

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

I have sat down to write this newsletter at least five times and each occasion has ended in disaster with me a sobbing wreck and the ARC no further along. Jim and I have been though a lot in our lives together and survived some fairly dangerous experiences but losing Jim has been the most difficult, tragic, shocking, and upsetting thing that has ever happened to me. And of course at such a difficult time, the first person I would turn to is no longer there. However upon returning home to Monkey World I immediately felt closer to Jim and knew that he was right to insist that I get straight back to work with the monkeys and apes. The first day back at the park was terrifying but the welcome home was special – from the Monkey World team as well as from all the monkeys and apes. Of course Jim's death has effected the whole of the Monkey World and everyone at the park misses him but it isn't just the people who are still waiting to hear Jim's voice over the radio or see him come walking up one of the paths at the park. The monkeys and apes have always welcomed us back to the park when we have been away for a while. Jim loved the first day back from a trip seeing everyone. At Hananya's group the whole troop starts hooting and displaying following Semach making the initial announcement and greeting us with huge leaps into the air with clapping hands. At Peanut and Pung-Yo's it's high-pitched squeals of excitement, aerial acrobatics, and then Pung-Yo's own unique form of upside down greeting. The whole of the chimpanzee nursery gets over excited and Sally is always beside herself to get a personal hello from us when we return. The capuchins get equally excited as well as the woolly monkeys – especially little Julio. But the one individual that I know is missing Jim more than any of the others is Turkish Çarli. From the first time that we met Çarli in Istanbul many years ago, he has never forgotten Jim, and has always been besotted with him. I have been making more trips down to see Çarli at the bachelor boys and he is always happy to see me, comes running over with a big hello, but then you can see him looking around behind me to see if Jim is coming too. I'm so sorry Çarli.

Over the winter we have received many kind and generous donations and I usually enjoy going through all of the letters hearing about all the different ideas people have had for fund raising activities and awareness campaigns. With recent events taking over this issue of the ARC I will plan on acknowledging all of those individuals and companies in the next edition. I would however like to thank the **more than 3,000 people who have sent in cards, letters, and emails of sympathy and condolence.**

I have read every single one personally and they have been a great source of comfort and support at this difficult time. Thank you so much.

It is ironic how things happen. 2007 is a very special year for Monkey World for several reasons. It is **the park's 20th Anniversary, it is the 10 Anniversary of Monkey Business** (the last series which is being edited right now finishes with us going to see Bryan in Mexico), and it was Jim's and my 10th wedding Anniversary. I hope Jim knows how much he is loved and missed.

Alison Cronin



Turkish Çarli and Jim on the day of his rescue in 2002.



HOW YOU CAN HELP

There are many ways in which you can help Monkey World – Ape Rescue Centre to rescue and rehabilitate more primates. All donations go into a 100% fund - **NO ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS ARE REMOVED.** Monkey World is not a registered charity but we have just established a charity, EAST (the Endangered Asian Species Trust) and we have now applied for charitable status for the Jim Cronin Memorial Fund (JCMF).

Please help us to continue our rescue and rehabilitation work and to keep Jim's memory alive. Come to the open day at the park on June 30th and join us in remembering him and his mission. There are still many more monkeys and apes that we would like to rescue, including some capuchin monkeys that we have been planning for since last year!

Help by donating goods such as fruit, vegetables, bread, strands of garlic, or chewable Vit. C tablets (lower dose i.e. 60 mg). Any type of melon is good as all the monkeys and apes love them yet they are not too fattening! Our small monkeys love small to medium sized baskets and they would be good for the squirrel monkeys, capuchins, and marmosets to nest inside but they need to be quite robust. We can also use more, sheets, blankets, and towels. The monkeys and apes simply love them and we can never have enough. Heavy-duty dog toys, hessian sacks, un-used stamps, and thick ropes are always used while "feeding balls" or "kong" toys keep the monkeys and apes busy trying to get the hidden treats from inside.

You can help by adopting a monkey or ape and you will receive a year's pass to the park, a photo of your monkey or ape, a certificate, and the Ape Rescue Chronicle three times per year. Establish a legacy for the long-term welfare of the primates and be remembered in our memorial garden. Help us to help them.

