

Jeffersonville Pastor Traps Wolf, Takes Him Home for Pet

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By BRUCE TEMPLE

The Rev. William Branham, 922 E. 8th, Jeffersonville, is one man who just won't keep the wolf away from his door—but residents of the Henryville neighborhood, who have made an earnest effort to keep the pesky beast away, are about to make the Pentecostal minister a hero just the same.

Mr. Branham is the current toast of that northern Clark County town because he single-handedly caught a prowling wolf after the beast had cleared the earth north of Henryville of sheep, calves and chickens. Not satisfied with merely trapping the wolf, the minister took the animal home to convert him into a household pet.

Just Routine Work for Him.

The wolf's capture was little more than routine for this clergyman who works during the week as a high-line patrolman for the Public Service Company and serves his pulpit on Sundays at Jeffersonville Pentecostal Tabernacle, 804 Penn.

He has battled "live wires" high up on the power company's poles, fought and captured black bears in Alaska, Maine and the Rocky Mountains and only last year brought home a live wolf he captured near Butte, Mont.

That Mr. Branham will leave October 15 on another hunting excursion to the Rocky Mountains would indicate that his capture of the wolf near Henryville yesterday was merely a conditioning drill for the rigors of the coming autumn pilgrimage.

Besides gaining the gratitude of residents of the Henryville area, Mr. Branham has the thanks of the Floyd County sheriff's office for solving a riddle that has troubled Sheriff Raymond Jaegers' staff for three weeks. Sheriff's office attaches there made an expedition shortly after midnight three weeks ago into the knobs country of northeast Floyd County after fishermen had reported seeing a "wild mountain lion" prowling there.

That quest proved fruitless but Deputy Sheriff Harry Chapman, told of Mr. Branham's feat, was glad to admit that the lion and the wolf were probably one and the same.

Mr. Branham, who insists even a wolf "won't bite the hand that feeds it," interested himself in the plight of the Henryville people after reports had trickled down to Jeffersonville that the sheep, cattle and chickens there hadn't had a moment's peace in weeks.

Forked Stick Used to Pin Wolf.

Sleeping by day, preying on livestock and emitting blood-curdling howls at night, the wolf had made a home northwest of Henryville, near the Floyd-Clark line.

The clergyman visited the wolf's den and set a steel trap. Hiding in ambush, he waited for darkness. The wolf walked out and into the trap. The pastor pinned his prey with a long forked stick, put a rope hitch over the animal's mouth and then led the animal home with a rope.

Mr. Branham described the captured animal as part wolf and part dog, with wolf's feet and eyes. It has broad shoulders, narrow hips and weighs about eighty pounds, he said, estimating that the animal is about seven years old.