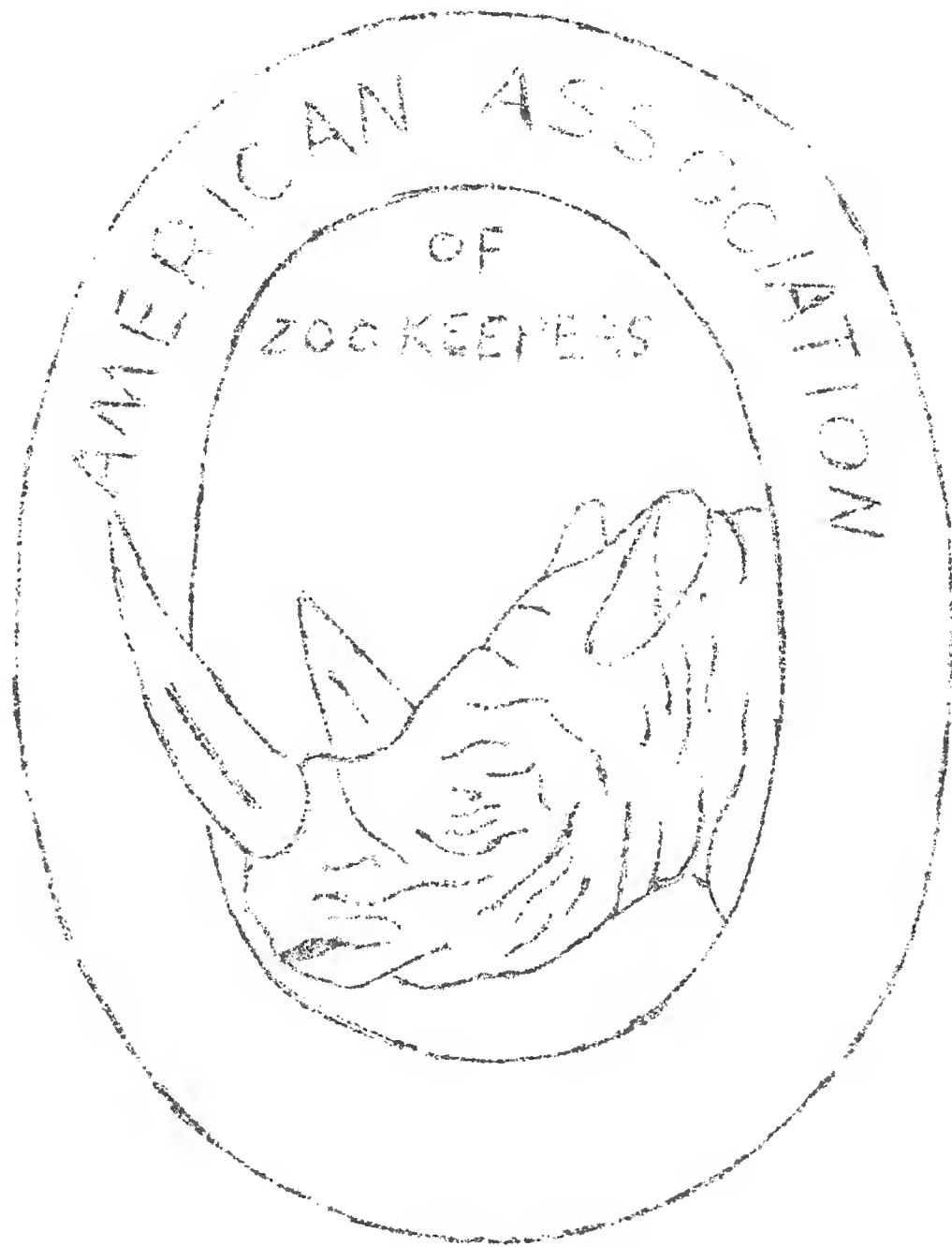


AAZK

NEWSLETTER

VOL. 1 NO. 1

San Diego, Calif.



Published by

American Association of Zoo Keepers
2681 Tern Drive, San Diego, Calif. 92123
Telephone A/C 714-298-4980 or 279-5367

May 1, 1968

AAZK MEMBERSHIP

Affiliate Membership

San Diego Chapter-----\$2.00 annually
(Includes Subscription of Newsletter)

Associate Emblem

Shoulder Patch (see cover)-----\$1.00 each

Editor--Kenneth Willingham

Cover by Jim Tillitson and Michael Klepper

Subscription Rates 10¢ per copy or \$1.00 per year to non members



OFFICERS

President--Richard G. Sweeney
1st V.P.--Gerald Thomas
2nd V.P.--Carl pyle
3rd V.P.--Kenneth Willingham
Secretary--Dennis Melvin
Treasurer--Walter Bromley
Sgt. at Arms--Conrad Grayson

ABOUT THE A.A.Z.K.