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Email: apes@monkeyworld.org

Website: www.monkeyworld.org

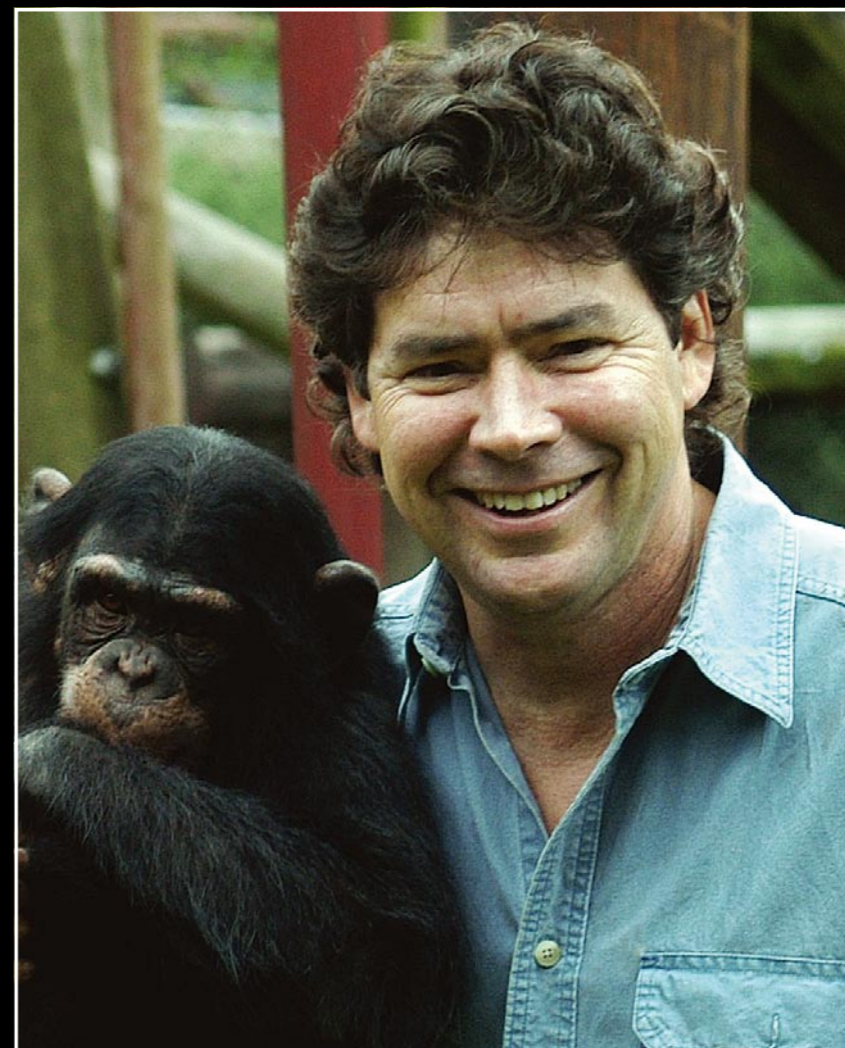
Director: Dr. Alison Cronin MBE

Animal Manager: Jeremy Keeling

Design: David Dancey-Wood and Ben Mason



APE RESCUE CHRONICLE



In memory of Jim Cronin MBE



We Miss You Jim

By Dr Alison Cronin MBE

Jim Cronin died on March 17, 2007 at Cabrini Medical Center in Manhattan. Born and raised in Yonkers, NY, he has been a resident of Great Britain for more than two decades where he and his wife Alison have operated the internationally renowned ape rescue center, Monkey World, which works with governments around the world to halt the illegal smuggling of apes out of Africa and Asia. Jim was educated at St. Denis School and Lincoln High School in Yonkers. During the past 20 years, he established himself as an international expert in the rescue and rehabilitation of abused primates, and the enforcement of international treaties aimed at protecting primates from illegal trade and experimentation. Jim founded Monkey World which he and Alison built from a small refuge to a 65 acre wildlife park that is home to more than 160 rescued primates of 16 different species and is rated as one of the most popular family destinations in England. Last year Jim was awarded the honor of Member of the British Empire (MBE) by Queen Elizabeth II for Services to Animal Welfare. The cable television channel Animal Planet has documented their frequent rescue missions and undercover investigations throughout Europe and Asia for the past 10 years in the series Monkey Business and will be airing new programs in the USA in the fall. Jim had a passion for life and the conservation of wildlife that was an inspiration to all who knew him. His enthusiasm was infectious and he will be missed by all whose lives he touched. Jim Cronin is the son of Margaret and the late John Cronin. He is survived by his wife Alison, daughter Eleanor, brother John and sister Deborah Nunez. A memorial service will be held on Tuesday, March 20 at 9:30 A.M. at St. Paul's Church, 602 McLean Avenue, Yonkers, NY. Donations in lieu of flowers can be made at www.monkeyworld.org.

