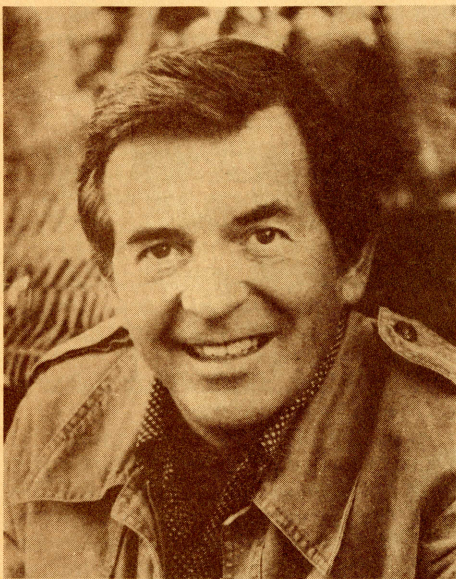


**NOVEMBER-DECEMBER
VOL. 8, NO. 9**

TOUCAN TALK

**Don't Miss
MEMBERS' NITE
NOVEMBER 27th**



WKAT's Jack McDermott will spin the Big Band discs of yesteryear at this year's Members' Night.

Members will enjoy another Metrozoo "Sneak Preview" on Saturday, November 27th as they tour the spectacular new African Plains section scheduled to open to the general public the following weekend, December 4th, (See African Plains story inside).

Members will stroll through the 25-acre addition between 4pm and dark (5:45). Docents will be on hand to give tours and answer questions concerning the new animals. Other new animals will also be on display in the existing park as well.

At 6pm, the Society's Annual Meeting will be held in the amphitheatre. Members will meet new Officers and Members of the

Board of Directors. Metrozoo's exciting schedule for 1983 will be announced along with the Society's "Zoooper" plans for the coming year.

Following the Annual Meeting will be a very special, multi-media presentation on Kenya given by David S. Schaeffer, Executive Director of Park East Tours and noted lecturer on East Africa. Associated with travel to Kenya for many years, Mr. Schaeffer will be showing us some of the places included in the Society's "First Adventure" African Safari for members in July.

Highlighting the evening with fun for all will be Radio Station WKAT's Afternoon Personality, Jack McDermott, playing Big Band and Hit Records from yesteryear for your dancing pleasure. There will be prizes for a dance contest and lots of fun in the amphitheatre. Portions of the evening will be broadcast at a later date.

A cash bar will be located in the area and Sportservice will have food available in the Zebrazaar.

Don't miss this action packed evening for members only. Nonmembers can join at our front information booth. It will be our best Members' Night ever!

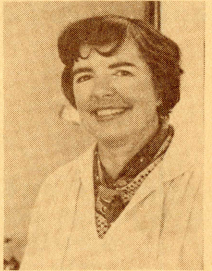
**ARABIAN HORSE SHOW
TO BENEFIT SOCIETY**

The Sunshine State Arabian Club sponsors several horse shows throughout the year at Tropical Park's Equestrian Center on Bird Road. For several years, the Club has permitted us to sell the admission tickets at the gate with the proceeds going to the Society as a contribution.

The November show is the big event of the year (Nov. 11-14 and Nov. 18-21). On Friday and Saturday evenings, at 8pm, the show takes on a very special and exciting flair as the riders parade in native Arabian costume. General admission is only \$2.00 for adults and \$1.00 for children 12 and under.

Here's a great opportunity for a fun and inexpensive evening while helping your society as well. Volunteers are also needed for the event. Please contact Barbara Birmingham if you are interested.

**AILEEN
LOTZ
Named
Exec. Director**



The Society welcomes the addition of Aileen Lotz as Executive Director. Following a lengthy search, the Board of Directors officially announced her appointment to the post effective November 1st.

Ms. Lotz is certainly not a newcomer to the Miami Area. She has been active in local government and community affairs since 1950. She joined Metro Dade County in 1966 and retired from public service earlier this year. Aileen has served as Executive Director of the County's Charter Review Commission; Director of Dade County's Department of Human Resources and as the Senior Administrative Assistant to the County Manager. Her experience and respect in the community will be of great benefit to the Society in these years of rapid growth.

