

# NEW YORK ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY

## LATEST NEWS

### AND YOUR INVITATION TO MEET PAUL • PAMELA • PATTY



Tuesday Afternoon  
June 3, 1958

This News Bulletin should reach you in the Wednesday morning mail. As you read it, the New York Zoological Society's three little Duck-billed Platypuses will be 18,000 feet above the Pacific in a Pan American Superclipper, traveling toward the Bronx Zoo at 300 miles an hour. By midnight they will be streaking over the Rockies in a United Airlines cargo plane.

These rarest and most curious of all mammals are due at Idlewild Thursday afternoon and before sunset they will be bedded down in the Zoo's Animal Hospital for a well-earned rest.

#### PREVIEW FOR MEMBERS OF THE ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Our Members are going to be the first to see Paul, Pamela and Patty. And meet David Fleay, the Australian naturalist who caught them.

#### AND WHY NOT YOU, TOO?

Until we know how well the Platypuses stood the trip from Australia, we can't say exactly when they will go on exhibition. It will probably be early next week. You'll see the stories in the newspapers.

On exhibition day there will be a preview for Members of the Zoological Society from 2 o'clock to 3 o'clock.

Now is the time to give way to the impulse you've probably had for a long time - the feeling that you ought to join the New York Zoological Society. Mail the enclosed application today! There's still time to receive your Member's card admitting you to the Platypusary for the Members' Preview on exhibition day. Won't you do it now? Your Membership will help a lot and open new worlds to you.

Three weeks ago you received David Fleay's Newsletter from Australia and you know what a tough time he had capturing baby Platypuses on account of the topsy-turvy season in Queensland. Finally he caught three youngsters--Paul and Paddy, two males, and a female called Pamela. Some Platypuses dislike air travel--they roll, and scratch themselves, and refuse to eat--so David took his trio on a test flight. Paul and Pamela liked it fine, but Paddy was so upset David had to turn him loose.

We were upset too, because we did want three Platypuses, preferably two females and one male. Exhausted though he was, David set his traps again--and on May 10 he caught a lovely little female. He called her Patty, short for Patricia.

At this point David's troubles seemed nearly over--and then the worm worries started. Platypuses love to eat ordinary garden earthworms and David planned to carry a great bucket of earth and earthworms to feed the babies en route. But the Department of Agriculture said "No." The worms were OK, but Australian soil could not be taken into Hawaii (where the plane made a stop) because it might contain harmful organisms. Much cabling resulted, and you will be gratified to learn that a compromise has been reached. The moment the plane sets down at Honolulu, the earthworms are to be removed from their Australian soil, rinsed in pure Hawaiian water and transferred to sterilized Hawaiian soil. Then the original Australian earth is to be seized, sterilized and disposed of. Everybody's happy.