## Sweet and Sour

By Zi Graves

## Cat-Tales

Cat-Tales

There aren't many things cuter nor more lovable than tiny, fuzzy kitnes or squirming nuzzing little puppies. Oh, well, I might as well add, or a tiny baby just opening his for her eyest to catch a glimpse of, the creature holding him so tiphty, and feels the arms surrounding him tiphten and the face above breach into a sriffle which he, to be joy, answers the crooked of a cene like this doesn't know which is the most beautiful, the smile of a cene like this foesn't know which is the most beautiful, the smile of the mother, holding firmly but gently, the newborn babe or the crooked little girin on his face as he lovaked up into the pretty face of the one holding him so securely. Bonding was instant, they both seemed to know from now on they would be buddles. Animals act a bit differently with their mewborn. Their first action is to check it out and clean it off, then show it where dimer-is and which teat has been reserved for it as long as it calls he (me-o-o- my), then tucks it safely, close with the rest of the litter and takes a rest. Nature has already told it where it can be found so it climbs over the rest and claims its first meal. From the moment a little kitter is born, it is caudily soft and the little sound of mewling makes one want to singgle tup close under your chim where it can be warmed by your own warm body, but instincts one yand a louder move less many little bundle of fluff and fur is cavoring at lower the headed of work the deal of little bundle of fluff and fur is cavoring at war the headed and little bundle of fluff and fur is cavoring at war the headed and little bundle of fluff and fur is cavoring at war the logge and finding a way you know it is time to return it to the safety of the place beside her. Then, before you know it that same little bundle of fluff and fur is cavoring all over the place and finding a way into your heart and also into places and things you would just as soon it would stay out of. They are such now, little creatures the phrase "curious perfectly. So also does "quicker than a cat." Hey can hop off the top of the refrigerator and be under the table in a flash, or be calmly cuddled up in your lap playing with the yarn you are 'trocheting with when suddenly the ball of yarn will be rolling over the floor with kirty under the chair, pulling on the lossened thread bring threats of harm to her if she doesn't be in takes, to get on your hands and kneeds to coast her to co

dash out on the other side with the thread still in hermouth and the ball of yarn getting smaller as she has her romp around the room. I didn't have the joy of watching my cat go through the stages of "kitty-hood" since he didn't come a-



beggin' till he was half grown and was fed on the back porch till be tore a hole in Mes screen door trying to get a traight for the rectine where I was the screen to trying to get a traight for the rectine where I was the screen to the training training to the training train he was a very pretty grey-striped cat with white paws, white face and a perfect white heart on his neck just below his chin. That is why I named

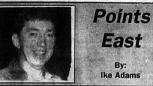
perfect white heart on his neck juß below his chin. That is why! named him Sweetheart.

After Dr. Adams' check-up, shots and the canned or special dry food hik white was a cranky cater), he became a playful companion and was the joy of everyone who watched him put on a show. Qh yes, he was a sphw-off, And he was a KENTUCK-IAN, for playing ball was his specialty. He could jump up and knock it off. Or he would like on his back in the country of the count

loose so the handles, would hit the door. Sometimes, his actions were uncanny and I got the feeling he could actually understand what we reading and talking about. I would talk about writing and he would go sit close to the word processor. I would say I'm hungry and he would beat me to the kitchen. One day, I was proof reading out loud an article I had written about clothes pins being a

learning toy for children to play with, and the next thing! I knew, he was in the clothes basket, emplying the backet of clothes pins, one by one, and scattering them over the floor, and scattering them over the floor, and scattering them over the floor building a fence or stacking them neatly. But, he patiently played till he was tired then, just as patiently, hid them under or behind something, to the could be the washerd them when he wainted. hid them under or behind something so he could get them when he wanted too. He did all his toys this way, hide them when he was tirred and go at unexpected times and bring them out. He had one annoying fault he moved almost constantly. I likened him to a baby with the colic and I couldn't find a cure for it. I have been told he was talking back to me. If this is true, he learned quickly for he was a real chatter-box. When I had to live in the motel for all those months and no one was there to take care of Sweetheart, he got sick and Dr. Adams said it was too late to save him. So, he was put to sleep and now lies in the little anito steep and now lies in the little ani-mal graveyard on the farm. I know I will never have another cat like Sweetheart. He was special. Another cute little Cat-tale, is

ut a mama cat Polly brought the farm to keep me company when I lived alone. She was an older cat I lived alone. She was an older cat who had mothered several litters of kittens which were all gone now so just mama cat and I had the place to ourselves until an uninvited guest began paying us visits nightly. I had been feeding the cat on the front (Cont. to A4)



Lots of folks and maybe even most don't like blue jays. "Too nosy," they say, "Bulker shar not nosy," they say, "Bulker shar not the other nice birds." Some folks even call them ugly. I happen to think that jays are se-ond only to cardinals in terms of sheer beauty and the ones that come around my feeder and frees in the buge, old water maple in my front yard co-exist nearefully with a cougle dozen old water maple in my Iront yard co-exist peacefully with a couple dozen other species. To the extent that there is trouble, it involves putting cow-birds and black birds on the run. Rea-son enough to love them as far as I

some and obless oftens on the rult. Reason enough to love them as far as an occurrent.

