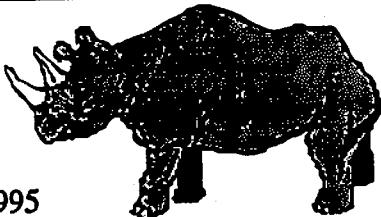


REALLY, RHINOS!



Volume 9, no. 1, 1995

Something Is Different You'll notice some changes in the newsletter because my computer crashed over Christmas and I had to start from scratch. New computer (Power Mac) and new software including 2,000 fonts I don't know what to do with! After eight years, it was time for something new anyway. Hope you like the makeover. As always, feel free to send any feedback.

Sad News A rare Sumatran rhinoceros died on Monday, February 27th at the San Diego Zoo's veterinary hospital. Tanjung, an 8-year old male, died shortly after midnight. Dr. Linda Lowenstein, Zoo pathologist, determined the cause of the rhino's death to be a twisted intestine. The 1,5000 pound Sumatran rhino, one of only four of its species in U.S. zoos, received five days of intensive care at the Zoo hospital after being found lethargic and not eating on February 22nd by zookeepers. Zoo veterinarians treated the ailing rhino with intravenous fluids, antibiotics, painkillers and mineral oil. Tanjung's mate, Barakas, died at the Zoo on Feb. 22nd after a long illness. Lab reports which analyzed tissue samples from Barakas indicate the female rhino died of chronic kidney disease. Jeff Jouett, spokesman for the Zoo, said the two rare animals, also known as red rhinos (for their red hair), were among the keepers' favorites.

Deaths of Tanjung and Barakas are a setback to the international Sumatran rhino rescue effort. Little is known of the species in the wild or in zoos. The rhinos were brought to North America after four U.S. zoos - San Diego, Los Angeles, Cincinnati and the International Wildlife Conservation Park, formerly the Bronx zoo - formed a consortium and negotiated with the Indonesian government to try to breed them in captivity. Jouett said "It is a serious setback to the Sumatran rhino breeding program and since that's a component of the overall rescue effort, the whole species is worse off for it."

Send your condolences to Jeff Jouett, San Diego Zoological Society, PO Box 551, San Diego, CA 92112-0551.

E-XCITING E-MAIL While browsing America Online, I downloaded two pages on the rhinoceros trade. You already know the bad news... About 10,000 rhinos remain in the wild. Wholesale markets in Taiwan are getting up to \$30,000 per pound for rhino horn. Most rhinos are killed in Zimbabwe and traded through Zambia. Principal consumers are China, Korea, Taiwan and Yemen. For more information on the status of rhinos and the laws protecting them, contact Traffic, USA: c/o WWF-US, 1250 245th Street, NW, Washington, DC 20037. WWF also has a Wildlife Trade Education Kit which includes slides, information and activities. Send \$47 to WWF Publications, PO Box 4866, Hampden Post Office, Baltimore, MD 21211.

WILDLIFE NOTECARDS At last! The endangered species series of 5-D notecards finally is offering a rhino. I still cannot see the rhino in the picture, with or without my glasses. If you would like to try your eyes at it, check your local bookstore or card shop or write to: Blue Mountain Arts, PO Box 4549, Boulder, CO 80306.

Happy News It's the circle of life all over again as Julia, a black rhinoceros at the Cincinnati Zoo, gave birth to a male calf, Bwana Chai (chai for life?) in December. It is the 17th black rhino born at the zoo and Julia's second.



David Western, Director of Kenya

Wildlife Service (KWS) was interviewed by Esmond Bradley Martin and Louisa Lockwood in SWARA, November/December, 1994. Here are a few excerpts...

The white rhino is privately owned here because it has been imported from southern Africa. White rhinos are hunted by sport hunters in South Africa even today. Since they are privately owned here, would that be allowed in Kenya?

No, we are specifically not allowing white rhinos to be utilised.

Certain southern African countries have recently come up with a policy of dehorning rhinos for two reasons, firstly that it will be more of a deterrent for poachers and secondly that they have control over a viable asset. Is KWS thinking of changing its policy in regard to dehorning rhinos?

No, I think the record speaks for itself; the rhino population is going up very well and the sanctuary approach has been very effective. There is no need for us to consider dehorning the rhino - our predator load is probably far greater here than in southern Africa and the evidence coming out of Namibia is that the loss of calves is significant when the mothers are dehorned. I think the risks at this point don't merit taking horns off rhinos. If we were in a last ditch effort to save the rhinos we have left we might be willing to consider it, but as we aren't at that point it isn't a consideration.

The national parks in the future are going to become closed to the migration of animals as there is a lot of development especially around Nairobi National Park. What can KWS do about that?

As long as landowners are benefiting they will regard wildlife as their second cattle. The ceiling of the tourist revenue in Kenya is restricted by our tiny national parks. When you open up tourism outside the parks, revenue will go up two or three times. Two-thirds of the present lodges are already outside the Masai Mara and that means that all those landowners, not just the private landowners, but also the group ranches, are clubbing together in wildlife associations to preserve wildlife and to benefit directly. That's where I see the future of the migration.

