



Pet Tips 'n' Tales

by Mary Ellen "Angel Scribe"

Burglar Bert is a hoot! He's a cat on the purr-owl!

Caught! The third red-haired cat burglar in three years!

This time the culprit is Burglar Bert, a six-year-old Flame Point Siamese. His neighbors are torn between giggles and frustration for his feline-onious pranks. The law is on the kleptomaniac-cat side because neighbors are powerless to stop him from stalking their yards to steal things and carry them home.

His "wanted" photo shows him in the paw-session of a various and sundry assortment of gloves and socks he's pinched. The trespasser's posters are proudly displayed by fun-loving neighbors as a "warning" to others. If there is a missing glove, sock, children's underwear, shoe, etc., a furry fast fingered Bert has purr-obably misappropriated them! This robber's life of crime is on the rise!

Some obsessive-compulsive behaviors manifest from overwhelming grief after a death. In accordance, right after Bert's beloved brother, Barney, passed is when he dragged the first stolen goods through the cat door.

Bert had put his heart into taking care of Barney as he became sickly. He snuggled with his frail buddy and was at a loss after Barney's passing.

"Bert's crime wave began small," confessed Monique. "A few mismatched gardening gloves here and there. We did not want to be our klepto cat's accomplices, so we stabbed 20 four-foot bamboo stakes in our front yard and topped them with all his 'loot'." Historically most of the stolen items are gloves; first a yellow, then blue, then the other matching gloves began appearing! His illegal behavior escalates during the summer, probably because of the increased use of gardening gloves and clothes hanging out to dry.

A lady who lives a block away came by and timidly claimed her light-weight shoes. She was bewildered why one shoe had disappeared; then the second went missing from her carport. In the meantime, we had added the shoes to our 'yard art' stakes. The woman learned of us while explaining the bizarre mystery to a neighbor. Her neighbor described our nefarious cat, and suggested checking out our "lost and found" display."

Like most dysfunctional crime families, they not only support Bert's kleptomaniac — they fuel it with treats! Their M.O. is always the same. After a heist when Bert drags the contraband through his cat door, they add to the criminal offense by praising him for his hunting skills. He's rewarded because they live in a heavily populated bird area (which includes a baby-face Barred Owl with a 40 inch wing span). They appreciate Bert's penchant for inanimate objects over wildlife. What he brings home never ceases to surprise them. Recently, he purloined (stole) a welder's glove that weighs a pound! Fortunately none of the purr-petrator's victims filed police reports!

"Bert was not thrilled," said Monique, "when we introduced him to our fluffy pup, Nikki! But Bert being Bert took the baby Sheltie in stride and taught her to play 'cat style', leaving Nikki socially 'dog' handicapped."

Initially, Nikki was suspicious of the stolen articles. She'd sniff the 'hot' item not wanting any part of Bert's clandestine acts, but her family may be in trouble! Recently, Nikki was found guilty of stealing socks from their laundry basket and stashing them in her bed! They hope she is not copy-cating Bert's criminal activity! "If this keeps up," admits Monique, "we are going to have to hire a defense attorney for our notorious pets!"

Nikki is so gentle with Bert that the family wants a drone to fly above their pets "... to witness their heart warming play antics."

The drone could also double as a 'spy' vehicle to capture Bert purr-owling as he 'stocks' socks!"

Bert accompanies the family on Nikki's walks - walking with a "steal-ty" stride. Monique worries that their red-headed thief joins them to case out the neighborhood for his next grab and dash. Their neighbors, always on the alert for the crafty cat, might question if his family are his partners in crime!

"Two years ago, a family with a four-year-old son, visiting their grandparents, saw Bert 'flea'ing with Grandpa's stolen red glove," said Monique. "They wondered if he would return for the second glove, so they had a camera in hand. Sure enough, 20 minutes later, they witnessed another robbery in progress. The cat burglar returned to the crime scene and dashed away, dragging the matching glove.



