

Riverbanks Zoological Park, Columbia, USA

Births and acquisitions January to April 1987 were: Births: 0.2 Polar bears, 1.0.1 golden lion tamarin, 1 dusky titi, 1 white faced saki, 2 black howler monkey, 1 DeBrazza monkey, 1.1 lion-tailed macaque (DNS), 2 Indian giant fruit bats, 0.2 dama gazelle (0.1 DNS), 0.1 suni (DNS), 0.1 gemsbok (DNS), 1.1 clouded leopard (1.0 DNS).

Acquisitions: 0.2 Hoffman's sloth, 0.1 Bennett's wallaby.

St Louis Zoo, Missouri, USA

Betsy, the black rhino (*Diceros bicornis*) on loan from the Detroit Zoo, gave birth to a female offspring who weighed an estimated 75 pounds on November 6, 1986.

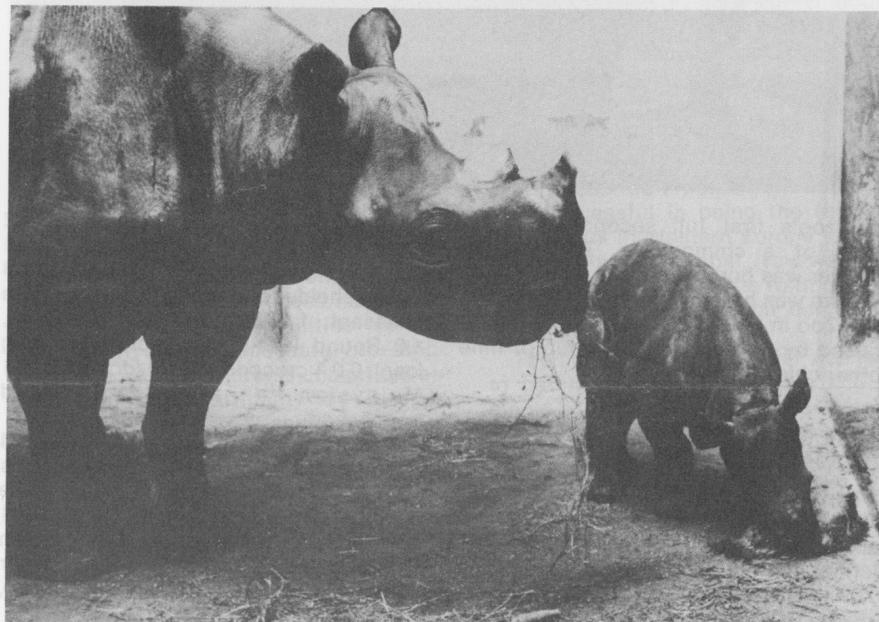
That birth raised the number of the North American captive population of rhinos in this species to 69. Over half the rhinos in the USA have been born in captivity.

Betsy's pregnancy was carefully orchestrated by the Zoo management here

in cooperation with those in charge at the Detroit Zoo. The two zoos, participating in the Species Survival Plan for this endangered species sponsored by the American Association of Zoological Parks and Aquariums (AAZPA), arranged for Betsy to be shipped to St Louis for mating with Toto, a willing male.

The St Louis Zoo is focusing intensive research on black rhino propagation. In accordance with this policy, several members of the St Louis Zoo staff, including Director Charles Hoessle and Associate Veterinarian Eric Miller, participated recently in an international conference to establish an overall conservation programme for the preservation of African rhinos. This meeting, held last October in Cincinnati, was sponsored by AAZPA.

At this conclave, it was agreed to focus on controlling and reducing trade in rhino horns, much in demand for daggers in Arabia and for medications in the Orient. Merciless hunting for this thick-skinned, nearsighted giant has reduced the estimated African population from 65,000 animals in 1970 to 4,000 or fewer today.



