

# REALLY, RHINOS!

VOL. 3 #1 SPRING 1989

## ENDANGERED? NOT ENDANGERED?

According to a recent Associated Press article, Kenya's population of black, rhinoceroses, prized by poachers for their unusual horn, is on the increase according to George Muhoho, Minister of Tourism and Wildlife. He says that a new survey shows the number of black rhinos in four special reserves at about 600, 100 more than they estimated a year ago. He attributed the higher figure to improved survey techniques, stiffer anti-poaching measures and better breeding conditions in the rhino sanctuaries at four national parks. Private wildlife-conservation experts

generally have placed the number of rhinos in this East African nation at well below government estimates, but Muhoho said the new survey indicates "the situation is not as desperate as some people have tended to make it sound." In the early 1970s there were thought to be 60,000 black rhinos in Africa. Most private estimates put the figure at about 3,000 today. Concerned about mounting assaults on wildlife, the government late last year issued shoot-to-kill orders to law officers. Since then, at least 12 poachers have been killed and dozens arrested.

## ZOONOOZ

The Washington Park Zoo (4001 S.W. Canyon Road, Portland, OR) is just finishing an \$8 million Africa Exhibit. Pete, a 20-month old black rhino, is the \$25,000 star of the exhibit. The 1,200 pound people lover will be the first black ever shown in Oregon. Two phases of the exhibit replicate the dry, open plains of East Africa and will feature many of the large animals and birds of that region in natural settings. The exhibit, including Pete, a future mate, hippos, impalas, giraffes, zebras, marabou storks, ostriches and pythons, is scheduled to open April 29th. Construction is due to start on a third phase, focusing on the equatorial African rain forests and featuring small animals like pygmy hippos.

Exhibit areas are connected by a meandering "Safari Walk" that weaves through the natural settings and permits zoo visitors to view the animals up close. The walk winds its way past a variety of grassy animal areas near a 68 foot-high aviary, which houses rare African birds, and to the "Treetops" regions, where spectators will stand on eye level with the giraffes.

## RHINO RAGS

How many rhinos do you have? Not enough? Just right? Too many? Have you taken out a second mortgage on your home to buy yet another rhino because you know if you don't buy it right now it will be gone forever? (just ask Jane about her cookie jar). There's a new rhino sweatshirt which you can proudly wear to show how compulsive you really are! Sandra Boynton has drawn a whimsical female rhino with both arms full of packages and the slogan, "Sometimes I feel

as if I have an instinct to charge." It comes in sizes M(38-40); L(42-44) or XL(46-48). Write to The Paragon, Tom Harvey Rd, Westerly, RI 02891 and ask for item #8015B. Normally, you don't find many rhinos in mail order catalogues so this is indeed a find. P.S. If any of you find other mail order rhinos, please let the rest of us know! If you buy a lot from mail order catalogues, please write and ask that they try to find other rhinos. I think we've seen enough cows and ducks and chickens!

## APRIL 1st

was not only April Fools' Day, it was Save the Rhino Day.

*Chase's Almanac of Events*, an annual chronological list of special dates, holidays, etc. was kind enough to include two entries about Rhinos. I suspect they will continue to include this special day indefinitely. What date you do think *Save the Rhino Day* should be next year? Last year it was on leap year day which I would like to keep every four years. I try to pick a date on which people will be looking for other things - this gives us more publicity. I've already been contacted by schools and libraries around the country and two radio stations (Boston and Gainesville, Georgia) have interviewed us so the movement is catching on! The second annual *Southwest Rhinoceros Exhibition* will be held in October in Tucson (unless someone wants to host the event this year). Last year the first exhibition was held in my house because I did not know other rhinophiles. Now I know at least 30 of you! Let me hear from you; tell me your thoughts about this exhibition. I'd like to have it in a place and at a time when the greatest number of you could attend. The purpose is simply to get together, to meet, to buy, sell, swap rhinos and to get some publicity about our group as well as rhino conservation.

## BE RHINO-WISE, ORGANIZE!

Groucho Marx once said he would never belong to a club that would have him as a member. How do you feel about being a card-carrying member of *Really, Rhinos!*? I would like to have us become an official, legitimate hobbyist group and get listed in the *Encyclopedia of Associations*. There is no cost involved, but it spreads the word about us and legitimates us a bit more. Get out of the closet, rhinophile and proudly let people know what your hobby is. I'd like some feedback from you rhino readers.

Like the Rhino Party of America, we could design a membership card. We already have the newsletter and an annual meeting of sorts. The sky's the limit as to what we can do as a group. At the very least, it should be a fun experience!

## RHINO CONNECTION STRIKES AGAIN!

Several new t-shirts have come in, as well as cards, posters, music boxes, a pair of ceramic rhinos and a bone china pair. Prices all reasonable. Write to Debbie Byrne, Drawer 4160, Batesville, AR 72503, 501-793-3738.

Help! Address needed for a business called *Once A Rhino*.

## "YOU MEAN I'M NOT THE ONLY ONE WHO COLLECTS RHINOS!?"

In order to get more subscribers to the newsletter and to find more rhinophiles, I put an ad in my alumni magazine (Temple University). Now I would like to get more serious and put an ad in a national magazine with a big circulation. I feel *Natural History Magazine* would be the best one to target. The only problems are: they charge \$320 for a one time add and there is no money in the budget for advertising. Do we have any rich rhinos out there who would be willing to donate something towards this ad? My goal is to have at least 200 subscribers to the newsletter and to build up our group. If anyone has other suggestions on how to spread the word and increase our subscriptions, membership and coffers, please let me know. *Really, Rhinos!* is strictly a volunteer labor of love for me and I make \$0 profit from money I take in. I would appreciate any assistance anyone can offer. Thank you!

