

# DCA - 1905-2005 A Centennial Celebration

By Cheryl Steinmetz

In 1905, a *Field and Fancy* magazine article about Windy Valley Dalmatians and the new Dalmatian Club of America quoted DCA vice-president Harry T. Peters on the history and versatility of the Dalmatian breed.

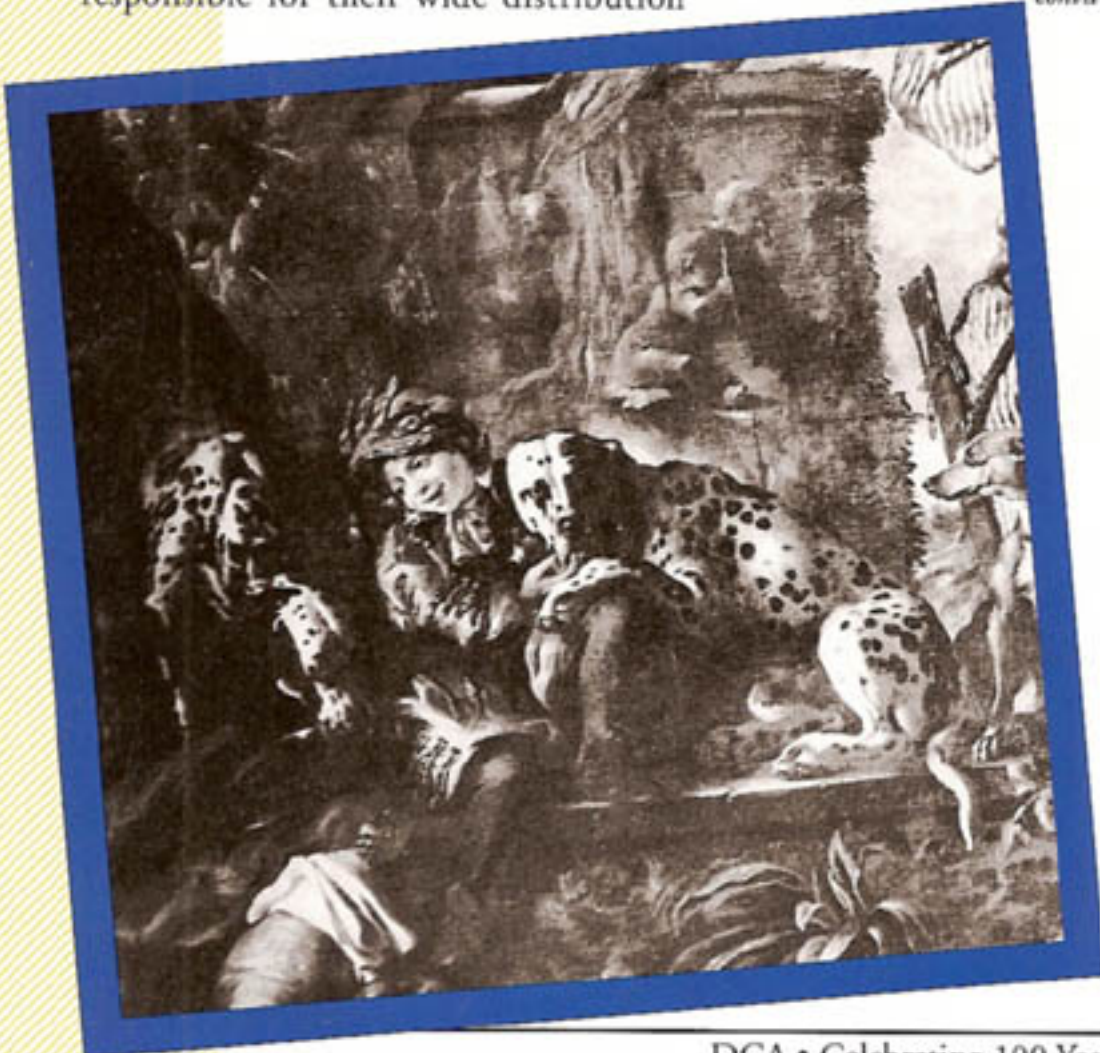
"In the old days," Peters stated, "the sporty appearance of the Dalmatians was responsible for their wide distribution

through Europe. All who made the grand tour travelled on horseback or in coaches, and these dogs were favorites as guards and travelling companions."

