

## Fifty Years — United States Open Brittany Championship Celebrates Half a Century

By DAVID A. FLETCHER

**T**HE United States Open Brittany Championship celebrated its 50th anniversary renewal March 5, 2012 over courses at Lake Murray State Park, near Ardmore, Oklahoma. It was a proud occasion for the United States Brittany Championship Association, the culmination of a half-century of planning, hard work, and an annual statement of the fulfillment of the standards of performance established by this group 50 years ago. It has been a great journey, innovating a new scheme for the Brittany field trial dogs of the day in 1963, something that would change the breed insofar as field trial performance. It is scribe's task to not only tell this story but to bring an insight into how things were in the mid-1960s Brittany field trial world and how things changed during ensuing 50 years.

For the 50th running, 29 Brittans were in the starting field judged by Rick Smith and Al Gorrow, two of the most experienced Brittany field trial personalities available for this judicial role.

As it has been for 50 years, the qualifying series was one-hour in length as was the final series. The 2012 winner was Shadow Attack, Brittany male sired by 43-time winner Shambo's Dark Shadow, which also won this Championship twice (2002 and 2006), out of the dam The Prairie Tornado, whose sire is Tequila's Joker, also a U. S. Open Champion (1997). Tack is owned by Phil Dangerfield of Atlanta, Georgia and was handled by Ed Tillson to a very worthy performance highlighted by two finds.

The inaugural United States Open Brittany Championship was held February 23, 1963 over courses at Lake Murray, where it has been held consecutively for 50 years.

There were 26 Brittans in that starting field and the championship title was won by Way Kan Jill, female owned by R. B. Leverich of Pampa, Texas, and handled by Delmar Smith. Runner-up was Jeffrey D'Or, male owned by Ted Kellogg of Arvado, Colorado and handled by Ralph Hesseltine.

The winners were braced together in the eight-dog callback series. Both ran and hunted extremely well, found, pointed and handled wild quail perfectly and backed when the situation demanded. A new chapter in North American Brittany field trials had arrived. Handlers, and a sizeable gallery for the first time enjoying the one-hour performances from horseback. Judges were Dr. Dean M. Grewell of Billings, Montana and Earl Jackson of Lawton, Oklahoma.

As an additional accompaniment to the Championship was establishment of the Victoire Nationale Derby Classic, in 1974, the only one-hour Brittany Derby stake in existence. It is and has been a great window through which to look at the young dogs coming into field trial competition seeking to fulfill the U. S. Open standards. The stake was held as a classic until 2005, when it received Derby Championship status.

Scribe was fortunate to be judge and reporter for the 1974 renewal when the Derby Classic had its inaugural running. Winner was Senator TJ, owned by T. D. Belfield, handled by Terry Cleary. Runner-up was Way Kan Taffy, owned by Gerald Price, handled by Lyle Johnson.

**B**ACK in 1963, The Beatles were on tour, and two of the world's best basketball players — Michael Jordan and Charles Barkley — were born. Noted American poet Robert Frost

and country singer Patsy Cline died. And that fateful November 23, 1963 saw the assassination of President John F. Kennedy in Dallas.

On a lighter note, cost of a gallon of regular gasoline was 30 cents; a gallon of milk, 49 cents, a dozen eggs, 55 cents. First class postage was at 4 cents.

In the Brittany field trial world the majority of trials were one-course with liberated birds on areas that could not sustain adequate populations of wild birds. Brittany trials then featured walking handlers. There were few, if any, one-hour stakes, and the venues usually consisted of a backcourse and a birdfield.

In 1963 the American Brittany Club consisted of sixty regional clubs which sponsored some 100 field trials. In place also was the ABC National Championship and under the auspices of *THE AMERICAN FIELD*, the Brittany Grouse Championship, but the tenure of the latter was short lived.

The ABC National Championship was held at the Crab Orchard Wildlife Refuge near Carbondale in Southern Illinois. The terrain and cover were wonderfully suitable for bird dog field trials but problems plagued the site and the event. Crab Orchard was basically a Canada goose refuge. It had many marshy areas and lakes; the spacious farmland portions were planted mainly to goose feed crops and huge flocks of geese rose almost continually as the field trial dogs, handlers and gallery came through the course routes. Deer were plentiful.

The Area had a decent population of wild bobwhite quail; the ABC National Amateur, Futurity and National Open Championships in that era had a total entry most years in excess of 150 dogs and the program lasted well beyond a week. Quail were walking and feeding on the edges early in the National program but by the middle and end of the running were pushed back to the deep hidden coverts. The host clubs using the Crab Orchard venue resorted to liberating quail in the early 1960s to supplement the native bobwhite population.

