

Touring Topics

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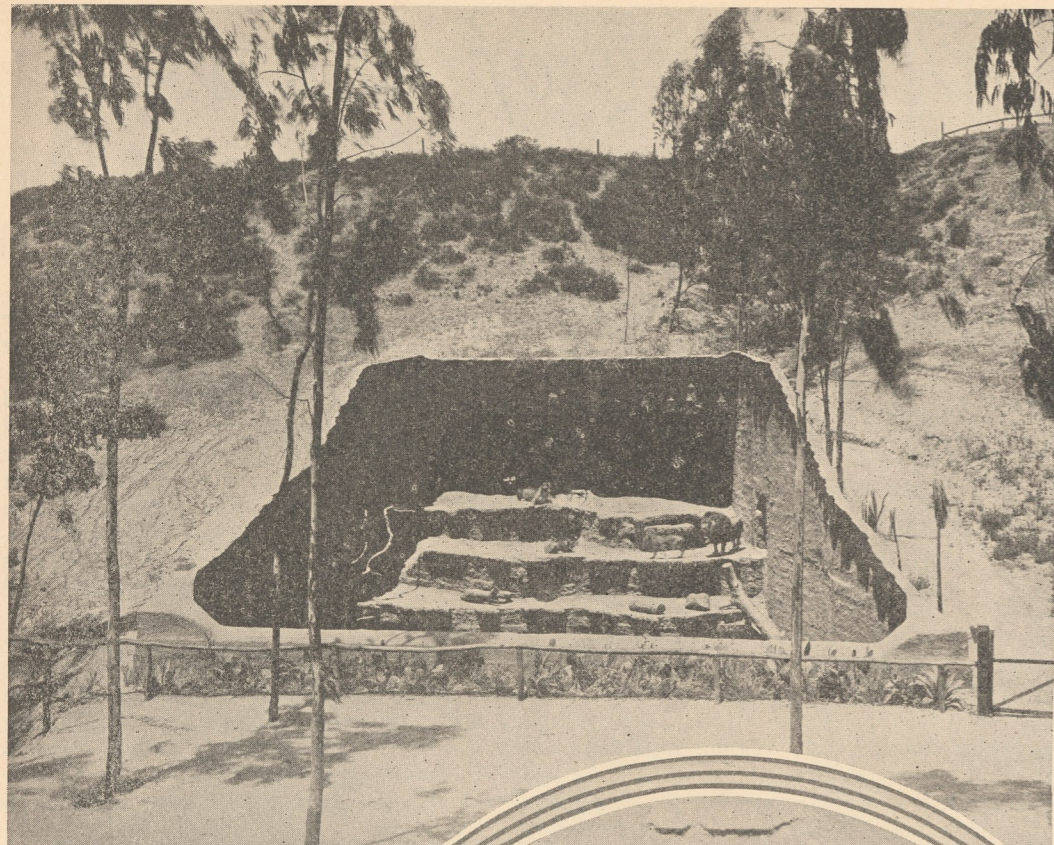
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No iron bars confine the lions in San Diego's zoo, where grottos have replaced the old-type cage. A series of such homes, sunk in the hillsides and surrounded by walls no higher, apparently, than an ordinary fence, keep the animals in safety. A deep moat, filled with water, prevents the beasts from escaping.

HIDDEN modestly from the view of sightseers in the heart of San Diego, one can find on inquiry some 1200 specimens of birds, animals and reptiles gathered from the ends of the earth. They make up the exhibits in the San Diego zoo.

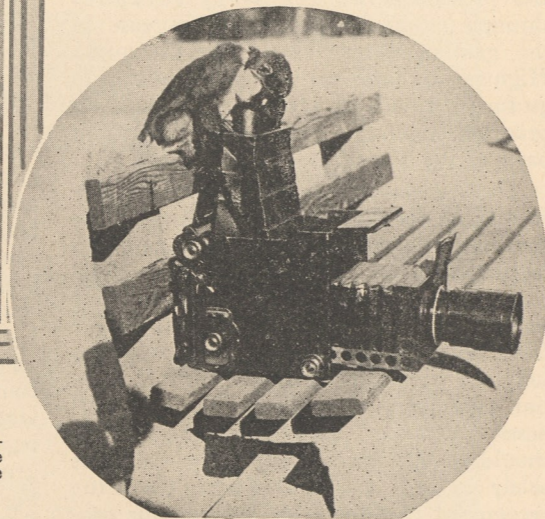
Western zoos are fairly common. One or more, private or public, are located in every city of size. And even in somewhat smaller communities will be found a handful of animals and birds staring at one through bars and screens, the object of passing curiosity. Why, then, write of the San Diego collection?

First, because it is an endeavor to bring these strange beasts together in Southern California's native habitats, combined with the primitive settings of the animals in their forest and desert homes.

The smaller animals—foxes, wolves—are confined by conventional fences, but they live in caves dug into the sides of hills, simulating their native homes. Not a bar restrains a lion or a bear, but they gaze out from more-or-less natural grottos, a new type of cage heretofore unknown to the Southwest. Deep moats, mindful of the days of knighthood, and a wall or two keep them within bounds.