Photo by Mary Ellen "Angel Scribe"

Red-headed cat, caught red-handed! Monique is 'con'-fused if she should be proudly boasting about her clever cat burglar, Bert, or enrolling the moonlighting delinquent into a feline reform school!

The boy was thrilled! So brazen Burglar Bert's mug photo was proudly displayed on their refrigerator. This year, the six-year-old's goal was to meet the famous celebrant. I whistled, and Bert came running like a dog. The thrilled child held the innocent looking furry crook while everyone took photos, and his eyes were alight with JOY as if he was holding Sesame Street's Big Bird's hand!

We are organic gardeners, so Bert, being one of the family, probably thinks he is helping 'recycle' abandoned articles. We are proud of our cats notoriety but hope that none of us ends up in jail from Bert performing a public service!"

Every time I walk by Bert's house a different assortment of 'stolen property' is displayed. On my last visit, I found, a black-sports glove he'd proudly dropped in their driveway. I added it to one of the few remaining empty stakes for it's owner to claim.

TIPS

Bert's smart neighbors color code their gloves and write their phone numbers in them! This way, they can easily ID the loot decorating Bert's bamboo poles and inform others when their gloves are staked-out!

Share your pet tips and tales.
angelscribe@msn.com

Cottage Theatre to present 'Spelling Bee'

Tickets to the Cottage Theatre's first production of 2016, "The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee," went on sale Jan. 1.

The play, described as a "hilarious romp through middle school," is adapted from a book by Rachel Scheinkin and features music and lyrics by William Finn. Its Cottage Grove production will be directed by Mark VanBeever, and the play will run Jan. 29-31, Feb. 4-7 and Feb. 11-14.

Billed as "a riotous ride complete with audience participa-

tion," "The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee" won the 2005 Tony and Drama Desk Awards for Best Book. In the play, an eclectic group of six awkward adolescents vie for the spelling championship of a lifetime. While candidly disclosing hilarious and touching stories from their home lives, the teens (portrayed by adult actors) spell their way through a series of words hoping never to hear the soul-crushing, pout-inducing "ding" of the bell that signals a spelling mistake.

PEPPER

Pepper, a terrier Lhasa Apso mix lived 2 years in an abusive household till she was rescued by Steve. She lived a lively 8 years with her human BFF Steve and other BFF Jitters, who has passed November 8th of this year.

Before Pepper's untimely death she did her very best to incorporate her life into the social fabric of Cottage Grove.

She was the official shop dog for The Bookmine and the boss. She greeted every customer with a bark and wagging tail. She also worked nights at the Brewstation as bouncer and music critic.

Tragically, Pepper was hit by a car at 2pm on December 31st at the intersection of 6th and Main St. The driver was not licensed, not insured and not documented. Steve and Pepper were crossing Main St. on a green light when the driver made a left turn into them. Steve jumped back pulling Pepper's leash. The speed of the vehicle made saving Pepper impossible as she was crushed.

Many folks came out to help the police were kind enough to drive them to Forest Valley Veterinary office. Pepper died two minutes later. There are words to be said about the cause of sweet Peppers demise. The stunning shock and blinding anger Steve is experiencing no man deserves. Next time you get into your convenient metal boxes realize that they are capable of killing anything in its path. PLEASE PAY ATTENTION, BE MINDFUL, AND SLOW DOWN. NO EXCUSES.

To my beloved Pepper, December 31, 2015

I am standing upon the seashore. A ship at my side spread her sails to the morning breeze and starts for the blue ocean. She is an object of beauty and strength. I stand and watch her until, at length, she hangs like a speck of white cloud just where the sea and sky come to mingle with each other.

Then someone at my side says, "There, she is gone."

"Gone where?"

Gone from my sight. That is all she is just as large in mast and hull and spur as she was when she left my side and she is just as able to bear her load of living freight to her destined port.

