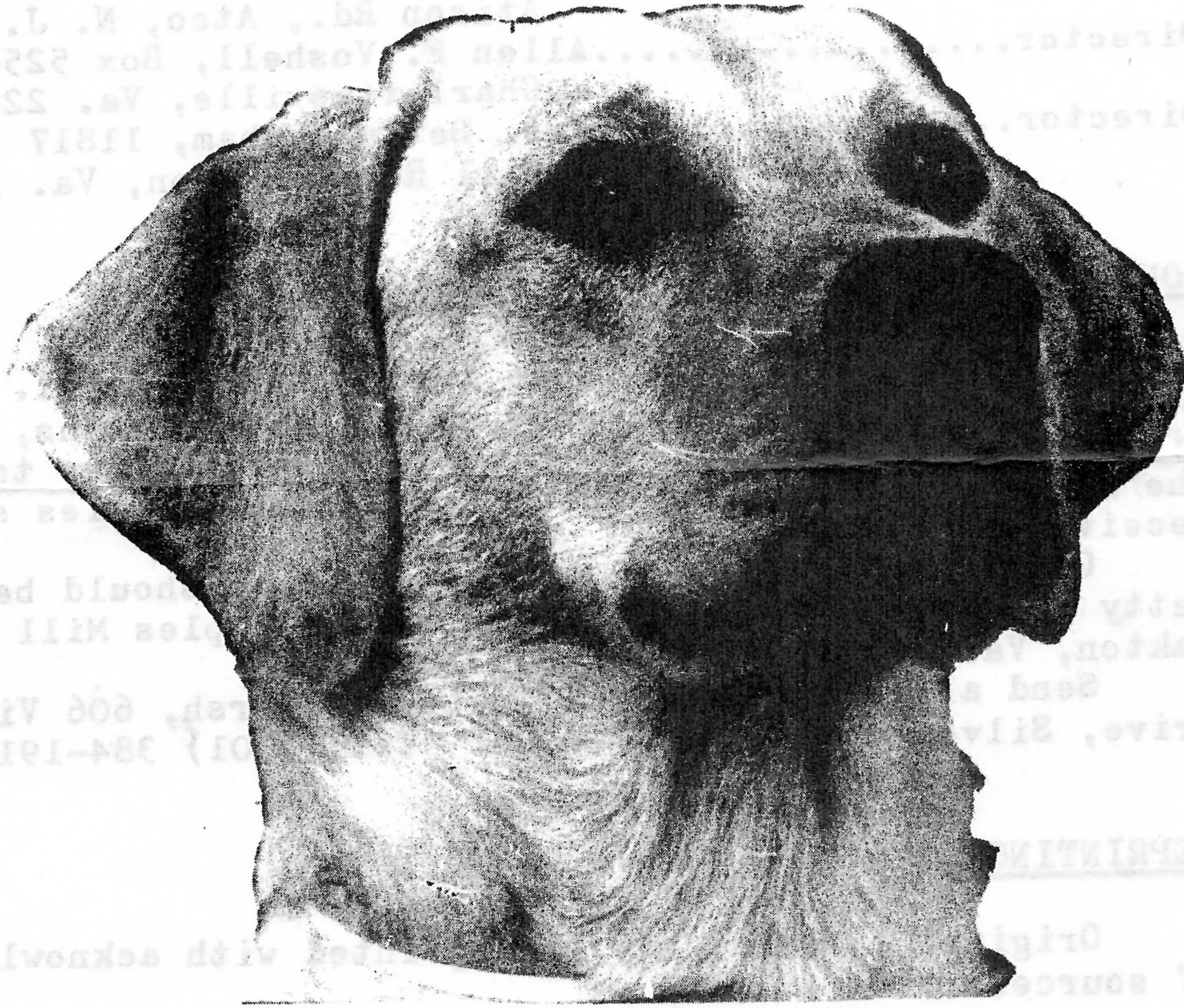


# The Potomac Labrador



ADDITIONS TO MEMBERSHIP LIST

March, 1975

Wayne Br... Lodge Lane, Camp Springs, MD 20031.  
Mrs. J. L. Pennington, 701 Avalon Ave., Virginia Beach, VA 23462.  
(804) 420-3782.  
New Address: Mr. M. J. Stephens, 614A Fairland Ave., Hampton,  
VA 23661.

