

## Motherhood at metro zoo

The following account was written by Fern Mandel for the Metropolitan Toronto Zoological Society bulletin, February/March 1978.

All is now as it should be for proud mother orang-utan, Puppi, and her first baby, Santan. It was touch and go last October when she gave birth to her five-pound son at the Metro Toronto Zoo (MTZ). She seemed afraid to pick the baby up or even touch him. Santan would have suffocated in the first few minutes had zoo veterinarian Dr. Kay Mehren not rescued him and applied mouth-to-mouth resuscitation.

The infant was taken to the health unit where he was washed, weighed, and fed. For the next ten days keeper Dianne Devison gave him round-the-clock care. While human care of the zoo babies is extremely capable, it is always more desirable to have a mother take care of her offspring, so an attempt at a reunion with Puppi was arranged soon after.

At the first attempt Puppi picked her baby up, groomed him, then put him down, and left him. The next day, the baby was again presented to his mother; this time she picked him up without hesitating, and began to nurse him within half an hour.

In all, they were apart for ten days, possibly the longest mother-offspring separation in this species to end in successful reunion.

Meanwhile, in the health unit, the baby was given a rolled-up towel to grasp while he was bottle fed, diapered, and while he slept. This practice facilitated the transition to clutching his mother's skin.

Puppi has been surprising and delighting staff and visitors with her irrepressible behaviour ever since she arrived at MTZ from the Ruhr Zoo in West Germany. She kept everyone guessing as to whether she indeed was pregnant almost to the end of her term. Staff suspected her pregnancy last March, but were unable to obtain a urine sample to confirm it until late in the summer, when it showed a negative result. The test is often invalid towards the end of term.

Santan is the second orang-utan born at MTZ; the first was Chantek, born September 1975, whose mother, Abigail proved to be a conscientious parent from the start.



*Puppi and son reunited. Shortly after their re-introduction overseer Derek Gamble said that Puppi was now a "glorious mother". Making up for lost time?*

## Support for small arms plant

Minister of Supply and Services Jean-Pierre Goyer recently announced a program to upgrade Valcartier Industries Inc., a small arms ammunition plant at Courcellette, Quebec.

The program, estimated to cost \$18 million, will be undertaken over five years and will be financed through shared-cost arrangements. The federal Department of Industry, Trade and Commerce will supply up to \$10 million, of which \$5 million will be repayable, and the firm will provide the remaining \$8 million.

The plant, the sole domestic source for military small arms ammunition and large cartridge cases, employs 1,250 people of whom 900 are engaged in the production of military ammunition.

The Valcartier Industries financing is part of a program to establish Canadian self-sufficiency in the production of ammunition required by the Canadian Armed Forces. The modernization of all major facilities relating to ammunition production in Canada will be carried out over five years.

## Jobs for Sudbury students

Seven Young Canada Works projects creating about 180 jobs were approved recently for the constituencies of Nickel Belt and Sudbury, Ontario.

The projects are supported by a special allocation of \$500,000, established in addition to regular funding in anticipation of serious student unemployment resulting from large lay-offs by INCO Ltd. and Falconbridge Mines Ltd.

Of the projects announced, the most important is one of land reclamation. One hundred and thirty-nine students will be employed to test soil samples and to seed and rehabilitate close to 600 acres of barren, publicly owned land adjacent to the major roads leading into Sudbury.

The Regional Municipality of Sudbury is contributing \$53,620 and the Federal Government is giving \$177,000.

Other plans approved for the area and supported by the special student allocation include: environment improvements; industrial park roadside and drainage improvements; fundamental and applied research in chemistry; enhancement of urban food production in Sudbury; French summer cinema.

## Heroism rewarded

A Canadian war veteran who, 40 years ago, saved the life of a young Spanish boy injured in a raid by Fascist forces during the Spanish Civil War, has recently learned the outcome of his heroism.

Jimmie Higgins, 71, of Peterborough, Ontario, has heard from a grateful Manuel Alvarez, now 51, who moved to Canada in 1958 after serving with the Norwegian merchant navy for a few years, and who now owns a successful automobile sales and service organization in Vancouver, British Columbia.

With the help of the Mackenzie-Papineau Veterans' Association in Vancouver, Mr. Alvarez located Mr. Higgins, who was "flabbergasted" as the long-forgotten Spanish boy spoke to him from Canada. "I never expected to see him again," he said.

According to Lionel Edwards, the general secretary of the veterans' association, Mr. Higgins is not well. Says Edwards, "now that Alvarez has located him, he's going to visit him and try to help out financially".