"The firemen," he continued, "have done more to keep the Dalmatian from dying out during  
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Painting by John Collet, circa 1770, from the book *The Dalmatian*, By Eleanor Frankling. From the author's collection.



Detail from Francesco Castiglioni's "Hunting Dogs and their Attendants," circa 1695.



Clarence Boersma, his bride, Miss Faith Spittler, and his Seeing Eye dog, Nosee, which led blind ex-marine down aisle of First Reformed church for wedding ceremony last night.

From the *Chicago Tribune*, circa 1940. Courtesy DCA Historian Collection.



St. Paul Winter Carnival, 1948. From the author's collection, via the Minnesota Historical Society.



M. T. Matorina, police chief at Gary, hanging badge of honorary policeman on neck of Duke, a Dalmatian dog that helped catch a thief last week.

From the Chicago Tribune, circa 1930. Duke the Dalmatian, owned by Dan Koutsis, trailed and harassed a burglar suspect in Gary, Indiana with his master. Courtesy DCA Historian Collection.



A Dalmatian in a stable with spotted horses, 1588. From Dalmatians in Canada.



Gun dog and Partridges by Phillip Ferdinand de Hamilton, 1664-1750. From Dalmatians in Canada.



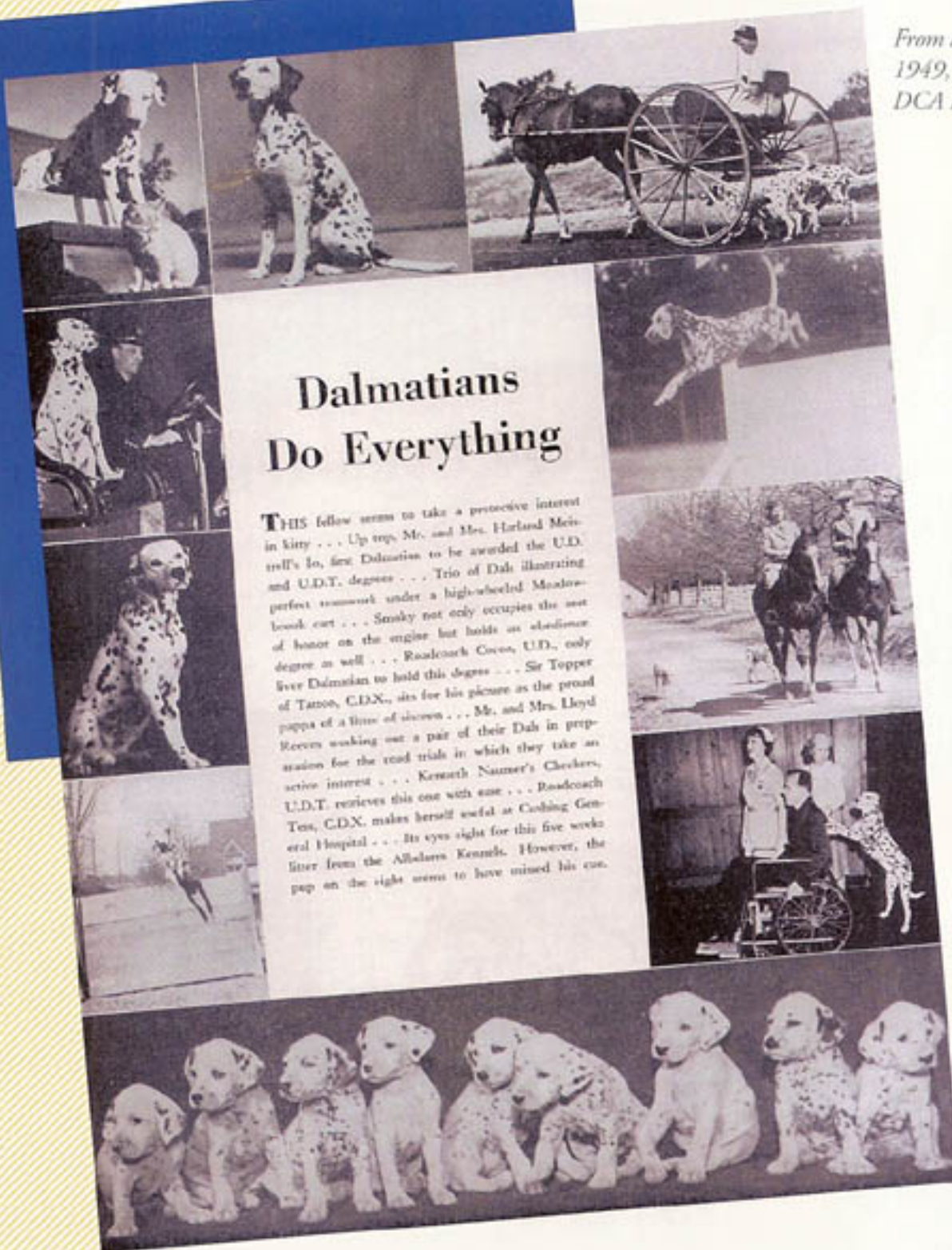
Bingo Bango stands guard while injured man gives him message to deliver at firehouse. If the victim is unconscious, the dog retrieves some identifiable article of his clothing.

