

The Shepherd News

22nd Issue.

Edited by : S. McCormack.

Some time ago there was a serial story published in our magazine entitled - "Beau The Pathfinder". In this story the true feeling of companionship and "Second Sight" given to Mrs. Elsie Mead by her Guide-dog Beau could not have been better expressed.

"Do you know how much it costs to train one of these "Seeing Eye Dogs? - You don't? Well hold your breath - between three and four hundred pounds!"

The dog doesn't necessarily have to be a pedigree variety either, Beau wasn't - so the cost certainly isn't taken up in buying expensive breeds.

Not so much in Australia, but overseas, the favourite for this Guide Dog work is the German Shepherd - it is fitting don't you think that our Shepherd Club should do their bit to help raise funds for this worthy cause in bringing sight to the blind.

To this end the Club is holding a Charity Cabaret Dance and we want it to be a fabulous success - it will be too with your attendance.

- Geelong German Shepherd Club -
CHARITY CABARET DANCE
In Aid of
THE SEEING EYE DOG ASSOCIATION APPEAL
at
The Geelong Waterside Workers
Recreation Hall
on
Saturday, October 28th 1961
at
8.00 p.m.
Supper Provided

B.Y.O.D.

Price: 15/-
Dobble

All proceeds will go to the "Seeing Eye Dog Association Appeal".

Tickets at 15/- double are available from the President of the Ladies Social Club - Mrs. Ivy Rankin (Phone 7-9371).

We would like all of our members to sell as many tickets as possible and come along bringing crowds with you.

The ladies of the Club are requested to assist with the catering by bringing along either cakes or sandwiches to supplement the supper.

A liquor licence has been obtained and as the Cabaret will be run on a "Bring your own drink" basis it enables everyone to drink to their own liking.

A good band has been booked and as all of our previous dances have been thoroughly enjoyed by all - we see no reason why this one won't be even better.

"NEWS & VIEWS FROM INTER-STATE"

"Well here I am, back again, after having had an interesting time in Queensland. I am glad to say that my interest in dogs helped me to make quite a few new friends and overcame any loneliness that one is apt to feel in a strange city.

In my spare time I trained members of the newly formed Brisbane Obedience Dog Club to assist the other instructors. Dog training is getting very popular now and the Brisbane and the club holds Trials at more frequent intervals.

On Sunday 20th August a Trial was held at Rocklea, a suburb of Brisbane where the Judge Mr. A.W. Fulcher only passed one dog out of 20 entries. This gave Constable G. Blackburn his 3rd pass with his German Shepherd "Grangewood Prince", thus becoming the first Companion Dog in Brisbane.

The rest of the entries weren't really bad, results were low because of very tough judging.

On my journey back to Victoria I talked to several Service Station owners who had Shepherds on their premises - all in the N.S.W. country area. They all agreed that their Shepherds were very friendly and popular with their customers. Many motorists pulled in especially to ask for more information about these dogs.

I also stopped in Albury to talk to members of a Training Class, which still carries on although their club has been abandoned. There were different breeds on the ground. They invited me to attend their Show on September 22nd and also extended the invitation to our Club-members who were interested in showing their dog.

During my stay in Brisbane I had the opportunity to see myself on a T.V. Newsreel - taken one Saturday afternoon while I was training members of the Brisbane Obedience Club - it was quite an experience!

I was pleasantly surprised to hear on my return to Geelong that a large attendance was taking place at Sunday morning training, I would like to ask everybody to keep coming to our Training and other activities as it is very vital for all of us to stick together and be so organized in our Club to be able to fight back at those allegations and threats made by the Graziers Association and City Councils.

by: Fred Lehrman. "

Editor's Note: This letter was received on Fred's return to Geelong some weeks ago but unfortunately had to be held pending the publication of the next "Shepherd News".

LADIES SOCIAL CLUB

The ladies got together again on September 7th holding their first Meeting since the recess, with some newcomers along, the gathering was very much increased. The men were invited to attend this meeting and they did their little bit to urge us along.

The main topic of discussion was the forthcoming Charity Dance for the Seeing Eye Dog Association.

The monthly competition of 5/- articles has been reintroduced and for October the item is a Pot Holder.

Those of you who are new to the Club and are not familiar with the activities of the Social Club - this is the set up.

