

## Readers Respond . . .

THE "Purest Challenge" — free of hidden agendas, politics or personal gain — became the maxim, the byword of the selfless effort initiated more than 50 years ago to restore the Irish setter breed to its once important place in the world of pointing dogs. The name of Pennsylvanian William "Ned" LeGrande became indissolubly connected with that effort.

This year, in recognition of his contributions to the Irish setter breed and field trials, he was elected to the Field Trial Hall of Fame. It was wonderful news for those of us who "run the red dogs."

Coincidentally, more good news came the same week, good news for the breed he helped to restore. The American Kennel Club, in the persons of Mr. William Speck and Mr. Jack Norton, have ruled that the Irish setters bred by Stanley Zdanczewicz under the banner of Zansett Kennels are indeed of pure heritage. The AKC and the men named here are to be commended for both a thor-

ough investigation and a fair and honest decision. They have preserved a bloodline with a long and distinguished record in our sport — the only line of dual registered (AKC-Field Dog *Stud Book*) Irish setters to be competitive in both American Kennel Club and AMERICAN FIELD recognized events.

When Ned, Rusty Baynard, Larry Crum, Ed Schnettler and the others set out to restore the Irish setter they did it for the love of the breed. One must question the motives of those who initiated the Zansett investigation, especially in light of the fact that Zan Sett Peabo had just won the AKC-recognized Irish Setter of America Amateur and Open Championships.

Perhaps the only fault that can be laid at the feet of the AKC would be trusting some of their representatives. This was remedied by the final decision.

It is said that all's well that ends well. With the AKC's decision, Zansett dogs must be beaten in open and fair competition. This is as it should be. The breed will be stronger because of this and the AKC showed their commitment to dogs bred for

competition.

Ned and the others would no doubt approve. His election to the Field Trial Hall of Fame reminds of what is best about our involvement with bird dogs.

Muskego, Wis. STAN ZDANCZEWICZ