

Who's Kidding Who?

And They Call 'Em Dumb Animals

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Written Exclusively for
AP Newsfeatures

Most Americans are under the impression that the smartest animal in the world is the dog or the horse. Actually the dog is a moron compared with a raccoon. And the horse is a rattle-brained nitwit when compared with an elephant.

Scientists have speculated for years about which is the brainiest creature in the animal world. The evidence now indicates that, at least on the basis of tests made, the chimpanzee heads the class.

Chimps can perform feats of reasoning that are beyond some primitive human beings. And in tests they have out-reasoned typical five-year-American youngsters.

Prof. Harry F. Harlow, head of the University of Wisconsin's large primate laboratory, states that in some tests the chimps "actually did better than most of the children."

It is not difficult for a chimp to figure how to get a banana suspended for beyond his reach if any boxes are in sight. He will usually quickly get the idea of stacking the boxes to make a platform. Many three-year-old children still can't get the idea of stacking a few blocks to build a tower.

The average chimp can saw wood, hammer nails, sweep up the floor and use a screwdriver as competently as many pre-school youngsters.

A chimp, of course, is a member of the monkey family. The monkeys are almost all mental wizards by animal standards. Monkeys will figure in a few seconds how to open a puzzle box that will baffle dogs for hours.

The standard puzzle box is so easy for a monkey that he will quickly become bored with it. Only when you introduce tricky locks, T-latches and combination locks will you cause the monkey



Smart chimp gets a laugh

to start scratching his head. Once he has learned the secret of a lock it never again troubles him.

Outside the monkey kingdom the animal that has probably impressed psychologists most with its brilliance is the raccoon of American woodlands.

In the psychologist's laboratory the 'coon is a riot. He will put his paws into the psychologist's pocket just to see what is there and he will go back into the puzzle boxes after he has opened them just for the fun of operating the gadgets (even though the food bait is no longer present).

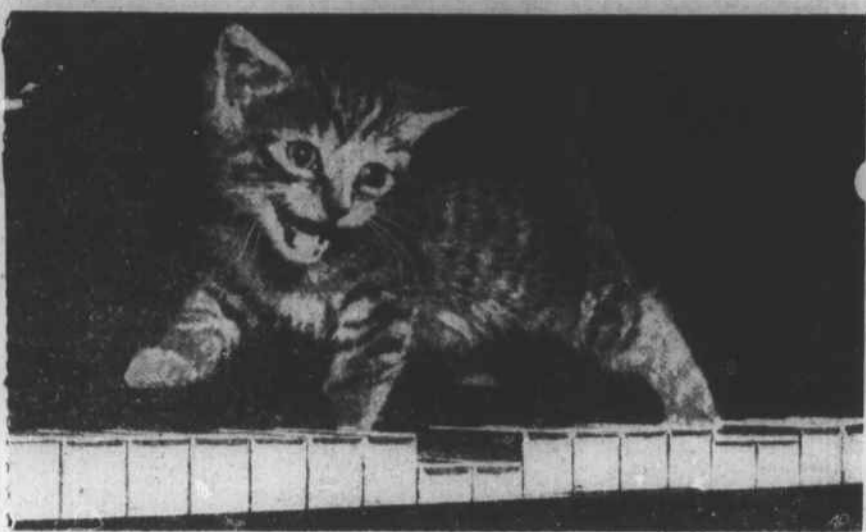
The elephant, investigators are finding, has a really jumbo-sized mind. The elephants tested at the Bronx Zoo caught on very rapidly to the idea of pulling strings to

get hidden food, in the shell game test.

And in the teakwood jungles of Southeast Asia investigators are finding that elephants casually perform tasks requiring a high order of brain-work, much higher, for example, than the work expected of a farm horse. They stack huge teakwood logs neatly into piles. And they give every sign of comprehending a mechanical principle, which is extraordinary for animals below the monkey. One mechanical principle they seem to understand is the log slide. They place logs on the slide, maneuver them carefully into position with their trunks, then give them a push with their front feet—and watch critically while the log swooshes down into the water.

