

Daniel's Den



By Emory Daniels

Tales of Toby's summer

The dog days of summer are here again.

I know because I've been spending a lot of hours in the garage recently with long rubber strips, window screen, and a hand tool.

Dog Toby has been at it again. In case you've never read my column before (what are you doing reading it now?) or have just moved to town, Toby is my children's dog.

He is an excellent pet and a well-behaved dog in all but one regard — Toby can't stand being left in the house alone, particularly on warm days or during a thunder storm.

And so when Toby is left alone in the house, he reacts very logically — he escapes to the great outdoors, by leaping through a window screen.

THIS HAS HAPPENED enough that we now take precautions whenever we leave to make sure Toby remains inside while we are gone, and that our window screens remain intact.

Or more simply stated, we close the windows.

And that's become a regular routine before we go anywhere. Some people just check to see that the doors are locked. We also walk through all rooms in the house to make sure the windows and patio door are shut.

But sometimes we forget, especially when the seasons change, like in early spring.

This past May, for instance, we forgot to close the window in my daughter's bedroom before going someplace. When we got back home, Toby was running around the yard (soaking wet from the rain) and the bedroom screen was split down the middle.

I had some extra window screen stored in the garage from the previous summer, along with extra rubber strips and my handy hand-tool. (The hand tool has wheels on each end which are used to shove the rubber strips tightly into the grooves to hold the screen in place). So no expense was involved with the bedroom screen — just about an hour of my time.

THEN ON A hot day in June we all took off for a day in the neighbor's swimming pool and got back home to find Toby resting in the shade under the picnic table.



A search revealed a large hole in the big screen for the bay windows of the living room. I didn't have any surplus screen large enough for this repair, so Toby's second venture cost me some bucks.

But I didn't particularly mind. If you forget to close the windows, you pay. That's the price of growing old.

I was annoyed, though, by Toby's latest voyage. And this venture will cost me more than a roll of window screen. Last week someone (I won't mention who because it's not nice to criticize my wife in my column) left the house and forgot to close the patio door.

When that someone returned, Toby was running around outside — soaking wet from the rainstorm. Because someone didn't want him to mess up the carpet, Toby was placed in the garage to dry up.

So far, so good. It's just a few bucks to buy the window screen for the patio door, and eventually I'd find the time to do the job.

But Toby didn't like being locked up in the garage. Maybe someone didn't

sufficiently explain to Toby he was being locked in the garage to dry up, not for punishment. I don't really know his state of mind.



Penalties and Points

by John Bozzo

Larry Kauzlarich didn't know July is National Hot Dog Month.

"That's news," he said.

Kauzlarich has been working 24 years at the Peter Eckrich & Sons, Inc. distribution center in Redford Township.

Ken Gary did know the special designation July is National Hot Dog Month. A Garden City native, Gary is Eckrich's district manager in Redford.

"We don't do too much with National Hot Dog Month," Gary said. "Sometimes we deliver some POP. Point of Purchase, materials in case a retailer wants to make a feature display. I don't even know who started National Hot Dog Month."

As to who started the hot dog, that's another matter. According to the National Hot Dog and Sausage Council, sausages are mentioned in Homer's Odyssey of 9th century B.C.

Tradition has it that Frankfurt-on-Main, Germany is the birthplace of the hot dog. However, this is disputed by a group which claims that Coburg, Franconia (now Central Germany) is the hot dog's birthplace.

Still other dissidents from Vienna, Austria claim the term "weiner" is positive proof the hot dog originated in their city.

"**WE HAVE 18 ROUTES** pull out of here," Gary said. "We take care of all independents and chain stores around this market area in Southeastern Michigan."

"If we stung every hot dog we delivered in June end to end, it would reach from Redford to the Summit of the Renaissance Center and beyond."

Eckrich is a Port Wayne, Ind. company with most

its business in the midwest. It is also expanding selectively to markets as diverse as Baltimore and Phoenix.

All processed meats delivered from Redford arrive here from the processing plant in Quincy.

Gary wouldn't say how many hot dog's Eckrich sells. "They kind of like to keep that information confidential," he said. He did say hot dog's account for about 15-20 percent of Eckrich's sales.

"All our items are about equally acceptable to the area," Gary said.

Nationwide, 1,645,900,000 pounds of hot dogs are manufactured each year.

The National Hot Dog and Sausage Council calls that figure the "Gross National Hot Dog." It represents 16,459,000,000 hot dogs made yearly.

US families consumed 650 million hot dogs during the 1974, four-day, July 4 weekend. Americans purchase about 1.9 million hot dogs during July.

Once we convert to the metric system, the foot-long hot dog will have to be called the 30.48 centimeter hot dog.

GARY RECALLS HIS nickname at Garden City High School (now Garden City East) was "hot dog."

"I worked in a meat market seven years," explained Gary. He's been with Eckrich 15 years.

The term "hot dog" was coined in 1905 by a newspaperman (Natch). A concessionaire was selling hot dogs from portable hot water tanks at the New York Polo Grounds, yelling: "Get your red hot dachshund sausages!"



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