

Is That So?

By EUGENE BURNS
Ranger-Naturalist

polar flight. Mrs. Everett V. Moore, of Omaha, wrote me that she had trained a six-months' parakeet to say 53 words, plainly, including "happy birthday" and a statement which had to be dropped to protect an innocent bystander—her little grandchild.

Knowing that the successful training of any pet—whether mammal, fish, snake or bird—would be of great interest to IS That So! readers, I asked Mrs. Moore to give me a detailed account of her method. Now, she writes that Tuffy, at eight months, has mastered 106 words, including, "Hickory, dickory, dock, the mouse ran up the clock!"

Incidentally, Mrs. Moore's letter has won her my panel of judges' award of the 30-volume set of the Encyclopedia Americana. May I add that I would like to hear from other readers about their most unusual True-Life Nature Adventures, including the outdoors. Again, I must say, I'm sorry that I cannot answer all your many friendly and interesting letters.

Mrs. Moore writes: "I think it is most important to get a young bird, preferably a male like Tuffy. (Some bird experts disagree. They say a female makes an equally gifted speaker. Birds of course differ. Some are outlaws, others exceedingly friendly, right off. Some talk quickly, others are slow—just like humans. Author.)"

"To begin, Tuffy was scared and flew into window panes. So I clipped his wing feathers—which did not hurt and slowed down his flight and tamed him. Although it is admittedly more difficult to work with a bird with unclipped wings, I have done it. Author."

"I think it is most important to establish good, regular habits the first four to six months."

"To gain Tuffy's confidence, I reached into his cage and talked to him starting with a simple statement. But I repeated it over and over. It took patience. (My method to gain the bird's confidence differs. I remove the food at night. Then in the morning I dampen my finger and dip it into some bird seed which adheres. I offer this to the hungry bird and gradually he gains confidence in my finger, my hand, and me. Author.)"

"To gain Tuffy's entire attention, a most important thing, I smacked my lips several times first, as if asking him for a kiss, which drew his attention to me. Then I repeated my statement. When he learned that, I went to the next—but 'mouth smacking' between times. Even now, when I go down his learned list, repeating old statements about twice each, I find it best to 'mouth smack'! Also it is best to repeat the statements pretty well in the order in which I taught them."

"Throughout the training, too, I repeat the lip-smacking to hold his attention. And Tuffy makes this sound, too, before he makes his statement."

"At times, I talk to Tuffy when he is still covered, mornings, in his cage. A new statement by the way should be repeated about 15-20 times and then throughout the day's work."

I find that it takes Tuffy about four days to master a new statement.

"I have found it best to be alone with Tuffy during lessons. With others present and talking it is hard to hold his attention. He also likes music."

"Like all parakeets, Tuffy adores a mirror. He loves to see his reflection and will talk by the hour into it. However, he will also sit on a perch or ladder and talk his head off. (A single bird will learn faster than a pair—and become much friendlier, too. Author.)"

"Tuffy seems to talk better when he has his freedom. A closed bird, I've noticed, doesn't ever do much talking. Besides, even when he has a mirror in his cage, Tuffy doesn't talk nearly so plainly—his words seem to come faster, his statements to run together. Also, a closed bird seems to get mean. At least my bird tended to get that way when I was gone, confined to a hospital. When I got back, my lovable little fellow had become pecky. But I got him over this by tapping his bill with a soda straw and blowing on him."

"Some people think you should talk softly to a parakeet. I don't. But I do speak with expression—even to the singing of his 'Happy Birthday' song. The little rascal has even picked up my laugh. And they'll pick up other everyday words around the house and sounds like the ringing of a telephone."

"It's important to teach a bird his name and address—and you should hear Tuffy rattle off his name, house number and street, as plain as can be."

"Finally, I still think that the secret of my teaching Tuffy to talk so quickly was to 'mouth smack' to get his attention and then to repeat the same statement 15-20 times, several times each day, until he mastered it."

Mrs. Moore also said that besides talking, Tuffy has endeared himself to family and friends by doing many tricks—more of these perhaps another time.

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FREE: By special arrangement with the editors of the Encyclopedia Americana, my panel of judges will award each week to the reader who sends me the best true-life nature adventure, or the best nature observation, or the best question on nature and wildlife a complete 30-volume set of this world-famous reference work in a handsome Sealcraft binding.

Each week new submissions will be considered. Sorry, I simply can't answer your many friendly letters. Please address your letter to: IS THAT SO! c/o Medford Mail Tribune, Box 575, Sausalito, Calif.

SIGN AGREEMENTS
New Delhi, India — (U.P.) — India and the United States have signed five financial agreements under which the United States will contribute \$607,000 for five joint development and research projects.