In preparing this article, scribe took advantage of the library at the Bird Dog Foundation in Grand Junction, Tennessee where Executive Director David Smith and his staff made copies for me of the 1961, '62 and '63 reports from the ABC Magazine of those three renewals of the AKC Brittany National Championship, National Amateur and the Futurity. [All this information is available in the William F. Brown Memorial Library at Grand Junction through the generosity and hard work of the late Lloyd and Ella Conable and the late Jim and Janet Chase, and others.]

There was no byline for the Brittany National report in 1961, but the correspondent appeared to be Dr. Fred Z. White of Chillicothe, Illinois, editor of the ABC Magazine.

From a subsequent 1963 report and from an editorial, presumably by Dr. White, in that same issue, the January, 1962 running of the the National Championship stake, as a whole, "did not seem to offer the class that many hoped for. Few dogs held up well for the full hour — many sagged very noticeably at 40 and 45 minutes. Bird contact was at a minimum.

"The Amateur Stake was run first, birds present and plentiful. Birds at the beginning of the trial are along the edges, where they should be. They are moved the first day, and the second, so they go in a little deeper. As a result, by the time the Championship Stake comes along, they

are spooky and buried in as deeply as they can. The dogs for the Championship Stake have been running all year in 30-minute stakes and are not conditioned well for an hour stake. The overall result is that the Championship Stake does not appear to be a truly high calibre stake."

Dr. White then offered: "The conclusion then would be to split the stakes, Futurity to another location. The Amateur and Championship stake go together — all-age dogs, with the same abilities and potential, so they should be able to run as well on the same ground. It is most important, I feel, that the Championship stake should be run first."

The late fine reporter and field trial judge H. O. "Oggie" Price of Ohio was reporter and judge for the 1962 Brittany Nationals paired with James V. Carter of Marion, Indiana. His report was excellent. He listed the officers of the American Brittany Club as follows. President was Henry Hollyoak of Wayne, Michigan, Vice-Presidents Carleton Lephart of Allamont, New York, Richard Culbert of Sioux Falls, South Dakota, and Bert Heinz of Redmond, Washington. James W. Freeman of Ann Arbor, Michigan was secretary.

In what appeared to be another editorial, again presumably from the pen of Dr. Fred White, he notes: "Dr. Busted (in his talk on genetics) pointed out the need for better stewardship of the Brittany heritage. In quantity there are more Brittans today; in quality they are no better (some would even say not as good) as the best Britts of 10 or 15 years ago."

Judge John Hoover also spoke. "Rome was not built in a day, nor can better Brittans be built overnight, but if the rapt audience that heard Dr. Busted is any indication, Brittany breeders will strive to do better by the breed."

**R**ANDOM ideas to improve Brittany trials in general and especially the ABC Nationals were also expressed. For the Championship stake it was suggested that a half-hour qualifying heat for all entrants be initiated, and then a second series of one hour for selected participants (minimum of eight dogs) named by the judges, who also would then be asked to name only a champion, with the naming of a runner-up at their discretion.

The 1963 report was written by Mike Benton, an experienced field trial personality. "Going back over notes taken during the running," he wrote, "plus conferring with the judges after the trial, it appears that lack of stamina exists among the Brittany, nationwide.

"A few handlers picked up their dogs the first 40 minutes realizing they were beaten and chose not to show them at their worst. Others left them down, just to finish the course because they were not close enough to the dog wagon. Many handlers with a good first 30 minutes, maybe a find or two, tried desperately to push their tired, hunted-out dogs through the last 30 minutes, hoping for a place. If this had been a 30-minute trial, the judges would have had a difficult time choosing the winners . . ."

It is apparent that the Brittany field trial world in 1963 was ready for change, and that change would most certainly demand improvement in the breeding of future generations of field trial Brittans, with concentration on increasing stamina and endurance of the competing dogs up to perhaps beyond one-hour stakes.

Many of the Brittans of the day were not overly athletic, their gaits were short and choppy and lung capacity seemed inadequate when

often, after the 30-minute mark, they were huffing and puffing and slowing down.

The stage was set for someone to take the lead and change the Brittany field trial world.

Up stepped a homerun hitter in the person of Delmar Smith, professional trainer from Edmond, Oklahoma. Delmar had been a dog and horse trainer since he was a boy, involved with field trial dogs at a young age, attending renewals of the American Field Quail Futurity in the late 1920 and early '30s when held at Vinita, Oklahoma near his home in Big Cabin nearby.

