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Obituaries

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OBITUARIES

DOUGLAS STEWART ROBERTSON (1955 or 1956 - 1995)

by Sandra L. Shoshani — Elephant Research Foundation

Devotion — the word used to describe a state of complete dedication of an individual to another person, a job or, in this instance, to animals. For the last ten years of his life Dougie Robertson cared for and loved two young African elephants, “Kenya” (female, approximate age 19) and “Benjamin Simon Buttersworth Esquire” (male approximate age 18). Dougie, a Scotsman, was at Hodenhagen, Germany when Ben arrived at the safari park from Zimbabwe in 1985, and he moved with Ben from park to park in western Europe, pursuing a dream. Kenya joined the pair at Tuddern, Germany, in 1988. In Dougie’s perception, Ben and Kenya would be free of chains, small enclosures and training — free to be elephants. At Monde Sauvage Safari Park near Aywaille, Belgium, the three compatriots spent days during the tourist season wandering the grounds; there Dougie cared for the elephants alone, without relief, year-round. As Ben grew older, he became aggressive. On April 2, 1995, just prior to the season opening of the park, Ben attacked and fatally injured Dougie on the grounds. Still conscious and in the hospital prior to surgery, Dougie requested that Ben be spared. Dougie did not survive surgery. On April 27, 1996, Ben was moved to John Aspinall’s Howletts Wild Animal Park in England, to replace a deceased bull. He has sired two male and two female calves to date. Kenya, however, remained at Monde Sauvage.

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We deeply regret to inform our readers that the following individuals who were ERF members and/or were on our mailing list, and those who devoted much of their lives to the study of proboscideans are deceased. Earlier obituaries appeared in Elephant, 1(4), pp. 178-180; 2(1), pp. 144-146; 2(2), p. 151; and 2(3), p. 99. Abbreviations are defined in the section ELEPHANT NOTES AND NEWS, page 87.

Jack Adams (? - 1993), California State University/Dominguez, Carson, California USA. SOURCE: Michael Dee, personal communication October 17, 1993.

Cleveland Amory (1917 - 1998), New York, New York USA. The Fund for Animals, New York, New York, and Black Beauty Ranch, Murchison, Texas USA. SOURCE: AWIQ, 47/48(4/1), page 15.

Paul Barkman (? - 1999), Chaffee Zoological Park, Fresno, California USA. SOURCE: GM [May-June 1999], 3(3):unnumbered third page.

Michel Beden (1941-1984). SOURCE: Proboscidea, Dedication page.

William Benninghoff (? - 1993), Ann Arbor, Michigan USA. SOURCE: Michigan Conservancy, Spring 1993, page 9.

William Best (1916 - 1990), Royal Oak, Michigan USA. SOURCE: Eldora Best, personal communication, July 2, 1996.

Gerhard Braunitzer (1921 - 1989), Max-Planck-Institute für Biochemie, Munich, Germany. SOURCES: Trends in Biochemical Sciences, 1990, Vol. 15(1):3-4; Hemoglobin, 1989, Vol. 13(7&8):iii-v.

Irven O. Buss (1908-1993), Washington State University, Pullman, Washington, USA. SOURCE: The Gale Group, Biography and Genealogy Master Index, web site address <<http://galenet.gale.com/a/acp/neta...p/db/bgmi/name-search.html>>.