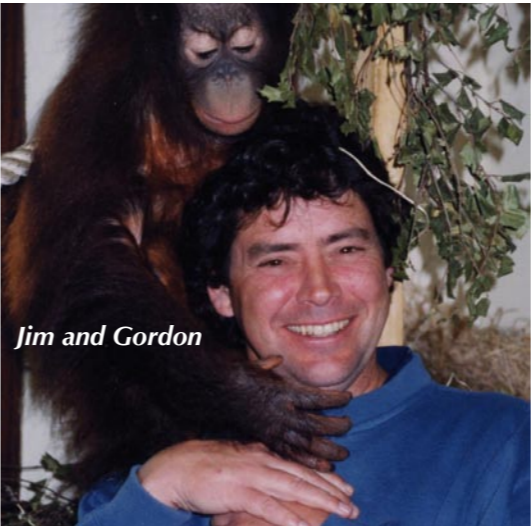
This is the press release I issued two days after Jim had died. It has been an incredibly difficult time for me and so many others that are integral to the Monkey World operation. Jim's passing was completely unexpected; we did not even know that he had cancer. Over the Christmas and New Year period we were travelling in America and Australia when Jim got a pain in his right side. We had only just returned from collecting the young chimpanzee, Bryan, from Cancun so we both presumed the slight discomfort was a result of a bruise or strain he got while moving Bryan...but this was not to be the case. Following medical tests at an emergency clinic in Northern Australia, we were told on January 10th that Jim had three large tumours on his liver. We immediately got on a plane to return home to Dorset but the long journey was not easy and by the time we made it from Cairns to Sydney, Sydney to Los Angeles, Los Angeles to New York he was exhausted needed to stop for a rest. Of course Jim was from New York so it was an easy decision to stop, visit his family, and get a specialist diagnosis/prognosis. In NYC it was confirmed that Jim



We were so happy traveling in Australia over the New Year period



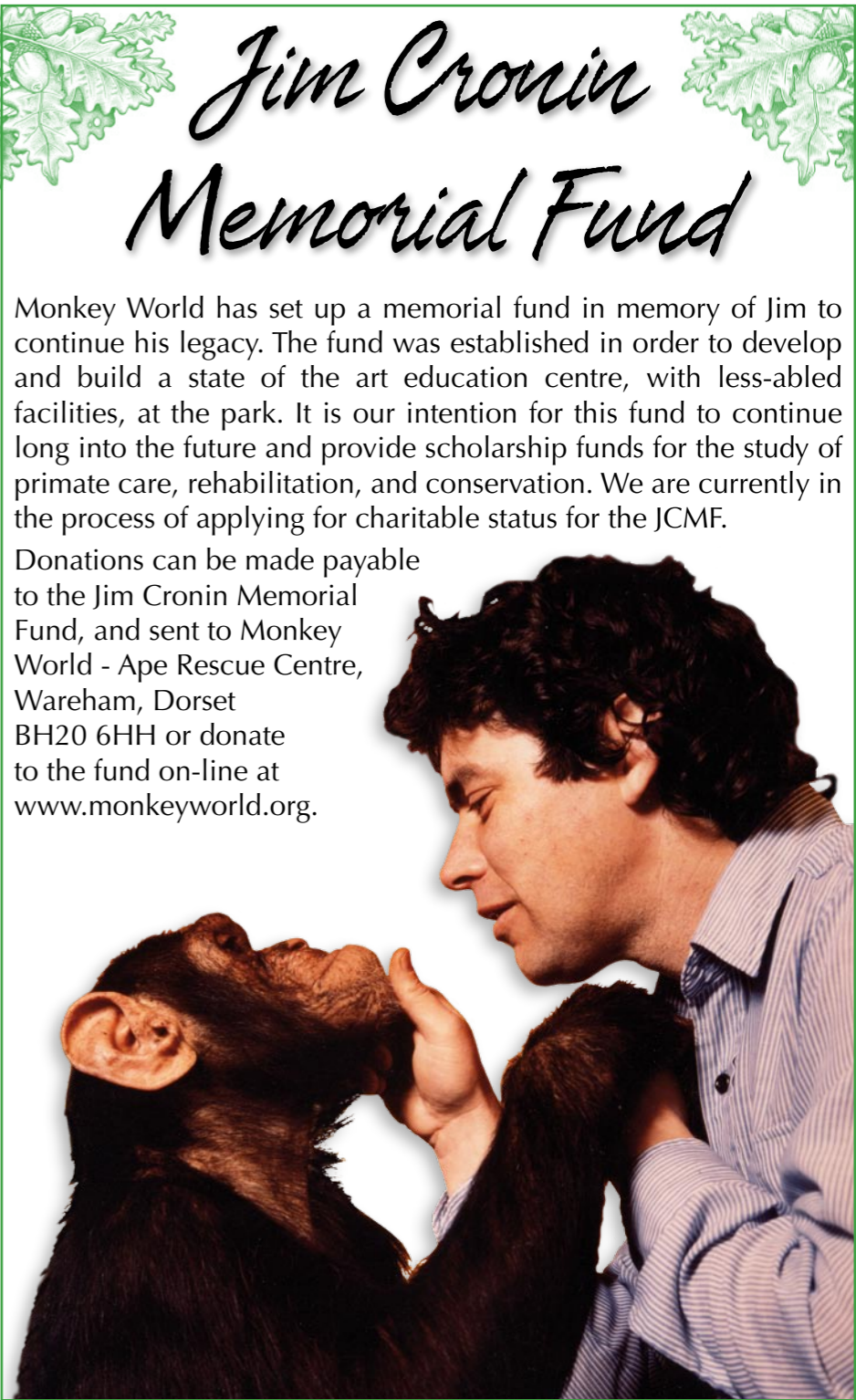
When we collected Bryan from Mexico, we were invited to join Escaret in releasing 150 green sea turtles back into the ocean. Jim was so happy and excited.



