

Trained as attack dog

Former pet has only one master now

Shane will always remember Judy but she will be a faint memory at best.

As the final test in his training as a police dog, the 2½-year-old German shepherd must attack the woman that raised him from a puppy.

And even though it may be a hard bond to break, as the love for a pet often is, Judy Rocheleau of 4875 S. Elkton

Road realizes it is for the best.

As a police dog, Shane can only have one master, and his new master and partner will be Kevin Kivel.

Kivel, a native of Elkton who recently graduated from Kirtland Community College with a degree in law enforcement, hopes Shane will be an asset in his search for a job on a police force in

this area.

The dog will be Kivel's full-time partner, one the force will not have to pay.

As Kivel's partner, it is Shane's job to protect and aid him at all times and that is where the emotional break with Mrs. Rocheleau is necessary.

Shane is trained to answer the commands of one person and treat all others with a

sense of suspicion. Under orders from Kivel, Shane could go so far as to attack a person attempting to pose as his master, according to Ron Forster, who is training the dog for Kivel.

Shane is not a vicious dog by nature. Under most conditions he is as gentle as the family fido but with one word from Kivel, he leaps into action.

THE DOG HAS BEEN training with Forster of Elkton for three weeks. There are about eight weeks of training left for Shane but Forster has no doubt the dog will be ready for service at the end of that time.

"When I saw what his reactions to the tests were, I knew it was just a matter of time before he got used to Kevin," Forster said.

The dog was first trained for obedience by Mrs. Rocheleau, then by Forster, who is president of the Man-Dog Training Club, of which Mrs. Rocheleau is a member.

He had been asked by Kivel to look for a dog that could be used for police work and saw Shane as a likely prospect. He performed tests for reactions to gunfire, other dogs and strangers and Shane scored 100 percent in all categories.

When looking for a police dog, Forster admitted he had a preference toward German shepherds for a variety of reasons.

They are easily adaptable to warm or cold weather and do not have the reputation for ferocity that goes along with Doberman pinschers,

another often-used guard dog.

Size is also a factor. "When you're talking about a police dog you want something with some size to it. Bigger isn't always better but it is certainly a deterrent (to attacks)," he said.

Size is especially important in this case since Shane is being trained for crowd control.

The psychology factor of a German shepherd staring back at a crowd is often enough to hold any would-be mobs in line.

"It's always the thing of 'Who's going to be the first to take a chance and go up against the dog?'" Forster explained.

FORSTER SAID HE DISLIKED the term "attack dog" used in association with service dogs like Shane. It makes them appear uncontrollable and ready to attack anything, which is not true.

Shane, for instance, is registered in the United States and Canada as a "companion dog" which carries the understanding that he is under control whether he is on a leash or not. However, in the line of duty Shane will never be taken off a leash, Forster stressed.

The rating and the control it entails are necessary should the dog's master be called before a court of law to prove the animal did not

attack someone indiscriminately.

"If you don't have that control, it's like a gun without a safety. You've got nothing, just a vicious dog," Forster said.

The dogs he trains are "professionals" and only obey the commands of the master. To make sure the skills do not slip from the dogs' mind, there is a constant brushing up process they go through.

Forster knows what he is doing.

He has been training dogs for 18 years and worked with a kennel in southern California, where he trained guard dogs for such celebrities as Buck Owens, Foster Brooks and retired General of the Army Omar N. Bradley. He is a native of Elkton.

USING DOGS AS THE only partner for a policeman is a relatively rare occurrence in this area, Kivel said, adding he is not sure why.

"When they hire me, they're getting the dog for nothing," Kivel commented.

Shane will be Kivel's only partner, no other human is necessary whether they are riding in a patrol car or investigating a burglary. Kivel swears Shane is just as reliable as a human partner.

The final test for Shane

will come when he will have broken the "love bond" with those who have trained him, except for Kivel.