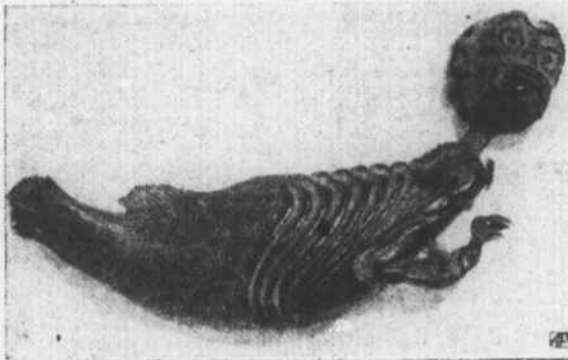
One final animal that apparently deserves mention among the world's brainiest animals is the coyote. Although widely despised by sheepmen and cattle ranchers, the coyote is crafty and a genius at adapting himself to all conditions. He has even been known to hitch rides on wagons or moving flatcars. One authority on coyotes reports they know how to disguise themselves... how to play jokes and trick other animals... how to imitate the sounds they hear... how to get through barbed wire fences... and how to hunt cooperatively.

Men who set out trap lines for coyotes often find that every trap on the line has been sprung. And when they investigate they often find coyotes, speaking behind them. The coyote can best be trapped by playing on his great curiosity. (Curiosity is an index of intelligence.) One trapper reports he has had excellent luck catching coyotes by burying an old alarm clock near the trap. The coyote becomes so intrigued to find what causes the ticking that he steps accidentally onto the hidden trap.



Kitten on the keys—scientists find animals are smart

P. T. Barnum's Mermaid: Was It Made in Japan?



Remains of Barnum's Famous Fejee Mermaid

AP Newsfeatures
ST. BONAVENTURE, N. Y.—The famous Fejee mermaid with which Plineas T. Barnum made a small fortune a century ago and which is credited with starting him on the road to fame as a showman has been brought to light again.

The preserved oddity, believed to be at least 127 years old, has the head, breast, and arms of a female monkey and the tail of a fish. It was acquired by a Franciscan friar, Fr. Irenaeus Herberich, OFM, librarian at St. Bonaventure College in New York State. Father Irenaeus received it as a gift from friends who bought it at an auction of the Stanford White Collection in New York City.

The Fejee mermaid is now less than two feet long. Originally, its length was closer to three feet, but it has shrunk and has lost part of its tail.

Barnum acquired the mermaid in the 1840's from Moses Kimball of the Boston Museum, who in turn had bought it from a sailor. The sailor's father, a sea captain, purchased it in 1822 from

a group of Japanese sailors. When it was exhibited in London in the same year, hundreds flocked to view the curio.

According to general belief, the mermaid was the handwork of a tireless Japanese. Barnum himself was aware that certain Japanese artists manufactured a great variety of fabulous animals, and he later admitted his mermaid was "no doubt... a specimen of that curious manufacture." But he liked its realism. Its "mouth was open, its tail turned over and its arms thrown up, giving it the appearance of living died in great agony."

To offset incredulity in mermaids, Barnum worked up a series of newspaper stories stating that a Prof. Griffin, "noted authority on anatomy," had found this particular specimen, believed it genuine, and was bringing it to New York for exhibition. Barnum then engaged a special hall, hired a bogus "Prof. Griffin."

To view the oddity cost 25c. The huge throngs that came to see the Fejee mermaid assured the future circus man that he had found a gold mine.



News from
RUSSELL'S CREEK

April 6 — Rev. Hoffman will fill his regular appointment at Live Oak Grove church Sunday morning, April 9, at 11 o'clock and Sunday evening.

The Woman's Home Demonstration club met last Tuesday night with Mrs. Lee Garner with nine persons present. The demonstration, Understanding Our Children was given by Mrs. B. F. Copeland. The hostess served cakes and assorted cookies. The April meeting will meet with Mrs. A. H. Tallman.

Born to Mr. and Mrs. Douglas Merrill last Monday morning a daughter, Mrs. Merrill is with Mr. and Mrs. C. A. Merrill at the present. The baby is still at the hospital receiving attention. We wish them the best.

Rev. Willie Stillely held services at the Free Will Baptist church Sunday morning and Sunday night.

Mr. and Mrs. A. H. Tallman are celebrating their fortieth wedding anniversary next Sunday afternoon. Their many friends are wishing for them much happiness.

Mr. and Mrs. E. Massotti's children have been ill with the flu. But we are glad they are improved.

Little Colon Pou had the misfortune of cutting his hand last week. We hope he will soon be okay.

Mr. and Mrs. L. D. Springle visited Mr. and Mrs. C. A. Merrill a while Sunday afternoon.

