

Small Worlds Around Us

By LYNN M. WATKINS

(Register and Tribune)
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Skunks Do More Good Than Harm

It's not the skunk's idea to be obnoxious. He does not enjoy going around squirting people, but one would get this impression hearing folks talk about this animal.

Just the sight of a skunk, even at a distance, scares most folks half to death. The mere mention of the word causes some people to look apprehensively in all directions. It's really silly to think the skunk is such a disagreeable character when in reality he, as well as Mrs. Skunk, are pretty solid citizens.

It was a low blow, too, when that prejudiced individual coined the expression, "a skunk in a hen roost," for actually it was not a regular procedure on the animal's part. True, there have been instances where a skunk has raided a hen house and killed a chicken, but it happens very seldom.

Even the very worst of us have some good points, and skunk society, too, has its non-conformists. But as a group, skunks are pretty reliable members of the outdoor society of four-foots.

Obedience Taught

It would be a pretty hard-hearted and stupid human who could watch a skunk family, mother and several children, walking in single file alongside a road or across a field, and harbor in his mind a feeling of ill will against them. Mother skunk is teaching the youngsters, not a one of which is really a little stinker, obedience and how to catch grasshoppers, beetles, frogs or field mice.

She will show them how delicate termites can be as an after-dinner appetizer. Toward her children, Mother Skunk shows affection, compassion and motherly patience. To her they are the most wonderful youngsters in all this world of living things.

The skunk really fills an important niche in the wild society. In areas where human ignorance has caused him to destroy these creatures, there has been an increase in grain-eating rodents and insects. There are some pretty wise men who stoutly maintain that the steadily extending range of the termite, even as far north as the Canadian border and beyond, is due to the indiscriminate killing of skunks.

The termite, up until a few years ago, was a satisfied resident of tropical or semi-tropical countries. But now they have extended their range far to the north.

Beneficial Friends

In grain fields, even in orchards and groves, the skunk family prove their worth in the tremendous amount of harmful insects and rodents they eat. They are true and beneficial friends of the farmer or the orchard owner, yet the average human, whose prejudice is only exceeded by his ignorance, kills the animal by every means at his disposal.

The skunk is one of the creatures of the wild that has no voice. At the very best, all he can do is grunt. Contrary to what you may think, he is a clean animal, with no scent of skunk on his body. Never, unless unduly irritated, does he resort to his only means of obnoxiousness. Even then, he will always signify his intentions by elevating his bushy tail. It is reasonably possible that man's aversion and willful persecution of this harmless animal has much to do with human psychology. Subconsciously, the average human resents the skunk's dignity and haughty indifference. We just naturally feel that all creatures should treat us with great respect and submissive meekness and admiration. Some of us just don't deserve that.

The Family Council

Editor's note: The Family Council consists of a Judge, psychiatrist, three clergymen, three editors and a women's editor. Each article is a summary of a family disagreement presented to the Council. The Council deals with problems, major and minor, encountered by guidance counselors and social workers. Edited by Mrs. Alma Denny. (Copyright by General Feature Corp.)

Mr. B.F. — The motor trip through New England will do him a world of good.

Mrs. B.F. — He's so downhearted he should see a doctor not a car salesman.

Mr. B.F. — Our son is extremely depressed after losing out on a promotion he was sure he was getting in his office. He quit the firm cold and sits around the house, dejected and tearful. To help him snap out of it, I wanted to chip in towards a car and let him travel leisurely to Maine where our daughter and grandchildren live. The trip and visit will cheer him and he'll come back with fresh plans.

Mrs. B.F. — It's an awful thought, but Don is in such a black mood that he acts as though life is a burden to him. Once he gets out on an open road, anything can happen. He doesn't care. I want my husband to use that car money to pay a good doctor for treating Don. Nothing we say lifts his spirits. He barely picks at food, doesn't even look at what's on the table, and I hear him sobbing in bed late at night.

The Council: We agree with Mrs. F. Deep depression which

doesn't lift via common sense is the precursor of suicide or attempts at same. Better alarmist than sorry. Doctors insist that all suicides send out warning signals, actually pleas for help, long in advance of their wild "solution." The trouble is, say the experts, no one interprets the clues correctly. Depression, they claim, springs from repression, repression of anger which the sad one doesn't dare (or is ashamed) to express. Getting at the root of Don's hostility, letting him "ventilate" his grievances and fears, is a job for a professional. Suicide-prevention centers have sprung up in many cities. For Don, there's Rescue, Inc. in Boston. This would be the worst time to let Don loose behind the wheel of a car. An Illinois psychiatrist sees auto accidents as "the most common form of committing suicide," with distraught drivers hoping for a fatal accident.

