

(WRITTEN MAY 7TH TO MAY 14TH 1986)

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(THE ADVENTURE'S OF CHIPPER THE CHIPMONK AND HIS MANY FRIENDS.)

ABOUT 16 YEARS AGO, I WAS RIDING AROUND ON MY MOTORCYCLE IN THE HIGH SIERRA MOUNTAIN'S OF NORTHERN CALIFORNIA, ABOUT 75 MILES EAST OF THE LITTLE VALLEY TOWN OF CHICO CA.. I HAD BEEN RIDING, UP THIS ROAD AND DOWN THAT ROAD, AND JUST ENJOYING THE GREAT OUTDOOR'S. IT WAS A BEAUTIFUL DAY TO BE RIDING MY HONDA 1000, WITH A GENTLE BREEZE BLOWING, LIGHT BLUE SKY'S ABOVE, AND LOT'S OF WARM SUNSHINE ALL AROUND. I HAD BEEN RIDING FOR ABOUT TWO HOUR'S, AND I WAS GETTING A LITTLE TIRED. SO I WAS LOOKING FOR A PLACE TO PULL OFF AND REST A BIT. I THEN NOTICED A WIDE SPOT ON THE SIDE OF THE ROAD JUST AHEAD. I PULLED OFF THE ROAD, AND I CLIMBED OFF THE "MOTOR". AS I WAS TAKING OFF MY HELMET, I NOTICED TO MY RIGHT THAT THERE WAS A LITTLE BROWN FURRY ANIMAL SETTING ON A TREE STUMP WATCHING ME. IT WAS A VERY SMALL, BUT CUTE (CHIPMONK). WELL I MOOS - ZEED ON OVER BY THE TREE STUMP TO GET A CLOSER LOOK. BUT THE LITTLE FELLOW JUMPED OFF THE STUMP, AND TOOK OFF DOWN A LITTLE NARROW PATHWAY, AND FINALLY STOPPED AND HID UNDER A SMALL FERN PLANT. I CALLED TO HIM OR HER AND SAID COME OUT, I AM NOT GOING TO HURT YOU. THE LITTLE CHIPMONK, STUCK IT'S LITTLE FACE OUT FROM UNDERNEATH THE GREEN FERN AND SHOOK IT'S HEAD, THEN DISAPEARED AGAIN.

WELL I WENT BACK OVER TO MY MOTORCYCLE AND GOT OUT ONE OF MY BA - LONE - KNEE & CHEESE SANDWICHES. (I DID NOT HAVE ANY NUT'S OR BERRIES OR WHATEVER CHIPMONK'S ARE SURPOSE TO EAT. I TOOK THE SANDWICH AND BROKE IT UP INTO SMALL PIECE'S, THEN LAID THEM OUT ON THE STUMP. THEN I BACKED AWAY FROM THERE AND WAITED FOR AWHILE. ABOUT FIVE MINUTE'S WENT BY, AND THEN ALL OF A SUDDEN, THERE WAS THE LITTLE CHIPMONK SETTING ON THE STUMP AND WAS MUNCHING ON THE PIECES OF SANDWICH. THEN I TRYED AGAIN TO SPEACK TO THIS ANIMAL. (AND HALF HEARTEDLY, I REALLY THOUGHT IN MY MIND, THAT IT WAS REALLY GOING TO ANSWER ME.) (HA! HA!) BUT ALL IT DID WAS COCK IT'S HEAD TO ONE SIDE AND GIVE ME A FUNNY LOOK, AS IF TO SAY ! (STRANGE ANIMAL MAN IS. AS I STARTED FORWARD TO TRY AND GET CLOSER TO ONE OF QOD'S CREATURE'S, IT TOOK OFF AGAIN. SO I FINALLY GOT BACK ON MY "MOTOR" AND HEADED FOR HOME. ARRIVING AROUND SUNSET.

THE NEXT WEEKEND ON A SUNDAY, I DECIDED TO RIDE BACK UP TO THAT SAME WIDE SPOT ALONG SIDE THE ROAD TO SEE IF THAT LITTLE (CHIPMONK) WAS STILL IN THE AREA. JUST IN CASE I HAPPENED TO RUN ACROSS THAT LITTLE FELLOW, I TOOK ALONG SOME POPCORN, PEANUT'S, LETTUCE AND A COUPLE'S OF CARROT'S, AND A SMALL WIRE CAGE. I FIGURED IF I COULD MAKE FRIEND'S WITH HIM OR HER, I COULD MAYBE BRING IT HOME WITH ME, AND MAKE A PET OUT OF IT. THIS WAY I WOULD HAVE SOME RESPONSABILITY OF TAKING CARE OF ANOTHER ANIMAL AND HAVING A COMPANION FOR MY PET CAT, (PIPPIE LEPEW CRUMMY KATT.) I ARRIVED AT THAT SPOT IN THE ROAD, ABOUT NOON TIME. I TOOK SOME PEANUT'S AND SOME SMALL PIECE'S OF LETTUCE AND PLACED THEM ON THE TREE STUMP, THEN BACKED OFF AND WAITED BY MY BIKE.

ABOUT 15 MINUTE'S WENT BY AND THEN ALL OF A SUDDEN THERE WAS THREE LITTLE CHIPMONK'S SET - TING ON THE STUMP EYEING THE GOODIES, THEN ONE BY ONE THEY STARTED EATING AND CHATTERING AWAY, TAKING THE PEANUT'S AND PIECE'S OF LETTUCE IN THERE TINY LITTLE FRONT PAW'S AND SCAMPING DOWN THE STUMP AND INTO THE UNDERBRUSH, THEN RETURNING TO DO IT ALL OVER AGAIN. AFTER AWHILE THE LITTLE (CHIPMONK'S) HAD FINISHED EATING EVERYTHING I HAD PUT OUT THERE. AFTER EVERYTHING WAS GONE, THE TWO BIGGER CHIPMONK'S DISAPEARED. BUT ONE LITTLE ONE REMAINED, AND WAS SETTING VERY QUIETLY GIVING ME THE EYE. I THEN TOOK SOME POPCORN IN MY RIGHT HAND, AND APROACHED THE STUMP. THIS TIME THE LITTLE FELLOW DID NOT RUN. I PUT MY HAND OUT THAT WAS HOLDING THE POPCORN AND THE CHIPMONK TOOK ONE PIECE AND THEN ANOTHER, UNTIL IT WAS ALL GONE. AT THIS TIME, I ATTEMPTED TO AGAIN, TRY AND TALK TO THIS LITTLE CHIPMONK. AND BELIEVING THAT THIS LITTLE ANIMAL, REALLY UNDERSTOOD WHAT I WAS SAYING. (SMILE)

THIS ANIMAL WOULD RUN AROUND ON TOP OF THE TREE STUMP, AND CHATTER AWAY, AND MAKING ALL KIND'S OF FUNNY FACE'S, AND IN HIS OR HER LITTLE CHIPMONK LANGUAGE WAS TRYING TO TELL ME SOME - THING. I FINALLY MOTIONED TO MY MOTORCYCLE AND ASKED THE CHIPMONK, THAT BY NOW I HAD NAMED HIM (CHIPPER) AND KNOWING HOW TO TELL LITTLE BOY'S FROM LITTLE GIRL'S APART. THAT IT WAS A (HE) OR A MALE ANIMAL. IF CHIPPER WOULD LIKE TO TAKE A RIDE WITH ME ON MY MOTORCYCLE. WELL CHIPPER MUST HAVE KNOWN BY NOW THAT I LOVED ALL ANIMAL'S, AND I WOULD NOT HARM HIM IN ANYWAY. SO HE FOLLOWED ME OVER TO THE BIKE. AND I LIFTED HIM UP AND PUT HIM ON THE SEAT IN FRONT OF ME. (I DID NOT NEED THE WIRE CAGE AFTER ALL.) THIS WAS THE BEGINNING OF A LONG AND SOMETIME'S HUMOR - EST FRIENDSHIP BETWEEN MY FRIEND CHIPPER, AND MYSELF AND ALL MY OTHER ANIMAL FRIEND'S.

