

Wild Animals In Riverview Park

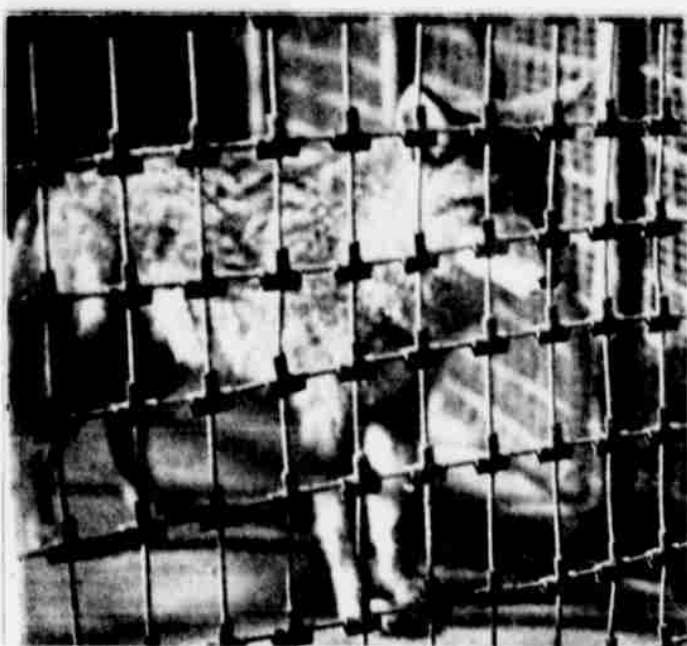
Ernest Seton-Thompson and his army of hunters who pursue wild animals with the camera, rather than the rifle, have come to the rescue of their forest friends none too soon. The merciless slaughter of large game has reduced the buffalo in the United States to a few hundred head, while deer, elk, moose and bear are so scarce that they are rarely seen outside of game preserves.

The buffalo has been the greatest sufferer, and civilization, or barbarism with a varnish of civilization, seems determined to render extinct the American bison. "Buffalo Bill" and his mate in Riverview park are two of the finest specimens in the world, but imprisonment does not seem to agree with the animals. They appear to be in perfect health, but like most other buffalo in captivity fail to reproduce their kind.

In Yellowstone park, the most extensive game preserve in the United States, there are not more than 200 buffalo, and it is almost impossible for visitors to catch a glimpse of them. The buffalo avoids man and resents the intrusions of civilized ways. Although the government has provided Yellowstone park with a large guard and will

as many animals as in the national parks, Judge J. D. Caten of Ottawa, Ill., was the pioneer in this movement. Half a century ago he bought an extensive preserve and expended a large amount of money in providing deer and other animals with a retreat which was similar to their home in the far west.

In most cases, however, individuals and park commissioners have not been able to secure lands where wild animals could secure their own living and avoid the diseases and vexations which come from confinement in limited preserves. The most remarkable private park in the world is maintained by Austin Corbin at Blue Mountain Forest, near Newport, N. H. It contains 35,000 acres and includes nearly all kinds of land. In the center of the preserve is a mountain range which attains a height of 3,000 feet. Mr. Corbin established this preserve in 1889 and stocked it with animals of all sorts. Twenty-five buffalo, sixty elk, twelve moose and seventy deer, as well as many smaller animals, were put into the enclosure. In less than ten years the buffalo increased to seventy-five, the elk numbered 1,200, there were 150 moose and 1,200 deer. This park contains a bound-



WOLF IN CAPTIVITY.



SNAPSHOT OF THE FOX.

imported many species from Europe. Deer of the sort found in the Black Forest and rare animals of all sorts might be seen at Newport if visitors were able to get into the thickets which form such an attractive hiding place for the wild beasts. The land in Mr. Corbin's park is so varied that no animal which is accustomed to a rigorous climate has failed to thrive there. In extremely cold and snowy weather it has been found necessary at times to feed the buffalo corn and cornstalks, which have been softened and made palatable in a silo, but other animals require nothing but the feed which is available in the park.

The Goulds, Vanderbilts, Astors and other New York millionaires who have extensive country places throughout New England have also established deer parks, but none is on as large a scale or as successful as Mr. Corbin's preserve. His land was so well chosen and he has guarded his proteges so carefully that they do not realize their restraint. Mr. Corbin takes great pleasure in his animal friends and protects them from hunters and sightseers. He provides for the comfort of the animals rather than the pleasure of curious men, and for that reason has succeeded better than the government in preserving game.

Birds and small animals of every sort also enjoy the freedom of the Corbin preserve, and no expense has been spared in securing specimens of every sort of creature that will thrive in the New Hampshire climate. The enclosure is a joy to the Audubon society and a monument to the philanthropist who has seen fit to make it possible.

Concerted action on the part of the citizens of various states has done much to protect game. Where laws have been enacted and have met with the approval of the people their enforcement has been comparatively easy. Fifteen years ago deer were almost unknown in Vermont. In mountain districts, where venison had been an important article of diet, the people were greatly alarmed over the destruction of deer. A law was passed prohibiting the shooting of all large game until 1900, and deer were brought from the Adirondacks and turned loose in the Vermont forests. In ten years the wild portions of the state were overrun with the animals. Public sentiment backed up the law and made its enforcement easy.

Much has been done for the preservation of game by such societies as the Nebraska Fish and Game Protective association and similar organizations in other states. The laws protecting game in the Yellowstone park were passed through the influence of the editors of Forest and Stream, who enlisted the press of the United States in their cause and impressed legislators with the importance of deterring soldiers to arrest poachers.

