

REALLY, RHINOS!

VOL. 3 #3 FALL 1989

Joan Diggs of African Wildlife Foundation (1717 Massachusetts Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20036) sent me the following article:

Seven Americans have pleaded guilty and have been sentenced to violations of federal law as a result of smuggling rhino horn into the U.S. John C. Lukman, Jr., and six others were arrested late in 1988 at the culmination of an eight month investigation by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Lukman received a jail sentence of 27 months, a \$20,000 fine, and three years of supervised release after he leaves jail. The other perpetrators received lesser sentences and one Russell Beveridge, Jr. had his automobile (used to transport the rhino horn) taken away. Three South African nationals were also indicted and efforts to extradite them to the U.S. are under way. Ironically, if convicted the foreigners could receive jail terms between 10-50 years!

CONSERVATION HOTLINE

"In a last-ditch effort to save their few remaining black rhinos, Namibian wildlife officials have removed the horns of an undisclosed number of animals in Damaraland, a desert region where the population had been increasing in recent years. The Directorate of Nature Conservation acted after five rhinos were killed there for their horns earlier this year. 'The dehorning of the black rhinoceros is a drastic step,' Brian Jones, an official of the directorate, declared. 'But there seems to be a new wave of poaching, and we decided, because of the desperate situation, that this action had to be taken.' The goal is to destroy the animals' value to poachers. Namibia is gaining independence, after 70 years of South African rule, and conservationists

fear that thousands of unemployed soldiers may resort to poaching to make a living. To dehorn the rhinos, each animal was anesthetized for about 25 minutes while its two horns were sawed off and the bases filed down; the horn, like human fingernails, is made of keratin and removing it causes no pain. Scientists will be watching the rhinos to see if their lack of horns diminishes their ability to feed, breed, or protect themselves and their young from predators."

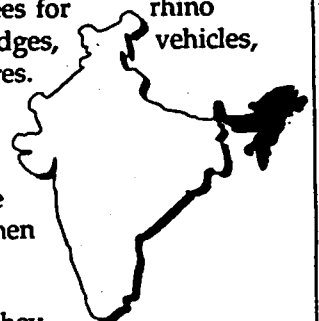
[ed. note: if you receive Animal Kingdom, watch for the next issue. Really, Rhinos! will have an add in it thanks in part to the generosity of Rhino Gary Berquist of Connecticut. Thanks Gary! Reprinted from *Animal Kingdom*, Sept/Oct, 1989]

Assam Thanks to Dr. Esmond Martin for sharing his article from *Oryx Magazine*, 23(3):124-125 July, 1989:

Wildlife personnel in Assam must be congratulated on their efforts to curb rhino poaching. Out of Assam's rhino population of about 1300, an average of 57 were killed annually from about 1982 to 1986. In 1987, however, only 41 rhinos were poached. In Kaziranga National Park where about 1100 Indian rhinos live (over 80% of the world's total population), only 24 were poached in 1987 as opposed to 41 the previous year. This encouraging decline in poaching is due partly to efforts of dedicated managerial staff over the past few years. It is also due to a scheme set up by the Central Government of India in April, 1986 to assist Assam in allocating 50 million rupees for rhino conservation over a period of several years. This money is being used for arms, road, bridges, vehicles, wildlife equipment and construction of anti-poaching camps, as well as recurrent expenditures.

The future of Assam's rhinos looked promising until the 1988 monsoon, which flooded 70-80% of the park caused the death of at least 38 rhinos, including 23 calves. To avoid future catastrophes, it has been proposed that the road that runs through the center of Kaziranga be widened and raised. Also planned is an all-out effort to acquire some high land and strengthen the rescue and relief operations in order to help distressed animals.

It is not easy to assess the damage done during the 1988 floods but there is no question that they have presented a clear and present danger to the Indian rhino species. [P.S. I have a video about Kaziranga which I would be happy to copy for anyone providing a blank VHS video and about 70¢ return postage]



R H I N O P H I L I G H T S

This month we introduce you to two rhinophiles 8,000 apart! If you know of any rhinophiles, anywhere in the galaxy, please let us know!

On this side of the Atlantic, down Arkansas way, you'll find Debbie Byrne & Tim Ward. Rhinos are a family affair for the Wards. The rhino collecting began when Tim and Debbie met more than ten years ago. Several years later Debbie and her husband began collecting rhinos of all types. Today their collection includes over 200 rhinos of all sizes and shapes and kinds.

Tim was born in Susanville, California in 1950 and raised in Klamath Falls, Oregon. He is a fifth generation dentist who graduated 1976 from Oregon Dental School. Tim's great-grandfather was instrumental in getting Stanford's

dental school off the ground. Debbie and Tim met in 1984 after talking via phone for three months while she worked for a dental product company. By 1985, they began a telemarketing business which prompted Tim to lecture, giving dental seminars on periodontics (gum disease). He has done this for three years now and is putting more emphasis on the dental office.

