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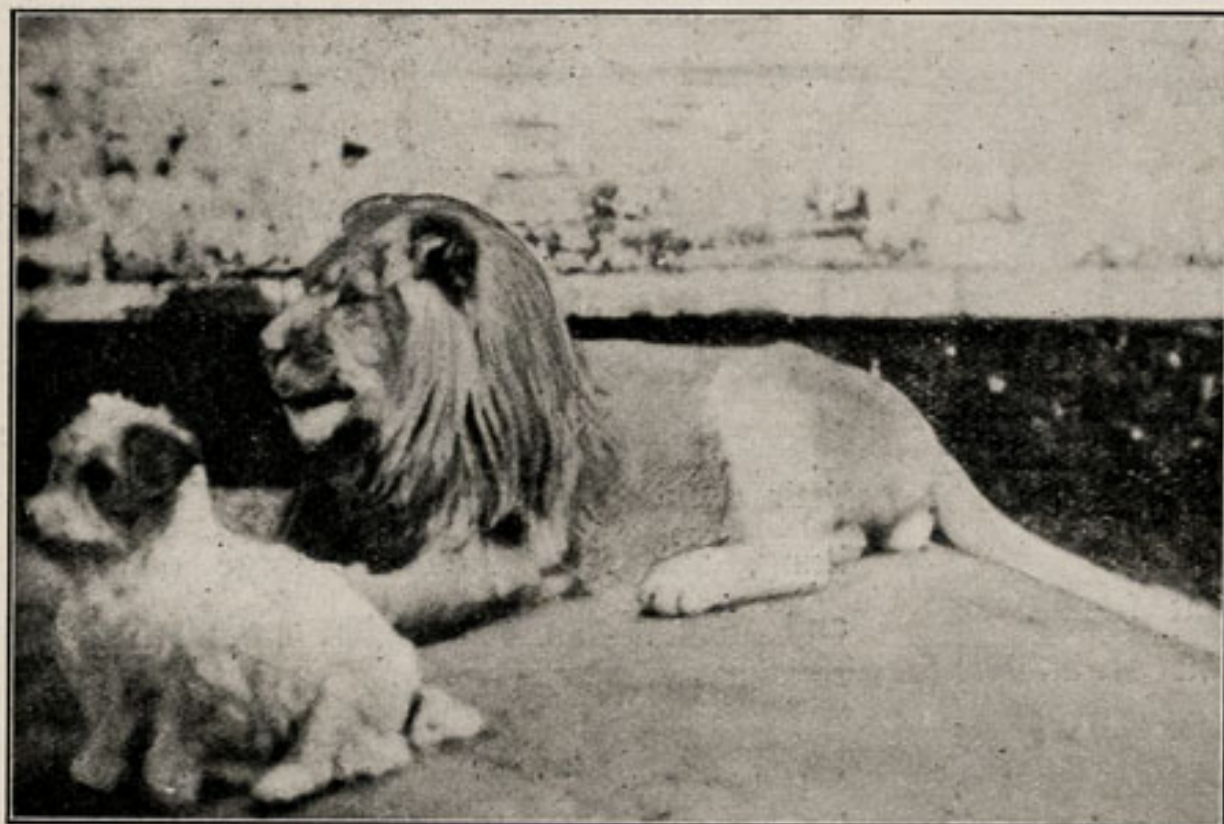
# "Our Zoo News"

A MONTHLY CHRONICLE OF NEWS OF  
CHESTER ZOOLOGICAL GARDENS.

Price 3d.

Annual Subscription 3/0 post free.

NUMBER FORTY-EIGHT.



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Mowgli and Peter who  
have now lived together  
for nearly three years.

