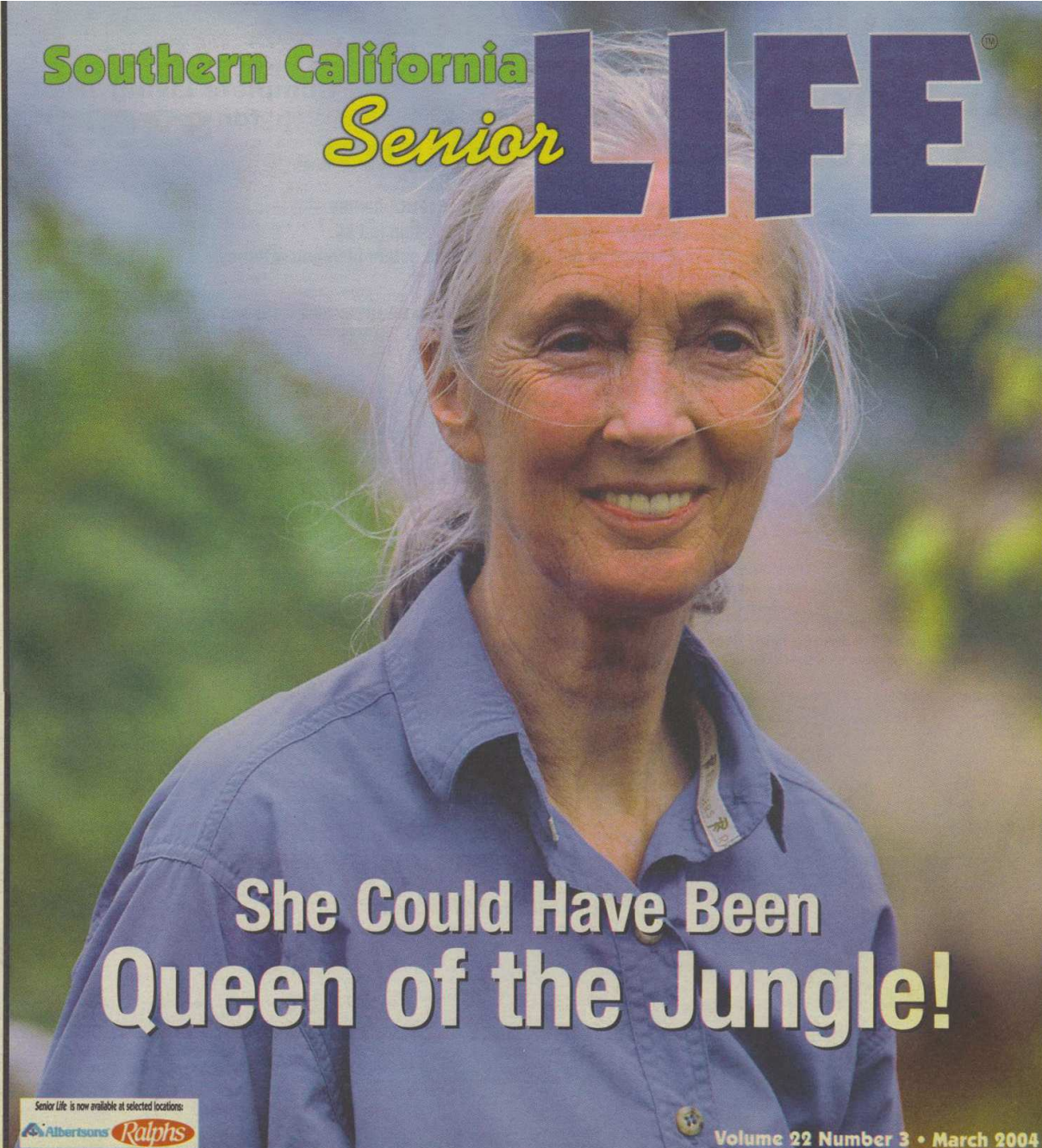




Southern California Senior Life
Cover Feature
March 2004



Southern California Senior LIFE

She Could Have Been Queen of the Jungle!

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COVER STORY

Jane Goodall: Queen of the Jungle

By Paulette Cohn

SPECIAL TO SENIOR LIFE

In the funny books and on TV, Sheena is the Queen of the Jungle. But in real life, the curvaceous comic book cutie can't hold a candle to the true holder of the title: real-life primatologist and conservation crusader Jane Goodall.

