

THE TIGER PROJECT BEGINNING

In the late 1960's college football teams had live animal mascots. Notable was Louisiana State University which maintained an adult tiger. As Wilbur Arnold entered Football Booster Club administration as vice president he lobbied with some prominent members to start a live tiger project. Based on encouragement from John Reusser (President in 1965) and Reusser's very good friend, Don McFarren, Arnold pursued the concept. Research included visiting the Cincinnati Zoo, home of Benzou, mascot of the Bengals and the Cleveland Zoo. The Cincinnati zoo was not pleased with its responsibility to maintain the full grown Bengal team mascot. However, the Director of the Cleveland Zoo was very cooperative and offered advice regarding facility design that would allow servicing a dangerous animal without the necessity of personal contact. He also suggested a source for a tiger cub, The International Animal Exchange in Ferndale, Michigan.

Recognizing the long time needed to bring such a project to operation, during the year before his term as president was to start, Arnold developed a plan to support an animal display with a tiger as the building block. Plans included the design of a facility, required care and overall annual expense. City officials were briefed on the concept and visited a nearby zoo for discussions with knowledgeable people and to observe operations. The idea was resisted based on cost and safety. Negative forces began to multiply. Actually most of the cost would be donated if a facility site were donated. However, this would require city government participation for a park site to minimize land cost and to assure long term care for the animal. To save the idea, Arnold prepared a detailed plan for the Planning Commission. There was written report with an architect's plan and a zoo keeper's suggestions. Arnold gave that presentation using visual aids to emphasize the safety, simplicity and economy of the proposal. Though the report failed to receive approval, it assured that Massillon would have a tiger. To be at the meeting Arnold delayed a business trip. The airplane he would have scheduled crashed in Lake Erie with all hands lost. He owed his life to the project and would not give up.

An alternate plan was in effect - lease a tiger for a season. Where to keep it? In Arnold's mother's basement. An old fruit cellar would be a tiger cub's den. "Grandma" Arnold was a life long tiger fan and readily consented to the idea. The booster club agreed to the plan and Arnold set out to find a tiger cub. There was no endangered species act with which to contend and The International Animal

Exchange agreed to supply a young cub.

A week before the first game in 1970 Arnold and two of his children went to Ferndale to pick up the cub. He had a station wagon to accommodate a cage. At the animal exchange the manager took them to a small cage. Inside was a ten week old cub, highly disturbed to say the least.

The manager said, "That's what we promised but you can see she's not very easy to get along with."

Arnold was concerned. "How long will it take to calm her down?"

"Oh, a couple weeks with of a close personal relationship would bring her around."

"I hoped we could handle her right away"

"I understand. We may have something over here that would interest you. The box over there just came in from California."

"How old is that one?"

"Three and a half or four months - weighs about thirty five pounds."

"How big will she get in another two and a half months?"

"About like that baby lion over there - maybe sixty-five pounds (in fact OBIE I weighed more than 80 pounds at the season end)."

"Will we be able to handle a tiger that size?"

"That depends....."

A decision was required. The tiger in the box was friendly. She peeked out through a little hole in the box sheathing and made a snuffling sound when the kids approached.

"That's the way they talk to you."

When the kids put their fingers through cage mesh, the tiger rubbed against

them and snuffled.

The decision was simple - the four month old tiger entered Massillon before supper time a week before the first game.

There was much to be done over that first year. A beautiful mobile cage was designed and built. Reusser worked with Bob Duplain to construct an under carriage with articulated steering. That body is still used 35 years later. McFarren constructed a wooden cage painted by Junie Studer that was admired by circus handlers. This was done for the first game!

The other members of the first tiger crew were Dave James, vice president of Massillon Dodge, who provided rolling stock for many years and Bruce McFarren, Don McFarren's son.

The first tiger went back to the International Animal exchange and was then sold to Africa USA in California. Arnold went to visit OBIE I in February and she knew him. OBIE I eventually went to Japan.

A real live tiger for Tigertown?

And now, a live tiger.

That's the plan of Wilbur Arnold, new president of the Tiger Booster club, and the preliminaries have already been taken care of.

Believing that the city made famous by the Tiger — the Massillon Tiger — should have one of those live, striped animals, Arnold is now trying to sell his idea to anyone who will listen.

He has had a meeting with members of the city park commission, and will meet this week with members of the city planning commission.

Getting a tiger would be no particular problem. Tigers breed well in captivity and zoos have cubs on the market frequently.

Obtaining the money to build an

attractive house for the animal and someone to take care of it might be more of an obstacle. Arnold thinks the house should be erected in a city park whose responsibility it would be to take care of the animal once the Tiger Booster club raises the money.

The Booster club president has already had preliminary plans prepared for the Tiger house, and can tell you how much a big cat will eat a day — 14 pounds of horse meat, which sells for something like 25 cents a pound.

Massillon once had a zoo in Oak Knoll park which at various times included a bear, porcupine, fox, elk and some other animals, but that was years ago.

The tiger exhibit could be the start of another zoo for the city.

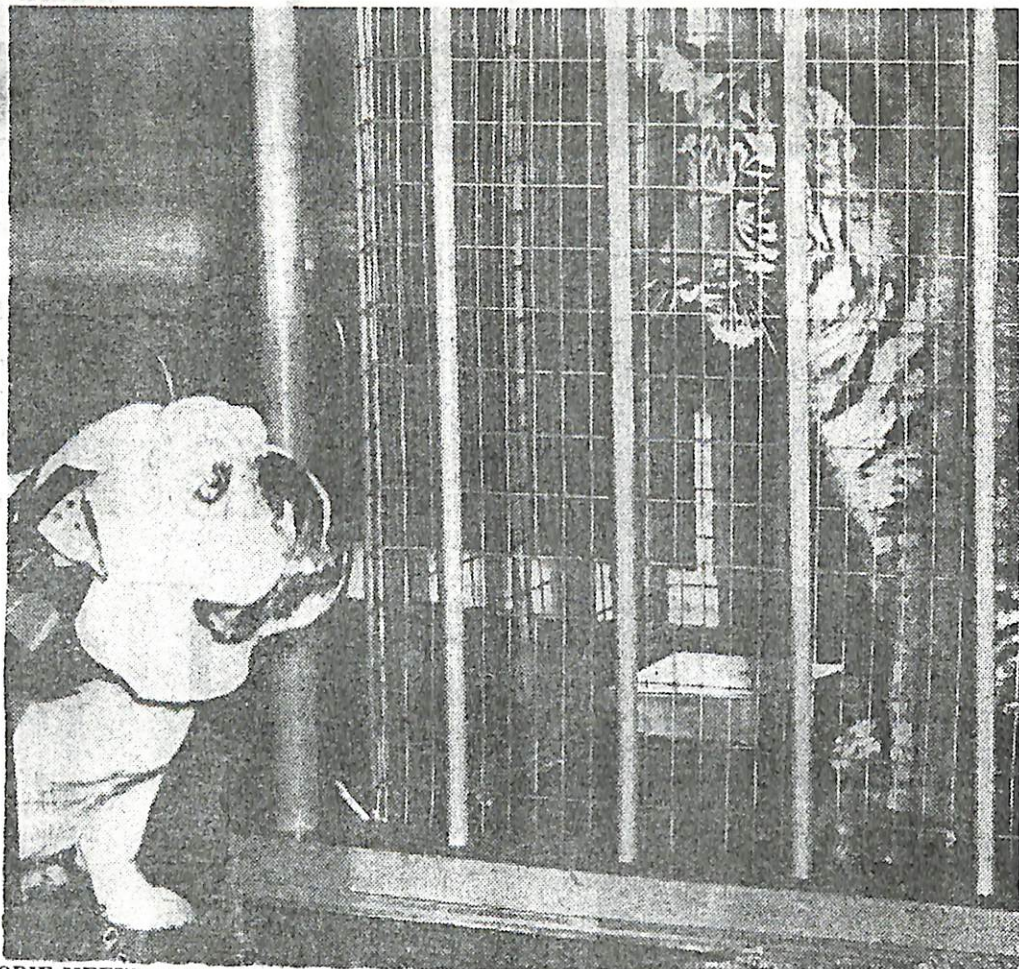
TIGER CREWS & LIVE TIGER
FIRST TIGER CREW 1970 THRU 1979



MCKINLEY GAME 1973 WITH OBIE IV

BRUCE DON DAVE WILBUR JOHN
MCFARREN MCFARREN JAMES ARNOLD REUSSER

MASSILLON'S FIRST LIVE TIGER,
"OBIE I" ARRIVED IN 1970. THIS
IDEA WAS CONCEIVED BY PRESIDENT
WILBUR ARNOLD, AND HAS
REMAINED AS A BOOSTER CLUB
PROJECT THROUGH THE YEARS.



OBIE MEETS MAX — Obie, Massillon's live tiger mascot, met Max, Canton McKinley's bulldog mascot, for the first time Thursday at a "pep rally" at the United Cerebral Palsy child development center, 112 Perry dr NW in Perry township. After straining at first to get to the tiger's cage, Max seemed to have had second thoughts but obediently stayed near cage for photos. Some 63 children in the center's afternoon class cheered the mascots. Mrs. Salem K. George was Max's handler and Wilbur Arnold, jr. was with Obie, who has been visiting area schools. Rumor has it that Obie and Max will meet again Saturday afternoon at Tiger stadium.

1970
(Independent Staff Photo)

The Town Tiger



OBIE
I

By
W. V. Arnold Jr.

TIGER CREWS & LIVE TIGER

1980 THRU
• W. AR
• D. MC
• D. JA
• J. RE
• E. A



1983 THRU
• B. HOL
• E. AN
• J. MA
• P. SP
• R. ST
• G. FA

1986 THRU
• ED AN
• BOB H
• DON S

1995 THRU
• BOB H
• DON S
• CLAREN

2001
• BOB H
• DON S
• GEOR



TIGER CREWS & LIVE TIGER

1980 TIGER CREW THRU 1982

- W. ARNOLD
- D. MCFARREN
- D. JAMES
- J. REUSSER
- E. ANNEN

1983 TIGER CREW THRU 1985

- B. HOLLENDER ↘ ↗
- E. ANNEN
- J. MAUGER
- P. SPÜHLER
- R. STYER
- G. FAIR

1986 TIGER CREW THRU 1994

- ED ANNEN
- BOB HOLLENDER
- DON SHONK

1995 TIGER CREW THRU 2000

- BOB HOLLENDER
- DON SHONK
- CLARENCE RAMBAUD

2001 TIGER CREW

- BOB HOLLENDER
- DON SHONK
- GEORGE MIZER



"OBIE II"



RAMBAUD • SHONK • HOLLENDER
"OBIE XXX" 1999

TIGER CREWS



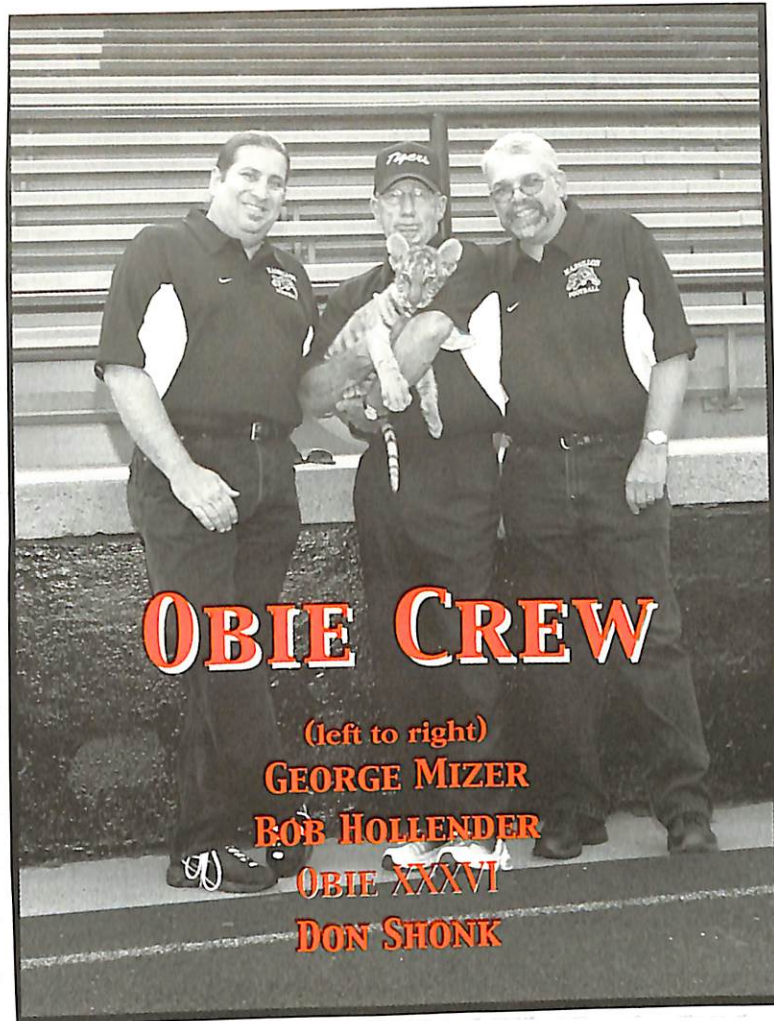
BOB HOLLENDER • ED ANNEN • DON SHONK



SHONK

MIZER

HOLLENDER



2005

TIGER CREWS



DON SHONK

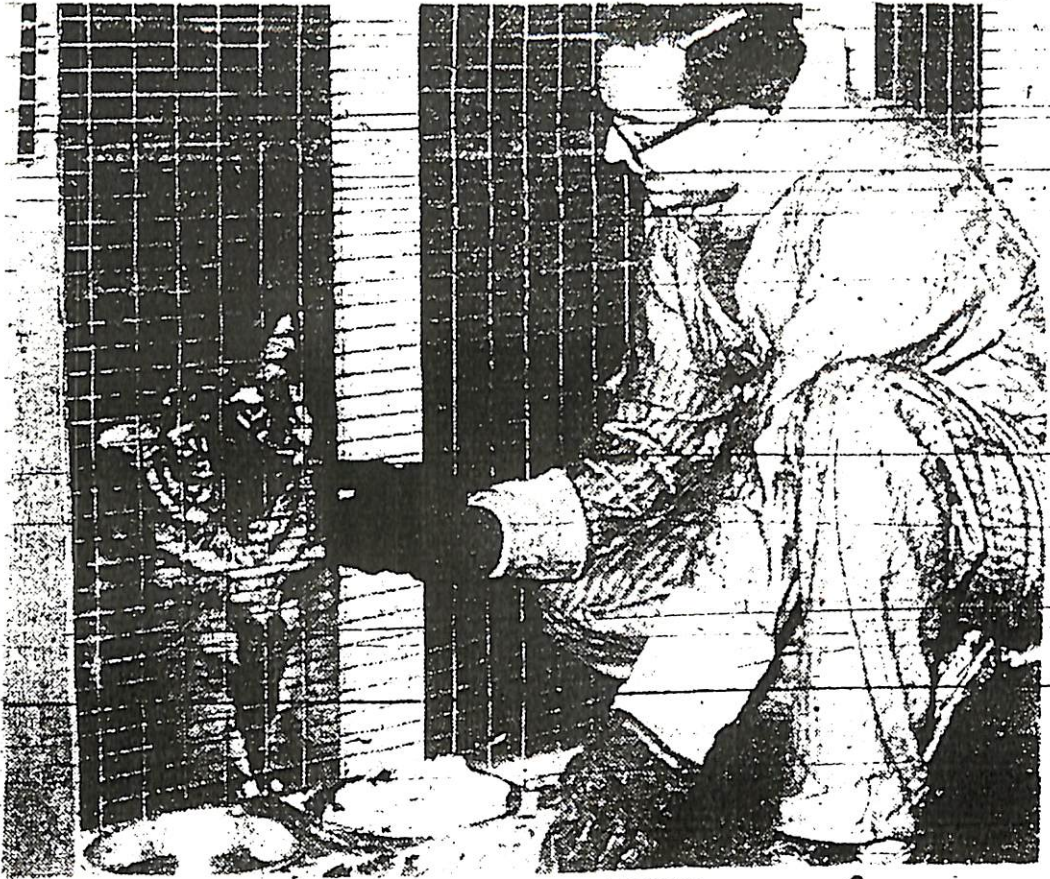


ED ANNEN



"OBIE XXXII" HOLLENDER - SHONK

TIGER CREWS & LIVE TIGER



'Tiger' care

TIGER BOOSTER club President Wilbur Arnold, jr. is wearing the protective gear required of him to care for the Massillon Washington high Tigers' live mascot. It was through Arnold's efforts the tiger cub was borrowed from the International Animal Exchange of Detroit, Mich. The cub, which eats two pounds of hamburg for dinner and a can of evaporated milk for breakfast, has more than doubled in size since being brought to Tigertown in September. Arnold who begins daily care of his companion at 5:30 a.m., says she weighs close to 100-pounds. The shipping invoice said the cub weighed 35-40 pounds. She is to be returned to Detroit on Nov. 16. He is spending his vacation by taking the cub to various area elementary schools.

