

THE STORY OF SISSY—OUR NEWEST RESIDENT

Sissy, our newest resident, came on the heels of Shirley and Bunny. With her came controversy, accusations, and a terrible reputation. Moved from her lifelong home of 26 years after the tragic death of a keeper, Sissy was branded a killer. Although no one was witness to the accident, it seemed she would forever pay for the sad day when the actions of a man and the response of a beast resulted in tragedy.

Born in the wilds of Asia in 1968, Sissy was captured and separated from her mother and family at one year old. If she had been left in a natural situation, Sissy would have spent her life, 60-70 years, with her mother and female relatives, learning from them, and, then as a mother, sister, and aunt herself, teaching the next generation. In her golden years she would have been protected and treated with respect for her knowledge and wisdom by those she had nurtured. Instead, she was placed inside a small wooden crate and shipped to America.

Sissy became the main attraction at a Texas amusement park petting zoo, replacing the



Sissy

four baby elephants that preceded her. Sissy did not rate her own special name, instead being named after the elephants that preceded her. She was called Sis Flagg, a wordplay on the name of the amusement park, Six Flags Over Texas.

Sissy grew quickly and was sent to the Frank Buck Zoo in Gainesville, Texas, where the residents were ecstatic that Sissy was coming. They had recently lost their elephant, Gerry, who died at age 21 of unknown causes. The school children rallied to raise funds to purchase Sissy and on her arrival swiftly changed her name. Again, she did not merit her own name but was named Gerry II after the Zoo's

previous elephant. It would not be until 26 years later and the occurrence of a tragedy that they would discover that Gerry II was Sissy, the name that keepers and zoo personnel had continued to call her. When the Elephant Sanctuary announced that our next resident would be Sissy, Gainesville residents knew of no elephant named Sissy.

When the Sanctuary learned that Sissy would be

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Mrs. Huldah Sharp

Several years ago, the Sanctuary founders were honored when Mrs. Huldah Cheek Sharp came for a visit. A determined woman with strong opinions, it was immediately apparent that Mrs. Sharp believed in taking action. While on a driving tour of the Sanctuary, Mrs. Sharp continued to question why she could not touch the elephants, a great temptation since Tarra was racing along side Mrs. Sharp's truck window. After weighing the many explanations, Mrs. Sharp decided none were valid. Without warning she reached out her window and petted Tarra. We all burst out in laughter, including Mrs. Sharp, who had a huge grin on her face. A guiding force behind the inception of the Nashville Humane Society, Mrs. Sharp held a deep concern for the welfare of animals in captivity. As a direct result of Mrs. Sharp's support and encouragement, Sanctuary embarked on a capitol campaign project that resulted in a state-of-the-art 12-elephant barn. With Mrs. Sharp's passing on April 9, 2000, a legacy of her compassion for all creatures great and small remains. She will be deeply missed.

joining their herd, she had not lived at the Frank Buck Zoo for almost two years. A tragic accident had forced city officials to relinquish ownership of Sissy and send her to a place where she could not hurt anyone else. Sissy had been raised a single elephant in a small enclosure with many keepers during her time at the Frank Buck Zoo. As with any intelligent creature she learned many behaviors, some good, some bad. One behavior that Sissy learned was how to make people stop teasing her. As in any zoo, the public gravitated to the elephant exhibit, but poor design allowed visitors to be able to touch Sissy.

A personal account describes a well-meaning but ill-informed visitor petting and then pulling on Sissy's trunk. Although at first Sissy enjoyed the attention and interaction, she soon tired of it. Since there was no protective barrier behind which she could escape, Sissy responded by swinging her trunk and hitting this man under the chin sending him sailing backward. Though effective it became a bad habit.

