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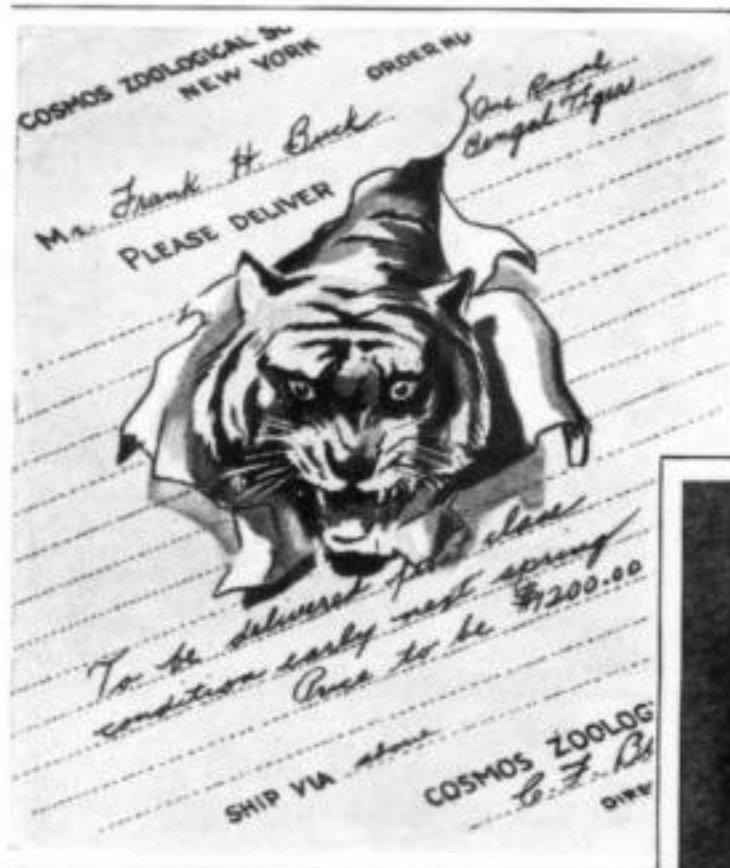
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# From JUNGLE to ZOO on

as told by FRANK BUCK  
*Famous Animal Collector*

One of the most thrilling jobs in the world is that of Frank Buck, who captures wild animals for zoos all over the globe. He tells of some of his perilous experiences in this article. With Edward Anthony, he is author of "Bring 'em Back Alive," a fascinating book of his animal collecting adventures.



Tigers, elephants, lions—they're all the same to Frank Buck, who delivers any animal wanted.



Frank Buck in tropic working dress. He once knocked out an orang-outang with his bare fists.

**F**OR eighteen exciting years I have been gathering live animals, reptiles and birds for the zoos, the circuses and dealers. I have brought back to America thousands of specimens. I have had more than my share of thrills, including narrow escapes from the fangs of venomous serpents and the claws of man-eating tigers.

One day not so long ago I was in the office of Dr. William T. Hornaday, then Director of the New York Zoological Park. After discussing some lesser assignments, Dr. Hornaday reopened a subject that had been close to his heart for some time. "Isn't there any way we can secure an Indian rhinoceros?" he asked. "You know I've always wanted one."

The Indian rhino, as far as India itself is concerned, is virtually a non-existent animal. In the little state of Nepal, the Indian rhino has always been regarded as royal game, no one except the Maharajah and those friends and associates to whom he gave special permission being allowed to hunt it.

On May 20th of that year I sailed for Hong Kong, on the first leg of one of the most important collecting trips I have ever undertaken. While the Nepal expedition for the Indian rhinos was my big objective, I also had other important orders. Incidentally, Philadelphia's zoo also asked for a rhino.

The St. Louis Zoo had commissioned me to secure for them a collection of Indian waders (cranes, storks, flamingoes), also some gib-

# the Wild ANIMAL Trail



A rare photograph showing General Shum Shere and attendants with four dead Indian rhinos. The story is told in this article.



