

"The Shepherd News"

19th Issue.

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O B E D I E N C E T R I A L - F E B . ' 6 1 .

Is the interest in Obedience Trials beginning to wane?

It was noticed during the previous 12 months that Melbourne Trial entries were dropping in numbers. But this trial - the first for the 1961 season has a rather foreboding indication - only 20 dogs.

It was also very disturbing to find that we had such a very poor entry from our own local members.

As you all know there are at least 20 dogs which have qualified for their C.D. Out of this number there should be a good entry for the Open Class.

Never before has the entry been so low - what can be the reason?

The fact that we have had a very hot summer may mean that the majority of dogs have not been kept in training for this Trial, resulting in such a poor response. It does happen every once in a while that there is a slump in the Novice Section - those who have just passed the C.D. deplete the ranks while others are still improving to the stage of Trials.

But members we do ask you to think of the Club and the time and effort to say nothing of expense involved to run these Trials for your benefit.

We urge our Melbourne members also to do their best in enthrusing their fellow members of Melbourne Clubs to enter our Trials - which are only 3 per year - as compared to the reasonably close proximity for them of the remaining Trials to which our Geelong members must travel.

It is disheartening to say the very least to see so few dogs competing for the really attractive trophies which our Club take pride in awarding.

The ladies of the Social Committee did quite a job - in running a raffle for a tin of biscuits (won by Mr. Tooby) also serving afternoon teas. The proceeds of which helped to augment expenses.

Results were as follows :-

Novice Bitch: No. 8 "Goldy" 96 points.
Owned by : Mr. Gunther Brunjes.

Novice Dog : No. 4 "Tallangatta Smiley Boy"
Owned by : Miss F. Osmotherley. 88 pts

Open Class : "Lyndenfels Wendel" 245 pts.
Owned by : Mr. E. Paxman.

Utility Class; No. 12 "Prince Rintee" CIX
Owned by : Mr. H. Ballott. 197 pts.

Continuing -

"BEAU THE PATHFINDER"

In travelling through the country by train and bus I am now independent, often being one of the first out for refreshments. If I have missed hearing the chink of cups and saucers to guide me I wait for a few people to get out and follow them to the counter. Before I would stand at the carriage door hoping someone would offer to take me for a cup of tea or bring one back to me.

Wherever I stay, whether it is a private home or hotel it is always "Home" to Beau. I pat the bed or perhaps the door several times and say "Home" and he accepts the place, so that if I should become lost in a strange town there is always one place I can get back to.

For two years I worked in and around Perth with Beau, always knowing exactly where I was. I decided that my next holiday should be on a farm. It was a change too for Beau to have so much space to race about in.

Across the paddocks he would chase birds and even a kangaroo took his eye when we were out walking one day. What would have happened if he had caught up with the kangaroo I don't know.

I wanted to prove to myself that Beau would take me home if I didn't know where I was myself, so one morning we rode on the tractor to where the men were going to do some seeding. Our ride finished about a mile and a half from the homestead.

I made arrangements before I left, that if I wasn't back by lunchtime they had better start looking for me. I harnessed Beau and gave the order "Home" and off we started, across ploughed fields that gave me no indication of our whereabouts.

However, after some steady walking we passed through a gate that brought us on to a track leading past the outbuildings and to the housegate.

I had my proof.

Once having been to a certain shop or building a guide-dog will rarely forget it. If I have not been to a place before, I get directions and when I judge we are nearing the place I either ask another pedestrian or go into a building and ask. When we reach the right place I either name it or call it "our shop" then Beau stores it away in his wonderful memory for next time.

A potential guide-dog owner must have some sense of direction otherwise he could not pass on directions to the dog who only knows where he is going by understanding the spoken command.

A guide-dog soon learns to understand new words and groups of words as new situations arise. When nearing the bus stop I say, "Catch the bus", or if I don't want the bus, "Straight ahead" which also takes me past places we are in a habit of going into. "Follow" is one of the most useful words Beau understands. I am in a building and ask to see the manager, a member of the staff will say "Follow me, please" and I pass on the command of "Follow" and we arrive in the manager's office without fuss or bother.

One day crossing the road in Perth an elderly lady put her hand in my arm just as we started across. "I am a bit nervous on the road dear" so I'll come across with you and the doggie" she said. Generally this is frowned on; a guide dog is trained to accept the responsibility of only one person - but this was a touching tribute to my dog and I felt that now I was not always on the receiving end.

