

Rufus McTybe O'Cloisters is Dead

Greatest Modern Red Setter was a Producer and Winner
October 1955

On the record books for quality of wins, the greatest Irish setter stud of the last 75 years is dead. Rufus McTybe O'Cloisters passed to his reward on August 28, 1955. He was three weeks short of his fourteenth birthday anniversary. We saw Rufus only once. We'd stopped at the Davant plantation for a brief visit. His gracious owner, Mr. Edwin M. Berol, was kind enough to put him down for us. He was a magnificent animal. We like to believe that he is reunited with his proud owner who preceded him in death.

Rufus was whelped September 19, 1941. He was bred by William Monan of Blasdell, N.Y., who also bred the Field Trial Champions Clodagh McTybe O'Cloisters and Shaun McTybe O'Cloisters. Rufus was by Brian McTybe O'Cloisters out of McSwiney's Style.



Here is Rufus' win record prior to his triumph as runner-up in the 1950 National Amateur Pheasant Championship; Third, Orange County Member's Amateur Shooting Dog, fall-1945; & second, Irish Setter Club of America, Amateur All Age, spring-1946; Third, South Jersey Gun Dog, fall 1946; Second, English Setter Club of America Gun Dog, fall-1946. Second, Southern Amateur All Age, spring-1947; First, Irish Setter Club of America, Open All Age, spring-1947; Third, Irish Setter Club of America, Open All Age, fall -1947; First, New Hope Open Gun Dog, fall -1949; Second, Keystone Pointer and Setter Club, Open All-Age, fall -1949; second, South Jersey Open All Age, fall -1950. Then, at the age of nine, Rufus had his greatest win running under the whistle of George M. Rogers he was named runner-up in the National Amateur Pheasant Championship in the fall of 1950. It is not generally known, but Rufus was called back for a second series in the Championship and he was not available. It is probable that he might have improved his position had he been on hand, but the only way he could have gone was up.

Rufus was a fine looking animal dark red enough to please even the most bench-conscious of the breed's fanciers. Why bench and field breeders alike did not flock to him is beyond our understanding. His fee was kept modest, his get are excellent, and yet he was used only sparingly. He is gone now and we predict that his blood will be much sought after for many years. His most outstanding daughter is AKC F.Ch. Pride of Erin, runner-up in the 1954 National Red Setter Open Shooting Dog Championship. Other winning get include Rufus Kilarney O'Kerry and Wendy McTybe O'Cloisters. Another excellent son is Autumn Mike. To date he has sired five winners. Rufus was lacking a bit in style and he could have stood a touch more of brilliance, but right now we'd trade in our chances of ever owning a better one if we could have one like him. He was all bird dog.

A fine tribute was paid Rufus in the September issue of The Whip in Truman Cowle's article. Cowles said: "If you want a dog worthy of a field championship, first match the performance of Rufus". By coincidence, we were talking to Truman Cowles on the very day Rufus died. It was early in the day and we had no notion of Rufus' passing as we rode along while Truman was judging a shooting dog stake. Truman had judged Rufus at Cranbury, N. J. in the Pheasant Championship. Said he: "There was no dog close to the top pair, and Rufus was close to the top dog."