

Mount Cabherine,

Pallasgreen,

Co. Limerick.

27th March, 1985

Dear Bob Sprouse,

It was indeed very kind of you to use your valuable time to answer me so promptly, and indeed were it not for a damn postal strike in our area I should and would have replied sooner. Rest assured of my confidentiality re what you say, I just know the type, expect Abra was his first good one. I have not got any real opinion of Miss Wittusen's dogs, they have shown well in minor trials and far as I know have never had to act under military discipline so to speak, but they will have plenty of room for all the heels they are prepared to show and all the guts they can muster in Norway. It is all foot hunting, but that does not preclude the dogs covering as wide an area as if they were ridden to, they must needs be quarter the ground, as just any little piece can hold them, and overpassing is an eliminator there as well as everywhere else in Europe in upwind situations. They have many of my dogs in Norway, never realised how many until I was there to judge recently and Alf Tjersland said half in jest one evening "You must meet some of your fan club tonight" Imagine my surprise (nay fright) when 62 people turned up who either had dogs from me or ones bred directly from my stock.

Must confess now that we all made a mistake that we did not use the Sulhamps teads more widely but Ma Nagle erred also by not using our stuff more. Then it was impossible to really know just how good they were about game, NATURALLY, because George Abbott was such a genius as well as trickster. She gave me Natty (Nearco ex Una) when she disbanded, and she was a typical end of the line bitch, a bit timid, unsure, and light in ~~color~~ color as well. I bred to her twice and in the next generation rather than the first reuserected many good things that I had not in my own line. I have also a line via Bounce but impurity they were from 1945 until 1962, nothing special, and minus the

genious that was Aobot would have been less so, but I failed to realise that there was much latent class, that a judicious outcross or two could not refloat pretty smartly. ~~Thank you~~

Thank you for saying what you did re my own dogs, I had thought and I possibly am correct in saying that the very tops of your dogs are a notch above them, but in truth I have judged all over Europe and I never did see any pointers and setters there that I would not take on with the best of my own. Just now the mean average is higher than formerly, but the very tops are no better than twenty years ago. Sure, you might get a twinkle or two that had not been there formerly, but no more. I'd be still hard pressed to place the five best I ever had in their correct order. Like all setters the dogs need about 30 months and the bitches 24 to be spot on on game, especially the wide fast ones among them. I seem to be able to handle this now by giving them a good share of game in their first season, usually by a pre trial trip to Scotland, and there is nothing better than the grouse for that job. The dog I sold Mrs. Langley has a combination of some of the best I have had in his veins, and if he is true to the line could well be a very important factor, if people are prepared to use him. He should be prepotent if only because he is very much the same family, I suppose there is no gin dog man in the world today who has the same family slavishly for the past 40 years but myself.

I was never to your country, am thinking about it in that this is our 25th wedding anniversary year and the family are ^h pusing us that we ^h should go. It would be nice to round off our experience, but I have a job (Co-Op. manager, milk and animal feed), a farm, and the dogs to bid good bye to, ca'nt see how it might be arranged, but we can and must all be done without sometime. Will see....

Most sincerely,

