.K. last year, have been presented to us. The distribution of the Red-capped Parrot is South America, ranging in Brazil from southern Bahia to Rio Grand do Sul, Paraguay, Misiones and Corrientes in Argentine. These parrots do well in captivity providing they are given the correct food and kept in warm quarters in the cold weather. It will soon be apparent if there are any signs of discomfort, owing to weather conditions. Otherwise these parrots are quite hardy.

We have not had the Red-capped before, and there is a chance that we may be presented with another pair.

These parrots are distinguished by their relatively small head and short tail. They have a slate-blue bill. An adult male is defined by its scarlet forehead, most of the crown, the lores and a narrow line below the eye, including part of the ear-coverts. In general however, its plumage is green with the exception of the carpal edge and the primary coverts which are a deep blue. The overall length of this parrot is 9 inches. Females do not have the scarlet on the head, and in some the forehead is bluish.

As pets the Red-capped Parrots are reputed to be desirable because of their beautiful plumage. Owing to their gentle natures they allow their owners to handle them without attempting to bite.

Males have a warble similar to that of the Budgerigar, but when breeding their call is a loud plaintive "mewing" sound which can be heard for quite a distance. This is repeated several times.

A varied diet of most seeds, including canary, linseed, hemp, buckwheat and spray millet should be provided. Sunflower however would appear to be preferred. Red-capped Parrots are fond of nectar to which "Abidec" drops have been added. Boiled maize should also be given, plenty of cuttlefish bone, and twigs from fruit trees to keep their beaks from becoming overgrown. They enjoy apples, soft-fruit and greenfood.

The incubation period for the Red-capped Parrot is 24 days, the chicks fledging between 52 and 54 days.

AQUARIUM NEWS

During the night of Saturday, December 10th last Chester Zoo experienced a 65 m.p.h. gale. When the lights flickered all over Chester the aeration pump in the Aquarium turned off, causing the oxygen content in the water to go down. Two of our best exhibits died as a result of lack of oxygen. These were the South American Arowana (*Osteoglossum bicirrhsum*) and the Sting Ray Fish—both freshwater tropical fish. We have now purchased another Arowana and are making enquiries to find a new Sting Ray but so far we have not been successful.

* * *

Recent new additions to the Aquarium are as follows:

- 1 Blue Discus (*Symphysodan aequifasciata haraldi*)
- 2 Blue Faced Discus
- 3 Leporinous (*Leporinus fasciatus*)
- 2 Catfish

The Blue Discus has a distribution in the Amazon. Its body is disc-shaped, being strongly compressed. It has a single pair of nasal openings, and a small mouth with thick lips. Its teeth are small and conical, growing in a single row. This is a colourful Catfish despite its darkish-brown basic colouring. The head and body are crossed with nine dark blue vertical bars, the first and the last ones being the darkest blue. Horizontal, wavy blue streaks cover the whole body with the exception of behind the head, breast, and distal parts of the median fins. Further blue markings are on the forehead, which displays four or five blue horizontal streaks, two oblique blue streaks below the eye, and two vertical blue bars on the gill-cover.

* * *

Leporinus fasciatus—the Black-banded Leporinus has a wide distribution through South America from Guiana and the Orinoco region to the La Plata basin in the far South. The species grows to 30 cm.

The young are very attractively coloured. Clay-yellow to brilliant lemon or golden-yellow is gradually replaced by a less conspicuous garb as they become older. The males are distinguished by their more slender build and a stronger orange-yellow colour on the snout and throat. The Black-banded Leporinus has ten slender black transverse bars, and a dark band running along the edge of the lower jaw and between the eyes.

* * *

Some time ago we reported that we had an unidentified Catfish, and the two we acquired recently are of the same type. We now know however that these fish come from South America. The specimen we have had in the Aquarium for a few months is now about 2½-feet long, and the new ones are approximately 3 inches long at this time but are growing rapidly.

