



THE KIND DEEDS MESSENGER

THE LATHAM
FOUNDATION
STORY SERVICE
FOR THE PUBLIC
SCHOOLS



No. 56

ADVENTURES OF BROTHER BUZZ THE ELF BUMBLE BEE BROTHER BUZZ HEARS MORE ABOUT TURTLES

(Continued from last issue)

By DOLORES WILKENS KENT



SALLY AND KAY TALK ABOUT TURTLES

In the last issue Brother Buzz met a queer little creature beside a brook. The Fairy Leelinau, Keeper of the Pines, told Brother Buzz that this funny looking animal was a turtle. Brother Turtle tells Brother Buzz many interesting things about his life.

"Tell little Brother Buzz how your babies are born," suggested Leelinau, from the bank where she was resting.

"The mother turtle lays her eggs in little groups of from three to eight, in fairly dry soft sand; the sun hatches them, and the tiny, weeny turtles dig their way out into the world," said Brother Turtle.

"Why," cried Brother Buzz, "how big are they when they are born?"

"Not bigger than a bee," and Brother Turtle watched with interest a large fly buzzing its way past them as he spoke.

"In five years they become about three inches long, but it takes from 15 to 20 years to become a big turtle like me." (He was about six inches high and nine inches long from tip to tail.)

Suddenly there was a noise near by, and quick as a flash, Brother Turtle drew his head, feet and tail under his shell, which he closed up completely, for unlike other

turtles, the Box turtle has a sort of hinged under shell that closes, meeting the top one, and safely shields the little animal from attack.

Coming through the bushes were Sally and Kay; Leelinau, with a wave of her hand made Brother Buzz and herself invisible.

Kay and Sally sat down to rest near them; they must have been taking a long walk for they looked hot and tired.

"Oh, this is fine, we can sit here for a few minutes before we go home," said Kay.

"Look, Kay," cried Sally, "what is that?" Pointing to Brother Turtle.

"A turtle, or tortoise," answered Kay, "don't you remember I told you something about turtles the other night?"

"Yes," said Sally, "you told me there were different kinds of turtles, both land and sea. They all laid their eggs in the sand or earth, and covered them up where the hot sun could hatch them, and that land turtles hide in dark, cosy corners, and sleep away the cold winter months.

"Well, this is a Box turtle," and Kay was tremendously interested to find little Brother Turtle. "He must have been brought here from the East, as Box turtles are not

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GOOD CITIZENSHIP

By TULLIE H. GLASSBROOK

Principal of Tennyson School

The little folks who eight years ago lisped, "I will try to be kind to every living creature," are now the older children in the school. The desire to do good and to promote happiness has become a part of them.

Unlike education in other fields, Humane Education could not be formally tested and measured. However, during these days of want and suffering our children have passed their highest test in Humane Education with an "excellent" mark. Without display or publicity they systematically share what they have with others who need it. They not only share food and clothing, but they also do the work for people who are ill and who cannot care for their livestock. Best of all, the children do not boast of their kind deeds. That is the ultimate test of real benevolence!

At Thanksgiving time the boys and girls provided supplies for two local families enough provisions to last a week or more. Each child handed the committee a list of three things that he would like to bring. The committee checked and rechecked these, selecting one item from each. Sound judgment was displayed in bal-

ancing perishables and staples. Each child was given a written notice telling him what was needed and also stating the time and place of delivery. Thanksgiving week was vacation time on account of Institute. The children had no help from "grown-ups," but the results showed that they had not needed it.

You will be delighted to know that the spirit of the Kind Deeds Club manifested itself in the high schools this year. Each room adopted a large family and shared with it all the provisions of a traditional Christmas holiday. Practically all of these high school students were children who received the Latham Foundation's provident instruction in the grammar schools.

At no time has the thought of "donating" or "giving" been prominent. "Sharing" or "dividing" is the keynote.

Depression? Yes, but what a field for the actual application of Humane Education!

I gratefully acknowledge the highly satisfactory results of the Foundation's program in the schools.

SCHOOL CORNER

THE CRUELTY OF MEN

By MADELINE SILVA

Fifth Grade, Warm Springs School

In the ancient days men had to kill animals to make a living, but I should think that these men nowadays don't have to kill. They call it sport, and think it's great.

