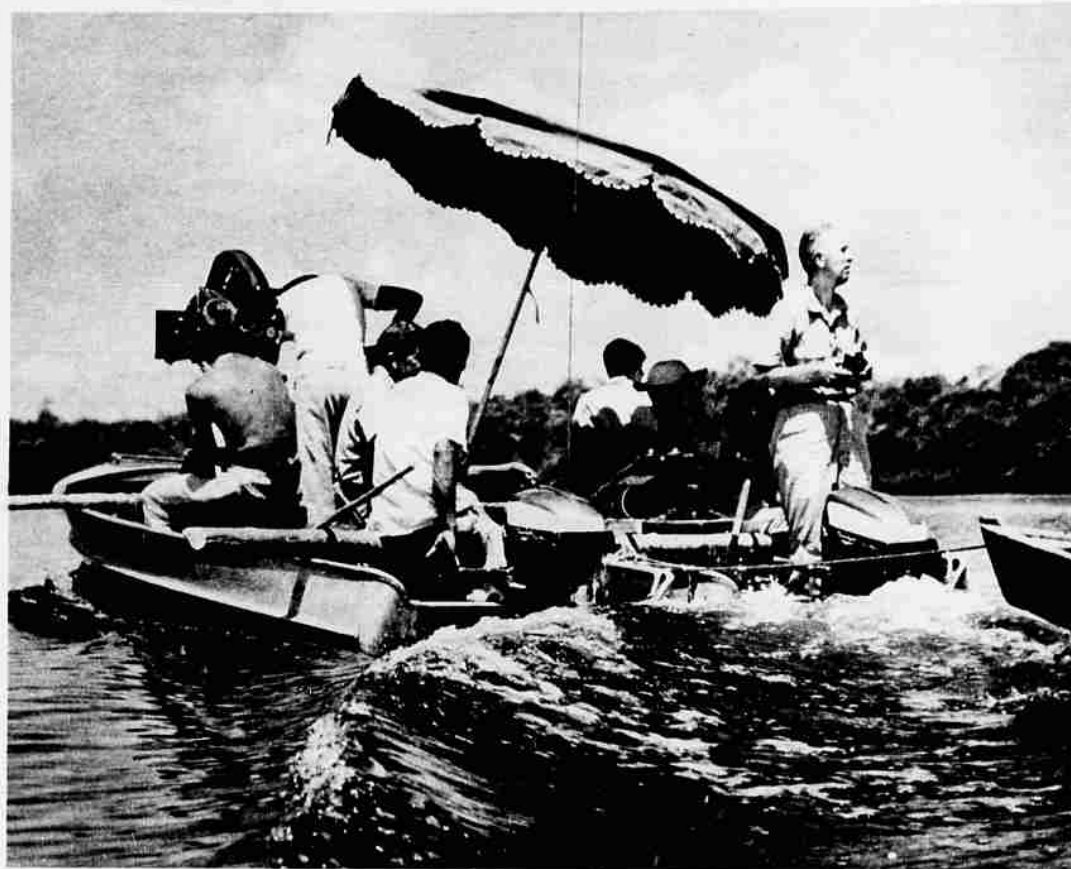




The former star
of "Zoo Parade"
reveals how
you, too, can plan
your life to work
at the things
you really enjoy.

Do what you want to do— NOW!



by Marlin Perkins

Director, Lincoln Park Zoo, Chicago

MY LIFE has taught me that the surest path to success is to find out what you most enjoy doing—then set about to do it.

I decided young that if a man is going to spend most of his waking hours earning a living, he ought to spend them doing what he likes best. Today, in my 50s, I believe this inexperienced decision was wise and practical. I am doing precisely what I chose to do. I have not yet met the man with whom I would trade places.

Furthermore, I believe that almost any boy—whether in his teens or his 50s—can succeed in designing his own life if he starts right now.

The life I set out to achieve, working among wild animals, is certainly not a conventional one. Occasionally I go out to exotic places to catch them and bring them back to Chicago's Lincoln Park Zoo where millions can come and look at them.

As a little boy in Carthage, Mo., I loved to explore the countryside for wildlife, particularly snakes. I'd ride into the country on my bicycle, collecting water snakes, blue racers, anything I could find. I was almost thrown out of Wentworth Military Academy (where we weren't permitted to own pets) for keeping snakes in a cage at the top of my closet.

By the time my father sent me to the University of Missouri, I knew I had to quit acting like Huckleberry Finn and decide what I was going to be. This was when I learned how some people plan their lives.

One of my friends, about to gradu-