

National Red Setter Trials

By JOAN W. LAWRENCE

MAKE way for the Irish! They invaded the celebrated grounds of the August A. Busch Wildlife Area, Weldon Spring, Mo., in all their splendor on April 11-12. The Irish Setter Club of Missouri played host to The National Red Setter Field Trial Club, and a five-stake program brought the Red dogs and their handlers from eleven different states.

Two fine clear warm days encouraged many into the saddle, while others walked the various stakes. One cannot deny that there is no more beautiful dog than the Irish setter, with its deep mahogany coat and friendly eyes.

Last year this trial was held in Dover, Del., this year being shifted to the Midwest, with its responsibility and organization landing on the shoulders of Mrs. G. Wood Smith of Kirkwood, Mo., field trial chairman of the Irish Setter Club of Missouri. Almost single handedly this fine sportswoman took care of every detail, and because of her the trial achieved its success. Red setter patrons everywhere owe her thanks and appreciation.

We were continually aware of the intelligent application of the two judges, Owen G. Turnbull of Troy, Mo., and Edward E. Randall of Creve Coeur, Mo.

Thanks are due Betty Coudy for her secretarial

Edwin Berol, who was runner-up in the National Amateur Pheasant Championship in 1950.

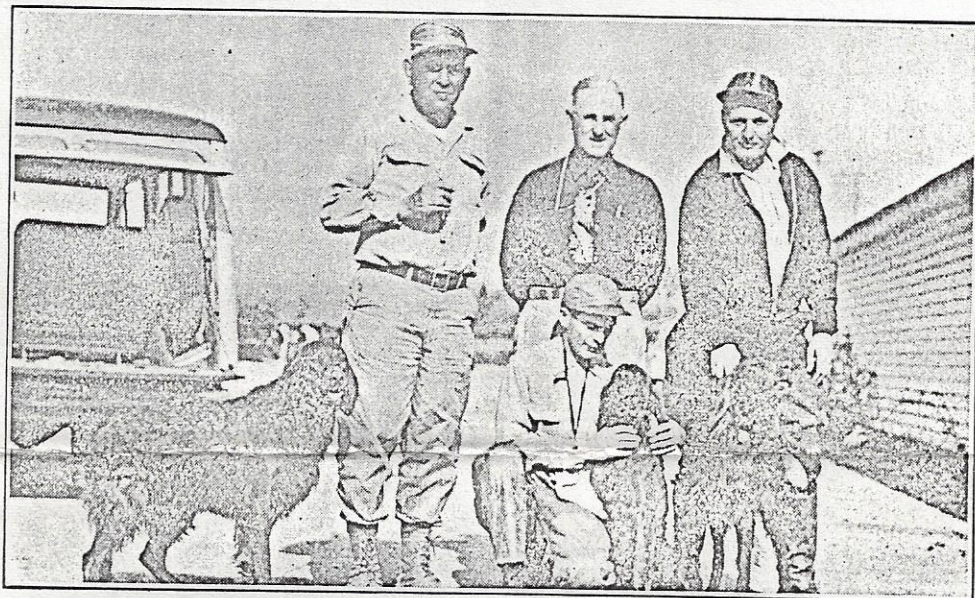
So the problem the Irish setter fancier has today is a difficult one, and cannot be solved overnight. He is directing his breeding towards a dog that will one day be able to take its place along side the English setter and pointer in field trial competition. This means a change in previous breeding programs, so that these dogs will once again be bred for bird sense, brains and hunting prowess rather than for conformation alone.

This problem is realized by many Irish fans, and as Herm David, a director of the National Red Setter Field Trial Club, so aptly put it: "We fully realize the road we have to hoe to get the Irish setter back into field competition is not an easy one. The quality of the dogs seen at the National Red Setter Club's trials has added incentive to continue to work with these dogs and eventually carry us to class gun dogs worthy of competition."

OPEN PUPPY STAKE

The first brace was put down at 8:25 on Saturday morning, under a clear sky with a cool wind at our backs. The Dude ran a merry objective race, hitting cover and handling. Byrdfield Bob ran a forward race, making several lengthy casts. Sugar applied. Kinvarra Camilla appealed.

The puppies were judged on application and desire to hunt.



THE JUDGES AND SOME WINNERS

From left: Windyhill Clanderrick Mick and G. Wood Smith, Mick the winner of both the Open and Amateur Shooting Dog Stakes; Judge Owen G. Turnbull and Judge Edward E. Randall. Foreground: Herm David with Willow Winds Cathy, owned by W. E. LeGrande, and Rust King O'Toomerbridge, W. H. Roberts' color-bearer.

support, Marshall Jack Coudy, Lee Worstell who drove the dog wagon, Leo George, and other St. Louis bird dog people who loaned a hand.

