

REALLY, RHINOS!

VOL. 3 #4 WINTER 1989

ZIMBABWE'S RHINO WAR [Swara, September/October, 1989]

First the good news. There has been a sharp drop in the number of rhinos lost to poachers, from 149 in '87 to 62 in '88 to only 21 by the end of June, '89. Since 1985 just under 600 are now known to have been killed while at the same time over 300 have been successfully translocated out of the lower Zambezi Valley. A recent survey suggests a remaining rhino population of between 500-600, and Zimbabwe's conservationists would like to stop translocating them and try to protect these in their natural habitat.

And now for the bad news. In order to protect the remaining rhinos, a force of 500 game scouts would be needed as compared with the 100 currently fielded by Operation Stronghold. The World Wildlife Fund has withdrawn its support of the anti-poaching helicopter which was the kingpin of the effort. Although it is still flying thanks to an anonymous benefactor, its future is not secure.

Gun battles between poachers and park rangers have occurred throughout a larger area of the national parks. Hwange National Park was thought to be one of the safe areas where rhinos captured in the Zambezi Valley could be released. After a gun battle last year which left two Zambian poachers dead (though no rhinos were lost), this is a

very serious setback.

The ultimate success of Operation Stronghold also depends on Zambia, but so far efforts to persuade it to take serious action to curtail the poaching from its side has had little success. Zambia has to first even admit it has a problem. It is suggested that poachers are being recruited in the suburbs of Lusaka and supplied with modern weapons and ammunition leading one to suspect that corruption exists at levels well above that of the poachers themselves. The Zambian government denies this accusation and has even threatened libel action against Britain's Sunday Telegraph.

Good can come from evil. Last December, the chief warden of Zimbabwe's parks, Mr. Glen Tatham, was involved in an incident in which a Zimbabwean poacher was killed. This led to his temporary imprisonment with murder charges against him and resulted in low morale among the anti-poaching forces. At the same time, there was an upsurge in the success rate of the poachers with 17 rhinos lost that same month. The upside was that charges were not only dismissed against Tatham but a bill was drafted in Zimbabwe's parliament to protect anti-poaching personnel against murder charges if they

kill poachers. The Protection of Wildlife Indemnity Act was quickly passed, placing the law unambiguously on the side of the anti-poaching forces.

The key to protecting the remaining rhinos in the lower Zambezi Valley is early detection and interception of poachers before they've had a chance to kill. The sad fact is that Zimbabwe's parks haven't the resources or the manpower to be able to eliminate a rate of attrition which, however low, will inevitably reduce the rhino population to a level no longer genetically viable.

A new harrowing twist involves the oil exploration contract for the whole Zambezi Valley which is about to be signed between Zimbabwe and the Mobil Oil Corporation. Oil exploration will almost certainly result in increased access to the more remote parts of the rhino habitat, and give new opportunities to poachers.

It's not too late to halt the rhino's decline in Zimbabwe, but what is needed is money. If any of you are so inclined, please write to Mobil and tell them of your concern. They probably won't stop the exploration, but maybe they will donate some money to help save the remaining rhinos in the Valley.

(sung to "Santa Claus is Coming to Town")

You better dig deep and fork over cash
So we can save every African crash
Rhinos are endangered again!

We can't watch them all whatever we do
Our only hope will be people like you
Rhinos are endangered again!

They're hunted for their great horns
Despite the myths and lies
Extinction is forever
We can succeed if we will try.

Write letters, complain wherever you can
Get everyone to support the CITES plan
Rhinos are endangered again!

RHINO SONG TRILOGY

(sung to "Auld Lang Syne")

The earth is one big family
Each member should have rights
No matter if it's fish or fowl
Or germ or man of might.

Should all the rhinos disappear
Be on this earth no more
Our family pain would persevere
As we know what is in store.

Each life on earth is intertwined
Each loss should make us vexed
As life is taken we should ask
Whose turn will now be next?

(sung to "O Tannenbaum")

Oh rhinophile, oh rhinophile
Your hobby's a unique one.

Oh rhinophile, oh rhinophile
Your hunting brings you great fun.

And aren't you glad you're not alone
When so called pals begin to moan?

Take heart my friend and keep it up
Obsession need not cause you fear.

So listen for those magic words
Yes, we will take your Visa here!

MAKE YOUR DOLLAR\$ GO TWICE A\$ FAR

Below is a partial list of companies that have matched employee contributions to the World Wildlife Fund in the past year. I have a longer list which you can have but the best way to find out if your company participates is to check with your personnel or community relations office. They can tell you whether your contributions to WWF are eligible for matching and will supply you with the appropriate forms. If your company does not/will not participate, you may send your funds directly to the World Wildlife Fund, 1250 24th Street, NW, Washington, DC 20037.

