GESKEIDKUNDIGE RENOSTERVRYLATING

HISTORIC RHINO RELEASE

DEUR/BY

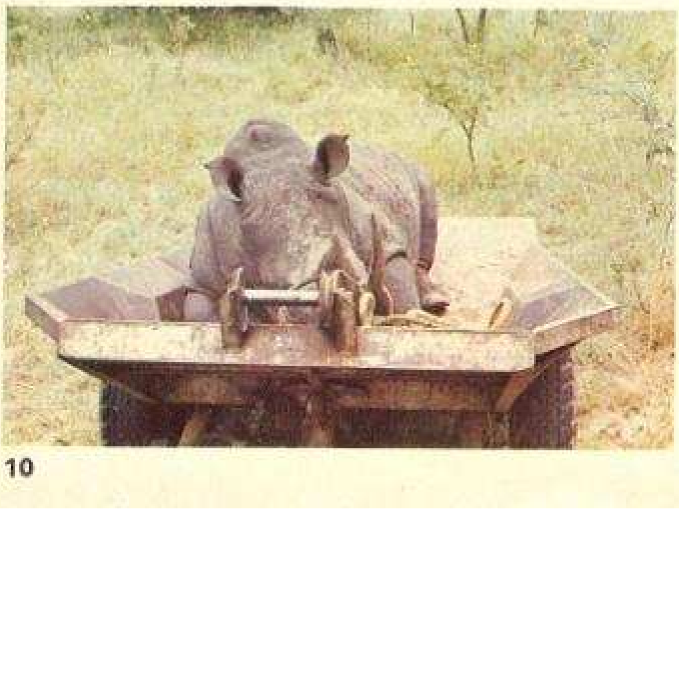
G. L. SMUTS

NAVORSINGSBEAMPTE, SKUKUZA
NASIONALE KRUGERWILDTUIN

RESEARCH OFFICER, SKUKUZA
KRUGER NATIONAL PARK

Folozi, wat twaalf jaar in die renosterteelkamp by Faai naby Pretoriuskop deurgebring het, klim op die bak van die sleepwa waarmee hy na vryheid geneem word. Op hierdie tydstip was hy nog onder verdowing. Die pyl waarmee hy geskiet is, kan direk langs sy stert gesien word.

Folozi, who had spent 12 years in the rhino breeding enclosure at Faai near Pretoriuskop, steps onto the back of the trailer which transported him to freedom. At this stage he was under sedation. The dart with which he was shot can be seen just next to his tail.



Bo-op die sleepwa is Folozi nog meer van die immobiliseermiddel toegedien, waarna hy gaan lê het (3) en gevolglik kon hy met veiligheid vervoer word.

Once on top of the trailer, Folozi was given an additional amount of the immobilizing drug. He then lay down (3) and could thus be safely transported.

OP 24 Februarie 1973 is die eerste diere wat in die Krugerwildtuin in 'n kamp gebore is uit die Faairenosterkamp naby Pretoriuskop losgelaat. Hulle was deel van 'n groep van vyf renosterbulle. Die ander twee bulle is in 1961 vanaf die Umfoloziwildreservaat in Natal na die Krugerwildtuin oorgeplaas.

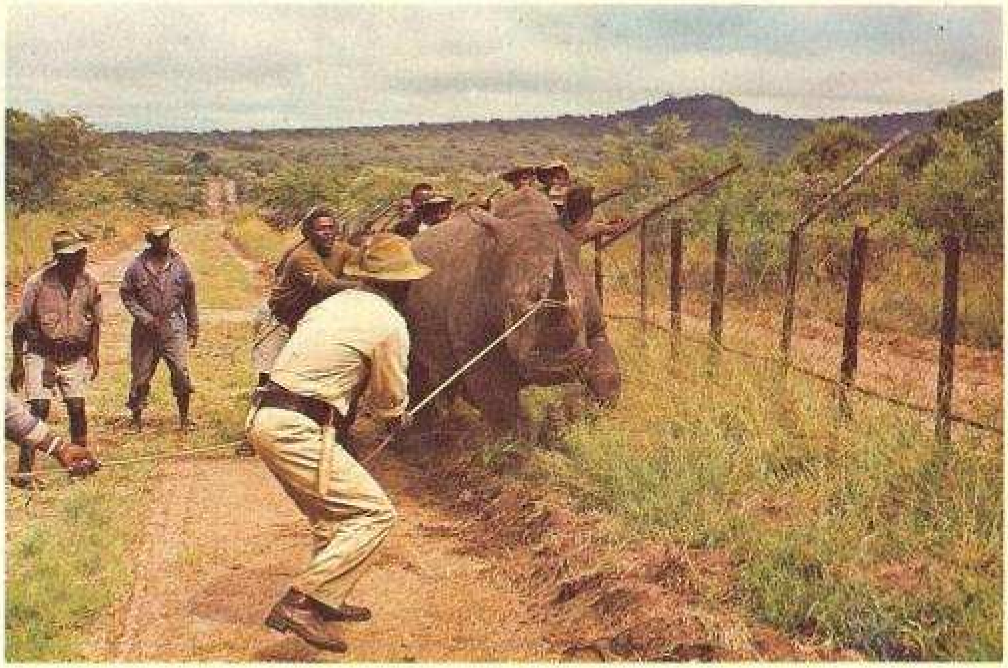
In baie opsigte was dit 'n geskiedkundige gebeurtenis. Die twee oudste bulle in die groep (Folozi en Charlie) het oorspronklik tot 'n groep van vier renosters (twee bulle en twee koeie) behoort, wat sedert 88 jaar gelede die eerste witrenosters in Oos-Transvaal was, want die laaste witrenosters in Trans-