A banquet was held Saturday night at Schwenck's Countryside Inn, where trophies were awarded, movies were shown and out-of-town guests were introduced. They included Dr. E. H. Brown of Lincoln, Neb., Don Martin of Springfield, Ill., Mrs. Irene Walker of Milwaukee, Wis., Mr. and Mrs. Edward Cude of Nunnally, Tenn., Herm David of Cleveland, Mr. and Mrs. A. M. Nelson of Royal Oaks, Mich., Mr. and Mrs. J. E. Franson of Harrisburg, Ill., and Ken Davis of Kenosha, Wis., to mention a few. Men who could not be present but who sent dogs were W. E. LeGrande of Douglasville, Pa., and Bill Roberts of Pine Bluff, Ark.

The stakes were judged on the same standard and basis as any pointer and setter trial, guided by a recognition of the continual evolution the field trial Irishmen are undergoing. A few words about the background of this dog will help one understand what the problems are and what is being done to overcome them.

The Irish setter became a distinct breed in the latter part of the eighteenth century. His development in Ireland and the British Isles at that time stemmed from a mixture of Spanish and French Spaniels and the English pointer. He was red and white in color and used primarily as a gun dog. The entirely red strain has been developed comparatively recently for show purposes. The early red dog had many strikes against him in the field, for he was inclined to hunt by foot-scent rather than wind-borne scent. He had a certain wildness which made him hard to break, and due to his mahogany color he was difficult to see. About 1900 the dog was introduced into America, and campaigned both on the bench and in trials. After World War I, emphasis was laid on the use of the dog almost exclusively for the bench, and as a result he was bred for size, looks, and showiness rather than speed and stamina. There were exceptions, however, in the famed field trial winner Smada Byrd, owned by J. Horace Lytle, and later in Rufus McTybe O'Cloisters, owned by

Weldon Spring, Mo., April 2

Judges: Edward E. Randall and Owen G. Turnbull
OPEN PUPPY—6 Irish Setters

- 1st—THE DUDE, 523902, dog, by Willow Winds Duke—Aswek's Carolina Lady. Herm David, owner and handler.
2d—BYRDFIELD BOB, unreg., dog, by Willow Winds Hobo—Willow Winds Smada. D. L. Martin, owner and handler.
3d—KINVARRA CAMILLA, unreg., bitch, by Tyrone Farm II—Kinvarra Bootsle. Neil Schneider, owner and handler.

AMATEUR SHOOTING DOG STAKE

Windy Clanderrick Mick ran a class race and hunted the cover. At 25 minutes point was called by handler, and Mick was seen on point close by some cedar trees. As handler went in to flush birds, Mick moved up, indicating the birds were running. Mick's manners were acceptable.

Patrick King Ranger patterned a nice searching race to the front and demonstrated he was hunting.

Willow Winds Cathy showed considerable drive, hunting all the likely spots. She was going away at pick-up time.

Princess Pat lacked drive. She had a momentary stand in a briar patch. King Rusty had an opportunity on a single but his manners were ill-defined. Byrdfield Zet had her mind on birds, was biddable with merry tail. Byrdfield Kate made several nice casts with a hopeful moment as she wheeled and made game.

AMATEUR SHOOTING DOG—7 Irish Setters

- 1st—WINDYHILL CLANDERRICK MICK, 495391, dog, by Bill's Red Clipper—Madcap Mollie. Mrs. G. W. Smith, owner; G. W. Smith, handler.
2d—PATRICK KING RANGER, 489551, dog, by King Canton of Ardee—Hartsbourne Cheery O'Leary. E. L. Cude, owner and handler.
3d—WILLOW WINDS CATHY, 528763, bitch, by Rusty's Jinx—Willow Winds Smada. W. E. LeGrande, owner; Herm David, handler.

NATIONAL SPRING CLASSIC

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GREENE COUNTY

The Greene County tenth annual amateur grounds owned by Sterling near Pleasant Club officers are Cook, secretary; and Judges for the ev Payne of Birmingham widely experienced in ating class dogs and

Pleasant

Judges: Jac

- AMATEUR PUPP
1st—JIM HARRIGAN, Ghost—Lady Bell H handler.