American Express Foundation
Atlantic Richfield Foundation
Auto Zone
Avon Foundation
BASF Corporation
Boeing Company
BP America, Inc.
Cigna Foundation
Citibank, N.A.
Corning Glass Works Foundation
Cray Research, Inc.
Dakin, Inc.
Durcell, Inc.
Federal Nat'l Mortgage Assoc.
General Electric Foundation
Gulf & Western Foundation
Hewlett Foundation
International Business Machines
International Data Corp.
John Hancock Mutual Life Insurance Co.
Joseph E. Seagram & Sons, Inc.

Kraft, Inc.
Levi Strauss Foundation
Liz Claiborne Foundation
MacArthur Foundation
Martin Marietta Corporation
May Stores Company Foundation
Monsanto Fund
Nabisco
Pfizer, Inc.
Phillip Morris, Inc.
Pitney Bowes
Ralston Purina Company
Reader's Digest Foundation Inc.
Robert Wood Johnson Foundation
Sara Lee Foundation
Shearson, Lehman & Hutton
Transamerica Corporation
US West Foundation
Xerox Foundation
Zoological Society of Cincinnati

If you use products from any of these companies, please write and tell them how much you appreciate, admire, approve, revere them, etc., etc., for participating in this project and how you will buy more of their products because of their involvement. It couldn't hurt and may loosen their purse strings even more.

(sung to "Jingle Bells")

Jingle bells, jingle bells, jingle on the ground
Oh how lovely it will be to see rhinos safe and sound
Jingle bells, jingle bells, jingle in in the air
On how lovely it will be to see all nations care.

Dashing through the grass
In a park safe and secure
Many rhinos roam
Poaching finally cured
Crashes on the loose
Herds both small and great
Such a joy to see the pachyderms perpetuate

(sung to "Deck the Halls")

Deck the parks with healthy rhinos
fa la la la la la la la la

May the poachers lose their ammo
fa la la la la la la la la

Work for worldwide conservation
fa la la la la la la la la

Hope for future rhino generations
fa la la la la la la la la



(sung to "Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer")

Rudolph the Red-Horned Rhino
had a very shiny horn
but if you ever saw him
you would say he looked forlorn

All of the other rhinos
tried to hide when poachers came
seeing light, the killers tracked well
Rudolph would get all the blame

Then one foggy Christmas Eve
game warden came to say
Rudolph with your horn so bright
won't you guide my jeep tonight

Then how the rhinos loved him
As his horn lit up the way
Poachers were all arrested
Rudolph helped to save the day!

RHINO-HO-HO!

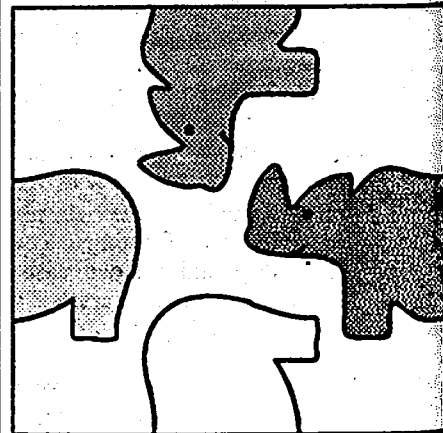
It's not too late to go out and buy your favorite rhinophile the perfect holiday present. Here are some excellent sources to put under the tree or menorah.

WILLIAM BENJAMIN BARSTOW
PO Box 3004, Redlands, CA 92373
(714) 793-4240

W.B. makes rhino sculptures, pins and tacks. He has some in bronze, pewter and sterling. Prices are in the \$10-\$20 range. Call him for exact price, availability and ordering information.

If you have a coffee table (if you don't, go out and buy one), you must get this rhino book. **The Rhinoceros, From Durer to Stubbs, 1515-1799.** It is a lavishly illustrated book of the rhinoceros in art and you will salivate on every page so be careful! The hardback cost me about \$49 a few years ago but you may be able to get it in paperback. Contact your local bookstore.

Are people puzzled when you tell them that you collect rhinos? Then buy a **PUZZLED RHINO** set and give it to your friends. They will spend so much time trying to figure it out, they will leave you alone! Our own Jane Kenney has invented this delightful game which might rival the Rubik's cube if you are not perceptually inclined (as I am not).



Cost of this mindbender is \$8.95 (including shipping & handling). Make check payable to Jane Kenney. Send your order to: Sweetieware, 1837 SE Harold Street, Portland, OR 97202.

