

THE KIND DEEDS MESSENGER



THE LATHAM
FOUNDATION
STORY SERVICE
FOR THE PUBLIC
SCHOOLS



No. 50

HERO ANIMALS OF AMERICA

BUSTER

Gold Medal Winner for the State of Minnesota

Decorated by the Latham Foundation and the Minneapolis Journal

BUSTER, a little black Spitz, owned by Mrs. Remackel of Minneapolis, is a truly wonderful dog. Last fall he saved the lives of thirty-five people from death in a fire that destroyed the apartment house where they were living.

It was about four o'clock in the morning and everyone was sound asleep, when suddenly Mrs. Remackel felt Buster licking her face. She pushed him away, but he began to bark and jump at her, gently biting her arms and pulling her about enough to awaken her.

Getting up, Mrs. Remackel was alarmed to hear the crackling of fire, and found the room so filled with smoke that she could hardly breathe.

Buster jumped against the door and barked until his mistress opened it, and as they ran down the hallway, the dog threw himself against the doors of the other apartments, whining and barking until he had aroused the occupants.



One of these doors was only partially closed. A cripple lived there and Buster waited until the man was ready to leave with him.

When the dog was positive that everyone was awake he hurried back to his own apartment to make sure that the Persian cat "Fluffy" was safe.

Last summer while the family were in the country on a vacation, Fluffy had become caught in a cruel steel trap. Missing her, Buster had searched until he found her. Gently lifting the suffering animal by the back of the neck, in his mouth, trap and all, Buster carried her back to his mistress to be set free.

For these brave acts Buster was awarded the beautiful gold medal by the Latham Foundation, and the Minneapolis Journal was wise in

choosing this fine dog to stand as Minnesota's most heroic animal. Governor Olsen presented the medal to Buster in an impressive ceremony on the Capitol steps. And we proudly place Buster's name on the list of animal heroes that daily grows in length.

HUMANE EDUCATION

Radio Talk to be given April 18th by Mrs. L. G. Grusser, Humane Chairman Oakland Parents and Teachers, over KLA in observance of Be Kind to Animals Anniversary.

Thou shalt not kill, sayeth the sixth commandment. Humane education teaches us not to kill or mistreat the helpless and dependent.

How easy it is to elicit the best impulses in our small children, to instill into their receptive hearts and minds those deep principles of love and kindness upon which the stability and happiness of society so largely depend.

Quoting Miss Edith Latham of the Latham Foundation, "There is an affinity between child and animal which can be utilized with enormous profit to both, but primarily to the child. The child is the lasting beneficiary as are the people with whom his life in after years is cast. Today humane education points a way, which is more in accord with our best accepted interpretation of religion and Christianity."

The mistake is too often made of emphasizing what humane education stands for in relation to the welfare of animals to the exclusion of the real value to the child.

Let us consider first the benefit to the child and the future generation and not over-emphasize the relation of humaneness to the animal kingdom.

When humane education is properly presented to the child the response is not only kindness to animals, but justice, fair play, compassion toward the weak and defenseless, both among their companions and the lower creatures. It teaches the rights of others, however lowly and unprotected. It stirs the heart to unselfish and courageous deeds, the golden rule applied to every living creature.

We cannot think of any better way to teach character building than through humane education. No character can be truly fine without kindness in thought and deed.

President Hoover, during the relief work in the Mississippi flood district, caused runways to be built for the refugees' dogs and had birdseed for their canaries charged to his personal account, since it was not on the government list. He was not too big nor too busy to make provisions for the comfort of the helpless.

Second only to the influence of the family is the influence of the school. The strongest stimulus outside the home is the personal example and character of the teacher. Not only does religion receive its form and coloring at the mother's knee, but every phase of conduct is largely shaped by the influence of parental precept and example.

Think, parents. The criminals of the future are in our homes and schools today, so ours is a great responsibility.

