

A

May 28, 1945.

Mr. C. E. McBride,  
Sports Editor,  
The Kansas City Star,  
Kansas City, Mo.

Dear Mac:

Somehow, if my memory serves me correctly, I saw an article in your Sporting Comment a few years ago wherein you stated that someone had shot a black squirrel. I also remember in a later article that you had something about an albino squirrel. I do not remember having seen an albino squirrel, but last Saturday afternoon was the first time I had seen a totally black squirrel.

Mr. Carl Hird, who is the father of Carl Hird, Jr., showed me one. Carl Hird, Jr., played three years for the Kansas varsity at tackle, and is now in the Navy. He played last year at tackle on the Olathe Naval team against his brother, Wayne Hird, who was our center on the varsity football team for two years, in a game here last fall when Kansas played the Olathe team.

Mrs. Allen and I drove out to the Hird residence in the country to buy some eggs and strawberries. Mr. Hird said to me, "I want to show you something." He took me in his living room and showed me the black squirrel that he had shot last winter on his farm. The pelt is just as black as coal, save the abdomen and the entire lower abdominal is the color of a camel's hair coat. I said to Mr. Hird, "What did you think you saw up in the tree before you shot him?" He said, "Well, I thought it was a civet cat." He said it was lying low on a limb, hiding itself as much as possible from him. He shot and struck it in the neck. It came tumbling down, and much to his surprise he found it was a squirrel. He skinned it and has the cured pelt hanging in his living room as one of his mementoes.

I thought this might interest you, Mac, because I had forgotten the controversy wherein someone said that black squirrels did not exist. This is testimony to the fact that such things do exist. I do not know whether this contributes anything to your argument, or whether you remember the details, but I thought I would send it along to you as an interesting angle of wild life.

Sincerely yours,

Director of Physical Education,  
Varsity Basketball Coach.

FCA:AH