

# Kanine Korner

By Francis X. Lohmann

Recently I paid a visit to a treasured friend of mine, Leo A. Handel, at his plush offices on Sunset Strip. Leo heads a film corporation. Leo Handel is also an avid dog lover and the author of the best selling book "A Dog Named Duke," a series of adventure stories of police dogs in action — soon to be made into a motion picture.

Leo Handel recently arrived back on our shores from a two months trip to Sweden where he shot a motion picture about this beautiful Scandinavian country. It is not surprising that this triple-threat showman, an expert on K-9 corps dogs made arrangements with the Stockholm police to shoot a film about their famous canine corps. Leo screened for me this footage. Obviously, it was of special in-

terest to this reporter, but I believe that these beautiful, powerful German Shepherds would appeal to everyone who loves dogs.

Leo's ever-grinding camera visited first the training camp of the Stockholm bow wow section. The dogs went through a close order drill that has to be seen to be believed. And that's for dogs gone sure! The coordination of the dogs and their respective handlers is superb. Then some of the dogs demonstrated pursuit and immobilization techniques that made me happy I was not a law breaker in Stockholm.

IN THE field the dog unit consists of two handlers, two dogs and a radio-station wagon equipped with a special com-

partment for the unfortunate suspects who are caught by these effective dog-man teams.

One unusual facet was brought to my attention by Leo Handel. The Stockholm police dogs are basically very good natured animals. They go into action upon command. But as soon as the action is completed — for example a criminal immobilized — the dogs revert to their benign behavior and can be petted and handled by anyone, including the suspect. Most other police dogs are hostile towards strange people except their handler, his family and friends.

Like in practically most other K-9 corps the Stockholm police dogs are assigned to one handler. The dogs live with an officer and his family, not in a general kennel.

ASIDE from routine patrols and arrests the Stockholm dogs have accomplished some unusual deeds. The most famous one was the tracking of a hold-up man (yes, they have them in Sweden, too), two miles across town, through all sorts of heavy traffic into a subway station. The gunman was apprehended just as he was about to board a train. I'll betcha this man's feelings about dogs are not the same as yours and mine.

Wouldn't such a canine corps unit be most effective in the City of Los Angeles and other Southern California communities? Early next year this by-liner in cooperation with Leo Handel will launch another campaign in behalf of the provenly effective K-9 corps.

**BOWSER BROWSINGS** — My heartfelt thanks to Larry Andrews for picturing this reporter and Gen. Omar Bradley on the cover of the current issue of the National Humanitarian. I'm greatly honored in sharing a magazine cover with Gen. Omar Bradley. Personable Larry Andrews heads up the National Humanitarian League, publishers of the National Humanitarian Magazine — a potent force in combating dreaded vivisection. Readers are invited to

write to the National Humanitarian Magazine at 2610 West Wethersfield Road, Phoenix, Ariz. 95029.

Abbie, a Maltese, owned by James Evans of St. James, Mich., was found hardy and well after being lost for three days and traveling four miles on snowbound, frozen shores of Lake Michigan . . . Winners at dog shows in the Soviet Union get medals instead of ribbons . . . It is interesting to note that a dog's brain reaches maturity at 6 to 8 months of age; the average age for man is 12 to 13 years.

MANY CAFE-goers like to take home the leftover meat from their plates for their dog or cat, or so they say, and they are given "Bones for Bowser" bags. But out at Rand's steak house on Wilshire Blvd., they look life right in the eye. They know where the tidbits really go, so instead they give you a "People Bag."

Following his day in the sun in the 80s and 90s, the Pug became all but extinct in America and was seldom seen even at the largest dog shows. The Pug did not die out, however, and lately he has returned to popular favor, both as a pet and a show-dog.

The Pug is of Chinese origin, as are most of the small breeds having pushed in noses, rather large heads and curly tails. He first became known in other parts of the world at the time the Dutch East India Company was at the height of its activity in trade with the Orient during the 17th Century. Many Pugs came to Holland from China at that time. The Dutch people liked the breed and he became known as the Dutch Pug. From Holland the breed spread to England and eventually to America.

It may be that the present nostalgic interest in all things Victorian has had something to do with the revival of interest in the Pug, but it is more likely that the public has finally realized it has been overlooking a quaintly distinctive, companionable little dog.

The Pug tips the scales at about 16 pounds and in height 11 inches.

Listen to Francis X. Lohmann's radio version of Kanine Korner, Monday through Friday at 4:15 p.m. over station KTYM 1460 kcs.

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