

# Tiger Trainer Knows All About Being Eaten Alive

By HAL BOYLE  
NORTH MIAMI, Fla., Feb. 24 (AP) — Capt. Roman Proske has come about as close as a man can to knowing how it feels to be eaten alive.

The tanned little wild animal trainer has been scratched, bitten or mauled at least once a year during the thirty-three years he has been working with "the big cats," and on a few occasions he has been an impromptu piece of resistance for an opportunistic tiger who mistook him for his dinner.

"At least I have been the appetizer," said the Vienna-born captain, who now operates the only tiger farm in America.

Proske said there is less sensation than you might expect when a tiger begins chewing on you. Preliminary shock dulls the pain.

"You just feel helpless like a little mouse," he said. The closest he ever came to being a full course dinner for one of his temperamental pets was in Budapest many years ago. He told me the story as we were in a little garden by his cottage house trailer, pausing now and then to call over and calm one of his dozen yawling tigers.

Seized By Hip  
One moment in the Budapest circus ring Proske had been the master of eight tigers. One seized him by the hip in his jaws—and Proske instantly became a morsel. The tiger ran around the ring with the other seven chasing him for tidbits.

As the tiger streaked out of the arena into the tunnel leading to its own cage, a quick-witted assistant closed the gate behind him, trapping the other tigers in the ring.

"Hitting him with my fists was like trying to knock out an elephant," said Proske, "then my head banged against the tunnel wall, knocking me unconscious.

The tiger ran with me to the farthest cage and laid me down

in front of the bars. It was then he began to eat.

"But the clowns and midgets and the rest of the circus people poked at him with sticks and clubs and yelled 'Don't eat Proske!' They were my friends—those people.

"Then the circus owner, annoyed because all the customers were leaving, walked up to the cage. He was a quick, cool man.

Saved By Pistol  
"He said, 'What is all this noise?' In Europe a circus owner is a very great man. The clowns and midgets stood still and said very respectfully, 'A tiger is eating Proske, Herr Direktor.'

"With no noise to startle him, the tiger again began eating on me. This was what the director wanted, for the tiger's bent head was against the bars. He stepped up with his revolver, held it directly against the animal's head and emptied it.

"The tiger leaped straight into the air. As he fell he caught my hip and part of his paw in his jaw. He was dead, but they had to pry his teeth open to get me out."

Proske spent six months in a hospital, and immediately went back to training "my cats."

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## HIGH SCHOOL News Notes and Comment

By MARY O'BRIEN  
Last Friday the Teen Canteen student council drew up a tentative contract between the Teen Canteen and the YMCA.

All operations of the canteen will continue on the present basis except for the change in advisorship.

A clause of this contract now being written states that the canteen-YM contract may be broken any time the canteen council deem it wise.

Canteen members will be interested to know that if the YMCA takes over sponsorship with the student approval an extensive summer program, including outdoor sports, will be planned.

Elections of the high school council will still be patterned on last fall's election and the council will continue to manage the canteen's affairs.

Final plans will be discussed with the adult council at a meeting tomorrow night at 7:30 p. m.

Script and Microphone has added eight names to the membership roster recently. Those students with a grade average of 2.5 or above and who were voted into the society are Rosemary Bigbie, Gerald Haddock, Harold Haddock, Ruthe Huston, Roy Larson, Donna McVey, Belle Doris Russell and Nadine Yockey.

Each of the above students was enrolled in the radio speech class taught by C. G. Woodhouse and many have appeared on Pellicana broadcasts or programs of their own.

Honor society met at noon today to discuss changes in the new constitution requested by the national organization of honor societies.

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## Drive On To Help Chinese

The United Service to China, Inc., founded in 1941, has sent Field Representative H. W. Spaulding of Portland to Klamath Falls.

Spaulding, here on a two-day visit, is lining up a local committee to educate the community on the functions of USC, the "community chest to benefit China."

Edward R. Stettinius Jr., is national campaign chairman for the incorporation and George C. Marshall, secretary of state, is honorary national chairman.

Louise Beckner reported a well-dressed youth grabbed her purse. She grabbed it back and said: "If you want money, here's \$5." The youth said "thank you" and walked away.

A few minutes later Mrs. Blanche C. Fogle reported a man of the same description halted her at a nearby corner. Mrs. Fogle said she protested she didn't have any money and that her husband was away. The man walked with her two blocks to her home and said "good night."

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## State Teacher Salary Higher

By The Associated Press  
Salary increases averaging \$500 annually for Oregon City's 79 school teachers and a new scale of minimums ranging from \$2400 to \$3450 have been added to the list of Oregon school districts hiking the pay of instructors.

The approval by the Oregon City school board came as the Oregon Education association, a teachers' union, reported widespread acceptance of the \$2400 annual minimum.

Other districts already having approved the scale or better are Redmond, Sweet Home, Salem, Astoria, Pendleton, Hillsboro.

Courtesy Rises Among Robbers  
PORTLAND, Feb. 24 (AP)—The anti-crime campaign has helped—robbers are now courteous.

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Lebanon and Cottage Grove. More districts were expected to settle salary schedules for the 1947-48 school year within a few weeks.

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