

Bobcats, Cougars Gives Woman In Applegate 'Cat Girl' Name

By HELGA MITCHELL
Newcomers to the Applegate valley are often asked, "Haven't you met the 'Cat girl' yet?"

This question leads to all sorts of inquiries, and finally winds up in crossing a makeshift swinging foot bridge on the Applegate river. There one can meet the "Cat girl," better known as Mrs. Curtis Gerhardt. Her unaffected smile enhances her friendliness and one immediately feels at ease.

The sun tanned face, the cotton plaid shirt, and the worn blue jeans reveal her zest for living in the outdoors.

Green Pastures
Her house, which is situated on an incline, is surrounded by fir trees and lush green pastures overlooking the river. Entering her rustic living room, attention is immediately captured by the ornaments on the walls. A cougar skin is on one wall, a bobcat skin on another, and from above the fireplace a huge elk head somberly looks down.

One asks, "Mrs. Gerhardt, is this why you are nicknamed the Cat girl?" She shrugs and replies, "I don't think those two skins gave me that name, but I think the 107 bobcats and two cougars that Curt and I have shot may have something to do with it."

It began six years ago, when Jack, their dog, who had a reputation of being a "no good houn' dog," tracked down his and her first bobcat. She recalled her tussle with the underbrush, crawling on hands and knees to reach the treed cat; the thrill and excitement of shooting her first cat, and the struggle it was to carry home Jack's prize. It was then she started her quest for bobcats to prove that Jack wasn't a "no good houn' dog."

Another Reason
Another reason she gave for hunting cats was, when dissecting them, she found large chunks of fresh deer meat in their stomachs. Today, she has a record of killing 70 bobcats and one cougar within a radius of



MRS. CURTIS GERHARDT Shown With Cougar Skin

three miles of her home, but she modestly gives all the credit to Jack. Her husband has shot 37 cats and one cougar in the same vicinity. They also have killed more than 500 coons, which have destroyed many farmers' chickens.

The Gerhardts' hunting experiences first started in Kansas, where they shot coyotes and jackrabbits. In 1940, the Gerhardts won three first prizes within nine days at Grants Pass. Curt received a gold trophy for bringing in a 261-pound deer, the largest ever recorded in Grants Pass at that time.

Mrs. Gerhardt won bronze book ends for bringing in the largest antelope in the same city at that time, and Curt obtained first prize for a 54-pound Chinook salmon caught in the Checco river, which was then the largest salmon caught in eight years.

Day's Catch
Among their adventures, Mrs. Gerhardt recalls the time they caught a porcupine, a bobcat, cougar, rattlesnake, and a digger squirrel all in one day. There was also the time when they were driving along a back road and saw several deer and rabbits standing lamely in the road. They couldn't understand why the animals didn't run from them, as they usually do. A short

Roy Kelly Resigns From CP Council

Central Point—Roy E. Kelly, veteran city councilman, submitted his resignation to the council at a special meeting recently. The resignation, became effective immediately.

Kelly has served as a member of the city council since his election to office in Nov., 1944. During his last term of office, he was serving as chairman of the council, chairman of the finance committee and member of the sewer and water committee.

William F. Saxbury was appointed to serve the remainder of Kelly's term, which runs until December.

Three of four farms in the U.S. have automobiles; half have motor trucks.



MRS. GERHARDT Shown With Bobcat

time later, they came face to face with their first cougar, and it was then that they understood why the animals had preferred their company to that of their deadly enemy. That cougar, which received nine holes and a bullet in his lungs, climbed up and down six different trees before it dropped dead.

Mrs. Gerhardt encourages hikers who hesitate to enter isolated mountain areas due to the dangers of wild life, by informing them that there is nothing to fear in the mountains, unless it's a mother bear with her cubs. She claims that wildlife will generally flee from humans.

Cougar Scream
When asked if she ever heard a cougar scream, she replied that she never had, and that she would have to have it proved that a cougar does scream.

Mrs. Gerhardt, known as "Dana," to the Applegate children, has driven the Applegate school bus for the past nine years, and is leader of the 4-H Applegate Fishermen's club.

Vice Findings May Be Ready Next Week

Portland — (U.P.) — Attorney General Robert Y. Thornton said Saturday he hoped to have his investigation into vice and racketeering conditions in Multnomah county completed and his findings ready for the grand jury in the next 10 days.

The attorney general said his office and the state police have been carrying on "an intensive investigation in charges of alleged vice, official misconduct and racketeering" in the county for the last 11 days. He said an all-out effort was being made to cover the entire field of inquiry as rapidly as possible.

The probe is "of major proportions," Thornton said, and the complexity of the investigation will require additional time before the evidence is ready to present to the grand jury.

Man Injured When Truck Hits Train

Joe Charles Ayoutt, Newport Creek, Ore., was reported in good condition at Community hospital Saturday, where he was taken after the truck he was driving collided with a train at 8:35 a.m. Friday.

The accident occurred on Central Point Market rd., between Table Rock four corners and Highway 62 four corners, state police said.

