



MARINE STUDIOS
MARINELAND
Florida

April 8, 1955

Mr. Keller B. Breland
Hot Springs
Arkansas

Dear Mr. Breland:

I have read with great interest the accounts of your work in Time and Life. Part of this interest stems from the fact that we are exhibiting specially trained porpoises at Marine Studios and our methods of training have paralleled yours in that immediate reward, in the form of food, is given for each successfully performed action. No punishment is ever administered nor have we ever considered it desirable in training these animals.

Your statement, quoted by Time, that "All we have to do is to keep the act within the known limitations of the given species," impressed us because it is so pertinent to a problem the porpoise presents us with -- the problem of devising acts that take advantage of the porpoise's considerable capabilities, but that lie within its limitations of body structure and aquatic environment.

Porpoises, as you may know, are very intelligent animals. The porpoise brain is larger and even more convoluted than that of a man, and the natural behavior of porpoises indicates a high degree of intelligence, adaptability, and curiosity. The enclosed article will give you some idea of this.

The reportory of our trained porpoises includes the following acts:

- (1) Retrieving a stick thrown on the water.
- (2) Catching and returning a tossed ball.
- (3) Leaping free of the water to ring a bell.

Mr. Keller B. Breland

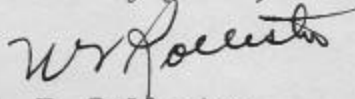
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- (4) Leaping free of the water to grasp and pull down a ball, thus raising a flag.
- (5) Pulling a surf board (which is attached to a simple harness worn by the porpoise).
- (6) Leaping through a paper-covered hoop suspended above the water.

My purpose in writing to you is to ask if you would be interested in visiting Marineland to observe our porpoises and to offer suggestions as to training methods and additional acts that the porpoises might be taught to perform. We would, of course, expect to compensate you for your travel, time and services. In addition, I feel sure that you would enjoy getting acquainted with these interesting and likeable animals.

Sincerely yours,



W. F. Rolleston
Vice President & General Manager

WFR/e
enclosure