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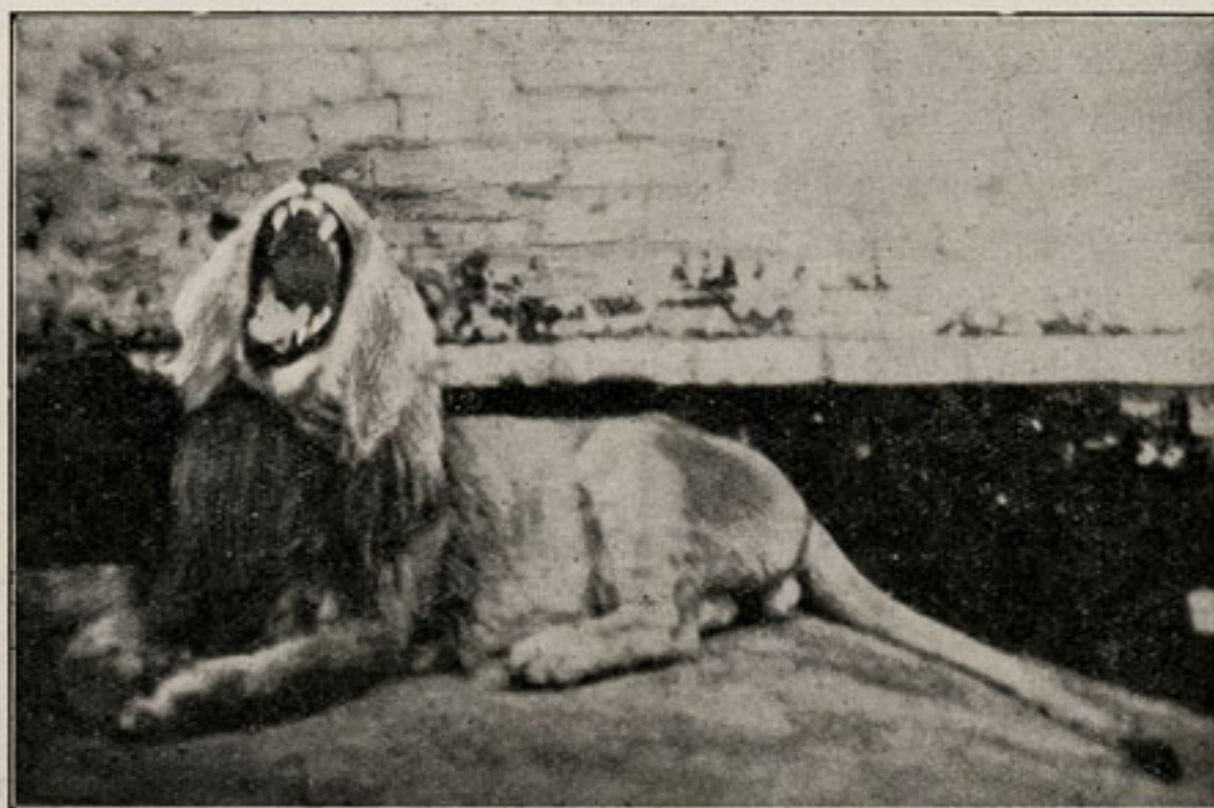
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Mowgli yawns and shows  
his fine teeth.

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We are sorry to have been so long in issuing this number, but labour is still very short, and the Zoo is having to deal with far greater crowds than ever before, which leaves little time to sit quietly and write of the many things which happen almost every day.

In our last issue we announced the birth of several lion cubs, four to Cassandra, two to Coral and one to Faith. Coral it will be remembered lost her cubs, but Cassandra's and Faith's grew well and were sold at the end of December to make room for more.

Faith was the first to oblige by presenting us with three more cubs, two males and one female, then Cordelia followed having two cubs, which unfortunately she lost, and a week later Coral gave birth to two male cubs which she is rearing successfully.

This time Faith's babies are by Patrick, and if anyone wishes to see a real family picture they should see Patrick and Faith with their children. Patrick is the ideal father and devotes himself entirely to his family and allows the cubs to take liberties which no other lion dare attempt.

Mowgli and Peter are just as great friends as ever, and cause a considerable amount of interest to most visitors to the zoo. Peter is still trying hard to roar like a lion, and whenever Mowgli lets forth with his mighty roar Peter sits on his haunches and tries his best to do the same. It is really very funny to watch him, for Peter is really earnest in his efforts, but so far it is a strange howl mixed with another noise you can't describe. Unfortunately from the public's point of view Mowgli does most of his roaring at night and early morning, which means only favoured persons can witness this extraordinary display of vocal powers.

Another repeat performance has taken place. This time the old pair of wolves have again produced six more wolf cubs, and we are hoping that the time is not far off when we will be able to construct for them a large enclosure in what is locally known as the Donkey's Nest. Here they will be in a natural setting with plenty of room for exercise.

