

Kanine Korner

By Francis X. Lohmann

Dogs have played a role in books, movies, on television, and in advertising for as long as those media have existed. Through the years the memorable characters have gained a kind of "immortality" and many people have been influenced in buying their family pet by seeing or remembering a canine "star" or personality.

The comic strips have always been a haven for rather odd-looking dogs. Little Orphan Annie and her dog, Sandy, have brought many a tear to eyes which could plainly see how fortunate circumstances were that this dis-eyed girl found a disc-eyed

dog, who could protect her from the ever imminent disasters she faces.

The scatter-brained Dagwood and Blondie, too, seem lucky to have found a dog like Daisy, who could share the chaotic atmosphere of the Bumstead residence and still be in shape to bark at the postman every morning. Where else could such canine characters find happiness?

ANYONE who has read James Thurber's books can simply close his eyes and picture a "Thurber" dog. You can't buy one, they're not in any registry, but these dogs are as definite and true to type as any

purebred flesh and blood dog could be. In appearance and personality, these dogs are unmistakable and any one of them can start you laughing with just a wag of his imaginary tail—which will undoubtedly knock over an imaginary vase unto mother's favorite white rug.

Every generation has its canine "stars." Some have managed to bridge the gaps and remain popular year after year. Lassie, the ever beautiful, the indefatigable heroine of countless episodes, has managed to retain their heroic stature through books, movies, and, now, television. If man ever reaches the moon, he will undoubtedly find Lassie perched on the edge of a crater, silhouetted in the earth light.

BOWSER BROWSINGS: — In Switzerland a dog can travel by season ticket, which includes his photo,

on any public conveyance. How about that?

Here's a bit of double standard thinking to delve in. In Colorado, dog stealing is punishable by 10 years imprisonment; dog killing by 6 months and a \$500 fine. Unbelievable!

Lord Byron immortalized the beloved dog when he wrote for posterity — "Beauty without vanity, strength without insolence, courage without ferocity, and all the virtues of man without his vices." And Dr. Boris Levinson, the famed psychologist, once said of dogs—"A good form of psychotherapy, the house pet, particularly the dog, is more important to man psychologically than in any other direction. The dog helps humans to fill needs for loyalty, trust, respect, obedience and submission..."

On walks with her owner, David T. Marke of New York City, Moisselle, a miniature poodle, shows a nose

for money—she has sniffed out over \$75 in coins and bills in the streets. About the only thing my Gordon Setter, Lady Heather, ever finds are old shoes and other varied items of worthless disregard.

UNTIL THE last decade of the 17th Century, the Greyhound was known as the Greekhound or Greek Dog... Infectious hepatitis, a liver disease, has various symptoms. These include vomiting, excessive thirst, diarrhea and a fever that comes and goes.

The United Australian Shepherd Ass'n is a new bow wow organization encompassing the Australian Shepherd breed of dog. If the Aussie be your barking favorite or if you would like to know more about this tremendous citizen of caninesville and about the ass'n itself, write to Natalie Machlis, 5720 Sunflower Avenue, Glendora, Calif. 91740.

Strange as this might sound, in the 6th Century there were dogs that guided the blind... India's new premier, Mme. Indira Gandhi is the proud owner of a pair of eye-catching Golden Retrievers... Add this statistic to your collection—only one dog in six million reaches stardom in movies or TV. Of course, all beloved dogs are self-styled stars in the canine universe.

BREED OF THE Week: Akita — This is the first time I've turned the golden spotlight on the Akita as the Breed of the Week. The Akita is a fine breed of dog and the largest of several Japanese contributions to dogdom.

The breed takes his name from the Prefecture of Akita, located at the northern end of the island of Honshu, where he was developed primarily for hunting on that cold, rocky and, for the most part, undesirable terrain.

The Akita was conceived via the bloods of two other native Japanese breeds, the Kari and the Tosa and the original Chinese Chow Chow. It is possible, too, as many dog authorities contend, that the Tibetan Mastiff had an honorable paw in his ancestry. The Akita breed is approximately 100 years old. One of the most interesting of all dogs, the early Akitans were so rare and expensive, only members of the royal set could own one. It is further interesting to note that each dog was served by an attendant and pomp and ceremony surrounded such ordinary actions as eating, exercising and training.

ADDITIONALLY, there is much spiritual significance attached to the Akita. In his native land of Japan he is affectionately regarded as a protector of the home and as a loyal pet and bosom companion. The Akita is considered the

symbol of good health. For example, when a man is ill his friends send him a statue of an Akita to express a sincere wish for a speedy recovery. Sometimes a family receives a small carved replica of an Akita to celebrate the birth of a child.

The Akita combines good nature, dignity, courage, alertness, docility and a deep seated love for children. He is extremely affectionate and sensitive to kindness and invariably thrives on human companionship. The Akita adores his master. If you are looking for a pet that has the courage of a lion, the gentleness of a lamb, and the canine wisdom to know the difference, I can unhesitatingly recommend the Akita.

The Akita Club of America has done much to promote the breed in America. For further Akita info—call Marion Wright at 534-0165.

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