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THE STORY BEHIND THE COVER

FOR most men, the pot of gold at the end of life's rainbows takes many forms. Some place top value on material possessions; others follow ambitions leading to personal fame and glory. But for men like Dave Hasinger of Huntingdon Valley, Pennsylvania, the greatest achievement is the creation of a sight the artist has captured on canvas for this month's front cover.

In the best American tradition of cheering for the underdog, he and a small but intensely dedicated fraternity of men and women in Pennsylvania and elsewhere have devoted much of their time, money and efforts during the past decade to re-develop a breed of dog. Turning back the pages of history, they have brought to life again what many considered a lost animal—the Irish Setter gun dog.

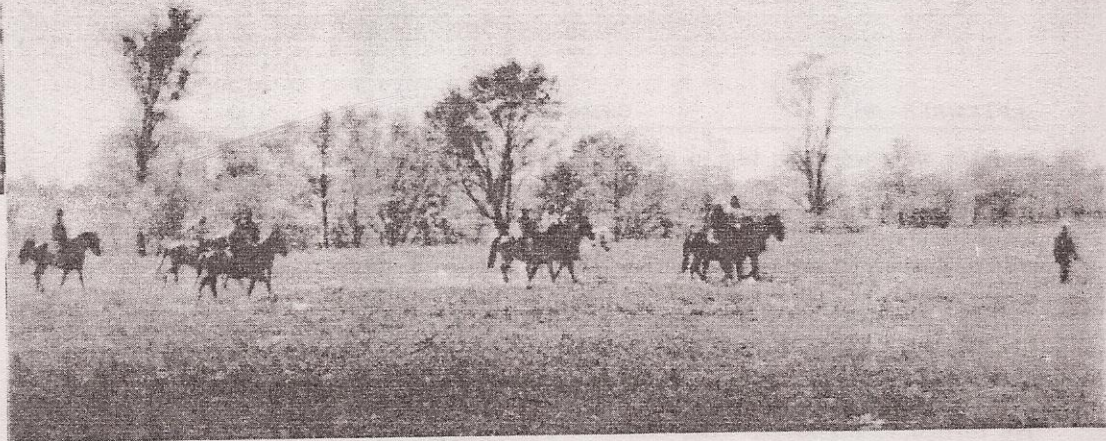
It has not been easy. The always attractive, mahogany colored setters that made game for thousands of sportsmen, even many market hunters, at the close of the last century have for the most part of this one been seen as big, but still beautiful, bench show specimens. Yet there still lived a spark of old glory afield—a spark of natural hunting instinct and genetically dormant body conformation and strength to back the instinct. The spark has been brought to flame in recent years; it can and should not ever go out.

That flame is characterized by the cover pair of "Red Ones"—VALLEY HI LACEY backed by her son, VALLEY HI JAY. Style and stamina, selective breeding and careful training are all exemplified in this single scene. Their greatest desire in life is to locate, pin and point game birds for their master. Lacey was first trained at Gay Bird Farms in Bucks County by Dominick Welsh as a "meat dog" to be used on regulated shooting preserves. She was force broken to retrieve and in her early years found, pointed and retrieved over 300 pheasants. She has also been used on quail, grouse and ducks. But since 1956 she has earned laurels in field trial competition, not only against her own breed but against all breeds. On April 25th of this year she placed first in the English Setter Association of America's A.K.C. licensed trial, open shooting dog stake for all pointing breeds. Her young son, JAY—whelped January 9, 1956—has also made a name for himself in field trials. He has been entered in 11 trials and has placed 9 times, including first in the open puppy stake of a trial conducted by the Gordon Setter Club of America last April.

These, then, are the new Irish Setters. They, and many like them, have brought back memories all but forgotten of distant ancestors which hunted hard all day, made game whenever and wherever it was scented for real sportsmen of another era. Beauty and class, courage and strength—all have been brought back from the brink of oblivion. There is no greater challenge, no finer achievement.

The Red Setter Challenge

By Herm David
(Part I of Two Installments)



THE human race has many more important problems than whether or not the Irish Setter can be bred and developed into a bird dog equal to any. But, perhaps because it is a matter of trivial importance compared to such things as peace, health, economics and security, a great many folks find the Red Setter challenge compelling fun.

