

How to Capture a



A LASSO ROUND THE HEAD: In the bush, the rhinoceros has been separated for hours his hunters chase him in trucks. Then,

THE rhinoceros is a shy and peaceful creature as long as he's left alone. Roused, he can be a dangerous foe—and surprisingly quick and agile. So, capturing a fully grown rhino is a job for knowledgeable men with good nerves. The terms of battle seem fair, with the odds slightly in the hunters' favour. Their trucks barely match the rhino's ton or so of weight, and the hunters have only lassos to oppose his wicked horns; but they have the advantage of numbers, and their trucks don't tire as he does.

As soon as the rhinoceros is found, which may not happen for several days, he is separated from his companions and headed off into the open plain where battle is unobstructed. For perhaps half a day he is kept on the run, so that his strength may be

A Counter-attack: The Battle Reaches Its Peak

Enraged, the rhinoceros turns on his enemy. His horn tears through the truck as through cardboard. But he fails to use his advantage; suddenly, merrily, he becomes docile.



Ton of Rhinoceros



THE BEGINNING OF THE END from his mate. He is chivvied into the open, and near-exhausted, he's ready for the first lasso.

Photograph by REDOUCCI DEKNER

worn down. At any time, he may try to charge a truck, and if he hits one at his charging-speed of 20-odd miles an hour, he's pretty sure to get the best of it; in the confusion, he stands a fair chance of escaping. If he doesn't succeed, there comes a time when he tires and stops.

The trucks close in, and soon the first lasso is round his neck. The boys play him on foot now, keeping their rope always taut. A second party moves up and lassoes his legs. After that, he's easily toppled. Once captured, he soon reverts to his peaceable ways, and in a few days he is eating out of his captors' hands.

A gentler, less energetic way of catching rhinoceroses is that of grasping them firmly by the tail, it is said. But no pictures are available, so far.



A Lasso Round the Feet: The Finish

For several terrifying minutes, the boys have held him with the head lasso. Another group lassoes his legs; he falls, and is quickly shackled. The cage awaits him.