

## Bill Pending In Congress To Save Threatened Species

BY KARL H. MASLOWSKI

Last year, shortly before the Christmas holidays, at the urging of long-time friend and Cincinnati author, George Laycock, this column carried on a campaign to have its readers boycott merchandise made from the hides of alligators.

The campaign slogan was "Give an alligator his hide for Christmas," and it was fairly successful for it eventually became almost national in scope. This year George and I again implore everyone never to purchase any product made from the hides of this endangered species. Our slogan will be, "Give an alligator his hide for Christmas and let him keep it."

Briefly, the bulk of products made from genuine alligator hides today come from animals poached illegally in Florida which has no open season on alliga-

ready for buyers and already had delivered hundreds of other hides. Finding and apprehending just this one poacher with limited manpower in the 230 square mile Refuge had taken countless days and nights of hard work. The job of enforcement becomes almost impossible when the entire natural range of the alligator in the United States is considered. So long as alligators are easily poached and so long as the poachers can find a ready market at a current price of about six dollars per foot of hide, the problem will remain. The longer the problem is unsolved the closer illegal killing will bring this remarkable animal to extinction.

Best hope to curb alligator poaching is prompt passage of what is known in Congress as the Rare and Endangered Species Bill. This measure, among other things, would prohibit the interstate and foreign traffic in skins, hides, and parts of animals taken contrary to law. Currently, when a poached Florida alligator hide gets out of state, to perhaps a New Jersey tannery, it is a legal item of commerce. The aforementioned bill would change this. While a poacher can operate with near impunity under cover of darkness in some vast southern swamp, a legitimate business operating a tannery as part of some vast industrial complex would find it impossible to survive for very long by processing hides illegally.

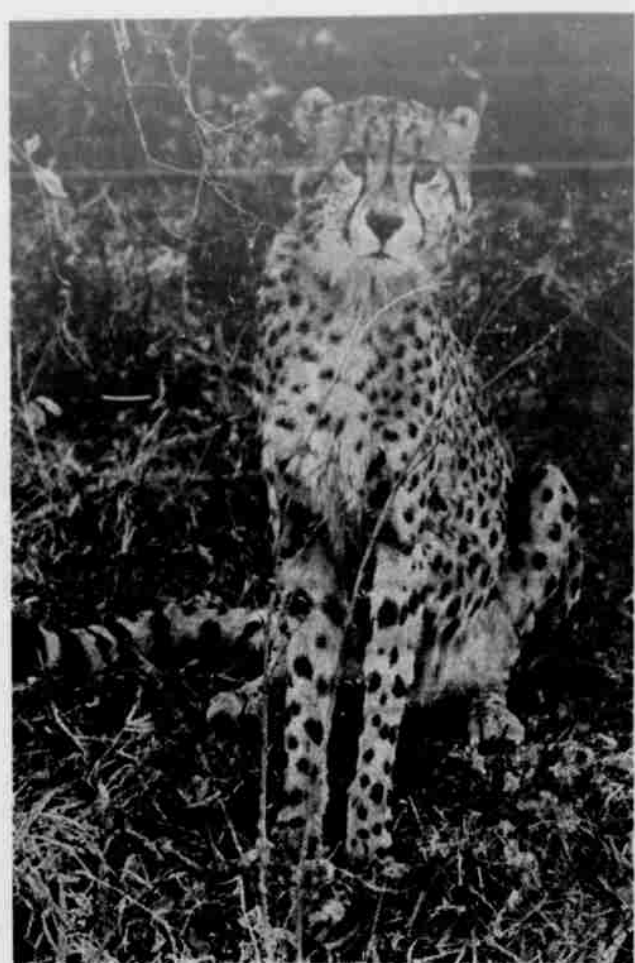
This same approach was all that saved many of the wading and waterbirds of our country from extinction. Previous to 1918 millions of egrets, gulls, terns, grebes, etc. were killed so that their feathers could be used in millinery's apparel, especially hats. With the passage of a Federal law making the plume traffic illegal, the killing of birds for their feathers was promptly halted.

AT THIS WRITING the Rare and Endangered Species Bill has been passed by the House but is stalled in the Senate Committee chiefly because the bill as now written does not spell out how the measure will be enforced. Happily, the majority of our legislators are in favor of such a bill, and once this technical detail is solved by way of an amendment, hopefully it will become law.

If it becomes a law the bill would do three things which conservation forces feel imperative for preserving rare and endangered species on a world-wide basis. First it would authorize the Secretary of the

Interior to prohibit the importation into the United States of any kind of fish and wildlife threatened with extinction. At home, of course, it would guarantee the alligator its survival because the bill makes it illegal for anyone knowingly to put into interstate or foreign commerce any species of wildlife or fish taken contrary to Federal, state, or foreign law. And, finally it would permit the Interior Department to spend as much as \$2.5 million in any one year to purchase land to protect a native endangered species, and further assure an annual \$1 million appropriation for the secretary to purchase inholdings within areas administered by the Interior Department where endangered species are involved.

A lot of bontoboks, cheetahs, Java rhinoceros, Gaudalupe fur seals, Bowhead whales, Laysan ducks, Puerto Rican parrots, Owens Valley pupfish, and Texas blind salamanders, among others, will rest a lot easier after this important bit of legislation becomes the law of our fish and wildlife land. These are only a very



Cheetahs will rest a lot easier if the Rare and Endangered Species Bill is passed promptly by Congress. —South African Tourist Corp. photo.

few of the many rare and endangered species that will benefit from this law. But until that time the only protection the American alligator will enjoy is

your refusal to buy merchandise made from his hide—anytime. So, please, "Give an Alligator his hide for Christmas—and let him keep it."