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WHEN I FIRST STARTED THE MOTORCYCLE UP, CHIPPER DASHED UP UNDER MY JACKET AND HID THERE FOR A LITTLE WAY'S DOWN THE ROAD. AFTER AWHILE HE STUCK HIS HEAD OUT FROM UNDER MY JACKET, AND STARTED TO LOOK AROUND AND SEE ALL THE BEAUTIFUL GREE TREE'S AND DARK GREEN MEADOW'S, AND COOL CLEAR CREEK'S RUSHING BY, AS WE RODE ALONG ON THE WINDING MOUNTAIN ROAD'S. HE MUST HAVE BEEN VERY TIRED FROM EATING ALL THE GOODIE'S I HAD BROUGHT FOR HIM TO EAT, BECAUSE THE NEXT LITTLE SOUND'S I HEARD WAS LITTLE ZZZZZZ'S AND LITE BREATHING COMING FROM THE FRONT OF MY JACKET. HE HAD FALLEN ASLEEP. ALL CURLED UP IN THE FRONT OF MY JACKET, AND UNDERNEATH THE OVERHANG OF MY BIG POT BELLY. (SMILE FOLK'S)

(NOTE) IN THE YEAR'S TO COME I WAS TO FIND OUT, THIS WAS A VERY UNUSUAL (CHIPMONK.)

WHEN I ARRIVED HOME AND PUT MY MOTORCYCLE AWAY, I TOOK CHIPPER INTO THE HOUSE, AND INTO MY ROOM. I THEN TOOK A CARDBOARD BOX AND PUT SOME OLD TOWEL'S IN IT FOR BEDDING. THEN PUT HIM IN THE BOX. AND HE WENT RIGHT TO SLEEP.

THE NEXT MORNING CAME EARLIER THAN I WANTED IT TO. I WAS AWAKEN BY A LOT OF CHATTERING NOISE COMING FROM THE SOUTHSIDE BEDROOM WINDOW. CHIPPER WAS JUMPING UP AND DOWN ON THE WINDOW SILL, AND POINTING MORE OR LESS WITH HIS RIGHT FRONT PAW TO OUR BIG REDWOOD TREE IN THE BACK YARD. I LOOKED UP IN THE TREE, AND THERE WAS A GREY SQUIRREL RUNNING UP AND DOWN AND ALL OVER THE BRANCHES. AND CHIPPER SEEMED TO BE SAYING TO ME! (LET ME GO OUT AND PLAY.) BUT I FELT THAT THAT HE HAD NOT BEEN HERE LONG ENOUGH, AND DID NOT WANT HIM TO RUN OFF. AT LEAST NOT RIGHT YET ANYWAY. SO IN SOME SORT OF HAND SIGN'S AND TALKING TO CHIPPER, I TOLD HIM IT WAS BEST THAT HE STAY INSIDE FOR A LITTLE WHILE LONGER.

I HAD TO GET TO WORK, SO I ASKED MY FATHER IF HE WOULD MIND CHECKING ON CHIPPER ONCE IN AWHILE TO SEE IF HE WAS OKAY. I HAD FIGURED, BECAUSE OF HIS SIZE, THAT HE WAS'NT MORE THAN A YEAR OLD. I HAD SEEN OTHER CHIPMONK'S IN THIS AREA OF NORTHERN CALIFORNIA, AND THEY WERE MUCH BIGGER THAN HE WAS.

WELL A COUPLE OF WEEK'S HAD GONE BY SINCE I HAD FIRST BROUGHT CHIPPER HOME. AND AS I CAME IN THE HOUSE ONE FRIDAY AFTER WORK. CHIPPER JUMPED OUT OF HIS BOX, AND IN HIS PAW'S HE HAD AN OLD KEY RING AND ONE SHOE STRING. HE WAS TRYING TO SHOW ME SOMETHING WITH THESE TWO ITEM'S, PLUS TALKING TO ME IN HIS LITTLE HIGH MOUNTAIN CHIPMONK VOICE. AFTER A HALF HOUR OR SO, (BECAUSE I AM SLOW) I FINALLY UNDERSTOOD WHAT HE WAS TRYING TO TELL ME. HE WANTED ME TO MAKE HIM A LEATHER HARNESS, WITH A LEASH. SO I COULD TAKE HIM FOR A WALK ONCE IN AWHILE, AND THAT WAY ALSO I WOULD'NT HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT HIM GETTING LOST. (SMART LITTLE FELLOW HUH!!)

HE WAS A SMART ANIMAL FOR BEING ONE OF (GOD'S) CREATURE'S, AND WE SPENT A LOT OF TIME TOGETHER, DOING LOT'S OF DIFFERENT THING'S. HE WAS ALSO GETTING MORE USED TO RIDING ON THE MOTORCYCLE. NOW WHEN WE WOULD GO RIDING HE WOULD RIDE ON MY SHOULDER'S, AND ALSO ON MY FAIRING BEHIND THE WINDSHIELD. ALSO BY NOW I HAD MADE HIM A PAIR OF GOGGLE'S TO PERFECT HIS EYE'S FROM THE WIND. AND A LITTLE HELMET TO PERFECT HIS HEAD IF HE SHOULD FALL OFF THE (BIKE). I ALSO MADE HIM A LEATHER OUTFIT, WITH A JACKET, PANT'S, AND FOUR LITTLE BOOTIES. (SMILE) HE REALLY LOOKED CUTE IN HIS OUTFIT. I TELL YOU WHAT, WE WOULD SURE GET A LOT OF LOOK'S FROM ALL KIND'S OF DIFFERENT PEOPLE WHEN WE RODE AROUND TOWN AND WAS CRUISEING ALONG ON THE FREE - WAY'S OF LIFE. AS TIME WENT BY, WE GOT ALONG FINE. AND MY PET CAT, AND CHIPPER BECAME GOOD PAL(S). PLAYING IN THE GRASS, AND CHASING EACH OTHER UP AND DOWN THE MANY TREE'S WE HAVE IN OUR BACK YARD.

AFTER ABOUT SIX MONTH'S HAD GONE BY, AND I KNEW (CHIPPER) WAS HAPPY IN HIS NEW HOME. I BUILT INTO THE SOUTHSIDE WALL OF MY ROOM A SMALL SWINGING DOOR. THEN I BUILT FROM THE OUT - SIDE A RAMP ON ROLLER'S THAT WAS ATTACHED TO THE BOTTOM OF THE HARDWOOD FLOOR. THIS RAMP, WOULD ONLY COME DOWN BY PULLING A SMALL ROPE. NOW SINCE CHIPPER IS SMARTER THAN YOUR ADVERAGE CHIPMONK. IT ONLY TOOK HIM A COUPLE OF HOUR'S TO FIGURE OUT HOW TO WORK THIS NEW WAY OF GETT - ING IN AND OUT OF THE HOUSE, WHEN I WAS NOT AROUND TO LET HIM GO OUT TO PLAY, WITH THE OTHER 3 SMALL ANIMAL'S IN OUR AREA.

ANOTHER THING HAD CHANGED FOR THE BETTER AS FAR AS CHIPPER WAS CONCERNED. OVER THE PAST FEW MONTH'S AFTER I HAD FINALLY GOTTEN HIM A LARGE WOODEN CRATE. CHIPPER HAD TAKEN OVER THE UPPER PART OR TOP SHELF OF MY BIG CLOSET. I PUT THE WOODEN CRATE UP ON THE SHELF, AND HE DID ALL THE REARRANGEING HIMSELF, FOR HIS SLEEPING PAD. (SMILE) FIRST HE LAID NEWSPAPER DOWN IN THE BOTTOM OF THE BOX. THEN HE RAN OVER NEXT DOOR AND BORROWED SOME HAY, FROM OUT NEIGHBOR'S PET RABBIT'S, TO PUT ON TOP OF THE PAPER. THEN HE USED MY BIG WOVEN BAMBOO HALF BASKET TO USE AS A BASE FOR HIS ROUND BED. THEN HE FILLED IT UP WITH REDWOOD FERN'S THAT WE HAD IN OUR BACK YARD. AFTER HE PLACED EACH LAIR IN THE BASKET, HE WOULD STOMP AROUND ON ALL FOUR'S TO SOFTEN UP THE FERN'S. HE PUT 8 LAIR'S ON. AND AFTER IT WAS ALL DONE, IT WAS AS SOFT AS AN OLD FEATHER BED.