* * *

One of our Members has bred and presented to us seventeen

CHESTER ZOO

THE NORTH OF ENGLAND
ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY
ZOOLOGICAL GARDENS

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

**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 Hyena 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. CHIMPANZEEES
- 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

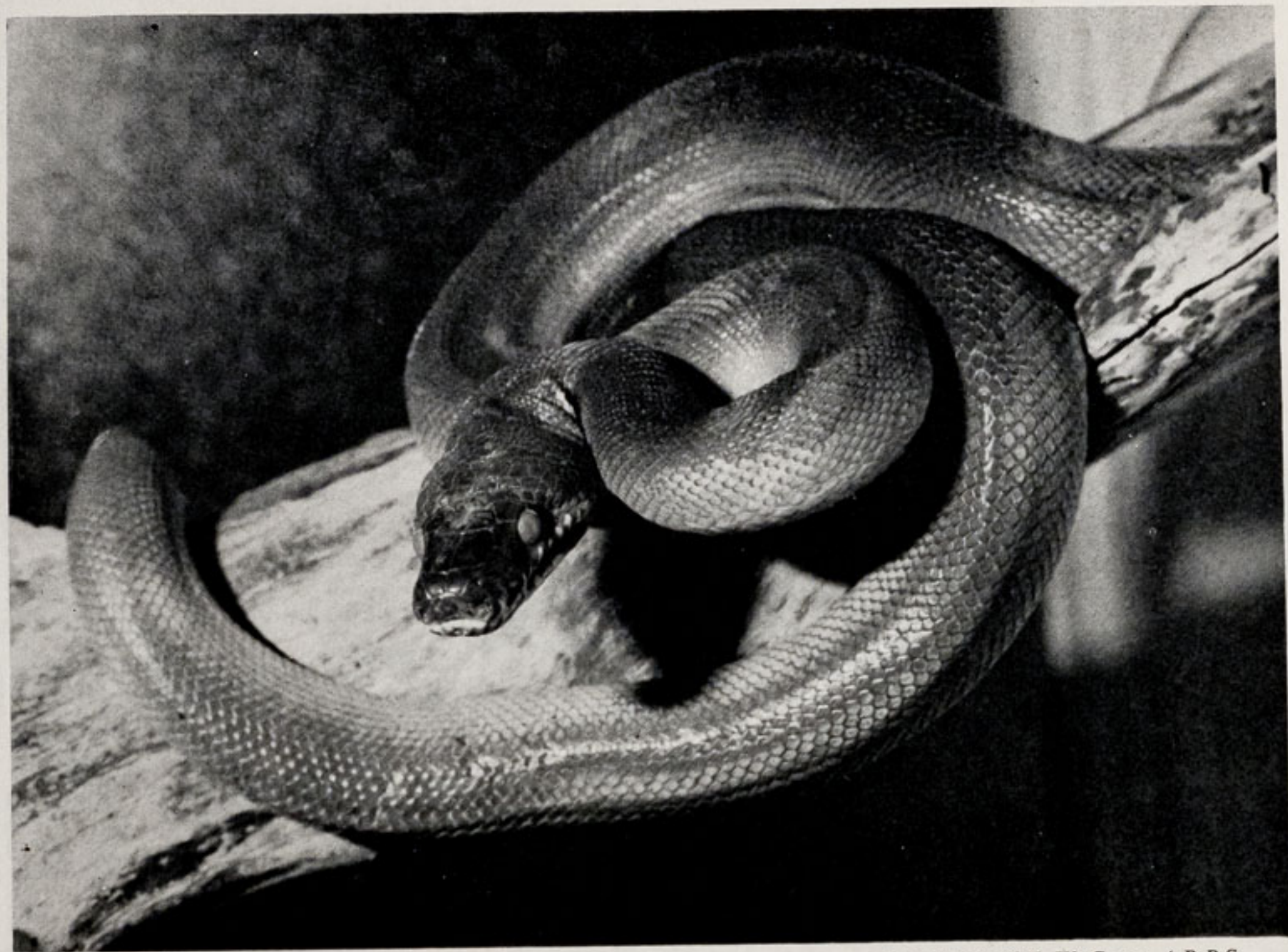
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- 105. Llamas
- 105a. Llamas
- 106. Arabian Gazelles
- 107. Animal Paddock
- 108. Bison
- 109. Pere David's Deer Paddock
- 110. Prairie Marmots, Alpacas
- 111. Antelope Enclosure
- 112. RHINOS
- 113. TOILETS
- 114. Mpila Snack Bar
- 115. Antelope Enclosure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



