

*By Courtesy of Eric Kirkland, F.R.P.S.*

# Chester Zoo News

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

September, 1962

Price 1/-

## Introduction

We have no intention of apologising again for the long absence of "Chester Zoo News", (formerly "Our Zoo News"). Let it simply be said that there were circumstances which we were unable to control.

Since our last issue, in 1960, quite a considerable amount of work has taken place at Chester Zoo and there have been a number of new arrivals. In this, the first edition of the proposed monthly "Chester Zoo News," we will try to bring you up-to-date with the majority of developments over the past two years.

We wish to express our gratitude for the excellent photographs included in this issue to:—

R. T. Bloom, Esq.

E. Kirkland Esq., F.R.P.S.

Mr. and Mrs. E. Sorby

P. Stubbs, Esq., Daily Mirror

G. F. Williams Esq.

The Manchester Daily Sketch.

*COVER: Our Cover picture this Month shows the Lioness Princess, with one of the cubs born to her at Chester Zoo in February of this year.*

### PACHYDERM HOUSE

The new Pachyderm House is now complete and fully occupied by three African and three Asiatic Elephants, a very nice pair of half-grown Hippopotami and a pair of the Black Rhinoceros. This House is proving to be a very great success, with animals and visitors alike. For the first time visitors can see Elephants with complete freedom to enjoy a bath whenever they wish, or to roll in the mud to their hearts content.

One problem we were not prepared for, was that of controlling the Sparrows. During the Spring they were doing tremendous damage to the tropical plants in the House, by using them for nesting material. The Keepers pulled down as many as forty nests a day to prevent the Sparrows breeding—but still their numbers increased until the Gardeners were in despair.

Fortunately, as the summer advanced, more and more Sparrows took to the open. Though there are still quite a number in the House, they are not nearly so prolific as in the Spring.

### TROPICAL HOUSE

Work is now in progress on the Tropical House. When completed this will be by far the largest building in the Zoo—extending to more than twice the size of our Pachyderm House.

The main object of our Tropical House will be to exhibit a large number of Tropical Birds in freedom and allow the public to wander through the tropical vegetation and see the birds in free flight.

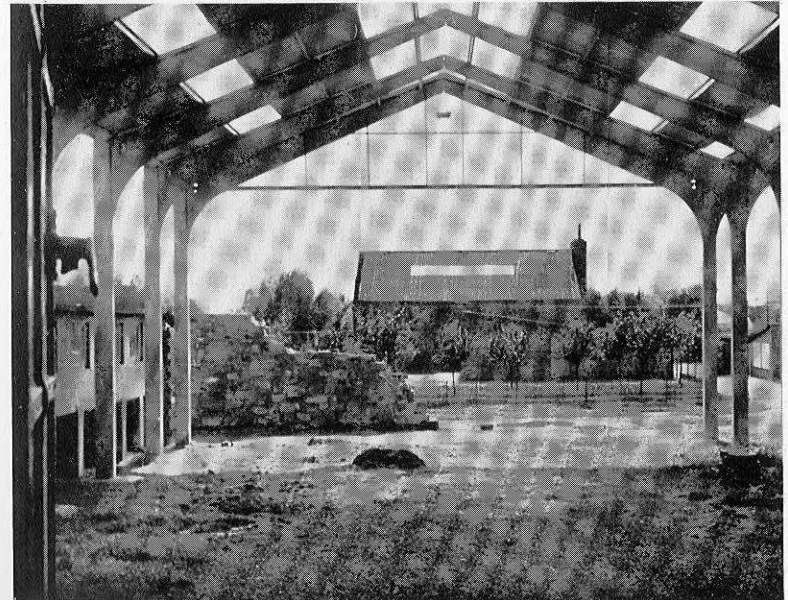
In addition it will contain large aviaries or enclosures for those birds which are of a pugnacious nature and not suitable for complete freedom.

We also intend to exhibit the smaller Mammals which need Tropical conditions in this House.

The House was first conceived in 1955 and begun in 1956. The Chimpanzee Section was completed by early 1957, followed by the Nocturnal House and a Pigmy Hippo House. A new Reptile House will be incorporated as well as the indoor quarters of the Gorillas,



A CORNER OF THE ELEPHANT [ENCLOSURE] *Mr. & Mrs. E. Sorby*



PART OF THE TROPICAL HOUSE NOW UNDER CONSTRUCTION *R. T. Bloom*

## RHINOCEROS HOUSE

The latest structure to be completed is the Rhinoceros House. This had to be built in rather a hurry because, quite unexpectedly, the Zoo was given the opportunity to acquire a pair of Square-Lipped, or White, Rhinoceros.

