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## Sequel To A Turtle Story!

RECENTLY "The Liberal" told the story of a pet turtle which, after being lost was recovered and restored to its owner as a result of a Small Ad. in "The Liberal". That was not however the end of the story. Later a young girl very excitedly told this journal, "If you think a lost turtle makes news, you will surely be interested in a local boy who keeps real live snakes!" "Snakes — snakes in Richmond Hill?" we queried! "Oh, yes, real live snakes just like I said," replied the girl. "He has a whopping great BOA CONSTRICTOR too now," she added as though that settled it.



PETER SALE

Well, of course, we just had to investigate this matter. A boa-constrictor around Richmond Hill, whatever next? Our informant kindly took us round to see the boy who keeps "real live snakes". Eighteen year old Peter Sale, who is a mere 5 ft. 11 inches in his socks and weighs 135 lbs. lives at 223 Beechey Drive, Beverly Acres, Richmond Hill. His father, Peter Sale Sr., is a radio technician. His mother, Mrs. Lily Sale keeps the home. Peter has two brothers, David aged 17 and Michael aged 5, plus one sister Freda aged 8 years.

Called on Peter, we were showing on the basement of his home. In these remote quarters a professional job has been carried through in fitting up a miniature zoo. Sure enough there was the Boa Constrictor! Peter pointed out the other and smaller snakes but said, "The Boa is the easiest to handle". Suiting action to the word he opened up the cage, and, reaching casually in, picked the coiled snake up in his hands and withdrew it. It immediately coiled itself around his neck and shoulders and slithered round and round Peter's body. He caressed it lovingly and tickled its throat in intimate fashion. The Boa stretched out its neck and extended its fangs in our direction, "just making friends" said Peter but we moved hastily out of range. "Does it bite?" asked another little guest? "Well, it hasn't been known to YET!" replied Peter.

The Boa Constrictor, not fully grown is approximately five feet six long at present and perhaps 18 inches in circumference at its widest part. Peter has had this snake for a year. Vicious Rat Snake We were then introduced to a rather vicious appearing yellow rat or chicken snake. Even Peter treated this specimen with some respect. It began to spit fiercely as soon as the cage was opened and a hand extended. More friendly were the two garter snakes which Peter then took from their cage and passed around. They actually seemed to enjoy themselves as the young guests passed them from hand to hand. "Quite harmless", declared Peter in reply to a question. While all this was going on, Trixie, a large black combination Labrador spaniel and one of Peter's more usual pets sat up rigidly in front of a large cage containing a score of Golden Hamsters (which Peter uses to feed his Boa) and licked his cheeks as if in anticipation. Trixie has been a member of the family for seven years and takes snakes in the home for granted after this long experience. The miniature zoo also includes a 50 gallon aquarium of tropical fish.

The Boa and the Chicken snake came together, being bought and imported from Florida last year. Traveled On Subway When the snakes arrived, Peter cleared them through American Customs in Toronto, then carried them home via Subway and bus to Richmond Hill on his knees (in a box). The snake Peter kept the longest is one of the garter snakes captured locally four years ago. Asked if he gives these creatures pet names, he replied, "No, snakes, hamsters, fish don't have individual names like the dog, Trixie, because so far as the snakes are concerned they have no ears and cannot hear anyway. With the hamsters I want to maintain an impersonal relationship as they are fed to the snakes or sold". And fish are not really pets, explained Peter. They're just a hobby. Peter has been educated locally and hopes to have passed Grade XIII at Richmond Hill High School this year. (Results have not yet been published). His first snake was a small garter snake which he caught in the grounds of the summer cottage of a friend at Lake Simcoe. It surprised Peter a good deal when it was discovered to be a female and went on to deliver no less than 30 young. Peter has been interested in snakes ever since. His ambition lies in the direction of becoming a biologist with a special interest in herpetology (the study of snakes). He says that he will always keep snakes as a hobby animal lover; the other children too. Mr. and Mrs. Sale brought their children up in their early years on a farm in Bermuda and believe pets are a desirable appendage in any home, particularly where there are children. They had not however bargained for snakes! Peter says his mother was rather horrified when he brought his first snake home but that over the years she has now come to accept them and "has even picked the garter snakes up and put them back in their cage when she has found them wandering," added Peter.

Asked if he has never felt fear when handling snakes Peter learnedly replied, "It is not natural to be afraid of snakes. Fear of them is a fear snakes. Fear of children is a fear of children. When they are taught fear, when they are taught to be afraid of snakes, they are afraid of snakes. When I was 11 I was taken to South Africa from England and to Bermuda. In these places there are no snakes so that I never came to fear them. There were just lazy great lizards which no-one could possibly be afraid of". "I finally came to Canada when I was 11 and I found my first contact with snakes unusual but very interesting. Finally when I caught my first garter snake five years ago, my parents allowed me to keep it and the hobby has continued to develop since then."

As we were taking our leave from this lad with the unusual hobby, a little better educated on the subject of snakes than when we had arrived, Peter displayed another trait — that he had an eye for business too. "I sell hamsters you know, and they make wonderful pets, and I can obtain for anyone who may be interested almost any type of North or South American reptile. Just contact me anytime you want a Boa Constrictor or anything like that."

**PETER'S BOA CONSTRICTOR**  
As we were taking our leave from this lad with the unusual hobby, a little better educated on the subject of snakes than when we had arrived, Peter displayed another trait — that he had an eye for business too. "I sell hamsters you know, and they make wonderful pets, and I can obtain for anyone who may be interested almost any type of North or South American reptile. Just contact me anytime you want a Boa Constrictor or anything like that."

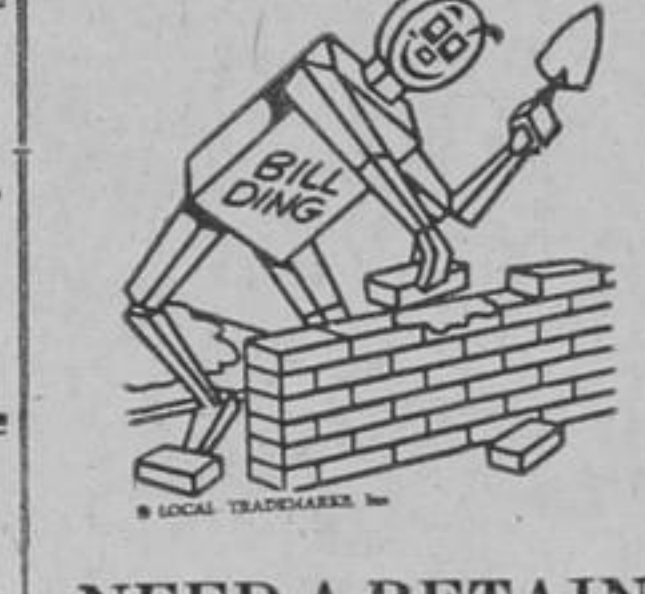
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