The Herald and News

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Age of Beast?

By BILL JENKINS

The news lately has been full of animal stories, most of them on the frightening side.

First comes the report from right here in Oregon of a cougar attacking a young boy on the slopes of Mt. Hood only a handful of miles from downtown Portland.

This is followed a day or so later by a report from remote Point Barrow, Alaska, of a polar bear "at least 30 feet long."

Add to that the fact that it is just about time for the spring and summer rash of sea serpent stories and it becomes increasingly clear that the animals are possibly making a bid for the upper hand.

There is some serious doubt as to whether it was a cougar that jumped the boy on Mt. Hood. Failure of search parties to find tracks, even with the aid of dogs, would lead one to believe that it must have been some other animal which made the unprovoked attack.

The mere fact that it happened, however, brings into sharp focus the fact that despite all our modern ways there is still a remnant of the wilds lurking around here and there.

As for a polar bear 30 feet long I'll have to admit that it takes an imagination almost as long to conceive of such a thing. However, the thing has been seen by several men over a period of two years.

It could be. An average polar bear (Ursus Maritimus) will run around nine feet in length, with giants going up to better than 12 feet. Which is still a long ways short of 30 feet.

If you are sitting in an average room with an eight foot ceiling all you have to do is visualize a bear that would stand two to four feet higher than the ceiling and you can see for yourself the huge bulk involved. One that was 30 feet long would be able to peer into second story windows without stretching.

Still, on the whole I think I'd rather live in a world where such outside oddities of nature are not only possible but probable than I would to live in a carefully sheltered society where the only thing man had to fear was man himself.

The creatues are a shade less deadly. And in all of us there is born an instinct of fear and reverence where the savage beasts are concerned. I doubt if we have reached that stage in life yet where such instincts are dormant.

According to the Old Farmer's Almanac the sighting of the big bear was a little early and in the wrong place. The almanac says that around the sixth of May "beast and bears retire to unknown desert."

Perhaps for a convention. If so I'll bet all the delegates would pay attention to what a 30 foot polar bear had to say.

Or else.

This country, if one is to judge by the tracks, is lousy with bear in some areas. Common black bear or Ursus Americanus. Couple of times last summer while walking up a certain dry creek bed I found, on my return, that a curious black bear had left his tracks superimposed on mine. But I never caught a glimpse of him. Even when I didn't have a rifle.

And I have not heard any reports of any really large bear in the area, certainly not a 30 footer.

But, still the animals are trying. Feller back in Ohio shot a 14 pound woodchuck last year, which is pretty good size at that. And some of the bobcats are getting pretty big and bold.

Despite all our atomic weapons, etc., maybe we had better keep the dust blown off the old musket.

The animal world looks like it is on the march.

Canal Drownings

By FLOYD L. WYNNE

The A Canal has claimed the lives of 11 persons under 21 years of age dating back to 1906.

The Bureau of Reclamation recently sent me a complete list of the drownings that have occurred to their knowledge in the A Canal as well as others in the area.

Figures compiled show that the first youngster to lose his life in the canal was Robert Holiday, 5, who fell into the canal while playing on the Esplanade bridge on July 30, 1919.

Eight years later on September 1, 1927, Harry Ordway, 5, fell or went through a hole under the fence in the Tenth and Upham fenced area and drowned.

The tragic roll of 11 youngsters continues: Curtis G. Putnam, 10, slipped from a raft above the Esplanade Bridge and drowned August 7, 1930; Geroge Cooms, 10, drowned when he was unable to follow companions who swam across the canal on August 10, 1931; Richard Hoskinson, 6, who fell off the OC&E Railroad bridge on August 25, 1933; Lawrence Aubrey, 10, who was sitting on the stringers under the bridge at Shasta Way and fell in, on August 11, 1935.

Mavis George, infant, when a car with five Klamath Indians missed the Main Street bridge and plunged into the canal, claiming all five lives on April 30, 1941; Billy Gray, 8, who drowned May 8, 1942, near Alameda Street tennis court; Eugene C. Jackson, 10, who was throwing rocks in the canal near Main Street bridge and slipped and fell in on August 2, 1943; James Wesley Jamison, 2½, who drowned in the canal three miles southeast of Tulelake on October 9, 1943.

Charles Chance, 6, who drowned in the G Canal on August 19, 1944; Harold Mogan, 15, who fell off the OC&E Railroad bridge on June 20, 1945; and Patrick Callahan, 3, who was playing with a dog and fell down the embankment at the end of Traverse Street on September 28, 1955.