At least three kids have been born to the goats, fortunately they are all nannies, thus turning the scale in favour of the females. We are very pleased at this increase, because a herd of milking goats can be of great value to a zoo, especially when we once again begin to get rare specimens of the wild which need special care and food.

The Bear Cages in the Court Yard, containing Trotsky and Won Lung, are in a very bad state of repair and something will most certainly have to be done before next winter.

The Polar Bears' benefactress, who has made herself responsible for their upkeep throughout the war, and to whom the Society is deeply indebted for this help, has very kindly offered to provide them with a new home with a large swimming pool.

Steps are being taken to see if this can be proceeded with at once, and if this can be done, their old home can be used for Trotsky and Won Lung, and thus save the large amount of iron and wire which would be needed to repair their present home.

It is proposed that this new Polar Bear Enclosure will be an entirely open-air rocky structure made entirely of stone and cement, no bars or other obstruction will obscure the view of the animals which will be enclosed by unclimbable walls and ditches.

This method of keeping wild animals in captivity has many distinct advantages over the old method of cages with bars and wire. First the animals lose that feeling of being caged, secondly, the original cost is much less than for a cage of the same size, thirdly the public have an uninterrupted view of the animals, fourthly, there is practically no upkeep as in the case of iron and wire, and finally less labour is required to look after animals under such conditions.

## A STRANGE CASE OF SUSPICION.

Recently, owing to people being risky and putting their fingers through the wire to touch the young wolf cubs which were born last year, a notice was chalked up on a board warning visitors and hung on a tree stump in the wolf enclosure.

The wolves were extremely suspicious, and refused to go anywhere near the board, not even for food, but as soon as the writing was removed, their fears vanished only to return with the writing. What was it that the wolves were afraid of? If we had had more time we would very much have liked to carry out other experiments in an effort to discover what was in the young wolves minds which made them so afraid of chalk writing on a plain black board.

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## AN APPEAL TO VISITORS.

Will visitors kindly not keep keepers talking when they are carrying out their duties. We are terribly short staffed, and if time is wasted, as it often is through visitors talking to keepers the animals invariably suffer.

Please do not throw litter about.

Do not tease the animals, and report anyone you see doing so.

Please help us to keep order, and the gardens tidy.

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## Guide to Chester Zoo.

Visitors upon entering the Zoo will have the choice of two ways of proceeding to the Gardens. One via South Drive and the other by the Central Drive, but if the visitor is desirous of seeing all the Zoo, he or she should take the South Drive which will first bring them to the Elephant Stand from which the Elephant gives rides on fine days (Fridays excepted) to both children and adults.

If the visitor turns sharp left he or she will come to a large walled in enclosure containing Malayan Sun Bears, at present there are only two, Sally who has been in the Zoo for nine years, and Teeny who was presented by the late Sir Delves Broughton in 1938.

These bears which are natives of Malay, Sumatra, Java and Borneo, are very amusing animals and wonderful climbers. Their chief food in pre-war days was Sweetened Condensed Milk and Honey, to-day they have to have just what they can get, and it is remarkable how they have survived, only one dying of ill health in the four years of war. Sammy, the largest and most uncertain, escaped when a large drift of snow piled up in their enclosure during the winter of 1939-40 and had to be shot.

Working round this enclosure in a clockwise fashion, we come to a smaller enclosure containing Raccoons. These come from North America and are much in demand for their skins.

Proceeding round the Bear enclosure we next come to two open pens which at present accommodate Dalmatian Dogs. Having now completed a circle we find ourselves at the junction of South Drive and a short drive leading to the Central Drive. At this junction on our left is a Field used for picnics and sports but if we wish to see the Zoo we proceed down the drive and turn left when we reach Central Drive. This drive leads to the zoo proper but first we find the Cafe's where light luncheons, teas, etc., may be obtained. There is also a buffet bar, but on fine days this may be transferred to a site opposite the Cafe entrance, under the trees from which picnic parties can proceed to the field.

Leaving the cafe we move round the building and on our right we find the Aquarium.

After leaving the Aquarium we proceed on our way and notice on the left a site which was being developed as a large Open Air Lion Enclosure when the war broke out and work had to be suspended, but it is the desire of all that this work should be proceeded with as soon as circumstances permit.

