

Retrievers of the Past...

By Joule Charney

FC-AFC Carnmoney Brigadier

“
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you could put
in the small end
of a peanut shell.
”

WHO DOESN'T LIKE A BUY ONE, GET ONE DEAL, unless you really don't want two of something?

A BOGO deal is exactly what amateur trainer Ray Goodrich wanted, after stellar success was followed by heartbreak with his first two Labs. Smokey died during surgery to remove a foxtail at just over three years of age. Major developed bad hips when he was only about a year old. Ray set his sights on acquiring a pup out of the same sire as a “fantastic dog” in his training group, Carnmoney Spud, and “any good bitch.” Spud’s sire was Canadian FC Bandit of Carnmoney, out of the Carnmoney kennel in Canada.

Eventually, Ray was notified that a dog out of Bandit and a bench champion had become available for sale, Carnmoney Brigadier. Ray spoke with the Carnmoney owner, Monroe Coleman, and it was agreed that he would send the dog to Ray ‘on approval’ for one month. Less than a month later, Ray offered to pay \$2,500 for “Brig” with the condition that he also receive “a seven week old pup with the same sire and a good bitch.”

“And, then, I looked around for a local litter because I wanted to have two pups of the same age. I didn’t intend to keep two. I intended to keep only one.” Ray did keep both, and he ended up with two dogs who were far beyond ordinary.



“Brig” and Ray Goodrich

FC-AFC CARNMONEY BRIGADIER

OPEN	1969	1970	1971	1972	1973	1974	1975	1976	TOTAL:
Starts	16	18	17	18	15	13	15	18	130
First	1	2	1	1	1	3	2	0	11
Second	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	6
Third	0	2	2	3	0	2	2	1	12
Fourth	0	0	0	2	1	1	1	1	6
Places	2	5	4	7	3	7	6	2	35
Jams	1	2	4	2	3	1	2	5	20
# Finished	3	7	8	9	6	8	7	7	55
% Finished	19%	39%	47%	50%	40%	62%	47%	39%	42%
Open Points	8.0	15.0	10.0	12.0	8.5	20.5	12.5	1.5	88.0
Cumulative Pts	8.0	23.0	33.0	45.0	53.5	74.0	86.5	88.0	88.0

AMATEUR	1969	1970	1971	1972	1973	1974	1975	1976	TOTAL:
Starts	24	17	16	15	14	12	14	14	126
First	2	2	2	2	3	2	1	0	14
Second	2	0	1	2	0	0	1	1	7
Third	2	2	0	2	2	0	1	1	10
Fourth	2	0	0	1	2	0	1	0	6
Places	8	4	3	7	7	2	4	2	37
Jams	6	4	4	4	1	2	4	1	26
# Finished	14	8	17	11	8	14	8	3	63
% Finished	58%	47%	44%	73%	57%	33%	57%	21%	50%
Amateur Points	19.0	12.0	13.0	18.5	18.0	10.0	9.5	4.0	104.0
Cumulative Pts	19.0	31.0	44.0	62.5	80.5	90.5	100.0	104.0	104.0

ALL-AGE	1969	1970	1971	1972	1973	1974	1975	1976	TOTAL:
All Age By Year	27.0	27.0	23.0	30.5	26.5	30.5	22.0	5.5	192.0
Cumulative Total	27.0	54.0	77.0	107.5	134.0	164.5	186.5	192.0	192.0

From "Retriever Field Trial Statistics 1941-1995," by Sue Reynolds.

OWNER: R. GOODRICH
 BIRTHDATE 6/29/66
 20 DERBY POINTS

Average Open points per year: 11
 Average Amateur points per year: 13
 Average All-Age points per year: 24

That other dog was 1974 NAFC-FC Ray's Rascal, who was sired by Carnmoney Spud. Carnmoney Bandit, therefore, was Brig's sire, and Rascal's Grandsire. Brig was born in June 1966 and Rascal in October 1967. Both would be inducted into the Retriever Hall of Fame for their accomplishments, in 2006 and 1993, respectively. Rascal was featured in the *Retrievers of the Past* article in our July issue.

Brig was already fourteen months old when he arrived at Ray's. "He was the runt of the litter. The first pick guy wouldn't pay \$2,500 for him. He was sold to a couple who threw tennis balls for him." About a year later, the couple, who were in the process of a divorce, sold or gave Brig back to Coleman.

With confidence in Brig's marking ability, Coleman entered him in six Canadian Derbies and tried to steady the youngster who had no retriever training. "He broke in the first three and won two out of the next three," says Ray. "He's a very fast dog," Ray was told, and "that's what I want."

