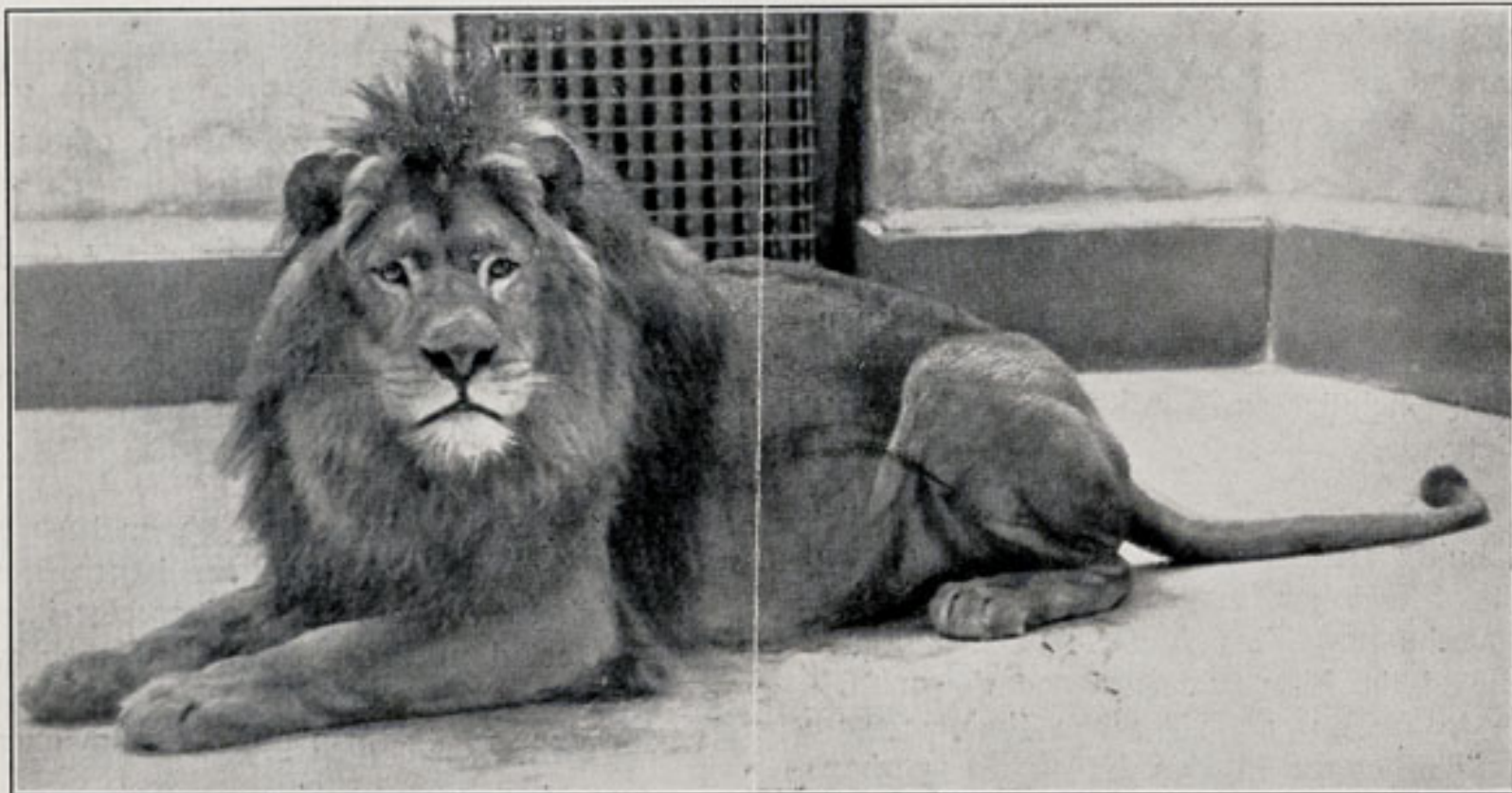


"Our Zoo News & Guide"

A MONTHLY CHRONICLE OF NEWS AND GUIDE TO
CHESTER ZOOLOGICAL GARDENS.

Price 2d.