When you go to the woods or for a trip, you will notice some men with guns in their hands, ready to destroy the lives of the poor creatures. Many of them kill just for pleasure and think it's great fun. If they were in the place of the animals, I am quite sure they wouldn't want to be killed.

A few days ago my sister and I went for a walk, and we met a man with a gun in one hand and pulling a dog by the collar with the other. When we came up

closer to him I stopped and asked him what he was going to do with a dog and a gun, and he said he was going to kill the dog. Again I asked him why, and he said, "I don't want any dogs lying around my yard just to eat." I asked him if he would give me the dog instead of killing him, so he gave it to me.

When we were going home, a lady stopped alongside of us, and we were wondering what was wrong. Then she asked me if I would like to give her the dog, as she didn't have any pets and would like one. I gave her the dog and she wanted to give me some money. I told her that I had saved the dog's life and I don't want the money, so she left.

EDUCATION FOR GOOD CITIZENSHIP

By AGNES WEBER MEADE

Superintendent of Schools, Yuba County



AGNES WEBER MEADE

"The ideal man obeys the Golden Rule. He does not stop at the bonds of his own species but is a brother to all that feels."

Acting in accordance with Section 1665 of the School Law of the State of California, which provides among the educational requisites the teaching of citizenship, morals and manners, training for healthful living, the schools of Yuba County have been actively interested in the development of justice and kindness through Humane Education.

The knowledge gained through such study is fundamental and is essential, alike in the building of character and to a harmonious life, which should be the supreme aim of education.

Ella Wheeler Wilcox, speaking of the value of and necessity for humanitarian work and especially the crying need for Humane Education, declares that "this work includes all educational lines of reform which are needed to make a perfect circle of peace and good will about the earth."

Many of the schools in California have become interested in the noble work sponsored by the Foundation and have adopted its method of teaching Humane Education through the organization of "Kind Deeds Clubs."

The schools of Yuba County organized in September, 1927. Fourteen schools had active clubs with a total student membership of one hundred ninety-nine.

At the opening of the school term, September, 1928, Kind Deeds Clubs were formed and a second time in some schools and several new clubs were organized. During the school year 1929-30 sixteen schools enrolled with a total student membership of 315—116 additional members as compared with the previous year. The work is increasing yearly in volume.

Is Humane Education functioning in Yuba County?
ASK OUR BOYS AND GIRLS.

In order to further the work that has been so successfully carried on voluntarily for the past years since 1927 in the various schools of this county, the Board of Education has incorporated the "Kind Deeds Project" as sponsored by the Latham Foundation as an essential part of Humane Education in the Yuba County curriculum.

The late William O. Stillman, former president of the American Humane Association, said "When humane education has reached all the schools, we shall be much nearer the realization of the golden rule and the golden day to which philosophers and thinkers have looked forward for ages. We believe that if children are taught to love all life and befriend it, it will influence their character so as to stamp out war and criminality. Humane Education means the culture of the heart to better instincts. The greatest reason for Humane Education is because of its value in character building. As the character of the individual is, so will the character of the nation be. The effect of teaching of this kind, in the course of a generation or two, is absolutely beyond computation."

The Sierra Educational News has the following comment CONCERNING THE VALUE OF HUMANE EDUCATION:

"There were eight or ten men, American born, on a certain ranch shooting robins. These American born men must have received a grammar school education, but manifestly something was left out of it.

"Contrast such as this with the attitude of Herbert Hoover, who during his relief work in the Mississippi flood district, caused runways to be built for the refugees' dogs, and had the birdseed for their canaries charged to his personal account, since it was not on the government's rations list. He was not too big nor too busy to make provision for the comfort of these little folks."

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inhabitants of California. If you will sit very quietly, Sally, he will poke his head out of the shell soon." Kay sat as though carved in stone.

Leelinau glided down and whispered right into Brother Turtle's shell, and as she returned to Brother Buzz, the turtle poked his head out and gazed around.

"Oh, look," breathed Sally, in the tiniest voice she could manage. But Brother Turtle was quite too near strange people to be comfortable, and waddling into the water he swam away as quickly as he could. That, however, gave Sally and Kay plenty of time to watch him, as turtles are the slowest kind of creatures.

