

"Our Zoo News & Guide"

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

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November 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.

The Month goes by.

October has been an excellent month as far as the weather has been concerned and this has been fully appreciated by the animals and birds.

Many improvements have been made with a view to economy and at the same time improving the lot of the animals.

Windows have been placed along the Monkey House, improving the lighting considerably and at the same time reducing the amount of electricity which was consumed, particularly in the winter months.

As will be seen our adoption scheme is growing well and is indeed proving quite popular. It will be noticed that by the list published in this issue that "Faith" the lioness, "Trotsky" the Russian Bear, and the Rhea have been provided for one year and several other specimens have been adopted for either the duration of the war or an indefinite period.

We still receive some very amusing letters with reference to the animals and one which accompanied a cheque for the monkeys stated that it could be used for any except those which were depicted in the cartoon by "Wells," which appeared in the Manchester Evening Chronicle on Wednesday, the 11th of October, 1939.

Not having any idea of the cost of a lion cub's keep, one small boy away at school wrote to say that he would adopt one for the duration of the war. We replied giving him the price which explained how the cost rose each month with the growth of the cub. By return of post we had a letter asking for the bill as the boy would have to terminate the adoption immediately as he had had quite a shock to discover that lion cubs grew so quickly. He said that he would have to write home to ascertain how much his money box contained, stating at the same time that he did not think that he would have enough to settle the debt that he had incurred unknown to his parents.

No doubt his relief would be overwhelming when he received our reply informing him that the lion cubs had been adopted and as his letter was only an enquiry and entirely non-committal his finances were in no way impaired by a lion cub.

While talking about the cubs, these have grown very well and are now on a meat ration. Those who regretted that they had not been able to adopt them when young will soon have another opportunity for "Hope," a sister of "Faith," is expecting a family sometime before Christmas.

Girl Guides and schools are now becoming interested in the adoption and as will be seen two have already selected something to adopt.

The stock generally is in very good health and we are hoping that it will remain so, for sickness in animals is just as expensive as it is in humans.

Those parrots which have been taken indoors for the winter have had much to say to each other when they met after being distributed about the Zoo for the summer. One, a Green Cheeked Amazon, known as "Jenny" would have made a keen competitor to Hitler, so excitedly did she preach to her companions. "Jenny," by the way, used to be one of our liberty birds, until one day she vanished only to be discovered two or three days later in a chimney, hungry and cold and very much discoloured, otherwise unhurt, but we thought it would be better to keep her in an aviary after that, as she is getting on in years. It was only after this episode that we decided to bring her indoors for the winter. It may of course have been that she resented this or had become Nazi or something, anyway no other parrot could get a word in edgeways so excited was her vocabulary.

While in search of rabbits the other day we suddenly came across the three lion cubs stalking each other along the hedges, immediately they spotted us they made a bee line for their home.

We were so surprised to meet them that we decided to conceal ourselves and watch them come out again. We did not have to wait long and this time they made for a row of motor tyres which had been placed in a nearby field for a horse jump; what a game they had, first racing through the tyres then jumping over them and finally the cubs scampered to a pit where their reflections in the water caused some consternation in their young minds.

The Society is about to lose more of its staff for Military service, and the problem will be to replace it, we often hear of people who are anxious to get a post among animals but most of them have no idea what the duties of a keeper entail, quite a large number think that all they have to do is just walk round and feed the animals.

It might be of interest to readers to know what some of the duties are. First there is the cleaning of the cages which is of primary importance and this is done each day. Then the animals must have their meals attended to and in most cases this has to be prepared, care must be taken to give variety and prevent the animals from becoming food sick.

Very few of the animals need grooming but care has to be taken to see that they are given facilities to clean themselves.

Keeping the animals warm and protected from the weather is of vital importance and entails working in the wet and wind. There are very few animals or birds that like wind, all try to avoid it at all cost.

Utensils have to be well cleaned and when sickness comes, as it often does even in the best regulated zoo, the animal has to be nursed according to its special requirements; it is not uncommon to sit up all night tending it.

