

Ameraucana Bantam Bulletin

AMERAUCANA BANTAM CLUB, 6442 CHESTNUT AVE., ORANGEVALE, CA 95662

Winter, 1983

Vol. V, No. 4

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Our club was well represented at the Ohio National in November. As most of you realize this was our dual qualifying meet; we succeeded in having six new color varieties added to the existing American Bantam Association Standard. We are still working with the American Poultry Association on getting recognition.

Words can't adequately describe the beautiful time wife Mary and I had at Columbus, which turned out to be the largest poultry show ever held in the U.S.A. What a pleasure to finally meet in person Don Cable, with whom I had been working with for many years on the Ameraucana bantam and this club. Other club members and directors showing and/or attending included Jerry Segler from Illinois, John Wunderlich from Missouri, John Fugate from Tennessee, Dave Horman from Wisconsin, Ray Gwynes from Georgia, Frank Gary from New Jersey and Bill Holland from Idaho. New memberships from several other states were obtained at the show and these people were able to secure good breeding stock to take home and work with. All in all, Columbus will go down in club history as an unqualified success.

Let's do it again some day, with even more members and Ameraucanas. I can't close without congratulating the winners; my neighbor and friend Dave Horman has been breeding Ameraucanas about three years but this was his first major show. He came away with nothing less than Champion Ameraucana on a beautiful white pullet. Best Opposite Sex went to Don Cable's wheaten cock bird, a real dandy also. Reserve Champ however went to a silver pullet shown by Jack Fugate. If memory serves, best wheaten went to Don Cable's wheaten hen, the same one pictured in the Handbook and the new ABA Bantam Standard. Congratulations to Judge Corky Higbee for having an eye for a real winner. Other variety winners were brown-red to Jerry Segler and blue wheaten, black and blue to yours truly.

Happy Holidays to each of you and a happy and successful 1984. Make plans now to hatch and raise the next crop of winning Ameraucana bantams. Let us go forward with confidence now, for..."God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life." John 3:16 (NIV)

May God bless each of you and your efforts in the coming year.

Mike Gilbert

Membership renewals are due January 1. We hope you'll be with us again!

REPORT OF NATIONAL MEET - L.C. "Corky" Higbee, Judge

Frank L. Gary Memorial Award:

Champion Ameraucana Bantam - White ^{Hen} Pullet, Dave Horman
Best Opposite Sex - Wheaten Cock, Don Cable

ABC Club Awards:

Reserve Champion Ameraucana Bantam - Silver Pullet, John Fugate
Best Display, Ameraucana Bantams - Wheaten, Don Cable
Best Black - Pullet, Mike Gilbert
Best Blue - Pullet, Mike Gilbert
Best Blue Wheaten - Pullet, Mike Gilbert
Best Brown Red - Hen, Jerry Segler
Best Light Brown - Hen, Jerry Segler
Best Silver - Pullet, John Fugate
Best Wheaten - Hen, Don Cable
Best White - ^{Hen} Pullet, Dave Horman

John Wunderlich Color Award: Mike Gilbert and Dave Horman on Whites.

Glenda Heywood HHH Subscription for Largest Entry - Jerry Segler

BLACK: Segler 2-3-4h, 1bov, 2k, 2-3-4p, Gilbert 1h, 1bvp. BLUE: Gilbert 1bvp, 1rvh. BLUE WHEATEN: Gilbert 2c, 1h, 1rv, 3k, 1bv, 3-4p, Cable 1c, 2h, 2k, 2p. BROWN RED: Segler 1rvc, 1bv, 1k. LIGHT BROWN: Segler 1bv, 2h, 1rv, 2p. SILVER: Fugate 1rvh, 1bovk, 1rb, bvp, Cable 2h, 2k, 2p Segler 1c, 3j
WHEATEN: Cable 1bob, rvc, 1bv, 2h, 1k, 2-3p Gilbert 2c, 4h, 2k, 1p Segler 3h, 3k, 4p. WHITE: Horman 2h, 1bb, bvp. Gilbert 1c, 2-3h, 1k, 1p. Segler 2c, 4-5-6h, 2k, 3-4-5p. Wunderlich 5h, 3k, 6p. RV

Our National Meet in Columbus, Ohio last month, was the largest entry of Ameraucana bantams - 75 birds - ever displayed and is a tribute to those members who made that extra effort to set this record. We owe a special thanks to our Central Director, Jerry Segler, of Illinois, whose entry put us well over the top of the fifty-bird minimum that we were shooting for. Next time we get together we'll shoot for 100 birds!