It is too often argued that the school course is already crowded. It is, but even so, is there anything in the entire curriculum that is more important to acquire than a disposition to be just and kind? Nothing in the entire educational process will contribute more toward establishing a firm basis for civilization.

Quoting Superintendent Vierling Kersey of the State Department of Public Instruction: "Humane education is now accepted as one of the most important of the life relationships and has a bearing on human

relationships. The State Department of Education encourages the promotion of every phase of humane education work."

Quoting Will C. Wood, past Superintendent of Public Instruction: "Any system of education which neglects training in the humane treatment of animals is failing in its duty."

There is no longer any question as to the value and necessity of teaching children humane education. There are approximately twenty-six million children in the public schools of this country. Upon the type of education these children receive depends the condition of our country a generation hence.

The original source of education was the home. The mother was the first teacher. Among the higher societies of men, however, another agency has arisen, the school. Education has become the co-operative business of the parent and teacher.

Going back to teaching humane education in our schools, educators, parents and legislatures of twenty-four different states are in accord with the importance of teaching humane principles, saying it is the only logical, comprehensive method of dealing with the question of morality and humanity, and that therefore time should be devoted to it.

"When the principles of humane education masters the souls of men, the day of violence, strife, class hatred, race prejudice and war is done and governments and social institutions will have been established on foundations that will abide. No more sacred trust is committed to the teachers and mothers than this," stated Mrs. Jennie Nichols, National P. T. A. Humane Chairman.

Thou shalt not kill. Not only do we kill and wound with weapons, but we often kill the spirit of those with whom we come in contact, with our thoughts, words and deeds.

The cultivation of the spirit of kindness to animals is but the starting point towards that larger humanity, which includes one's fellows of every race and clime. A generation trained in these principles will solve its international difficulties as neighbors and not as enemies.

Let us try to turn out one generation that understands the sacredness of Life.

Thou shalt not kill.

*So many Gods, so many creeds,
So many paths that wind and wind
While just the art of being kind
Is all the sad world needs.*

POSTER EXHIBITION

The Foundation's International Poster Exhibition will be held from May 1st until May 14th, at the Woman's City Club, 465 Post Street, San Francisco, opening with a very interesting and entertaining preview on the afternoon of May 1st, at two o'clock.

Everybody is cordially invited to attend.

DOG CRIPPLED IN FIRE WHILE SAVING SHEEP

Hero's Medal for Bravery Awarded to Shep by
The Latham Foundation and the
Oakland Tribune



RUTH THOMPSON
Children's Editor, The San Francisco News

Crippled for life is Shep, the hero dog of San Andreas.

When fire was spreading wildly over fields where grazed the sheep he guarded, of his own accord he drove his charges to safety. In spite of the gate being closed, he snapped at the heels of the frightened sheep and forced them to jump the fence.

When he found there were some left behind, in spite of blinding, burning heat he forced his way back again:

"Back into the burning meadows
Ran brave Shep, and—yes—he found them.
Once again he drove them forward,
Through the flames and o'er the fences,
Just ahead of greatest danger,
For the fire was ever growing.

"But at last he had them rounded,
Driven to the large enclosure
Where the clearing stopped the fire.
When in time the men remembered,
There they found the sheep in safety."

Poor Shep's feet were badly burned. Those soft pads that serve for the shoes of cats and dogs and others of their kind were blistered. He had to wear little leather shoes when his feet were well enough to bear his weight. But Shep will never be the same again.

This true story so aroused the feelings of humane people, who know and love dog friends, that Shep was given the 1931 California silver medal awarded in the animal hero work conducted by the Latham Foundation for the Promotion of Humane Education.

It was Dolores Wilkens Kent, of that organization, who wrote the true verses of the hero dog, a part of which is quoted above. And for the illustrated story which is told in schools in Alameda county by another member of the staff, Mrs. Gwyn Tebault, dramatic and fascinating four-paneled painting has been made by John T. Lemos of Stanford University.

