

Nature Has Stinging Trees, Bashful Reptiles

By ALTON BLAKESLEE
AP Science Reporter

NEW YORK—You meet such interesting animals . . . There's a walking ball of toothpicks that eats a kangaroo that plays Tarzan, the cactus banderol, the fat mouse, and the bashful crocodile.

For good measure, there are green ants and a tree that stings you. There's the obliging carpet snake that can be in good houses-keeping, the man's death adder, and nastier insects or big bugs of nasty snakes.

You can rub elbows with this frightful menagerie on the Cape York peninsula of northeast Australia. Better yet, you can inspect them, crush, peel and mangle at the American Museum of Natural History.

Scores of these odd fellows were just brought back by the 1948 Archbold Cape York Expedition. Cape York is a 100,000 square mile area full of strange plants and animals, and up to now it hasn't been ex-



RED-LEGGED pademelon held by Duhan Van Deusen, explored much by scientists.

The cuscus has a bill-like snout. He's covered with long, sharp quills 1 to 2 inches long, like fat rounded toothpicks. He can stick them erect and roll into a ball. This anteater, formally known as Tachygyssus, is one of two egg-laying mammals.

He eats termites and ants, and is aided in the search by sharp claws. Australian natives say he's good to eat and tastes like pork. He shivers violently when cold, but isn't very good at controlling his body temperature. He's evidence that shivering was one of the first methods that mammals developed to warm themselves when it gets cold.

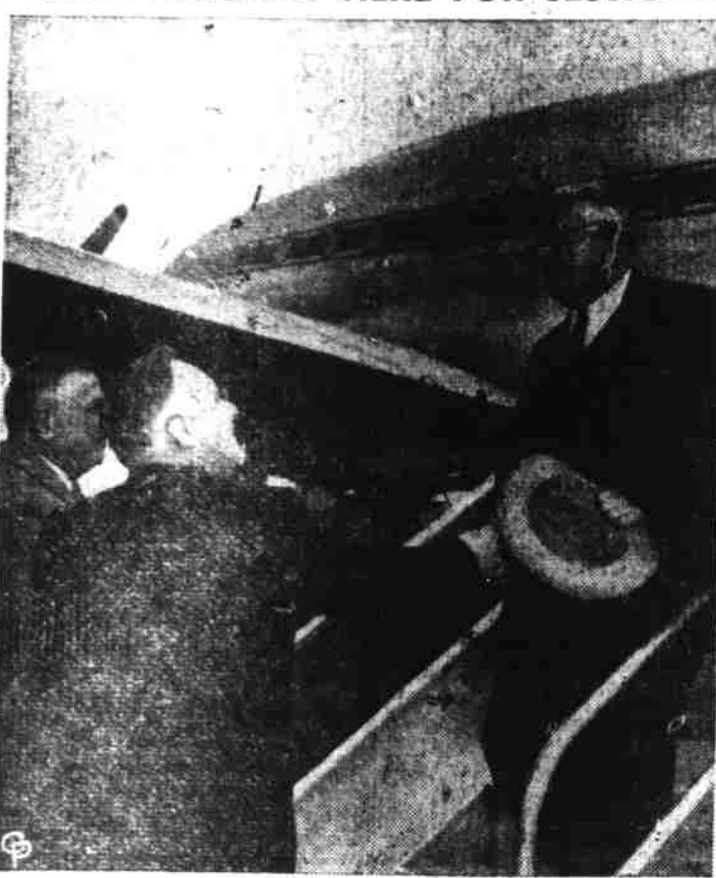
The tree-climbing kangaroo is another oddity. It lives in the trees, even gives birth and brings its young up in this arboreal home. Four to five feet long, and weighing about 15 pounds, he jumps from branch to branch, eating fruits, leaves and ferns, and may come down to earth if food gets scarce upstairs. His front paws are well developed, and he grabs hold with them and pushes with his hind legs like a boy climbing a rope. The ball of his foot is a thick pad of tissue something like sponge rubber. It serves as a shock absorber and gripping device.

The cuscus is another tree-dweller. He's from one to four feet long, with soft fur. The male is spotted grey and white. One native boy said he could smell them. He'd sniff an atop under a tree, saying "cuscus up there." Often it took him ten minutes of sharp-eyed looking to spot the cuscus. Geoffrey M. Tate, business manager of the expedition and brother of Dr. Tate, hunted down snakes and crocodiles. He brought back two of the Johnston fresh water crocodiles, youngsters about 18 inches long. They grow to lengths of 7 to 8 feet. Timid they are, too, Mr. Tate said.

"You could jump into a pool of water with them, and they wouldn't bother you," he said. But watch out for the death adder, a slim little fellow 13 to 24 inches long. Its poison affects the nerves, like a cobra's venom. Your chance of living if you get bitten is only 50 per cent. You have a far better chance with the rattlesnake. Worse still is the Taipan snake, a seven-footer. If he bites you, you may have as little as two minutes to make out your will.

Leonard J. Brass, botanist and expedition leader, brought back 11,600 specimens of plants. Most dangerous of these is stinging tree. It looks quite harmless, Mr. Brass said. It resembles a bush, and usually is 10 to 12 feet high. It has broad leaves, but they're covered with stiff, glistening hairs. If you brush against the leaf, the hairs stick into you and sting like a nettle. Each hair gives you a little hypodermic of formic acid. Natives say the stinging tree can kill a horse. It doesn't kill a human, but it can make you quite

U.N. PRESIDENT HERE FOR SESSIONS



A CORDIAL HANDSHAKE is given Herbert V. Evatt by Dr. Norman J. Makin, Australian Ambassador to the U. S., as the Australian Foreign Minister arrives at LaGuardia Field, New York. He is current president of the U.N. Assembly, meeting at Lake Success, N. Y. (International)

Congressmen Collect Votes — Also Horses, Neckties, Pipes, Etc.