**MONORAIL TO
MAKE DEBUT**

Metrozoo's new monorail started its test runs November 1st and will be ready for its first passengers on or before the December 4th grand opening of the new African Plains Section.

The multi-million dollar system was financed and constructed by Universal Mobility, Inc., in a joint venture with the Budd Company. Eventually, three trains (ten cars each) will be in operation.

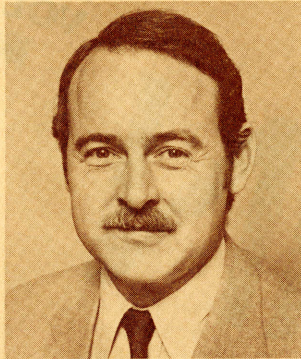
Each train will carry 140-160 passengers, stopping at four stations along the 1.9 mile loop. Only three stations will be opened in December. The fourth is an area under construction.

Gliding silently 18 feet above the exhibits, passengers will enjoy a narrated voyage and a bird's eye view of the animals. The train will pass through the new aviary scheduled to open in the spring and over 75 acres of Africa still under construction.

The fare has been set at \$2.75 per person for all day passage on the monorail.

President's Report

by Jack Lowell



"Brave New World" would be a fitting title for the 1982 annual conference of the American Association of Zoological Parks and Aquariums. Over the past two decades professionals in the zoo field became acutely aware that survival of many species would rest in the hands of the world's zoos. Now there is widespread agreement that this survival effort requires close international cooperation and sophisticated genetic management.

Miami had the largest contingent at the Phoenix conference. Sixteen of us, evenly representing the Society and Metrozoo staff, heard of the impressive progress made in Species Survival Plan in the past year. Dr. William Conway, of the New York Zoological Society, gave the keynote outline of the program. Although eventually the genetic diversity of a species will be preserved for posterity via frozen gametes and embryos, current technology cannot yet guarantee complete success. As an interim measure, more and more zoos are participating in breeding programs, either at one particular institution or off-site in a ranch or farm setting. More and more species have "stud books" which chart the parentage of all animals in the species. The genetic diversity of the species is protected using the same breeding techniques and principles followed by geneticists in other areas for a long time. Metrozoo is cooperating in three such Species Survival programs.

In the future, animals on display in our zoological park will increasingly be there in a dual role—to educate and entertain zoo patrons, and to be cared for as a group in the most conducive environment for reproduction. Centralized genetic research and record keeping will allow the ultimate survival of many species which would otherwise become extinct.

The Board of the Society took several important steps at our last meeting. A completely revised set of bylaws were approved and may be read by any Society member at the office. Most importantly, the Board authorized the hiring of Aileen Lotz as Executive Director, effective November 1. Her background is outlined elsewhere in *Toucan Talk*. Finally, the Board authorized the hiring of a full-time Development Director. These actions will enable the Society to expand its assistance to Metrozoo and our community in the coming years.

This is my last report as President of the Society. I wish to personally thank the Board for its support and Bob Yokel and the rest of the Metrozoo staff for their close cooperation. I would like to congratulate all of our paid staff, especially Jan Beckman and Ileen Seidler, and all of our volunteers, especially Pat Kelly and Barbara Birmingham, for a job well done. It has been a great two years to be President and see a long-awaited dream become a reality. I ask for your continued support for the next President and our ongoing programs. Please come to our Annual Meeting on November 27th to meet the New Board and Officers. Thank you all for the privilege of serving you as President.



White Tigers WOW Metrozoo

Some of the rarest animals in the world arrived at Metrozoo September 16th ... white tigers. The three young tigers are on loan from the Cincinnati Zoo and will be seen on occasion at the Tiger Temple. They will go on permanent display December 4th. Two of the cats are pure white and the third is a cross-bred orange with recessive white genes.

