

2013 Inductees

English Cocker Spaniel Field Trial Hall of Fame

People

Mrs. Ella B. Moffit (1889-1945)

In 1925, Mrs. Ella B. Moffit, who is often described as “a sportswoman from Poughkeepsie, New York,” made two major contributions to our sport. First she organized the first field trial club for Cocker Spaniels in the United States --- the Hunting Cocker Spaniel Club of America --- which is our oldest field trial club and continues to operate today as the Cocker Spaniel Field Trial Club of America . Second, as President of the Club, she organized the very first field trial for Cocker Spaniels. A highly regarded breeder, participant and author of two books, Mrs. Moffit’s contributions to our sport would continue over her lifetime. Therefore, it gives us great pleasure in this inaugural year of our space within the Hall of Fame, to recognize someone who energized participants and contributed so much in the first 20 years of cocker field trials.

The story of the first field trial is an interesting one. The trial had three stakes --- Puppy, Novice and Open All-Age --- with eighteen entries and 65 attendees. Many of the dogs ran in more than one stake. Mrs. Moffit handled a seven month old bitch in the Puppy Stake. According to Mrs. Moffit, this puppy was so small that she provoked merriment from the gallery and Mrs. Moffit came in for her share of teasing until the little bitch was sent on a retrieve. The masterful way in which she delivered a full grown cock pheasant almost as big as herself quickly turned ridicule to respect. The end result was that breeders at the trial, which was combined with a bench show, finally became excited about producing Cocker Spaniels for hunting purposes as well as good looks.

Mrs. Moffit was the owner of Rowcliffe Kennels. The name Rowcliffe comes from her husband, Albert Rowcliffe Moffit, who was the Chief Surgeon at Vassar Hospital in Poughkeepsie. As a breeder during the period when field trial participants continued to be involved in bench shows, Mrs. Moffit maintained that her goal was to breed a good looking dog that could hunt. Her kennel produced one Dual Champion --- both a field trial and bench champion --- and four Field Trial Champions in the early days of field trials. Her best dog, however, Rowcliffe War Dance, never completed his field trial championship as she took him out of competition so that others could win.

Mrs. Moffit wrote two books: *The Cocker Spaniel - Companion, Shooting Dog and Show Dog - Complete Information on History, Development, Characteristics, Standards for Field Trial And Bench With Some Practical Advice on Training, Raising and Handling*, which she dedicated to Rowcliffe War Dance and *Elias Vail Trains Gun Dogs - Covering the Pointing Breeds, The Spaniels and Non-Slip Retrievers*, written with Mr. Vail who,

along with Luke Medlin, trained her dogs. She was tireless in her work to encourage and educate others and, later in her life, established a game farm where people could come to train their dogs.

Interestingly, Mrs. Moffit would ultimately become known for the breeding of American Cocker Spaniels. Born in 1889, she died in 1945, one year before the American Kennel Club declared the English Cocker Spaniel a separate breed from the American Cocker Spaniel which we simply call Cocker Spaniel in this country. During her lifetime, there were relatively few English Cocker Spaniels competing in Cocker field trials.

Mrs. Gladys F. Harriman (1896-1983)

Mrs. Gladys F. Harriman, who along with her husband E. Roland Harriman owned Cinar Kennels in Arden, New York, was the first person to produce field-bred English Cocker Spaniels here in the United States that achieved success in cocker field trials. In 1935 Cinar Kennels imported two English Cocker Spaniels with field trial championships in their pedigrees from Scotland and the breeding of this pair ultimately produced five field trial champions from four different litters from 1936 through 1939. A sixth Cinar field trial champion would come later from a different mating. Although English Cocker Spaniels had been imported to the United States to participate in Cocker field trials starting in 1926, the English type of Cocker was vastly outnumbered in trials by the American Cocker during this period. In fact only one English Cocker Spaniel import had become a Field Trial Champion. From this point and continuing over a twenty-five year period Gladys Harriman became known for her devotion to field-bred English Cocker Spaniels thus we are delighted, in this inaugural year of the English Cocker Spaniel Field Trial Hall of Fame, to honor her.

Mrs. Harriman was not just an owner and breeder --- she enjoyed handling the dogs in field trial competitions herself. In 1943 she won the Cinar Perpetual Challenge Trophy with Cinar's Soot. Mrs. Harriman had established the Cinar Perpetual Challenge Trophy in 1940 and it was awarded to the high point dog in select east coast trials each year from 1940 to 1964. When she donated the trophy, she did not intend to monopolize the award, however Cinar bred dogs won it almost every year in the 1940s.

Mrs. Harriman was dedicated to the training and care of the dogs in her kennel. She and her husband, E. Roland Harriman, who served as the Chairman of the Union Pacific Railroad and a banker with Brown Brothers Harriman & Company, lived on a large estate which allowed her to provide quarters for a full time dog trainer and staff. Tom Briggs trained the Cinar English Cocker Spaniels until his death in 1940. At this point Mrs. Harriman recruited Lionel Bond, who had trained in England with William Humphrey (who incidentally was the breeder of our first field trial champion), to oversee the kennel and training of the English Cocker Spaniels. Both men were highly regarded

trainers who, in addition to training the Cinar dogs, contributed to the overall success of the English Cocker Spaniel in field trials.

