

The Adventures of the Capitol Weasel



A sort of true story, by Herbert T. Brewer

This is a work of imagination. All characters are fictitious and bear no resemblance to *real* animals, in Capitol Park or anywhere else.

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Adventures of the Capitol Weasel

Once upon a time . . .

There lived a Very Special Weasel. This Weasel lived in Capitol Park, in the great city of Sacramento. There he played with his friends and he worried about the Great Issues Facing the Animals of California.

The *greatest issue* was to have plenty of acorns. In the world of Capitol Park, having plenty of acorns was the Main Thing. The Next Great Thing was to use the acorns wisely for something called a "campaign."

It was terribly important to the Very Special Weasel that his campaign be the best and biggest, so that he could go on living in Capitol Park and worrying about the Great Issues Facing the Animals of California. And so that

he could gather more acorns!

All the animals gathered acorns where they could find them. The animals lucky enough to live in Capitol Park gathered many, many, MANY acorns from ALL of the animals of California.



Squirrels gathered acorns, and stored them for winter.

Skunks gathered acorns, too, but no one wanted the skunks to come too close! Of course everyone had to pretend



to like the skunks. The animals in Capitol Park *all* had to pretend to like each other. They spoke to each other as "my esteemed colleague," or as

"the animal from Azusa." But sometimes they meant: "that skunk over there."

Sometimes they slipped and said what they really meant. But not too often. After all, sometimes an animal had to go Back Where It Came From, when the animals of its own forest decided to send some different animal to Capitol Park to do their share of worrying about the Great Issues Facing the Animals of California.

When an animal did have to go back, it was an unhappy animal. It would prevail on the Special Weasel to find a place near Capitol Park where it could go on sharing good fellowship with the animals there, and go on gathering acorns.

The good thing about animals having plenty of acorns was that they did not have to go Back Where They Came From very often.

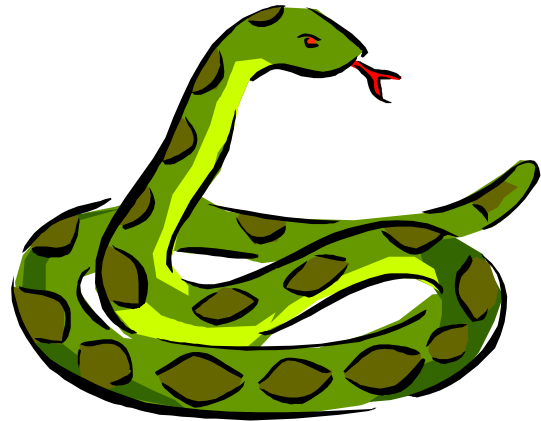
Many other kinds of animals lived in Capitol Park and gathered acorns and worried about the Great Issues Facing the Animals of California. Long ago, most of the animals lived pretty much in the middle of Capitol Park. But over the years,



more of the newly arriving animals had built their nests or burrows the Left Side or on the Right Side of Capitol Park. The animals in the Middle, even the tree sloths, were lonelier and lonelier, as they saw animals away on

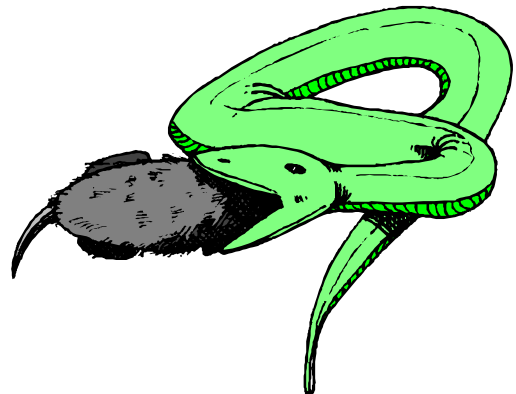
the Far Left and the Far Right of Capitol Park, and not many near the middle.