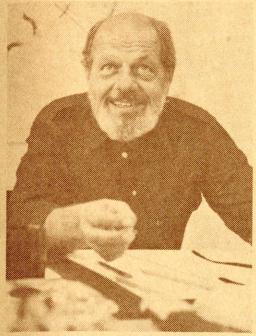
White tigers were creatures of legend, rarely seen in the wild, until 1951, when a nine-month-old male white cub, later named Mohan, was captured in the province of Rewa in Central India. Through intensive breeding efforts at the forest estate of the Maharajah of Rewa and in zoos, there are now some 50 white tigers in captivity throughout the world. The first ever to come to the United States was Mohini, who was given to the National Zoo in 1960.

The second white tiger to come to this country came to Miami through the efforts of Zoological Society of Florida member Ralph Scott. That was Princess, who arrived at the Crandon Park Zoo in 1968, when she was two years old. She was a great favorite at the old zoo and was very much missed after she died.

Looking more like tiger's ghost than a real tiger, a white tiger is not an albino but a genetic variation of an orange tiger. The color of the coat varies from chalky white to cream-colored and the stripes are chocolate-brown, grey or, in some rare instances, so faint as to be almost invisible. White tigers have bright blue eyes.

The three tigers will be on loan exhibit until the Cincinnati Zoo provides us with our own breeding pair (a year at the most). Two of the three males are brothers born July 6, 1981 (one white and one orange) and the other was born September 5, 1981. The orange male, named Benzoo, was the mascot for the Cincinnati Bengals football team last year. The father of all these cats is six-year-old Bhim, the Cincinnati Zoo's prize white tiger who has sired 22 cubs.

The two orange Bengal tigers, Nikolai and Natasha, who have graced the tiger temple since the zoo opened in 1980, will be moved to the paddock originally intended for Bengals, in the Asian Forest Plain section. The temple was originally designed for white tigers.



Metrozoo Director's Report

by Bob Yokel

A major asset of any zoo is its collection. The heart, so to speak, which should be strong and vital both physically and economically. In order to accomplish this, change must occur in order to reinforce and improve the quality and value of the collection.

In a past issue of Toucan Talk, I mentioned some forthcoming decisions and changes relative to the animal collection and would like to expand on that subject at this time.

Many of you are already aware and understand that we currently display animals out of context with the zoogeographic theme and will continue to do so until the African lobe is completed. This condition may continue beyond that point, depending on the survival imperative of any particular species at a given point in time. Please remember that the ultimate cruelty is the extinction of a species. The national Species Survival Plan is and will continue to be a priority among zoos.

As to the changes, beginning with the former preview center area, we will be introducing flamingos to the entrance lake, purely for aesthetic reasons. The Siberian ibex, which were quite inbred and related to all other stock in the United States, will be replaced with Markhor from Asia. Dama gazelle, a beautiful and delicate creature from North Africa, will replace our surplus Blackbuck herd on the adjacent display. Our breeding herd of Blackbuck is, of course, dis-

played with the Nilgais in our Asian section. The Wildebeest and the Grants zebra have been placed in a holding area for breeding and will be replaced on exhibit by Persian gazelle from the mid-east and Addax from North Africa, all of which have a future in the Asian and African lobes.

You should all be aware by now that we have White Tigers in their rightful home in our temple exhibit. This will ultimately require the movement of our Bengal tigers to the Asian tiger exhibit, now populated by African lions. The lions will be put on breeding loan or sold. They will be returned, or new lions acquired, when the lion exhibit is completed in the African lobe.

The seriously inbred African aoudad herd from the old zoo has been traded and will ultimately be replaced on exhibit by Asian chamois. Our magnificent Simitar Horned oryx herd will temporarily be moved to the exhibit immediately behind the chamois for the public to enjoy and to create room in our quarantine area for other arriving animals. Their ultimate home is, of course, the African lobe.

Our African sitatunga group will be moved from the Asian section to the beginning of the African lobe to be displayed along with the Defassa waterbuck. Their former exhibit will house Eld's deer from Southeast Asia.

As a point of interest, Metrozoo will be one of only three zoos in the United States to display Eld's deer, the other two being San Diego and the Bronx. National Zoo has Eld's deer but they are presently housed at their breeding center Front Royal, Virginia.

If you are perceptive, I believe that you can begin to see that these changes are more species changes than thematic change and all of them still relate to our zoogeographic theme — Asia, Europe and Africa.