Jim and Gordon

had primary cholangio carcinoma that was at an advanced stage. This is a very aggressive type of cancer whose diagnosis often comes too late as the liver continues to function normally until the disease is too advanced for effective treatment. Jim began chemotherapy the following week, wanting and hoping that he would be able to get enough time to return home to Dorset to see and talk to our family, friends, and supporters himself. Tragically this was not to be the case and Jim passed away, peacefully, on St Patrick's Day with me, Jeremy, and his brother at his side.

None of us will ever get over the overwhelming sense of sadness we feel but until the end Jim remained just as focused and driven and insisted that the park continue without any disruption or hesitation no matter what happened. Jeremy and I were both sat down and lectured; I was to be strong and promise that I would take care of myself and continue to run the park as we had always done and Jeremy had to promise that he would make sure that I was OK and that the monkeys and apes were looked after as well or better than ever before. Jeremy and I both vowed to Jim that we would make sure Monkey World would continue and we hope that you will join us in ensuring that Jim's legacy and commitment to the rescue, rehabilitation, and conservation of monkeys and apes goes on with passion and determination.



Jim Cronin Memorial Fund

Monkey World has set up a memorial fund in memory of Jim to continue his legacy. The fund was established in order to develop and build a state of the art education centre, with less-abled facilities, at the park. It is our intention for this fund to continue long into the future and provide scholarship funds for the study of primate care, rehabilitation, and conservation. We are currently in the process of applying for charitable status for the JCMF.

Donations can be made payable to the Jim Cronin Memorial Fund, and sent to Monkey World - Ape Rescue Centre, Wareham, Dorset BH20 6HH or donate to the fund on-line at www.monkeyworld.org.

Memorial Open Day

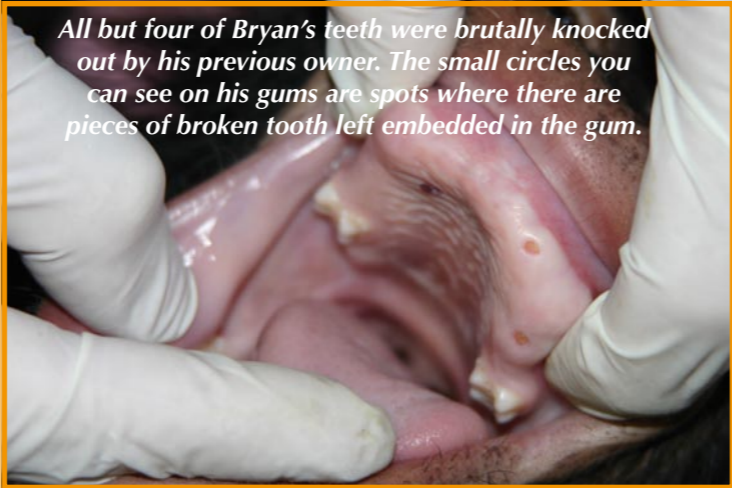
On Saturday, June 30th Monkey World will have a Memorial Day in the memory of Jim Cronin. There will be free entry to the park and we hope that all our supporters will try and make to the park to join us in remembering Jim. It will be a day of special activities and entertainment for children and adults alike.