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NOW IN ORDER FOR HIM TO GET FROM THE FLOOR OF MY ROOM, AND UP TO HIS NEW BED. I HAD TO BUILD HIM A LIGHT WEIGHT ROLLUP RAMP AT FIRST, AND LATER I BUILT A SMALL LADDER AND ATTACHED IT TO THE SOUTH WALL INSIDE THE CLOSET. THEN ON THAT SAME WALL, I PUT AN AIR VENT IN. THEN I CUT A SQUARE HOLE IN THE BOTTOM OF THE CLOSET DOOR, SO HE COULD COME AND GO AT WILL.

BY THIS TIME CHIPPER WAS POTTY TRAINED AND NEW HOW TO USE THE (TOY - E - LET). (SMILE) AND HE WAS AS CLEAN AS MY PET CAT, (PIPPIE) AND THERE WAS NO PROBLEM WITH ANY BAD SMELL OR ORDER'S.

SOMETIME'S WHEN THERE WAS A BIG THUNDER AND LIGHTING STORM. CHIPPER WOULD RUN OVER AND CLIMB UNDER MY COVER'S AND KEEP ME COMPANY.

WHEN CHIPPER WAS ABOUT THREE YEAR'S OLD. HE FOUND A RATHER UNUSUAL HOBBY FOR A CHIPMUNK. ONE DAY AFTER I HAD COME HOME FROM WORK. CHIPPER CAME INTO OUR ROOM WITH A FLAT PIECE OF PLY - WOOD, A SMALL STICK AND A PIECE OF CLOTH. AND HE MADE LITTLE GESTURE'S AND POINTED HERE AND THERE, TRYING TO SHOW ME WHAT HE WANTED ME TO MAKE FOR HIM.

I FINALLY FIGURED IT OUT THAT HE WANTED ME TO MAKE A SAILBOAT. SO I GOT MY SAW AND WOOD DRILL OUT AND PROCEEDED TO MAKE A FLAT BOARD SAILBOAT, WITH A SMALL MAST AND A CLOTH SAIL. I ALSO MADE A SMALL OAR OR PADDLE AND A SMALL TILLER AND A RUDDER ON THE BACK OF THE BOAT. WHEN I HAD FINISHED, CHIPPER RAN UP MY BACK SIDE, AND ONTO MY SHOULDER'S, AND GAVE ME A PECK ON THE CHEEK TO SAY IN HIS OWN LITTLE WAY HOW MUCH HE LIKED MY WORK. NOW SINCE ALL WE HAVE IS TWO SHOWER'S IN OUR HOUSE, AND DID NOT HAVE A BATHTUB TO PUT ANY WATER IN, SO HE COULD TRY IT OUT. HE HAD TO WAIT UNTIL IT RAINED IN ORDER TO TRY IT OUT IN OUR ALLEY, AFTER A FEW OF THE BIG POT HOLES FILLED UP WITH RAIN WATER. A FEW DAY'S LATER IT DID RAIN. AND ON THE SECOND DAY OF RAIN I NOTICE THAT CHIPPER WAS NOT IN THE HOUSE ANYWHERE AND HIS BOAT WAS ALSO GONE. (NOTE I HAD ALSO ATTACHED A DOUBLE TREADED METAL SHAFT LIKE AN AXLE, AND PUT TWO WIRE MINATURE CAR TIRE & WHEEL'S ON THE BOTTOM OF THE BOAT. WITH A SMALL ROPE ON THE FRONT, SO HE COULD HAUL OR PULL THE BOAT TO WHEREVER HE COULD FIND SOME WATER TO PLAY IN.) ABOUT 5 P.M. THAT EVENING AS I WAS RELAXING AFTER WORK, CHIPPER CAME RUNNING THREW HIS PRIVATE ENTRY WAY, AND WAS A SOREFUL SIGHT TO SEE. HE WAS JUMPING UP AND DOWN NOW ON THE WINDOW SILL AND POINTING TOWARD'S THE ALLEY. HIS EYE'S WERE WIDE OPEN, AND THEY LOOKED LIKE A COUPLE OF GLAZED OVER MARBLE'S. HIS LITTLE FUR ON HIS BACK WAS STANDING STRAIGHT UP, AND HIS LITTLE TAIL LOOKED LIKE A PRICKLY HAIR BRUSH. THEN HE WAS TUGGING AT MY PANT'S LEG, TO TRY AND GET ME TO GO OUTSIDE. SO I PUT HIM ON MY SHOULDER'S AND WENT OUT INTO THE ALLEY. IN THE BIGGEST (POT - HOLE) WAS THE REM - AINS OF WHAT USED TO BE HIS SAILBOAT. AND ONE TIRE TRACK RUNNING RIGHT THRU THE MIDDLE OF THE POT - HOLE. APARENTLY A MOTORCYCLE RIDER HAD COME THREW THE ALLEY ON HIS WAY TO SOMEPLACE, AND HAD RAN OVER CHIPPER'S SAILBOAT. AND FROM THE LOOK'S OF THING'S, HE WAS VERY LUCKY TO ESCAPE WITH ALL HIS FUR INTACK. (SMILE. POLK'S)

WELL AS THE DAY'S WENT BY, CHIPPER SPENT A LOT OF TIME BROODING AND POUTING IN HIS PAD. AND I COULD SEE HE DID NOT FEEL LIKE DOING MUCH OF ANYTHING. HE REALLY MISSED HIS SAILBOAT. CHRISTMAS WAS JUST AROUND THE CORNER, AND I HAD BEEN DOING A LOT OF THINKING ABOUT WHAT TO GET MY PAL FOR XMAS, THAT WOULD GET HIM OUT OF HIS MOODINESS. I FINALLY MADE UP MY MIND WHAT I WAS GOING TO GET HIM. SO IN ORDER FOR HIM NOT TO SEE WHAT I WAS DOING. I TOOK HIM DOWN TO MY SISTER'S HOUSE IN DURHAM, SO SHE COULD WATCH OVER HIM, AND HE COULD PLAY WITH HER PET CAT'S AND YOUNG DAUGHTER, WHILE I WENT SHOPPING.

I WENT DOWN TO THE LOCAL HOBBY SHOP, AND FOUND HIM A BEAUTIFUL BLUE & WHITE TWO MASTED SAILING BOAT OR SCOONER, THAT HAD A NICE CABIN, FORE AND AFT ROLLUP ANCHOR'S. A BOTTOM RUNNER OR A STA - BULL - LIZ - ER, AND A STEERING WHEEL. IT HAD A COUPLE OF LITTLE COT'S OR BED'S INSIDE THE CABIN. A REALLY NEAT LOOKING SAILING BOAT, THAT WAS ABOUT TWO AND A HALF FEET LONG, AND A FOOT WIDE. THEN I WENT TO 3 OR 4 FLEA MARKET'S IN THIS AREA. AND I FINALLY FOUND AN OLD CAST IRON BATHTUB, THAT WAS, NINE FEET LONG, AND FOUR FEET WIDE, AND TWO AND ONE HALF FEET DEEP. I COULD HAVE GOTTEN A SMALLER ONE. BUT I WANTED THE BEST FOR MY PAL (CHIPPER). WHO HAS FOR THE PAST FOUR YEAR'S HAS GIVEN ME A LOT OF ENJOYMENT BY BEING MY FAITHFUL COMPANION, BY SHARING MY WEEKEND'S WITH ME, ON MY MANY OUTING'S ON MY MOTORCYCLE, AND TRUCK TRIP'S ALL OVER NORTHERN CALIFORNIA.)

