

SPRING 2004

Trunklines



The Elephant Sanctuary in Tennessee

501 (C) (3) Nonprofit Organization

Delhi is a 'Real Hero'

No one could have predicted the chain of events that would culminate in the arrival of the Sanctuary's ninth resident.

As Sanctuary Executive Director Carol Buckley recalls, "it began with a phone call which was straight to the point. The United States Department of Agriculture said they had an elephant with deteriorating foot disease. Assuming we could agree on terms, they wanted to know if and when we could take her."

After learning about 57 year-old Delhi and why she might be confiscated from Hawthorn Corporation, an Illinois-based company that leases elephants to circuses, Buckley understood the significance of this rescue. According to her, "Delhi's life had been put in jeopardy 18 months earlier when Hawthorn Corporation soaked her front feet in undiluted formaldehyde. Her continued health was in question."

Buckley explained, "The USDA was required by law to give Hawthorn Corporation 24 hours to fix any problem that might result in Delhi's confiscation. But preparations had to be made so that Delhi would have an appropriate home if confiscation was deemed necessary." Knowing that the confiscation might not happen at all, the Sanctuary

agreed to take Delhi and proceeded with necessary adjustments to its facilities.

The facility adjustments required transforming the auxiliary barn from a

shop and storage area back to its former function, an elephant barn, and constructing a yard for Delhi—all in four days. Thanks to generous volunteers and donors, the work was completed in time. Willie Hurd, owner of Maury Fence Company in Columbia, TN, donated the services of



Delhi's
Special
Edition



Delhi enjoying a snack of bamboo

Courtesy of the Tennessee Magazine, photographer Robyn Conover

his employees. Volunteers from the Sanctuary's Volunteer Day Program also pitched in. According to Buckley, "Their help made it possible for us to receive our newest resident."

The next big task was locating someone to drive the Sanctuary trailer to Illinois, and in the event of Delhi's confiscation, deliver her safely to her new home. Angie Lambert, a professional truck driver who helped transport Tina from Vancouver, agreed to take on this mission.

Meanwhile, the USDA was preparing for the possibility of confiscation by orchestrating every aspect of Delhi's move, calling on several people with extensive experience in elephant care and management in AZA zoos.

...continued on page 4

the Elephant Sanctuary in Tennessee

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Our Mission

The Elephant Sanctuary in Tennessee, founded in 1995, is the nation's single natural habitat refuge developed specifically for endangered elephants. It operates on 2700 acres in Hohenwald, Tennessee—85 miles southwest of Nashville.

The Elephant Sanctuary exists for two reasons:

- ◊ *To provide a haven for old, sick or needy elephants in a setting of green pastures, hardwood forests, spring-fed ponds and a heated barn for cold winter nights.*
- ◊ *To provide education about the crisis facing these social, sensitive, passionately intense, playful, complex, exceedingly intelligent and endangered creatures.*



Courtesy of the Tennessee Magazine, photographer Robyn Conover

Directors Message

From left, Bunny, Carol, Shirley and Scott

Reflecting on 2003, we feel joy and an overwhelming sense of gratitude for all of the caring people who support our work. It may take just one to dream the dream, but we know it takes many more to foster that dream and bring it to fruition. The Sanctuary's momentum has not let up at all in the past year, but has gained even more steam. We have reached our expansion goal of 2700 acres and completed another ecological and elephant-friendly barn which stands ready to welcome more needy elephants, specifically the African elephants scheduled to arrive soon. We can't wait to learn what they will teach us.

Our dream for the future is a kinder, more enlightened human race. We believe that sharing heartfelt experiences or participating in projects whose goals have impact far beyond our own small lives causes the universe to breathe a sigh of recognition, to vibrate in a way that raises our collective consciousness to a higher level. Thank you for believing in our mission and being an integral part of our project, this heaven for elephants.