## RHINOGRAVURE

The Sunday, March 29th issue of *Parade Magazine* has a rhino on the cover! The article inside is about our zoos and how humane they really are.

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

In this issue we introduce Jane Kenney Norberg who began collecting rhinos in the spring of 1972, her senior year in high school.



When it comes to rhinos in the flesh, I am the proud aunt of Jack the white rhino at the Winston Wildlife Safari in Oregon. Jack roams free over the hillsides. He has recently acquired two friends, a male and a female. They hope to start a breeding program. The Washington Park Zoo in Portland

able to see a male, female and baby male black rhino, plus a pair of great Indian one horned rhinos at the San Francisco Zoo last month. In addition to visiting Jack, my trip turned out to be a three rhino special extravaganza!

I have created a rhino needlework for a computer cartoon. Anyone with access to a Commodore 64 may have a copy of the 30 second cartoon. I created it with an Electronic Art's movie maker. Cost: \$5 to cover shipping and disk cost. I will make a stitchery rhino for anyone for \$25 unframed, or \$30 matte & frame). If I add glass I need to

Our senior play was *Rhinoceros*, by Eugene Ionesco; I was the student director. What began with a card has escalated to a home covered wall-to-wall and floor-to-ceiling with rhinos. I have over 450 rhinos, not counting cards and pictures. I love the challenge of finding them and my husband says I have an uncanny horn sense. I found the only rhino in Victoria, British Columbia!

My favorite rhino is the one on my left shoulder in the picture. He has the eyebrows of a schnauzer, a tufted tail and an intense need for pink satin wings. I try to collect different "types" of rhinos. I am still looking for the elusive rhino salt and pepper shakers. I will never forgive myself for passing up the rhino cookie jar at the San Francisco Macy's in 1974 just because I couldn't carry it on the cable car. I have yet to find another.

has a new baby black rhino, Pete, from Denver. They are currently looking for a suitable girlfriend for him.

In real life, I am a research biologist specializing in cytogenetics (studying chromosomes). I am also involved in elementary

science education and computers. I was quite distressed to learn that only recently two species of rhinos, who had the distinction of possessing the greatest number of chromosomes in a mammal, have been beaten out by a rare Peruvian fish eating rat!

I am very concerned about the dwindling wild rhino population. I am extremely glad zoos and animal parks are making a concerted breeding effort. Because of this, I was



change the button nose. The rhino measures  $7\frac{1}{2}" \times 4\frac{1}{3}"$  unframed, or  $10\frac{1}{2}" \times 8\frac{3}{4}"$  framed. The

rhino is bright green with black outline and black button eye. The horn is a cream color. The background is a very light grey. Nice and contrasty. Tell me which you want; you may pay when it's finished.

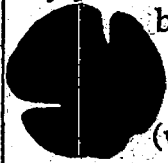
If you're every in the Portland area, let me know. My address is: 1837 SE Harold, Portland, OR 97202, (503) 236-8428.

(P.S. Maybe Jane will tell you how she computer-designed her rhino stationery. It's quite nice.)

**DO YOU  
KNOW  
WHAT THIS IS?**



If you guessed the footprints of a black rhinoceros (*Diceros Bicornis*) you guessed right! Buy a t-shirt from the Museum of York County and you too can say you were stampeded



by a rhino and lived to tell about it!

(white, mint green, gray, S, M, L, XL and children's sizes, \$12.50) Write to Stuart Schwartz, Executive Director, Museum of York County, 4621 Mt. Gallant Rd, Rock Hill, SC 29730. (P.S. Watching for new rhinos? Look no further than your wrist!



The Museum also sells a rhino watch specially priced for rhinophiles: \$49.95 includes shipping. Gray or brown wristband)

**JAVA YOU SEEN ANY RHINOS LATE**

The rarest species of Asian rhino is under threat from poaching. With possibly only 60 Javan rhinos left in the wild, possibly up to have already been killed by poachers in the animal's last stronghold, Ujung Kulon National Park in Indonesia. A conservation team is investigating the possibility of establishing a second population in another locality in Sumatra where the species once lived. Conservationists say the Javan rhinos have been able to survive because of the animal's inhospitable and nearly inaccessible habitat but despite the difficult terrain and poor visibility, poachers seem to have succeeded in killing the animals. Dense mountainous rainforest and thorny scrub jungle have also made it virtually impossible to determine rhino numbers.

In central Sumatra at least a dozen rhinos are killed in snares every year. One population alone has been reduced from about 100 in 1970 to around 15 today. There are no more than 600 Sumatran rhinos left in the wild. Even with trade bans on imports of rhino products, rhino products are still in demand and hardly any known Sumatran population is safe from poachers according to internationally renowned conservationist, Dr. Esmond Bradley-Martin.

The illegal trade in rhino products still exists. Though the medicinal properties of rhino products has proven to be ineffective, the Chinese still persist in manufacturing medicines containing rhino products and exporting them all over the world. Many Chinese manufacturers are experimenting with water buffalo horn as a substitute for rhino horn but this is not very widespread.

Consider writing to the embassies of China, Singapore and Thailand as well as to your congressperson, and ask that they abide by the recommendations of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)

**REALLY, RHINOS! LTD.**  
**P O Box 1285**  
**Tucson, AZ 85702-1285**