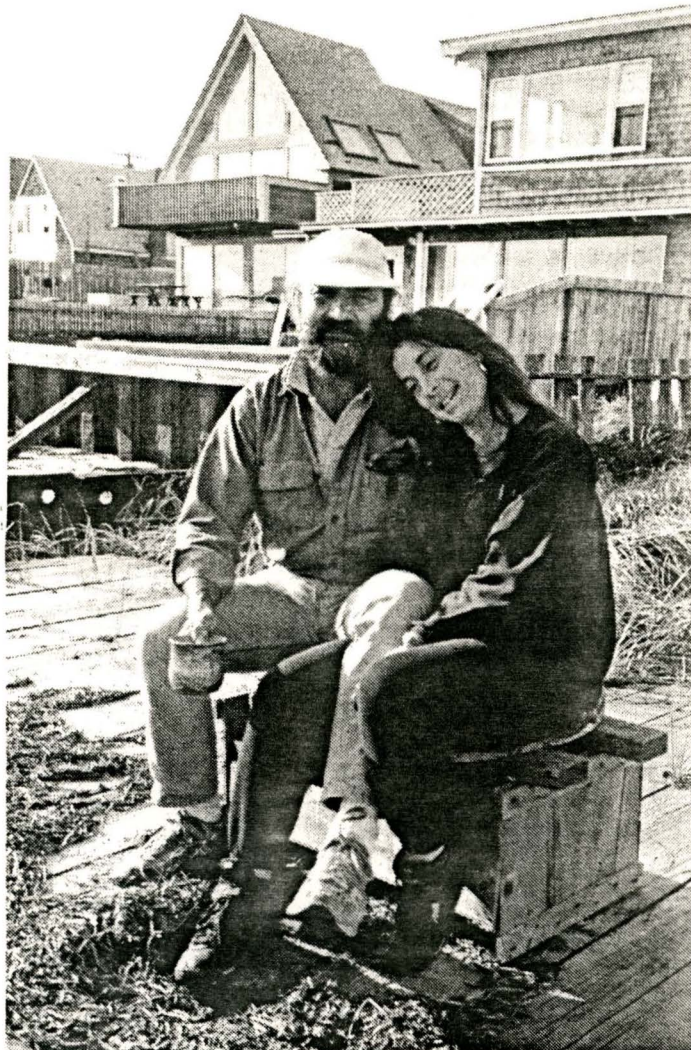


KELLY'S CORNER



Howie Schneider and Susan Seligson on their deck.

