



Is it a pigeon? Maybe it's a chicken? No, it's Lew Kolb in the alligator corral.



Mike Davenport, assistant curator of reptiles, ventures into the pit with Lew. "If I head for the wall," says Mike, "don't ask questions, just follow." "Ok," replied Lew. "Just don't be in my way."

Beyond the Call of Duty . . . or Some People Will Do Anything for Money

Some tree men are called on to do the darndest things. Take Walt Money of Guardian Tree Experts, Inc., for instance.

Just last week he received a call from Jack Monday at the Washington National Zoo. Jack had a request for Walt to inject a few rubber trees with nutrients and insecticide using the Mauget injectors. Sounded simple enough, so Walt says "Sure, we'll do it."

One catch. The rubber trees were located on an island in the alligator pit. "You gotta be kidding!" cried Walt. Nope, came the reply.

Jack said there wasn't too much to

fear, except for "Biggie," a 15-foot 1,000 pound crocodile. The week before, in a lightning move, he had gobbled up an unsuspecting pigeon who had landed six feet away. Walt said, "Has he eaten since?" Jack replied, "We're not sure. Roll call is tomorrow."

To make the reptiles as docile as possible, several water tanks were drained. Then like a true executive, Walt delegated the injection job to Lew Kolb.

"Someone had to take the pictures," said Walt coyly, standing behind the glass spectator windows. "Who else would believe this story."



While visions of pigeons and female crocodiles dance through "Biggie's" head, Lew does the fastest injection job in treeman history.



Lew's in the last alligator pit now and he feels pretty confident. Not that he's ready for a wrestling match. No, he says, "but I wonder how alligator tree climbing shoes would feel."



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