

# REALLY, RHINOS!

vol. 1 no. 1 1987

Dear Fellow Rhino Lover:

I have been collecting rhinoceroses for about six years. As you may have already experienced, rhinos are not among the top ten popular animals, making it quite difficult to find them (unlike the commonplace pig, owl, frog, elephant or trendy penguin).

My purpose in starting a rhino newsletter is to form a mutual admiration society for these magnificent but much misunderstood pachyderms. It is my hope that other rhino-lovers like yourself will elevate rhino collecting to an art, to get better press for the rhino as a valuable commodity, and to make it easier for us to find these critters while getting others to see their beauty as well. It is also a way for the object collector to come out and be proud to say, "I do have a hobby, I collect rhinos!"

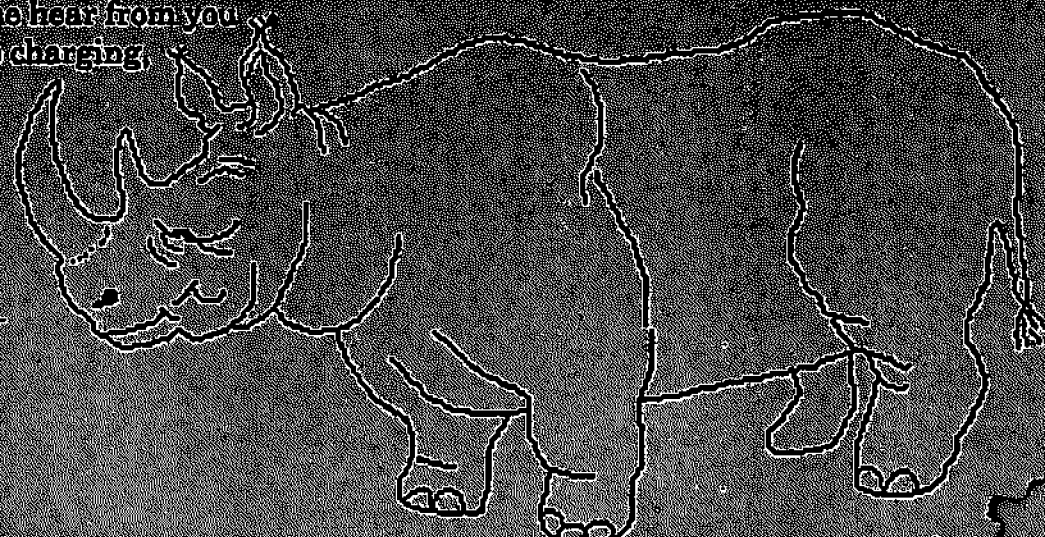
Secondly, I am very conscious of the rhino's plight in the wild and of some conservation attempts to save the few remaining rhinos in Africa and Asia. I would like to see us as hobbyists doing what we can to stem the decimation of these beautiful creatures. One of my dreams is to raise money to bring Michael Weddike, the "Rhino Man" from Kenya to the U.S. for a lecture tour. Michael has walked across Africa and Europe, educating and informing people about the rhino predicament in Africa. I have been in correspondence with him for about a year and he is a delightful man! There are other conservation efforts afoot currently, i.e. S.O.S. Rhino, World Wildlife Fund and the East African Wildlife Society. These will be highlighted in future issues of the newsletter.

Finally, I want **Really Rhinos!** to be an interactive medium. I want your feedback, comments, hints on where to find rhinos (buy, sell, trade), why you collect rhinos, etc. I know you are out there, rhino lover! Let me hear from you soon. Remember to keep charging, because, after all, it's a jungle out there!

Rhinosincerely yours,



Judyth Lessee  
Editor



REMEMBER: Don't play leapfrog with a rhino!