LABRADOR RETRIEVER CLUB OF THE POTOMAC

President.....George Bragaw, Rt. 10, Box 81, BOX  
Frederick, Md. 21701  
Vice-President.....Mrs. Robert V. Clark, Jr., Springfield  
Farm, Middleburg, Va. 22117  
Secretary.....Mrs. Deborah A. Kobilis, Rt. 1, Box  
71K, Unionville, Va. 22567  
Treasurer.....Mrs. Elizabeth Bragaw, Rt. 10, Box  
81, Frederick, Md. 21701  
Director.....Mrs. Kendall Herr, Willow Brook  
Farms, Catasauqua, Pa. 18032  
Director.....Mrs. Sharon May, Rt. 1, Box 16A,  
Walkerton, Va. 23177  
Director.....Edward G. Squires, Box 343, Rt. 1,  
Atison Rd., Atco, N. J. 08004  
Director.....Allen F. Voshell, Box 5252,  
Charlottesville, Va. 22903  
Director.....Mrs. Betty Graham, 11817 Waples  
Mill Road, Oakton, Va. 22124

CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE POTOMAC LABRADOR

The deadline for the June issue will be May 1. If you have suggestions or news (show or field trial wins, obedience wins, questions for Dear Labby, etc.), please try to submit the items by that date. Ideas for feature stories should be received by mid-April.

Obedience news, suggestions and ideas should be sent to Betty Graham, Obedience Chairman, 11817 Waples Mill Rd., Oakton, Va. 22124. Tel. (703) 385-8339.

Send all other material to Louise Marsh, 606 Vierling Drive, Silver Spring, Md. 20904. Tel. (301) 384-1910.

REPRINTING

Original material may be reprinted with acknowledgement of source.

ADDITIONS TO MEMBERSHIP LIST

Wayne Brewer, 6803 Dodge Lane, Camp Springs, MD 20031.

Mrs. J. L. Pennington, 701 Avalon Ave., Virginia Beach, VA 23462.  
(804) 420-3785.

New Address: Ms. M. J. Stephens, 614A Fairland Ave., Hampton,  
VA 23661.

The Labrador Retriever Club of the Potomac

NOTICE TO ALL MEMBERS:

The following people have been proposed by the Nominating Committee for the 1975 term of office for the positions listed below.

PRESIDENT: Mr. George Bragaw

VICE PRESIDENT: Mrs. Elizabeth Clark, Jr.

SECRETARY: Mrs. Patricia Megregian

TREASURER: Mr. Steven Graham

DIRECTORS:

Mrs. Deborah Kobilis

Mr. Gene Logan

Mrs. Martha Lee Voshell

Mrs. Carolyn Bacon

Mrs. Beth Sweigart

In accordance with Article IV, section 4, subsections c and d of the bylaws of this club: "(c) Additional nominations may be made at the March meeting by any member in attendance provided that the person so nominated does not decline when his name is proposed, and provided further that if the proposed candidate is not in attendance at this meeting, his proposer shall present to the Secretary a written statement from the proposed candidate signifying his willingness to be a candidate. No person may be a candidate for more than one position, and the individual nominations which are provided for herein may be made only from among those members who have not accepted a nomination of the Nominating Committee; (d) Nominations cannot be made at the annual meeting or in any manner other than as provided in this Section."

Deborah A. Kobilis, Secretary  
Tel. (703) 854-5223

'75 SPECIALITY REPORT AT LABRADOR RETRIEVER CLUB MEETING

George Bragaw reported on the status of plans and arrangements and plans for the 1975 National Specialty at the February meeting of the Labrador Retriever Club in New York. The LRCP has two projects underway to raise money for the event. One is, of course, the sale of the Louis Fresino color lithograph which was described in the December Potomac Labrador. The other is the raffle of a huge Basket of Cheer guaranteed worth \$150 or more. Tickets are \$1.00 each or five for \$4.00. The winners' name will be drawn at the Carroll Kennel Club show on May 18. (The winner need not be present.) For tickets get in touch with Beth Sweigart, Rt. 2, Box 57, Bridgewater, Va. 22812.

The Specialty weekend promises to be full with a Working Certificate Test on Saturday, the Specialty at the Rock Creek show on Sunday followed by the LRCP dinner that night. The three area shows and their superintendents for that weekend are as follows: October 11, Catonsville KC, Moss-Bow; October 12, Rock Creek KC, Foley; October 13 (Columbus Day), Carroll KC, Keller.

