

Tots Taught How to Be Kind to Animals

Children Meet in Grove at Home of Mrs. Lydia Irons Thursday Afternoons; Pupils Love Work in Behalf of Dumb Beasts; Little Boy Writes Essay on Horse



Twenty-four boys and girls, ranging in age from 5 to 16 years, meet every Thursday afternoon in a beautiful grove at the home of Mrs. Lydia A. Irons, 6319 East Sixty-fifth street, to study how to be kind and good and loving to animals.

This is their motto: "Whatever we do to any living creature, stop and think if we would like to have it done to us."

They have organized themselves into a club, which they call the Animals' Friends' club, and from the oldest down to the youngest every child is so enthusiastic in its studies, so responsive to suggestions from Mrs. Irons, who is teacher of the class, so eager to show their loving attitude to their dumb friends that Mrs. Irons says the task of teaching the class is a great pleasure.

The officers of the class are: President, Charles Gettys; vice president, Josephine Farrell; secretary, Marvella Gettys; treasurer, Rena Vanovich; leader of physical exercise, Walter Sholtz; pages, Sammie Vanovich and Harold Sholtz.

Loves Humane Work.
For many years Mrs. Irons has been interested in the work of humane societies. She has been active in pleading for love for the helpless animal of all kinds. She has labored to inspire into the lives of the young a just regard for all life. For three years she traveled under the auspices of the International Educational society. During this time she visited most of the public schools of Washington, Idaho and eastern Oregon. She spoke to 300,000 pupils.

She is the author of the compulsory humane educational law that has been adopted in Idaho and Washington, and she has a bill prepared to be presented to the next Oregon legislature. In the Washington and Idaho laws provision is made that a certain number of minutes shall be spent each week in studying humane subjects, but in the Oregon bill she hopes to make the subject of humane treatment of animals a regular part of the public school curriculum.

Teach the children to be kind and loving to animals and you will abolish the need for institutions for the criminal," said Mrs. Irons.

Teaching Children.
"Investigation in state penitentiaries and reform schools reveal the fact that nearly every life of crime began by a boy or girl being cruel to something. The child's tendencies toward cruelty were not curbed; humane feelings for all life were not instilled in the child's heart while his heart and mind were young and plastic."

"People don't realize the need of teaching children to be kind. If they did of course we would have humane studies in all our schools. And this would go a long way toward abolishing crime."

Seated on a canvas spread on the green grass in the shade of the pine and fir trees, the children gather about their teacher and eagerly listen to the stories she reads to them of animal life. Each day they study the life of a different animal. Last Thursday they studied how to be kind to the sheep.

As there are no text books to be followed, Mrs. Irons selects appropriate stories from books she has and reads to her class and then asks them to discuss the story with her. Recently she read a story about a kitten and a little girl. The little girl said to the kitten, "I will be good to you, little Muff, if you are good to me."

"I don't just like that statement," Mrs. Irons told the children. "What do you think about it?"

Pupils Are Apt.
Half a dozen or more little hands shot into the air and as many little minds were quick to perceive that the little girl in the story was not showing a true love for her little pussy friend.

The class had been taught that they should love the kitten not only when the kitten was good, but they should

love their little friend for principle's sake.

Thus they are being taught to be good for good's sake, to be good because it is right to be good. The need of the strong helping the weak is impressed upon them, as well as a just regard for all life.

As part of their work members of the class write essays on domestic animals, which are very interesting as the expression of young minds taught to seek for the good and the beautiful.

"The pupils are very apt," said Mrs. Irons. "They are mostly children of the working class. Some of them from homes where they receive no encouragement or help, while others are greatly helped at home. During the short time we have been studying together I see that their natures are being modified wonderfully."

Horse's Prayer.
The class, which was organized only last month under the auspices of the International Ethical Educational society, which has headquarters at 501 Yamhill street, is planning to raise funds for buying a watering fountain to be placed at Woodstock, and one at Tremont. A little later the class will give an entertainment in which humane work will be prominently presented. The humane society has promised to give assistance. The proceeds will be applied toward buying the fountains.

The members of the class are also distributing a prayer, entitled, "Horse's Prayer." This is a prayer of the horse to his master asking that he be kind as the horse is doing all he can to serve him well.

