

who was wagging his tail and growling at the same time. Again he called out to Jay. But there was no answer.

Circling to the left of the steeper part of the dome of rock I came out on top a pace or two ahead of Blake.

I was excited, apprehensive, about what our next few paces might reveal.

Abruptly, the rock face sloped away from me, not quite a cliff. Moss was torn from the surface, leaving a scar of bare rock that led in a straight line to a little boy lying on his back, his head against a log, his bottom on the ground, and his feet against the rock down which he had fallen and at about the same level as his head.

He was wet and he blinked as the rain hit his face. He said something in a very quiet voice: "Dog... dog," I think.

In a half step and half jump Blake was beside Jay. A moment later he said, "He's okay."

It was about 2 p.m.

Blake carried Jay up to the top of the rock where the big cop and the little boy embraced each other. They were quiet for a moment, rocking back and forth. Bull romped about us, telling us of his relief and joy.

The dog beat us back to the police car where he nosed about the door.

(Incidentally, demonstrating how easy it is to get turned around, as we got into the car I attempted to direct Blake down the wrong road!)

Blake got on the radio and announced that Jay had been found and that he was okay. Jay still clung to the policeman and Blake held the boy with one arm and grinned at me. "I'm not supposed to drive with one hand," he said. But he did.

We kept track of the distance back to the Doucette house. Jay had wandered about two kilometers.

It was a tearful but happy group that took Jay from us back on Sooke River



Tears of relief as Cpl. Blake carries Jay from the bush.

Road. The little boy was passed from mother to father to grandmother Dorothy Doucette who crooned into Jay's ear: "We're going into the house and have a nice, warm bath, aren't we?"

Before I turned away towards my car, Blake had a couple more comments. He credited the dog with the happy conclusion of the day's drama. He also said that it was a nice way for him to end his duty in Sooke — he is taking on an administrative post with the RCMP in Victoria, but will still live in Sooke. Then, with a serious expression, he said:

"You know that grid system I talked about? Well, I don't think we would have reached the place we found Jay until tomorrow."