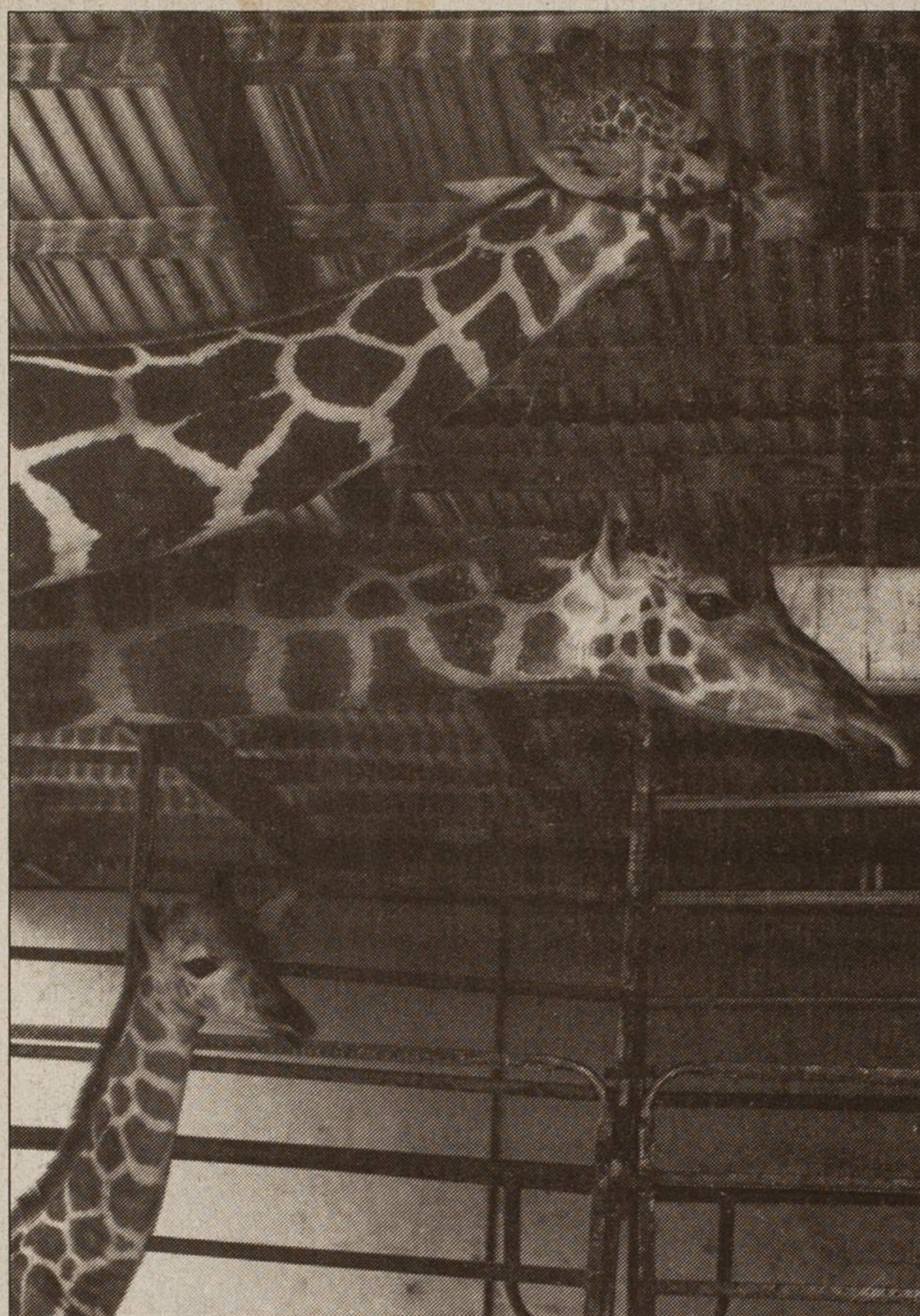


*A family portrait:
father Jeffrey
(with halter),
mother Kenya
and youngster.*



thing along with a human actor.

Turning a giraffe loose on a 40-acre set with no restraints was a new twist.

"Jeffrey hates snow and cold weather," laughed Joe. "When it snows or gets cold, Jeffrey immediately beats it for the heated giraffe barn. I got him out into some snow to see how he would act. He liked the packed snow area all right, but when he got in snow a few inches deep, he immediately got out of it."

DURING THE filming, the giraffe had to move across the set before the camera without any form of restraint to control him. Generally, he is restrained and led by a rope attached to his halter.

"I thought I knew my giraffe well enough to know he wouldn't run," Joe said, apparently envisioning Jeffrey galloping across the 40 acres of

snow on his dinner-plate sized hooves and off into the wilds of Idaho. "However," Joe said, "although I thought he'd react all right, I'll confess I sweated a lot."

Jeffrey reportedly acted admirably. Restraining, directing and guiding a loose giraffe presents a formidable problem. As Jeffrey stands 16 feet high, reaching up and fastening a rope to his halter is not a viable solution.

"We tried to direct him by holding up plastic snow fence," Joe said. "But Jeffrey soon found he could walk right through the fence."

Finally, the problem was solved in an ingenious manner.

"I put a crook, sort of like a shepherd's crook, on the end of a long pole," Joe said. "By hooking the crook between Jeffrey's horns and pushing on his shoulders, we could aim him in the direc-

tion we wanted him to go. Too, we were helped by packing paths and leaving deeper snow alongside the paths—this helped direct Jeffrey."

In recent months, Jeffrey has also starred in performances at the pyramid-shaped Luxor Casino in Las Vegas. There, in an engagement that extended for one and one-half years, Jeffrey shared the spotlight with two zebras and five camels, one a rare white animal. All were from Hedrick's.

Joe is enthusiastic about the operation of his farm, where tours are given, breakfast and bed is offered in six beautiful mural-decorated rooms in the inn, company meetings are held in the huge dining hall, and hay-rack rides are conducted to a wooded section on the nearby Arkansas River with catered refreshments. However, he said, added zest comes from such contracts as the filming of the TV commercial.

"I get calls from everywhere," Joe said.

Indeed he does. As he sat in his office visiting on a day when the secretary was absent, the conversation was constantly interrupted by calls. Hedrick had just returned a call concerning animals to an individual in Puerto Rico. Learning at the time that a hurricane was scheduled to strike in two hours, Joe assured him, saying, "Do what you have to do to get ready for the hurricane. I'll call back later."

Another call involved the housing for personnel taking a troupe of animals to Branson, MO. Unfortunately, Jeffrey wasn't included with the animals—two donkeys, three camels, five sheep, a fluffy puppy, and a horse and carriage. The animals were in a seven-week performance last