

Retrievers of the Past...

By Joule Charney

FC-AFC Angelique

“

I thought I was going to get
killed or divorced...

”

Those were the only two possibilities Dudley Ottley could envision that would get him out of his predicament...

In The Beginning

“JOE SCHOMER had been training out west with someone who had a crackerjack dog.” The renowned professional retriever trainer had acquired a young bitch named Angelique on a temporary basis. “He called me and said, ‘I’ve got a dog that’ll blow your top off,’ recalls Dudley. “The dog was owned by an amateur who was having money problems and couldn’t afford to keep the dog. He worked nights. He had a couple of young children. His wife was giving him hell. He knew he could not do the dog justice. He was forced to sell; but, he wanted it to go to someone who could make Angelique be what she was capable of being. He asked Joe to find another owner for her, with the condition that she remain with Joe for two or three years.”

Dudley, a resident of Georgia, had one field dog at the time, ‘Ottley’s Jazzbo.’ Joe proceeded to try to talk Dudley into buying Angelique. Dudley was interested; but, when he heard the sale price was \$10,000, he thought buying this dog was not going to happen. “There was a

Joe Schomer and Angelique, MFA, Fall 1975



FC-AFC ANGELIQUE

OPEN	1972	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977	1978	TOTAL:
First	1	3	2	2	0	1	0	9
Second	1	4	2	2	1	1	0	11
Third	0	1	3	0	1	1	2	8
Fourth	0	2	0	3	1	2	0	8
Places	2	10	7	7	3	5	2	36
Open Points	8.0	29.0	19.0	17.5	4.5	10.0	2.0	90.0
Cumulative Pts	8.0	37.0	56.0	73.5	78.0	88.0	90.0	90.0
AMATEUR	1972	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977	1978	TOTAL:
First	0	1	0	2	0	0	0	3
Second	0	2	2	0	0	1	0	5
Third	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Fourth	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	3
Places	0	5	2	2	1	1	1	12
Amateur Points	0	12.5	6.0	10.0	0.5	3.0	0.5	32.5
Cumulative Pts	0	12.5	18.5	28.5	29.0	32.0	32.5	32.5
ALL-AGE	1972	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977	1978	TOTAL:
All-Age By Year	8.0	41.5	25.0	27.5	5.0	13.0	2.5	122.5
Cumulative Total	8.0	49.5	74.0	102.5	107.5	120.5	122.5	122.5

Owner: J. Dudley Ottley
 Birthdate: 1/6/1969

Avg. Open points per year: 13
 Avg. Amateur points per year: 5
 Avg. All-Age points per year: 18

From "1973-1978 Retriever Field Trials," Performance Book, charted by Joule Charney

thump, and that was me hitting the ground. I had four rugrats, an expensive wife and the real estate business was not doing too good. My wife was not keen on the idea," to put it mildly. Kay, most definitely was not in favor of buying the dog, exclaiming, "What are you doing with that dog? You're not buying another dog are you? We're not having another dog.' And, I was thinking, 'Oh no, they want \$10,000 for it. We can't afford that.'" Further, Dudley admits, "I was training three or four afternoons a week with the boys and gone for three days for field trials. We left my wife holding the bag."

"Joe kept prodding me: 'You've got to give me either a 'yes' or a 'no' or whatever.' Finally, I said to myself, I know what I'm gonna do. I'm going to make the guy a ridiculous offer for a good dog like this. Hopefully, he'll turn me down and I can get out of it. I already told Joe he could have the dog for training. 'OK. Here's my proposition. \$5000 down. \$2500 when the dog makes its Field Trial Championship. And then another \$2500 for her Amateur Championship.'"

"I was hoping that the original owner would turn me down, and I could get out of the deal gracefully. I knew I'd catch hell from Kay if I did it. Next thing I know, Joe calls up. It had been only 45 minutes. He was the middle man on the thing. I took the deal with one provision, that I put the dog with Joe. I thought, 'Oh, God, what am I gonna do? My wife's gonna kill me, and she almost did. I didn't have the guts to tell Kay that I bought the dog. I sent the check before I told my wife. That's as close as I came to getting divorced, and probably killed!'"