The chief thing which turns most youths and girls away from this career is the long hours. Although the actual hours are somewhat similar to other vocations the keeper has to be on duty, that is to

say within call for 24 hours each day. He of course gets his time off, when he usually leaves the Zoo for then only is he free from a possible call. Nevertheless to those who love animals, etc., and take an interest in their work it can be called a pleasant and enjoyable occupation.

Our Aquarium is still as interesting as ever. Mr. E. G. Narramore, of "Dartmeet," Gayton, recently gave the Society his tank of Tropical fish together with the appliances. The fish were transferred to various tanks in the Aquarium and his tank erected in the first part of the Tropical section into which have been placed our Axolotol which were not thriving too well in the cold water section. It will be remembered that it was through the generosity of Mr. Narramore that the Society was enabled to develop the Tropical Sections in February 1938. Miss G. M. Russell Allen who presented several Tropical Fish at the time must feel very proud when she sees the exceptionally fine shoal of Angel Fish which was one of her many gifts.

Notice to Schools and Social Workers.

The Society would be pleased to arrange to give Lantern Lectures during the coming winter to schools and social bodies. No charge is made except for expenses. Please book dates as early as possible.

The following have been adopted.

- Ocelot (Thomas)**—Dr. G. A. Fulton, Thornfield, Wigan. 30th September to 9th December, 1939.
- Malayan Bear (Sally)**—Master R. and Miss A. Fulton, Wigan Road, Wigan. Duration of the War.
- Malayan Bear (Sammy)**—Mr. G. E. Lerry, 16, Gerald Street, Wrexham. 21st October to 11th November, 1939.
- Malayan Bear (Roger)**—621757 A. C. Landin, "C" Flight, 220 Squadron, R.A.F., Thornaby, Yorks. Duration of War.
- Malayan Bear (Teeny)**—Master J. S. Landless, Crawshaw Booth, Rossendale. Indefinite.
- Wallaby (Timothy)**—Master Kemmel Pease, 9, Mortlake Crescent, Chester. 30th September to 16th December, 1939.
- Wallaby**—Mrs. Cowen, Bent Lont, Minsterley, Shropshire. 14th October to 11th November, 1939.
- Rhea (Boomer)**—Miss A. Hewitt, 167, High Street, C-O-M, Manchester 13. 28th October, 1939, to 28th October, 1940.
- Pelican (Pelly)**—Mr. H. E. Evans, 5, The Grange, Hartford. 7th October to 6th January, 1940.
- Himalayan Bear (Won Lung)**—Dr. Olive Gimson, Park Road, Hale, Cheshire. Duration of the War.
- Russian Bear (Trotsky)**—Miss A. Hewitt, 167, High Street, C-O-M, Manchester 13. 28th October, 1939, to 28th October, 1940.
- Canadian Bear (Eve)**—Mrs. Rivers Pease, 9, Mortlake Crescent, Chester. 30th September to 16th December, 1939.

