

Kessler Askew Tells the Story of Askew's Carolina Lady

By Kessler Askew

"This is the history of Lady as I know it"

You never know how to pick a puppy. Back in 1947 Mr. J. T. Burl got the Irish Setter fever and bought five puppies in the one year but none of them turned out to be any good except Lady. He bought Lady's brother from Earl Bond in Minnesota. Mr. Bond told him he could have the little bitch, the runt of the litter, for \$25, so he bought her too. He gave both dogs to his hunting partner, but they appeared to be so man shy that nobody could do anything with them. Mr. Burt, knowing that I broke my own dogs and that I enjoyed training and working with a dog that no one else could break, told me that if I wanted Lady to come to the house and get her. I did.



Several times I thought I was going to have to give up. I turned her loose twice in the first four months that I had her and it took me three and four days to get her back. One frosty morning in October of 1947 I had her on a lead tied to my belt. I had made up my mind that I would not turn her loose again until after she had started to notice birds. That was the morning Lady was broken. My old pointer bitch pointed in a peanut field and I started toward her. I was about 20 steps away from her when I was stopped short by the leash tied to my belt. I stopped and looked back at the most beautiful scene I have ever witnessed. There was Lady, head and tail as high as she could get them, backing with all of the intensity a bird dog man could wish for. From that moment on she always pointed and backed with high style. A year later she began to retrieve. I bred her in 1949 and she raised eight puppies. Ike (Jack Kendrick) is the only one of them living today.

No one else would ever have owned her if she had not been so bad about biting ladies. After she bit the third of my neighbors I offered to sell her and I ran an add in the AMERICAN FIELD for several weeks. When I did not get an answer I gave her to my best friend. He kept her in the country for a couple of years until Mr. LeGrande heard about her and bought her. I'd like to see her run one more time before she gets too old.