Recently the class wrote essays on "The Horse." Some of the articles would be a credit to much older persons. Charles Gettys, a 12 year old lad, whose home is at Fifty-seventh street and southeast corner of the avenue, is author of the following:

"The Horse."
"The horse is one of our most useful animals. Of course the automobiles, motorcycles, motor trucks, steam plows, etc., do a great deal of work that animals do many things that could not be done by machines. It goes with packs on its back over rough places where no machine could go. Cowboys could use no other known animal or machine, because no other animal is so fleet, strong and obeying as the horse, and no machine could go over the hills as a horse does. It seems as if nothing could do but a horse to carry soldiers in battle."

"The horse is a very daintily constructed creature. It is a hooved quadruped having one toe on each foot, a mane and a long flowing tail. It has six broad grinding teeth on each side of each jaw, making 24 in all. It has six incisors in each jaw, making 12 in all, and two canine teeth in each jaw, making four in all. Each of the four legs has joints or castors, by which it is distinguished from the ass. Its nose is the most delicate and sensitive part of its body, by which it feels as well as smells."

Excels in Strength.
"The horse excels in strength and speed. This horse receives good or bad treatment according to his master. Some people do not water their horses often enough, they leave harness or a saddle on them over night or for several hours while they are resting. A horse always likes to roll after work. Many horses are tied up in narrow, filthy stalls in which there isn't enough room to lie down in comfortably and poor bedding to lie on."

"Horses have noble characters. They are always willing to serve if treated well. They are smart and can be taught a great many tricks. In Arabia the horses and their masters understand each other very well. The horses



Members of Animals' Friends' club, in session in pretty grove, and their teacher, Mrs. Lydia A. Irons.

are glad to serve their owners. In this way horse and man go through many dangers, where if there was less understanding these dangers could not be safely past.

"The horse is said to originate in central Asia."

DOG RESCUES MASTER, A VICTIM OF THUGS
(Special to The Journal.)

Brockton, Mass., Aug. 12.—The big St. Bernard dog owned by Patrick J. Butler saved him from a hold up man and possible death.

While Butler, accompanied by the dog, was on his way home, he was struck on the head by a stone and knocked unconscious. The dog drove the assailant away and for over an hour stood guard over his helpless master.

Regaining consciousness, Butler took hold of the dog's collar and the latter started to drag him toward home. A passer by discovered them and summoned help.

Palm Garden on Bridge Deck.
(United Press Leased Wire.)

Washington, Aug. 12.—A palm garden on the bridge deck is one of the innovations of the new Pacific liner Shinyo Maru of the Toyo Kisen Kaisha. Consul General Anderson at Hongkong reports that the vessel has been completed and will start on its first trip across the Pacific from Kobe on August 26. The Shinyo Maru, which will be in regular service between Hongkong and San Francisco, has 21,650 tons displacement, is 579 feet long, 62 feet wide and its steam turbine engines develop a speed of 21 knots per hour. All of the latest improvements and appliances have been provided for the comfort and convenience of the passengers.

Atwood Will Fly Monday.
(United Press Leased Wire.)

St. Louis, Aug. 12.—Harry N. Atwood will start on his flight to the Atlantic ocean from St. Louis Monday, according to an announcement today.

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STORIES & FAMOUS POEMS

"The Village Blacksmith."
Under a spreading chestnut-tree
The village smithy stands;
The smith, a mighty man is he,
With large and sinewy hands;
And the muscles of his brawny arms
Are strong as iron bands.

His hair is crisp, and black, and long,
His face is like the tan;
His brow is wet with honest sweat,
He earns what'er he can,
And looks the whole world in the face,
For he owes not any man.

Week in, week out, from morn till night,
You can hear his bellows blow;
You can hear him swing his heavy sledge,
With measured beat and slow,
Like a sexton ringing the village bell
When the evening sun is low.

And children coming home from school
Look in at the open door;
They love to see the flaming forge,
And hear the bellows roar,
And catch the burning sparks that fly
Like chaff from a threshing-floor.

He goes on Sunday to the church,
And sits among his boys;
He hears the parson pray and preach,
He hears his daughter's voice,
Singing in the village choir,
And it makes his heart rejoice.

It sounds to him like his mother's voice,
Singing in Paradise!
He needs must think of her once more,
How in the grave she lies;
And with his hard, rough hand he wipes
A tear out of his eyes.

Tolling—rejoicing—sorrowing,
Onward through life he goes;
Each morning sees some task begun,
Each evening sees it close;
Something attempted—something done,
Has earned a night's repose.

Thanks, thanks to thee, my worthy friend,
For the lesson thou hast taught!
Thus at the flaming forge of Life
Our fortunes must be wrought;
Thus on our sounding anvil shaped
Each burning deed and thought.

—Henry W. Longfellow.

