

The Red Setter Challenge By Herm David

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The human race has many more important problems than whether or not the Irish setter can be bred and developed into a bird dog equal to any. But, because it is a matter of trivial importance compared to such things as peace, health, economics and security, a great many folks find the Red Setter challenge compelling fun. They are folks who feel the sight of a good bird dog slamming onto point is just about the most thrilling sight in the world- especially if it is performed by a Red Setter. Assets to the upland gunner and Pennsylvanians are playing a major role in bringing about their resurgence.

Largely organized and sparked by Pennsylvania men and women, the National Red Setter Field Trial Club was launched in 1952 to undertake what its members have called *The purest challenge in sportsdom*- the development of the Irish setter as a class gun dog.

The story had its modern beginnings when a most determined sportsman, W. E. "Ned" Le Grande of Douglasville, stood watching a field trial for Irish setters only. The competitors were almost all of them, beautiful longhaired dogs that had been bred for competition in dog shows. They were built all wrong for an animal that must run. Almost invariably they were too big to get out of their own way. It was rather pitiful to watch some of them attempt to respond to long-dormant instincts, only to find that their physical equipment wouldn't respond.

Ned Le Grande, who had, as a boy in Virginia, hunted over his dad's good Irish setters, found it a disheartening, and challenging sight. He turned to his lovely wife Helen. "Something" he said "is going to have to be done for Irish setters". Mrs. Le Grande, who had seen that look in her husband's eyes before-when he'd encountered problems in his business, when he was a star athlete at William and Mary College, and when he had undertaken successfully another challenge in connection with show horses. "Here", she said to herself, "we go again."

Now the books, which record the history of bird dogs, tell, over and over again, the history of good men who had, through the years, undertaken this same challenge. Most of them were wealthy and determined. But none of them enjoyed any lasting success. Le Grande studied the history of their efforts and vowed that he would not repeat their mistakes.

The first of America's early fanciers was Charles H. Turner of St. Louis. Back in the fall of 1874 he imported his first Irish setters- a pair called Don and Guy. A year later he brought over Loo II and the great bench campaigner, Elcho, to which every Irish setter in America can trace his pedigree through several lines. Turner also imported Erin, Rose, Frisk and Thor. Matter of fact, he imported another "Erin", this one a

female. Of the lot of them, only the male Erin ever won an American field trial and only Thor pleased Turner as a bird dog. He turned to importing Pointers.

Distant relatives of Turner's, the Campbell brothers of Spring Hill, Tennessee crossed Elcho to their own native Red Setter line of bird dogs and produced Joe Jr., a dog that was twice Field Trial Champion of America. He won his second title in 1878. In the nearly 80 years since then, the Red Setter challenge has captured the imagination of many other men. One of them was Dr. L. C. Sauveur who registered and entered all of his dogs under the name of Seminole Kennels at Chestnut Hill, Pa. He purchased the bench and field winner, Tim, in an effort to found an outstanding kennel only a few miles from the spot where Ned Le Grande was to found his kennels- 60 years later.

The first Pennsylvanians to register Irish setters, although they had been hunted in the State for at least 50 years before that, were W. G. Sargent of Meadville and Fred A. Phillips of Corry. Each had dogs bred in 1870 by D. B. Merriam of Corry, their registrations appearing in a book published in 1876. Pennsylvanians probably first hunted over Irish setters as early as 1820 to 1830. The first American studbook of substance didn't come along until 1878. Until shortly before that time, there were no pedigrees, no field trials, and no bench shows. Hunters bred dogs for one purpose only; effective bird dogs- and they had them. In those days of game abundance Irish setters and part Irish were favorites of market hunters and sportsmen alike. They cost a little more, then, than other breeds of bird dogs, but many thought that their ruggedness and endurance made them well worth it.

