

REALLY, RHINOS!



Volume 9, no. 2, 1995

I Have a Dream

In the good ol' days, my want list would have been filled with material things like jewelry, electronics and other consummables. Now as I mature (notice I didn't say age), my want list is small and filled with more intangible desires. At the top of this short list is a lifelong and lifetime goal: I want to visit every rhino there is around the world before I die. That means zoos, game reserves, wildlife parks, private ranches, and if I am incredibly lucky, rhinos in the wild.

To this end, I need to find a recent list of where rhinos are in captivity. Who has a stud book or other source which can be shared?

Ultimately, I would like to put together a book about my adventures. Are you listening, National Geographic?

I feel very fortunate to have some many rhino contacts like you, dear rhino readers. I hope that when I make it to the rhino nearest you, I can meet you and share the joy of reaching my goal.

Does anyone have similar rhino wishes and dreams? I would love to hear yours and with your permission, share them with our subscribers.

STOP THE PRESSES!!! IT'S A BOY!

The following news release was sent by The Rhino Trust...

The long-awaited day has arrived. A note from Anna (April 24th) informed me that on April 11, 1995 Samia - the rhino that she raised from three days old, gave birth to a baby boy. The 35-kilo wonder is named Samuel. Samia is a successful mom. As she was hand-raised and therefore imprinted on Anna as her mother, the fear was that she'd "bring her baby home" to her to raise. But according to Anna, "so far so good, she is nursing him and he looks strong and good."

The fear now, however, is the large number of elephants who have flooded Lewa, causing the most unbelievable damage, not to mention Samuel's father, who had a bad fight with another rhino and his son. The health and safety of every rhino calf born at the Lewa Wildlife Conservancy and elsewhere is of great concern, but we all wish the best for the son of this completely hand-raised rhino mother. What Anna did in raising the abandoned Samia is remarkable, and obviously has led to the birth of another baby of this highly endangered species. She always is to be highly commended for her efforts, but the sight of this little one must fill her with great joy and personal satisfaction!

For those of you who have joined The Rhino Trust or who have donated to Anna and the reserve, a huge THANK YOU! Your dollars have all gone directly to Kenya to help not only protect rhinos and maintain a safe haven for them, but to assist in providing a future for their precious offspring.

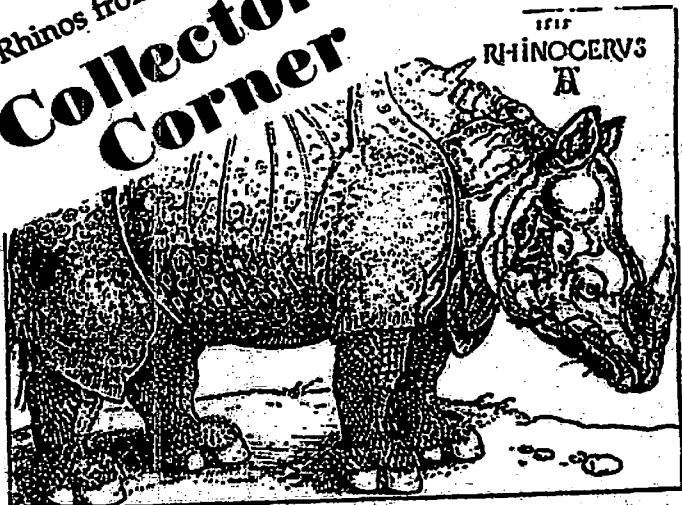
For those of you who have not yet had the opportunity to donate, please consider doing so now. Financial support for Lewa is more important than ever before. Protection of Samuel and all babies born at the reserve will help to ensure the future of black rhinos in their native homes.

Send your donation to The Rhino Trust, 4045 N. Massachusetts, Portland, OR 97227.

