

JOCK TALK

MICKEY PLACE



We think it was in an O. Henry story that a sherriff said "I've never seen a man who was fond of dogs who wasn't cruel to women." Contrary to this we are happily married but extremely attached to the two canines who seem to own our house. Nevertheless we don't think that dogs are as smart as they were when we were young.

When we were back on the farm we had a female dog (she resented "Bitch") who used to go for the cows at sharp five. One year, due to Daylight Saving Time, we put the clock back an hour and forgot to tell her. At the usual milking hour she got up from her accustomed spot under the kitchen table and glanced at the clock. She appeared puzzled but returned to her place. A moment later she got up and ambled out to the veranda, put one paw over her eye and peered at the sun. Then away for the cows she went!

Late that fall we took her along when we were taking a walk around the shore with a gun. We hesitated about having her go because it was a threatening day and she was "due" (Oh yes, she had her weaknesses) but she seemed anxious to accompany us. When we saw a flock of ducks about a mile off shore we decided to take a rowboat out and, when she clambered in the back, we did nothing about her. Just as we got to the flock and got both barrels in, a bad squall blew up and we decided, although we knew we had knocked several ducks down, that caution dictated that we should make for shore as fast as we could and let the birds go. About halfway in we were horrified to note that Princess wasn't with us...but we were afraid to turn back. Imagine how pleased we were, just as we got to the shore, to hear a scratching and whining at the back of the boat and there she was, swimming along with a duck in her mouth and followed by six pups, each one with a duck in its mouth!

One of her pups got to be a real good hunting dog.... one of the very best.... however, one day when the temperature was a way below zero we made the mistake of



letting him out and he raced for the back pasture and went "on point" at a flock of snow birds. Well, you must have seen how a dog can go "on point" at a flock. Dog and birds can retain the same position for a long time... without a move from either... this time, sad to say, dog and birds froze right there and stayed frozen stiff until they thawed out in the spring! Too bad. You know Rex was never worth a damn as a hunting dog after that!

We told that story to a friend in Ontario and he said he was surprised to learn we had such cold weather here. He said it would not be unusual where he lives for once, at dusk in early winter, a flock of migrating ducks landed in a pond in his front field to stay for the night. During the night a quick freeze set in and the whole flock got caught in the ice. At daybreak, he told me, there was the damndest quacking and flapping you ever heard tell of...but finally the ducks got airborne and flew South with his pond! If you have any doubt about this we can show you the hollow they left right there in Caledonia!

But back to the Princess.

When she got older we used to take her everywhere with us. Once we took her to the movie "Gone With The Wind". You'll recall it is a very long picture. As we were on our way out we were stopped by the manager who told us that a customer had complained about a dog being in the audience and that he had come down to ask us to leave, "But" he said, "When I saw how much she was enjoying the show I did not have the heart... she was sitting there watching the screen intently, she

seemed sorrowful at the sad parts, cheerful at the funny parts and excited when there was a lot of action...I was amazed." We told him we were surprised at her too...you know she hadn't enjoyed the book at all.

As we said in the beginning, they don't seem to make dogs like her any more.

"When Constabulatory duty's to be done, a policeman's lot is not a happy one" is not so as our valorous C.P.'s do hockey with the villainous Charlottetown Police Force. In the second game played

here our heros clobbered the opposition 10-7 in a game which was featured by the offside play of both goalkeepers. (They persisted in skating ahead of the puck.) Scoring for us good guys were D. Kinsmen, P. MacGregor, J. Klub and L. Kelly with two each with singles going to Greg Robinson and Frank Butler...Frank's was the winner. The "best of three" series is now tied at one win each and the deciding game is set for varsity arena (fancy name for the ice box) sometime this week. Local 501 of the C.U. P.E. will donate a trophy to the winning team.

If our UPEI hockey fans get an opportunity to see any of the current Ch'town Hawks/Covehead series they might find that the Hawks in particular bear a close resemblance to our own Panthers although Billy Weatherbie labours in effective fashion for Covehead...Billy must have a hard time remembering not to pass to his former linemates and we think it might be prudent to remind him it is now advisable to attempt to go around his old friends, Brown, Bedard, Doherty and Co.!