



DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

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WICHITA MOUNTAINS REFUGE BUFFALO SENT TO TRINIDAD ISLAND ZOO

Emperor Valley Zoo, Port of Spain, Trinidad, British West Indies, is the new home of two American bison, the Department of the Interior reports.

The buffalo are from the Wichita Mountains National Wildlife Refuge in Oklahoma--a gift to the people of Trinidad.

There were several steps in the transfer of these animals. First, there were the formalities to be observed by one Nation to another. Then the buffalo were provided by the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife, Fish and Wildlife Service. Veterinarians from the Animal Disease Eradication Division of the Department of Agriculture made the necessary health examinations and issued the certificates. Through the courtesy of the Chamber of Commerce of Lawton, Oklahoma, the animals were transported to the shipping point, New Orleans, Louisiana.

The deep water men of the steamship line knew nothing about handling buffalo, so a steamship official writes "the presence of those two men from Oklahoma throughout the loading process was certainly appreciated."

Two more Wichita Refuge buffalo are carrying tags for the Manila, Philippine Islands, zoo. They will be sent as soon as shipping arrangements are completed. Another pair of buffalo was sent to the Madrid zoo in Spain three or four years ago and as far as is known, the pair is still a spectacle of delight for the zoo-goers of old Madrid.

Last year three longhorn cattle from Wichita Refuge were sent to Santo Domingo, whence came one branch of their ancestors, small, black, sharp-horned Spanish cattle which were brought to America in 1521 and which escaped to cross breed and become longhorns.

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