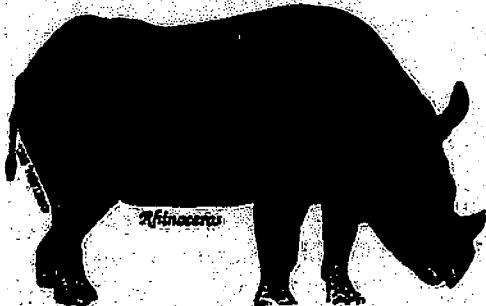


To purchase a copy of Anna Merz's book, *Rhino At the Brink of Extinction*, send \$22.50 (check or money order) to Ngare Sergoi Support Group, PO Box 29503, Columbus, OH 43229.

Rhinos from the
**Collector's
Corner**



Did you want a new rhino? Big, heavy, clay with woodash finish. Very accurate replica of the 15th c. original. For this one-of-a-kind-rhino, write to Ken McDonald, PO Box 158, Dixon, NM 87527.



Do you have a scummy yellow rectangle lurking in your kitchen? Toss it away! Get a PUFF-UP rhino SPONGE instead. Drop it in water and watch it grow into a colorful ally in the war against grime! A trusty partner down the dusty road of life! (No kidding, that's what the copy says.) Write to RELISH, PO Box 335, Brookline, MA 02146.

CD-ROMS...

Last Chance to See shows animals on the verge of extinction. Over 6 hours of audio, over 700 high quality color photos. Available for MAC and Windows. (\$34.95). Call EduCorp (1-800-843-9497)

Africa (Scavenger Hunt Adventure Series) is an interactive adventure where you shoot (photograph) animals. There are six different types of puzzles with 130 animated sequences, 16 different Virtual Landscapes plus more. You can also print coloring pictures. It's fun but not as easy as it looks! Write or call Davidson & Associates, Inc. 2418 MacArthur Blvd, Ste 610, Newport Beach, CA 92660-5227. (310) 793-0620.

HOW DID YOU CELEBRATE SAVE THE RHINO DAY? Leslie Friend of Kirkland, Washington put a lot of effort and creativity into it. Last year she brought in a banner, magazines and a few figurines for display and also made rhino cookies. It was so well received she planned something even bigger this year. Leslie distributed a picture of a black rhino to all of the employees with children or grandchildren at her workplace. She sponsored a coloring celebration in which each child received a ribbon and wooden rhino puzzle. All entries were displayed on May 1st. More pictures, news articles, books and magazines were displayed and of course, more rhino cookies. For next year, Leslie is already thinking about doing a multimedia presentation. Three cheers to Leslie Friend, a true "rhinoluvr" as her mailing label now states. You can write to Leslie at PO Box 3314, Kirkland, WA 98083-3314.

RHINO HUMOR (kinda, sorta)

Adam and Eve were naming the animals of the earth, when along came a rhinoceros.

Adam said, "What shall we call this one?"

"Let's call it a rhinoceros," suggested Eve.

"Why?" asked Adam.

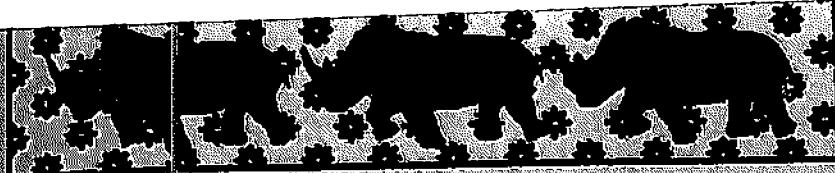
"Well," said Eve, "it looks more like a rhinoceros than anything else we've seen."

(Thank or blame Beth Daly for this one!)

And in our next issue...



**RHINOS IN SAN JOSE?
CHECK 'EM OUT**



The Rhinoceros in Maribeth's Living Room (or How to Deal with Unlovely Things)

by Katherine Phelps

Copyright 26 August 1994

Maribeth and Josie had lunch one day at the zoo cafe. Josie was speculating on getting a free look at some of the animals on their way out, when Maribeth remarked that the only animal you can see between the cafe and the front gate was the rhinoceros and they are such ugly creatures anyway, she preferred just to ignore it. Unfortunately for Maribeth, the rhinoceros heard her remark and took offense.