Carol & Scott

In this Issue

Delhi's a Real Hero . . . . .	.1	Ways You Can Help the Sanctuary . . . . .	.8
Directors Message . . . . .	.2	Osteomyelitis . . . . .	.9
Ele-Update . . . . .	.3	2003 Donor . . . . .	.10
Tina's Progress . . . . .	.6	Behind the Scenes . . . . .	.11
Going African . . . . .	.7	Conservation Biology . . . . .	.12

To learn more about

The Elephant Sanctuary and all of the
resident elephants, visit www.elephants.com

Ele Update

First came Tarra, then Barbara, and after some effort, finally Jenny. Shirley burst on the scene and overnight there was a family. Bunny proved to be all elephant, immediately bonding with her adopted sisters. Sissy was shy but wanted to trust, and then along came Winkie. With pain-staking precision they acknowledged each other's idiosyncrasies while they worked to forge an alliance; a herd of individuals with respect for each other. The caretakers watched.

As seasons passed, new hurdles were leapt. Sissy crossed the creek, and Winkie fought her trust issues and her



Sissy crosses the creek



Four sleeping beauties

imaginary ghosts. Bunny found solace in her sisters as she mustered the courage to stand close to Winkie. Another season, another year, another breakthrough. Tarra napped with other elephants by her side, and Sissy's nervous stomach no longer plagued her. Homeopathic remedies proved powerful and effective for mind, body and spirit. The caretakers watched.

One day without warning, six content elephants converged, huddled in a herd. All trunks and tails, squeaks and trumpets, petting and caressing, loving one another. The caregivers cheered.

Tina arrived with foot problems severe enough to curtail exploration of her new home. She is resigned not to need a single elephant, but Tarra has other plans. Jenny visits often and is intent on being friends. Bunny softly approaches from behind only to retreat again. Sissy stands quietly by as Tina pulls her ear. Shirley is reserved, and Winkie throws Tina's toys to her. Okay, at her. The caregivers watch, trusting in the breakthroughs that will come.

Delhi is in quarantine, and has yet to meet her new family. But they share glances from afar. Playful by nature, Delhi is quick to engage in kickball or tetherball or any kind of game. She fancies herself a great escape artist, too, and tests locked gates just because they are there. The days go by quickly and soon we will see Delhi with her sisters asleep in the pasture. ♦



Convergence ~ Jenny, Shirley, Winkie, Sissy & Tarra

Delhi is a 'Real Hero'...continued

Dale Leeds agreed to head up a team responsible for safely loading Delhi onto the trailer. He called the experience "a whirlwind," and remarked, "This was an interesting situation to say the least. Everything had to be kept in the strictest confidence."

The USDA also contacted Dr. Edward Ramsay, Associate Professor of Veterinary Medicine at the University of Tennessee, for assistance with Delhi's move. "I've long had an interest in elephants and particularly in their foot care. So when the USDA asked me to examine Delhi to make sure she could make the move safely, I flew out the next day," he said.

Leeds flew to Chicago to meet with his hand-picked team, which included John Bradford and Colleen Kinzley, as well as Dr. Ramsay, USDA staff, members of law enforcement, and others working to safely move Delhi.

Ultimately, the USDA judged Hawthorn Corporation to be in repeated violation of the Animal Welfare Act with regard to Delhi, and proceeded with the confiscation. Upon meeting Delhi, Leeds found her to be a "well-tempered animal in generally good health with the extreme and very notable exception of her front legs and feet." Kinzley reported that she was "overwhelmed by the condition of Delhi's feet. I have never seen anything like it. I was amazed she could move at all." Despite her injuries, based on a cursory physical assessment, Dr. Ramsay "felt confident that she wouldn't hurt herself on the trip. I was prepared to ride with her, but it seemed clear that she was a lovely animal, not at all high strung, and she would be a good traveler."

Kinzley said that loading Delhi took longer than the team hoped. "The condition of her feet didn't help. We offered lots of treats, and finally asked the Hawthorn Corporation keepers if they had advice about loading her, but Hawthorn management instructed them not to help us."

The team was able to load Delhi by 2:30, and the Sanctuary trailer left immediately, escorted by local and state police as well as USDA officials. Leeds and Bradford returned home that evening, while Kinzley and USDA officials accompanied Delhi to the Sanctuary, stopping every couple of hours to monitor her condition and offer food and water.

Reflecting on his role in the project and its overall success, Leeds said, "This was contentious. The people at Hawthorn Corporation did not want Delhi to go, and that made it more difficult. But considering that and all the restrictions involved, it was as safe, effective



Delhi's Diary

A glance at Delhi's online diary www.elephants.com/delhi/delhi_diary.htm shows not only the condition of her diseased feet upon arrival but also the marked improvement she has already made. Delhi is blessed with a positive attitude and playful nature. She eats well, loves her daily bath, and lives to play. She voluntarily offers both front feet for foot soaks but is not wild about the portable x-ray machine that takes pictures of her feet.

