



History of a Zoo in Hershey

1905

- Franz Zinner, the original zookeeper of Hershey Zoo, gives Milton S. Hershey 12 prairie dogs that will form the foundation of the future zoo.

1909

- Hershey Park announces that its biggest attraction for 1910 will be a Zoological Garden that includes bears, birds, deer and other animals.

1910

- Hershey Zoo officially opens along Spring Creek.
- On May 13, two American black bears, Bob and Mag, arrive at the zoo.
- Throughout the rest of the year, more animals are added to the zoo, including angora goats, fox squirrels, opossums, peacocks, pheasants and zebus.

1914

- The first lion, Minnie, is added during the summer.

1915

- The zoo is remodeled and expands to accommodate more animals, including a new leopard and all the residents of a monkey house.

1916

- Hershey Laundry moves to the Hershey Press Building, and the zoo acquires the former laundry building. The building is renovated to house larger animals, including lions. (Today this is the **ZooAmerica** admission building.)

1934

- The zoo renovates an early conservatory as a bird house (now The Great Southwest building at **ZooAmerica**) and builds a reptile house (now the Southern Swamps building).
- A pair of baby elephants is added for a short time. When Mr. Hershey overhears some guests say that they prefer monkeys, the elephants are sold.

1934 (continued)

- During the Great Depression, the Zoo and town experience a period of growth. By the end of the decade, the zoo covers 40 acres.

1942

- On December 20, Hershey Zoo closes for the duration of World War II due to the number of employees entering military service or transferring to production employment.

1950

- Hershey Zoo reopens under a new director, Clarence Moose, and assistant director, Raleigh Hughes. The new animal collection includes the following species: African sheep, antelope, aoudad, bison, black bear, chipmunk, crow, deer, duck, emu, fox, goat, goose, groundhog, hare, hawk, llama, monkey, opossum, owl, parakeet, partridge, pheasant, pigeon, rabbit, raccoon, skunk, squirrel and wolf.

1954

- Hershey Zoo opens “Monkey Island.” (Today this area is home to the black-tailed prairie dog exhibit in Big Sky Country of **ZooAmerica**.)

1971

- Hershey Zoo closes during plans to restructure **Hersheypark**. An “Animal Garden” within **Hersheypark** takes its place and features a new monkey island, barnyard petting zoo and baby animals.

1978

- John W. Stawbridge III, the director of Hershey Museum, develops plans for a new, themed zoo called **ZooAmerica** North American Wildlife Park. It officially opens on May 7, and Strawbridge serves as its director until July 1981.

1980

- **ZooAmerica** launches **Creatures of the Night**, an educational alternative for Halloween. (The event will celebrate its 30th anniversary in 2010.)

1982

- **ZooAmerica** becomes one of only 50 zoos in the United States and two in Pennsylvania to receive accreditation by the Association of Zoos and Aquariums. (Today eight Pennsylvania attractions belong to AZA.)

1993

- An infirmary is built to better care for the animals. It's is staffed by veterinarians from Penn State Milton S. Hershey Medical Center.

1999

- **ZooAmerica** opens a major new exhibit for its American black bears. (Today this is among the Zoo's most popular attractions.)

2004

- The Zoo introduces its official mascot, "Ranger Scratch," and the Ranger Scratch Kid's Club, a program designed to educate kids about conservation and environmental issues.

2008

- Chainsaw artist Phil Yordy is asked to carve images of North American animals into a dying oak tree, creating a sculpture centerpiece in the Zoo.

2009

- The Zoo adds a new education facility, Woodlands Education Center, to provide more program opportunities for guests.
- The **Hersheypark** entrance to the Zoo is redesigned to include an animal-encounter plaza.

2010

- **ZooAmerica** celebrates the 100th anniversary of a zoo in Hershey.