The LRCP has reserved a block of rooms at the Gaithersburg Holiday Inn for the nights of October 11 and 12 for the convenience of Labrador exhibitors. Mention the LRCP when you make reservations. For the toll-free Holidex number call your local Holiday Inn because the number depends on the city in which the call originates.

Sally McCarthy, the Labrador OFA representative, is now a member of the OFA Board of Directors. She reported that there are now more Labrador films on record than of any other breed. The breed ranks about 16th on the list according to the films that have been submitted, but, she pointed out, there is no way of knowing what the actual percentage of HD is in the breed because it is impossible to get any information on films that have not been submitted.

Helen Ginnel, bench show chairman, called the meeting and conducted it. It is hoped that the meeting of the Labrador Retriever Club at the time of the Westminster KC show will become an annual event.

YOUR LAST POTOMAC LABRADOR?

If you have forgotten or neglected to mail your check for your 1975 dues please send it to the treasurer promptly. The new mailing list for the Potomac Labrador will be prepared from the 1975 membership list before the next issue.

The following Associated Press story is reproduced with permission. It appeared in the Washington Star-News, January 5, 1975.

## Dog's Quick Action Saves U. of Va. Head, 2 Youths

CHARLOTTESVILLE, Va. (AP) — Creek, a big friendly Labrador retriever, gets a lot of attention these days around the home of University of Virginia President Frank L. Hereford Jr.

Hereford and his son, Robert, a student at Denison University in Ohio, patted the husky black pooch fondly the other day as they told how Creek had help save them from the cold waters of Chesapeake Bay.

ABOUT 6 A.M. last Monday Hereford, his son and William White, a stu-

dent at Woodberry Forest, set out in a small boat to go duck hunting on the Chesapeake Bay near Deep Creek on Virginia's Eastern shore.

On the way to the duck blind, half a mile from shore, the boat swamped in heavy choppy waters, spilling the three hunters and Creek into the bay.

Hereford, clinging to a life preserver, started swimming for shore but, because of his heavy, soaked hunting clothes, made little headway.

Robert and White, both 18, lost sight of Hereford in the predawn darkness as

they managed to swim to a nearby buoy and climb on top. There was no one else in sight.

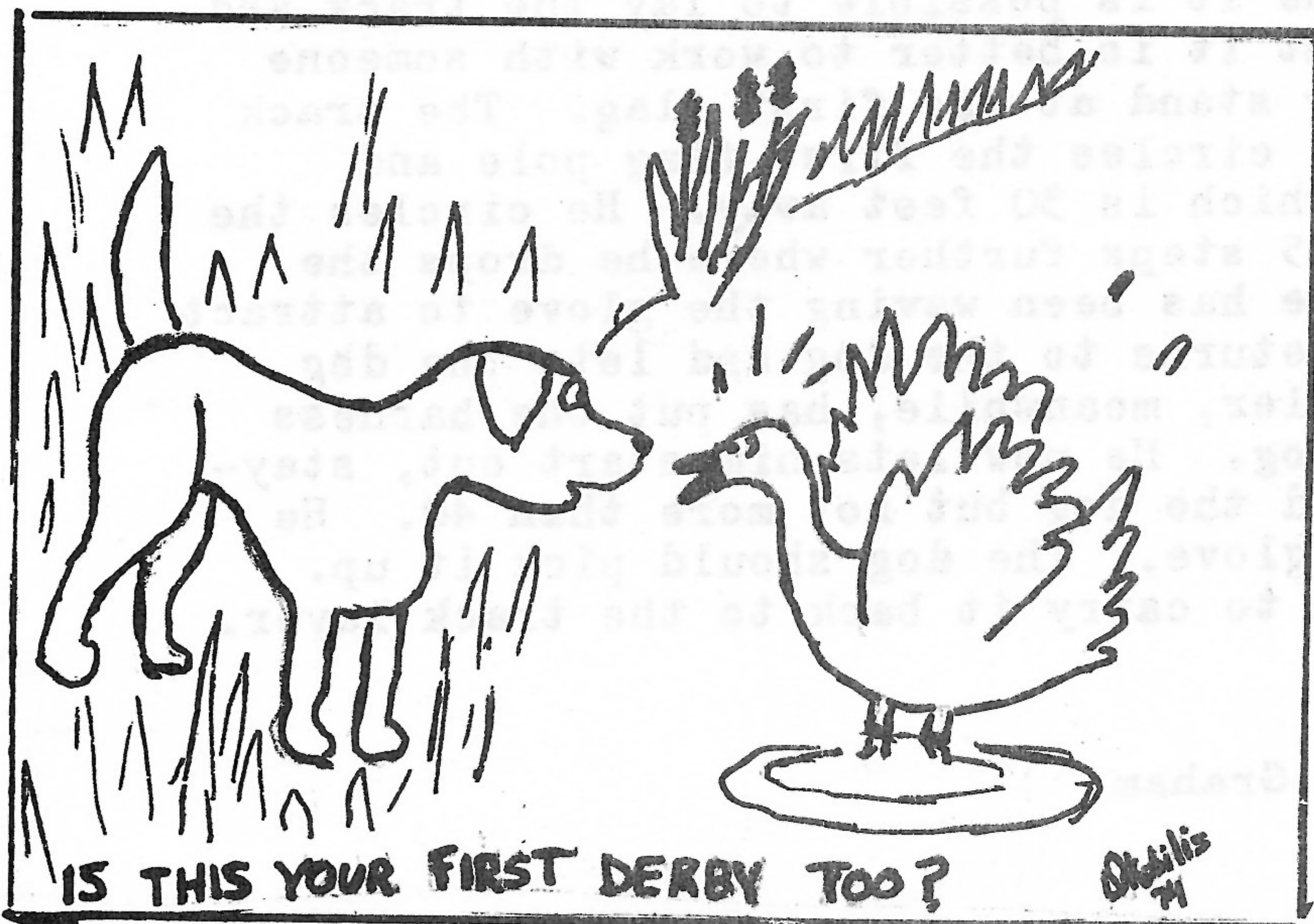
As his master flailed away in the white caps, Creek headed for shore. Once there, he raced to the lodge and forced his way inside.

