

### Small Worlds Around Us

By Lynn W. Watkins  
Register & Tribune Syndicate, 1967.

**Bug's Performance Wasn't Funny — To Him**  
One of the children noticed him first and became justifiably excited, for it was a large bug, obviously a beetle, nearly two inches in length with a smooth, shiny black body.

He had just walked into the baseboard and was trying to back away and get started again across the porch floor. The cry, "Come see the big, black bug," alerted the entire family. They all rushed out to see, and stayed — the performance the bug was putting on was worth the time spent.

The beetle, the so-called Darkling beetle, who normally moves only by night and spends the daylight hours in the ground or under a rotting log, where he nibbles on the dead plants or toadstools, had somehow blundered into the screened-in porch.

**Accident Prone**  
It soon was apparent the beetle was "accident prone," as he stumbled right from one crisis to another. Usually slow moving, in spite of its six legs, this character was a true blunderer; he made uphill work of even a level surface.

What a time he had — he blundered into the most ridiculous predicament, struggled valiantly to get out of one scrape only to fall into another. He spent many minutes upside down, his six legs waving helplessly in the air, his body twisting from one side to the other, and at the same time skating around in erratic circles on his black, shiny back.

The amused spectators couldn't help him for they couldn't know where he wanted to go; by his actions, false start and abrupt reversals he didn't seem to know either. Troubles were attracted to him like iron filings to a magnet.

He would no sooner get himself righted and head out for some obscure destination before he would slam his head into a piece of porch furniture, or the wall, or anything else that was in the way. He was bull-headed.

**Made It To Door**  
After a couple of hundred tumbles, roll-overs, and upsets he finally made the doorway of the screened porch. The door was open. True to his natural stupidity he fell off the step, landed in a leg-waving heap on the concrete walk. On his back again; once more the struggle to regain his feet. Again the children helped by tipping him over with a lead pencil.

This scared him and he "pushed the panic button" again and slammed into the doorstep, the same one he had but recently fallen from. It was enough to drive a bug batty.

Eventually, he reached a soft spot in the yard, for the first time he had a faint flash of sense, he ducked his head and started to dig himself in, out of sight in the earth, leaving perhaps a lesson for those who had watched, for he proved that an unshakable determination can overcome a whole series of mistakes, as well as stupid clumsiness.

**Park Ranger Moves To Lake Mead Area**  
Supervisory Park Ranger Lynn R. Williamson has accepted promotion and transfer to Lake Mead National Recreation area, Boulder City, Nev. according to Crater Lake National Park Superintendent W. Ward Yeaker. Williamson has been at Crater Lake National park for five years.

Williamson has lived in the Southwest and attended the University of New Mexico. Following graduation from college, he was employed in Grand Teton National Park in seasonal positions. His permanent career with the National Park Service started Oct. 24, 1955, when he was appointed park ranger in Mount Rainier National park. He was promoted and transferred to Crater Lake National park in March, 1957.

**Valley Artists Have Works in Art Exhibit**  
Selections of three young valley artists were chosen for the Travel Art exhibit at the Oregon State fair last week end.

Artwork by Sherry Nasso, Ashland, third grade; Paddy Oakely, Ashland, sixth grade, and Susan Caperna, Medford, 10th grade, was among the 43 selections made from more than 300 entries at the fair. The travel exhibit is available to schools during the coming year.

Most of the nation's hail storms occur in June.

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