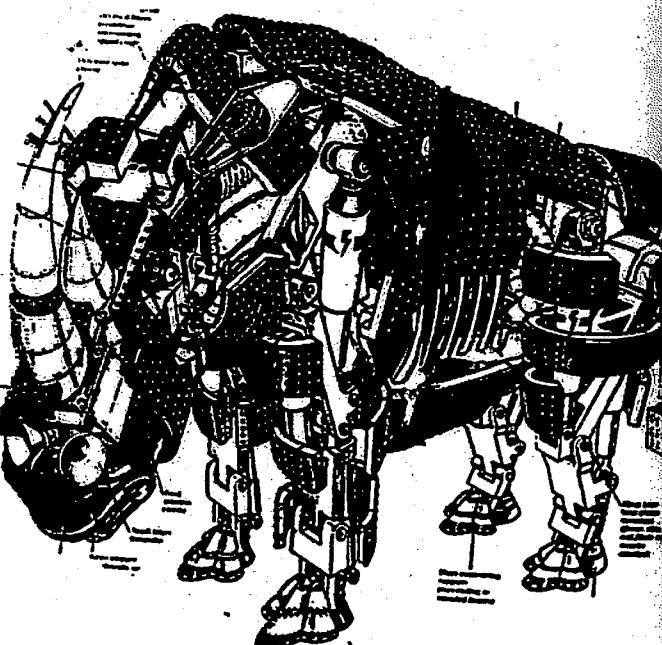
David Western replaced Richard Leakey earlier this year as director of Kenya Wildlife Service. Previous to this, he was director of Wildlife Conservation International during which time he also established and directed the Ivory Trade Review Group. KWS Headquarters, PO Box 40241, Nairobi, Kenya. Tel: 254-2-501081/604245 Fax: 254-2-505866/501752.

What do you call a rhino from a Nevada town?



A Reno-ferous! During a hot, dry spell the residents of Reno can retire to nearby Lake Tahoe for a swim. (Nevada averages less rain than any other state—only four or five inches of rain in a whole year!)

Kelly, John. *The Robot Zoo; Mechanical Guide to the Animals Work.* Turner, 1994. (\$19.95)



What are your plans for Save the Rhino Day?

(May 1st). Please send your ideas to the editor so they can be shared in the next issue. Remember, in 1996, Save the Rhino Day is on February 29th (Leap Year)

The African black rhino now numbers fewer than 2,000 in the wild.



Rick Weyerhaeuser



Big-game hunters who really care about the future.

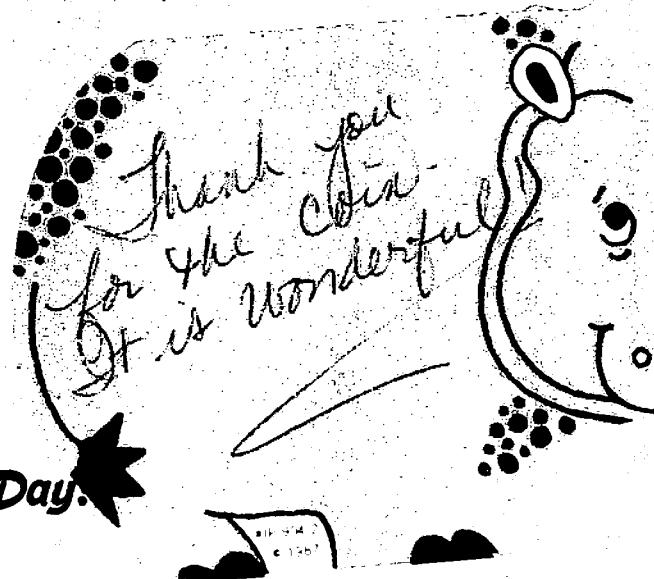
HELP! I need some of you to send me your "rhinographies" for our R H I N O P H I L I G H T S section. I hope you are as curious as I am about the variety of people who are rhinophiles. This is a great way to get to know each other. Please send me your rhino collecting history, any length, but typewritten preferably, and a few black & white photos of you and/or your collection. Include any personal information you wish. I will edit for space only. Thank you!

P.S. I'm coming to Dallas this summer. Any rhinophiles out there I can visit?

A one year subscription to *Really, Rhinos!* is \$15 (\$20 foreign) for four issues. A portion of each subscription is donated to rhino conservation projects. Send feedback or rhino sightings to: Judyth Lessee, Editor, *Really, Rhinos!*, PO Box 1285, Tucson, AZ 85702-1285. Phone: (520) 327-9048. e-MAIL: rinophyl@rtd.com.

If you find errors, please know they are printed for those who always look for them. We try to print something for everybody.

Really, Rhinos!
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Save the Rhino Day.
May 1, 1995