I HAULED THAT BIG TUB HOME, IN THE BACK OF MY TRUCK, AND WITH THE HELP OF A COUPLE OF NEIGHBOR'S, WAS ABLE TO CARRY IT AND PLACE IT IN THE BACK YARD. I PUT THE BIG BOX THAT HAD THE SAILING BOAT IN IT, IN THE BACK STORAGE SHED, AND COVERED IT UP REALLY GOOD. THEN I WENT TO A LOCAL ROCK & MASON SHOP TO GET SIX CEMENT BLOCK'S, SO I COULD SET THE TUB UP OFF THE GROUND. THEN I GOT SOME TWO INCH PLASTIC PIPE, OR WATER LINE. SO I COULD RUN A DRAIN LINE FROM THE TUB, INTO OUR LOCAL LEACH LINE. SO I COULD CHANGE THE WATER FROM TIME TO TIME WHEN IT GOT DIRTY. NOW IN ORDER FOR CHIPPER TO GET UP AND DOWN TO THE TUB. I BUILT A RAMP WITH HAND OR

(TURN OVER PLEASE)

PAW RAILING'S ON BOTH SIDE'S. SO HE WOULD HAVE NO TROUBLE GETTING INTO HIS BOAT OR TUB TO GO PLAY. CHRISTMAS MORNING OF THE FOURTH YEAR FINALLY GOT HERE, AND CHIPPER WAS UP AT DAY-BREAK, AND HAD ALREADY FOUND HIS LITTLE RED SOCK FILLED TO THE TOP WITH NUT'S AND CANDY. THEN HE WAS RUNNING AND JUMPING ON MY POOR OLD TIRED (BOODY), TRYING TO GET ME UP. (CHIPPER) JUST NEW THAT SOMETHING SPECIAL WAS GOING TO HAPPEN, AFTER ARRIVING BACK HOME THE NIGHT BEFORE AND SEEING THE BIG TUB IN THE BACK YARD. SO I FINALLY GOT OUT OF BED. (NOTE) THE PAST SIX MONTH'S OR SO , I HAD BEEN TEACHING MY LITTLE FRIEND CHIPPER. THAT BEFORE WE STARTED THE DAY, THAT WE SHOULD SAY THE (LORD'S PRAYER) AND GIVE THANK'S TO OUR (LORD JESUS CHRIST); SO WE SAID OUR PRAYER'S. I IN ENGLISH, AND CHIPPER IN HIS LITTLE CHIPMONK LANGUAGE, WHATEVER THAT MAY BE. (SMILE FOLK'S) THEN I TOOK HIM OUT TO THE STORAGE ROOM, AND AS SOON AS I HAD THE COVER OFF THE BOX, AND HE SAW THE PICTURE OF THE SCOONER ON THE BOX, THAT LITTLE FELLOW WENT BANANA'S. HE RAN UP AND OVER AND ALL AROUND ME, GIVING ME HUG'S AND KISSING OR PECKING ME ON BOTH CHEEK'S AND HIS EYE'S HAD LITTLE TEAR'S OF JOY RUNNING OUT OF THE CORNER'S OF HIS EYE'S LIKE LITTLE MINI WATER FALLS.

I TOOK THE SAILING BOAT OUT OF THE BOX, AND WHILE CHIPPER INSPECTED IT FROM STEM TO STERN, I FILLED THE TUB UP WITH WATER. THEN I HELPED HIM PUT THE MAST UP AND RIG THE SAIL. THEN I STILL HAD ONE MORE SURPRISE FOR HIM. I PUT A BLINDFOLD OVER HIS EYE'S. THEN I PULLED A LITTLE SAILOR'S SUIT THAT I HAD MADE ALONG WITH A SMALL CAPTAIN'S HAT, OUT OF MY POCKET, AND GAVE THAT TO MY FURRIE PAL. YOU NEVER SAW A MORE HAPPIER ANIMAL IN YOUR LIFE. HE GOT TEAR'S ALL OVER HIS NEW CLOTHES. AND I FINALLY HAD TO GO GET HIM A CRYING TOWEL. I THEN TOOK THE BOAT AND HIM AND PUT THEM IN THE TUB OF WATER. THERE WAS A SLIGHT BREEZE BLOWING THAT DAY. I WATCHED HIM FOR A HALF HOUR OR SO, THEN I WENT BACK INTO THE HOUSE. CHIPPER WAS HAVING SO MUCH FUN THAT HE NEVER EVEN CAME IN FOR LUNCH. BUT HE WAS SURE HUNGRY AT DINNER TIME. THEN HE WAS RIGHT BACK THERE AGAIN, SAILING FROM ONE END OF THAT TUB TO THE OTHER. HE SLEPT ALNIGHT IN HIS NEW TOY THAT, FIRST NIGHT AND MANY MORE NIGHT'S TO COME.

THE FIRST WEEK OF THE FIFTH NEW YEAR, I FELT CHIPPER NEEDED TO HAVE A NEW PAL. SOMEBODY OR SOMETHING BIGGER THAN HIM, TO MORE OR LESS WATCH OVER HIM WHILE I WAS WORKING. SO HE AND I TOOK A DRIVE IN MY PICKUP TRUCK OUT WEST OF CHICO, WHERE THERE IS A LOT OF OPEN FLAT LAND'S, AND WIDE OPEN RICE, WHEAT AND BARLEY FIELD'S. AND A FEW HUNDRED ACRES OF MARSH LAND'S, CATTAIL'S AND (MA - SKII - DOE) BREADING POND'S.

CHIPPER WAS SETTING ON MY LEFT SHOULDER AS WE WERE DRIVING DOWN THIS COUNTRY ROAD, ABOUT 30 MILES SOUTH/WEST OF ORD HEND. ALL OF A SUDDEN CHIPPER, RAN DOWN MY LEFT ARM AND ONTO THE STEERING WHEEL AND WAS MAKING ALL KIND'S OF NOISE, AND POINTING WITH HIS RIGHT PAW TO SOME THING THAT WAS IN THE ROAD UP AHEAD. AS I GOT CLOSER, AND LOOKED TO THE RIGHT SIDE OF THE ROAD, I COULD SEE WHAT LOOKED LIKE A BIG WHITE BEACH TOWEL IN A CLUMP. BUT AFTER I STOPPED MY TRUCK, AND CHIPPER WAS STILL POINTING AND MAKING LIKE A ROAD RUNNER BACK AND FORTH ACROSS THE DASH & BOARD. I COULD SEE THAT WHAT I WAS LOOKING AT WAS MOVING, OR TRYING TO MOVE. AS I GOT CLOSER TO IT, I COULD NOW SEE THAT IT WAS A BIG BIRD OF SOME KIND. CHIPPER WAS NOT A LEAST BIT AFRAID OF WHATEVER KIND OF BIRD IT WAS. AND RAN RIGHT OVER TO SEE WHAT WAS WRONG WITH IT. THIS BIG OLD BIRD LOOKED LIKED ONE OF THE LOCAL (SANDHILL CRANE'S) WE HAVE IN THIS AREA. BUT I HAD NEVER SEEN ONE WITH RED MARKING'S ON IT'S HEAD BEFORE. BUT I DO NOT KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT BIRD'S AT ALL. AS I GOT CLOSER IT TRIED TO GET UP, BUT FOR SOME REASON OR OTHER IT COULD NOT. AFTER A FEW MINUTES I FOUND OUT WHY. THE POOR THING LOOKED LIKE IT HAD BEEN SHOT. THERE WAS A LOT OF BLOOD ON HIS OR IT'S LEFT WING, AND IT'S KNEE JOINT ON HIS LEFT LEG WAS ALSO DAMAGED VERY BADLY. TO ME IT LOOKED LIKE IT WOULD BE BETTER JUST TO GO GET MY GUN, AND PUT IT OUT OF IT'S MS - ZER - REEY. BUT CHIPPER KEPT MOTIONING WITH HIS PAW'S FOR ME TO PICK THE BIRD UP AND TAKE HIM HOME WITH US. FIRST I LOOKED ALL AROUND, BECAUSE I DID NOT WANT TO GET NAILED BY A LOCAL GAME WARDEN FOR HAVING THIS BIRD IN MY (POS - ZES - TION. WITH THE HELP OF CHIPPER, WE WRAPPED THE BIRD IN A LARGE GUNNY SACK AND PUT IT ON THE FLOOR BOARD. IT WOULD NOT BONCE AROUND A LITTLE MUCH THERE. WE THEN HEADED FOR HOME. I HAD KNOW IDEA AT THAT TIME, HOW I WAS GOING TO FIX THIS POOR FELLOW UP, OR IF THERE WAS EVEN A SLIM CHANCE IT COULD BE SAVED AT ALL. IT WAS IN REALLY BAD SHAPE.