Later, when the tragic incident happened, which resulted in the death of a keeper, many judged that Sissy had purposefully attacked and killed. Unfortunately, no one witnessed the incident, so only Sissy knows what happened. But it is reasonable to conjecture that the death could have been an accident. Considering the minimal size of Sissy's cinder block barn and her tendency to become easily frightened, it is easy to imagine that if someone entered her barn unexpectedly, her typical reaction to being frightened of spinning around could result in the person being pushed up against the wall of her enclosure. Although she is distrusting and insecure and has many bad habits, it is unfortunate that Sissy is labeled a killer.

After the Frank Buck Zoo, Sissy was sent to a zoo with facilities to handle dangerous elephants. This zoo did the best they could with a difficult situation, but they had an established herd and Sissy was not an easy addition. She was afraid of the other elephants, wary of the new facility, and distrusting of her new keepers. She virtually stopped eating, lost weight, did not socialize with the other female elephants, and was resistant to shifting back and forth between the yard and the barn. More challenges lay ahead as Sissy was moved once again to the El Paso Zoo. This zoo was preparing a protected contact area, which is a system of gates and fences that protect the elephant and caretakers from hurting each other. With this system of limited access, Sissy would not have to be physically managed. Unfortunately, the El Paso Zoo decided to take Sissy prior to the completion of their protected contact facilities.

Nevertheless, plans were made and procedural protocol formalized and discussed. On her arrival at the zoo, she was chained in her new barn. Within a short time, she lashed out at a keeper. Immediately,



Sissy leaving barn

enforced and corporal punishment was administered by three keepers. The brutal attack lasted an hour and was purposely captured on videotape for keeper training purposes. As the year went by, Sissy was not accepted by the other elephants. In fact, she was knocked to the ground and needed to be righted with a crane. To make matters worse, Sissy's trunk was temporarily paralyzed as a result of an exploratory surgical procedure. For four months Sissy's keepers hand-fed her;

every bite of nourishment she received came from them. She lost weight and underwent acupuncture treatments that reportedly restored partial use of her trunk and stimulated her appetite. Life for Sissy seemed to improve as she resumed eating on her own, became comfortable with her keepers, and, most importantly, no longer frightened her keepers. As result of the time that Sissy's keepers hand-fed her, they realized that her true nature was sweet and sensitive.

Just when it seemed Sissy might have a chance at some constancy and peace, the videotape taken of her beating at the El Paso Zoo was released to the media. A community outcry lead to a city council vote to send Sissy to the Elephant Sanctuary (prior to the vote there had been no communication between El Paso city officials and the Sanctuary). They simply voted and then asked if we would take her. What a joy to be able to give this elephant safe freedom, a place to heal, a place to grow, a place to grow old.

Though there were those who tried to prevent Sissy from retiring to the Sanctuary, zoo management, staff, and city officials made every effort to ensure a smooth transition for Sissy. Landstar Ligon, Inc, the official elephant transporters of the Sanctuary, provided a tractor and driver for the move. The custom designed elephant trailer, on loan from Chuck and Rise Pankow, was delivered to the zoo and set beside the elephant barn. After a few weeks of conditioning, Sissy was ready for the trip. Scott Blais, Sanctuary Co-Founder/Director, went to El Paso to oversee Sissy's loading and to escort her in transit. Every imaginable preparation was made to insure Sissy's comfort throughout the move.

On January 24, 7:10 AM, Sissy began her trip to Hohenwald, Tennessee, which took two and a half days.

Sissy... continued from pg. 2

Sissy traveled well, ate and drank during the trip, and showed no overt signs of aggression. The trip served as a perfect time for Scott and Sissy to get to know each other. Mike Knowles, the truck driver, offered his services to transport Sissy and took it upon himself to call ahead to motels and truck stops arranging for Sissy's layovers. He made sure that at each stop we had access to drinking water and a quiet, out of the way place to park the trailer so that Sissy could rest. On the night of January 25, the owners of the Comfort Inn in Forest City, Arkansas provided a room for Sissy's care givers and a quiet place for Sissy's trailer, free of charge. Mike's arrangements helped to ensure a smooth and safe trip for Sissy and her caregivers. Each time they stopped to offer Sissy food and water, Mike jumped right in to assist with the water hose, bales of hay, refilling the generator, and other chores. Mike Knowles is truly an ELEFRIEND.