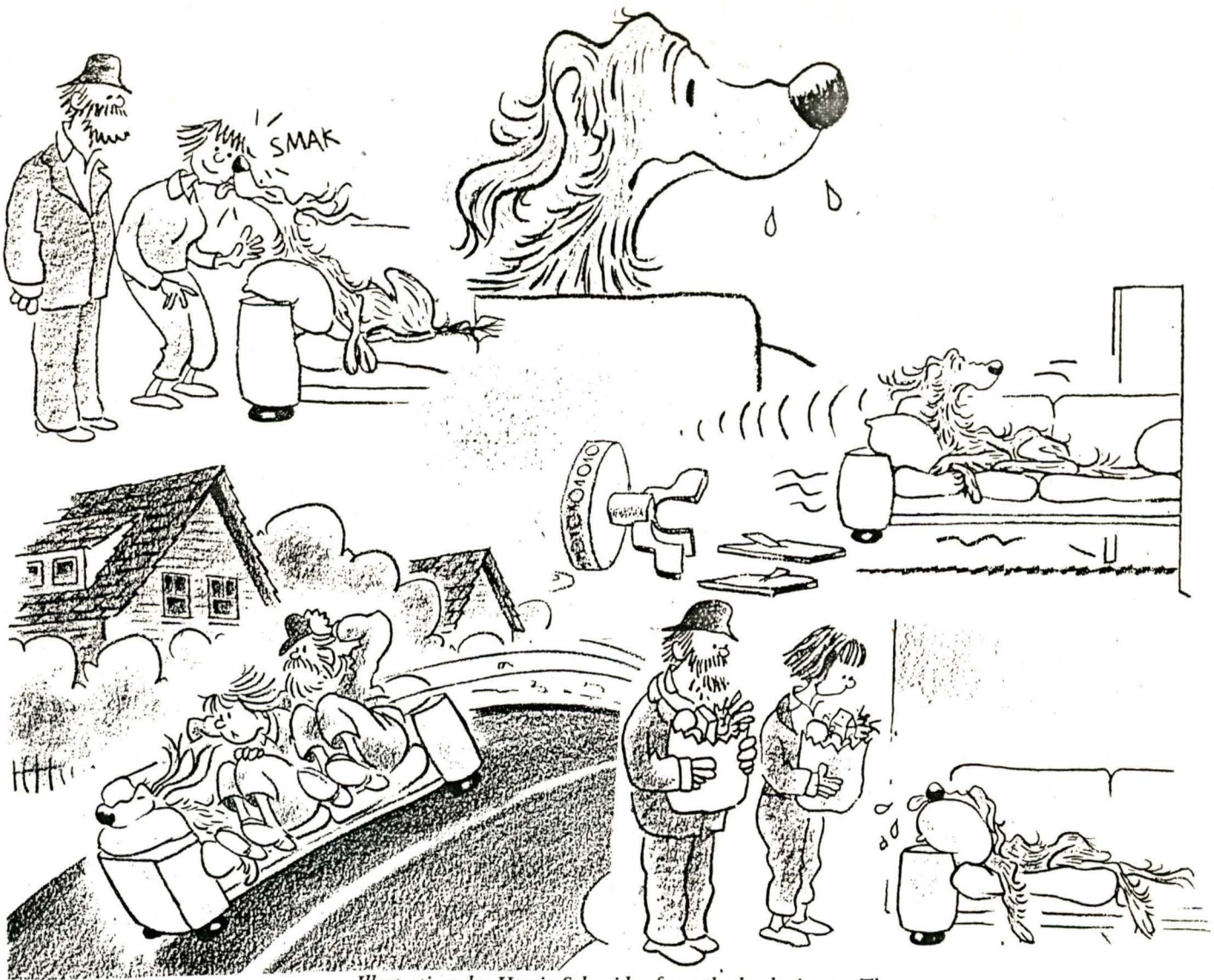
by Jan Kelly

Provincetown enjoys so many stories as living history. Some of these stories get into print, and some don't. Amos did. Amos is the story of a fourteen-year-old Irish setter living in the East End on a very special couch. Amos is Susan Seligson's pet, but she graciously shares him with Howie Schneider. Amos shares the couch with no one; no one except thousands of readers whose number is steadily growing.

Last winter, Susan and Howie noticed that Amos was getting older. His joints were stiffening, and getting around was problematic. The couch was Amos' answer, comfortable territory as they prepared dinner and watched Amos across the room, they began to speculate. "We don't take him out often these days. We always say, 'oh, leave him on the couch.' But, what if he is following us when we go out? Secretly following us to the *A & P*, to the paper store?" Susan and Howie had a good laugh for the moment, but the idea was formed.

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Susie wrote the story up the next week, and it rested a while next to the couch. Then when Susie went to Weston to cover a story and to do some interviews, Howie played the idea to his tune. He surprised Susie on her return with a rough-up of the book. Drawings of Amos, his couch, and some adventures of his secret following. The combination promised a humorous, loving, and delightful book. Together they worked on a second refinement. The result was that the story of Amos had all the characteristics of a book. It had only to be published. Our author and cartoonist began to show the book to people, to people with children, to people with dogs. The acceptance and enthusiasm was uniform and unanimous. Howie often tries his cartoons out on people before he mails them in. The mailman, the water man, UPS delivery person, or anybody visiting may be the tester of the yet unpublished humor. A name for the master and mistress of Amos which



Illustrations by Howie Schneider from the book, *Amos—The Story Of An Old Dog And His Couch*.

would be easily repeatable Seligson? Schneider? No, the Bobsons.

The book narrowed, broadened, and finalized to packaging. Susie and Howie did their own packaging and presented it to *Little, Brown and Company*. *Little, Brown* was delighted by Howie's drawings and Susie's story. To press. To press. The book, *Amos, The Story of An Old Dog & His Couch*, was listed in the catalogues sent to book stores for orders. Elloyd and Joel displayed it in the window of the Provincetown Book Store as early as August. It appeared in the window the same day that Amos died of kidney failure at the age of fourteen. The publication date was October 1, and now Amos is unleashed to the world.

Besides *Little, Brown*, the *National Book of the Month Club* has printed 8,500 additional copies. It doesn't stop there. *Little, Brown* wants to publish more "Amos" stories. Everybody who had read it feels the same sentiment. Susie and Howie are ready and anxious to comply. These two are at no loss for ideas, and the actualizing of them. A series will be coming forth. Famous Amos!

The great humor of the story is the method that Amos uses to follow the Bobsons. The discovery that his couch is motorized gives him a new freedom. To see this couch in traffic and in parking lots not too far from the Bobsons' car would make anyone laugh. We in Provincetown will love the look of the "Bobsons," too: a very thinly disguised Susie and Howie. They have donated a copy to the Library (you can have a peek). But, really, it's so much better to have your own. The Provincetown Book Store has copies available and will be ready for future Amos publications. Christmas is coming; a perfect present. Susan Seligson, free-lance writer of many magazines and newspapers, *The Globe, New England Monthly*, and the *Springfield Daily News* former humor columnist, gives you the story. Howie Schneider, creator of the nationally syndicated *Eek & Meek* as well as cartoon contributor to *The New Yorker, Saturday Review, Redbook, McCall's*, and many other magazines, gives you the drawings. The combination is a book that will delight all who see it or read it. Take a little charm and whimsy into your life. Enjoy *Amos, The Story of An Old Dog & His Couch*.