

## WHITE PATCH

By CONSTANTINO MONTEMAYOR \*

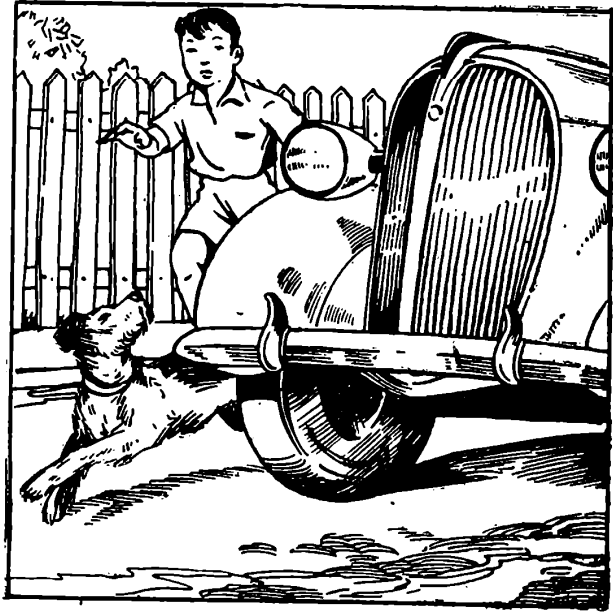
WHITE PATCH was a lovable little puppy dog. He was a well-built little fellow, strong, lively, and full of curiosity. He had soft, silky hair, and on his forehead was a round patch of white from which came his name, White Patch. He had kind brown eyes, and a tongue that insisted upon licking everyone who gave him a friendly look or a pat. I thought he was the best and smartest dog in the world.

White Patch was only a puppy when he became my pet. He was as full of mischief as any other puppy dog.

Every day he came to meet me on the way when I was going home from school. I always gave him my pencil to carry in order to train him to be a messenger dog. He would carry the pencil and run by my side, looking very proud and smart. When we reached home, he would give me the pencil.

One day White Patch played a good joke on me. When he met me on the way home, he took the pencil as usual. Then he ran home as fast as he could. He ran under the house and buried my pencil in the sand. Then he came running back to me, wagging his tail with joy. In his dog way he was happy because he had played a good joke on me.

A year later this puppy had become a full grown dog and a trained messenger. When he was sent on an errand, no one could stop him. If there was something for him to do, he tried hard to do what was wanted. When there was nothing for him to do, he was quiet and attentive, and waited peacefully in his own self-



assigned corner of the house.

Sad to say, White Patch came to a sorrowful end, on account of his one and only bad habit. He always wanted to run towards passing autos and bark. I tried to break him of this habit, but never fully succeeded.

One day he ran toward a passing auto. In some way he got a little too near the wheel and was struck. I heard his body hit the cement curb and I ran to him. Just as I picked up my pet, he breathed his last.

I do not wish to own another pet dog because it is very hard to part from a playmate, even if he is only a dumb animal.

### SOME QUESTIONS

1. What kind of dog was White Patch?
2. Why was he called by that name?
3. Can you describe White Patch?
4. How did White Patch show he was a friendly dog?

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