

Kid's KOrner

Where Wild Things Are

JOYCE BUPP

York Co. Correspondent
JACOBUS (York Co.) — Have you ever wanted to go "where the wild things are"?

In York County, there are lots of wild things at the Richard M. Nixon Environmental Education Center. And since the Center has built a large addition to its nature museum to display a collection of mounted animals from around the world, the wild things have gotten ... well, even wilder.

There's a fierce-looking tiger from India on the prowl. A walrus, sporting a pair of long, white ivory tusks and a shaggy musk ox can be spotted in different corners. A whole herd of exotic wild animals of the deer and sheep families is clustered in one section. And keeping watch over this huge collection of animal specimens are giant Kodiak and polar bears, rearing up on their hind legs to stand more than nine-feet tall.

This Treasury of Wildlife collection, with more than 70 full-size animal mounts, was donated to the Nixon Park by local resident William G. Koller. Many of these

animals are now protected from hunting or capture because they are threatened by extinction. The chance to actually see some of these species "in the wild" in their native habitats is rare.

Nixon Park also has a large display of specimens of wild animals and birds that might be found in York County, including a bobcat, a giant snapping turtle, many birds of the area, insects and butterflies...

Many visitors to the Center are especially fascinated with a live animal named Racer. Racer is a black rat snake, nine years old and six feet long. It lives in a large glass enclosure with sheltered areas in which it can hide and a tree limb for snaking around on.

Some of the displays at the Nixon Park nature center are the "hands on" kind, where kids can pick up and examine wildlife items like rocks, feathers, leaves, hides and shells or match plant smells to the proper tree or flower. One part of the center is for bird watching, with benches, bird identification books and a glassed wall overlooking several outside

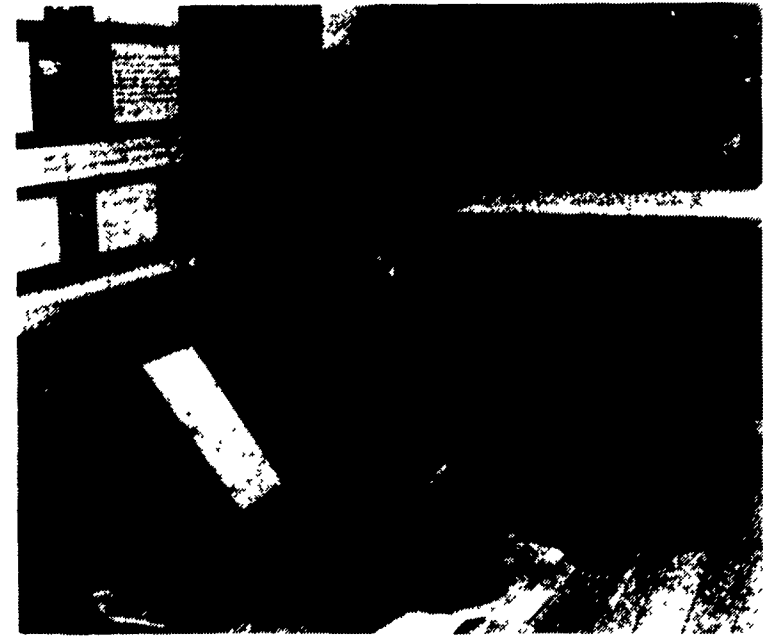
birdfeeders.

The park has no picnic or recreational facilities and is designed to be a quiet place for nature-observation. Its 143-acre are in woodlands, wetlands and natural, open field areas where white-tailed deer and numerous birds can often be seen. A stream running through the park and a small pond provide places to see frogs, tadpoles and water-loving insects and plants. There are six miles of trails through the park, from short, easy walks to longer hikes through hillside woodlands and natural-growth fields.

Nixon Park is open six days each week, Tuesday through Saturday from 8:30 to 4:30 p.m. and Sundays from 12:00 to 6:00 p.m. The Center is closed on Mondays and holidays. There is no admission charge. Horses, dogs, bicycles, skateboards, hunting, fishing and fires are not permitted in the park. The Park is located west of Jacobus and is accessible from the Old Susquehanna Trail and Valley Road. For more information, call the park at (717) 428-1961.



This fierce-looking tiger came from the country of India.



While visiting Nixon Park on an elementary school field trip, this visitor to Nixon Park worked on a quiz about the nature displays.



Elementary school students visiting the Nixon Park's Treasury of Wildlife collection admire the giant Kodiak bear.

Kid-Style Fun On Dec. 4

INTERCOURSE (Lancaster Co.) — Parents looking for a fun-filled, old-fashioned holiday celebration for their children will find the perfect event at Kitchen Kettle Village during Kid's Holly Day, Saturday, December 4, from 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

With an array of kid style fun, Kid's Holly Day will offer children an opportunity to taste the spirit of the season with special meals, holiday treats, decorating projects, stories, wagon rides and other activities geared especially for kids 12 and under.

The day will open with a delightful Breakfast with Yummie, the cheerful gingerbread "person" costumed character of Kitchen Kettle Village. Breakfast with Yummie begins at 8 a.m. at the King House Restaurant. For \$3.50 each child gets a special package that includes a decorating

tour and a menu that includes delicious buried treasured muffins filled with jam, cinnamon toast squares, ooey gooey peanut butter French toast, razzle-dazzle pancakes and hot chocolate. Reservations can be made by calling (717) 768-8261.

In addition, a special children's lunch menu at the Kling House Restaurant will feature alphabet soup, "bugs on a log" appetizers, sandwich boats and hot diggity dogs.

One of the highlights of the day will be a unique holiday kid's tea party at the Kettle House, complete with delicious foods and refreshments, as well as fascinating storytelling by Lancaster's well-known storyteller, Carol Lynn Bauer. Bauer will share amusing and inspiring stories with the youngsters, encouraging them to share in the imaginative fun of

storytelling.

Children will have the opportunity to decorate gingerbread cookies at the Kitchen Kettle Village Bake Shop, enjoy cheese balls at the Smokehouse Shop, sample a taste of cherry vanilla, mint chocolate and other holiday fudge flavors at the Fudge Kitchen and much more.

At the Deerskin Leather Shop, youngsters can paint leather Christmas ornaments. At the Grande Place Christmas Corner, they can buy Christmas ornaments and have their holiday gifts wrapped. Special kid-priced holiday gift tables will be set up near the Jam and Relish Kitchen with a variety of selections. Kids can also make their own ornaments with proceeds benefiting the American Cancer Society.

Throughout the day, the Livery Stable will provide free wagon



Allyson and Scott Ladley decorate cookies at Kitchen Kettle Village.

rides to kids 12 and under, when accompanied by an adult, there will also be free samples of hot spiced apple cider, free balloons, visits with Yummie and Frosty the Snowman, along with a topiary bear display, a life-size gingerbread house for picture-taking

fun, Victorian Christmas Carols from the Lancaster Opera Company and lively traditional music by the Schlossmen German Band. Kitchen Kettle Village is located 10 miles east of Lancaster and 30 miles west of Exton on Route 340.