

# Retrievers of the Past...

By Joule Charney

## FC-AFC Tigathoe's Mainliner Mariah

*This feature story of "Retrievers of the Past" is continued from the May 2014 issue.*

"MARIAH CONTINUED TO RUN with no problems until she was four-and-a-half. At that point, she had a cruciate (injury). I took her to Cornell University. Just to go to vet school, too," Lanse adds. "Dr. Ross did the operation. It was rudimentary; but, it was as up-to-date with fashion as they had then, and he said she'll never run again."

After Mariah's cruciate surgery, Lanse once again was as undaunted by the surgeon's gloomy prediction as he was with Augie's first impression of Mariah. "We came home, and every morning, at 4:30, I got up, took Mariah out of the crate, put her on a lead, and walked down to the end of the property. It was damn cold in February. I'd fall on my ass sometimes in the snow banks, go back up to the road, around, inside, around, sit, move, do heeling exercises, figure 8's, nothing heavy-duty, put her up, take a shower, put on my little three-piece Brooks Brothers 'Saddle Rose Go-to-London, Go-to-Wall Street' suit, run out and jump on the bus, subway, and end up on my trading desk at 8:30 in the morning."

"The cruciate heeled. There was a trophy. It's one of the ones I probably will give to my friend Bon Mallori whenever he comes up here to take all my field trial memorabilia away, because I'm giving it to him. It's better to have him have it than to throw it out in the pit. And, all my double-header pictures and all that junk, what the hell, nobody wants that. That'll all go in the pit with me and my dogs. They're all buried up here."

### Points Lanse Likes to Make

"I think Mariah only had thirteen Derby points. But, again, Derbies mean nothing to me," says Lanse. I pull a dog out of Derby once it gets ten to twelve points because I know the dog has got to be an advanced dog. If the dog hasn't gotten twelve points, the dog has got to find a nice home."

Mariah, Lanse and Dana ran Derbies with Ed Carey. Johnny Trepatz, who was with Ed, ran Mariah in her first Amateur. Trepatz owned River Oaks Corky, before Mike Flannery, with whom Corky eventually earned 505.5 points, making him the highest scoring retriever of all time, a record that has yet to be topped.

"I think it was important to note that Mariah received her first JAM, when she was thirteen months old, at a sanctioned trial. We had driven six-and-a-half or seven hours round trip to go to our first sanctioned. It was Labor Day weekend, and very wet. One of the things that's gone and never will come back to the sport is the sanctioned trials, and the clubs. And, we developed a lot of solid amateurs that way. We don't have that much, anymore. They're informal training groups; but, now nothing formalized – Sanction A, hunt test, picnic trials, whatever you want to call 'em, tests. And, I think that also has helped in the demise of the sport that is forthcoming."

"Mariah was three years old, when she placed in her first Amateur. Then it went a lot of JAMs, which is usual with these young dogs."

"The first National, Mariah was test bitch. This is a funny story," recalls Lanse. I was working, so Dana took Mariah down and ran her at the National in Del Bay. They went through six series, I think it was. Mariah had hit every blind with one whistle, I think except with one whistle on one blind, and never hunted a bird. I showed up by the 7th Series, and picked her up on the water blind. You obviously know what the hell happened after that. That was the same National that Jack Martin did the water blind, two people picked up on the water blind, and they ran a few more, then they scrapped the water blind."

Lanse recalls a trial in Idaho in which Mariah triumphed over Lanse's favorite dog in history – Peter Lane's Kannonball Kate (1978 NAFC.) "Mariah came out in Idaho with a 1st in the Amateur and 2nd in the Open. Pete Lane was there. He lost Katie. And the only reason is that was that when Mariah got out of the stream, she had stayed in it too long, and when she did get out, she was downwind of the bird. Most of the dogs tried to square the stream, ended up upwind, failing the test and handling. Mariah just coasted down the stream, got out, was downwind, caught that wind, got the bird, got 1st." Laughing, Lanse adds, "Peter Lane – he didn't approve of that. Especially since he'd picked up Katie."

"Kannonball Kate was my favorite. I just thought that Katie was absolutely neat. She was the one that Peter Lane broke Mariah's record with."