The structure is simple, like all structures at the Zoo. The primary object is to provide good accommodation for the animals and, at the same time, display them against a botanical background.

## SQUARE-LIPPED RHINOCEROS

Our pair of Square-lipped, or White, Rhinoceros arrived at Chester on the 31st July, 1962. They were caught in The Umfolozi Game Reserve in Zululand and are two of the first animals of their kind ever to be shipped from South Africa.

Madageni—"stuck in the mud" in Zulu—is the female and weighs over three tons. She is estimated to be between eight and ten years old. Her mate Madagiwe—meaning "drunk"—is a much smaller and younger animal. When fully grown he will measure almost six foot at the shoulder.

Both animals are extremely docile and withstood the long sea voyage to England well. Within minutes of being introduced to their new accommodation at the Zoo, they were drinking contentedly—quite unconcerned by the activities of the cameramen waiting to record their arrival.

## ELAND AND BISON ENCLOSURES

Two further large enclosures have been completed, on the new area being laid out beyond the Rhinoceros paddock—one occupied by the American Bison and the other by the Eland.

Our original herd of Eland consisted of two males and three females. Their number has now been increased by the birth of two calves, in July and August of this year. Both babies are thriving and these graceful little animals make a delightful addition to our herd.

The American Bison herd consists of a Bull, three fully-grown cows and two young cows—one born in May, 1961 and the other in May, 1962. At one time the Bull showed a marked preference for Ayrshire Cows, but we are pleased to report that he has now recovered from this unfortunate infatuation.



*P. Stubbs, Daily Mirror*

"MADAGENI".

### MOUNTAIN GORILLAS

In November 1960 we were fortunate in obtaining Mukisi and Noelle—a pair of young Mountain Gorillas from the Congo. At that time Mukisi—"Idol" in Swahili—was three and a half years old and Noelle (so-named because she was found on Christmas Day) was two years of age.

Special accommodation is in process of being built to house the Mountain Gorillas and a pair of Lowland Gorillas, which we hope to acquire when the building is completed. The accommodation will resemble that provided for the Chimpanzees—but will, of course, be much more spectacular in appearance.

The animals will have large enclosures, the outdoor confined by a water ditch and the indoor open to the humid atmosphere of the new Tropical House, now under construction.

Our object is to provide the Gorillas with varied conditions of temperature and moisture, so that they can select the desired conditions for themselves.

### MALAYAN TAPIRS

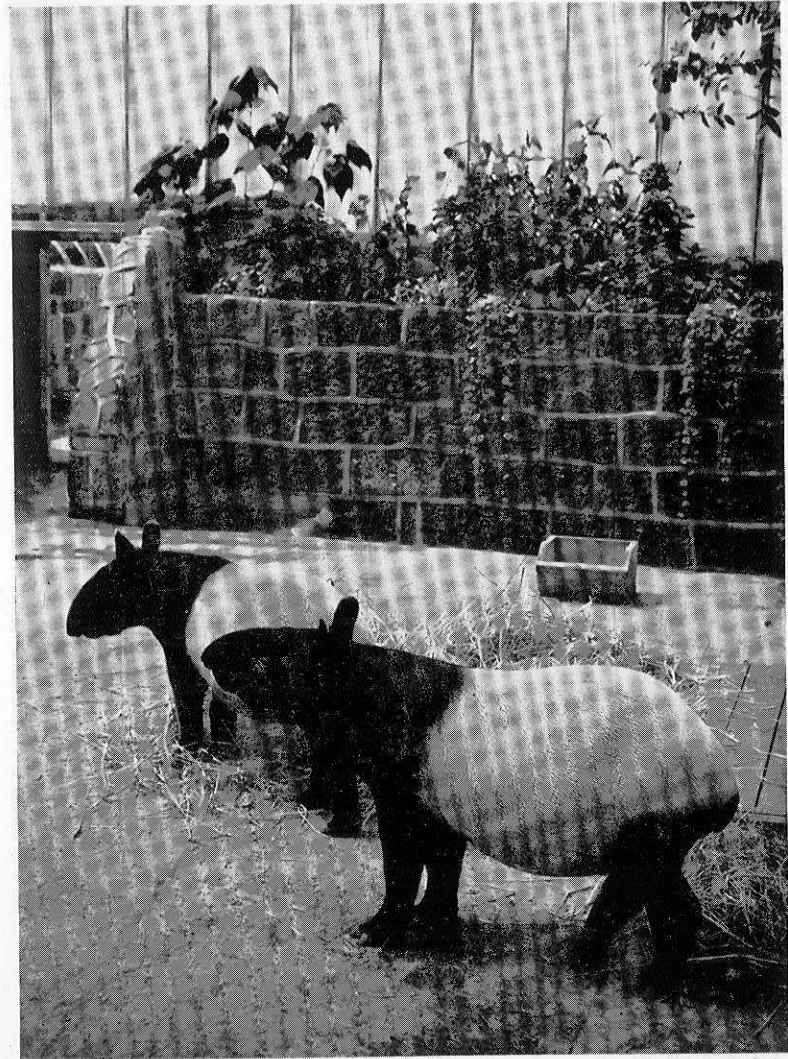
In April 1961 we acquired a pair of rare Malayan Tapirs—then between eight and nine months old and weighing very little more than forty pounds each. Now, at two years of age, the animals are nearer three hundred pounds in weight.

