



Willowbrook State School children meet a zoo snake.

Zoo Reports Active Year Despite Delays in Repairs

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Since the official opening of our Zoo in 1936, each year of our history has been marked by a continuing progress and growth. During the 1961 calendar year, however, we were hard put to continue our traditional educational and exhibitional programs.

This came about because of the seemingly insurmountable delays in our rebuilding and construction projects, which were initiated and launched many months ago.

These unfortunate contractual delays forced us to curtail or cancel many of our long established extra-curricular activities.

Our new roof solarium and all new hospital cages was planned for an official opening "in the fall of 1960." The contractor's delay in the completion of these projects was responsible for the cancellation of the daily use of our laboratory and hospital throughout the year and all autopsies, treatment, study and research were held to a minimum.

The contractor's delay in the major repairs to our reptile cages and the correction of the water leaks in our auditorium ceiling forced us to postpone many planned additions to our outstanding live reptile collection and limited our regular use of our auditorium.

The slow-up in the scheduled repairs and rebuilding of our outdoor mammal, bird and reptile

cages limited us to the exhibition of about 70 per cent of the exhibits usually shown in these areas.

However, despite the contractual delays and disappointments in 1961, we were able to keep our collection at a relatively high level and maintain our strict standards of animal welfare and health throughout the year.

OUR ESTIMATED visitor attendance for 1961 totaled over 700,000, with the peak days on Sundays and holidays. A frequent check of automobile license plates showed that visitors from our neighboring New Jersey area made up at least 50 per cent of our total attendance on weekends.

Visitors who have signed our guest book came from a majority of our states as well as from Great Britain, the Netherlands, India and Germany.

We exhibited during the year 68 mammals, 172 birds, 419 reptiles and amphibians, and 318 fishes. While we, of necessity, limited the purchase of new specimens because of the aforementioned delays in the building and alteration contracts, we

were able to add 15 new mammals, 42 birds, 144 reptiles and 35 fishes.

We were host to 487 special groups and school classes totaling over 8,200 adults and children.

WE HAVE many exciting plans and projects on our agenda for the near future including the expansion of our educational programs and the construction of new exhibit areas in Barrett Park. Outstanding among these proposed projects is the building of a Pachyderm House for the exhibition of an elephant, hippopotamus and rhinoceros.

While the purchase price of an Indian elephant is about \$3,500, a hippo approximately \$2,500 and a rhino \$3,500, a building to house them adequately would cost at least \$150,000!

Plans and specifications for a modern children's zoo, a prairie dog village and an outdoor reptile exhibit are completed and in our files. All this is not a dream. We have every reason to believe that it will soon be reality. Only time will tell.