In The Good Old Days

THIRTY-THREE YEARS AGO
The United States declared a state of war existed with Germany.

Camp Glenn was settled as a mobilization point for North Carolina troops should they be called into service again.

Dr. C. S. Maxwell announced himself a candidate for the office of mayor.

TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO
David Jones won the story telling contest held in Morehead City last week when the county commencement exercises were held.

Hancock-Huntley was advertising a two-tube radiola for \$35. The price included headphones and two dry cell radiotrons (everything except batteries and antenna). It was priced at less than the cost of making it at home.

Beaufort Realty corp. was advertising a few lots still for sale in west Beaufort. They offered free transportation from Beaufort.

TEN YEARS AGO
Dr. Ben F. Royal was elected a vice-president of the N. C. Waterways association and Aycock Brown was elected secretary-treasurer when the meeting was held in Washington, N. C.

F. R. Seeley withdrew his name from the Democratic ticket for the state assembly.

An editorial suggested reopening the crab packing plant in Marshallberg which had been in use up until the past three years.

FIVE YEARS AGO
The Board of Education reelected J. G. Allen superintendent of county schools for the next two years.

Harry Tyler, Earle Noe, Henry Hatzel and Charles Hatzel were announced as first string players for the Jaycee softball team.

Gas ration coupons had to last until the middle of June; new red stamps for meats and fats were negotiable the first week of April.

PELLETIER

April 4 — On Monday night the Pelletier Booster club met. After the business, the meeting was turned over to the entertainment committee. The first speaker was Mr. Ball, who explained the method of getting telephone service. Second speaker, Mr. Clark followed up Mr. Ball's speech by giving more facts. R. M. Williams, county agent, was also present. He spoke on blue mold control and gave points on hybrid corn. Mrs. Gillikin, home demonstration agent, reminded the ladies of the club meeting to be held Friday evening. Afterwards refreshments were served consisting of lemonade, muffins and cakes. The club gained two more members, Mr. and Mrs. Johnnie Young of Stella.

Mr. and Mrs. Ben Irving visited Mr. and Mrs. Colon Brown on Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. Farmer Holland visited Mr. and Mrs. E. E. Waters on Sunday.

Mrs. Tom Ketchum and Bill Brown of Jacksonville were guests of T. T. Rhue on Saturday night.

Lee Sawyer has been ill during the last week.

Kenneth Canfield visited Mr. and Mrs. Worth Watson and family on Sunday.

Miss Juanita Brown attended the Azalea festival in Wilmington on Sunday.

Prentiss Vinson motored to New Bern last week on business.

Mrs. T. T. Rhue visited Mrs. Floyd Meadows of Swansboro on Sunday.

There's a News-Times route open in your community for some boy or girl who would like to earn good money and, while doing so, learn the fundamentals of modern business. Any interested boy or girl is invited to apply in person at either the Beaufort or Morehead City office of The News-Times or address a postcard to Mr. Bill Willis signifying a desire to operate and manage a News-Times route. Mr. Willis will personally instruct the boy or girl.

Mr. and Mrs. Allen Vinson visited Mr. and Mrs. Hubert Smith on Sunday.

Mrs. Edith Jones motored to Morehead City on business Monday.

Mr. and Mrs. Sammie Riggs and

family of Maysville visited Mr. and Mrs. Woodrow Bright and family on Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. Eddie McCausley visited in Bear Creek Saturday night.

Mr. and Mrs. Bob Steward and Mr. and Mrs. Bernard Morse motored to Morehead City on business Monday.

Sam Meadows visited his children over the weekend. His daughter, Shirley Meadows, who is in nurses training at High Point, was home over the weekend.

Mr. and Mrs. C. F. Overman of Nebbin, are building a cottage down on Breezy Point.

Earl Taylor, member of the 4-H club received a pig from the pig and calf chain last Thursday.

Mr. and Mrs. R. T. Merrill and family visited her mother, Mrs. E. P. Watson on Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. Leon Parker and family visited Mr. and Mrs. H. E. Taylor on Sunday.

Returns to Norfolk
Nathan H. Thomas, boatswain's mate, first class, USN, of 401 Ann st., Beaufort, recently returned to Norfolk, Va., aboard the fleet tug USS Papago from the combined armed forces largest peacetime maneuver, "Operation Portrex," which took place in the Puerto Rican area.

Britain is developing cellophane hide production in East Africa.



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