

1993

Paul Bakewell III

A wealthy St. Louis sportsman and avid duck hunter bought a golden retriever pup for training to retrieve his downed waterfowl. No one could have predicted the level of success he might have with this pup. The pup he purchased at a few weeks of age would become the first Golden Retriever to win the Open in the new sport of Field Trials. The dog named, Rip, was to earn the title of Outstanding Retriever of the Year and received the Field and Stream Trophy for 1939. This was the National Championship for retrievers, which was won in 1938 by Blind Of Arden. A record was set when Rip was awarded the trophy for a second time. Unfortunately, Rip died of internal injury's acquired during an accident.

An attempt to win for the third was dismissed with Rip's loss, but his kennel mate Tar Of Arden came through winning the third time in 1940 for Bakewell's Deer Creek Kennels. Another pup had been on a trial basis from Arden kennels and the National Club had started a new trial to determine the National Championship, which was won in 1941 by another Golden Retriever. In 1942 the new puppy had earned a place in the kennel. In 1942 a young black Labrador, originally acquired on a trial basis, became the winner of the National Championship while Bakewell was on leave from the Navy Air Corps to handle the dog. Unable to get leave again for the 1943 National Championship another handler competed with Shed and again the results were the same. Now Shed Of Arden had won back-to-back Nationals. Military obligations kept Bakewell from competing in 1945. In 1946 WWII had ended enabling Bakewell to handle Shed in the National. The last series was a multiple mark set up and when Shed emerged from the cold water of Crab Orchard Lake he had won his third National Championship.

The 1947 and 1948 competing kennels won the National, although Deer Creek had entries. 1948 brought a new season and Bakewell was more determined than ever to win the National. His sensation of the circuit the dog described by others as the greatest had been poisoned. Little Pierre Of Deer Creek now gone it was up to Pierre's kennel mate, Marvadel Black Gum, to pick up where Pierre left off. The dog came through to fill Bakewell's dream and won the 1948 National. The Little Pierre loss had soured Bakewell toward the sport and other than occasionally judging assignment was all he did. Seven Nationals, 4 Dual CH, and a High Point Derby a record that would beat in a lifetime, but the record were achieved in ten years.

-From the 2008 Inductions to the Field Trial Halls of Fame program