

To Have Arrived Is Tragedy: This Year Must Be Even Better!

THE RAZZBERRY

ISSUED BY THE COLDWATER ROTARY CLUB



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"HE PROFITS MOST WHO SERVES BEST"

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Dedicated To The Pheasant

This edition of the Razzberry is dedicated to the Pheasant—an honor which no other game bird enjoys.

Last year one meeting was delegated to the pheasant, at which time all kinds of tall stories were related. This year some of the finer points of pheasant hunting have been compiled to furnish educational as well as practical enjoyment.

Seriously, the pheasant is a very wonderful game bird, not only as a table delicacy but as a smart individual always trying to outguess the hunter, which incidentally he usually does.

I believe that the ratio of the number of pheasants shot at and missed, in comparison to the number of pheasants bagged is 6 to 1. Personally my own average is about 25 to 1.

One of the biggest factors in the pheasant's battle with the hunter is the element of surprise. The pheasant is found in the most unexpected places. Then when the bird flushes, he makes so much noise that the hunter is unable to get the safety off the gun in time to get a good shot.

On the other hand the biggest factor in favor of the hunter is a real bird dog. The duties of a bird dog are manifold and include traveling in all kinds of cover, smelling and finding the pheasant, "pinning" the bird and retrieving the dead bird. It is a real pleasure to hunt with a good bird dog.

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For once in the history of the Razzberry there will be no proof-reading of the various articles by Glenn and the various authors may rest assured that their contributions will appear as written.

MOMENTS YOU CAN'T FORGET

(Rex T. Kie's)

TIME—4:15, second afternoon of the Hunting Season. A fine, warm, lazy October day.

PLACE—Middle of the road, one mile from the City Limits of Coldwater, surrounded by conspicuous "TRESPASSING NOT ALLOWED" signs.

COMPANIONS—Our thrice illustrious Prosecutor of Branch County, and Nick. (Nick is the little black fellow who has just learned to stand on three legs, and is very proud of it).

GUNS—Empty and with Safeties on.

TOPIC OF CONVERSATION—Women and their lack of appreciation for Guns, Hunting Coats, Pants, Dogs and Cleaning equipment as kitchen ornaments.

ACTION—Cock pheasant takes off from the alfalfa on the other side of the fence. Guns are quickly loaded and attempts to shoot with safeties on, fail. Four cocks are now in the air. Both guns speak and the four birds fly bravely on. Again, a double, deafening roar. Three birds sail out of range and the fourth—dusted—runs out into the swamp.

POST MORTEM—Just a moment you can't forget—with the old thought that things might have been different.

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THE TRAINING OF BIRD DOGS

(W. J. Bien)

The first essential is to have a thoroughbred dog of the pointer or setter type. I am not mentioning cocker and other spaniels because they are not true bird dogs, although they can be used very successfully on birds as far as bag limits go. We will therefore think of pointers and setters and my remarks will refer to setters because my own experience has been only with setter dogs.

Bird dogs are just like people in their program of life. They must have certain things in their make-up and certain requisites if they are going to bloom out into some kind of a finished product. You can't make industrialists or business men, doctors or lawyers out of all people. Most haven't the many requisites to lift them beyond the common herd, no matter how much or what training



is put on or into them. So it is with bird dogs. Many of them never round out into finished hunting dogs. I will therefore mention some of the requisites necessary that bird dogs must have to make them worthwhile for training and developing. First: good breeding. Second: courage. Third: bird sense (common sense). Fourth: well developed hunting instinct. Next: a well developed pointing instinct. Next: the dog can't be gun or man shy. Next: Your dog must like and respect you so that he will enjoy doing things for you. Many lesser things such as balance, poise, etc., go to make a better dog. The training of a young dog or pup consists of two divisions: first, yard training or home training, and second: field training.

The yard training consists of teaching a dog certain commands and to retrieve. It takes lots of time and patience to accomplish these things, and they should be accomplished in such a way so that a dog really likes to do them for you. He must "whoa", "drop" or "charge" on command and be steady. He must fetch or retrieve on command unless the dog is a natural retriever. Then he may fetch on command, or without command, or he may not fetch at all. Forced retrieving dogs are better therefore because when once instilled into the dogs it is a duty performed on command. You can depend upon the dog retrieving at any time or under any conditions.

Field training consists of taking a young dog into the field where he can begin to see and find game, and at first run and chase at will, and have a grand and glorious unrestricted life. Before the dog can advance further we must wait for two things to happen: the hunting instinct to show itself and along with it the pointing instinct. These instincts coming to light vary in young dogs. They may come early, or be delayed, but until they are manifest, we must wait for them. When the hunting instinct begins to develop, the dog will at once act differently. He will more and more go about the hunting with some definite plan and a businesslike attitude. He will study his game and cover, how and why birds act under different conditions. He will feel hurt and cheap when birds fool him and as he develops, he will more and more love to hunt, but it will be a real business with him.

Then the pointing instinct comes to light. He immediately adopts a different attitude. He becomes hesitant on finding birds where before he would rush into them, flush and chase them. But now, he begins to hold a point. He begins to work birds with some carefulness. He will drift with the wind and circle and swing in against the wind unless he is ground scenting entirely.