No school within the range of Mrs. Tebault's call should allow the time to pass without having this illustrated story told. No school can allow the opportunity that Miss Edith Latham, president of the Latham Foundation, offers to extend its humane education work in this appealing, forceful and interesting style.

No child, no teacher, no person can hear this story, with its visual aids, told without having awakened in his heart a kinder and more generous feeling for the dumb animals that are in our care.

I know of what I am speaking, for I purposely paid a call during the story hour recently. It was necessary to go to Alameda county, where David E. Martin is superintendent, to hear the story and to observe the work, because San

Francisco schools, though they have the opportunity to have this service, do not take advantage of it. There are "Kind Deeds" in various schools, and the work under Miss Effie Smith, principal of the Frank McCoppin School, is particularly fine.

The Latham Foundation is planting seeds in the minds of thousands of children—seeds that will bear fruit and will make a kinder and better world.

In spite of discouragement, of some lack of cooperation and interest; in spite of promises made that do not materialize, this worthy cause is being pushed steadily ahead, and no child who is taught to cheerfully do his part—and who does it—for some person or animal can but profit from the glow that is lighted within.

Here is the pledge that the Latham Foundation Kind Deeds Club exacts of its members:

"I will try to be kind to every living creature and to cultivate a spirit of protection toward all who are weaker than myself, and I will try to treat animals as I would wish to be treated if I were in their place."

Who can gauge the results of such good influence and care? Who can look into the future of the marching years and not be glad that these children have had these humane lessons—opportunities so they may be of true service to the very humblest of God's creatures?—*San Francisco News*.

PETER THE WISE

(A True Incident)

Courtesy of The Little Animals' Friend, London, England

It was such a comfortable chair; the kind of chair that makes you forget you ever have been tired.

The man loved it, and Peter, the cat, loved it better than any resting place he ever had thought about!

One day the man who was "owned by Peter" wanted to read his newspaper in perfect comfort; so he settled in this wonderful chair, and in quiet contentment began to read.

Peter was out somewhere, but suddenly he thought it was time to have a rest, and wondering where he could find the most suitable spot, remembered that chair.

Off he hurried, through the gardens, into the house, and reaching the room he sought, ran straight for the chair.

There was a man sitting in it reading his paper!

Puss sat on the floor in front of Mr. Man, and stared at him with the unwinking gaze of a cat very badly wanting something, and quite determined to get it.

He gazed and gazed, and Mr. Man went on reading his paper.

Now I should not be at all surprised to know that Peter was thinking: "I want that chair, and a man is in it. If I was in that chair and Man wanted it, he would lift me out, and very kindly find some other place for me. I am too small to lift Man; but I must get him out. How?"

Peter's large, round eyes fixed themselves on Mr. Man a moment longer, and then, turning away from the chair, Puss walked to the door. He stood on his back legs and rattled the handle with his front paws, making as much noise as he could, and then went back and stared fixedly at Mr. Man, who, however, because he was so very intent on his paper, took no notice.

Puss went again to the door, rattled the handle, and returned to stare at Mr. Man; but still there was no response from the occupant of the chair.

A third time Peter rattled the door handle, and at last succeeded in attracting the attention of Mr. Man, who, looking up from his paper, said: "Poor Puss, I expect he wants to go out." He left his chair and went to the door to open it. This was Peter's chance. He dashed at the vacated chair, sprang on to the seat, curled round, and in a moment was asleep with the rapidity known only to cats.

When the man "owned by Peter" had recovered from his surprise, how he laughed! He laughed and *laughed*, and still laughs when he tells about Peter the Wise.

ELEANOR HISCOCKS.

Someone asked: "But did the man *leave* Peter in the chair?" I asked the same question, and the answer I received was: "Certainly he did; he loves his cat!"

E. H.

SCHOOL CORNER

Garland Androus (Age 13), Eighth Grade
Fruitland Union, Yuba Co., Calif., Jan. 29, 1932.

A KIND DEED TO A HUMAN

One day when I was in town walking on the sidewalk I found a dime. I put it in my pocket and walked on. Pretty soon I came to a crippled man selling pencils. I gave it to him. He offered me a pencil, but I would not take it.