FRANK L. GARY HONORED

By a unanimous vote of your Board of Directors, Frank L. Gary, one of our charter members, has been appointed as our first Honorary Vice-President and was presented with a plaque award of appreciation for service to the Ameraucana Bantam Club at the ABA General Meeting in Columbus. Mr. Gary, Chairman of the ABA Standard Committee has been responsible for editing and compiling all editions of Bantam Standard including the 6th and current edition, in which the Ameraucana bantam is the first described.

ABC MEETING REPORT

Columbus, Ohio
November 12, 1983

The meeting was called to order by President Mike Gilbert at 1:00 PM. Also in attendance were Secretary Don Cable, Central District Director Jerry Segler, Southern District Director John Fugate, and members Ray Gwynes and Dave Horman.

An informal treasurers report was given by Don Cable. The formal annual report to appear in the Winter Bulletin. Passed.

A proposal to provide Glenda Heywood with Handbooks for sale was discussed. Secretary Cable was directed to pursue the matter and report back to the Board of Directors.

Director Fugate proposed that Handbooks be made available to show secretaries and judges prior to ABC meets. Second by Segler, passed.

A proposal to develop a club logo was discussed. John Fugate was directed to pursue the matter and report back to the Board.

Motion to adjourn by Horman, second by Gwynes.

Respectfully submitted,



Don Cable, Secretary-Treasurer

FINANCIAL REPORT

Income: (12/9/82 - 12/6/83)

Balance brought forward ---	\$ 52.43	
Annual dues -----	\$ 230.00	
		\$282.43

Expenditures: (12/9/82 - 12/6/83)

Bulletin printing -----	\$ 68.00	
Advertising -----	\$ 37.50	
Awards -----	\$ 28.19	
Postage -----	\$ 107.29	
		\$240.98

Ending balance (12/6/83)		\$ 41.45
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WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

- Jones, Mrs. Charles Schaghticoke Fairgrounds, NY 12154
- Marcum, Olive 4557 Riggs Br. Prichard, W.VA 25555
- Pfeiffer, Ray RD#1, Box 409, West Sand Lake, NY 12196
- Riedel, Charles Rt. C4, Athens, TN 37303
- Shry, Heather 11683 Vickey Dr., Marysville, CA 95901
- Trent, Jeanne RR#1, Box 196H, Central Lake, MI 49622

ANOTHER LOOK AT WHEATEN

The Wheaten Ameraucana bantam class at the Ohio National Show was good by any measure and brought forth important examples of just where we are headed in the development of this popular variety. Although every bird placed reflected the uniformity of prerequisites necessary to be considered representative of the variety and in spite of the fact that they all had a common ancestry within this past decade, there was just enough variety in type, station and color to prove interesting and a subtle reflection of the breeders involved.

It is my opinion that females in this variety are well ahead of males in virtually every phase of development, yet males are frequently picked best of breed and/or variety due primarily I believe, to a lack of basic knowledge and understanding of our standard by judges. This is perhaps understandable due to the recent admission of the breed to Bantam Standard, and as time passes and more Ameraucanas are exhibited, judges will become more familiar with the breed and hopefully, the problem will correct itself. It is important then, that we exhibit our birds in order to increase exposure and thus understanding of the breed.

A fundamental problem lies in the description of wheaten desired in the Ameraucana bantam female as opposed to the wheaten color called for in other bantam breeds. Judging instructions in Bantam Standard indicate the wheaten variety females should be carefully checked and cut for light creamy top color in hackle, back, cushion and wing, whereas our standard would encourage light creamy top color in all of these sections except hackle. The wheaten Ameraucana bantam standard says, "Plumage: Refer to wheaten color description, except light creamy females which provide the greatest contrast between male and female are to be preferred." It is up to us to point out this major difference to judges before they handle the wheaten Ameraucana classes at our club meets.

Type and size in wheaten continues to improve in both sexes in spite of the fact that type seems to suffer in many of the smaller specimens. This is especially true of males who tend to gaminess, harder feather and a tendency to skimpy facial feathering as size is reduced. It is much easier to get a tiny, typey female with full beard and muffs. We want a tail on both male and female that is well spread with good feather width, so do not breed from narrow, whip-tailed females, nor those that carry their tails too high; we want 40° above horizontal.