D'ALBERTI'S PYTHON (*Liasis fuscus albertsi*)

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

African Clawed Toads (*Xenopus laevis*). Most of them are on show in a tank in the Aquarium the rest being contained in the breeding area.

REPTILE NEWS

Two D'Alberti's Rock Pythons (*Liasis fuscus albertisii*) have been received in exchange. The species *Liasis* is one of the seven genera of the Subfamily *Pythoninae*, of the Family *Boidae*. The species is one of the large constrictors of the World. The seven genera have a distribution in Asia, Malaysia, Africa and Australia, *Liasis fuscus albertisii* ranging in Timor, New Guinea and North Australia.

Fully grown this Python attains a length of 8-feet. Ours are about 5-feet in length, being quite young specimens. D'Alberti's Rock Python feeds largely on small mammals and birds; it is non-venomous. It lays about 30 eggs.

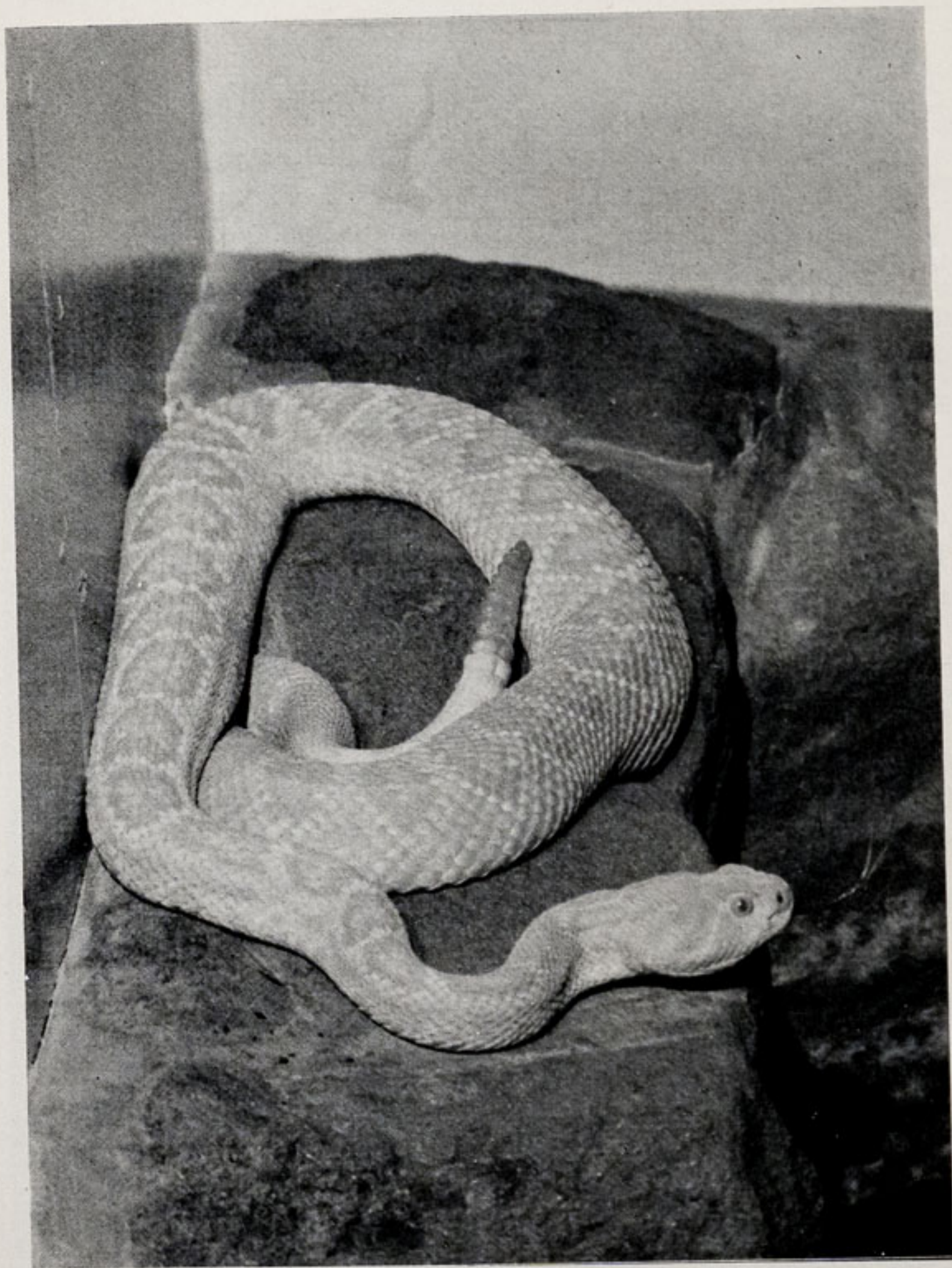
Its head is quite distinct from the neck and is covered with large symmetrical shields. The neck is a rich brown or purplish colour above, cream or pinkish below, the head being a blackish colour. The labial scales, chin and throat are whitish to salmon pink, the labial scales being barred with brown.