****Please note that the park will be closed on June 24th. We apologise for any inconvenience****



Monkey World was first contacted about a young male chimpanzee that had been smuggled into Mexico in the autumn of 2005. The baby who was named Bryan had been confiscated by Mexican authorities from a beach photographer in the tourist resort of Cancun. With the chimpanzee already seized and re-located to a safe home in Cancun, Jim and Alison Cronin assumed that making arrangements for the young male to travel to Monkey World would be simple bureaucratic exercise...a 'simple' exercise that ended up taking more than year.

The difficulty in arranging Bryan's paperwork was due to the fact that the baby chimp had been smuggled across the globe illegally and trying to uncover exactly what happened to the small orphan in his short life was no easy task. Mexico and Britain are both signatories of the Convention on the International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) whose laws prevent the commercial trade in live, or dead, endangered species. As such, the legal movement of a seized endangered species generally requires the importing country to issue a temporary import licence, the exporting country then issues their CITES Export Licence and then the final CITES Import Licence can be issued. While all of this paperwork was being completed, in two different languages, the Mexican authorities were still uncovering the details of Bryan's case. It turned out that Bryan, like so many of our rescued chimpanzees, was stolen from the wild after hunters killed his mother. He was smuggled out of Africa into Cuba where an animal dealer sold him to a contact in Mexico, who in turn sold him to a beach



All but four of Bryan's teeth were brutally knocked out by his previous owner. The small circles you can see on his gums are spots where there are pieces of broken tooth left embedded in the gum.

photographer in Cancun. With each new detail of Bryan's background came a revision of the CITES paperwork. Luckily for Bryan, the Ecopark Escaret, was able to provide Bryan with a safe home and good veterinary care until the team from Monkey World was able to collect him.

In less than three years young Bryan had seen his mother brutally killed, he survived a harrowing journey out of Africa and across the globe to a different continent to find himself in the hands of a man who had plans to work him day and night, through the heat and thumping club scene of Cancun. Sadly for Bryan this was not the end of his nightmare. Jim and Alison had hoped that Bryan may not have been too traumatised as his time living with the photographer had been short but once the Cronin's finally met Bryan face to face they were saddened and upset to see that in that the photographer had already knocked out all but four of Bryan's teeth. We knew that photographers and circus TV/Film trainers often do this to stop the apes from biting people but to witness the effects upon such a young chimpanzee was shocking. The "dental work" was done brutally leaving Bryan with gums full of shards of broken baby teeth.

On December 6th everything was finally organised and Bryan was ready to begin his long journey to Monkey World. The Ecopark Escaret had done a wonderful job caring for Bryan but what he needed most of all was companionship of his own kind. Bryan's travelling arrangements were carefully planned. He had a comfortable sized box in which he could stand up and move around, there was a window in the box so he could see out the entire journey, and a generous supply of food, water, and bedding to keep him comfortable throughout the journey. My Travel sponsored the direct flight to Britain and all the staff involved were incredibly helpful. The ground crew allowed us to supervise Bryan's loading



Bryan has now met and lives with seven others in the Nursery group.

into the cargo hold and to check and make sure he was calm and settled before we headed out.

The journey back to Monkey World was uneventful but before Bryan could meet his new family we wanted to give him a full health check, remove the broken pieces of teeth that we could find, and get an x-ray of his mouth to check and see if we had missed any pieces of his baby teeth that could cause a problem when his adult teeth descend in approximately 3 years. Now it was time for Bryan to meet his new family – the Nursery group of seven. Sally was first to meet the new comer and as usual, Sally was more than happy to have a new little boy to look after. They got along brilliantly from the start and Bryan quickly identified



Sally immediately hugged Bryan when she first met him.