WASHINGTON, AP—The nation's lawmakers don't collect just votes. They collect calendars, clocks, neckties, donkeymasks, rifles, pipes, pens, ties or anything else that they fancy. Clocks took up over the house of Senator (D-La.) D-RELL. His collection, begun when he was a boy, includes every thing from the common variety of alarm clock to an "atomic" clock in a gold case that is wound by changes in the atmosphere of the room. He has a German clock that someone gave him as a gift from the Black Forest. Though many of his clock have chimed, the German clock is the only one set to make with the music.

"I would go back," says Mrs. McGrath, "if they all went off at every hour, quarter or half hour at once. The ticking has gotten used to."

Every January Rep. Edmund (R-N.Y.) is swamped with a batch of new calendars. Between January's his friends and the others. He keeps up to date with scores of calendars, like the ones with pictures of airplanes on them best.

Rep. Holt (D-Ill.) collects pipes. They aren't ordinary pipes, however. The Congress man likes to smoke them.

"They're scattered all around some of home," says his office, "says his secretary, "and he usually has about 15 in his pocket—most of them smoked."

Felton M. "Doc" Johnston, secretary for the Senate Majority, has been collecting premiums for years. His most valuable of the lot, the fellows, in all sizes, colors, materials and designs. They range from bits of one to one a foot and a half high with a pink dot bow tie. In addition he collects pictures of Presidents.

Rep. Walter (D-Ill.) collects donkeymasks. Senator (D-Tenn.) collects his daughter's drawings and paintings. Senator Virgil (D-Ill.) has a fine collection of Americana, especially the kind of Jefferson Square in Washington, D. C.

Chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee is considered an authority on World War campaigns.

Rep. (D-Ill.) goes for a "Cable" Press (D-Tenn.) collector, brother, and Rep. (D-Ill.) has a track record. Senator (D-Ill.) has an excellent one. He has a fine collection of donkeymasks.

sick. Even weeks afterward, the slung part of your body smart when you wash.



CURB YOUR CURIOSITY. Don't make an inspection tour of your hostess' house whenever you go visiting.

Van Wells Is Head Of E. Pigeon Community Group

Residents of the East Pigeon Community last Monday night took another step toward complete organization of their community development program when they named their principal officers at a meeting at Bethel School.

Van Wells was elected chairman, C. S. Rollins, vice-chairman, Mrs. Raymond Duckett, secretary, Frank Sorrells, secretary, and Mrs. Will Kuykendall, reporter.

The 45 people who attended the organization meeting heard Assistant County Agent Wayne Franklin tell of the purposes of the county-wide program.

They scheduled their next meeting for tonight at 7:30 o'clock at the home of Will Kuykendall.

Walking Hardware Store Arrested

ANDERSON, Ind. (UP)—When police searched the pockets of a man they hooked on a vagrancy charge, they found:

An automatic revolver, a handful of shells, nine pocket knives, a hunting knife, four screwdrivers, two tobacco cans, two pipes, three watches, a tire gauge, four key rings containing 30 keys, three pairs of scissors, a gun holster, 29 old coins, a pencil sharpener.

A hunting knife sheath, 43 rubber bands, five empty tobacco sacks, four cough drops, 20 handkerchiefs, two wooden paddles, a nail file, a hair curler, a pencil, two pairs of pliers, a pair of leather gloves, a package of cigarettes, a roll of friction tape.

Two plugs of chewing tobacco, two billfolds, two purses, 10 spoons of thread, 19 safety pins, 33 needles and pins, two padlocks, a cigarette lighter, 10 boxes of matches, four rings, 15 match folders, a wrist band, a pair of glasses, and 35 pieces of assorted junk identified as nuts, bolts, screws and washers.

One of the billfolds contained \$22 in currency and a purse contained 47 cents in silver.

Sell By Using The Want Ads

Doomed Cancer Victim Advises: 'Conquer Fear'

FORT WORTH, Tex. (UP)—The worst part of cancer is fear. Such, in essence, is the belief of an elderly man who has spent a small fortune fighting it, only to lose the battle.

But J. Harry Lawrence, who has an artificial windpipe, figures he won a victory over the worst stage of the disease.

Lawrence, a well-groomed, self-reliant man, underwent surgery here for cancer of the throat. It was too late, however, for surgeons to remove the infected "voice box." The cancer was too far advanced.

So they inserted an artificial windpipe to make breathing easier and to keep the cancer tissue from strangling him. Though the operation was too late to effect a cure, Lawrence's life will be prolonged and more comfortable.

Lawrence, who is 71 but who doesn't appear more than 60, walked out of the place while surgeons awaited arrival of the artificial windpipe ordered from another state. Because of a letter he had written to the American Cancer Association, some three weeks earlier, his doctor feared he would commit suicide.

Police throughout the state were alerted and told to urge him to return for the operation. Then three days later he turned up at a Tyler, Tex., hospital and agreed to return.

An "unexplainable fear" caused him to leave the Fort Worth hospital, he said. Lawrence can speak only in a whisper now, but gave in writing his answers to an interview.

"When one is scared, he is scared—that's all, and it cannot be explained," he said. Fear of an operation has caused the deaths of many men and women, he believes.

"I realized I had done the wrong thing," Lawrence said, in explaining why he had walked out of the hospital. "I realized it would not help my illness, I had to conquer fear, which I did."

"I resigned myself to the fact the operation had to be performed for me to live a few years longer, and I trusted in God and medical science and let the rest go."

His advice to fellow cancer suf-

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