- Woolly Monkey (Nigger)**—Dr. Olive Gimson, Park Road, Hale, Cheshire. Duration of War.
- Mona Monkey (Coreile)**—Miss M. Ford, 14, Hallworth Avenue, Audenshaw. Duration of War.
- Java Monkey (Solar)**—Miss J. M. Allen, 30, Church Road, Northwich. 30th September to Dec., 1939.
- Calatrix Monkey (Ferdinand)**—Miss D. O'Keefe, Ville au Roi, Guernsey. Duration of War.
- Putty Nose Monkey (Putty Nose)**—Mrs. M. Kent, 1, Abbey Road, Sale. Duration of War.
- Rhesus Monkey (Bernard)**—Miss E. D. Brown, 168, Putney Bridge Road, London. Duration of War.
- Chimpanzee (Big Boy)**—Miss E. Holt, Axholme, Noctorum, Birkenhead. Duration of War.
- Chimpanzee (Jimmy)**—Mrs. Johnson, 53, Westbourne Road, Southport. Duration of War.
- Chimpanzee (Tarzana)**—Mr. A. C. Johnson, Eight Oaks, Knutsford, Cheshire. 30th September, 1939, to 2nd December, 1939.
- Chimpanzee (Kiki)**—Mrs. A. Jenkin, The Bungalow, Stockport Road, Thelwall. 21st October to 4th Nov.
- Genet, Sleek**—Master J. Fox, M. Whittle, E. Floyd, B. Cooke, Pupils of Nantwich Grammar School. Indefinite period.
- Palm Civet**—Miss G. White, Sunnymede, Newbury, Berkshire. 7th October to 28th October, 1939.
- Agoutie (Billy)**—Miss J. H. Bird, 9, Vais Terrace, Stockton-on-Tees. 30th September to 2nd April 1940.
- Agoutie**—Mrs. T. Bevan, Gort House, Petersham. Duration of the War.
- Drill**—Mr. G. T. Lerry, 16, Gerald Street, Wrexham. 14th October to 21st October, 1939.
- Pig Tailed Ape (Amos)**—Mr. B. H. E. Sykes, The Bungalow, Vicar's Cross. 28th October to 20th January, 1940.
- White Collared Mangaby**—Mr. V. V. Pedlar, Leyland Arcade, Southport. 30th September to 28th October 1939.
- Pair of Rats (Scamp and Mischief)**—Mrs. M. Kent, 1, Abbey Road, Sale. Duration of the War.
- Cane Rat**—Mr. Partington, Upton Heath, Chester. 30th September to 11th November 1939.
- Lion (Patrick)**—Miss S. A. L. Evans, 35, Brownlow Street, Weymouth. Donation of 10/- towards upkeep.
- Lioness (Faith)**—Miss A. Hewitt, 167, High Street, C-O-M, Manchester 13. 28 October, 1939, to 28th October, 1940.
- Lioness (Hope)**—Mrs. A. F. Holden, Dane View, Holmes Chapel, Cheshire. 28th October, 1939, to 9th December, 1939.
- Three Lion Cubs**—Miss A. C. M. Cooper, Tyn Llwyn, Mold, Flintshire. 28th October, 1939, to 18th November, 1939.
- Two Dingo Pups**—Mr. and Mrs. G. B. Grounsell, 3, Earle Crescent, Neston. 28th October, 1939, to 2nd December, 1939.

Alligators and Crocodiles—"The Shamrock Patrol,"
1st Preesall Girl Guides. Duration of War.

Long Mixed Aviary—Miss G. M. Russell Allen, Davenham Hall, Northwich. 28th October, 1939, to 11th March, 1939.

Sulphur Crested Cockatoo (Cocky)—Miss D. Williams, Boughton Grange, Chester. Duration of War.

Leadbeater Cockatoo—Master L. and Miss M. Reed, 108, Victoria Road, Cowes. Indefinite.

Blue and Red Macaw (Rob Rob)—Mr. and Mrs. Aitken, 9, Beechwood Avenue, Chorlton-cum-Hardy. 21st October, 1939, to 11th November.

Severe Macaw (Mack)—Mr. and Mrs. Aitken, 9, Beechwood Avenue, Chorlton-cum-Hardy. 21st October, 1939, to 11th November, 1939.

Aviary of African Grey Parrots—Miss E. Holt, Ax-helme, Noctorum, Birkenhead. Duration of War.

Slender Billed Cockatoo (Cocky)—Mr. H. Farrington, Fernleigh, Sutton Weaver, Warrington. 30th September, 1939, to 2nd December.

Polar Bear (Punch)—Miss Tomkyns-Grafton, Fellborough, Ambleside. 30th September to 18th November, 1939.

Water Fowl Enclosure—Dr. J. A. C. Roy, Cheadle Royal, Cheshire. 7th October, 1939, to 3rd February, 1940.

Penguin (Charlie)—Mrs. and Miss Clarke, Church Lane, Upton Heath. 14th October to 2nd December, 1939.

Eagle Owl—Mr. and Mrs. J. R. Partington, Royston, Long Lane, Upton Heath. Duration of War.

Aviary of Tawny Owls—Miss N. Lister, Craig Walk, Bowes-on-Windermere, Westmorland. Duration of War.