On arrival at the Sanctuary January 26, Sissy was greeted by a small group of media people and Sanctuary staff. Within 15 minutes from the time the back door of the trailer was opened, Sissy was standing inside her new home. She was tentative and cautious, non aggressive. After a short time Barbara was allowed to enter Sissy's stall, moving with such sensitivity that if Sissy postured in fear, Barbara stopped and stood still until Sissy relaxed. After a few minutes, Barbara was able to get Sissy to accept a touch from Barbara's trunk--first her side, then her shoulder, then finally Sissy's face and trunk. This first interchange was the beginning of what will most certainly prove to be a lasting relationship. All of the girls had a chance to meet Sissy as they lined up and she presented her body, lengthwise, for their caresses and curious trunks. At one point Sissy reached out



Sissy and Bunny



Bunny, Jenny, and Shirley greet Sissy

her trunk as three other anxious trunks dashed in to intertwine with hers.

After the small crowd of well wishers left, Sissy began to express a desire to be touched by her keepers. She turned with her backside to the keepers and gently lifted her foot, a shy elephant's way of initiating interaction with new elephants. Sanctuary keepers were honored that Sissy engaged them in this manner. After a few more days, Carol, Sanctuary Co-Founder/Director, was safe to interact with Sissy. Easy to read, Sissy has wide mood swings but makes her feelings well known. When she is content and someone she likes approaches, she flip-flops the end of her trunk as a greeting, making a pop-pop sound that vibrates through the air. She now spends each day outside napping, grazing and interacting with the other elephants. Her insecurities have not allowed her to venture far from the safety of her barn but when Scott or Carol are in the habitat she follows like a puppy dog. She is playful and enjoys the daily romp with the four-wheeler and tractor, joining Tarra, Bunny, Shirley, and Jenny as they frolic around the motorized equipment. The afternoon adventure is so enjoyed by the girls that they can be heard throughout the valley trumpeting and bellowing, with a variety of pops, squeaks, and chirps. Neighbors say they sit on their porches in the late afternoon and listen to the "elephants singing."

Sissy's latest and perhaps greatest breakthrough occurred April 27 at 4 PM. In order to continue following Scott and Carol on the four-wheeler, Sissy would have to cross the creek. Flowing water seems to evoke great fear in Sissy, which, until this day, she had not conquered. With the encouragement of those who care so much for her, Sissy forged through the shallow water. You could see from the twinkle in her eye, she was genuinely proud of herself. On the way back home, crossing the same creek was not going to be as easy. Sissy doubted herself and instead walked along the creek bed looking for a different way across, perhaps a dry place. She paced back and forth several times until Barbara approached. Sissy stood still and looked in Barbara's direction. Barbara hesitated for just a moment and then glided across the water. Sissy nervous but anxious to work through the fear, followed. Another great day for Sissy. Sissy's daily progress has been documented in her diary, which is available on our web site, www.elephants.com.

IS WINKIE ON HER WAY?



The decision to move 35-year-old Winkie to the Sanctuary or to a zoo is in the hands of the American Zoological Association and Dr. David Hall, the Henry Vilas Zoo director in Madison, Wisconsin. Several months ago the decision was made to move Winkie from the zoo, but where she will be moved has not yet been determined. The Sanctuary offers a unique and unequalled existence for Winkie, but the issue has been raised that she should remain in an accredited zoo.

Winkie, like many captive elephants, has lashed out aggressively toward keepers and visitors to her enclosure. It is reported that since the age of 13, Winkie has tried to hurt each new keeper assigned to her. In addition to her behavioral problems, Winkie has a history of poor foot health. There is no question that the elephants' habitat is critical to the health of their feet. Elephants kept on unnaturally hard surfaces, such as concrete and hard packed dirt, can develop chronic foot infection that can be life threatening. Health records document that Winkie has suffered with painful, infected feet for years. We are hopeful that she will be moved to a place where natural substrate, such as at the Sanctuary, is available to her and her ailing feet.