Officers reported the truck was moving toward Highway 62 about 25 miles per hour. The train, a Medco engine pulling 30 empty log cars and a caboose, was traveling toward Butte Falls, when it hit the right door of the truck, officers said. The truck was pushed 32 feet down the track.

Speed of the train was not indicated in the report, though officers stated the train whistle was operating. It was raining at the time of the accident and Ayoutt was unfamiliar with the area, they reported.

Engineer was identified as George Henry Davis, route 2, box 664, Central Point, and conductor, Emil Peterson, 52, of 2574 Jacksonville highway. No one on the train was injured.

State police said the train was slightly damaged and the truck was badly wrecked.

Details on Ayoutt's injuries were not available.

Car, Truck Collide Near Prospect Friday

Jerry Raymond Troxel, 19, of 1680 Camp Baker rd., Medford, was released from Sacred Heart hospital Friday after being treated for minor injuries suffered when his car collided with a truck at about 3:38 p.m. on a highway west of Prospect on Highway 62.

State police reported Troxel was attempting to pass the truck, operated by James Cecil Wilson, 35, Trail, when Wilson made a left turn. Troxel's vehicle hit the truck, went into a ditch and rolled over, officers said. Both vehicles were east-bound.

No one else was reported injured in the accident. Passengers in Troxel's car were Duane A. Brood, 19, route 1, box 420, Medford, Thelma Jean Cox, 16, of 1245 Morrow rd., Medford, and Norma Jean Evans, 16, of 145 North Third st., Central Point. Only passenger in Wilson's truck was Lawrence Lester Anderson, 18, Trail.

Troxel was taken to the hospital by Medford Ambulance service.

Butte Falls Marshal Submits Resignation

David Smith, Butte Falls, said Friday he submitted his resignation as Butte Falls marshal to the mayor because he failed to get "backing" from the council.

Smith said the action was the result of a case in Jackson county district court Thursday in which a jury unanimously found Andrew Hamstra, 36, Butte Falls, innocent of assault and battery.

Smith, who signed the complaint against Hamstra, said he asked Hamstra to move his car from a crosswalk in Butte Falls last December. Hamstra, Smith claimed, struck him with his fists.

Smith said he resigned because the council was not present to "back him up," and claimed Hamstra was found innocent on that basis.

The council probably will consider Smith's resignation at the next meeting Thursday night.

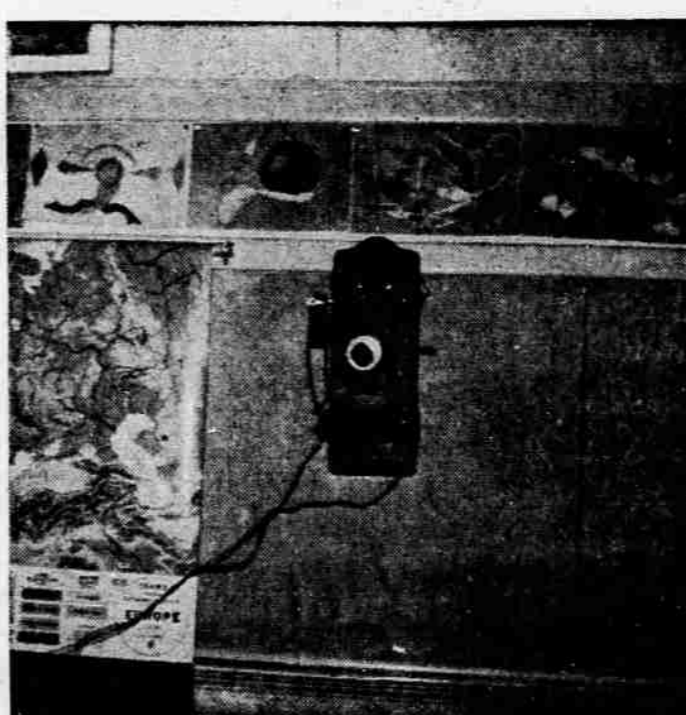
Hamstra was represented by Edward C. and Noreen Kelly, Medford father-and-daughter attorneys.

Local Woman Author Of Paper Article

Mrs. Melvin Fader, 1897 Kings highway, Medford, is author of an article in the April 24 issue of the Christian Science Monitor concerning the role the television set should play in the household.

In the article, Mrs. Fader explained, "The first problem we noticed was the sudden disappearance of the quiet, calm peace of our home." Because the set was always on chores were neglected, then the children were neglected and finally it came to either sending the set back or working out an acceptable routine, Mrs. Fader added.

A routine was worked out, Mrs. Fader stated, and the situation was reversed to work television to fit the schedule.



TWO-FOLD PURPOSE—This obsolete phone apparatus, one of two involved in an eighth grade science project at Prospect school, has proved to be a worthwhile subject. Students, who watched repair and installation of the communication medium, got first hand knowledge while the instructor, an expectant father, kept in touch with proceedings at home.

Telephone Line Installed Between Schoolroom, Home

Prospect—A two-way direct telephone line, recently installed as a science project for Prospect eighth graders, has accomplished a two-fold purpose.

