



CONVERSATION THIRTEEN

Sporty Dog Takes a Snooze



This was a story I only partly remembered, so I listened with great interest.

“Didn’t Sporty Dog like to sleep in people’s cars?” I asked Auntie Margaret.

“That was very embarrassing.”

“For the people or the dog?” I asked, and I couldn’t keep from laughing at my own joke!

“In those days people often left their cars parked and unlocked as they walked uptown to shop. If it was hot, since they had no air conditioning, they would roll down the windows of their cars. My brother and I would be looking around for Sporty, and all of a sudden we would find him taking a nice nap in the back seat of someone’s car, parked alongside our house. It was embarrassing for us.”

“So what would you do when you spotted the dog?”

“We would pull him out of the car. Of course we felt guilty going into someone’s car, but we felt we had to get our dog out.”

“Did Sporty Dog have any other favorite places to sleep?”

“Sporty liked to sleep in the garbage can, on top of the



Margaret in car, 1938

LINDA CHAMPION

garbage,” Auntie Margaret said with a chuckle. “We’d go out to empty the garbage, and you wouldn’t look to see if Sporty Dog was there. You would empty the whole can of garbage, and Sporty would jump up and start shaking the garbage off himself. This happened several times. We thought it was terribly funny. The padding in the garbage was kind of soft, a comfy, warm place to be.”

“Did Sporty Dog ever hang out at your father’s shop?”

“Oh, yes. He loved to sleep underneath the roll top desk at the shop.”

“Did he do it very often?”

“Quite a bit. And sometimes there would be nobody in the office, and a customer would come in to pay a bill and they would hear ‘hello.’ They would look around and there was no person there. And he would repeat it. ‘Hello.’ It would be the dog.”

“The dog actually talked?”

“The dog used to say ‘hello’ to people. It startled people. It shocked people. Sporty would peek around, out from underneath the roll top desk, and put his head out and look at the person and say, ‘hello.’”

I had to pause here until I could stop laughing!