

66 The Shepherd News 77

12th Issue.

Edited by : S. McCormack.

- P R E S I D E N T ' S M E S S A G E -

"Dear Members,

I would like to thank you for the honor you have bestowed upon me, to be your leader for the coming year. I hope and trust that we can all work together and be one big happy family.

This being our sixth year in existence, let us all hope that it is a very good year as far as our club is concerned.

With the prospects of a Championship Show looming up on the horizon, I'd be very pleased and happy if we got it during my term, as being a foundation member of the club it would be very fitting.

When our club was formed it was said "It won't reign long - it will be put out of existence" - well Dear Members I'm proud and happy to say that didn't come to pass.

I think our club is an asset to the city of Geelong and district as we have shown to the people what can be done with Shepherds - I regard our club as the leading Obedience Dog Club in Victoria, having gained more honors in trials for the number of dogs we have, than any other club.

Here's hoping for a good season!

R. Boseley,
President. G.G.S.D.C.

OFFICE BEARERS & COMMITTEE YEAR 1960 - 1961

President :
Mr. R. Boseley.

Vice-Presidents :
Mr. K. Heyne - Mr. K. Krygger
Sectetary : Asst. Secretary:
Mr. W. Stephens. Mrs. W. Stephens.

Treasurer :
Mr. J. McCormack.

Editor : Training Supervisor:
Miss S. McCormack. Mr. C. Kitchenmaster

Committee :
Mr. J. Simunitsch
Mr. C. Kitchenmaster
Mr. F. Lehrman
Mr. D. Carnegie
Mr. C. Mitchell
Mr. I. Sirca
Mr. E. Herwig
Mrs. E. McCormack
Mrs. B. Krygger
Mrs. Reid
Miss L. Cooper

The above members hope and trust that they will do all in their power to assist the Club and Shepherd Dogs in every way.

Continuing -

BEAU THE PATHFINDER

When Arnold heard that Dreena's trainer, Miss Betty Bridge, had left England to join her parents in New Zealand he, and a deputation of blind people met her ship at Fremantle and urged Miss Bridge to return to Western Australia to establish a guide dog training centre in Perth.

She agreed to "give it a go" and Arnold had rung my husband to say that Betty would be back in December and that a committee had been formed and a start had been made on the erection of kennels and trainer's quarters near the Dogs' Refuge Home at Shenton Park. Arnold had urged my husband and me to fill in application forms with a view to obtaining guide dogs.

Both my husband and I had been totally blind since early childhood, but as he operated a basket-making business from a workshop in our backyard, he felt that he would have little use for a dog. (I may say that he later changed his mind. Ours is now a two-dog household, and Beau and my husband's yellow Labrador guide-dog Tanga, are great friends).

I was interested but lukewarm. The idea of having a dog and embarking upon a new adventure had its attractions, but I was not wildly enthusiastic.

I felt that I had the maximum of independence that a blind person could expect. I could run my house efficiently, could do my local shopping - though not without strain - and if necessary I could catch a bus into town where a friend could meet me. In short, I felt that I lived such a reasonably full and normal life without my sight that I really had little to gain by having a guide dog. However, I duly filled in the form with the mental reservation that I needn't accept the guide-dog when the time came and in any case that day was a long way ahead.

One afternoon in June, 1952, Arnold Cook called on me and introduced me to Miss Betty Bridge who for some time had been working hard to pioneer the guide-dog movement in Australia. The movement had encountered more than its fair share of "teething troubles" but she had triumphed over innumerable difficulties and managed to train the first two dogs.

I was dumbfounded when she asked if I would be willing to commence training with one of them on July 7 - about a fortnight later. I suggested that there may be other people who needed guide-dogs more than I did, and admitted that I was not very keen on having a dog underfoot as I moved about my kitchen, and that I was less keen on "doggy smells" around the house.

All my somewhat feeble objections were promptly countered - I was assured that I was likely to be an ideal student to start the new movement off on the right foot - that a properly trained guide-dog would not be "underfoot" and that there would be no "doggy smell" as my dog would be meticulously groomed every day.

With some misgivings I eventually agreed to take a dog. I learnt that I would have to attend at the Shenton Park Training Centre daily for about a month and that I would walk with my dog twice a day; that I would be taught how to groom and feed him, and that I would have to arrange to have a fence put across my garden so that a dog could not wander out into the street.

