

REALLY, RHINOS!

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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!