The Zoological garden of today bears little resemblance to the menageries of years gone by. As the business of exhibiting and maintaining wild animals and marine life has become more complex, the responsibilities of the zoo keeper also increased. He is no longer limited to the tasks of common labor. His job is demanding and as his education is gained primarily from practical experience, his best source of information comes from others in his field. This is what the American Association of Zoo Keepers is all about.

It's an organization comprised of individuals in the same profession, sharing the same interests and mutually willing to assist one another by exchanging information pertinent to their particular field.

For many years the keeper has denied himself the opportunity to publicize his particular contribution to the successful operation of the Zoological Park or Aquarium. The A.A.Z.K. will afford this opportunity.

APRIL MEETING A SUCCESS

The San Diego A.A.Z.K. played host to the Los Angeles Chapter of the A.A.Z.K. at the April 1st meeting. Dr. Robert Cooper, Director of the San Diego Zoo's N.I.H. research project gave an interesting address and showed color slides of his trip to Africa. The meeting was a tremendous success.

A.A.Z.K. HAS RECEIVED FAVORABLE INTEREST FROM:

Topeka Zoo, Topeka, Kansas
Catskill Game Farm, Catskill, New York
Knowland Park Zoo, Oakland, California
Lincoln Park Zoo, Chicago, Ill.
Brookfield Zoo, Chicago, Ill.

FROM READERS DIGEST---

"Researchers trying to authenticate their facts sometimes fail...Recently a very curious author wanted the exact chest measurements of Guy, a gorilla living at the London Zoo. The zoo officials were curious of the same fact and offered the attractive lady access to the grotto. To date the article is unpublished and zoo officials are still just as curious...Any takers?"

THE KEEPERS CORNER

"Bill" Kingery, the dean of deer mesa, came to the zoo in 1955.

His experience with hoofed stock goes back to 1925 when he served with the 2nd Cavalry, Veterinarian Corps. After his discharge in 1928, he returned to his native Kansas City, Mo. to farm. Since coming to California, Bill has been a rancher and owner of the Antler Lodge near Pine Valley in east San Diego County. He sold the lodge in 1955 to return to animal work, and many specimens on deer mesa have experienced his ruling hand.

Bill's knowledge of handling hoofed animals has earned him great respect.

HONORARY MEMBERSHIP AWARDED

Al Hinkle of Alpine, California. Ornamental and game bird breeder.

Bob Dale, Host of The Bob Dale Show and Zoorama

Vic Pierce, member of the Security Force here at the San Diego Zoo.

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

TO ALL MEMBERS,

The voice of our ASSOCIATION is now recorded for all to read, and I'm confident that through the maze of typographical jitters there will emerge the pride we take in our profession.

This is your publication and its circulation can increase with continued support.

I would like to express my personal thanks to everyone who assisted Ken Willingham in his efforts to bring our publication into being. I predict that this newsletter will enlist great support for our organization's prospective goals.

Sincerely,



ITEM OF INTEREST

Scheduled for publication in the May issue of Readers Digest is an article entitled "There's No Business Like Zoo Business" by James Stewart-Gordon.

THE DEER FAMILY

by

Donnis W. Melvin-Mammal Keeper
San Diego Zoo

The deer family (Cervidae) belongs to a large order of even-toed hoofed mammals called the Artiodactyla. Included also in this order are pigs, peccaries, hippos, camels, giraffe, wild cattle, antelope, goats, and sheep.

The most striking characteristic of the deer is the antlers worn by the male of the species. The magnificence of this animal when he has a full-grown set of antlers makes him an impressive sight. These antlers are shed in early spring and reach a new growth by fall.

In the reindeer and caribou, females as well as males have antlers. The growth of the antler begins with a single spike at the age of one year until the antler reaches its full size at about 10 years of age. Several branches form the antler from the original spike. It provides the animal with a defensive weapon during the breeding season, and also serves as a means to root out food, etc. The size of the antler recedes with age after reaching its full growth. For this very reason it is difficult to judge an animal's true age by the size of its antlers.