Undoubtedly, some present day Pennsylvania sportsmen will find the names of their fathers and grandfathers in the first studbooks of the National American Kennel Club. A. H. Moore of Philadelphia purchased the bench and field winner Raleigh to head his kennel. However, the dog never produced a field winner.

Mr. Moore had somewhat more success with the bench and field winner, Berkley, which he purchased for \$1,000. Berkley sired the winners, Chief and Victoria. These dogs had nine wins and, in turn, produced field winners.

John McIntosh's Biz was second in the member's stake at the Pennsylvania Field Trial Club's second annual program. This was held over 750 miles from the nearest part of the Keystone State- *in Grand Junction, Tennessee*. A year before, on October 26, 1880, the group had attempted to hold a trial at Lancaster, but finding it impossible to get the first 17 entries in the first stake onto birds, they cancelled the entire program. The measure of their enthusiasm for the sport is shown by the distance they were willing to go to hold their trial where they could be assured of an adequate bird score. McIntosh had another win with Biz, this one in a very high class stake offered by the National American Kennel Club and run on prairie chickens at Fairmont, Minnesota on September 4, 1882. Don, a pointer owned by Pittsburgh's R. T. Vandervort was judged best of the 28 starters. A total of six dogs were placed ahead

of Biz, but the judges were offering more prizes than a church picnic, and they named to what is recorded as a divided fourth placement.

It was many years before another field trial was scheduled for Pennsylvania. But the state did not lack for enthusiasts. The trials of the Philadelphia Kennel Club were held in nearby New Jersey and Delaware. Through the eighties as Irish setters gradually faded elsewhere in field trial prominence, Philadelphia remained a stronghold for them. Members J. A. Stovall and I. H. Roberts both had several fine wins in the Philadelphia Kennel Club's trials. Charles T. Thompson and the Chestnut Hill kennels of Henry Jarrett each had significant wins in the Philadelphia Club's trials. And, through the nineties, Pennsylvanians were prominent in meeting the Red Setter challenge. In the year 1892, of the 21 members of the Irish Setter Club of America, one-third of them were Pennsylvanians. Perhaps there are sportsmen of the present day in the Keystone State who will be able to recall such men as William H. Childs, Dr. G. G. Davis and Charles T. Thompson of Philadelphia, E. M. Beale of Lewisburg, Boyd D. Rothbrock of Williamsport and W. I. Washington of Pittsburgh.

The last named gentleman had an extremely strong kennel ("Kildare") of bench competitors, but was nonetheless interested in the breed as bird dogs. He went to the field trial wars in 1890 with imported Marshfield, but the highly bred, much-heralded dog eventuated into an all time clunk of the breed. The dog was an all around flop. He couldn't win on the bench either and, although he had great opportunities, he never produced a quality pup.

Only two significant Irish setter wins stand out in the score of years that followed those early Philadelphia Kennel Club trials. They were by Finglas, imported by S. L. Boggs of Pittsburgh that won the absolute stake of the American club in 1892. His son, Fingalin, was second in the derby stake of the International Club in 1893 after that; the Irish record was largely a blank for many years. There were many men who accepted the challenge, but failed to produce lasting results. Canine historian Joseph P. Graham mentioned a Mr. Guthrie of Mexico, Missouri, who was determined to produce "a plan of selecting specially fast and heady Irish setters with the object of breeding them up to field trial class".

Graham added, "It is much to be desired that gentlemen like Mr. Guthrie, who has abundant means and is an indefatigable student of the breeding science, will pursue this object perseveringly." Unfortunately, we find no record that Mr. Guthrie, or others of that era, achieved any notable success. And, it was in 1900 that the first of today's breeders registered his first Irish setter. A tall and straight young man of the Connellsville area, Clyde L. Standish, embarked upon what has become over 60 years of devotion to the Irish setter as a field dog. He and his late wife never had less than one each. They once told the writer that they had to have at least two Irish, one to keep each of them warm on cold nights. While taking an Irish setter into bed has never been the sort of practice that we would recommend, the Standish's always demanded that their Red Ones be useful bird dogs.

