

Zoological Society of San Diego

FOUNDED OCTOBER 6, 1916

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PURPOSE—

1. To advance sincere and scientific study of nature.
2. To foster and stimulate interest in the conservation of wild life.
3. To maintain a permanent Zoological Exhibit in San Diego.
4. To stimulate public interest in the building and maintenance of a Zoological Hospital.
5. To provide for the delivery of lectures, exhibit of pictures and publication of literature dealing with nature history and science.
6. To operate a society for the mutual benefit of its members for non-lucrative purposes.

MEMBERSHIP—

There are three classes of membership in the Zoological Society of San Diego.

1. Annual Membership: \$5.00 per year.
2. Sustaining Membership: \$25.00 per year.
3. Life Membership: \$200.00. Membership entitles the holder to:
 1. Hold office, vote and attend meetings of the society.
 2. Receive all publications of the society free.
 3. Enter the grounds free and attend all special functions of the society.

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JESSIE KERSHNER
Subscription Manager

KEN STOTT, JR.
Editor

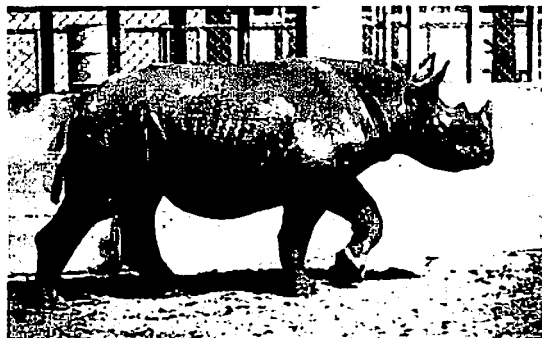
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Meet Our Gal Sal

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A Rhinoceros at Last!

The jinx is broken! After years of thwarted attempts and disappointments, the San Diego zoo has finally obtained a rhinoceros all its own—a Black Rhino fresh from the wilds of East Africa. That this all too conspicuous gap in the collection has now been filled is due to the generosity of our good friend, Mr. H. A. Astlett.

The newcomer's name is Sally and she is slightly less than two years of age. She stands almost three feet high at the shoulder, weighs in at around 1000 pounds, and boasts two incipient horns which sprout from her snout. By rhinoceros standards, Sally is a real beauty.

She was captured for the zoo in Kenya Colony's Kibwezi area by trapper H. R. Stanton, who in the past has sent us a Reticulated Giraffe, a pair of Kikuyu Colobus Monkeys and a pair of Servals. The exact area where Sally was collected lies about 125 miles from Nairobi (capital of Kenya) somewhere in the triangle formed by the Athi and Kibwezi rivers.

She was trapped with her mother in a large corral, and the two mighty beasts were subsequently transported to the Stanton's farm near Rumuruti in upland Kenya. Still a nursing calf at the time of

capture — sometime early in the year—Sally was weaned in May, but it was not until July 18th that suitable shipping space to the United States was available. On that date she was placed aboard the S.S. Robin Goodfellow in Mombasa, Indian Ocean port for Kenya Colony. The freighter headed south, stopping at major ports along the east coast of Africa, and did not leave Capetown until around the first of August. It docked in New York on August 25th.

There Sally was met by keeper Ralph "Gabe" Davis, who was to accompany her on the final lap of her journey half way round the world. She completed her travels by railway express and truck and arrived in San Diego at 4 a.m. on August 30th, some 43 days after leaving East Africa. One good sniff of California air was enough to tell her that the land to which she had come was not too different climatically from the one she had left.

Vital Statistics

Rhinoceros comes from two Greek words: *rhis*, meaning nose, and *keras*, meaning horn, but actually the "horn" of a rhino is not a true horn at all. It is instead a hard and compact mass of coarse fibers. This distinction, however, is



Photo by H. R. Stanton

Black Rhino front horns average 18 inches, rarely attain a length of more than 50.

said to be of little interest to people who have had intimate experience with rhino "horns." A rhino horn, regardless of its actual nature, is a vicious weapon.