Annual Subscription 2/6 post free.



"PATRICK" WHOM WE HOPE WILL SOON BE A FATHER.

NUMBER TWENTY-ONE.

July 1939.

GUIDE.

HOW TO SEE THE ZOO.

On entering the Zoo visitors who desire to see all the exhibits should follow the arrows in rotation of their numbers. It is of course possible to take other routes and many walks are not arrowed at all, but the visitors who have limited time at their

disposal are advised to follow the arrows if they wish to see all the main exhibits.

One of the first exhibits to be met are the Malayan Bears, these come from the Malay Peninsular. They are most playful, but unfortunately cannot be trusted and visitors must on no account touch them. Their enclosure is one of the first permanent structures the Society undertook. It was originally intended for Racoons but was later adopted for the

bears on account of the very fine Oak Tree which grew in the centre. To-day it is hard to believe that not only was the tree a wonderful specimen in perfect health when the bears were first put in but the enclosure was also covered with grass, but bears love burrowing in the ground and at times turn their enclosure into a regular mud heap.

After the bears we come to various animals and birds till we arrive at the next permanent establishment, The Aquarium. This is constructed in the basement of the house and consists of both Tropical and Cold Water Fish. The varieties of which are labelled on each tank.

Leaving the Aquarium we pass on our left the site for the Open Air Lion enclosure which is under construction. When completed it will be one of, if not the largest in the country.

We next pass into what was in the old days when the Zoo was a private residence, the Court Yard, on our right are some old bear pens which will be scrapped as soon as other accommodation is found for the bears which are there at present.

Next we enter the Monkey House, and in here we have a very fine collection, particularly of Chimpanzees. They are great favourites on account of their intelligence and amusing antics. Chimpanzees are considered to be the nearest animal to man. Our collection includes a specimen of the rare Checko variety.

Moving onwards we arrive at the first new house the Society built, The Lion House. It was opened on the 19th of October, 1938, by the Right Hon. Viscount Leverhume. This house is part of the larger scheme of the Lion enclosure and the animals will be able to go out at will when the enclosure is finished. The cages in this house are perhaps the largest of any in this country and the animals not only have plenty of room but ample light which is arranged over them.

We leave the Lions and pass the Quarantine House, which visitors are usually permitted to enter. Leaving the Court Yard we proceed through the Conservatory where Botanical interests vie with Zoological claims.

Still following the arrows we pass many aviaries and come to the Polar Bear, etc. Here we can either go over the Terrace to the Birds of Prey and other Avaries or take the Avenue straight ahead to the Waterfowl. If we do the latter and take the path to the right it will take us through the Bird Sanctuary till we emerge once again by the lawns and the large enclosure containing Peafowl and Crowned Cranes.

This description is of necessity very brief, actually while following the arrows the visitors will have passed several hundred specimens of Mammals,

Birds and Reptiles. Should you as our patrons agree that the many improvements are required please help us by recommending your friends to patronize the Zoo or become a member, thus helping the Society in its objects.

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The Month goes by.

Among the recent arrivals at the Zoo are the jaw bones of the Blue Whale. These were presented by T. H. Humphreys, Esq., of the Southern Whaling and Sealing Company Ltd., Mr. G. B. Lissenden being responsible for their arrival at Chester. Numerous and varied have been the speculations made by the visitors as to their origin and specie, humorous and otherwise have been the random guesses as to what they were. One lady in particular was mourning the fact that the poor elephant at Chester Zoo had died before she had time to see it, others made wild guesses at some unheard of prehistoric animal.

One can readily believe the story of Jonah when one sees these bones which measure twenty-two feet in length and weigh nearly a ton and a half. We are given to understand that the whale itself weighed about ninety-six tons, large enough to make any angler green with envy.

At first we thought that it would be a good idea to make an archway of these bones, now however, we think that it would be of greater interest if they were erected in the position that they would be in when in the whale, so when a site has been selected we propose to fix them up in this manner.

Readers will be pleased to hear that the young Griffin Vulture is doing well and is now beginning to feather, it will be very interesting to see how long it is before it flies. It is now about the size of a large duck and takes a keen interest in all that goes on around it.

