

THE IRISH RED SETTER CLUB.

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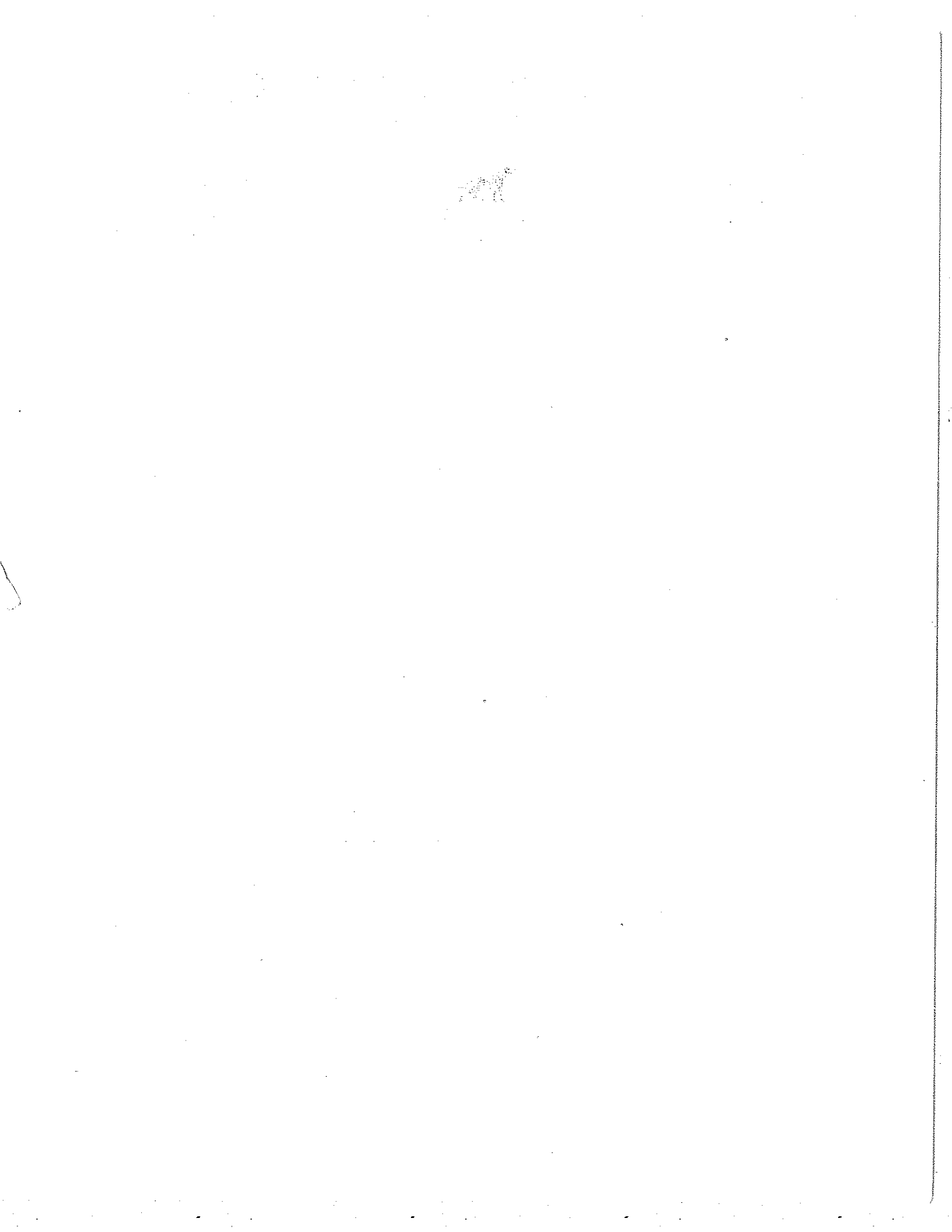
2nd October, 1982

Dear Mr. Spouse,

Nice to hear from you, and thank you for your good wishes on our Centenary. You are welcome indeed to use any of the items in our Clubs News Letter you deem appropriate, it is a minority cult and it behoves us to stay together. I enjoy your Flushing Whip through the kindness of your staunch member Martin Currin, whose charming daughter Mary Beth paid us a visit recently, and what a lovely girl she is.