* * *

On Page 12, we are now able to include a photograph of the Albino Western Diamond Rattlesnake (*Crotalus atrox*) which we reported in the October 1977 issue of the Magazine. This rattlesnake, which is venomous, is of a pale yellowish colour with the 'diamond' markings showing up in a slightly less pale colour. The specimen is in a Vivarium on its own.

NEWS FROM THE EDUCATIONAL SECTION

A Natural History Museum has now been set up in a room adjoining the Classroom in the Portakabin. This display was formerly housed in the Veterinary Laboratory at Green End.



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

ALBINO DIAMONDBACK RATTLESNAKE (*Crotalus atrox*)
TO BE SEEN IN THE REPTILE HOUSE

The Natural History Museum is available to college and school parties visiting the Zoo for educational purposes. As mentioned in the July 1977 issue of the magazine, the Classroom can accommodate 44 persons at one sitting.

Many interesting exhibits which have been collected and prepared from time to time are contained in the Museum. These are relevant to many species in the collection, and include various skulls, vertebrae and bones; items of histological and many parasitic organisms have been preserved. A number of foetal items are exhibited as well as examples of diseased animal tissue.

For the benefit of younger children the walls of the Museum have been decorated with animal posters and charts. A number of plastic flow charts and graphs are displayed for the older groups, and these relate to various animal facts and figures in regard to the collection at the Zoo.