We often witness strange events at the Zoo and the latest is quite interesting. Should a naturalist be asked to describe the rabbit he would, without a doubt, describe it as purely a land animal progressing by means of leaps.

As all visitors to the Zoo know, we have a warren of rabbits by the large Parrakeet Aviary at Arrow number 31 along the south wall of the kitchen garden. On both sides of this wall are several old fruit trees.

The other day the gardener discovered that several of his plants had been eaten by what appeared to be a rabbit, but as this garden is walled in and is entered only by a door, it was thought that some



wild rabbit had made its way through when the door was open.

Working near the wall one day the gardener noticed several pieces of fresh leaves falling from the fruit trees, curiously he looked up to discover the cause, there on top of the wall sat a rabbit. It had climbed up by means of the fruit trees in its pen and come down the same way into the garden. It must have been returning the same way, for upon catching the rabbit he discovered that it was feeding young.

Trotsky, the young Russian Bear, is now growing up rapidly, but still remains as popular as ever. It is very amusing to watch him playing about with anything he can get hold of and performing all kinds of funny tricks.

There is one trick he suddenly took a fancy to, that was standing upright at one end of his cage, then making a wild rush to the other side throwing all his weight against the wire. He seemed to relish the rebound, but unfortunately the wire began to weaken and had we not been present Trotsky might have taken a stroll in the open.

As all visitors know, Trotsky is only a cub and quite harmless, but before he grows much older a new home will have to be prepared for him. Eve, the old black bear, is now looking much better, having now completely lost last winter's coat. Punch, the Polar Bear, also is looking very fit, and the Malayan Bears still draw great crowds with their numerous antics performed in the hope that they will be rewarded with a tit bit.

OBITUARY.

It is with regret and sadness that we have to report the death of "Mary," the Chimpanzee, who died on the last day in June.

Mary, who arrived at the Zoo in 1932 was from the very beginning a great favourite with all. When she arrived she was a poor weakly little mite and very few thought that she would live long, but by the spring of 1933 she was an entirely different animal, full of life and intelligence.

It was the latter which attracted so much attention to her, some of her feats were really outstanding, she could tie a knot with perfect ease and knew just

how to manipulate a spanner and screw driver, in fact she had an uncanny knowledge of tools which often made people wonder just how far her intelligence did go.

During her early life Mary had to a large extent her freedom, and in consequence made a considerable number of friends among the children. For hours on end she would play and romp with them in the gardens, entering into the spirit of the game with as much gusto and excitement as the children themselves. The youngsters loved her, for, as is often the case when children play, some get hurt, if it happened to be Mary she never lost her temper and it was almost pathetic to see her when some child got into trouble how she comforted them.