TIME TO GROW AGAIN?



In less than nine months our elephant population has doubled. If we continue at this rate our new barn will be full by fall 2001. This means that only 6 more needy elephants will find refuge at the Sanctuary. Once we reach capacity, what will become of other elephants in need of refuge? We could say, we have done our part and someone else needs to provide for additional elephants, but history has shown that another natural habitat refuge may not materialize. Several organizations have raised funds to assist captive elephants but their promises and funds have not translated into facilities for captive elephants.

Prior to the Sanctuary there was no alternative to elephants remaining in less than adequate situations. Deprived of room to roam, forced to submit to human dominance, denied companionship of other compatible elephants, as well as being restricted from access to live vegetation, elephants in captivity live compromised lives. Once the Sanctuary is full, the situation for needy elephants could return to its sad, previous state. Currently restricted to the Asian species only, the Elephant Sanctuary in Hohenwald is the first and currently only natural-habitat refuge for elephants. There is no similar facility for African elephants, an endangered species equally in need of a natural-habitat refuge in captivity. And the need grows greater everyday.

A short year and a half is little time to develop a contingency plan for other elephants who will need a home. To date, we have only accepted needy elephants living in the United States. Federal regulation restricts us from rescuing elephants from abroad. The law that pertains to the importation of this endangered species requires that the importation benefit the species, not the individual. Sadly, a permit will not be issued if the elephant is not part of a breeding program. We hope to change this criteria. Realizing that each elephant is important, we feel a needy elephant who is past breeding age deserves the same protection as a breeding age elephant.

Recently, the Sanctuary was approached by a foundation interested in donating wilderness land. This organization is interested in providing a 3000 acre parcel that surrounds the Sanctuary. This acquisition would allow another expansion, providing home for not only more Asian elephants but for African elephants as well. Although the climate and habitat in Hohenwald, Tennessee may not be perfect for African elephants, it is a far cry from what most captive African elephants now know. A natural habitat of any degree would be a considerable improvement much deserved by this species. Once the land is acquired, two additional but separate elephant facilities will be built. These facilities will be home to another 25 elephants (10 Asians and 15 Africans).

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BARBARA'S IMPROVING HEALTH

The past year at the Elephant Sanctuary has been extraordinary--Jenny and Shirley's reunion, Bunny's immediate assimilation into her new home, and Sissy's release from years that prevented her from developing into a confident and content individual. Through all of the excitement, change, and anxiety surrounding each new elephant's arrival, Barbara has improved physically and emotionally. Events such as changes in weather and routine used to result in Barbara developing severe bouts of abdominal pain. Every effort was taken to protect Barbara from situations that apparently caused her to worry and stress. Though there have been great changes at the Sanctuary over the past nine months, we are thrilled to report that Barbara's abdominal pain and bouts of colic are a distant memory. The course of action taken to free Barbara from her debilitation included natural healing remedies and supplements. In the Spring of 1999 a product was added to Barbara's daily supplements, which appears to be the final ingredient that was needed to remedy her problem.

Tree of Life, Inc. agreed to provide, free of charge, one year's supply of flaxseed oil for Barbara. This product, rich in amino acids, has assisted Barbara's body in recovering from her devastating condition and healing itself. Not only do her minor exterior abrasions heal at a rapid rate, Barbara appears to no longer experience pain in her small intestine. For the past 3 years, the medical goal for Barbara has focused on healing the lining of her small intestine. It appears that flaxseed oil has played a major role in accomplishing this goal. The Sanctuary staff is grateful to Tree of Life for their generous and compassionate contribution. Not only do they offer a quality product, they give back to the community in ways to be praised and acknowledged.