# RHINOS 'ROUND THE WORLD

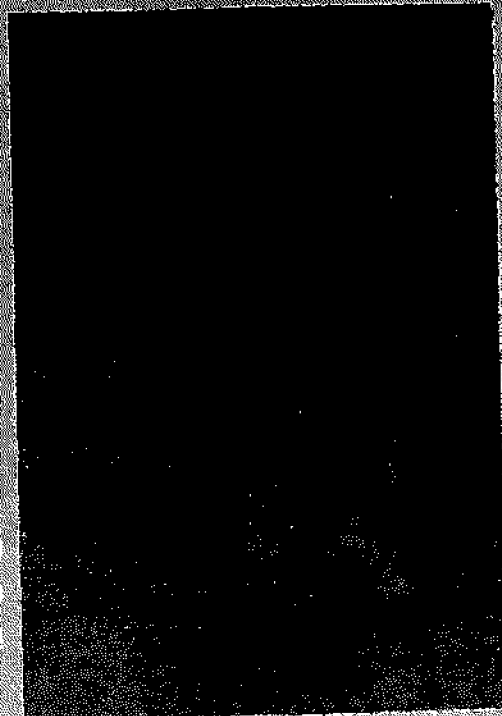
If you have visited a zoo or game reserve, whether in the U.S. or overseas, we'd like to know about it! I know whenever I travel, I always look for the local zoo, not only because I am a docent at our zoo in Tucson, but because I want to see what kind(s) of rhinos they have and how well they are exhibited. Anyone who comes to Tucson is offered automatic hospitality by the editor and we hope it will be reciprocal for our readers too! So to start off this column, I would like to tell you about the Reid Park Zoo in Tucson, Arizona.

Reid Park Zoo, formerly Randolph Park Zoo, formerly a petting zoo, is considered a small zoo. You can walk through it in about an hour and see everything, unlike the San Diego, Philadelphia or National Zoo in Washington, D.C. The flora and fauna are well-balanced which is practical not only for the animals but also the visitors since Tucson can be very

sunny and hot more than six months of the year! The zoo is committed to providing exhibits which are as close to the natural environment of the animals as possible. The tigers, lions and sun bears have large enclosures with lots of grass and water and no bars! I think the rhino exhibit is best because the two white rhinos at the zoo have one of the largest enclosures including plenty of room for wallowing. The rhinos have Zulu names: Zibulo (First Born) and Yabanga (Pretty One), and were purchased from the San Diego Wild Animal Park. The next time you are in the Tucson area, include a visit to the Reid Park Zoo. Come on a Saturday or Sunday morning at 11:00 and you can participate in the Zoo's "Reid Me A Story" program for kids of all ages which highlights a zoo animal through facts, stories, activities, and a tour. Rhino bookmarks are available from the program. Write to me and I'll send you some!

Introducing..... MICHAEL WERIKHE, "THE RHINO MAN"

Michael Werikhe is 30 and works as chief dog handler in a Mombasa car factory. He especially likes black rhinos; likes them enough to have walked over 1,250 miles in East Africa to draw their plight to the attention of anyone who would stop to listen. Michael decided that he ought to cover roughly the same distance in Europe and so far, he raised 800,000 Kenyan shillings, walking 1300 miles across Europe. As he goes, he distributes a 45 rpm record called "Save the Rhino" for which he asks no money. It's just a token. Michael reminds us that "the population of the black rhino is down to 400-500 now; that's a 98% drop since the Sixties when we had 20,000." If you wish to contact Michael, his address is: PO BOX 80310, MOMBASA, KENYA.





# ON THE HORN

## RHINO FACTS & MYTHS

The African rhinoceros leaves messages with its smelly feet. It doesn't have scent glands in its feet. Instead, this animal walks backward through one of the heaps of dung in its home range. Sometimes two or three rhinos use the same dung heaps.

After its feet are covered with dung, the rhino rambles around its home range, leaving a smelly trail behind. The rhino sniffs the ground often. Scientists think it is following one of its old scent trails. The rhino has poor eyesight, so it may be using its nose to help find its way around its range.

The dung heap is more than perfume for the rhino's feet. It is also a newspaper. The rhino "reads" the dung for news about other rhinos.

For example, how does a rhino know when a strange rhino has come into its home range? Simple. It just sniffs the dung heap. If there is a new odor, there is an intruder. The rhino can follow the stranger's smelly trail if it wants to. Or it can stay away from the other rhino by taking a different path.

