

MEANWHILE, IN NEWPORT...

ALEX LAFOLETT

Twas the opening day of trout season. Daylight found the camper parked in a bosky dell through which a trout stream meandered. All was peaceful. The only fly in this bucolic ointment was that the non-fishing member (NFM) of the expedition (Herself, Light of My Life), in flagrant disregard of what she should have known was her responsibility, had neglected to insure that the fishing member (FM) of the expedition remembered to bring the bait. NFM's remark that true sportsmen used only artificial lures on trout was considered unnecessarily harsh and even elitist by FM who wisely didn't express this opinion.

Score for the day: Fish caught; 1. Fish released; 1. (The presence of a game warden with pronounced opinions about retention of 4-inch trout had nothing to do with this Sportsmanlike act by FM.)

End of day the rain quits. Clouds drift away and lovely moonlight floods the scene.

NFM, dry and warm, is seated in the camper where she has spent the day, reading a book. FM, having also forgotten duffle containing dry clothes is somewhat dank and chill. Dog, like NFM, is dry and warm. The peace is only disturbed by occasional sneezes from FM.

A vampire bat flies through door and lands beside NFM who creates some damage to camper while exiting. Dog attempts to tear camper apart trying to catch vampire bat. FM, braving death, waves four day old newspaper at vampire bat while shouting, "Shoo-Shoo-Shoo!" Dog tries to climb FM to get at vampire bat. FM boots dog out of camper. Vampire bat transmogrifies into flying squirrel. (FS)

FS, sitting atop roll of paper towels, and FM, winded from waving newspaper, look at each other. Each is visibly thinking, "Now What?" Neighboring campers, drawn by screeches (NFM's) Barks and roars (dog) Shoo-Shoo-etc (FM) gather around. FM is trying to chase FS out of camper. FS apparently has looked outside and decided it's safer in camper. Relative agility all on FS's side.

Someone outside asks if it's a bear. FM wishes it was so he could go outside with the others. FM finally chases FS out of camper. Dog, convinced it is vampire bat, promptly chases it back inside. FM sticks head out of camper and says harsh things to NFM about controlling dog.

Elderly lady campers drift away apparently bored with lack of creativity in FM's profanity. Finally Vampire Squirrel evicted. NFM enters camper, says harsh things to FM about overturned pot of coffee. FM leaves camper planning to discover tree containing vampire squirrel nest and commit arson. Goes to bathroom instead.

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Smokey the Bear. Updated

With his hat and shiny shovel.
In his baggy dungarees.
He was always in the forest
Sniffing round about the trees
He had quite a reputation
As a conservation bear.
But that was in the Fifties.
Today he doesn't care

Smokey the Bear. Smokey the Bear.
Symbol for a loathsome, disgusting affair
Cuts and sells the forest
From underneath our eye
Then shrugs his burly shoulders
When we dare to ask him why.

Smokey's out to make a dollar
For his favorite Uncle Sam
And he's got a great idea
With his cordwood cutting scam.
He'll sell the public permits
To clean up a pile of slash.
Then when they go to fill them
They'll find nothing but ash

Smokey the Bear. Smokey the Bear.
Aims a flaming blast in the pine-scented air
Waits to burn the brush
Till the winds of August blow.
Then shakes his head and wonders
Where'd the fragrant forests go?

There are oriental buyers
For the forests in the West
And it's Smokey's job to sell them
Virgin timber they love best
The land is getting barren
And the wildlife's running scared
But Smokey got his gold for
Every acre that he bared

Smokey the Bear. Smokey the Bear.
Selling U.S. timber that we cannot spare
Builds in roads for logging
With taxes people pay
Then close them to traffic
While the rape is underway

If you want to have a picnic
In a shady forest glen
Don't go driving to the mountains
Where the woods have always been
You cannot spread your blanket
On the dusty, trashy humps
But the view's fantastic.

You'll see miles and miles of stumps
Smokey the Bear. Smokey the Bear.
Kills the land with clearcuts and destroys everywhere
Bother conservation!
What's "ecosystem" mean?
Smokey's talking dollars when
He says, "Let's keep it green."

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were, not so long ago, teeming with
the folks pictured here. Now, thanks
to excessive logging and other "progress",
these and many other species are nearing the black
void of extinction. So is the habitat we all need.



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