Four other deaths of youngsters under 21 were recorded in other projects. Hal Halstead, 4, at 46-N-1-Drain June 14, 1952; Leonard Sikes, 10, and C. R. Sikes, 4, on Upper Klamath Lake on April 5, 1953; Roger Van Meter, 5, in the C Canal on July 20, 1955; and Alice Pitts, 18, in Lower Klamath Lake in a motor vehicle accident on June 2, 1955.

In addition to these youngsters, the A Canal has claimed the lives of 18 adults, the first being Michael Moore in July of 1906.

Other projects have taken the lives of four adults by drowning.

In all, 31 persons have lost their lives in the A Canal since 1906, and nine others drowned in other projects.

Copies of the Herald and News for these dates have been procured by the committee working on this project, as well as pictures of the canal, showing it both full and empty.

Certainly, any item that has claimed the lives of 40 persons is well worth investigative efforts to see if corrective measures cannot be taken to either alleviate the menace or erase it.

Such an effort is worthy of your assistance, especially when the possibility exists that your young child or children might be the next tragic victim.

Deactivated

By SEYMOUR TOPPING

BERLIN (AP) — The U. S. Army is bidding farewell to horses—and saying it 110 miles behind the Iron Curtain.

The bugle call of boots and saddles probably will sound for the last time on active service at a farewell parade March 28 for the Berlin command's military police horse platoon.

Four days later the horse platoon, 287th Military Police Company—the last mounted unit in the U. S. Army—will be deactivated.

"We can't afford the expense," explained the U. S. commander for Berlin, Maj. Gen. Barksdale Hamlett.

The spit-and-polish horse outfit was organized back in 1945 by an old cavalry man, Brig.Gen. Frank L. Howley, America's first commandant in this divided occupied city.

The platoon was supposed to patrol the Grunewald Forest border along the Russian Zone. It was also trained to break up Communist-organized mobs, but it never saw any more violent action than the annual horse shows.

The platoon commander, 1st Lt. Jeff G. Roberts, 23, Reidsville, N. C., sighed:

"No, we never caught any Russians on our border patrols. About the only thing we ever caught were two Boy Scouts stopped from climbing the fence into the Russian Zone."

The platoon has 31 horses, most coming from a Hungarian cavalry group captured in World War II by an American airborne unit. Although the horses bear names like "Texas," there is only one real American mount. He is Reno Rake, a veteran of the 1950 Olympics.

Most of the animals will be transferred to the Army's recreational program, for the off-duty enjoyment of equestrian-minded GIs. The Army hasn't decided what to do with the rest of the horses.

Army officers said young Jeff Roberts, perhaps remembering his distinguished Southern predecessor, Confederate Gen. J. E. B. Stuart, never gave up hope his platoon would prove its mettle in action. His troopers learned how to sharpshoot with their carbines and pistols and to swing hard with three-foot weighted clubs.

Roberts kept in his office a sign which said: "Jump fearlessly, throw your heart over the fence and your horse will follow."

Barry Goldwater

By UNITED PRESS

The Senate Rackets Committee has started dipping into one of the nation's most bitter and lengthy labor disputes. And our profile for the week, by George Marder of United Press in Washington, concerns the lawmaker who urged the hearings.

A man with a mission is Sen. Barry Goldwater, the junior Republican senator from the state of Arizona.

His mission—to take on Walter Reuther, the powerful labor leader.

Goldwater has been feuding with Reuther for years, ever since the senator became prominent in national politics.

He takes out after Reuther whenever he gets a chance, and these are some of the things he has said of the head of the United Automobile Workers:

"A power hungry labor boss," "a would-be political dictator," "a socialist."

He has accused Reuther of plotting to take over the Democratic party, of seeking political power to foster "socialist beliefs."

The mildest thing Goldwater has had to say of Reuther is that the labor leader did a "fair job" of getting rid of Communists in his union, and we quote, "after many years of knowing they were around."

It was Goldwater who insisted repeatedly that the Senate Labor Rackets Committee, of which he is a member, investigate the 4-year-old Kohler strike in Wisconsin involving Reuther's automobile workers union.

Some people are puzzled why Goldwater, who comes from one of the least industrialized states, should be so steamed up about Reuther and organized labor.

The explanation lies in Goldwater's ideas of government and economics. He's solid conservative in his thinking, has become a spokesman of sorts for the extreme right wing of the Republican party. He hasn't hesitated to criticize President Eisenhower when he felt the President strayed from traditional republicanism. Last year, Goldwater termed the President's budget a "betrayal" of GOP pledges.