Not all of the animals were cute and furry. No sireee! Some were snakes! But even the snakes would be called "the distinguished animal from . . ." – well, from wherever the snakes came from.



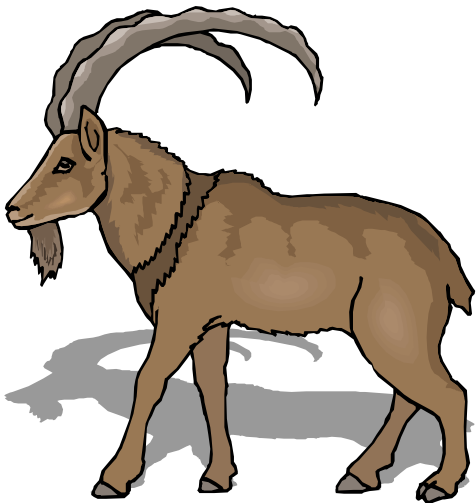
Some of the animals were cute and harmless little mousies! Everyone love the cute and harmless little mousies! Sometimes, the snakes loved the little mousies

best of all! "YUMMMM!" said a snake sometimes as he enjoyed meeting a mousie and having lunch or dinner with it. The mousies did



not always enjoy this fine fellowship as much as the snakes did!

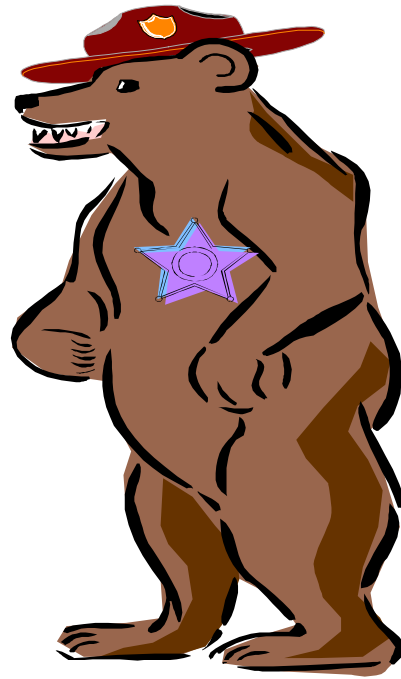
Some of the animals in Capitol Park were goats. Some of the old billy goats, sent to Capitol Park many times by the animals in their home forests, had a problem. They liked the lady foxes just a little toooooo much! Sometimes they tried to show them a good time when the lady foxes just wanted to be left alone to do their work.



Now this was a problem because the lady foxes Complained To The Management and made the old goats give them many acorns. Of course, these acorns did not really belong to the old goats, but instead to all of the animals of California. But The Management did not want the lady foxes telling their peer animals all about their problems and how the old goats liked them just a little toooo much.

The animals of Capitol Park sometimes sipped more fermented berry juice than was good for them. When they did that, they might do silly things, or even dangerous ones. And then a special bear, affectionately called a "smokie," had to help them out. The smokies knew where their acorns came

from. They tried to be nice to the animals who had sipped too much fermented berry juice, especially if they were Very Important Animals. But then, all the animals chosen to live in Capitol Park were Very Important Animals to the smokies and to every other animal whose monthly acorn allotments were decided by the Capitol Park Animals.



The little animals who did most of the work in Sacramento could not even talk to the Animals in Capitol Park without going through Capitol Park Liaison animal, who reported to a Big Appointed animal, who reported to a Bigger Appointed animal, who reported to the Very Special Weasel of Capitol Park.

The smokies sometimes would even give carriage rides to the Bigger Appointed animals, because they were Very Important animals. But not so important as to be *capital-A-animals* in this story. When certain animals, like the ferrets who reported the news for some very influential *Bees*, learned about the rides, and told the other animals of California . . . well, the Bigger Appointed animals had to turn over acorns to pay for the rides, and had to watch their intake of fermented berry juice. And the Very Special Weasel was not pleased!

