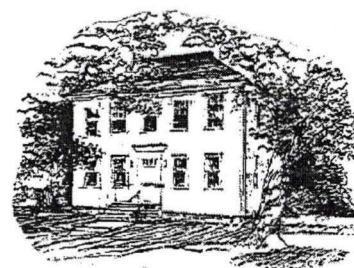


# IMAGES

... *then and now*

*From The Indian Hill Historical Society*



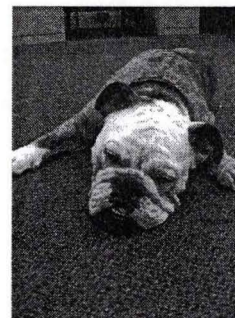
Buckingham Lodge  
1861

## The Newest Ranger: Sergeant Chopper

The Indian Hill Rangers recently acquired a station dog, Chopper. Other police departments in southwestern Ohio have dogs serving actively in their mission. These are working dogs trained specifically to assist with law enforcement. However, Chopper now reigns at the station as an official mascot.

For about a year, the Rangers had joked and discussed getting a dog for the station. Requirements were that the canine be friendly, medium size, not shed and not in need of a hefty exercise schedule. Chief Chuck Schlie, who served in the US Marine Corps, knew that an English Bulldog would be a breed worth consideration. Ever since World War I, Marines have used Bulldogs as mascots. In that war, Germans called the attacking Marines “devil dogs” and soon thereafter a recruiting poster appeared depicting a Bulldog with a Marine helmet. The Marines chose the breed as mascot because they had characteristics admired by the Corps: tenacity, loyalty, and adaptability.

The English Bulldog, descended from the Mastiff, was bred to fight. Its short muzzle and wide, jutting lower jaw enabled the breed to clamp itself onto its prey’s nose like a vice. Nineteenth century laws banning cruelty to animals made the breed less popular for decades. In the 1970’s Ohio State University created a modern day version with similar traits, but not the speed, agility, or violent temperament of its ancestor. With its compact, broad, and muscular frame, the dog’s average height is 15 inches and weight is about 45 pounds. Bulldogs generally are gentle and affectionate, with a mischievous dose of stubbornness. They prefer not to exercise, and are prone to drooling and snoring.



Expensive to acquire, the pedigree dogs sell for \$1400-\$2500. However, by a stroke of fortune, Officer Bob Walters knew of an English Bulldog that needed a new home. After making arrangements, Chopper’s original owner brought her from Columbus, and donated the dog to the Rangers. Chopper lives at the station, and has a bowl and dog bed at the north end of the building.

Chopper has quickly become a fixture at the Ranger Station and will be valuable in promoting the police department in the future. With her adorable funny face and placid disposition, she is a popular pet. Five years old, she responds to some commands (e.g. sit, stay) and the Rangers are teaching her new tricks (e.g. paw, roll over). She roams into the Administration Office occasionally, but spends most of her time in the patrol and dispatch rooms. When the door buzzer sounds, she greets each visitor to the police department, and residents have been delighted by this unique canine’s presence. Members of the police force have taken her out on short patrols, with Chopper traveling in the passenger seat of police cruisers to many Village sites – even several varsity baseball and softball games with a Ranger escort.

Chopper’s veterinarian, resident Dr. J. Peter Hill, has donated his services and associated expenses. At Pet Care Animal Hospital in Blue Ash (Dr. Hill’s facility) Chopper has been examined and groomed, and has received a specialized diet that ensures she will stay in top notch health. She also received an identity chip – to track her in case she disappears – and the Madeira Police have jokingly threatened to kidnap her!

As an exceptional Ranger, she has been awarded the rank of Sergeant. When she sports a bandana, it will have a chevron indicative of that title. She will march with the Honor Guard at the July 4<sup>th</sup> parade wearing a dress uniform with traditional Ranger colors.