

Especially for young readers



The Mini Page



© 1976 by The Mini Page Publishing Co. All rights reserved. World-wide syndicated by M.S.C. Features, Inc.

Member of



Distinguished Achievement Awards Winner 1975

By BETTY DEBNAM

The Mini Page baby-talks

Mother's Day at the Zoo



Baby pygmy hippo: "I was only 2 days old when this picture of Mom and me was taken. We like to stay in the water more than big hippos. We have to keep our skin wet or it cracks. Who wants rough, dry skin?"

SAN DIEGO, CALIF. — The San Diego Zoo is one of the best zoos in the country.

The people who run the zoo are very proud of the many babies born there each year.

It is instinct that causes most zoo mothers to look after their babies.

We really can't say animals love their babies like your mother loves you.

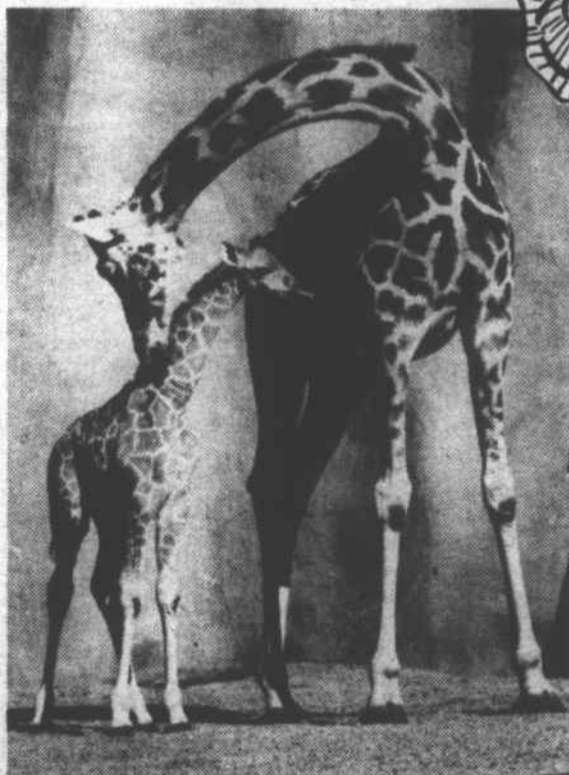
But we can certainly look at their pictures and imagine that they do.

Especially around Mother's Day. It's coming up on May 13.

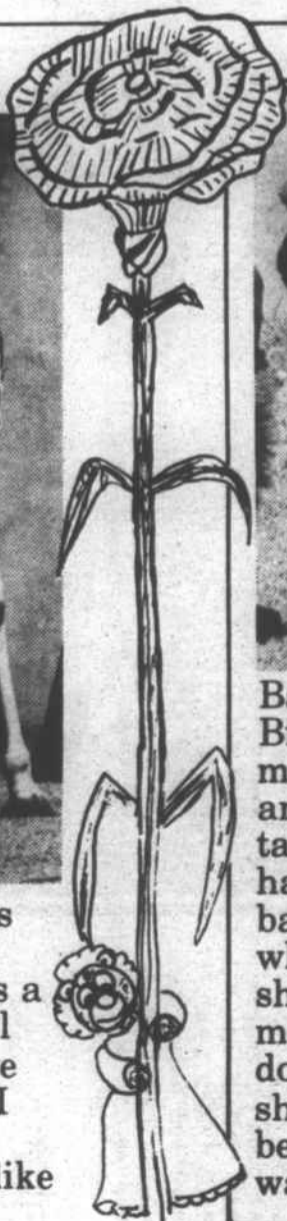
To celebrate, we have some make-believe baby interviews.



Baby flamingo: "My mom just has a single baby at a time. Dad helped sit on my egg."



Baby giraffe: "My mom gives me a lick. She licked me all over when I was born. That's a lot of licking. I was 6 feet tall at birth. Mother giraffes have their babies standing up, so I dropped about 5 feet to the ground. I know that sounds like a tall tale, but it's true."



Baby gorilla: "My name is Binti. I am hanging on to my mom Dolly's back. Not all animals know or use instinct to take care of babies. My mom had to take lessons. She had one baby before me and didn't know what to do. Then the zoo people showed her movies of gorilla mothers and gave her a gorilla doll. A trainer praised her when she treated the doll well. She has been a model mother ever since I was born."

San Diego Zoo photos



Baby Douc langur: "I have other females (or aunts) here in my monkey home who cuddle and groom me just as well as my mom. She doesn't mind at all. That's her in the picture."