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ABRIDGED MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE ELEPHANT INTEREST GROUP

at Oxford, Ohio, June 10, 1981

Minutes taken by Susan Raymer

Following is the digest of the minutes from the informal meeting of the Elephant Interest Group (EIG) during the 61st Annual Meeting of the American Society of Mammalogists (ASM). The EIG sponsored the showing of a film by Naomi Wheelock on "Peaches", an elephant at the San Diego Zoo and Wild Animal Park. Naomi also showed some slides of the Wild Animal Park. Subsequently, the meeting took place.

Welcome by Hezy Shoshani. Introduction of Ted Spellmire for some comments on Columbus Zoo's elephants:

- The zoo's alleged pregnant Asian female is due to deliver any day; a constant 24 hour watch is kept on her.
- Several presentations dealing with pregnancy diagnosis are being developed.
- Cervical dilations are checked on pregnant female regularly.
- All elephants are trained for work and demonstrations for public.

Sandra Lash's comments on legislation related to elephants:

- Congressional Bill (HR 4685) which was proposed by the House of Representatives in 1979 died in the Senate. The Bill proposed new regulations regarding elephants.
- The Elephant Protection Act of 1981 (HR 3048) was introduced to Congress on April 7; it is identical to the 1979 Bill. The contents include a six-month moratorium on ivory imports, except for: elephant products for zoos, education and science; keyboard ivory; and trophies (well documented within laws).
- The Annual Meeting of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna (CITES) was held in New Delhi in February; 50 out of 67 party nations attended. No changes were made in current CITES regulations regarding ivory. The Convention adopted a series of recommendations on trade in African elephant ivory which include: a definition of raw ivory, permits with country of origins, a marking system, and standardized export forms. CITES has incorporated an elephant with tusks as part of the logo.
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is considering revision of regulations on American ivory trade, including reduction in number of entry ports to three in order to focus efforts of customs officials.
(See section in Elephant Notes and News entitled "Ban-the-ivory Campaign III" for more details.)

General discussion:

- The Second Elephant Workshop will be held September 25 and 26, 1981, at the San Diego Wild Animal Park, San Diego, California.

- Hezy asked for opinions on a suggestion to change the mailing list as printed in Elephant to a directory published separately. Comments were favorable but with the stipulation that funds should be used first for the next issue of Elephant and paying off the debts.
- The contents of Elephant Number 4 and Supplement to Volume 1 were also discussed.
- Any change in address of a member should be sent to the office so that every member is assured of receiving mailings promptly.
- Work on bibliographic references continues for the next issue and future issues - we plan to have references on elephants for another ten years in the next issue (1950-1959) and to collect references as far back in time as The Bible.

Clifford Vargas (Circus Vargas) had forwarded a letter from Roland Gibbs of Circus Fans Association of America on The Humane Society's (HS) 1980 Resolutions regarding circuses and other traveling wild animal shows and menageries. The HS has supported abolition of certain animal shows, especially those in which animals are mistreated. Hezy read the items and asked for reactions:

- Ted Spellmire: In reference to circus trainers working with elephants "they are doing a great job in reproductive biology. The statements are overly-generalized; there are decent circuses."
- Ken Crossner: "This is an example of poor conditions setting a pattern. There is poor definition of what constitutes undesirable conditions; it seems that a licensing and review process is needed."

An updated financial report was presented by Sandra Lash:

- Since December 31, 1981, \$1,146.30 have been collected.
- Expenditures have totaled \$1,214.60 to date.
- Thus, a deficit of \$68.30 (for a period of 5 months) should be added to the deficit as reported in Elephant Number 4, for a total deficit of \$5,133.56.

Open discussion:

- Roger Wilhelm suggested making a patch with the EIG elephant logo to be used on jackets and such as an additional way to make money.
- Ken Crossner suggested getting a copy of the movie shown on "60 Minutes", CBS Television News Program, (entitled "Bloody Ivory") for a fundraising.

Hezy closed the meeting by requesting that everyone spread the word about EIG and work to save elephants and their habitats.