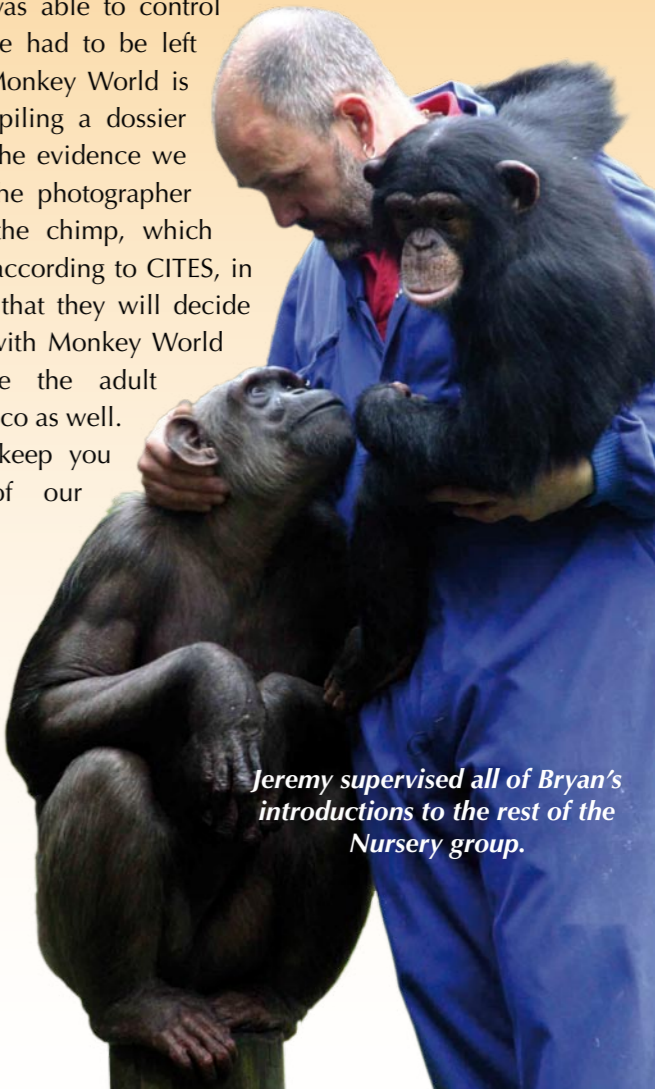
that it was a good thing to be friends with and stick close to the boss. Lulu was also happy to meet Bryan as too were Rodders and Ash and Pip. That left two little boys, Ben and Seamus, who although they liked Bryan, were too busy teasing him and playing rough. The two young males were juggled in and out of the group for a couple of weeks before Bryan's novelty wore off and the threat of



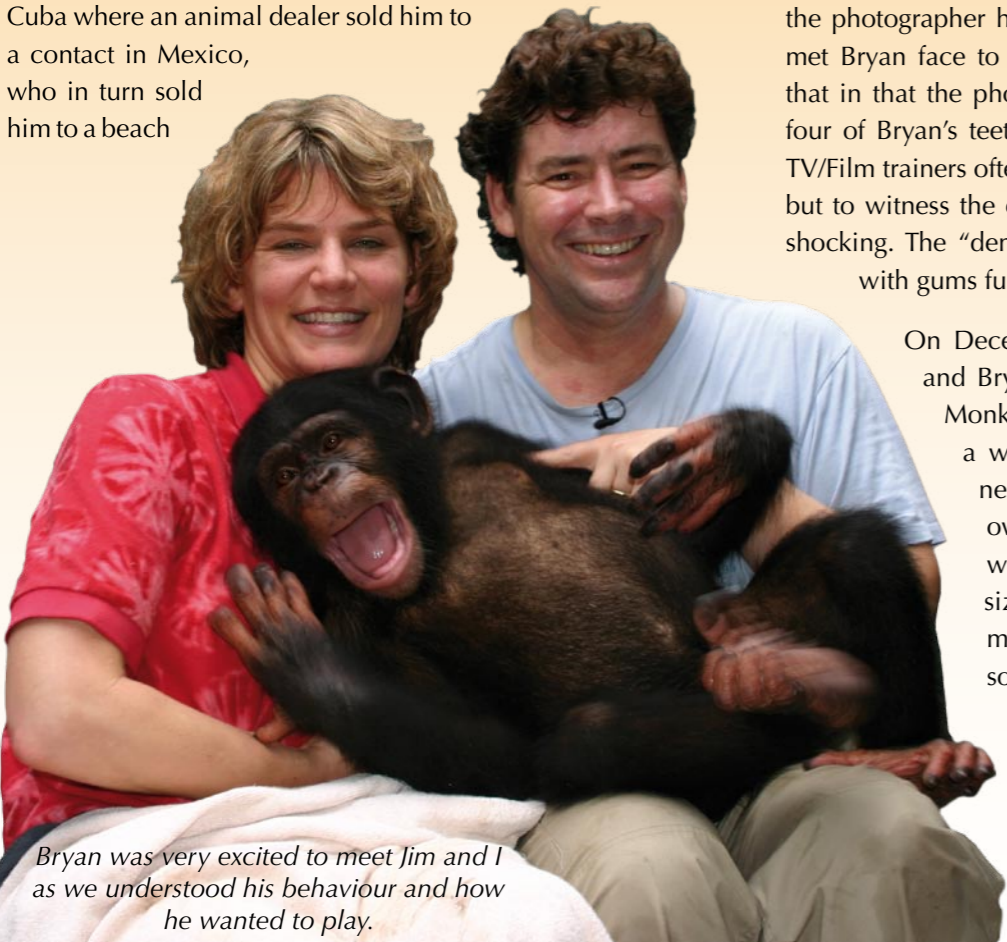
Coco is an adult female chimpanzee that has been forced to work as a beach photographers prop for many years in Cancun.