Shortly thereafter, Dudley headed to a trial in Mobile, Alabama where he was going to run Jazzbo in the Open. "As a favor to my wife, I took a couple of our boys with me." While there, he connected with

Joe Schomer who had Angelique with him, and the duo ran her in the Open and the Amateur. "I think she took 2nd, in one of them," Dudley recalls. "When I got home, it was around midnight. I was totally frazzled. I was just totally whipped. I'd been taking care of those little children and they were running around during the field trial."

A Good Decision

Dudley had taken his wife's Suburban to Mobile because it had more room for the kids. While he was at the trial, Kay drove his Oldsmobile to church. "It started raining when she came back. It would rain real hard. Then stop. She didn't have an umbrella. The Tallahassee catalog fell out of the sun visor. So, she sat in the driveway and started looking through it. She's thumbing through the Open All-Age, and she gets to about Page 8, around Dog #37. 'Oh, Angelique, I wonder who bought her?'"

"The catalog said trainer - Joe Schomer and owner - J. Dudley Ottley. "Well that's that dog!" Kay realized. And she went crazy. She went berserk.

"I wound up sleeping down in the basement in a sleeping bag. My only defense was that I was going to tell her. I was kind of cheating on my wife and I got caught. I slept in the guest room for two days."

So much for keeping Angelique's purchase a secret from his wife! As it turned out, both Dudley and his marriage survived - for 45 years and counting! He says the secret to his marital success is that he always says 'Yes, Ma'am' to his wife, whether or not he agrees with her.

The decision to purchase Angelique was one of the best Dudley ever made, he says. She earned both her FC and AFC during the first year he

Retrievers of the Past

owned her. "I started mainlining after that. I was hooked!"

"Angelique was all business. She wanted to perform. Her whole life was wanting to pick up a duck, or a dead pheasant, or a pigeon. A, bird. That's what she got her kicks out of. She didn't run around sniffing, doing this, that and the other. She wanted to retrieve. She was all heart. She'd get a sore leg. She'd run a trial on three-and-a-half legs," Dudley continues. "She'd limp up to the line. Then, she'd charge into the water or run like hell to get the longest bird on the triple."

The serious dog's registered name and callname were the same. "She had no nickname. "I blurted out the whole thing: A-N-G-E-L-I-Q-U-E."

"Kay loved that dog in the end. And enjoyed going to field trials and seeing Angelique run. And winning all the ribbons and trophies. I think she's finally forgiven me."

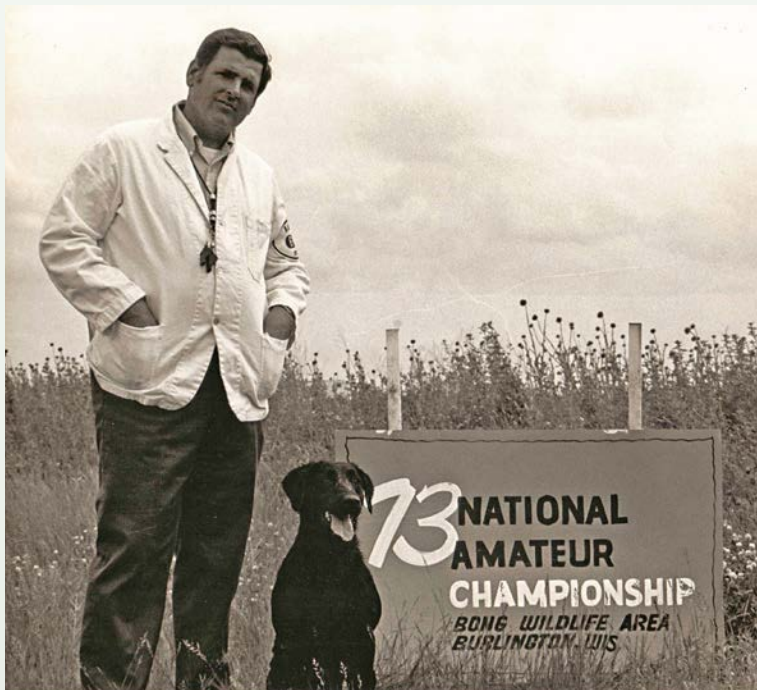
Angelic Career

Angelique had many accomplishments; but, the top one, in Dudley's opinion, is that she was the #1 ranked bitch in Open All-Age in 1973, with 29 points. This earned her a place on the 1973 Outstanding Campaign list for Open All-Age Stakes in *Retriever Field Trials, 1973 - 1978*, known as 'The Performance Book,' published by Retriever Field Trial News and the Labrador Retriever Club. Angelique was ranked #3 overall in 1973 Open points, behind only '74 NAFC-FC Ray's Rascal and '72, '75 NAFC-FC-'71, '73, '74 CNFC River Oaks Corky, who had 35 and 34.5 points, respectively.

