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LEROY BENNETT AND JOHN GIBULA HOLD THE FRIGHTENED CAT THEY JUST RESCUED FROM A CREVICE UNDER THE SIDEWALK. AN ALERT HUMANE SOCIETY ADULT MEMBER READ THIS NEWS REPORT, AND ENROLLED THEM AS KIND MEMBERS BECAUSE THEY WERE CONCERNED ENOUGH TO HELP THE CAT.

Photo courtesy Baltimore "News-American"
SPORTS HUNTING

Its Future In The American Scene

Three days after hunting season opened one year, my neighbor was rising from his rear seat. From that high vantage point, he saw a van drive up the road toward his house. Then he heard a shot. Quickly he climbed down the ladder and ran down to where the hunters' van had parked. Then he noticed the big dead buck in the road in front of it. He felt he had scared them enough so they wouldn't do it again; I disagree. They knew they were doing wrong, and should have been reported. Certainly they shouldn't have been allowed to keep their trophy. The violations they were guilty of were: 1) Shooting from a moving vehicle, 2) Shooting from a public road, and 3) Shooting a deer that was on private property, properly posted against hunting. They could have been fined as much as $500 each.

As it turned out, the incident was an act of mercy. Although the hunters didn't know it, the big buck was lying on the cool, damp ground near the pond, trying to control a fever from old gunshot wounds. The infection was so bad that gangrene had set in. One entire hind quarter was so deteriorated the meat couldn't be used. Obviously that wound was inflicted by another hunter who didn't obey the rules, by shooting the deer before the legal hunting season began. The buck's hide was also pelleted by still more buckshot wounds, undoubtedly by another hunter who certainly should have known that buckshot could only injure such a big animal, and couldn't possibly kill it.

There are sports hunters who carefully follow all the rules. But the guys who don't give all sports hunters a bad reputation. A large majority of hunters are either not expert marksmen or they have not practiced long enough before they go out to hunt. Many hunters have no regard for personal property, ignoring "No Hunting" or "No Trespassing" signs. When caught on private property they will often be ready with the name of some absentee landowner in the area, and say he gave them permission to hunt on his land. This gives them the protection of having made an honest mistake, in thinking they were hunting on the absentee landowner's land. Livestock, cattle, and farm equipment have all been the targets of hunters' guns. In 1971 a total of 116 people were killed in hunting accidents alone.

Several entire counties have banned sports hunting entirely. This action has come at the request of nature lovers who find it unsuitable to walk in the woods during hunting season. These counties are, of course, areas with large populations, where there is very little natural land left in which to hunt. But residents of such counties are now travelling out to more rural counties. Landowners in these areas must post their land against hunting since, as natural land becomes more scarce, any undeveloped lands are teeming with hunters during hunting season.

The Humane Society does not believe anything or anyone benefits when someone hunts animals for the fun of it. Of greatest concern is our belief that young children, taught to kill for fun, will become insensitive to the feelings of other living creatures. We have taken the United States government to court to try to stop sports hunting on public lands set aside as parks or wilderness areas. We didn't win the case, but we had some good arguments. And we believe we caused a lot of public officials to give the subject a lot more thought.

As wilderness areas become more scarce the sports hunter may find he is becoming an endangered species. His only chance to continue his bloody game may be to pay a fee (amount not yet fixed) for the table, will become a practice of the dark, dim past, where it properly belongs.

KIND DEFENDERS

If you have been receiving The Kindness Club newsletter, and all of a sudden this month, you receive the DEFENDERS newsletter, there's a good reason. It is because sometime during this year you will turn 11, and you are being graduated into the DEFENDERS branch of KIND. DEFENDERS are older and more responsible and able to help defend animals just a little more than younger Kindness Club members can. I hope you'll report to us what you are able to do to help animals from time to time.