A Fete and Pets Parace is to be organized at some future date and to provide stock for the stalls the ladies run a monthly competition where each lady is asked to bring along to the meeting a certain article.

These articles must not cost more than 5/- for materials and are judged on their novelty appeal and workmanship, with 3, 2 and 1 points for 1st, 2nd and 3rd. At the end of 12 months the aggregate winner is awarded a prize.

We would like nothing better than to see every lady member of the club and wives and girl friends of our male members, take an active interest in the Social Club. The supper room of the Palms, Ryrie Street is where we gather, on the first Wednesday in every month - so on the 4th of October at 8.00 p.m. we hope to -

"SEE YOU AT THE PALMS"

(If the men would like to come along I'm sure there's plenty of room for them to have a 'chin-wag' - in a little corner somewhere).

DEMO AT LITTLE RIVER

Saturday, September 30th is the date of our demonstration, to take place at Little River during the Youth Day Carnival Fete in the Recreation Oval - and that's T O D A Y !!

The club members are always assured of a warm welcome to this event which in itself is really a social outing for those that go along.

We would particularly like our newer members to go along if at all possible, to see the form that our demonstrations take - and even if they felt a little shy of taking part in this one, I'm sure they will want to be joining in others and feel very proud when the crowd applauds their dog's good work.

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Bye the way, we have had three "wounded soldiers" on our hands lately, first Dave Carnegie had a fall at his work breaking his wrist, and was encased in plaster for many weeks, next Karl 'Tanglefoot' Heyne tripped over the milk bottles - gashing his hand open (the same hand incidentally had only just recovered from a broken wrist also) so Karl was again bandaged up - but Bill Stephens got to hear of these accidents and was sure he could do better, so he dropped 2-cwt of lead on his arm. He was pretty tough too as he is still wearing his arm, although he also was bandaged to his elbow.

All this took place just before the first of the rehearsals for the Royal Melbourne Show demonstrations - and just when the press criticism of the Shepherds was at its height.

I'm sure there must have been some very suspicious on-lookers when this trio arrived swathed in plaster and bandages with their 'huge, fierce looking' German Shepherds, to take their place in rehearsals.

I'd love to hear the comments!

Continuing -

"No Other Dog"

My inspection of the Nindoo track wasn't heartening. It was a mess. Loco crews weren't game to tackle it at less than the pace a man can walk. I was thinking about it now I was due back at the home station that night, easy sixty miles.

I do all my travelling by motor trolley, or as I call it simply "the motor". It straddles the rails on four wheels, has a petrol engine and spare seat for the maintenance engineer when he wants to come with me, and the lot can lick along at a good thirty-five miles an hour safe travel.

There was a passenger train due in from Cunnamulla, and I wanted it to get on ahead before I left. I was lying on the bunk in the quarters when I heard it pull in. Soon afterwards I heard footsteps on the cinders outside the open door. I looked up. The loco driver was standing there with a grin on his face. He had something in his right hand - something that moved.

"Saw the motor over by the shed" he remarked. "Thought I'd find you here. I'm due out in two minutes. Here. Bloke along the line gave me this, 'Ric. Said to give it to you. Looks like a dog".

I wasn't ready for that. I lifted myself on an elbow and stared briefly at him. Then I looked at the pup. Its eyes were on me, and they were the eyes of the red bitch. And there was wistfulness in them, a kind of searching regard that stirred me inside.

The driver's big hand was under its round belly, and it grunted protestingly. I was out of the bunk like a shot. That was no way to hold a pup, especially a pup like Nipper. I'd already decided to call him that, over three months ago. "Thanks," I said, as he turned to go. I tried to be casual, but my hands were trembling as I felt the warm softness of yet another dog. "Thanks a lot".

After I'd made friends with the little chap I took him over to the motor. I made a nest for him in a big cardboard box, and put it on the floor by my seat, I was happy; he was all I had hoped for.

Then something happened to prove him more than that. I was lifting the motor on to the rails when I remembered, almost too late, a job I had to do in town. I couldn't take him with me. So I put the lid back on the box, punched some holes in it, tied it down with string, and left it on the floor inside the station door.

When I returned a quarter of an hour later Old Ned, the stationmaster, was scratching his head and examining an empty box. There was a big hole chewed in the side. I don't know why, but I looked straight across to the motor. My heart skipped a beat. There, lying waiting, the tip of his red tongue showing, was Nipper.