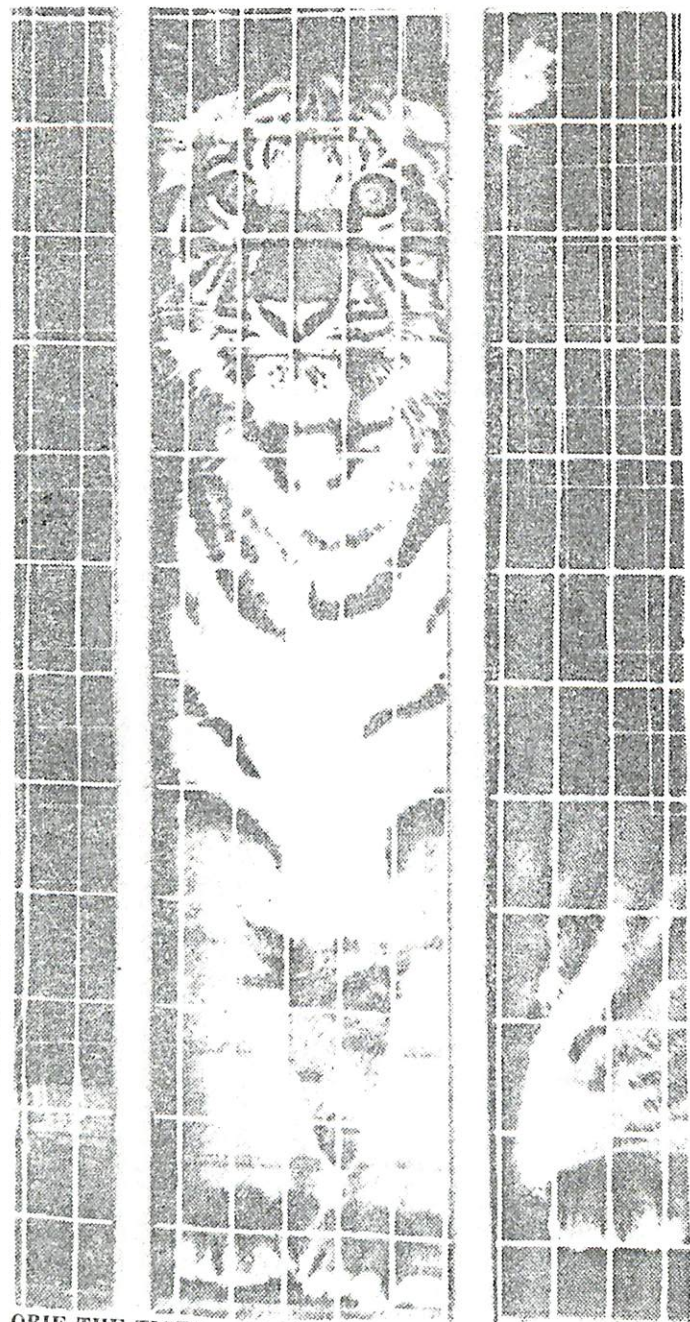
1970

(Independent Staff Photo)



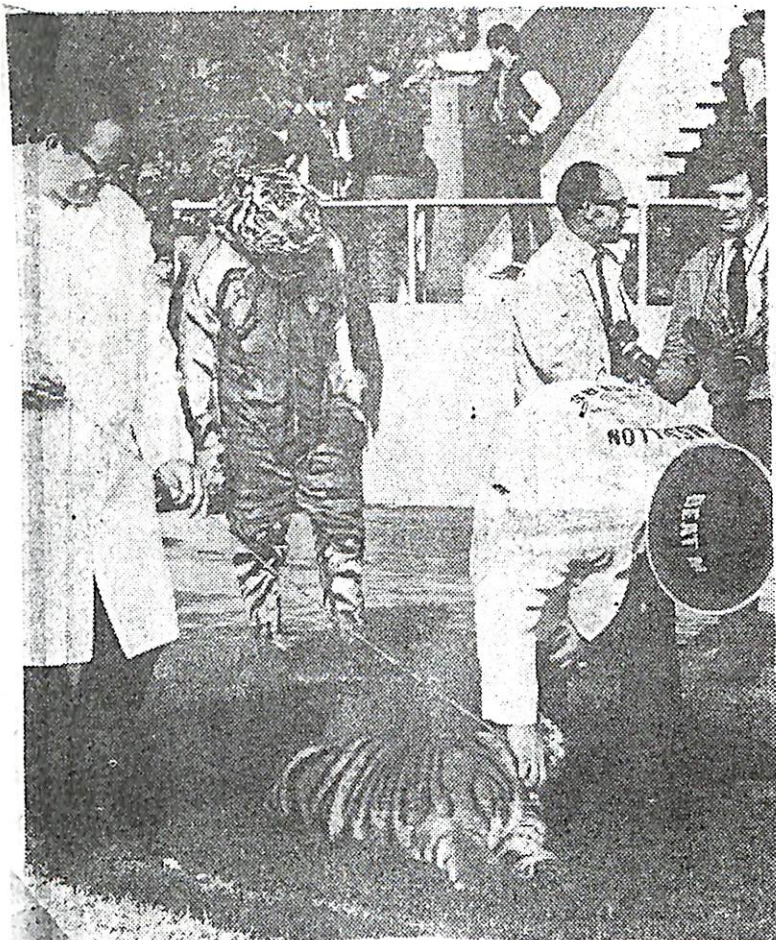
TIGER CORNERING A TIGER? — Obie IV, Washington High School's live football mascot, was on hand for the "Beat McKinley" Tiger Booster Club meeting held Wednesday night in the school's auditorium. He promptly decided to nose about Bob "Obie" Geis, the guy in the Tigerskin. Dave James (right) and Bill Arnold are the handlers. Cheerleaders looking on are Maria Profos (neck brace) and Darlene Pfeiffer. (Independent Staff Photo)

1973



OBIE THE TIGER — Making his official debut as "live" Tiger mascot at the Washington high—Trotwood Madison game here Friday night was Obie the tiger, pictured here in his cage prior to the game. Barring inclement weather conditions, Obie will be in attendance at all WHS home tilts.

1970



OBIE SPOTS OBIE — Richard Fink as Obie (background) takes a look at his feline counterpart during pre - game activity. Wilbur Arnold, jr, is leading the four-legged Tiger, which is getting attention from Tiger Booster club president Don McFarren. In right background are photographers Jack Worthington (left) of The Evening Independent and Ron Ray of the Canton Repository.

1971

TIGER CREWS & LIVE TIGER



OBIE I

1970



OBIE II

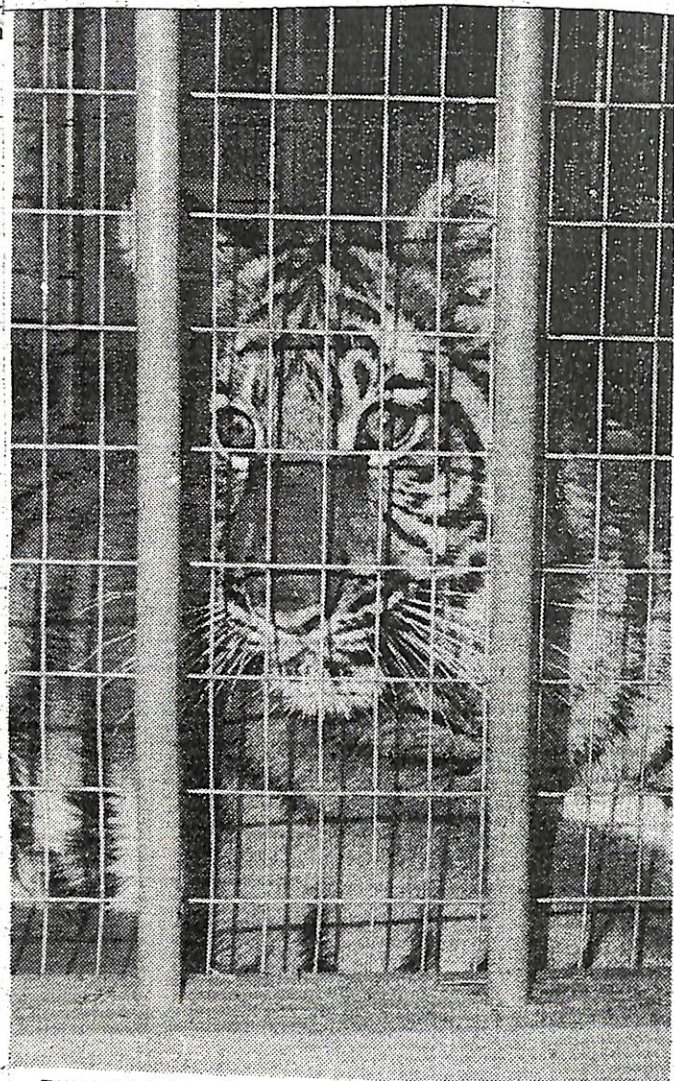
1971



WILBUR
ARNOLD

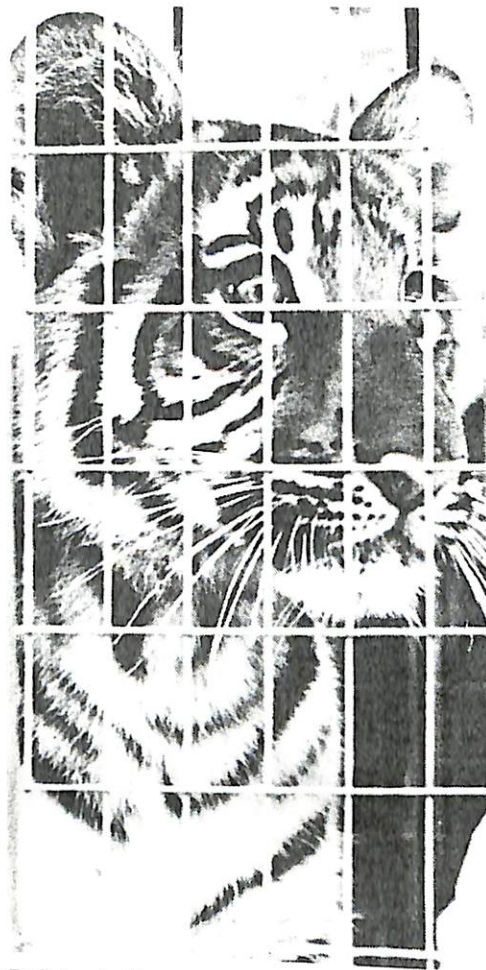
1971

JOHN
REUSSER



RENTED TIGER MASCOT. The Massillon Tiger Booster Club has been showing this rented tiger cub to help stir local enthusiasm for the annual Saturday renewal of the Massillon-McKinley football game. Club President Wilbur Arnold Jr. said that since arriving in September weighing about 40 pounds, the "kitten" has more than doubled in size and now weighs near 100 pounds. (Repository Staff Photo)

OBIE I 1970



The McKinley Bulldog better not mess with the Massillon Tiger this year or he may find he's "bitten off more than he can chew."

Watch out bulldogs, here we come!

WHS has live mascot

Bulldogs, you'd better watch out! Massillon finally has a live mascot and he's out to break the tradition of the McKinley bulldog biting the Massillon mascot Obie.

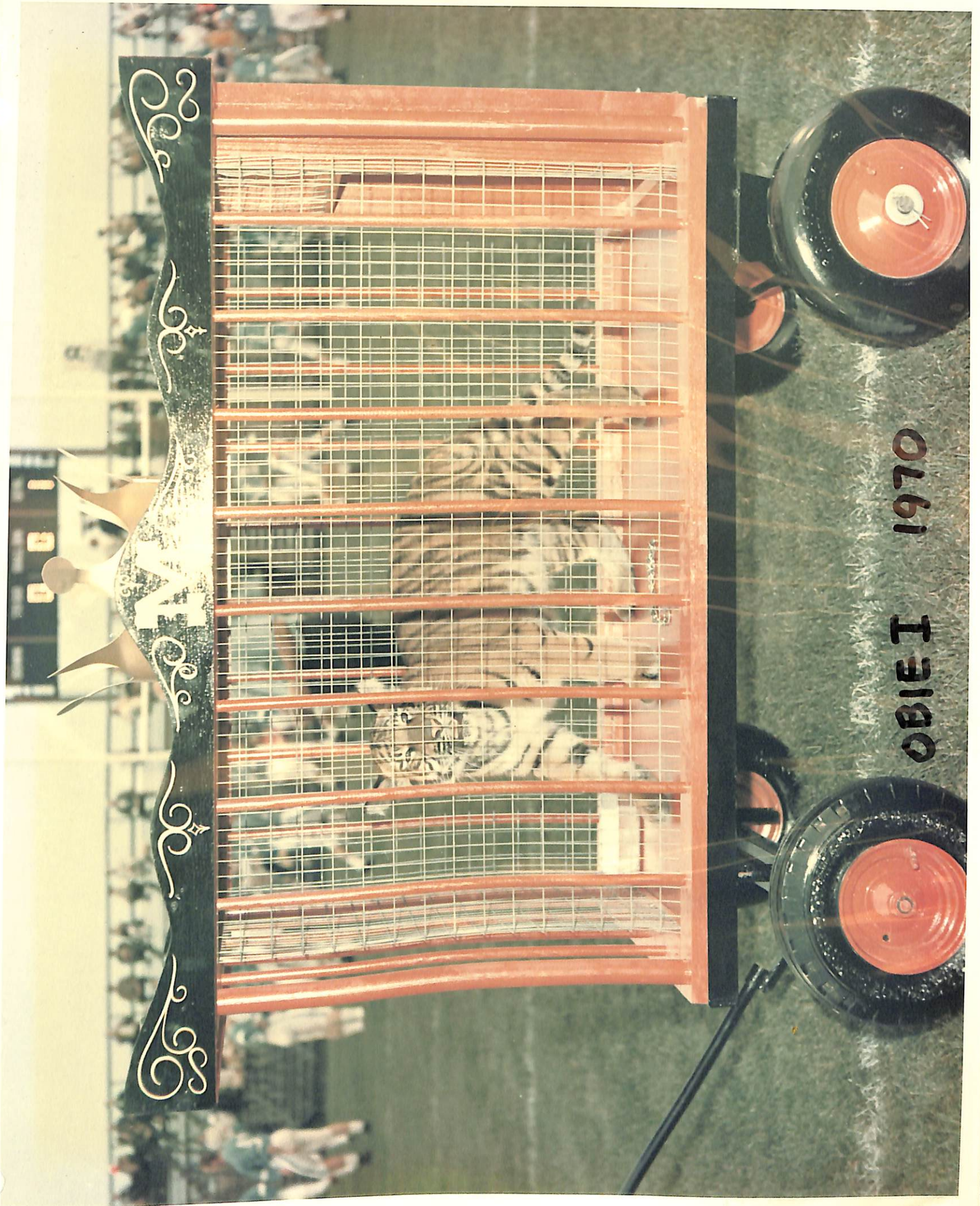
Through the efforts of Booster Club President Wilbur Arnold, Massillon has a 70 pound tiger cub.

Obie as the cub is called, is from the Los Angeles Zoo and was transported to the International Animal Exchange in Detroit where Massillon representatives picked him up September 4.

The cub was introduced to Tiger fans at the first football game, September 11, and has been present at every game since.

Obie views each game from a red and gold wooden cage which has a large gold crown on top. The crown, of course, signifies that in the jungle the lion may be "king of beasts," but in Ohio football, the tiger reigns.

Obie will be returned to the International Animal Exchange after the game tomorrow.



TIGER 1970



1973
OBIE IV

2003



obie
2003

PICTURES FROM THE PAST

Photo courtesy of Terri James



Riding in style

Chuck James pauses for a moment with Obie in front of the "Tiger-mobile" courtesy of Massillon Dodge. This photograph was taken during the early 1970s at what was then known as Tiger Stadium in Massillon.