The Buzzard—Mr. E. Gorman, 28, Newham Drive, Ellesmere Port. 28th October, 1939, to 11th March, 1940.

Aviary of Budgerigars—Mr. E. Williams, Boughton Grange, Chester. Duration of War.

Aviary of Mixed Parrakeets—Mr. W. Bland, 3, Station Approach, Hoylake. Duration of War.

Aviary of Woodpeckers—Miss F. Davenport, 68, Redlam, Rochdale. 21st October, 1939, to 11th Nov.

Capabara (Peter)—Misses N. and J. Heath, The Grey House, Macclesfield. 30th September to 23rd Dec.

Cavies—Miss Adele and Martin Pratt, 15, Caughall Road, Upton Heath. Duration of War.

Apologies.

We tender our apologies to Miss J. M. Allen, of 30, Church Road, Barnton, Northwich, and Miss Nora and Joyce Heath, of the Grey House, Macclesfield, for our omission of acknowledgment in our last issue.

Donations received and not allotted to any particular animal—

Mr. E. Peter Jones, Green Bank, Chester, £1 0s. 0d.

The following still await adopters:

Ibis Enclosure—7/- per week.
Piebald Sheep—2/- per week.
Tourco Aviary—4/- per week.
Budgerigar Aviary—3/- per week.
Monkey—1/- per week.
Monkey—1/- per week.
Male Rhesus Monkey—1/6 per week.
Female Rhesus Monkey—1/6 per week.
Chimpanzee (Mary Ellen)—9/- per week.
Chimpanzee (Kiki)—10/- per week.
Genet (Beauty)—9d. per week.
Mandrill (Sarah)—2/- per week.
Drill—2/- per week.
Sooty Mangaby—1/- per week.
White Collared Mangaby—1/- per week.
White Collared Mangaby—1/- per week.
White Collared Mangaby—1/- per week.
Putty Nosed Monkey—1/- per week.
White Collared Mangaby—1/- per week.
Sooty Mangaby—1/- per week.
Callatrixus Monkey—1/- per week.
Sooty Mangaby—1/- per week.
Java Monkey—1/- per week.
Porcupine—9d. per week.
Lion (Patrick)—14/6 per week.
Lioness (Charity)—14/- per week.
Vulture Aviary—5/- per week.
Dingo (Boris)—2/- per week.
Dingo (Nellie)—2/- per week.
Hyena (Jane)—5/6 per week.
Aviary of Rollers—2/6 per week.
Large Parrot Aviary—6/- per week.
Pair of Black Cockatoos—1/6 per week.
Sulphur Chested Cockatoo (Polly)—1/- per week.
Sulphur Crested Cockatoo (Jacko)—1/- per week.
Pair of Roseate Cockatoos (Darby & Joan)—1/6 wk.
Red and Blue Macaw (Billy)—1/- per week.
Blue and Yellow Macaw (Pal)—1/- per week.
Lesser Sulphur Cockatoo (Billy)—9d. per week.
Martial Hawk Eagle—2/- per week.
Pair of Black Kites—1/9 per week.
Aviary of Finches—1/- per week.
Aviary of Pies—2/- per week.
Jackdaws and Jays—3/- per week.
Dove Aviary No. 1—2/- per week.
Dove Aviary No. 2—2/- per week.
Pair of Marabou Storks—5/- per week.
Four Crowned Cranes—2/6 per week.
Four Crowned Cranes—2/6 per week.
One Saddlebilled Stork—2/6 per week.
Trio of Silver Pheasants, 2/- per week.
One Golden Pheasant (Goldilocks)—9d. per week.
Pair of Guinea Fowl—1/- per week.
Two Peacocks (Edward and Beauty)—3/- per week.
Three Peahens—2/6 per week.

AQUARIUM

The Cold Water Section (6 tanks)—5/- per week.
Tropical Section No. 1 (7 tanks)—7/6 per week.
Tropical Section No. 2 (Angels, etc.)—6/- per week.
Tropical Section No. 3 (10 tanks)—10/- per week.