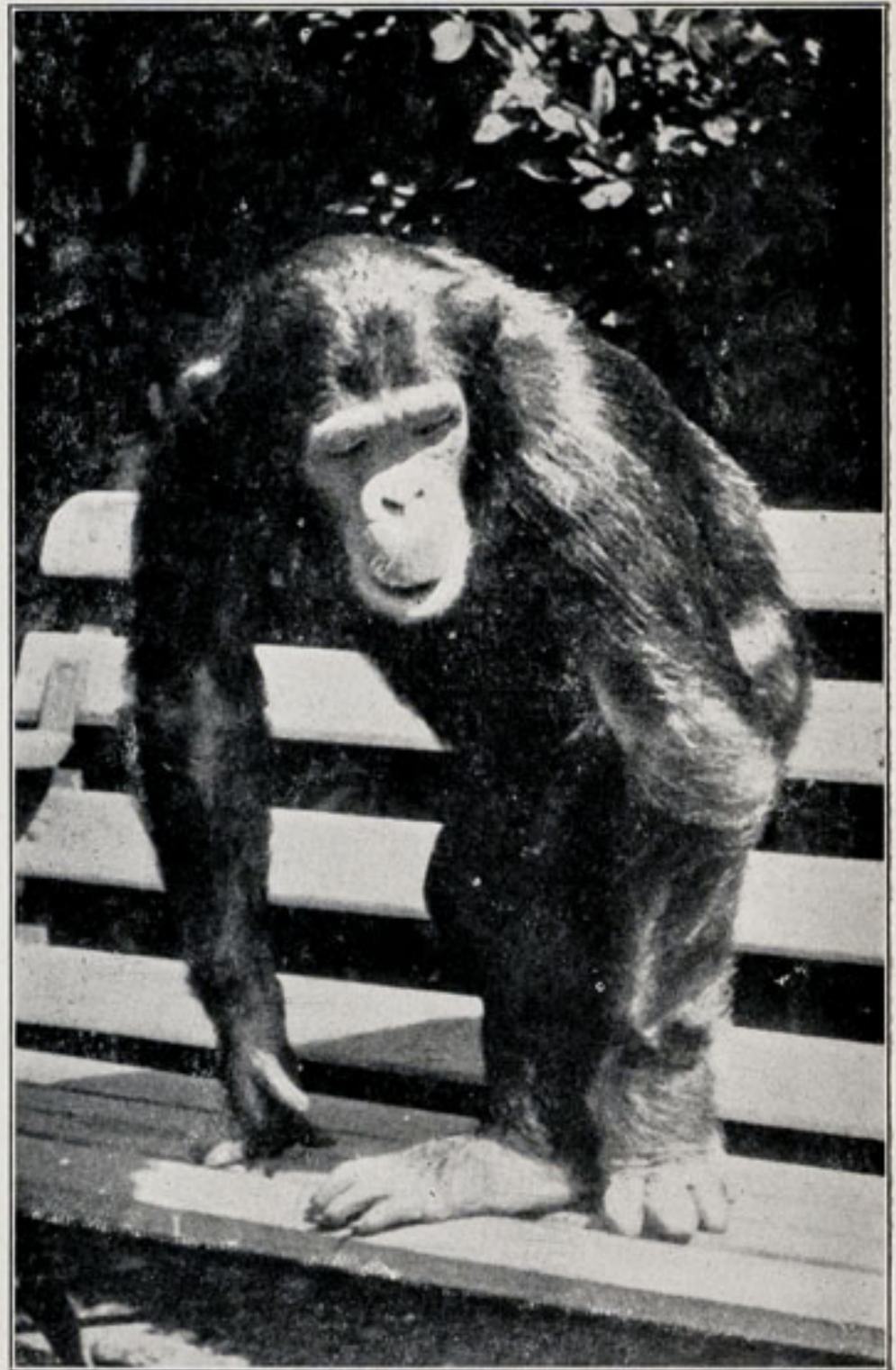
As the Zoo grew larger and more chimpanzees arrived at the Gardens it was feared that Mary would be jealous and lose her attractiveness, but no, she still remained the favourite of all. If by any chance she thought one of the other chimpanzees was getting more attention than usual she would simply clap her hands and bring off some trick which would at once draw the attention to her.

There was one thing in Mary which stood out as an example to everyone she was generous to all and when Jimmy took up residence next to her she saw that he missed nothing and invariably would see that Jimmy got his share before she took hers.

She looked on Kiki and Tarzana more in tolerance than affection, these two chimpanzees had temperaments far removed from Mary's and it caused her no sorrow when they were removed further along the chimpanzee house, but she always preferred to have the other chimpanzees within sight of her.

One of Mary's greatest delights was to have a quiet smoke, and it really was interesting to stand hidden and watch her with either a pipe or cigarette smoking in peace and watching the smoke as she made it perform all sorts of evolutions as it floated away. Her eyes looked into it as if she could see another world in some mysterious way.

Mary will be greatly missed by the thousands that come to the Zoo for nearly all visitors had a soft spot in their heart for her.



TO "MARY."

She came straight from her mother's breast,
A child so small and shy,
Into our world not at its best,
But no, she did not cry.
She faced it, as we might well do,
With a smile and do your best,
For come what will don't lose your heart,
Remember we're all well blest.
Our lives are just what we make them,
No matter what people say,
And Mary in her new homeland
Took life the proper way.
She gave and gave it freely,
Just as you and I might give
A charity in every thought,
Remembering others had to live.
In spite of her life having ended,
Her memory lingers on,
And those whose joy she tended,
Will with pride just say "Well done."