

If you inquire at the ZOO education centre at least two weeks before your visit you will receive a written draft with suggestions as how to arrange the teaching sequence, and references to literature, films, slides, and any other material suitable for the preparation of the visit to the Zoo.

According to previous arrangement with the teacher the staff of the education service for schools will receive the children, instruct them briefly, and give them the material relevant to the central problems in the present education system.

While the children work on their own in the zoo, the staff of the ZOO education service and the teacher discuss the assignment problems, and if he so wishes the teacher gets some material which he can use when the subjects are later discussed in the classroom.

Biological Education Service for Schools

The education services of the Zoological Garden, the Zoological Museum, and the Aquarium have initiated close co-operation about a co-ordination of the education material. This opens the possibility of studying thoroughly one specific biological subject in one or more of the institutions; so that each institution contributes to the general educational theme within the specific area in which each individual institution has its special strength.

Unfortunately, it is not possible to print copies of the delightful and stimulating worksheets sent with this paper for which the editor apologizes.

CALGARY ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Mark Hamill, Education Co-ordinator, Calgary Zoo

During the last couple of- year the Calgary Zoological Park has made a number of improvements in its services to the visiting public and school groups. Ours is a small department - numbering exactly one and we have concentrated on providing services that can be used by a large portion of our visitors.

Our major concern is the visiting public

New Cage Labels

We have replaced all our old plastic signs (done on a Hermes Engravograph) with metalphoto plate signs. The signs are exceptionally popular and visually pleasing. Our texts are concerned mainly with the animals relation with man, their behaviour, ecology and conservation. Will be glad to share our experiences.

New Graphics

We have built a number of large interpretive signs - One on Aquatic Adaptations and the other for our new Flamingo Building. These are colorful, easy to read and provide packets of information that can be read in whole or in part. Included are Zoo Pollution Exhibit, Cartoon Do Not Feed Signs and Symbol Directional Sign.

Audio-Visual Program

Quite a lot of audio-visual equipment was purchased this year. We plan on making many programs for visitors and school groups and hope to have a good selection soon. The Zookeepers provide Zoo talks in the evenings to interested groups and this equipment will be of benefit to them - allowing a good variety of programs. It is a portable dissolve projector unit and replaces our movie projectors for field services. We hope to use this sort of equipment in our new Children's Zoo Contact Centre and in the Gate House - Orientation Centre when they are built.

Schools

Our library has received many much needed books. We are trying to become a resource centre more than anything as it is impossible to go out to the schools with such limited personnel - me. We have a Zoo Pre-Visit Package and plan on providing classes to teachers on using the Zoo, although the package is meant to supplant this.

A former Zoo Director, Mr. Thomas Baines, has a really unusually large collection of animal related artifacts, all touchables, that he takes to the schools. So far this year he has been to see over 70,000 children with his snake, Agnes. He has been doing this for YEARS and I can remember

his visits when I was in school. His program is extremely successful and is run through the Devonian group of Charitable Foundations in Calgary.

Tours Summer Programs and Public Information

This year we used Tour Guides for visiting groups. They made up their own programs and proved., 2.,_ar and well used service.

The City of Calgary offered a Zoo Summer Program for 8 - 10 and 11 - 12 year olds. They offered a "Diploma in Zookeeping" and involved about 400 children this summer.

Current Events

To keep people posted on Zoo events, we have a current events board of births - deaths, etc. This will be expanded into a display case that will feature Zoo News, Art, new books and static exhibits such as those on comparative anatomy, eggs, and explanatory models of enclosures. We are just starting to roll and are looking forward to an exciting future.

Editor's footnote - and so say all of us!