They are folks who feel the sight of a good bird dog slamming onto

point is just about the most thrilling sight in the world—especially if it is performed by an Irish Setter.

The Red Setters *are* on their way back as first class assets to the upland gunner—and Pennsylvanians are playing a major role in bringing about their resurgence.

Largely organized and sparked by Pennsylvania men and women, The National Red Setter Field Trial Club was launched in 1951 to undertake what its members have come to call "The purest challenge in sportsdom"—the development of the Irish Setter as a class gun dog.

The story had its modern beginnings when a most determined sportsman, W. E. "Ned" LeGrande of Douglassville, stood watching a field trial for Irish Setters only. The competitors were, almost all of them, beautiful, long-haired dogs that had been bred for competition in dog shows. They were built all wrong for an animal that must run. Almost in-

HERM DAVID has written this two-part story on the come-back of the Irish Setter especially for **GAME NEWS**. He is admirably suited to report the facts, having owned Red Ones for years and followed the breed's progress from coast to coast. Mr. David is Editor of the **FLUSHING WHIP**, official monthly publication of the National Red Setter Field Trial Club and is the Club's Publications Director. He lives in Cleveland, Ohio.

variably they were too big to get out of their own way. It was rather pitiful to watch some of them attempt to respond to long-dormant instincts, only to find that their physical equipment wouldn't respond.

Ned LeGrande, who had, as a boy in Virginia, hunted over his dad's good Irish setters, found it a disheartening—and challenging—sight. He turned to his lovely wife, Helen. "Something," he said, "is going to have to be done for Irish Setters."

Mrs. LeGrande had seen that look in her husband's eyes before—when he'd encountered problems in his business, when he was a star athlete at William and Mary College, and when he had undertaken successfully another challenge in connection with show horses. "Here," she said to herself, "we go again."

Now, the books which record the history of bird dogs tell, over and

over again, the history of good men who had, through the years, undertaken this same challenge. Most of them were wealthy and determined. But none of them enjoyed any lasting success. LeGrande studied the history of their efforts and vowed that he would not repeat their mistakes.

The first of America's early fanciers was Charles H. Turner of St. Louis. Back in the fall of 1874 he imported his first Irish Setters—a pair called Don and Guy. A year later he brought over Loo II and the great bench campaigner, Elcho, to which every Irish Setter in America can trace his pedigree through several lines. Turner also imported Erin, Rose, Frisk and Thor. Matter of fact, he imported another "Erin," this one a female. Of the lot of them, only the male Erin ever won an American field trial and only Thor pleased

Photo courtesy of Henry P. Davis

STAR OF YESTERDAY was Tim, owned by the Seminole Kennel of Chestnut Hill and an outstanding winner from 1886 through 1892. He was a bench champion and a field trial winner.





AN ALL-AMERICAN on Henry P. Davis' SPORTS AFIELD team of bird dog stars and a runner-up in the Red Setter national championship is this wise old bird-finder from Pennsylvania, Schelley's Red Sugar. She's owned, trained and campaigned by Carl and Joyce Schollenberger of Allentown.

Turner as a bird dog. He turned to the importation of Pointers.

Distant relatives of Turner's, the Campbell brothers, M. C. and George Washington of Spring Hill, Tennessee, crossed Elcho to their own mostly-Irish Setter line of bird dogs and produced Joe, Jr., a dog that was twice Field Trial Champion of America. He won his second title in 1878. In the nearly 80 years since then, the Red Setter challenge has captured the imaginations of many other men. One of them was a Dr. L. C. Sauveur who registered and entered all of his dogs under the name of Seminole kennels at Chestnut Hill, Pa. He purchased the bench and field winner, Tim, in an effort to found an outstanding kennel only a few miles from the spot where Le-Grande was to found his kennels—60 years later.

Another Pennsylvanian, W. L. Washington of Pittsburgh, had some

success during the early days of canine competition in America. The first Pennsylvanians to register Irish Setters, although they had been hunted in the state for at least 50 years before that, were W. G. Sargent of Meadville and Fred A. Phillips of Corry. Each had dogs bred in 1870 by D. B. Merriam of Corry, their registrations first appearing in a book published in 1876.

