

ENVELOPES



# Penscynor Wild Life Park News

Cilfrew, Neath, Wales, Telephone: Neath 2189

Directors: I. G. Hale, M. Hale.

Mr. Grenville Roles the Manager left the Park to take up a post in America and was replaced by Mr. Herbert Dornbrack, Former Manager of Banham Zoo. Mr. Dornbrack brought with him his group of Woolley Monkeys, consisting of 20 which includes 3 new born babies, one of these is being Hand Reared by Sue Macbreen, this means feeding every 2 hours 24 hours a day. The group have settled down so well that we have released the whole group free into the forest once a day, in time we will introduce our 1 male and 2 females into the group making the total 23, without any doubt this is the finest group of Woolleys in captivity we can go as far as to say in the world. Mr. Dornbrack also brought with him 2 groups of Goeldi's Monkeys each consisting of parents and 2 offsprings, various ages total 8 Goeldi's, released into one of the best Marmoset Houses in Europe, where this year we have reared 4 Cotton Top, 2 Silvery, 2 Common Marmosets.

A group of Abyssinian Colobus consisting of 2 males and 3 females released into a large enclosure 60' long by 24' x 18' high, again we know of the need for these wonderful Monkeys to have a large area to exercise, and as you can see by the dimensions the visitors can see these wonderful creatures in almost natural surroundings, the emphasis is on freedom for the birds and animals in the Park.

Mr. Dornbrack also brought with him Black Howlers which consist of 2 female and 1 male with a 2-week old baby, along with Twycross Zoo we have the only breeding group in the U.K. and in the next cage you see a pair of Red Howlers which are extremely rare in captivity these being the only ones in the U.K.

In the next cage to the Colobus we have a group of Brown Lemurs. We were successful in breeding 2 offspring, both males, one we had to hand rear, but died after 10 days, the remaining male is still clinging to the mother after 3 months.

David Armitage was appointed Curator and with his experience at Twycross and Banham Zoo with birds we have decided to leave the breeding of birds to him, Danl his charming wife having successfully hand reared 2 young female Cotton tops.



## NEW BUILDINGS

Mr. Johnny Morris opened the new Chimp House on the 5th August, 1977, this is a House without bars. Brooke and Cheeko the female were married on that memorable day, and they produced a young male named Robbie born July, 1978. Cheeko has been a wonderful mother never leaving the baby out of her arms and keeping Brooke at

arms length. Would this be another record producing an offspring in less than 12 months?

6 Blacked Capped Squirrel Monkeys, 4 female and 2 males, were introduced on to the Monkey Island, we were worried about them drowning in the water, although they climb down to the water to drink they hang on by their tails to the wire.

The new Marmoset complex has proved a wonderful success, out of 10 cages 6 groups have bred. This house and the Chimp House is set in the forest, giving it a natural setting. Every group of animals and birds in the forest have bred, the Rheas, Geese, Bennett Wallaby, Muntjac Deer, Chimps and Marmosets.

A new lake below the waterfall was created by 6 weeks of hard work performed by Mr. Parry Lewis, the Head Gardener, Reg Osborne, the forest expert, and Bob Joseph, these lads completed in 6 weeks when any other body of men would have taken 6 months. The Directors of this Park hold them in very high esteem. A thousand trout were released into this lake and only one was found dead the following day. The fish have trebled in size during the 3 months, and can be viewed above and below the water.

One of the star attractions of the afternoons programme is when Judy and Sammy the baby Chimps are brought out to play on the lawn in the Flower Garden. Judy was born in captivity and at 6 months was purchased by the Park, in May 1977. Sammy, who was brought into the country illegally was strapped to the engine of a motor car. The Ministry of the Environment gave us permission to purchase Sammy owing to the fact that we already had Judy for a mate of the same age. Both settled down immediately to the relief of my wife, because each evening Judy would not let my wife leave the Chimp House, but would cling for hours, having accepted her as her mother, now this problem has been resolved they have one another to cling to.

The Malayan Small Clawed Otter escaped and was killed by a motorist leaving us with one female. We then exchanged our group of Celebes Apes for a male and female otter, after two weeks of separation they were gradually introduced for 10 minutes to 2 hours each day and eventually after a period of 6 weeks they have accepted each other, hopefully they will breed.

The pair of Guanacos produced another male and the Sika Deer produced 2 offsprings but one died within 24 hours.

