

Retrievers of the Past...

By Joule Charney

FC Duxbak Scooter

DUE TO THE overwhelmingly positive feedback about our Retrievers of the Past article last month, Retriever News is featuring a second dog who flourished under the partnership of renowned trainer William 'Billy' Wunderlich and owner Mrs. Grace Lambert.

“
Because that’s
what dogs do.
They bring
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”

The end was near for John Uhrich, breeder of Duxbak Scooter, “probably the best of all the dogs” Mrs. Lambert owned, according to Wunderlich. As Uhrich literally was on his death bed this past July, one of his fondest recollections

was of one particular puppy born way back in 1958, one of many he helped bring into the world. Diagnosed with Stage 4 lung cancer in April, Uhrich spent his last week in the hospital. “One of the palliative nurses came into talk to him and he wasn’t too interested in talking to her, or answering her questions,” recalls his daughter Debbie (Uhrich) McCammon, who was there at the time. That was “until she said she was sure she had seen him before while she was out walking her dog. I asked her what kind of dog she had and she answered ‘a Black

Lab. I said, ‘Dad, she has your favorite dog!’”

Debbie then explained to the nurse that her father had raised black labs for years, and that, at one point, he had six dogs and twenty-five puppies. That helped bring back a clearer memory of the brief encounter, many years prior, between Debbie’s Dad and this lady, when they both lived in



Saskatchewan. “She remembered talking to him when she was walking her dog, as, of course, Dad stopped to talk to her when he saw a Lab.” She had mentioned that her dog’s hips were bothering him, and her father had told her what she should do for the dog. She could now, finally, tell him, “It worked.”

“Dad then told the nurse that he had a kennel by the name of Duxbak, and that he had bred a dog who had become a field trial champion. He was very proud of what Scooter accomplished. I told her that dogs just seemed to love him, and she replied that she could understand that, as he had a very gentle nature. I told her that she should bring her dog in to visit Dad; but, that didn’t happen. He passed away a couple of days later.”

Uhrich was an amateur in the retriever world who worked as a Station Agent with Canadian National Railway. “We lived in a station alongside the railway tracks. Dad had his kennels set up next to the station.” The unusual spelling of Uhrich’s kennel is the same as that of the famous Duxbak waterproof clothing line, created in 1906. This has led to curiosity as to how Uhrich came up with the name. To Debbie’s knowledge, however, there is no connection. Uhrich’s widow, Mae, recalls someone once asked her husband why he named his kennel ‘Duxbak.’ His response simply was, “Because that’s what dogs do. They bring ducks back.”



"I'm not sure who named Scooter, or why that name," adds Debbie. "Maybe he was fast and scooting around!"

Scooter qualified for six consecutive National Opens, from 1962 through 1967. Although he never was a Finalist, he came close in 1963, completing nine series. Of the ten field champions resulting from the Wunderlich-Lambert trainer-owner relationship, Scooter and Rum were the top two in terms of the number of times they qualified to run in Nationals. Each qualified for six. Scooter also is credited with having won six straight Open All-Age stakes. He accumulated 132 Open and 8.5 Amateur points during his career and was inducted into the Retriever Field Trial Hall of Fame in 1994. He was the High Point Open dog of 1965, points out David Smith, Executive Director of The Bird Dog Foundation, Inc.

Scooter was out of CFC Baker's Jerry and Carnmoney Moira. Both grand-sires were Canadian Field Champions. Maternal grand-sire CFC Brant of Bardonda was High Point Dog of Prairie Province, in 1954-1955.

When he was six or seven weeks old, Scooter was given to his first owner, Lou Hough, also of Saskatchewan, a traveling salesman with whom Uhrich had become acquainted at some field trials. "Dad told Lou, if he could find a few buyers for his pups, he would let Lou have a couple of pups for free. Scooter was one of the pups Lou chose." While with Hough, Scooter earned junior points in Canada and competed in the Canadian National Open in 1960 and 1961.

"Scooter was just a tremendous dog," in the opinion of Don Lardner of Canada, who, with wife Earla, owned and ran FC-AFC Duxbak Daisy Mae. They named their dog after Mae, whose nickname is Daisy.

"Don recalls, in the 60s, when Scooter was competing, everyone would just ask, 'Who came in second?'" Debbie says. "I guess it was just a given that they knew Scooter would win."

Hough, who died five years ago, was inducted into the Saskatoon Sports Hall of Fame in 1997. He was very active in the retriever world as a breeder, trainer and president of the Saskatchewan retriever club. Hough was even more prominent in the horse world, an avid curler in the Legion program, winning the 1956 national finals, and honored for his involvement in other sports as well.