To qualify for an Outstanding Campaign, a dog must earn 20 or more points in a calendar year.

Only seven dogs total made the Outstanding Campaign Open All-Age list in 1973. The four ranked below Angelique were: FC-AFC Rocky Road Of Zenith, with 28.5, FC Zipper Dee Do, with 28, '73 NFC-AFC Baird's Centerville Sam, with 23.5, and FC River Oaks Black Frost, with 22.5 points. Of the seven, only two were female, Angelique and Black Frost.

In combined Open and Amateur points in 1973, Angelique was the #1 ranked bitch and ranked 4th for both genders.



Dudley and Angelique at the 1973 National Amateur



Angelique in action with Dudley as handler.

Angelique's 90 Open Points ranked her as the 3rd highest female in the six year period of 1973 - 1978 in Open All-Age Competition, behind '75 NFC-'76 NAFC-'77 CNFC Wanapum Dart's Dandy, with 106.5, and '78 NAFC-FC Kannonball Kate, with 107 points.

Angelique was one of ten dogs to make the 1973 Open Top Winning Dogs list in *1941-1995 Retriever Field Trial Statistics*, by Sue Reynolds. To qualify for the Top Winning Dog list, a dog must have three or more wins in a calendar year. Ray's Rascal topped the list with five wins. Three dogs had four wins each: Baird's Centerville Sam, River Oaks Corky and Zipper Dee Do. Angelique was one of six dogs who had three wins. The others were FC-AFC Lucky's Lady In Red, FC-AFC Rocky Road Of Zenith, FC-AFC Royal Oaks Jill Of Burgandy, FC-AFC Sassy Sioux Of Tukwila and FC-AFC Twinkles Mandy.

Angelique qualified to run in five National Opens, the 1972, 1973, 1974, 1975 and 1977, and three National Amateurs, the 1973, 1974 and 1975. "Jerry Patopea trained Angelique as a young dog and qualified her for the 1972 National Open," Dudley notes.

Unfortunately, Angelique's career was hampered by the economy. "Angelique would have accumulated even more points in the Open and Amateur; but, in 1974, Atlanta went into a depression and real estate was hurt more than anything else," says Dudley, whose career was in real estate. "I was almost wiped out and could not even afford gas to go to even the closest field trial. So Angelique's career was curtailed at her peek. On top of this, she developed cataracts and lost her long range vision and had to be prematurely retired."

"At the time, people said that she was one of the greatest lining dogs in the game. I continued to duck hunt with her, even after her retirement. If she did not see the downed duck, I could still handle her to the bird."

Owner Dudley Ottley

"Jazzbo was the first Labrador I'd ever seen, if you can believe it. They were not very popular in Atlanta in the 40s and the 50s. I used to go down the coast of Georgia to the marshes. Nobody was even hunting. There were 10,000 acres on the refuge and hunting was allowed. We would have to shoot eight or ten ducks because they'd fall in the marsh grass that was eight or ten feet high, at low tide. You'd shoot a duck down and you could never find it. The boat would be hitting the sand, then you'd paddle, then you'd get out."

Eventually, Dudley had enough. "I'm gonna get me a damn dog. I'm not going to put up with this anymore. And, I wasn't a good shot at that point. That's how Jazzbo came along."

He found a Labrador litter that had been advertised in the newspaper. "My wife was eight months pregnant. We went after church. I knew almost nothing about retrievers. I saw a bunch of pups running around. They had no background at all. The lady had a female. You couldn't find either ancestry even with a telescope. Maybe, someone duck hunted with them. There were no field trial dogs in their ancestry, not even 3rd or 4th generation. The lady suggested I get the one with a small spot of white who was the most precocious. I paid around \$50 or \$75 for him. I got a tennis ball and started throwing it for him. I was going to train him to pick up ducks."