- Douglas L. Buuck (1952 - 1994), St. Clair Shores, Michigan USA. Lutheran High School-North. SOURCE: Memorial pamphlet from Trinity Lutheran Church, Mount Clemens, Michigan, July 1, 1994.
- Robert Allen Campbell (1957 - 1994), Orange City, Florida USA. Hawthorn Corporation. SOURCES: CR, No. 37, September 12, 1994, page 10; Honolulu Star-Bulletin, August 22, 1994, page A4.
- Donnie "Okie" Carr (1940 - 1999), Hugo, Oklahoma USA. SOURCE: CR No. 27(19), May 10, 1999, page 8.
- Minchen Chow (Zhou Min-zhen) (1918 - 1996), Institute of Vertebrate Paleontology and Paleoanthropology, Beijing, China. SOURCE: Society of Vertebrate Paleontology News Bulletin, No. 167, June, 1996, pp. 80-83, with photograph.
- Robert Dale Cline (1933 - 1994), Albany, Georgia USA. Chehaw Wild Animal Park. SOURCE: CR, No. 29, July 18, 1994, page 8.
- Charles (Poindexter) Cowdrey (1955 - 1993), Baraboo, Wisconsin USA. Royal Hanneford Circus. SOURCE: CR, No. 36, September 6, 1993, page 15.
- George J. DaDeppo (1926 or 1927 - 1994), Detroit, Michigan USA. SOURCE: CR, No. 32, August, 8, 1994, pages 3, 18; CR, No. 33, August 15, 1994, pages 17, 22.
- Ralph Darby (1923 - 1999), Hazel Park, Michigan USA. SOURCE: DFP, June 11, 1999, page 7B.
- Paulus Edward Pieris Deraniyagala (1900-1973). SOURCE: Proboscidea, Dedication page.
- Wayne Franzen (1947 - 1997), Webster, Florida USA. Franzen Brothers Circus. SOURCES: Orlando Sentinel, May 1, 1997, pp. A1-A14; CR, No. 25(19), June 2, 1997, pages 2, 18.
- Axel Gautier (1942 - 1993), Venice, Florida USA. Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus. SOURCE: EMA Newsletter, 4(2):25-26 (Summer 1993.)
- Abdel Wahid Gaziry (1941-1989). SOURCE: Proboscidea, Dedication page.
- Dirk Albert Hooijer (1919-1993), Rijksmuseum van Natuurlijke Historie, Leiden, The Netherlands. SOURCE: Cranium, 11(1):36.
- Jean Hromadka (? - 1989), Valley Center, California USA. San Diego Wild Animal Park (Escondido). SOURCE: EMA Newsletter, Number II (March 1990), page 1.
- Lorne Jackson (1936 - 1991), Oakland, California USA. Knowland Park Zoo. SOURCES: OP, January, 14, 1991; CR, No. 4, January 28, 1991, page 22.
- William Johnston (1920 - 1992), Ellenton, Florida USA. Wild animal importer/exporter. SOURCE: CR, No. 46, November 16, 1992, page 3.
- Ronald O. Kapp (1935 - 1990), Alma College, Alma, Michigan USA. SOURCE: Program for Michigan Academy of Science, Arts, and Letters, 95th Annual Meeting, March 15-16, 1991, page 68, with photograph.
- Björn Kurtén (1924-1988), University of Helsinki, Finland. SOURCE: <<http://www.kiriasto.sci.fi/bkurten.html>>, Web site address.
- Victor Lakits, Jr. (1930 - 1990), Dearborn Heights, Michigan USA. SOURCE: DFP, April 19, 1990. A photograph of Victor appears in Elephant, Vol. 2(1), page 15.
- Jerry G. Marsac (1936 - 1989), St. Clair Shores, Michigan USA. SOURCES: Macomb Daily, August 26, 1989, page A4; Grand Haven Tribune, August 26, 1989.
- Hikoshichiro Matsumoto (1887-1975). SOURCE: Proboscidea, Dedication page.
- Helen A. Mayer (1908-1999). Manhattan, New York USA. SOURCE: CR, No. 27(20), May 17, 1999, page 12. She wrote the children's story that inspired the 1941 Walt Disney cartoon "Dumbo".