A cursory glance at the slim, soft-spoken Englishwoman, who wears her gray hair in a trademark ponytail, fails to reveal the will of iron that drives her. But talk to any chimpanzee, or quickly glimpse her curriculum vitae and you discover a woman with a fire in her belly when it comes to her friends in the animal world.

In an effort to share her knowledge and awe, the Jane Goodall Institute and the Animal Planet have partnered on two television specials to provide a deeper understanding of Jane's work and the critical issues involving animals around the world. *Jane Goodall's Return to Gombe*, premieres on Monday, March 9, at 8 p.m., followed by *Jane Goodall's State of the Great Ape*, airing later this year, on Monday, June 14, at 8 p.m.

The London-born scientist was only 26 when famed anthropologist Dr. Louis Leakey sent her to Gombe in what was then Tanganyika, and now Tanzania. It was a journey that forever changed her life and has become the longest field study of any animal species in its natural surroundings. The end result was that along with Dian Fossey and Birute Galdikas, Goodall became known as a "Trimate," one of the three most prominent researchers on primates: Fossey on gorillas, Goodall on chimpanzees and Galdikas on orangutans.

Her mom was her chaperone

"Louis Leakey was actually considered to be slightly amoral for even suggesting that this young girl should go off into the forest," she recalls, smiling. "I wasn't allowed to go alone by the British authorities of Tanganyika."

But a deal was finally struck when Goodall's mother Vanne agreed to go into the bush with her daughter for the first four months.



Species are disappearing every day and we are poisoning the air, water and the land. We are bringing children into a world that isn't safe for them. We've got to try to turn this around before it's too late.

—Jane Goodall

"When I stepped off the boat that first day onto the shore of Gombe, it was actually not very real," she says. "I'd dreamed about something like that for so long, and now there I was, looking up at the mountains, the trees and the thick valleys. How would I ever find the chimpanzees? Would I let Louis Leakey down? I didn't know."

Me Tarzan, you Jane

Even as a child, Goodall loved animals. Her desire was to grow up to be like Dr. Doolittle and speak with the animals. At age 10, she read *Tarzan of the Apes*, and thought she would be a much better mate for the king of the jungle than the wimpy Jane of the novels. Right then, she vowed when she grew up, she would live in the wild and write books.

But that was a ways off. In 1939, when but a child of 5, her parents, Mortimer, an engineer, and Vanne, a homemaker, plus her sister Judy, 1, moved to the seaside community of Bournemouth, England. Goodall was in heaven, spending her weekends out-

Goodall

Continued from page 4

doors, riding horses and watching the birds and the bees.

Her parents divorced not too long after, and Vanne and the children stayed in Bournemouth. Money was tight, but Goodall refused to give up her dream of going to Africa even though it was hardly realistic.

But the young woman found a champion in her mother, who said, "Jane, if you really want something and you work hard enough and take advantage of every opportunity, then you find a way."

Secretaries can do anything

Toward that goal, Goodall trained as a secretary because Vanne told her secretaries could get a job anywhere. When a school chum invited her to visit her farm in Kenya, Goodall realized she could make more money waiting tables. The 23-year-old chucked her job and funded her adventure by working as a waitress until she'd saved up enough to buy her round-trip ticket by boat.

After a month as a guest on the farm, she moved into Nairobi and took a job as a secretary. It was there she met Leakey, who was then curator of the Natural History Museum in Nairobi, and by being persistent she got him to hire her on as his assistant.

Soon after, the anthropologist and his wife took Goodall, another young English girl and a few Kenyans to the Olduvai Gorge, which is famous now as a site where the remains of early humans have been discovered, but which in those days was totally unknown. They spent the summer digging and she reveled in it.

"For me, being in the forest



Jane Goodall and friend

has always been living very close to god or the great spiritual power," Goodall claims, "Because when you are out in the forest there is a sense of timelessness, and an enormous sense of the interconnectedness of all life. The cycle of living and dying is very clear. It's also very peaceful but can be tumultuously, wildly exciting when there is a thunderstorm and rain batters down on the canopy. There is the music of the streams. And the animals, if you are there long enough, will accept you."

