

Subularman

By Boomer Cardinale



Critch

By Critch



Man found not guilty of eating endangered turtle

The Associated Press

CORPUS CHRISTI — A man shrimp boat captain has been acquitted of charges he had and ate an endangered sea turtle.

A federal jury deliberated nearly 90 minutes Monday before declaring 37-year-old Leopoldo Bell innocent of eating illegal meat.

His attorney, Fred Jimenez, attacked the testimony of the prosecution's main witness, Joseph Bell, who spent three months in the Nueces County Jail awaiting trial, will likely return to the shrimp business in Port Lavaca.

Simard, 34, testified the two were trawling in Matagorda when they snagged a 110-pound turtle on May 13.

He said he wanted something different to eat, Simard testified.

Bell testified that he and Simard caught a 5-pound turtle in their net on May 15 or 16, and Simard wanted to keep it.

"I told him to throw it back. It was very little. He said he wanted to take it home to his house," Bell testified.

Bell said he went inside the cabin and the turtle was there when he returned. "I thought maybe he'd thrown it out or hidden it," Bell said.

Simard testified that he brought his brother-in-law, Mari-Danna, an off-duty petty officer with the U.S. Coast Guard, to the docked boat at Port Lavaca May 16.

Danna said Simard showed some "weird-looking" meat to him and he identified it as a turtle.

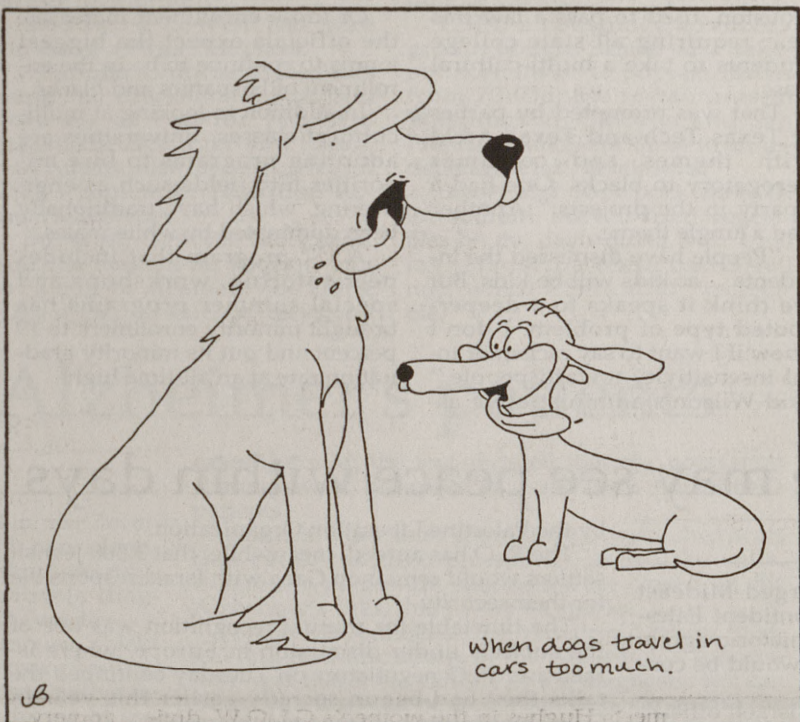
However, Danna couldn't corroborate Simard's statement that he also had identified the meat as turtle.

In another contradiction with Simard's testimony, Danna told Simard he didn't speak with him the following day, when Simard took the meat and told his commanding officer about it.

Simard said he never asked for a possible reward for helping with charges, but Danna testified that he and Simard had been given a reward.

JUST THE BEGINNING

by: Jason Brown



By Jason Brown

Lost 6-year-old found napping with dog after all-night search

The Associated Press

DALLAS — Six-year-old Morgan Littrell knew where she was all the time, so she wasn't worried.

But her anxious parents, friends and law enforcement officers didn't know where Morgan was from about 7:30 p.m. Monday.

After an all-night search, complete with helicopters, dogs, foot searchers and horse patrols, Morgan was found by a family friend wandering with her dogs about a mile from her home in Northwest Dallas at about 8 a.m. Tuesday.

Morgan, who hid behind a pillow to avoid the probing questions and cameras of the media, couldn't understand what all the fuss was about. She wondered why people kept coming to her house to talk to her.

"I knew I was gonna get home," she said. "I'm tired now and I just wanna go back in the house."

Morgan and dog buddies Sparkles, Blackie and Lady had spent the night in a field not far from the family's home.

"They (the dogs) all slept with me," Morgan said. "I knew where I was, I just got sleepy."

Morgan had left home with dogs in tow to visit a friend in the neighborhood. After a disagreement with the friend, the girl decided she preferred the company of her four-legged chums and set out on a walk, the girl's father John Wyatt said.

According to Morgan the walk turned into a run with the dogs taking the lead and pulling her further from home.

Sgt. Judy Katz said the Dallas police department pulled out all the stops when they were contacted about 10 p.m. Monday.

"We had several canine units on the scene, helicopters and foot searches and were starting up this morning when the girl was found," Sgt. Katz said Tuesday.

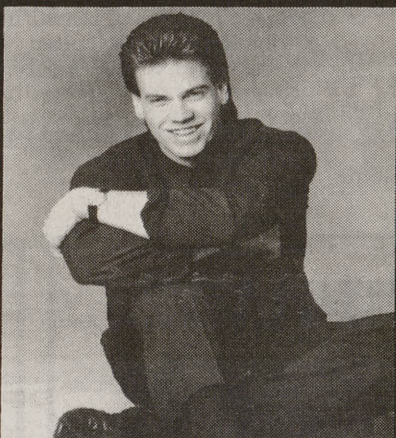
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