- Isla Miller (1917 - 1998), Hugo, Oklahoma USA. Al G. Kelly & Miller Bros. Circus and Carson & Barnes Circus. SOURCE: CR, No. 26(41), October 12, 1998, page 15.
- Raymond (Sabu) Moreau (ca. 1915-1994), Niagara Falls, New York USA. Circus Historian for Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus. SOURCES: CR, No. 26, June 27, 1994, page 17; CR, No. 27, July 4, 1994, page 20; CR, No. 29, July 18, 1994, page 18. A photograph of Sabu appears in Elephant, Vol. 2(2), page 111.
- Omer Norton (? - 1989), African Lion Safari, Cambridge, Ontario, Canada. SOURCE: EMA Newsletter, No. II, page 1.
- Pamela C. Orsi (1964 - 1991), California USA. San Diego Wild Animal Park (Escondido). SOURCE: CR, No. 13, April 1, 1991, page 25.
- Robert L. Parkinson (? - 1991), Baraboo, Wisconsin USA. SOURCE: CR, No. 16, April 22, 1991, page 2.
- Ann L. Pike (1946 - 1994), Sarasota, Florida USA. SOURCE: CR, No. 15, April 11, 1994, page 6.
- Arnold Pilling (1926 - 1994), Detroit, Michigan USA. Wayne State University (Department of Anthropology). SOURCES: DFP, November 7, 1994, page 2B; The Detroit News, November 7, 1994, page 2B.
- Ted Polke (1955 - 1996), Gibsonton, Florida USA. SOURCE: CR, No. 47, November 18, 1996, pages 13-14.
- William Thomas (Tommie) Randolph (1910 - 1993), Garland, Texas USA. Circus photographer. SOURCE: CR, No. 34, August 23, 1993, pages 15-16.
- Lee Rhoades (1937 - 1997), Gainesville, Texas USA. Frank Buck Zoo. SOURCES: Gainesville Daily Register, May 29, 1997, page 1; CR, No. 25(21), June 16, 1997, page 5.
- Douglas S. Robertson (1955 or 1956 - 1995), Monde Sauvage Safari Park, Liege, Belgium. SOURCES: EMA Newsletter [Spring 1996], VII(2):25. Time News Magazine, 145(16), April 17, 1995, p. 19; Dan Koehl, personal communication, 1996; and Jurgen Schilfarth, personal communication, 1996.
- Keith Rosser (1946 - 1998), Almont, Michigan USA. SOURCE: The Romeo Observer, August 12, 1998, page 2A.
- Robert Savage (1927-1998), University of Bristol, England. SOURCE: Society of Vertebrate Paleontology News Bulletin, 174, pages 83-85.
- Theodore Svertesky (1954 - 1994), Williston, Florida USA. Ringling Brothers and Barnum & Bailey Circus. SOURCES: CR, No. 6, February 7, 1994, page 15; CR, No. 10, March 7, 1994, page 17-18; and CR, No. 25, June 20, 1994, page 2.
- Mary Lucille Sweeney (? - 1999), Houston, Texas, USA. Houston Zoo, Texas. SOURCE: Her family.
- Heinz Tobien (1911-1993). SOURCE: Proboscidea, Dedication page.
- Charlotte "CharLee" Torre (1969 - 1993), St. Petersburg, Florida USA. Lowry Park Zoo, Tampa, Florida. SOURCE: EMA Newsletter, Vol. IV(2):35, Summer 1993.
- David Turner (1963 - 1991), Torrance, California USA. SOURCE: CR, No. 40, September 30, 1991, page 15.
- Richard G. Van Gelder (1929 - 1994), Harrington Park, New Jersey USA. American Museum of Natural History, New York, (curator emeritus, Department of Mammals). SOURCES: NYT, February 24, 1994; New York Daily News, February 24, 1994; and CR, No. 13, March 28, 1994, page 19.
- Allan C. Wilson (1934-1991), University of California at Berkeley, California USA. SOURCE: Nature, Vol. 353, p. 19.

Missing members [if you know their whereabouts, please inform us, thank you]: Ann Knox, Burt Knox. ■