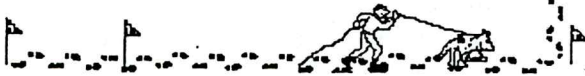




# COMMON SCENTS

JULY/AUGUST, 1994  
Vol. 18., No. 4



## LENAPE TRACKING CLUB OF CENTRAL NEW JERSEY

### DATES TO REMEMBER

**Certification Workshop**  
Sunday, September 25, 1994

**Tracking Test**  
Sunday, November 6, 1994

### WHO'S WHO

#### OFFICERS

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#### COMMITTEES

Tracking Experience Day  
Tracking Test Secretary  
Newsletter

Linda Riley  
Dot Vail  
Pat Etchells

### FRAN WILMETH

AUGUST 14, 1926 - JULY 18, 1994

#### A BIOGRAPHICAL AND AUTOBIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

extracted from People Tracks in *Common Scents*, November/December, 1988  
and an information sheet prepared by her Fran and her friends

Frances Hastings Wilmeth was born on August 14, 1926, and grew up in Springfield Illinois. She got her start in "dogs" early, but they were not her own. Throughout her childhood she was not allowed to have a dog because her mother was allergic to animal hair. Fran said, "several neighbors let me walk their dogs so I had a close relationship with several Cocker Spaniels, a Doberman, a Wire-haired Fox Terrier and a Spitz. One Spaniel, the Terrier and Spitz learned to heel, sit at curbs to wait for traffic to pass, stay and come. One Cocker retrieved a stick or a ball over a bar jump made from a bamboo pole. I was fascinated by what I could teach these

animals, but my ideas came from a book. I did not know about obedience classes. Finally, after competing my Masters Degree in psychology and getting my first full time job as a school psychologist, I spent my first pay check on a Welsh Terrier."

That first dog was picked after reading all the breed descriptions in the AKC Pure Bred Dogs book. Fran had three Welsh Terriers in all and two for 15 and 14 years. She obtained an English Springer Spaniel from a friend she met in an obedience class, but that dog was later placed in a foster home. It was happiest as an "only dog." Through the years Fran had

17 Doberman Pinschers. She bought her first Dobe after participating in a Doberman Drill Team with a borrowed dog. Fran said she found the Dobs to be much easier to train than the Terriers, and after living with one Dobe for a while, she decided to have more. Then after 12 years of owning Dobermans, Fran decided she wanted another small dog and again read through the standards. At one of our certification matches, she laid a track for Pam Riker's Misty, a Norwich Terrier, who passed the test in the rain. Misty was pregnant at the time and Fran was able to acquire one of her pups, who became Ch Neversink Mollie Brown, CDX.

Fran had many dogs in her life. Among her seventeen Dobermans, she had 1 Best in Show, 2 Champions, 8 CDs, 2 CDXs and 1 TD. Her four Welsh Terriers earned 2 CDs and 1 CDX. The English Springer Spaniel had a CD. Her three Norwich Terriers earned 2 CDXs, 1 CD and a TDI. And the two Schipperkes had 1 Championship, 1 CD and 1 UD.

Fran became interested in tracking when she was training her Dobs at North Hunterdon High School. She met Peg Forte and Joanne MacKinnon, who had gotten involved in tracking and invited her to a meeting to organize a tracking group. Fran said, "I had seen a Dobe track and find my wallet in a field and decided to give it a try. I started with Vidar, who developed so many bad habits because I didn't know enough, I dropped him and started Halla after going to Glen Johnson's seminar. Halla was close to certification but bad hips ended her career. Mollie Brown was gung ho but her allergies got so bad she couldn't go in the fields. We stuck with Carlotta for three years, finally getting a T. Now it's Morgan (Dobe) and Jackson (Norwich) that are in training." Fran was a founding member of LTC, and she reportedly held every position there was at one time or another. Her last term as president was during the time we become licensed to hold tests, and she managed to coordinate our highly successful TEDs at the same time she was dealing with AKC.

Fran said she was not a breeder, she just "collected" dogs. She was active in obedience training and showing her own dogs, teaching obedience classes, attending obedience seminars, stewarding in obedience at AKC shows, writing the obedience column for the *Norwich and Norfolk Terrier News*, and the Norwich Terrier column in the *AKC Gazette* and occasionally judging at matches.

The "non-doggie" side of Fran Wilmeth was as interesting and as varied as the "doggie" side. She was single and lived in her old former one-room schoolhouse since 1955. Fran received a BA from the University of Illinois, an MA from the University of Pennsylvania and EdS from Rutgers University. She worked as a school psychologist at Woods Schools for 3 years and the Bucks County Schools for 9 years. While in Bucks County her work covered the entire county. "I was sort of a circuit rider," Fran says, "testing kids in one-room schools." She also worked in the Neshaminy School District in Langhorne for 20 years and was involved in the first LD program in the county. In 1982 Fran took early retirement but continued to work 2 days a week until June, 1988.

Other interests included photography, especially of dogs, searching out covered bridges and controlling the wilderness surrounding her home. She also loved birds, flowers, horses and nature, and she was an avid collector of statues and books of her various breeds.