. Continued.

Next month - "Introduction to Beau".

Mr. President, Committee Members & Members of the Geelong German Shepherd Club.

I give you a brief account of the club's activities for the year 1959-60. During the year, the committee with few exceptions, have given their wholehearted support on all occasions.

Although not as strong in financial members as in previous years, we have accomplished many of the goals that we have been aiming for. Your club has become more stable and is regarded highly by the other Victorian affiliates - this has been a long hard road and I make this appeal to all members -

1. To give full support to the incoming committee and

2. Always act in the best interests of your dog and this club.

That way we will stay at the top.

At this point, I would like to congratulate the members on their success at the Obedience Trials. I think the fact that there has been twenty Obedience Titles and numerous trophies for highest points gained during this period speaks highly of our trainers and training methods, proving that our dogs are a force to be reckoned with at all trials.

To the members still striving for their titles, I would say "Good Luck" and keep up your training and enthusiasm.

To the members who have gained titles I say "Don't rest on your laurels" - the club needs you, give your colleagues a break and put back some of the knowledge that you've taken out.

Many successful demos. have been organized for Charity and in appreciation we have been rewarded with some handsome donations which have helped considerably in raising our funds.

This club is now represented on the Obedience Trial Advisory Committee of the K.C.C., which I consider quite an honor for Geelong as we are the only Club represented outside the Metropolitan Area.

The picnic and social functions held for the year were a great success socially - my one disappointment being the poor attendance by the majority of the members.

Before ending this report I would like to thank Mr. Col. Mitchell your retiring President for his untiring efforts in helping myself and all the members of this club. His great driving force and co-operation did much towards putting this club on such a firm footing. Unfortunately, due to pressure of business he has not been able to give as much time during the past few weeks as in previous months, but when things ease down at Tenda Poultry we all hope to see Col back with his old driving force again.

To the Treasurers who have held office for this term, I would like to say thanks for a job well done.

Last but not least, I would like to thank Miss McCormack, the editor of your Shepherd News. This job calls for much time and effort with very little help and appreciation from the members in general. It is not a paid job and very few would give up so much of their spare time to bring the clubs activities up to date. Well Shirlee, I hope we as a club can help you more for the on-coming term and that we may go on enjoying the Shepherd News.

To Mr. Fred Lehrman, I would like to say "Good Luck & Safe Journey" for his forthcoming trip overseas.

W.J. Stephens,
Secretary, G.G.S.D.C.

- TRIAL SUCCESS -

Joe Simunitsch was once again successful with "Asta Princess" at Coburg & District Obedience Trial by gaining his 2nd "leg in" towards his "CDX" also Dot Mitchell had a further success with "Glenrhelyn Julie" by winning another trophy for highest points gained in C.D. Bitches.

Julie, by the way, is a very lucky dog, as she jumped from Dot's utility recently while travelling at high speed - fortunately Julie was not injured in any way.

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- DATES TO NOTE -

- July 14th : Committee Meeting.
" 16th : C/Ship Show - German Shepherd
Dog Club of Victoria.
" 17th : Obedience Trial - German
Shepherd Dog Club of Victoria.
" 23rd : Demonstration at Newtown State
School.

We would like to bring to the notice
of our members that we have available

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PLEASE KEEP YOUR MILK BOTTLE TOPS

An appeal for tin foil is being
conducted in Geelong by the YMCA - this
is then given to the Blind Institute
and is towards the training of a Guide
Dog for a Geelong girl.

Can our Members assist?

TREASURER'S REPORT 1959 - 1960

To President, Committee & Members,

At the last Annual Meeting of 16.2.59 the Bank Balance stood at £44.13.11.

In the ensuing period the Total Receipts were £297.9.6.

As against the Total Expense of £248.19.9.

One of the highest single items of expense being the purchase of a Duplicator costing £30.0.0 but this has been offset by advertisements, sale of catalogues and training books totalling £26.15.0. plus a great saving in Club printing expenses.

The cost of trophies and sashes for the four Obedience Trails and one Open Parade was £58.17.0 but with the aid of £73.15.9. in donations and raffles the burden of expenses on the club was greatly reduced.

