

LIBRARY MENAGERIE

Franny and Zooney may be the only pair of domestic ducks living in a library (they are named after the little characters in J.D. Salinger's novella *Franny and Zooney*.) Every Monday morning you can see them quacking away together and waddling down the carpeted corridor of the Edmonton Public Library in Alberta for a dip in the ornamental fountain in the central foyer. There, they swim round a tall brass sculptural group until noon, when they return to their official residence in the children's section.

All week the ducks entertain hundreds of children who come to borrow books. They live in an "open house" beneath a bright orange canopy, the sign under which - "If you tease me I'll bite - wouldn't you" - ensures that the occupants are treated with respect.



Franny and Zooney are part of a miniature zoo in the Edmonton Library, which also houses turtle doves, turtles and tortoises, some 30 guinea pigs, iguanas, and a boa constrictor. Their cages and glass houses are scattered among the reading tables. The coloured cars of an animal train are occupied by a salamander, a garter snake, a pair of rats and some mice. A large white rabbit shares a pen with a pair of Abyssinian guinea pigs. There are Mongolian gerbils, and a pair of chinchillas occupying a tall tubular house. A high, circular cage provides tree branches for finches, a canary and the red-beaked Java rice bird. There's even a garrulous minah bird.

The miniature zoo was the idea of Library Director Morton Coburn and his assistant James Pilton. "Children love animal stories, so why not show them live animals?" comments Jane Webb, Information Officer of the Library. "It's a way of bringing children to books."

The children's section of the Library is painted white with white bookshelves at half height along the walls, bookshelves in rows and books on a painted ferris wheel. It has white tables with blue tops and chairs with orange cushions, and includes a nursery section and a small puppet theatre.

Though children make use of suburban libraries, they do not seem to be attracted to libraries in the city. In the year following the appearance of the animals in the children's section of the Edmonton Public Library, attendance doubled and it is increasing; circulation is now over 235,000.

OCTOBER EXPORTS

Seasonally adjusted exports in October reached a record level of \$1,853 million, up \$284 million from those of September. The previous record was \$1,750, set in June. Shipments to the United States and Britain accounted for 35 per cent of the increase and those to other overseas countries for 65 per cent, or \$184 million.

Unadjusted October exports at \$1,955 million were some 27 per cent, or \$418 million, higher than those of October 1971. Exports rose to all trading areas, with the United States accounting for more than half (\$227 million) of the increase, and overseas countries for \$191 million.

Close to half of the gain over that of October 1971 was accounted for by relatively few commodities: wheat (up \$50 million), lumber (\$46 million), automotive products (\$34 million), ores of nickel, iron and copper (\$41 million) and pulp and newsprint (\$29 million). Grain shipments to the People's Republic of China and the U.S.S.R. and its satellites increased nearly \$40 million. Export declines were recorded for metals.

MARKETS

In the ten months to October, exports climbed almost 11 per cent, or \$1,557 million, with the United States accounting for 92 per cent, or \$1,434 million, of the increase. In exports to other countries there was a net gain of \$123 million with increases to Japan (\$103 million), and Latin America (\$48 million) and "other countries" (\$116 million) partially offset by export losses with Commonwealth and preferential countries (\$120 million) and the European Economic Community (\$24 million). Cumulative domestic export increases for automotive products accounted for \$359 million of the change from the first ten months of 1971, lumber contributed some \$245 million, crude petroleum and natural gas added \$222 million, and newsprint expanded \$76 million.