The Smith family had several among its members that trained bird dogs. Delmar's father-in-law Dutch Epperson and his brother-in-law Bud

Epperson from Stillwater were already in the business. Delmar's brother Ronnie trained dogs, and Delmar's sons Rick and Tom and nephew Ronnie Smith, Jr. are today involved with bird dog training

Delmar not only trained Brittneys, which became his main focus, he began with all breeds, used horses to train pointers and setters and other breeds in prairie situations, taking his string to the Canadian prairies for many years.

It was apparent to Delmar that many of the field trial pointers and setters he trained were bigger, stronger and considerably more athletic than basically his Brittany charges were. They had been bred that way — to run big, hunt for birds and have fire left at the end of an hour or perhaps two or three-hour sessions.

Over many years, Delmar and I talked at length about dog performances on the prairie, stamina, handling and bird-finding, aspects he was judging and I was writing about for *The American Field*. We met at the Border International Chicken Championship at Frobisher Saskatchewan in September, 1964. That Championship and accompanying stakes on wide open prairie lasted fourteen days and was the biggest trial ever of its kind in field trial history, at least to that date. Delmar judged with Mack McGrady from Florida; I was reporter.

The Brittany situation in 1963 was handlers restricted to handling from foot; an evident lack of stamina, lack of strong performance in hour stakes, and a general lack athletic ability in many contenders.

Trials were primarily one-course — back-course and birdfield, liberated birds, 30-minute heats. Delmar Smith, with great vision, perhaps ahead of his time, began the process of changing things for the Brittany field trial dog.

Delmar won his first ABC Brittany National Championship in 1955, a foot-handling stake, with Towsey, perhaps the most revered Brittany of that era. He repeated with Towsey in 1957 and '59 and added a runner-up in 1960. He won it with Holliday Britt in 1960.

Delmar handled Bazooka's Brandy to the title in 1966. He was a front row witness to foot handling, one-course, liberated bird trials, most