They are working toward RHINO 2, the New Generation format including more information on nutrition, pension funding, time management and general organizing of the hygiene department. The rhino logo has been incorporated by her husband in his nationally known dental consulting business, R.H.I.N.O. (Real Happiness In Non Operative Services) which is changing the face of today's general

dental office. Now backed by corporate sponsors, RHINO SEMINARS is a million dollar business. The *Rhino Report* is a newsletter mailed to 4,000 dentists nationally on a subscription basis. If there are any dentists out there, ask for a copy of their stationery. Debbie designed it. Cute. A major reason for their use of

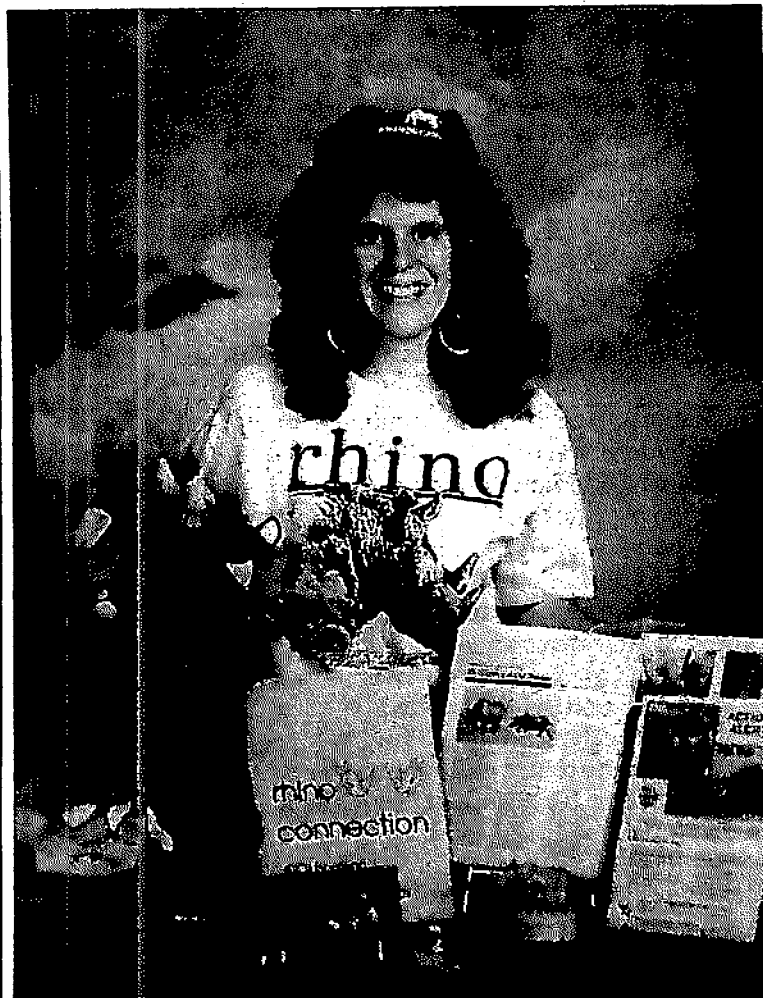
the rhino logo is their concern for the endangered species. To make a difference in the efforts to help save the rhino is one of their long range goals

Meanwhile Debbie is no slouch. She owns and operates the Rhino Connection, a shop replete with calendars, cards, pottery, baby things - something for everyone. She will soon celebrate her first anniversary. Of course, she also scouts for rhinos to fill her shop. In fact, she is planning a mail-order catalogue and anyone who has rhino material for sale is asked to send information to her. Right now she has a be-a-u-ti-ful t-shirt which says r h i n o and has the profile of a white rhino on it. She also has very unique gift tags and rhino cards which I haven't seen anywhere else (not even in Portland!) Debbie is definitely a specialist in filling your rhino needs.

Write, call or visit Debbie Byrne at the Rhino Connection, 4101 Harrison, Batesville, AR 72501. (501) 793-8112.

Another rhinophile comes all the way from England. Meet Jill Jarvis.

"I saw my first rhino in the Maasai Mara Game Reserve, in 1978, in the same year I went to Meru and saw and was able to touch the white rhinos, the same animals so brutally gunned down in 1988. I work as a cook in a private preparatory school in the South of England. It is hard work, but we do have the long holidays, especially in the summer, so I get plenty of time to devote to main interests which are animals and natural history. I also collect scarce and out-of-print books on Africana. [ed note: see Bookseller box] As you can see, I do not have a great collection of rhinos yet, but I have only been collecting for two years, but rhinos seem to be as scarce in the shops here, as well as in the wild.



DEATH TO THE TEENAGE MUTANT NINJA TURTLES!!!

For those of you who have the good taste and the good sense to avoid Saturday morning television, let me enlighten you. There is a cartoon series about these turtle heroes - ninja turtles (TMNT). One of their mortal enemies is a rhinoceros called "Rocksteady." He resembles the Sgt. Rhino caricature printed on a t shirt by Rhino Records a few years back. In order words, Rambo Rhino. I do not like the idea of rhinos always playing villains. It makes it easier to hate them in real life! I also don't like the equation of "ugly" with evil. Ugly isn't against the law (yet). I bring all this up because of a letter I received from Mirage Studios, the manufacturer of TMNT watches which of course, only have the turtle heroes on the watch faces. I naively asked for a Rocksteady watch and here is the reply I received:

"I received your letter requesting Mirage to consider implementing a Rocksteady watch into our TMNT line-up. Although we agree with your subjective proposal, Hope Industries, the watch manufacturer, disagrees. Rocksteady is not seen as a 'good' character and therefore they do not feel it necessary to put him in with the popular Turtle figures. We thank you, however, for your encouragement and interest in Mirage Studio and the Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles."

