



Sideroad 5 Jo-Jo — the acrobatic Siamese

with Jennifer Barr

"The oldest cat in Acton" — that's how Joyce Carpenter describes Jo-Jo, her 22 year old Siamese.

He probably is. Jo-Jo is probably pretty old for a Siamese living anywhere, although I've been unable to find definite numbers on the lifespan of a Siamese cat.

The Book of Knowledge states a domestic cat may live to be 17 and we've all known cats up in that area of age. Some Siamese, a longer lived cat than ordinary, live into their early 20s.

But there's no doubt, Jo-Jo is an old old man — "He remembers the Boer War," says Joyce. He even looks like an old cat with rheumy eyes and arthritic limbs.

Joyce bought Jo from a Guelph pet store in mid-October of 1956. She got quite a "telling off" from the bus driver who didn't think Grey Coach should transport kittens in a box, even if he was with his owner.

Since then Jo-Jo has shaped the lives of Joyce and husband Jack, as only a Siamese can. He was joined a couple of years later by Ikey, another Siamese male kitten who was adopted by the maternal Jo-Jo. Ikey was dragged around

until he was a large cat by Jo convinced that he was still incapable of walking far.

The Carpenters couldn't have a Christmas tree for years because of the mischievousness of Siamese cats. Jack recalls coming into the living room one Christmas when they did have a tree and seeing two bright eyes among the lights by the Christmas fairy. Before he could be coaxed down, Jo-Jo (or maybe it was Ikey) took a flying leap out of the tree onto the bookcase but he had a string of lights draped across his chest. Panicking, he charged around dragging lights spinning off the tumbling tree in a shower of tinsel and glass balls.

Jo, being typically Siamese, rarely touched the ground but travelled the house by way of door tops, windows, shelves and fridges. His favourite sleeping place was on top of the kitchen door, lazily swiping hair pieces as they passed him by.

In one of his fits of drepavity one day Jo was haring round the house, upstairs, downstairs, into the bathroom, over the toilet, into the bathtub, (skitter, skitter on the polished surface), and off again.

Jack sneaked into the bathroom and filled the tub with two inches of water. The next time Jo made his top-speed round there were footprints

on the ceiling as Jo leapt into the water and straight up. He kept going round walls and surfaces totally unnerved.

"It was terribly funny but we had to clean the whole house," laughs Joyce.

The Carpenters have had the problems of clean-up many times — such as the time both cats got the toilet roll off the holder and shredded it in every room. Or helped stick all Joyce's world stamps in her album. Or played Santa's helper during gift wrapping.

Jack regularly had assistance shaving in the morning as both cats (Ikey is now deceased), would sit on the closed toilet conversing with him. One day, they leapt up to discover the cover wasn't closed — dunked Kitty!

Siamese are more like dogs than cats. Ikey and Jo-Jo would retrieve toys and socks like a canine. Joyce used to take Jo for a walk on a collar and lead until she got a summons for not paying her dog license.

It'll be a sad day for the Carpenters when Jo-Jo leaves to join Ikey, but seeing as he's made it this far, he may go on for years. Anyway when the time comes, I hope there's some toilet rolls and Christmas trees waiting with Ikey so Jo will be able to have fun again.



Receive diplomas

David and Elyse Chapman of 26 Storey Dr., recently received their Registered Industrial Accountant diplomas. David is the son of Mr. and Mrs. John Chapman, Acton, and is employed as plant manager at Gemtex, Concorde, Ontario. Elyse is employed at Redpath in Toronto. The diplomas were earned over a five year period, while they continued with their jobs. David attended Robert Little school and John F. Ross high school in Guelph. Elyse attended schools in Toronto.



Susan Palichuk, winner for the second year in a row of second prize in an international art competition, stands beside her first oil painting, a lighthouse on a rocky coast.

Resident takes second international art prize

Halton Hills resident Susan Palichuk has won second place in an international art contest for the second year in a row.

The 22-year-old, who lives on the Fourth Line, Halton Hills, near Acton, took second place in landscape for her oil rendering of Georgetown's Berwick Hall in the 1978 Annual Art Competition of Art Instruction schools of Minneapolis, Minnesota, a correspondence school she enrolled in almost three years ago.

The year before, Susan, who works as a floral designer at Webbs Florist in Norval, took second prize in the animal category with a painting of a cougar's head.

Painting is "more a hobby than anything," she said in a recent interview.

"You do it when you have time." She's done "20 or so" paintings.

Oddly enough, her painting of Berwick Hall was done before she entered the correspondence course, which she praised as emphasizing practical aspects of art.

Her award winning painting will be reproduced in The Illustrator, a bi-annual publication of the school. She noted that among the famous alumni of the school is Charles Schultz, creator of Peanuts.

Miss Palichuk won \$25 for second place and although the money is not a large sum, the recognition over entries from every state in the union, all ten provinces and foreign countries as well was satisfying.

