

Mme. Abreau, Cuban Woman, Praised As First Scientist Ever to Breed And Raise Chimpanzee in Captivity

NEW YORK, Nov. 4 (A.P.)—Mme. Rosalina Abreu, who died in Havana last night, was the first scientist ever to accomplish the feat of breeding and raising a chimpanzee in captivity. Dr. W. Reid Blair, director of the Bronx zoo, said today.

"Breeding chimpanzees in captivity is so difficult that few have been born and lived," Dr. Blair said. "Mme. Abreu not only produced the first one but all but three of those even were bred and raised by her.

"We had the second here at our zoo; Philadelphia Zoological gardens raised one and a third was born about two months ago at the Yale station for research among anthropoidea at Orange Park, near Jacksonville, Fla."

Dr. Blair knew Mme. Abreu for many years and several times visited her estate, just outside Havana, where she bred and raised her apes and monkeys. Her collection, he said, was one of the finest in the world.

PET STARTED WORK

A member of a wealthy Cuban family, whose money was made in sugar, Mme. Abreu first became interested in monkeys, Dr. Blair said, when she was given one as a pet a little less than 25 years ago.

"She became very much interested in the monkey," he said, "and naturally began to read and study along that line. While in Europe she saw a chimpanzee, the highest order of ape and probably the most intelligent of all mammals aside from man. She bought a chimpanzee and then started her notable collection, about 22 or 23 years ago.

The last time I was down there, about a year ago, she had 20 chimpanzees, five or six oranges and a marvelously complete collection of smaller apes and monkeys. There was hardly any type of ape or monkey that she did not have. And she bred them very successfully."

Mme. Abreu never taught her monkeys tricks, Dr. Blair said. The whole purpose of her work was to place them in surroundings as natural as possible and study them in those surroundings.

"They lived in big cages or dens," he said, "outdoors under the trees. Most of them lived out the year round, which is one reason, we think, she was so successful in raising them. Some of them are delicate ones, and she would take them into the house every night when the weather was the least bit chilly.

"Scientists from all over the world used to go there and study her collection. Dr. Robert M. Yerkes, head of the psychology department at Yale, wrote a book about her apes. Its title was 'Almost Human.'"

In addition to her animals, Mme. Abreu had a wide variety of interests, Dr. Blair said. She helped to finance

several Cuban revolutions and was one of Havana's most generous philanthropists.

HAD GIRLS' SCHOOL

"On her estate she also had a school for orphaned girls," Dr. Blair said. "She financed the whole thing and paid the teachers.

"Mme. Abreu was a great friend and admirer of the late Theodore Roosevelt and of Gen. Leonard Wood. On the wall along a stairway in her home she had had painted a mural of Roosevelt's Rough Riders advancing up San Juan hill.

"I understand that in her will she has left her entire collection of apes and monkeys to the Cuban government, which has promised to set aside a park in which her work may be carried on.

"Her two children, a son and daughter, are married and live in Europe, but they used to visit her frequently."

Mme. Abreu's feat of breeding chimpanzees in captivity was called by the Carnegie institute of Washington "the greatest anthropological experiment ever made."

A great part of her wealth was invested in her simian collection, to which she referred as "my family." Mme. Abreu was known to have paid \$25,000 for a single rare ape captured in the African jungle.

YOUNG INDIAN SHOT; MINER IS ARRESTED

STOCKTON, Nov. 4 (A.P.)—As the result of a fight and shooting affray at Jamestown, Leo Fauls, young Indian, is in the county hospital at Sonora and Robert Fish, miner, is in Tuolumne county jail. Fauls was struck in the face by pellets from a shotgun fired, he alleges, by Fish. The latter told Sheriff J. E. Dambacher Fauls attacked him with a club and ran away, only to attempt to return. He claims he fired over Fauls' head to frighten him. Fauls is not wounded seriously.

HUNT FOR 2 PLANES CONTINUES IN NORTH

VANCOUVER, B. C., Nov. 4 (A.P.)—The hunt for two planes and their crews believed lost in northern British Columbia's rugged country continued today, without success.

Aerial search for Pilot Robin Renahan and two companions missing since last Tuesday when they arrived at Butedale cannery, 400 miles north of here, was held up today by fog, but one of the fisheries department cruisers began a search of inlets and bays between Prince Rupert and Butedale, 100 miles south.