Pennsylvanians probably first hunted over Irish Setters as early as 1820 to 1830. The first American stud book of substance didn't come along until 1878. Until shortly before that time, there were no pedigrees, no field trials, no bench shows. Hunters bred for one purpose only, effective bird dogs—and they had them. In those days of game abundance Irish Setters and part-Irish were favorites of market hunters and sportsmen alike. They cost a little more, then, than other breeds of bird

dogs, but many thought their ruggedness and endurance made them well worth it.

Undoubtedly, some present-day Pennsylvania sportsmen will find the names of fathers and grandfathers in the first stud books of the National American Kennel Club. During the seventies and eighties these names were prominent: Thomas Blythe of McIntyre, B. F. Dorrance of Wilkes-Barre, F. A. Diffenderfer of Lancaster, R. M. Lindsay of Scranton, C. Z. Miley of Lancaster, John S. and William A. McIntosh of Pittsburgh, Thomas P. Montgomery of Harrisburg, J. R. Schyler of Bloomsburg, H. B. Vondersmith of Lancaster and A. H. Moore of Philadelphia. The last-named purchased the bench and field winner, Raleigh, to head his kennel. However, the dog never produced a field winner. Mr. Moore had somewhat more success with the bench and field winner, Berkley, which he purchased for \$1,000. Berkley sired the winners Chief and Victoria. These dogs had nine wins and, in turn, produced field winners.

John McIntosh's Biz was second in the members' stake of the Pennsylvania Field Trial Club's second annual program. This was held over 750 miles from the nearest part of the Keystone State—in Grand Junction, Tennessee. A year before, on October 26, 1880, the group had attempted to hold a trial at Lancaster, but finding it impossible to get the 17 entries in the first stake scheduled onto birds, they cancelled the entire program. The measure of their enthusiasm for the sport is seen in the distance they were willing to go to hold their trial where they could be assured of an adequate bird score. McIntosh had another win with Biz, this one in a very high class stake offered by the National American Kennel Club and run on prairie chickens at Fairmount, Minnesota on September 4, 1882. Don, a Pointer owned by Pittsburgh's R. T. Vander-

vort, was judged best of the 28 starters. A total of six dogs were placed ahead of Biz, but the judges were offering more prizes than a church picnic and they named him to what is recorded as a divided fourth placement.

It was to be many years before another field trial was scheduled for Pennsylvania. But the state did not lack for enthusiasts. The trials of the Philadelphia Kennel Club were held nearby in New Jersey and Delaware. Through the eighties, as Irish Setters gradually faded elsewhere in field trial prominence, the Philadelphia area remained a stronghold for them. Members J. A. Stovall and I. H. Roberts both had several fine wins in the Philadelphia Kennel Club's trials. Charles T. Thompson and the Chestnut Hill kennels of Henry Jarrett each had significant wins in the Philadelphia Club's trials.

And, through the nineties Pennsylvanians were prominent in meeting the Red Setter challenge. In the year, 1892, of the 21 members of the Irish Setter Club of America, one-third of them were Pennsylvanians. Perhaps there are sportsmen of the present day in the Keystone State who will be able to recall such men as William H. Childs, Dr. G. G. Davis and Charles T. Thompson of Philadelphia, E. M. Beale of Lewisburg, Boyd D. Rothrock of Williamsport and W. L. Washington of Pittsburgh.

The last-named gentleman had an extremely strong kennel ('Kildare') of bench competitors, but was nonetheless interested in the breed as bird dogs. He went to the field trial wars in 1890 with imported Sarsfield—but the highly-bred, much-heralded dog eventuated into an all-time clunk of the breed. The writer has a letter from W. W. Sweeney, a prominent fancier of the period in which he states that he found Sarsfield a 'disappointment'—before selling him to Mr. Washington. The dog was an all-around flop. He couldn't win on the

bench either and, although he had great opportunities, he never produced a quality puppy. Writing in 1904, the canine historian Joseph F. Graham stated: "As Mr. Washington had for a number of years one of the strongest kennels of these setters in the country, his lack of success was regarded as almost decisive by the chances in field trials." He also wrote: "The breeders have never entirely given up the idea of beating English Setters and Pointers in field trails, but their success has not been flattering." It was Graham who described the hardy Red Setter challenge as 'Irish fever.'