THORNTON RULING

SALEM (UPI) — Criminal courts have exclusive jurisdiction to determine the mental condition of persons accused of crime and to commit them to state mental institutions, Atty. Gen. Robert Y. Thornton said Saturday.

Roads in Crater Lake National Park to Be Open

Park roads from south and west entrances to the rim of Crater Lake are expected to be open for travel during the holiday season, Superintendent W. Ward Yeager has indicated.

The roads are open throughout the winter except during, and immediately following, heavy storms, he noted.

Good to excellent ski conditions prevail with 6 inches of new snow. Snow depth is currently 35 inches, approximately one-half the normal amount for this time, but adequate for winter sports.

Tramway Proposal May Be Reviewed

PORTLAND (UPI) — Regional Forester Herbert Stone said Saturday it is possible the U.S. Forest Service may review a proposal for an aerial tramway over the Columbia Gorge near Bonneville Dam.

Stone said he met recently with Lauren L. Lucas, one of the promoters of the proposed tramway and that the matter was discussed at length.

The tramway would carry passengers from U.S. Highway 30 and Bonneville Dam to the top of Munra Point. The Mazamas and other groups have voiced opposition to the tram on the grounds it would mar the scenic beauty of the gorge.

Slopes of varying difficulty provide excellent skiing, and snow conditions especially suitable for beginners and for skitouring often occur at this time of the year, Yeager noted. The two downhill ski trails from the rim to park headquarters are adequately marked and have proved to be popular in the past, he added. Skiers must be fully outfitted since neither ski-tows nor equipment can be rented locally.

Satisfactory areas are available for tobogganing and sledging, Yeager noted. Parking space and rest rooms are located both at Rim Village and park headquarters. First aid facilities are provided by the National Park Service. The coffee shop in Rim Village will be open during the holiday period, except on Christmas Day.

Additional snow can be anticipated any time in the future and motorists should carry chains whenever visiting the park during the winter season.

Eugene Annexation Adds 7,000 People

EUGENE (UPI) — Residents of the Bethel-Danahoe district north and west of here voted 1,174 to 1,000 Thursday in favor of annexation to the city of Eugene.

About 60 to 65 per cent of the registered voters cast ballots. The proposal had been defeated twice before.

Addition of the seven square miles of residential, industrial and agricultural property would increase Eugene's population by about 7,000. Residents of the city will vote on the proposal Jan. 7.

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JUSTICE COURT

Gold Hill District

Leonard Lewis Hubbard, no operator's license, \$5.
Harold Vincent Scheestrom, violation of basic rule, \$10.
Richard Morgan LeForest, violation of basic rule, \$10.
Melvin Roy Mead, one headlight, \$10.
Robert Thomas Little, truck speeding, \$25; truck speeding, \$10.
Howard Herman Gates, truck speeding, \$20; truck speeding, \$10.
Charles Richard Kessler, violation of basic rule, \$25.
Mary Beth Latham, failure to comply with operation restriction, \$5.
Robert Lee Grant, violation of basic rule, \$15.
Carl Ervin Stein, violation of basic rule, \$25.
George Arthur Brimmann, disobeyed stop sign, \$10.
Hartene C. Schuman, disobeyed stop sign, \$10.
William E. McClennan, truck speeding, \$15.
Thomas Elliott Simmons, truck speeding, \$10.
Anthony Douglas Shope, excessive noise, \$5.
Owen Ellsworth Kruger, no lights, \$10.
Michael Alvin Phillips, violation of basic rule, \$15.
Richard Lee Ashard, violation of basic rule, \$25.
Margaret Rose Isaac, violation of basic rule, \$10.
Delbert Oaks, no vehicle license, \$10.
Norman Eugene Doll, violation of basic rule, \$10.
Nevada Helmer Jensen, truck speeding, \$15.
Donald Norman Galt, improper passing, Driving Training School, \$10.
Dale Fred Wheeler, violation of basic rule, \$10.
Tom MacCuller, violation of basic rule, \$10.
Edith Flora Parkhill, violation of basic rule, \$25.
Paul Robert Cedernall, violation of basic rule, \$10.
Charles Terry Hamilton, disobeyed stop sign, \$10.
Thomas Allen Scherf, no truck license, \$5.
Kern Luvene Griffith, no operator's license, \$5.

CENTRAL POINT MUNICIPAL COURT

Donald Lloyd McGraw, violation of basic rule, \$10.

John William Smith, violation of basic rule, \$15.