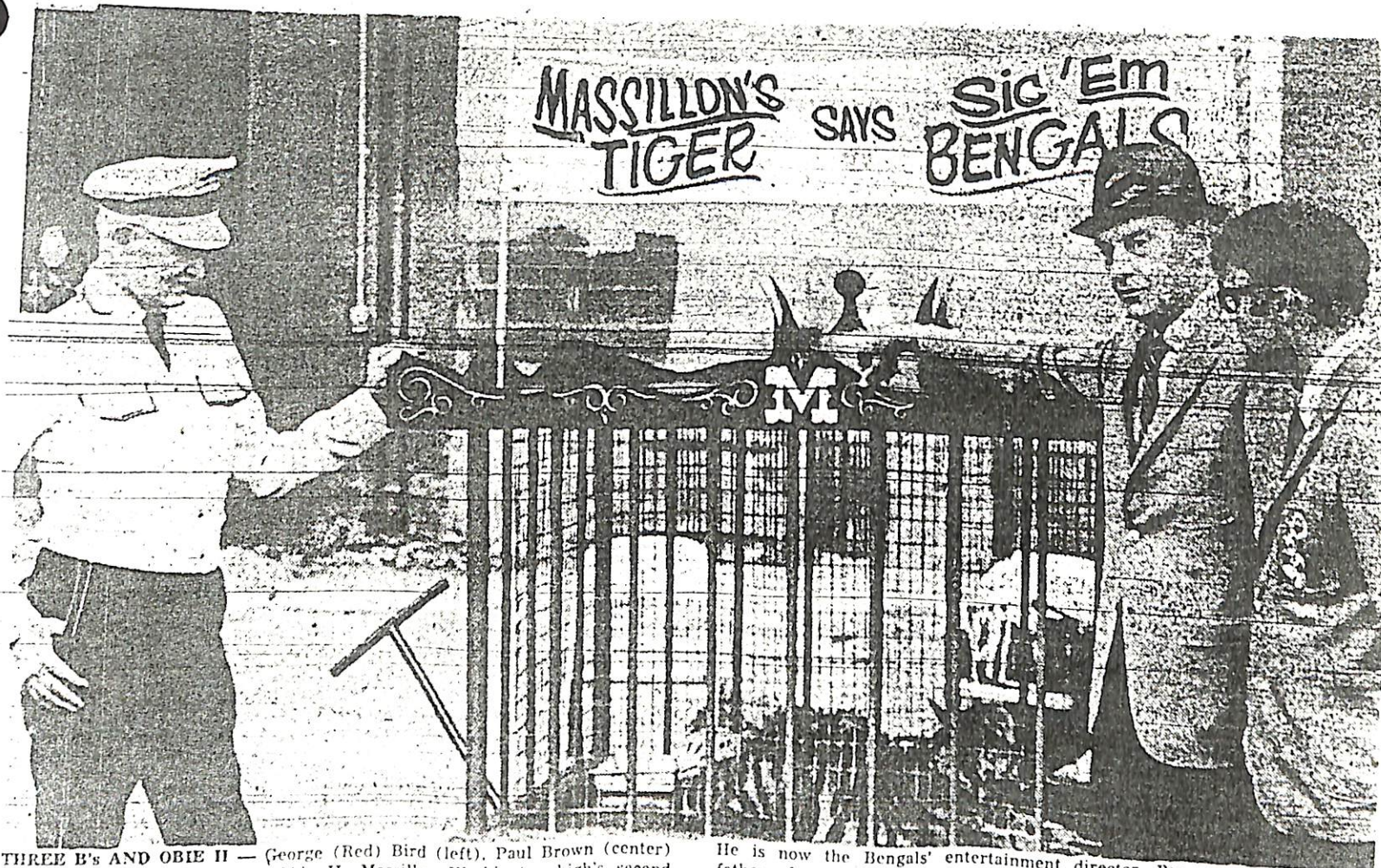
Have an interesting image from the past you'd like to share? We'd love to see it. Prints may be mailed to:

"Pictures from the Past"
The Independent
P.O. Box 730
Massillon, Ohio 44648

Photos also may be brought to The Inde offices at 50 North Ave. N.W. in Massillon or e-mailed to:

Indenews@indeonline.com

TIGER CREWS & LIVE TIGER



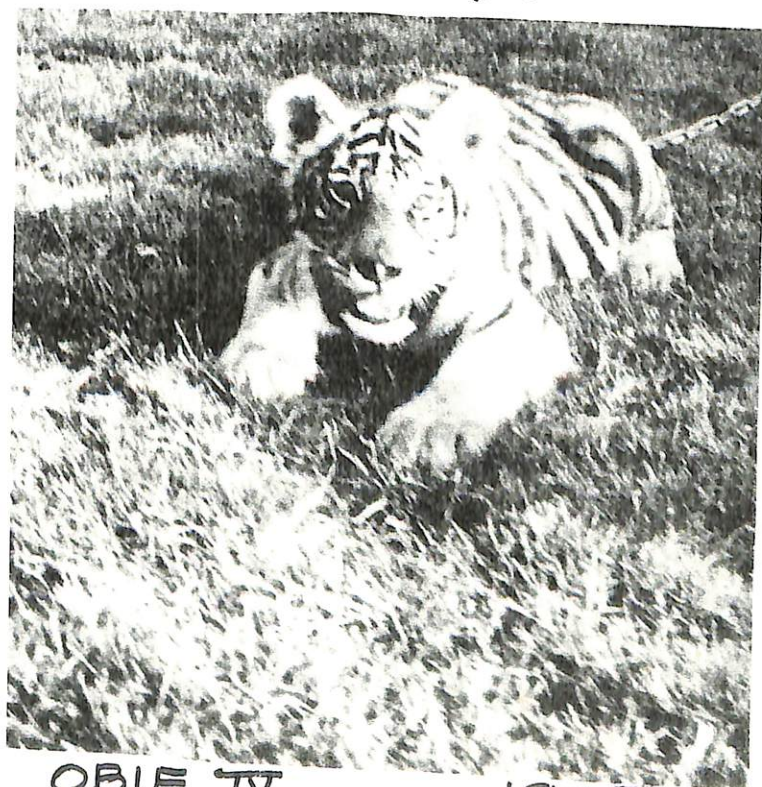
THREE B's AND OBIE II — George (Red) Bird (left), Paul Brown (center) and James Billingsley admire Obie II—Massillon Washington high's second consecutive live mascot—Saturday prior to the WHS Tiger Swing Band's performance in Cincinnati at the Bengals vs. Green Bay Packers pre-season National Football league game. Bird founded the Tiger Swing Band in 1938.

He is now the Bengals' entertainment director. Brown, of course, is the father of modern Massillon schoolboy grid success and is the founder and coach of the Bengals. Billingsley is in his second year as the Tiger Swing Band director.

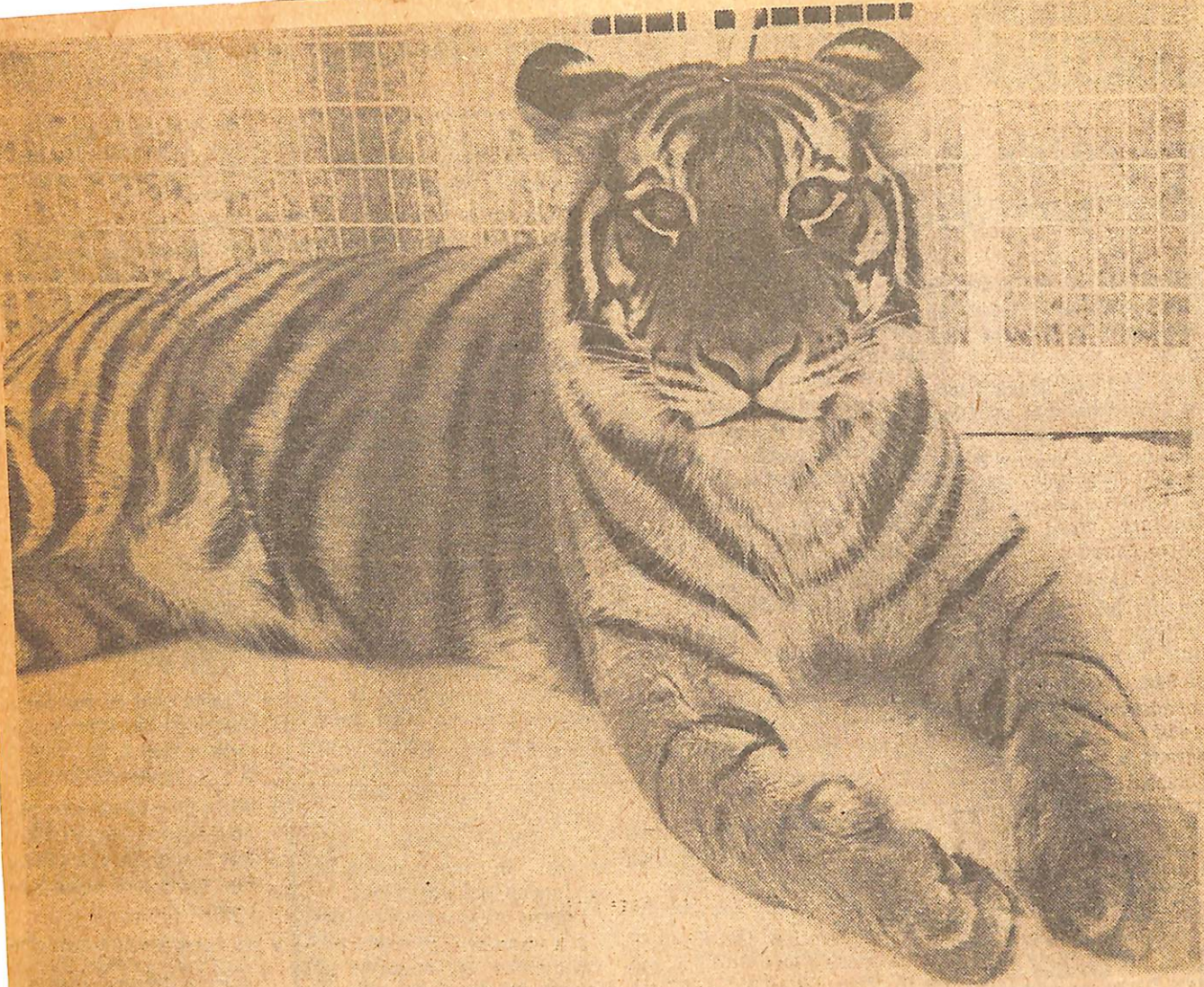
OBIE II 1971



OBIE III 1972



OBIE IV 1973



OBIE III, WASHINGTON HIGH'S NEW MASCOT

OBIE III 1972

OBIE II



Obie II adds novelty and spirit to all Tiger games.

1971

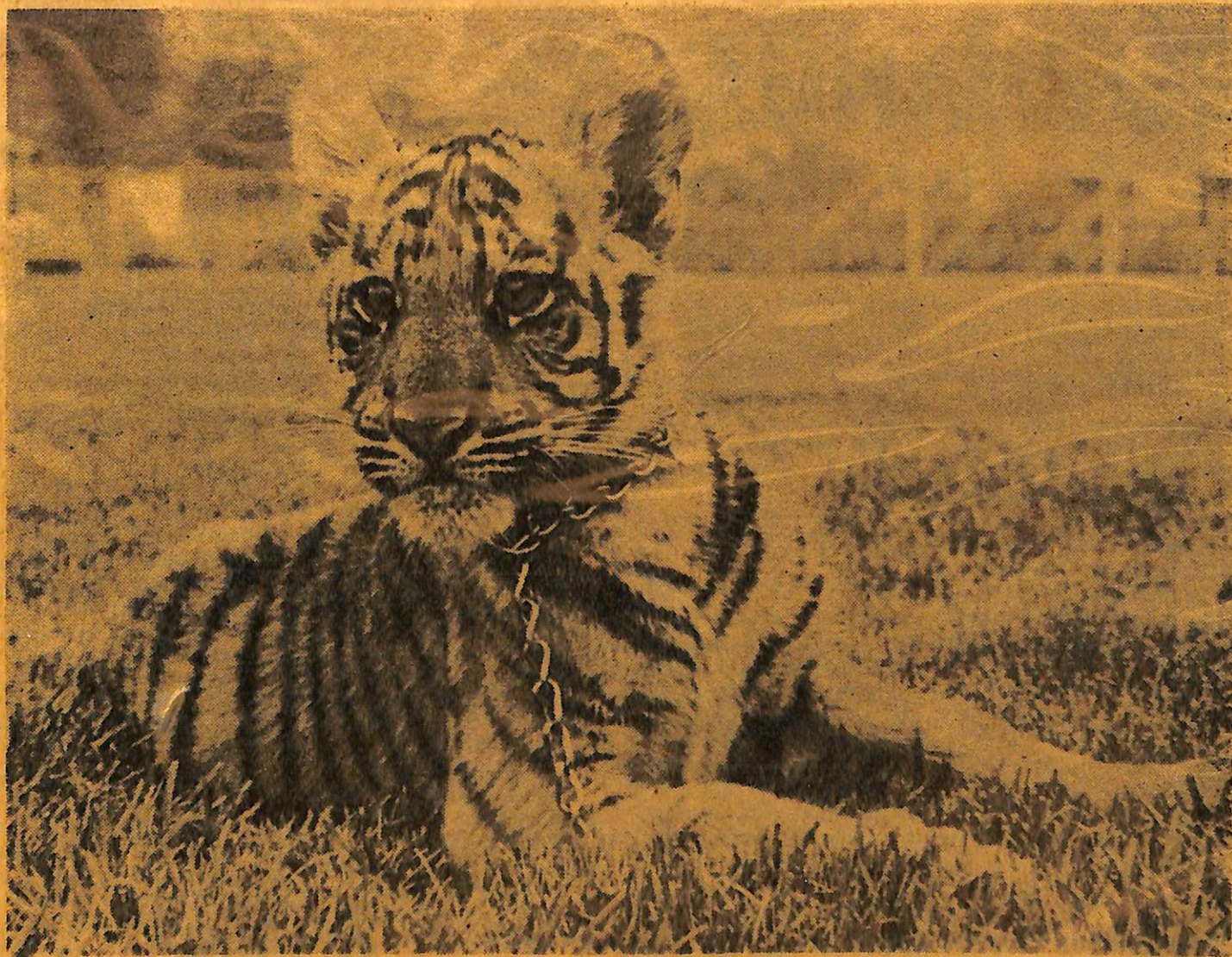
This year's delightful, live, tiger mascot, Obie II, hails from Bob-Lo Island, Amherstburg, Ontario. He arrived in Massillon on September 1, in time for the following Saturday's scrimmage.

Mr. Wilbur Arnold, last year's Booster Club president, picked Obie II up by station wagon in Ferndale, Michigan. Mr. Arnold observed that this year's mascot was more talkative than last year's. "He talked to us all the way home," said Mr. Arnold.

Obie II is formally of Hunts World of Animals and was raised by the people in charge of this organization. The tiger was born April 19, 1971.

The mascot is being kept at the stadium this season and the chief caretakers are Mr. John Reusser and Mr. Arnold. They observed that this year's tiger weighed ten pounds less when he first arrived but eats much more than Obie I.

The live mascot adds a touch of extra excitement to the games and is a welcomed novelty to both the children and adults of Massillon.



Obie II looks ahead to season

PURRFECT CONTENTMENT — Obie II, new mascot of the Washington high football team, lies on the turf at Tiger stadium, looking over his new home. His first assignment will be to accompany the Tiger Swing band to Riverfront stadium in Cincinnati Saturday night. Obie is four months old, weighs be-

tween 20 and 30 pounds and is housed in new quarters built by the Tiger Booster club and located underneath the north end of the west stands at Tiger stadium. This is the second year for a mascot which was a female in 1970.

(Independent Staff Photos)

OBIE II 1971

Obie III can't go to Warren

One change of a different sort that will not be to the Massillon fans' and players' liking, but that should give the Tigers a tremendous psychological lift when they play at Warren Harding in October, is the outlawing of live animals in Mollenkopff stadium. The rule was not made to keep Obie III, the new Tiger mascot out, it was made because Harding's cross-town rival, Western Reserve, wanted to decorate a horse mascot and bring it in. Since Harding has no mascot, the Warren Board of Education wanted to be fair to both schools and so made the new rule.

Washington high's Steve Studer apparently will not play in the Big 33 game at Hershey, Pa., Saturday Aug. 19, because Bowling Green State university Coach Don Nehlen is the only college coach with incoming players involved in the Ohio All-Star game this Friday who will not let his players go on to the Big 33.

IF YOU don't think Harding Coach Tom Batta isn't worried about this pumping up the Tigers, you've got another think coming, says Schroeder.

Batta, by the way, is using some of former Tiger Coach Leo Strang's offense off an unbalanced line for his North All-Stars. But Tom has added some "I" formation to Leo's wing-T. South Coach Dave Hurst is working with the wishbone-T for the annual game Friday at Canton's Fawcett stadium.

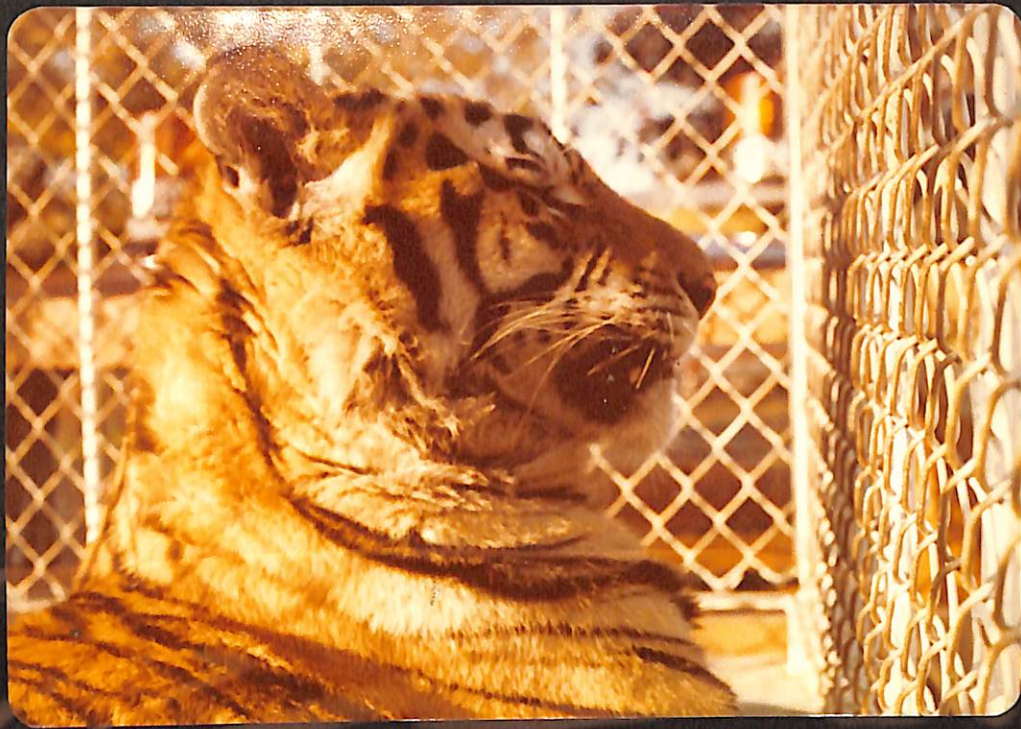
It appears to this reporter that

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 9, 1972

THE EVENING INDEPENDENT, MASSILLON



OBIE III, WASHINGTON HIGH'S NEW MASCOT



OBIE III
1972



OBIE III, WASHINGTON HIGH'S NEW MASCOT

1972

1024 3rd Street, N.E.
Massillon, Ohio 44646

July 7, 1972

Mr. Robert Baudy
Post Office Box 132
Center Hill, Florida 33514

Dear Mr. Baudy:

Sincerely,

We wish to place an order for a Bengal tiger cub, suitable for use as our football team mascot. As we discussed during my phone call of July 3, 1972, a \$1000 check is enclosed. The general specification is:

General description: hand-raised Bengal tiger cub
Sex: female preferred, male acceptable
Birth date: February preferred, March acceptable
(late January, early April could be considered)
Health: Excellent condition, strong breed strain for appearance and limited fall season exposure in Ohio (environmentally protected sleeping facilities)
Delivery date: As soon as possible preferred, week of August 14, 1972, acceptable (September 1, 1972, could be considered)
Immunization: Suitable for animal and public protection for one year minimum.
Delivery point: Akron/Canton (Ohio) Airport preferred, Cleveland (Ohio) Airport acceptable.