Sincerely yours,
Cheryl Prindle, Executive Director, Mirage Studios
PO Box 417, Haydenville, MA 01039
(413) 586-7066

All right fellow rhino freaks. Are we going to take this sitting down? I say more of us need to let Cheryl know how we feel. Maybe it won't do any good, but I think people need to know there are rhino lovers out there and we don't want rhinos perceived as ugly or evil AND we want more rhino parity on the open market. Please send me a copy of any letter you send to Cheryl. Thanks for your cooperation.

P.S. You can have your very own Rocksteady. Costs about \$6 from Toys R Us and other large toy stores.

You are invited to grab your shorts, bring your favorite rhino(s) and crash the second annual Southwest Rhinoceros Exhibition (at my house) in Tucson, on October 13-15. Perfect time of year to be in Tucson. Beautiful zoo. World-reknown Arizona/Sonora Desert Museum. Delicious chimichangas! Excellent rhino possibilities. Call me for information: (602) 322-0812 (best. time to call me is after 9 pm or leave a message anytime!)

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\$5 of which is donated to rhino conservation projects.

Reader feedback is encouraged. All correspondence should be sent to
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FROM PORTLAND TO THE POORHOUSE

At the beginning of August, I went on a rhino junket to sunny Portland. Yes, contrary to common belief, there was no rain for the week I was there. Perhaps it was beginner's luck to have such nice weather. Regardless, I hit the motherlode thanks to Jane Kenney, rhinophile extraordinaire.

If you are ever in the Portland area, you must contact Jane and get a map of the official rhino tour. Coming from the desert, I was gawking at the blue water and the green grass on the outside and all the wonderful rhinos on the inside. Then there was the Washington Park Zoo in which Pete resides. Petey is a young black rhino who thoughtfully obliged us by getting as close to the fence as possible so we could "shoot" him. Another day we drove six hours round trip (yes we are dedicated) to visit Jack, a white rhino at Winston Safari Park. The first time around the park we saw lovely cheetahs and yaks and ostriches but no rhino. You don't drive for six hours and go away empty-handed. So we went around a second time and just as we came 'round the bend, as in all good melodrama, Jack appeared at the waterhole. Fortunately, our screaming and shrieking did not chase him away and we sat as close

to a live rhino as is possible without getting thrown out of a reserve. Added to this excitement was a very aggressive ostrich who delighted in pecking at me through the window and spitting all over the windshield. Two rolls of film later, Jack took off beyond our sight and we left the park very tired but very happy. We even tried to preserve the spit!

When you visit Portland, besides seeing the usual tourist sights, visiting Pete and Jack, you will want to check out the following stores. Be sure to bring at least one extra suitcase. Trust me!

Every weekend, under the Burnside Bridge, Saturday Market thrives. Many artisans probably come weekend after weekend, but I am sure that there are always new people there. At the market, I found a wonderful music box with a white rhino mother and baby AND the artist actually crafted the baby for me from a color photocopy. She uses the lost wax casting method and you get to choose the music and type of wood you want. It is beautiful and unique and not terribly pricey. (\$65) Write to: M.A. Dobritz, CAST OF CHARACTERS, 1631 SE Main Street, Portland, OR 97214. (503) 234-3851.

If you need a ceramic rhino toothbrush holder, contact George & Truth Sickles who own Turn N' Burn, Skidmore Fountain Bldg., 28 SW First Avenue, Portland, OR

97204. (503) 760-6499. Jane and I are having them make us each a rhino cookie jar too. Just make sure you ask for the rhino WITHOUT TEETH.

When you feel the need to embrace nature, head for the beautiful Oregon coast, namely Cannon Beach. It's the only Oregon beach I have seen but believe it is probably the loveliest. Haystack Rock is there. The water is cold, the homes are beautiful and yes, friends, they have rhinos!! The best and most expensive rhino find of my beach trip was at Rare Discovery. They offer a replica of decorative Chinese roof ceramics. Each is quite heavy on a wooden base. Rhinos were either greenish blue (I bought that one) or white and black. Rhinos are black. They each have a Chinese rider on the back. Very different, a great conversation piece. An article on the ceramics comes with the rhino. Cost is (take deep breath) \$300. But hey, no tax! Write to Rare Discovery, 148 N. Hemlock Street, Cannon Beach, OR 97110. (503) 436-0119.

If puppets are your game, contact Bill Walther who offers a variety of puppets, some handmade. He has a ready-made rhino puppet (not the World Wildlife Fund one) and he is making me finger puppets for only a few bucks. Write to A Handful of Surprises Puppet Co., PO Box 954, Cannon Beach, OR 97110-0954. (503) 325-1984.

REALLY, RHINOS! LTD.
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