DUDLEY ALLEN, caretaker at the lodge, said Creek ran frantically through the lodge, barking and whining, trying to attract his attention. When Creek ran and leaped on Hereford's bed and lay there whimpering, Allen said, he realized something was wrong.

Allen ran to his own boat and set out for the duck blind. In the early dawn light and far from shore, he spotted Hereford floating among some decoys and pulled him aboard, chilled and soaked.

Not far away, he found the youths and rescued them from atop the buoy.

That night the grateful Herefords and White fed Creek a huge supper of roast turkey.



TRACKING--GETTING STARTED Louise Marsh

Those of you who are experienced in tracking can skip this, or, better, read and give others the benefit of your advice in the next issue. The tracking program which Judy Morton was kind enough to give us and which is included on another page sounds like a worthwhile project, but for those of us who missed the instruction which preceded the first day in the field there are a few questions.

First, what kind of harness? Apparently the kind is not too important as long as it is sturdy and comfortable. It may be made to order or bought from a pet supply company. There are definite requirements for a tracking lead, however. It must be at least 40 feet long because the handler must be 20 feet behind the dog. Mrs. Morton uses a 40 foot heavy cotton web line and a regular leather harness. One way to meet the requirement is to sew marks at 20 and 40 feet on a 50 foot line.

Have the dog wear a plain leather collar and carry your regular lead. The reason for the plain collar is that, unlike obedience training, the emphasis is on fun for both the dog and the handler; no corrections are made with either the collar or the harness. Put the harness and long line on as you start to track. Take the harness off when the dog finds the article. Ideally he should pick it up and call your attention to it. At this point remove the harness as a signal that he has completed the task and fasten the regular lead to the collar. This procedure is especially important after the initial stages of training. It is important that there should be no distractions when you first start working with your dog.

If you must work alone it is possible to lay the track and then bring the dog out, but it is better to work with someone else. The dog and handler stand at the first flag. The track layer, using a dark glove, circles the first flag pole and walks to the second pole which is 30 feet away. He circles the second flag pole and goes 25 steps further where he drops the glove. All of this time he has been waving the glove to attract the dog's attention. He returns to the dog and lets the dog smell his hands. The handler, meanwhile, has put the harness and tracking lead on the dog. He now lets him start out, staying at least 20 feet behind the dog but not more than 40. He urges the dog to find the glove. The dog should pick it up. The handler encourages him to carry it back to the track layer.