Please confirm your intentions so that we can ready our facilities. As indicated in my June 29, 1972, letter, we have handled Bengal tiger cubs for the past two seasons and our community looks forward to the time when the tiger arrives. Unfortunately, we have not yet established a permanent facility and will have to sell the animal in the latter part of November. If you know of prospective customers or can be of help to us at that time, we would appreciate your help.

BAUDY PHONE 904-793-2109

1972

July 7, 1972

This is planned as an annual activity. We look forward to a continuing business relationship. Feel free to visit or call anytime.

Sincerely,

Mr. Gene Boerner
1489 E. Nine Mile Road
Ferndale, Michigan 48220

W. V. Arnold
for
THE MASSILLON TIGER BOOSTER CLUB

Dear Gene:

The Massillon Tigers are looking for a tiger cub to serve as a mascot for our football team again this fall. You'll recall that we've handled tigers ranging in age from four months to a year and in body weight from 30 pounds to 200 pounds. We feel that the ideal animal for this year would be born about now since we would like to attempt more training than in past years (the 1971 fans enjoyed seeing OBIE II walk on a leash). Likewise we would be interested in delivery earlier than usual.

Please determine if any suitable tiger cubs are available and quote your delivery terms.

We hope to continue our past business relationship with IAE.

Sincerely,

W. V. Arnold

cc:
Gene Boerner

1024 3rd St., N.E.
Massillon, Ohio 44646
March 28, 1973

Mr. Gene Hartz
1489 E. Nine Mile Road
Ferndale, Michigan 48220

Dear Gene:

The Massillon Tigers are looking for a tiger cub to serve as a mascot for our football team again this fall. You'll probably recall that we've handled tigers ranging in age from four months to a year and in body weight from 30 pounds to 200 pounds. We feel that the ideal animal for this year would be born about now since we would like to attempt more training than in past years (the 1971 fans enjoyed seeing OBIE II walk on a leash). Likewise we would be interested in delivery earlier than usual.

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We hope to continue our past business relationship with IAE.

Sincerely,

W. V. Arnold

cc:
Gene Boerner

1973

1024 3rd Street, N.E.
Massillon, Ohio 44646

October 5, 1972
1024 Third Street, N.E.
Massillon, Ohio 44646

Mr. Gene Hartz
Mr. Robert Baudy Animal Exchange
P. O. Box 132 Mile Road
Center Hill, Florida 33514

Dear Mr. Baudy:

The tiger you arranged for us has worked out very well. He has been easy to handle and his appearance is outstanding.

We are now preparing for resale. He will be available mid-November (which will make him about two years old). Due to the cost of feeding, we would hope to move him out as soon as possible thereafter.

You will recall that the purchase price was \$1300. Please let us know if you are interested in participating in the resale and your terms. We can provide good pictures of the animal, if desired.

Sincerely,

W. V. Arnold

WVA/js

cc:

Paul Studer, Jr.

1972

1024 3rd Street, N.E.
Massillon, Ohio 44646

April 25, 1972

1024 3rd Street N.E.
Massillon, Ohio 44646
November 6, 1972

Mr. Gene Hartz
International Animal Exchange, Inc.
1489 East Nine Mile Road
Ferndale, Michigan 48220

Dear Gene:

Dear Gene:

We will accept your offer of \$850 for our one year old male. I have discussed your suggested Tiger cub rental price increase with our executive board, and naturally have received some opposition. As a possible resolution of the matter, could we consider the \$100 increase as insurance? I'm suggesting that we pay you \$1100 to deliver a tiger cub by a certain date with a maximum liability on us for \$500. Based on existing laws, our natural concern for displaying a healthy animal, and our past performance, there should not be much risk involved in such an agreement. Six hundred dollars would be payable to us on return of the animal (within six months) or in the event of its death.

If this is acceptable with you, please inform me of the earliest feasible delivery date after June 1, 1972, and I will forward the \$1100 deposit.

Sincerely,

Sincerely yours,

W. V. Arnold

cc: Paul Studer, Jr.

W. V. Arnold

WVA/js

cc:

Paul Studer, Jr.

1024 3rd Street, N.E.
Massillon, Ohio 44646

1024 3rd Street, N.E.
Massillon, Ohio 44646

June 29, 1972

Mr. Robert Baudy
Post Office Box 132
Center Hill, Florida 33514

Dear Mr. Baudy:

Dr. Leonard Goss, director of the Cleveland Zoo, recently suggested that you may be able to assist me in obtaining a tiger cub. For the last two years I have obtained a hand-raised cub about September 1 and returned it mid-November. It has been displayed as a mascot for our football team during that period.

Thus far we have had no problem handling animals 3 to 7 months old and weighing up to 100 pounds. Facilities and handling techniques have been developed, and we have fed a diet of good red meat with calcium and vitamin supplements. Health and temperament of the resulting animals has been superb.

This year we would like to start earlier. We could probably handle a somewhat larger animal if necessary. Please let me know if you can be of assistance in providing a suitable tiger cub and what delivery and financial arrangements are possible. We would prefer an approximate three month lease arrangement; however, other approaches can be considered.

Immunization:

Suitable for animal and public protection for one year minimum.

Sincerely,

Delivery point:

Akron/Canton (Ohio) Airport preferred, Cleveland (Ohio) Airport acceptable.

W. V. Arnold, Jr

WVA/js

Please confirm your intentions so that we can have your animal in the latter part of November. As indicated in my June 29, 1972, letter, we have handled Bengal tiger cubs for the past two seasons and our community looks forward to the time when the tiger arrives. We have not established a permanent facility for the animal in the latter part of November. If you know of prospective customers or can be of help in this time, we would appreciate your help.

*June
Here's one lead
I'm chasing - WVA*

1024 3rd Street, N.E.
Massillon, Ohio 44646

July 7, 1972
July 7, 1972

-2-

Mr. Robert Baudy
Post Office Box 132
Center Hill, Florida 33514

Sincerely,

Dear Mr. Baudy:

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CC: Sex: female preferred, male acceptable

Paul Studer

Jim Birth date: February preferred, March acceptable
(late January, early April could be considered)

Health: Excellent condition, strong breed strain for appearance and limited fall season exposure in Ohio (environmentally protected sleeping facilities)

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July 7, 1972

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Sincerely,

Animal Exchange, Inc.
One and a Half Mile Road
Paradise, Michigan 48226

W. V. Arnold
for
THE MASSILLON TIGER BOOSTER CLUB

Dear Tom:

CC:
Paul Studer
Jim Bryan

Our booster club has again asked us to make arrangements for a live tiger cub to serve as a mascot for the Massillon football team during the 1972 season. When we returned last year's mascot, you mentioned the possibility of starting earlier this year. We would be interested in attempting to condition a suitable animal for more free standing public display. It would seem that an animal born about now and hand-raised could be handled easily here starting in June and running through November.

Please inform us of any recommendations you may have. Information regarding our previous mascots would also be appreciated.

Sincerely,

W. V. Arnold, Jr

WVA/js

J. Studer, President
Massillon Tigers Booster Club

INTERNATIONAL ANIMAL EXCHANGE INCORPORATED

1489 E. NINE MILE ROAD
FERNDALE, MICHIGAN 48220

CABLE ADDRESS - "BONGU"
TELEX NO.: 023-5566

1024 3rd Street, NE
Massillon, Ohio 44646-45-3348
545-2820

March 27, 1972

April 7, 1972

Mr. Tom Hunt
Vice President
International Animal Exchange, Inc.
1489 East Nine Mile Road
Ferndale, Michigan 48220

Dear Mr. Arnold:
Dear Tom:

I am replying to your letter of March 27, 1972 to Tom Hunt. Our booster club has again asked me to make arrangements for a live tiger cub to serve as a mascot for the Massillon football team during the 1972 season. When we returned last year's mascot, you mentioned the possibility of starting earlier this year. We would be interested in attempting to condition a suitable animal for more free standing public display. It would seem that an animal born about now and hand-raised could be handled easily here starting in June and running through November. As before, if you have a tiger it must be in an acceptable healthy condition.

Please inform me of any recommendations you may have. Information regarding our previous mascots would also be appreciated. We would like to see you, just as soon as possible so that we can attempt to locate a nice animal for you. Tiger cubs at present are in a great demand. Sincerely, not at all certain we could have you a cub by June but we'll do our best.

Awaiting your reply.

Sincerely,

W. V. Arnold, Jr

INTERNATIONAL ANIMAL EXCHANGE, INC.
WVA/js

cc:
Gene Studer, President
Massillon Tigers Booster Club

INTERNATIONAL ANIMAL EXCHANGE INCORPORATED

1489 E. NINE MILE ROAD
FERNDALE, MICHIGAN 48220

CABLE ADDRESS - "BONGO"
TELEX NO.: 023-5566

PHONE: AREA CODE 313 -- 545-3348
545-2820

April 7, 1972

Mr. W. V. Arnold, Jr.
1024 3rd St. NE
Massillon, Ohio 44646

Dear Mr. Arnold:

I am replying to your letter of March 27, 1972 to Tom Hunt concerning the Tiger cub you will require.

As you no doubt know, the price of most animals has gone up this past year and the price of Tigers is no exception. This being the case, our selling price will have to be \$1100.00 this year. We will of course purchase this same Tiger from you in November 1972 at a price of \$600.00. As before, when we purchase the Tiger it must be in an acceptable healthy condition.

I would appreciate it if you would let me know whether or not the above is agreeable to you, just as soon as possible so that we can attempt to locate a nice animal for you. Tiger cubs at present are in a great demand so I'm not at all certain we could have you a cub by June but we'll do our best.

Awaiting your reply.

Sincerely,

INTERNATIONAL ANIMAL EXCHANGE, INC.

Gene Hartz
Gene Hartz

GH:mj

1024 Third St. NE
Massillon, Ohio 44646

June 18, 1972

Mr. Gene Harty
International Animal Exchange
1489 E. Nine Mile Road
Ferndale, Michigan 48220

Dear Gene:

We haven't heard from you regarding the \$500 lease price for a tiger cub and your capability for delivery prior to September 1, 1972. In addition, we have another problem. The tiger skin used by our band mascot is in very poor condition and the booster club is attempting to arrange for renovation or replacement. We know that tigers cannot be hunted for their skins but we're wondering if you would have a contact where we could legally obtain a skin. Please let me know your intentions for delivery of a tiger cub this year and whether you can help us replace our existing tiger skin.

Sincerely,

W. V. Arnold

cc/Paul Studer
Ron Brant

INTERNATIONAL ANIMAL EXCHANGE

INCORPORATED

1489 E. NINE MILE ROAD
FERNDAL, MICHIGAN 48220

CABLE ADDRESS -- "BONGO"

PHONE: AREA CODE 313 - 545-3348

TELEX NO.: 023-5566

545-2820

July 16, 1973

Mr. W.V. Arnold
1024 3rd Street, N.E.
Massillon, OH 44646

Dear Bill:

Thank you for your letter of July 2nd. I waited this long to reply so as to be certain we could supply you with a Tiger cub that will meet your requirements.

We do have such a Tiger cub now so I am giving you first refusal. It is a male, born April 28, 1973 that has been hand raised and I understand it is a beautiful little cub.

As to the terms, we are now selling Tiger cubs for \$1,400.00 each and never have enough to meet our demands. We could let you have this cub from early August to mid November, 1973 for a fee of \$600.00. As in the past, we would require a check from you for the full value of the cub (\$1,400) and we will repurchase the Tiger in November, 1973 for \$800.00, assuming it is in a healthy, acceptable condition at that time. Both the pick up of the cub and the delivery to IAE in November would be at your expense. If the cub should die or become permanently disabled while in your possession we would of course retain the entire selling price of the cub, that being your \$1,400 deposit.

If you are interested in this proposal please let me know at your convenience so that I can hold the cub for you.

Mr. W.V. Arnold
July 16, 1973
Page 2

Incidentally, I have been unsuccessful in attempting to reach you by telephone, and I would like to have a phone number where I can reach you when the Tiger is available for pick up.

Awaiting your reply.

Sincerely,

Gene
Gene Hartz

GH:hf

1024 3rd Street, N.E.
Massillon, Ohio 44646

July 3, 1973

Dr. Temple
Sea World
Post Office Box 237
Aurora, Ohio 44202

Dear Dr. Temple:

For the last three fall seasons The Massillon Tiger Booster Club has maintained a different live tiger cub each year as a mascot for our football team. I have been asked to make similar arrangements for this year; however, each year has represented some new challenges in logistics and it seems timely to determine alternate methods of obtaining a suitable animal. Dr. Earl Lindsay mentioned to me that he has worked with you and he observed that Sea World has good connections in the Animal World. He suggested that you may be able to provide leads for a suitable tiger.

In the past, we have handled cubs weighing from 35 - 200 pounds. The best size for handling in public has been a cub born in April growing to about 85 - 100 pounds by the end of November.

We have developed good facilities for handling a tiger, and feel confident that much larger animals could be accommodated; last year's mascot reached 200 pounds. This leads us to consider an arrangement for multi season return of a specimen as a matter of community interest.

If you have any contacts that are appropriate for obtaining a tiger cub, I would appreciate the information. Likewise, since your season is essentially over by the time football season starts, it might be interesting to consider a tiger display in your operation with our operation to support the animal at our facility in the fall.

Thanks for your attention.

Sincerely,

W. V. Arnold

WVA/js

cc: G. Boerner

1024 3rd Street, N.E.
Massillon Road 44646

July 2, 1973, N.E.
Massillon, Ohio 44646

July 2, 1973

Mr. Robert Baudy
Rare Feline Breeding Compound
P.O. Box 132
Center Hill, Florida 33514

Dear Mr. Baudy:

The Massillon Booster Club has again authorized me to make arrangements for a tiger cub to serve as a mascot for our football team. In your previous letter, you mentioned the availability of hand raised animals which would be suitable for our purpose. We would prefer a cub about four months old and would like delivery by mid-August. The animal would be available for resale approximately December 1, 1973.

Please confirm the availability of a suitable tiger cub, best delivery method to Cleveland or Akron/Canton Airport, and financial arrangements.

Sincerely,
Sincerely,

W. V. Arnold

WVA/js

cc: cc:

G. Boerner

1024 3rd St., N.E.
Massillon, Ohio 44646

March 28, 1973
1024 3rd Street, N.E.
Massillon, Ohio 44646

July 2, 1973

Mr. Robert Baudy
Center Hill, Florida 33514
PO Box 132

Dear Mr. Baudy:
Mr. Gene Hartz
International Animal Exchange
1489 E. Nine Mile Road
Ferndale, Michigan 48220

The Massillon Booster Club has again
Dear Gene:
The Massillon Booster Club has again

authorized me to proceed with arrangements for a
tiger cub to serve as mascot for our football
team. We would prefer an animal about four
months old and would like delivery by mid-August.

Please inform me if you can provide us with a

suitable cub. Please determine if any suitable tiger cubs are or will
be available and let me know your terms for delivery. I'll be
at Disneyworld (Orlando) July 15 and 16.

Sincerely,

Sincerely,

W. V. Arnold

W. V. Arnold

WVA/js

cc:

Gene Boerner

1024 3rd Street, N.E.
1024 3rd St., N.E.
Massillon, Ohio 44646
March 28, 1973

Mr. Dave Hoover
665 W. 38th Street
Hialeah, Florida 35012

Mr. Robert Baudy
Center Hill, Florida 33514
PO Box 132

During your 1973 visit to Canton, Ohio, Mr. John Reusser
discussed with me the possibility of having a tiger cub mascot with you. It
is my understanding that you expressed possible interest in
purchasing a tiger cub mascot for your team.

The Massillon Tigers are looking for a tiger cub to serve
as a mascot for our football team again this fall. Last year
you provided us with a ten-month old animal from the Houston
(Texas) Zoological Gardens. He was a fine specimen and has
since been placed in the Gadsby, Quebec, Canada zoo.

Though we have handled tigers ranging in age from four
months to one year and in body weight from 30 pounds to 200
pounds, we feel that the ideal animal for fall display would
be born about now. We would be interested in delivery during
early summer so that we could attempt more training for leash
walking than we have been able to do in past years.

Please determine if any suitable tiger cubs are or will
be available and let me know your terms for delivery. I'll be
at Disneyworld (Orlando) July 15 and 16, 1973.

Sincerely,
W. V. Arnold

WVA/js

cc:
John Reusser
Gene Boerner
cc:
Gene Boerner

W. V. Arnold

1024 3rd Street, N.E.
Massillon, Ohio 44646

October 22, 1973
Massillon, Ohio 44646

August 14, 1973

Mr. Dave Hoover
665 W. 38th Street
Hialeah, Florida 35012

Dear Mr. Hoover:

During your 1973 visit to Canton, Ohio, Mr. John Reusser discussed the Massillon, Ohio, tiger cub mascot with you. It is my understanding that you expressed possible interest in purchasing the animal when he is available. I am writing early, recognizing possible difficulty in reaching you.

Our bengal cub mascot for this year was born on April 28, 1973. He presently weighs about 80 pounds and has been a wonderful animal for our purpose. We have several attractive display cages which are used to show him at home and away games. Often we take him to shopping centers and playgrounds for the benefit of young and old alike. This year we have worked at training the cub to walk on a leash. He gets good exercise playing on the football field during the week and for a short time before delighted crowds at our games.