Not all males of the deer family have antlers; the Chinese water deer, musk deer are examples. Instead of antlers, these deer develop large canine teeth.

Variations in size among the members of the Cervidae are great, ranging from the tiny pudu of Chile, who stands 13 inches at the shoulder and weighs about 24 lbs., to the great Alaskan moose, who stands over 7 feet at the shoulder and weighs an average of 1800 lbs.

The mating season for the deer is usually in October and November with variations depending upon the range. This is the time of year the keeper has to be alert. He has to know the habits of his individual animals.

During rut, some animals can be worked, while others will not tolerate your presence. I have found that reindeer, axis deer, Roe deer, Wapiti and moose can never be worked, safely, unless removed from the exhibit area while it is being cleaned.

Deer in the wild often live in large herds that break into smaller groups or harems during the mating season. Some, such as the moose, are solitary, coming together only during the period of rut.

Very few zoos maintain extensive groups of deer because of the space needed. It is very difficult to maintain them in small areas because the bucks are likely to injure or kill the does if closely confined during the rutting season.

The majority of our hoofed animals are fed in the exhibit areas, and for the most part the deer are social animals. However, when the breeding season hits, I am extra alert to the males of any species.

I have found the easiest species to maintain in captivity at the San Diego Zoo is the Scandanavian reindeer. Since they are a domestic member of the deer family, they are very gentle and a pleasant species to work with.

Large or small, the deer is an interesting mammal and a constant teacher in the habits of wild Cervadae.

Reference "The Management of Wild Mammals in Captivity" by Lee S. Crandall.

A.A.Z.K. THANKS YOU

The entire membership of the San Diego Chapter of the A.A.Z.K. would like to thank the many people who have helped us in our efforts to form our organization.

Without your support and words of encouragement, our successful beginning would have been much more difficult. Special thanks to Dr. Charles R. Schroeder, Dr. James Dolan, Clyde A. Hill, Dr. George H. Pournelle, K.C. Lint, and the many others.

A very special thanks to Miss Edna Heublein for her kind assistance.

BEST WISHES for an enjoyable retirement go to Dr. Wesley A. Young, Director, Los Angeles Zoo.

WHITE TIGER AT THE CRANDON PARK ZOO

A female white Bengal tiger was received by Crandon Park Zoo in Miami, Florida, on January 13. The 22 month old tigress was purchased for the zoo by Ralph Scott of Bal Harbor from the Maharaja of Rewa for a reported \$35,000. Mr. Scott also was co-donor of the white tiger at the National Zoo, Washington, D.C. This is the only other white Bengal tiger in the Western Hemisphere. (AAZPA Newsletter)

NOTICE

Articles of interest to keepers are needed for our publication. If you have any items that would be of interest to our field, please submit them for consideration. Contact Kenneth Willingham, A.A.Z.K. address. All members are asked to contribute.

A GOOD EXAMPLE

John Tee-Van who began his career as a keeper and ended as General Director of the Bronx Zoo bequeathed to all keepers a motto that was his guidepost to success. "If it is to be, it is up to me to do it."

PUBLICATION OF INTEREST TO KEEPERS

"The Management of Wild Animals in Captivity" by Lee S. Crandall, the University of Chicago Press. 1964, pp761 with black and white photographs. 10% discount if purchased through A.A.Z.K.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR-General curator emeritus of the New York Zoological Park. Mr. Crandall worked for over fifty years with one of the world's largest captive collections of wild mammals. Here, now, in a book that should become part of the equipment of everyone concerned with the care of wild mammals, from zoo managers to zoo keepers.

He describes the easily recognizable features of each order, species, and subspecies of mammals kept in zoos. Care and feeding are discussed in the widest context of zoological garden experience.

A.A.Z.K. San Diego, includes affiliate members.

The San Diego Zoo Chapter of the A.A.Z.K. welcomes affiliate members to date:

Mr. Charles MacGowan (Oakland Zoo)-reptile keeper
Mr. Val De Leon, Sr. (Oakland Zoo)-Senior Keeper
Mr. John Wortman (Topeka, Kansas)-Senior Keeper
Mr. Edward Schneider (Brookfield)--Gail Schneider (Brookfield)
The latter is a husband and wife team of keepers.

ADVERTISE IN THE NEWSLETTER

Members Seven Lines-----65¢ issue
Non-Members Seven Lines-----\$1.00 issue

Contact Secretary at 279-5367

FOR SALE

WANTED