Reading your Flushing Whip and reading between the lines, it would seem as if you have gone ~~away~~ from us really. I have heard through my Danish friends who visited your trials that you have some really good dogs, and indeed from pictures many of the dogs would be proud standard bearers of our breed anywhere. Elsewhere we see too much Llwelllyn type, and mixed type. I know your argument if they borrowed from us via Plunkett way back in the '30's why can't we reverse the process in the 1970's???? What is more, you just upped and did it, I am afraid we would talk more about it. I do feel you should now revert as much as possible, through Selective breeding to the true old Irish Red Setter type. Your Celtic dogs as per pictures would seem to have achieved that, I do not know if they carry your English Setter outcross. Some others, I fear if I were as fond of that type I would not god myself to want them in a red coat, or sometimes a yellow one.

I am unable to say if the high tail has affected the smooth gallop



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which we so dearly love, with a perpetual high head. From the high tailed dogs I have seen (mostly English setters carrying American blood) they all had what I term a 'rocky gallop' and as such this effected their efficiency as they only had the head high 50% of the time, the head having to bob up and down with the rocky gallop. I am only assuming, I cannot say for sure. I am ever promising myself I'll go and see these Yankee prodigies, but with the number of dogs and livestock about here it seems impossible to get away from here for that long, however I'll keep promising myself...

I also often wondered with the kind of adoration you threw at Askews Carolina Lady, that you never thought of going back to the Sulhamstead kennels where her sire came from? I know Mrs. Nagle gave up in the 60's but the strain is still about, matter of fact she was kind enough to present me with Sulhamstead Natty D'Sor, and though no trialer herself, she bred me a few good ones, which crosses with one line of my dogs very successfully. You'll be glad to know both she, Mrs. Nagle and Miss Clark, her co partner, are still to the good and still interested. Old George Abbott, the trainer, was the greatest genius I ever saw with a dog, and much of the greatness of the Sulhamsteads we were inclined to lay at his feet, however having had Natty, I soon realized that much of the class we all thought George imbued them with was in built. I am not taking from him for one moment, but you will appreciate the kind of awe and fear we all had of him, who was even a great trainer in pre world war one. He reveled in the aurora and did nothing to disperse it either. I suppose of the post world war two trialers I got closer to him than anybody else, and one could not but admire his true professionalism. He was as hard on the gin when the notion took him, as anybody else, and I'll always remember after one particularly heavy session, seeing George come in with his dogs as I went out about 6.30 the following morning. I said George I thought you would

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~~Break~~ "break cover" for another hour at least. "John ^{my} boy, he said,
" I am a professional you know, if your dog starts to empty himself in a trial
it is all right, its your time and your dog, with me it is my patrons time and
my patrons dog". For all that he was an out and out gentleman, and if you
were drawn against him and such a situation occurred to your dog, he would
drop his dog and wait to join you when you recoreded, which favour I never did
see him have returned, simply because it never happened him...

Getting back to set ters, you differ from us also in that you go in and put
up the birds, we request the dog to do it, who knows better where they are,
and besides relating trials to the rule of the gun, which one should, the gun
is in a far better position to get in a killing shot if the dog flushes them.
As a consequence we would fear the Llyellyn (English) cross, as over here
much of that strain and breed had a very great inherent reluctance to go in and
flush their game, and their relocation work was so painfully slow that, especially
with pheasants one never saw a runner again.

However for all that you would appear to be a crowd of doers rather than
talkers, and as such you are to be admired and respected. I do hope you
have your big break through and win one of the major circuit trials, the day
you do, I hope the judges will have the courage to see and realise it has
happened. With those thoughts I leave you, and from the Setter men of the
old country I send you good wishes, and good dogs."

Yours sincerely,

