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Duncan - Cowichan Leader Dec 7/77

Cowichan Leader,
DUNCAN, Dec 7, 1977

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'Tabasco', the raccoon visits city with author Hancock in tow

By LESLIE LEYNE

If key stories in this week's Leader are missing, the blame falls on Tabasco the raccoon, who busted into the office last week and burglarized everything he could get his paws on.

The raccoon had author Lynn Hancock in tow. She is currently touring the Island promoting her book "There's a Raccoon in my Parka" and appeared at the Bookshelf Dec. 6 signing copies of her book.

"Raccoon" tells the fascinating story of a summer spent driving to Alaska where Hancock was to assist in filming the relocation of a colony of sea-otters.

The book is filled with nature and conservation lore, history and humour, and has 16 pages of black-and white photographs.

Hancock is currently working on a master's degree at S.F.U.

and is working on a thesis, along with her next book, on public attitudes to predators.

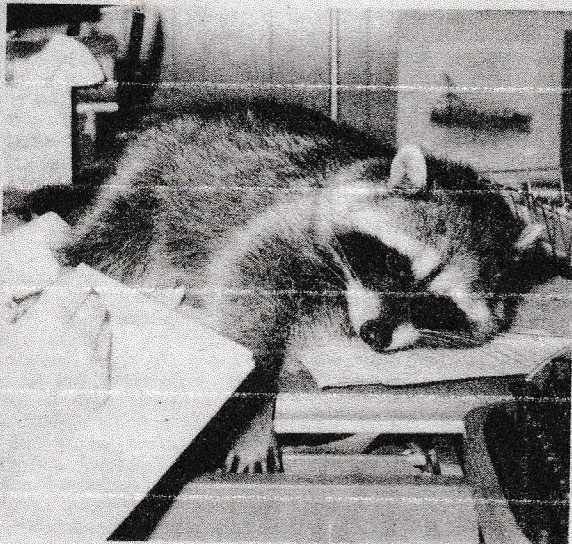
She is no stranger to Duncan, for she used to have a cougar which she kept at the Duncan Zoo and visited every weekend.

But for now, she is content to have a raccoon for a pet. Tabasco is the seventh raccoon she has owned, and Hancock has become an expert at "raccoon-proofing" houses where she lives or visits.

The raccoon that plays a large part in Hancock's book was named Rocky after the Beatles song and had a knack for "turning tragedy into comedy".

"It seemed to be a jinxed trip but Rocky kept us laughing", recalls Hancock.

The author has published one other book, entitled "There's a Seal in My Sleeping Bag."



TABASCO RESTS after helping author Lynn Hancock on rough draft of her new book, to be published next Christmas.



AFTER SEARCHING through two desks, three purses and one bathroom, Tabasco, the raccoon, decided he'd find what he was looking for in Lynn Hancock's mouth.

Craig McArthur photo