I WENT FIRST TO THE LOCAL (NATURE CENTER) TO FIND OUT IF I COULD KEEP THE BIRD AT MY HOME, AND IF SO, HOW OR WHAT KIND OF MEDICINE I COULD USE TO TREAT IT'S WOUND'S. THE PEOPLE AT THE CENTER TOLD ME THAT THEY COULD GIVE ME A CERTIFICATE TO SHOW I HAD THE PROPER PLACE IN ORDER TO GET THIS BIRD MENDED AND BACK OUT INTO THE WILD. BUT THEY ALSO SAID THE BIRD LOOKED SO BAD TO THEM, THAT IT SHOULD BE PUT TO SLEEP. (NOTE) AND THEY ALSO SAID AFTER LOOKING AT IT FOR AWHILE, THAT IT WAS NOT ONE OF THE LOCAL CRANE'S OF THIS AREA. BUT IT WAS A (HOOPING CRANE) PROBLEY FROM CANADA OR SOME PART OF THE MID/WESTERN UNITED STATES. THEY HAD NEVER SEEN

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(SMILE I AM STILL TRYING)

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(I HAVE'NT HAD ENOUGH MEDICARE SPECIAL)
(TODAY) (COFFEE)

ONE THIS FAR WEST. AND THEY REALLY COULD NOT TELL ME HOW IT GOT TO WHERE I FOUND HIM. THEY ALSO SAID IT WAS A MALE BIRD, ABOUT 3 YEAR'S OLD. WHILE I WAS THERE, THEY WASHED OUT HIS WOUND'S, ON IT'S WING AND KNEE JOINT, AND PUT SOME (ANTI - BUI - OTT - TIC'S) ON HIS WOUND'S AND GAVE HIM A COUPLE OF SHOT'S TO HELP PREVENT ANY SORT OF FURTHER INFECTION FROM ACURRING. THEY ALSO RESET ONE SMALL BONE, AND PUT A SPLINT ON HIS WING, AND FIXED HIS LEFT LEG, BY RESETING THE KNEE AND LOWER JOINT AND PUTTING A PLASTER CAST ON HIS LEG. SO ALL I AND CHIPPER HAD TO DO WAS MAKE SURE, THAT (HOOPER) DID NOT MOVE AROUND TOO MUCH, AND THAT HE WAS ABLE TO EAT PROPERLY. HOOPER CRANE'S EAT, FISH, WATER SNAIL'S, CRAY FISH, AND WATER GRASS ROOT'S.

THE PEOPLE AT THE CENTER, ALSO GOT A BIG KICK OUT OF MY PAL CHIPPER. THEY SAID THEY HAVE NEVER SEEN A WILD CHIPMUNK, AS TAME AND WELL MANNERED, THAT LIKED TO RIDE AROUND ON ONE'S SHOULDER, OR ON A MOTORCYCLE. AND THE PEOPLE AT THE NATURE CENTER WERE FLAB - HER - GASS - DID. WHEN I ALSO TOLD THEM CHIPPER HAD AND SAILED HIS OWN SAILBOAT.

WE THEN LEFT, AND WITH OUR NEW FOUND FRIEND (HOOPER) THE HOOPER CRANE, WE WENT TO THE LOCAL PET CLINIC, AND GOT THE PROPER MEDICINE AND CAME HOME. MY FATHER HAS A BIG BACK ROOM ON THE BACK OF HIS GARAGE. SO I USED OR TURNED THAT INTO (HOOPER'S) SICK ROOM. WHILE CHIPPER WATCHED OVER HOOPER, AND KEPT HIM COMPANY. I WENT TO THE LOCAL BAIT SHOP AND BOUGHT A FIVE GALLON BUCKET OF MINNOW'S. THEN I TOOK TWO EMPTY FIVE GALLON BUCKET'S WITH ME AND DROVE BACK OUT TO THE WEST SIDE OF CHICO, TO GET HOOPER SOME MORE GOODIES. FIRST I WADED AROUND IN A COUPLE OF SHALLOW DITCHES, AND WAS ABLE TO CATCH A LOT OF CRAY FISH. THEN I WENT OVER TO A NEARBY TULE BED, AND MARSH AREA, AND FOUND (WOOD - DULL'S) OF WATER SNAIL'S AND I GOT A BUCKET OF WATER GRASS ROOT'S. SINCE ALL THESE THING'S ARE FRESH WATER THING'S, I USED CHIPPER'S BIG TUB, TO PUT THE LIVE FISH, WATER SNAIL'S, AND CRAY FISH AND ALSO PUT THE WATER GRASS ROOT'S IN THE WATER TO KEEP THEM AS FRESH AS POSSIBLE. CHIPPER ALSO HAD A LOT OF FUN SAILING IN AND OUT OF THE WATER GRASS. AND I ALSO FOUND OUT FROM CHIPPER, THAT HOOPER WAS FOND OF HARD BOILED EGG'S. (CHIPPER WAS PLAYING WITH AN EGG IN FRONT OF HOOPER, AND THE BIRD SNATCHED THE EGG OUT OF THE AIR, AND SWALLOWED IT SHELL AND ALL. THEN CHIPPER TOOK THE SHELL OFF ANOTHER ONE, AND PUT A LITTLE SALT AN PEPPER ON IT. AND HOOPER LIKED THAT EVEN BETTER.) (SO NOW FOLK'S YOU CAN PROBLEY FIGURE OUT WHAT I HAD TO DO NEXT.) (YOU ARE RIGHT I HAD TO GO BUT 5 LAYING HEN'S, IN ORDER TO KEEP ENOUGH EGG'S ON HAND FOR (CHIPPER) AND (HOOPER). (SMILE AWHILE FOLK'S)

AFTER THREE TO FOUR MONTH'S, HOOPER HEALED UP REALLY GOOD. AND WAS LOOKING MORE AND MORE EVERYDAY LIKE A HOOPER CRANE SHOULD. HE WAS EATING WELL AND ABLE TO NOW STAND WITH ALL HIS WEIGHT ON BOTH LEG'S. ALL NEW FLIGHT FEATHER'S HAD GROWN BACK ON HIS ONCE DAMAGED LEFT WING. THE DAY HAD FINALLY COME FOR HIM TO MAKE HIS TEST FLIGHT, TO MAKE SURE HE COULD FLY OKAY! SO CHIPPER AND I TOOK HOOPER OUT TO THE WIDE ALLEY WAY BESIDE OUR HOUSE. I THEN SHOWED HOOPER A PICTURE OF A FLYING HOOPER CRANE, AND I POINTED TO THE WILD BLUE YONDER. SINCE THERE WAS A SLIGHT NORTH WIND THAT DAY, I HAD HOOPER START HIS FLIGHT FROM THE SOUTH END OF THE ALLEY. HOPING THAT THE NORTH WIND WOULD HELP HIM GET UP FASTER, OR AIRBORNE BETTER JUST LIKE A REAL AIRPLANE. THEN HE STARTED RUNNING DOWN THE ALLEY, AND FINALLY FLOPPING HIS BIG WING'S HE GOT AIRBORNE. HE WAS DRIFTING A LITTLE LEFT, AND THEN TURNED RIGHT TO MISS A SMALL TREE AT THE NORTH END, OF THE ALLEY, AND SLAMMED HEADON INTO A BIG TELEPHONE POLE, ON THE EAST SIDE OF THE ALLEY. THEN HE SLID DOWN THE POLE TO THE GROUND. CHIPPER AND I RAN OVER TO SEE IF HOOPER WAS ALRIGHT. HE LOOKED UP AT ME WITH THOSE SAD EYE'S OF HIS, AS IF TO SAY, (I GOOFED DADDY!) CHIPPER AND I CHECKED HIM OVER REALLY GOOD. NO BROKEN BONE'S, BUT HE PULLED A LOT OF MUSSLE'S LOOSE IN HIS NECK, AND HAD A LOT OF WOOD SLIVER'S IN HIS NECK, AND THE UNDERSIDE OF HIS POOR OLD BODY. WE CARRIED HIM BACK TO HIS ROOM, AND SPENT HOUR'S AND HOUR'S WITH A PAIR OF TWIZZER'S, WITH CHIPPER HELPING TOO. TO REMOVE ALL THE SLIVER'S. I ALSO HAD TO PUT A LONG NECK BRACE ON HOOPER'S DAMAGED NECK. IT TOOK HIM ANOTHER 4 WEEK'S TO GET BACK TO SOMEWHAT NORMAL. BUT HIS NECK NEVER HEALED RIGHT. IT HAD A FUNNY SIDEWAY'S KINK IN IT. AND HE HAD A HARD TIME, TURNING HIS HEAD TO THE LEFT. THE NICE PEOPLE AT THE (NATURE CENTER), TOLD ME IF IT WAS POSSIBLE, THAT IT WOULD BE BETTER IF I JUST KEPT HIM FOR A PET. AND THAT MADE ME AND CHIPPER VERY HAPPY. AS THE YEAR'S WENT BY, CHIPPER AND HOOPER BECAME THE BEST OF FRIEND'S. HOOPER DID NOT FLY TOO MUCH AFTER HIS ACCIDENT WITH THE TELEPHONE POLE. BUT ON A RARE OCCASSION OR TWO, I WOULD TAKE HIM ALONG WITH CHIPPER OUT TO THE LOCAL AIRPORT, AWAY FROM ALL BUILDING'S AND POLE'S.