We will be in a state of transition, flux and change for the next few years until master planned construction is completed. At that point everything should, more or less, settle into its place and this geographic conflict will subside.

I hope this provides a clearer picture of our current direction and future updates on this matter will be provided as conditions warrant.

EDUCATION OUTLOOK:

by Ileen Seidler

The response to our "Special Projects" plea in the last issue of Toucan Talk has been great. There is still room for more volunteers, so don't hesitate to call the education department if you'd like to be involved.

Our Speakers Bureau is becoming quite busy. If you are a member of an organization that is considering a "Zoo Program", call the office, and get on the calendar as soon as possible. We do need one month's notice for all speaking engagements.

Reservations for our fall programs have been heavy, but there's still room. I'd strongly suggest you get your application in as soon as possible. The programs being offered during the school holiday break (December) afford parents a great way to do some "special" shopping while their offsprings have fun at the zoo. Call the office if you need additional information.

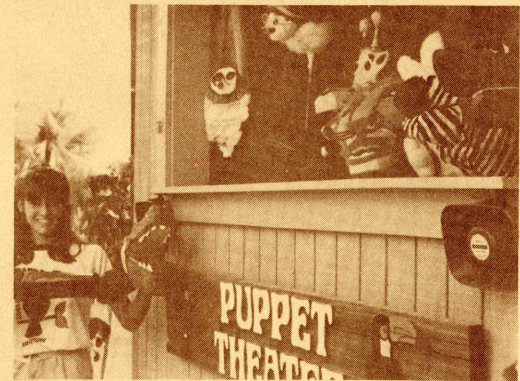
The education department staff has been hard at work preparing a very special Dade County Teacher's Workshop. November 5 is the big day; and, by the time you read this, over 500 elementary teachers will have gotten an exciting look at our Metrozoo "Campus," received valuable new teaching aides and will have had a unique opportunity to learn how to use our zoo as a living lab.

Jungle Jog at Metrozoo has been chosen as the official name for our first zoo run on January 30, 1983. Lots of agile, enthusiastic volunteers will be needed to work as race officials on race day. Call Helen Malina at 595-0483 to help out or for more information.

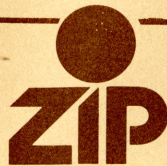
Entries can be obtained after November 15 at Metrozoo, Footworks in S. Miami or your neighborhood veterinarian.

This new and unique race will feature standard categories for races & team participation as well.

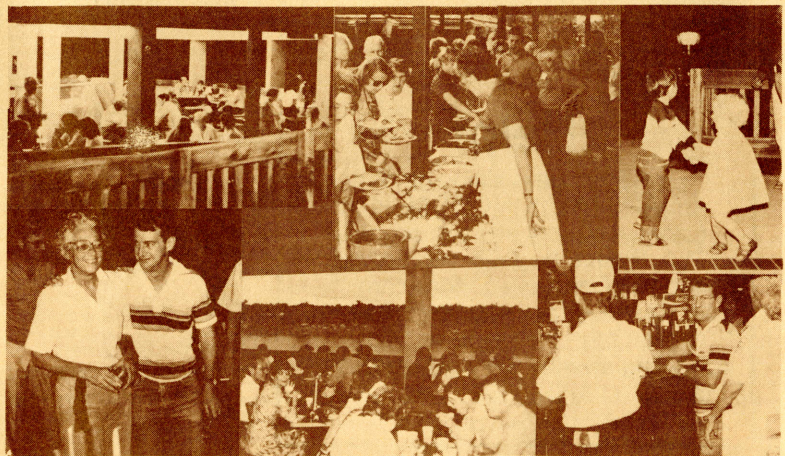
This race is being jointly sponsored by the Dade County Veterinarian Association, Zoological Society of Florida and Miami Runners Club.



Our Service Team has an exciting and informative puppet theater schedule for children of all ages. Don't miss these fun shows every Saturday at 11:30 and 2pm



Over 200 ZIP Volunteers and guests enjoyed a candlelight dinner at the Zoobaba last month. Sal Bouch chaired the successful event. ZIP Members volunteered more than 1,000 hours last month to the Society and Zoo.