We have now reached one or two old aviaries containing Ibis, Arctic Owl, Jackdaws and other birds and we proceed in between these to what was many years ago the Court Yard, here many alterations have been made since those days and instead of accommodating horses and carriages we find wild beasts. On entering the Court Yard we should turn right and here we find the Russian Bear (Trotsky) and the Himalayan Bear (Won Lung), and then we enter the Monkey House where in addition to several monkeys we find the Chimpanzee (Phyllis).

Alongside the Monkey House is a large cage which used to contain Rhesus Monkeys, but now contains Wolves for security reasons. Six cubs were born to the pair in 1943 and if the war does not last too long these should help to start a nice pack for the wolf enclosure suggested at the end of Bison Walk.

At the opposite end of this cage is the Elephant Stable, but during the nice weather the Elephant (Molly) will either be giving rides in South Drive or enjoying herself among the trees in East Avenue.

On the opposite side of the court yard to the wolves is a large cage containing Griffon Vultures. In this cage was bred in 1940 the first Griffon Vulture to be reared in captivity, and as far as we are aware is the only case on record. This bird can easily be distinguished from the other Griffons by its rust brown colour which will go lighter as the bird gets older.

On the right of the Vulture Cage is the entrance to the Lion House. Here are two cages constructed in the old stables in which at present is a Striped Hyena from Africa. The Lion House proper is a new building specially built in 1937 and is part of the scheme of the open air enclosure previously mentioned which provides accommodation for all weathers.

Our stock of lions are generally considered one of our outstanding exhibits, and at times we have had as many as between twenty and thirty, but owing to the difficulty of procuring horseflesh our stock of full grown lions is now much less.

Upwards of forty cubs have now been born in this lion house, fourteen having been born since the beginning of August last year. We regret that it is not possible to show all our Lions at the same time, but the two cages nearly always have a representative Pride of Lions in them, and we try as much as possible to show a family of lions.

Leaving the Lion House, we proceed to the right round the Vulture Cage and make our way to where we entered the Court Yard, but before leaving we find on our right a door which takes us into the Leopard House. The Leopardess it will be noticed limps rather badly, this is as the result of a fight something like three years ago, in which a tendon became damaged, but we can assure visitors that the animal suffers no pain and in fact can use the leg quite well.

By far the most outstanding exhibit in the Leopard House, or one might go so far as to say, the Zoo, is Mowgli and Peter, a young male lion born in June 1941 and a dog born in January of the same year. This friendship is one which the animals themselves have made, both refuse to be parted and are just as friendly after being nearly three years together as they were at the beginning.

After we have left the Leopard House we should proceed out of the Court Yard, and visit the Parrot Aviaries on the left. Here are to be found many interesting birds of the parrot family, the most interesting and by far the most talkative is Cocky the Slender-billed Cockatoo. Visitors will have no difficulty in recognising him as he will have greeted them more likely than not long before they have reached his cage, by shouting "Come 'ere." If Cocky is in the mood he may sing you a song, or invite you to kiss him, or shake hands, but BEWARE for nothing makes him laugh more than catching an unwary visitor, and believe us nothing can be more painful.

Leaving the Parrot Aviaries, we turn left and after a few yards we find ourselves facing East Avenue. This avenue leads at present to an undeveloped part of the zoo. The orchard on the right is reserved as a wild bird sanctuary and visitors are asked not to trespass.

Running at an angle to East Avenue is Bison Walk, and along this we find American Bison, Thar, Bahreian White Donkey, etc.

This roadway will one day lead to many interesting developments of the zoo, but at present the visitor must retrace his or her steps and cross East Avenue to mount the Polar Bear Terrace. On the right we have two fine Polar Bears, "Punch and Judy." Punch is the oldest animal in the zoo but is still very active, while Judy must be many years his junior. We are hoping soon to build a much larger enclosure with a large swimming pool for the polars, as they love to swim and dive and will play for hours in the water.

On the opposite side of the terrace to the polar bears we find the Dingo or Australian Wild Dog. These dogs are very friendly but cannot be trusted with sheep or poultry.

Leaving the Polar Bears, we pass along through a portion of the Zoo that before the war contained many Aviaries, but having fallen into bad condition, and not being able, owing to restrictions to obtain material for repair, most of them have been removed.