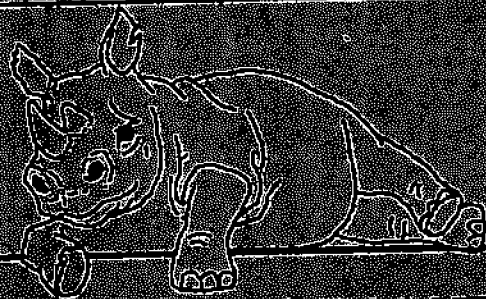
Sinky feet are important to the wildebeest, the wolf and the rhinoceros. Strong odors help them to warn off intruders, to find their way, and to know when other animals have come around. These animals would have a problem if their feet didn't sink - just as you would if yours did.

LARGE poster of a white rhino available from: Art Studio, PO Box 11204, Johannesburg 2000 RSA.

Wildlife tee shirts available from Jim Morris, PO Box 2908, ck 6, Boulder, CO 80306 (free catalogue, and 10% of the profits go to environmental groups)

Wildlife tee shirts & graphics from: Aerie Design, 141 Blackberry Inn, Weaverville, NC 28787.

Get your Rhino tee shirts, caps & knapsacks from the Nature Company. Write for a free catalogue: POB 7137, Berkeley, CA 94707.



## ADS & INFORMATION

Do you know of any rhinos for sale from a store, catalogue, artist, or your private collection? Write with specifics, share with your fellow rhinophiles. Although we charge for business and display ads (write for details), private party sales and trades, obscure or new product information, and hot news flashes are just exactly what we want!

REALLY, RHINOS! is published 4 times a year with an annual subscription rate of \$15.

Reader feed-back is encouraged. Letters and subscription requests should be sent to Really, Rhinos!, LTD, PO Box 1285, Tucson, AZ 85702

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# RHINO REVIEWS

**Wonders Of Rhinos** (by) Sigmund A. Lavine. Dodd, Mead & Co., 1982. \$9.95. An easy-to-read factual commentary on the history and myths of the rhino with copious illustrations, both black & white photographs and pen & ink drawings. All five species are discussed.

**Rhinoceros Success**. (by) Scott Alexander. Rhino's Press, PO Box 2413, Laguna Hills, CA 92653. 1980. This is the first of a trilogy on rhino motivation that Scott penned with bemusing illustrations by Laurie Smallwood.

It is about taking risks, taking charge, and balancing the six major areas (financial, work, physical, familial, social and spiritual) of life. Available for \$4.95 from most bookstores or directly through the publisher at the address above.



"Three tons of snorting rhinoceroses charging full speed at your opportunity, mowing down all obstacles in your way."  
(from *Rhinoceros Success*)

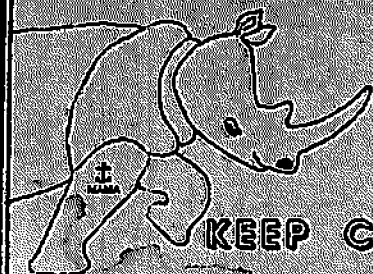
**Who Wants A Cheap Rhinoceros?** (by) Shel Silverstein. Macmillan, 1983 (rev. & expanded edition). \$8.95. This gentle, humorous kids(?) picture book tells of one family pet which, considering its size, fits in rather well around the house. It could also be an allegory for self-worth and feeling needed.

**S.O.S. Rhino**. (by) C.A.W. Guggisberg. October House, 1967. \$12.50. This book is a passionate plea for the rhino's survival and it is also the most complete and informative natural history of all five living species ever to be published for the general reader. (so says the book jacket!) Includes maps, charts, photographs, copious bibliography.

**Appelard and Liverwurst** (by) Mercer Mayer. Pictures by Steven Kellogg. Four Winds Press, 1978. \$8.95. Liverwurst the "rhinosterwurst" is separated from the circus by a tornado and lands in Farmer Appelard's barnyard. The baby rhino is immediately overseen by Westminster the pig. Liverwurst livans up the farm and helps plow the fields, munching on mushrooms when he can. Things go quite well until his mother shows up and Appelyard finds he has two rhinos on his hands. A delightful children's book with heartwarming illustrations.

"The Rhino's Fatal Flaw" (P. Jackson) *International Wildlife*, 17(1):4-11, January-February, 1987. Great (and grizzly) color photos accompany a somber article. The cover of this issue sports a charging rhino.

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**KEEP CHARGING!!**