

REALLY RHINOS!

8:1, Spring, 1994

NOTES From NANCY

Hello and Happy '94 to my rhino brothers and sisters everywhere. Judyth has asked me to keep you informed of Planet Rhino's activities. 1993 was both encouraging and frustrating for me as far as our horned friends go. The situation in Zimbabwe is horrendous! Rhinos are dying by the dozens and the local Campfire conservation projects just aren't proving effective enough. I met with Ambassador Midzi in Washington, D.C. He was receptive, yet reserved in his speculations for the future. The funds are very limited. Is a Zimbabwe Rhino Support Group far down the road? Let's hope so for the rhinos' sake. I encourage you to write to the Ambassador at: The Embassy of the Republic of Zimbabwe, 1608 New Hampshire Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20009. Let him know we care!

Speaking of Zimbabwe, my good friend and mentor, Marlys Houck, a geneticist with C.R.E.S. in San Diego, recently returned from her sample-collecting journey there. She went out on de-horning runs with Michael Kock. While the rhinos were down, she'd collect skin samples and try to keep them sterile until freezing - not easy in the dusty African environs. She managed to collect a few,

however, and we're awaiting any new scientific evidence gained. She has already determined that the Zimbabwe Black Rhinos have much less genetic material to work with than Kenyan Blacks. All the more reason to fear for Zimbabwe's rhino future.

I visited Calvin Bentsen's Texas ranch in October. Calvin is not well-received by the AAZPA due to his love of hunting - but he and several other hunters have gotten together and formed Game Coin, a conservation group dedicated to helping the rhino, among other endangered species. Calvin feels that the current African environment is too dangerous for rhinos' well-being, and that breeding should be encouraged in zoos, parks and private ranches in safe territories. He has six Black Rhinos on his ranch now, from Zimbabwe and Kenya. They are breeding well within themselves and other captive populations and are extremely healthy on a varied diet, including the local Texas mesquite.

I visited San Diego Wild Animal Park during the recent fires. David Merner gave me an incredible "insider's tour" in the midst of all the chaos; firemen camped out on the grassy areas, helicopters flying overhead with gigantic buckets of water, ashes falling from the sky. The animals were remarkably calm however, and the baby Greater One-Horned was beautiful. Sadly, there were still no amorous events between the Northern

White Rhinos. (I am currently investigating the status of the Northern Whites in Czechoslovakia, since the recent dramatic political changes.)

I can't finish this report without mentioning the continual dedication and tireless work of Anna Merz and Andy Lodge, with Ngare Sergoi. These are two folks turning things around for the rhinos of Kenya. If you're not a member of the support group yet, well by all means sent \$15 and get in on the action. Contact Andy Lodge at the Ngare Sergoi Support Group, PO Box 29503, Columbus, OH 43229. He'll send you all sorts of neat information, including order form for great rhino stuff!

Finally, I want to recommend two excellent books. At the Hand of Man (Bonner) and Last Animals at the Zoo (Tudge).

Until we meet again, keep your rhino spirits high! If you have any remarks, drop me a line at Planet Rhino, Box 263 Jerome AZ 86331. I'd live to hear from you, or drop by the Old High School in Jerome and look for the rhinos! Ngufu kama ya kifarui

Nancy

RHINOVERSEAS

SOMETHING WAS ROTTEN IN THE STATE OF DENMARK

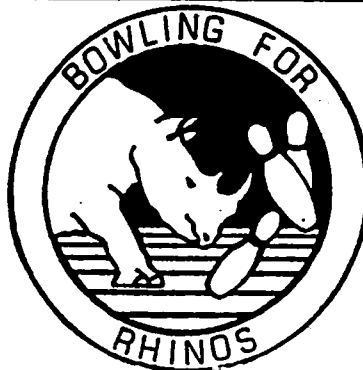
A rhinoceros that had become too aggressive in captivity, breaking fences and banging its head, was deported to Namibia, where it will live in a safari sanctuary. But it took a tranquilizer and three tractors to get Brutalis into an iron transport cage. The Givskud Lion Park in western Denmark spent \$29,400 to deport the 2.3 ton male. It had become increasingly angry the past four or five years, causing \$222,000 in damage to fences and cages.