We have strong reason to believe that the Tapirs have mated and we look forward to having young in due course.

At first the animals were accommodated in the Pachyderm House, but, as their enclosure was required for a pair of Rhinoceros, the Tapirs were temporarily moved to the old Elephant House. On completion of the new Rhinoceros House, the Tapirs will then be returned to the Pachyderm House. There they will have plenty of exercise space and a pool to bathe in.

### HIPPOPOTAMI

Another pair of new arrivals, in September 1961, were "Jimmy" and "Myra"—two Hippopotami. Both animals are quite young and still have a considerable amount of growing to do. Settling down presented no problems and we hope that they will eventually turn out to be a breeding pair.



*Mr. & Mrs. E. Sorby*

"SCOTCH" AND "SODA" SOON AFTER ARRIVAL

### LIONS IN THE NEWS

Late 1961 saw two of the Lion Cubs born at Chester Zoo very much in the news. In response to an appeal from the Kumasi Zoo in Ghana, we presented them with a pair of Cubs. The animals were flown from Gatwick in a Russian Aircraft of Ghana Airways on the 25th of October, 1961. Not surprisingly, the Cubs settled down very quickly in their new home in Africa.

### "SOLOMON"

Every Zoo has its "characters" and one of the best known at Chester was Solomon the Chimpanzee. At eighteen years of age, he had been with the Zoo for over fourteen years.

On the 28th May, 1962, Solomon decided to explore the world beyond his enclosure. All might have been well if he had resisted the temptation to climb a pylon some half a mile from the Zoo. He climbed to the top and was electrocuted—being killed instantly.

### ESCAPEE

One of our Lesser Pandas disappeared from his Enclosure on the 17th of June, 1962. He was not recaptured until the 21st of July, some five weeks later, in a village seven miles from the Zoo. We have no idea how he spent these weeks, but he is certainly none the worse for his holiday.

### "BARKAH" AND FRIENDS

Barkah, our old Dromedary, arrived at Chester Zoo some twelve years ago. Since then we have tried hard to obtain a mate for him. Eventually, in September 1959, we were successful in acquiring a young female Dromedary from Dublin Zoo. "Matilda" was then too small to share an enclosure with the powerful "Barkah." However, she has now grown considerably and we are looking forward to having our Dromedary stock increased.

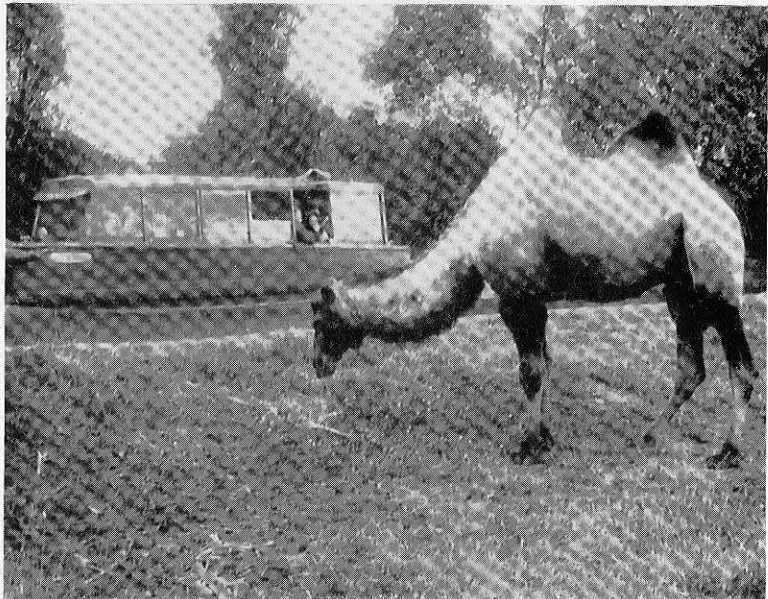
"Humphrey"—a young male Bactrian Camel—arrived from Edinburgh Zoo in November, 1960 and was joined by "Ena"—a young female Bactrian—in April of this year.