We may wish to keep him as late as November 24, 1973 -- that's the date of the state final playoff game. Please indicate if you might be interested in purchasing him. Our purchase price was \$1,400.00.

Sincerely,
Sincerely,

W. W. V. Arnold

WVA/js

cc: cc:

John Reusser
Gene Boerner

Gene!
We'll need a check to International Animal Exchange Inc. for \$1400 - but propane has been to change Quanta club for gas & oil, sometimes lunch - don't know who holds myself may be planning on going up to summer, the main reason possible but not all possible or necessary - as you want to go

W.V.A.

1024 3rd St. N.E.
Massillon, Ohio
July 23, 1973

1024 Third St, N.E.
Massillon, Ohio 44646

August 14, 1973

Mr. Gene Hartz
International Animal Exchange Inc.
1489 E. Nine Mile Road
Ferndale, Michigan
48220

Dear Gene:
Mr. Gene Hartz
International Animal Exchange, Inc.
1489 E. Nine Mile Road
Ferndale, Michigan 48220

We would like to purchase the tiger described in your letter of July 16, 1973 - male, born April 26, 1973, and raised. The 1400 dollar purchase price is acceptable and we would like an option for resale to you at 800 dollars.

Dear Gene:

We would not like to take delivery before August 27 because our stadium is being used for "Rock" the cub. If acceptable, we will pick up our tiger on Monday, August 27, 1973. Our operation has built up a variety of transporting cages and we will bring one suitable for a 30-40 pound cub. Normally, we would expect to be in the area by 12:00 noon, eat lunch, and then accept the animal at 1:00 P.M.

If these conditions are acceptable, please let us know for the tiger cub. Looking forward to doing business again.

My home phone is 336-1111. Looking forward to a visit on the 27th - please indicate the best time.

Sincerely,

W.V. Arnold

Sincerely,

W. V. Arnold

WVA/js

cc:

G. Boerner

Gene!
We'll need a check to International Animal Exchange Inc. for \$1400 - Part practice has been to charge Rooster club for gas & oil, sometimes lunch - don't know who handles myself may be planning on going up - ^{to} games, McTear, Denver possible but not all probable or necessary - do you want to go?

W. V. A
8/14

1024 3rd Street, N.E.
Massillon, Ohio 44840

October 23, 1973

1024 3rd St. N.E.
Massillon, Ohio
July 23, 1973

Mr. Len Kiser
Kiser Wildlife Ranch
Central City, Pa. 15926

Mr. Gene Hartz
International Animal Exchange Inc.
1489 E. Nine Mile Road
Ferndale, Michigan
48220

During your 1973 visit to Mallot Mall, I mentioned to your wife that we have a male bengal tiger cub as a mascot for the Massillon football team. She indicated that you Dear Gene: be interested in purchasing the animal when he is

available. Since we have state playoffs after the regular We would like to purchase the tiger cub described in your letter of July 16, 1973- male, born April 28, 1973, hand raised. The 1400 dollar purchase price is acceptable and we would like an option for resale to you at 800 dollars.

We would not like to take delivery before August 27 because our stadium is being used for "Rock Concerts" and the crowds or music could be a serious problem since the cub will be housed there. It is also possible that we will want to keep the animal until at least November 24 since that is the date of the state championship playoffs. As before, we would expect to drive up for pick up and delivery.

If these arrangements are acceptable, consider this an order for the tiger cub assuming he is in good condition for our purpose.

Looking forward to doing business again!

My home phone is (216) 832-2402; office is (216) 794-7533.

Sincerely,

Sincerely,

W.V. Arnold

W. V. Arnold

WVA/jb

cc:

cc. Gene Boerner
Gene Boerner

1024 3rd Street, N.E.
Massillon, Ohio 44646

October 23, 1973

PERMIT REQUEST
LIVE TIGER CUB PROJECT

Mr. Len Kiser
Kiser Wildlife Ranch
Central City, Pa. 15926

MASSILLON, OHIO

NOTE: Paragraph Numbers in Accordance with Title 50 Chapter 1
Subchapter 3 (Federal Register Volume 39 Number 3 Part III)

Dear Mr. Kiser:

13.12(1) During your 1973 visit to Mellet Mall, I mentioned to your wife that we have a male bengal tiger cub as a mascot for the Massillon football team. She indicated that you might be interested in purchasing the animal when he is available. Since we have state playoffs after the regular season, the availability date will be sometime between November 10 and November 24, 1973.

13.12(2) Not Applicable - Reference data provided for W. V. Arnold,
This tiger was born on April 28, 1973, and he has been a superb specimen for our purpose. He now weighs about 80 pounds and walks (and runs) on a leash daily for exercise and puts on a good show for the crowds at home and away games.

Please indicate if you might be interested in adding our "Obie" to your ranch. We could easily deliver him. Our purchase price was \$1,400.00.

13.12(3) Massillon Tiger Booster Club President
James J. Bryan
403 18th St. NE
Massillon, Ohio
44646
Phone (216) 833-0244

Sincerely,

W. V. Arnold

13.12(4) Permit Activity at -
WVA/js
cc: Massillon City School District
Stadium Property at 314 Russel Blvd SE
Massillon, Ohio 44646
John Reusser
Gene Boerner

PERMIT REQUEST
LIVE TIGER CUB PROJECT
MASSILLON, OHIO

NOTE: Paragraph Numbers in Accordance with Title 50 Chapter 1
Subchapter 3 (Federal Register Volume 39 Number 3 Part III)

13.12(1) Applicant's Name

Tiger Committee
Massillon Tiger Booster Club
W. V. Arnold, Jr. Chairman
1024 Third St. NE
Massillon, Ohio
44646
Phone (216)832-2402

13.12(2) Not Applicable - Reference data provided for W. V. Arnold,
Jr. Committee Chairman

Birth - April 27, 1930
Height - 5'9"
Weight - 200 pounds
Hair - Brown
Eyes - Brown
Sex - Male
Institutional Affiliation - Massillon City School District
Board of Education and Massillon Tiger Booster Club

13.12(3) Massillon Tiger Booster Club President

James J. Bryan
403 18th St. NE
Massillon, Ohio
44646
Phone (216) 833-0244

13.12(4) Permit Activity at -

Massillon City School District
Stadium Property at 314 Russel Blvd SE
Massillon, Ohio 44646

13.12(5) Title 50 Wildlife and Fisheries Chapter 1 Subchapter B Permit Request Reference - Permit is requested under general requirements for domestic purchase, possession and sale of an endangered species as identified in title 50 Chapter 1 Subchapter B description. No specific part covering purchase, possession, and sale of a domestic animal of the endangered species is identified in the Department of Interior Regulation (Reference Federal Register Volume 39 Number 3 Part III). Subchapter B Part 17.23 is used as a guide and applicable information under that format is included:

17.23(1)

Common Name - Bengal Tiger
Scientific Name - Panthera Rigris
Number - one (1)
Age - 4 months to 12 months
Sex - Male or female

17.23(2) - Contract - See Enclosure (1) Solicitation in accordance with 17.23(1).

17.23(3) Justification

This live tiger cub display project is proposed as a continuance of a community activity which has been operated since September 1970. Four tiger cubs ranging in age from four to nine months have been raised September through November and then resold. During their stay in Massillon the cubs have been displayed at elementary schools, public activities and the county fair. In 1973 the tiger cub was featured at the display for Stark County Conservation Clubs. The display shows developing characteristics of the species and the accompanying address covers history of the species and aspects of threat to wildlife.

The four animals raised in previous years have developed into excellent specimens on diets including vitamins and calcium along with a continuation of their starting diet. Veterinary assistance is provided for shots and checkups as required.

The project has become a tradition and is enthusiastically anticipated by young and old alike. Facilities described in 17.23(4) have proven comfortable for the animal(s), the oldest of which was 12 months when resold. In addition to viewing at the facility, mobile facilities have been developed to show the animal at schools and public activities. Elementary students have an opportunity to pass close to the cage and hear a presentation of tiger background and the requirement for wildlife conservation. Similar presentations are made for adults throughout the September to November period.

The project is proposed on an annual basis to be conducted September through November utilizing a four (4) to twelve (12) months old tiger cub. Each November it is proposed that the tiger cub be sold to an acceptable domestic live animal display.

17.23(4) Facility Description

Address - Massillon City School
District Board of Education
Stadium Property at 314 Russel Blvd SE
Massillon, Ohio 44646

Description - See Enclosure (2) Sketch ~~and Pictures~~

17.23(5) Wildlife Status Statement

Not applicable - proposed project will utilize domestically born animal(s).

17.23(6) Not applicable - Importation not requested.

17.23(7) Not applicable - Importation not requested -
Refer to data in 17.23(3) and (4) for previous experience and facility description.

13.12(6) Not applicable - Importation not requested.

13.12(7) I hereby certify that I have read and am familiar with the regulations contained in Title 50, Part 13, of the Code of Federal Regulations and the other applicable parts in Subchapter B of Chapter I of Title 50, and I further certify that the information submitted in this application for a permit is complete and accurate to the best of my knowledge and belief. I understand that any false statement hereon may subject me to the criminal penalties of 18 U.S.C. 1001.

13.12(8) Desired Effective Date of Permit - August 16, 1974.

13.12(9) Date _____

13.12(10) Signed _____

Enclosure (1)

SOLICITATION

Dear

The Tiger Committee of the Massillon Tiger Booster Club in association with the Massillon Board of Education desires to purchase a Bengal Tiger cub. A permit for raising a four to nine months old cub from September through November has been requested of the United States Department of Interior. Following are the desired specifications:

- . species common name - Bengal Tiger
- . birth date - Dec. 1973 thru April 1974 (March 1974 preferred)
- . history - domestic hand raised
- . sex - male or female
- . delivery - approximately August 30, 1974

If you can meet the specification please indicate your schedule and price.

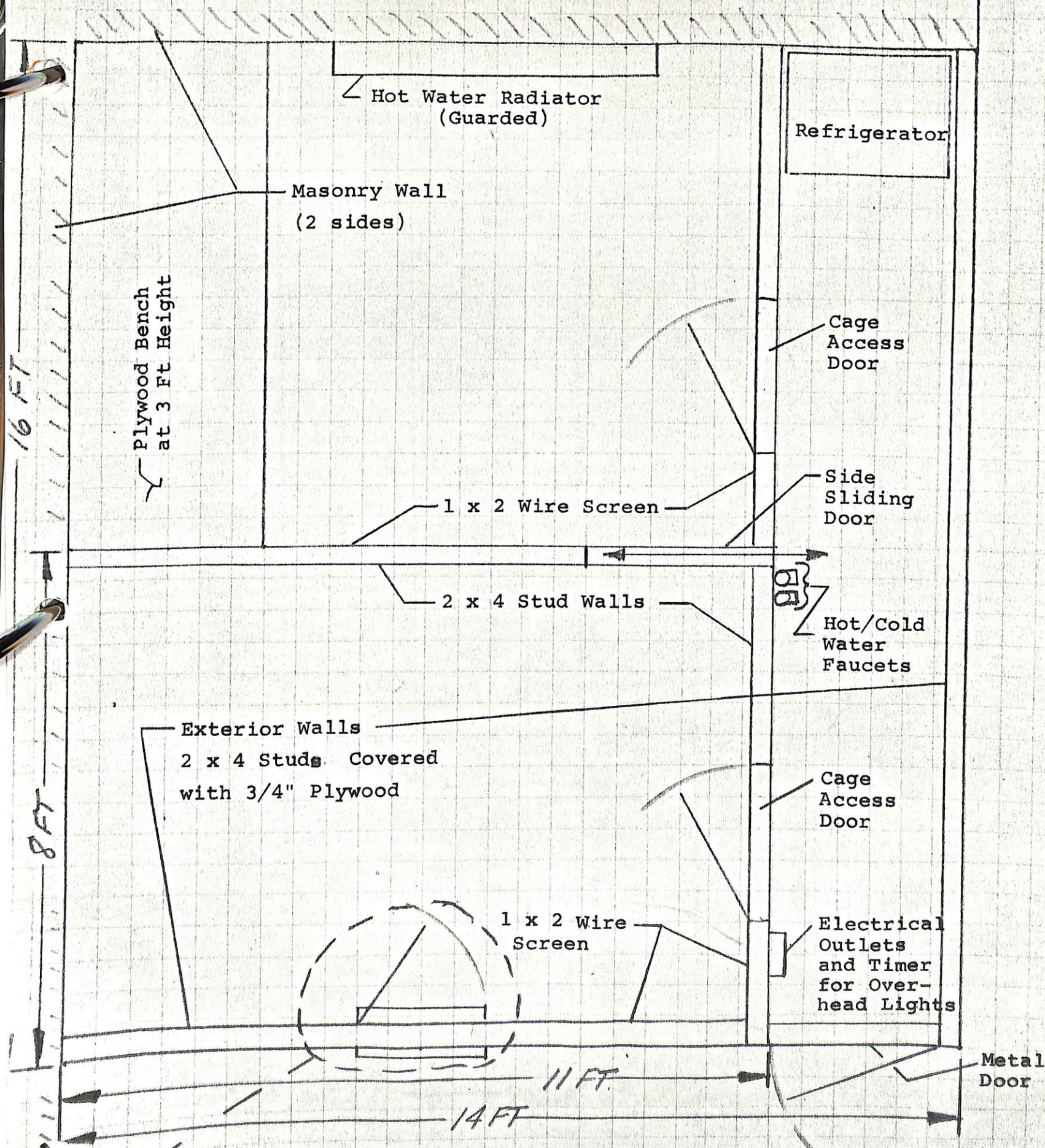
Sincerely,

W. V. Arnold, Chairman
Tiger Committee
Massillon Tiger Booster Club

FACILITY SKETCH

(See Notes and Pictures Pages 2 and 3)

Enclosure (2)
Page 1 of 2



Double Access Door for Egress to Mobile Cage Swinging Door Inside with Latch Vertical Sliding Door Outside with Padlock

Facility Sketch Notes

NOTES:

1. Ceiling 8 feet high covered w/1 x 2 wire screen over 2 x 4's 16" on centers. 3/4" plywood roof slanted to existing masonry walls supported on 2 x 4's 16" on center, double felt cover. Entire facility protected beneath permanent (enclosed) stadium seating (no direct weather effects).
2. Cage base plates raised 1" to permit cleanout.
3. New facilities proposed in adjacent structure to be equivalent (or better) than sketch and similar in design.



OBIE IV 1973



OBIE IV 1973

To the Editor of
The Evening Independent:

We went to the Grotto Circus Friday night and the tiger crew had an opportunity for a reunion with Obie IV. Dr. and Mrs. Bob Immel are friends of the Hannefords who produced the show—Mrs. Hanneford trains and performs with the big cats. Through Dr. Immel's guidance we were able to go backstage and talk to Obie. He is still very friendly and responds to the old phrases—plus the name he retained in the circus, Obie.

Now almost three years old, he has grown larger than the big Bengal tiger we had at the first game in 1975—and he'll still grow a little until he's four years old. His Bengal orange and black markings are beautiful but he's not the star of the show yet. Mrs. Hanneford reports that if he didn't have claws it would still be easy to walk him on a chain, but he's so friendly that discipline comes hard.

During the act he sits on his stool, does a walk around, stands on his hind legs and drapes the front paws over a trapeze. During the finale they build a pyramid of a lion and

tigers on elevated stools and Obie stands beneath on his hind legs, front paws upstretched. At that time the lion's tail, tiger paws and bellies are tempting playthings and sometimes it's just too much to resist. Friday night he dabbled with the lion's tail but the pyramid was dissolved before anyone noticed the mischievous one.

Beyond our interest in the big cats, the circus was fun for the 11 kids of all ages who went together from Tigertown. Massillon has a heritage in the history of the circus dating back through the circus owned by Sherlock Evans' father. In recent years, economic conditions have caused circuses to bypass our town, but to quote the closing words of the Grotto Circus Program editorial comment "... as long as children laugh, grownups dream, and the spirit of sawdust flourishes, the ringmaster's whistle will blow, and the magic of the circus will once again fill the air."

There'll be a circus in this area this year. Try it—you'll like it.

The Tiger Crew
W. V. Arnold

Massillon,
Jan. 24

Reunion held with 'Obie-1973'

Some Massillon Tiger Boosters had an interesting reunion recently. It was with Obie the Tiger — and thereby hangs a tale (or is it tail?). Seems as though the club started, in 1970, to buy each year a young, live tiger as a team mascot. He paid for his keep by appearing at all Massillon home football games. At the end of the season the tiger was sold or given to a zoo or circus. The one known as "Obie-1973" was given to a circus operated by well-known animal trainer Tom Hanneford and his wife, Strubi. When their circus, sponsored by the Cleveland Grotto lodge, came to Public Auditorium circus buff Dr. Robert Immel found out about the appearance of Obie. Four of Obie's keepers, Wilbur Arnold, John Reusser, Don McFarren and David James and their wives, went to Cleveland to renew acquaintances with the mascot. They report Obie's as independent as all cats but he did seem to recognize them when they went back stage. He didn't offer to shake hands, they said. Because the law has been changed the group now has to borrow or rent a tiger for Massillon games. But a Massillon game without an "Obie" wouldn't be the same, they say.



G-R-R-R!!! — Obie IV, the Massillon Tigers' new live football mascot, is ready to start the football season when Cleveland Cathedral Latin comes to town. Once again the Tiger Booster Club is the official custodian of the Tiger which was purchased in Detroit. Obie will be in his cage along the sidelines at all home games and at as many road games as is possible.

