



By E. C. Whitney

Whether or not you have ever visited the Detroit Zoological Park at Woodward and Ten-Mile Road, and it's better than a three to one shot that you haven't, a number of interesting facts concerning the world's finest Zoo may have escaped your notice.



E. C. Whitney

Origin of the park dates back to 1924 when the Detroit Zoological Society deeded 100 acres to the city for use as a zoological park. In 1928 the park was formally opened to the public with John T. Millen as Curator. Unlike other zoos, the Detroit park presents the barest type of exhibit, constructed in such a manner as to resemble as nearly as possible the natural habitats of the 616 animals of 66 species now on exhibition. The landscaping is arranged to conform with that part of the world from which originates the various animals.

There are 741 fowl and wading birds and 534 small birds of 124 species in the bird house collection. Most of the animals have been given to the park by public spirited citizens and organizations of Detroit. Some funds, derived from the mile-long miniature railway installed in 1931, have aided in purchasing certain animals. The railway has carried over two and one-half million visitors in six years.

Almost tropical heat is maintained in the large, light flooded bird house with its huge cage in the center of the building. Not all the birds are rare, but all are remarkable for color, grace or song. Each variety has its own peculiarity of diet. For example, the Toucan must have its food rolled into pellets which it swallows as you would a pill.

Thirty-nine Lions have been born at the zoo, 28 have been sold and 19 are on exhibit now. After Nero engaged in fatal combat with Menelik and came off victor the kings of the jungle were fed and housed separately. They are given beef and horse-flesh to eat. Their average height is four feet, their length, 11 feet and 12 to 16 in. Although feared by man and beast, the Lion kills only in self defense or to secure food.

The zoo has about 125 Hamadryas Baboons. These lively and mischievous mammals live along the ledges of artificial mountains at the park. These ledges have a series of trap doors. The baboons lift the door, peer out, and if the sun is up they usually come out; if they slant the doors with a vengeance, remaining inside and chattering fiercely.

Another interesting exhibit at the Detroit park is the large collection of Ostriches. A few years ago there were thousands of these African natives in this country. Today, there are less than 150 due to the fact that the demand for them has increased and because they are both difficult and expensive to rear. They mature at the age of four years at which time the female makes the selection of a mate. The union is for life. When eggs are in the nest it is part of the male's duty to sit on the eggs. In some way, Ostriches have a very acute sense of time and at exactly the same minute every day the male relieves the female on the nest for a 15-minute rest period.

Ostriches are very speedy and have never been known to lose a race against the swiftest racehorse. If, however, the horse does manage to catch up, the Ostrich sits down, refusing to continue the contest.

By Jane E. McClellan

Add College Notes—A whole slew of Michigan men and women will take over the town next week in their spring holidays and among them will be Boynton and Cashing—the two Freds of the Beta house. . . . Richard Dick—"Duble" Dick they tell me. . . . Jim Allen. . . "Ginny" Thompson who is a pledge of the Gamma Phi girls. . . . Lloyd Forster and John Hulbert. . . Home from Harvard is "Red" Cox who is working on his master's degree down there.



Miss McClellan

Repercussions from the column last week are such that they should be passed on to you. . . "Dike" Dwellley arrived home in all his glory to get at once the worries of the family regarding his welfare. . . and the social work friend hastens to correct my story of the ginger-ale drinking child. . . she says we didn't do him full justice. . . it seems that he drank 15 bottles of the stuff, not 12 as we claimed. . . "Beth" Carter is up and flourishing after having seven stitches taken in her head as a result of an auto accident. . . and Carol Dwellley—that titian haired humorist reports, in addition to other things, that she will be 21 practically right away. Carol is writing the series of features on the Community House that are running in the paper now. . . May 15 is the date set for the wedding of Virginia Lambourne and Jack Thatcher. . . a couple that have been devoted to each other for years they tell us. . . all happiness to you.

The Beta Upsilon girls—that group who gather weekly at the homes of members to eat and hash over the town dirt—entertained their men down at Dikota Inn Saturday night. Conscious for their absence were Julie Kane who was elsewhere, and "Ellie" Wasey who dropped into town long enough to tell us of Florida, and then he off to Geneva, New York for George's wedding. But to go back to the party: Jean Deer was there with Sam White. . . Barb McCutcheon lugged Paul Giege and the Nell sisters were seen with Tom Usher and Roger Brown. Changing addresses this week was "Jo-anne" Barr who moved in at 551 S. Bates. One of the more fragile looking blondets of the High-School crowd and whose first-name is Barbara, had five different cokes in just about the same length of time the other day. . . Dick Wallace, Jack Pierce, Bill Mead and Ed Lerchen, day students out at Cranbrook had a riotous time in Bermuda over the holidays.

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By Marjorie Elaine Porter
"Children want to be somebody." . . . all they want is their small place on the social calendar."
These are knowing words, and the speaker is a woman whose sympathy for children has helped in solving many a juvenile perplexity.



Miss Porter

She is Mrs. I. L. Huff, superintendent of the Western Oklahoma State Home for orphaned children. Mrs. Huff recently demonstrated to the State Board of Affairs that an appeal to self-respect and personal pride in a child is often the solution to difficulties.

Mrs. Huff proved her point by outfitting some of the more troublesome of her charges with new clothes. When the doctor ordered shoulder braces for about 25 girls, because of poor posture, Mrs. Huff persuaded the board to give the girls light-sitting silk dresses in becoming colors, instead. And it worked like a charm. Their posture improved immediately. Pride in the new frocks was more effective than any shoulder brace could be, in making the girls carry themselves evenly. Silk stockings are allowed for older girls. Uniforms are taboo. Boys are provided with suits instead of overalls for school. Girls who neglect their hair are treated to waves, with the result that they at once begin to show interest in combing their hair neatly.

The conclusion to be drawn is not "new clothes make children behave." The dresses, waves and silk hose are not offered as bribes. This is only one of the many clever ways Mrs. Huff has devised as an appeal to self-respect. It is a positive instead of a negative cure for little ills of character with which parents, teachers and those in charge of child training, have to contend. Fundamentally it is true—"children want to be somebody," as Mrs. Huff said. Sometimes punishment and rebuke work more evil than good, because they destroy self-respect, and tend to break down morale.

Let a child understand that as a parent, you have perfect confidence in him. He will rise to that trust. Let him feel that as a parent, you depend upon him in one way or another. He will square his shoulders in the realization that he is being treated as an equal.

Take him into family conferences, when the problem concerns him, or in matters on which he should be considered. The understanding parent is able to overcome character defects many times without unpleasant words or scenes, by an appeal to the better elements of a child's nature.

But some children do not possess understanding parents. In this respect, it would seem, children who are charges of one as wise and sympathetic as Mrs. Huff are, the more fortunate.

Mrs. Huff understands children because she places them and their problems first in importance. How many parents do the same?

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