

# Highlights®

THE MONTHLY BOOK  
for Children

December  
1972

INCLUDING

Children's  
Activities®

fun

with a  
purpose

Hello!



# Highlights

for Children

Volume 27  
Number 10  
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This book of wholesome fun is dedicated to helping children grow in basic skills and knowledge in creativeness in ability to think and reason in sensitivity to others in high ideals and worthy ways of living—**for CHILDREN are the world's most important people**

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National Association for Gifted Children

Certificate of Merit



### Safety



National Safety Council

Exceptional Service to Safety

### Brotherhood

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Certificate of Recognition and Brotherhood Award



### Patriotism



Freedom's Foundation

For Outstanding Achievement in Bringing About a Better Understanding of the American Way of Life

By George W. Frame

The black rhinoceros is usually thought of as a big, ugly, dumb, mean-tempered, and dangerous beast. Its home is the forests and bushlands of eastern and southern Africa. Even the natives of those areas are afraid of rhinos and try to stay far away from them. But forest paths sometimes wind through dense undergrowth, and it is difficult to see very far. If someone accidentally walks too near, the frightened or angry rhino may charge with puffs and snorts like a steam locomotive, and toss the unfortunate person in the air.

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For hundreds of years, people have killed rhinos for their horns. Even today some people mistakenly believe that ground-up rhino horns make good medicine, so they pay many dollars for even a small piece of horn. Because of hunting, and because cities and farmlands continually grow bigger, many people in recent years have worried that the black rhino may become extinct.

One person was more concerned than all the others. His name was John Goddard. He left Canada and went to the African countries of Tanzania, Kenya, and Zambia—where he studied the black rhinoceros for seven years. He learned many new things about rhinoceros behavior, the kinds of plants they eat, and where they live. During two of those years, I helped John in his field studies.

We lived in tents most of the time. Because our work covered hundreds of square miles, we had to move often. John's wife Shelley and his daughter Penny helped, too. We enjoyed being with the wild animals, and it was always a thrill to hear the lions, wildebeest, zebras, hyenas, and rhinos outside our tents at night.

Many of the rhinos became our good friends. We recognized them by the shape of their horns and ears, so we gave them names. Some were very peaceful and friendly, but most always ran away if they knew we were watching. Once in a while, one

chased us; but we were always able to climb into trees or to drive away quickly in our Land Rover.

A few rhinos were not so easy to identify, so we tranquilized them and put ear tags on them. Some of these were baby rhinos with only a tiny horn. Now, whenever we see them again, we will be able to recognize them as they are growing up.

Where there are lakes and streams and lots of green trees and bushes, we found ten or twenty black rhinos in a single square mile, but in drier areas there was not even one rhino in a square mile. The males used dung piles and special odors to mark the plants and the ground in the area where they lived. Whenever a strange rhino wandered into the area, he smelled the odors and knew that he was not welcome because other rhinos lived there.

The most satisfying thing we learned was that the black rhino is not in danger of extinction. There are thousands of them now living in national parks where they are



## I Studied African Rhinos



★ First-hand account of a most interesting animal in its natural habitat.

safe, except from an occasional poacher.

In Africa there is another species of rhino called the white rhinoceros. It is more than five feet tall and weighs as much as 3,000 or 4,000 pounds when fully grown. The white rhino has a long head and a square mouth with which he eats grass. But the black rhino's head is short and his upper lip is pointed, so he can more easily eat branches and leaves of bushes.

Seventy years ago, hunters had made the white rhinoceros almost extinct in southern Africa. So, in order to save them, national parks were made for the rhinos in South Africa. Because they were protected from hunting and had much land in which to roam, they have increased in numbers. Today they are safe, and everyone can enjoy them!

But not all rhinos are this lucky. In Asia there are three species of rhinoceros. But they do not have the big national parks and the protection that the African rhinos have. All three of these species—the In-

dian rhino, the Javan rhino, and the Sumatran rhino—are in great danger. We must help them soon or they may all die.

While we studied the black rhinos, we also watched other kinds of animals. Many times we saw a pack of Cape hunting dogs capture a gazelle or young wildebeest. We also watched hyenas, lions, and jackals hunt. Once several spotted hyenas caught a baby black rhino and broke its leg.

Another time, a rhino we named Felicia saved her baby from an attacking lion. For a while the baby stayed close to its mother for safety. But it soon became too frightened and ran away with the lion chasing close behind. Felicia trotted after the lion. The lion then stopped chasing the calf, and instead bit Felicia's hind leg. Quickly she spun around, and using her long straight horn, she stabbed the attacking lion in the ribs, neck, and jaw until he was dead. When I saw Felicia the next day, her head and horns were still covered with lion's blood and

her leg had scratches and bites. But both she and her baby were well.

When I finished studying black rhinos and returned to the United States, I found there are still many different kinds of animals that need to be studied here. I spent several months on the ice-covered ocean north of Alaska studying polar bears and birds. For one summer I studied black bears in southern Alaska to see how many salmon they caught. Early in 1972, I spent three weeks studying a herd of twenty white rhinos from South Africa which now live in the new San Diego Zoo's Wild Animal Park at San Pasqual, California.

Every year there are more and more people in every country around the world. This means that we must have more houses, more roads, and even bigger farms to grow more food. But this doesn't leave much good land, food, or clean water for the wildlife. We must, therefore, learn more about animals so we can help them to survive. Their survival brings much enjoyment to all of us.