A KIND DEED TO THE BIRDS

Last winter when the ground was covered with snow and the birds could not get anything to eat. I built a lot of bird houses and put them in the trees. Every day I would put some crumbs on the porches of them. The birds always waited in the neighboring trees for me to put the feed there, and when I went they would fly down and eat it.

Elmer Potts (Age 15), Eighth Grade
Fruitland Union, January 29, 1932.

KIND DEEDS

One night when we went to town to go to the show, my father gave me twenty-five cents. Just before I got to the show a poor man in rags asked me for some money. Being that the two-bits was all I had I gave it to him and didn't go to the show.

KIND DEED TO AN ANIMAL

One day while going to see my friends I came upon a dog in a trap. He was just like a skeleton, so I took him home and kept and fed him until I found his owner.

Doris Gianella, First Grade,
Fruitland Union, February 26, 1932.

KIND DEEDS CLUB

PERSON

1. I help mother.

ANIMAL

2. A man was going to hit a horse and I made him stop.

ADOPTED RESOLUTIONS

In view of the many casualties which are constantly happening on account of children being given guns as toys by their parents, Mrs. L. C. Grasser, Humane Chairman of the Oakland Council of the P. T. A., has secured the unanimous passage of the Foundation's following Resolution and also the Resolution against the giving of live rabbits and chicks at Easter festivals.

We ask all organizations to lend their support to both movements by endorsing these Resolutions:

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the possession of firearms and missile-throwing toys by irresponsible children results yearly in the wounding and killing of many human beings, in the slaughter of many domestic animals, and in the destruction of thousands of birds of great economic value to agriculture.

WHEREAS, the possession of such weapons of destruction cultivates in the mind of the child a spirit of cruelty—a desire to hurt and kill, and nullifies the best efforts of educators to build into the character of the child the priceless gifts of responsibility, consideration, fair play, and kindness.

WHEREAS, Such weapons serve no useful purpose for the child, and can be substituted by toys of high mechanical and intellectual value.

RESOLVED, THEREFORE:

1. That we endorse the plan of educators to institute a GUNLESS CHRISTMAS.
2. That we will aid and support their efforts to effect the elimination from the Christmas Sales-List of merchants all B.B. guns, air rifles, spring guns, and contrivances made to discharge missiles.

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the giving of live chicks and rabbits to children at Easter time is fraught with greatest cruelty on account of the lack of understanding of children in receiving such gifts, and

WHEREAS, an exhaustive survey was recently undertaken which disclosed that within two weeks after the live animals were given away the majority were dead either from neglect or rough handling, and

WHEREAS, children especially in cities have no facilities for proper care of such animals, which leads to great and wholly unnecessary suffering, and

WHEREAS, children would be made fully as happy with the substitution of costly bunnies and their parents relieved of the problem of live animals; therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the Oakland Council of Parents and Teachers deploring this thoughtless custom urge on the part of country clubs, city park commissioners and moving picture theatres the prompt discontinuance of such practice, which is productive of inhumane results.

"BE KIND TO ANIMALS WEEK NOTICES"

The observance of "Be Kind To Animals Anniversary Week" is planned in many schools through the production of our prize play, "Kindness Wins," by Marguerite Girardi.

During this week, April 17th to 23rd, through the courtesy of Station KIX, the Foundation sponsors 5-minute radio talks every evening between the hours of 7 and 9, actual time not yet decided upon, Fred M. Marcom, Mayor of Oakland; Rabbi Rudolph I. Coffee; Mrs. L. C. Grasser, Humane Chairman of Oakland Council of P. T. A.; Mr. Allen Keim, Principal of Marin School, Albany; Dr. Benjamin W. Black, Director of Alameda County Medical Institute and Superintendent of Highland Hospital; Mr. Roy T. Granger, Superintendent of Visual Education, Oakland City Schools, and others.