Scooter was one of the ten field champions Wunderlich finished during his thirteen-year tenure as Mrs. Lambert's retriever trainer. He also finished three dual champions. The first of her field dogs, FC Ace High Scamp of Windsweep, called 'Rum,' was featured in our September 2013 Retrievers of the Past. Scooter had not earned any titles prior to his purchase by Mrs. Lambert, as was the case with all of the dogs she brought into her Harrowby Kennel, which she founded in 1950 in New Jersey. Scooter earned Mrs. Lambert the 'Pitch of the Timber Trouble Trophy' in 1963. The award is a sterling pitcher which goes to the winner of the Limited All-Age Stake, according to the Women's Field Trial Club, Inc.

Scooter died in 1971, says Smith. Although he was not bred extensively, his progeny included two field champions, FC Harrowby Wheeler Dealer and FC Minot's Magic Marker. Also among Scooter's offspring are Random Rapsallion, the dam of 1977 NAFC-FC River Oaks Rascal and FC AFC River Oaks Black Bingo. River Oaks Rascal was High Point Derby Dog in 1970. Daughter Jilly's Tiger Lil is the dam of five titled dogs, including FC Wanapum Twiggy and FC-AFC Rascal's Double Trouble. Daughter Dolly Of Audlon is the dam of FC AFC Paha's Pow On Tap. ■

Tenacular Dogs – Joule Charney

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FC DUXBAK SCOOTER

1962 – 1967 Points Earned

OPEN

Maine Retriever Club (MAI) May 1962-1
Tri-State Hunting Dog Association (TRI) June 1962-1
Minnesota Field Trial Association (MNS) October 1962-1
Women's Field Trial Club (WOM) October 1962-2
Southern California Retriever Club (SCA) March 1963-2
Nutmeg Retriever Club (NUT) May 1963-2
Duluth Retriever Club (DUL) May 1963-3
Superior Retriever Club (SUP) June 1963-3
North Dakota Retriever Club (NDK) August 1963-2
Sioux Valley Retriever Club (SXV) August 1963-1
Maryland Retriever Club (MAR) October 1963-4
Del Bay Field Trial Club (DEL) October 1963-2
Women's Field Trial Club (WOM) October 1963-1
Women's Field Trial Club (WOM) April 1964-1
Labrador Retriever Club (LAB) April 1964-3
Duluth Retriever Club (DUL) May 1964-3
Alamo Retriever Field Trial Club (ALM) November 1964-1
Central Minnesota Retriever Club (CMI) June 1964-2
Del Bay Field Trial Club (DEL) October 1964-1
Lone Star Retriever Club (LST) March 1965-1
North Texas Retriever Club (NTX) March 1965-3
Women's Field Trial Club (WOM) April 1965-1
Labrador Retriever Club (LAB) April 1965-1
Shrewsbury River Retriever Club (SHR) May 1965-1
Golden Retriever Club (GOL) May 1965-1
Minnesota Field Trial Association (MNS) May 1965-3
Central Minnesota Retriever Club (CMI) May 1965-4
Tri-State Hunting Dog Association (TRI) June 1965-4
Duluth Retriever Club (DUL) June 1965-1
Del Bay Field Trial Club (DEL) October 1965-2
Women's Field Trial Club (WOM) October 1965-4
Central Minnesota Retriever Club (CMI) October 1966-2
Mid-Iowa Retriever Club (MII) June 1966-3
Fort Pitt Retriever Club (FTP) August 1966-3
Minot Retriever Club (MIT) August 1966-3
Duluth Retriever Club (DUL) August 1966-2
Mount Rushmore Retriever Club (MTR) September 1966-1
Maryland Retriever Club (MAR) October 1966-1
Long Island Retriever Field Trial Club (LIR) October 1966-2
Del Bay Field Trial Club (DEL) October 1966-2
Long Island Retriever Field Trial Club (LIR) April 1967-2
Central Minnesota Retriever Club (CMI) May 1967-1

AMATEUR

Minnesota Field Trial Association (MNS) May 1964-1
Duluth Retriever Club (DUL) May 1964-4
Minnesota Field Trial Association (MNS) September 1965-3

Information from "Retriever Field Trials 1967-1972," for the first time, this book combined under one cover the records previously, separately compiled by National Retriever Club, National Amateur Retriever Club and Labrador Retriever Club.