BY UNITED PRESS
Northern California: Fair Sunday; northwest winds 12-25 mph near coast.



FINAL REPORT—Harold E. Stassen (right), retiring head of Foreign Operations Administration, presents his final report to President Eisenhower at the White House. He said the program has made notable progress, but added that "our task is far from complete." Activities of FOA are being turned over to the State and Defense Departments.

Sen. Morse Describes Talent Appropriation Bill Fight in Senate

In a telegram Saturday, Sen. Wayne Morse gave more details about progress of the appropriations bill containing \$500,000 for the start of construction on the Talent project.

The bill will come up for consideration by the full Senate Tuesday morning, and it was this that caused him to cancel his projected trip to Jackson county this week end. He was to have arrived here this afternoon for a round of talks and public appearances Monday and Tuesday.

His Clear Duty

"It is my clear duty to remain in Washington and continue a series of consultations with individual senators whose support may well be essential to passage of appropriation bill through Senate next week," Senator

Morse said in a wire to Mrs. Edward C. Kelly, who had been coordinating the plans for his visit.

"It is also very important that I be on floor of Senate Tuesday to participate in floor debate in support of appropriations recommended for Oregon projects by Senate appropriations committee," he continued.

"Dick Neuberger and I have worked very hard over period of several weeks presenting Oregon's case in support of appropriation requests for these projects, and we are delighted with the very favorable recommendations which we have received from the Senate appropriations committee. Our task was made more difficult by the fact that the Republican administration recommended either inadequate funds or no funds at all for most of the projects."

Significant Accomplishment

"The recommendation of the Senate committee that appropriations for the Talent project be increased from \$154,000 recommended by the House committee to \$500,000 is a significant accomplishment, but we must continue to do everything we can to secure approval of the Senate of this recommendation, and then do everything possible to persuade the House conferees to support the Senate amount. There is still much work to be done before this appropriation fight is finally won."

"And therefore I am sure that the people of Southern Oregon will understand the complete justification of my cancelling my trip so that I can remain here in Washington and continue to work on this vitally important matter."

"Please express to your group my regrets and assure them that if they will extend to me a rain-check invitation, I shall be glad to speak to a similar meeting to be arranged sometime this fall," he concluded.

Conservation Meeting

His last reference was to a meeting with conservationists and supporters of the Talent project to have been held at Hanleylands, the Ross lane home of Mrs. E. B. Hanley.

Mrs. Hanley said Saturday she will sponsor the same gathering later in the year when the Senator can attend, and pointed out that he would then have more to report on the Oregon projects. She said she is proud of the work the senator is doing, and that she agreed he should stay and fight for the Talent and other Oregon projects.

Cherryville Logger Crushed to Death

Sandy, Ore. — (U.P.) — A frightened logger was crushed to death near Cherryville Friday when he ran into the path of a falling tree as his brother-in-law stood by helplessly.

Lawrence O. Mason, 32, was trapped as his brother-in-law, Marvin Blakely, sawed off the end of a tree which had become snagged 25 feet in the air. Mason, who had been standing at a safe distance, became frightened and ran under the falling tree.

He died instantly.

In the Day's News

By FRANK JENKINS
Fiscal staff:

The senate is acting today on a bill to extend the nation's 281 BILLION debt limit for one year. Approval in the senate is expected (the house has already approved it) and the President is understood to be planning to sign it at once.

UNDER present circumstances, the debt extension is so essential that even Senator Byrd of Virginia feels that he is compelled to support it. But I certainly hope that our congress will be realistic enough in its spending in the future to enable our nation to QUIT INCREASING ITS DEBT.

These are good times. There are round reasons to believe that if the Russians can be convinced that starting another war wouldn't pay business conditions in the United States will be good for a considerable time.

When times are good is the time to pay off debt. Every individual with a grain of common sense knows that.

CAN WE CUT FEDERAL SPENDING?

We can—if at every election the voters defeat the heavy spenders. Politicians are pretty good merchants. They believe in giving the people what the people indicate by their votes that they want.

WHAT of atomic power?

Is it coming QUICK?

SOME say yes.

Some say no.

The situation came to a head the other day at a hearing on the multi-billion dollar upper Colorado river development. Congressman Craig Hosmer of Southern California, who is against the upper Colorado project, thinks it's coming quick. He said:

"Not in 100 years, not in 50 years, but in a much shorter time nuclear-electric energy will be produced MUCH CHEAPER than hydro-electric energy."

Congressman Durham of North Carolina (who is also against the upper Colorado development) went even farther. He said:

"Atomic power WITHIN TWO YEARS will be produced as cheaply as energy from oil, coal or WATER."

