

"The Shepherd News"

17th Issue.

Edited by; S. McCormack

You will no doubt wonder why this issue of Shepherd News is being circulated so early for December - but there is a very important reason -

Firstly, you are aware no doubt that we are holding our next Obedience Trial on December 4th.

Now for this Trial we do want volunteers in assisting to prepare the ground on the morning of the trial.

There are three big rings to be roped off, competitors numbers to be sorted and placed in position and last but not least the erection of a tent. I'm glad to say that no grass mowing will be necessary.

In the afternoon we will require the services of 3 Judge's Stewards plus 2 spare Stewards for relaying any messages to the Organizers if required; we will also require a man to tend the heating of water for teas which the Ladies Committee are organizing.

A short period of training for those members who are entering will be held in the morning before work commences. We do not want to call on any entrants in the afternoon for assistance - they will already have enough in caring for their dogs.

So we do ask members not competing to rally round and help make this Trial yet another success in organization which is so highly regarded by members of other Clubs.

Secondly, our annual Club picnic will take place on Sunday 11th December at Breamlea Beach.

Cars will travel in convoy leaving Belmont Bridge at approximately 10.30 a.m.

We will lunch at Breamlea, after which there will be races for the children, a cricket match for the adults and no doubt a swim for the unwary.

Weather permitting a barbeque tea will be held in the evening, so bring along your steaks.

Those members without cars may be able to arrange transport with fellow club-members - but please don't try and arrange a lift for your dog too.

There will be no training at the Club Grounds on that day so come along to the picnic and have fun!

I had always wanted to meet people - to belong to clubs and similar organizations that would help to keep me mentally alert. I wanted to be independent - to go where I wanted to go at the times I chose to go and not when and where it suited my friends to take me. My friends were always willing to take me to town or on other expeditions, but often I felt that I was being a nuisance.

Above all I wanted to be treated as an individual - not as a companion to someone else. Blind people with sighted guides are often ignored, and it is most exasperating to hear one's companion asked, - "What is her address?" - "Does she take sugar?" and similar questions.

My emancipation did not come immediately of course. I still had much to learn about utilizing my guide dog. I had been told that it would probably take another twelve months for me to achieve with Beau that degree of "one-ness" and mutual understanding which was necessary to form a real working partnership. During this period I had agreed to work in my own suburb before tackling solo jaunts in the city. I was told that in the ideal "team" the dog would take 75% of the responsibility and blind person 25%.

I worked hard at making our team a good one, going for walks where we would meet new situations. Whenever I heard of a road obstacle I went to it partly to keep Beau's work up to standard and partly to find out how much initiative he had. Since he invariably negotiated them with little hesitation I gained confidence and pride in him.

I found that Beau after all, was a very ordinary dog when he met his canine friends. In the first few months I found this tendency to say "How do you do" to other dogs difficult to cope with. He would slow down and sometimes stop to give his salutations and I, thinking some obstruction must be in our way would stop too only to find, by the vigorous wagging of his tail, that it was another dog.

Instinct rarely gains the upper hand of duty these days. I am always aware of another dog by the wagging of his tail and an extra pull in the harness, but never do we get off course and we stop only when it is another guide dog. These he cannot resist. They are all friends having been guests in our home.

My initial trip to Perth was on a Sunday afternoon and it was at once terrifying and thrilling, and exciting.

Traffic is uncontrolled in the city on Sunday and I have an awkward crossing before getting into the town proper. I stood on the kerb waiting for Beau to move off having first given the command "Forward" every nerve strained for any and every possibility. "Do you want to go across?" a voice said beside me and I yielded to the comfort of a human guiding hand.

It is difficult to describe how I felt on that first solo walk in the city. Except for odd occasions I had never been in Perth by myself. Always, I had a friend's arm to depend on, but here I was stepping along quite confidently, just one of the crowd.

On that Sunday afternoon when I returned to the crossing where I had failed to have confidence in my dog there wasn't any helping hand and once again I said "Forward" - a pull from Beau and we were on our way and this time I knew we would arrive safely on the other side.

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To be continued

"Beware - Take Care!"

As this will be the last magazine before we take our Xmas holiday it is once again time for the usual warnings - especially for our newcomers.

If you are yourself going away for a holiday and are unable to take your dog with you, do make sure that he will be well cared for by someone who realizes the needs of your dog.

Will he be kept in off the streets - will he have adequate cool shelter in the heat of summer and assured of plenty of fresh cold water to drink - or is he likely to be tied up 'down the back yard' something he is quite unused to?

These are some of the questions you must ask yourself before you hand over the responsibility of looking after your dog to someone else. If you are at all doubtful of his care it would save you many moments of anxiety by boarding him at a reliable Kennels, either in your district or where you are holidaying.

While romping on the beaches, beware of the broken bottles that can gash your dog's paw severely - also poisonous Toad Fish washed up on the shore which may tempt a dog unused to beaches. You must teach him not to pick up on the beach.

And above all, we ask you to keep the good name of the Shepherd in mind and not let him run freely on populated beaches.

With those few hints in mind let's hope you and your dog have a very happy holiday.

FOR THAT T.V. COLOUR SCREEN
See your Agent : Kevin Krygger
Price : £4.18.6.

