

Two Sets of Tiger Twins Born in One Cage; 3 Cubs Escape Destruction by Own Mothers

Their Owner Never Suspected Animals Were To Be Parents

Special to the World-Telegram.

ROCKLAND LAKE, Nov. 29.—In one of the most amazing instances of its kind ever reported to zoologists, two tigresses from the same cage gave birth to two pairs of cubs within a few hours of each other at Capt. Roman Proske's cat farm outside Nyack, it was learned today.

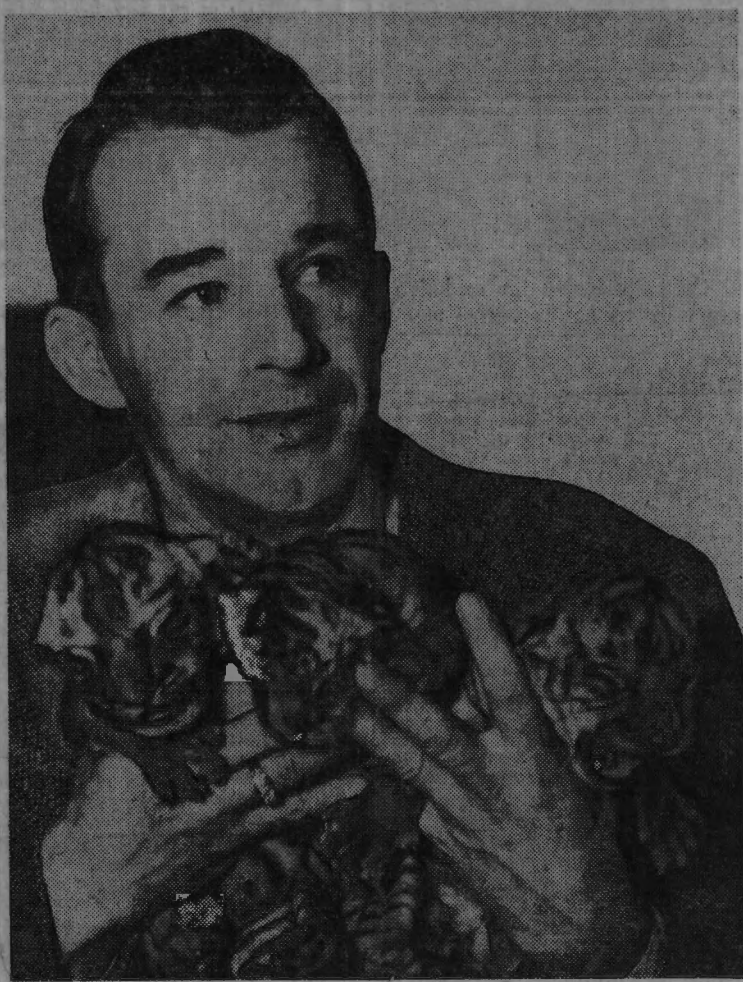
Tigers rarely breed in captivity in America, and when they do, the mothers usually destroy their young. In this case, three of the four have survived. Today, they squirmed and yowled lustily like three blind kittens.

When the first pair of tiny, striped fur pieces arrived by Sahib, there was high excitement at the farm. Excitement then turned into frenzy. While life was being massaged into the first two, the stable boy shouted, "More tigers! More tigers! This time it's Judy."

Dr. Morris Siegel, who runs the Nyack Animal Hospital, dropped the earlier arrivals. When they sneaked No. 3 from the cage, it was so puny its lips, nose and paw cushions were blue.

The veterinary instantly popped the cub's whole head into his mouth. He puffed a dozen times—a human oxygen tent—and forced air into the small lungs. Pretty soon the blue turned pink and today No. 3 was squawling like the rest. Judy destroyed No. 4.

One of the nation's outstanding



World-Telegram Photo by Aumuller.

Captain Roman Proske and his new charges.

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trainers, Capt. Proske was smiling like a proud father today as he fed the three cubs milk with bottle and nipple. His eyes were lined from sleeplessness, for he'd kept the cubs in a basket in his bedroom and set the alarm for every two hours, for feeding time.

The day-old infants weighed about a pound and a half each. They were about the size of a growing kitten, but their fur was perfectly striped, right down to the tip of the tail. Each paw, the size of a penny, had a full set of claws at birth, which were round at first but sharpened to needle-points in the first 24 hours.

Although their eyes were still closed, they squirmed about and yelled when hungry. They sucked your finger if they could get hold of it.

What astonished the captain is he never suspected anything. Only last week he had been putting the two non-expectant mothers as well as his six other sturdy Bengals and Siberians through their acts at an indoor circus in Portland, Me. Sahib is the tiger he takes beef away from in the cage and Judy is his rollover tiger. (Both did these stunts at Frank Buck's Jungleland the first year of the World's Fair.)

"I never noticed a thing," he explained apologetically. "Otherwise I would never use a cat with cubs coming. They are too unreliable."

It was while the tiger truck was rolling back from Portland that Sahib's litter was born. The driver reported he heard Sahib make funny cries, as though she had a cold in the head. They looked and there were the cubs crawling in the straw.

The other adult tigers were in the same cage with Sahib but, contrary to all tiger tradition, they ignored the strangers.

"And always," said Capt. Proske, "tigers eat the other's cubs."

Dr. Siegel was quite as excited as the Proske establishment. Although he has attended lions and elephants, this is his first tiger delivery. He prescribed a careful diet of a pint of milk, a raw egg, teaspoon of lime water, tablespoon of dextrose and Vitamin A and D concentrates, starting the cubs on an ounce apiece every two hours.

Because of the harsh weather, Capt. Proske expects to board them in his bedroom for the next ten weeks. In several weeks now their baby teeth should come in, he said.

Judy is his worst cat. It was she that killed the Shriner at a Shrine circus in Missouri a few years ago, and later almost killed the captain.

"And the ones you bring up are the most apt to hurt you. You become so used to each other you get careless."

"Little murderers," he said fondly, looking down at them.