Additionally, the Sanctuary staff has facilitated Barbara's recovery by sleeping in the elephant barn at night. Elephants lie down to sleep and under normal circumstances have no problem rising, but the staff discovered that Barbara was having difficulty getting up. When Barbara sleeps outside she always lays on

a slope so that she can rise easily. Inside, the barn floor offers only a minimal slope and Barbara needs help to get up. Since all she needs is a little help from a friend, having Scott or Carol sleep in the barn became the solution.

It did not take Barbara long to figure out that no matter what time she awoke, one of her caretakers would be there to help her. Quite simply

what she needs is a strong push against her shoulder as she tries to right herself. Without it Barbara just cannot get up. The assistance proved to be quite important for two reasons: First, prior to Carol or Scott sleeping in the barn, Barbara appeared to worry about not being able to get up. As result, she would resist lying down and, instead, prop herself up against a wall and half sleep. This was detrimental to her health and threatened her already fragile condition. Second, we suspected that worry aggravated her colic condition. When Barbara was alone and could not rise she worked herself into a frenzy and developed excruciating abdominal cramps and diarrhea. Since Carol and Scott began their nighttime vigils last September, Barbara rests peacefully each night. She rustles her bed of hay to wake her caretakers when she has trouble getting up. Confident that Carol or Scott will be there, she no longer suffers from her painful abdominal episodes. Now that Spring has sprung Barbara is spending each night sleeping outside under the stars on the cushioned grassy slope of a hillside.



Barbara



Shirley and Jenny

All the Girls Are Discovering Their Roots

Tarra, Barbara, Jenny, Shirley, Bunny and Sissy have submitted hair samples for DNA testing. The Museum National d'Histoire Naturelle is conducting a research project that will determine the origin of all of the elephants currently living at the Elephant Sanctuary. In many cases, records of origin of elephants imported into the US prior to 1974 are incomplete. For some of these wild-caught animals, records are simply unavailable. DNA research will pinpoint the region in South East Asia where each of our elephants were born. Additionally, results of the research will determine if any of the Sanctuary elephants are related to each other.

CONSERVATION PROJECT—ASIAN ELEPHANT HABITAT PROGRAM

The Sanctuary has embarked on a far reaching conservation project: The Asian Elephant Habitat Program. The plan is to protect areas in the wild that were at one time the home of wild elephants. Land encroachment by humans has forced elephants into smaller and smaller ranges of habitat, some not suitable for their needs. As result there is a raging human-elephant conflict in many areas of the world.

Christy Williams, a prominent researcher studying wild elephants in India has been employed as Director of the program. In 1994-95, Williams carried out a status survey of elephants and their habitats along with an assessment of the elephant-human conflict in North-East India for the government of India. Since 1996 until present he has followed four elephant family groups and four adult males using radio telemetry to study elephant behavior and ecology. This is only a portion of the work Williams has conducted to help identify the



Christy Williams at the Sanctuary

problem and provide solutions for the survival of wild elephants. Protecting wild elephants and their habitat is a priority goal to which Williams has devoted his life and career.

Williams recently visited the Elephant Sanctuary. His response to the manner in which we care for our elephants was quite favorable. He remarked that being away from his study site in Asia had made him quite homesick for "his" elephants, so he reveled in the smells, sights, and sounds at the Sanctuary. The Sanctuary is honored that Christy Williams has joined our team.

Our opinion is that conservation can only be effective when wild populations and wild lands are protected. No degree of captive elephant breeding alone can conserve the wild population. Currently, there are organizations lobbying to capture wild elephants to improve the genetic diversity of the captive population of elephants in breeding programs in America. Sadly, no plan has been devised to return any of the offspring from the US to the wilds of Asia. Offspring of these wild-caught elephants will remain in captivity. Of course, the current loss of habitat in Asia would impede the reintroduction of elephants, but that is where conservation efforts must be applied. If we continue to deplete the wild population, conservation is not being achieved. Conservation starts with saving the wild lands and protecting the wild species.

