

Dog Control Officer Kept Busy In Week



STRAY DOGS—Poking against the wire fence around their pen are four strays. These dogs are separated from owned dogs in the four-pen pound. Anyone wanting a dog may have his choice from those in the pens, paying 25

cents feed charge for the number of days the dog has been at the pound. Hagler keeps lists of persons and descriptions of dogs they would like to own, in case animals matching the descriptions are picked up.

J. Chris Hagler On Call 24 Hours For Homeless Dogs

By DON ROBINSON
Mail Tribune Staff Writer

Man's friend, the dog, is a forlorn creature without the care of man.

In such a state, he wanders homeless and forages for food. Sometimes he kills livestock—sheep, cattle, chickens.

When that happens in Jackson county, the dog becomes a concern of county government. Jackson county's dog control authority is vested in a three-man board, appointed by the county court. The active part of control exercised by the county rests in the dog pound and its keeper, the dog control officer.

The pound is located at 2872 Howard ave., one block diagonally north of Howard school. To get there, one travels Highway 99, north, to the first road past the state police station, then right, to the end of the road about five blocks from the highway.

Square Board Sign

There, a small, square board sign, slightly askew on a fence post, indicates "County Dog Pound."

Behind the sign is a yard, a weeping willow tree, and a white, two bedroom house. A field of grass, a small barn and a cow are to the left of the house. At the right stands an open shed.

Straight back, in the center of a gravel driveway, sits a tight little hut with one lath-barred window. It resembles a guard house, and serves as food storage room and electrocution chamber.

To the rear of this are dog pens: a 16 by 40 foot concrete floor, divided by Cyclone wire fencing into four equal units. Spread over half the floor area and in the middle is a 16 by 20 foot aluminum shed.

Access Either Way
Each of the four pens are half indoor and half outdoor. Openings in the aluminum walls provide access either way.

The entire property covers slightly more than an acre, and is county owned.

A personable young man of 23, J. Chris Hagler, is dog control officer. He's held the job since March, 1956. He, his wife, and their three sons occupy the house.

Hagler's duties are listed in state law: impound dogs not licensed, reduce damage by dogs to livestock, make arrests of dog law violators, collect license fees, and investigate claims against the dog license fund.

Claims are made by county residents whose stock has been killed by dogs. The county pays a compensation. This runs from \$15 for a sheep to 75 cents for a chicken.

On 24-Hour Call

The dog control officer is on call 24 hours a day. He is supposed to work a six-day week, but usually finds Sundays partly occupied.

His work begins when the telephone rings. A call could send him with rifle to a pasture where dogs are killing sheep. Or, as happens more often, with snare to a residence for a stray.

He travels in a yellow panel truck, with a wood and wire cage in the back. He built the cage, and the snare (an old shovel handle with a rope loop at the end) that he uses on wilder dogs.

After being bitten three times handling dogs by the nape of the neck, Hagler now grabs them by both ears to get them into the cage. They're not hurt, but from time to time a passerby (generally a woman) will see the operation and phone complaints of cruelty to city police, the county court, the Humane society or Hagler himself.

Checks Licenses

If few calls come in, Hagler drives or walks from house to houses, checking dogs for licenses.

Dog owners in the county have from January through February of each year to buy licenses. The fee is \$1.50. A \$1 penalty is attached thereafter, if the dog is eight months or more of age.

The control officer can issue licenses on the spot, or give citations allowing about 10 days to buy a license.

Hagler testifies that "the public is a funny thing." Persons of



ELECTROCUTION WIRES—Hanging from a wall inside the death house at the pound are ends of the wire used in electrocuting unwanted dogs. The hut serves also as food storage room. Sacks of meal are in the background.

lower incomes are on the average more willing to pay than those more able.

Hagler knows one Ashland resident who had just beaten a \$5 traffic fine at a cost of \$75 for court charges. The man had an unlicensed dog, and intended to leave it so.