And he said each GOP candidate would be running on his own program rather than that of the Eisenhower administration in 1958.

Goldwater is finishing his freshman term in the United States Senate and is up for re-election this year. Before entering politics, he was known as a merchant prince in Arizona, where he heads a chain of exclusive women's dress shops established and owned by his family. There is no union in the Goldwater clothing establishment, but there is a profit-sharing plan with veteran workers.

At 49, Goldwater has the build of a football player, is a command pilot in the Air Force Reserves, has a flair for dangerous undertakings. He's made four adventuresome and risky trips by small boat down the Colorado River and one through the Grand Canyon. He's also flown a jet fighter faster than sound.

Perhaps that explains why he has given himself the rough assignment of opposing Walter Reuther.

Washington

By ROBERT SERLING
(United Press)

Memories are tricky things.

Four years ago, the United States House of Representatives went through several moments of horror as a gang of would-be assassins sprayed the chamber with a fusillade of bullet shots.

Time has healed the wounds of the five lawmakers who were shot down. The bullet-ripped seats have been replaced. The bullet holes in the ceiling have been patched over.

Time has had an equally soothing effect on memories of the shooting incident. The horror is almost forgotten, but the humor grows with the years.

Veterans fondly recall how one lawmaker, livid with rage at the height of the shooting, stood up, shook his cane at the gallery where the bullets were coming from and shouted:

"It is against the rules of the House to shoot guns."

Then there's the story of the newsman who just couldn't conceive of anybody shooting real bullets in the House chamber. He had heard the noise, thought it was a gag. He bravely approached the would-be assassins, members of a Puerto Rican nationalist gang, to get a 'color" story on someone shooting firecrackers in the House chamber. He turned green when he saw a guard seize the gun and empty a clip of real bullets.

A favorite anecdote of the shooting is the complaint of one lawmaker that he was entitled to "combat" pay for service in the House. And there was the newsman who pinned a temporary identification tag on his lapel while covering the story, the tag reading: "I am not a congressman."

Representative Joseph Martin, then House speaker, chuckles when he recalls his first visitor the day after the shooting. It was a safety glass salesman who wanted to put up a bullet-proof glass partition in the House.

To the four terrorists responsible for the shooting, it wasn't humorous at all. They were convicted and given prison terms.

And the five lawmakers who were wounded consider themselves lucky to be alive and still in Congress. They have a date for lunch every year on the anniversary of the shooting.

Thanks

Klamath Falls (To the Editor)—We wish to thank all who made our ham dinner at the Midland Grange Hall such a tremendous success. We especially want to thank the Herald and News, the Payless Drug, Charlie McFarlan, the Big Y Store and all the many people who came to the dinner and everyone else who was instrumental in helping and making it such a success. Thanks again.

Eleanor Sukraw, Midland Grange Home Economics chairman
Thelma Houck, vice chairman
Betty Crapo, secretary
Minnie Andrew, treasurer

Quotes

By UNITED PRESS

WASHINGTON — United Auto Workers official Donald Rand, after being accused by a Senate Rackets Committee member of "out-Jimmying Jimmy Hoffa" in offering vague testimony:

"I resent the remark. My union is in a life and death struggle with Jimmy Hoffa and I think the remark lends support to Hoffa."

GLASGOW, Scotland — Socialist leader Hugh Gaitskell, commenting on the Conservative Party's loss of its second by-election within a month:

"It shows once again how the government has lost the confidence of the country."

Pogo

They'll Do It Every Time — By Jimmy Hatlo

Dulles Meets With Kai-shek

TAIPEI, Formosa (AP)—Secretary of State Dulles today conferred with President Chiang Kai-shek after opening a meeting of 11 U.S. ambassadors to Far Eastern nations.

Dulles flew to Formosa for a 12-hour stay on the way back to Washington from the Manila SEATO meeting. He is scheduled to take off for home just after midnight.

Before the first of two meetings with Chiang, Dulles issued a statement saying Nationalist China "is a major and indispensible part of the free world defense partnership against Communist expansion.

"The United States continues steadfast in its support of the Republic of China." Dulles had said in Manila that there was no change in U.S. policy on nonrecognition of the Communist regime on the China mainland.

The four - day ambassador's meeting is planned as the first of annual conferences by top American diplomats in the area. It is being held in private under the direction of Walter S. Robertson, assistant secretary of state for Far Eastern affairs.

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