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PETER MEETS ROYALTY

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by

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"The ghost of Peter has interviewed Royalty and is now yapping around England," so comes word from Arthur N. Pack, President of American Nature Association. Many Oregon children will remember Peter, the little fox-terrier, who was born right here in Portland in 1917, and during his twelve adventurous years was a member of the Finley family at Jennings Lodge.

The school children of Oregon were treated to lectures and moving pictures of Peter and his wild animal friends for a number of years, as well as the greater part of the rest of the country. For some years the American Nature Association has been using a series of eighteen of the Finley reels for schools and clubs. And now by a happy chance, Peter has flown over the sea and is entertaining the children of England.

It happened this way. Some people in the South listening to the radio, were surprised to hear the voice of Princess Elizabeth in England giving a talk over the air. They thought it very well done for a young girl, and felt that such a vivid person would find adventure in birds and animals shown in some of our natural history movies. So they procured the 16 mm. reel of "The Adventures of Peter" and sent it to Princess Elizabeth. Soon from Windsor Castle came this letter from the Queen.

"Dear Madam:

The Queen commands me to write and thank you for your letter to Princess Elizabeth, and to say that Her Majesty is pleased to accept the film, "The Adventures of Peter," which you and your husband so kindly sent to the Princess.

The Queen much appreciates your thought, and her Majesty thinks you may like to know that the film is shown to some of the evacuated children who have been forced to leave the bombed areas.

Yours faithfully,

Katherine Seymour,
Lady-in-Waiting

A letter from a boy in Stockton, England, thanks the children of America for "Peter" and "The Hummingbird" and other natural history movies brought to him and his companions by a traveling cinema. "Some of us," he writes, call Peter our dog, and we are glad he lives where there are no bombs to destroy him and his folks and the house they live in. We think the Americans are good neighbors, and the American children are very good friends." "Send the 'Baby Bear'" commends little Johnnie. "'The Baby Bear' will make everybody laugh. They can laugh even if they have no house to live in."

Mrs. Gordon Campbell of Southam, England, writes: "The soldiers enjoy these pictures, and an evening with 'Gray Owl and the Beavers' makes the splendid wilderness of North America very real. We shall use the films continually here in Warwickshire all the winter for we are a county organization with five machines which are in action every night in the week and most of the afternoons."

So Peter is in the lime light again. His first natural history trip was at the age of three weeks, a journey to Malheur Lake. He rode in a little wooden box on the running-board of the car. He was a much traveled dog for down through the years till the end in 1929, he had traveled from British Columbia to the Gulf of Mexico, and from mountain top to sea level. He was always interested in wild folks for whom he had a most friendly feeling, a sort of far-off, brotherly love and understanding.

His list of wild friends was a long one. There was Dinty, the pincushion porcupine, who liked to sit up and eat ripe cherries with the juice running down his bosom. He liked to hug Peter, but Peter couldn't return it because he always got stuck. And there was the old mother opossum carrying seven young on her back. Peter felt sorry for her. They put four of the little ones on the ground near him and when he bent over to smell them, they twined their little hands in his hair and were soon clinging to him like sailors to a life-boat. He soon got tired of playing mother. And there was Teddy, the knock-kneed bear cub, with whom he had a wrestling match every day in the week, until both were winded. And there was crafty Zippy Coon and that potato-digging badger, and many more. Those were happy days for a dog, days full of fun and adventure.