Luckily she has learned to trust her caregivers enough to allow the procedure. Because she will be isolated from the other elephants for a few more months, toys have been strung up all over her barn to keep her entertained. Monthly x-rays are tracking Delhi's recovery which already shows signs of great success. Personally we believe Delhi's positive attitude plays a huge role in her recovery.

It definitely helps that she likes to have FUN!

and efficient as it could have been. I was proud that our team was able to handle an awkward situation with such professionalism."

Buckley recalls that as Delhi arrived, "the sun was rising and casting a pink hue in the Eastern sky. The drive down had been uneventful, and her arrival was a relief. As she passed through the gates of The Elephant

Sanctuary, everyone here was filled with the joy of knowing that Delhi's life had finally taken a turn for the better."

As for her role in the move, Kinzley said, "I would love to help lots of elephants get to the Sanctuary. Delhi desperately needed a positive change, and now she's at the best possible place for captive elephants. She can enjoy life the way the other Sanctuary elephants do."

with her, so with the help of homeopathic veterinarian Lori Tapp, we are trying other therapies. Traditional Western medicine certainly does not have a monopoly on treating these problems. But when elephants' feet become infected, it is serious. This is the kind of problem you manage, not fix."

Dr. Tapp has been a consultant to the Sanctuary for many years. "80% of the problems I see in captive wildlife veterinary practice result from animals being in situations that are too different from their natural environments. Their substrate, their diet, and the stress of captivity all have a significant impact on their overall health."

"Ideally, Delhi's feet would completely heal. Traditionally, you don't expect that outcome with elephants that have serious foot problems. But captive elephants don't usually live in situations that mimic their natural environments as closely as the Sanctuary does. Delhi is relaxed, happy and comfortable, and that improves her chances of getting well. But if her feet heal, it will take a very long time, probably years."

Dr. Tapp hopes that Delhi is a symbol that humans are "waking up and saying, 'OK, it isn't appropriate for these animals to live in situations that do not allow them to behave as they naturally would.'"

Kinzley agrees. "The USDA worked really hard and got all their ducks in a row to do this. I hope they may look at some other captive elephants in the same way, and make people who are not caring for them appropriately step up." Now Kinzley checks on Delhi via the EleCam, and enjoys watching her nap in the Sanctuary's pastures. "I found Delhi to be gentle and willing, but not necessarily trusting. To see her relaxing at the Sanctuary, that's great."

Leeds has also been diligent about using the Sanctuary website to check on Delhi's progress. "Even though I only spent a brief amount of time with her, I feel a deep sense of connection and responsibility toward her. She is the real hero of this story. She is a sweetheart." ♦

Sanctuary Note: On Dec. 12, 2003, x-rays were taken of Delhi's feet. She suffers from severe osteomyelitis (bone infection) in both front feet. Therapy can arrest the infection and support the regeneration of healthy new bone.

Delhi's Quarantine

USDA regulations require that Delhi be kept in quarantine at the Sanctuary for six months because Lota, another of Hawthorn Corporation's seventeen elephants, tested positive for tuberculosis (TB). Delhi has never tested positive for TB and never exhibited any symptoms of the disease, but the law requires that she be kept in quarantine for one full year before being allowed to mingle with TB-free elephants. Prior to being confiscated Delhi was in quarantine at the Hawthorn Corporation for six months.

Keeping Delhi separated from the other girls during her first six months here is difficult, but even in quarantine, her life at the Sanctuary is vastly improved. We are looking forward to a celebration in May when Delhi can truly join her new sisters.



Getting to the Sanctuary was only the beginning for Delhi. At the USDA's request, Dr. Ramsay will remain involved in Delhi's ongoing treatment. "Initial radiographs confirmed that the bones of her feet are infected, and that's a serious condition," he explained. Bone infections like Delhi's can be caused by a number of things, including puncture wounds (i.e., stepping on a nail), trauma to the foot, and poor foot care or hygiene.