RHINOPHILIGHTS

will resume in the next issue

How about some more children's books that have rhinos in them? I could not find any new books only about rhinos. Here are some recent titles with very good illustrations include rhinos. Go to the best bookstore in your town and you'll probably find them and if not, the store can order them. It's not too late for the holidays.



Good Night, Good Night by Sandra Boynton. Random House, 1985. When will we ever get Boynton to draw more rhinos and less hippos??? A simple book about going to sleep. If you like her greeting cards, you'll enjoy this book with a rhino on (almost) every page.

Lucretia the Unbearable by Marjorie Weinman Sharmat. Illustrated by Janet Stevens. Holiday House, 1981. Lucretia is a hypochondriac and a kvetch. She thinks she is dying so of course she visits the doctor who is - a rhino!

Awful Aardvark by Mwalimu & Adrienne Kennaway. Little, Brown, 1989. Aardvark likes to sleep at night which wouldn't be so bad, except he snores terribly. All the jungle animals try to get him to shut up, including the rhino, but it is the smallest animal which saves the day, er night. I bought the book not only because of the rhino but because the illustrations were colorful & eye-pleasing.

The Queen of Eene. Poems by Jack Prelutsky. Pictures by Victoria Chess. Greenwillow Books, 1978. If you have children, the chances are good that they have heard of Jack Prelutsky. Oh, maybe they don't remember his name, but they probably have read his award-winning book, *New Kid on the Block*. Prelutsky's poems, akin to Shel Silverstein's, are whimsical and yet there is a lesson in there somewhere. This book has not one, but two poems which mention rhinos, and of course, there are rhino pictures to accompany the poems: ("Four Foolish Ladies" and "Aunt Samantha" (who wakes up one morning to find a rhino on her head.)

Wild Animals by Brian Wildsmith. Oxford University Press, 1986. You want to know why a group of rhinos is called a crash. Just look at the title pages of this paperback! Wildsmith is well-known for his lush, simple illustrations and this format will not set you back too far.

The Eleventh Hour; a Curious Mystery by Graeme Base. Harry N. Abrams, 1989. If you've seen *Animalia*, you know what Base's illustrations are like. They are rich and deep and leap off the page. His "R for Rhinoceros" was worth framing. Now in his new book, the author/illustrator has outdone himself. Anyone who knows about *Where's Waldo?* will appreciate this puzzle-story which unfolds as an elephant invites some guests to his eleventh birthday party. The party is marked by eleven games preceding the banquet to be eaten at the eleventh hour, but when the time to eat arrives, the birthday feast has disappeared. The reader is invited to guess the thief. The answer to the mystery is actually sealed at the end of the story which is in rhyme.

RUN, DO NOT WALK to your nearest J.C. Penney or May Company store or call around to the bigger department stores in your area to see if they carry the label, **Pseudo Rhino Surfwear USA.** **COWABUNGA!** You don't have to be a surfer (fer sure,) to like these shirts. There's like eight different styles, like you know? and the colors are radical, dude! You can even get t-shirts, sweats, and like maybe other kinds of threads. Check it out, man!

You say you want a real rhino but your backyard isn't big enough? Then consider this sculpture offered by the **Nature Company.** Sure it's pricey but then have you ever figured out your monthly feed bills if you had a real rhino? Cast from bonded marble compound, it's 14" long and by the color photo in the catalogue, it is very life-like. The cost is (gulp) \$475+ \$8.50 shipping & handling UPS. A portion is donated to the African Wildlife Foundation. Order number #297754 for those of you who buy sight unseen. You may wish to write for a catalogue or visit one of the Nature Company's stores which seem to be everywhere! You can call 1-800-227-1114 (24 hours a day!) P.S. I don't own one of these sculptures yet, hint, hint....

Kim Allen, Artist, Potter, Characters in Clay. POB 581, Oakridge, OR 97463 (503) 782-2452. YES!! says Kim. She does make rhino magnets (\$3), pins (\$5), plant friends (\$3), soft soaps/soapstone? (\$15), mugs for coffee or beer (\$13), goblets (\$12), jars (small/\$6, medium/\$10, large/\$18), shot mugs (\$8), oil lamps (\$12), candle holders (\$15). She is thinking of making a cookie jar too (\$75). Sounds like she might custom-make some things too. Ask her!

