

No 9

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Briard



Briefs

THE BRIARD FELLOWSHIP

INCORPORATED

MONTVILLE, NEW JERSEY

TWO FINE BRIARDS PASS AWAY: Deep sympathy to the Solstads and the Hinzes upon the loss of their beloved Briards. Black Magic of Alpen, owned by E. W. Solstad and winner of Best Puppy of Opposite Sex at our recent AKC Match passed away peacefully in his kennel run. Still a puppy, the only explanation is that there was a sudden heart condition. The second loss was that of Westlawn Fascinator, owned by Harold and Kay Hinze. Fascinator was not well known on the show circuit but she was the steadfast pal of her owner and his children. She was a veteran, having been sired by Ch. Bastile and out of Ch. Irhamont's Belle Enfant, way back on April 9th, 1946. As far as we know the only Westlawn dog that is older is Ch. Westlawn Excalibur who is still active although slowing down. Excalibur is nearly 12 years of age. Black Magic had a particularly bright future in the show ring as he showed a great deal of quality to win at the annual affair.

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ADULT BRIARD AVAILABLE: Some time ago we were informed that Richard Thomas, 21 Bates Street, Cambridge, Mass. had an adult Briard by Gregoire available. Publication deadlines made it impossible to publish the information earlier so we cannot guarantee that the matter still holds.

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MEMBER'S BOOK SELLING WELL: Member Evelyn Nelson -- who also is connected with Dalmatians -- finds that her book The Pet Dalmatian has made a hit. The publishers report that they are going into the second printing.

CHEF NOW SELLING TIRES: Those who have followed the series of advertisements featured by Ch. Chef D'Oeuvre of Begun House may be interested to know that while he is going to continue to pose for the Rums of Puerto Rico ads, he has just been engaged to lend his talents to the sale of Atlas tires. At least he is better off than human models in that he does not have to drink his products nor even ride on the tires he peddles. Not only that but the inspection of almost any magazine will show that he has a number of imitators. Where they got all the shaggy dogs, some of questionable ancestry, is a mystery. Chef, incidentally, placed in the Group at the Somerset Hills show, proving that Briard show ring winners are also capable of other valuable activities. Something to remember the next time someone makes the claim that show dogs are worthless for any other purpose.

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HANDLERS AND UNBENCHED SHOWS: In the last issue it was stated that professional handlers like benched shows in preference to unbenched affairs. George Foley, America's leading dog show superintendent, who knows more about shows than all the rest of dogdom combined, tells us that the statement was not correct. From the depths of his experience, he states that the professionals prefer the unbenched type of show. That being the case, it appears that both amateur and professionals like the unbenched show -- which makes it unanimous. Thanks to Foley, our preferences are even stronger than we pointed out and we can now correct an error and add more weight to the argument.

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SHOW ENTRIES DISCOURAGING: In spite of all that has been said, Briard entries at the shows are far from being representative of the breed. To

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the best of our knowledge, nothing has been left undone to stimulate show interest but the results have been virtually nil. Not that this is anything new. The writer began the struggle way back in 1940. At least we cannot be accused of giving up the fight with no more than a half try. Our membership has grown over the years, we have seen all opposition to The Fellowship as the only representative organization, pass away more or less peacefully in its sleep; we have donated hundreds of trophies and published, without a single interruption or appreciative delay this little monthly. And still Briard owners shun the shows. Ten or more years ago it was more understandable as very few shows had the "come and go when you want" rule, plus the fact that our breed judges were often picked out of a hat and knew dogs but not Briards. Years of effort have clarified most of these problems -- but there are still too few Briards being shown, and too few being bred. The demand for puppies far exceeds the supply -- the writer has reservations for puppies that, as yet, are not even the proverbial gleam in the sire's eye. Many years ago George Foley suggested that we concentrate on a few big shows rather than trying to get a few entries at all shows. We tried it. Morris & Essex is one example of the failure to arouse interest.

Then we were told that all we had to do was to get a Briard or two placing in the groups. That was done, and is still being done without visible affect on the entries in general. One example is the recent Far Hills show. Always a favorite of Briard owners, the show drew exactly one entry in spite of there having been at least a dozen Briards within easy driving distance. The writer's Chef had no opposition in the breed class but placed in the group anyway. It would have been nice to have had more competition in the breed classes to add to the luster of the group placing.

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