That evening when Josie took Maribeth home in their carpool, they found the rhinoceros in Maribeth's living room. "Maribeth," gasped Josie, "There's a rhinoceros in your living room." "No there's not," shot back Maribeth in her horror, and proceeded to convince her friend that she was tired and must be seeing things. After all, why would she have such a horrible monstrosity as a rhinoceros in her house? Then Maribeth chose to pretend the rhinoceros wasn't there herself, hoping it would go away by the morning.

The sun set and the moon rose and the stars twinkled all night. And when the sun rose the next morning, its light fell upon the rhinoceros still sitting in the middle of Maribeth's living room. Maribeth was beside herself, but she wasn't about to be done in by that beast. "I refuse to accept that a rhinoceros has taken up residence in my home," she said. So Maribeth continued to pretend the rhino was not there. This might have worked if she lived a lonely life, but Maribeth was something of a social butterfly.

At first Maribeth's co-workers tended to agree with her, that Josie was just tired and seeing things. However, when Dixie saw the rhino while dropping by a borrowed video and Pete saw it when he picked Maribeth up for a party, it became the talk of the office and simply all of her friends. Maribeth staunchly refused to admit that there was anything to these people's wild imaginings. This became a source of great amusement. "Hey, Maribeth, Is there a rhinoceros in your house?" "No!" Maribeth would reply to gales of laughter. Soon people from throughout Maribeth's town were slowly driving past her place in order to get a peek at the rhinoceros through the windows.

The last straw came when Maribeth found rhino footprints in her butter and her bottle of cherry red fingernail polish was empty because the creature had used it to paint its toes. "You horrible, horrible monster!" she came screaming out of the bathroom. She pounded on it as hard as she could with her fists and kicked it a few times. "Why are you ruining my life so?" It was the first time Maribeth had acknowledged its existence. The rhinoceros turned its head and looked deeply into Maribeth's eyes. "I do nothing that ruins your life. You ruin it yourself," said the rhinoceros in its thick syrupy voice.

Maribeth was livid. She threw her clothes on and stomped off to work. That night she began a program of trying to get rid of the rhinoceros. Some evenings she would try pushing the animal out. Other evenings she would try pulling it out. On the weekends she would get more creative and try luring it out with various rhino delicacies, but to no avail. She no longer saw her friends because she was too busy worrying about the rhinoceros, and besides she couldn't stand to hear anyone mention it. Nevertheless, no matter how much she tried nothing could budge the rhinoceros from her living room.

