

2004

Paul Provenzano

Paul Provenzano was born in 1920 in the back of a grocery store in Houston, TX and graduated from High School with High Honors in 1937. Because of extreme nearsightedness, his doctor refused to allow him in college. He married to Esther Mae D'Amico in April 1942 and they had a son born in 1944. Together the couple developed a successful cake decorating business.

Paul's second retriever, a Black Labrador bitch puppy was purchased from Audie Wallace in 1953. Toto of Audlon grew up to become a FC AFC, running in the Am. National in 62. She had three litters of puppies, producing two Field Champions and several with Championship points.

Paul, along with Harvey Evans, arranged a meeting at a pond, and organized the Lone Star Retriever Club. With help from Mahlon Wallace, Audie Wallace, John Olin, Cotton Pershall, and Billy Wunderlich, Field Trials were born in the south. However, licensed trials killed Picnic Trials so the clubs needed Paul's idea to give high point trophies away. It helped save the clubs. Paul and Harvey Evans are the only two lifetime members of the Lone Star Retriever Club. The Lone Star Club gives out a Paul Provenzano award each year.

Paul was a charter member of the Texas Taxidermy Association, where he won a major event with an African Teal. The club sent the bird to the Taxidermy Hall of Fame. The Taxidermy Club gives out from four to a dozen awards each year and named them the Paul Provenzano Awards because he prepared the ways and means of winning the award.

Paul judged over 80 Licensed Open and Amateurs. He judged the 71 Amateur, the 77 National Open and was voted the Outstanding Field Trial Judge in the USA by the Professional Retriever Trainers, the first time such an award was given. Today, he spends his time writing cookbooks and Western novels using a special reading machine. He avoids Field Trials because it hurts not to see the dogs work. However, he can still kill a couple of geese a season.