Through several decades, sometimes as the only ones in the country supporting Irish in field trials, the Standish's held to their faith in the breed. In April, the National Red Setter Field Trial Club honored two old timers of the breed. Both were Pennsylvanians. Clyde L. Standish and Charles Coale of Allentown were voted Honorary Life Memberships. A club officer stated, "The club is more honored to have had their support than we can ever honor these two men.

For a time in the years from 1911 on, it appeared the breed had found a man who could and would lead it into new prominence afield. The man was Otto Phiol, a druggist of Fremont, Nebraska. His Donegal's Alizon, in 1918, won the first significant placement an Irish setter had in many years when she was placed third in the high class derby of the All America Club's winter trials. On October 26th of that same year Phiol died in the terrible epidemic of Spanish influenza. It was a great blow to the Irish setter. It was impossible to keep the Phiol kennel together. Others profited for a time from the start Phiol had made. The most famous of the dogs of his breeding was Horace Lytle's Smada Byrd, which, under Lytle's skilled training and adept handling, developed into a campaigner equal to the severest of amateur competition.

Several others who remain as contemporary fanciers of the Red Ones afield got their start in the early twenties. Prominent among these are Elias C. Vail who was to have considerable success as a breeder, owner and trainer. The late Edwin Berolzheimer who gave liberally of his time, energy and wealth, and today, his wife Myra continues as one of the breed's staunchest supporters. O. H. Niemeyer of Prospect, Ohio, who although he started with the breed in 1906, only in the twenties began to get deserved recognition.

About 1923 the Irish Setter Club of America was making plans to hold its first field trial since 1907, but no lasting benefit came from this effort. The club continued with its dominant interest in bench shows.

Another fine sportsman and determined enthusiast, J. Leferdink of Hickman, Nebraska, was embarked upon a determined effort that was to continue until his death a few years ago. One dog of his breeding was later to be carried into today's successful field strains.

In Albert Lea, Minnesota, Earl Bond was trying, without help, to breed against the tide of bench only fanciers. He was to pass quietly from the scene after 50 years of effort without knowledge of his greatest triumph. Old, alone, in broken health, he shot his last two dogs when unfeeling and unknowing neighbors complained that he was feeding his dogs from his relief money. He then went off to Iowa to live with his sister and he thus disappeared from view without knowing he had bred the foundation bitch that was to eventually spark the revival of the Red Ones.

In 1924, an Irish by the name of Red Hot-- was just that. He was owned by Royal A. Ferris of Texas and trained by the famed handler Ed Farrior. Among the dogs he defeated was the pointer, Triple National Champion Becky Broom Hill. The great field

trial historian, Al Hochwalt, wrote of him: "There was something about this dog that impressed one the moment he was seen in competition. His action was more like an English setter; he possessed quite an abundance of style on point and as a bird dog he was the equal of most of the bird dogs of his day. Irish setters of the period hailed him as the wonder of his breed, but alas when it came to investigating his bloodlines, nothing was forthcoming. It was even whispered that occasionally he sired white and black pups on the few occasions he was used for the perpetuation of his breed. Alas, yes. Red Hot was born too soon. Today he would find at least a few sportsmen who would not be averse to borrowing back from the English that were built openly and covertly upon Irish blood and that of pointers. It was also in 1924 that Elias Vail achieved a significant divided-third placement in a field of 47 in the member's all-age stake at the English Setter Club's trials.

Ben Curtis of Oklahoma was next to take up the challenge and he had two good ones in McKerry's Pat and Pat's son McKerry's Pat's Dusty. But Pat didn't much resemble the bench type and despite some truly fine wins in rugged competition, he was little used at stud. That the majority of the Irish setter fancy was unable to divorce itself from a complete fixation for bench show competition is evidenced by the fact that Vail continued his winning ways in the east, but breeders shunned his stock, even though his dogs were capable of minor bench winnings. In 1925 Vail went one-two with Elcova Kinkie and Modoc Bedelia, in the all-age stake at the Orange County trial over ten English and five pointers. At the same trial Dr. P. H. Faivrie's Terry Boyne's Wynky was first in a derby that had fourteen starters.

