

# The Key Word Is "Service"

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*In this era of scientific and technological advancement, every day we are informed some new machine can do something quicker and more efficiently than a human being. Little, however, is ever heard of the animals who can do things better than a person.*

*The following cases from the Police Dog Service illustrate that a properly-trained dog can often save valuable time by performing a task much faster than a man ever could. They also prove that a dog may be used in ways other than the often thought traditional role of "finding lost persons".*

## Public Archives' Search

On November 22, 1976, Cst. D.R.J. Jean, Dorval P.S.D. Service, was requested by the Airport Policing Branch and the Canadian Bomb Data Center to contact a Mr. D. Cameron of the Public Archives. Mr. Cameron, Head of the Photo Control Section, asked Cst. Jean to assist them in trying to locate a nitrocellulose problem in the film section.

The Public Archives Photography Collection consists of approximately 5,000,000 items in 10,000 separate boxes. Some of the negatives have a nitrocellulose base and, when deteriorating, give off a harmful and highly-explosive gas. It would have taken the Public Archives' staff a number of man-years to search and locate all the negatives.

Mr. Cameron had found a few samples of the deteriorating substance and sent them to Cst. Jean. For approximately two weeks experiments were conducted to determine whether or not "Smokey" could find the nitrocellulose. "Smokey" found them with no more difficulty than ordinary explosives.

On December 16, 1976, Cst. Jean and "Smokey" searched the Public Archives Photo Section. As in a library, all the boxes were on shelves and the rows were ceiling high. "Smokey" indicated about 20 to 25 boxes, high and low, as he went over the first two rows. These boxes were brought down for "Smokey" to sniff. The ones "Smokey" indicated were checked by the Public Archives personnel, and found to contain nitrocellulose negatives, which were deteriorating.

The search lasted six to seven hours, including "Smokey's" rest periods. The Public Archives staff seemed to be quite pleased with "Smokey's" performance. They were so pleased, in fact, that W. I. Smith, Dominion Archivist, wrote a letter to Commissioner Nadon, saying:

"Should 'Smokey' ever fall from grace in the eyes of the RCMP, I have been instructed by the staff of the National Photography Collection to tell you that all would be forgiven and a home and full-time employment, with all benefits, would await him at the Public Archives!"

## Sudden Death of Marsha Ann Biggar

On October 30, 1976, a house in Florenceville, N.B., burned completely to the ground, after an oil stove exploded. Only half of the kitchen floor remained intact. At the time of the fire, seven children, ranging in age from 5 to 14, were in the house.

Cpl. B. G. A. Spencer, NCO i/c Fredericton Kennels, was on another case when Cst. Murphy of Florenceville Detachment asked if the P.S.D. Section could assist them in their search. Marsha Biggar, age 5, was missing after the fire, and it was possible she was in the ruins of the house.