PANDEMONIUM IN HEATHER STREET

Late one night, panic broke out at the home of Bill Stephens - the reason - Lindy had fallen down an 11' deep hole which was only approx. 18" wide.

To add to the distress, Bill who was suffering from an injured back was unable to assist in Lindy's rescue.

Fortunately, a neighbour with the aid of Phil, was able to get Lindy up - quite unhurt, but Oh My! what a sight she was - yellow clay from head to tail.

The difficulty then, how to get the neighbour up? Eventually with the aid of the car and a tow rope he arrived back on earth's surface - also a very yellow sight.

Bill and Phil can have a laugh over it all now - but they must have been very worried at the time, with Lindy down a pitch black hole, not knowing if she was injured.

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"WELCOME HOME FRED"

January marked the return from Germany of our Committeeman Fred Lehrman, after a 6 months visit to his family.

Fred, while he was away kept the Club very much in his mind in many ways and supplied us with news for our magazine.

Now that Fred is back he is anxious to take up the threads again and do his best for the club - as he has always done in the past.

Even if a little belated we would like to extend to Fred a "Dinkum Aussie Welcome Home" from all his doggy friends.

DOGS FIGHT - 'HAPPY' BITTEN

Before commencement of training one Sunday recently, "Tiger" and "Hussan" who have a natural dislike for each other began an argument - which naturally developed into a fight within seconds.

'Happy' who was holding "Hussan" on lead jumped between the dogs - result - a badly gashed leg for 'Happy' requiring 5 stitches.

"Hussan" was a very unhappy dog to discover that he had bitten his master and of course released him immediately.

We want to make this instance serve as a warning to all newcomers, "Don't get between fighting dogs, in their fury they do not realize just who they are bighting - this applies to any breed of dog at all.

The best cure for fighting dogs is Prevention - this is why the Club has a ruling that "All dogs MUST be on lead during breaks in training or while waiting for training to commence".

We have never had a serious dog fight since the formation of the Club.

The only time dogs are permitted to be off lead is while in Classes working under command off lead and during their "Stay" exercises.

Dogs are like people in the respect that they have their likes and dislikes of each other - if you know that your dog particularly dislikes another - then keep away from him - the general rule is that dogs will fight dogs, bitches will fight bitches.

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If you want your garage moved
contact Bill Stephens. He will do
it by hand if necessary - even if
it does break his back!

- CABARET DANCE -

To raise funds for the travelling expenses for the proposed trip to Sydney of our two delegates to attend the next conference of the German Shepherd Council of Australia, the Ladies Social Committee have organized another Carabet Dance.

This dance is to be held at Rippleside Recreation Hall on March 18th, a good orchestra has been booked and an excellent supper will be served. again with the aid of our members in bringing along a plate.

As you will remember the last dance was a tremendous success, enjoyed by all - we anticipate that this will be no exception.

Tickets at 10/- a double are available from Mrs. Peggy Walls..

During the evening a hamper of groceries will be raffled and we request members to bring along some small item in the grocery line to build this hamper up.

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D O G G O N E !

A German Shepherd Dog - "Taucha" fell headlong into Niagra Gorge, Niagra Falls, Ontario one day, a year ago.

He was given up for dead - but a few days ago he came limping home looking a little bedraggled and with a thick coat of fur.

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"Extracts from "POPULAR ALSATIAN"

Following are a series of examinations required in the German Police Dog Trials :-

- NOSE WORK -

1. Following a human track after given scent on footprint. The committee of judges, after considering weather and local conditions, decides upon age and length of track (which should be at least half-an-hour old and 400 yards in length).

The track-layer releases on his track two very small objects belonging to him. The track is crossed by fresh "temper" tracks; also dogs of both sexes are placed on the track. Lead or free work according to the choice of the handler. A good search - that is to say a search pace by pace - will be placed at a higher value than an impetuous or boisterous free search. When searching free the handler follows his dog at about 20 yards distance.

2. Test of scent discrimination - finding an object owned by a stranger from amongst a number of objects placed on the ground by other strangers. Free search on 25-yards-long track after giving scent on boot impression.

3. Test of scent discrimination - finding a man placed amongst others from a scented object. Work on loose lead.

(These are the Preliminary Trials the hard work hasn't commenced yet).

It makes us think doesn't it - our trials seem relatively easy don't they!

FOR ALL DOG & CAT MEDICINES

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