

# Woman's fight to save rhino

A CORNISH woman who has dedicated her life to saving Africa's black rhinos from extinction is spending £80,000 a year of her own money protecting ten of the animals.

Mrs. Anna Merz has ringed a 7,000-acre sanctuary in Kenya with electric fences and pays for a 24-hour armed guard and patrol.

She hopes the secure home for the rhinos will encourage them to breed and stem the huge losses of adult rhinos in the wild, which are hunted by poachers.

The carcasses of the slain rhinos are abandoned as only the horns are needed. They fetch more than £5,000 each for the poachers and many end up as dagger handles for rich chiefs.

Mrs. Merz (53), married to a Swiss businessman, is the daughter of the late Mr. Charles Leonard Fawell of Porth Saw-sen, near Mawnan, Falmouth.

She spent most of her childhood in Cornwall and is still closely in touch with friends in the Mawnan area. Her parents died during the early 1970s and she has now made her home in Africa.

Financial adviser and helper in the raising of cash to support the hippo work, Jersey stock-

broker, Mr. Henry Hall, said: "She is a marvellous woman, and is totally dedicated to saving the rhinos.

"I have been out to see her operation and it is simply fantastic.

## Killing

A few years ago there were more than 20,000 rhinos in Kenya but now, mostly due to the killing by poachers, there are only about 300.

Mrs. Merz, who has given the sanctuary several hundred miles from Nairobi, lives a spartan life ensuring the safety and health of her rhinos which roam the enclosed area.

Mr. Hall said that small sums of money from supporters came from around the world but the vast majority of the cost of saving the animals was out of her own income and was costing about £80,000 a year.

One of the keepers at the Woburn Wild Life park in Bedfordshire Anne Stewart has just returned from visiting Mrs. Merz. She said: "Anna is deeply concerned about the fate of this species. I am sure that without her many more would have been killed, and she has brought the situation to the attention of the world, through her marvellous work."

for six to ten-year-olds, under the leadership of Mrs. Barbara Rickard, and a social committee was also formed to work with fund-raising with Mr. Laity as chairman.

Brown presented ambulance man Roger Pettinger with Grand Prior Badge and nurse member Christine Trevillian with her first-aid at work certificate and service stripe. Ambulance man Raymond Kempe received his second service stripe.

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