VOYEZ LA!

Ooh la la! I have a request from a French writer who is interested in old rhino prints, articles of or using 17th or 18th century rhino iconography. Does anyone know of good sources or contacts for this? If so, contact Jim Monson, 302 Route du Puei de la Madone, 06690 Tournette-Levens, FRANCE.

HURRAY FOR CAPTAIN SPAULDING!

Last year, Esmond Bradley Martin, United Nations Environment Program's Special Envoy for Rhino Conservation, flew to Yemen on behalf of the World Wide Fund for Nature in order to participate in a seminar on saving rhinos. In the Spring, he visited several African and Asian countries and talked to their presidents about the crisis facing the black rhino. In the fall, Martin went again to Yemen on behalf of WWF to urge the government to stop entirely the making of daggers with rhino horn handles. Now, the government has registered all the rhino horn traders, and officials are actively trying to stop the business. Chryssee (Esmond's better half) has just published a book called Russelas the Rhinoceros. More on that as it arrives.



It's that time of year again:

BOWLING FOR RHINOS is back!

Contact Patty Pearthree, Box 19902, Indianapolis, IN 46219-9026 (317) 322-8723 to find out when/where the nearest bowling event is to you. P.S. Patty informed me that some of the proceeds from the fundraiser, in addition to going to Ngare Sergoi in Kenya, will go to Ujong Kulon to support the world's remaining (47) Javan rhinos. Bravo!!

DUTCH TREAT

Rhino subscriber, Dr. L.C. Rookmaaker is involved with a new project: to obtain as much information about each specimen as possible and to publish the results. Some of the data are already available from various zoos around the world, however a synthesis has not been attempted before. Here is an excerpt from a letter he sent to me: "The first list of captive rhinos was attempted by Richard Reynolds in the early 1960's and the present attempt is based on that foundation. If you would know about a rhino in an unexpected place, like seen in a circus early this century, in a children's amusement park, or in a private collection in Siberia, I would be happy for any leads." If you wish to contribute to this formidable list, please contact Dr. Rookmaaker c/o Walstraat 11, 7731 HM OMMEN, THE NETHERLANDS.



The endangered Javan rhino is one of five species of rhino left in the world.

And now a word from Michael...

Good things come to she who waits. A very lengthy letter from Michael Werikhe arrived shortly after Christmas. I would like to share it all with you in two or three installments. Here's part 1.

"I have just returned from a 12-day trip to Taipei and Taichung in Taiwan. A trip whose memory will linger in my mind for many years to come. My short but hectic stay in Taiwan opened my mind to new depths of understanding and reasoning. I had gone there at the invitation of Earth Trust and Vitlon Foundation to raise conservation awareness through two short walks, which focused attention on the plight of the rhino and other endangered species of animals. Taiwan is one of the biggest consumer nations of rhino horn in Asia. I had the opportunity to interact with thousands of Taiwanese people in an effort to informing them that the rhino is fast disappearing on the wild due to heavy poaching to satisfy the ever increasing demand for the horn in Taiwan and other nations in South-East Asia. I painfully tried to look for solutions from the Taiwanese people on how best to solve some of the most vexing and mind-boggling problems affecting the survival of this seriously endangered large mammal.

The rhino horn has weathered many a storm in those early years of evolution and is today arguable its worse curse as a result of man's greed and ignorance. The fate of these unique and magnificent animals lies in our hands.