DELMAR SMITH

UNITED STATES BRITTANY CHAMPIONSHIP WINNERS

Year	Winner/Runner-up	Owner(s)	Judges	Handler
1963	Wr.- WAY KAN JILL, F R-U - Jeffrey D'Or, M	Jim Leverich Ted Kellogg	Dr. Dean Grewell/Earl Jackson	Delmar Smith Ralph Hesselstine
1964	Wr - BILL'S BUDDY BOY, M	Dan Huddleston	Dr. Dean Grewell/Earl Jackson	Delmar Smith
1965	Wr - Britt's Bazooka, M R-U - Rusty Buck, M	Al Pillow G.B. Maloney	Earl Jackson/Star Taylor	Delmar Smith Lyle Johnson
1966	Wr - Way Kan Jill, F R-U - Britt's Bazooka, M	Jim Leverich Al Pillow	Earl Jackson/Hank Havens	Delmar Smith Delmar Smith
1967	Wr - Way Kan Mandy, F	Harold Miller	John Munson/Hank Havens	Lyle Johnson
1968	Wr - Bazooka's Brandy, M R-U - Rendezvous Gus, M	Dan Huddleston L.D. LaFleur	Donald Bodiford/Dr. D.E. Hawthorne	Delmar Smith Lee Holman
1969	Wr - Gringo De Britt, M R-U - Juchoir's Choctaw, M	Dr. Tim Poling Bo Guest	Harvey Butler/Herm David	Dr. Tim Poling Ed Wild
1970	Wr - PACOLET'S CHEYENNE SAM, M  R-U - Gideon of Richmond, M	Ken & Erin Jacobson  C.R. Nester, Jr.	E.B. Epperson/Truman F. Cowles Truman F. Cowles	Rick Smith  Ed Wild
1971	Wr - Gundy, M Dr. C.T. Young	Bob Danley/Elmer E. Pillers	Dr. C.T. Young	
1972	Wr - S'no Fun Mack, M R-U - Goldtone's Duke, M	Dr. Walker Heap Dr. George Pester	E.B. Epperson/Dr. Adolph Utzinger	Rick Smith Loyd Budd
1973	Wr - Ban Dee, M R-U - Boy's Agate, M	Wayne Oliver Marc Appleton	Eugene E. Brown/B. Joe McCrary	Loyd Budd Loyd Budd
1974	Wr - JACOLET'S WANDERING STAR, F  R-U - Augustus of Rivers, M	Paul D. Hinch  James White	Eugene E. Brown/David A. Fletcher B. Joe McCrary	Rick Smith Jim Holman
1975	Wr - Ringo De Britt, M R-U - C.Killam's Sergeant Mike, M	Paul D. Hinch E.E. Zamrzla	David A. Fletcher/Charles Royal	Rick Smith E. E. Zamrzla
1976	Wr - Perry's Rustic Prince, M R-U - Sandhill's Ginger Snap, F	Lester May Dr. L.C. Kelley	Eugene E. Brown/Elmer E. Pillers	Rick Smith Loyd Budd
1977	Wr - Red River Lady, F  R-U - Augustus of Rivers, M	Doyle Bradford  Paul D. Hinch	Robert D. Danley/Harold D. Davis Elmer E. Pillers	Marc Appleton Rick Smith
1978	Wr - JACOLET'S WANDERING STAR, F R-U - Ran Bo's Royal Rebecca, F	Paul D. Hinch Rex Tackett	Harold D. Davis/Joe J. Knittel	Rick Smith Lewey McCrea
1979	Wr - JACOLET'S WANDERING STAR, F R-U - Harley De Brett, M	Paul Hinch R. L. Tiedeman	Francis J. Clasen/Ken Jacobson	Rick Smith Rosco Staton
1980	Wr - Bayou's Lonesome Sue, F R-U - Ran Bo's Royal Rebecca, F	John McConnell Lester May	Charley Chalk/E. C. West	Marc Appleton Lewey McCrea
1981	Wr - Tall Oaks Bandolero, M R-U - Tinker's Princess Jenny, F	John McConnell Ray Walton	Bill Banister/Charley Chalk	Marc Appleton Lyle Johnson
1982	Wr - Tall Oaks Bandolero, M R-U - Dee's Cee Jay Stalkmoor, M	John McConnell Bill Tiedeman	Darrell Gaynor/Dr. Tim Poling	Marc Appleton J.C. Fields
1983	Wr - First Place Jake, M R-U - F n S Count Geoffrey, M	Ron Curtis Sue Hansen	Harold Davis/D.F. Hopson	J.C. Fields Marc Appleton
1984	Wr - LaJean's Johnnie of Connie, M R-U - F & S Count Geoffrey, M	Jim Chase Sue Hansen	Bill Norvell/Leon Wilcox	Jim Holman Marc Appleton
1985	Wr - Home Acres Risk, M R-U - Moore's Country Sunshine, F	Bob & Barbara Youngs Don Moore	Jerry Fugitt/Gary Purdy	Loyd Budd Al Gorrow
1986	Wr - Minnehaha's Tammy, F R-U - Markar's Jac's A Dan D, M	Dr. Robert Rankin Robert Weisz	Darrell Gaynor/Warren Montgomery	Lyle Johnson Jim Holman
1987	Wr - Minnehaha's Tammy, F R-U - Royal Britt Starbuck of Auten, M	Dr. Robert Rankin Al & Sharon Van Wieren	Chuck Alf/Jack Hires Lyle Johnson	Lyle Johnson Jim Holman
1988	Wr - Country Cousin Contender, M R-U - Markar's Jac's A Dan D, M	Gary & Lou Ann Holland Robert Weisz	Bill Klenner/Fred Smith	Jim Holman Jim Holman
1989	Wr - TYOGA'S TEDDY BEAR, M	Bill & Rheta Cartmell	Lee Marten/Bob Rohner	Loyd Budd
1990	Wr - The Magic Moment, M R-U - Rimarda's Gambler, M	Don Young Hugh Wilson	Ron Doering/Scott Rennick	Jim Holman Jim Holman