A playful romp between a young cinnamon bear and his dog friend at the San Diego zoo



Right—Monkeys have been asked to "look pleasant, please" so many years that Henri, at the San Diego Zoo, took it upon himself to reverse the order for a change



Feeding a 23-foot python is a real job for six men

Wild Life

AU N A T U R E L

By Andrew R. Boone

Many a western youth has contributed his mite to the zoo. It is surprising to know that most of them have sent snakes. The zoo snake collection is one of the prize corners, for there nearly every reptile, from California rattlers to mammoth bone-crushing pythons, bask in the warmth of confinement.

A map hangs on the wall of the reptile house. In it are stuck many pins. Some groups are thicker than others. Each pin represents a snake. The map thus makes a very good

guide to snake-infested localities of San Diego and Imperial counties and serves as a warning to hikers.

The duck pond illustrates better than any single feature what the builders have attempted to do. Here natural habitats have been preserved and the several dams are replicas of the units in the county's water system, thus giving in a small area a picture of the watersheds.

One certainly gets a lesson in temperament in meandering through the grounds, which occupy a central location in Balboa Park, the scene of the 1915 Panama-California International Exposition. Temperament of the animals, I mean. Take Snooky, for instance. Snooky, the trained chimpanzee heroine of Los Angeles moving pictures.

Snooky had completed half a hundred thrillers and dramas when she began to suffer that customary ailment, Kleig eyes. She retired and soon found a place in the zoo. But retirement has had its usual effect and with her nerves on edge, the lady is ready to come home to the celluloid.

A bear and an orang-outang have struck up a friendship that zoo attendants say will be permanent. Strangely enough, the latter shows visible signs of jealousy when a visitor pets Lady Jason, the little cinnamon bear, too long. Lady Jason has received a dishonorable discharge from the navy for getting too gay with a bottle of *spirits frumenti*, but Mike apparently has overlooked her lurid past.

Happy and Joy, two Indian elephants, brought to Southern California while yet



Extracting venom from a Western rattlesnake. Such operations, frequently repeated, make the zoo snakes harmless to any whom they might bite



Left—A regular old-fashioned kiss between friends—the chimpanzee at the San Diego Zoo and Joe Mutters, his keeper

babies, have overcome their first antipathy to each other, probably because of mutual loneliness, and are the best of friends. During recent months they have manifested a tendency to defend each other when a keeper becomes too annoying. No trumpeting complaints have come from either this year. Once care-free birds become stoics in confinement, I was told. Sarus cranes, long-legged creatures, sway silently in the breezes and seldom communicate with their companions. But the monkeys—they will be chattering even to the end of the world. Only death stills their tongues, wherein they are not unlike other vertebrates!



Extremely graceful, but not what one might describe as beautiful of countenance, are these cranes, a popular feature at the San Diego Zoo

Geographically, the zoo is a series of surprises. Its rolling acres stretch over hills and down small valleys in the old exposition ground, and only parts of it are visible from public driveways. One's first impression on approaching it is that it is a small affair. But long before one completes a journey along winding paths, among camels, lions, yaks, zebus, leopards, kangaroos, wallabies, (CONTINUED ON PAGE 48)

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operator's license fee which would have meant an additional tax of approximately \$2,500,000 each year. Other bills to require motorists to purchase special patented equipment were defeated.

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Gran Quivira

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 30)

cavated at the pueblos of Gran Quivira had evidently been abandoned as dwelling rooms during the lifetime of the pueblo, for as not uncommon among primitive peoples, these rooms had afterwards been used as burial places, thirty skeletons being uncovered in one such group. Artifacts, implements of war and agricultural implements were found with these burials and also on the floors of living rooms, so that it was possible to close one's eyes and visualize the busy villagers tilling their scanty fields, hunting game in the nearby forests, making arrowheads and stone axes, grinding their corn and baking it into cakes, and observing the numerous ceremonies—for primitive life is bound up with ceremonies, every movement of life having its religious significance.

To this happy, busy people came the padres, bringing the new story of One who died on the cross, living gently, kindly among them; finally as the group of neophytes increased, planning and building a large ceremonial house, not underground, symbolic of darkness, but looking heavenward, symbolic of light. While the Indian pueblo was an extensive village, with many rooms, plazas and kivas, the church as finally built was a staggering undertaking. The later church now excavated was a building 29 feet wide by 130 feet long, cruciform in shape. The walls of native blue limestone laid in mud mortar, roofless and ragged at the top, rear themselves in places to a height of 20 feet and are from four to six feet thick. Although in ruins, this is a noble structure. According to the records of Benevides, a Spanish priest writing in 1630, the work of building was done altogether by the women and children, the men holding themselves above such menial labor.

The beams supporting the roof were 30 to 33 feet in length, squared to about 14 inches, and the choir loft beams at least, according to an early explorer's rec-

tion and the defeat of inadvisable, over-stringent and over-burdensome proposals.