### KAMCHATKA BEARS

January of this year saw the arrival of "Minnie" and "Arthur," two Kamchatka Bear Cubs. This was the first time these animals had ever been bred in Chester Zoo, and needless to say their enclosure draws many thousands of visitors.



LESSER PANDAS FEEDING ON BAMBOO SHOOTS *Mr. & Mrs. E. Sorby*



"HUMPHREY" AND A WATERBUS

*G. F. Williams*

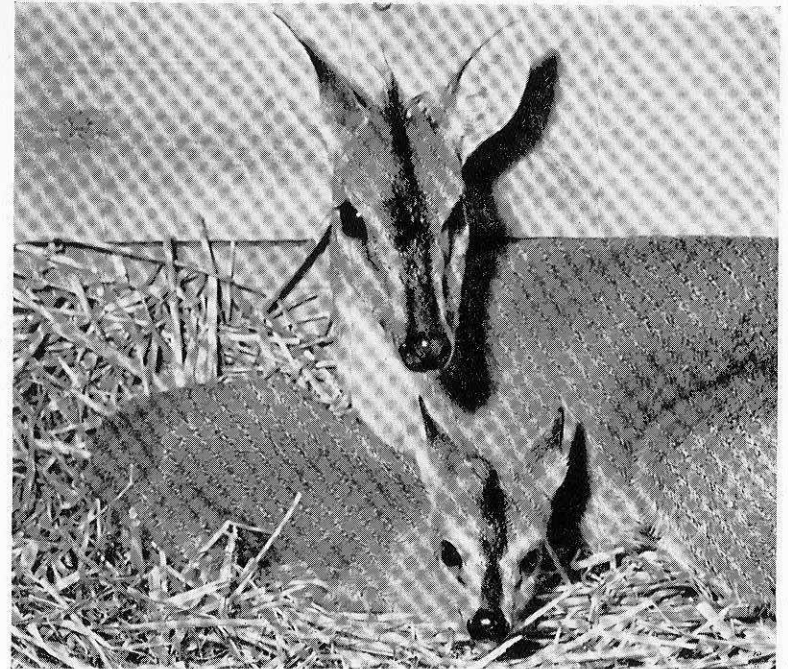
**ZOO BABIES SUCCESSFULLY REARED—1961**

- Jan.:* \*One female Red Lechwe; One female Ankole Calf  
*Feb.:* One male Chimpanzee  
*April:* Two male and one female Lion Cubs  
*May:* \*One female Pere David Deer; One female Grevy Zebra  
One female American Bison; One female Wapiti  
Four Soay Lambs; One Vervet Monkey; One Bushbaby  
*June:* A pair of Ankole Calves; One female Fallow Deer  
Two female Leopard Cubs; Two male Black Genets  
Seven Coatimundis; One Vervet Monkey  
*July:* \*One Male Waterbuck; Two female Grevy Zebras  
Two male and one female Puma Cubs; One Barbary Ape  
Two female and one male Leopard Cubs; A pair of Gnus  
*Aug.:* Two female and one male Tiger Cubs; One male Kangaroo  
*Sept.:* One female Common Zebra; One male Baboon  
One Chinchilla  
*Oct.:* \*One female Grey Duiker; One female Chimpanzee  
Two Black Genets  
*Nov.:* One Bushbaby  
*Dec.:* One male Red Lechwe; One female Chimpanzee

**ZOO BABIES SUCCESSFULLY REARED—1962**  
(FIRST SEVEN MONTHS)

- Jan.:* \*A pair of Kamchatka Bear Cubs  
*Feb.:* One male Common Zebra  
Two male and one female Lion Cubs  
*Mar.:* One female Common Zebra  
*April:* Six Soay Sheep  
*May:* \*A pair of Lynx Caracal Kittens; A pair of Ankole Calves  
One female Bison; Two Soay Sheep; Three Puma Cubs  
*June:* One male Llama; One Vervet Monkey; One Barbary Ape  
*July:* One male Eland; One male Grevy Zebra; One male Wapiti  
One female Grey Duiker; Two Bagot Goats;  
One female Llama; One Bennett's Wallaby

\* The first breeding successes with these animals at Chester Zoo.