The Very Special Weasel that this story is about was a gray weasel. Once, a long, long time before, he worked for a brown weasel. Now the brown weasel is a Very Important Animal in the Oakland Forest, and in due time the gray Weasel was chosen by all the animals of California to hold his Very Special Position in Capitol Park.

Some of the animals of California think that the Very Special Weasel is really a chameleon! They think that he changes his colors to match his surroundings, and really does not have any one consistent color. Can you imagine that?



But then, some of the animals thought that the brown Weasel was really more like a squirrel. Maybe that was because he gathered so many nuts around him when he was in Capitol Park. Everyone knows how squirrels love nuts!



But we have wandered very far from our story. This, after all, is the *Adventures of the Capitol Weasel*. And we mean in particular the Very Special Weasel chosen by all of the animals of California to worry about the Great Issues Facing the Animals of California.

For a long time, it must be said, the Great Issues did not include a lack of acorns. In fact, as the Very Special Weasel of our story arrived in Capitol Park, the State of California was awash in acorns. Even *young* animals in the Silicon Valley Forest found themselves with more acorns than they knew what to do with. They worked very hard for those acorns, blowing bubbles all day long. Working together, those animals blew the Biggest Bubble In History, and it was the cause of mountains of acorns cascading into the pouches of the animals and into the storage nooks of Capitol Park.

So many animals gathered more acorns than they had ever seen before, and dutifully sent off to Sacramento a share of those acorns. Some of the animals even sent acorns in anticipation of huge acorn paydays on which they had only options. Sad for them, their huge, enormous, Biggest Bubble In History popped before they could gather in the expected acorns.

Well, the Very Special Weasel and the Very Important Animals of Capitol Park saw those acorns cascading into their storage nooks and their eyes grew big! They said to themselves, "We are rich and we will



be rich forever! Long live the acorns!" So they set off to find uses for all of those acorns.

Some of the Very Important Animals, those (a minority, it must be said) who lived on the Right Side of Capitol Park, and especially those on the Far Right Side, wanted to take fewer acorns from the animals of California. But this was very hard, for the Very Important Animals on the Far Left Side of Capitol Park cried out, "No, no, a thousand times no! We



must not give to the rich animals! We must use these acorns to help the poor animals." But with so many acorns, most every Very Important Animal found something to crow

about.

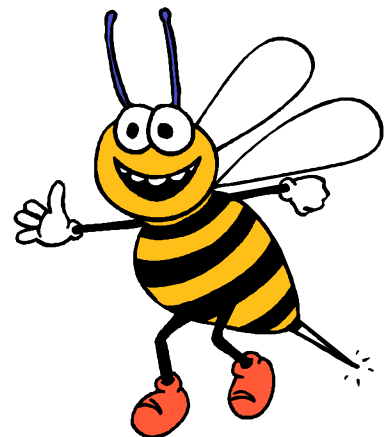
Meanwhile, the Very Special Weasel warned the Very Important Animals that the acorns might not cascade into Capitol Park forever. He wanted to use extra acorns for special things, one-time things – for example a new koi pond for Capitol Park, or a special road for animals in some lucky areas to get from one part of their forest to another faster. And he wanted the animals of California to love him for letting them keep a few more of their own acorns, too.

Eventually, all too soon, the Very Special Weasel, too, seemed to think the acorns would tumble into Capitol Park in

abundance forever, and he approved new generosity to the animals of California from their own acorns. He even approved some rather odd generosity to the little animals who worked around Capitol Park, but almost no one could figure out just how that generosity worked. And he presided grandly over the welcoming of more and more of the little animals in the employ of the Big and Bigger Appointed animals, to help with their good work of spending the acorns of all the animals of California.

But, sadly, wolves decided to prey upon the animals of California! And more sadly still, the biggest, hungriest, and meanest wolves got their chance thanks to the work of a peaceful animal.