"I had never even seen a Labrador Retriever before I bought Jazzbo. There were eight dogs in the litter. Some of the people said let's train together. Throw tennis balls. Nobody knew what they were doing. We started off with a club trial with only ten people. I bought *Training Your Retriever* by James Lamb Free, which was kind of a joke. The lady that had the dogs had kept in touch. She referred people to Dudley to get them involved in retriever work."

While working with Jazzbo, Dudley met two men who had a lot of retriever expertise, including field trial judging experience, who became his training partners. The first was Howard Jones, an airline pilot originally from Tennessee, who transferred to Atlanta. "He had trained Labrador Retrievers and had gone to five field trials. There was a lake in a park about five or six miles from my house. I was there running Jazzbo as a puppy, throwing a tennis ball out in the middle of this lake and got him to come back. Somebody saw me doing that. That was Guy Wiley who transferred from Texas to Atlanta."

"Howard Jones and Guy Wiley knew what they were doing. The rest of the people had no clue. Pretty soon, weekends and every afternoon after work, especially in the summertime when it would get dark late, we would all meet and go to one of the public lakes in the park and train. Howard and Guy helped me get that syringe and stick it in my arm. My wife didn't like that, with all those rugrats running around. But, she would get someone to watch the kids and go to trials with me. She helped at the Atlanta trial when the trial was licensed."

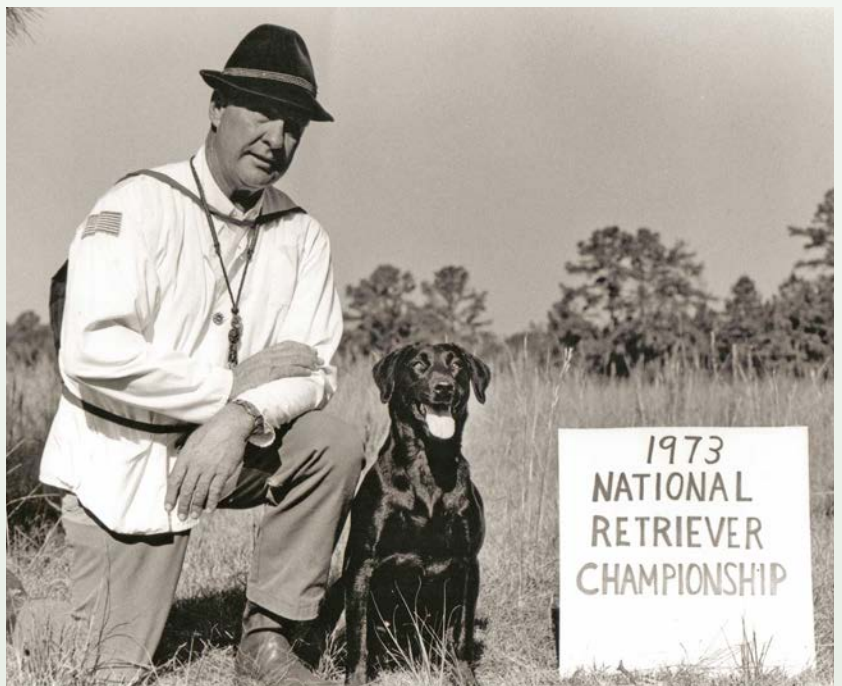
Dudley turned 81 last July. He readily admits it stretches his memory to come up with details about Angelique from so long ago. "I'm sorry I'm getting hazy about something that happened a long time ago, but it feels like yesterday." Fortunately, says Dudley, "I feel like 25, except I tire more. I don't like being old. When I was 25, I could hit it for 10 hours and not think anything about it. Now, I have to take a breath."

"He still enjoys the *Retriever News* and seeing the old friends in there, 'though many are missing now,' Kay mentions, wistfully.

One of those old field trial friends is Mike Flannery, owner of River Oaks Corky, "the crown jewel at the time," as Dudley refers to him. Corky was featured in *Retrievers of the Past* in 2010. Looking back, Dudley vividly recalls that "Mike bought a truck, before there were motorhomes, to speak of.