Setter Trials

LAWRENCE

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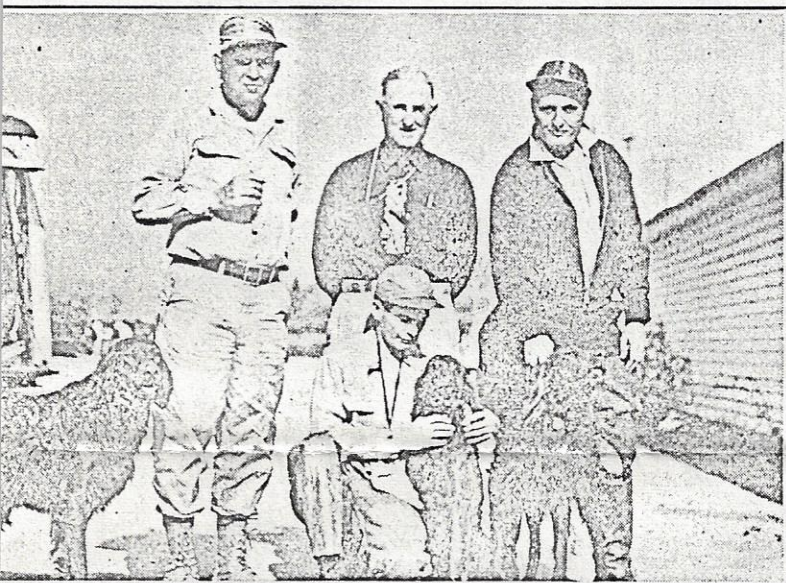
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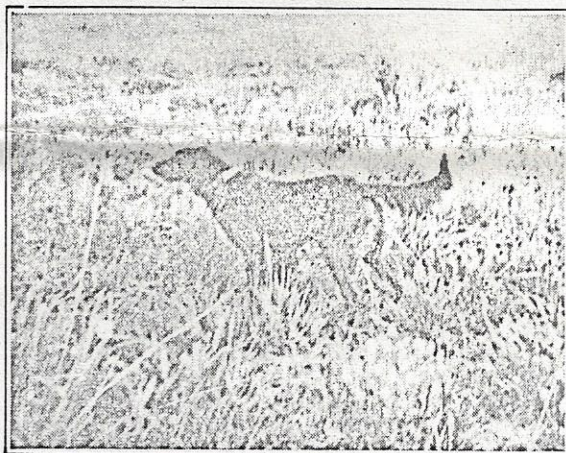
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seen standing, his quarry near a pond. Handler rode up the birds while approaching his dog, then fired from horseback, the dog remained. At fifteen minutes handler rode up a bevy, dog not in judgment, shots were heard. At 55 minutes point was called again and a single was flushed.

Willow Winds Cathy fairly flowed over the green wheatfields, putting together the outstanding race of the stake. She hunted likely spots, ran to cover, was objective with a forward pattern. We certainly hoped we could see this dog on birds.

At thirty minutes Rust King O'Toomerbridge made game in woods; and again at 45 minutes. Near this area the gallery later rode up two singles.



WILLOW WINDS CATHY

First in the Open Derby, Second in the Open Shooting Dog Stake and Third in the Amateur Shooting Dog Stake

Penny, confused by a new handler, was picked up at 22 minutes. Tim had the best part of his race during the first half-hour.

NATIONAL SPRING CLASSIC [One-Hour Heats]

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Jinx—Willow Winds Smada. W. E. LeGrande, owner;
Herm David, handler.
- 3d—RUST KING O'TOOMERBRIDGE, 497824, dog, by King
Canton of Ardee—Burr Oak Shirley. W. H. Roberts,
owner; Herm David, handler.

OPEN DERBY

This stake was of high caliber, giving evidence that the Red setter breeders are getting the job done.

Willow Winds Cathy again impressed with her lengthy casts. Definitely a class runner, she finished going away. The Dude, an attractive dog, had a purposeful forward race, ran the edges, merry and hunting all the way. Rustic Lad of Ardee appealed.



PATRICK KING RANGER

Second in the Amateur Shooting Dog Stake

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Aswek's Carolina Lady. Herm David, owner and
handler.
- 3d—RUSTIC LAD OF ARDEE, 535995, dog, by Ardee's
Ronnie Prince—Lady of Ardee. A. M. Nelson, owner
and handler.

GREENE COUNTY (ALA.) CLUB'S TRIALS

The Greene County Sportsman's Club held its tenth annual amateur field trial on March 1-3, over grounds owned by Homer Carpenter and James Sterling near Pleasant Ridge, Ala.

Club officers are W. H. Tuck, president; M. A. Cook, secretary; and H. W. McGee, treasurer.

Judges for the event were Ed Zeigler and Jack Payne of Birmingham, Ala. Both of these men are widely experienced in training, handling, and evaluating class dogs and their decisions proved popular.

Pleasant Ridge, Ala., March 1

Judges: Jack Payne and Ed Zeigler

- AMATEUR PUPPY—10 Pointers and 1 Setter
- 1st—JIM HARRIGAN, unreg., pointer dog, by Storm's
Ghost—Lady Bell Harrigan. W. H. Harry, owner and
handler.