

Is That So?

By EUGENE BURNS
Ranger-Naturalist

The strong call of the wild upon an animal is wonderfully well told in this piece by Estella Boteler of Richmond, California (which, incidentally, won for her the weekly 30-volume Encyclopedia Americana award). She wrote:

"My two teen-age brothers, always more than prompt for their meals, returned from a wood-cutting expedition much too late for dinner. Their lateness, we soon found, was due to a tiny fox squirrel shivering in the folds of their coat, more dead than alive, which they had found in the tree they had chopped down. Both mother and another squirrel had been killed in the tree's fall.

"While our dinner stood forgotten, we tried everything possible to feed the tiny waif with warm milk without success. Finally my older sister said: 'I know just the thing!' and hurried to our smokehouse where our old house-cat rested in a box feeding her family of newborn kittens.

"Kneeling down and placing one hand over the cat's head, she lowered the tiny orphan into the box, helping it find a nipple, and it took hold at once and began feeding hungrily. However the cat must have caught the queer odor for suddenly she raised up and looked intently at the squirrel and might have destroyed it but my sister placed her hand quickly over the cat's eyes and gently pushed her head down again. She kept the hand over the cat's head until the nursing was completed. Then we brought the tiny squirrel back into the house carefully closing the door so the cat could not get in and sister bedded the orphan down in a cotton-padded box. Only then did we all have dinner, too happy and excited about the squirrel to care that our food had gotten stone cold. Of course we named him immediately, hitting on the name Bonnie.

Door Opened
"After several days supervision, the cat permitted the founding to take part of her babies' food without question—and then we opened the house door so the cat could come in whenever she liked.

"When the kittens' eyes opened they also came into the house and then squirrel and kittens would romp and play together all over the place while the mother cat sat by and watched with seeming pleasure. In between times, the squirrel or one of the kittens would take a few swallows of nourishment with the mother cat lying down obligingly.

"One day a neighbor, Mrs. Hargraves, called and saw the kittens and squirrel romping all over the floor together. When she saw the mother cat come in, she cried out in alarm: 'Hurry! Quick! The cat will eat him!' And you can imagine her surprise when little Bonnie scampered toward the mother cat and immediately nuzzled her for a bit of nourishment whereupon the cat turned on her side and permitted the squirrel to eat in comfort.

"When Bonnie grew up he would race to meet the boys, run up their legs, on to their shoulders and then if the boys didn't offer him a nut he would dive down and search their pockets for the nuts that he knew were always hidden there for him.

"Eventually, Bonnie took to disappearing. At first, he would be gone only a few hours; then overnight, and finally several days at a stretch—and each time he returned he was just a little bit less tame than before.

Suddenly Reappeared

"Once when he had been gone for over a week and we had about decided that he would not return, he suddenly reappeared, racing like a streak down the



path to our door. Without hesitation, he scrambled up to my sister's shoulder and sat there nuzzling her ear when she tried to take hold of him, he jumped on to one of our other children and sat on our shoulders until we would try to touch him and then he'd jump to another again. Petting for him was over.

"Our brother, hearing our glad cries and seeing Bonnie run to the corn crib and snatched up a few grains of corn and hastened back, calling, 'Bonnie' every jump.

"As soon as Bonnie heard him he jumped down and ran toward brother, leaping upon his shoulder and like old times searching his pockets until he found the corn. Taking a grain, he returned to my brother's shoulder and holding the corn in his little forepaws began to peel the husk from the corn and to eat it with relish. But when we tried to take him into the house, he balked—and instead ran up a tall tree in the yard and refused to come down despite our coaxing.

"That was the last time we saw Bonnie for when he went away this time, he never returned. The call of the wild-wood proved too strong and he couldn't resist."

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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 adventures, 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.

No-Turn Signs Set Up At Sixth and Central

New no-turn signs have been installed at the corner of Sixth st. and Central ave. New signs on Central ave. read "No Left Turn" and "No Right Turn" and were changed from "No Turn" signs because the public works and police departments received complaints that many residents did not know what "No Turn" meant. There also was installed a "No Right Turn" on Sixth st. for eastbound traffic. No turning at those corners are effective between 12 noon and 5:30 p.m. weekdays and between 10 a.m. and 5:30 p.m. Saturdays.

In the Day's News

BY FRANK JENKINS

Leading officials in Washington say the Middle East has become the most critical area in the worldwide cold war. There are growing fears that Middle East tensions might flare at any time into a full-scale shooting war between Israel and the Arab countries.

I—The United States and Russia could be sincerely UNITED in the determination to build a better world—

There are so MANY things we could do to keep the peace in the historic powderkeg that we know as the Middle East. We could knock the Isarelis' and the Arabs' heads together and tell 'em to be good—or else! Or we could throw a quarantine around the area, shutting off all war material and letting 'em fight it out with their bare fists after their ammunition ran out. That would be bad, but it would be better than letting a little war in the Middle East spread into another world war.