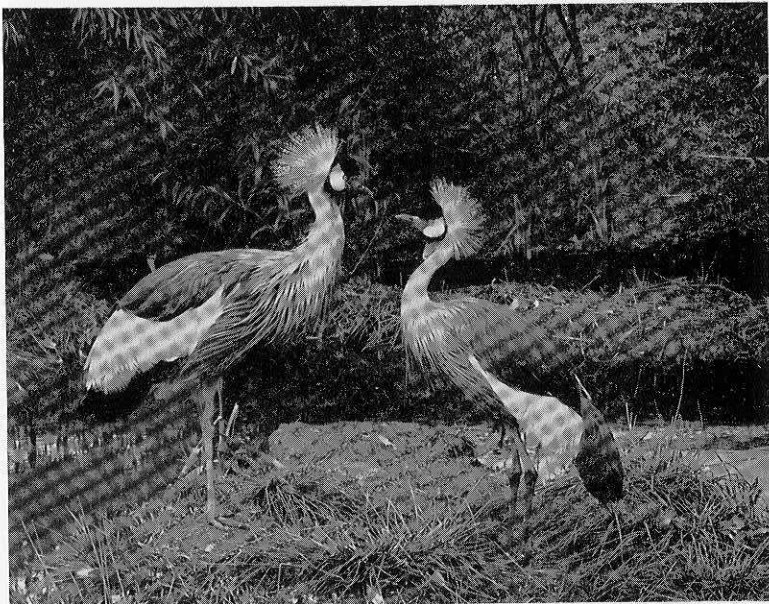
*Manchester Daily Sketch*

CHESTER ZOO'S FIRST BABY GREY DUIKER, WITH MOTHER



*E. Kirkland*

ONE OF THE MANY LEOPARD CUBS BORN AT CHESTER ZOO



TWO CRESTED GRANES IN CONVERSATION

*E. Kirkland*



FLAMINGOES AT CHESTER ZOO

### BIRD NOTES

The appalling weather in January, February and March of this year resulted in some sad losses. Notwithstanding, we began the season with a nice collection in good health.

In April we were presented with a Cock Gargany Teal, which had flown on board a ship in the Mediterranean and spent the rest of the journey in one of the crew showers. Apparently it had existed on a diet of cornflakes during the voyage.

Among several purchases made in May and June were a nice female Black-headed Caique, as a mate for our Cock; a magnificent male Scarlet Cock of the Rock, and two male Orange Cock of the Rock. We now have four of these rare and spectacular birds in our collection.

Also in June, we were presented with a Sarus Crane by the R.A.F. This bird created quite a sensation by force landing on an R.A.F. Aerodrome and holding up air traffic for an hour, before being captured.

At the time of going to press we have just acquired a pair of Scarlet Ibis and a pair of Cassowaries. We will give you details of their progress in a future issue.

### BREEDING OF BIRDS

The breeding season can be said to have started on January 14th, when the first Emu egg was laid.

**OWLS**—We have had considerable breeding success with four Greater Eagle Owls and four Spotted Eagle Owls. Eight Owlets were successfully reared, six of which have found homes in other Zoos.

**ZOSTEROPS**—In the Tropical House the little Zosterops, or Indian White-eyes, have built a number of nests and several fledglings have been reared. Conditions in this House have been as ideal as they can be for this type of bird.

**PHEASANTS**—Our ornamental Pheasant stock has been increased by sixteen young birds, hatched and reared by Bantams. Of particular note in this group is the young Monal, or Impeyan Pheasant—the first to be bred at Chester.

Altogether, about seventy young birds have hatched—of which the above-mentioned are only a few.

### GARDENING NOTES

Perhaps the most noticeable layout is that of the Gardens in front of the Fountain Restaurant. This area was landscaped during the spring of 1960 and was completed in time for the planting of summer bedding for that year.

The Floribunda Rose Garden, in the same area, was planted the previous winter. It contains some 2,250 bushes, made up of 22 varieties and is now in its third year of flowering. The Floribunda Roses have done very well and made a fine show this year.

On completion of the Pachyderm House, a permanent border of tropical plants was laid out on top of the rear wall of the Elephants' indoor enclosure. This is the warmest part of the house, being immediately above the hot air vents which heat the House.

