

Zoo Man, Pastor, Plumber Couldn't Care Less For Buck

PASCO, Wash. (UPI)—Zoo officials here wondered today if their only buck deer will grow antlers next year, but one zoo keeper, a minister and pipefitter couldn't care less.

Mr. Buck went on a rampage Monday and along his way he attacked the zoo caretaker, Levi Yates; seriously injured the minister, Rev. James Simpson, and scared Joseph Kauer, the pipefitter, out of going to work.

The 300-pound animal also blocked the Pasco junior high school, threatening two girls, and making several false starts at closed windows; then he led most of the Pasco Police Department on a wild chase before Chief Al McKibbin lassoed him from the back of a pickup truck.

Yates, 37, said he was feeding the buck inside a wire pen when the animal attacked him from behind. The Rev. Simpson, pastor of the First Presbyterian church here, and Kauer, president of the Franklin county Democratic Club, saw what was happening and ran to the zookeeper's aid.

Before the rescuers were through, the five-year-old buck had impaled Simpson's arm to the gate post with an antler, butted him in the chest and trampled him. Both he and Yates were listed in only "fair" condition at Our Lady of Lourdes hospital today. Kauer wasn't hurt.

The buck dashed out of its cage and crossed the street to the junior high school. Two girls started to come out the door. The buck charged. The girls went back inside.

No Facts The buck made several starts at jumping through closed windows, but decided against it. McKibbin arrived with a lasso at Mr. Buck was captured. Enter Dr. Dean Marble who

shot the buck with tranquilizers—using a dart gun from a safe distance—and performed a quick operation on the animal.

Besides the questionable antlers of the future, zoo officials acknowledged there was now no chance of producing fawns in captivity.

Of course, they hadn't been too optimistic about that anyway. The buck had killed the two girl friends who shared his pen.



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BABY SUFFOCATES
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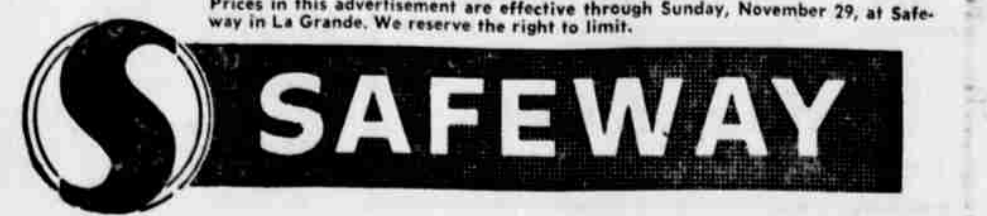
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