Your Dog Believes In Ghosts! !

When you see your dog looking intently at something you cannot see, he is watching a ghost. By that I do not mean that dogs have psychic gifts; on the contrary I believe it is the ghosts rather than the dogs who introduce themselves.

My only explanation of the strange examples which follow is that, like ourselves, some departed spirits love dogs while others cannot bear them; and the dog reacts according to instinct writes Lt.-Col. T. A. Lowe, D.S.O. M.C. in "Tit-bits."

A few weeks ago I saw Willie, my white bull terrier bitch, swerve suddenly as though someone had made a pass at her with a stick. When it happened again I stood transfixed, for we were in the middle of a ten-acre field and there was not a soul in sight.

Invisible Enemy

I watched the dog, who had stopped to watch something else. She was puzzled but wary, with a furrow of thought between her ears, and once again she bounced back as if to avoid a blow. Then she barked fiercely and seemed to face an invisible enemy, until I called her off.

Was this a ghost? I asked myself; if so, we must find evidence. I marked the spot with a stick, brought a growling, suspicious Willie home for breakfast; then I took out two of her puppies called Winston and Wendy, and walked them to the same spot.

It was a heavenly autumn morning. We were very happy, all three of us, until Winston and Wendy at full gallop, reached my stick. Then, in their effort to avoid something that I couldn't see, both pups fell over on their backs. When they regained their feet they sped back to my protective shadow where, like children, they remained until they had got over their fright.

I have been back again since and with different dogs (perhaps indeed, too often for the ghost's peace of mind), but the phenomenon has not repeated itself. Looking back now, my impression is that our ghost was working with a scythe in the field, and may have been a farm labourer in his previous existence, because the dogs seemed to be escaping from a semi-circular movement near the ground rather than from a threatening stick.

I had a dog called Archie, a Springer, who went with me everywhere; and sometimes we stayed at a lovely old country house near Oswestry where my host had an Alsatian terrier called Tom. One morning we were breakfasting in a big-windowed room filled with winter sunshine, and the dogs were lying on the hearthrug at the fire.

They made a pretty picture and I happened to be watching them when a door opened and both animals turned their heads to see who had come in. Then it closed again, as though a servant had changed his mind and shut the door on the outside.

Haunted Doorway

My glance returned to the dogs, but their eyes were following somebody walking slowly across the room, and their tails were wagging delightedly and thumping the floor. Then another door, at the opposite side of the room, opened and stayed open long enough for someone to pass through. When this door closed quietly, both dogs dropped their heads, closed their eyes, and resumed an interrupted nap in the warmth of the fire.

Had I not seen the large old-fashioned door handle turn as the second door closed, the matter might not have stuck in my mind. My host was deep in a newspaper, so I said nothing. What seemed like a manifestation might have been due to a draught of air.

Outside there was wind as we walked through a lane, and the dogs scampered merrily. Then my host said: "Look at Tom and Archie."

They were standing quite still only a few yards away from us, looking upwards with tongues out and tails wagging; then Archie closed his eyes with pleasure, as spaniels do when their heads and velvety ears are caressed.

For a moment both dogs stayed thus, greeting someone we could not see.

Not until then had I the courage to tell my breakfast-room tale, but my host was not in the least surprised. "Oh, yes, we have a ghost around the place," he said. "I think it is a woman, a very nice ghost who loves dogs." Then he added in a matter-of-fact sort of way, "Thank goodness the dogs love her."

"Sorry, I can't ask you to dinner, Maw and Paw I'm only working here."

There Was A Little Boy—And He Had A Little Curl—The picture which little Billy Gilbert, 3, stares at is not one of those "art studies" of himself. It's a picture of his old man when he was at that particular stage of development. Mother and father reluctantly decided that Billy was old enough to have his locks clipped. From the look on the kid's face —right—one would imagine he wished they had come to the decision long before.

SPORTS-&c

by A SIXBIT CRITIC

In a recent roundup of what might happen in sports this coming year we wrote something to the effect —"when the real hockey—the playoffs—begin etc." An indignant reader—all our readers seem to be either indignant or indifferent—takes us severely to task for what he considers a dirty and uncalled-for crack at his favorite sport.

* * *

"What do you mean" he writes —we take it that the writer is male, although no name was signed to the screed—" by insinuating that they don't play real hockey, as you call it, during the regular season? How would you like to go out there and get bruised and battered the way some of the boys do, playoffs or no playoffs?"

* * *

The answer to the second question is that we wouldn't want any part of it— not even if Old Father Time should start swinging his scythe in reverse and lop off a large proportion of the years that have passed over our hoary head. The lads certainly take their share of bruising and battering—far too much of it, a lot of us think—and although they are well paid, probably earn every cent they get, in view of the wear and tear they must endure.