Through the next few years only Horace Lytle and his beloved Byrd, Vail and Ben Curtis had any notable success with the Red Setter challenge. A new club, the Gordon and Irish Setter Club was formed and ran a trial at Cornwall-on-the-Hudson in October of 1930. The effort was in the right direction-but apparently the dogs were not. Only one prospect was uncovered, and he, Cloud Burst Red, was unbroken. The club held another trial the following year in which Vail won the major stake with Elcova's Admiration. After that, this club was heard of no more.

The Irish Setter Club of America which, because it was the first club for the breed in the United States, is recognized by the show minded AKC as the 'parent' club for the breed and as such is custodian of all of the breed's rights and privileges under the AKC. It held its first trial in 26 years in October of 1933. Mostly it was a field day with a picnic atmosphere. Elcova McTybe was the winner over 19 other starters and became the first of the AKC Field Champions among the Irish. About this time Vail had a little company in the east. H. A. Sims came along with his Tipperary McKerry, a really good one that won regularly in New England. He also became an AKC Field Champion.

In the early thirties a young fellow who had been Elias Vail's kennel boy refused to let severe physical handicaps dissuade him from becoming a professional bird dog trainer. Although he has not specialized in the breed, Paul Long has since had some part in the training of ninety percent of the successful Irish that have come upon the scene. It was Paul Long who piloted Sally of Kildare to an unprecedented twenty recognized field

trial wins between years 1935 and 1941. Sally was owned by Patrick W. Hehir, long time Fish and Game Director of the State of Massachusetts. The Berolzheimers had meanwhile concentrated their attention upon field trial activities and campaigned two Irish, bred in Pennsylvania, to AKC Field Championships. They were Clodagh McTybe O'Cloisters and Shaun McTybe O'Cloisters. The breeder was William Monan, then living in the Williamsport area.

The first real sensation in the breed since the days of Smada Byrd came in the years immediately before World War II. This dog of blazing speed was Skyline Ephriam, the property of Judge Thomas M. Maeshall of Pittsburgh. He was campaigned fearlessly and won consistently. Field trial men depreciated him because he did not show a high flag on point and show folks let him pass by because he did not meet their concept of classic beauty. But- as a bird dog he was hard to beat and won eleven placements in a short career.

Alvin R. Bush, former congressman from Pa. enjoyed gunning over his Red Ones afield. The star of his kennel was Uncle Ned R. He had many good ones and their bloodlines continue strong in the winning Irish of today. Under the leadership of Charles Coale and Alan Bortz, the Allentown area became a stronghold for field bred Irish. Joyce and Carl Schollenberger became particularly strong devotees. Bortz did some admirable winning with his Jeep. Archer Church, although he lived in New Jersey, became closely allied with them.

In New England, another hotbed developed with such as John Cassidy, Fred Shaw, Jim and Bob Finn and Paul Long of Massachusetts. Tom Ward of Rhode Island. Mrs. Dorothy Lee Winter of Connecticut and Fred White and Ted Grant of Maine. On the west coast Jake Huizenga was having some success with his Oxton's Shosaph.

In 1950 the Irish Setter Club of America offered the last of the trials it held under its own initiative. It demonstrated two things. First, that there was enough interest to draw entries from both coasts to Iowa. Second that the ISCA wasn't much interested in fieldwork. Club officials dragged out the process of granting approval until the last minute and the trial secretary found it too late to invite seasoned field trial men to judge the event. The men who did officiate made a conscientious effort, but grave errors were made, they became confused as to which dogs did what and the event closed on an angry note. Also, during the fall of 1950, came a most significant achievement for an Irish setter. The star of the Berolzheimer kennel, Rufus McTybe O'Cloister, rose to new heights when he was named Runner-up in the National Amateur Pheasant Championship. Rufus was not only a solid bird dog, but he was a handsome fellow. However, his fee was set rather high, he was seldom advertised and the bench folks cared not at all for his unfashionable bloodlines. In his limited opportunities he produced rather well.