Quaint Features of Life

According to recent legislation in New York state a man is required to support his mother-in-law. Another legal arrangement provides that a woman need not support her husband unless he is incapable of labor or unless an agreement for mutual support has been made previous to marriage.

Charles B. Acord, 41 years old, and John J. Lynch, aged 45, have filed papers in Indianapolis for re-enlistment in the regular army. They enlisted together in 1882, were "bunkies" for eighteen years, shared the perils of eleven battles and engagements at home and abroad and now wish to re-enter the service together.

Abram Rothmeyer, an aged and eccentric citizen of Sharon, Pa., became impressed with fear that after his death grave robbers would steal his body and sell it to some medical college. Therefore he had a strong metal casket made and kept it in his house ready for the funeral. The other evening he was trying to move the heavy casket, when it fell upon him, injuring him so that he died shortly.

Trapdoors and secret chambers and sliding panels and mysterious springs belong to the old-fashioned romance or its modern imitations. You don't look for them save there and on the stage. The Portland deputy sheriffs go on a rum hunt. They see a suspicious looking cellar wall under a hotel. They tap and sound until they touch the spring when, presto! a barroom, copious of liquors and resplendent of lights, is revealed to their horri-

bled eyes. To such base uses must romance return at last.

A ball to have been given in New York's richest and most exclusive set has been postponed for reasons that might have been thought of little weight in such circles. An old and faithful servant, who has been over twenty-five years in the service of Mrs. Frederick Gallatin, is lying at the point of

death, and on this account the great dance for Mrs. Gallatin's debutante daughter has been postponed.

Twenty-four years after Lord Byron wrote his famous song, "Maid of Athens, ere we part, Give, oh give me back my heart," an Englishman in visiting Athens hunted out its subject, the then beautiful, gay and charming Theresa Maeri. He found her a woman married to a poor man and struggling to earn a living for a large family of children. Not a trace of her former

beauty remained. But she lives forever young and lovely in the great poet's verse.

The Abba (da-) Union pipes off a local incident in this fashion: "MacCoon, the steeples climber, and who has ascended to heights that would drive the rest of us to dizziness, went up against the wrong thing when he climbed to the top of a stepladder to repair an awning in front of Robinson's



ELK DRINKING IN RIVERVIEW PARK, OMAHA.

taylor shop. The ladder slipped on the ice and Coon fell to the brick sidewalk and was badly stove up. In his rapid descent he tore down Robinson's sign. The bricks in the wall were unharmed."

A workman who was repairing the roof of a railway station near Interlaken, Switzerland, slipped, and, finding himself falling, jumped in order to escape being impaled on the railing below. At this moment, however, an express train happened to be passing, and the man landed on the roof of a carriage, to which he desperately clung. He was carried in this position to the next station, four miles away, before the train stopped, and the unfortunate man, who, though severely shaken, but not hurt, was enabled to descend from the roof.

Israel Zangwill said recently: "My experience of the American reporter leads me to the conviction that you must either accept him unconditionally or reject him absolutely. No temporizing or attempt to dodge him will pay. Perhaps the oddest specimen of the American journalist that I met was a man in Cincinnati. He called on me one night, told me that he was racked and torn with religious doubts, and asked my guidance. With such reasoning and thought as I had at command I tried to help him to a clearer view, and he went away full of gratitude. Imagine my astonishment when, next day, I found this young gentleman posing throughout the interview as the profound thinker while I figured feebly as a shallow sophist."

When Clifford is naughty I explain the germ theory to him and have him look through a microscope at bacteria. It frightens him terribly and at the same time inculcates scientific knowledge. Today Clifford asked me if I believed in the efficacy of prayer. I promised to answer him tomorrow. I wonder if I dare say that prayer is antiseptic.

Modern Mothers Diary

Detroit Journal: I do not believe in telling a child ghost stories to frighten him when he is naughty.

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GROUP OF ELK.

not permit firearms to be carried through the park, unless they are sealed, poaching has not been done away with entirely. The animals are continually bothered by visitors and do not thrive as they did before man pre-empted their haunts.

Elk and bear do better in the Yellowstone than other animals. Bruin is a lazy brute and enjoys getting his living at abandoned camps and at the kitchen door of summer hotels. He is intelligent enough to realize that he is not in much danger within the confines of the park and does not hesitate to force himself upon visitors in case he thinks there is an easy meal in sight.

The Smithsonian institute became alarmed over the failure of the buffalo to reproduce in Yellowstone and constructed a special inclosure within the confines of the park where a number of the choicest animals are kept free from intrusion, but even under these favorable conditions the buffaloes do not flourish as it had been hoped they would.

Until 1894 there were no effective laws protecting game in Yellowstone park. Since that time the amount of game has increased considerably, but it is not likely that the increase will ever restore the great herds of deer and antelope which roamed through the park thirty years ago. Since the enforcement of the game laws the elk in the park have increased at a rapid rate, and are now estimated that there are at least 100 of them within the preserve.

Government Supplies Animals. The government has supplied many national parks with animals from the Yellowstone. Within the last few months Riverview park was given five young elk, three cubs and a black-tailed deer. These animals were put into the excellent quarters which the park board has provided in Riverview and are much admired by visitors. But last month the black-tailed deer proved a tempting target and died from a wound inflicted by a slingshot.

State laws have not afforded much protection for game. Government parks and individual game preserves are the only places where animals can live with any degree of safety. In the four national parks in Colorado and in Yosemite and Yellowstone parks ample protection is offered game.

Men of large means have established game preserves during the last fifty years, and in parks of this sort there are nearly



FINE PICTURE OF ANTELOPE.



COW ELK.