That was the kind of pup he was the kind of dog he became - a dog that could work out things for himself. After that first ride, he soon grew to love the motor. Mile after mile, he'd sit there beside me without moving, watching the flashing timber, the flowing grasslands, taking it all in. As he grew I had to hold him, all quivering eagerness when 'roos or emus raced out onto the line ahead. But even restraint came easy to him, for he understood the limitations.

When we stopped for a train on the lonely stretches, I talked to him quiet-like, and he'd sit there listening with his head on one side, tongue lolling eyes bright as stars. Through those eyes he talked right back to me, and I saw there many a time, the struggle going on inside him for expression. In a way, too, I became aware of my own inadequacy. But always there was the love bond between us, eloquent in itself and needing no explaining. I suppose we looked rather odd, the two of us, perched on the racing motor. But there were few to see. The distances are lonely in the west, I always sat sideways, legs crossed, one unending ribbon of rail dead in line where I could watch it.

Continuing -

"No Other Dog"

That way I could see the twists and wavers for chains ahead. And on the Nindoo there were plenty.

I had a good ganger on the job. And good men, too, for the most part. But some of the newcomers were unused to the work, men whose hands were white and soft, whose bodies were unfitted for the pattern around them, and who cursed bitterly the heat and brooding loneliness.

Of these, and chief, was Pedro Valdez. On more than one occasion I had to clip his wings, and the clipping hurt his pride. How much it hurt I discovered towards the end of the relay.

It happened on the 20 chain curve on the western fall of the Nindoo. A bad place at any time to be caught by a train, it was certain death for me that morning after the motor hit the planted dog spike.

With the "road" good the big freighters bored around the bend on the down grade like juggernauts. I'd been watching Nipper when we hit, and the next thing I knew was the smashing impact of the sand ballast, a searing pain in my legs as the hurtling motor came to a standstill on top of me, wheels in the air, right across the blistering-hot rails.

The pain sent me out. When I came to, Nipper was licking my face. And beyond him, over the tree tops, was an oncoming plume of black smoke.

I tried to move, but nothing happened. I looked up at Nipper, and smiled. The plume of smoke started to waver as the train approached the curve. I began to talk to Nipper as I always did, quietly and gently. Then I shook my head from side to side.

"Go stop 'em, Nipper. Get up there and bark your head off. Stop 'em on the curve, boy. Go on, never mind me. Stay between the rails, long as you can, and stom 'em!" . . .

You remember the drover, and the red bitch, and the cardboard box? That's why I'm here now, that's why Nipper's still beside me, up on the motor. If you're wondering about Pedro, they never caught up with him after he cleared out.

Men and dogs, they come in all shapes and sizes, the good and the bad. But, as the white-faced loco driver had said when he found me, while the hot breath of the monster panted down to me from only a dozen yards up the line:

"Some dog you've got there, mister Some dog!"

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- COLAC SHOW -

Ian Simmons made his first attempt at showing his new dog "Castlewood Conradin" bred by Leo Broom and better known to us as "Bruce", at the recent Colac Agricultural Show.

My word what a field day he had too, in the world of Dog Shows experience and 'the tricks of the trade' go a long way, but Ian had none of this, nevertheless here are the results and they speak for themselves - he must have a good dog.

Puppy Dog	2nd
Junior Dog	1st
Novice Dog	1st
Limit Dog	1st
Open Dog	1st

You must admit that is a very fine effort for two beginners - Congratulations Ian.

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Keeping up to date on -

"THE DOG MENACE"

A delegation from the two German Shepherd Clubs in Victoria, led by Mr. Mr. K. Stubbs and Mr. T.E. Fitzgerald met Mr. Porter the Minister for Local Government to discuss the situation regarding amendments to the Dog Act which is to be presented in a Bill to Parliament.

The original proposal of increasing the Registration Fees for Shepherds from £2.10.0 to £10. has been lowered to £5, and £1 fee for other breeds. As Mr. Porter pointed out an increase in registration fees would affect all dogs.

Also the use of choker chains has been recommended in place of the muzzle which in the new Clause was suggested to be worn at all times, on or off lead while the dog was on the street. The use of the choker chain doesn't present us with any worries as our dogs all wear them.

