

66 The Shepherd News

Lyby

16th Issue.

Edited by: S. McCormack.

OVERSEAS REPORT

Bremen 24.10.60.

"On October 2nd, I went to the Obedience Test for the Senats Cup. It was a cool autumn day, the trial started at 8 a.m. and finished at 5.30 p.m. As with our trials most of the onlookers consisted of handlers and their families and friends.

30 dogs were registered for the competition - 3 dogs from each of the 10 Clubs.

The work was carried out on two separate grounds. The heeling, jumping, retrieving etc. being done on one while the other was used for Guard Work.

As the Police, Railway Police and Guard Dog Clubs had their men in uniforms, it gave the whole show an official touch.

The main interest was drawn by the test for guard work. These top class dogs gave a good display of courage and obedience, but the sporting and hobby-like atmosphere which our trials have is lacking here, as the dogs are really (most of them) working dogs - very businesslike!

The winner was :-

"Bahnpolizei" - Bremen. 1st.
"Stadt & Polizei" - Bremen. 2nd.
"Glockher Werke" - Bremen. 3rd.

Cheerio for now,
Fred Lehrman."

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ATTENTION ALL MEMBERS !!!

- Geelong German Shepherd Dog Club -
SOCIAL CABARET DANCE
at
Rippleside Recreation Hall
on
Saturday, November 12th, 1960.
8 p.m.
Supper Provided
B.Y.O. Price: 10/- Double

Continuing . . .

"BEAU THE PATHFINDER"

Day after day our training continued in good weather and bad. At first we concentrated mainly on pavements and obstacle work - then we started our traffic lessons.

At first we used "artificial traffic". A car, driven by one of our volunteer drivers would be driven past just as we were about to step off the pavement to cross the road. Beau had been trained not to obey the command "Forward" until there was sufficient margin for him to reach the centre of the road clear of oncoming traffic.

Sometimes he would take a few steps and then stop to allow a vehicle to pass. Waiting in the middle of the road for cars to pass in front of me before completing the crossing was rather a nerve-racking experience at first - even when I knew that the trainer was just behind me. It was infinitely more terrifying later when Beau and I were "on our own", but I soon learnt to have every confidence in my guide.

I was told that once I had started to cross the road I should not try to dictate to the dog but rely implicitly upon his judgement. I found this the hardest lesson to obey. After five years of working together, Beau has sensed this weakness in me, and when I am undecided about crossing a road, he gives a tug at the harness which means "Relax and get moving - I know my job".

From artificial traffic we progressed to the "natural traffic" on main highways. Often drivers would pull up and refuse to move until we were safely across the road, but this is a mistaken kindness and it is preferable for them to keep moving while exercising due care.

Hesitation is apt to be confusing to the dog and it is better for all concerned if cars continue to keep moving at a steady pace.

On the last day of my training, a member of the committee of the Guide Dogs for the Blind Association expressed a wish to see Beau in action. I was taken out with Beau in the Association's van and told what route to take. The only obstacles I was expected to encounter were branches of trees stacked on the pavements. A team of men were lopping and pruning the street trees in this area and we had coped with these obstacles successfully on previous walks.

Miss Bridge transferred to the committeeman's car which followed at a distance, and Beau and I set out briskly. Here and there Beau swerved round heaps of branches and we eventually arrived back at the van feeling that we had acquitted ourselves creditably.

The car joined us a few minutes later and I learnt that in addition to guiding me round the branches, Beau had carefully taken me past a manhole which had been opened and left unattended.

The workman responsible had seen me cross the road and had sprinted out of a side street expecting to find me in the hole or fallen over the equipment left near it.

Thanks to Beau, I had not even known the obstacles existed.

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TRIAL & SHOW SUCCESS

Mrs. Ivy Rankin and Miss Elaine Loughnan, two of our new Training Members gained C.D. titles at the recent trial held at Croydon with their Labrador and Scotch Collie.

Mrs. Rankin's Labrador "Goldie" added further credit to his effort in winning the trophy for Novice Dog.

At the recent Geelong A & P Show Graham McDonald had quite a field day with his German Shepherd "Castwood Prince" in gaining 1st place in Puppy Dog, Junior Dog and Novice Dog.

Graham also took 3rd place in Local Puppy Dog (All Breeds) which was a class field of 8.

Graham's puppy in 3 starts has won - 4 Firsts, 3 Seconds and 3 Thirds - a very fine effort for a novice and his dog.

Miss Elaine Loughnan was also successful with her Scotch Collie "Goldale Bonnie Lassie" in gaining 2nd Open Bitch - Scotch Collies and 3rd Local Open Bitch All Breeds.

Kevin Thompson and Graham McDonald attended the Dandenong Poultry and Kennel Club Show to follow up with further success - Kevin gained 3rd with his Shepherd in Baby Puppy Dog and Graham took 2nd place in Puppy Dog & Novice Dog and 3rd place in Junior Dog and Limit Dog.

FOR ALL DOG & CAT MEDICINES

B. LLOYD & CO. CHEMISTS
(A.E. Bell & K. Lloyd)

Cnr. Moorabool & Lt. Malop Streets
Phone 2814 Geelong.