Sally's retribution, if they were to upset the newcomer, became a serious prospect.

Everyone at Monkey World, Escaret, and My Travel worked very hard to give Bryan back a family of his own kind. However the story of the Life of Bryan does not end on an entirely happy note. The beach photographer, who had Bryan, was known to the Monkey World team for the past four years for working an adult female chimpanzee named Coco up and down the beaches of Cancun. The Mexican authorities attempted to seize Coco the same day as Bryan but she was too big and when she got upset no one was able to control her so she had to be left behind. Monkey World is now compiling a dossier of all of the evidence we have of the photographer working the chimp, which is illegal according to CITES, in the hope that they will decide to work with Monkey World and seize the adult female Coco as well. We will keep you posted of our progress.



Jeremy supervised all of Bryan's introductions to the rest of the Nursery group.



Bryan was very excited to meet Jim and I as we understood his behaviour and how he wanted to play.

THOSE WERE THE DAYS

by Pat Grove

A small paragraph in the local newspaper – “PLANS APPROVED FOR MONKEY PARK” aroused my curiosity and seemed worth investigating. I drove to the proposed site and saw 2 men erecting posts and enquired whether the boss was around. Their directions took me to an area where a man was sitting on the ground watching a group of barbary macaques.

He was ensuring the monkeys did not escape as men were building the enclosure around them. This was my first encounter with Jim Cronin. I explained my interest in getting involved with the “monkey park” and his words to me were “I’ve been praying that someone like you would walk up the path”. Little did I know that the young man with the dark curly hair, black sparkling eyes and cheeky grin was to become my friend, then my boss, and always my hero.

Monkey World opened in July 1987 with 9 chimpanzees, a few assorted monkeys and the aforementioned barbary macaques. To flesh it out Jeremy brought Amy – his young orangutan, into the park from his home, also a very large snake and Albert Hamblin provided amusements for the children. Jim immediately dubbed him “Big Al” and the name has persisted to this day. The entrance fee on that first day was £1.00 to compensate for the limited attractions but half of the visitors demanded their money back complaining that there was nothing to see.

In those early days I acted as Jim’s sounding board for his many ideas – some brilliant and others crazy – but in 1990 my employer offered staff early retirement. I jumped at the chance, intending to spend my time gardening and watching sunsets but the day after leaving I received a phone call from Jim saying, “I hear you have retired, when can you start, tomorrow?” He agreed reluctantly that he could wait for one week.