If you would like to contribute to and/or learn more about this conservation program, please visit our web site www.elephants.com or contact Carol Buckley at 931-796-6500.

Motala

Last year we reported that on August 15, 1999, Motala, a 38-year-old female elephant, stepped on a landmine planted in Burma's jungle 10 km from the Thai border. It took her owner 3 days to walk her back to Thai territory. A truck was hired in Mae Sod, Tak Province to transport Motala to an Elephant Hospital in Lampang, which is operated by Friends of the Asian Elephant, where she underwent surgery and is now recuperating.

On March 7, 2000, the following update on Motala appeared on the Friends of the Asian Elephant web site (see below).

Motala's overall condition is good. She has been given supplement (calcium) since the calcium in her blood is low. She's improving and the wounds are healing but the wounds on the right leg do make us worry. However she still stands, lies down to rest and eats well. The prosthesis will be done only when the wounds are completely healed and it depends on Motala's acceptance to the artificial foot, too.

You can contact this organization dedicated to helping captive elephants in Thailand at the following address:

Friends of the Asian Elephant

350 Moo 8, Ram-Indra Rd, Soi 61, (K.M.6), Tharaeng,
Bangkhen, Bangkok 10230 Thailand
Phone & Fax: (662) 945 Motala
e-mail: fae@loxinfo.co.th
www.elephant.tnet.co.th/

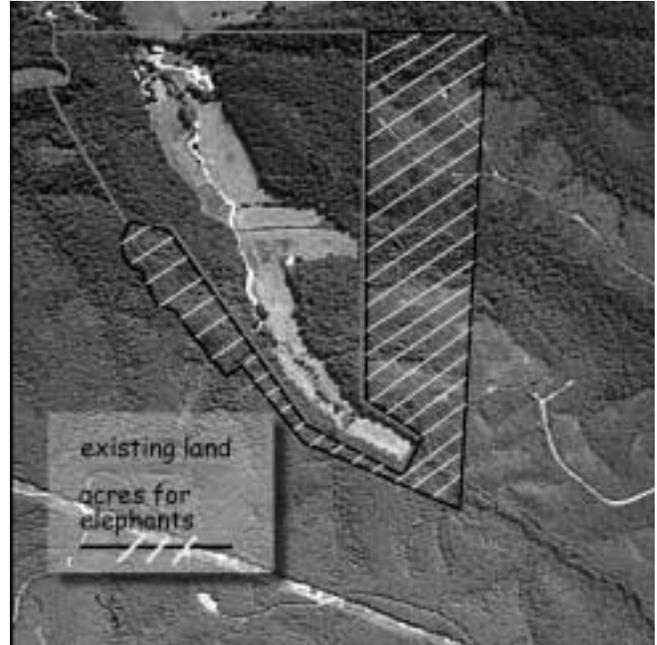
ACRES FOR ELEPHANTS — A GIFT IDEA

Thank you for your generous support of our Acres for Elephants Program! Because you have recognized that room to roam for elephants is paramount, we have nearly reached our goal for the additional-lands purchase. Originally, the parcel of land was estimated to be 93 acres, but once the land survey was complete, we were told it is actually 110 acres. Great news—the more land the better, but the additional surprise acreage increases our fund-raising goal. To date, our loyal members have contributed \$85,867 toward this land acquisition. An additional \$22,373 is needed before the new property will belong to the elephants. In support of our efforts, Champion Paper, Inc, the organization selling us the property, has made a Double-Mammoth contribution, providing the funds to purchase two of these wilderness acres.

Barbara has already explored the new habitat. Acres of wash stretching miles deep into the wilderness offer privacy, protection from the sun, and scrumptious low growing tufts of tender bamboo grass. Barbara has given her footprint of approval. Your support for our Acres of Elephants Program guarantees that elephants have freedom to roam in a habitat that enriches their lives and nurtures their recovery.