In this stockade the rhino calf was securely imprisoned, after its mother was shot, as shown in upper photo. The calf clung near its dead mother while a stout pole fence was closed in around it. Indian rhinos bring about \$8000 each.



A young orang-outang looks over America.

bons and antelope. Then there was an order for a whole zoo which I had contracted for with the city of Dallas.

I also had an order from Al G. Barnes, the circus man, for three elephants, two tigers, two tapirs and two orang-outangs.

The New York Zoo, in addition to the In-

dian rhino, had commissioned me to get a pair of snow leopards, a pair of markhor goats and a few smaller animals. I merely mention these to give you an idea of the extent of my business and the scale on which I was operating.

My diary reveals that I arrived in Singapore on the 23th of June. There I made preliminary arrangements for the trapping, and, in some cases, the purchase of the specimens I was after. Then I sailed for Calcutta.

At Calcutta I had a stroke of good luck. One of the many inquiries designed to help



Mr. Buck with "Baby Boo" on the San Francisco pier. The baby elephant later became a movie star.

me discover some one who could be helpful in getting me on the right side of the Maharajah of Nepal resulted in the information that General Kaiser Shum Shere, a nephew of the Maharajah, was in town. He had come

These magnificent tigers, shown above, are only two of the sixty Frank Buck has put behind the bars. He brought to the United States the only authentic man-eating tiger ever seen in this country.

down from Khatmandu in his official capacity and had established a sort of Nepalese headquarters in Middletown Row, in the European section of Calcutta.

Shum Shere proved to be a dapper little man of about 35, with a dapper little beard. Shum Shere did not waste any time in getting to the point. I could have two Indian rhinos for 35,000 rupees. This is about \$12,600. It's a lot of money to invest in a couple of animals that have to travel 16,000 miles before you can hope to get your money back.

We closed the transaction and I was delighted when Shum Shere told me that he would personally head the expedition for the animals I sought. This meant that the job would be intelligently organized and prosecuted, for the general is a truly great shikari, a man who has won the respect of the greatest hunters in Asia.

The deal for the rhinos settled, I decided on a collecting trip that took me through Burma and down the Malay peninsula to Singapore where I wound up with a great many specimens, including elephants, tigers, smaller animals and birds.

It was arranged that I was to keep in touch

## Frank Buck Collects Rare Animal Specimens From All Parts of the Globe



Elephants don't like to walk aboard ship, so they're hoisted on deck in the undignified fashion shown above.

with a representative in Calcutta who was to be notified by Shum Shere after the latter had captured the two rhinos. Then I was to proceed to Nepal for the animals.

