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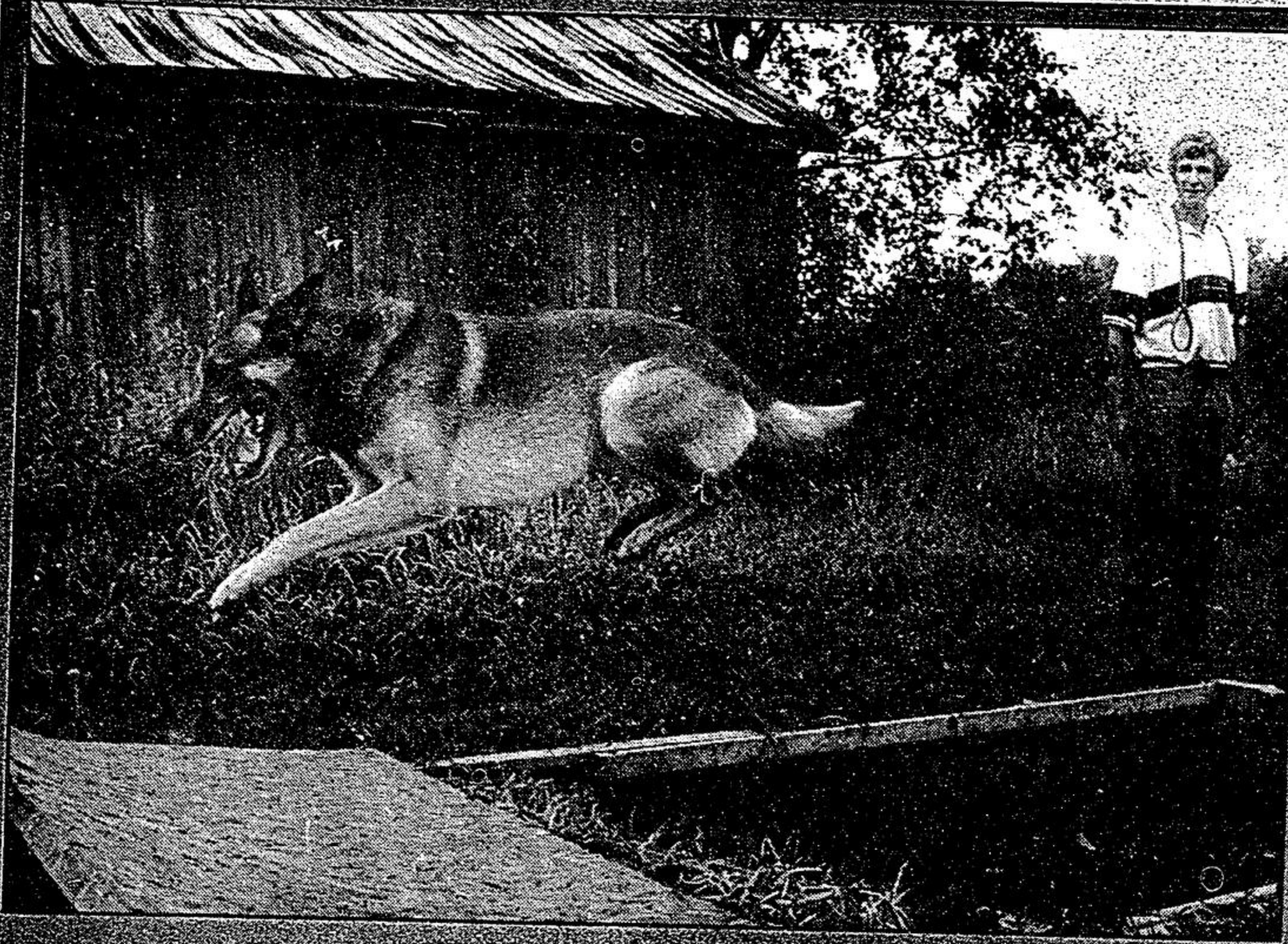


Photo: STEVE SOMERVILLE

Jerry Cudahy and his six-year-old Belgian Malinois walked away with the North American championship ring sport title while in Lansing, Michigan, at the 1992 North American Ring Sport Championships recently. Here, Rocky leaps over an obstacle in training.

Stouffville trainer first at dog ring sport championship

TRACY KIBBLE
Staff Reporter

It was a crowning victory in the U.S. for Rocky, and his owner Jerry Cudahy of Stouffville this past weekend.

Cudahy and his six-year-old Belgian Malinois walked away with the North American championship ring sport title while in Lansing, Michigan, at the 1992 North American Ring Sport Championships.

Rocky is the first Canadian canine ever to win the prestigious crown, which usually goes to one of the many sport enthusiasts from states such as California, Florida, Wisconsin, Maine and Michigan who annually attend the competition. Cudahy said this week.

"It's not because Canadian is a good dog," he said. "It's just because the dog believes in a whole lot of things on the sport court."

Cudahy said he has played many other sports, but he has never enjoyed anything more than this.

Rocky is a 16-foot-wide pit, then master a second jump over a hurdle.

(See Champion Page 3)



O'Connor says constituents are top priority

In wake of his resignation, area MPP admits there is room for improvement in environment ministry policy

TRACY KIBBLE
Staff Reporter

If choosing sides is what it all comes down to, Durham/York MPP Larry O'Connor chose the people - and trashed his duties for Environment Minister Ruth Grier.

O'Connor announced late Monday that he owes his loyalties to the voters first - even if the move places his career in "limbo," and knocks a wedge off his pay cheque.

O'Connor's resignation as Grier's assistant put him in the eye of the political storm, he said, leaving him powerless on both sides.

"This is something I had to do - my constituents were feeling let down, really down," O'Connor told the Weekender from his modest Sutton constituency office yesterday.

O'Connor said being placed in the local hot seat "felt lousy," and kept him awake at night too many times.

"It got to be an unfortunate situation. People were angry - I knew that. But some were threatening my staff and phoning my wife at night - saying not very nice things," O'Connor said.

He admits he didn't know what he was getting into when he was appointed to the position two years ago.

"I wasn't sure what the job entailed," O'Connor said.



O'CONNOR

Although he admitted public pressure played a major role in the biggest decision of his political career, O'Connor said he also has questions of the IWA and its policies.

Being a member of Grier's staff meant O'Connor had to sit on his hands in the legislature, something he said, made him uneasy.

"Everytime something came up that I knew my constituents wanted answers to - I couldn't respond. I felt like people were saying 'Why doesn't he stand up and say something?'"

But clearing his desk from the ministry doesn't mean O'Connor will wear green suits and buttons and wave anti-dump banners in the legislature, he said.

"I'm not going to cross the floor. I still don't think it's wrong to be dealing with this issue - it's never been handled properly (by other governments) before."

(See MPP Page 3)

Barbecue
to assist
United Way

The town is holding a Mayor's Barbecue in the town square Mon., Sept. 21 from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. The town-sponsored annual event will donate all proceeds of the feast to the United Way. Everyone is invited to enjoy a hamburger, drink and a donut for \$2.

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