BUT—Our informed Washington officials say the communist bloc undoubtedly plans to step up pressure in the months ahead by channeling weapons to the Arab countries.

And—Our state department says it has information that soviet bloc sources have been approaching Israel on SUPPLYING THE ISRAEL FORCES WITH ARMS. That is to say: The commies are planning to slip guns to both sides.

SO—You see—We can't work with Russia to keep the peace. You just can't work with people you can't trust.

THIS is a bright spot: **IKE GOES ON IMPROVING.** That is important because in some manner peculiar to himself Ike has gained the affection, the trust and the confidence of the people of all the world. What leaders like that can do is immeasurable.

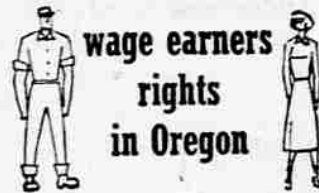
And—If his health holds—We'll have at least 14 months more of Ike's leadership.

SHUCKS! Let's turn to the lighter side of life. The BBC, the government-controlled British radio—which is normally as solemn and stuffy as government-controlled affairs have to be—aired its first joke about the Princess Margaret-Peter Townsend romance. One of its comedians pretended to read a news bulletin saying: "British facing another crisis—they had tea together again today!" He got a laugh that echoed all over the United Kingdom.

OF COURSE—You know—If Meg and Peter eloped and got married and LIVED HENCEFORTH ON WHAT THEY COULD EARN their crisis would be resolved and there wouldn't be anything that anybody could do about it.

In Norwalk, Calif., 39-year-old William Pivar (arrested on a charge of malicious mischief) up and threw a heavy ashtray through a plate glass window in the sheriff's office. Asked what the heck, he explained: "I just had an urge to break a window. I feel much better now."

IF I had been the sheriff, I'd have had an irresistible urge to lay him over a barrel and



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DISCRIMINATORY SITUATIONS

The broad intent of law is to guard the right of each individual without denying anyone his personal liberty of action as an American citizen. Oregon's Fair Employment Practices Act applies this principle in specific regulations prohibiting discrimination in employment because of race, religion, color or national origin. Here are FEP queries taken from State Bureau of Labor files.

Q. I tried to get a mechanic's job but I feel I lost out because of my color. The employer said the man he hired knows the trade but I think I could learn. What can be done about such discrimination?

A. You must show equal qualifications for the job. An employer always retains the right of action in choosing the best qualified employee.

Q. When I applied for work in an office, the person who interviewed me asked what church I attended. Did he have the right to do so?

A. It is unlawful under the FEP law for a prospective employer to make any inquiry of a job applicant regarding his religious belief, nationality or race.

Q. A fellow worker doesn't like my nationality and because of that he says he would refuse to work under me if I get promoted?

A. Your fellow worker would be in violation of the FEP Act if he makes that stand. Employees as well as employers are prohibited from discriminating in their working relationships.

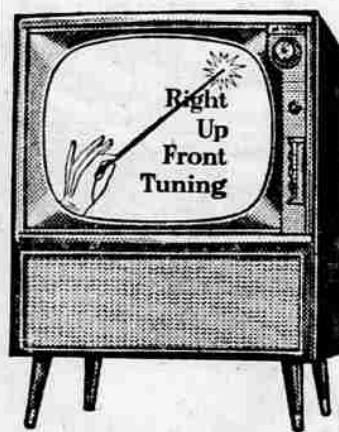
If you have a question, you must write Commissioner Norman O. Nilsen, State Bureau of Labor, Salem, Ore.

apply a barrel stave to the seat of his pants.

After which, I'm sure I'd have felt much better.

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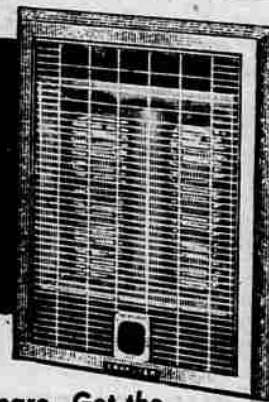
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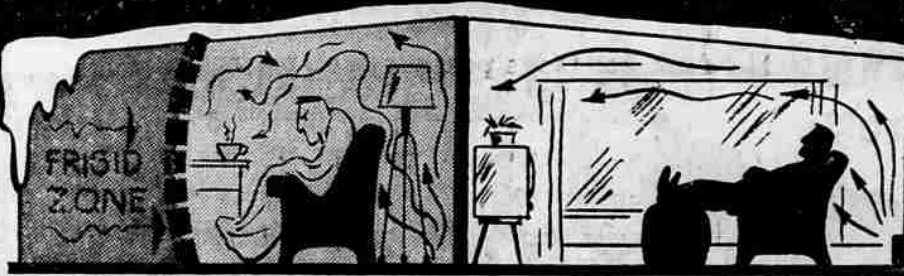
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