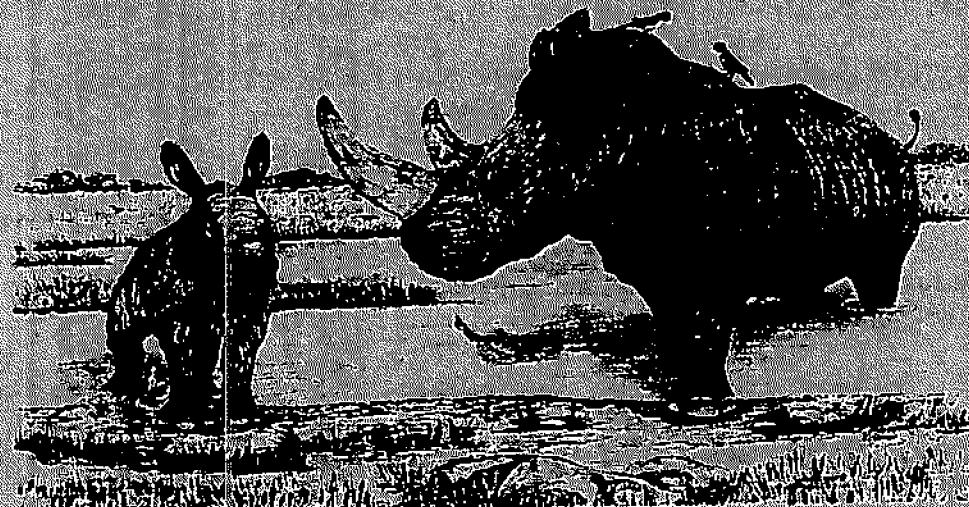
As summer green turned to autumn gold and the autumn gold turned again to the crystalline white of winter, Maribeth had given up on trying to either ignore or move the rhinoceros. Some nights she would share her popcorn with it while watching a video. Upon particularly cold evenings she would cuddle up next to it with a book in one hand and a cup of cocoa in the other. And once in a while when she had had a bad day, she would cry into the rhinoceros' rough hide and tell it all of her troubles. She got used to the creature. She found that it was nice having something to come home to. Once the rhinoceros no longer bothered her she started making friends again, and she always liked these friends better than any she had before. However, no matter how much Maribeth socialised, she always made sure to leave some time each week to spend with her rhino.

Then, one day in spring, she came home and the rhinoceros was gone.

"LOVING TOUCH" (Indian Rhino mother and baby)



"PROUD MAMA" (White Rhino mother and baby)



"CHOW TIME" (Black Rhino mother and baby)



NEW RELEASES!

Animal artist, **Roxana Quinnell**, has just released three S/N Limited Edition reproductions now available on 100% acid-free high quality paper. Each print is individually hand colored and signed and numbered by the artist. These may be purchased as print only or custom double matted frame ready size 13x20. Sheet size is 13x20 with image size 9x16. Total edition size of each of the three prints is limited to 100.

For more information contact the artist at:

Q-Pix Studio

Roxana Quinnell
5775 Shadow Hills Road
Las Cruces, NM 88012-9534
(505) 382-3232

R H I N O R E A D I N G

MORE ON NGARE SERGOI

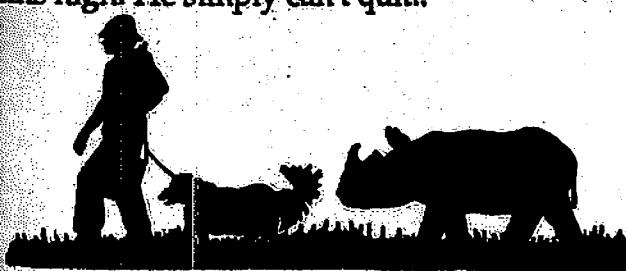
(An evening with Andy Lodge)

I was fortunate to hear Andy Lodge speak at the Reid Park Zoo in Tucson last month. Andy was a zookeeper at the Columbus Zoo (right, Andy?) and now works almost exclusively raising money, awareness and probably fenceposts for Ngare Sergoi Sanctuary. Andy gave an eloquent yet emphatic presentation about the plight of the world's remaining African rhinos...

Over 90 square miles of fencing at Ngare Sergoi have been donated by the American Association of Zookeepers through their Bowling for Rhinos efforts. [More about this event in the next issue]. The fencing is a prototype, model program which can tell within 2 km if there's a cut in the fence. Because rhinos are so scarce, they are more valuable than gold. According to Andy, the remaining rhinos in the wild are: 17700 (black), 47 (Javan), 300 (Sumatran) and 5000 (white). Somalis are killing most of the African wildlife there. Three poachers have been caught. The rhinos are protected by 64 guards 24 hours a day. There have been 14 births since 1986 and only 2 deaths. The sanctuary is so successful that people from Sumatra came to see how Anna Merz built her reserve.

On the downside, China and Taiwan continue to ignore the CITES agreement. Andy encourages us all to press Congress to do something about it.

