

the painted box

By Wendy Thomson

Judging from what I've read, scientists think that few animals have the brains with which to think and reason. Instead, the animals supposedly react to stimulus and experience.

But any owner and lover of pets will be full of stories on the fascinating things their pet has been up to recently, that seem to go far beyond ordinary reactions to situations.

Recently, I've heard over a dozen tales, including the one about a cat in Rockwood who has magpie tendencies and comes trotting home every now and then with an earring or something else filched from a neighboring house.

Canine humour
And there's the dog in Montreal with a sense of humour, who will pick up something a person has put down, then walk around behind and lay it down on the other side of them. He'll then watch to see the resulting confusion when the person reaches for the object he knows he's just put down on the left side.

Sue, our pup, doesn't do obvious things like that, but is emerging as a real character, anyway. I suppose she's a little old to be called a pup, as it'll be a year this month since our roly-poly little Black and Tan first appeared on the scene. She's lost her rotundity and is now a slim, graceful young thing with lengthy ears and legs and extraordinarily innocent almond-shaped eyes. The puppyishness is still there, though, and comes to the top often.

Dog tipsies
There have been three recent changes to mark Sue's coming of age. First, she's learned how to tip-toe—into the kitchen to steal the cats' food or down the hall to sleep on a bed. Once we hear her going pad-pad-pad instead of clack-clack-clack, or see her walking with stiff short steps, we know she's up to something.

Once challenged, she'll turn around with a curvy, shy grin, and an "Oh there you are - I was wondering where you got to" look.

Secondly, she has discovered the joy there is in hunting, and insists on dragging her poor old peppy-dog out into all kinds of weather at all hours of the day or night, to run something. First, Sue will go outside alone, and sniffle around for awhile. When she comes back in, she'll trot up to Rip, fast asleep on the couch, put her nose on his and blow. More often than not, Rip'll come out of a dead sleep in an instant and be out of the door like a shot. I don't know whether Sue finds an exceptionally appealing scent, inhales a lungful, then comes in to blow it at Rip or what, but it sure works.

Third, Sue has developed quite an attachment to Gord, and when he's home, she views me with jealousy. There can be no quick hugs in the kitchen, for as soon as she hears our footsteps close in, she's right there, wiggling in between us till we separate, then jumping up on Gord with her face turned up for any kisses he might have.

It didn't surprise me greatly, then, to walk into the bedroom last night to find Gord asleep and Sue stretched out alongside him with her head on his shoulder. The look I got from one brown eye clearly said "Hello, and what can I do for you before you go." Dogs!

I asked my brother who lives in Toronto, to send me the names of a few downtown Toronto restaurants that he thought I'd like. If I have to go in to the city shopping or something, I like to eat a meal at lunchtime that's as good as my own cooking or better. He sent me the following, saying that they're all inexpensive but with good service.

Ginza Restaurant (Japanese)
577 Bay Street (Ian recommended Sukiyaki for 2).

L'Omelette (French, nothing but all kinds of omelettes) 197 College (Reserve in advance).
Continental (Hungarian) 521 Bloor Street W., (Hunters' platter for group)

La Chauxmere (French) 77 Charles St. E.
Kwong Chow (Chinese) 128 Elizabeth St.
Now all I have to do is convince Gord that I need to take six shopping trips.

Here's a different but nice type of dessert.

APPLECAKE PIE
Mix ¼ cup shortening, 1 cup sugar, 1 egg, 1 cup flour, 1 tsp. cinnamon, ¼ tsp. nutmeg, pinch salt, 1 tsp. Soda in 2 tsp. hot water, 2 cups chopped apple, ½ cup walnuts (optional). Spread in greased 9 inch pie plate. Bake at 350 degrees for 45 minutes. Serve warm with ice cream or whipped cream.



ELEGANT CASUALS for men and ladies were shown at Mohawk Raceway one recent evening. From left to right, wool and mohair acid green and gold tweed midi suit and salt and pepper midi suit. Men's fashions shown here, all wool Neo-Teutonic style daytime suit of dove grey and pin striped in lime and citron. Worn with leather walking coat of grey with grey Persian lamb collar.

Free Press Women's Page

Gifts exchanged by W.I. at Christmas meeting

The Christmas party of the Acton Women's Institute was held in the board room of the library. The pot luck luncheon at 1 p.m. was much enjoyed. Christmas decorations helped to make a delightful table. The meal consisting of scalloped potatoes, meat loaf, cold meats, jellied salads, pickles, olives, rolls, tea biscuits, cake, tarts, and cookies was delicious.

Miss Dorothy Simmons in the chair opened the business part with a prayer. An in memoriam was said for a dear member who so recently passed on, also to one of the members' husbands who suddenly died. Prayers were said for sick and shut-ins.

Gift wrappings
The assistant secretary Mrs. Helen Pickett gave the secretary's reports, also the treasurer's reports were given. It was moved that the bills be paid. Donation of money was given to defray expenses for wrapping paper, to wrap the gifts given to the patients at the Chedoke Hospital.

