

Two Cilleyville Stories

By Grant Charles
For the Beacon

In December, Grant Charles sent these bits of old-fashioned Yankee humor to the Beacon. There wasn't room in the January issue to run them, but Grant wouldn't have seen them anyway – he passed away on December 26.

Cilleyville Goes To Market

Some years ago there was an old feller in Cilleyville who once a week would load his buggy with some home-made ax handles, a can of cream, a bag of dried yellow-eye beans, and a case of eggs and go over to the store in Andover to trade for kerosene and other things you can't grow to home.

Every week when he got home his wife would ask, "How did you make out selling your eggs?"

Every week the old feller would reply, "Well, I didn't do as well as I expected I would, but I didn't expect I would."

Cilleyville Goes To Texas

During all the cold and snow of one New Hampshire winter, a certain Cilleyville metal dealer who shall remain nameless jumped in his little truck

and headed south to find a warm place to settle. He ended up in a nice village in Texas.

Now people there were very kind and hospitable, so they invited him to the Legion supper where he could meet lots of folks and have a good time. During the supper they thought they would have some fun with this old geezer from New Hampshire, so someone asked, "Will all the Democrats please stand up?"

So everyone stood up, except our hero.

"Why aren't you standing up?" he was asked.

"Not very likely," he responded.

"Why not?"

"I ain't no Democrat."

"Well, what are you?"

"I'm a Republican."

"Why are you a Republican?"

"Because my father was a Republican."

"In other words, if your father was a horse thief, then you would be a horse thief, right?"

"No...no...if my father was a horse thief, why I expect I'd be a Democrat!"

Dee Ganley, Andover's "Dog Whisperer"

By Kate Davidson
Concord Monitor staff

Pet owners referred to Dee Ganley as the "dog whisperer" years before the Animal Planet's Cesar Millan began hosting a show by the same name. Encouraging dog owners to take control, Millan schools humans in the dog pack mindset and teaches them to become the alpha male pack leader in their own homes.

Ganley prefers a softer approach, but her ability to soothe and train dogs is no less remarkable than her television counterpart's.

"I chose not to follow that path," Ganley said. "I didn't like being that alpha person. It just wasn't comfortable for me."

Although she was criticized for it, Ganley followed her instincts and began using reward-based training 20 years ago. She never looked back. Today, Ganley runs a successful training business out of her Andover home that brings dogs and their owners together through positive reinforcement that teaches the animals to make good choices on their own.

"I like to talk about dancing with the dog," she said. "At the beginning, I'm leading. But as time goes on, we're together, and oftentimes the dog is leading."

At one of her regular Sunday classes in the Andover Elementary/Middle School, Ganley approached a barking, jumping Doberman pinscher. The dog already had a "calming cap" covering his eyes to prevent him from seeing the handful of other dogs, each with his or her own behavior problems.

The dog wouldn't listen to his owners. But he listened to Ganley, who was able to help him relax, sit on his mat, and wait for her instructions.

"If you get frustrated and angry, the dog just gets worse," she said.

Ganley, a certified animal behavior consultant, was trained in the ways of "jerk and pull" punishment training, long considered a standard in the dog training industry. When she switched to reinforcement training, which uses food to reward dogs when they do something right, she was considered a rebel.

She began to research the science of operative conditioning, which uses re-

ward-based training rather than punishment to correct the dog.

"It turned my stomach when I had to do something like that, because these dogs were my friends," Ganley said. "So I threw away all my choke collars and all those different things, and I just used food."

On Sunday, January 21, bags of dog treats lined the stage at the Andover Elementary/Middle School, where Ganley runs hour-long group classes every weekend. She also runs classes in Laconia and Lebanon. Classes cost \$100 for four weeks, with an extra class usually thrown in for free. Ganley holds classes for small dogs, big dogs, and puppies. Some are there to learn behavior basics, like sitting, ignoring trash or food, and walking with their owners.

Others have more serious issues, including aggressive behavior.

Ganley holds private consultations in her home and at the homes of her clients. Sometimes, she can break a bad habit within an hour, but usually a consultation will require several follow-up visits.

Ganley has more than 30 years experience showing and training dogs. She has worked as the Training and Behavior Manager for the Upper Valley Humane Society in Enfield, and also consults with police and service dog handlers. She also owned a grooming business, Dee's Grooming, in Concord for more than 15 years.

Ganley has spoken at seminars throughout the United States and Europe. She will travel to Rome and the United Kingdom for workshops in April. Last March, she published a book, *Changing People, Changing Dogs*.

"Many of us feel that she's a genius," said Mary Taylor, whose Jack Russell terrier attended Sunday's small dog class. Taylor, the program coordinator for the Monadnock Humane Society, who is trying to become a certified trainer, was also taking tips from Ganley.

Sue Cluff, who drove two hours from Massachusetts to attend Ganley's class, said other dog obedience programs she has been to have included too many negative commands for the dogs.

In the gymnasium, Ganley's high-pitched voice echoed, as she reiterated, "Good girl! Good girl!" A rambunctious Corgi named Delia had finally returned to her owner when called.

"Alice, as soon as she comes, you've got to reinforce her," Ganley told Delia's owner. "You've got to be her cheerleader."

Although some of the owners were getting the hang of the exercises, it always seemed to work a little faster with Ganley helping. But the trainer assured her clients, it will work for them eventually.

"It's fun to watch people come along and their dogs come along," she said. "And a year or two later, you hear back from them and how much different their lives are together. And hopefully, their journey is on the right track."

For more information, visit DeesDogs.com.
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