There's moting two parent robins raising a broad of baby black birds, and the robins engine to parent robins raising a broad of baby black birds, cow birds or grackles whose real parents ais the robins' eggs and then lather on the particles who will be read to be robins' eggs and then lather black devils that eat the leaves of my pepper ples and feast on my sweet com seedlings trash birds. He jays had been to be robins the proper ples and feast on my sweet com seedlings trash birds. He jays will never see a pair of jays raising black birds.

I couldn't see the nest because it was so high in the tree, but the jays who normally roost across Lowell Branch in the reline, a couple of three hundred yards from my house laws that the presting in my front yard along with robins, cardinals and werens.

and allows any normal and allows and allows and allows and allows. Cardinals and overess.

Late, in the fall when the leaves are gone! I find as many as a dozen nests in the tree and have no idea what species may have built them. The real fun begins when the nestings fledge. That's the first real evidence that the jays have, in fact, nested in my maple. For several days the young birds practice flying from limb to limb and during this process Snickers, our little miniature dachs under the process of the product for the process of the process of the product for the process of the proc excess of 60 pounds, find some other place to lie in the shade while the

excess of 60 pounds. Ind some other place to lie in the shade while the flight lessons are going on because they don't want to lose their eyes. Stray cats head for the Madison County line. Once in a while a neighborhood squirrel will unwittingly make it pasts the sentrice and get into the tree. Eveheard that juguans are the fastest four-footed animals alive but I have my doubts. I've never seen anything move faster or appear more in fear for its well-being than a gray squired with two adult but jugys flogging at its hind parts. If all parents were were well would be a much safer jays the world would be a much safer

Somehow the jays have figured friends. They neither feather intimidated even v

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tten close enough to the fledglings

gotten close enough to the fledglings to practically reach out and flouch them. Not that I have tired, because, like the dogs: I chern's my exestigh however failing it may be?

Over the last several weeks, what Delives to be two of the young jays that hatched in April hang around me when I'm outside. I miean just out of arms reach and it's almost like they are trying to work up the courage to light on my shoulder. Nothing nitimating by either party about this at

all thy many shoulder. Nothing infimi-dating by either party about this at all. If a genuine trust thing if not outright friendship. Almost like has-ing a dog follow me around, or so I believed.

Then one late aftermon last week.
I noticed several kibbles as well as several bits shartered across my boar cover. Some of them had obviously been there through ram storms and some looked like they'd been put there that morning. I didn't have a clue how dog foed could have got-ten on trep of a boat when its off the reground. On the other hand. I had been raving about kibbles and bits bybeen raving about kibbles and bits be cause my dogs were cleaning out a six quart bowl every night and i thought I had discovered something they really liked as opposed to the

## Our Readers Write

Dear Editor,

Re: Road Clósure

I rad your opinion regarding Clicira closure proprio of the county to close the Toddy Payne
Road at Pine Hill and, while respecting your views, I nevertheless most
the Circuit Court. Please under the respectfully, disease under the respectfully, disease under the respectfully disease under the respectfully disease under the respect fully disease the respect fully disease to be respectively. The respective fully disease the road as in an access to the read by the reircuit court. I fear, will eventually create a hardship upon those landowners. While, we, the county, fought to keep the roadway open for them, it is unfortunate that none of the possibly affected landowners joined us in our legal battle. It fell upon the Rockeastle County Fiscal Court to defend the roadway

It fell upon the Rockcastle County scal Court to defend the roadway with records dating back to the 1950s
long before any of us became officials. Records that old did not readily cials. Records that old did not readily give us easy material to defend our position due to changes that had been wrought over the years near the road-way, but we did attempt to champion our cause—our responsibility to the people in Rockcastle County. While the bind are successful in our compensation of the property of the property

from what we believe to be the county's legal role in keeping road-waysopen - even if it means getting involved in lavsuits.

We have decided to appeal a part of ludge Venters' ruining and I want to Burhank Courter role in the Part of Law to Burhank Courter role in the road way for many years before I got into office, the case proved extremely difficult for the county without the road way left and of affected landowners. We did everything legally possible to see that the road was left open.

Thanking you for letting me publicy disagree with youghet again and in a manner that respects your views — I can Sincerely,

Buzz Carlofits

County Judget Executive

Dear Editor:

As a direct descendant of William

Dear Editors

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