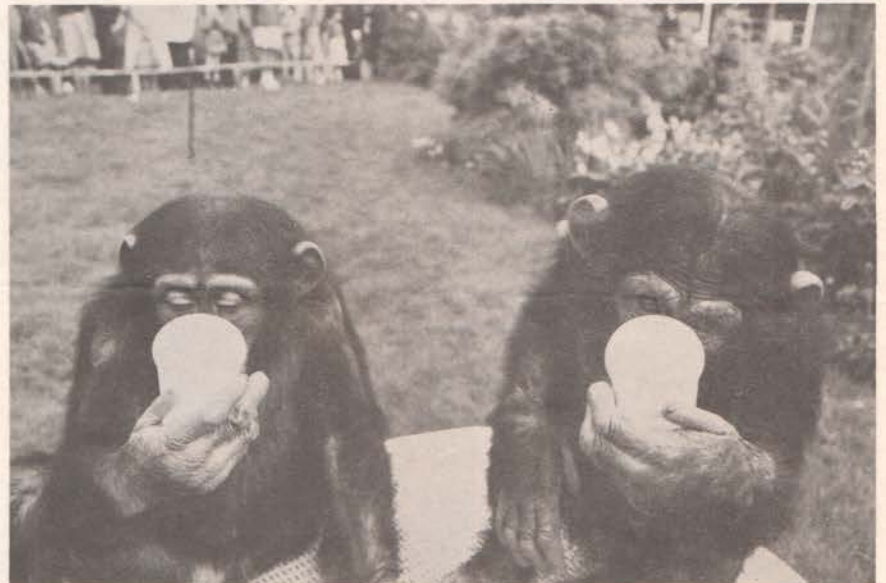
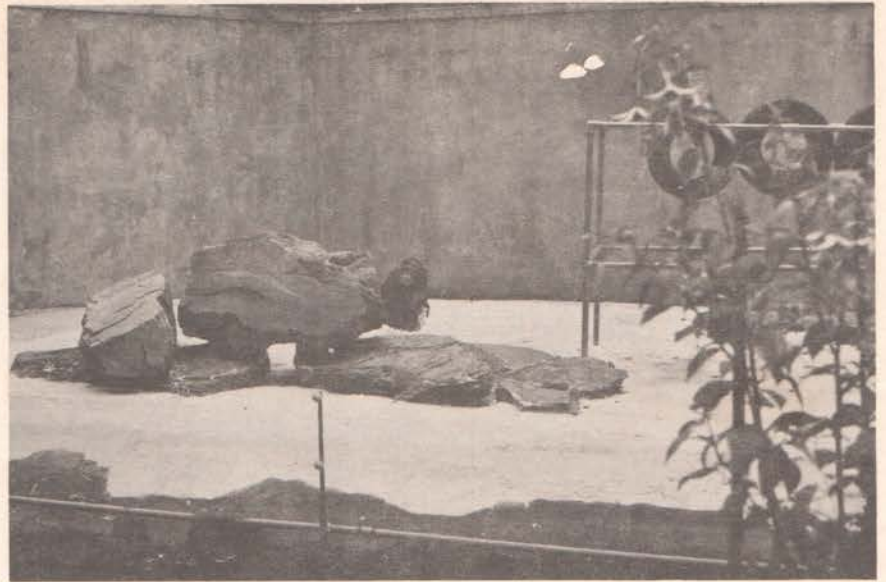
The Black Swans produced 3 youngsters along with Rheas and Chinese Geese.

The B.B.C. Team from Animal Magic arrived at the Park for two-day filming about Joey the Free Flying Giant Hornbill, the story of how he escaped. The British Rail Staff rang from the Neath Railway Station to say that a bird with a large beak was sitting on a no waiting sign. Johnny arrives by bus to take him back to the Park. When this programme is released we are hoping to take to the studio the hand reared Woolley Monkey.

Without the dedication of my wife who helped to hand rear many rare birds, this Park would be the poorer.

Enough praise cannot be given to Carole Dornbrack for hand rearing at one time 7 monkeys for 24 hours a day.

Both Mr. and Mrs. Hale would like to express their thanks to all the members of the staff, including cafe and shop, for the excellent service they have given to the public, who have sent many letters of appreciation.





