

# A New Kennedy Volume

By Mary Ann Seawell  
Washington Post Staff Writer

Family troubles with the publishing world have not deterred Bobby Kennedy. He is writing a book.

A publisher has not been decided on, however. "Well, it was going to be Harper and Row," said Bobby, "but we had a fight with them."

The author without a publisher is not the Senator, but Bobby Jr. age 13. A knowledgeable naturalist, Bobby is writing about animals and is approaching the subject with zeal.

He completed one 50-page book on the subject, decided "it wasn't good enough" and began a new one in February.

He has been interviewing people—Secretary of the Interior Stewart Udall and Mrs. Roger Stevens, wife of Special Assistant to the President and herself president of the Animal Welfare Institute in New York City. He stopped Secretary Udall with: "What are the three rarest animals in the United States?" and "Why are alligators in danger of extinction?"

REPTILES are Bobby's special interest. He is in charge of the terrarium (a glass enclosed, specially heated garden) in the basement playroom at Hickory Hill, where a collection of turtles and lizards lives. Right now they're low on lizards, he explains, because,

there was a failure in the terrarium's heat and light system last September and all the lizards froze to death.

Bobby is keeping a file card on each reptile that comes to Hickory Hill. A typical card, done in a hurried scrawl, lists an Eastern Box Turtle named Madison ("we name them for Presidents and football players") who is seven inches long and was found in Kempton Pond near the Kennedys' McLean home. If an animal dies or escapes, the date of demise completes the record.

Bobby has enlisted two of his younger brothers to help in keeping the file. Working under his watchful eye are David, 11, a freckled blond who looks as if he might be plotting to hide a lizard in a sister's bed, and Michael, a gravely polite 9-year-old.

An eighth grader at Georgetown Preparatory School, Bobby takes notes during interviews and then "some kind soul types them for me."

He plans to finish the book by the end of summer. It will contain "sad stories about animals to appeal to people's sympathies." The stories will not be case histories, but will depict things which could have happened.

The book will have "lots of pictures" and Bobby is hoping that Ed Dodd, the cartoonist who draws the nature strip "Mark Trail" will do cartoons for the book. At least one national magazine has offered to serialize it.

Visitors will have a chance to glimpse part of the Kennedy menagerie at a pet show to be held Saturday, May 20, at Hickory Hill.

Pets of all descriptions will be judged in 25 classes ranging from "Cat with the Longest Hair" to "Dog with the Shortest Front Legs." Columnist Art Buchwald will be the judge and every entry will receive a prize.

The show, to benefit the Northwest Settlement House, will be held from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. In addition to the pet judging, there will be pony rides, a puppet show, a fortune teller and movies. Tickets should be obtained in advance by calling Mrs. Rowland Evans in Washington.