

THE PHANTAGIAPH

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PANIC IN SHOPPING DISTRICT

Thousands Terrified By
Escape From Pet Shop

Thousands were panicked in the shopping district today as rumors spread of the escape of a large full-grown Human from the basement of a pet shop located on West Avenue just below Maple Street. Police found it necessary to divert traffic for three blocks in each direction during the tense hour and a half the Human was at large. It was imperative to call out a squad of reserves to keep members of the populace from wandering into the danger zone and to help track down the danger.

The Human, brought in last week by the proprietor from the Trans-Oceanic Import House, was intended to be exhibited at the fair to be held later this summer. Up to this morning, the Human had been in a docile mood and had caused no trouble. It is not known just what transpired to cause the rampage, but it is believed that the fall of a stack of boxes in a corner of the basement in which the Human's cage was located may have frightened the creature.

Somehow or other the Human broke open the door of the stoutly made net-cage and ran wild among the other nets stored there.

Several enclosures containing pedigree dogs were broken up and the animals thrown about. A crate containing empty bird cages was broken up and the contents smashed. Numerous other damage was committed.

Hearing sounds of destruction in the basement, the proprietor opened the door to the stairs. This attracted the creature's attention and the Human dashed upstairs. The owner of the pet shop failed to close the door in time and was severely pummelled and mauled by the first onslaught of the dangerous Human. Several customers who were in the shop fled in panic along with the owner who succeeded in locking the front door. The yells and screams of those who had fled attracted others and in a minute there was a large crowd outside the store blocking traffic and watching appalled the antics of the enraged adult Human through the glass windows.

The Human was seen to continue dashing about the store for several minutes upsetting things and making general havoc. Then it got into one of the big windows, threw several puppies out, and hurled a box through the glass. The window came down with a loud crash. The mob outside scattered wildly as the Human jumped through screaming. In the near-riot that followed, a score were injured and three fainted trying to escape the vicinity. Luckily the police arrived just then and with customary discipline managed to clear the neighborhood, and carry away those who were hurt or unconscious. By this time the Human had somehow gotten into one of the large buildings nearby.

After tracking the dangerous creature up and down back stairs for an hour and a half, the Human was cornered on the tenth floor in an empty apartment. Realizing the impossibility of trying to take ~~xxxxx~~ such a dangerous creature alive and noting the several wounds on the creature's body from the broken glass, an agent of the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty shot the Human and killed it.

Norman traffic was resumed a few minutes later. The proprietor announced the intention of having the body of the Human, a remarkably fine female specimen, stuffed and displayed. The owner will appear in court tomorrow to answer charges of negligence in allowing a Human this size to be kept where it could menace so many citizens. The pet shop was insured.

WIMERICK

There was a brill rig from Peruna
Who kiljapped a golden baldoona
It wrombled and swirled
Till its onderet boiled
And cosnapped a grand multi-tuna!

-Roy St. John LeClaire

WANTED: A copy of Jules Verne's book
"The Begum's Fortune". If you have
it or can obtain it, please write
to DAW, address c/o Phantagraph.

CHANT OF THE BLACK MAGICIANS

By Cyril Kornbluth *

Father Snake, Father Bear,
Father Panther, Father Scorpion,
Bite, crush, tear and sting,
Bite, crush, tear and sting
The people of kind disposition,
the people who wish well.

Father Alcol; Father Sirius,
Father Orion, Father Arcturus,
Send down the madness,
Send down the madness
On the people of kindly mind
who do no harm.

Father Lust; Father Gluttony,
Father Hate, Father Fear,
Go into these people;
Go into these people,
Go into these people of generous
disposition. Transform them.

Father Sig, Father Assur;
Father Adolf, Father EG883,
Club, shoot and ray;
Club, shoot and ray;
Damage these people, these kindly
people who wish no harm.

* (From "Trouble in the Hills" an unpublished story by Cecil Cowin)