Miss Nora Kenney told of attending a work shop in Guelph, pertaining to the Tweedsmuir history book, which she is compiling. Sing, say or pay, roll call was answered by 17 members.

Free Press briefs

NO ACCIDENTS in town during Safe Driving Week!

THE LEGION children's party is Sunday, Dec. 20.

THERE are just 14 shopping days till Christmas.

PLANNING a Christmas party? Share the fun through the Free Press. Let our news department know.

A FOX was seen near town Tuesday morning, crossing the road near Churchill church.

SNOWMOBILES are roaring these evenings and weekends, as the first snow beckons.

THIS SUNDAY evening St. Alban's Christmas pageant and the C.G.I.T. vesper service at the United Church.

MANY CHRISTMAS meetings this week, as the season swells to its climax.

TRI-ANGL club members are filling in ballots asking if women should be included in their membership.

BARBARA DUTCHYN, 10, of Niagara-on-the-Lake, won the 1970 poetry derby sponsored by the Jockey Club, nosing out 614 other children in the nationwide contest with her 14-line poem about a horse.

A CERTIFICATE program in supervision and management studies for industrial employees in Halton is being arranged by Oakville industrial director Ronald Cooksley. The U. of Waterloo will conduct the program. Last year 39 students graduated from the course.

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Christmas dinner set for - January!

No room in the hall... that's part of the Christmas story for the Legion Ladies' Auxiliary. They find the night they planned to have their Christmas dinner was booked for a banquet. With the close schedule of the season, they've come up with a more leisurely date of January 17 for the annual party. Nothing is

Christmas party held by Circle

A fine attendance of members of the Marion Rudd Mission Circle met on Monday evening at the home of Mrs. Harold Page for their Christmas party. A glowing fireplace, Christmas decorations and a nativity scene made a perfect setting for the singing of familiar Christmas carols. The characters of the Christmas story were taken by members of the Circle with Scriptures read by Ada Davidson interspersed with carols.

During the business session a report was given of parcels for shut-ins by the president Frances Feltham.

Food to India
Plans were made to send a food parcel to India in January and White Cross work to be done in the near future. A display of gifts was shown which are to go to Eastwood centre, Hamilton for a needy family. Mrs. Page led in prayers for missionary work and for Mrs. Harrop who is ill in hospital.

Lil Wagner and Marj Land-storouh conducted a few games after which the hostess assisted by Jessie Coles and Harriet Helwig served a delightful lunch. Janice Harris was courtesious convener.

At work
Cons. Nick Farion, of the Acton O.P.F., who was injured in an accident, is back at work now, undertaking light duties with the Burlington detachment.

LISTEN CLOSE
"My Dears," gushed the matron at the bridge party, "my resolution this year is never to repeat gossip, so for heaven's sake listen carefully the first time."

ANY OFFERS?
"You look tired."
"I am. I've been all over town trying to get something for my husband."
"Had any offers?"

Santa visitor at U.C.W. fair

The United Church Women held a very successful Santa Fair Saturday afternoon in the Y.M.C.A., raising over \$200. Santa was there in person by the decorated tree, chatting quietly to children who gathered up the courage to come close. This year's Santa, Donald Wells brought along his own natural beard, adding authenticity to the U.C.W.'s traditional visitor.

Baking, bazaar items, rummage and white elephants all sold well. Soft drinks, coffee and hot dogs were available. The members packed up about 4 when everything was sold, except for the last of the rummage which went to Mrs. Jensen for the Unitarian Services.

Mrs. J. Conroy heads Auxiliary

One of the prime items on the agenda of the November meeting of L'Arche Auxiliary was the elections of the executive for 1971. The meeting was held Nov. 25 at the Acton Public Library and was opened with a prayer by Mrs. Conroy.

Christmas. A donation has been sent to the Sunshine school and to Adult Rehabilitation Centre workshop to assist them with their Christmas parties. They are wished much happiness and success.

Four local youths residing in the Ontario hospital school in Orillia will be sent gifts for

Smorgasbord for Daughters

The Daughters of Knox held their Christmas meeting beginning with a very delicious smorgasbord held at the home of Mrs. Harold Swallow on Monday evening.

Preparations are under way for the "Spring Dance" to be held Feb. 27 at the Acton Legion. Anyone wishing further information can contact Mrs. J. Conroy at 853-2063.

The executive for 1971 is as follows:
President Mrs. J. Conroy; vice president Mrs. J. Kulken, treasurer Mrs. R. Lausten, secretary-president secretary - Mrs. P. Garton, correspondence secretary Mrs. J. Rae.

Once again members extend a welcome to anyone with a retarded child or interested in assisting with the training and rehabilitation of retarded children and adults. The next meeting will be held at the Public Library Jan. 27 at 8.00.

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