

*Lawrence Bell*

# LARRY BELL'S DOG, ILL WITH ARTHRITIS, TAKES TO WHEELS

Special to The BUFFALO EVENING NEWS.

SANTA MONICA, Calif., April 27.—Belerus is a big, black, friendly Newfoundland dog which spent the first 11 years of its life in and around Buffalo. Like other dogs, it likes to chase cats, play with children, go for long walks with its master. It is different in just one respect—instead of using four legs it runs about on two of them and a three-wheeled cart.

Belerus was raised from a 6-month-old puppy by Lawrence D. Bell, president of the Bell Aircraft Corporation in Buffalo. When it was nearly 11 years old, it contracted arthritis. Thinking that a warmer climate might cure his pet, Mr. Bell sent it by air express to his brother, Vaughn, who had just returned to his home here after serving as director of industrial relations for the Bell Corporation in Buffalo from 1942 to 1948.

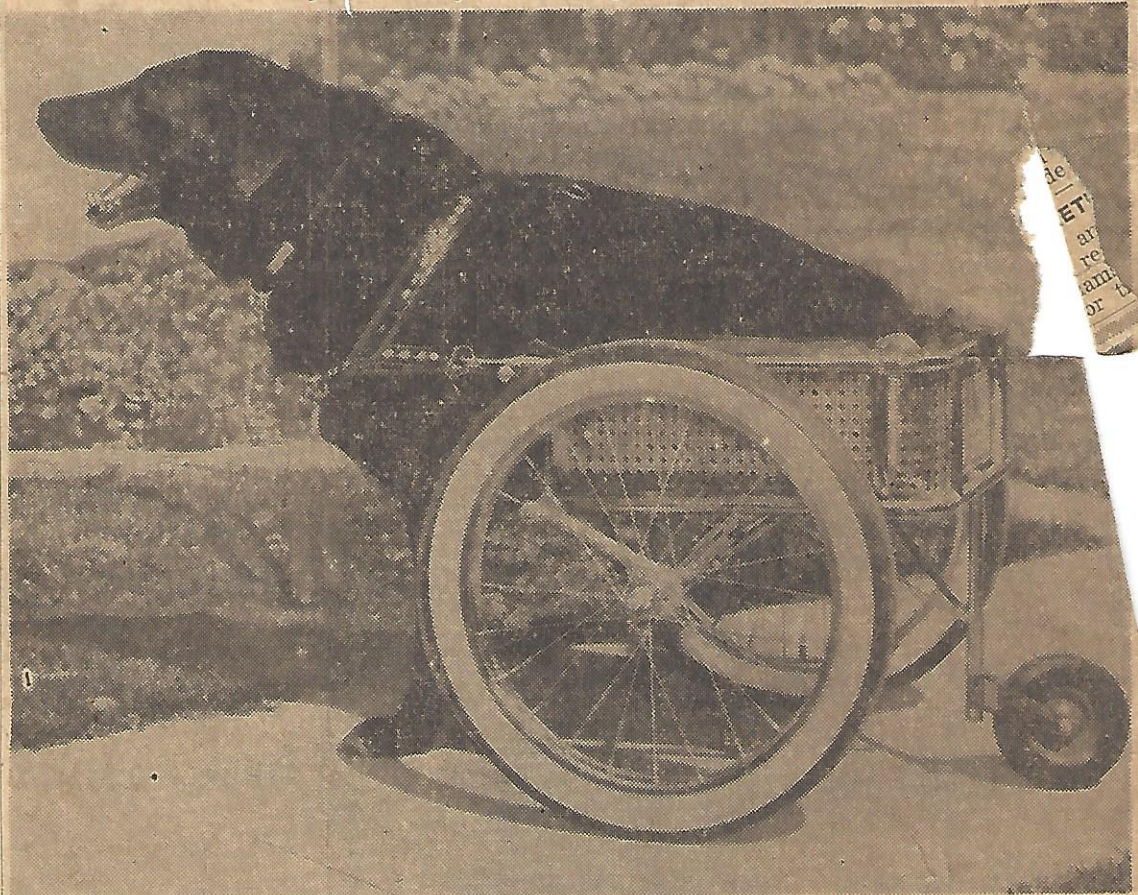
### Wouldn't Give Up

The California climate failed to help. Veterinarians used diathermy, vitamins, vibrators and drugs, but the dog grew steadily worse. Finally its hind quarters were totally paralyzed.

Dogs paralyzed by sickness or accidents usually are turned over to veterinarians to be destroyed. Vaughn Bell and his wife, Viola, decided not to give up so easily. If Belerus could regain its freedom of action, they thought, and could move around where and when it wanted, it might have a chance to improve.

Mr. Bell went to an old friend, an airplane engineer and designer, Arthur L. Fernoff, and asked if he couldn't make a wheel chair for the dog. Mr. Fernoff agreed. He measured Belerus and made a full set of drawings. The chair

## Cart Helps Paralyzed Dog Lead a Normal Life



Belerus, Lawrence Bell's big Newfoundland dog, is partially paralyzed, but it romps about like any normal dog in this "dog wheel chair" built especially for it. Mr. Bell

sent the dog to Santa Monica, Calif., when it first began to suffer with arthritis and his brother, Vaughn, supervised the building of the chair.

was made according to his specifications.

### Cut Down Weight

Although the cart was bulky and somewhat heavy, the dog took to it immediately. The animal seemed to sense what the gadget was and knew what to do the moment it was harnessed in.

But the cart still wasn't as mobile as Mr. Bell and his brother wanted it to be. A new one was constructed, weighing less than 20 pounds, half what the original one weighed. It has a free-turning rear wheel and shock absorbers, is light, maneuverable and practically spill-proof. The dog's hind quarters are lifted into the carriage

and then, harnessed to the front, it can propel itself with its front legs.

The dog's health improved immediately after it began getting around again. Today it probably can live its normal span of 16 to 18 years.

### Fond of Ice Cream

It races happily wherever it wants to go. It is particularly fond of ice cream, and Mr. Bell and his wife have a standing order with a man who passes their house to leave ice cream for the dog. Before placing the order, they sometimes slipped up and failed to stop the truck. Belerus, when it heard the bell on the truck,

would howl loudly, arousing the neighborhood. Some of the neighbors became indignant, saying the Bells were "neglecting the poor dog" by not getting that cream.

One of the dog's favorite pastimes is to wait at the bus stop Santa Monica-loaded buses reach Passenagerica from Los Angeles. big blacks are disappointed if the dog isn't there.

The dog isn't there. for Bert which has done so much other erus may soon be helping The vlogs all over the country. any shicle, which can be fitted to mass dog, is being planned for oduction.

**FREE!**

THIS DOG BELONGS TO  
**YOUR NAME ADDRESS HERE**

**BRASS TAG for YOUR DOG JUST SEND LABEL**

**RIVAL DOG FOOD**

**DON'T OVERWorry**  
ABC YOUR CHILD

**TOWARDS FINEST**