Only two significant Irish Setter wins stand out in the score of years that followed those early Philadelphia Kennel Club trials. They were by Finglas, imported by S. L. Boggs of Pittsburgh, that won the absolute stake of the American club in 1892. His son, Fingalin, was second in the derby stake of the International club in 1893. After that the Irish record was largely a blank for many years. There were many men who accepted the challenge, but failed to produce lasting results. Graham mentioned a Mr. Guthrie of Mexico, Missouri, who was determined to produce "a plan of selecting specially fast and heady Irish Setters with the object of breeding them up to field trial class." Graham added: "It is much to be desired that gentlemen like Mr. Guthrie, who has abundant means and is an indefatigable student of the breeding science, will pursue this object perseveringly."

Unfortunately, we find no record that Mr. Guthrie, or others of that era, achieved any notable success.

And, it was in 1900 that the first of today's breeders registered his first Irish Setter. A tall and straight young man of the Connellsville area, Clyde L. Standish, embarked upon what has become nearly 60 years of devotion to the Irish Setter as a field dog. He and his late wife never had less than

one each. They once told the writer that they had to have at least two Irish, one to keep each of them warm on cold nights. While taking an Irish Setter into bed has never been the sort of practice we'd recommend, the Standish's always demanded that their Red Ones be useful bird dogs. Through several decades, sometimes as the only ones in the country supporting Irish in field trials, the Standish's held to their faith in the breed. In April the National Red Setter Field Trial Club honored two old timers of the breed. Both were Pennsylvanians. Clyde L. Standish and Charles Coale of Allentown were voted honorary life memberships. A club officer stated: "The club is more honored to have had their support than we can ever honor these two men."

For a time in the years from 1911 on, it appeared the breed had found a man who could and would lead it into new prominence afield. The man was Otto Phol, a druggist of Fremont, Neb. His Donegal's Alizon, in 1918, won the first significant placement an Irish Setter had had in many years when she was placed third in the high class derby of the All-American club's winter trials. On October 26 of that same year Phol died in the terrible epidemic of Spanish influenza. It was a great blow to the Irish Setter. It was impossible to keep the Phol kennel together. Others profited for a time from the start Phol had made. The most famous of the dogs of his breeding was Horace Lytle's Smada Byrd which, under Lytle's skillful training and adept handling, developed into a campaigner equal to the severest of amateur competition.

Several others who remain as contemporary fanciers of the Red Ones afield got their starts in the early twenties. Prominent among these are Elias C. Vail who was to have considerable success as a breeder, owner and trainer. The late Edwin Berloz-

heimer who gave liberally of his time, energy and wealth and, today, his wife, Myra, continues as one of the breed's staunchest supporters. O. H. Neimeyer of Prospect, Ohio, who, although he started with the breed in 1906, only during the twenties, began to get deserved recognition.

About 1923 the Irish Setter Club of America was making plans to hold its first field trial since 1907, but no lasting benefit came from this effort. The club continued with its dominant interest in bench shows.

Another fine sportsman and determined enthusiast, F. J. Leferdink of Hickman, Nebraska, was embarked upon a determined effort that was to continue until his death a few years ago. One dog of his breeding was

later to be carried into today's successful field strains.

In Albert Lea, Minnesota, Earl Bond was trying, without help, to breed against the tide of bench-only fanciers. He was to quietly pass from the scene after fifty years of effort without knowledge of his greatest triumph. Old, alone, and broken in health, he shot his last two dogs when unfeeling and unknowing neighbors complained that he was feeding his dogs from relief funds. He then moved off to Iowa to live with his sister and he thus disappeared from view without knowing he had bred the foundation bitch that was to eventually spark the revival of the Red Ones.

In 1924 an Irish by the name of

Photo by Henry P. Davis

RECORD SMASHING WINNER—Under the handling of his owner, W. E. LeGrande of Douglassville, AKC Field Trial Champion Ike Jack Kendrick has accumulated the amazing total of 52 recognized field trial wins. This figure compares with the previous record of 31 wins by another Irish Setter, Willow Winds Cathy, also of LeGrande's kennel.



Red Hot—was just that. He was owned by Royal A. Ferris of Texas and trained by the famed handler, Ed. Farrior. Among the dogs he defeated was the Pointer, Triple National Champion Becky Broom Hill. The great field trial historian, Al Hochwalt, wrote of him: "There was something about this dog that impressed one the moment he was seen in competition. His action was more like an English Setter; he possessed quite an abundance of style on point and as a bird dog he was the equal of most of the bird dogs of his day . . . Irish Setter fanciers of the period hailed him as the wonder of his breed, but alas, when it came to investigating his bloodlines nothing was forthcoming . . . It was even whispered that occasionally he sired white and black dogs on the few occasions that he was used for the perpetuation of his breed."

