

1808 - 1858 - And This is No Teddy Bear!

Connecting the Dots

You know the phrase "one thing leads to another".

Well, for today's newsletter it's especially true.

It started with last week's blurb on koalas - which are NOT bears. This week's story is about bears, and that led me to thinking that the brown bear image I'm sharing with you today is certainly no Teddy Bear.

From Teddy Bear to Teddy Roosevelt (who was born in 1858), and then to Google to find out what was going on in America in 1858, more dots were getting connected.

Ursus Arctos - The Brown Bear



Good Morning

In their 2-year trek across the western part of American to map the Louisiana Purchase, Lewis and Clark encountered the brown bear.

Though they described it as grisley, which could be interpreted in a couple of

different ways, it officially became the Grizzly Bear in 1815. It was also called *Ursus Horribilis* because of its less than pleasant temperament when surprised.

While grizzlies don't hunt humans, they will attack to protect its food source or its cubs. In fact, mama bears with cubs are said to be responsible for 70% of the humans killed by grizzlies.

According to Wikipedia, "It has been estimated that a bite from a grizzly could even crush a bowling ball."

Teddy's Bear



There are many stories about Theodore Roosevelt and the bear he refused to shoot. Many pictures like this one show the bear as being a cub. The true story is very different. Check out the resources below for more information.

Though Roosevelt was a hunter who enjoyed the sport, he also realized how much damage had been caused by the decimation of wild life and their habitats.

He wrote: "We have become great because of the lavish use of our resources. But the time has come to inquire seriously what will happen when our forests are gone, when the coal, the iron, the oil, and the gas are exhausted, when the soils have still further impoverished and washed into the streams, polluting the rivers, denuding the fields and obstructing navigation."

As president, Roosevelt went on to create the United States Forest Service (USFS), established 150 national forests, 51 federal bird reserves, 4 national

game preserves, 5 national parks, and 18 national monuments. During his tenure, he protected approximately 230 million acres of public land.

Connecting the Last Two Dots

When searching for images of Teddy Roosevelt, there were a lot of editorial cartoons from which to select. The name of one of the cartoonists, E.A. Bushnell caught my eye.

Naturally I wondered if there was any relationship to the Bushnell after which Hartford's Bushnell Park was named.

There wasn't . . . but . . . there is a relationship between what Horace Bushnell accomplished in Hartford and what we're trying to do with Strong Family Farm - preserve an important green space for people to enjoy.

Horace Bushnell was the visionary who helped Frederick Law Olmstead (designer of New York's Central Park) develop his vision of urban parks.

Bushnell went on to design Hartford's Central Park which was one of the first two such parks created in America. It was later renamed in Bushnell's honor.

Though the farm is not a designed green space, it still endeavors to provide a gathering place that promotes social unity and a common ground where people can come closer to the earth that supports us all.

Quinn Eurich, Editor

Resources

[Wikipedia - What Happened in 1858](#)

[Wikipedia - Grizzly Bear](#)

[The Real Teddy Bear Story](#)

[The Bushnell of Bushnell Park](#)