(Independent Staff Photo)

OBIE IV 1973



TIGER CORNERING A TIGER? — Obie IV, Washington High School's live football mascot, was on hand for the "Beat McKinley" Tiger Booster Club meeting held Wednesday night in the school's auditorium. He promptly decided to nose about Bob "Obie" Geis, the guy in the Tigerskin. Dave James (right) and Bill Arnold are the handlers. Cheerleaders looking on are Maria Protos (neck brace) and Darlene Pfeiffer. (Independent Staff Photo)

OBIE IV

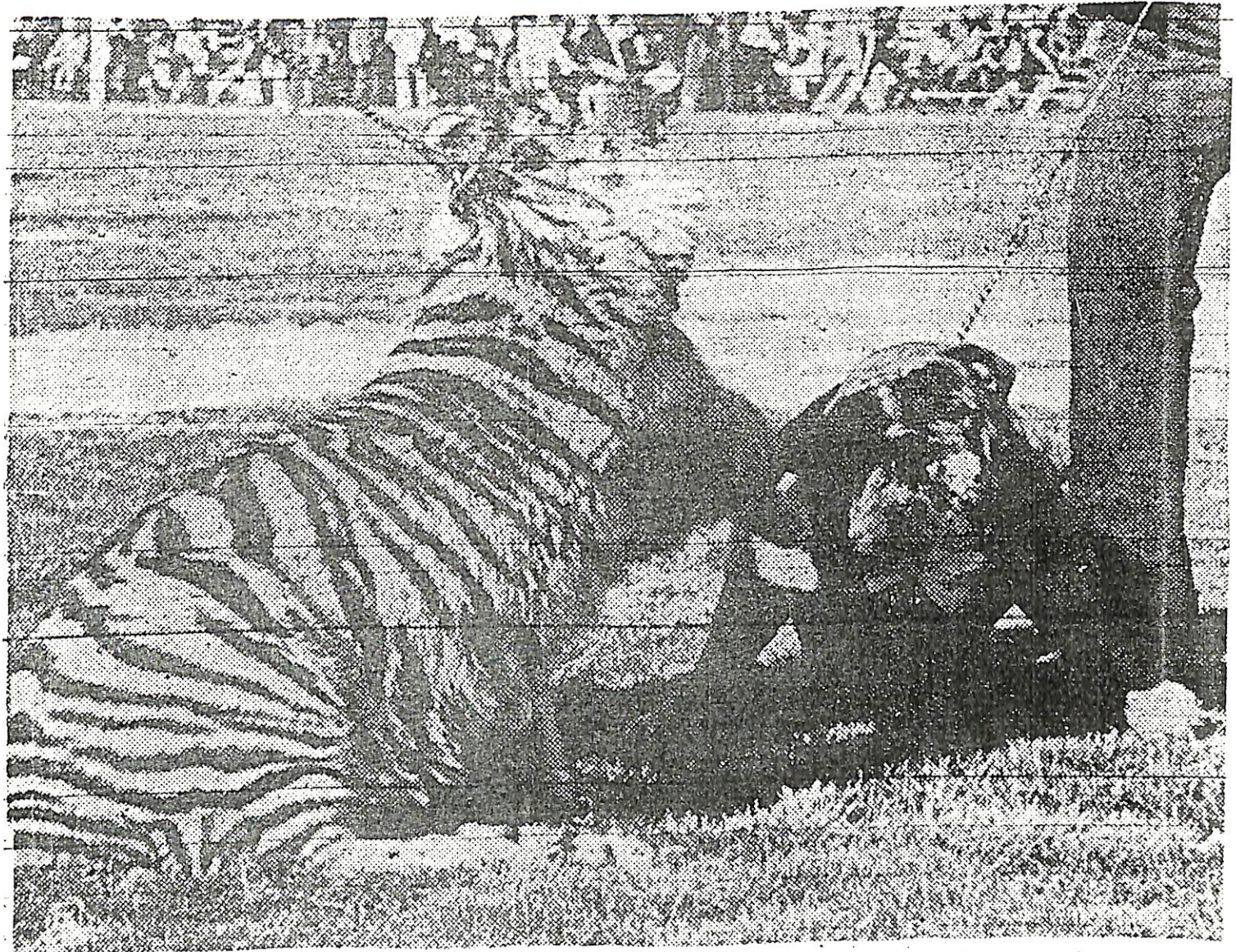


OBIE IV 1973



OBIE V A

TIGER CREWS & LIVE TIGER



MCKINLEY'S BULLDOG BLINKS as Obie VI swings a playful paw before Saturday's game. The young tiger was handled by Wilbur V. Arnold Jr. and the bulldog by Nick Moldovan, for owner Charles "Bud" Homan.

1974
OBIE VI



Handlers Kept the Real Tiger and Bulldog From Tasting the Action

1024 Third St. N.E.
Massillon, Ohio 44646
July 9, 1974

Ralph Regula
Member of Congress
16th District Ohio
Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D. C. 20515


Dear Congressman Regula:

I am enclosing copies of the latest correspondence submitting a permit request for a live tiger project in Massillon, Ohio. Regulations and permit format have not been established for the type of domestic project proposed and therefore I developed the permit format in consultation with Mr. Marshall Stinnett, law enforcement officer at the Fish and Wildlife Service in the Department of Interior.

A permit effectivity date of August 16, 1974 has been requested and Mr. Stinnett has promised to help expedite processing the permit. Preliminary contacts with previous sources indicate that a tiger will be available if the permit is approved. I hope you will support the request if required.

Thanks again for putting me in touch with the proper agency.

Sincerely,


W. V. Arnold, Jr.

/pm

1024 Third St. N.E.
Massillon, Ohio 44646
July 9, 1974
(216)832-2402

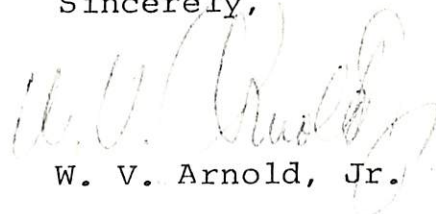
Mr. Robert Hodgins
Special Agent
Division of Law Enforcement
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Federal Building
Fort Snelling, Minnesota 55111

Dear Mr. Hodgins:

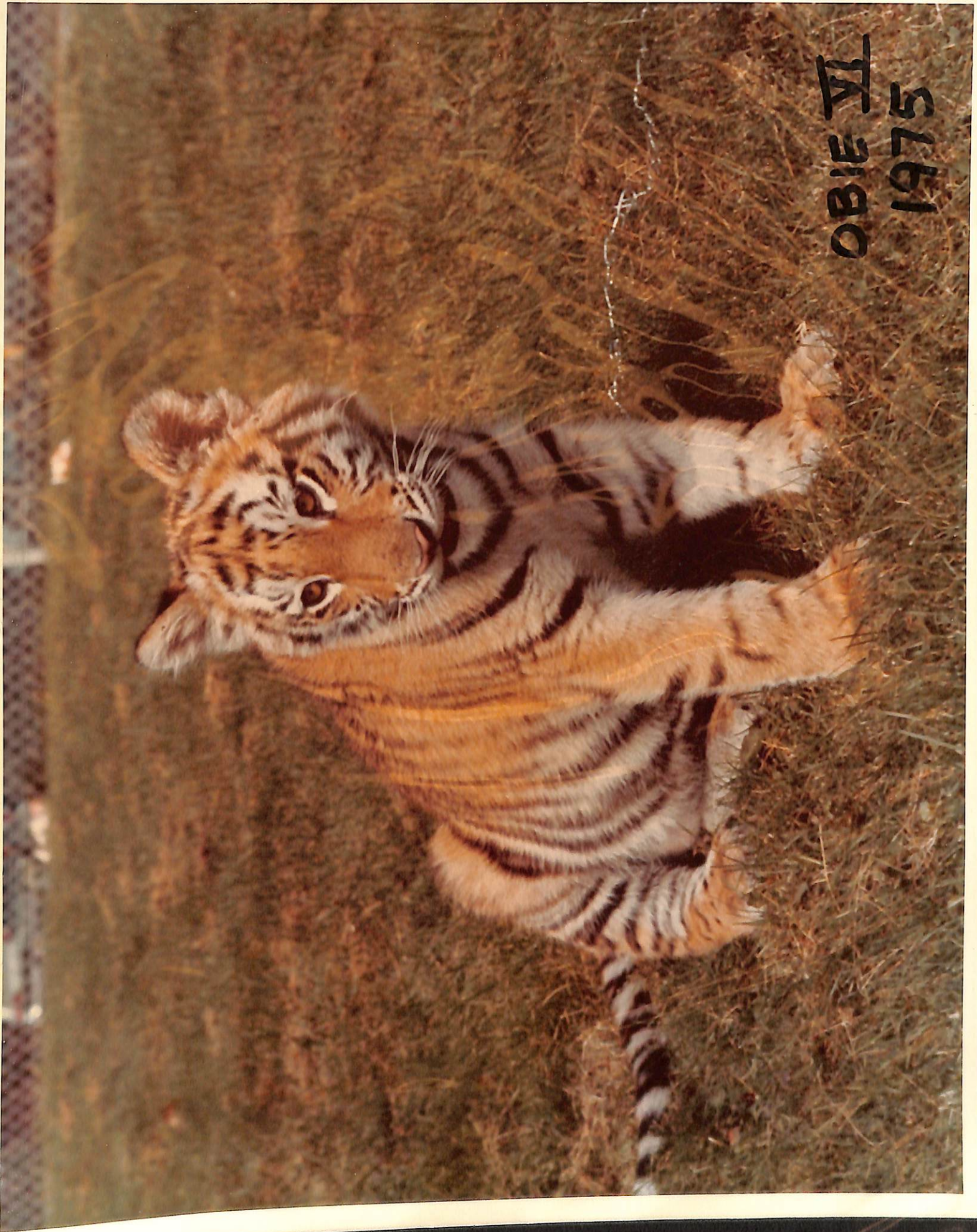
I am enclosing a permit request for a live tiger project at Massillon, Ohio. Since regulations and permit format have not been developed for domestic purchase, holding, and sale of tigers I have tried to use the applicable sections of Title 50 Chapter 1 Subchapter B as suggested by Mr. Marshall Stinnett.

You will notice that I have requested a permit effectivity date of August 16, 1974 but earlier authorization would be appreciated. Please feel free to call if further information is required. I would be glad to demonstrate the facility and discuss the project personally if you can visit Massillon.

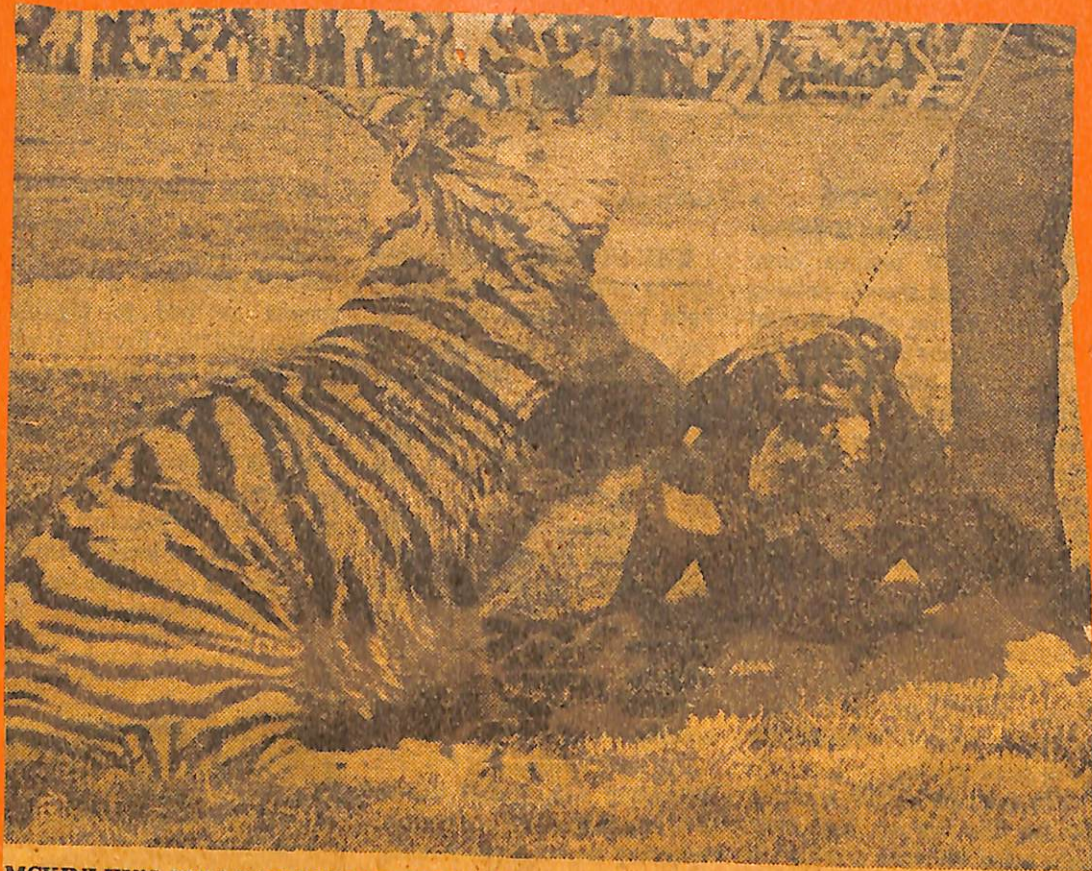
Sincerely,



W. V. Arnold, Jr.



OBIE VI
1975



MCKINLEY'S BULLDOG BLINKS as Obie VI swings a playful paw before Saturday's game. The young tiger was handled by Wilbur V. Arnold Jr. and the bulldog by Nick Moldovan, for owner Charles "Bud" Homan. 1974

OBIE VI



OBIE VI 1975



OBIE VI 1975

1975



OBIE VI AND FRIEND — Washington High School cheerleader Chris Zuercher makes friends with the live Tiger mascot during halftime activity at Fawcett Stadium. Tiger Booster Club members returned Obie VI to his circus owners Sunday.

OBIE VI
1975

Letters to the Editor

CIRCA 1975

To the Editor of
The Evening Independent:

I know a lot of Massillon people have enjoyed the live tigers we have had the past four years as mascots for our high school football team.

You may have seen the TV show tonight from Tiger Stadium and narrated by Bill Arnold, who has brought these tigers into Massillon. It showed the excellent facilities made available for Obie and the loving care afforded the beautiful animals by the crew of Booster Club members.

You may have read a few days ago that this year's Obie was being sold to Hanneford Circus. Bill Arnold and his crew shipped Obie off this morning via air freight for his new home at Hanneford winter quarters, Osprey, Fla. Bill received a call this evening from Tommy Hanneford, owner of the circus, that Obie had arrived safely and that they were pleased with him.

Many of the—or should I say “us” — oldtimers need no introduction to the Hannefords, but the young people who knew Obie may wish to know something about his new owners.

The Hanneford family is one of the most famous and

respected names in the history of the circus. They have been circus performers for over 200 years, mostly in Europe. The Hannefords started in England and later moved their show to Ireland.

In the 1920s, Poodles came to America leaving his mother Nanna, to run the show in Ireland. Poodles was a premier horseman and his specialty was a comedy act on resin-back or bareback horses. After he was here a few years he sent for his brother George to join him, George also was an excellent horseman and the two of them and their wives joined to create one of America's great circus acts.

George had three children, George Jr., Kay Francis and Timothy, better known as Tommy and all three grew up in the tradition of the circus and the great Hanneford family.

Tommy married a lovely German girl who was also a circus star in Germany. Gertrude, better known as Struppi, came to this country and has been one of America's great aerialists. She is also a talented horsewoman and recently has been working with other animals. She has performed on Ed Sullivan's program several times.

The Hanneford Circus plays indoor dates, mostly at colleges, and it is probably the most unusual circus in that it carries its own carpeting which it spreads on the floor before each performance.

It also erects beautiful chandeliers to render another bit of class to each performance. It is just recently that the Hannefords started to accumulate some fine animals for their circus.

Obie has found a fine home, with lovely people. The Hannefords have found a fine tiger for their circus and the Massillon people who are interested can look forward to Obie V, knowing that Obie IV is in good hands.

Robert Immel

Massillon,
Nov. 20

1024 Third St. N.E.
Massillon, Ohio 44646
June 26, 1976

Dr. Joseph Arnold
Director of Instruction
Muskingham Area Technical College
400 Richards Road
Zanesville, Ohio

Dear Dr. Arnold:

We were sorry to hear that Muskingham Area Technical College lost Monado as its mascot. You may recall that we had him at our opening football game here in Massillon last year. Each year since 1970 we have obtained a tiger cub for the football season, then found a good home for it in November. Federal restrictions have made this increasingly difficult - the reason for inviting Monado was that we weren't sure that OBIE VI would arrive in time.

We are now looking for OBIE VII and coordination between Massillon Band Boosters and Football Boosters and Muskingham Area Technical College may be mutually beneficial. I refer to your telephone conversation with our Jim Keehn on obtaining the tiger skin for preservation here in Massillon. In addition, if you decide to continue your tiger project, we may be able to help each other locate a suitable animal and assure a good home for it.

Please inform Jim Keehn or myself on how we can work together on these items.

Again - we were sorry to hear that you lost Monado - we appreciate the attachment that keepers and interested parties can attain for such an animal. Please express our concern and thanks for past cooperation.

Sincerely,

W.V. Arnold Jr.
Chairman, Tiger Project
Massillon Tiger Booster Club

cc

JR. Keehn
1910 Colonial Parkway N.E.
Massillon, Ohio 44646

Massillon's Obie scores touchdown . . . 1976



FOOTBALL FEVER is gripping Massillon and Jackson Township this week as the high school teams of both school districts play their most important games of the season. Tonight, Jackson, No. 9 in the Region 3 computer ratings, hosts North Canton, the No. 1 team. Massillon, No. 3 team in

the region, will meet arch-rival Canton McKinley here Saturday afternoon. In the above photo Obie VII, the live Tiger mascot, sets an example for the Massillon Tigers as he crosses the goal line for a "touchdown."