The small field trial element within the Irish Setter Club of New England inaugurated post-war field trials wherein Ned Le Grande became introduced to the Red Setter challenge and some fine sportsmen.

And- that's where we were when Ned Le Grande shook his head and said, "Something is going to have to be done for Irish setters."

Ned Le Grande had accepted and met challenges before - and he knew, back in 1951, how he was going after this one - all out! The Douglassville sportsman read everything he could get his hands on - and he hasn't quit searching for additional materiel even now. He advertised in sportsmen's magazines that he wanted to buy Irish Setters that were honest to goodness bird dogs. He put a number of professional trainers to watching for worthwhile prospects. He sought and obtained advice from such world famous authorities as Dr. Leon Whitney, Henry P. Davis, Horace Lytle, MacDowell Lyon and many others. He faced the fact that he could interest himself in bird dogs as bird dogs. Beauty and every other factor would have to be ignored, at least until immediate goals could be reached.

We can recall writing to him about that time that the history of the breed indicated that there was too much challenge for any one man to master, no matter the extent of his wealth, his determination, his energy, his scientific breeding knowledge - or luck. That warning was unnecessary.

Showing the measure of a true sportsman, Le Grande had determined that it would not be enough for him to develop a successful strain for himself, even if that were possible. He set his sights on popularizing the Red Ones among average hunters by breeding the dogs up to true field quality. It was at about that time Le Grande read an article by Horace Lytle suggesting that the Irish could most speedily be brought up to field quality by borrowing from the field English Setters.

Le Grande accepted the suggestion even though he knew it would take several generations of training, trying and selecting before he could have even one dog that could be registered an Irish Setter - and with no guarantee of success. And that's the way it has eventuated. Just one product from the seven years of breeding, a crossbred called Hard Tack, shows the makings of a good one. Hard Tack's progeny, at last, will be eligible for registration with the *Field Dog Stud Book* as Irish Setters.

But a man doesn't live forever. Ned La Grange started breeding programs along at least two other lines at the same time. A lot of dogs have come to, a lot of dogs have left the hilltop farm outside of Douglasville in the last few years. The process of breeding, training, selecting and disposing has been an endless one that has survived many discouragements. A virus took 28 puppies within two weeks during July 1956. The best male he ever owned died in an accident at the age of two. The biggest running dog died as a derby. His greatest prospect lost an eye to spear grass on the Canadian prairie. The "winningest" Irish Setter in history at the time of her death at age three died in whelp.

Breeding programs on the scale that Le Grande planned them would produce far too many dogs for one man and a platoon of trainers to house, feed, train and try. Mindful of the experiences of so many others who had tried it alone, Le Grande planned from the beginning that he'd have to have all the help he could get. To help and encourage others he both sold and gave away his best products.

The rest of us who were pursuing the challenge were scattered all about the country. For a time during 1951 we looked to the existent breed club for leadership but found neither interest nor understanding. We weren't about to wait forever for the Irish Setter Club of America. Mostly by mail, but with Le Grande doing the traveling that unified us, we founded the National Red Setter Field Trial Club late in 1951.

A suggestion to Le Grande that he take part in the new club as an officer was received with this gruff reply, "I already have enough work to do. Let someone else have the spotlight". The initial officers of the club were the diplomatic Archer Church of New Jersey as president, Allen Bortz of Pennsylvania, vice-president, secretary - treasurer, a genial Eastern Shoreman, Ralph C. "Rusty" Baynard of Dover, Delaware. When business responsibilities dictated the resignation of Church and Bortz, Baynard was moved up to the presidency, Ray Hagan of Mexico, Missouri was elected vice-president and Mrs. Carl Schollenberger of Pennsylvania became secretary—treasurer.