The Small Mammal House has been devoted to the two varieties of Passion Flower—*Passiflora Caerulea* and *Passiflora Quadrangularis*. These are in flower throughout the summer, although each individual flower lasts only one day.

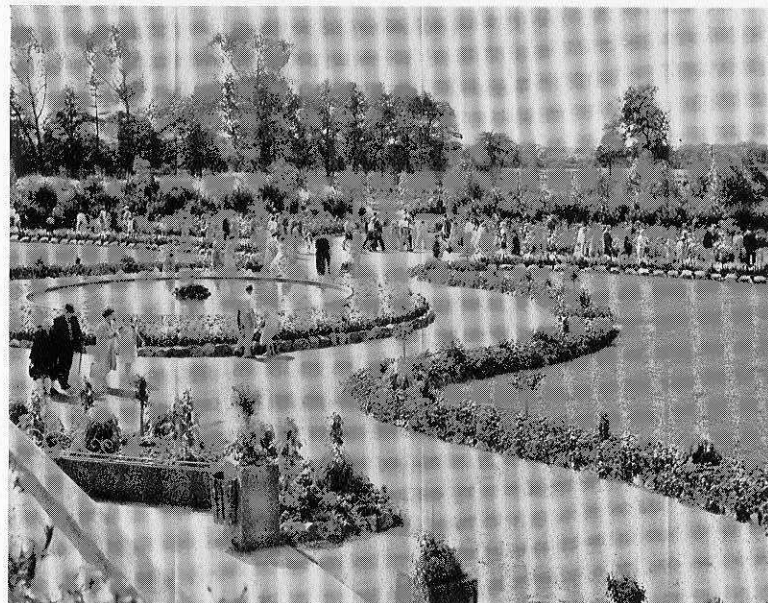
Various flower beds and borders have been planted in the area of the Pachyderm House and two lawns have been laid down, thus giving our visitors somewhere to rest or to picnic.

At the time of writing a new Rhino House is nearing completion and has been planted with *Coleous* and *Hydrangeas*, as a temporary measure. It is intended to make this a *Camelia House* at a later date.

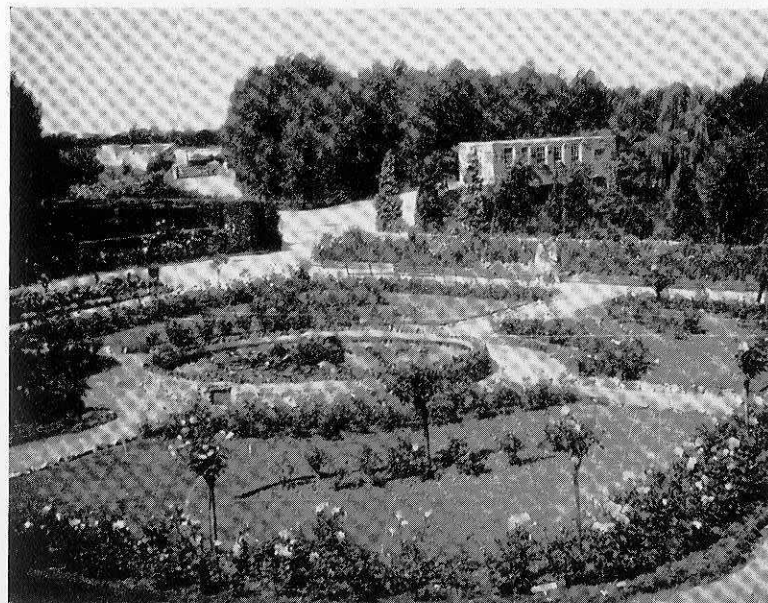
Each year we plant trees and shrubs to feature in the new development areas. With the addition of the extra flower beds and borders, our bedding requirements have reached major proportions. Some 80,000 plants are grown for each of the spring and summer bedding displays.

### WATERBUSES

A very popular feature at Chester Zoo is the Waterbus fleet. The Canal System was laid out in 1958 and the first Waterbus was launched in January 1959. Visitors can disembark at any one of five stages from three covered or two open Buses. The Canals run alongside the enclosures of Antelopes, Ostriches, Giraffes and Zebras—to name but a few. Just how popular the Canal system has proved is shown by the fact that almost 100,000 visitors were carried by the Waterbuses last year.



GARDENS FROM FOUNTAIN RESTAURANT

*Mr. and Mrs. E. Sorby*

ROSE GARDEN BEHIND PARROT HOUSE

*G. F. Williams*



"GOODBYE — SEE YOU NEXT MONTH"

*G. F. Williams*