

Armstrong exhibit

An exhibition of works by Arthur Armstrong (1798-1851), a Marietta artist, will be displayed at the Community Gallery of Lancaster County, 13 West Grant Street, Lancaster, from June 2nd through 29th. This exhibition was

organized by Ruth Arnold, a graduate student at Penn State, Middletown, with the assistance of Dr. Irwin Richman of Bainbridge.

Gallery hours are 9-4 Tuesdays and Fridays, 12-4 other days.



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Bears become violent



Grizzly bear. Photo by William Keller.

National parks are facing a serious new problem that threatens the lives of park users: bear attacks.

Bears were never considered dangerous in the past: the only time a bear would attack a person was in the case of a mother bear with cubs who was surprised by humans. Hikers who sang or wore bells around their necks to warn the bears out of their way were safe.

In the past few years, though, bears have repeatedly made unprovoked assaults on people in the national parks. The rangers have begun calling it the "mugger bear syndrome."

In Glacier National Park alone, 21 people have been killed by bears since 1956. In the 46 years before 1956, only one was killed. (In the same period, since 1956, only three people have been injured by bears. Apparently your chances aren't very good in a fight with a bear.)

Grizzly bears have always been a slight danger to people. They are larger and more temperamental than black bears (the kind we have in Pennsylvania). But black bears have also begun to attack humans. This was unheard of before.

People have been dragged from their tents and mauled to death. One woman escaped by hiding in an outhouse. The bear scratched the sides with its huge claws, but finally went away.

According to National Wildlife magazine, the bear problem is worst in Glacier Park, but it will probably crop up in other parks soon.

Why are the bears on the rampage? Most likely, it's due to lessened fear of people. There are so many people in the parks that the bears are used to them, knowing they have nothing to fear from humankind.

In the bear mind, person equals food. Bears have long raided campgrounds at night, looking for scraps of delectable human food.

Park rangers are getting more strict about food and its disposal in an effort to break the bear's association of people and food. Backpackers are no longer allowed to bury food along the trails.

If you ever run into a bear, don't panic. The animal will sense it. Do speak to your four-footed friend in "firm, even tones," while backing away slowly. Never run—a bear can go half again as fast as you can. Climbing a tree isn't a bad idea, even though bears can also climb better than you.

If a bear charges you, yell at it (don't scream). If that doesn't work, curl up on the ground with your hands clasped behind your neck and play dead.

Guns are prohibited by the parks. People in Alaska always carry large-caliber weapons in the bush.

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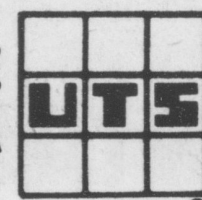
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