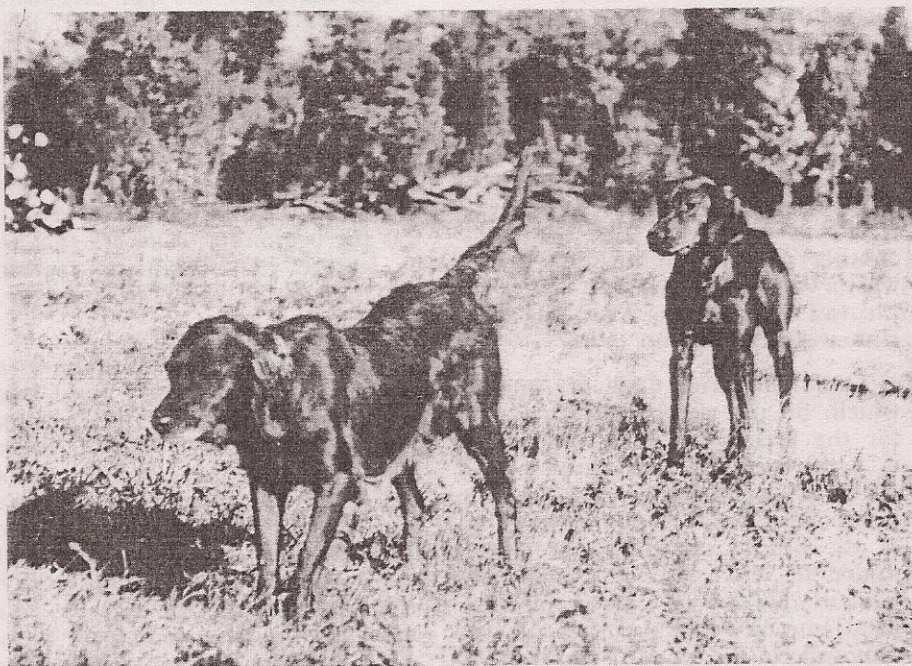
Alas, yes. Red Hot was born too soon. Today he would find at least a few sportsmen who would not be adverse to borrowing back from the English that were built openly and covertly upon Irish blood and that of Pointers.

It was also in 1924 that Elias Vail achieved a significant divided-third placement in a field of 47 in the members' all-age stake at the English Setter Club's trials.

Ben Curtis of Oklahoma was next to take up the challenge and he had two good ones in McKerry's Pat and Pat's son, McKerry Pat's Dusty. But Pat didn't much resemble the bench type and, despite some truly fine wins in rugged competition, he was little used at stud.

That the majority of the Irish Setter fancy was unable to divorce itself from a complete fixation for bench show competition is evidenced

HIS FIRST BACK—Judging by his expression of puzzlement, this pup is obeying an instinct he doesn't completely understand. He is backing his dam, the great winner and producer, Askew's Carolina Lady. Like many of her sons and daughters, The Dude (owned by the author) became an outstanding winner.



by the fact that Vail continued his winning ways in the east, but breeders shunned his stock, even though his dogs were capable of minor bench winnings. In 1925 Vail went one-two with Elcova Kinkie and Modoc Bedilia, in the all-age stake of the Orange County trial over ten English and five Pointers. At the same trial Dr. P. H. Faivre's Terry Boyne's Wynky was first in a derby that had 14 starters.

Through the next few years only Horace Lytle and his beloved Byrd, Vail and Ben Curtis had any notable success with the Red Setter challenge. A new club, the Gordon and Irish Setter Club was formed and ran a trial at Cornwall-on-the-Hudson in October of 1930. The effort was in the right direction—but apparently the dogs were not. Only one prospect was uncovered, and he, Cloud Burst Red, was unbroken. The club held another trial the following year in which Vail won the major stake with Elcova's Admiration. After that this club was heard of no more.