COMMAND PERFORMANCE Betty Graham

New Companion Dogs:

SPENROCK BRANDY SNIFTER, owned by Janet Churchill, earned her C.D. at Oak Ridge KC in September, 1974.

Pat & Tom Pollock's WILDFIELD MERCEDES earned her 3rd leg at Merriman Dog Training Club in October, 1974 with 193½. She was High Scoring Labrador.

## SCHEDULE FOR TRACKING CLASS

For the convenience of members who missed it here is Judy Morton's tracking program.

1st week: Handler brings dog to first stake, puts on harness and merely holds dog. Helper attracts dog's attention to article, glove preferable, but anything will do at first. Dog will usually plow out to article if helper can get him excited enough. Really make lots of to-do about going out as I showed you. Do this three times ONLY. Handler is not to use restraint on dog unless it a lab type that needs hobbing from the first lesson. Puppies can be started on the dead ring of the collar.

2nd week: Handler has dog at 1st stake in harness. (No real need to take harness off on these quickies, though later I like to have them remove it after each track.) Do two that the dog sees and one that he doesn't. (Blind) By this time the dog should have the idea and think it's fun. The first two are done as on first week; the third time the dog is walked away from the track area, behind a car will do. Handler approaches track with dog and puts harness on at beginning of track. I like to put it on a few feet from first pole. Holding dog by harness, handler should start dog down the path. Dog may or may need help. That's all for this week.

3rd week: Do one that the dog sees, then two blinds. As this point I like to have handlers put harness on at beginning and take it off at the end. NO EXCEPTIONS. Some dogs have the idea pretty well by now, but with a slow dog or unenthusiastic one I will repeat week one until I'm sure of the dog. You have to use your own judgment as to distance--small dog 30 yards or less to start; big dog such as lab 50 yards the first time. Vary distance on each track each week right from the beginning. Start 2nd week's track at distance 1st week's ended.

4th week: Assuming you now have enthusiastic tracking dog who has an idea of what it's all about, you increase distance to 100 or 150 yards. Don't stay on straight tracks too long. Up to now all tracks have deadended at glove. You have walked out and back on track.

5th week: Start turns. I make a gradual turn at first. Five past six on the clock is a good one to start with. Try not to use turn poles; there is usually a weed or flower that will stand out, but if you must, put it 10 feet before the turn. In other words, put in pole and take three or four steps. You will also be adding a continuation of the track at this time, so be sure to know where the glove is so you can be sure dog does not

TRACKING SCHEDULE, cont.

go by it.

From here it's a matter of getting the turns down to right angle turns, slowly and adding more turns. If he can do one, he can do two the next week. It varies greatly with the individual dog, you have to use your judgement, but I don't stay on any one thing too long.

Things to remember: NEVER GIVE A CORRECTION IN THE HARNESS! If the dog quits or won't do track, I just walk track. The dog ambles along with me. When he indicates glove I act as if he had done it all himself. IT'S GANGBUSTERS EVERY TIME THE DOG GETS THE GLOVE. This is the hardest thing to teach handlers. I roll on the ground and act like a fool. The dogs love it. THE ARTICLE MUST BELONG TO THE TRACKLAYER. No borrowing a glove. THE DOG NEVER FAILS. He always gets to the article, no matter how, and it's ALWAYS a pleasant experience for him, even if your teeth are clenched!

ALL OF THE ABOVE MUST BE USED WITH COMMON SENSE. No harm done in going back to the first week, or repeating week four for four weeks, IF you don't bore the dog or convince him that ALL tracks are the same. To be sure to use different terrain if possible and set a time and stick to it; the dog must track in any weather. All of this I'm sure you must already know, or there wouldn't have been so many good tracking dogs at the match.

BULLETIN BOARD

The 1975 Supplement to the Breeder's Directory to Labrador Retriever Pedigrees is available now. Make check for \$7.00 payable to Julie Brown, 7315 Granite Road, Melrose Park, Pa. 19126.

Deborah Kobilis needs the following back issues of the AKC Gazette for a research project: January through December, 1970; January through June, 1971. She needs them for only a short time and will return the magazines.

The next regular business meeting of the LRCP will be held on Wednesday, March 5th at 8 P.M. at the home of Mrs. Betty Graham, Oakton, Virginia. This is an important meeting because it will be the only chance for you to nominate officers and directors before the April elections.