Black in wings and tail can be elusive, particularly as birds age, so if your pullets lack this necessary color, you can be sure that they will not be any better in this respect as hens. However, this loss of pigment will vary from one individual to another so that soundness of color in these sections can be selected for. Unfortunately, those females with the soundest wing and tail color are frequently those with the darkest hackle color as well, so progress on both fronts becomes something of a standoff since wheaten, not chestnut is required in hackle.

The wheaten variety remains one of our most productive varieties with good blue shell color as well. Judicious use of blue wheaten as an outcross will not only help sustain this productivity, but will enhance quality and viability on both sides of this mating.

Finally, it is staying power that is the hallmark of the wheaten variety, again, particularly on the female side. While males typically shorten up in tail after their cockerel year, sometimes dramatically so, females are somehow less affected, often improving with age. The wheaten hen which illustrates both the Ameraucana Bantam Handbook and the 6th edition of Bantam Standard for example, will be five years old this spring.

Don Cable

UNDER THE MULBERRY TREE

Echoes of Columbus: In the twenty or more years that I have been breeding and exhibiting poultry, never have I had such a rewarding experience as that last month in Columbus at our National Meet. The highlight of the trip was finally meeting face to face with Mike Gilbert and that other group of characters, Jack Fugate, Jerry Segler, Dave Horman, Ray Gwynes and John Wunderlich, that make our club so rich and diverse, and to also finally meet and visit with Frank Gary. Mike Gilbert and I share a particularly unique relationship as this club has been something of a personal triumph that we have shared from the beginning that has built a lasting friendship based upon mutual trust and respect over what have been some very rough years. At any rate it was a milestone to finally meet Mike and his lovely wife, Mary... Jack Fugate and I go back to the mid-sixties when we both bred crested fowl and this old shagitz was delighted to at last greet my old friend face to fuzzy face... Jerry Segler and I got along famously and he is a real fun guy in spite of an advanced case of cabbage disease, although it didn't slow him down stacking wood... which leads us to that brute from the Northwoods, "Chainsaw" Horman, who sandbagged us into thinking he was a green exhibitor, then made off with the top award, AND kept us up all hours bragging ...it was a delight to meet Ray Gwynes, who is a true Southern gentleman and who I suspect, will become one of our better breeders in a hurry ... then too, it was rewarding to meet one of the great fanciers of our time, John Wunderlich, red rooster coat and all, who has so much to offer the club and the breed with his experience and finally, Mr. Bantam Standard, Frank L. Gary, who has been such a help to Mike and I in guiding the club and the breed- it was an honor to bestow on Frank a small tribute to his help over the years in becoming our first Honorary Vice-President. Well done, Frank!

As Mike has already indicated, the Ohio National was the largest poultry show ever held in the United States with some 10,400 entries by 717 exhibitors. Friendly Fred Jeffrey, a great gentleman, was holding down the ABA booth assisted by HHH Editor Glenda Heywood, whose voice (bless her heart) went out on her, and after twenty years as a subscriber, I finally had the pleasure to meet Bob DeLancey and wife Dotty, of Poultry Press, who has stuck by a great sense of fairness and published our news items in spite of some real brickbats over the years. Also I met Bill "Them Giants Got Class" Harris, donating his time and talent taking pictures of the winners and beneath all of that "Just plain folks" blarney, displays a keen mind and a heart big as all Gawgia.

In spite of all the fun, we did manage to get some important work done and I am happy to report that in addition to wheaten and white, the ABA now recognizes the black, blue, blue wheaten, brown red, buff and silver varieties of Ameraucana bantams as a result of our qualifying meet. This will be good news to those club members working with these new varieties and we owe a big thanks to the ABA for their sense of fair play, efficiency and dispatch in handling the qualifying meet.

All officers were re-elected in our recent club election and the proposal to amend the Bylaws passed handily and just in time to honor Frank Gary. Bernard Kellogg handled the ballots in his usual efficient manner and we owe him our thanks for another job well done.

C.L. Donaho had best and reserve Ameraucana at our first club meet in Texas, and Western District Director Marie "Yellow Ribbon" Rayher won our club rosette for Champion Ameraucana at the Western District meet, beating your secretary and young Steve Sargent, the Bantam King of Nevada County. Finally, MERRY CHRISTMAS and a great NEW YEAR to you all!