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Let Me Tell You A Story
'Bout A Man Named Charlie

There are many kinds of tailed amphibians, at least one of which performed a worthy service, not necessarily to mankind, but to man in particular. The salamander that rendered this service was a "hellbender," and the man that benefited from it, by seeing one for the first time, was a gentleman by the name of Charlie; a hellbender scared Charlie into total at tence.

Charlie had a boat, and time on his hands, as well as a secret thirst. Some of his more curious neighbors often wondered why Charlie never brought home a fish, in spite of the time he spent in his boat on the river. Weather permitting he went every week and was known to spend a couple of days on the river at a time. But Charlie lived alone and no one cared too much where he went or how long he stayed.

Wasn't Interested
The little known truth was that Charlie wasn't at all interested in fishing. He knew nothing at all of the science of angling, but to make it look good he took a long bamboo pole with him, along with a hook, line and a can of worms. He never baited the hook, he just suspended it in the water.

Charlie had other interests. Under the center seat of the boat he carried a jug. It was always full when he went fishing and always empty when he returned to the makeshift landing where he tied his boat. His return, at times, was at the end of the second day. He had followed the same procedure for several years, the curious neighbors couldn't exactly remember how long. In the interval Charlie had emptied a great number of ju, was in reality an alcoholic but had never caught a fish.

His only interest being in potent beverages, Charlie was as sadly uninformed about salamanders as he was about fish. He knew about frogs, but had never heard of, or seen, such a strange creature as a "hellbender," which of course is a salamander with a tail.

Found in Rivers
These lizard-like creatures are found in many rivers in central United States, and in the river where Charlie enjoyed the questionable pleasure that is derive from a tipped up jug.

The hellbender is about as large as the salamander grows, may be as long as twenty inches and all those inches are hideous and grotesque, actually frightening. The hellbender body is soft and puffy, of a dirty yellowish color, often with reddish markings or irregular spots. The skin is deeply wrinkled, so much so in fact the wrinkling identifies this salamander from the other. The hellbender is more aquatic than most of the family, spending all its life in the water. The female salamander, known as the hellbender, lays her eggs under a stone or old log in shallow water. The eggs are covered with a jelly-like material that protects them.

Not Concerned
None of these facts were of any concern to Charlie that day when the last swallow had long since gurgled out of the jug-neck, and he had slept on the boat bottom for several hours. The unawakened jerking on the line awoke him; he came to with a start. Grabbing the pole he lifted it. A large hellbender was on the hook. It fell off and into the boat and started wriggling toward Charlie.

It took a minute for Charlie's eyes to focus, but when they did, what he saw scared him sober. He fell into the river; a passing fisherman pulled him out.

Charlie hasn't touched a drop since. The hellbender was rightly named, for that really was what it scared out of Charlie.

13 Counties Due Disaster Ratings

Washington -UPI- Thirteen counties in Western Oregon will be designated by Agriculture Secretary Orville Freeman as disaster areas in connection with the Oct. 12 windstorm. Sens. Maurine Neuberger and Wayne Morse said today.

Counties to be named include Benton, Clackamas, Columbia, Douglas, Josephine, Lane, Lincoln, Linn, Marion, Multnomah, Polk, Washington and Yamhill.

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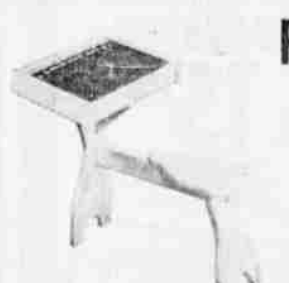
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