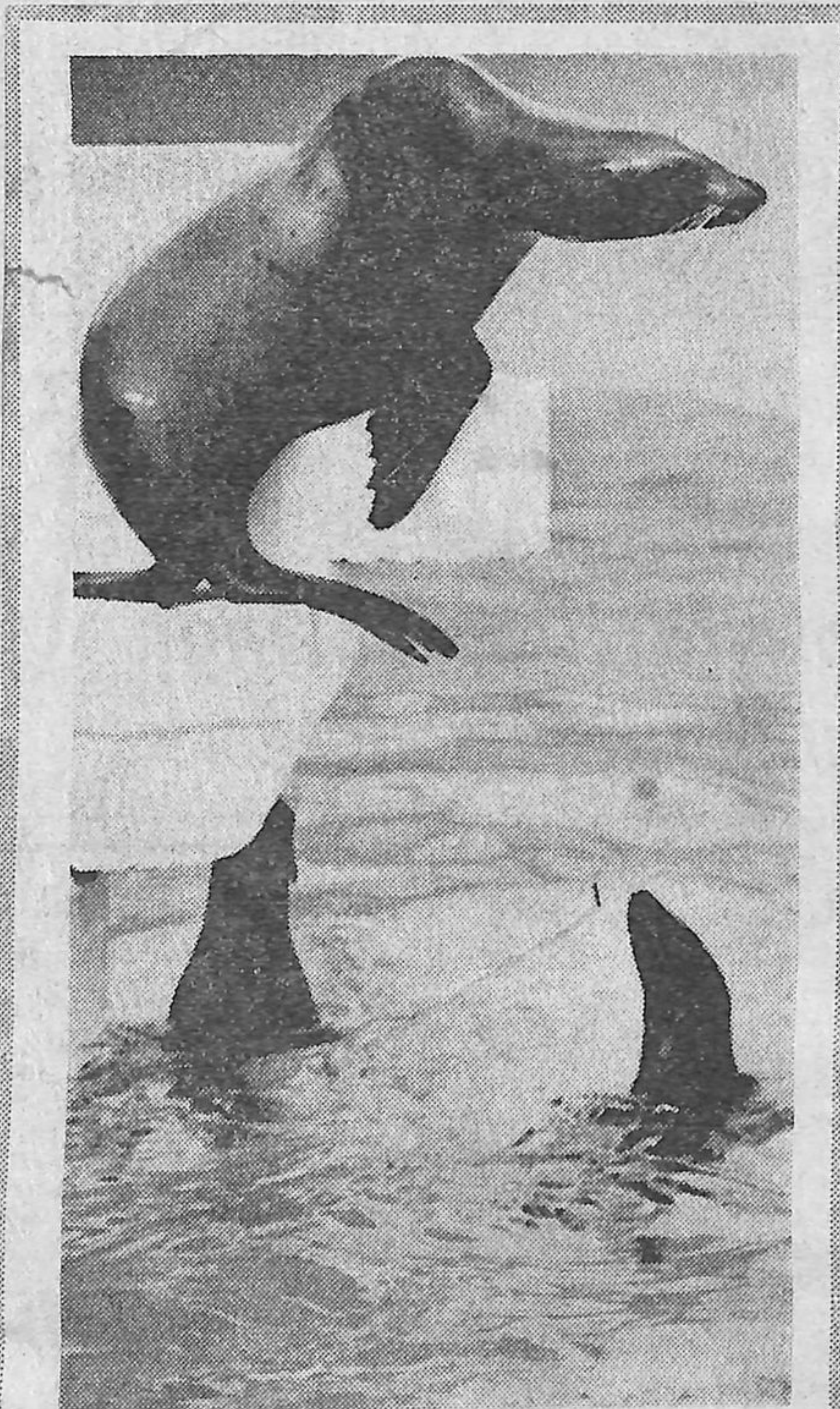


FRI JAN. 20, 1967 9 AM - 9:15 AM.