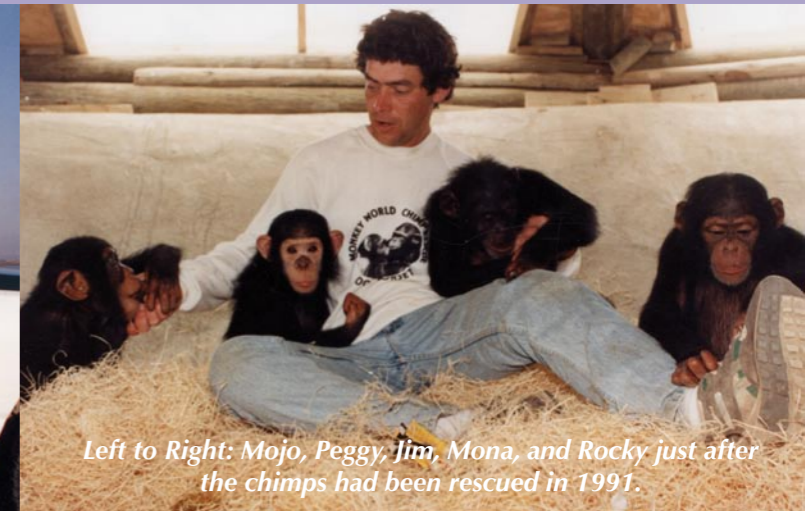
My first day at Monkey World was a shock to the system. The office was a mobile trailer and we had to evacuate it on windy days because of the risk of it being blown over. There was a wooden entrance kiosk and a small, second-hand wooden hut that was the café, with room for about 6 tables. This later became our office and remained so until March of this year. Paperwork was piled high with many final demands for payment of bills and most importantly very little money in the bank. We employed every tactic to delay paying bills not connected to the welfare of his beloved monkeys and apes. Jim was a genius at persuading the bank and companies to get involved in helping us through these tough times. He had the Irish blarney from his father’s ancestry, and the Mafia toughness from his mother’s. Every trick in the book was employed to ensure food and veterinary care was never lacking for the animals.

Pat and baby orangutan Dinda.

The Templer Pavilions were built with the Challenge Anneka program. Prior to Monkey World the site was a derelict pig farm.



Jim worked with the Guardia Civil in Spain to confiscate and rescue the beach photographers chimpanzees.



Left to Right: Mojo, Peggy, Jim, Mona, and Rocky just after the chimps had been rescued in 1991.

Few people knew the stress and worry this unique man underwent to be able to keep Monkey World afloat in the early days. There were 3 musketeers – Jim, the head honcho (his phrase), Jeremy caring for the primates, and myself trying to keep the administration straight amid the turmoil. Word started to spread and visitors began arriving. At one point we had a puppet show until one stormy night the tent blew away. Then we had Juggins the clown to entertain the children if they needed a break from watching the monkeys. At busy times Jim, Jeremy and I cleared tables and sold refreshments, icecream, or gifts. The working week was often 7 days and this tradition is still held by Jeremy today!

At the same time chimpanzees were being used for tourist photographs in Spain. With the assistance of Simon Templer – an Englishman living in Spain who rescued the original 9 chimpanzees that came to Monkey World Jim told the Spanish authorities that he would give a permanent home to any illegal chimpanzees they confiscated. Jim would never refuse a cry for help to rescue and home yet another individual.

The situation slowly started to improve when the TV show Challenge Anneka constructed a new chimpanzee building. Although the build up to the filming was hard work and stressful (it didn’t just happen as portrayed) the true value was in the publicity and to this day people remember it. Also the closure of Windsor Safari Park and the consequent arrival of Rodney and his group emphasised the growing importance of Monkey World as a safe haven for these endangered primates.

Jim was always so full of enthusiasm. For example, when the new visitor’s centre/café/gift shop was under construction he would walk around the foundations planning where everything would be

positioned and then change his mind the following day. Nothing was ever done soon enough for him, when shrubs or flowers did not bloom one week after planting they were regarded as failures. Stars of film and TV were always keen to be seen or involved with our star. The Great Ape Escape set up with a national newspaper also involved some of the cast of East Enders. They manned the phones to take donations from the public. This enabled Monkey

World to have a nursery for the very young chimpanzees, positioned alongside the children’s indoor play area so that both could interact through a large window.

There are so many tales that could be told of Jim’s generosity to anyone in need, of his passionate feelings about the park and its rescue missions, and of his drive to overcome and obstacles that stood in his way. In his personal life Jim had some really low times but one day he returned from a conference and with a huge grin said, “I have just met a wonderful woman.” and that of course was Alison.

If there is a heaven, Jim will certainly be there and oh how they will reconsider calling for him early! Things will change up there as Jim will want things done immediately, if not sooner. Poor St. Peter may already have more stress lines and less hair.

God bless you Jim.



The original entrance to the park.

Addendum:

Although I retired 8 years ago, I continue to help out whenever and wherever needed. My life in retirement lacked the challenge of Jim’s dynamic energy so I asked him if I could still be involved. All the staff are devastated by our loss but we will strive to help Alison keep his dream alive.