One large enclosure still remains. This contains Peafowl, Crowned Cranes, Guinea Fowl, and various Pheasants, but most if not all these birds have their complete freedom and can be met almost anywhere in the zoo, but strangely enough, all these birds look on this enclosure as their own and most of them either return to its protection at night or sleep in the surrounding trees.

At this point we find ourselves close to the point at which we started, and if the visitor should feel like a rest and some refreshment, he should proceed along Central Drive to the Cafes where refreshments may be obtained.



"Patrick" the grand old man of the Lion House.

"Pre-war Scrap Book of Chester Zoo."



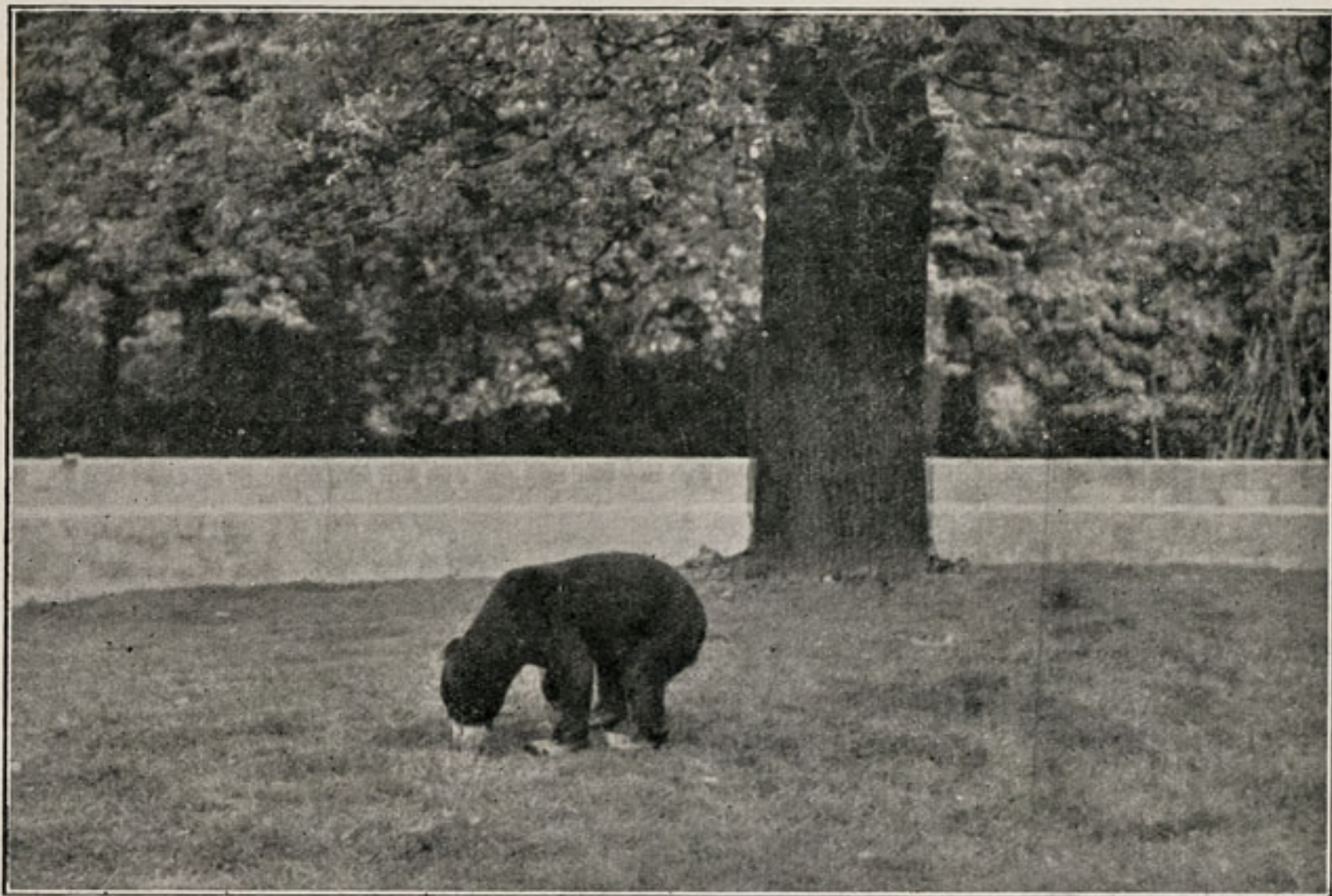
Black-footed Penguins, once popular birds of the Zoo.