## EDUCATIONAL NEWS

One of the recent developments in the Educational Department has been the conversion of the Educational Classroom. The classroom can hold up to fifty children, and is equipped with a projection booth. This booth contains an area where slides and cine films can be projected. Sound mixing equipment has been installed so that we are able to make our own sound tracks to enhance our 16mm films.

During the winter months we finished the editing and track laying of our latest two films "Amazon Quest" and "The Water Wheel". Earlier this year they were both shown in the Gwyn Hall, Neath, and the proceeds of the show sent to charity.

The film "Amazon Quest" traces the journey made by Mr. Hale to the Amazon Basin. Both the wildlife and the natives of the area are portrayed in the film. The "Water Wheel" depicts the water cycle and shows how man is dependent on water. The majority of the film was made locally, and shows how the water leaves the sea by evaporation, then forms clouds, as the clouds reach the mountains they fall as rain. The film then follows the river development, and shows how man has used and abused Mother natures free gift of water. Both these films are available to be shown to schools and the general public. If you would like to see either of them, or one of our other films, then please contact us at Neath 2189. There is no charge made for showing the films, and we have our own projection equipment.

At present we are awaiting the arrival of our first project book, about the Park, entitled

"Look and Learn". Previously, we had used project sheets, which were awkward to handle. The new book contains all the information from the sheets plus some new material. The new books should prove more economical to produce, and we can pass this saving onto the children.

Another new idea is to produce Educational Packs for schools visiting the Park. At present we are in the process of producing our first pack, about the Flower Gardens. The pack will consist of a project book about the area, a tape slide sequence, teachers notes and a tour tape. The idea behind the tour tape is that a teacher can borrow a pre-recorded tape and player from us. All the teacher then has to do is to play the tape at the various enclosures to discover all the information about the particular animal or bird. If this idea proves successful, then we will produce other Educational Packs, and Tour Tapes to cover other areas of the Park. It is envisaged that packs and tapes could be produced on the following: Front Lawns, Middle area and Forest Area, as well as other aspects of animal and bird life. This information could also be made available to the general public.

Not many schools visit the Park during the winter months, but we hope to reverse this trend this winter. We are in the process of developing a Winter Educational Programme for schools. This will consist of showing films about World Wildlife and other topics. A reduced entry fee will be made and the films will be shown free of charge.

Here is a view of part of our Educational Classroom. You can see the projection room behind where we have facilities for showing tape slide sequences and 16mm colour sound films. We have also installed our own track laying equipment so that we can make our own 16mm films and produce sound tracks complete with commentaries and sound effects. The classroom can hold up to 50 children and is becoming very popular.



“Hey there I want to learn something as well”.

Joey the free flying Giant Indian Hornbill seems to want to get into the classroom to learn about the Park, just like the children. You will see Joey flying free around the Park. He is the only free flying giant hornbill in Europe and often perches high up on the roof to inspect the children as they make their way to the Educational Classroom.

#### PARK BIRTHS

##### Mammals

- 1 Brown Lemur
- 1 Chimpanzee
- 4 Cotten Top Tamarins
- 2 Silvery Marmosets
- 2 Common Marmosets
- 1 Vervel Monkey

##### Animals

- 1 Formosan Sika Deer
- 2 Pymy Goats
- 1 Bennetts Wallaby
- 1 Muntjac Deer

##### Birds

- 1 Leadbeater Cockatoo
- 1 Roseate Cockatoo
- 1 Citron Cockatoo
- 3 Rheas
- 1 Derbyan Parrott
- 3 Black Swans
- 14 Peafowl
- 3 Chinese Geese
- 12 Gouldian Finches
- 6 Redrump Parrakeets
- 4 Turquoise Parrakeets
- 6 Splendid Parrakeets
- 5 Barraband Parrakeets
- 15 Eastern Rosella Parrakeets
- 7 Mealy Rosella Parrakeets
- 4 White Cockatiels
- 2 Sun Conures
- 6 Brown Eared Conures
- 3 Stanley Parrakeets

#### NEW ARRIVALS

- 17 Woolly Monkeys
- 8 Goeldi Monkeys
- 1 Pair Red Howlers
- 1 Male, 2 Female Black Howlers and Baby
- 2 Pairs Red Bellied Tamarins
- 1 Pair Emporer Tamarins
- 2 Pairs Cotten Top Tamarins
- 1 Pair Malayan Otters
- 3 Cuban Flamingos