

Animal Friends and Enemies

ANIMALS OF THE PAST

(First of a Series by Dr. W. D. Funkhouser)

The first settlers in Kentucky found this state to be a hunter's paradise—a wilderness of dense forests undisturbed save by the trail of the Indian, the lair of the panther and the run-way of the elk; beautiful water-courses, easy of traverse and teeming with fish, otter and beaver; rugged mountains harboring the wildcat and the bear; broad plains trampled by the buffalo and ranged by the deer. Game was so plentiful as to be held in contempt; fur-bearing animals were abundant; the hunter and trapper led a happy and easy existence.

Slowly these conditions changed. With the cutting off of the forests the larger animals retreated; clearings increased to become fertile farm-lands or to grow up into neglected thickets; settlements were founded and trails through the forests became roads over which the hardy pioneers brought their families, their household goods and their stock into the new land called "Kentucke." With the change in conditions came a change in the animal life. Forest-loving species became scarcer; thicket and plain-inhabiting forms doggedly persisted; river forms scattered to more remote waters.

Change followed change, slowly at first, then more rapidly, as the thousand and one alterations incidental to the settling of a new country took place, each tending to affect the faunal life. These changes are still going on. Our native animals are making their last stand and their extermination seems to be only a question of a few years. The animals which were valuable for food have mostly disappeared; the fur-bearing forms are almost gone; those which are detrimental to crops or to stock are being hunted to death; the few which remain make a pitifully small list.

When we call the roll of these animals which were so familiar to the Indians and to the early settlers, we find very few of them here now to answer "present" to their names. The buffalo is gone. Yet in early days there were so many buffaloes in Kentucky that even such experienced hunters and woodsmen as Daniel Boone and Simon Kenton were "amazed" at their numbers. The elk, par excellence the game animal of the United States, disappeared before the buffalo but its former abundance is indicated by the geographical names which commemorate it. There is scarcely a county in the state which does not have an Elkhorn, Elk Creek, Elk Ford, Elk Fork

or Elkton. The panther, about which such blood-curdling camp-fire tales have been related, is no more. The bear is making his last stand in a few sparsely settled localities. Wolves are practically extinct in this state. The beaver has not been seen for over twenty-five years. These are animals of the past—in the days when Kentucky was indeed a happy hunting ground.

GRADUATE GOES TO ARUBA

Joseph Kastle Roberts, son of Dean George Roberts and Mrs. Roberts, of Transylvania Park, is spending six weeks at Aruba, a small island off the coast of Venezuela. Mr. Roberts, who has been with the Standard Oil Company at its offices in Whiting, Ind., since his graduation from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 1928, was sent to Aruba on business for the Oil Company, having in view the plan of installing a plant on the island after Mr. Roberts makes his report.

The University of Kentucky claims the honor of young Roberts' start in the world of industrial chemistry. He was graduated with his bachelor's degree, majoring in industrial chemistry from the University of Kentucky in 1925. After graduation he was awarded a fellowship to Massachusetts Institute of Technology and having acquired his master's degree he went with the Standard Oil Company. While a student in the University of Kentucky he was a member of Alpha Tau Omega, social fraternity; Phi Beta Kappa and Sigma Xi, honorary Arts and Sciences and honorary Sciences fraternities, and was the winner of military honors and trophies during his upper graduate years, three times. He was one of the most active and popular undergraduate students remembered on the campus of the University.

FIVE INITIATED BY PHI BETA KAPPA

The Kentucky chapter of Phi Beta Kappa, national honorary scholastic fraternity, initiated five members at a meeting in the office of Dr. Frank L. McVey, president of the University.

The new members initiated were Mrs. Lolo Robinson, of Lexington; Miss Elizabeth Cramer, of Louisville, and Miss Katherine Wilson, Rawlings Ragland, and Roger Smith, all of Lexington.

Miss Alice Whittinghill, of Ann Arbor, Mich., who was recently pledged by the local chapter, will be initiated at the University of Michigan, where she is studying medicine.