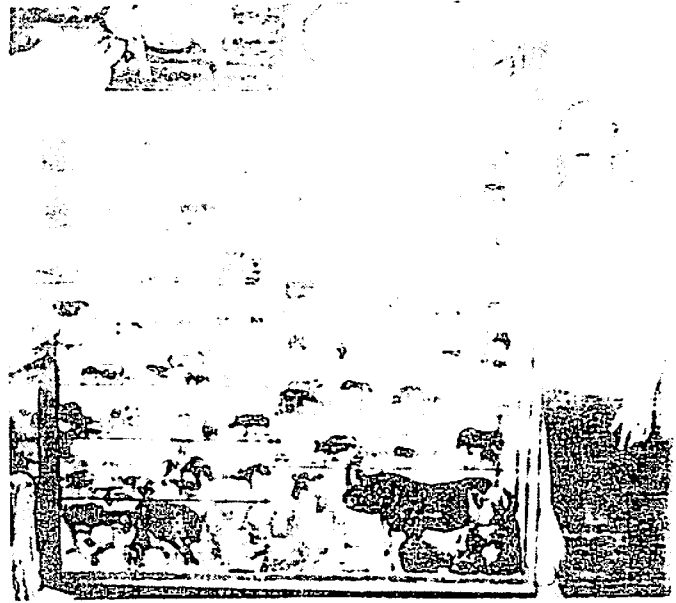


RHINOPHILIGHTS

Our first rhinophilight of the year is Frances Ripka.

When I was five or six years old, my father bought me a nice set of plastic African animals. I lost some, broke some and some just disappeared. I still have the rhino and always will. In 1978 I remember I had five rhinos sitting on a shelf, and that's when I started my collection of approximately 50 rhinoceroses. I travel every chance I get. Some of my trips to Europe, Mexico, Hawaii, Canada, and large cities in the U.S., I always keep an eye open for a rhino or two I don't already have. When we traveled to Czechoslovakia to visit my relatives, they made me three rhinos out of clay. They aren't the most attractive rhinos, but they were made with love and they are special to me. I occasionally attend collectors and antique markets where I sometimes purchase an "old" rhino which sometimes can be a bit expensive.



My family and certain friends of mine sometimes call me and tell me where they have seen a rhino, so I can go check it out. I can usually count on a rhino or two for birthday and Christmas presents. As you can see by the picture, I display my collection in a big glass showcase which sits in my living room. I had to add four glass shelves to accommodate my slowly growing collection. I enjoy the rhinoceros so much that I found a way to have one with me permanently. I recently had a friend of mine tattoo a beautiful rhino on my right arm. [way to go, Frances!! ed.]

On my rhino wish list: rhinos doing something, e.g. mowing grass, fishing or some other sport; funny ones. God willing, may the rhinoceros never become extinct.

Write to Frances at 850 Clark, Muskegon, MI 49442. (lots of Midwest rhinophiles aren't there? Immmmmmmmm)

IF IT'S SPRING IT MUST BE RHINO BABIES

Thanks to Tony Nichols for these two cute bambinos. They aren't babies anymore but I thought you would like to add them to your collection. By the way, the last time I heard from Tony, he was preparing for a January visit (his first?) to Africa. I suspect with only a slight twist of his arm, I can get him to share his exploits in the next issue. I swear if we cloned Tony and put him in the African and Asian wilds, there would be no more poaching. When it comes to rhinos, this man has more energy than anyone I know. You're aces, Tony!



2 week old Sumatra rhino (Eastern black rhino) born 11/26/90

2 week old Gujarat rhino (Greater Indian rhino) born 12/26/90