He was issued a citation. Immediately, he contacted his lawyer and was told the law offered no escape. Reluctantly, he gave Hagler \$2.50 and received the small metal tag for his dog.

Enforcing the license law is a task to keep plugging at, not to complete. Hagler says that one man on foot might cover Medford adequately in a year. But Hagler's ward is the entire county, and licensing duties are combined with livestock protection and collection of strays.

Biggest Headache

The officer's biggest headache is created by people who "dump" animals. Dogs and cats are left in gunny sacks and boxes, or freed on foot by roadsides.

These soon become strays, public nuisances and helpless. Other county law officers—city police, sheriff's officers, constables—aid Hagler whenever possible, either calling him or bringing in strays.

Lambing season is the worst for livestock trouble. During one spring, dogs killed 38 sheep in one week. Hagler spends much time waiting for attacking dogs to return to the herds. He catches them if possible, shoots if he must.

A dog is personal property by state law, and the dog officer cannot touch an owned dog, under ordinary circumstances. He

can only cite its owner.

Cats Brought In

Some cats are brought to the pound. They're kept in makeshift cages in the open wood shed.

At the pound, Hagler separates strays from dogs with owners, and females in heat from the rest.

Dog owners who want to be rid of their pets may, for a 25-cent fee, leave them at the pound.

Hagler advertises every dog that enters the pens in the lost-and-found section of Mail Tribune want ads. He keeps all dogs at least five days after they are advertised. If no one claims them or takes them as pets, they are destroyed.

"Killing Day"

Saturday is usually "killing day." The officer leads each dog inside the small, barred-window hut. The floor is covered with straw. One clip at the end of a household 120 volt electric wire goes on the dog's lip, and one is attached underneath its belly.

Hagler flips a switch. There is no noise. In three to five seconds, the dog is dead.

Carcasses are loaded into the panel truck and transported to the Medford municipal garbage dump for cremation, at 25 cents per dog.

This June, 219 dogs were destroyed. In July it was 196, and in the first two weeks this month, 105 had been done away with.

Persons Visit Pound

More than 100 persons per week visit the pound looking for new pets. New owners pay only a 25-cent feed charge for the

number of days the dogs have been in the pens.

Hagler keeps a list of persons' names and descriptions of dogs they would like to have. If he picks up a dog matching a description, he notifies the prospective owner.

Each morning, the dog control officer hoses out the pens. Sewage runs off to the side into a grass covered ditch of standing water, overflow from a neighbor's irrigation.

Hagler hopes a new pound will be built and although no definite steps have been taken, the board acknowledges that one is in the "talking stage."

The present pound was brought inside the city limits by the Berrydale annexation.

Septic Tank Wanted

In the meantime, Hagler wants the county to install a septic tank for the pens. At the last meeting of the control board such action was disapproved.

Sitting on the board today are W. H. Arnold, route 1, Medford; Charles Cingade, Pioneer rd., and Warren Bayliss, chairman, 5758 Crater Lake ave.

Arnold is a farmer and fruit grower, Cingade is a farmer, and Bayliss manages the cold storage plant at Myron Root and company.

Cingade has the longest membership, at "16 or 18 years"; Arnold has been on 10 years, and chairman Bayliss has served 2½ years.

The board sets Hagler's salary, appropriates other moneys to the pound, and decides upon livestock claims. All claims are paid out of the dog license fund. Any fund reserves over \$1,000 at Jan. 1 each year are transferred to the general county fund.

Start of Year

At the beginning of fiscal year

1956-57 (July 1, 1956) there was a balance of \$4,474.62 in the dog license fund. Receipts from licenses for the year were \$7,750. Disbursements were \$8,983.68.

By June 30, 1957, the fund had a balance of \$3,240.94. For his services, Hagler receives a monthly salary of \$225, plus penalty money, free rental of the house, and eight cents a mile traveling compensation. He logs two to three thousand miles per month on the job.

Just this April, his salary was raised from \$175 per month.