(PLEASE TURN PAGE OVER)

(WELL I AM STILL PLOCKING AWAY FOLK'S -) (PAGE 6) (USING ONLY ONE FINGER TAKE'S)
(A LITTLE LONGGER THAN MOST SMILE)

HOOPER WOULD SHOW OFF BY DOING BARREL ROLL'S, AND TUMBLING BACKWARD'S LIKE A TUMBLING PIGEON. AND HE WOULD TAKE CHIPPER FOR A SHORT RIDE, ONCE IN AWHILE. CHIPPER REALLY GOT A KICK OUT OF THAT. BUT MOST OF THE TIME HOOPER WOULD JUST PREFER TO WALK. AND WE WOULD TAKE A LOT OF LONG WALK'S IN THE PARK, AND OUT ALONG THE OLD SACRAMENTO RIVER, WITH CHIPPER RIDING ON HIS BACK.

ONE DAY AFTER WORK, I WAS READING A BOOK, AND RELAXING A BIT. AND ALL OF A SUDDEN CHIPPER CAME IN THE HOUSE HOPPING MAD, AND VERY WET. AND HE GOT ME TO GO OUTSIDE, TO THE SAILING TUB. HIS BOAT WAS LAYING ON IT'S RIGHT SIDE IN THE WATER. AND FROM ALL THE MOTION'S AN GESTURE'S MADE BY HIM, I FINALLY FIGURED OUT WHAT HAD HAPPENED. HE WAS SAILING HIS SCOONER AND HOOPER DECIDED TO JOIN HIM IN THE TUB TO COOL OFF. AND WHEN HE STEPPED INTO THE TUB OF WATER, HIS BIG MIDDLE TOE CAUGHT THE RIGHT SIDE OF CHIPPER'S BOAT AND DUMPED HIM IN THE WATER. HE ALMOST DROWNED BEFORE HE COULD REACH THE LADDER AND GET OUT OF THE TUB.

WELL KID'S YOU CAN PROBELEY GUESS WHAT MY NEXT PROJECT WAS GOING TO BE. I HAD TO TEACH CHIPPER HOW TO SWIM, AND ALSO I WAS GOING TO HAVE TO MAKE HIM A WET SUIT, AND MAYBE A SCUBA DIVING OUTFIT. (THAT'S RIGHT FOLK'S, YOU READ IT RIGHT. I DID SAY A SCUBA DIVING OUTFIT.)
(SMILE)

I WENT TO A LOCAL HOBBY SHOP AND BOUGHT TWO LITTLE METAL TANK'S. THEN I CLEANED THEM OUT REALLY GOOD, IN ORDER TO USE THEM AS AIR TANK'S. THEN I WENT TO A WELDING SUPPLY SHOP TO GET A SMALL AIR REGULATOR VALVE, AN PRESSURE GAUGE, AND SOME RUBBER FLEX HOSE. THEN I HAD TO GET A SMALL GLASS MASK, AND A SMALL BREATHING OR MOUTH PIECE MADE. THEN I WENT TO A REGULAR SCUBA DIVING SUPPLY SHOP AND GOT SOME RUBBER MATERIAL TO MAKE THE WET SUIT AN RUBBER FLIPPER'S. USING CHIPPER FOR THE MODEL, I MADE HIS WET SUIT JUST A BIT BIGGER THAN NORMAL. SO IN CASE HE SHOULD GROW ANY BIGGER, IT WOULD STILL FIT OKAY!?. IT TOOK ME ABOUT 2 WEEK'S TO GET EVERYTHING MADE. THEN I HAD TO GET A LITTLE WEIGHT BELT. BECAUSE WITHOUT IT CHIPPER WOULD FLOAT LIKE A CORK.

AFTER ABOUT 3 WEEK'S, CHIPPER WAS A PRETTY GOOD SWIMMER. (AND HOOPER HELPED BY STAYING OUT OF THE WATER WHEN HE WAS PRACTICING.) CHIPPER COULD DO A MEAN BREAST STROKE, AND BACK STROKE. BUT HAD A LOT OF TROUBLE WITH THE FREE STYLE PART OF SWIMMING, BECAUSE OF HIS SHORT FRONT LEG'S AND SMALL PAW'S. HE COULD NOT DIG INTO THE WATER THAT WAS NECESSARY FOR A STRONG STROKE. IN ANOTHER COUPLE OF WEEK'S, HE HAD THE ART OF USING THE SCUBA GEAR DOWN PAT. AND WAS HAVING ALL KIND'S OF FUN, AT HIS NEW FOUND HOBBY. HOOPER MADE A GOOD BODYGUARD FOR CHIPPER, BECAUSE OF HIS VERY SHARP EYE SIGHT, AND TENDER NATURE, AND HIS CAREING ABOUT HIS FRIEND. THEY GOT ALONG GOOD TOGETHER, AND EVEN WORKED OUT A SCHEDULE TO WHERE THEY COULD SHARE THE TUB ON A DAILY BASE'S. CHIPPER WOULD USE IT ON WINDY DAY'S AND AT NIGHT. AND HOOPER USED IT TO COOL OFF IN ON WARMER DAY'S.

SINCE I FIRST FOUND CHIPPER, TO KEEP MY PET CAT PIPPIE COMPANY. AND FOUND HOOPER TO WATCH OVER CHIPPER. SEVERAL YEAR'S HAVE GONE BY. AND IN THOSE YEAR'S I HAVE AQUIRED A FEW MORE UNUSUAL BIRD'S AND ANIMAL'S TO TAKE CARE OF. SOME OF MY OTHER PET'S ARE HANDICAPPED IN SOME WAY'S OR ANOTHER. AND IT IS HARD FOR THEM TO FEND FOR THEMSELVES. AND SINCE I CAN NOT THINK OF ANYTHING THAT I WOULD RATHER BE DOING, THAN HELPING (GOD'S) CREATURE'S. AND I HAVE HAD A VERY REWARDING LIFE JUST TAKING CARE OF MY MANY ANIMAL AND BIRD FRIEND'S. THERE STORIES HAVE YET TO BE WRITTEN.

ONE WEEKEND, I DECIDED THIS LITTLE OR NOT SO LITTLE TROUP NEEDED A CHANGE OF SCENERY. (I NEEDED ONE TOO.) SO I LOADED EVERYBODY UP INTO MY SELF CONTAINED CAP OVER CAMPER. THERE WAS PIPPIE, CHIPPER AND HOOPER IN THE FRONT SEAT WITH ME. THEN THE REST OF MY TROUP WAS IN THE CAMPER. (THERE WAS FLUFFY THE GREY SQUIRREL) (MISS CROCK MY 6 YR. OLD SOUTH BORNNEO, CROCK - A - DIAL) (HUMMY THE OVERSIZE HUMMING BIRD, WITH A GLAND PROBLEM) (YELLOW TAIL THE CANARY, ALSO WITH A GLAND PROBLEM) (HOMER THE HOMEING PIGEON) (CARRIE THE CARRIER PIGEON) (MY TWO PET BEAVER'S, BOSCO AND BEVA. THEY WERE BORN WITH THERE MUD PACKING TAIL'S, VER-TSE-CULL, OR STRAIGHT UP AND DOWN, INSTEAD OF FLAT LIKE NORMAL BEAVER'S.) (RALPH MY 4 YR. OLD NORTH BORNNEO ORANGE ORANG - A - TANG.) (RACEY MY OVERSIZE RACING PIGEON) (AND GORGO MY PET 8 YR. OLD PIG - MEE GORRILLA.)

(NOTE) ALL MY ANIMAL'S ARE POTTY TRAINED, AND WILL MANNERED. AND BEFORE I LEFT HOME I HAD NOTIFIED THE PARK RANGER'S AT THE MENDOCINO STATE PARK THAT WE WERE ALL COMING OVER FOR A LONG WEEKEND OF FUN IN THE SUN.)