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ord, beautifully carved. These beams have disappeared. One, found last year as the main beam in the roof of a storage cave is now on the mission grounds waiting to be placed again on the walls. These beams were originally brought from the Gallinas Mountains, 25 miles away. A real task for the weary neophytes!

The convento, or monastery, adjoining the church, was very extensive, a series of two-story rooms of which only ruined walls remain, enclosing a courtyard for the accommodation of carrizos, and domestic animals brought in by the Spanish. In the convento remnants of the plaster remain and beautiful plaster it was, smooth and fine and softly tinted. Stairs led from one level to another and several ingenious fireplaces were found in excavating these rooms. In one case a looped limb of cedar was brought in and built across the corner with an end in either wall and the loop out in the room. On this foundation, this one crooked cedar limb, was built the front of the triangular chimney, of which the back was formed by the corner of the room. On the floor under this flue was built a mud hearth and on this hearth were found fragments of dishes, and also baking plates, both Indian and Spanish.

A small stone flagged court at the monastery entrance with a stone bench built around the sides for the repose of visitors and of the padres themselves after a hard day's work, still breathes an atmosphere of romance like the abbeys of the old world. One likes to sit here of an evening as the shadows fall, and as the eye sweeps over the cedar-covered hills on either side, hear beside one the rustle of a ghostly friar's gown or the step of his sandaled foot, or perchance hear in the pueblos beyond, dusky neophytes at their relaxation, catching the lilt of a pagan song through the stately cadences of the evening hymn.

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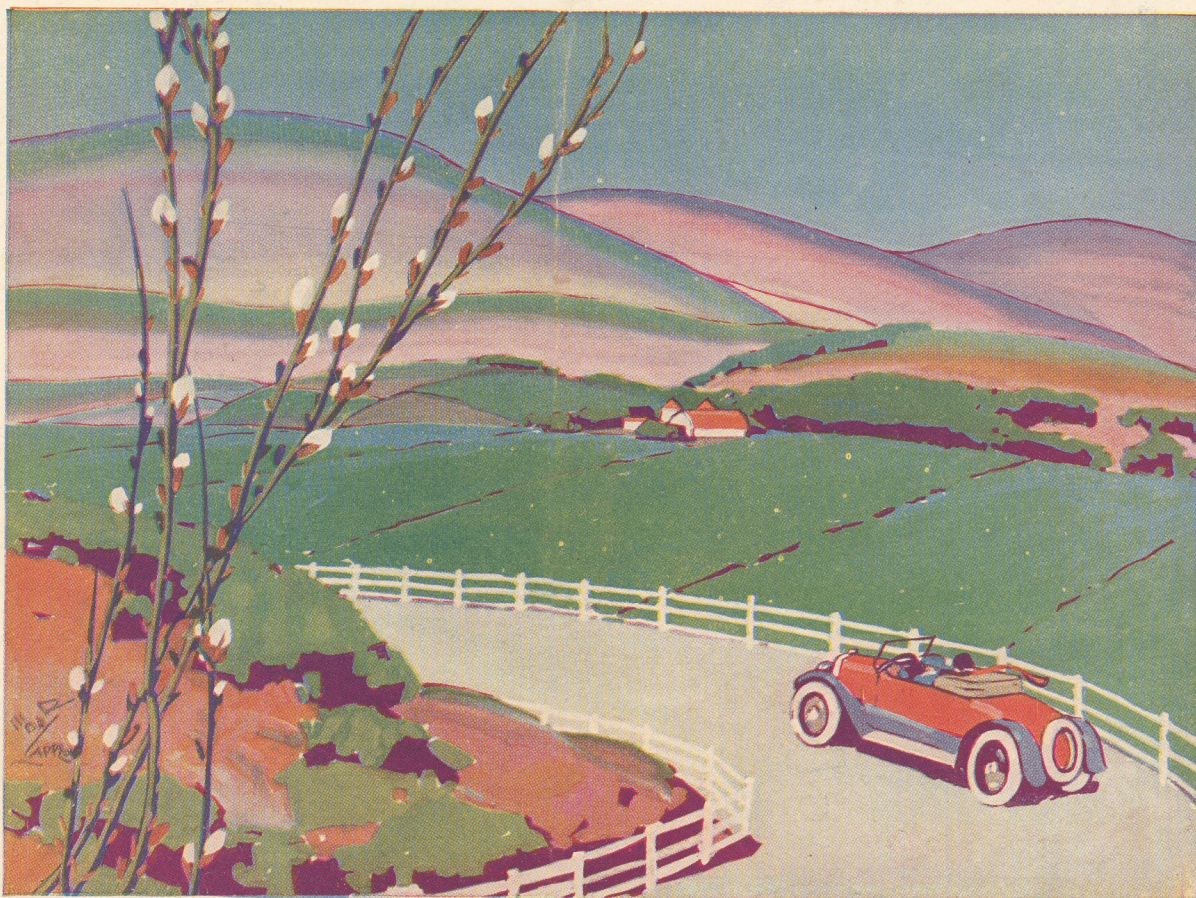
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