Docent Corner

by Pat Kelly

DOCENT COUNCIL SEEKS ENTHUSIASTIC, ARTICULATE INDIVIDUALS TO SHARE WITH US THE EXPERIENCE OF INFORMING THE PUBLIC AND SELLING THE IDEA OF WILDLIFE AND THE ROLE OF ZOOS AT DADE COUNTY'S JEWEL... METROZOO. Our schedule of Docent training sessions for the up-coming year are as follows:

- | | |
|-----------|---|
| Session 1 | January 13-March 10
Tuesdays and Thursdays
3:00pm-5:00pm |
| Session 2 | April 14-June 9
Tuesdays and Thursdays
3:00pm-5:00pm |
| Session 3 | September 10-November 1
Tuesdays and Thursdays
with 2 Saturdays
6:30pm-8:30pm
9:30am-11:30am (9/10 & 10/22) |

There is limited space in the sessions, so if you have an interest, contact the Docent Council for an application. The Staff at Metrozoo has given us a great compliment in asking that zookeepers be allowed to attend our day sessions. And as usual, zoo staff will act as instructors along with experienced Docents.

Nine members of the Docent Council attended the Annual Conference of the American Association of Zoological Parks and Aquariums in Phoenix, Arizona this fall and have brought back many interesting concepts from volunteers and educators across the country. Hopefully, we'll be implementing some newly gleaned ideas in the near future. It also allowed us an opportunity to see what's in store for Metrozoo in 1984.

The Docent Council celebrated the graduation of its last training session at a picnic in Sulawesi Village on October 2. There were some 80 Docents and guests in attendance all enjoying fried chicken and covered dish supper provided by Members.



President Pat Kelly welcomes new Docents at the Council's recent graduation picnic.

Curator of Birds Appointed

A new position in the Animal Science Division of Metrozoo was recently filled with the appointment of Ron Johnson as Curator of Birds. Johnson works directly for General Curator Bill Zeigler, with his responsibilities including all bird acquisitions, supervision of field work of his zoological staff, and the ongoing implementation of Metrozoo's bird breeding program.

Johnson holds a B.S. in wildlife biology from the University of Minnesota and comes to Miami from the progressive Minnesota Zoo, where he developed their bird management program and coordinated aviary construction and bird acquisition.

Metrozoo's free-flight aviary, scheduled to open next spring, will be one of the largest and finest in the world. An acre and a half in area and 65 feet high, the entire structure will be covered with vinyl netting. Inside, streams, mountains and lush landscaping are designed to resemble specific Asian habitats, in keeping with the zoogeographic theme of Metrozoo.

"Ron's major task initially," says Zeigler, "is the acquisition of rare Asian birds for the aviary. It's a complicated process, and we're very glad to have the benefit of the experience Ron has had in doing just this sort of thing at Minnesota."

"An aviary can add a whole dimension to a zoo," adds Johnson, "and I think Metrozoo's aviary will be a highlight of this unique park. It's a real challenge to be involved in a project of this magnitude at such an early stage."

JAZZOO '82

Miami will get its first taste of an official JAZZOO on Sunday, November 21, when the Friends of WLRN Public Radio will hold their Third Annual Jazz in the Garden fundraiser at Metrozoo.

From 2-5pm, visitors can stroll through the Zoo to hear small jazz groups from the U. of Miami located near animal exhibits.

Starting at 5pm, a giant, 4-hour Jazz Concert will be presented in the Amphitheater featuring the Jeff Kirk Quintet, Strings Attached with Billy Ross and Mike Levine and the University of Miami Concert Jazz Band under direction of Whit Sidener, with vocalist Sandy Patton.

Tickets for the event are available through WLRN (350-3228). Proceeds go to the support of Public Radio.

Season's Greetings

from the

**ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY
OF FLORIDA**

Toucan Chatter

by Jan Beckman
Administrator



Thank you...

... to some very caring Members for their generous donations to the Nursery/Clinic building.

We still have a long way to go if we are to match Burger King's \$50,000 pledge. If you haven't had a chance to make even a small contribution to the building fund, please use the coupon on the next page.