Council approves grant for crests

A \$200 grant from the town of Halton Hills will be received by the Acton Minor Hockey Association for the purchase of crests for Acton Centennial Atom Hockey Tournament.

Tournament chairman Bill Knight made the request to Halton Hills council, pointing out they have given the grant for the past four years. A letter to council from Mr. Knight noted the tournament is being held March 23-24 and 25, and will host 16 teams with 300 hockey players ages nine and ten. Net proceeds from the tourney, the letter said, are donated to minor hockey in Acton and Esquesing.

Councillor Roy Booth was the only one opposed to giving them the grant at this time. He said there is a budget for this

type of grant, but it has not been finalized yet.

Councillor Harry Levy pointed out to Mr. Booth that the tournament is in March and the budget will not be passed by that time.

"We have to let these people know whether we are going to give them any money. There is no sense then ordering the crests now only to find we have no money for them. It is a question of timing."

It was suggested recommendations be passed a year in advance so the confliction with the budget would not occur again. However, council decided they could not spend another council's money in advance.

Mr. Booth was the only one not in favor of the grant.

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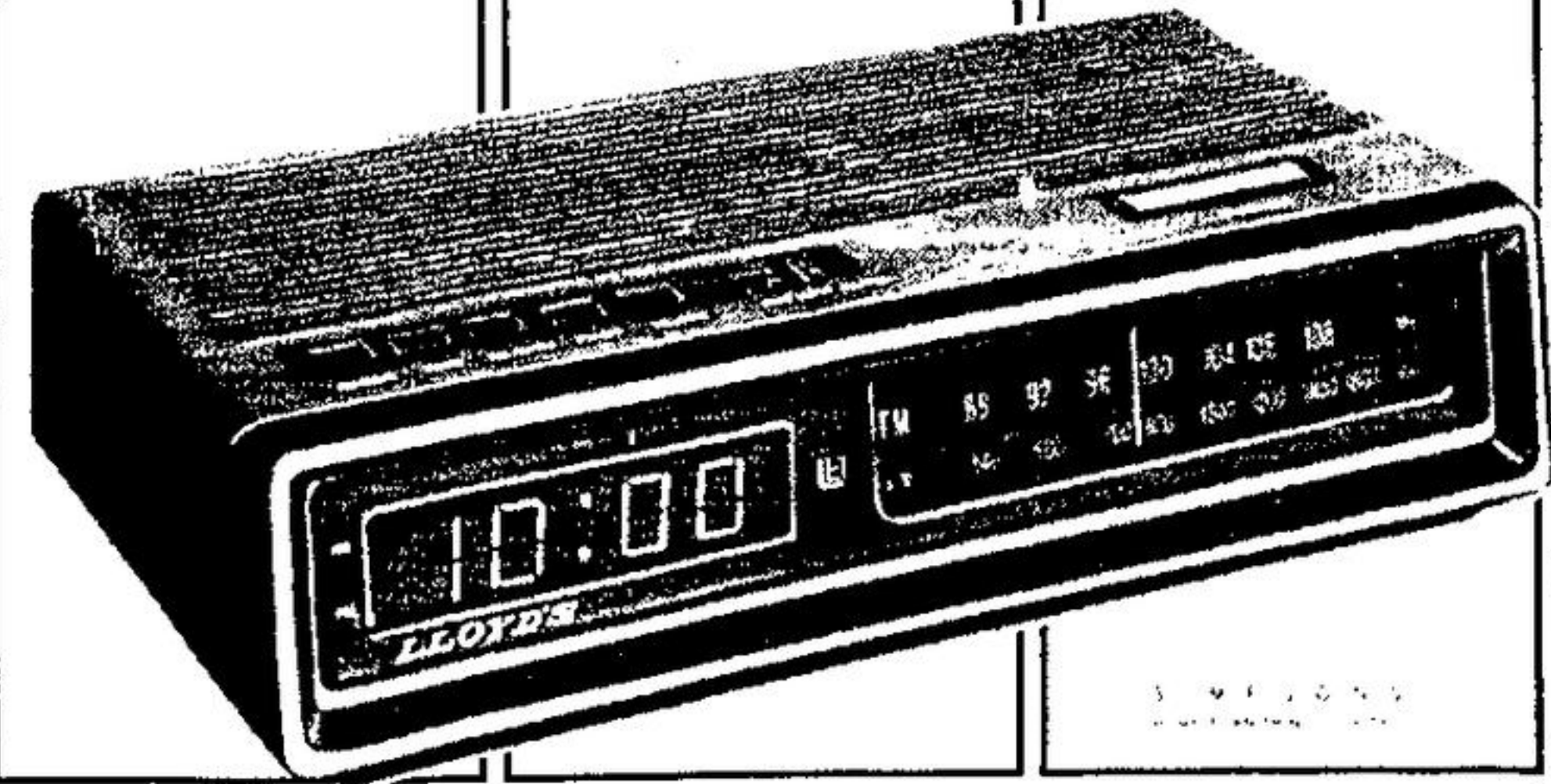
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