The idea originated with the students, who desired to ease the mind of their instructor, Richard A. Price, an expectant father. Mrs. Price had no way of getting in touch with him, other than walking the half-mile from their home to the school.

Thus, the class acquired two antiquated crank-style phones. After both phones were repaired, one was installed in the eighth grade room and the other in the kitchen of Price's home.

Whistle Wire Used
Michael Burrill obtained a half-mile of whistle wire with which the phones were connected.

High School Students Are Honored by Elks Club Here

High school students participating in youth leadership and scholarship contests and Student Government Day, sponsored by the Medford Elks lodge, were honored at the annual National Youth Day ceremony at the Elks temple here Thursday.

Dick Woodcock, exalted ruler, expressed the lodge's appreciation to the young people and their parents for achievements through the school year, and for participation in Elks activities.

Engraved wrist watches were presented to students who won leadership and scholarship contests by Jack Thompson, of the Elks youth activities committee.

First place winners in the leadership contest were Nathan Douthit and Vicki Noel, both of Crater High in Central Point, while Carol Denman and Ruth Kellington, both of Medford, and Sharon Lee James, of Phoenix received honorable mention.

Scholarship contest winners were Douthit, who received a cash award in lieu of a second watch, and Nancy McKeown of Medford. Honorable mention went to James Korth and Sandra Owens, both of Phoenix, David Gault, Medford, and Donna Eskew of Crater High.

Medford city councilman Stanley Jones, who gave the principal address, compared the observance of May Day in a democratic society with similar celebrations in communist dominated countries. He compared the way of life of young people and their future in the two societies.

Special Tributes
Woodcock paid special tribute to the late Diamond L. Flynn, and Mrs. Joanne Shith, head of the social studies department at Medford High school, who were

In County Schools...

JACKSON SCHOOL
Health Day, May 4, at Jackson school was a day of enthusiastic competition.

Lee Ragsdale, physical education supervisor, Miss Olive Curry, school nurse, and Tom Newton physical education teacher at Jackson school, had to use keen judgement in choosing the winner of the posture contest.

Two students from each room competed for the coveted prize. The winners were Bernice Balcomb, third grade, and Ben Wilmoth, first grade. Every child in Jackson school participated in a race. Winners of the races were: First grade—First, Shawn Lees; second, Tommy Campbell; third, Larry Barr. Second grade—First, Buzzy Curry; second, Rebecca Glines; third, Kent Stevens. Third grade—First, Lorraine LeFaive; second, Ricky Templeton; third, Mike Barker. Fourth grade—First, Barbara Danczek; second, Sherry Mor-

ris; third, Ronald McGuire. Fifth grade—First, Mike Glines; second, Herbert Vallee; third, Carol Mason. Sixth grade—First, Judy Jones; second, George Clearwater; third, Joe Griffin.

On April 27, the students of Jackson school voted for school officers for the year 1955-1957.

After a campaign of lectures and posters the officers elected are:

President, Grant Schroeder; vice-president, Jimmy Powers; secretary, Shelley White, treasurer, Connie Hurr; yell leaders, Mary Margaret Barr and Lynda Grimes.

Voting was done by the secret ballot method.

Estes, Adlai Won't Appear on Same Stand

Portland — (U.P.) — Adlai Stevenson's campaign leader Saturday squelched plans to put Stevenson and Estes Kefauver on the same speakers' platform in Eugene on May 15.

Both candidates for the Dem will be in Eugene the same day and Lane county Democrats were bent on seeing them together as an expression of party unity. Both are campaigning for write-in votes in Oregon's May 18 primary election.

Hy Haskin, Chicago attorney handling Stevenson's campaign strategy in the state, greeted the proposal with a flat "No." He said he saw no reason why the Stevenson organization should provide Kefauver with a speaking platform.

Glenn Klein Named To IFYE Committee

Glenn Klein, 735 Dakota ave., has been named as a member of the equipment committee for the fifth annual International Farm Youth Exchange conference to be held at Estes Park, Colo., August 7-10, according to Miss Fern Johnson, Cedar City, Utah, chairman of the National IFYE conference.

Klein was a 1951 IFYE to New Zealand where he lived with farm families. The IFYE is a "grassroots" program aimed at building a stronger foundation of understanding for world peace.



WINS NATIONAL CONTEST—Mrs. Marie E. Dizney, 360 South Second st., Central Point, pictured above left, is shown as she received the keys to an Oldsmobile Super '58' Holiday coupe which she won in a national Safeway stores contest. Giving her the keys is T. C. Carter, manager of the Bartlett st. Safeway store, and at the right is Art Nordquist, manager of the West Main st. store. In the background is Darrell M. Miller of the Darrell Miller company, Oldsmobile dealer. Mrs. Dizney, a school teacher for 50 years before retiring in 1952 plans to do some traveling with her new car. She taught school in Central Point for about 10 years before her retirement and is a past secretary of Jackson county chapter, Retired Teachers association. Mrs. Dizney won the contest by completing a statement concerning why she liked Skylark bread, a Safeway stores product.—(Brainerd photo)

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