

MORE ON NGARE SERGOI

(An evening with Andy Lodge)

I was fortunate to hear Andy Lodge speak at the Reid Park Zoo in Tucson last month. Andy was a zookeeper at the Columbus Zoo (right, Andy?) and now works almost exclusively raising money, awareness and probably fenceposts for Ngare Sergoi Sanctuary. Andy gave an eloquent yet emphatic presentation about the plight of the world's remaining African rhinos...

Over 90 square miles of fencing at Ngare Sergoi have been donated by the American Association of Zookeepers through their Bowling for Rhinos efforts. [More about this event in the next issue]. The fencing is a prototype, model program which can tell within 2 km if there's a cut in the fence. Because rhinos are so scarce, they are more valuable than gold. According to Andy, the remaining rhinos in the wild are: 17700 (black), 47 (Javan), 300 (Sumatran) and 5000 (white). Somalis are killing most of the African wildlife there. Three poachers have been caught. The rhinos are protected by 64 guards 24 hours a day. There have been 14 births since 1986 and only 2 deaths. The sanctuary is so successful that people from Sumatra came to see how Anna Merz built her reserve.

On the downside, China and Taiwan continue to ignore the CITES agreement. Andy encourages us all to press Congress to do something about it.

If the rhinos are to survive, Andy believes it needs to be in African and not in Texas. As more people become aware of the situation, Andy's optimism remains high. He simply can't quit..



POLLY WANT AN ANIMAL CRACKER?

Nabisco has introduced the Endangered Animal Crackers and yes there is a rhino. Five cents will be donated to World Wildlife Found for every box sold (up to \$100,000). So eat up me hearties, but please save the rhinos!

R H I N O R E A D I N G

Bonner, Raymond. *At The Hand of Man; Perils and Hope for Africa's Wildlife*. Knopf, 1993. 322pp. \$24.

In this well-researched book, Bonner suggests that to preserve Africa's wildlife heritage, we need to "care about the people as much as we care about the wildlife. Both are in the hands of man."

Consider this passage on the last page:

Elephants and rhino, lions and leopards, are not like whales living in international waters. For the most part, these land animals live within the borders of a specific country. why don't these natural resources therefore belong to that country, just as copper, coal and oil belong to a country? Do we have more right to tell the Zimbabweans what to do with their elephants than we do to tell Saudi Arabia what to do with its oil? It is surely more noble to argue for saving elephants than for conserving oil.

Künkel, Reinhard. *Ngorongoro*. HarperCollins, 1992. 320pp. \$75.

Two and a half million years ago, in what is today northern Tanzania, the top blew off a gigantic volcanic mountain leaving behind one of the biggest craters in the world. Protected by towering lava walls, nurtured by a cloud forest, which feeds the water it collects to the plains below, the Ngorongoro Crater is unrivalled in the richness and diversity of its animal and plant life. Reinhard Kunkel set out to prove with his camera, that Ngorongoro is the 8th wonder of the world. The book is a passionate plea for readers to reflect upon the future of the planet shared by so many species, but which humankind alone has the power to destroy and the responsibility to preserve.

If you do not have a coffee table run out immediately and buy one so you can have this sumptuous book to put on it. You might also be fortunate enough to find it at a remainder sale. (I did!) More than 30 BIG color photos of rhinos!!!!