Angelique sitting on the road for a portrait



Joe Schomer and Angelique at the 1973 National Open

Retrievers of the Past

He fixed it up with a toilet and bedroom. He was quite a character. When the sun was dipping, Mike would invite you over. He was something else. Had a bar. You'd have a cocktail. Or, he'd invite you over for a beer and when he was ready to go, the next thing you knew, you were talking to yourself. He was a great guy. Tell him one of his admirers is still here."

"After two good dogs, Jazzbo and Angelique, I never had another dog that was in the same category." Jazzbo, born on 12/30/66, earned 20.5 Open and 49.5 Amateur points during his career, in 1970 through 1974. Angelique was born on 01/06/69, out of Tyker Baby and Acute Accent.

Dudley bred Angelique only once. "I don't recall the name of the male. I kept one puppy and sold the rest of 'em. Kay named it 'Monique.' She ran in field trials. She was not a shooting star, as I remember."

"I was a main founder of Atlanta Retriever Club," with Kay's assistance. "My wife helped a lot with the Atlanta Retriever Club when it started," Dudley notes. Howard Jones and Guy Wiley were instrumental in the club, as well.

Kay has been a great sport over Dudley's comments regarding her initial reaction to his purchase of Angelique and his short-lived attempt to keep it hidden from her. "Dudley was a very respected member of the retriever community," she adds.

Dudley and Kay live in Atlanta, Georgia. Presently, he has a nine-year old Lab who has a Master Hunter title. "She was with a trainer until around age seven, running the circuit, not the Major League thing." She only has run in hunting tests, which Dudley refers to as 'the Junior Varsity of field trials.' I take her duck and dove hunting. And, she loves that more than anything else. She'd rather do that than eat. When I yell 'Back,' she'll do a Johnny Weissmuller thing into the water."

Angelique died in 1982. Dudley visits her grave quite frequently. "She is buried in my backyard and has a tombstone with her name and number of points on it." ■

Tenacular Dogs – Joule Charney

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



Angelique with Dudley



Angelique's grave.

JOE SCHOMER Professional Trainer

Schomer was hired by the Murnames' Macopin Kennels in 1954. "While working on Long Island for George and Edith Murnane, Joe Schomer titled 15 dogs and won two Nationals with Spirit Lake Duke. During this period, he qualified 24 dogs for the National Championship," wrote the late Richard Halstead, while nominating Schomer to the Retriever Hall of Fame, in 2007. Halstead wrote many of the HOF dog biographies for Retriever News.

"After leaving Long Island, he established Schomer Kennel where he qualified another 24-plus dogs for the National Championship," Halstead continued. "In addition, he trained Royal Moose's Moe, the National winner handled by the owner. Joe was also the trainer of the All-Time high point Golden, prior to Val Walker's Misty's Sungold Lad."

"Joe Schomer also bred some litters while in Texas one of these puppies was the Remhoc's Lejo Juderi, a National Finalist. Noteworthy dogs trained by Joe Schomer include Angelique, Monster Mike, Bigstone Flint, Hoss of Palm Grove, Jo Do's Jetfire, (the golden), Ripp'n Ready, Royal's Moose's Moe, Moon Rocket of Zenith, Rocky Road of Zenith, Remoch's Lejo Juderi, Smoky of Park Avenue, Van Pride's Ebony Shadow, Cinderella of Stonesthrow, Calypso Clipper and Rim Rock Roscoe."

Joe was born in 1919 and died in 2007. In a tribute to his friend, Bill Connor, owner of '72 NFC-AFC Royal's Moose's Moe, reflected on Schomer's more than forty years of selecting, training and handling retrievers in field trial competition.

"Spirit Lake Duke, a black Labrador born and raised in Spirit Lake, Iowa, trained and handled by Joe Schomer, will forever be remembered as one of the great performers in retriever field trials. This watershed accomplishment, a record of consistency, set the pace in field trial competition in the tough eastern circuit as well as nationally from 1956 thru 1961."

"The legacy of this man reflected hard work and good dog sense. These qualities developed field trial champions and later influenced clients to be better handlers. Despite a 'late start' as a professional at age 35, after World War II navy combat service in the South Pacific, and nine years as a Iowa Conservation Warden as late as 1954, Schomer's confidence, his decisive, competitive spirit, were the qualities that made him successful as a warden, and later as a professional trainer."

"Many amateur owners, handlers, judges, and young professionals beginning their careers benefited from the guidance and knowledge of this outstanding professional."