Modestly begun, the National Red Setter Club has become the largest club exclusively devoted to field trials and the largest Irish Setter Club - all of this in something less than six years.

But, a long membership list does not, of itself, make bird dogs. That there has been equal, if not greater progress in the quality of the dogs is attested to by a recent study of the record books which reveals that the Irish are now winning breed-open stakes in direct proportion to the number of their entries.

Le Grande's initial inventory of bird dogs was a slim one. He had two females that were capable bird dogs. Willow Winds Bessie was a bird finder and fully broken, but she offered little promise as a brood female, although she could and did win in the smaller trials. Bessie had too much of a hippity hop in her gait - indicative of a failing in her running gear. The other female, Willow Winds Smada gave greater promise. Bittie, as she was called about the kennel traced back through several lines to Horace Lytle's old Smada Byrd. Although she was also a winner, her greatest achievements were destined to be accomplished in the whelping box.

Early in 1951 Le Grande received a report from a bird dog trainer in the Blue Ridge Mountains of Virginia. There was a Red Dog puppy down there that was cutting quail country up in little pieces. Ned went to look for himself and returned with a youngster he named Willow Winds Mike. This youngster displayed an unlimited amount of the desire and competitive fire his breed needed so badly. He was bred to Bittie, and the result was a litter of both winners and producers.

Among them were Willow Winds Ambassador, Willow Winds Doctor, Willow Winds Viceroy, and Willow Winds Eve. She was to produce the greatest litter of field Irish bred in modern times.

Meantime, the friendship between Le Grande and Baynard had grown warm, as any real bird dog man could tell from the unmerciful way they kidded each other about their respective dogs. Baynard had a male that seemed to Le Grande, to be far too handsome to be a honest-to-goodness bird dog. And, although Rusty's Jinx had several wins in open-breed shooting dog stakes, Ned refused to accept him as a bird dog until he could see him in action. Baynard marched both Le Grande and Jinx out to the Petersburg grounds near Dover and treated the doubter to the sight of his big fellow wheeling into intense point on a native covey.

Baynard having proven his point and his dog, it only remained for them to wait until a suitable female could be found for Jinx' service. Even at this early stage of the game Le Grande had many more dogs than he could possibly handle. He had given, with strings, a sister of his young winners, Viceroy, Doctor and Ambassador to a friend in Pottstown. The "string" was that he could borrow her back to breed her if he so desired. Thus it was that Willow Winds Eve, daughter of reliable Bittie and the hot-blooded Mike, was bred to Rusty's Jinx, the scion of a three-legged dam. From this mating came such brilliant stars as Baynard's double champion Double Jay, Le Grande's National Red Setter Champion Willow Wind's Hobo and Don Martin's Byrdfield Kate and Zet.

Le Grande continued advertising for Red Setter bird dogs. His widely proclaimed offers to buy had the appearance of coming from an easy mark. And apparently, there were many that took him for just that. Mail with patently false, impossible misguided and misleading claims poured in. Just reading and answering it was a diverting task. During this period a great many Irish came to Willow Winds Farm - and almost as many left when they couldn't live up to the claims that had been made for them.

This was particularly true of a number that had been offered as pointing with a high tail. Early in the game Le Grande had become obsessed with the idea of putting high tails on Irish Setters. "You have to have them", he declared, "or you can't win field trials." He conceded that for his own taste a high tail was just a final exclamation mark on an intense bird dog. "But", he reasoned, "there are a lot of men judging who absolutely demand it. If you have a high tailed point, there's no way of calling it a 'stop to flush."