ON THE other side of the question, Senator Wallace Bennett of Utah (who is for the Colorado project) said:

"It would be imprudent and most unwise to halt the construction of dams on the grounds that their power might become obsolete at some indefinite time in the future. Neither the public power users, municipalities or rural electric cooperatives, nor the private power companies seem to share this fear. . . . They are all anxious to contract for any available power from the power dams. . . . Private power companies in the West are continuing their hydro and steam power expansion programs without any let-up."

TAKE your choice.

But— Here in Southern Oregon, which is rich in resources that need power for their development, we'd better get the power of our great rivers developed while somebody still wants to develop it.

We aren't going to get any huge atomic developments here.

Blind War Veteran Dies in Bend Fire

Baker — (U.P.) — Leslie S. Stoll, about 31, a blind war veteran, burned to death in his flaming four-room home here about 4:30 a.m. Saturday.

Firemen said the fire apparently started in the bedroom of the house from a dropped cigarette. Stoll lived alone.

Authorities said the man, who was blinded by shrapnel in World War II, apparently became confused while attempting to escape the flames. Two doors lead from the bedroom—one to the kitchen and the other to a closet. Stoll's body was found in the closet, caught behind a hot water heater. He was a former football player on the Baker high school team.

Sunday, July 3, 1955

MEDFORD (OREGON) MAIL TRIBUNE—FIVE

Workers in Oregon M&M Mills Join In Labor Dispute

Portland — (U.P.) — AFL Plywood Workers in the five M & M Woodworking Company plants on the west coast authorized a strike Friday afternoon and immediately posted pickets.

Some 1500 men in plants located at Portland, Albany, Idanha and Lyons, Ore., and Eureka, Calif., left their jobs to "attend union meetings" and failed to return to work Friday.

The union said the strike vote was 1187 to 41 in the five plants. The dispute was over renewing the old contract with no changes in wages or conditions, according to the Eureka local. "The men simply will not work without a contract," it said.

At Portland, union officials said the dispute was based on a company desire to remove certain benefits already a part of the old contract.

Paul Karstedt, assistant to the company's president, said M & M wanted all side agreements included in the contract; elimination of a compulsory arbitration clause in the contract, and "clarification" of clauses on computing vacation pay.

The company said the wage issue was not to be raised until June 30, 1956.

Nilsen Sets Study Of Signboard Laws

Salem — (U.P.) — State Labor Commissioner Norman O. Nilsen told a meeting of outdoor advertising industry representatives here Friday that he would make a first hand study of Oregon's signboard law.

Nilsen said the California system, which regulates some of the largest advertising projects in the nation, should produce helpful material in setting up workable methods for administering Oregon's signboard law which becomes effective Aug. 3.

Warren Korstad of Eugene, as spokesman for the outdoor advertising industry, said the industry wants to do its part toward making the Oregon regulatory system effective to improve the appearance of the state's highway network.

The signboard law resulted from two bills introduced by the Roadsides Council of Oregon and the outdoor advertising industry at the 1955 Legislature.

Portland Man With Touring Boy Scouts

McGuire Air Force Base, N.J. — (U.P.) — Sixteen Explorer Scouts and three explorer leaders, three from the West Coast, have left on a Military Air Transport Service plane for a five-week tour of Europe.

Adult Explorer Advisor, William Oberteuffer of Portland, Ore., accompanied the touring scouts who departed Friday on an exchange visit arranged with a group of European scouts who arrived in the U.S. June 19.

Airliner Damaged in Mishap at Airport

Portland — (U.P.) — One of the last two DC-3 airliners on the Pacific coast runs of United Air Lines sustained minor damage here Friday when its landing gear collapsed as it stood on a ramp at Portland International Airport.

The incident was blamed on failure of the hydraulic mechanism which operates the landing gear. The plane was idled for routine repairs and was occupied by a mechanic, stewardess and janitor when it gently plopped to its belly, inflicting minor damage to engines and propellers.

The ship had just returned from its San Francisco run and was preparing for the return trip. It was the first such incident ever recorded at United's Portland station.

Brand Inspection Fees Down 5 Cents

Salem — (U.P.) — Livestock brand inspection fees in Oregon were reduced from 30 cents to 25 cents a head effective July 1. M. E. Knickerbocker, Chief of the Division of Animal Industry of the State Department of Agriculture, said.

The department also put into use a new series of stock brand inspection certificates. They will be issued only by authorized inspectors.

During 1954 the movement of cattle through brand inspection points in Oregon reached a new high of more than 700,000 head. Through May, 1955, inspections each month this year were higher than in the same month a year ago.

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