A NEW INDEX PAGE FOR 1974

In every way we try to keep costs down so more animals can be helped. Here's one way you can help. You'll need a new Index page for the main 'Subjects of the Month' topics appearing in your newsletter during 1974. You can make your own Index page patterned after the one in your kit for 1973. By making your own Index page, so we don't have to make one and send it to you, together we can save about $75.00 for helping animals.

SPECIAL FUND TO BAN THE TRAP

Donations received to date to help The Humane Society ban the steel jaw trap now total $47.75. KIND members who want to help ban the trap may wish to send a donation to KIND.
THE THYLACINE, OR TASMANIAN TIGER, UNDOUBTEDLY THE MOST RARE AND MOST CRITICALLY ENDANGERED ANIMAL ON EARTH TODAY, IF IT STILL SURVIVES IN ITS NATIVE TASMANIA FOREST HOME, IT WILL BE DIFFICULT TO FIND. AN EXPEDITION IS SEARCHING FOR IT NOW. THE LAST CAPTIVE THYLACINE DIED IN A HOBART ZOO IN 1934. THE THYLACINE IS A MARSUPIAL.

WHOOPING CRANES THREATENED BY BOMBERS

The Air Force practices bombing raids on Matagorda Island, near the wildlife refuge that is the winter home of the whooping cranes. They don't use real bombs, but the Interior Department claims the planes high-speed, low-level flights are upsetting the birds. Fifty-five cranes were counted last year; only 46 have been seen this winter. Defense Secretary James R. Schlesinger could issue an order to practice the bombing raids somewhere else. He is a birdwatcher himself, and if enough KIND members wrote him, he might help protect the whooping cranes. Write him at: The United States Department of Defense, Pentagon, Washington, D.C. 20301.

SPELLING IT OUT

Once there was a farmer who was sick and tired of deer hunters mistakenly shooting his livestock every hunting season. One year, he took a bucket of white paint and painted "COH" on the side of each cow, "HORSE" on each horse, and so on. It worked, after a fashion. At the end of the hunting season, he hadn't lost any livestock, but there sure were a lot of holes in his John Deere tractor.

BACK TO NATURE

Many people are interested in learning how to get back to a more natural life. That's not as easy as it sounds.

When the early pioneers forged west, they endured many hardships. Because people today haven't planned well enough, they face similar hardships. The pioneers didn't have many of our conveniences, and had no choice. Either they continued to endure the hardships of their lives in Europe, or they went west. But they were of hardy stock, not softened by modern convenient living, and they could take it. Most of us couldn't.

I've been lucky in my attempt to get back to nature. Even so, I made some bad mistakes that could have destroyed the entire dream. Now I know what I did wrong and how I should have made the move, by learning the hard way. In future articles I'll share with you some of the funny experiences and some of the lessons I learned. I'll tell about the time the electricity was turned off because the power company sent the first bill to the wrong address, the homemade sled for pulling groceries up the hill, the black frost that killed my tomato plants, and the bear that got into the garbage.

As you read these articles, remember each person must plan for those goals which seem most important to him, and should have good reasons for selecting each major objective. Whatever you consider most important for your life will come from the philosophy you develop. The goals you set for your lifestyle, no matter how long it takes to achieve them, will be important to you and the way you relate to the world around you.

I think you will enjoy the story of my search for a peaceful country home and what it took to get there.

BARN CATS SHOULD BE FED TOO

Any farmer knows the valuable assistance barn cats can give in keeping rodents controlled, and out of the grain. But a farmer usually gave a dish of warm milk to each cat when he milked the cows each morning and night. Barn cats fed a proper balanced diet of good cat food are likely to catch more mice because they are healthy. If you have cats in the barn to control rodents, be sure to keep them well fed so they can do their work well.

WHALE POSTER/PETITION PACKET

HELP SAVE THE WHALES. Use the poster to tell about the problem and the petition to let people sign their protest to the killing of whales. This packet can be used in school in the front lobby, the hall, the library, or just circulated in each classroom. Be sure to get permission to put it up, then order the packet for just $1.