"Carol, Scott, and everyone at The Sanctuary are doing everything they can for Delhi," he continued. "We began her treatment with foot soaks. Antibiotics did not agree

Tina's Progress

On December 16 we x-rayed Tina's feet. It is a simple, painless procedure, and for Tina it proved to be a very positive experience. Tina enjoyed the extra attention and meeting a new person, Lonnie the vet tech. Thanks to Lonnie's expert skills with the portable x-ray machine we were able to get clear images of Tina's toes.

Dr. Steven Scott met with Sanctuary staff to discuss the x-rays, which document a history of osteomyelitis (bone infection) in three of Tina's feet. The advanced deterioration of several bones in her front feet indicates a long-term infection at some time in her past. It is impossible to pinpoint when and how long she suffered from the infections, but the good news is that there is no active infection now. At this point there is hope that her bones can and will regenerate.

Dr. Lori Tapp has been attending to Tina since her arrival. The information from the x-rays supports Dr. Tapp's assessment and treatment plan, which includes twice daily foot soaks, healing salves, dietary supplements, and a host of homeopathic remedies to

prevent the infection from returning. This holistic approach to Tina's health has been successful in arresting her foot infections and will continue to support her body so that she can recover and regenerate the bones that have been damaged. Tina is young. There is every reason to believe that she will recover. ✦



*Tina plays with one of her new 'ele-balls'.
Inset, Lonnie and Scott x-ray Tina's feet*



From left ~ Shirley, Sissy, Winkie, Tarra and Jenny

New Ways to Support the Sanctuary

Supporting the Sanctuary is now more exciting and convenient than ever. In response to requests by many of our donors, we have added PayPal, the world's favorite online payment service, to our web site donation forms. A simple click on the PayPal icon will enable you to donate via credit card or check.



Going once, going twice, sold! The Elephant Sanctuary has launched an ongoing online auction to raise needed funds. Now is the time to clean out your closet and help the elephants by sending us items for our auction. If you are interested in donating items to the auction, please contact Suzanne at auction@elephants.com. No items to donate? Then engage in some guilt free spending! Visit www.elephants.com for a direct link to our auction, and get ready to bid!

Attention eBay Sellers! eBay Giving Works, www.ebay.com/givingworks, provides an exciting way for you to support the Sanctuary while selling on eBay. Buyers may also browse eBay's charity listings to view items that benefit the Sanctuary.

Going African

The idea of providing a home for African elephants was discussed by the Sanctuary from the beginning. Our position was always that we existed to provide a healthy, natural-habitat environment for Asian elephants, and that someone else could do the same for Africans. Then we received a call from Glenn Dobrogosz, the newly-appointed director of Chehaw Wild Animal Park in Albany, Georgia.

Chehaw has exhibited elephants for nearly 30 years, but due to budget cuts and changes in its master plan, it is phasing elephants out of its collection. Mr. Dobrogosz informed us of his desire to send his elephants to "the most suitable captive environment available." That led him to us.

After serious consideration we were prepared to say we only took Asian elephants. But after researching alternative locations we realized that other facilities lacked the space and philosophy which would allow us, in good conscience, to recommend that Tange and Zula go anywhere else. To our surprise, we said yes. Our recent expansion to 2,700 acres meant that we could, in fact, divide the land giving both species their own separate habitat, build another barn, and welcome African elephants to an environment that provided all the advantages our Asian elephants were already enjoying.

Word spread quickly that The Elephant Sanctuary was going African, and inquiries came pouring in. David Balding, long-time elephant owner and circus

promoter, contacted us. He was the show manager for The Big Apple Circus in 1984 when Carol and Tarra were featured performers. David and Carol's mutual respect would eventually lead to his request that Flora, his 22 year-old African elephant, be allowed to join our rapidly growing family.



Tange and Zula love a good roll in the mud!

The new African elephant barn was completed in January. By the time this newsletter goes to print, Tange, Zula and Flora will have become the first residents of the only African elephant natural-habitat refuge of its kind in the country. ♦



Kathi introduces Zula to the trailer



African Elephant House at night

Ways You Can Help the Sanctuary



You can contribute in as many ways as you'd like, in your own name or in honor or memory of a friend or family member. Contributions can be all at once or once a month for as long as you specify.

The Elephant Sanctuary is a non-profit 501(c)(3) corporation. Your donations to any of the programs below are tax deductible.