"Trotsky" as a baby in 1937.



"Griffon Vulture" photographed in 1932.



"Malayan Bear" when first introduced into their enclosure in 1937.



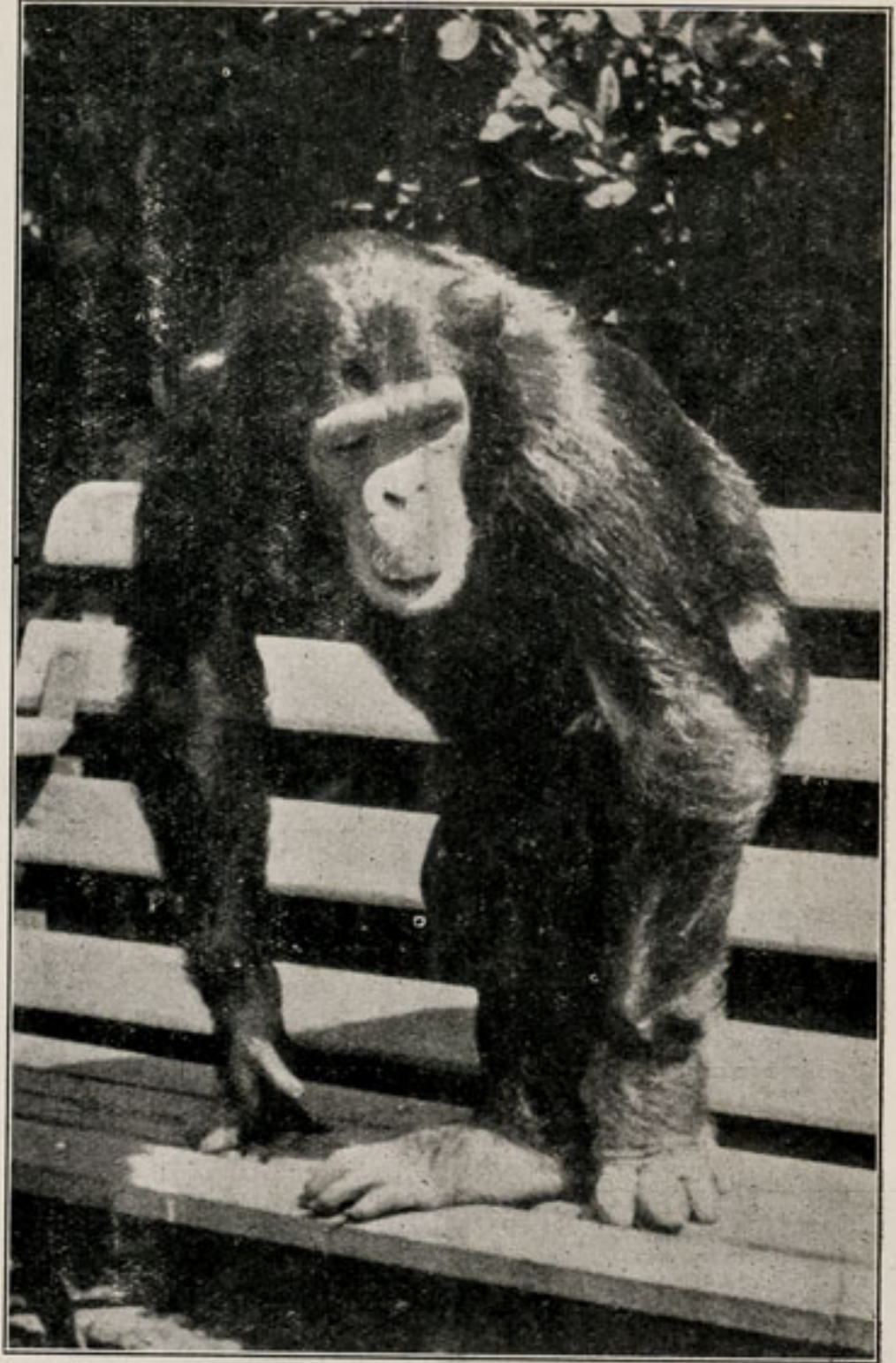
"Fallow Deer" which lived at the Zoo for many years.



