

Dr. Lemmon Has a Farm

DR. W. B. LEMMON is an expert in analyzing human emotions and behavior, a trained clinical psychologist and an experienced classroom teacher. Away from campus he is a farmer—but not an ordinary farmer by any means. His farm near Norman houses the most mixed up bunch of animals since the improbable menagerie of the fabled Dr. Doolittle.

You see, most of the parrots, macaws, monkeys, sheep, swans and other animals Dr. Lemmon has gathered together are thoroughly convinced they are people—or at least that people are their particular form of animal. They have exhibited many of the psychoses, complexes and traumatic experiences found in the human beings, and Dr. Lemmon's work with his private zoo is producing some interesting scientific results.

As a psychologist Dr. Lemmon is skilled in therapy, tracing problems back to their points of origin and making his subjects regress to this point to find solutions. Almost without thinking, he began transferring this technique to his animals as a vehicle for research in the field of psychology.

Several years ago Dr. Lemmon took up farming as a weekend escape from long days spent in personal interviews, graduate seminars and huge beginning psychology classes. Like any other farmer, he planted a few trees and vegetables and raised feed crops for his livestock. Being naturally curious about almost everything, Dr. Lemmon acquired several varieties of parrots, then macaws and cockatoos, and before long he found himself applying psychological principles in teaching his parrots to talk.

Through a series of experiments with the birds, he found that when raised in isolation and forced to regress to mental infancy, the parrots could be made to talk earlier than normal.

When a neighbor gave young Sally Lemmon an orphaned newborn lamb, Dr. Lemmon's clinical curiosity went to work again. The lamb, with the unlikely name of Kasperina Hauser, was raised in the family, bottle fed and treated like a pet. She was bred with Lemmon's other ewes in her first fall, and in the spring she gave birth to twin lambs. Neither at birth nor later did she pay any attention to her offspring. The next year Kasperina again delivered twins, but again she paid no attention to the lambs.

The ewe's animosity did not go unob-

continued

*and on that farm are lots of animals
—but most of them think they are people*

By CONNIE RUGGLES
Photos by Frank Garner



Among the varieties of birds at Dr. W. B. Lemmon's farm near Norman are this pair of white king pigeons. They, like the other birds, play a part in a series of controlled psychological experiments.

served, and Dr. Lemmon had the sheep examined by a veterinarian, tested it and discussed the phenomenon with other persons following each birth. He fed the ewe tranquilizers until she was barely able to stand alone, but she still ignored the lambs. When it was time to feed the young lambs, Kasperina responded to the bottle just as she had when she was an infant, although she had no sucking responses left. From these incidents, Dr. Lemmon theorized that Kasperina, due to her own lack of mothering as a lamb, exhibited a lack of interest in her own lambs.

Intrigued by the possibilities in his theory, Dr. Lemmon set up a carefully controlled experiment and applied for funds to finance it from the U.S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare's National Institutes of Health. Last summer he was awarded \$3,500 in research money.

"We can, of course, do things with animals that we can't do with humans," Dr. Lemmon explains, "such as separating the young from their mothers, controlling breeding, and so on."

The experiment with sheep is more or less a prototype to test the chemical and physical structure in the animals in terms of learning the interaction between inborn and learned characteristics. Dr. Lemmon will modify the opportunities for social learning and see what happens in the social behavior of the sheep and their offspring. Dr. Lemmon figures that the maternal instinct is a function of previous love. To test his hypothesis, he has just finished breeding his flock of registered Suffolk sheep. He

calculates that from them he will obtain three female-female pairs of twins.

One twin will be taken from its mother at birth and the other left in the natural environment. The transplanted twin will be raised in a human environment, bottle fed, exposed to human companionship and in general weaned from peer associations. Then both twins will be bred back to the original buck and checked for maternal defects. Dr. Lemmon expects the bottle-raised twin to be hostile toward her young

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a chance reaction has led to a large

while the other should react normally.

This delving into animal emotions is by no means limited to sheep. "We have some swans down on one of the ponds which think they are human," Dr. Lemmon says, "or else they think humans are swans." He took the swans still in the eggs and placed them in the incubator that he keeps in his living room. "We have the only house in Oklahoma with an incubator in our living room," Dr. Lemmon quips.

When the swans were old enough, they



Dr. Lemmon's pair of woolly monkeys are spoon fed and lovingly cared for by the whole family.



Hymie, one of the pair of woolly monkeys, gets his share of play and attention from Lemmon.

Sally's orphaned pet lamb *research project for her dad*

were imprinted—or forced to enter—a more or less human environment. The swans followed a graduate student around for short periods of time over a span of several weeks. Originally four swans were to be imprinted. One died, however, and one was too weak to be imprinted, so only two went through the process. Unfortunately, both imprinted swans were males, so the maternal pattern could not be traced. However, the unimprinted female swan now pays no attention to hu-

mans when they approach the pond while the two imprinted males are so closely identified with humans that they suspect every person of encroaching on their territory and take elaborate steps to prevent intrusion. When Dr. Lemmon approaches the pond, the two swans swoop toward him in a flurry of bowed necks and arched wings, following him up on the shore and pecking at him.