The Irish Setter Club of America which, because it was the first club for the breed in the United States, is recognized by the show-minded AKC as the 'parent' club for the breed and as such is custodian of all of the breed's rights and privileges under the AKC. It held its first field trial in 26 years in October of 1933. Mostly it was a field day with a picnic atmosphere. Elcova McTybe was the winner in the all-age over 19 other starters and used the victory as the key to becoming the first of the AKC field trial champions among the Irish. About this time Vail had a little company in the east. H. A. Sims came along with his Tipperary McKerry, a really good one that won regularly in New England. He, also became an AKC field trial champion.

In the early thirties a young fellow who had been Elias Vail's kennel boy refused to let severe physical handi-

caps dissuade him from his dream of becoming a professional bird dog trainer. Although he has not specialized in the breed, Paul Long has since had some part in the training of ninety per cent of the successful Irish that have come upon the scene. It was Paul Long who piloted Sally of Kildare to an unprecedented twenty recognized field trial wins between 1935 and 1941. Sally was owned by Patrick W. Hehir, long-time fish and game director of the state of Massachusetts.

The Berolzheimers had, meanwhile concentrated their attention upon field trial activities and campaigned two Irish, bred in Pennsylvania, to AKC field trial championships. They were Clodagh McTybe O'Cloisters and Shaun McTybe O'Cloisters. The breeder was William Monan, then living in the Williamsport area. It was the beginning of an era that was to feature Pennsylvanians sparking the rebirth of the Irish Setter as a bird dog.

The first real sensation in the breed since the days of Smada Byrd came along in the years immediately before World War II. This dog of blazing speed was Skyline Ephriam, the property of Judge Thomas M. Marshall of Pittsburgh. He was campaigned fearlessly and won consistently. Field trial men depreciated him because he did not show a high flag on point and show folks let him pass by because he did not meet their concept of classic beauty. But—as a bird dog he was hard to beat and won eleven placements in a short career.

Alvin R. Bush, now a congressman from the seventeenth district of Pennsylvania, before the war, when the demands upon his time were not so great, enjoyed gunning over his Red Ones afield. The star of his kennel was AKC Field Trial Champion Uncle Ned R. He had many good ones and their bloodlines continue strong in the winning Irish of today.

Under the leadership of Charley Coale and Allen Bortz, the Allentown area became a stronghold for field-bred Irish. Joyce and Carl Schollenberger became particularly strong devotees. Bortz did some admirable winning with his Jeep. Archer Church, although he lived in New Jersey became closely allied with them.

In New England another hotbed developed with such folks as John Cassidy, Fred Shaw, Jim and Bob Finn and Paul Long of Massachusetts, Tom Ward of Rhode Island, Mrs. Dorothy Lee Winter of Connecticut, and Fred White and Ted Grant of Maine. On the west coast Jake Hui-zenga was having some success with his Oxtan's Shosaph.

During the fall of 1950 the Irish Setter Club of America offered the last of the trial it held under its own initiative. It demonstrated two things. First, that there was interest enough to draw entries from both coasts to Iowa. Second, that the ISCA wasn't much interested in field work. Club officials dragged out the process of granting approval until the last minute and the trial secretary, as he explained it to the writer, found it too late to invite seasoned field trial men to judge the event. The men who did officiate did make a conscientious effort, but grave errors were made, they became confused as to which dogs did what and the event closed on an angry note.

Also during the fall of 1950, came a most significant achievement for an Irish Setter. The star of the Berolz-heimer kennel, Rufus McTybe O'Cloisters, rose to new heights when he was named runner-up in the National Amateur Pheasant Championship. Rufus was not only a solid bird dog, but he was a handsome fellow. However, his fee was set rather high, he was seldom advertised and the bench folks cared not at all for his unfashionable blood lines. In his

limited opportunities he produced rather well.

The small field trial element within the Irish Setter Club of New England inaugurated post-war field trials wherein Ned LeGrande became introduced to the Red Setter challenge—and some fine sportsmen. About the same time a determined few men in the Irish Setter Club of Indiana started field trials for Irish along traditional lines. These have served a limited area, but have never consistently offered keen competition.

And—that's where we were when Ned LeGrande shook his head and said: 'Something is going to have to be done for Irish Setters.'

... To be Concluded Next Month.

CEDAR BLUF PADDY, owned, bred, trained and campaigned by Allentown conservationist Allen E. Bortz, was a consistent winner until her recent death.