In addition, Mr. Bond assisted Mrs. Harriman in the writing of a chapter on the training of field-bred English Cocker Spaniels and Cocker field trials in *American Sporting Dogs*, edited by Eugene V. Connett and published in 1948. As a sign of their relationship with the Bond family, the Harrimans willed the kennel and quarters as well as the AKC registered name "Cinar" to Lionel Bond, and his daughter, Joyce Hurley, lives there today with a few remaining Cinar English Cockers.

Mrs. Harriman and her husband were gracious hosts. The last Cocker field trial of each season was held on their estate. This weekend was always one of the highlights of the year. Mrs. Harriman's ongoing interest and participation in Cocker field trials through breeding, training, handling and hosting events continued into the 1960s and she is fondly remembered for all of her contributions.

Dogs

Dual Champion Camino Boy (1944-1957)

Dual Champion Camino Boy was a magnificent dog that, as a Dual Champion, was not only recognized for his good looks but also for his outstanding performance in field trials. Whelped in 1944, he became a Field Trial Champion at the age of two in 1946. In 1950, at the age of six, he completed his bench championship and was recognized as the first---and still the only --- Dual Champion English Cocker Spaniel since English Cocker Spaniels became a separate breed in 1946.

Camino Boy was reportedly one of the hardest running dogs that ever ran in field trials in this country and he was able to produce his tremendous drive and desire to hunt in his get. He was the sire of the very first National Field Champion, Camino's Cheetah, winner of the 1953 National Cocker Championship and he was the sire of the Camino's Red Rocket, a dog owned by actor Clark Gable that won the National Cocker Championship in 1958. These two National Champions were full brother and sister from two separate litters. A full sister to Camino's Cheetah became a Field Champion as well. All three of the Field Champions he sired were highly ranked while participating in Pacific Coast trials.

Camino Boy was owned by H. C. "Dan" McGrew, an early participant in field trials in northern California. Mr. McGrew actually began breeding American Cocker Spaniels in 1936 and participating in field trials in 1937. Camino Boy was his first English Cocker Spaniel. McGrew purchased him in 1946 from Harry Mitchell who had owned him since he was six weeks old. Camino Boy already had a proven record at this point, having

won two puppy stakes, one Open All-Age Stake and one second place, all in a matter of two trials held in 1944 and 1945. Back then it took two wins to become a field trial champion. Camino Boy earned his second win in the Spring of 1946. He was trained and handled in all of these trials by Harry Mitchell.

Camino Boy was handled to his bench championship by Ralph W. Brown, a conformation judge who owned mostly American Cocker Spaniels and served on the field trial committee of the American Spaniel Club. It was the mating of Mr. McGrew's Camino Boy with Mr. Brown's English Cocker Spaniel bitch, Shawnon's Ace, that produced our first National Field Trial Champion Winner in 1953, Camino Cheetah, as well as Field Champion Camino's Sheila, a litter mate. Shawnon's Ace was ultimately sold to Mr. McGrew by Mr. Brown and another mating produced Camino's Red Rocket, the National Cocker Field Trial Championship winner in 1958.

Camino Boy was bred by Mrs. John Pitts. His sire was Josephus of Avandale, a Canadian import and his dam was Wistful Wendy of Kurand, a daughter of Ch. Manrico of Karma, an Australian import that ran in a few field trials in northern California. Camino Boy sired a litter of pups at twelve years of age and died the following year.

NFC FC Diana Floss of Windmillwood MH (1997-2008)

Anyone who saw Millie run in cocker field trials during the years 2000 through 2005 will never forget her. Always at the top of her game, she became a Field Champion in her first year of competition here in the United States and she placed in three National Cocker Championships before winning the national competition in 2005 at the age of eight. Her win at the 2005 National thrilled the crowd.

Millie arrived on our shores as a young trained bitch. She had been bred by Mr. D. S. Morris and purchased from Alan Gwynne of Wales --- a man responsible for many of our imports during this period --- by her co-owners, Harold Bixby and Martha Calabrese. Paul McGagh of Glencoe Kennels was contacted about preparing Millie for field trials. Initially he was reluctant to take on the assignment as, despite being from England and having earlier imported cockers from the United Kingdom, he preferred at this point in his career to breed and train his own cockers. He did, however, agree to train Millie and found her to be a first class prospect. Over time both Paul McGagh and "Bix" handled Millie in field trials and together they developed quite a field trial record with this bitch. Millie won the High Point Dog Award in 2000 and 2001.

As noted, Millie placed in three National Cocker Championships before winning the competition in 2005. She earned second place in 2000, third place in 2003 and second place in 2004.

As reported by Paul McGagh, Millie had many qualities that made her a standout in field trials. She was a dog that could be run without a whistle. She had a great knack for taking in the right amount of ground relative to the conditions. She simply did not break.

She had a large chest that may have contributed to her incredible stamina and she never needed any scent to keep her motivated. She was a consistent performer with an eagerness to please her handler. People simply loved watching her run in trials. Her fine performances gave credibility to the entire breed.

As a dam, Millie produced three field champions. One of these field champions, FC Lady Willowby of Windwhistle, won the High Point Amateur Dog Award in 2007. In addition, a grandson, FC Windwhistle Padraig, placed third at the National Cocker Championship in 2005, the same year Millie was the winner.

Bix always lovingly referred to Millie as "My Millie." His Millie was not only a wonderful dog but the catalyst that created a great friendship between Paul McGagh, Harold Bixby and Martha and Tom Calabrese.