Use the form on the enclosed envelope to provide information and indicate which giving program you have chosen. Be sure to include the name and address for any In Honor gifts so we can send the honoree(s) a certificate and Trunklines.

Membership

Choose your level and become part of the nation's first natural-habitat sanctuary for old, sick and needy elephants retired from circuses and zoos. Members receive a certificate and subscription to Trunklines for a year. Give a membership as a gift and you also get an elephants.com sticker for your window.

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Feed for a Day

Tarra, Bunny, Jenny, Shirley, Sissy, Winkie, Tina, Delhi, Tange, Zula and Flora eat a lot of food! You can help by feeding any or all of them for a day, a week, or... \$30 feeds one elephant for one day.



Just tell us which elephant you'd like to feed and how often. Every 'Feed for a Day' generates a certificate and a bio with a picture of the elephant(s) you choose to feed.

You can contribute in as many ways as you'd like, in your own name or in honor of a friend or family member. Contributions can be all at once or once a month for as long as you specify.

$$\$30 \times \text{_____} (\# \text{ of days}) \times \text{_____} (\# \text{ of elephants}) = \$\text{_____}$$

Acres for Elephants

You can be the first in your group, neighborhood, classroom or office to buy real estate for elephants. Help the Sanctuary's expansion give elephants the room they need to roam. Acres for Elephants donors receive a subscription to Trunklines. Donations of \$55 and more also receive a certificate.

Square Elephant \$3 x _____ = \$ _____
Space for an elephant to stand at rest ~ 6' x 12'

Sleepy Square \$5 x _____ = \$ _____
Space for an elephant to lie down and take a nap ~ 9' x 14'

Dumbo \$55 x _____ = \$ _____
Space for a small herd of elephants to stand ~ 1,440 sq. ft

Jumbo \$350 x _____ = \$ _____
Space for a big herd of elephants to play ~ 1/4 acre

Mammoth \$1,400 x _____ = \$ _____
Space for a herd of elephants to explore ~ 1 acre

Osteomyelitis

Since Delhi's first radiographs (x-rays) on December 1st and the subsequent diagnosis of osteomyelitis in several of her digits, questions have been pouring in from Sanctuary members wanting to know more about the condition. Our staff spoke with Dr. William Schaffner, Professor of Infectious Medicine at Vanderbilt University School of Medicine, to get some answers.

What is osteomyelitis?

Osteomyelitis is chronic infection of bone. These are long-standing infections that can endure and be very destructive to bone if not diagnosed and treated properly.

What causes osteomyelitis?

Although occasionally caused by a fungus, osteomyelitis is principally caused by bacteria. There are two main ways it is introduced into a body. The first is trauma. This is where contaminated material is actually introduced into a bone during an injury.

There is also chronic trauma; here an injury is sustained over time when an individual is continuously exposed to adverse environmental conditions. The second way osteomyelitis can be introduced is via the bloodstream. In this case the individual gets a bloodstream infection which localizes in bone and sets up infection there.

How is osteomyelitis diagnosed?

There are three ways to diagnose osteomyelitis.

Clinical diagnosis:

The first sign of osteomyelitis is often the presence of swelling, warmth, and tenderness around a place that

contains bone. Sometimes the bone infection works its way out of the body by affecting adjacent tissue. In this case abscesses may occur. Because the infection is below the surface, other diagnostic tools are necessary.

X-Rays:

This gives an image of the affected part, showing the location of the infection and how extensive it is.

Microbiologic Diagnosis:

Used for precise diagnosis of specific bacteria that is causing infection. A sample of bone or of abscessed tissue, prior to rupturing, is analyzed to determine which bacteria are present.

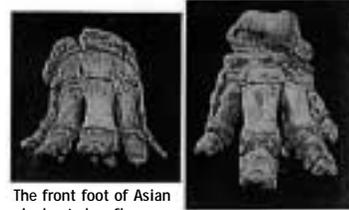
How is osteomyelitis treated?

Depending on the location of and extent of infection, osteomyelitis is typically treated in one of two ways. The first is prolonged antibiotic treatment. The second is surgical treatment, whereby localized pus is drained from the infected bone and reconstruction is done if needed. Surgical treatment is used when the bone is especially fragile or the infection is extensive.