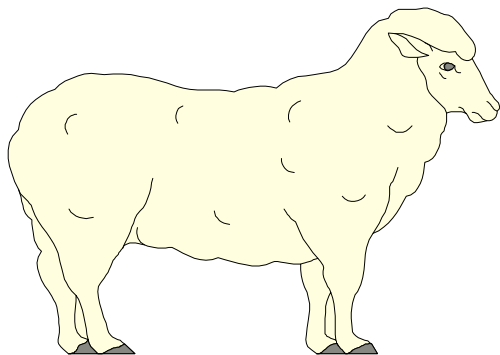
The peaceful animal – from the San Diego Forest – was one of the Very Important Animals in Capitol Park. He worked long into the night as other bleary-eyed Very Important Animals decided on how to Do A Good and Wonderful Thing for the Animals of California. This Very Wonderful Thing is *tooooooo complicated* for a simple story like this to explain. Unfortunately, it was also too complicated for any of the animals of California to understand, let alone explain. Even the ferrets who reported the news for the *Bees*, and their fellow ferrets (too many to *Chronicle* here!) who told all the animals of California about the



Wonderful Work of the Very Important Animals of Capitol Park – even those worthies could not explain it. But the wolves understood. Especially wolves from Texas. Wolves with lots of Power.



Now, one day, after the Wonderful Thing that the peaceful animal had accomplished with his bleary-eyed cohorts had been around for a while, things started not to go quite the way the Very Important Animals had unanimously expected. If truth be told, the Very Important Animals . . . well, maybe it is best not to tell the whole truth.



Anyway, when things started to go *not quite the expected way*, the animals of the San Diego Forest found to their great dissatisfaction that the wolves were taking advantage of them. The animals had all at once become sheep ready for a good fleecing.

The Very Special Weasel and the Very Important Animals could not have that! Instead of letting the fleecing go on for a while, after which all the animals in California would have conserved their energy for more important things, they declared fleecing prohibited, and let the animals of the San

Diego Forest go on as they had been, unconcerned about such matters.

And then things got interesting. And expensive. The Very Special Weasel and his Big Appointed animals zigged when they should have zagged. And then the wolves got really hungry. The rest of the story belongs in a different book (it would have to bring in Very Important Animals near Lafayette Park, far, far away from Sacramento). But at the end of the day, the Very Important Animals in Capitol Park, including the Very Special Weasel, owed many, many acorns, for many, many years to come, to the wolves and their friends.

At the same time, The Biggest Bubble In History was deflating like a dropped soufflé; the suddenly rich animals were not so rich any more. The cascade of acorns ground to a trickle. The Very Important Animals and the Very Special



Weasel could no longer look like heroes, spending other animals' acorns left and right. But before they could say that, there was this matter of a new choice by all the animals of to keep the Very Special Weasel in Capitol Park or to replace him with a New and Untested Weasel.



The Very Special Weasel and the Very Important Animals came to look like ostriches, with their heads hidden in the sand so as not to see the acorns disappearing.

The Very Special Weasel's planning for his "campaign" (remember that?) went well, or at least well enough, thanks to the enormous number of acorns he had collected over the years. It helped that the Elephant friends of the New and Untested Weasel stumbled all over themselves and that the New and Untested Weasel turned out to have been dropped on his head as a baby and had made friends of some Undesirable Animals.

The animals of California gave the Very Special Weasel two feeble cheers and sent him back to Capitol Park to frolic with the Very Important Animals. And to worry about the Great Issues Facing the Animals of California. They sent the New and Untested Weasel off to sulk while his Elephant friends chewed each other's behinds off and whined to their busy *Bee* friends about the unfairness of it all.