You, or your group, can help us reach our goals by “purchasing” one or more Square Elephants—the space necessary for an elephant to stand at rest from trunk to tail (approximately 6 ft X 12 ft)—for a mere **\$2.00** per square. Certificates will be provided to give as personalized gifts.

For those wishing to contribute to relaxation, Sleepy Square Elephants—the space necessary for an elephant



to lie down and take a nap (approximately 9 ft X 14 ft)—can be purchased for only **\$3.00** each. For those wishing to contribute more space, we offer a Dumbo—20 SqE, or 1440 square ft, which is house size, for only **\$35**. Also available is a Jumbo—151 SqE, or 1/4 acre, for **\$246** and a Mammoth—1 acre, for **\$984**.

You can be the first in your group, neighborhood, classroom, or office to “purchase” real estate and help the Sanctuary provide a safe, comfortable refuge for retired Asian elephants. As they say in the elephant retirement and real estate business, “Location, location, location.”

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Target Practice Scores a Bulls-Eye With the Girls and Sanctuary Staff



Tarra and Scott

What would a giant cue tip, dog whistle, and bucket of chopped fruit have to do with elephants? Target practice. Not the weaponry type of target practice but the operant conditioning/training type, which will develop behaviors that facilitate husbandry practices such as enabling us to trim foot pads, file nails, administer injections, and draw blood.

The giant cue tip is the target and the

goal is to get the girls to press the requested part of their body against the target. When they touch the target a dog whistle is blown to bridge their response. A "bridge" tells the girls that they have done what has been asked. The bucket of chopped fruit is the reward, our way of saying thanks for playing the training game.

Although playing is not mandatory and they are free to leave at anytime, they usually are interested enough to play for awhile. Operant conditioning is a positive way to condition elephants to respond to basic requests. They learn to present the portion of their body requested, thus making husbandry procedures easier and less stressful than with some traditional forms of management. With operant conditioning the elephant is a willing participant. They can choose to play or they can walk away without any repercussion, which is the glory of the technique. An added benefit of the training game is on a cold winter day it can be used to alleviate boredom associated with being inside the barn.

All of the girls have been introduced to target practice and all have offered to play. Demonstrating a strong motivation to excel, Barbara was responding within the first few sessions to requests for her head and sides. With each accomplishment, Barbara is building self confidence and strengthening the bond with her caretakers. Shirley shows the least interest, participating but without much enthusiasm. Although Jenny is handicapped due to a blind eye, she compensates for her tentative moves to the right with immediate and accurate moves to the left. Bunny, not prone to move fast for any reason, thinks that the target should be put closer. She flutters her long eye lashes and gives a direct look with her big brown eyes as if to say, "Oh I am so comfortable right here, couldn't you put the target a little closer?" Sometime in her past Bunny has learned that in training

sessions she can offer a substitute, which she has tried several times. For example, when the caretaker asks for a head touch to the target, Bunny instead offers her foot. But in this training game no reward, negative or positive, is given for trade offers. Because the offer is ignored, eventually Bunny will stop offering substitutes in lieu of responses that will result in rewards. Initially, Sissy was distrustful of the giant cue tip target and impatient to receive a treat. But she soon excelled and has surpassed all the others. Of course she did have an advantage. Two years ago when she lived at the Houston Zoo, Sissy was introduced to target training. The superb training work done by the Houston Zoo keepers has benefited both Sissy and the Sanctuary keepers. Sissy targets with her head immediately and brings her entire body next to the corral bars when requested. She seems to enjoy her successes. In the beginning, Tarra had some difficulty with the training game. The problem was that she assumed she knew what the trainer wanted. She started offering behaviors she had learned years ago. She shook her head up and down frantically, waved her trunk and lifted each foot. Tarra was offering all of the activities that Carol, her long time companion, had taught her in the past, so it was determined that Carol was not the best choice for Tarra's initial training. Scott gave it a try with Tarra and results were much better.