In Taipei, I had the honor of meeting Mayor Huang Ta-Chau who participated in the walk and presented with the key to the city. He also declared November 12th rhinoceros Day. The walk drew a crowd of between 6-7 thousand people from all walks of life especially youngsters with their parents. Also present was chairman of Council of Agriculture Sun Ming-Hsien, whose council is responsible for Wildlife Conservation, Forestry as well as combating illegal rhino horn trade and products from other endangered species of wildlife. Later on I met Premier Lie Chan of the Republic of China and discussed with him the grave issue concerning the rhino horn trade in Taiwan. Prior to the walk in Taipei I had also attended another walk in Taichung accompanied by the Mayor of that City and a crowd of 1,5000 people. The news media both print and electronic covered my visit very extensively. During the course of my stay I must have reached well over 15 million people in Taiwan, thanks to the Press.

Taiwan is a highly developed island nation with a

population of about 23 million inhabitants. Taipei, the capital and also the largest city, is situated in a valley like setting surrounded in some parts by fairly rugged mountain ranges giving the city a beautiful background covered by lush green vegetation, contrasting sharply with the concrete metropolitan area. Taipei is a busy ad fast moving city dotted with thousands of small and medium range industries, making it look like a bee-hive in full production. Taiwan has advanced a great deal and is one of the wealthiest nations in the world. The price of development did not come easy nor was it cheap. Progress has been achieved at an enormous expense to the environment. There are over a million scooters and just as many vehicles plying the busy roads every day, year round. Pollution is a big problem and is noticeable even to the weary eyes. On a windless day the air is pungent and heavy smog hangs over the city which then rapidly settles down in the valley, making breathing uncomfortable. Taipei is a city fast choking itself to death with its own success.

In the next issue, read about Michael's talks with medicine men and government officials and his fears about the underground rhino trade.

RHINO BUYS

World Wildlife Fund has a verdite rhino sculpture for sale. Was \$145, now \$80. 4.5" long x 2.5" high x 1.52". Item #686697. Call 1-800-833-1600.



Introducing the prehistoric tooth fairy! If you would like to purchase your very own wooly rhino tooth, call:

Maxilla & Mandible, Ltd.
(212) 724-6173. Or write:
451-5 Columbus Ave, New York, NY 10024. Cost is \$150 (but hey, you don't need to floss!)

Cascade Toys president Dave Perry, has committed a portion of his profits to CRES. Their logo will appear on Cascade product tags which will include an educational species description for each stuffed animal. Call today for a free catalogue, 1-800-882-8087 and yes, there is a rhino (p.19). Your're terrific Dave!

NEW BOOKS

Bruno, You're Late for School!

by Kevein O'Malley. (Stewart, Tabori & Chang,
575 Broadway, NY, NY 10012) \$12.95.

Bruno is proud of his homework but as he gets ready for school, a sneeze blows it out the window. Although he gets a C+ for the homework, Brno gives himself an A+ for effort. Practically a wordless book with lots of bright colors. Great for elementary school children and rhinophiles of all ages.

Oh Look, It's a Nosserus

by Kate Noble. Illustrations by Rachel Bass. Silver
Seahorse Press 2568 N. Clark, Chicago, IL 60614. \$14.95

A young rhinoceros in an animal park hears a girl on a sightseeing truck call out, "Oh look, it's a nosserus," and the calf becomes afraid of this unseen beast not knowing it is himself. Talking to other animals only exaggerates the mistake until his friend the egret sets him straight.

Mazel tov to Francis Ripka.

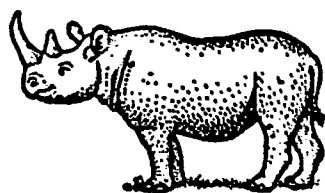
He's a proud papa to rhino baby Megan. Francis also revealed that unbeknownst to his newborn, she is the beneficiary of his rhino collection. What a dad. Hope it warms up there in Michigan for you daddy-o!

Get ready.
MAY 1 is

**SAVE THE
RHINO DAY!**

What plans do you have to celebrate and promote it? Send your ideas and any black & white photos for the next issue of *Really, Rhinos!*

Really, Rhinos!
PO Box 1285
Tucson, AZ 85702-1285



**DON'T LET
THEM
DISAPPEAR**