Every 12 minutes a whale is killed.
POUND SLAVERY
The pounds are overcrowded, I guess they’ll always be.
Of little dogs and kittens, Not wanted by you or me.
Each day the pounds get more, And many have to die.
Some are put to sleep, And never know why.
Only you can help, Yes, you and me.
These innocent creatures, We happen to see.
Dianna Atkins - age 13
Laura Huffman - age 12

PHOTO CONTEST
THIRD PLACE WINNER OF OUR SUMMER PHOTO CONTEST WAS MARGE PARROTT, 13, WHO ALSO SENT US THE FOLLOWING STORY OF THE RESCUE AND CARE OF "LITTLE ONE."

"LITTLE ONE"
‘Little One’ was found one summery day after a storm. She was the only one that had survived out of a nest of baby robins. She came to us a little wee thing, no feathers, eyes a small slit, and mouth wide open. Now, what to do?

Our house had a cage that would just do for her. I fixed up the cage with a small bowl of water, and lots of green grass. Meantime mom was getting tweezers, eye-dropper, and warming milk in a small bowl, and getting bread crumbled up to dip in the milk. We knew she would need worms and baby cereal also. Mom showed me how to dip the bread in the warm milk and feed her with the tweezers. In between times I gave her some warm milk from the eye-dropper.

She didn’t eat a lot at one time, but we fed her about every two hours. She was always kept warm and watched carefully. We got worms dug for her, and had to cut them up so she could eat them. She had a difficult time learning to eat, but with mom and my sister Barb helping, we finally got a smooth system worked out. She was watched and fed around the clock.

As she got to know us, she no longer got so excited at our approach. As she grew we let her out of the cage occasionally, and she began to follow us around like a puppy. Our front porch is large and screened in, so ‘Little One’ had the whole porch to learn to fly in. By now she was trying to eat by herself, and, although she wasn’t too good at it, she kept trying.

One day she followed us into the house itself and discovered our dog, Tiny. Much to our surprise, they hit it off just fine. Another day, because it was so warm, we brought our gerbil, Jody, out on the porch in its cage. ‘Little One’ chirped and hopped about with great excitement at her new discovery.

Now ‘Little One’ has the run of the house. She eats everything and her favorite foods are chicken and green beans. We’ve taken her outside but she refuses to leave, even with other robins and birds in the yard. She is fully feathered and her breast is all red with just a tiny bit of white. She is always getting into something. She runs off with our headbands, pencils, and our paper, wanting us to chase and play with her. She loves to sit on the radio and listen to the music. She has never gotten into anything on the table. But the facial tissues are kept on the coffee table and she loves to scatter them all over. She also loves taking baths in Tiny, the dog’s, water dish.

At first people said she would never live, she’s too tiny, she won’t eat, trying to discourage me. But with my family behind me, teaching me how, I have learned to help and provide for our ‘Little One.’ She is still with us, and will always have a home with us until she gets ready to go on her own.

Marge Parrott

KIND helps animals
In parks and wildlife environments
Not just in the west but everywhere
Darkest nights, we’re still working to make your world a better one.

Suzanne Senay Age 11
YOUR NEWSLETTER

Be sure you are receiving the right newsletter. DEFENDERS is sent to people 11-14 years old, or those who will turn 11 this year. If you are 15 or older or will turn 15 during this year, you should be receiving the EcoloKIND newsletter. Please let us know if we are sending you the wrong newsletter. Be sure to include your year of birth for our records.

TIME TO RENEW

If you haven't renewed your KIND membership for 1974, do it now. Use the form below and send your dues in right away.

1974 KIND MEMBERSHIP

New Member $2.00
Renewal $2.00

Name
Birthdate

Street Address

City State Zip Code

DEFENDERS is published monthly for members ages 11-14 by KIND, youth membership division of The Humane Society of the U.S. R. Dale Hylton, Editor

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