When he thinks the dog is ready, Forster will pose as a stranger attempting to harm Kivel. Shane must attack Forster as the trainer rushes

the dog firing a pistol loaded with blanks. He must do the same with Judy, and do it convincingly. Both will wear padding.

Kivel is certain Shane will come through with flying colors. "He's my partner," he proclaimed proudly.



NOT TO BE TOYED WITH -- Though usually kind to his trainer Ron Forster, Shane is restrained by Kevin Kivel from attacking. Forster is impersonating a hostile stranger who could harm Kivel and Shane, at the sound of one word, is ready for action.



UP & OVER -- As part of his training Shane must learn to scale a variety of obstacles. He easily climbed over this stack of barrels which can be piled one tier higher, his trainer said.

Plan now to keep home cool

Those occasional tantalizing hot days we've had this spring should serve as a reminder to make plans to keep your home cool this summer, suggests James A. Albertson, Bay City district manager for Consumers Power Co.

Albertson says there are a number of things you can do to keep cool, even without air conditioning, to help keep down your energy bill. The key to keeping cool lies with the way you use your electric appliances, Albertson says.

1) During the hottest part of the day, try to avoid using your range, dishwasher, clothes dryer or other major appliances which produce heat. Try cooking outdoors as much as possible and use the washing and drying appliances in the early morning or evening. A bonus toward physical fitness can be gained by carrying and hanging clothes on a backyard line to dry instead of using your clothes dryer.

2) Close drapes, blinds and awnings or shades to keep out direct sunlight. Not only will the house stay cooler if you have an air-conditioner, it won't have to run as often.

3) Close off rooms during the day, especially those that face the sun.

4) Open windows and doors in the evening and early morning to take advantage of the cooler outside air. This will also reduce the amount of time you need to operate your air-conditioner.

5) If you need a central cooling source in your home, consider an attic fan which draws air through your house and exhausts it through the attic. It can reduce or eliminate the need for air conditioning.

6) Although adding insulation to your home is primarily intended to retain heat during the winter, insulation also helps block out hot sun rays and helps reduce cooling requirements.

7) If you have central air conditioning, set your thermostat to the warmest comfortable temperature to help cut consumption. For example, raising the temperature from 75 to 80 degrees can save approximately 13

percent on your cooling energy usage.

8) If you have a window air-conditioner, close the hot air registers on your heating system to prevent the cool air from escaping to the basement.

If you are considering buying an air-conditioner this year, Albertson recommends you give some thought to energy efficiency. Window units and compressor sections of central air conditioning systems should be properly sized and placed on the north side or the shaded area of your home to maximize their efficiency.

Be sure to select an air-conditioner with a high energy efficiency ratio (EER). In the long run, this will save money and energy.

EER is determined by dividing the cooling capacity in British thermal units (Btus) per hour by the wattage rating of the unit. A 12,000-Btu per hour unit that is rated at 1,200 watts would have an EER of 10. Such a unit will cost about half as much to operate as one with an EER of 5.

As a rule of thumb, Albertson concludes, an EER of 6 to 7 is fair, 8 to 9 is good and 10 or more is excellent.

Arrest pair for stealing gas

Two female juveniles were apprehended Monday night for apparently siphoning gas from a car owned by Linda S. Young of Cumber Road, Uby.

Cass City police officers said they were informed of a hose and can next to a car parked at the Charming.

Upon arriving, officers found two girls with a hose sitting in a parked car with gasoline spilling from a can underneath the car.

Ms. Young said about four gallons of gas were missing from the tank. The incident occurred at 11:10 p.m.

The suspects were released in the custody of their parents pending action by Probate Court, police said. Their names could not be released due to their juvenile status.

Kristy Deering, 15, of 6457 Houghton Street reported a bike stolen from the corner of Church and Seeger Streets Thursday when she left it for about 10 minutes.

The bike, valued at about \$130, was taken at 12:10 p.m.

Two gold-colored watches, valued at \$20 each, were reported missing last Wednesday by Raymond Spencer of 4215 Sherman Street.

