

Is That So?

By EUGENE BURNS
Ranger-Naturalist

Ueno Park Zoo, Tokyo, with Japan Air Lines — The English language, even when fortified with the broadest of gestures, can sometimes prove inadequate in a foreign land.

Take today. This morning I asked the Imperial Hotel doorman to direct my taxi driver to take me to the Ueno Park zoo. As though it were his last drive here below, this "kamikaze" driver drove through huge crowds, with the heel of his palm beating a tattoo on the horn, furiously scattering them like flocks of chickens. Miraculously, without picking up a single dangling kimono sleeve, he deposited me at the main entrance of the zoo.

I tried to explain to the non-English speaking ticket collector that I had an appointment with the zoo director, Mr. Koga. To describe him, I added: "Zoo di-



rector. Big man. Chief." And because Koga is a large man of considerable height, I added: "He big kind man, No. 1 big." The puzzled ticket collector called an assistant. I repeated my silly explanation, pouring my heart into the gestures, "Chief of Zoo. Director. Big kind man."

"Ah-so," said the assistant, bowing. "Please to come." We wound through the zoo and finally halted in front of a huge cage. "Big kind, tall," the assistant said, pointing to the giraffe. Happily from there I could see the administration building. Mr. Koga was waiting to pour a conversational cup of tea and then show me his zoo, with justifiable pride. En route to see the animals which were native to Japan, he told me that last year's zoo attendance passed 4,500,000. When I pointed out that this was the largest zoo attendance of any zoo in the world, he said simply: "Japanese people love animals."

Tailed Amphibian

Mr. Koga took me first to the giant salamander house. This salamander is a tailed amphibian, somewhat resembling a huge soft-skinned water lizard. The specimens we looked at were around four feet long. "Sometimes they reach five, perhaps even 5½ feet," said Mr. Koga. "Without doubt, the largest in the world. It is negative to the sun," he added, "hiding under stones in the daytime but quite active at night when it travels out of its nest perhaps 300 yards for food. It is very fond of crabs, frogs and small fish. A large salamander will lay up to 600 eggs at a sitting. And defends them. If you touch the eggs with a stick, the mother will angrily bite. Unfortunately, the giant salamander is edible and during the war became quite scarce."

Leaving me next to a large black bear with a white V-shaped neckline, he said: "Formerly this Japanese bear was quite plentiful but today it is found mostly in the northernmost island, Hokkaido." I wondered aloud, why does nature put a white spot on a black bear—and on the chest. It makes him so much more visible. Mr. Koga explained: "I think perhaps this is a 'fear' spot. When he rears up and shows this white spot, other animals are greatly afraid of his size."

Graceful Antlers

The Japanese deer, like most of the world's deer, are beautiful—beautifully dappled with white spots and they have gracefully curving antlers. "In ancient times, we seem to have had many. Now, not so many. In fact, quite few."

We next looked in on the Japanese monkeys. "In all Japan, only one primate, Macaque." It was a small, pink-faced monkey. "This monkey is found in many

areas in Japan. I understand more than 300 wild on Mt. Takasaki. Six boss monkeys keep order within the groups. When baby monkeys, one year old, they form own group. When four, they are responsible for guarding the border of their land to protect others from outside attack. Quite smart, monkeys."

He showed me many other native animals in the well-kept zoo: the serow, a goat-like antelope, native Japanese badgers, the raccoon-dog, an animal marked like our raccoons; Japanese soft shelled turtle, a new, some of the common Japanese snakes—there are only a few poisonous snakes in Japan. Many birds—blue fly catchers hawk-eagle white eyes, bush warblers, green and copper pheasants, and of course some of the famous long-tailed cocks—a rare oriental bird, developed from the common barnyard fowl after 150 years or more of careful selection and cross and in-breeding with copper and green pheasants. Usually it is black and white, sometimes pure white.

Feathers Never Mout

"Its tail feathers, numbering 15-25 never moult," explained Mr. Koga. "Ordinarily they grow from 8-11 feet, and occasionally they have been known to grow over 20 feet!"

"These feathers are very delicate in structure. They can be coiled around the hand without breaking. To preserve them, the tail feathers must hang free—and the bird must spend most of his life sitting on a high perch. Then, every second day it is taken out and allowed to walk about for an hour or so with an attendant holding its tail up to prevent it from getting torn or soiled..."

"She's a beautiful bird," I said absentmindedly.

"She?" he asked. "All long-tailed ones are males—the female's extreme length being only about eight inches. I think maybe better so."

