



Places I've Done Time

by Clifford Francis

The cat in the boa

More and more people seem to be having pets these days. Dogs seem to be the favourite. Everywhere you go, people are walking and getting great exercise with their pets.

Jessie my daughter is also a pet fancier. We started out with some sort of a rodent, a rat I think, and then moved on to gold fish and then a bird. The fish died when Jess went on a holiday and the bird flew away. We now have a cat which constantly howls. Jessie claims it's in heat.

When I went for a walk on the Old Swamp Road I saw several dogs all quite well behaved. I see a lot over on the Crown Lands Trust Property as well. The one and only time I had a cat was years ago and it got run over by a car the first day I had him. I don't remember grieving too long over it.

Some folks become quite attached to their animals and I recall one such instance. I had went down to Kingston with a friend to a political picnic and we met some of his friends there. After the picnic and many speeches and beer, we went back to his friends' home for a few more. By the time we arrived there, I was on the verge of having the diarrhea. I barely made it into the bath-

room and partially missed the stool. No one was concerned about me, but quite concerned about getting their small chihuahua to the vet's because it was having a seizure.

I was to learn later, the little dog died that fall. It was buried with a full service in an animal grave yard. Each and every week the couple went to the grave site to lay flowers, winter and summer.

A fine fellow in Lindsay had lots of animals including a boa constrictor snake and he told me about the saying 'what goes around, comes around'. His lovely yellow canary got out of the cage only to be eaten by Mr. Tom Cat. A few weeks later the boa constrictor crawled out of his cage while my friend was cleaning it, and ate the cat. Hence - what goes around, comes around.

Horses are also great pets. Girls make wonderful grooms for horses and most respond very well to their care.

One such girl I knew was from Alberta and she was a barrel racer in the rodeo. She raced and won over the guys every time. Lynn Brite was her name and she was beautiful. I don't know of any cowboy who wouldn't ride a bull for her. I sure wished that I was her pet.

Trees

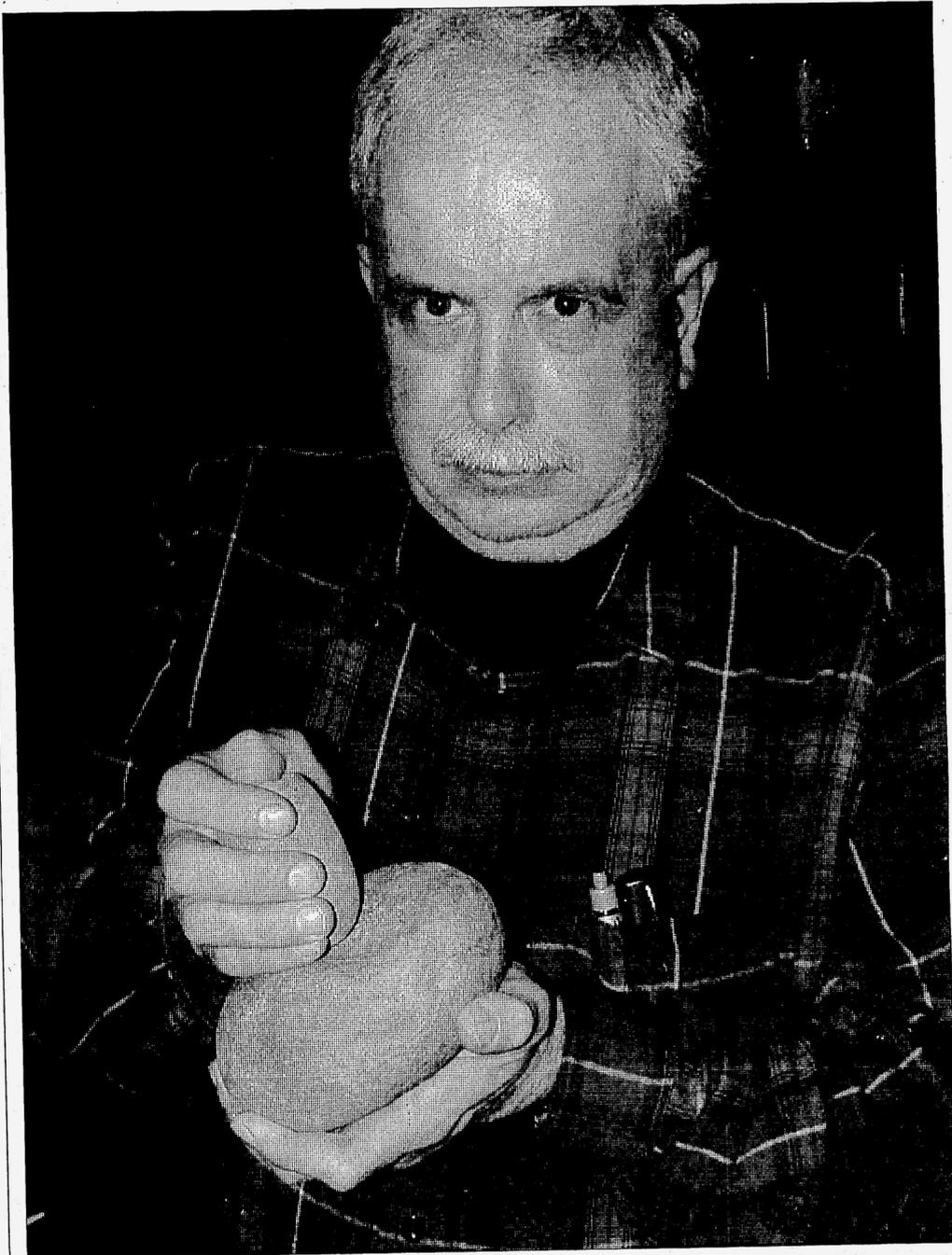
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the opportunity to keep our watershed healthy before it is too late."