And so, the search for a high tailed Irish Setter went on. One report that came in sounded more promising than a hundred others, if for no other reason than it came from a professional trainer. Near his training grounds in South Carolina, according to the trainer's letter, there was a farmer whose little red female was the best bird finder in the area— and she pointed with a high tail! Ned checked with a phone call before taking off for South Carolina. He wasn't too optimistic. The female was five years old and a male would be a lot more useful to a breeder. However, he lost a lot

of his misgivings when he had a brief opportunity on the farm to see her handle a bird. Unfortunately, she wasn't for sale. She was not only the owner's bird dog; she was the family pet.

Le Grande persisted and the owner finally placed a price, a high one on the dog. It was high enough that Ned took one more look before making a decision. The dog had a rather large lump on the side of her neck. The farmer, Kelsey Askew, said she'd always had it, but Ned decided not to take the risk. Then he took one more look, and changed his mind again. Askew's Carolina Lady went home with him. He didn't know it then, but he'd bought a treasure beyond measure.

Lady has since proven to be truly prepotent, meaning she has such an attractive combination of inheritance determining genes that she invariably passes on all or most of her own best qualities. And her "get" and her "get's get", also, have this happy facility.

Le Grande hadn't had Lady long when he decided he'd better go looking for more of the same. Her breeder, Earl Bond, had disappeared from Albert Lea, Minnesota, but Lady had had one litter in South Carolina. Ned traced every puppy in that litter, found that only one, a male, survived. Thus it was that he found and bought Ike Jack Kendrick.

Both Jack and Lady have long since earned the title of Field Trial Champions from the AKC. Despite the fact that until her recent retirement Lady spent most of her time in the whelping box, she accumulated 28 American Field recognized wins including the National Red Setter Open Shooting Dog Championship in 1953. Jack has 51 wins—nearly twice the total of any Irish Setter ever known.

Le Grande hasn't kept an accurate account, but in the past five and one half years, his dogs have accumulated over 200 wins. It is unlikely that any kennel has ever been able to approach, in quantity, this success. Although he has had dogs with as many as four trainers at a time, Le Grande has handled his own dogs in most of these wins. He competes in more trials than most would have the energy to attend. The folks of the Irish Setter Club of Minnesota had this to say after their trial of last spring: "This man drove, alone, some 2,500 miles at a considerable expenditure of time, money and physical effort. Not for the glory of the wins— but because of his tremendous interest and his unselfish desire to help the Irish Setter attain its rightful status as a class bird dog. We, here in Minnesota, can appreciate what Henry Davis meant when he expressed the opinion that Le Grande has done more for the Irish Setter than any other man in our time."

Speaking for the rest of us campaigning Irish Setters in field trials, the writer can state that there is nothing - but nothing - better than whipping Le Grande and his dogs. At the last National Red Setter trial, Le Grande couldn't get in. He certainly didn't enjoy it, but said, "It's the healthiest thing that could have happened." If Le Grande, the owner-handler was shut out, Le Grande the breeder had a most

successful trial. Of the ten winners, he either bred eight of them or the stock from which they were bred. As one more measure of the success of this amazing Pennsylvanian, here are the all-time rankings of Irish Setters according to the number of American Field recognized wins: Ike Jack Kendrick 52, Willow Winds Cathy 31, Askew's Carolina Lady 28, Willow Winds Hobo 28.

Le Grande owned and campaigned all of these top four with Jack and Hobo still actively campaigning. (Ed. note: Ike Jack Kendrick's final score- 60 wins) Ned even managed to win two high quality puppy stakes in a single day back in 1953. Ned placed first at the English Setter Club of America, the first time in that ancient club's history that any Irish Setter had won a stake outright. Ned packed the dog into the station wagon and got him to the grounds of the South Jersey Club, 90 miles away, in time to win first in that club's puppy stake.