"Kannonball Kate won a National by avoiding every piece of land," in Dana's opinion. "Just before that National, people were understanding you couldn't avoid all the islands and spits. When Kate won that National, it was a bit of a set-back," Dana says, referring to a return to the historical trend that had finally been broken.

"Peter Lane, Ray Goodrich, McFalls and some of the other amateur guys had high standards, good dogs and worked and trained their own dogs (including 1974 NAFC Ray's Rascal and Hiwood Piper, respectively)."

"The game has changed," Lanse acknowledges. "Would Mariah do well in today's world? Yeah, she would. She would do very well," he believes. "I say that," explains Lanse, "because she mastered anything she was presented, with proper teaching. And, so much of today is teaching. She would do very well because I would not allow an over-bearing, over-reactionary collar to happen to her, even if she was on the collar. Many times, now a days, I run with the collar turned-off, or the transmitter is back in the truck, in order to save the dog from Mr. Wonderful. I'll go back and reset a similar situation and I'll catch a problem. Not nit-pick."

Dana emphatically believes that dogs like Mariah and Corky would compete successfully against the dogs of today – "if they were trained like the dogs of today." In Mariah's earlier years, despite the common use of buckshot and cattle prods, "it was still wonderful working with dogs. It is so rewarding. There is something so pure about it. We could train them to do fabulous things. You have to have a long distance cor-

rection. The collars today with their variable intensities, the ability to immediately have the dog make the connection with the mistake... Corky and Mariah were so successful because there was one amateur training one dog, with the dog sitting at the breakfast table like Corky did. If you had a personal connection it was such an advantage over the pros. The pros used to be upset by that, especially when they'd pull up and see a dog in the front seat."

"We made our AFC, in the Westchester Club. This was interesting," notes Lanse. "The trial was being won by another dog that did not do a very good job at the last test. I had not run yet. However, my wife's dog

'Paint' was winning. It was a delayed triple, or something. You picked up one bird, then sat the dog down, and waited for them to do something else. Dana sent Paint for the first bird, received him, lined him up, sent him for the second bird. He was supposed to have stayed and waited for them to do something. He was thrown out, and Mariah won. We qualified on June 1st for the National Amateur that started on June 17th, and we went nine series. Geeze, that was fun!"

Lanse fondly recalls not only his dog's triumphs, but also his own learning curve about running trials and how some people along the way showed their true, brightest colors.



Lanse with Mariah in 1969 at the National Amateur in Burlington, Wisconsin. This was Mariah's first National. Photo by Herm David.



Lanse with Mariah in 1968. Photo by Ken Kruger of Coolwaters Kennels.

“There was a trial that was hot,” Lanse continues. “At the Holiday Inn, the headquarters, there were more people with dogs out in the hall than in their rooms. It was just amazing. The next day, I took Mariah’s crate, put it over in this old cow shed, and I put Mariah in it, because it was in the shade. Louise (Belmont) came over and said, ‘Oh, no, no, no! Don’t do that!’”

“What do you mean, don’t do that?” Lanse asked her.

“She’ll think you gave her away!” exclaimed Louise.

“I have no idea if that made any sense or not,” says Lanse. “But, when that National over, Mariah handled in the last series. I came off line crying. Dana looked at me and she said, ‘Buddy, you are not a Finalist, if they go eleven. You gave up, you looked down. If they go eleven, you’re not a Finalist.’”

“Well, interestingly enough, that has stuck with me, forever and ever. I remember a National Amateur I later ran when I was in about 8th Place going in. There were twelve dogs back. It kept going through my mind, ‘Never give up. Never give up.’ And, before I ran out there, two of the top dogs fell down. I mean, they just blew. Now I’m in 4th place. Even though that’s where I ended up, I’d learned something important from that hot National and from my ex-wife.

“There was the 1971 National Amateur that Mike Paterno won with Dee’s Dandy Dude. That was a trial that Louise and Penrod ran very well. Augie went up and asked the judges, before they announced the winner, if Louise had won. The answer was ‘no.’ Augie said something I’ve never forgotten. I’ve tried to remember it and use on other people. He said, ‘Lanse, I just wanted to make sure Louise could adjust her face, for the disappointment.’”