— Free Press Woodstock Bureau

**WORSHIP DEMONSTRATED** — Church artifacts and costumes from the 1800's were used Friday during an inter-faith church service at Woodstock's Broadway school to help students visualize early forms of worship in Canada. With the bible is Darcy Campbell, 11. Lois Elliott, 11, holds antique service pieces. At rear are George Towle of Lakeside and school principal A. G. Seaton.



JAN. 11 1967  
Boss of the pool at London's Storybook Gardens, Slippery the seal died yesterday of old age. Known to thousands, his memory will be preserved with a statue.

Jan 11/67  
**Saga of a seal ends in death**

By JOE McCLELLAND  
of The Free Press

The King of Storybook Gardens is dead.

Slippery the seal died quietly early yesterday in his poolside home, where he had lived since his internationally-renowned flight to Lake Erie in 1958.

He had belonged to the Public Utilities Commission for nine years and was believed at least 10 years old, perhaps older.

Slippery outlived not only several companions at Storybook, but his own life expectancy as well. The average life of a sea lion in captivity is about six years.

There are three survivors in the seal house by the pool in Storybook, related only by species.

It was always easy to spot Slippery in the pool. He was by far the biggest of the seals, and had spots all over him. The spots were the result of tranquilizers used in his recapture at Sandusky, Ohio, in 1958.

He was born on an island in the Pacific, off the California coast, and spent his puppyhood there until he was captured and brought to London.

A few weeks ago he suffered an infection, but became well enough to be put back into his pool about 10 days ago.

Slippery, during his lifetime, survived not only his nine-day odyssey down the Thames River to the Great Lakes system, but more than one bout of sickness and unfounded rumors of his death.

He was one of the first residents of Storybook Gardens, along with the late Lonesome, his first mate, when the children's fairyland attraction was opened here in June, 1958.

A few days later he slipped away in the night, somehow scaled the wall of the pool and flipped his way down to the nearby river.

His escapade brought publicity well beyond this continent, and did more to make Storybook Gardens popular than anything or anybody before or since.

It was believed that he was simply seeking to return to the Pacific salt water of his puppyhood.

During his flight he swam downstream in the strange fresh water of the river, navigated the busy Lake St. Clair and Detroit River waterway, and kept appearing along the Ohio shoreline of Lake Erie before his eventual capture.

There was a great hue and cry among the people, and many futile attempts to capture him. He appeared in two Ohio rivers, the Maumee and the Portage, but just when would-be captors thought they had him—he managed to elude capture—thereby earning the name of Slippery.

Pursuers tried boats, nets, portable cages, recorded mating calls, and persuasive talk. A United States sheriff even tried a lasso.

On the night of June 26, 1958, came the beginning of the end of the epic. Two powerful tranquilizer shots were fired into him. It made him hopelessly groggy and the next day he drifted through the open door of a boathouse in East Sandusky Bay and plopped onto a raft inside. He was pooped.

Toledo Zoo Director Phil Skeldon and two Sandusky policemen made the final capture.

For a period during the seal's convalescence in Toledo (the fresh water would have killed him in another three weeks), there was considerable international hostility because Toledo refused to give him back to London.

"Finders keepers," they claimed, and Sandusky was mad at Toledo because after all it was in Sandusky he was finally caught. Toledo's good nature, however, prevailed and this city and London, have been such good friends since that the vagrant adventures of Slippery have been commemorated periodically with official visits back and forth.

Slippery was returned to London in a triumphant parade and handed over to his keeper, Don Smith, curator of Storybook, who was the man who found him dead yesterday.

The PUC has a huge life-like statue of Slippery. It will be put up in Storybook Gardens immediately.

And it is hoped, said Storybook Gardens chairman Elmo Curtis after consulting last night with Controller Earl Nichols, that Slippery will be buried beneath the statue in the fairytale garden where so many children loved him.