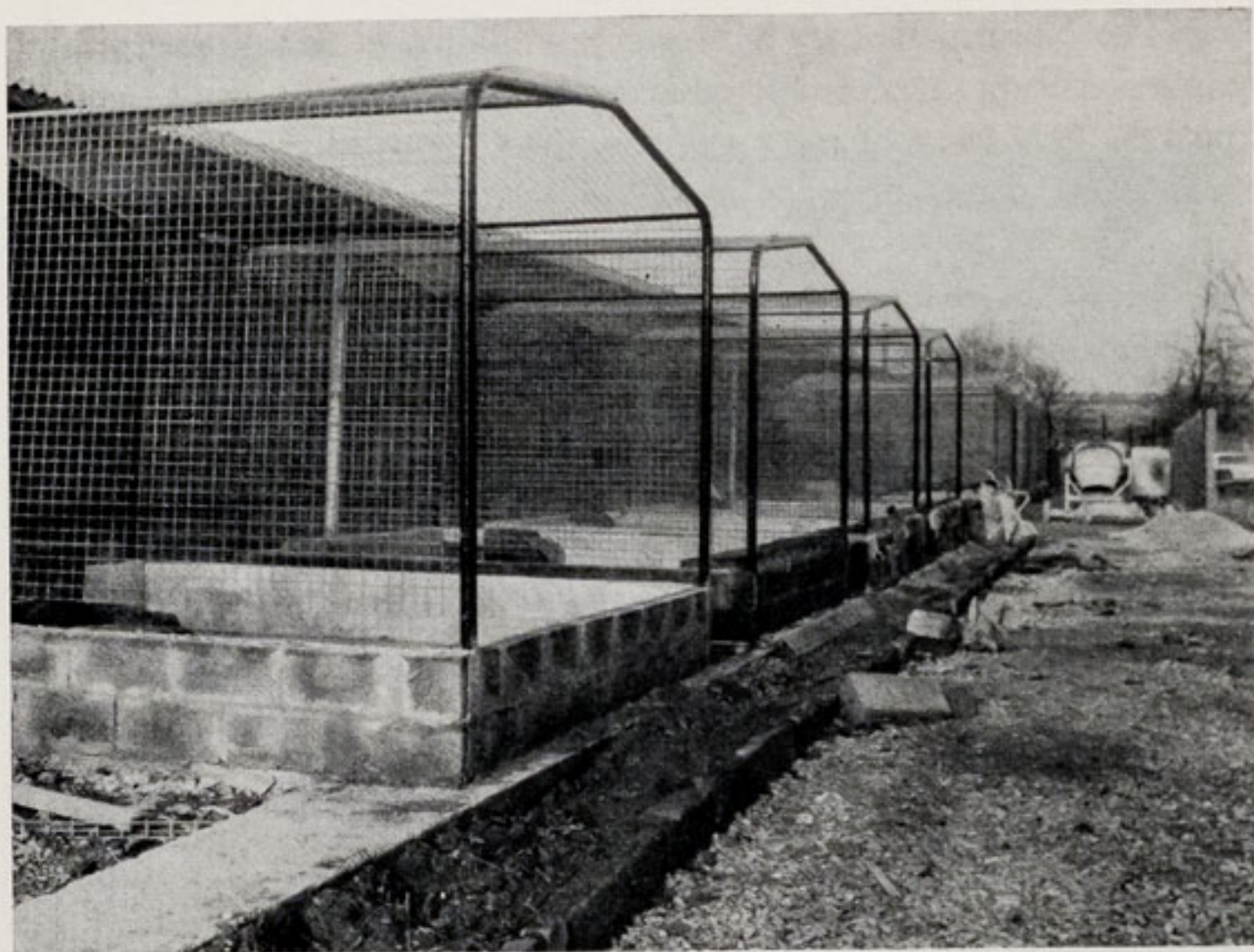
NEW CONSTRUCTION

From the photograph on Page 14 readers will readily appreciate how well the new outside Monkey House Enclosures are progressing. It also shows the new walk which will bring visitors nearer to the exhibits, creating a completely new area for the Zoo. The new constructions were reported on Page 12 of the December 1977 issue of the magazine.

WATERWAYS IN THE ZOO

Over the last twenty-odd years during which the waterways have existed in the Zoo the trees have grown very high and debris is continually falling into the water, often causing obstruction to the waterbuses. The trees were originally planted to hold the soil together on the banks of the waters.

Whilst the waterways have been in use we have not been able to do the work effectively. It was therefore decided to have them



By courtesy of K. W. Green, A.R.P.S.
NEW MONKEY HOUSE ENCLOSURES

drained. Following this operation it is hoped that the waterbuses will be able to function more efficiently, and that work will be made less difficult for us in the succeeding years. The landing stages will also receive attention, and some of the trees that overhang the water can be "polled" to a manageable height.