SUSPENSION OF DEMOS

On the decision of the Committee it has been agreed to curtail further demonstrations outside Geelong & Suburbs for a period of 6 months.

This has been brought about by the evident lack of support by our members, who in the past have been called upon to stage many demonstrations, sometimes involving long distances.

It is hoped that in the interval we will succeed in organizing another top class team from our newcomers and from our Training Members with Other Breeds.

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OBEDIENCE TRIAL DATES - 1961

(All Sundays)

- 26.2.61. - German Shepherd Dog Club of Geelong.
- 5.3.61. - Vic. Obedience Dog Club.
- 2.4.61. - Southern Obedience Dog Club.
- 16.4.61. - Coburg Obedience Dog Club.
- 14.5.61. - German Shepherd Dog Club of Victoria.
- 4.6.61. - Victorian Obedience Dog Club.
- 18.6.61. - Coburg Obedience Dog Club.
- 2.7.61. - German Shepherd Dog Club of Geelong.
- 16.7.61. - German Shepherd Dog Club of Victoria.
- 30.7.61. - Southern Obedience Dog Club.
- 13.8.61. - Coburg Obedience Dog Club.
- 3.9.61. - Victorian Obedience Dog Club.
- 15.10.61. - Croydon & District Obedience Dog Club.
- 5.11.61. - German Shepherd Dog Club of Victoria.
- 9.11.61. - Southern Obedience Dog Club.
- 3.12.61. - German Shepherd Dog Club of Geelong.

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"Members I would like to ask you at this stage to patronise those firms who support our magazine by advertising. Thankyou"

A LETTER FROM GERMANY

Fred Lehrman, while in Germany wrote on behalf of our Club to the Organization for German Shepherd Dogs's - which is a parallel to our K.C.C. - explaining to them the activities of our Club, the difficulties we face here in Australia with the anti-Shepherd feeling by the public and also spoke of the newly formed German Shepherd Dog Council of Australia; to which our Club has received this reply :-

"Organization for German Shepherd Dogs.

Augsburg - 21.10.60.

Dear Mr. Lehrman,

In regard to your letter of October 15th, 1960, we are very happy to note that all Shepherd Clubs in Australia have combined into one big organization.

This Organization is surely a great benefit for the Shepherd-movement in Australia, because as long as there are so many Clubs still on their own, and split up, it is highly improbable that it will be a success for the German Shepherd Dog.

Your biggest difficulty in Australia of course is to overcome the governmental and public resentment against the Shepherd in Australia. As it is said, so we have been told, that the dog is a great menace to the sheepflocks and sheep breeders of Australia.

Up to now we have already corresponded with several Shepherd sympathizers and friends in Australia and we also hope that the present attitude toward the Shepherd Dog will improve and that this newly formed Organization will be successful in every aspect of breeding and to make the dog popular with everybody.

We presume that the main thing for your new Organization would be to try and succeed with the Government inasmuch as getting the import ban lifted. We think and feel that Australia could do with fresh blood imported from the Mothercountry Germany.

Our Club will definitely help any other Club with advise, if they really strive to improve the breeding and training of the dog seriously. This of course applies to your newly formed Organization whom we wish a good start and a healthy development.

With friendly greetings and good wishes -

I remain yours sincerely,

Signed : Koemhelmer. "

Translated from German to
English by Karl Heyne.

FOR THE LADIES

There is only one way to describe the first Cabaret Dance organized by the Ladies Committee, held at Rippleside on November 11th - and that is a "Raging Success!"

Although the weather was dreary and bleak by the seashore that night, it was by no means dreary inside, with a crowd of approximately 130 having the time of their lives as they danced to the music of Snowy Punton and Ron Moss.

Max O'Brien who M.C'd the dance was very popular as he entertained the audience with his interpretation of several Irish 'incidents'; and ~~Charlie Christians~~ and Bep Portier's Rock & Roll numbers on Electric Steel Guitar certainly pleased the dancers.

At this stage I would like to thank all the ladies of the club who brought along such a lovely supper and a special thankyou to Mrs Kirby who donated catering for approximately 60 to supplement the supper for this our first Carabet Dance.

A decorated fruit cake was raffled during the evening and was won by Mrs. Phil Stephens - and she was dying to get its chief decoration too - a china German Shopford.

We sincerely hope that this will be the fore-runner of many more social gatherings - and already we have been asked "When will the next Cabaret Dance be held?"

Note :- Next Meeting.

I'd like to make a correction here as to the date of the next Ladies Social Meeting which is on the 6th of December - not the 1st as stated previously.

I would also like to remind you that there will be no meeting in January but the first Tuesday in February will commence the 1961 Meetings.

The competition item for the February meeting will be a Child's Apron - by the way have you all made your novelty item for the December competition?

"See you at the Palms."

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"Members -

Have you bought your -

- TRAINING BOOK -

You should you know, as it is an essential guide to the successful training of your dog at home."

Price: 3/-

December 18th marks the end of Training Classes for the 1960 season and after two weeks break will resume again on January the 9th, 1961.

So until then - "Keep up the training everybody".

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Kerry and I would like to wish
all of our Club friends
and our doggy pals

A MERRY CHRISTMAS
and
A HAPPY & PROSPEROUS
NEW YEAR

From

Shirlee Mac.