Here's this month's Zooper Contributors:

N. P. Swelland	Scott Smith
Bill Heuson	Joel Wertheim
P. Sanders	M.A. Taylor
Jan Beckman	Alfred Solomon
Sally Liddell	Sheila Stern
Buff March	Mark Schultz
Jeff Rochford	Tom Ross
Meyer Lipson	R.A. Moody
Victor Schneider	F.J. Danauskas
Barbara Desch	John Owens
Johnson & Higgins	L.J. August
K. Almirail	David Zoberg
R. Castillo	Donald Tiziani
Pat James	Philip Myers
E. Adams	Jack Simmons
Wilma Whalen	H.S. Quartin
Dennis Burchell	David Preve
Robert Mary	Wayne Wellman
Sandra Leverich	John Nelson
Larry LaVoie	J. Chaille
William Henley	A. Orpi
Robert Aversa	W. Rausch
Betty Awad	R. Scordato
John Hellwege	Marie Russo
D. Hammerstein	G. Meyer
L. France	H. Waddell
John Conte	Kathy Tombrink
R.E. Litt	D. Kalata
N. Anderson	Fred Diamond
H.R. Morrison	Wm. Vasilik

Everyone Loves...

... a parade! So, the Zoological Society will lead this year's Junior Orange Bowl Parade, December 28th, with two elephants. Come cheer your Society as the leader of the parade.

The Office Expands...

... again with another trailer giving the Society over 2,000 square feet of office space. Special thanks to ZIP Engineering for building all the partitions.

Zoo Admission...

... will increase December 4th when the new African Plains section opens. Adult admission will be increased to \$4.50 (Tax Included). Children (12 and under) will be charged \$2.00. Society membership becomes even more attractive!

Our Sincere...

... appreciation goes to Sue Bowman for donating professional custom color prints for our Metrozoo history. Laura Rose, the Society's Archivist, has been collecting and preserving our Zoo's history for future generations.

Should you have any materials which you think might be of interest, please contact Laura at the Society office.

On December 4th, the next phase of Metrozoo's continued development will be unveiled with the opening of the African Plains. Members will have a "Sneak Preview" the week before, November 27th.

Five exhibits make up the 25-acre area, with one very special multi-species exhibit as the focus. Visitors will immediately notice some new ideas in display techniques never before seen at Metrozoo.

Probably one of the best ways to begin a tour of the new section would be a visit to "Overlook" (47) for a panoramic view. Gorilla Island and Ramar's paddock can also be viewed to the north and 75-acres of Africa still under construction to the east.

The first exhibit as you enter the Plains Area is the Dik-dik display (40). These shy little creatures, slightly larger than a hare, come from Somaliland and Ethiopia southward through Kenya and Tanganyika and in Southwest Africa and Angola. They are in threat of extinction.

Next, you will discover the Impala, (41), an antelope native to Central and South Africa. These beautiful animals weigh about 100-180 lbs. with a body length of 40-60 inches. While their sight is not well developed, they have superior hearing and smell. The Kori bustard, an African bird, will share the display.

The Bontebok, another African antelope, will be the next discovery (42) on display with the delightful Stanley cranes. Na-

tive to South Africa, they have horns that can reach 16 inches. The horns are ringed, curving back and up with tips recurved up in lyrate form.

At this point, you will be entering the exciting focal point of the new African Plains area. To the north, the very rare Bongos and to the South, the spectacular, multi-species vista plains display.

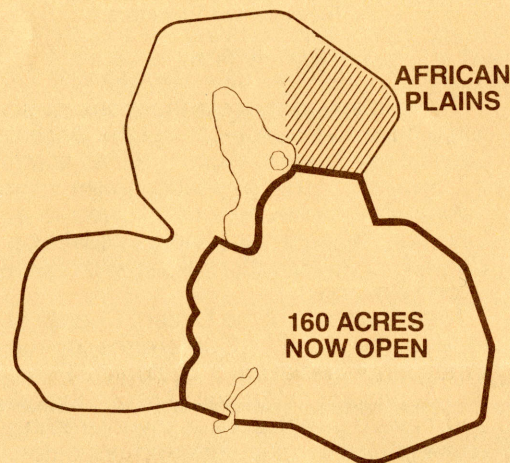
A major feature of design in this section will be an 850 square foot plaza and fountain in the middle of the walkway. This will consist of a 10-foot tower, faced over two sides with ceramic tiles and on the other two with a high relief ceramic frieze depicting plains animals in their natural African habitats. Water will trickle down from the top of this high tower, across the face of the frieze, into a pool contained by a series of benches and low walls bearing graphic representations of African Art and culture. Tall shade trees make this a beautiful place to stop and take a long look at the African Plains display. The structure was conceived and designed by Bonita Dewiliby and Mike Weeks of Metrozoo.