Fran has requested that memorial donations be made to either:

- University of Pennsylvania Veterinary Hospital
- The Doberman Rescue of PA  
Quaker City Doberman Pinscher Rescue Effort  
c/o Pam Gutekunst  
One Melvin Road,  
Phoenixville, PA 19460.

In the next issue we would like to have members contribute anecdotes about Fran. PLEASE jot down some memorable happy experiences you had with her over the years and let us all share in the good times. (PO Box 326, Lebanon, NJ 08833)



## BOARD NEWS

In accordance with Article III, Section 3 of the Constitution, the Board of Directors has invited Pat Paulding to fill out Fran's unexpired term as a Board member.

**FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK:**

Dear Lenape Members,

Summer is fading quickly. But the cool, beautiful weather is great for tracking, so let's do it.

My summer has been eventful personally but a total loss as far as tracking my dog. Tracey has spent most of the summer at Camp Winchester (2 friends' place in Pennsylvania) with 6 - 7 Dobermans and 2 Giant Schnauzers. Her muscles are hard and deer run when you bark. Racing the other dogs is a lot of fun but body slams keep you on your toes (or off your feet if you do it wrong). The chiropractor will be mad! She is home for a couple of days and then goes to Camp Boxer (the handler's) for a few shows.

It is almost time for our fall picnic and "working" tracking day. Details are enclosed with this newsletter, but mark your calendars for 25 September. The plans include learning new tips on tracking, good food and fine fellowship. Pat Blake will be calling for your comestible contribution. We have also ordered a beautiful sunshiny fall day, so we expect to see everyone.

On a sad note, we lost Fran Wilmeth this summer. She will be sorely missed, for she was always there for Lenape. There was no memorial service, but you can have your own. The next time you go tracking, just spend a moment thinking of her as you start to lay the track.

Martha Hamil

PAT BLAKE reports that **Shasta**, her Doble, **Holly**, the Cocker-Peke-a-Poo, and **Madge** her English Pointer were cover girls for the *Dog Gone Good Times* holiday edition. At the Lower Bucks DTC awards dinner, Holly received a special award for "Most Versatile Dog", and was also profiled in *AMBOR Highlights*. Madge passed her TDI and her USTTA at Camp Gone to the Dogs. All three girls passed their swimming tests at camp, and Shasta and Madge were on the camp drill team and also square danced.

Former LTC member Betty Fletcher died of cancer recently.

Ridgeback **Mattie** GABOSCH got her JC (Junior Courser) title at 1 year and 2 days at the Garden State Sighthound Association AKC tests.

HOPE MEAKER's **Pega** and one of her litter mates have come back with OFA Excellent ratings. In Calgary **Derby** was awarded the Judges Award of Merit at the Flat Coated Retriever Society of Canada National Specialty. She and son **Danny** were also BOB Brace there. At the Westwind Sporting Dog Club the duo was Group 1 Brace and Derby won Versatility and was third in Open B. And at the Alberta KC, Danny was best puppy in breed.

PAT PAULDING ecstatically reports that Malamute **Griz** finished his Championship at Perkiomen Valley.

Send your news to Pat Etchells, PO Box 326, Lebanon, NJ 08833

**MEMBERSHIP**

The following persons have submitted application for membership. They will become members 30 days after the mailing of this newsletter unless the secretary Pat Etchells, PO Box 326, Lebanon, NJ 08833 receives any letters of objection within 30 days.

Gail Benson, 802 Ridge Road, Cedar Grove, NJ 07009 (201) 857-0198

Border Terrier - Frisker, UD,TDI,CG,CGC  
Sponsors - Pat Etchells & Linda Riley

Barbara Greenfield, 52 Minnehaha Path, Lincoln Park, NJ 07035 (201) 696-8787

Golden Retrievers - Holly; Fancy; Star, CD  
Sponsors - Pat Etchells & Linda Riley

## VARIABLE SURFACE TRACKING REGULATIONS

extracted from the *Hudson Valley Tracker*, July/August, 1994

Roberta Campbell has sent us the latest edition of this proposed new tracking test, dated May 19, 1994. The first two paragraphs are as follows:

"The Variable Surface Tracking Test is a test of creditability, verifying the dog's ability to recognize and follow human scent while adapting to changing scenting conditions. The test is to be as practical as possible. It demonstrates the dog's obedience to follow a specific scent which is given to the dog at the start of the test. It is expected that a dog which has passed this test will have been trained sufficiently to find a lost child or person.

The dog's training and conditioning must develop the inner drive and self-motivation necessary for the dog to work with intensity and persistence."