We shall be catching all the fish, and these will be kept in large reserve tanks ready to be put back into the water when the work is completed. Ducks, geese and pelicans normally contained on and around the lake have been moved to other areas in the Zoo. The gibbons from Gibbon Island (Enclosure 40) have taken up their usual winter quarters in the outside Baboon Enclosure (89)

It is expected that work on the waterways will be completed within the next few months in time for Easter.

GARDENING NOTES

Rose trees in the beds and borders of the Zoo Gardens have been

replaced recently, where renewal was necessary. Four of the rose beds have needed a complete change. The top layer of soil, to a depth of one foot, is taken out and a layer of manure dug in the lower depth. The beds are then filled in again with new loam.

Replacement varieties which were planted were the Hybrid Tea Rose "Red Devil", and Floribunda "Arthur Bell" which is a golden-yellow colour; also "Glenfiddich"—a bright golden colour tinted with amber, named after a famous Malt Whisky and "Moon-maiden"—a creamy yellow.

At this time of the year the rockeries are "cleaned-up" for the winter. Unfortunately the Gazanias were killed by severe frost at the end of November—usually they stand up to -4°C . We shall wait until the Spring before we replace any of the perennials on the rockeries.

Just now all the plants in the flower-beds which are expected to flower in the Spring are looking very well, and it seems hard to believe that we could still have a few disastrous weeks of severe frost.

Climbers trained on walls in various parts of the Zoo have been given some attention. One of the more vigorous ones is *Clematis Montana*, although all *Clematis* plants grow very quickly in the season. This climber needs to be trained on a frame. Its flowers, which are in bloom at the end of May and early June, are in clusters of white or soft pink, sweetly scented. *Clematis Montana* can be seen growing on the wall of one side of the Polar Rear Enclosure (No. 50) and will be pruned after it has flowered. The species will root easily from a cutting.

Honeysuckle is growing on walls in various parts of the Zoo and is good for flowering from July to October. These plants need spraying early in the season in order to keep away greenfly. A good specimen of Honeysuckle can be seen at the entrance to the Small Mammal House (Enclosure 84), its full name being *Lonicera Periclymenum*, variety *Serotina*. Another specimen, *Lonicera Japonica Aureo-Reticulata*, is an evergreen which has golden veins and is quite hardy. It is trained on the walls of the Mpila Snack Bar, and the

Cafeteria. We prune it back to the walls in March, when new growth soon comes along. This plant roots easily from cuttings and should be sprayed to keep off mildew.

Hydrangea Petiolaris is a self-clinging climber, with heart-shaped dark green leaves and masses of flat heads of white flowers 6 inches across which appear in June and July. Little pruning is needed except for shaping. Dead flowers should not be cut off until the Spring, thus protecting the following year's flower buds.

Cobea Scandens is grown as an annual on a wall near the entrance to the Tropical House. The name *Scandens* means "climber" and the common name is "Cup and Saucer Flower". It is hardy up to -5°C of frost. Unfortunately these plants were also killed by frost in November.

Jasminum Nudiflorum (Winter Jasmine) is growing in a different way in the Queen Elizabeth II Jubilee Garden and is planted so as to hang down the wall. As the name suggests, it flowers when there are no leaves on its branches. Usually its bright yellow flowers are open during the winter months, except in severe weather.

Wistaria Sinensis is one of the most beautiful flowering climbers but needs a frame upon which to climb. It is a vigorous grower and requires to be kept within bounds. This climber flowers best in the sun. Its mauve, fragrant flowers hang down in trusses 8/10 inches long and up to 3 inches broad. The plant is on show with the *Clematis* on one of the walls around the Polar Bear Enclosure. There is also one on each side of the entrance to the Lecture Hall.

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**

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