



THE STANCE OF A CHAMP. Rod Pegg of RR2 Norval displays a championship stance with his own 'champ' black and tan Coonhound Pepper.

The bark of the coonhounds 'like music to my ears'

Decorating the shelves are over 130 trophies. Planned on the wall are approximately 50 ribbons with at least 30 rosettes pinned along side. Cindy, six years old; Surl-Q, five; Rebel, two; Pepper and Hooter, both one; Candy six months old plus a beagle are howling in the backyard. This is the home of Jack Pegg on RR2 Norval.

Jack and his son Rod, breed and train purebred American Black and Tan Coonhounds. They registered their first dog under the United Kennel Club of Kalanzo, Michigan in 1962 and in 1963 the father and son team showed their first dog. Jack and Rod usually compete in all eight shows which are held in Ontario by the United Kennel Club. However, due to the fact that Jack is now a licensed Bench Judge and Rod is presently an

apprentice judge, their competitions have been limited.

Rod explained that a judge cannot show any dogs in a competition and for this reason their participation in the various shows has been down. To raise and train a champion coonhound takes many hours of hard work and patience. In the competitions the dogs are judged in two separate categories, the Bench Show and the Night Hunt. Rod pointed out that a particular coonhound may be a champ on the bench however, it may not be a good hunting dog and vice-versa.

The Bench Show requires the full co-operation of the coonhound to literally just stand there and be judged. A champion coonhound must carry its head well up, teeth must be even, eyelids must be

firm and close, the ears should be set medium, low and when drawn out should reach approximately to the end of the nose.

As well as having muscular and sloping shoulders, indicating speed and strength, the chest should be deep and moderately wide, showing large lung space.

A champion coonhound's eyes are prominent, roundlike with somewhat of a pleading expression.

The smooth haired, fine, glossy coat is predominately a deep rich black with tan trimming covering not more than ten to fifteen percent of the body. A male coonhound is usually 23 to 26 inches in height with the female being slightly shorter, 22 to 25 inches high. 50 to 75 pounds is the preferred weight of a male with a female being preferably 40 to 65 pounds.

These dogs are active, fast, bright, kind, confident, courageous with great trailing and treeing instinct and ability. These are the necessary requirements of a true champion.

The Peggs presently own three champions that they have raised and trained themselves; Pepper, Suzie-Q and Rebel.

It was the opinion of both Jack and Rod that the night hunt is the most exciting of the two forms of competition.

The night hunt sees the dogs go out and actually hunt for a raccoon. Rod explained that a raccoon is never hurt or killed in these competition hunts.

"A treeing contest will start off the event in the early afternoon or early evening. The dogs are registered to compete then the owners wait until nightfall. There are usually about 50 to 60 dogs entered. These dogs are then split up into groups of four which are called casts.

"Each cast has a guide from the area in which they will hunt. You then go to that area,

let the dogs go and they begin to search for coons. These hunts, by the way, are usually in a corn field where the coons usually feed.

"The hounds are judged on a point system and the first bound to open up (bark) receives a certain number of points. However, the highest point is awarded to the first bound that trees a coon. The dog must remain at that tree for at least five minutes and naturally a coon must be in that tree."

Jack added that often these hunts begin at eight or nine at night and will continue until the wee hours of three or four in the morning.

It shouldn't be forgotten that all this time the judges and the owners are trailing behind, trying to keep up with the hounds.

When asked 'Why do you enjoy the sport so much', Rod

found it a difficult question to answer.

"Well I guess it's training and showing the dogs, watching them progress and knowing that you did it yourself. Plus I really enjoy the outdoors."

As for Jack, "I like the sound of the dogs when they bark during a hunt. It's like music to your ears. Every hunt is different."

Jack explained that Rod and he do quite a bit of hunting in their spare time.

"We know quite a few farmers who don't mind us hunting in their fields. In fact they are very grateful when we do get some coons because they can do an awful mess in a

corn field. Barry James, of Georgetown, has a treeing and walker bound and he's our regular hunting partner."

A few years back, Rod, with the help of his father, formed an organization new to Ontario. The Canadian Black and Tan Coonhound Association was the creation of Jack and Rod. Now there are approximately 30 members from all parts of Ontario in the association. Jack is this year's vice-president and Rod is a director of the association.

It's evident, as soon as the first step is taken in either through front door or in the backyard, that there is true love and pride in their dogs throughout the Pegg family.

Ashgrove

Grandma's day...

Mrs. John Belloddy

On Tuesday evening, Oct. 21, 31 members and one visitor met at the home of Mrs. James Carney for the Ashgrove WI meeting.

President Mrs. John McNabb presided as all repeated the ode and Mary Stewart Collect. The secretary Mrs. Jas. McPhail, read last month's minutes and called the roll which was answered with a snapshot of yesterday (people, travel, buildings) that would be suitable to add to our Tweedsmuir History picture section.

Items use in Grandma's days were also displayed with some very interesting items being shown. Achievement Day will be Nov. 22.

Mrs. Craig Reid reported on the successful day at the Arts and Crafts show. A motion was passed renewing the petition against the drive-in in Ashgrove.

Mrs. J.H. Hunter gave the first day's activities at the area convention on October 1 in Atwood, six miles south of Listowel. Mrs. John Bird told of the second day and also showed 18 colored pictures of the happenings at the conventions the different speakers and some places of interest around Atwood.

A most humorous motto was given by Mrs. J.M. Wickson as she reminisced about the ways life had changed since Grandmother's day. No more coal lamps, wood stoves or horses and buggies.

The ladies then formed into groups and were able to inspect the different Tweedsmuir History Books that Mrs. C. B. Dick and Mrs. T. Wilson have compiled about Ashgrove farms and church doings through the years.

Mrs. Cliff Hunter reported about the district meeting held recently, and after singing O Canada, the meeting closed with a social hour.



OVER 130 OF THEM. Jack Pegg and his daughter Joanne sit by some of the 130 trophies the families' purebred Coonhounds have won over the past six years.

Obituary

Margaret Hepburn

Margaret Agnes Hepburn of RR2 Georgetown, passed away suddenly in the Georgetown District Memorial Hospital on Friday October 17 following a lengthy illness. She was the daughter of the late John Gillen and Eliza McKeekin. She leaves to mourn the loss of a loving wife and sister, her husband.

Russell, sisters Florence (Mrs. Elmer May) of Rockwood, Ruth (Mrs. Ernie Forgrave) of Georgetown, and Marian (Mrs. T. A. Leslie) of Hornby. A sister, Gladys (Mrs. Leslie Fisher) and a brother Thomas, predeceased her.

The Rev. Peter Barrow of Knox Presbyterian Church conducted the funeral services on Monday afternoon, October 20 at 3 p.m. from the McClure-Jones Funeral Home. Interment was at Hillcrest Cemetery, Norval.

The pallbearers were three nephews, Donald Hepburn, Douglas Wrigglesworth and Paul May, and three neighbours, R.J. Cunningham, Robert Alexander and George Bird.

Flower bearers were Hector Bird, Wm. Allison, Jim Fisher, August Spitzer, Ralph Cunningham and Jim Larouche.

Mrs. Hepburn had spent all her years in the Georgetown area and was highly respected by her many friends.

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