The deputation told the Minister that if favoured dogs being destroyed if they had savaged people. But on the other hand felt that the owners of the dogs should be fined heavily if they allowed their animals to roam or neglect them. They also favoured a higher fee for the return of dogs from the dog collector.

Mr. Porter recommended a scheme similar to that carried out in Canberra - i.e. A Registration Fee of say - £5. which is reduced to £1 if the dog is owned and trained by a member of a registered club and trained regularly at that club.

This in fact would mean that the cost of registration would actually be half of what is now (£3) taking into consideration a Club Membership of 10/- plus £1 reg. fee.

This scheme if ever put into practice would mean strict attention to attendance records as Councils would then need to be notified of those members not complying with the rules.

In response to the 270 letters written to Councils through the State, many replies have already been received with comments on our recommendations, but a greater number have only been acknowledged as received and no doubt these have not yet been tabled at their Council Meetings as yet.

Although Mr. Porter was in agreement as to the £10 Pound Release fee recommended by the Clubs as this is a Council matter no ruling can be made - however £10 is the maximum Pound Release fee has been included for adoption in the Bill.

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GERMAN SHEPHERD DOG COUNCIL

At the meeting of the above Council held in Melbourne on Sep. 24th and attended by our delegates Mr. Bill Stephens and Mr. Dave Carnegie a wide variety of subjects were covered as follows :-

Firstly, we have good news for our Show-minded Shepherd owners, that the Shepherd will remain in Group 5 and classified as Working Dogs in Victoria.

Plans were discussed for the Council to stage one Championship Show each year on a national basis whereby one Club will act as host to the other 4 States for each of these Shows.

A sash for the Champion Dog in each State will be presented by the Council at these shows.

A final decision on these plans will be made at the next meeting of the Council.

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NOTES ON TRAINING

The variety of breeds in the Training Section of our Club is ever increasing, recently a Scotch Terrier and a Queensland Heeler joined the ranks.

I notice that most of Jill's' and Goldie's Labrador puppies have commenced their education and hope they all follow in the successful footsteps of their parents.

In addition to a trophy to be presented by Mrs. Abrahams of the Victorian Obedience Club at our next Trial for Highest Points scored by a Toy Breed amongst our Training Members, Mr. Fred Lehrman has presented the Club with two Perpetual Trophies - one for Highest Points scored in Novice Dog (Shepherds) and one for Highest Points scored in Novice Dog (Training members).

The Lehrman Trophy will be competed for at each of our three Trials throughout the year. We hope that this will encourage our newcomers to enter trials and will also keep alive the competitive spirit.

As most of you know the Shepherds who pass their three qualifying Trials for the title of C.D. - C.D.X. & U.D. are presented with a gold medalion inscribed with his name and award. We are very pleased to announce that there will now be a silver medalion awarded to our Qualifying Training Members. In fact I think that there are already some eligible - and by the way most are training I'm sure there are some more candidates on the way.

The same rule shall apply as it does to Shepherds - that is, all Trials must be passed while under the Training of the Geelong German Shepherd Dog Club, to be eligible for this Club Award. You will realize that this proviso is intended to protect the Club members from any ambitious owners from outside our Club joining our training classes just as their dog is about to qualify.

German Shepherd Dog Council -

Continued

Letters were received from a Western Australian Club seeking information regarding the lifting of the laws regarding the speying of Shepherds in the State. W.A. being the only state apart from the Rural area of N.S.W. where Shepherds are required to be speyed.

The German Shepherd Dog Council intends to produce a magazine which will be on sale at all book-stalls and news agents. This will no doubt be popular with Shepherd owners and we hope will help to educate the general public as to the uses of the Shepherd also.

The problem of the "Dog Menace" act of Parliament was discussed at length and a letter from the Council will be sent to the appropriate authorities stating the views of the Council on the subject.

As the Dog Act comes under State Parliament each State must act individually - as the case arises, but the States will have full backing of this recently formed Council.

UNIFORM TRIAL RULES

Until recently the Rules for Obedience Trials have varied from State to State.

But recently a survey has been made and after revision interstate rules have been brought into line with the Victorian rules and will now be uniform throughout Australia.

This will relieve a great deal of confusion which must arise among interstate trial entrants and will also help Judges a great deal in enabling them to maintain a standard on which to base their Judging.