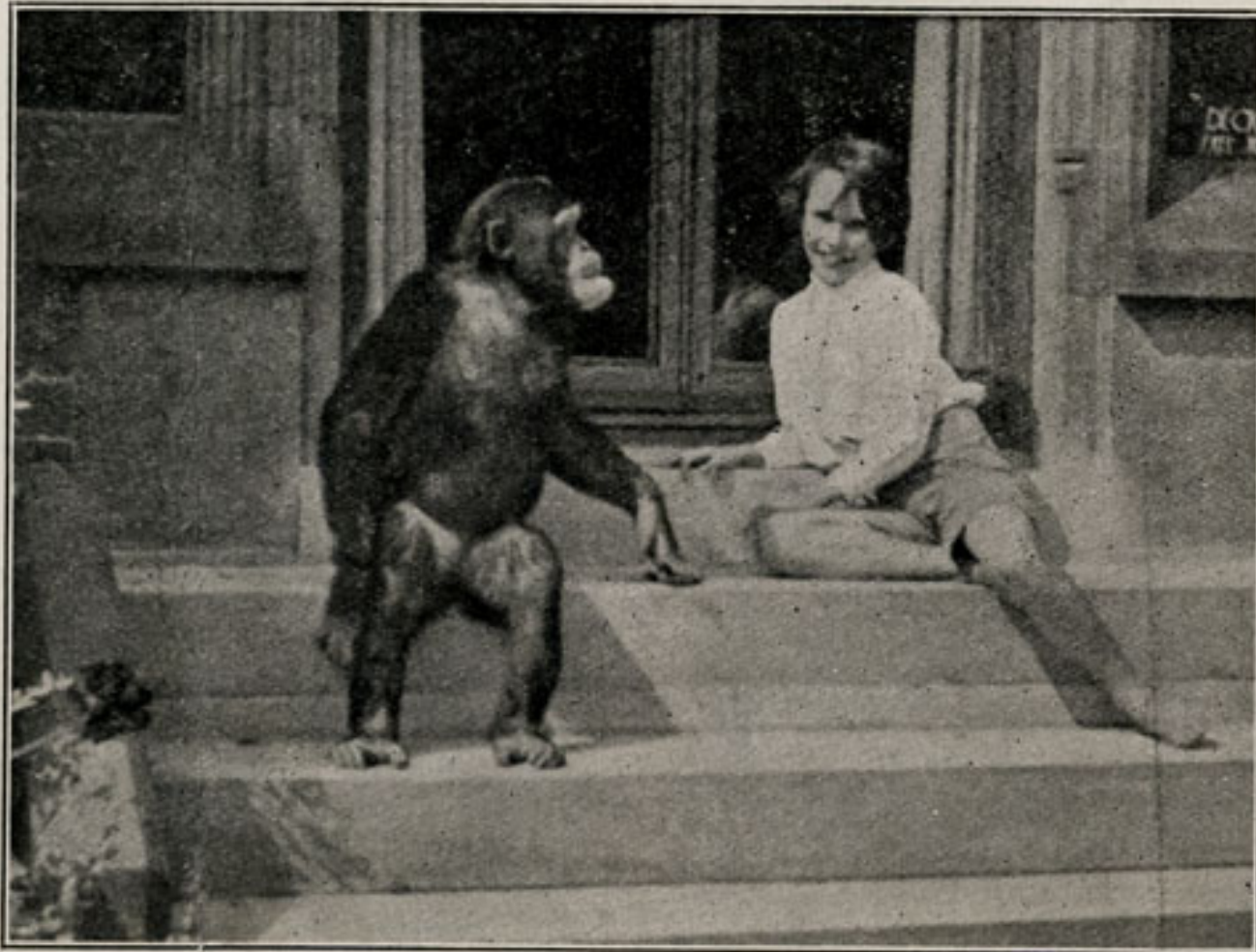
"Pelly," a popular Pelican of pre-war days.



A fine specimen of the Marabou Stork.  
One of many interesting specimens  
which the Zoo has had.



"MARY."



Another photograph of "Mary" the most popular Chimpanzee the Zoo has ever had.