* * *

In this connection we can't help thinking of an article we read not not so long ago about the operation of some of these fleets of big transport trucks. The owner of one such fleet took the view that a new Diesel truck has just so many thousand, or hundred thousand, miles of effective life in it. The quicker you get that mileage out of it, the sooner you get a return on your investment— then go and shop for a new one. In other words his viewpoint was quite the opposite of that of a private car-owner, who wants his heap to last a reasonable length of time.

* * *

And it seems to us as though the modern type of hockey magnate looks at a player in a manner something similar to the truck operator. There's only so many miles of fast dashes, quick stops, and so forth in the athletes carcase, and whether you get that mileage out in one season or ten—well, what's the odds so long as the customers are happy and keep coming back for more.

* * *

This may be all right for the type of player they seem to be breeding nowadays in wholesale quantities—the 180 to 200 pounders with enough natural padding on their bones to withstand countless crashes into the dasher or onti the ice. But it's hard on the less rugged boys—the Max Bentley kind, to name one—many of whom show signs of wear and tear from .overwork .long .before .they would .have .done .in days when trickiness and clever stick handling were definite assets. ... ...

* * *

Of course we know quite well that such gripes are just a sign that old age is creeping up on us, and that we haven't kept pace with latest developments in the game. Well—so be it; At all events we have, on our side, one of Canada's most eminent writers, Mr. Morley Callaghan, who just a few days ago gave vent to some words on hockey as she is presenly played.

* * *

"I loath the modern hockey rules," quoth Mr. Callaghan, who evidently hasn't heard that voicing such opinions in the fair city of Toronto is about the same as calling Joe Stalin a schmoe in the shadow of the Kremlin. "They're playing scramble-ball. We have lost the beautiful pattern passing plays we knew in the days of the old St. Patricks. he plays were etched so skilfully by those old masters of the art of stickhandling it was something akin to a great Canadian ballet on ice. If we had those old rules, the kids would definitely go for them."

* * *

With a tip of the bonnet in the direction of Mr. Callaghan for saying it so much better than we could ever hope to do, we pass back to the first query of our anonymous correspondent. "What do we mean by insinuating that they don't play real hockey during the regular season." * * *

Well, just possibly that was stating the matter somewhat harshly. Still—this being Monday—we pick up a paper and take a look at what happened in the National Hockey League over the weekend. There were five games played on the Saturday and Sunday evenings. And of those five, just sixty per cent—three to be precise—ended in a draw. Nor was there any mention of overtime being played.

* * *

That means that the players—avidly keen to win and almost breaking their hearts over a defeat, so we are given to understand by the busy press agents—were quite satisfied to settle for a draw. And the customers—who back a few years ago believed that their admission fee entitled them to a game of hockey—were just as satisfied to settle for sixty minutes of entertainment. * * *

That, in a nutshell, is what a lot of us old fogies find wrong with hockey—and to a minor degree—wrong with many other modern athletic pastimes. They have developed into entertainment rather than sport—and it's no wonder that more and more south of the border are becoming content to view games from a comfortable seat miles away, by feans of television instead of being there in person to root their heads off for some favorite.

Fired from Job May Make Fortune

A former French waiter, who lost his job in a Paris restuurant because his dress suit was badly stained, has applied for a patent for a combined cleaning and pressing iron. The iron, very like the ordinary domestic article in shape, but slightly larger, and, of course, heated by electricity, not only damps the clothing, but sprays the cloth with a cleansing chemical. In the centre of the iron there is a row of powerful brushes which work on the surface of the cloth as the iron is propelled to and fro. Only the rear part of the iron contains the heating element, but the device enables a whole suit or dress to be sponged, brushed, cleaned and pressed in fifteen minutes. The chemical cleaner dissolves grease and removes all stains instantaneously.

The inventor of the iron has refused a large sum for his discovery. He plans to establish a factory for its manufacture, and is confident that it will have a world market.

Adhesive tape for insulating electric wire and adhesiv paper tape for gumming up envelopes and torn stationery have been in use for many years, but the metal worker and the manufacturer of metal goods has been looking for scientists for something that could be used to stick metals together without the trouble of welding.

It has been left to an American scientist to produce the right idea, and the Mining and Manufacturing Co., of Minnesota, are now engaged in producing a transparent adhesive, like a roll of ordinary so that they will withstand a prestape, that will bind metals together sure of more than 3,000 lb. per square inch. Before long, we may be seeing water and gas pipes, metal sheets, bicycles, motorcars, boilers, street lamps, and even railway carriages being repaired by a man with a roll of adhesive tape in his pocket and a blow lamp in his hand to provide the heat to bind the broken m al.

We talked until the yawning hours.—O. O. McIntyre.

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