

## Come Back Red Setters

Becky And I Acquired our first Irish Setters in

July, 1965. We were hunters then, as we are now. We knew nothing of field trials or the red setter movement. I had been hunting pheasant over some great pointers since I was thirteen. One of these first Irish Setters stole our heart, her name was Beck. Beck's style on point was low, her gait was choppy, nose was fair. She had two great attributes, she tried her best to please and she was very smart.

Around the spring of 1970, I met Tim Flythe, the famous Turkey Talk Red Setter breeder. Tim Krid of took me in and invited me to stay in his camper at the spring National Red Setter Championship in Virginia. Bill cargo also stayed with us. I had several Irish Setters at that time and I had won several walking stakes. So I bought a horse for two hundred dollars and I was ready to move up to horse back shooting dogs. I was ready, but my dogs were not. I had lots of bird work in the futurity, but one each find my dogs flagged.

It was at that trial that Tim Flythe and Bill cargo made an impression that would influence me the rest of my life. I was committed to the Red Setter Challenger, to breed and develop the red setter into the best bird dog in the world. Tim Flythe had a friend in the field of genetics at NC State University who selected and loaned to me five books on the genetic breeding of horses. Tim further mo  
over

<sup>poorly marked</sup>  
gave me Three red setter bitches that he couldn't sell.  
Two of those bitches were called, but one was bred and  
produced Three bitches and one male, ~~the~~ bred that male  
to his sisters. The best of these puppies was Dixie County  
moonshine. From her would emerge the greatest line  
of red setters in the world, The Come Back Red Setters.  
Champions like Come Back Lady, High County Lass,  
Celtic Sun Spurts, Ben cat, Desperado, Promotion,  
Fire boy, ~~Rebel~~ Makita and many other great dogs. A  
list of dogs that Becky and I bred and mostly trained  
will follow.

My big dilemma was how could one person make a  
difference, who was at best with inadequate means. My  
first really good dog that I tried to campaign was come  
back lady. When Lady won the Red Setter championship  
in 1979 under the guidance of Clair Gross, I had thought  
everyone would run around, shake my hand and it would  
be fantastic. Needless to say, winning was not what I  
thought it would be.

It was time to reassess my role with red setters.  
I would breed, start, ~~and~~ Train, <sup>and</sup> plaster my young dogs  
and try to put them with the best red setter people  
I could find. Tim Fike, in Golden, Colorado had already  
purchased several started dogs and was pleased. On the  
east coast, Paul Ober was doing very well both breeding  
and campaigning his dogs. He was the logical #2 candidate.

By this time, I was convinced that no one in the red setter movement had the knowledge nor the art to bring the red setter up to the pointer level in my life time. The quick fix that was relied upon by most breeders was an infusion of blood by out crosses either to the English pointer or English setter. The problem with outcrosses is the improvement is temporary and degenerative, with each successive generation getting worse. I was doing a lot of inbreeding at this time, trying to know as much as possible. One revelation was when one individual is bred tightly enough to even with an outcross, the puppies still resemble the inbred dog. What this means is that any individual trait can be maintained by tight line breeding and not lost through an outcross. By this time, I was beginning to develop the idea that trait selection in relative tight inbred individuals outcrossed to an individual with the same desired trait could strengthen that particular trait without losing other desirable traits. This outcross should not occur more often than every <sup>third</sup> forth generation. An example

Now as I was getting better bird dogs with each generation all I needed was Roger Boser, who I still consider the best dog Trainer and handler around. With Tim Fike, Paul Ober, and Roger Boser I knew if I could get the quality to them, Red Setter history would change quickly. The results, Come Back Red Setters, in the last 17 years have won a whopping 38 championships and 27 runner-up championships. They have dominated the Red Setter Championships in the last ten years. Some names were changed even some

pedigrees were changed for one reason or another. We never minded, the important issue was putting a great dog with a real dog man. My own satisfaction ~~was~~ knowing that with each new generation of puppies, some of these puppies will be better than any dogs before. Come Back Red Setter statistics cannot be matched by any breed. Champion Bearcat has placed in 57 per cent of all trials entered, <sup>he has 141 wins.</sup> Come Back Red Setters consistently have the highest bird counts <sup>over 100</sup> every trial. Why, because they are better bird dogs. I am a hunter first and because of that <sup>my dog</sup> must be a bird dog first.

Thirty one years later Becky and I operate a game hunting lodge, Six Roads Plantation. We hunt red setters, the finest gun dogs anywhere.

### Come Back Red Setters

18 yrs

Denton County, Mecklenburg

Ch. Ma Kita

Ch. Come Back Lady

Ch. Celtic Come Back Fireboy

Come Back Charlie

Come Back Rosie

Ch. Susan Plum Christmas  
Ch. High Country Lass

Ru Ch. Celtic Come Back Superstar

Come Back Choo Choo

Ru Ch. Come Back Poco Lady

<sup>DOB 10/10/83</sup> Ch. Come Back Molly

Ch. Bearcat

Tobey Red

Ru Ch. Cham. Celtic Come Back Proud Lady

Ch. Celtic Sun Sportie

Celtic Survival Apparel

Come Back Sophie

Ch. Desperado

Come Back Riptide

Ch. Promotion

Come Back Tasy

Ru Ch. Polly Wog

Bye

Come Back Little Choo

Come Back Sashie Q

Come Back Sockit

Come Back Super Fire

Come Back Dixie

Come Back Fairy Bear