## Area Youngsters Provide \$518 For Cancer Drive

Eight more cancer carnivals staged by area youngsters have added \$518 to the Cancer Crusade, reports Dr. Murray S. Jaffe, president of the Hamilton County Unit, American Cancer Society.

A festival at 5214 Oak Hill Lane netted \$165.94. Steve Wittekind, chairman, was aided by Janet and Debbie Heeney, Susan and Lisa Meyer, Stephanie and Sheri Sutherland, Karren Mo-haupt, Maureen and Mike Ranz and Kevin Sandman.

Children of Nighthawk Drive, Monfort Heights, raised \$70.24. Workers were Ron, Mike and Jay Thompson, Terry McClain, Steve Roell, Tim, Jim, Lynn, Annie and Steve Windes, Dave Boyer, Marsha and Mark Falhan, Pam and Lisa Macke and Dianne Judge.

Wally Ornela was chairman of a carnival in Groesbeck that made \$35.29. Others who took part were Ann, John and Barry Ornela, Kathy Herrmann, Greg Jones, Tom Kummer, Mary Bonfield, Mike Schneider, Jim Miller, Kim and Kathy Brahm, Mary Beth Wenning, Danny Menger, Nancy Kummer, Brad Otten, Chuck Pitzer, Larry Magly

and Keven and Kelly Herrmann.

Connie Bauer, 5217 Horizonvue Dr., and Linda Schwartz gave a fete that raised \$106.45. Their helpers were Jim and Dave Rechel, Gary and Steve Schwartz, Stewart Jansen,

Claire and Lisa Jansen, Sue and Cathy Schwartz, Kim Bauer, Judy Harden, Bruce Rembur, Larry Lucas, Denise Bauer, Lori and Les Reidel and Greg Briener.

A CARNIVAL at the home of Nancy Metcalf, 8651 DeSoto Dr., netted \$14.40. Nancy was assisted by Paula Kreidenweis, Linda and Yvonne Laake.

Libby Smith, 1465 Oak Knoll Dr., was chairman of a festival that raised \$5.84. Other workers were Carl Bacon, Wendy and Leslie Heger, Jeanette Pomeroy and Meg Cooper.

The sum of \$104.10 was realized at a carnival headed by Joe Meyer, 6893 Bryn Mawr. Joe was aided by Dick and Jerry Meyer, Andy Seiter, Bobby and Danny Eagle, Donna and Lisa Osborne, Dennis, Debbie and Cindy Wabnitz, Christi and Steve Vining and Pam and Terry Harris.

The Cancer Society's "send a mouse to college" for research purposes campaign and a used toy sale brought in \$15.62 from Mary Beth, Chris and Brad Hoffman, 9861 Lorelei Dr.; Julie Armour, Debbie and David Rogers and Kathy and David Hill.

### XU Announces

#### Title Changes

Two changes in titles have been announced at Xavier University by the Very Rev. Paul L. O'Connor, S.J., president.

The Rev. Clifford S. Besse, S.J., now is associate dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, after serving as assistant dean since June, 1967. Prior to that, Father Besse was assistant to the dean of the college.

James F. Kelly, who formerly was assistant to the director of admissions, now has the title of assistant director of admissions.

The Rev. John N. Felten, S.J., is dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, and the Rev. J. Peter Buschmann, S.J., is Xavier's director of admissions.

### Naturalist Afield

tors. Indeed, for all practical purposes it is illegal to kill an alligator anywhere in the wild in the United States. Don't be misled by stores that tell you their alligator goods are made in Europe or Hong Kong—the hides still came from the United States.

The only other place in the whole world where true alligators are found is in a relatively small part of the Yangtze River Valley in Red China. It is unlikely that many of those hides find their way as shoes, belts, purses, wallets, etc. into the American market. If the product is sold as alligator and made from hides of gavils, camen, crocodiles, or some other lizard, your outlet is using false advertising. Obviously it cannot be alligator if it is something else, no more than a mink coat can be made from muskrat furs.

MOST OF THIS nation's present alligator population—and it now can be reckoned in the thousands rather than the millions as at the turn of the century—is harbored in state and national wildlife refuges in Georgia, Florida, and Louisiana. But budget limitations make it almost impossible to patrol these areas against poachers. For example, 145,000 acre Loxahatchee Refuge near Palm Beach, Florida has only seven men to maintain all phases of the Refuge's program and protection.

One poacher in Loxahatchee was recently apprehended after his long-time aquatic camp was finally discovered. He had several barrels of hides

## 'Toys For Tots' Drive Begins In Cincinnati

"Toys For Tots," the annual Christmas toy collection of the United States Marine Corps Reserve, has begun nationwide and will run in Cincinnati until December 19.

Sponsored locally by the Communication Company, Fourth Marine Division, new and good condition toys are gathered through organizations and distributed to needy youngsters.

### Judge To Speak

Judge Thomas Nurre of Hamilton County Municipal Court will discuss "Things We Should Know About" at the noon meeting Friday of the Masonic Club in the Cincinnati Club.

Sgt. J. E. Schmarr II said last year's campaign collected approximately 500,000 new toys and 125,000 good condition toys.

Members of the Cincinnati Marine Reserve collect the toys for the program, which is designed to combine toy collection drives. Regular collection methods are responsible for the majority of the toys.

Toys collected by Marine Reserves are distributed to local welfare organizations and orphanages form lists supplied by the Christmas Bureau, an agency of the Community Chest.

Money is usually not accepted, new toys being preferred. The Marines collect many of the toys from group collection points and industry collections.

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