

WILD LIFE

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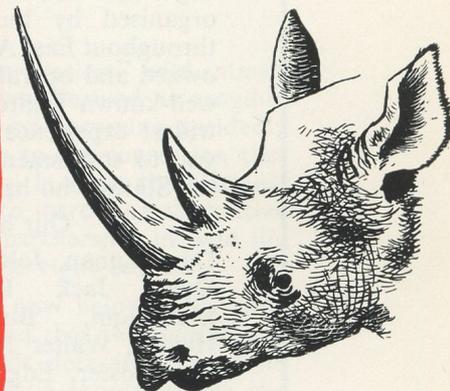
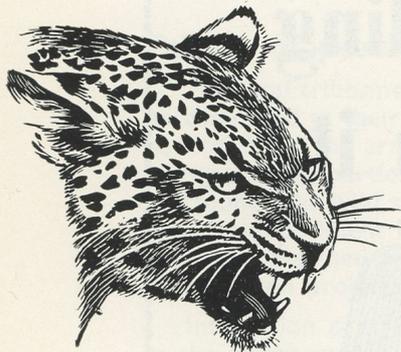
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CONTENTS

The New Game Policy for Kenya	7
Lake Nakuru becomes a bird sanctuary	13
Bongo Reserve saved	16
Letters to the Editor	20
The drought kills game	22
Book Reviews	24
Flamingo Census—another viewpoint	25
Why shouldn't they go?	27
Congoland—the right answer?..	31
Death of Cora, the rhino film star	33
Children's Section	34
Re-organisation of Kenya Wild Life Society	41
More trouble at Ngorongoro	44
Lake Manyara Conference	46
Identification: small antelopes	49



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For Society Officers and Council Members
see page 12.

SENSELESS ATROCITY

RHINO FILM STAR SLAUGHTERED BY POACHERS

CORA, the rhino film star, is dead—murdered apparently for the horns which fiction says carry a medicinal property! What an end to an animal who, by her unique characteristics, has given so much amusement to so many visitors to Bushwhackers Guest Camp, not to mention the employment that, due to her being there, has been created for the local tribesmen.

Cora, and her calf Sally (now in the San Diego Zoo, California) were captured at Bushwhackers, Kibwezi, on the 26th February, 1952, nine years almost to the day of her death. Her capture was a result of a number of experiments in humane capture which were designed to test whether it was possible to capture rhino by means other than that of chasing and roping. The fact that Cora brought her calf into the boma where the capture was made (and was followed by another rhino cow which calved in captivity) was ample proof that this could be done.

Taming the leviathan

Having captured Cora, we then set about taming her for export, but this turned out to be a larger order than we had anticipated. The usual rhino is tame enough to come when called, feed from one's hand, and allow itself to be scratched, a week or two after capture. On the evening before her death Cora did a full charge through a tent that had been put up for filming in connection with the film then being shot, which is most appropriately known as "The Last Rhino".

Her first film was "Mogambo" for M.G.M., and this was followed by "Safari", "Odongo", "Operation Africa", and many T.V. shows. In all of them, Cora was let into an arena which adjoined her boma which was in fact a piece of Africa, and on arrival there she looked around to see what was new, and promptly knocked it



Cora would always oblige by knocking over anything new in her boma—a happy propensity for film-making. Here she is seen at her usual stunt.

down. There must too, be countless pictures of Cora throughout the world taken by amateur photographers who, by climbing trees, have succeeded in producing a very life-like production of a wild rhino trying to reach them as they hung over her head!

Cora's very nature made her unique, and it is my belief that a rhino willing and able to charge after nine year's captivity has not previously been captured.

Naturally she had another side seen only by my wife and myself when she called to us with the soft sound that is a combination of a hiss and a purr that rhinos use to their best friends, and took lucerne or sugar cane from our hands. Perhaps one of the saddest parts of the whole thing is that we had decided, and arrangements were under way, to release Cora into the National Parks after the completion of her present film commitments.

We, and in a different way, our guests at Bushwhackers, have indeed lost a friend, and our only hope is that her death may induce further efforts to stop the senseless destroying of that prehistoric, unique, and comparatively harmless animal, the rhino, before it is too late.

SOCIETY OFFICES

With effect from the 1st. February 1961 the offices of the Society are in ST. GEORGE'S HOUSE, Connaught Road, Nairobi (opposite the Donovan Maule theatre). The Post Box Number and Telephone Number remain the same.