Knowing the temperament of each elephant is crucial, helping the keepers know how to engage each elephant in the game and for how long. Lately, Jenny, Shirley and Bunny have begun to compete for target practice time. They keep two trainers rather busy moving about the stalls responding



Sissy and Scott

to the appetite of the elephants not only for the treat that rewards their participation but for the praise their participation generates from their trainer. Once the elephant "gets it" their eyes light up, their bodies relax, and they appear to enjoy the game. Not surprisingly, it takes only seconds for elephants to start to learn these simple but invaluable behaviors, and, of course, they never forget!

CORPORATE SPONSORS UNDERWRITE NEW "ELE-CAM"

BellSouth, Union Planters Bank, and Tappedinto.com Sponsor Streaming Video

This past March the Sanctuary celebrated its 5-year anniversary. Six thousand members from all over the world provide support and six amazing elephants grace the habitat. The work done at the Sanctuary has been highlighted in numerous magazines, newspapers, and television specials. In the fall, a one-hour National Geographic documentary entitled Urban Elephant will air. This program will show the life of captive elephants, the good, the bad and the ugly. The Sanctuary is pleased that this documentary is being produced by an organization with an impeccable reputation for providing accurate and quality viewing.

As a result of the Sanctuary's unprecedented success, corporate sponsor are interested in affiliating themselves with the Sanctuary's work. BellSouth, Union Planters Bank, and Tappedinto.com recently came on board to underwrite the cost of our newest educational tool: streaming video. This innovative technology will bring live camera footage directly to our web site. By clicking on the "ele-cam" icon

on your personal computer you will actually be viewing the elephants live through cameras on the Sanctuary property. The Sanctuary is indebted to Bell South, Union Planter's Bank and Tappedintoit.com for their support of this innovative teaching tool.

For those who would like to show their gratitude to the Sanctuary's newest sponsors please address your comments to the following people:

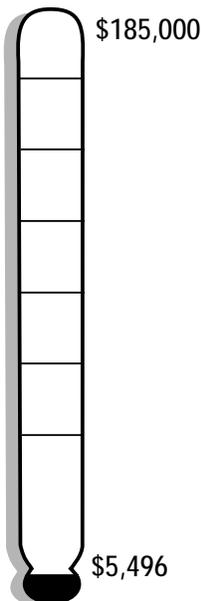
Lanie Johnston BellSouth 333 Commerce Street Nashville, TN 37201	Wade Peery Union Planters Bank 10 East Main Street Hohenwald, TN 38462
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Judith Newby
Tappedinto.com
15 Music Square West
Nashville, TN 37203

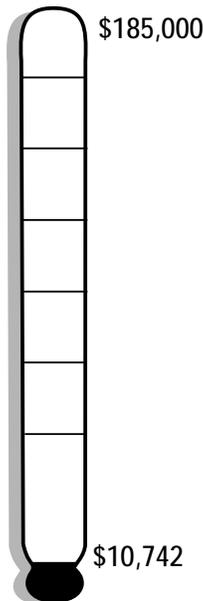
Girls' Endowment Update



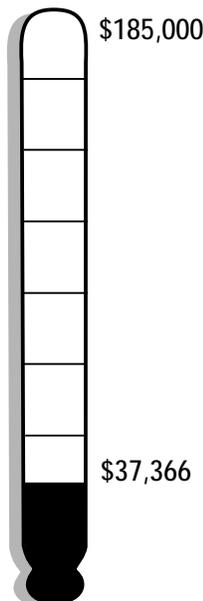
Bunny



Sissy



Shirley



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With the donation you (or the person receiving the gift) will receive a certificate, a picture of the elephant(s) you choose to feed, and information about what the elephants eat. If this is a gift to someone who is not a member, the recipient will also receive a copy of next year's newsletters and membership for 1 year.

Call the Sanctuary at (931) 796-6500. Say, "I want to feed an elephant for a day!" Be prepared to say which elephant(s) you want to feed, the amount of the gift (\$30, \$60, etc.), the recipient with complete name and address, and your name and address as the gift giver.

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