THEN WITH EVERYBODY SINGING OR CHATTERING AWAY, I HEADED FOR THE PACIFIC COAST FOR A FUN TIME OF SAND AND SURF. (CHIPPER ALSO TOOK HIS DIVING GEAR. JUST IN CASE HE COULD FIND SOMEBODY TO GO DIVING WITH.) WE ARRIVED AT THIS BEAUTIFUL STATE PARK, EARLY ON FRIDAY EVENING. THE PARK RANGER'S HAD SAVED US TWO SPACES, NEAR THE OCEAN. AND AWAY FROM OTHER PEOPLE WHO MITE HARM MY PAL'S OR FAMILY.

(PLEASE GO TO NEXT PAGE.)

EPE IT IS MAY 18TH)

(PAGE 7) (AND I THINK I MISSED MY DEADLINE)

EVEN PUT UP A TEMPORARY WIRE ENCLOSURE, TO KEEP OTHER ANIMAL'S FROM COMING INTO OUR CAMP. (NOTE) THE PARK RANGER'S AND OTHER PEOPLE TREATED US VERY WELL WHILE WE WERE AFTER SETTING UP ALL THE BIG AND LITTLE PUP TENT'S, AND GETTING EVERYTHING SET UP FOR OUR EVENING MEAL'S. WE ALL HEADED FOR THE HIGH ROCKIE BLUFF'S OVER LOOKING THE OCEAN, THE SETTING SUN.

IT WAS A MOST BEAUTIFUL SUN SET THAT NIGHT. WITH LOT'S OF RED, YELLOW, ORANGE, LIGHT BLUE, LIGHT PURPLE, AND JUST A TOUCH OF GRAY MIST. WE REALLY MUST HAVE BEEN AN EYE FOR THE OTHER TOURIST OR PEOPLE WATCHING THAT SAME SUNSET. ALL OF US SETTING ON THE CLIFF'S, OVER LOOKING THE BEACH DOWN BELOW. AND WATCHING ANOTHER OF GOD'S AND MOTHER'S SPECTACULAR COLOR SHOW'S. BRING TO CLOSE ANOTHER BEAUTIFUL AND WONDERFUL DAY. THIS FIRST TIME THAT ANY OF MY ANIMAL FRIENDS, (WITH THE EXCEPTION OF PIPPIE LA PEW, MY

) HAD SEEN THE OCEAN AND PLAYED OR SWAM IN SALT WATER. THE NEXT MORNING CHIPPER WAS THE FIRST ONE UP AND IN NO TIME AT ALL, HAD HIS SCUBA GEAR ON AND HIS LITTLE SPEAR GUN IN PAW, AND READY TO TRY HIS FIRST DIP IN THE OCEAN. HE HAD TO GET AHEAD OF A PARK RANGER, AND HE INTENDED GOT AHEAD OF A FELLOW OR ONE OF THE DIVER'S OF THIS AREA, TO GO WITH HIM. (BECAUSE IT IS NOT SAFE TO DIVE ALONE.)

WHEN THE DIVER SHOWED UP, HE COULD NOT BELIEVE HIS EYE'S. WHEN HE SAW THIS LITTLE HIGH SCHOOL JUNIOR DECKED OUT IN HIS SCUBA DIVING OUTFIT. BUT THIS FELLOW WAS GAMED FOR ANYTHING THEY WERE OFF DOING THERE THING. MY FOUR BIRD'S, HOMER, CARRIE, RACEY AND YELLOW TAIL WENT OFF TO GO PLAY WITH THE SEA GULL'S, AND OTHER BIRD'S OF THIS AREA. HUMMY MY HUMMINGBIRD NOT FLY TO WELL, BECAUSE OF HIS WEIGHT. SO HE STAYED CLOSE TO PIPPIE LA PEW THE KITT. THE SQUIRRELL WENT OFF TO PLAY IN THE TREE'S WITH THE OTHER LOCAL SQUIRREL'S AND CHIPPER OF THIS AREA. MY TWO PET BEAVER'S, BASCO AN BEVA, SWAM OUT TO PLAY WITH THE CUTE LITTLE SEA OTTER'S, AND LEARNED HOW TO CRACK CLAM SHELL'S. GORGO MY PET GORRILLA, RALPH THE ORANGUTAN, MISS CROCK, THE CROCK - A - DAIL, AND HOOPER AND MYSELF ALL WENT FOR A LONG WALK ON THE NICE SANDY BEACH. WE PICKED UP DRIFTWOOD, SEA SHELL'S, VERY BEAUTIFUL AND COLORFUL AGATES, AND PRETTY ROCK'S. WE PLAYED IN THE SAND AND JUST HAD A GOOD OLD TIME AND PLAYING WITH EACH OTHER. ABOUT HALF AN HOUR BEFORE SUNDOWN EVERYBODY SHOWED UP AT OUR CAMP SITE. AND FOR AWHILE, WE ALL SHARED OUR ADVENTURE'S AND WHAT WE DID THAT DAY.

THAT FIRST NIGHT WE ALL HAD OUR FIRST TASTE OF (ABA - LONE - KNEE) WHICH TASTED LIKE FISH TO ME. AND ALSO HAD ROCK COD, SEA TROUT, AND SEA PERCH, THAT CHIPPER AND HIS NEW FRIEND HAD MANAGED TO CATCH THAT FIRST DAY. THE ONLY ONE THAT WAS NOT VERY HUNGRY, WAS MISS CROCK). SHE HAD MORE OR LESS MADE A PIG OUT OF HERSELF, EARLIER IN THE DAY. BY GOING TO THE SURF AND EATING A FEW FISH AND A COUPLE OF RED CRAB'S. BUT EVERYBODY ELSE HAD A FEELING THAT WAS COOKED ON AN OPEN CAMPFIRE. AFTER EVERYBODY HELPED CLEAN UP. WE SAT AROUND THE CAMPFIRE, AND TRIED TO SING A SONG OR TWO. THE BIRD'S COOED AND CHERPED TOGETHER. PIPPIE LA PEW, CHIPPER MADE A FAST LITTLE CHIPPING SOUND. HOOPER, MADE FUNNY LOW TONE HOOPING SOUND'S. BASCO AN BEVA, WHISTLED THERE BIG TWO FRONT TEETH. FLUFFY THE SQUIRREL, MADE AN OFF TUNE FUNNY CHATTERING NOISE. RALPH THE ORANGUTAN, AND GORGO MY GORRILLA, MADE AN OFF TUNE FUNNY BELLOW BOOING SOUND, AND SHOWING THERE FRONT TEETH OFF A LOT. AND MISS CROCK - A - DAIL MISS CROCK, MADE A FUNNY GRUNTING SOUND LIKE A (LOVE SICK BULL FROG.) SANG OFF TUNE ALONG WITH EVERYBODY ELSE. WITH ALL THE FUNNY AND HUMOROUS SOUND'S AN WAIT - FLOWING OUT INTO THE NIGHT SEA AIR. A LOT OF THE OTHER CAMPER'S CAME OVER AND LISTENED TO WATCH THIS MIXED UP SINGING GROUP. (OR WHATEVER THEY MITE HAVE THOUGHT WE WERE.)

IT REALLY DID NOT MAKE MUCH DIFFERENCE'S, WE WERE HAVING THE TIME OF OUR LIVE'S. THAT WAS THE FIRST OF MANY TRIP'S WE TOOK TO THAT LOVELY PARK BY THE PACIFIC OCEAN. AND AFTER A YEAR'S, WE BECAME ALMOST A TOURIST ATTRACTION OURSELVES. (SMILE AWHILE FOLK'S)

A COUPLE OF YEAR'S LATER. I TOOK CHIPPER AND HOOPER UP TO A HIGH SIERRA LAKE, CALLED LAKE LAKE) TO VISIT CHIPPER'S COUSIN'S. THE GROUND DWELLING (MARMONT'S). THEY ARE THE COUSIN'S TO THE (PRAY - REE DOG'S) OF THE SOUTH/WEST. CHIPPER TOOK HIS SAILING BOAT, AND WAS ABLE TO DO A BIT OF SAILING WITH IT IN A COUPLE OF SMALL PERFECTIVE COVE'S, MAKE UP THIS LARGE NATURAL LAKE. THIS LAKE HAS SOME OF THE MOST DELICIOUS EAGLE LAKE IN THIS PART OF NORTHERN CALIFORNIA. AND PEOPLE COME FROM ALL OVER THE UNITED STATES, TO TRY THERE LUCK AT CATCHING THESE RED MEAT BEAUTIES. HOOPER, ALONG WITH HELP OF SOME OF THE LOCAL BROWN PELICAN'S, AND BAWLED EAGLES AROUND THIS BEAUTIFUL HIGH LAKE. WAS ABLE TO CATCH OUR DINNER, FOR THE THREE DAY'S WE WERE UP THERE.