Hagler has no veterinary training. He got the job through the recommendation of his grandfather, D. Jones, route 2, box 363C, Medford, who served as dog control officer for nearly three years, from 1953 to 1956.

Hagler likes dogs, and has always had one or more of his own. Today he keeps three hounds, a Redbone, a Beagle, and a Walker, and a Siberian husky.

The hounds he enters in field trials and uses to run coons and wild cats.

Threatened Walkout Averted in New York

New York (AP)—A threatened walkout by 1,200 milktruck drivers that would cut off 95 per cent of the New York area's milk supply was averted for at least the week end early Saturday.

Negotiators for the Teamsters Union and employers broke off talks for the week end without reaching agreement.

Although the union had threatened to instruct its members to walk off their jobs at midnight Saturday, the drivers were told to continue pickups and deliveries until Monday.

This Week's HISTORY MYSTERY



What Part Did This Medal Play in Oregon's History?

CLUE: These medals were made in three sizes and grades. This is the largest and was most preferred because it bears the likeness of President Thomas Jefferson. The reverse side shows the clasped hands, pipe and war axe crossed, with the legend "Peace and Friendship."

ANSWER: Such medals were carried by Captains Lewis and Clark for distribution to Indian chiefs that they met during their journeys. The remains of an original chief's medal was found on an island in the Columbia River northeast of Hermiston in the 1890's. It is now on display at the Oregon Historical Society.

This column is presented weekly for the furtherance of historical interest and education by the

OREGON HISTORICAL SOCIETY
Portland, Oregon

The Selection Room

Plainly marked prices, so it isn't necessary for a funeral director to invade family privacy while they make their selection from among inexpensive wood to enduring metal.

"The best costs no more, why accept less?"

Conger-Morris

FUNERAL DIRECTORS
W. MAIN AT SIXTH

GRANDVIEW-LONE PINE Alaska Resident Returns

By LILLIAN KNIGHT

Grandview-Lone Pine — Miss Diane Brower left for her home in Anchorage, Alaska, after being a guest at the W. A. Strawn home. On her way here she attended the Lutheran league convention in Missoula, Mont.

While here she visited with Mr. and Mrs. W. A. Hanscom in Phoenix, her grandmother and great grandmother in Ashland, Mrs. Hazel Leslie, and Mrs. Ezra Johnson. Mr. and Mrs. L. J. Leslie of Gustine, Calif., came to the Strawn home to see her. She is a niece of Mrs. Strawn.

Mr. and Mrs. W. A. Strawn returned recently from a two-week vacation visiting relatives in and near Eugene.

A boy, Charles Scott, was born to Mr. and Mrs. Richard Davis. He was born Aug. 6 and weighed 7½ pounds.

Mr. and Mrs. George Knight

and sons, Bob and David, of Palmdale, Calif., are visiting at the home of his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Dick Knight, and other relatives and friends in the valley.

Mr. and Mrs. Norman Jahn and family returned Tuesday from a five-week vacation through the Southern states and visiting relatives and friends in Denver, South Dakota, and Kentucky. They spent most of their time in St. Petersburg, Fla., where they visited Jahn's folks.

HIBISCUS

Hardy Giant — 8 in. to 10 in. Flowers
Select Colors Now for Fall Planting

LEWIS NURSERY

Jacksonville—Turn right at drug store, ¼ mi. north on Old Stage Road

Midget hearing aid concealed in hair keeps her secret

TONEMASTER
BARRETTE HEARING AID

Here for the first time anywhere in the world is a barrette hearing aid designed for you to conceal completely in your hair. You can clip the Tonemaster Barrette on in seconds... just as you would a regular hair ornament. You'll hear as never before. Sounds come in clear and strong without any trace of annoying clothing noise. Try the new Tonemaster Barrette... a completely new experience in hearing.

YOUR TONEMASTER DEALER IS

George E. White

HEARING AIDS

131 West Main • Medford, Oregon
Phone or Write for FREE DEMONSTRATION in Your Home—SP 3-1841