



MOUNT CATHERINE
PALLASGREEN
CO. LIMERICK
2nd July, '87

Dear Bob,

Thanks for your letter, and cheque, (which I shall pass on to Bob Stakelum, Treas.).

You are at liberty to print any of the stuff I have published in the News Letters down the years, though from a U. S. viewpoint, I do feel it may be received as another Irishman ranting about the past. You be the judge.

If you come to Ireland you will be very welcome here, and I do hope you will find time to call. The Irish setters here are fairly good now, perhaps I have had good ^{to better} individual dogs in the past but on average they are better now than I can remember them. Our big problem now is the grouse which because of habitat destruction and the break up of the larger estates get scarcer by the year, also a very contributing factor, is for the past two years we have been subject of the two wettest years especially the vital May/June months that I can recall.

There is an old Limerick family, now pharmacists and doctors of Roberts and your ancestor may well be one of them. The father figure of that family is M. J. Roberts, Eye, ear and throat surgeon, Kloof, N. C. Rd. Limerick.

The red and white saga is too long a story to attempt it here, I was partly responsible myself in keeping that strain (as that is all it ever was) extant. The big mistake was 1882 when the Irish Red setter club

was formed, rather than the Irish Setter Club. This was a time when
the two breeds or strains cordially ^{co-} existed, same as the whole coloured
cockers and indeed pointers. They may as well form a Black Labrador Club
today, and the tragedy was that they were given individual breed
recognition, but we in Ireland were never great legislators, hence our
present tragic divide and history. I also more or less formed the
opinion that the lure of the dollar was the cause. It would appear
about then that there was a ready market for the whole reds in your country
and the smart Dublin set formed the Red Setter Club for the promotion
of the whole red, to the exclusion of the red and whites.

Am glad the pup from Ray 'ODwyer is no slouch, there are a few in that
fellows pedigree who would not be prepared to leave it go with the highest of
the high rollers, notably Brendan, Raff, Anockmore Red Molly, et al.
but I am afraid you will do some grooming before you'll get that tail
to two o'clock much less noon.

Have been having USon my long term agenda for a long time, do not
know when it may materialise. Have just accepted an Australian judging
appointment for 1989.

Meanwhile keep the old flag flying, Have ^{had} Matrín Currin of Dallas,
he told me some rather hair raising stories of the manner in which some of
your "reds" are bred ????. If I were that fond of pointers and English
I do feel I'd not wish to change the coat that badly.

Most Sincerely
John Mack