

Monkeys pick coconuts for a few bananas a day

KOTA BHARU, Malaysia (AP)—Coconut-picking machines on this palmy coast run cheaply. A few bananas a day keep them operating for five years or more. Since coconuts grow high up long, skinny tree trunks—and it's a lot of work to climb them—local Malays for centuries have found it easier to con monkeys into the job.

The investment is a patient wait by the monkey trap, a few months of concentrated gorilla training and a daily light meal after the day's crop is in.

When the monkey finally figures out what's going on and rebels, he is handed his pink slip and sold to a neighbor who likes curried monkey.

More than a thousand monkeys—of a sort known as "berok" here—work for coconut growers in Kelantan and Trengganu states on Malaysia's east coast. Farther south, Pahang state growers use baboons.

It's not a profession which breeds good manners, and enthralled tourists are warned to stay well clear. Malay farmers have been hospitalized or worse from bites by their own monkeys.

Baboons are even nastier.

Beroks are trained to work at the end of a long thin cord attached round their necks. They are carefully trained to pluck a specific coconut and respond faithfully to commands transmitted by the cord with mean-

ingful tugs.

A good monkey can harvest a thousand coconuts in a morning's work, earning for his master perhaps \$2. He rests only on Friday—the Moslem day of prayer.

He usually lives among the stilts under a raised Malay kampong house. His master takes him to work perched on bicycle handle bars or led down the road like a dog on a walk. If the grove is upriver, the berok sits regally up front in a boat.

For some, berok training and exploiting is a detailed art. The better indoctrinated the monkey, the larger the gains.

For others, like young Mamat Bin Yusof, the suggestion that anything unusual is involved earns the suggester a sympathetic stare.

"What you do mean?" he asked a visitor. "I just climb up to that

hill (indicating a nearby mountain), trap a monkey and when he grows up, he picks coconuts..."

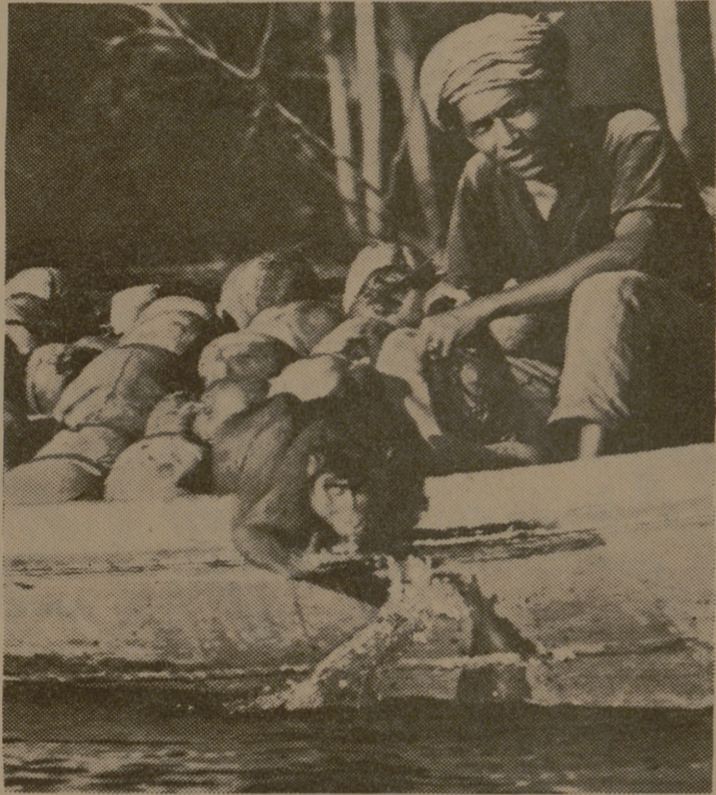
As he spoke, he said a few words to his monkey with two sharp yanks on the cord. He calls his berok "Jambo" because, he says, "it's a good monkey name."

Others converse in grunts and snorts as their beroks listen in rapt attention.

Properly, a young berok learns to twist a coconut while sitting on the ground. Then he is taught to climb a short tree and pull off coconuts attached to it by the teacher.

He later learns to pick out mature coconuts and drop them to the ground. And he is taught to leap directly to the next tree without wasting time coming down first.

Several Kelantanese Malays run obedience-schools for a small consideration.



A monkey who has finished his day's picking chores refreshes himself with a scoop of water. Canoe holds his day's work. (AP Photo)

Ag Extension editor resigns

J. W. Potts, news editor for the Texas Agricultural Extension Service for almost 23 years, is returning to West Texas.

His sign-off — jwp — has been affixed to thousands of stories dealing with developments in Texas and national agriculture and the people connected with them. His works have won many awards in national competition and have enjoyed national usage.

His resignation is effective September 1.

Attitude Change

(Continued from page 1)

where and American tourists are easy to spot.

"American girls you can see a mile away," Brocktrup explained. "They all have slicked-up hair and there's no doubt about their walk being different."

Sanders overheard an American girl talking in a bus in Ireland. She told him her father was a former ROTC instructor at Texas A&M and she attended Sam Houston State.

"It's a small world," he said. Other cadets reported on visits to old castles in Ireland, sailing aboard a 35-foot racer off the

Irish coast, shark fishing in the English Channel, diving for lobsters in The Virgin Islands and a 30-minute hydrofoil trip between Holland and Sweden.

The only rough time during the trip was on the way over. Seas ran about 20 feet in the North Atlantic and the Clipper tilted to 30 degrees from one wave.

One cadet is well known at the U. S. Navy fire-fighting school in Mayport, Fla., where the cadets spent their first week.

Al Leshinen of Pennsylvania wore his hat into the Officers' Club. His \$13.60 round for club patrons is a record at the base.

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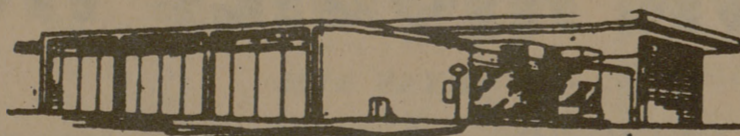


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1971 Texas A&M University Football Schedule

Sept. 11	WICHITA STATE at College Station	7:30 p. m.
Sept. 18	LOUISIANA STATE at Baton Rouge	7:30 p. m.
Sept. 25	NEBRASKA at Lincoln	1:30 p. m.
Oct. 2	CINCINNATI at College Station	7:30 p. m.
Oct. 9	TEXAS TECH at Lubbock	7:30 p. m.
Oct. 16	TEXAS CHRISTIAN at Fort Worth	2:00 p. m.
Oct. 23	BAYLOR at College Station	1:30 p. m.
Oct. 30	ARKANSAS at Little Rock	7:30 p. m.
Nov. 6	SOUTHERN METHODIST at College Station	1:30 p. m.
Nov. 13	RICE at Houston	2:00 p. m.
Nov. 25	TEXAS at College Station	1:30 p. m.

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