OBIE VII 1976

TIGER CREWS & LIVE TIGER

"Obie, Obie, Obie!"

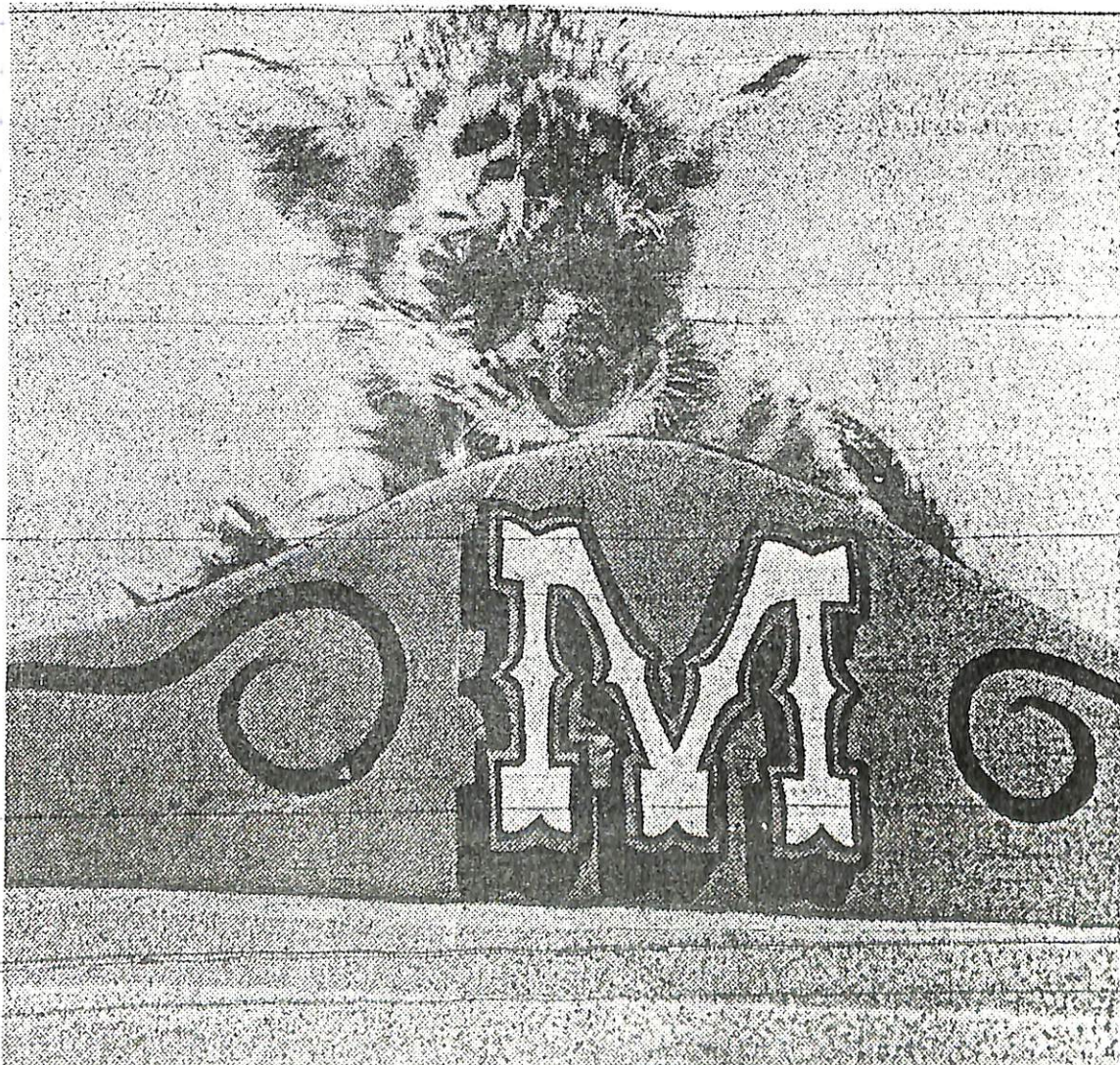
- This year, Obie is a male Siberian. He is 20 weeks old and weighs 34 pounds. His caretakers say he eats about 3 or 4 pounds of meat per day.
- Last season's "Obie" was a 12-week-old female tiger cub from Stump Hill Farm.
- The original Obie is an instrument-playing band member in a real tiger skin, and has been since 1938. The "live" tiger version of Obie started prowling the Massillon sidelines in 1970.
- Each year, a tiger cub, loaned to Massillon by a zoo or farm, receives treatment "befitting a king" during its stay.
- Donations are collected at Massillon home games to help pay for the tiger cub's care.
- During Obie's stay, which includes visits to area schools and nursing homes, the cub will reside at the homes of three caretakers, all Massillon boosters.
- As for the Obie in tiger skin, candidates from the marching band have to write an essay about why they want to be Obie. Then they have to do



a three-minute routine in the tiger skin and show how they are going to "bring that costume to life."

— Eddie Dwyer

Sources: Massillon Washington High School; "Massillon Memories" - The Inside Story of the Greatest Show in High School Football, by Scott H. Shook; "Bengals Roar" — the school's yearly football program by Wally Mieskoski (Class of 1971); and Carol DiLillo-Kenney, Director of Marketing and Public Relations for Benedictine.



PEERING FROM on top of his cage is Obie VII, this year's Washington High School mascot. The Tiger cub arrived here Sunday and took part in Monday's Sesquicentennial Parade.

(Independent Staff Photo)

OBIE

VII

Obie VII must stay outside

Massillon's Tigers will be without their tiger cub mascot again at Warren Friday night. Obie VII will not be allowed inside Mollenkopf Stadium. Live animals are not allowed inside the stadium under a ruling by the board of education.

Tiger Booster Club officials will take Obie VII to Warren hoping that Harding officials will have a last minute change of heart.

M A S S I L L O N
SUPERINTENDENT of Schools L.C. Young, Washington High School Principal Clifford Wilson and head coach Mike Currence made phone calls to Warren this week hoping to get the board ruling changed.

The Tiger team will leave for Warren Friday at 4:15 p.m. after eating a pregame meal at the Holiday Inn here.

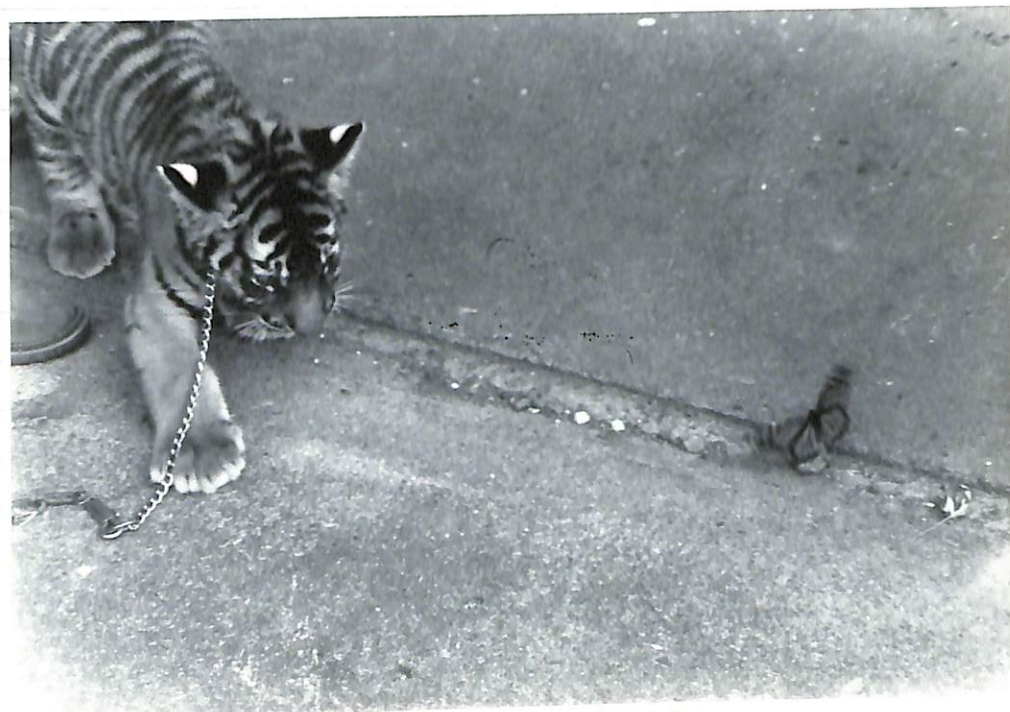
1976



OBIE VII 1976



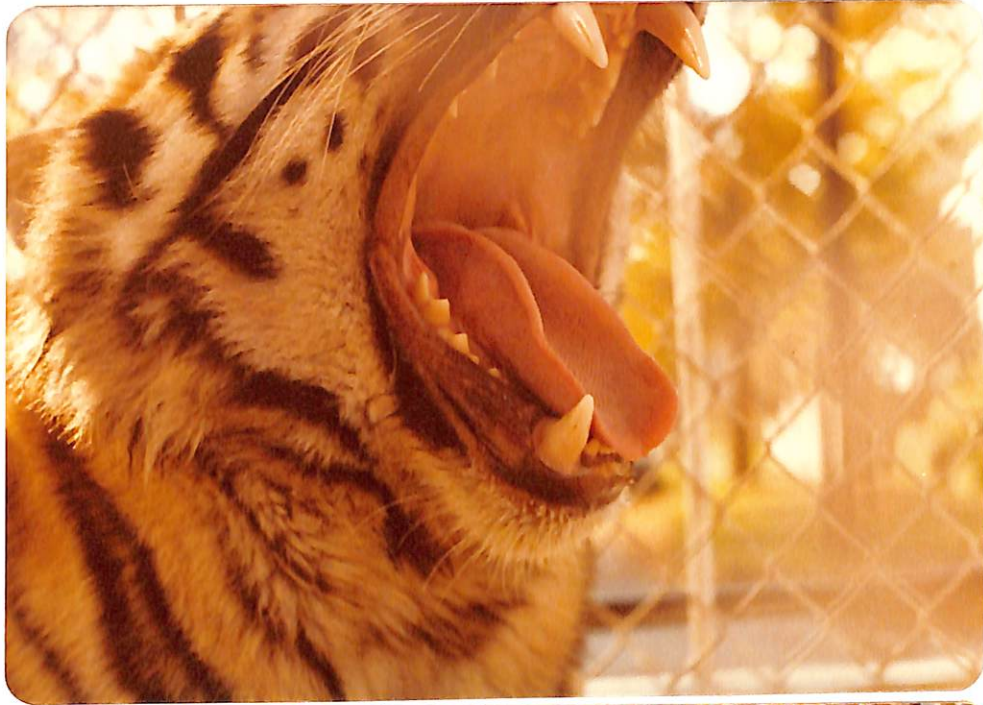
OBIE VII 1976



OBIE VII 1976

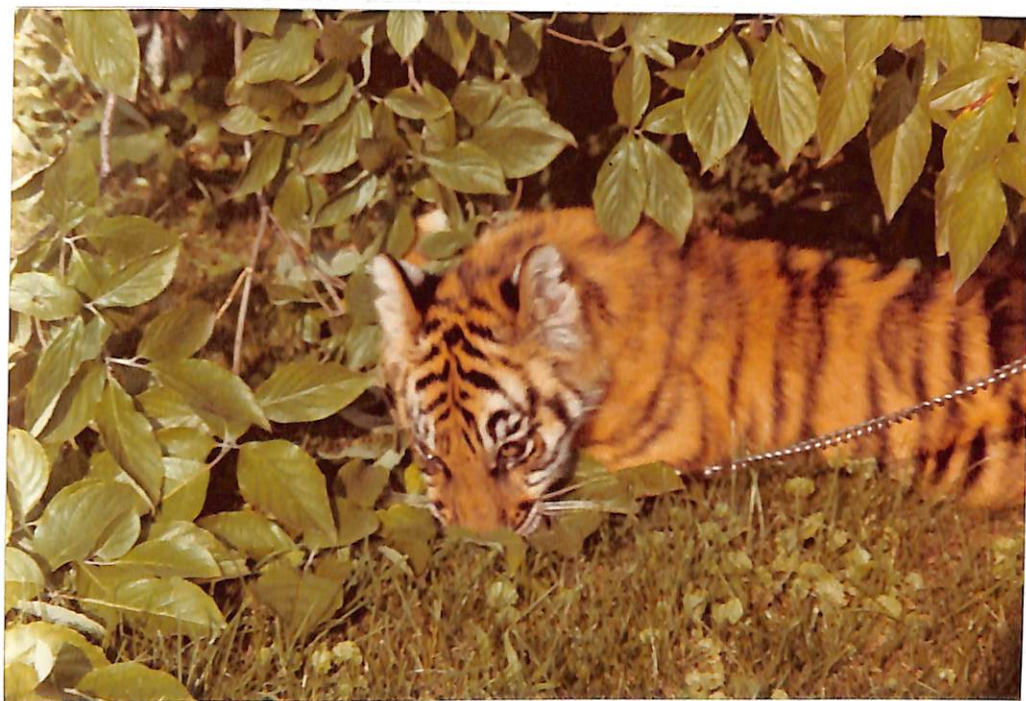


OBIE
VIII
1977





OBIE IX 1978



OBIE IX 1978

TIGER CREWS & LIVE TIGER



TIGER RUG — Obie IX, the Massillon Tiger football team mascot, practices for Saturday's game by chewing on his rug while his handlers — Wilbur Arnold (left) and Dave Jones — look on. Obie is practicing for Saturday when he can take his frustrations out on a Bulldog during the Massillon-McKinley football game (Independent Staff Photo)

— BEAT MCKINLEY —

— BEAT MCKINLEY —

Don't forget 'Obie Cans'

— Massillon Tiger football fans are asked to bring their "Obie Cans" to shake at Saturday's game against McKinley.

— After the game, fans are asked to drop off the cans — which were to be filled with coins, to make noise and help feed Obie IX, the Tiger mascot — at the three exits at Paul Brown Tigers Stadium.

OBIE IX

OBIE
IX
1978





OBIE
IX

OBIE X
1979



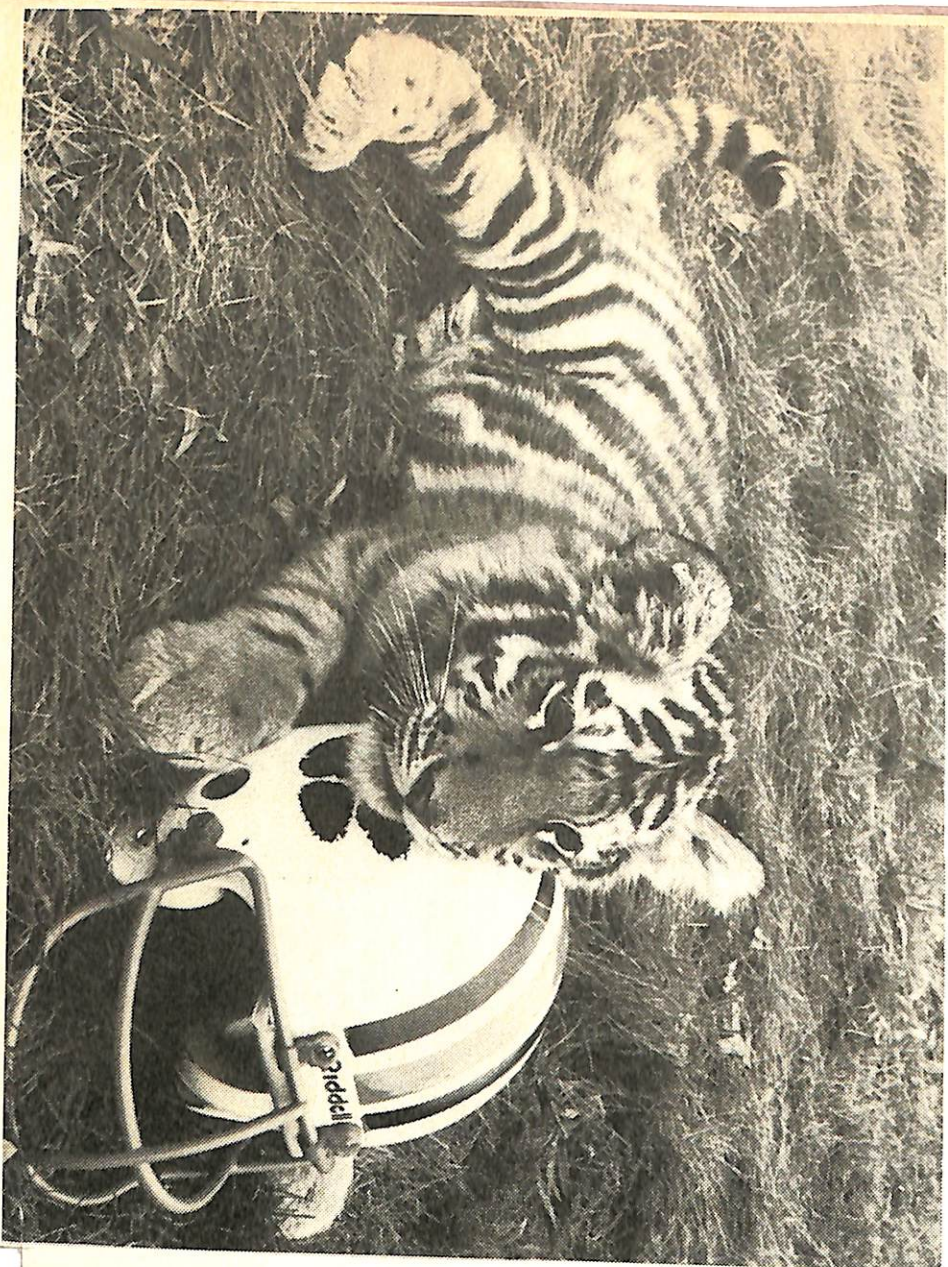


Washington Hi-Times

Vol. XXXX, No. 4

Washington High School

November 9, 1979



This year's mascot, is only the second female tiger Massillon has ever had. The first female was the very first tiger brought to the town. Obie X was born on April 21 in Bermingham, Indiana and brought to Massillon on September 5. She is now living in a room at the stadium.