ON 24 February 1973 the first animals to be born in an enclosure in the Kruger National Park were released from the Faai rhino enclosure near Pretoriuskop. They were part of a group of five rhino bulls. The other two bulls had been translocated to the Kruger National Park from the Umfolozi Game Reserve in Natal during 1961.

This was an historic occasion in many respects. The two oldest bulls in the group (Folozi and Charlie) were originally part of a group of four rhinos (two bulls and two cows) which were the first white rhinos to be seen in the Eastern Transvaal after a lapse of 88 years. It is today believed that the last

'n Geïmmobiliseerde witrenoster word na die renosterkamp naby Pretoriuskop in die Krugerwildtuin geneem. Die vyf renosters is net buite die hek van die kamp losgelaat.

An immobilized white rhino being transported out of the rhino enclosure near Pretoriuskop in the Kruger Park. The five rhinos were released just outside the gate of the camp.



Dié renoster is nie heeltemal geïmmobilisseer vir die vervoer nie, want nadat hy gekalmeer is, kon hy gedwing word om die kamp te verlaat. 'n Tou is aan sy tweede horing vasgemaak waaraan van die werkers hom van voor getrek het, terwyl andere hom van agteraf aangemoedig het.

This rhino was not completely immobilized for transport, for once he had been tranquilized, he could be induced to leave the enclosure. A rope was attached to his anterior horn and while some workers tugged from the front, others encouraged him from the rear.

vaal het in 1873 uitgesterf. Die jagter-natuurkundige, Vaughan Kirby, het die laaste lewende witrenosters by die Nwatimihiri-bos op die suidelike oewer van die Sabierivier in die Kruger-wildtuin gesien.

Die ander drie bulle (Numbi, Shabeni en Stungwane) is ál drie in die Faairenosterkamp gebore. Ten tye van die loslating was Numbi, die oudste, sewe jaar oud. Hy was ook die eerste renoster wat die kamp verlaat het.

Sedert hul loslating in Februarie het hierdie vyf witrenosters wat met gekleurde oormerkers gemerk is, in die Wildtuin versprei en klaarblyklik gaan dit baie goed met hulle. □

white rhino in the Transvaal died during 1873. The last living specimens of the species were recorded by the hunter-naturalist Vaughan Kirby from the Nwatimihiri bush along the southern bank of the Sabie River in the Kruger Park.

The other three bulls (Numbi, Shabeni and Stungwane) were all born in the Faai rhino enclosure. Numbi, the oldest, was seven years old at the time of his release and was also the first rhino to leave the enclosure.

Since their release in February, these five white rhinos, which were marked with coloured ear-tags, have dispersed into the Park and appear to be faring extremely well. □

Buitekant die kamp is die renosters 'n teenmiddel toegedien, wat hulle natuurlike koördinasie herstel het sodat hulle heeltemal normaal was toe hulle weggeloop het. Mnr. Thys Mostert, Pretoriuskop-afdeling se bewaarder, staan aan die ander kant van die renoster met die skrywer en van die Bantoes wat gehelp het agter hom. Die welsyn van die witrenosters van Pretoriuskop lê vir mnr. Mostert na aan die hart.

Once outside the camp the rhinos were given an antidote which restored their natural co-ordination and allowed them to move off, quite normal again. Mr. Thys Mostert, ranger of the Pretoriuskop division, can be seen on the far side of the rhino. Behind him is the author and some of the Bantu who helped with the operation. Mr. Mostert has been intimately involved with the well-being of the Pretoriuskop white rhino population.