Life magazine, early 1940s. The Boston Fire Department Dalmatians were trained for rescue for fire and war emergencies. From the DCA Historian Collection.





From a special issue of *Popular Dogs*, May, 1949, dedicated to Dalmatians. From the DCA Historical Collection.



## Dalmatians Do Everything

**T**HIS fellow seems to take a protective interest in kitty . . . Up top, Mr. and Mrs. Harland Meistrall's lo, fine Dalmatian to be awarded the U.D. and U.D.T. degrees . . . Trio of Dalmatians illustrating perfect teamwork under a high-wheeled Meadbrook cart . . . Smokey not only occupies the seat of honor on the engine but holds an absolute degree as well . . . Roadcoach Cocoa, U.D., only liver Dalmatian to hold this degree . . . Sir Topper of Tatoo, C.D.X., sits for his picture as the proud papa of a litter of sixteen . . . Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd Reeves washing out a pair of their Dalmatians in preparation for the read trials in which they take an active interest . . . Kenneth Naumer's Checkers, U.D.T. retrieves this one with ease . . . Roadcoach Tess, C.D.X. makes herself useful at Coaling General Hospital . . . Its eyesight for this five weeks litter from the Allstars Kennel. However, the pup on the right seems to have missed his cue.

Lt. Cmdr. Willy Necker, a renowned trainer of war dogs, and one of his performing Dalmatians. From the DCA Historical Collection.



**HIGH JUMPING.** balancing dog is beautiful member of Dalmatian dog and which will delight crowds at World American Sports and Travel Show, Feb. 21 through March 5, at International Amphitheatre. Russian is balancing on bar held by trainer, Lt. Cmdr. William Necker.

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its eclipse from fashion than the stablemen...the firemen speak in high terms of the courage and fidelity of the spotted dogs."

"As a companion," Peters continued, "the Dalmatian is unequalled, owing to the many uses to which he may be put. He can be broken as a pointer, he will even run a rabbit, if need be. He will follow his master all day on foot, or after a carriage, and will be interested in everything that is going on."

*Throughout history, the Dalmatian has been many things to many people and we expect the breed's versatility to continue on for the next 100 plus years... as companion, coach dog, hunter, ratter, circus performer, guard, fire dog, show dog, war dog, tracker, artist's inspiration, obedience dog, performance competitor...companion.*



DCA 2003 National Specialty Agility Trial. Photo Paula Olcott.