Bongos (43) are displayed without the

typical moat arrangement found throughout Metrozoo offering a much more spacious feeling. These very rare animals are rather large and heavy bodied with long ox-like tails. They have stout flanged horns that make a single spiral turn.

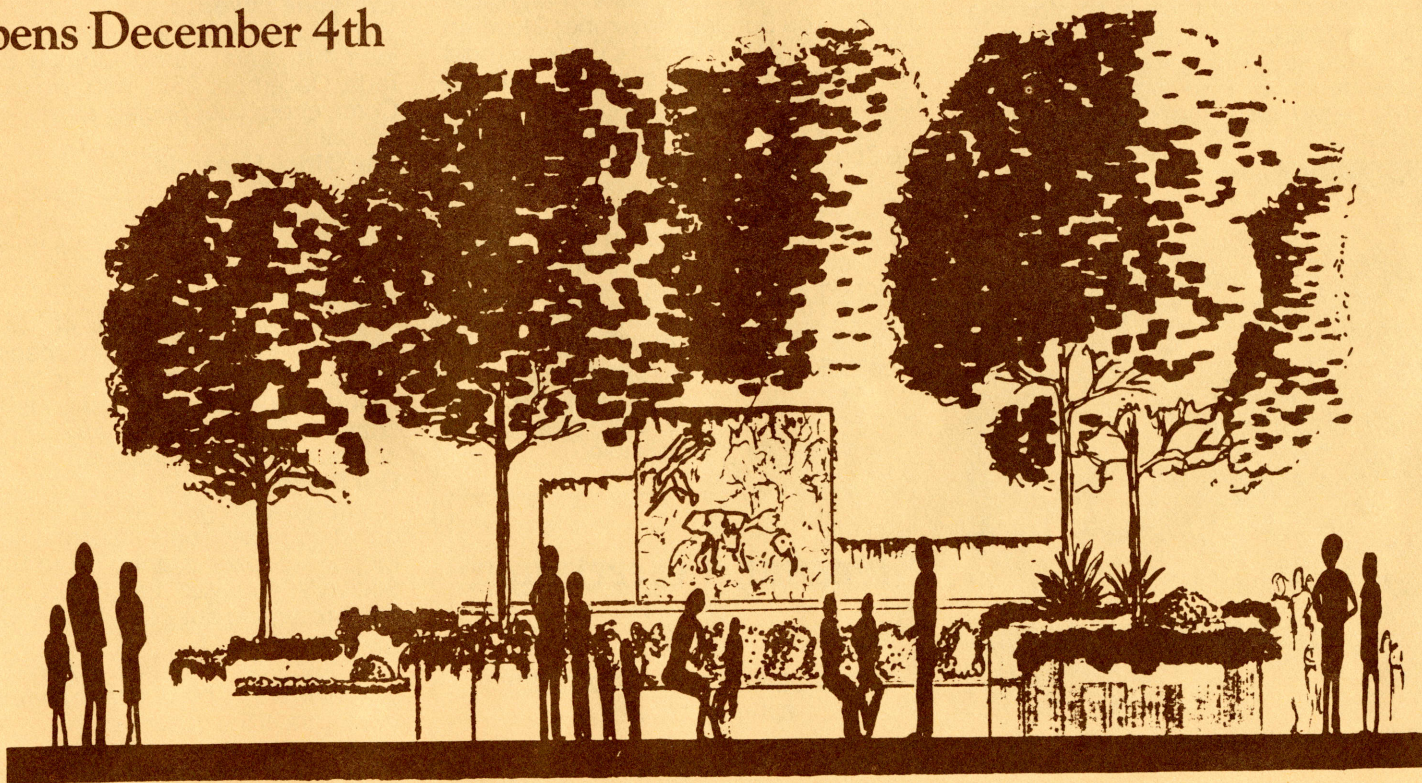
Across the way, is the central Plains exhibit which consists of a huge, two-acre grass island on which giraffe, Grevy's zebra and ostrich will roam together, and another paddock, in back, for our herd of Eland. These species all live together in the wild grasslands of Africa and provide a magnificent vista display.