More Birkenstock than Balenciaga

When Leakey realized his protégée was more Birkenstock than Balenciaga, he made the suggestion that she go to Gombe to study the chimps. But first, the young woman with no college degree had to return to England to learn as much about the species as she could.

The Goodall women finally arrived on the shore of Gombe in 1960. The early days were discouraging, and it wasn't until Goodall discovered the Peak, a vantage point which overlooked the valleys, that she really got down to the business of observation, albeit through a pair of binoculars.

The initial grant, funded by

a wealthy American businessman, was only for six months, but happily, just before her time ran out, Goodall made a startling discovery: The chimps made tools out of twigs to fish termites out of the mounds to eat.

It was the saving observation, and more than that when Leakey heard her discovery, he declared, "We must now redefine man, redefine tools, or accept chimpanzees as humans."

The National Geographic Society to the rescue

The outcome was that Leakey was able to get additional funding from the National Geographic Society to continue the research. Knowing he wasn't going to be around forever, he encouraged his young charge to get a degree, so she could raise her own money in the ensuing years.

"He said, 'We don't have time to mess about with a B.A., so you'll have to go straight for a Ph.D.," she recalls, and that's just what happened. Leakey managed to convince Cambridge University to accept her into its doctoral program, where her work was criticized as being too anthropomorphic and unprofessional

because she had named the chimps instead of assigning them numbers—something scientists didn't do back then—and ascribed human emotions to them. But to this day, she defends that decision. After all, she knew that her subjects were displaying a range of behavior thought unique to humans.

Love at first sight

As she says in her book *Reason for Hope: A Spiritual Journey* (1999), about the first chimp who befriended her, David Graybeard: "I looked into his large and lustrous eyes, set so wide apart; they seemed somehow to express his entire personality, his serene self-assurance, his inherent dignity. That afternoon, he gazed back at me. His eyes seemed almost like windows through which, if only I had the skill, I could look into his mind. How many times since that far-off day I have wished that I could, even if for a few short moments, look out onto the world through the eyes, with the mind, of a chimpanzee. One such minute would be worth a lifetime of research."

Despite her difficulties in academia, Goodall graduated in 1965 with a Ph.D. in ethology, and returned to the work she loved best in Gombe. It was there that the primatologist met her mate, the late Dutch wildlife photographer

Goodall

Hugo Van Lawick, who was sent out by National Geographic. The two collaborated on two books: *In the Shadow of Man* and *Innocent Killers*, and on several films, the footage of which was later included in the 2002 IMAX film, "Jane Goodall's Wild Chimpanzees," and on their son Hugo Eric Louis, nicknamed Grub.

The couple eventually divorced in 1974, and shortly thereafter, Goodall married Derek Bryceson, the only white cabinet member in Tanzania's government. He died of cancer in 1980.

Getting out into the world

Until 1986, Goodall was only concerned with the chimpanzees in Gombe. But that year she attended a confer-

ence in Chicago on conservation and learned that chimpanzees were vanishing in the world and being horribly mistreated in captivity.

What she heard at that gathering was so shocking, she sacrificed what she loved best, working with the chimps to save their lives. These days the primatologist spends 300 days a year on the road lecturing worldwide in an effort to stop the destruction of the habitats essential for the preservation of wildlife in Africa and around the planet.

"I've got two grandchildren," she shares. "When I think how much the world has been damaged since I was their age, I feel deep shame. I've met so many youngsters—high school students and university students—who seem bitter and depressed because they feel we've compromised their future, which we have."

If You Would Like to Help:

The result of Goodall's guilt is the Roots and Shoots program, which is now in 80 countries, including at least one in every state in the United States. The organization has more than 6,500 active groups. Its focus is to get young people the knowledge of what is happening in the world around them, and to empower them to take action in nonviolent ways.

Another aspect of Goodall's activism is the TACARE (Lake Tanganyika Catchment Reforestation and Education Project) program, founded in 1994 with funding from the European Union. Its purpose is to improve the life of the indigenous people in the 33 villages in the Kigoma region of Tanzania, and by doing so make them partners in the effort to help the chimps to survive.

"The entire planet is in danger," concludes the woman designated by U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan as one of the nine United Nations Messengers of Peace. "Species are disappearing every day and we are poisoning the air, water and the land. We are bringing children into a world that isn't safe for them. We've got to try to turn this around before it's too late."