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Local WU Office Being Renovated

The latest types of carrier and repeater equipment have been installed in the Medford Western Union office as part of a \$10,000 renovation program underway here, company officials have announced.

During the past month crews have been enlarging Medford's Western Union operating quarters, renovating, painting and installing new equipment. Renovation is expected to be completed this month.

Installation of the carrier and repeater equipment makes the Medford office the most important wire testing and regulating station between Eugene and Sacramento, the company said.

Twenty-seven new channels have been provided. Installation of the new intrafax, which will be leased to business firms to enable them to flash typed, written or printed matter between scattered departments, is scheduled for later this year.

Western Union made its local renovation progress report this week in conjunction with the company's 100th anniversary on April 4. Special ceremonies were held at Rochester, N.Y., where the nation's telegraph system was founded April 4, 1856.

Actress Jeff Donnell May Sue for Divorce

Hollywood — (U.P.) — Actress Jeff Donnell, who portrays comedian George Gobel's television wife, today said she had again separated from actor Aldo Ray and "I guess I'll have to file for a divorce."

The couple first separated last summer but decided to reconcile on Dec. 21. She said they had separated again last March 27. The actress married Ray Sept. 30, 1954. She has two children by a previous marriage.



MARY DANIELS
Encampment Selection

Miss Daniels Chosen For CAP Encampment

Mary Daniels, 17, of route 1, box 354A, Medford, has been chosen to represent the Oregon Wing, Civil Air Patrol, at the all girl encampment June 16 through June 19 at Lackland Air Force base, Tex. She is the daughter of Mrs. Adella Paul and Ray Daniels, Medford.

Miss Daniels has been a member of the Medford squadron two years and is a sergeant. She was the only cadet in the local squadron to qualify for the encampment, which will include outstanding girl cadets from the United States, Hawaii and Alaska.

Cadets are trained under regulations governing personnel in the women's division of the Air Force.

A Nichol's Worth of . . . Comment On This and That

Washington — (U.P.) — There isn't a monkey, a lion, a gazelle or a crane which won't shed salt from the eye if Dr. William M. Mann retires as head of the Washington Zoo.

Law says he to in midsummer on a count of he will be too old.

Age doesn't mean much to the ape, Leo the gazelle, or Lilly the crane from Siberia. All they know is that old Doc Mann has fed 'em well.

It is hoped that the Congress may relax a bit and grease through a resolution, allowing the good doctor to stick around a little longer. Since 1925, when he took over, he has made the Washington Zoo one of the world's best.

It's the Law

The animals know the good doc for the peanuts and the cabbage leaves and the tidbits animals love. But most of all they know him by his beat up old felt hat, which is a cross between brown and gray. It has been his trademark for 30 years. Creased and bent and wrinkled by the weather.

Anyhow, on July 1, Bill Mann will be 70. And the law says he has to set aside his bananas and grapes for the apes and stay away from the lion cage.

It's a mighty sad thought. I have known the doctor for a long time. When you walk into his home across from the zoo, you had best tread lightly, lest you step on a cub lion's tail, or a baby snake.

Lucille, the good doctor's wife, loves animals as much as Mann

Man Arrested in State Gets 20 Years

Kansas City, Mo. — (U.P.) — Max Franklin Allen, 22, yesterday was sentenced to 20 years imprisonment on charges growing out of the kidnaping and robbery of a Kansas City ballroom owner March 5.

His 17-year-old wife, Mrs. Mary Alice Allen, was placed in the custody of the attorney general until she reached the age of 21. She was charged as a juvenile delinquent.

Federal District Judge Richard M. Duncan sentenced Allen to 20 years on a kidnaping charge and five years for violation of the Dyer act, the sentences to run concurrently. The automobile in which George Tidona was forced to accompany his kidnapers from his home in Johnson county, Kansas, to the ballroom he operates in Kansas City, Mo., was stolen, officers explained.

Tidona was forced to open a safe from which \$516 was taken. Allen and his bride, whom he married the day after the kidnaping were apprehended at Gilchrist, Ore., March 14.

Acid Victim's Aide Given Protection as Cops Hunt Assailant

New York — (U.P.) Police held Victor Riesel's blonde assistant in custody today to protect her from enemies of the labor columnist responsible for spraying acid into his face and eyes early Thursday.

Betty Nevins, 23, Riesel's assistant, gave police their best clues to the unidentified thug who approached her and Riesel and threw sulphuric acid into his face.

Riesel, confined to the hospital and in grave danger of losing his sight, could give investigators only a fragmentary account of what happened.

