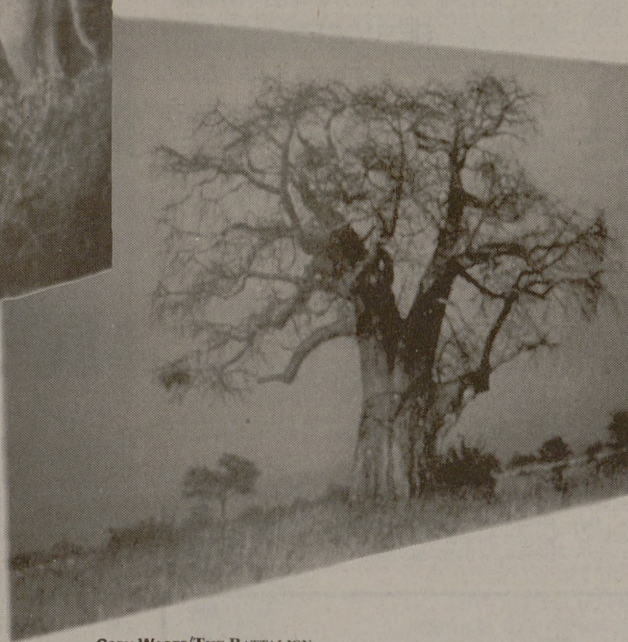


Green Hills of Africa



CODY WAGES/THE BATTALION

The above pictures, part of the Serengeti Reflections collection, are on display at the Brazos Valley Museum of Natural Science.

Exhibit gives Brazos Valley a taste of Serengeti region

BY BRIAN FLEMING
The Battalion

In 1991, the Houston Museum of Natural Science hosted a photographic safari to the Serengeti region of Eastern Africa.

Sixty-four of these photographs, now on display at the Brazos Valley Museum of Natural Science, feature the people, wildlife and scenery of this region.

Richard Huey, curator of education for the museum, said the photos were taken in a variety of situations.

"On this exhibition, there were five different tours, and the 63 photographs are from 10 different photographers."

"We have the elephants, lions and cheetahs, but there is also a lot of the geography as well as the tribes people and their way of life," Huey said.

Huey said the Museum of Natural Science features various kinds of exhibits and a wide spectrum of experiences.

"What we try to do here at the museum is educate people about natural science. That also involves culture — not just the straight biology and geology," he said.

Huey said what the museum hopes to accomplish is an educational experience for residents of the Brazos Valley.

"While our emphasis is definitely [on the] Brazos Valley, we feel there is a lot more out there in the world that we can bring to this community," Huey said.

"Even though this material is not Brazos Valley, there are people here that are from Africa, going here as either graduate or undergraduate students at A&M [and people] who have been to Africa before or are just interested in [the exhibit]."

"This is a great way for people to get a little bit of exposure to or a little bit of flavor of the Serengeti."

Huey said that overall, the photography is phenomenal.

"These are not professional photographers — they are everyday people," Huey said. "You look at many of these photographs, and they look almost professionally staged, but they are not."

Nivea Maldonado, administrative assistant for

the museum, said the photographs do have a power people enjoy.

One of the photographs that has gotten a great deal of attention is one of the Daphne Sheldrick Orphanage in Nairobi, Kenya. The photograph, taken by June Holly, shows an orphanage for elephants whose mothers have been butchered for their tusks.

Maldonado said that because the babies do not have a mother, the orphanage collects them and cares for them.

"They are raised until they are old enough to not need their mom's milk, and they are released," Maldonado said. "What is interesting about when they do finally release them [back into the wild] is that they release them on the same day at approximately the same time every year and the Matriarch [the head elephant] comes back every year — the elephants remember."

Maldonado said this is a popular photograph because the orphanage has been featured on the Discovery Channel.

Thomas F. Lynch, executive director of the museum, said he has always found photographic exhibits to be quite popular.

Lynch said he tries to schedule at least one or two each year.

Lynch also said that photographic exhibits such as "Serengeti Reflections" have benefits for the museum.

"[Photographic exhibits] occupy walls, so there is plenty of room for the three-dimensional exhibits to go in the middle," Lynch said.

Lynch said the reaction to this exhibit has been positive.

"A number of people have really liked [the photographs]. The comments have all been positive so far," Lynch said.

Lynch said children are especially moved by the photographs because they are better in quality than those seen on television.

Lynch said the photographs are also directed by conservationism.

"They were taken on a photographic safari, not by hunters," Lynch said.

For the Brazos Valley, this exhibit at the Museum of Natural Science is a way to experience the people, animals and the places of the Serengeti.

The museum is open 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Saturday.

Pfizer pleads guilty to price fixing charges

NEW YORK (AP) — Drugmaker Pfizer Inc. has agreed to plead guilty to fixing prices of a food preservative.

Pfizer will pay a \$20 million fine, the Justice Department said Monday.

In addition to the single count of fixing the price of sodium erythorbate, Pfizer will plead guilty to conspiring with an unidentified company to sell the food flavoring agent matrol only to certain customers and in certain territories.

Justice Department officials would not disclose the companies with which Pfizer conspired because the investigation is continuing.

Pfizer said no other actions are expected against the company or its executives.

The illegal activities occurred from 1980 until 1995, the Justice

Department said. Pfizer sold its food sciences unit, a division that made food additives, in 1996.

The announcement came the same day New York-based Pfizer reported a better-than-expected second quarter profit of \$709 million, a 13 percent jump over the same period a year ago.

Several of Pfizer's new and established drugs, such as the blood pressure drug Norvasc and the antidepressant Zoloft, drove earnings higher.

Sales of the impotence drug Viagra were \$310 million in the second quarter of 1999, down 25 percent from the year-ago period but up 61 percent compared with the first quarter of this year.

Pfizer shares on Monday fell 56 1/4 cents to \$37.25 in afternoon trading on the New York Stock Exchange.

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