

COOLIDGES' LUCK WITH PETS POOR

Misfortune Followed Many of Them, Mrs. C. Says in Magazine Article

Although Calvin and Mrs. Coolidge were so fond of pets that they felt they never could be without one or more, misfortune followed many of them, Mrs. Coolidge declares in her latest article in The American Magazine.

The first Coolidge pet was Bounder, a sprightly Vermont cat, which enjoyed playing in the water and shooting the chutes down the back stairs in a clothes basket. He died of fright from Fourth of July fireworks. Two cats succeeded Bounder. One pined away and died when Coolidge left to serve in the General Court of Massachusetts and the other died from abscess of the ear after Coolidge had personally performed an operation upon it.

Turn to Birds

After the Coolidge children were born, Judy, a police puppy, came to the home. Its death from distemper was one of the earliest griefs of Calvin, junior. The family then turned to birds, keeping four canaries, a thrush, a troupial, a yellow bird and a nightingale, the latter a household favorite. It had to be abandoned when Mr. and Mrs. Coolidge went to Washington, since it is unlawful to keep a nightingale in the District of Columbia.

Two kittens were among the first pets at the White House. One was a

wanderer and was finally lost permanently after marines had found him time after time. The other, an inveterate hunter, had to be imprisoned during the nesting season of birds on the White House grounds. Peter Pan was the first White House dog. His fate was exile after he had nipped the heels of workers about the Mansion. Paul Pry, an Airedale, nearly ruined the furniture and the famous Rob Roy, Coolidge's constant companion, had a fondness for sampling sandwiches laid out for tea. Beans, a Boston bull terrier, started a feud with Rob Roy which caused his banishment.

Dogs Die

Prudence Prim, Mrs. Coolidge's favorite collie, and Rob Roy both died shortly after the Black Hills vacation, Rob being buried in the hills. Mrs. Coolidge tells of making a little hat for Prudence, which she wore proudly at garden fetes.

Speed of Freight Cars Increased in Last Year

The average freight car moved 31.3 miles per day in 1928, which was a gain of 6.2 miles over the average for 1920. This does not mean, however, that freight cars in actual use last year traveled but 31.3 miles per day. What it does mean is that if the total number of miles traveled by all freight cars in 1928 be divided by the total number of cars owned by the railroads and this result be divided by the number of days in the year the result would be 31.3 miles, as the average distance traveled by all cars owned, no matter whether they were all in actual service or not.

The facts are that those cars in use traveled, on an average, more than 300 miles per day of 24 hours. The railroads established a new record for speed of freight trains in 1928. The average speed of all trains operated was 12.9 miles per hour. Multiply this speed per hour by 24 and it will be found that the average train covered a distance of more than 309 miles each day.

First Aid to Botany

"I have just read your fine article on cacti," writes a reader to Woman's Home Companion. "You should have seen our lawn in April—covered with croci."

Here is a suggestion: If more flexibility is desired in the tariff bill now before Congress why not add a rubber schedule?

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