The African Plains will be a spectacular addition to the Zoo starting December 4th along with the new monorail and the official debut of our white tigers.



AFRICA

Plains Section
Opens December 4th





OFFICERS:

Jack Lowell, *President*
 Ron Esserman, *1st Vice-President*
 Daniel Z. Averbook, *2nd Vice-President*
 Buff March, *Secretary*
 Robert Harris, *Treasurer*

BOARD OF GOVERNORS:

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 Roger Carlton
 Lester Goldstein
 Charles Kantor
 Richard Mahmorian
 Beatrice Matheson
 Jeffrey Seeberger
 Ana P. Soler
 Howard Tendrich
 Larry Turner
 George M. Wilson
 Robert L. Yokel

EX-OFFICIO:

Bill Bird, *Director*,
 Dade County Parks & Recreation Dept.
 Steve Clark, *Mayor*,
 Metro Dade County
 Patricia G. Kelly, *President*,
 Greater Miami Docent Council

STAFF:

Jan T. Beckman, *Administrator*
 Rita Bryan, *Secretary, Education*
 Sally Liddell, *Secretary, Membership*
 Carole Scheel, *Bookkeeper*
 Ileen Seidler, *Education Coordinator*

**SOCIETY OFFICE 255-5551
 SCHOOL AND GROUP DISCOUNT
 RESERVATIONS
 251-1128**

TWENTY BUCKS

Would it have been worth twenty dollars for you to have been able to see our little tiger cubs, Bali and Kahn, when they were only a few days old and to come back day after day to watch their eyes open for the first time and to see them being bottle fed with the other newborn at Metrozoo?

You bet it would!

If we had our Nursery/Clinic Building at that time, you and your family could have enjoyed it all.

Eventually, the Nursery/Clinic Building will be located in Sulawesi, our Malayan Village. Part of the 5,000 square foot building will serve as a nursery for the newborn who, for a variety of reasons require special care. Looking through a one-way window, you will be able to enjoy all that is going on in the nursery every day of the week. What a joy it will be to share an animal's first steps or his first reactions to a new world. The rear of the building will serve as a much needed clinic for all of the animals at Metrozoo, complete with an operating room, until such time as we can afford to build our \$1.8 million hospital.

Burger King has already pledged \$50,000 toward construction of our Nursery/Clinic. *But, in order to collect that \$50,000, the society must raise another \$150,000 in the next few months.* That's the deal.

With close to 10,000 Society memberships, just imagine how quickly we could raise that tax deductible money if every membership donated just \$20 TODAY! Right, that's \$200,000 toward the \$150,000 needed to secure Burger King's \$50,000. And, we'd have \$50,000 additional funds to apply toward the total construction costs of approximately \$450,000. WOW!

Naturally, we'll be looking outside the Society for additional funds. However, the job is really up to all of us as members to get the ball rolling and to assure the Burger King pledge.

Free! This delightful 8x10 matte photo of Kahn with \$100 donations. Photo: Al Matracht



We want to help!

...to assure ourselves of the opportunity to enjoy Metrozoo's future newborn, to assure Burger King's \$50,000 pledge and to construct a Nursery/Clinic Building. Enclosed is our tax deductible donation \$_____.

Name _____

Street _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Mail To: **ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF FLORIDA**, 12400 SW 152 St., Miami, Fla. 33177

ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF FLORIDA
 12400 SW 152 Street
 Miami, Florida 33177

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Help!

The postage is killing us. When an ANIMAL KINGDOM is returned, the post office charges us 25¢. Please help us to keep your subscriptions and notices coming to you on time. If you have moved or plan to move, send us your label (right) with the new address noted.