Dr. Lemmon also has two Australian black swans with which he is experimenting. The original pair was imported and had been together many years. However, the female died, and Dr. Lemmon feared the old tale of the remaining swan dying when the mate is lost might be true. So he imported another female. The pair produced six eggs, but before they could hatch, a dog broke in, killed the female and destroyed the eggs. In spite of the setbacks, Dr. Lemmon bought yet another female. This one was decidedly hostile to humans and transferred that hostility to the male. "They are quite wild now," Dr. Lemmon says, "so we have them in a separate pond down at the other end of the farm. They are about to breed, and we will take half the eggs and create a situation similar to the other experiments to compare behavior."

Behind Dr. Lemmon's home is a concrete-block building serving as quarters for a host of other animals. He has two pairs of monkeys there. One pair are gibbons, which according to the evolution theory, evolved as a species about the same time as

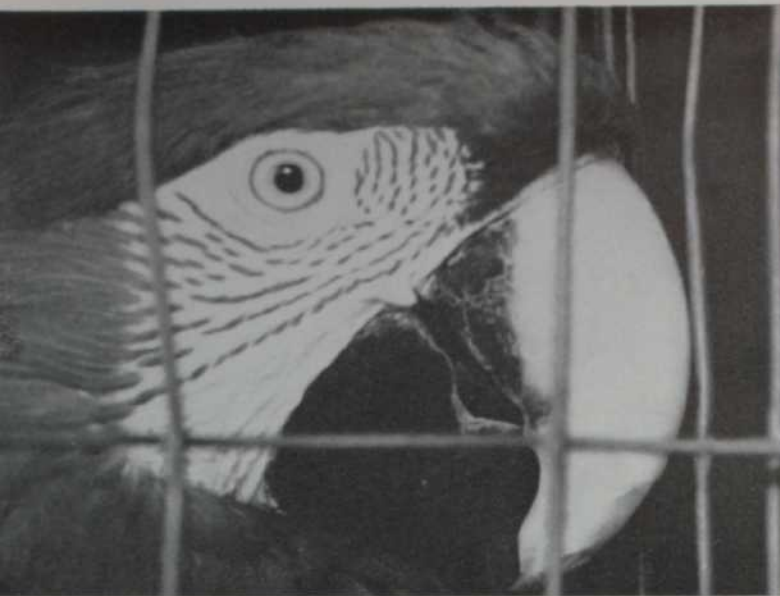
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Dr. Lemmon's nine-year-old daughter Sally also takes an active part in caring for the monkeys.



Roosting contentedly in one of the many well constructed bird pens is a black king pigeon. Dr. Lemmon also uses parrots in experiments.



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*work at the Lemmon farm
is furnishing material for
theses and dissertations*

In addition to a number of smaller birds, Dr. Lemmon has several brightly colored macaws.

humans did. "They are the only monogamous primates," Dr. Lemmon says. "In fact, in many ways they are more monogamous than humans." His other set of monkeys is quite young and not ready to breed. The male still exhibits signs of infant regressions, although at other times he is quite dominant, much like a teenage human.

There are also several cages housing the brilliantly colored macaws and the cockatoos whose feathers come in delicate shades ranging from soft pink to orange. One small female bird is thoroughly convinced she is human and perches outside the cage flirting openly with every passing human.

In the animal quarters, Dr. Lemmon is busy building more facilities. One part of the building will be devoted to a two-room suite for a pair of chimpanzees which Dr.

This pair of ringnecked parrakeets are only a part of the collection of parrots, cockatoos and other talking birds at the Lemmons' farm.

Lemmon is bringing in from the west coast.

To the west of the house is a screened-in area where he keeps a number of other bird varieties. Each pen has its own concrete-based pond, self-feeders, and foliage, and the compound is well constructed of close mesh wire to keep out marauders.

In addition to the many unusual animals on the farm, Dr. Lemmon keeps four Scottish dogs to herd his sheep. They are shy with humans, but any one of them can herd a scattered flock of sheep into the pen in a matter of minutes, stalking quietly around the flock, keeping them moving slowly but steadily in the same direction. "The dogs can do the same job with cattle," Dr. Lemmon says, "but unlike sheep, the cattle sometimes fight back."

With so many projects going at once, Dr.

Lemmon certainly cannot find time to handle his "hobby" alone. His duties at the University plus his research fill more hours than he can find, so students in psychology come out to the farm to lend a hand. At present, there are nine theses and dissertation in progress at the farm.

The farm is a different world for Dr. Lemmon. On campus he is a professor utilizing the training he received at Oberlin, Western Reserve University and Ohio State. But most of all he enjoys putting that training to work on the farm, and his enjoyment in the work is reflecting everywhere. The living and dining areas of his home are nearly all windows opening out on the ponds and animal areas. Dr. Lemmons himself, although surrounded by a flock of induced frustrations, is the picture of contentment in a mad, mad world.