As a result of this kind of successful campaigning, the Red Ones have created a new respect for themselves among most field trial men and just plain hunters. The time was when they viewed us as being foolishly breed-blind. "It can't be done," they'd say. But after we'd beaten them a few times they would either have to confess that our dogs were something or their dogs were not very much. Now it's more likely that we'll be saluted with some sharpened variation of the idea that we are foolish to want to do it the hard way. We see it differently. We feel that these critics are getting only a part of the thrill of the bird dog challenge.

We've heard some folks express the opinion that field trial judges are inclined to be prejudiced against the Red Ones. We have knowledge of only two instances where this happened. However, the writer does have a theory that explains how and why a great many folks may have gained this impression. We hear them say: "Why, the judges didn't even look at my Irish Setter." One minute of looking at some of the worst Irish Setters is more than enough for good trial judges. If an animal can't move efficiently, if every stride is a strain, if a dog is going up and down as much as he is going forward - then he becomes a painful sight for the discriminating lover of a class bird dog. Result: a first look at the worst of the Irish is more than enough to eliminate them from consideration in the eyes of most judges. And then the owner misunderstands.

There's another area of misunderstanding. That's the belief some hunters have that field trial dogs are different from high class hunting dogs and that the field trial dogs run too big for practical hunting. In the first respect they are right. In the second as wrong as can be. The big differences between field trial dogs and high class hunting companions are in conditioning, training - and the opportunity to compete. If your bird dog really is a good one he can be conditioned and encouraged to cover a greater amount of ground. Let those big going field trial dogs run off their initial head of steam and they become most serviceable gun dogs = at a practical range for the foot hunter.

When Hobo won his championship at Petersburg, Delaware last November he was positively brilliant, cutting his course to ribbons. At midweek Ned Le Grande drove

back down to Delaware for some quail hunting. Thanksgiving morning was cold and clear. Ned had hunted both Hobo and Jack hard the day before. The writer was stymied with a back injury but I watched as Ned and Rusty Baynard set off on the morning's hunt, Ned with his two champions and Rusty with his Champion Double Jay. Even the late Rusty's Jinx, daddy of Hobo, Double Jay and a dozen other winners tried to cut it for a while. There were a lot of birds pointed, handled and shot at that day - a day of great beauty marred only by some pretty awful marksmanship.

One Pennsylvania fancier of the Red Ones did not miss, not very often. He's David Hasinger of Huntington Valley, the owner of the dogs in last months cover painting, (Pennsylvania Game News). Dave is one of the finest trap shots on the east coast - and his charming wife, Jane is equally proficient in women's trap competition. Individually they are both many times champions. In a husband-wife shoot they are a most formidable pair. Hasinger, although a later recruit, has had an amazing success with his Valli-Hi Lacey (so-named by orchestra leader Paul Whiteman for her feminine *ways*) and Valli-Hi Jay. Not yet a breeder, he is now selecting individuals that should blend into stock that will further enhance the reputation of the Red Ones with field men.

In the spring the NRSFTC holds its Midwestern Red Setter Open Championship over the superb shooting dog courses of Ohio's Delaware Darn Recreation Area. In the fall, and you're all invited, for November 8-9-10 this year, it runs its National Red Setter Open Shooting Dog Championship program over the Petersburg grounds near Dover, Delaware. Anyone who thinks he has a dog good enough to compete can enter. Anyone who enjoys bird dogs and brisk fall weather is invited to spend the weekend with us. We get enough enjoyment from our sport that we want everyone to share it with us. Ask any hunter of upland game birds. One of the most beautiful sights in this world of ours is that of a good bird dog locked up tight on a stylish point.

For thousands of sportsmen everywhere this picture is perfection if the bird dog is an Irish Setter - his coat gleaming copper and gold in the sunlight. And the only way that picture could be improved upon would be if there were another Irish Setter backing him! Of course, if the picture has a backdrop of a beautiful Pennsylvania landscape with the crisp autumn air of opening day. Well, we're ready. Are you?