If the rhinos are to survive, Andy believes it needs to be in Africa and not in Texas. As more people become aware of the situation, Andy's optimism remains high. He simply can't quit..



POLLY WANT AN ANIMAL CRACKER?

Nabisco has introduced the Endangered Animal Crackers and yes there is a rhino. Five cents will be donated to World Wildlife Fund for every box sold (up to \$100,000). So eat up me hearties, but please save the rhinos!

Bonner, Raymond. *At The Hand of Man; Perils and Hope for Africa's Wildlife*. Knopf, 1993. 322pp. \$24.

In this well-researched book, Bonner suggests that to preserve Africa's wildlife heritage, we need to "care about the people as much as we care about the wildlife. Both are in the hands of man."

Consider this passage on the last page:

Elephants and rhino, lions and leopards, are not like whales living in international waters. For the most part, these land animals live within the borders of a specific country. why don't these natural resources therefore belong to that country, just as copper, coal and oil belong to a country? Do we have more right to tell the Zimbabweans what to do with their elephants than we do to tell Saudi Arabia what to do with its oil? It is surely more noble to argue for saving elephants than for conserving oil.

Kunkel, Reinhard. *Ngorongoro*. HarperCollins, 1992. 320pp. \$75.

Two and a half million years ago, in what is today northern Tanzania, the top blew off a gigantic volcanic mountain leaving behind one of the biggest craters in the world. Protected by towering lava walls, nurtured by a cloud forest, which feeds the water it collects to the plains below, the Ngorongoro Crater is unrivaled in the richness and diversity of its animal and plant life. Reinhard Kunkel set out to prove with his camera, that Ngorongoro is the 8th wonder of the world. The book is a passionate plea for readers to reflect upon the future of the planet shared by so many species, but which humankind alone has the power to destroy and the responsibility to preserve.

If you do not have a coffee table run out immediately and buy one so you can have this sumptuous book to put on it. You might also be fortunate enough to find it at a remainder sale. (I did!) More than 30 BIG color photos of rhinos!!!!

RHINO

The rhino wears a prominent horn
And relishes dry shrub and thorn.
He has a prehistoric savor,
Prehensile mouth and unreal flavor.
His only friend, the tickbird, picks
His rough thick hide for burrs and ticks.
Though rhinos do not look too well
I hear they run like the gazelle.
Courageously they charge a train
And neither is the same again.
Irascible and very snappy,
Mudwallows make them faintly happy.
I would love to watch a herd,
Each rhino with his little bird.

Katherine Saunders

Mo Chih Chu

"Moving Straight Ahead Without Hesitation"



Be Decisive

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

RHINOPHILIGHTS

Meet Beth Daly*, a rhinophile for more than 15 years. Beth lives in Iowa City, Iowa. She has about 200 rhinos on display in her living room plus a box in the attic and various rhinos scattered about. We're talking rhino bubble bath, mineral water, soap, puppets, wind-ups, slippers, magnets, coasters, Pez(!), Leggo, earrings and a rocking ceramic wicker rhino bank. Her favorite rhino is the stretch rhino salt & pepper shaker - the pepper comes out of the tail.

Beth tries not to let rhinos dominate her life. She gets most of her rhinos as gifts from zoos, gift shops or garage sales. In her "real life" she works at the Iowa City Public Library as an office assistant. She also sings in the church choir and takes step aerobics. Beth's husband Dan combs the garage sales for rhinos. Her 8 year old daughter Megan collects zebras and her 5 year old son Tom wants to collect rhinos too.

No rhinos at the Des Moines or Cedar Rapids zoos but if you're in the 'hood, look up Beth, visit her collection and receive some famous Midwest hospitality.

Contact Beth c/o Iowa City Public Library, 123 S. Linn St, Iowa City, IA 52240. (319) 356-5206.

*Beth sent me a photo but I couldn't scan and print it. Sorry, Beth!

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 everyone.