Is osteomyelitis curable?

Yes. Again, it depends on the location and extent of the infection. Infection can be arrested and bone can regenerate. ♦

The Skeletal Structure of an Asian Elephant's Feet



The front foot of Asian elephants has five nails.

The hind foot of Asian elephants has four nails.



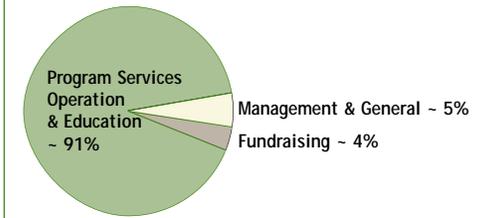
Elephant Chat

December 1, 2003, marked the debut of Elephant Chat, a discussion board hosted by two Sanctuary supporters. The board was developed for fans of The Elephant Sanctuary and for elephant lovers in general. Janice Stark and Pam Cliff both contacted the Sanctuary with similar ideas and ended up combining forces to build this very lively and informative discussion forum. Coincidentally, both women are located in British Columbia and were first attracted to the Sanctuary when Tina moved here from the Greater Vancouver Zoo. Their mission is to give elephant lovers a place to share their passion, and judging by the popularity of the site they have done just that! You can link to the discussion board through our EleCam Page at www.tappedintoelephants.com.

2003 Donors

A special thank you to all Sanctuary supporters! Due to the amazing number of supporters we now have we are not able to list all names. However, every person's commitment is deeply appreciated and brings us closer to our collective goal of a better life for captive elephants.

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Behind the Scenes

It is easy to understand why the elephant keepers here at the Sanctuary devote their lives to caring for the girls. But it takes lots of people to realize the dream of sanctuary, including the devoted office staff who process donations, pay bills, ship merchandise, answer phones, and a myriad of other things that comprise the nuts and bolts of the Sanctuary's operations. We decided that it was time to find out what motivates two of our employees to work tirelessly on the Sanctuary's behalf, staring at the computer monitor, and processing mail till their fingers ache and their eyes go blurry. The answers were simple...



Cathy Jackson is the Sanctuary's office manager. Though she wasn't necessarily looking for a job when Carol called, she jumped at the chance to help the Sanctuary. She initially did data entry on a part-time

basis, and quickly moved into the full-time office manager position. Cathy said the choice was easy. "This isn't just a job. Knowing what I do supports the elephants gives deeper meaning to everyday tasks, and provides me with a lot of fulfillment. Where else could I work with a great staff and be surrounded by all of these animals, the elephants out in the pasture and the

dogs and cats all around the office?" Cathy said one of many highlights of her days is "hearing Bunny trumpet when she returns to the barn, announcing to the rest of the herd that she is home."

Melanie Blacketer moved to Hohenwald just under a year ago. Luckily for us, her search for a new job led her to The Elephant Sanctuary. Melanie passed up other offers to be the Sanctuary's office assistant because "the office overlooks the pasture where the elephants spend their days, there are critters all around, and I get to work with a tremendous staff." Every morning, Melanie has a special interaction with one of those critters, Rusty, as he tries to drink her coffee. When asked what motivates her, Melanie replied, "I just enjoy everyday; the work is so fulfilling because at any given moment I can look out the window and see its benefits."



So, whether Sanctuary employees are working directly with the girls or not, it is all about the elephants for all of us. That's why everyone on the animal care staff extends special thanks to Cathy and Mel for making it all happen. Your work is truly the back bone of the Sanctuary. ❖



Elephants in their natural habitat

Conservation Biology Excerpt

"Preservation of the variety of the earth's biomes is necessary for preservation of species. Without sufficient quantities of their natural habitats, species become extinct in the wild. Captive propagation can, and does, play a role in keeping species alive for short periods until they can be reintroduced into the wild. But captive propagation is of little ultimate use if there are no suitable sites into which to reintroduce the species. Managing species in zoos and botanical gardens is expensive, and an animal in a cage or a plant in a garden is not fully functioning member of its species."

Principles of Conservation Biology, 2nd edition, Gary K. Meffee, C. Ronald Carroll, and contributors, Sinauer Associates, Inc. Publishers, Sunderland, MA.1997, page 98.

Upcoming Issue:

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