

the new instalment by about R10!

Two days later the managing director of a leading building society appeared on television and told bond holders to visit a branch of his particular society and it would do its "best" to help them. Having been I can say, fellow bond holders, do not waste your time; just pay up and smile.

MIDDLETON,
Fynmland.

ATTENTION FORMER RHODESIANS

THE International Directory of Rhodesians Worldwide is trying to establish and maintain a comprehensive list of Rhodesians throughout the world. This will enable all Rhodesians to make contact with lost friends and relatives.

The basic plan is that Rhodesians will obtain free 20-word entries in the directory. These will be listed alphabetically. Later it is hoped the directory will become the *Who's Who* of Rhodesia. The deadline for the free entries is June 1, 1989.

The information needed includes names, titles, postal address, telephone number, family and Rhodesian details. We are prepared to publish the names without the addresses if the people so wish, but feel that it would be sad because we receive so many requests from people trying to trace lost friends.

Copies of the *International Directory Of Rhodesians Worldwide* will be available only to subscribers at a special pre-publication price of £4.95 a copy. The directory will not be on sale to the general public.

The address to send your details to is Newton Publishers, Hartfield Road, P.O. Box 36, Edenbridge, Kent TN8 7JW.

A. J. ROBERTS,
Kent.

●R5 WINNER● RHINO-HORN FACTS TWISTED

WITH reference to your article SA's *Rhino Horn Shame*, I would like to straighten the facts.

I captured, moved and re-established some 140 black rhino in Zimbabwe during 24 years in that country's National Park service. My university thesis was on the black rhino. And in 1987 I acted as a consultant to a British film company in Zambia during the filming of a documentary

on rhino poaching in that country. I spoke to captured poachers and game department officials in Zambia. I also know Dr Esmond Bradley Martin, the IUCN's expert on rhino horn trade.

I fail to understand why prominent conservationists such as Dr John Ledger and Mr Clive Walker continue to quote the retail prices of rhino horn (up to \$900 a kilogram) when they know that these prices are not available to the poachers. Furthermore, in Zambia the poachers do not run around in four wheel drives but on their bare feet.

Poverty, and not greed, is the principal motivating factor behind Central Africa's rhino and elephant poaching, coupled with a lethargic law enforcement effort and the involvement of corrupt government officials at a high level. In Zambia a pair of rhino horns can be purchased for as little as R50 to R60 from poachers in the field. To them this represents two month's salary, and this is a lot especially when there is little chance of their finding jobs in this area. The middleman, of course, will make about a 9 000 percent profit. But the poachers are not being coerced into killing rhino and elephant, they do so in order to survive.

The South African scenario is quite different. And because practically all South African black rhino populations are expanding the species cannot be considered endangered in this country — despite the apparent potential threat.

This continent's wildlife problems will not be solved as long as people continue to distort the facts. It is the real causes of Africa's poaching problem that need to be addressed — and in this respect it should be understood that the bolstering of the symptoms, by fabricating scenarios and implying an inflated wholesale price that does not exist, will only steer our energies away from the real solutions. At the same time it should be realised that in many Southern African countries the causes will not go away.

Ian Parker, in his fine book *Ivory Crisis*, accuses conservationists — from the IUCN down to the privately funded public organisations — of "creating their own crises" in order to obtain funds or to generate support for pet research projects. Our wildlife

is far too precious for society to condone such machinations. Africa has a poaching crisis of immense proportions on its hands.

RON THOMSON,
Gillitts.

HEAR! HEAR!

A reader's letter regarding the reluctance of the general public to help people in trouble heralded a "hear, hear" from my husband and myself. We were touring by motorcycle and had just arrived in Ladybrand. Looking for somewhere to stop to have a meal, we drove slowly down the main street. We slowed to do a U-turn and our engine stalled. Slowly we fell over until there we lay, sprawled in the main street with our powerful 1000cc bike packed with all our luggage on top of us. Passers-by stood staring at us, and shop doorways were suddenly packed with gaping spectators, but not a soul offered us any assistance. We had to get up, dust ourselves off and lift that powerful bike all on our own. Our elbows were skinned and the next day a few bruises appeared. Otherwise we were fine.

Talk about being totally disillusioned with the reputed friendliness of country folk...

MID-LIFE BIKER,
Thornton.

SO SOAP-THANKFUL

THANK you, kind reader, for the parcel of Life-Buoy soap which I recently received. I was amazed when I opened the parcel to find a cake of the soap which I have not seen for four or five years. I am very grateful for your concern.

J. BARTLETT,
Kokstad.

WINNERS! WINNERS! WINNERS!

THE winners of a Tissot watch each in the Stars Of '88 competition are Mrs W.H. Tyson of Kempton Park, Mr Frank Hattingh of Florida North, Mrs H.R. Scudamore of Rugby, Mrs P. Jolliffe of East London, Mr T. Parkins of Hillary and Mr T. Grimaldy of Pinetown.

The winner of a Mazda B2600 4 x 4 Drifter in the Arthur 2 On The Rocks Competition is Mrs I. Sundelson of Springs.