LIKE most of the poems by Longfellow, "The Village Blacksmith" was founded on an incident which came to the attention of the poet, and was not a flight of imagination or fancy. There was a village blacksmith and he was an acquaintance of Longfellow's. There was a chestnut tree under which the "smithy" used to follow his employment when the weather inside of his shop almost made work prohibitive.

Only a very short time ago there died at his home in Lynn, Mass., the original of Longfellow's poem, Thaddeus W. Tyler, by name, at the age of 84, after three score and ten years of active work. To his children Mr. Tyler often told of his acquaintance with the poet while he worked at the forge in a Cambridge blacksmith shop, not far from the home of Longfellow. The poet, he said, showed him "The Village Blacksmith" after he had written it and discussed this and other poems with him.

As Tyler was a young man and unmarried at the time the poem was written, he did not exactly fit the description of the smith who on Sunday went to church and "listened to his daughter's voice singing in the village choir" which reminded him of "her mother's voice singing in Paradise." The discrepancy was charged up to the usual poetic license, which Mr. Longfellow made quite free in a number of his best known poems. It was in the shop of John Tuttle, where Mr. Tyler worked, that the first wagon springs were fashioned.

On February 27, 1879, the seventy-second birthday of Longfellow, the children of Cambridge, Mass., gave to the poet a beautifully carved chair or, as he called it, "the throne," which was made of the wood of the "spreading chestnut tree" that had overshadowed the village smithy, whom he had sung a number of years before. This chair bears the inscription:

To
The Author
of
"The Village Blacksmith."

This chair, made from the wood of the spreading chestnut tree, is presented as an expression of the grateful regard and veneration by the children of Cambridge, who, with their friends, join in the best wishes and congratulations on this anniversary, February 27, 1879.

In 1880, when the city of Cambridge celebrated the two hundred and fiftieth anniversary of the founding of the town, December 23, there was a children's festival at Sander's theatre in the morning and the choir stood on the platform in full view of the 1000 children assembled. George Riddle read the poem; then, to the surprise of all, the poet himself came forward and made a short and appropriate address.

"The Village Blacksmith," that glad, full voiced song of brawny and honest toil, was written some time during the year 1839, when Longfellow was 32 years old. The exact date of its writing has not been given, but in his diary, in the autumn of that year, he wrote: "I wrote a new poem 'The Village Blacksmith.' It was first published in the November number of the 'Knickerbocker Magazine,' of 1840, and the poet received the munificent (?) sum of \$15 for his effort."

It was printed in the collection of Longfellow's poems called "Ballads and Other Poems," which was published in

1841. This was his second volume of published poems, which included the well known pieces "The Wreck of the Hesperus," and "Excelsior." This volume confirmed the impression made in his previous publication, "Voices of the Night," and henceforth Longfellow stood confessedly as the most widely read and the best beloved of American poets. The smithshop where Tyler worked in Cambridge stood on Brattle street, and for a number of years it was an object of much interest to visitors and school

children, but it has long since been removed to make way for more modern buildings. The chestnut tree, against the protest of Mr. Longfellow and others, was removed in 1876 on the ground that it impeded drivers of heavy teams who passed under it, and on account of its age, was a source of danger otherwise.

Upon the presentation of the chair to the poet in 1879, Mr. Longfellow indicated a poem "From My Arm Chair," and dedicated it to the children in acknowledgment of the gift.

FIRST SKYSCRAPER IS OPENED IN LONDON

(Publishers' Press Leased Wire.)
London, Aug. 12.—By the turning of a gold key Lord Sheffield formally opened Liverpool's great 17-story skyscraper at the pier head, and hundreds of guests from all parts of England explored the remarkable building. The first of its kind to be erected in this country, the skyscraper is built on

the site of an old dock. It is more than 300 feet high. The building is of ferro-concrete, an amalgamation of cement and iron, with an outside wall or "curtain" of gray granite. Thirty thousand tons of granite chippings and sand, 25,000 tons of granite, 6000 tons of cement, 6000 tons of steel, 60,000 square feet of glass, 60 steel casements, 80 miles of heating pipes and 25 miles of electric cables are some of the materials used in constructing this huge building. A special feature of the skyscraper is its clock, which is much larger than Big Ben. Each side is 25 feet across, and the minute hand is 14 feet long and 3 feet wide. The clock never needs winding, as it is worked by electricity and has no weights.

Firemen Save Children's Pets.
(Special to The Journal.)
New York, Aug. 12.—Thinking Ruth Kalmann's cries for Pinkey and Pette referred to two children, firemen today dashed into a burning tenement and found two white mice. One fire fighter was overcome.

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