Obie differs in sex

Women's lib seems to have spoken up in Tiger Town this year.

The 1979 mascot, Obie, is only the second female tiger the town has ever had. The first being in 1970, the first tiger brought to Massillon.

Obie X was born April 21, 1979 in Bermingham, Indiana. Massillon received the cub from African Lion Safari in Fort Clinton on September 5. "How she got from Bermingham, Indiana to Fort Clinton I'll never know," chuckled Mr. Wilbert Arnold, a Massillon board member who keeps the tiger.

Obie stayed at Mr. Arnold's mother's house the first two weeks she was here. She was then moved to the stadium where she is kept at present. According to Mr. Arnold, there is good security there.

Because the cub is a Siberian Tiger she has a heavy coat and is not bothered by cold weather.

Raw chicken is her everyday meal which costs \$2.50 daily. She eats three and a half pounds at once, bones and all. It is important that she gets enough calcium for her bones.

"This particular tiger has had the nicest temperament," said Mr. Arnold. "She's a very pretty tiger. The only thing wrong with her is she has a short tail," he continued.

Since Obie is gaining one pound a day, Mr. Arnold feels she is a good size.

"We've never had any tiger act in anger," stated Mr. Arnold. The only time he was concerned about any tiger was when Obie III had a virus and he had to take medication.

Shipping instructions will inform Mr. Arnold where the tiger will be sent when the football season ends.



SECOND STEP — Obie, the Massillon Tiger cub, takes a healthy kick at a second football to indicate the Tigers' second step on the Ohio High School Athletic Association's playoff ladder. The Tigers take on

Willoughby South tonight at the Rubber Bowl in Akron to determine who will represent northern Ohio in next week's state Division I title game against Cincinnati Moeller. (Photo by Jack Worthington)



OBIE XI
1980

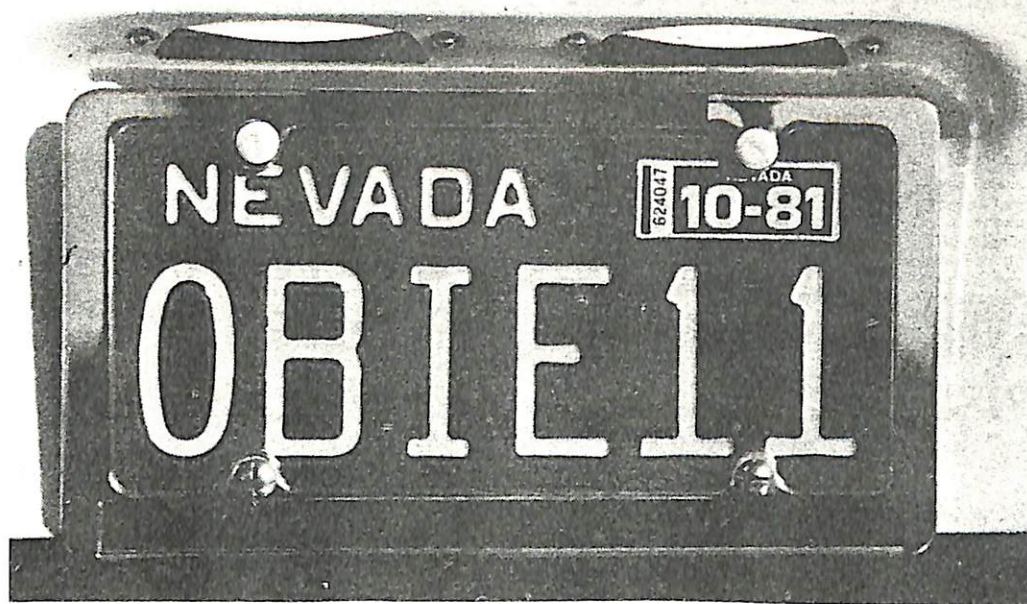
Tiger Obie relaxes while figuring out his strategy of getting into the Massillon-Warren football game without being spotted.



Photo for The Independent by Margy Vogt

OBIE PICTURE DAY — Sunday heralded another beginning to the annual Massillon-McKinley week. At Paul Brown Tiger Stadium, Obie the XV was put on display for all eager shutterbugs to snap pictures of their favorite team mascot. Keeping a close watch Obie is trainer Ed Annen, while Jackson Township resident Diane King snaps of a pix from a distance.

OBIE XV 1984



THAT OLD TIGER SPIRIT doesn't only exist in Massillon on the day the Tigers and McKinley Bulldogs renew their annual rivalry, as this license plate proves. Michael Carter, 23, son of Mr. and Mrs. Louis Carter of 918 15th St. S.W., had this Nevada plate specially made for his car. A 1975 Washington High grad who was a

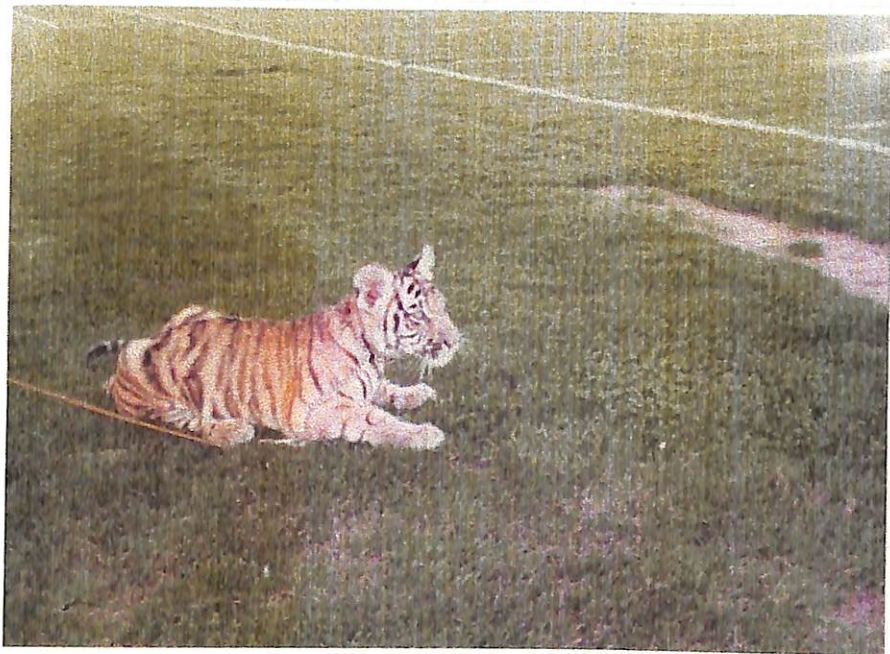
three-year member of the Tiger Swing Band, Carter is stationed at Nellis Air Force Base near Las Vegas. He couldn't make it home for today's game, but as his father said: "He'll be wearing his "Beat McKinley" T-shirt. The "Obie 11" on the license plate represents this year's tiger cub mascot, Obie XI.

1980



OBIE XIV

1983



OBIE XV

1984



ABOVE: Obie XII takes a break from his daily exercise period.

OBIE XII 1981



Independent photo by Norm Weber

THE LATEST IN A LONG LINE OF OBIES

1983

Live mascots become Tigertown grid legend

By NORM WEBER
Independent Sportswriter

MASSILLON — Living in Massillon and having a son on the senior board of the Tiger Booster Club, Mrs. Arnold has learned to become calm about Tigers — literally.

Obie has been the Massillon Tiger mascot and logo symbol for about as long as there has been a Massillon football Tiger.

A real Tiger did not surface, however, until 1970, when Bill Arnold, then the president of the Booster Club, decided it would add more *life* to the team if such a Tiger sat along the sidelines in a cage, similar to one the Cincinnati Bengals have.

After a few minor problems with the city park commission Arnold was able to swing a bengal into town. There has been a new Tiger every year since that and all of them have been kept in Mrs. Arnold's fruit cellar.

"They just keep it here," said Mrs. Arnold "The booster club takes care of it; let's it out and feeds it. I don't let it out and I don't go in there. When Bill got the original Tiger he said grandma's house would be the best place for it and I've gotten it every year since that."

Mrs. Arnold said a new Tiger is obtained every year because "they get too big for the boys to handle." The 1983 Obie is four months old and was born in Sharon, Pa.

The first two years the Tiger was a Bengal, but every one since that but one have been Siberian Tigers. The oldest one was a tad over a year, which was in 1972, when the 1971 Tiger had to be taken back because it got sick.

"Bill was supposed to go to Detroit in 1970," recalled Mrs. Arnold. "He missed his plane to Detroit because he had some things to check over about the tigers at the Cleveland Zoo.

"The plane he was supposed to be on crashed in Lake Erie and most of the passengers were killed. If it weren't for his idea about the Tigers he would probably be dead now. That's why I don't mind keeping the Tiger here."

The first Obie came here from Detroit, via an animal exchange. After the booster club is done with the Tigers they are passed on to the Hanneford Circuses. A circus with 14 Tigers named Obie!

"We've called all of them Obie when we've gotten them," said Mrs. Arnold. "We registered all of them with the same name. I know one of them wound up in Columbus, which they used for ads and called it 'Gypsy'. But I think most of them are still called 'Obie' after we're done."

This year's Obie eats about four pounds of chicken per day.

"Most of them like chicken and it is good for them because they get the calcium from the bones," said Mrs. Arnold. "But some of them have liked hamburger meat better, so we had to give them carnation milk to get them their calcium. But they haven't fed them anything but hamburger and chicken."

A tiger has never gotten loose and has never caused Mrs. Arnold or the neighbors any type of disturbances. Visitors also haven't been scared away.

"If they don't know I have a Tiger down there when they come here they won't know it when they leave," she said. "Some have asked 'what's that?' when the Tiger made some mild growls, but I just say 'it's a Tiger.' I explain it to them; no one really thinks I'm out of my tree."

Mrs. Arnold said she never allows children of visitors near the Tiger. If anyone wishes to take pictures or see the Tiger, she urges them to come back when Booster Club President Ed Annen is feeding Obie, 8 a.m. and 5 p.m.



OBIE
XIII
1983

Independent photo by Norm Weber

THE LATEST IN A LONG LINE OF OBIES

Live mascots become Tigertown grid legend

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Tigers this fan's 'pet' project

Hollender helps keep mascot

Obie XVII on proper diet



Steve Doerschuk/INDE

TIGER TUNES — Bob Hollender, regaled in a "Beat McKinley" cap, accepts some special headwear from Joe Rubin of Howard's Tiger Rags. The musical cap plays "The Tiger Rag" when you squeeze the bill. Rubin said the item is a hot seller here but isn't doing well in Canton for some reason.

1983
SEE NEXT
PAGE

TIGER CREWS & LIVE TIGER

1983

By **STEVE DOERSCHUK**
Independent Sports Editor
MASSILLON — Bob Hollender knows all about Tigers.

For starters, he hasn't missed a Massillon Tiger football game — home or away — since 1951.

And, for the past three years, he's been feeding them.

That is, he's been part of the "tiger crew" that has shepherded the team's live mascot brought in by the Tiger Booster Club before the start of each season:

"I just like football," said the 49-year-old Tuscarawas Township resident who graduated from Washington High School in 1954. "Helping Ed (Annen) take care of the tiger was just something I could do to help out."

Everybody knows Massillon has a live tiger. But most folks don't know much about tigers.

Fill us in, Bob.

"Well, this year's is a boy," Hollender said. "He weighed 40 pounds when we got him and he's up to 130. He eats chicken — raw — about seven pounds a day.

"He stays in a cage at the stadium, and he gets walked by one of us twice each day."

One should never say that to see one tiger is to see 'em all.

"Last year's regular Obie mascot (a costumed student) really bothered the tiger," Hollender said. "But not this year's. He likes to play. He's a lot more sociable."

Apparently, Obie XVII likes Tigertown. Hopefully, then, no one will tell him about this article. You see, he's a rent-a-tiger, and will be returned to Chicago a few days after Saturday's McKinley game, unless the Tigers make the playoffs.

"Last year's tiger is in training to go into the circus," Hollender said. "This year's will probably be doing the same thing."

Hollender will stick around. He was one of the idled Enduro workers and hopes to get back on the job soon.

"We were through some tough times, but everybody stuck together real well," he said. "The togetherness helped us through. That's one of the things about Massillon. Maybe because it's a small town. But there's a real strong sense of community. There's a lot of pride."

Hollender has fond memories of the players he watched while he was growing up. Among his favorites were Homer Floyd, the Francisco brothers, John Traylor and Ace Grooms.

But he's a real loyalist. He has no-

thing but kind words about the tiger of the hour.

Asked to name his favorite head coach, among the 10 he has seen, he responded, "Well, I'd have to say Coach Maronto."

In fact, he's kind of stubborn about giving a plug to any place but Tiger town.

What's your favorite town in which to see the Tigers on the road, Bob?

"Massillon," he says.

No, Bob, on the road.

"Massillon," he says again, with big smile.

Hollender figures he'll be smiling Saturday at suppertime.

"I like the Tigers to win," he said. "Twenty-one to 10."

For no reason other than to make sure everybody knows, he then wailed out loud, "Do you know what Obie stands for?"

Fill us in, Bob.

"Orange and black," he beamed. Hollender will display his colors — and that of Obie XVII — at a parade and bonfire rally starting at 7:30 tonight at Washington High.

■ ■ ■

The gates will open at noon Saturday at Paul-Brown Tiger Stadium. Kickoff will be at 2 p.m.

, AUGUST 17, 1984



OBIE
XV
1984

Independent photo by Steve Dungen

MEET OBIE THE XV — Undaunted by the noisy clicking of a camera, this year's Obie stares directly into

the lens of the shutterbug. Obie, who serves as the football team's mascot, will be officially introduced at

the Downtown Rally, set for Thursday, Aug. 30.

Obie makes debut

By The Independent Staff

MASSILLON — A sneak preview of sorts was unveiled Tuesday when "Obie the XV" made an unexpected appearance at Massillon's Washington High School annual football picture day.

Ed Annen, keeper of the 11-week old Bengal Tiger, said this year's Obie would be officially introduced at Massillon's Downtown Rally, to be held Thursday, Aug. 30.

Obie has been an integral part of Tiger football since debuting in 1970. Its sideline appearance on fall football nights is looked forward to with as much expectation as a touchdown by the home team.

Why, there's even an official Obie Photo Day, to be held sometime in October at Paul Brown Tiger Stadium. That particular day will be announced at a later date.

Last year's Obie was described by Annen as being "on the ornery side." That Tiger was shipped to a private animal owner in Ravenna at season's close.

This year's Tiger — sorry, but the weight of Obie will be kept a secret until the Downtown rally when a guess-the-weight contest is held — came via a private animal owner from the Chicago area. Annen said the latest in a line of Obies has an easy going demeanor, so far.

Cost of raising the Tiger is absorbed by the Tiger Football Booster Club, which also insures each Obie with liability and life policies. Obie is also registered in Columbus with the Agricultural Department.

Annen said Obie will be weaned on a steady diet of vitamin-added hamburger. As the Tiger matures, it will progress to the point of eating nearly seven pounds of chicken per day. Full grown, the "feline" will consume nearly 18 pounds of meat daily.

Helping Annen train and raise Obie are his wife, Josephine, son, J.D., and the trio of Bob Hollender, Jimmy Joe Mauger and Donny Baughman.



Independent photo by Jack Worthington

HELP FEED OBIE — This Friday's football game at Paul Brown Tiger Stadium between Massillon and Perry will be Help Feed Obie Day. Donations will be taken at all stadium entrances to help defray the cost of feeding the Tigers' mascot. In front are (from left) Bob Hollender and Ed Annen, Obie's trainer; in back are Katy Wilson, Russ Holmes, Bill Emery and Rick Wolf.

1984



OBIE
XV
1984

Thanks, fellow Tigers

Dear friends:

I am writing this to you in order to express my gratitude to the thousands who made my stay in Massillon such a memorable one.

The only thing I regret is having to leave. What better place for a tiger to reside than in Tigertown? I'll remember it always.

I want to take this opportunity to thank a number of people who made my stay a comfortable one. Geez, did I ever get attention! I loved it!

The one person who truly deserves a big paw on the back is my good buddy Ed Annen. Ed really took care of me, treating me like I was a daughter. He did everything humanly possible to make me feel like one of the family.

Oh sure, Ed swatted me a few times across the chops. But heck, I did get feisty with him on occasion. That orange jump suit of his made a fine target for my paws, I will admit.

Gosh, I never had it so good. Those folks out at Bordner's supplied me with that delicious chicken. Did I prosper? You betcha I did, growing from 20 pounds to almost 85. That chicken was paw-licking good!

I also want to thank Progressive Chevy for letting me ride in the back of their pickup truck. Could they paint it orange, though?

And I also want to thank all those people who donated money and volunteered their time to collect the funds during the "Help Feed Obie" night. It was a growling success, and assures that my brothers and sisters may one day call Massillon their temporary home.

Well, I guess that's about it. I'm sorry if I missed anybody, but I'll be thinking about you.

One last thing, 'Go Tigers.'



Yours truly,
Obie the XV

See The Official '87 Tiger Mascot!



(Photo Of Last Year's Obie)

1986 OBIE XVII



1984