African Arts, Ltd. 3025 N Campbell Ave., Tucson, AZ 85719. (602) 795-1997. Traditional & contemporary hand-woven rugs, paintings, prints, sculpture, jewelry. Margie & Phil Matter have just moved into a beautiful tri-level store which allows each item to be displayed with great taste and imagination (thanks to staff Pam and Dianna). Now available

among their other artwork, is a portfolio of five reproductions from original pastels by African artist named Dino Paravano and commissioned by Mala-mala Game Reserve. Included are white rhinos. Margie is expecting larger prints any day now. She also has a bronze rhino from Burkina Faso and an unusual black cube Kishi with a rhino carving on one side. Margie is an expert in all African crafts and offers an exceptional variety of beads. Prompt service, a knowledgeable staff and an above average inventory keep people going back.

I have one extra bronze arty rhino pin for sale which I found in L.A. If anyone wants it, I will ship it gift boxed for \$10 plus postage. It looks like a black rhino and its head is turning toward its tail. I've gotten many positive comments when I wear mine. Let me know.

REALLY, RHINOS! is published quarterly. Annual subscription rate is \$15 (\$19US overseas), \$5 of which is donated to rhino conservation projects.

Reader feedback is encouraged. All correspondence should be sent to Judyth Lessee, Editor, Really, Rhinos!, Ltd
P O Box 1285, Tucson Arizona 85702-1285 USA
(602) 322-0812

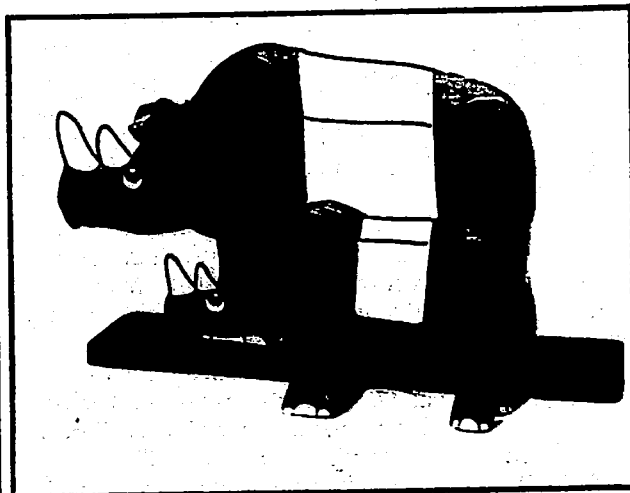
WHITE RHINO GRAPHICS

White Rhino Graphics, 530 E. Lambert Rd, Brea, CA 92621 (714) 529-1665

Glenn Green wrote to tell us of White Rhino Graphics, "a screenprinting company specializing in wearables, i.e. t-shirts, hats, sweats. The name 'White Rhino' came from the idea that rhinos are indeed rare and somewhat unpredictable. We wanted to be just that, a company of 'rare' quality and 'unpredictable' in our approach to art. The name has proven to be something our customers remember and that's good for any business." They have a great grey t-shirt with their logo on it.



Hey, what's the hang-up? Pat & Ken Gehman of Corporate Concepts, Box 635, Billings, MT 59103, (406) 245-2406, have created the most whimsical wooden rhinos I've seen in a long time. Their line is called Fauna Fantasy Hangups and it



sounds like if you have idea, they wouldn't be opposed to making it. I have one of every rhino thing they have right now and I am thrilled with all of it. Contact them directly for price and ordering information. Prices range from approximately \$16-30 but don't hold me to it. I think you could get your order before the holidays. Help celebrate Montana's centennial; buy Montanan!

You can order a peg rack, a towel rack, book shelves (rhino front/back separated by books), key/cup holders, a "slipper dipper" for shoes, rhino caddy (has pouch on side for pencils, etc.), candlestick holders.

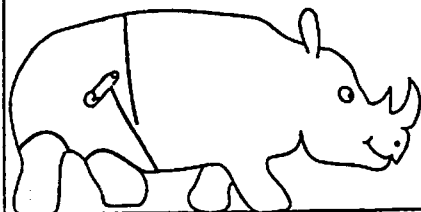
Rhino Linings USA, 7645 Carroll Road, #8, San Diego, CA 92121. (619) 578-2669

Dianna F. Hine, Sales/Marketing Director wrote to tell us that Rhino Linings manufactures a sprayed-on polyurethane bed line for trucks and vans. The concept started over ten years ago in South Africa and recently came to the US a year and a half ago. They are selling dealerships all across North American and Europe. Dianna signed her letter, "Not a lonesome rhinophile anymore" Sound familiar?

REALLY, RHINOS! LTD.

P O Box 1285

Tucson, AZ 85702-1285



HAPPY NEW YEAR!