Her diminished size is in me, not in her. And just at the moment when someone at my side says, "There, she is gone" there are other eyes watching her coming and the other voices ready to take up the glad shout: "Here she comes!"

And that is dying.

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Meet the DJ/Program Host



LLOYD WILLIAMS

I was born in Eugene and grew up in Cottage Grove, graduating from CGHS in 1968 -- go Lions! I studied radio at Lane Community College in the 1970s, graduating with a degree in both radio broadcasting and television design. I subsequently moved my studies to the University of Oregon, graduating with a B.S. in Communications. I worked my way through school, first in the plywood plant at the Cottage Grove Weyerhaeuser mill, and later while working in radio. I took classes as I could afford them. It was a slow process. I graduated from the UO at the ripe old age of 39. While working at the mill, I had the good fortune to meet Don Work who had a popular Saturday Oldies request show on KNND. He asked me to help him pull records for his show. That experience hooked me on radio and I changed my LCC major from Business to Radio Broadcasting and began interning at KNND in late-1971. In six months, I joined the KNND team as a full-time employee working 36 hours a week on the air and other assignments (that's code for cleaning the bathroom and hauling out trash). I eventually worked in all capacities: air talent, production, music director, program director. By 1973, I was also working at KEED in Eugene on the weekends. I don't recall having a day off from radio for a couple of years. I left KNND in 1976 and worked my way into a full-time position at Keed where I had a terrific run on the air and as music director. While I was still at KNND, I assisted Keed in developing a new record library when they changed their music format from Top-40 to County. In return, KNND received all their old Top-40 record library! Old-timers will remember "K-double-E-D"! What a great radio station. Much of what I learned at Keed helped me as the KNND music director, program director, and mid-day air talent. And I was ecstatic to be able to add all the Keed oldies from the 1950s and '60s to our increasingly popular music rotation! It is that music that I play exclusively today: the music of the '50s and '60s, "the greatest musical era," right here on KNND on Mondays from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. I hope you'll join me.



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Cottage Grove, OR 97424
Lobby Phone: 541.942.2468
Studio Line: 541.942.5548
Online requests: request@knnd.com

Board Position #3 Available



South Lane County Fire & Rescue services a 132 square mile area for fire/rescue/EMS services based on voter approved taxing rates, levies and bonds equaling \$1.80/\$1000 beginning with fiscal year 2016-2017. The current voter approved permanent and levied rate is \$1.50/\$1000 of assessed property value including a house and five acres within the District's boundaries. The District further provides advanced life support ambulance service to an area totaling 850 square miles. The area outside the District's 132 square mile area does not provide tax revenue. The District operates from four fire stations and staffs the Cottage Grove and Creswell stations 24/7 with a combination of career/resident and community volunteer personnel. The Saginaw station is staffed 24/7 with off duty residents and the Camas Swale station with community volunteers. The District is managed by the Fire Chief who reports directly to the five member Board of Directors. All other District personnel report to the Fire Chief utilizing a chain of command.

South Lane County Fire and Rescue has a current Board Position (#3) vacant due to a member resignation. An appointment would place somebody in this position who would finish out the remaining 2 years of the term. The district is seeking an individual who has the desire to contribute to ongoing efforts aimed at enhancing and improving fire services in the South Lane County community. Interested applicants must be at least 18 years of age, be an elector, or a property owner within the district. Interested candidates should submit a letter of interest including a brief description of their background, and why they believe they should be appointed to fill the vacant seat. Letters of interest must be submitted to the district office at 233 E. Harrison Ave Cottage Grove, OR 97424 by 5:00pm Friday January 8, 2016.

All candidates for SLCFR Board Position #3 should attend the South Lane County Fire and Rescue Board Meeting to be held at our Cottage Grove Station located at, 233 E. Harrison Ave Cottage Grove OR 97424 on January 21, 2016 at 6:00pm.

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