Spencer told police the watches were taken sometime between May 15-25 while Spencer was in the hospital.

Lyda Staples, of 6517 Clothier Road, Kingston, reported malicious damage to her mailbox at 10:10 p.m. Thursday.

She told state troopers she was sitting by a window when a pickup truck with numerous lights pulled up to, then ran into the mailbox.

Troopers said Ms. Staples claimed the damage was intentional and has happened before. She had no idea who could have done the damage, troopers said

EGOTISM

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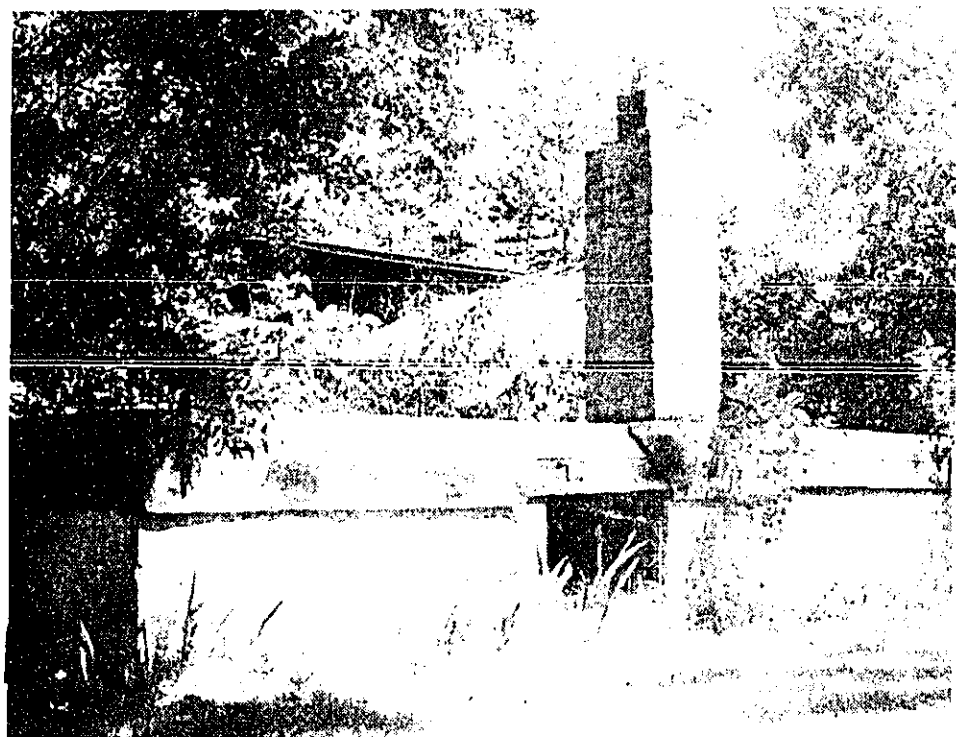
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STILL STANDING -- This dilapidated house, owned by Margaret McNeil of Pontiac, is still standing at the corner of Houghton and Brooker Streets but still is in disrepair. Circuit Judge Patrick Joslyn May 19 gave McNeil 10 days to repair the house. It will now probably be torn down after bids are taken by the county on the demolition job.

Hart wants counties to take over prisons

The chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee has suggested the state solve its prison overcrowding problems by shifting the responsibility from the state to the counties for dealing with non-violent adult offenders.

Jerome Hart (D-Saginaw) said the state would then increase funding to the counties for necessary capital outlay and operating expenses to upgrade and expand their jail programs. He estimated the shift would save the state \$29 million in capital outlay cost and \$13.6 million in annual operating costs.

He said the proposal could reduce the requirements in the state prison systems by approximately 5,800 beds.

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Bible school scheduled

Trinity United Methodist church will sponsor a vacation Bible school June 23-27. The program is open to anyone aged 2 years through the sixth grade and will take place from 9:30-11:30 a.m. at the church.

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