In Kenya alone the black rhino population has dropped precipitously, from 18,000 in 1970 to 377 currently. To deal with the crisis, the Kenyan government "has adopted a drastic, last ditch strategy to save the black rhinoceros from poachers," according to Erik P. Eckholm of *The New York Times*. According to Bruce Read, curator of large mammals, "Our biggest problem will be to teach the baby to become confident enough to move from indoors to outdoors and back again. That's difficult, because once she's outside she may not want to return to her cage at night, unless her mother does, too, and we aren't sure Betsy will oblige. We can try persuasion, but that may not work. We may also prod her a bit, but it's tough to convince a creature that weighs a ton and a half to move if she's not so inclined."

Both mother and baby are now on view at the Zoo.

Births and hatchings during May 1987 were: 1 wallaroo, 1 squirrel monkey, 1 Prevost's squirrel, 1.1 fennec fox, 1 slender-tailed meerkat, 0.1 Chapman's zebra, 1 hippopotamus, 1.0 addax, 0.1 scimitar-horned oryx, 2.0 topi, 0.1 Grant's gazelle, 1.0 Thompson's gazelle, 2 crested screamer, 1 scarlet ibis, 9 red bill tree duck, 9 Eytos's tree duck, 3.5 ringed teal, 2 mandarin, 7 hooded merganser, 1 Inca tern, 1 crested quail dove, 1 Bartlett's bleeding heart dove, 1 squatter pigeon, 1 great crowned pigeon, 1 demoiselle crane, 1 roul-roul, 2 hawk-head parrot, 10 painted conure, 3 Guam kingfisher, 3 pagoda mynah, 3 West African fat-tailed gecko, 2 African banded gecko.

Received: 1.0 golden lion tamarin, 0.1 bongo, 1.0 Speke's gazelle, 1 little green heron, 0.1 white stork, 1.2 mute swan, 0.1 double-striped thick-knee, 6 emperor scorpion, 3 box turtle, 1 panamanium milk snake, 3 rhino viper.

San Antonio Zoological Gardens, Texas, USA

Births and hatchings during April 1987 were: 1 ring-tailed lemur, 0.1 African hedgehog, 2.0 aardwolf, 0.1 addax, 0.1 gemsbok, 0.2 Jackson's hartebeest, 1.0 Thomson's gazelle, 0.1 aoudad, 2 red bill tree duck, 4 coscoroba, 1 Moluccan radjah shelduck, 1 Australian shelduck, 15 mallard, 7 chestnut teal, 9 rosybill pochard, 4 mandarin, 13 North American wood duck, 5 common goldeneye, 4 hooded merganser, 3 North American ruddy duck, 1 Andean condor, 2 demoiselle crane, 1 roul-roul, 5 spurwing plover, 1 diamond dove, 1 Bartlett's bleeding heart dove, 1 common crowned pigeon, 1 Guam kingfisher, 3 lilac-breasted roller, 4 society finch, 4 red billed buffalo weaver, 2 superb starling, 1 Stella's lory.

Received: 1.0 Temminck's golden cat, 0.1 capybara, 1.0 blesbok, 1.0 blackbuck, 2 red bill tree duck, 1.1 Argentine red shoveler, 2.2 pink neck fruit dove, 1 blue and gold macaw, 3 sun conure, 2.2 rosy-ring parakeet, 1.1 grey-headed kingfisher, 1.0 bluebill finch, 2 Texas horned lizard, 1.0 green iguana, 1.0 Texas tortoise.

San Diego Zoo, USA

Goalpara, an Indian one-horned rhinoceros, was born on May 28th at the San Diego Wild Animal Park. The female rhino and her mother are doing well in a special maternity structure located in the Wild Animal Park's Asian Plains exhibit. Keepers determined the newborn's weight to be 150 lbs. (68 kilograms), and Park veterinarians James Oosterhuis and Jack Allen gave her a quick examination and clean bill of health.

Goalpara, named for a town in Assam, is the seventh Indian rhino born at the Wild Animal Park. Her mother is Gainta, born at the Park in 1978. Father is Lasai, a 25-year-old rhino born at the Basel Zoo in Switzerland.

Taronga Zoo, Sydney, Australia

Minnie, a Central American spider monkey, came to Taronga from a zoo in the USA in 1950 when she was 5 years old. Now at the ripe old age of 42, Minnie has well and truly outlived previous longevity records which show spider monkeys live to approximately 20 years.