More than one truck has been overturned by a rhino, and with passenger cars such encounters are of all too regular occurrence. That even railroad trains are not impervious to the attacks of rhinos is indicated by the following story which appeared in the London Times of June 8th, 1952:

"Two hundred passengers on the Kenya mail train had a rude awakening early this morning when the train was derailed by a rhinoceros which was taking a pre-dawn stroll from his lair in the wild Ndi hills near Voi on the Kenya-Tanganyika border. The train, which was gathering speed for the final run along the coast, shuddered to a halt as the rhinoceros hit . . . The animal was killed and the train was delayed eight hours."

Although the rhino is usually listed as being one of the most

dangerous game animals in the world, it charges more from fear than sheer viciousness. Its unusually poor eyesight tends to send it into panic in times of crisis, and such hysteria often results in charges that bring to mind a runaway steam roller. But many trappers, H. R. Stanton included, look upon the rhino as one of the most responsive of all wild animals; adult rhinos may be captured and tamed within a matter of weeks, according to Mr. Stanton.

The rhino family is allied to that of the tapirs and to the horse family. There are five extant species, all hold-overs from past ages. Three of the surviving kinds of rhinos are native to Asia and adjacent islands, while the other two inhabit Africa south of the Sahara. The Black or Hook-tipped Rhino (of which Sally is a representative) formerly had a wide distribution in Africa, from Ethiopia and West Africa south to the Cape. Recently it has disappeared from many of its former haunts due to over-hunt-

ing. Despite the better known of its two common names, it is not black, but gun-metal gray.

An adult Black Rhino may stand five and a half feet high at the shoulder and measure twelve feet from the tip of the nose to the base of the tail. The species usually has two "horns," of which the front one is generally the longer—there are a few records of 44 and 54 inches although the average is much shorter. According to one authority, specimens bearing front horns more than eighteen inches long are uncommon. Three horned Black Rhinos, though rare, have been reported.

Rhinos are strictly vegetarian, and they are for the most part browsing, rather than grazing or grass-eating, animals. The Black species dotes on aloes, euphorbias, scrubby plants, the leaves and twigs of acacias and other trees, and occasionally it feeds upon roots. Like all rhinos, it has an affinity for water, and when and wherever possible it bathes daily or wallows in the mud.

The Black Rhino enjoys a wide variety of habitats. It seems equally adapted to life on the open plains, scrub desert, and the dense and humid forests of East African mountain slopes.

At Home

Sally's enclosure, an impressive structure completed in the nick of time by "Virden, Jarboe & Company," contains a wallow in each of the two stockades. The rhino compound consists of a duplex apartment with a yard adjoining each unit of the house. The yards

are enclosed by sturdy barricades of concrete and pipe that allow good visibility but afford the public (and the rhino) full protection. The enclosure is situated just south of the hippo enclosures.

Sally is now receiving guests seven days a week and shall continue to do so indefinitely, barring the unforeseen. Don't let her past globe trotting record discourage thoughts of paying her a visit in the near future. Never fear, Sally's traveling days are over!

Headliner Baby

August 24th marked the arrival of a prize baby — a little male Uganda Giraffe born to Patches. The newcomer, dubbed Lofty Junior, is Patches' sixth baby. Raffy, the first born, made headlines when he rode to the San Francisco zoo backwards; D-Day, the second, went to the zoo in Sydney, Australia; and Rusty, the third, was shipped to Honolulu. The fourth baby died shortly after birth, but the fifth, Patty, is still a resident of San Diego. Giraffe births have always been red-letter occasions, but now that giraffes cannot be imported from Africa such events are doubly significant.

The new baby's parents, Lofty, Sr., and Patches, were but youngsters themselves when they were obtained in 1938. As the first giraffes to be shipped across the United States by truck, they made headlines from one end of the country to the other.



Photo by Ken Platt, Jr.

Rough customers, rhinos have been known to overturn trucks, derail trains.

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SALLY, SHY AT FIRST, NOW GREETES HER PUBLIC DAILY

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