"I think he is very cute, and what cunning little fat legs and feet," cried Sally. "Are all turtles about this size?"

"My, no!" said Kay. "The biggest kind are the Galapagos turtle, from the Galapagos Island, off the coast of Peru, South America. These turtles often weigh from 150 to 300 pounds and stand about four feet high. These are land turtles and they eat mostly cactus, as the island is very dry and rocky and has scarcely any vegetation. The turtles love water and drink greedily when they come to the springs, though they sometimes go for days without it.

"Like all turtles they do not harm people, and merely draw under their shells when attacked."

"My," said Sally, "I think they are the most interesting animals I have ever heard of."

"There is much, much more than I can possibly tell you, and, I suppose, a whole lot more than I will ever know," laughed Kay. "Some of these big turtles get so tame in captivity that children can ride them around."

"Wouldn't that be fun! I'd love to do that!" said Sally.

Kay little realized that his unseen audience, especially Brother Buzz, was listening eagerly to every word. Brother Buzz felt that he would just love to know Kay well, and he resolved in his wee head that he would find some way to do that ere long. Then continued Kay "There are also, as I told you before, the big sea turtles, as large as the Galapagos ones, and the very pretty diamond-backed terrapin, called the Maryland terrapin. Their shells are marked just like the shape of a diamond. There are hundreds of different kinds of both water and land turtles all over the world. I must tell you of one more, Sally, before we go. It is the Loveridge turtle of British East Africa. It has a soft shell, low and flat; they have lived for centuries at the foot of a high granite cliff, and get under or between the rocks whenever there is danger. Their shells, being soft, grow larger in these hiding places, fitting so closely that nothing can dig them out."

"Isn't that wonderful!" cried Sally, and Brother Buzz and Leelinau exchanged looks of amazement.

"When he is hungry," said Kay, "the Loveridge

turtle just crawls a tiny bit of a way to feed upon the rich and juicy African grass that covers the plain. I knew a boy who had a little desert turtle for a pet. He would call it by name and in a few minutes it would come waddling out of some hiding place to him." And Kay laughed at the memory. "Desert turtles have a little sack of water stored at the back of their necks that they keep filled so that when they can not find springs, they have this as a reserve store."

"Do they ever hurt people?" asked Sally.

"Never," said Kay decidedly. "But people hurt them. They have been killed for food in such quantities that some species are nearly extinct, and also for their pretty shells that make tortoise-shell combs, toilette articles and, years ago, even for decorating furniture."

"Oh," cried Sally, "how horrible! I certainly hope people learn to be kinder to animals. Do you think they will, Kay?"

Kay nodded gravely. "Yes, Sally, my teacher says that it is only a lack of understanding that causes cruelty and that some day human beings will realize that every creature has its place in the world and is doing its special work. But, now we must go home, for it will soon be dark." Kay and Sally slowly climbed up the pine-crowned hill and were lost to view.

"Well," exclaimed Leelinau, "those are a new type of children!"

"Isn't Kay fine!" cried Brother Buzz, "I am going to know him, someday, I just must!"

"Goodby, Little Brother Buzz," said Leelinau, softly. "I must be going now, some one is coming for me. We both have learned much of turtles, even I did not know of so many kinds."

"Oh, must you go?" Brother Buzz felt so badly, for Leelinau was such a sweet and charming fairy.

"Yes," she answered, "don't you hear a voice calling?"

Sure enough, through the faint evening breeze that was rustling the branches of the pine trees, Brother Buzz could hear a faint voice, "Leelinau, Leelinau!" it called.

Brother Buzz whispered "Good night!" but there was no answer and sadly he winged his way home to his little flower-covered den. As he went to sleep he thought of a way to meet Kay, and chuckled to himself as he wandered off into dreamland.

(Story of Leelinau adapted from "Chippewas Legends")

QUESTIONS

1. What did Brother Turtle say about his family?
2. Describe the big turtles on the Galapagos Islands.
3. Describe the Desert turtle and Loveridge.
4. Do they ever hurt people?
5. Do they make nice pets?

SUPPLEMENTARY WORDS

Tortoise.	Cactus.
Waddle.	Granite.