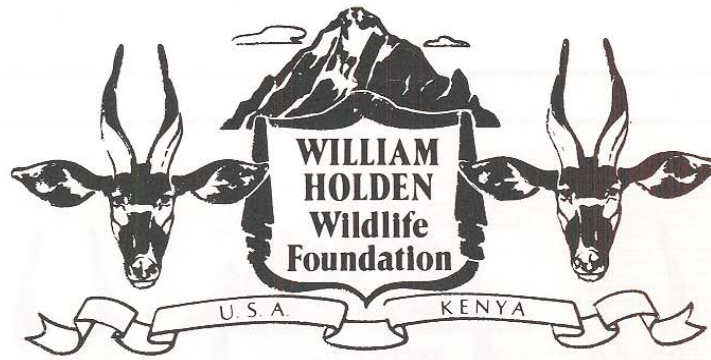


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February, 1989

Dear Friends,

"Out of the mouths of Babes", as the saying goes, generally comes a purity of purpose.

Last year, I had occasion to be in England and appeared on a popular T.V. talk show. As a result, the students of Ascot Heath School took it upon themselves to raise the equivalent of U.S. \$100.00 to donate to the William Holden Wildlife Foundation. I was so touched that I visited their school and was impressed by the children and their teachers. Together, we have started a "pen pals" program between some of our students in Kenya and the Ascot School.



We are currently involved in an ambitious fund raising effort that involves every volunteer we can muster. Our weekend of events in Palm Springs constituting a Tribute to William Holden will hopefully bring us some needed funds.

Construction of Phase II has started, and we have installed our new Education Officer, Miss Heather Eves.

We played host to several seminars this last quarter, the Soil Conservation Seminar was an enthusiastic group who became extremely interested on the impact of wildlife vs. the conservation of habitat. I think they are now convinced to consider both causes in the future.

Onward & upward!

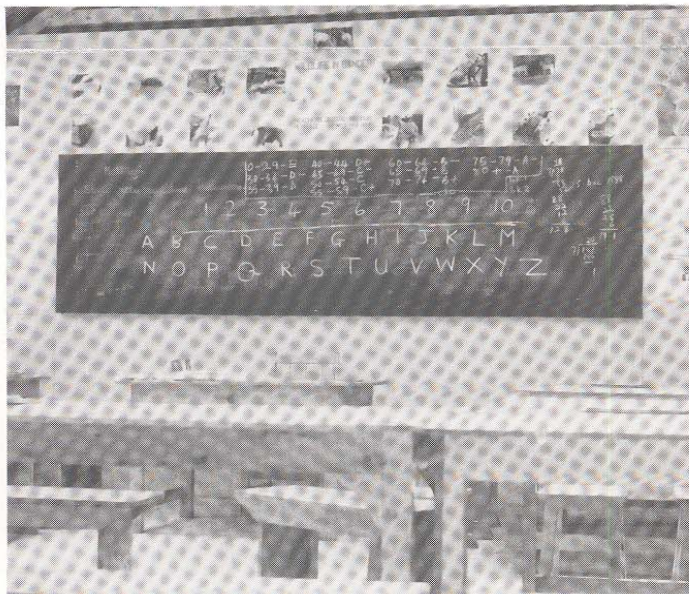
Warmest regards.

Stefanie Powers

*Thanks to Valerie Boynton and Juliana Grillo
for donating over 500 books to our new library.*

Soil Conservation Seminar

10 days of conference and lectures
plus a field trip to plant trees in the
forest.



Kahurura Library

Open for business. Our first courses have
begun under the supervision of our new
education officer.



Heather Eves

The staff of the Kahurura School and the
Directors of WHWF welcome Heather to
the fold.

Just a reminder that the Foundation has WHWF t-shirts!
The shirts sell for \$10.00 plus postage (\$2.00 handling).

Checks can be made out to:
THE WILLIAM HOLDEN WILDLIFE FOUNDATION
P.O. Box 67981, Los Angeles, CA 90067

Small _____ Med. _____ Large _____ X-Lg. _____
Blue _____ White _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip Code _____



"BATIAN"

1975-1988

The Laikipia Plains is a vast expanse of land suitable for some farming and a great deal of livestock ranching, it is also the habitat of many species of East Africa's prized wildlife, including the Cheetah.

In a constant battle between man and animal, the wildlife are losing the fight for survival on the land that is their heritage. In 1975, a Laikipia farmer shot a female Cheetah who was attacking his herd. After examining the Cheetah, the farmer saw that she was nursing cubs, so he went looking for them in the bush, fortunately, he found four

of them (there was no evidence that more existed). The Cheetah cubs' eyes were not yet open, they were so young. The local game department had no facilities to raise the cubs, so they were brought to the Mount Kenya Game Ranch Animal Orphanage. Iris Hunt has an amazing talent at nurturing young orphans, and she took these babies into her house and her heart. All four cubs survived and homes were found for three of them, the remaining Cheetah, a male named Baitian became part of the family. The keeping of wild animals as pets, is not something we normally subscribe to, however, in this instance, the care that Batian had received so imprinted upon him that he began to respond as a domestic dog might.

Much has been written of the grace, speed and skill of this remarkable predator, whose behavior in the wild has been studied and documented on film for all of us to enjoy. Unique to Cheetah above all wild feline, is their remarkable nature. Once man is imprinted upon them, they rarely revert in behavior. The Cheetah has been historically so reliable that the ancient Egyptians and Romans used them as hunting dogs. Of course, all of us who had the privilege of Batian's friendship felt that he was exceptional among Cheetahs.

To observe at close range the magnificence of this noble animal, was to grow in awe of nature's perfection. To have enjoyed 13 years of life is quite a normal span for captive Cheetahs, the sad fact is that for those of us who knew Batian, it was not nearly long enough.