NEW TRIAL RULE

After discussion at the recent Obedience Trial Advisory Committee, it has been passed that :

The Broad Jump exercise in Open Class, dogs are to clear the jump at a minimum of 22 inches.

A request was made at this meeting to admit a second delegate to represent our Club and was duly granted.

Members are reminded that if they have any queries or grievances in connection with trials, they should bring them to the notice of their delegates - Mr. Bill Stephens and Mr. Dave Carnegie so that they may be heard at the meeting of the Trial Advisory Committee.

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V E T S C O R N E R

Skin complaints in puppies:-

URTICARIA, OR NETTIERASH - This complaint is alarming, but soon disappears. It is characterized by the sudden appearance of raised areas of the skin over various parts of the body, which soon go down, either with or without treatment. It is due to some external irritant or to some ingredient in the diet to which the affected animal has an allergy.

INFECTIOUS DERMATITIS OF PUPPIES - Very often young puppies get a rash on the under surface of the abdomen and inside the back legs, appearing as little pimples with a yellowish centre. Sometimes the condition is seen as a first sign of distemper, so that the affected dogs should be carefully watched. The condition, unless a forerunner of distemper, readily responds to local remedies, but attention should be paid to the general health of the puppies.

TRAINING & THE GERMAN SHEPHERD DOG

by:

Mrs. M.B. Griffin, B.E.M.

I have been asked to write a chapter on the above subject and hope that I may make the necessary points in the space available. I feel that a book would be more suitable to my needs than a chapter; there is so much to be said, so many different aspects to explore and so many difficulties and snags to attack and dispose of.

What do we mean by the word "Training"? There are two distinct types of what is commonly called "training". First there is "Breaking" a dog. This method, in common usage among gamekeepers, and also with many shepherds and stockmen, consists of being habitually rough towards the dog; withholding from him all praise, lavishing no affection upon him, for fear (so they say) of making him soft; and finally using plenty of stick to enforce the will.

In my opinion this is a poor way to treat a dog and results in making of him a poor thing - a dull, subservient slave. It kills initiative in the pupil, by engendering a fear of rousing ire of the tutor. Obedient certainly, but a dog without any spirit, devoid of the 'joie de vivre' which to me is so great a delight to watch in pupil or companion.

The second method is teaching a dumb, intelligent creature by word and signal, by intuitive understanding, by sympathetic (and by this I do not mean weak) handling, all these things we want him to know and understand, all the time watching for, and utilizing the dog's own individual characteristics and using his initiative to the full. To train dogs by this second method takes longer, but in the end makes an infinitely better job of it.

A properly trained dog will evince no fear of his tutor, only respect mingled with affection. Can anyone point to a more willing companion, a more devoted and loyal friend, than a dog who has come to understand the work required of him by an understanding, fair-minded master or mistress? I certainly know of none that even approaches the selfless, undying loyalty of the dog, and above all dogs the German Shepherd.

It is just as important, for success in training, to know ourselves as well as we know our pupils. We must know our strength, which is not difficult; but above all we must know, and be honest about our own weaknesses as well. Unless we admit our faults and watch ourselves, we shall have many failures with our training.

As amateurs we do not all enjoy working the same type of dog, so let us be quite honest; for when we have got hold of the kind of dog unsuitable to our temperament, it is far better to harden our heart and part with it early than go on getting a great deal of hard work and irritation for nothing, ending up by spoiling a dog which in the hands of someone of different temperament might have been made into a really good animal. This does not apply to a professional trainer who knows to adapt his personality to the dog for good results.

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- FOR THE LADIES -

The newly formed Ladies Social Committee has got under way with a flying start and a great deal of interest has been shown by the ladies, with the second meeting bringing along several more new faces.

The competition for last month which was the making of a ladies apron brought to light some very attractive pieces of work.

Mrs. Ivy Rankin took first place with her very ingenious patch-work design back with floral, making a very useful reversible style.

Mrs. Joyce Carnegie gained 2nd place with a very dainty style in buttercup yellow organza trimmed with insertion embroidery threaded with red ribbon - a really pretty party apron.

Miss Marie Van Roy was placed third with her flaired green and white check apron trimmed with a cross-stitched pocket.

There was a wide variety to choose from and must have been a hard task to judge.

The competition for this month will be a "Novelty Item" and should certainly let the imagination run riot, no doubt we will see some very catchy ideas. A reminder here the materials must not cost more than 5/-.

I feel that I should point out here that those ladies who do not have an entry for the competition at the meeting shall be fined 3/-. These fines are placed in a "Piggy Bank" for the ultimate purchase of materials to be made up for a Fete.

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

The raffle for the hamper of goods was won by :-

R.E. THOMPSON
124 SKENE STREET
NEWTOWN.

This raffle brought in £13.12.0. - a very fine effort to start off the bank balance.

The main item on the Social Calendar for November is our first Cabaret Dance on Nov. 12th at Ripple-side and we want this to be a big success so we ask everyone to come along and bring your friends.

To help supplement the supper which is being provided we would like the ladies to bring along a plate of sandwiches, cakes, or savories.

The next meeting will be held at the Palms Coffee Lounge, Ryrie St., at 8.00 p.m. on Tuesday December 1st.

As there will be no meeting in January the competition for judging at the February meeting will be a Child's Apron.

"See you at the Palms".

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