Mayor Mutton explained to Wrigley, "it's not that we're not trying to do a Watershed Study, if one is warranted through our Official Plan, then we will do one. Council has

not said yes or no to a Watershed study because the process has not got it back here yet."

The application will be undergoing further study by staff, but will be held in abeyance till the Region of Durham has completed their Environmental Assessment for the extension of Adelaide Avenue at the northern portion on the property.



Brian Wilson, a member of the Newcastle and District Historical Society, shared his rare rock find with members at their annual 'Show and Tell' meeting in their historical room at the Newcastle Community Centre Monday night.

Newcastle Historical Society holds AGM and 'Show and Tell'

Brian Wilson shared with the group how his wife found these two rocks at the edge of Lake Mattagami after a fishing trip. Wilson explained that old trade routes are good places to find artifacts, and since the Mattagami drains into James Bay, it was a good place for treasure hunting.

Wilson told how when his wife picked the larger rock up out of the water, it fit perfectly into her hand, and was

obviously a pestle. A short distance away a small rock was found, which when Mrs. Wilson picked it up, she discovered was a natural fit as a mortar for the pestle. Wilson is confident that the natural tools were used by a Shaman 700 to 5,000 years ago to grind pigment and herbs.

Other members of the society also shared their rare books, pictures and opium with the group.

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~ HAPPENINGS ~

Monday, February 2

The Newcastle Village and District Historical Society Show & Tell and Annual Meeting 7:30 p.m. at the Newcastle Community Hall, Historical Room, King Ave. & Mill St., Newcastle. Bring your interesting item and tell us about it! Call Myno at 905-987-5482 for further info.

February 3, 5, 11

Orono Soccer Registration - 7 to 9 p.m. at Orono Arena Meeting Room.

Monday, February 9

Great Canadian Town Band Festival presents March Madness - An evening of stirring marches featuring world renowned Canadian trombone virtuoso Alain Trudel and the Hannaford Street Youth Band at Bowmanville High School auditorium, 8 p.m. Tickets \$15 adults; \$10 students; under 12 free; available at the door

Saturday, February 14

OAAA Fundraising Valentine's Dance at Orono Arena and Community Centre. 8 p.m. to 1 a.m. Tickets \$20/couple.

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