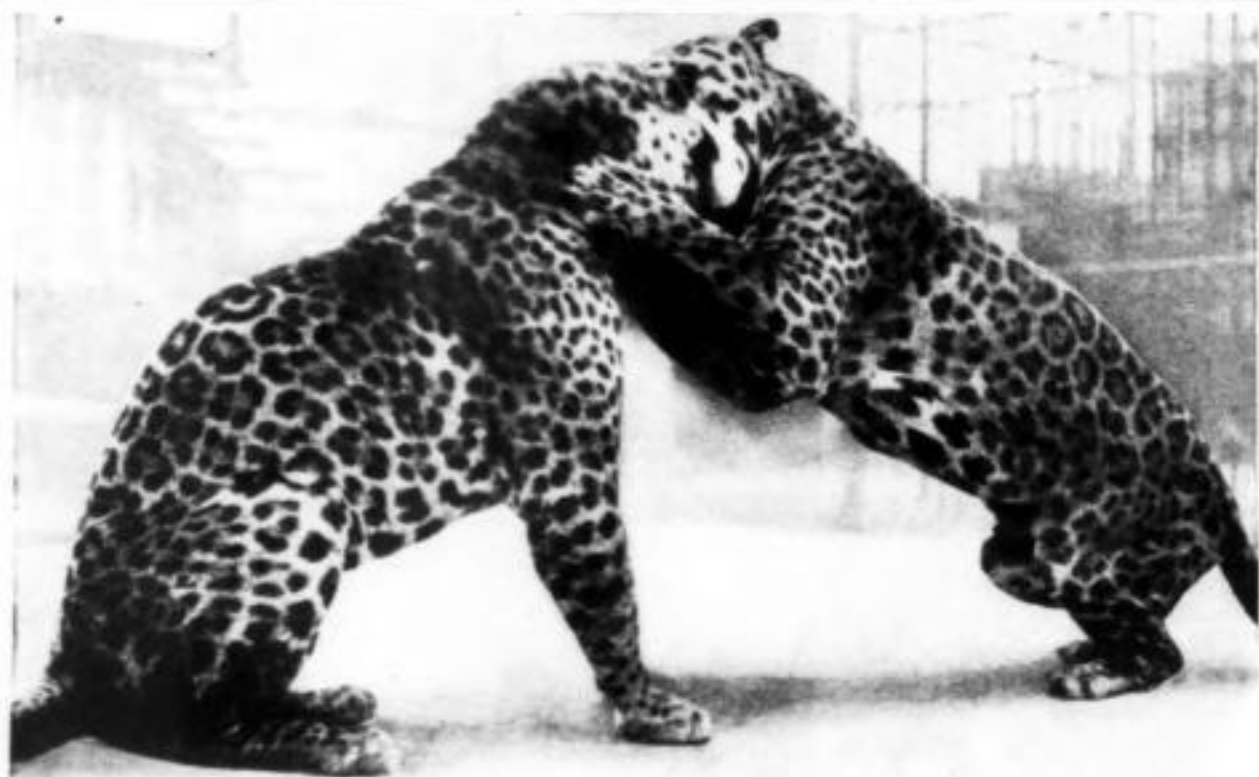
After days of reconnoitering, the General, who was working with a force of thirty elephants and well over a hundred Gurkhas, surrounded a female rhinoceros with a good sized calf. He shot down the mother, knowing that the rest was easy. By this I mean that it is well known to those who are familiar with the habits of the rhinoceros family that rhino calf will stand beside the dead body of its mother until decomposition starts to set in.

As the old cow dropped in her tracks, rope fencing, about four feet high and inter-

Frank Buck collects animals from all over the world. His headquarters are in Singapore, where he keeps his various animals awaiting shipment.



Three guesses to the identity of this striped little fellow. You're wrong—it's a young tapir. The stripes disappear and his coat becomes a solid dark color as he grows older. This youngster is a little wobbly, but he drinks his milk out of a bottle, straight.



The proboscis monkey shown in the photo above is the only one ever brought alive to America. He gets his name from his prominent nose.

minably long, was quickly brought up and thrown around the calf, making an enclosure of probably an acre in extent. A small army of Gurkhas managed the rope fencing, and

Jaguars come from South America. The two shown here are not fighting—they are merely trying to relieve the tedium in a friendly scuffle.

they gradually closed in on the young rhinoceros until it was hemmed within an enclosure only 25 or 30 feet in diameter.

The animal put up a game fight, the General said, it being necessary to use his entire force of men to keep the fencing taut and prevent the baby rhino—(a mere infant weighing about a ton)—from dashing through.

At this point in the proceedings logs and poles were cut from the forest and brought up to the rope corral. These were driven in the ground close together and banked high with earth on the outside. The rhino was left this way for several days, until somewhat weakened and easy to handle.

A second calf was captured in the same manner.

They gave me a total of \$16,000 for the two rhinos and it would take much bookkeeping to show that I didn't make any money on the deal. As near as I can figure, I broke even.

One of my adventures that I will always remember, which came unfortunately close

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