There was a double lesson for Lanse in this trial. “Mike Paterno was very lucky he won it, because at one point, on a blind, he thought the

dog Dude was there and had it. Mike turned around, talking to the judges. The dog did not have it. The judges told him he didn’t have it. The point is, that was nice of them, and I would have done the same thing. But, they didn’t have to.”

Likewise, Lanse openly shares his opinions about the ‘politics of Nationals,’ how they are run, and the quality of judging and many other aspects of the field trial world, both good and bad. He also points out that some of the most well-intended helpers don’t necessarily know how they should help. And, then there’s luck. “You can have the best dog in the world and the wind shifts, and that’s it.”

It’s often the earlier years of running Mariah that Lanse seems to recall with the deepest sense of pride. “I am thinking about the times that I ran those qualifying Derbies, in the sanctioned trials, and drove probably over seven to eight thousand miles over the weekends, going to trials, sanctions. I think the about dog and how she was, not only trained by amateurs – totally – she was never force-fetched. How she was competed with, lived with, by me, and Dana. How she was trained, by Dana, in a very calm, non-burning manner.”

In her later years, “Mariah continued to prevail, except for the cruciate. She ended up having cirrhosis. Now, being a full-blown alcoholic myself, I convinced Dana that Mariah caught it from me. After we got the ringer solution through her, she came back and ran about for a few more months. She won an Open, and she almost won the Amateur. It was soon after that I retired her.” On hindsight, “I would say that I ran her one trial, or two trials, too many.”

“I don’t drink anymore,” Lanse adds. I hit bottom in ’74. And, that was it.”

Mariah ended her career with 254 combined points, 79 Open and 175 Amateur, placing her 22nd on the Top 30 Highest-Scoring Dogs of all time. Mariah qualified for four National Opens in a period of five years, 1970-1974. She also qualified for six consecutive National Amateurs, 1969-1975, and was a finalist four times, 1970-1973. She also was a Double Header winner. Mariah was inducted in the Retriever Hall of Fame in 1993.

“Mariah died after I got divorced. She lived with me ’til she was thirteen. One night, when she went out to pee, she didn’t come back. I went out, and the snow was about a foot in drifts, three feet, down through the pine woods. I followed the tracks, and there was blood on the paws. I believe, honestly, she was going off to die.”

“So, this is my sport. This is my life. And, because of it, and because of the regular dedication and training and hands-on that Dana was able to provide to Mariah, I think it makes the dog a better dog if it has the genetic qualities. Who knew that when I bought a \$200 puppy in November of ’65 what she would turn out to be? The point of the matter is, too many people today bring these dogs along with the intent of placing, winning, and performing. And, that’s fine. We all want to do that. But, it’s pretty hard to accelerate growth. And, sometimes, when you accelerate it, you actually impede it.”

“There was also a bond that existed between Mariah and myself. And I don’t really think I’ve had that since, except with Eva (FC-AFC Eva Ethel Proby-Weber), because I entered her life at an early stage and she’s been with me throughout.”

“I’ve often thought about Mariah and wondered – what would it be like if I had not gone back and reconsidered a bitch? I guess, who knows? Or, is it the Shadow knows?” ■

### Tenacular Dogs – Joule Charney

Joule resides in Paradise, California. Joule has been a contributing writer for Retriever News for six 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](http://www.tenacular.com).

## Mariah's Owner and Trainer

"The rumors of my death have been greatly exaggerated" is a famous quote that dates back to 1897. Actually, it is a misquote of what Mark Twain wrote after a journalist mistakenly reported his demise.

Literary deadlines most definitely can trip up the truth, quite unintentionally. By the time a story is published, the facts may have changed. This is the case with our feature on Mariah, specifically, with respect to her owner Lanse Brown.

When Lanse provided the information for our articles, it was many months before Part I was published in our May 2014 issue. At the time, he stated he was in very poor health. That Lanse has been struggling with health issues for years is no secret to those who know him, and many who do not.

Retriever News is happy to report, that, as of the time this issue is going to press, Lanse is very much alive, and his health has improved, dramatically.