"I asked Rex (Carr) if I should buy him. Brig ran all the way around the pond, a pretty good-sized pond. He never got a foot wet! He knew exactly where the bird was. He pinned it without getting anything wet."

Gus Rathert, owner of 1965 NAFC-FC Rebel Chief Of Heber,

summed up Brig's training as follows, Ray says, laughing: "All the training he's had, you could put in the small end of a peanut shell."

"I got Brig in the late Fall. I didn't get to run any of the Fall trials. He wasn't ready," Ray recalls. "I trained him hard all winter and ran him in the spring Derbies where he got three 1st's, one 2nd, and one 3rd. His first two All-Age placements were Amateur wins. He then finished his AFC with an Open win and later finished his FC with another Open win."

Ray did all of the training and handling with Brig himself after acquiring him, as he did with all his dogs. Although his callname was Brig, Ray often refers to him as 'Briggy'.

"Brig qualified really young for his first National Open. I didn't enter him. I didn't think he was capable of doing some of the water blinds. I didn't think he was completely under control. Gus Rathert was judging and was upset. He really chewed me out! He loved Brig. 'We got rid of all the pigs early,'" Gus told Ray.

"Brig won one Double Header while competing against my other dog, Rascal, and knocked Rascal out of four or five doubleheaders when Rascal would win the Open and take 2nd behind Brig in the Amateur."

"I wish I'd had them at different times," Ray admits. "Rascal won

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five Double Headers. He was always better in the Open and Brig was always better in the Amateur." If he didn't have Rascal and Brig at the same time, "I'd probably have had nine or ten Double Headers."

During trials, "Rascal would sleep by (his late wife) Dede's side of the bed. Brig would be on mine."

"Brig was the prettiest Lab I ever had. He was so good-looking, he was bred to a lot of show dogs," says Ray.

Despite some chastisement, Ray took Rascal and Brig pheasant and duck hunting, alternating between the two of them.

Brig qualified for seven National Open and seven National Amateur Championships. "Brig came very close to winning a National Open; but, on a rerun after a fly-away, he remembered the fly-away, went there, and had to be handled to the bird thrown by the retired gun." He was a finalist in the 1971 National Open. He had 192 All-Age Points at the end of his career, 88 Open and 104 Amateur.

Ray and Dorothea 'Dede' Goodrich

Ray is 95 years old and he still trains his black Lab Jet every single day at 7:15 am with a couple of hunting buddies who "all like to have the best dog." He lives in Santa Cruz, CA, where he has since 1950 and is the only field trialer in the area.

Ray and Dede owned property near Oakdale, California with Joe and Marilyn Boatright in Oakdale, CA that was sold last year. It was the venue of multiple west coast National Opens. It also has been the site of many trials, training seminars and special events, always at no cost.

The contributions by Ray to our sport over the past fifty-plus years are plentiful. He judged 42 major stakes, including the 1977 and 1985 National Amateurs. He was Chair of the 1979 National Open. And, he served the National Retriever Club as a director, and, in 1983, as its president. Ray was inducted into the Field Trial Hall of Fame in 2013.

Ray was the sole practitioner in his busy law practice. The most trials he ran in a year were fifteen. "I couldn't have run as many,"



FC-AFC Carnmoney Brigadier

he points out, "if I weren't a pilot with my own airplane. I flew from 22 to 82!"

In addition to Brig and Rascal, Ray had two other titled dogs, his first dog, FC-AFC Goodrich's Smokey Bear, and FC-AFC Rascal's Double Trouble, finalist in the 1981 National Amateur. He never used a professional trainer. All his dogs throughout the years have been males.

Ray and Dede were high school sweethearts. They were married for 71 years. Dede was co-owner of all the dogs. Her name appears in the record books 'Dorothea Goodrich.'

Ray was running Jet in field trials as recently as October 2013. He stopped to devote all his time to care for Dede, for whom he had been caring the past few years. She died in October 2014. "I put my old dog down the day after my wife died. I should have put him down a week earlier than I did." Twenty days after Dede passed away, Ray had surgery to replace his aortic valve. Shortly thereafter, he fell and broke his arm. Despite these heartbreaks and hardships, and his advanced age, Ray was back training daily considerably earlier than May when we met for his interview and to train together. The man is a marvel.

He is visited frequently by his family and is blessed with five children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. None of his children are local, yet he is visited by at least one a month.

His constant companion this past year has been Jet. "He has just been great," notes Ray. ■

Tenacular Dogs – Joule Charney

Joule resides in Paradise, California. She has been a contributing writer for Retriever News for seven years. The *Retrievers of the Past...* feature series is published four times a year: May, July, September and October. Visit Joule online at www.tenacular.com