(PLEASE TURN OVER)

WHILE WE WERE THERE, CHIPPER MET A CUTE LITTLE AND LOVELY FEMALE MARMONT. AND THE FIRST TIME HE SAW HER, HIS EYE'S LIT UP LIKE A CHRISTMAS TREE. AND HIS SMALL HEART POUNDED IN HIS CHEST, LIKE AN INDIAN WAR DRUM. AND I COULD TELL BY THE WAY HE WAS ACTING UP, THAT THIS FELLOW WAS HOOKED FOR LIFE. I HAD A HARD TIME, TRYING TO GET HIM TO SLOW DOWN AND NOT BE TOO PUSHY. BUT HE WAS RUNNING HERE AND THERE, AND WANTED RIGHT NOW TO GET BETTER AQUAINTED WITH THAT LOVELY AND ADORABLE LITTLE (MARMONT). HOOPER AND I DID NOT SEE MUCH OF CHIPPER THE NEXT COUPLE OF DAY'S. I SUPPOSE HE WAS OFF COURTING HIS FIRST FOUND LOVE, IN WHATEVER WAY CHIPMONK'S DO THERE THING.

ON SUNDAY, ABOUT ONE HOUR BEFORE WE WERE TO LEAVE AND COME HOME. CHIPPER SHOWED UP WITH HIS GIRL FRIEND IN TOW. AND WANTED TO TAKE HER HOME WITH HIM. A SHORT DISTANCE AWAY I SPOTTED A PAIR OF BIGGER MARMONT'S SETTING UPRIGHT AND WAVING GOODBYE, WITH THERE FRONT PAW(S). APARENTLY CHIPPER HAD TALKED HER PARENT'S INTO LETTING HER COME FOR A VISIT. HOOPER SAT IN THE FRONT SEAT WITH ME, AND LET CHIPPER AND HIS NEW LOVE HAVE THE WHOLE CAMPER TO THEMSELVES. I OPENED THE BOOT WINDOW JUST SLIGHTLY, AND HOOPER AND I COULD HEAR THE TWO OF THEM CHATTERING AWAY, AND HAVING A GOOD OLD TIME. WE ARRIVED HOME AROUND SUNDOWN, AND ALL OF CHIPPER'S FRIEND'S, WELCOMED HIS NEW FRIEND, WITH OPEN PAW'S AND WING'S. TWO WEEK'S WENT BY AND CHIPPER FINALLY TOLD ME HE WANTED TO GET HITCHED UP TO THIS LOVELY LASS, AND START HIS OWN FAMILY. SO HE SET THE DATE OF HIS BIG DAY, 30 DAY'S FROM THAT DAY.

THE DAY BEFORE THE SET DAY. I DROVE UP TO EAGLE LAKE AND PICKED UP MISS MARMONT'S PARENT'S AND HER YOUNGER BROTHER. (YES! FOLK'S WE WERE REALLY GOING TO HAVE A GOOD OLD FASHION WEDDING. WITH A REAL LIVE PREACHER AND ALL.)

(THE FIRST ANIMAL WEDDING THAT I KNOW OF, CAME ON A SUNDAY, WHEN CHIPPER WAS 12 YR'S. OLD. AND MISS MARMONT WAS 10 YRS. OLD.) (ABOUT 20 AND 18 IN HUMAN AGE.)

I HAD A HARD TIME FINDING A PREACHER THAT WOULD MARRY TWO DIFFERENT ANIMAL'S. WHEN I FINALLY FOUND THIS PREACHER, HE THOUGHT I WAS PULLING A FUNNY. BUT SOON FOUND OUT IT WAS NO JOKE. AND AGREED TO PERFORM THE CERAMONY IN MY FATHER'S BACK YARD.

WITH MYSELF AS BEST MAN, AND HOOPER AS HEAD USHER. MISS MARMONT'S BROTHER AS RING BEARER. MISS CROCK WAS THE MAID OF HONOR. MISS BEVA WAS THE FLOWER GIRL, AND THE REST OF CHIPPER'S FRIEND'S AND PAL'S THROWING THE RICE AND SMALL RED ROSES. WITH MISS MARMONT'S FATHER GIVING HER AWAY IN A DOUBLE RING CERAMONY, IT WAS A SIGHT TO BEHOLD. IT WAS A LOVELY DAY. AND I BEING AN OLD SOFTY, CRIED A LITTLE. AFTER THE WEDDING RECIEPTION. HOOPER FLEW THEM BOTH OVER TO A SMALL CLEARING IN OUR LOCAL STATE PARK, SO THEY COULD BE ALONE. LATER ON THEY WOULD GO UP TO EAGLE LAKE FOR A TWO WEEK HONEYMOON. (SMILE FOLK'S) IT REALLY WAS A VERY NICE WEDDING, AN THAT SAME PREACHER CAME BACK, MANY MORE TIME'S IN THE YEAR'S TO COME. TO MARRY OFF A NUMBER OF MY OTHER PET'S AND PAL'S. I THEN DROVE MRS. CHIPPER'S PARENT'S BACK UP TO THERE HOME.

ABOUT NINE MONTH'S WENT BY. THEN THERE WAS THE PITTER AN PATER OF LITTLE (CHIPMONT) PAW'S RUNNING AROUND OUR HOUSE. MRS. CHIPPER HAD GIVEN BIRTH TO TRIPLETT'S. (TWO BOY'S AND A GIRL.) CHIPPER WAS THE PROUDEST LITTLE FELLOW YOU WOULD EVER WANT TO SEE. HE HANDED OUT MINI CIGAR'S, AND STRUDDLED AROUND WITH HIS CHEST OUT FOR ABOUT THREE WEEK'S, BEFORE HE STARTED ACTING NORMAL AGAIN. THOSE TINY FURRY (CHIPMONT'S) WERE A LOT OF FUN TO WATCH GROWING UP. THEY WERE INTO EVERYTHING. JUST LIKE REAL HUMAN BABIES. AND CHIPPER REALLY HAD HIS PAW'S FULL.

THEY ALL LIVED HERE FOR ABOUT TWO YEAR'S. AND THEN ONE DAY. CHIPPER TOLD ME IN HIS OWN SPECIAL WAY THAT HE WANTED TO RAISE HIS FAMILY BACK OUT IN THE WILD, AND BACK UP AT EAGLE LAKE, WHERE THE AIR WAS FRESHER AND LESS SMOKEY THAN THIS BIG VALLEY. SO A COUPLE OF YEAR'S AGO I LOADED CHIPPER AND HIS WIFE AN KID'S, AN HIS SAILBOAT INTO THE TRUCK. WITH HOOPER AND THE REST OF HIS FRIEND'S WAVING GOODBYE WE STARTED OUT. I DROVE THEM UP AND OVER THE HIGH SIKERA MOUNTAIN'S TO WHERE CHIPPER AND HIS FAMILY WERE TO SPEND THE REST OF THERE NATURAL LIVE'S, LIVING FREE IN THE BEAUTIFUL EAGLE LAKE BASIN. BEFORE I SAID GOODBYE, I HAD MADE ARANGEMENT'S WITH THE BOAT MARINEA, TO LET THEM KEEP CHIPPER'S SCOONER IN A BOAT HOUSE, AND HIGH AN DRY DURING THE COLD WINTER MONTH'S. I HAD A SAD RIDE HOME BY MYSELF. BUT I KNEW IN MY HEART THAT IT WAS BEST THAT CHIPPER THE CHIPMONK, AND HIS FAMILY WAS WHERE THEY REALLY BELONGED. FREE AS THE WIND. THIS IS ONLY ONE STORY OF MY PAL CHIPPER. HE HAD MANY MORE ADVENTURE'S THAT I WILL WRITE ABOUT LATER. I HAVE BEEN BACK UP TO VISIT CHIPPER AND HIS GROWING FAMILY MANY A TIME. AND HE IS DOING GREAT.

SO NOW I SPEND A LOT OF TIME TAKING CARE OF MY OTHER PET'S AND ENJOY LIFE AS MUCH AS I CAN WITH THEM. (THERE STORIES ARE YET TO BE WRITTEN.)

(NEW N6RNP 5/9/90)