"If you can edit the 2nd part (on Mariah) to try to clarify that my earlier malaise has been diagnosed as a gastric ulcer which is healing, it would help in abating phone calls and rumors re my impending demise," he has requested.

Lanse has endured major health challenges dating back to 2003. Some people just seem to be fodder for the rumor mill more so than others. We never intended our article on Mariah to contribute to it and we are delighted to have this opportunity to inform our readers about the positive turn in Lanse's health (and that he is not the Buster Brown!

Alanson 'Lanse' Brown was inducted into Field Trial Hall of Fame in 2010. For nearly a half century, he has experienced not only a high degree of success with his dogs, he also has contributed greatly to the field trial community by judging and working at trials. He was a National Amateur Retriever Club Championship judge in 1994. Lanse marshalled at the National Amateur four times and worked on the grounds committee six times. He continues to judge and work at trials, mentoring with his vast experience.

Lanse has qualified 85 dogs for 53 National Championships, which includes being a National finalist twelve times. He has owned five dogs that were Double Header winners. Lanse has handled dogs to 1301 All-Age points; and titled many dogs in addition to Mariah: Dual-CH-AFC Royal Oaks Jill of Burgundy (Double Header winner and in the Retriever Hall of Fame), FC-AFC Washington's Weeko (callname 'Coke,' Double Header winner and in the Retriever

Dear Dana & Lanse -  
You are now graduated to my special water - mark paper -  
With Lanse gulping down tears & Dana glassy eyed it was hard to say more than a hug & kiss & congratulations -  
What I really wanted to do was speech - make - For I know what goes into a real amateur dog - The hard work, the discouragement, the breaks, the running against pro trained dogs with the pro there say "do this", "do that" - And sometimes you collapse & say "damn! will we ever get over that 2<sup>nd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, CH, out, 2<sup>nd</sup>, CH, out to 1<sup>st</sup> -  
Well - You two did it -  
Congratulations -  
I'm proud of you -  
  
Torch  
  
Oh yes - The Dr B - stands for "Bardens" -  
Be like my story of Tuppee - Meet eyes -  
The glassy-eyed stare is magnetic - Hold eyes -  
Stare - Plan your remark & don't break down -

Letter from Torch Flynn of Tigathoe Kennels to Dana and Lanse Brown.

Hall of Fame), AFC Winsome Cargo's Chaos, FC-AFC Trumarc's Aimee, AFC Louise V.B., FC-AFC Hi Cotton At Wit's End, FC-AFC Tailwind's Augie B, FC-AFC Eva Ethel Proby-Weber (Double Header winner), AFC Candlewood's She's So Fine and AFC World Famous Rosa Barks.

Two of Lanse's first wife Dana's trainees were National Finalists: Jill of Burgundy and her dog Paint (FC-AFC Paha Sapa Warpaint), a full sibling to Super Chief via an earlier breeding.

In 1969, Lanse founded the South Jersey Retriever Club. He has been an officer with that club, Shrewsbury River Retriever Club, Long Island Retriever Club, and the Montgomery Retriever Club.

Dana and Lanse divorced in 1976. Lanse's current wife, 'Jimmy,' is "totally supportive" of his dog "hobby," says Lanse. "Without her, I would never have been able to dedicate myself 100% to my dogs and the sport." The couple has homes in Alabama and Montana that they share with six Labradors

and a Westie. "All my dogs live in the house, sleep on the beds, and steal food off the table," Lanse points out.

After her divorce from Lanse, Dana founded Reibar (pronounced Rye-bar) Kennels, named after their sons Reichert and Barney, near Sacramento, CA. Among the work for which she is credited is that Dana taught Jack Vollstedt (FC-AFC Volwood's Mollie and others how to train. He originally was one of her clients.

Another of Dana's clients, Grady Istre (pronounced like 'East') was destined to become her assistant, and, subsequently, her husband. Dana developed skin cancer and had to give up being outdoors full-time; so, Grady took over the business in 1982. "It morphed into a gundog business," says Dana, because Grady didn't like the travel entailed with field trials, whereas, she did. Presently, Dana is a very successful real estate broker and an award-winning writer and editor. The couple lives in Lompoc, CA.