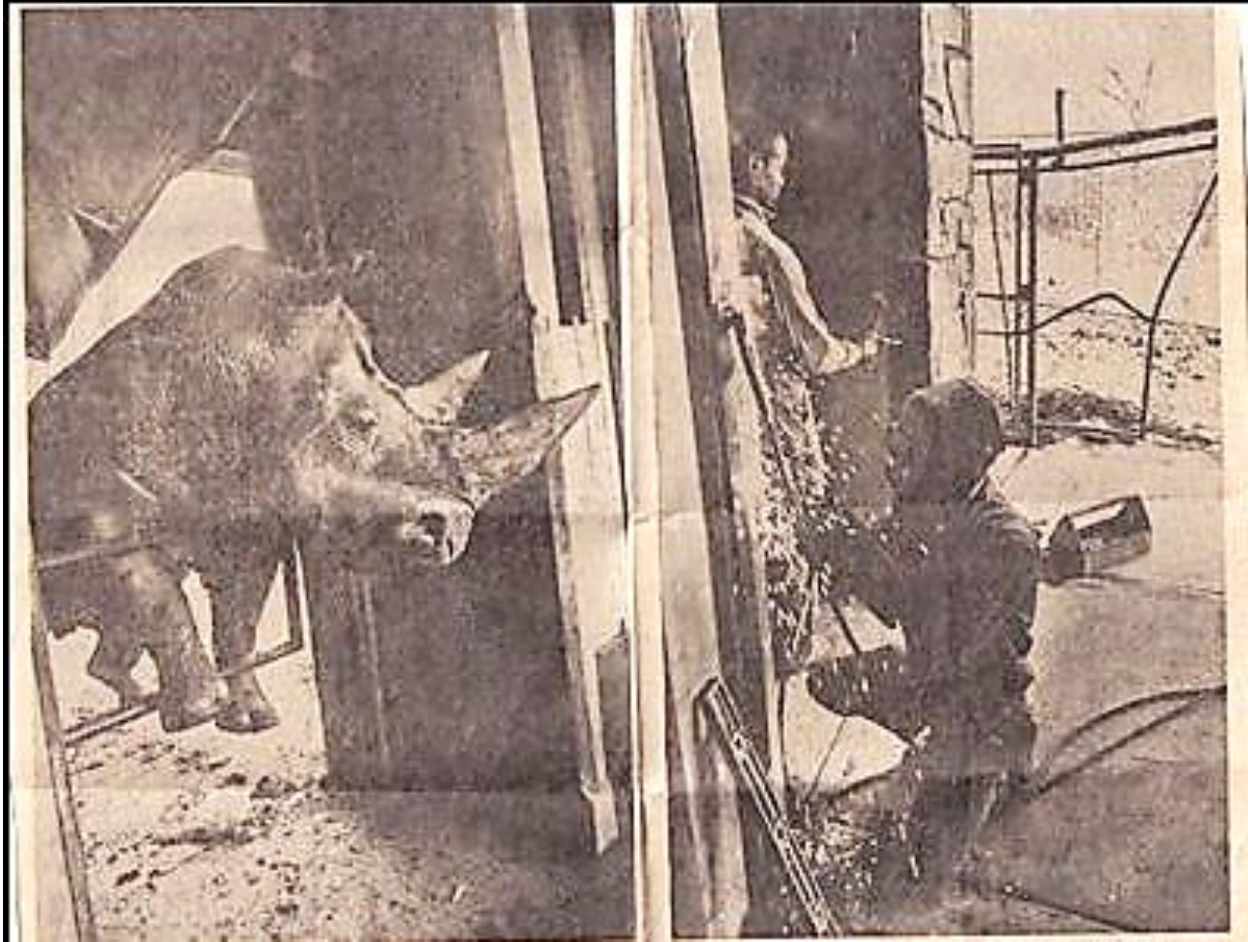


**Northern White Rhino - -male "Bill"**  
**Kills male Bongo "Thiga"**  
**National Zoological Park - - 26 February 1971**



By Ken Fell—The Washington Post  
Willie, a rhinoceros at the National Zoo, made a vain attempt yesterday to escape from his compound. He made it a bit farther Friday night, crashing through to the cage seen at right, where he killed an antelope. Workmen welded back the bars on the animal's cage door.

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# *Rhinoceros Turns Killer At the Zoo*

A 19-year-old rhinoceros escaped from his pen at the National Zoo Friday night and fatally wounded a neighboring bongo antelope, zoo authorities reported.

Dr. Theodore H. Reed, director of the zoo, identified the victim as Thigi, about 8 years old, who lived in the Delicate Hoof Stock House.

Dr. Reed said Thigi, a native of Africa, died of horn wounds inflicted by Willie, a not-so-delicate white rhinoceros.

According to the zoo director, Willie had been in bad humor since a nightly estrangement from his mate Lucy began about two weeks ago.

"Generally, Willie is docile—relatively speaking," said Dr. Reed. "But lately he's been sexy as hell and mean. He had been roughing up Lucy because she rebuffed him. So we've been separating them at night."

See ZOO, D3, Col. 2

# Zoo Rhinoceros Turns Killer

## ZOO, From D1

At an undetermined hour late Friday, said Dr. Reed, Willie apparently hooked his horns to the hinges of a door to his cage and shoved with his 3,000 pounds.

The door, which separates Willie's quarters from the

Thigi pen, gave way and Willie entered the area. According to the zoo director, the two had never met before.

Thigi, Dr. Reed observed, "was very beautiful—striped and reddish brown" and weighed about 640 pounds.

"We don't know what happened except that Thigi was found alive but in bad condition shortly before 8 a.m., when the keeper made his inspection," Dr. Reed said. "He died shortly after from horn wounds."

Willie, he added, "tore up" Thigi's cage and returned to his own pen.

Describing the Friday night encounter as "a terrible tragedy," Dr. Reed said that "we had great hopes that Thigi would be the sire of a developing herd of bongos."

Thigi was shipped to Washington from Kenya about a year ago. Willie came to the National Zoo from the Sudan in 1955.

"He's done nothing that a rhino wouldn't do," said Dr. Reed. "It's the season . . . a buildup of hormones . . . it's easy to understand . . . He got upset."