John Charles Lattimer, violation of basic rule, \$15.

Lee Francis Pierce, no operator's license on person, \$5.

John Brooks Spain, violation of basic rule, \$10.

James Dale Thorp, improper lane usage, \$10.

Fred J. Rice, no operator's license on person, \$5.

Twain A. Walker, violation of basic rule, \$15.

Philip John Wilson, violation of basic rule, \$10.

Albert R. Eton Jr., driving on wrong side of street, \$5.

John Mervyn Weiser, violation of basic rule, \$10.

John Albert Parrico, no operator's license on person, \$5.

Barry Norman Garon, passing at intersection, passing on right, \$10.

Junius Duane Marbach, failure to yield right of way, \$25.

Jack Leon Shapiro, no muffler, \$10; violation of basic rule, \$10.

Robert Stephen Sands, driving in wrong lane of traffic, \$25.

Carolyn Jean Salinger, violation of basic rule, \$10.

Bryan Aubrey Nelson, violation of basic rule, \$25.

George Arnold Thomas Jr., operating vehicle on wrong side of the street, \$15.

DISTRICT COURT

Roy Jones Edwards, truck speeding, \$10.

McPinus E. Boggs, violation of basic rule, \$10.

Oscar Everett Oden, illegal possession of wild animal, \$35.

Valdes Sylvester Adis, illegal possession of wild animal, \$35.

Wayne Willard White, overboard, \$5.

Harold Walter Chapman, overlength load, \$15.

Tony Funderburg, overlength load, \$15.

Alvin Charles Reed, violation of basic rule, \$10.

Fred Leonard Bush Jr., violation of basic rule, \$15.

Margie Marie Grunberg, no operator's license, \$15.

Dorothy Evelyn Tenge, no vehicle license, \$15.

James Thirk McGee, violation of basic rule, \$15.

Peter Jacob Schiff, violation of basic rule, \$20.

Leiter Clifford Cass, excessive noise, \$5.

William Henry Bohl, no chauffeur's license, \$5.

Larry Lee Ray, no vehicle license, \$5.

Ira Bert Ehrlich, violation of basic rule, \$10.

Donald Edwin Griswold, violation of basic rule, \$10.

Herman Edward Cannon, failure to yield right of way, \$15.

Wilbert White Lull, truck speeding, \$10.

Glen Allen Miller, violation of basic rule, \$10.

Carl Gustav Grover, truck speeding, \$10.

Virgil William Stigall, following too close, \$15.

Harold Wayne Perryhouse, violation of basic rule, \$10.

Donald Earl Wood, violation of basic rule, \$25.

Gregory Paul Chapman, violation of basic rule, \$10.

Billy Dean Shetler, truck speeding, \$10.

David Lee Ayers, violation of basic rule, \$10.

Sally May Allen, failure to dim lights, \$15.

Betty Jean Holbertson, no vehicle license, \$5.

Louis Gerald Henagin, no vehicle license, \$5.

David Elmo Summers, truck speeding, \$10.

Donald Charles Maxwell, violation of basic rule, \$10.

Harvey Louis Corbin, no vehicle license, \$5.

Robert Daniel Richardson, overboard, \$25.

Warren Robert McNeely, overboard, \$30.

Richard Bernard Cullen, violation of basic rule, \$30.

Roger Leonard Poutier, violation of basic rule, \$10.

Etha Jean Lewis, inadequate lights, \$5.

Morris W. Venable, violation of basic rule, \$10.

CHURCH COURT

Constance K. August vs. John T. August, divorce decree.

Vera N. Ponce vs. Edward H. Ponce, divorce decree.

State's Senators Split On Aid Bill

WASHINGTON (UPI) — Oregon's two senators split Thursday over support of the \$3.2 million foreign aid appropriations bill and a ban on the Export-Import Bank underwriting trade deals with Communist nations.

Sen. Maurice Neuberger, D-Ore., was on the winning side both times as the Senate voted 60 to 25 in favor of the appropriations bill and 52 to 32 to kill the ban.

Sen. Wayne Morse, D-Ore., voted against the money bill and in favor of the underwriting restriction.

Ashland Man Picks Up Plane in Florida

ASHLAND — A recent flight was made from Florida to Ashland by Al Porter of the Ashland airport.

He went to Vero Beach, Fla., to take delivery on a new Piper Cherokee airplane. He left early one morning and arrived back in Red Bluff, Calif., the next day.

He spent the night and was in Ashland by 8 a.m. the next day.

Eight hours of the flight were on instrument flight rule conditions at night plus four brief stops.

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