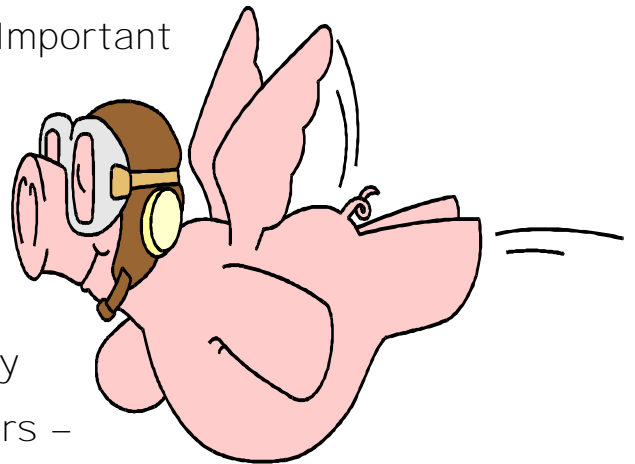
The greatest of the Great Issues Facing the Animals of California had suddenly become the shortage of acorns! And what a shortage it was! It was the biggest shortage of acorns anyone had ever seen in Capitol Park!

Of course, the Very Important Animals had connived so as to spend ALL the acorns on the recent horizon and all the acorns they expected to be pouring forth forever. So the "acorn shortage" seen by some Very Important Animals was seen by other Very Important Animals as a "spending longage."

Sadly, we must leave our little story just as the adventures really begin. The Very Special Weasel is going to explain to the Very Important Animals, and to all the little animals who work around Capitol Park, and the Big and Bigger Appointed animals, and all of the animals of California, how their acorn allotments are to be reduced and how more acorns are to be squeezed from the Rich Animals.

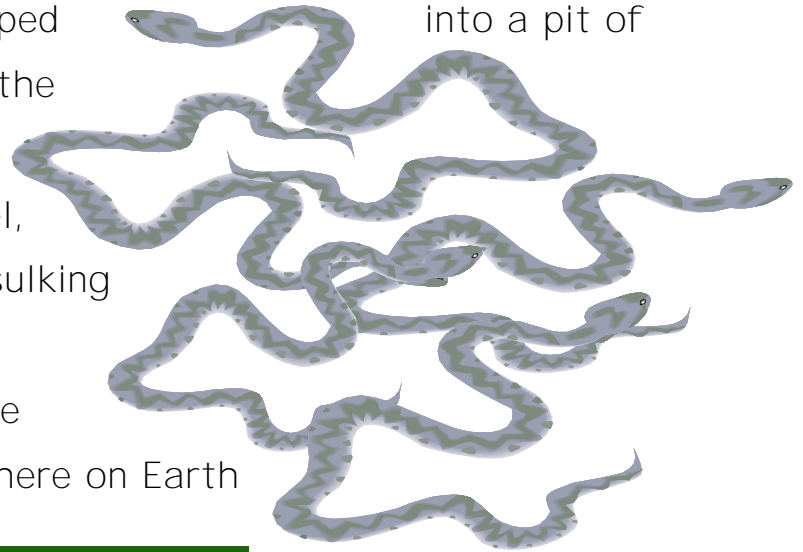
That explanation will be in a very different kind-of-true story called a "budget." Some animals think that the previous "budget" was much more a work of imagination than it was a kind-of-true story. Some of the Very Important Animals thought that pigs would fly before the acorns would continue to multiply at the same rate.

But the animals of California did not know that when they sent the Very Special Weasel – with two feeble cheers – back to Capitol Park to worry about the Great Issues Facing the Animals of California. And they did not know that when



they voted to spend lots more acorns that are not really there.

Some animals even think that the New and Untested Weasel dodged being dropped into a pit of Viper Animals, thanks to the feeble two cheers given to the Very Special Weasel, and that he is better off sulking at home than he would be writing his own kind-of-true "budget" and wondering where on Earth



into a pit of



he would find the billions of missing acorns.

And so we leave the Very Special Weasel and the Very Important Animals to contemplate the "budget" and to sort themselves out on the Left Side and the Right Side of Capitol Park.

-- The End --