Assistant Gives Details

Most of the details were supplied by Miss Nevins during day-long questioning Thursday.

Two members of Local 138 of the Operating Engineers Union, William Wilkens and Peter Batallas, were also questioned and gave police protection Thursday night. They appeared with Riesel on a radio program a short time before he was attacked.

William Keating, former counsel of the New York Anti-Crime Committee, disclosed Thursday night that Riesel planned to expose a move to re-establish Joseph S. Fay, convicted labor extortionist who is now on parole, as a power in the operating en-

Applegate, CP, Crater Capture Volleyball Tilts

Applegate, Crater high and Central Point won opening matches last night in Rogue Valley Women's Volleyball tournament at Medford YMCA.

Applegate trimmed Howard school 15 to 7 and 15 to 13. Crater won over Ashland YMCA 15 to 10 and 15 to 8 and Central Point downed Ruch 15 to 5 and 15 to 10.

Eagle Point and Medford Y will mix at 7 o'clock tonight and at 8 p.m. Shady Cove and Oak Grove will tangle Nine p.m. scrap will match Applegate and Crater.

Finals will be on Saturday.

Beavers Nudge Los Angeles 7-6

Glendale, Calif. — (U.P.) — Artie Wilson proved the hero yesterday as he singled in the run that gave Portland a 7-6 edge over the Los Angeles Angels in an exhibition game.

The Beavers got the winning run after Steve Bilko of Los Angeles tied the score at 6-6 with a seventh inning two-run homer. Veteran hurler Red Adams got credit for the win.

Portland was scheduled to meet Hollywood here today. Beaver pitchers Dick Fiedler and Leroy Han were expected to draw the lund assignments.

Bill O'Neal Coached Redmond Coaching Job

Redmond — (U.P.) — William O'Neal, assistant coach at Springfield the past two years, has been offered the head basketball job at Redmond, replacing Marvin Scott who resigned the post earlier this year.

O'Neal was a member of the 1947 Marshfield state high school basketball championship team and later played four years at Southern Oregon.

Loes Enters Hospital For Complete Check-Up

Brooklyn — (U.P.) — Billy Loes, Brooklyn Dodger pitcher who is suffering arm trouble again, has entered Long Island college hospital for a complete checkup to determine whether he will be able to pitch at all this summer.

Loes has had recurring arm trouble in the past and this spring the soreness lingered, prompting the checkup.

HOCKEY SERIES STARTS

Providence, R.I. — (U.P.) — The regular-season champion Providence Reds, who were extended the full five games by Buffalo in the semi-finals, entertain the Cleveland Barons tonight in the opening game of their best-of-seven final series of the American Hockey League's Calder Cup playoffs.

ORIOLES BUY BIRNER

Baltimore, Md. — (U.P.) — The Baltimore Orioles have purchased Werner (Babe) Birner, a 26-year-old right-hander, from the Detroit Tigers for the \$10,000 waiver price.

AAU Might Consider Amateurism Rule Revisions at June Session

San Francisco — (U.P.) — A revision of the "amateurism" rules of the Amateur Athletic Union, to meet present standards, may be considered at the annual meeting in June, AAU President Carl Hansen said today.

Hansen said he was going east next week for the AAU boxing finals at Boston, then to New York to confer with AAU Secretary Dan Ferris and other officials.

"I'm going to bring up a proposal that we consider revising some of the out-moded rules at our meeting during the national AAU track and field meet at Bakersfield in June," Hansen said.

High Living Cost

"Among these, of course, will be a suggestion that we consider the amount of expense money allotted to athletes in view of the present high cost of living. Another proposal would be that we look into the rule that makes a man a professional just because he says he plans to be on—even though he hasn't received any money."

Hansen admitted that the proposals have come about because of the criticism leveled at his organization over the banning of the country top miler, Wes Santee, for receiving too much expense money.

On the problem of expenses, the AAU asked the West Coast relays at Fresno, Calif., for a detailed financial report, including expenditures of competing athletes.

The relays committee rejected the request, with one member, Art Sastrom, suggesting that the AAU "go jump in the lake."

Seattle Rainier Rally Beats San Diego Padres

Palm Springs — (U.P.) — The San Diego Padres met Vancouver today in the final game of their exhibition series here at their spring training camp.

The Padres leave tomorrow for San Diego where they will wind up spring training. Seattle yesterday rallied with a homer and single which resulted in a 4-2 victory over San Diego.

Meanwhile, San Diego announced it had dropped from the squad pitcher Don Herman, son of Philadelphia Phillies' scout Babe Herman.

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