Here are the current highlights for the VST test:

1. Dogs are to have earned the TD title six months prior to being entered (as of the closing date of the event).
2. At least two dogs must be entered at a VST test to count.
3. A dog earning a TD and VST will be issued a Tracking Championship certificate and will be permitted to use the letters T. Ch. to precede the name of the dog.
4. Any dog which has been awarded the titles of Champion of Record, and either Tracking Champion, Herding, Obedience Trial Champion or Field Champion may be designated as a "Dual Champion."
5. The track will be 600 - 800 yards.
6. Track will have a minimum of three different surfaces, of which the non-vegetated surfaces will encompass approximately 1/3 to 1/2 of the total length of the track.
7. Each leg at least 30 yards.
8. There shall be no physical obstacles. Steps are not considered to be an obstacle, a ladder would be an obstacle.
9. Scent to be 3 - 5 hours old.
10. There shall be 3 - 7 turns. Turns shall be on various surfaces. At least one 90° turn shall be on non-vegetated surface.
11. Tracks to be at least 50 yards apart.
12. Tracks may be laid along the sides of buildings and fences, through buildings with two or more openings, etc., but may not go into or through a closed building.
13. If a pedestrian crosses the track, the dog will have to work it out.
14. Articles will be: one plastic, one leather, one metal, and one fabric. Approximately 4" x 4". The starting article shall be different material on contiguous tracks. The last article will be clearly marked with the number '4'.
15. Articles are to be at least ten yards from a corner or turn.
16. The start will have a flag in a vegetated area.
17. At least one article must be dropped on a non-vegetated surface.
18. Judging begins when the dog leaves the starting flag.
19. The handler will work ten feet or more from the dog.



## SKUNK REAGENT TOO STRONG

reprinted from *Chemical & Engineering News*, 6/20/94

Correspondents too numerous to mention have yelled about a skunk deodorizing reagent said to be made up from 30% H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> and 6M NaOH (C&EN, May 23, page 60). Among the critics is Paul Krebaum of Lisle, Ill., the original source of the [misinterpreted] recipe (C&EN, Oct. 18, 1993, page 90). The foregoing combination, he explains, "Is the laboratory reagent for destroying thiols and hydrogen sulfide. Use of such a concentrated reagent on animals will cause immediate injury."

The correct recipe for the skunk deodorant, Krebaum says, is

1 qt 3% H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>  
1/4 cup baking soda  
1 teaspoon liquid soap

Following treatment, the subject should be rinsed in tap water.

Ed Note: The original article appeared in the November/December 1993 issue of *Common Scents*.



## FOOD-AGGRESSION LINK IN DOGS TO BE STUDIED

by Barbara Delaney, the *Times Union*,  
December 21, 1991  
extracted from *The Hudson Valley Tracker*,  
July/August, 1994

Whoever coined the adage, "You are what you eat," probably intended it for humans.

If veterinarians at Cornell University's Animal Behavior Clinic prove a point, the expression may apply to dogs as well.

A dozen canines exhibiting what animal behaviorists call dominance-related aggression and who live in the Ithaca area are taking part in a study meant to show the relation between aggressive behavior and a diet with excessive protein ...



In a prepared statement, Dr. Katherine A. Houpt, director of the clinic, said the Cornell study will test the theory that

aggression in dogs is related to excessive protein consumption.

"We know that dogs need tryptophan, an amino acid found in dairy products and meats, in order to make a neurotransmitter chemical found in the brain that is linked with non-aggressive behavior," Houpt said. "This neurotransmitter is known as serotonin."

In humans, she noted a similar relation to tryptophan occurs when a glass of milk before bedtime or a holiday turkey dinner makes us drowsy.

"We suspect that proteins compete with each other to reach the brain, so a high-protein diet makes it that much harder for tryptophan to get through," she said. "Cutting down on protein, we suspect, enhances the formation of serotonin and diminishes aggressiveness."

She added that many commercial dog foods contain 30 percent protein, which is twice as much as most adult dogs require for nutritional well-being.

## TRACKING IS SPECIAL

by Patricia Gail Burnham, Sacramento,  
California  
Extracted from the Pecatonica Tracking Club  
Newsletter, September, 1990

Tracking is setting two alarm clocks ten minutes apart, so that killing the first one will not save you from getting up.

Tracking is trying to kick all the rabbits off the track while you are laying it, so they will not still be there when the dog tracks through.

Tracking is being the only tracking person in a park filled with joggers.

Tracking is finding a leftover plastic bag of bait and an old wet sock lurking in your car trunk, when both of them have been there long enough to ripen.

Tracking is skipping breakfast before going to work, because you would rather track than eat - at least the dog gets to track TO eat.

Tracking is praying for rain because old wet tracks are fresher than old dry tracks, and rain makes your dog look like a real tracking dog.

Tracking is having the dog walk over a nesting ground owl and leap straight up when the big bird takes off under his belly, and then finish the track.

Tracking is learning that flushing a dozen adolescent ring neck pheasant off the track when it is being laid is useless. While the track is aging, they will all come back and be lying in wait for the dog.

Tracking is hugging your dog at the track's end.

Tracking is finding out that the stream you are crossing is one inch deeper than the height of your rubber boots.

Tracking is going to lay track and listening to your usually silent dog howl all the time you are on the field, because he wants to be out there tracking with you.

Tracking is being sure that your dog has made a mistake and then finding out that he was right all along, when he picks up the glove.

Tracking is learning to see a field. When you lay track, you have to pay attention to the field in order to recognize the track location when it comes time to work the dog.