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The next and big thing is bird sense, which requires real understanding and intelligence on the part of a dog. He will now know more about the game he is hunting and the why and wherefore. He will know why birds will like to do different things under different conditions and he will work just as differently under these different conditions as to handle them properly. He will know where birds are likely to be and will work that territory thoroughly and systematically. Other less likely territory he will cover hurriedly, and others pass up entirely. He will just seem to know where to go and what to do. He will save himself unnecessary hunting through his eyes, ears, nose and brain his bird sense. The field training is full of disappointments in the early stages, but later very interesting and full of lots of thrills and beauty, as a good dog develops. The yard breaking comes into the picture in the field training. If the yard breaking is proper it dovetails so simply and nicely in the field training work. When the dog swings into the hunting instinct picture, the command "Steady" will slow him down and especially if you have him on a long rope at this stage. When he begins to point birds the command "Whoa" holds him to his point, and further the command "Whoa" or "drop" when the birds flush, so he will no longer chase them. The commands "Fetch", "find" and "Dead Bird" come into the picture in the actual hunting of game. If a dog is right there is very little you can teach him. The commands mentioned are just very helpful in the control and guiding of a dog toward what he is supposed to do. If this control is right and exercised, he will swing into the picture very fast, but after that a "hands off" policy in the actual hunting of game is best. He will know much about the game he is hunting and how it is handled. He will show you plenty of bird sense, skill in handling, and beautiful performance. It will be best for you to believe in what your dog is doing and that he is right. If you yourself, the big "wise hunter", simply know the bird is here or there, and that the dog is all wrong, you are on the spot for your dog to humiliate you badly and show you how really little you know. You can't teach him anything about hunting, he has forgotten more than you will ever know about it.

Our local pheasants are grand birds to hunt. They are very hard on our bird dogs because they are so crafty, elusive and fast that it takes a lot of experience on the part of a dog before he can even handle them half way good.

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ATTENTION CHARLIE KEEP:

Please ask John Hardy, Roy Putman, Doc Alex, and Herb Hurre'll to pay ten cents each for shooting more birds than they were entitled to.

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ALL AMERICA BIRD DOG LIST

"Dan" Van Aken	Left End
"Babs" Bauer	Left Tackle
"Jerry" Bien	Left Guard
"Rex" Vail	Center
"Pat" Hardy	Right Guard
"Rock" Putman	Right Tackle
"Jim" Bien	Right End
"Brownie" Wade	Quarter Back
"Betsy" Vinton	Left Half Back
"Josie" Putman	Right Half Back
"Red" Olmsted	Full Back
"Nick" Frankhauser	Water Boy

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"HOW TO HUNT RING NECKED PHEASANTS"

(George Vail)

Dog, gun, ammunition, disreputable old clothes and the last thing before shoving off is your hunting coat.

About this hunting coat: frayed, holey blood stained and grease from the gun, totally unfit for decent company, but this old coat has been on some enjoyable trips. Ducks, Partridge and Pheasant and Rabbits. Not too many at a time and more full of pleasant memories than it was ever full of game.

This old coat has been a blanket for more than one half frozen dog and "by the way" a fellow could write something nice about those dogs if he could half express himself. Back to the coat, if your wife loves to wash things, you will find you had better keep the coat pretty well out of sight when not in use or "wham" it has been washed and pressed and you won't know your old friend. Put it on and your shoulders are bound, it comes about up to your belt-line, the paper in your pocket is gone, so are all the little twigs, feathers and the nice smells that a hunting dog loves to sniff at.

At night after a days hunt, sitting with your friends recounting the days sport or sitting alone thinking of old friends and pleasant trips (the unpleasant ones are soon forgotten) that old coat is a part of the picture. Also in that picture are many faces which will be seen no more in their favorite haunts of woods and streams. One of them passed on today. So put on your old hunting coat, unleash the dog and start out; hard work ahead but also beautiful woods, streams and lakes. Pheasant or no pheasant it's fun to be alive.

The little Red Gods—Old Hunters—Young Hunters and good hunting dogs fully understand my method of hunting pheasant.

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TO WHAT DO I ATTRIBUTE MY SUCCESS AS A PHEASANT HUNTER?

(Bill Frankhauser)

That's the modest little question upon which I must comment. If a "successful" pheasant hunter is only one who goes out repeatedly, walks and works his head off, and during the course of the entire season is able to get his limit of birds, then I could claim the questionable honor of coming under the above category.

However, I can write more expertly on the "don'ts" of pheasant hunting. Were I really one of those envied few who are good hunters I would be more successful in—

1. Having confidence in the dog—always! When he appeared to be in poor territory and was stubbornly refusing to heed my call I wouldn't get mad at him and I wouldn't ignore him and walk away, thereby missing a nice Cock.

2. Shooting slower. I wouldn't be startled out of my pants when a bird went out in front of me. I'd remember that while a pheasant may make a noise like an express train he really isn't travelling at that speed and can be brought down by taking the additional seconds necessary to make a good shot.

3. Being alert and keeping that way until I got back to my car and had my gun unloaded. Just because I'd left the swamp or enticing weed, alfalfa or corn field, I wouldn't carelessly assume that all the birds were left behind, but would be ready for the last chance that came as we were climbing the fence.

While I've got other shortcomings, to state them would be in the nature of a confession and I think that anyone who had any experience in hunting these confounded Ringnecks will agree that a strict observance of the above will add materially to anyone's success.