During the 16 months since our last Annual Meeting the club has staged numerous demonstrations for Charities and other functions, from these the club has received donations to the value of £23.8.0.

An appeal was also conducted by the Club to aid our fellow member Len Broom whose home was destroyed by fire - this effort brought in £30 through the means of a raffle.

The Bank Balance at close of books at this Annual Meeting stands at £90.12.6.

J.F. McCormack,
Treasurer, G.G.S.D.C.

See Kevin Krygger - Agent for your
T.V. Colour Screen - Price £4.18.6.

- DEMONSTRATION -

A demonstration will be staged again this year at the Newtown State School Fete, which is to be held on July 23rd, commencing at 2.00 p.m.

This demo. was very well received last year by all who attended, and the children are eager to see our dogs working again - so it is requested that all members do their utmost to be present on that day.

- TRAINING NOTES -

The system of awarding points for training exercises appears to be proving very popular with our members, as since its beginning a few weeks ago, attendance at classes has picked up considerably.

This goes to prove that to keep a member interested, we must give him something to strive for and so keep up our high standard of training.

In fact lately, there appears to be another problem arising - that is the parking of our cars in Baldwin Avenue - it is nearly full on Sunday mornings now and it is good to see it that way.

DOG POWER v HORSE POWER

We have all seen those midget cars and praised their economy on petrol but -

Joe Sinunitsch has gone one better than that, he hops on his bike, takes a firm grip of "Asta's" lead in his left hand and off he goes - Asta doesn't need any encouragement either, she thinks its great fun.

Joe was last seen speeding down Melbourne Road - not even pedalling - I wonder if he has been booked for speeding yet - or if he gives Asta any assistance on the hills -

Continuing :

INFORMATION ON GERMAN-SHEPHERD-DOGS - OR 'ALSATIANS'

It is always evident that anything at all to show up the Shepherd in a bad light is carried out to the extreme, such as -

At a fairly recent Royal Show a Judge who was mishandling a young German Shepherd dreadfully, received the merest nick from the frightened dog. - Result - HEADLINES . . . "ALSATIAN BITES JUDGE" . . . complete with photo of the scratched hand literally swathed in bandages.

Yet when at the just concluded Show a Bull-terrier savagely attacked an elderly woman, biting her repeatedly necessitating medical attention, the very nasty incident did not merit mention in the press.

Incidents showing up the dog in a good light to the public such as Tracking Dogs finding lost children are glossed over, but when being used to track a criminal the same dogs become "Man-Hunting" dogs to the press. Then that picture (so loved of all editors) of an Alsatian being taught to attack, merely part of his training, he is obeying an order and it means no more to him than being told to "sit" - of course that is not explained to the readers, and the constant repetition of this type of picture breeds fear in the minds of the general public as it gives the impression that all Alsatis are savage.

So much for the adverse Press Campaign - we also know of

Activities of Alsatis in the World Today -

First and foremost hundreds are entrusted with the care and safety of the helpless blind. Alsatis are used almost exclusively for this work in England, America and on the Continent. The dog is on duty his whole life through, guiding and guarding his master, and giving him eyes, independence, privacy and a devoted companionship. The arduous training for this task he accepts in four months.

In the Alps, the Alsatian has superseded the St. Bernard because of his superior intelligence and keener sense of smell. 170 dogs with their handlers are on call at all times, and are proving themselves invaluable in saving the lives of the victims of storm and avalanche.

1000 Alsatis are attached to the British Police Force. In 1952, before adopting any dog for police work, facts and figures of all possible breeds were studied and the best was selected - the Alsatian.

The dogs move through the crowded streets of big cities, in public meeting places, on busy wharves etc. with perfect safety. Only criminals have anything to fear and the toughest of them dread the dogs.

Police training they accept in three months with occasional refreshers.

Work of Alsatis in War -

The work of these dogs was so extensive and varied that almost every Alsatian in England was conscripted.

They were used by the Army, Airforce, Red Cross and Police. In the Red Cross the dogs worked with the stretcher-bearers. They were sent out alone into "No-Mans-Land" to find the wounded, often under fire. The victims of German Snipers, dead and dying dogs often lay among the men they went out to save, but many soldiers and bearers owe their lives to them. Their bravery and devotion to duty has made them the most decorated breed in existence.

... Continued.