1991	Wr - JAKE'S SONOFA GUNRUNNER, M	Jake & JoJo Schroder	Larry Clark/Jim Hoyer	Jake Schroder
1992	Wr - Blaze and Lobo's Evil Roy, M R-U - Tyoga's Teddy Bear, M	George Allison Bill & Rheta Cartmell	Larry Clark/Rex Tackett	Vic Carrington Loyd Budd
1993	Wr - Bonine Lucky Bandit, M R-U - Microdot, M	Herb Rea Bill Oliver	Bill Cartmell/Rick Smith	Jim John Lyle Johnson
1994	Wr - A Bunch of Butch, M R-U - BLAZE AND LOBO'S EVIL ROY, M	Jack Murphy George Allison	Allen Vincent/Ronnie Smith	Jim John Vic Carrington
1995	Wr - JIM DE BOB'S SUPER STAR, F R-U - Tumbleweeds Texas Return, M	Roy Hines Cheryl Carrington	Hugo Ford/Rick Smith	Jim John Vic Carrington
1996	Wr - Jim De Bob's Sparks A Dan D, M R-U - Tequila's Joker, M	Bernie Crain Ed & Judy Tillson	Hugo Ford/Robert Reynolds	Jim John Jim John
1997	Wr - Tequila's Joker, M R-U - Spring Valley Bandit, M	Ed & Judy Tillson Tom & Linda Milam	Roy Pelton/Ronnie Smith	Jim John Marc Appleton
1998	Wr - A Bunch of Butch, M R-U - Jim De Bob's Super Starr, F	Jack Murphy Joleen Kovaly	Devin Inglove/Ronnie Smith	Jack Murphy Rosco Staton
1999	Wr - The Time Machine, M R-U - Euchee Rocky, M	Tony Vescoso Glynn McCauley	Harold Ellis/Rosco Staton	Chad Holman Loyd Budd
2000	Wr - Poki Dot, F R-U - Tequila's Joker, M	Jim & Meam Floyd Ed Tillson	James Doherty/Harold Ellis	Lyle Johnson Jim John
2001	Wr - Blaze Dakota Trucker, M R-U - Shambo's Dark Shadow, M	Randy Walth Phillip Dangerfield	Larry Cox/Keith Johnson	Rob Rohner Jim John
2002	Wr - Shambo's Dark Shadow, M R-U - Locar's Double or Nothing, M	Phillip Dangerfield Russell Handy	Larry Cox/Jim Pratt	Jim John Tom Tracy, Jr.
2003	Wr - Tejas Iron Mike, M  R-U - Blaze Dakota Trucker, M	A.B. Green  Randy Walth	Harold Brown/Tom Graves/ Preston Trimble	Vic Carrington Rob Rohner
2004	Wr - Make My Day Dude, M R-U - Suka's Win Mini, F	Ed Tillson D.A. & Joyce Lincoln	Tim Hildalgo/Ronnie Sale	Ed Tillson Scott Johnson
2005	Wr - TEJAS IRON MIKE, M  R-U - SHAMBO'S DARK SHADOW, M	T.W. Graves  C.B. Crain	Garvin Collins/A.B. Green/ Tim Hildalgo	Vic Carrington Jim John
2006	Wr - Shambo's Dark Shadow, M R-U - Bouncin Betty, F	C.B. Crain Bill Burton	Garvin Collins/Larry Loftin	Jim John Al Gorrow
2007	Wr - Tequila Jack, M  R-U - Gunrunner's Lady's Man, M	Dr. Robert Rankin  Norm Ahl	Charlie Barbaree/ Ed Tillson/ Stan Truksa	Jim John Jim Berneathy
2008	Wr - MAXWELL'S BLEW BY YOU, M R-U - Tequila With A Twist, F	Terry Maxwell Jessica Carlson	Gary Cowell/Dennis Hidalgo	Terry Maxwell Ed Tillson
2009	Wr - Jo Lockapex Dark Roux Gumbo, M R-U - T J's Thunder, M	Dave Lincoln Dr. Robert Rankin	Tim Hildalgo/Tom Hudson	Dave Lincoln Dr. Robert Rankin
2010	Wr - Wimberley Jimdandy, M R-U - T J's Prairie Blizzard, M	Ginger & John Gay Vicki Rankin	Garvin Collins/Dr. Gary Cowell	Scott Johnson Ed Tillson
2011	Wr - Grand Junction Jake, M R-U - T J's Prairie Blizzard, M	Richard & Carol Pulliam Vicki Rankin	Keith Hickam/ Wes Felt	Chad Holman Ed Tillson
2012	Wr - SHADOW ATTACK, M	Phil Dangerfield	Al Gorrow/Rick Smith	Ed Tillson

with a backcourse and a birdfield. He saw the shortcomings of the breed in terms of athletic ability, short, choppy gaits, lack of stamina and proper lung function and capacity in longer heats.

The United States Open Brittany Championship was the brainchild of Delmar Smith. Delmar pulled together a group of Brittany field trial personalities, (Delmar related most of them were his customers) and laid out the plans for a new championship trial. Involved from the beginning were Dan Huddleston, president; Delmar Smith, secretary. Directors included: Leroy Faulkner, Joe McCreary, Jim Leverich and John Doak a bit later when he moved to Oklahoma.

What did they want for their new Championship? They wanted a one-hour qualifying series followed by a callback with a minimum of dogs for a one-hour finals series. They wanted horseback handling; they wanted wild birds.

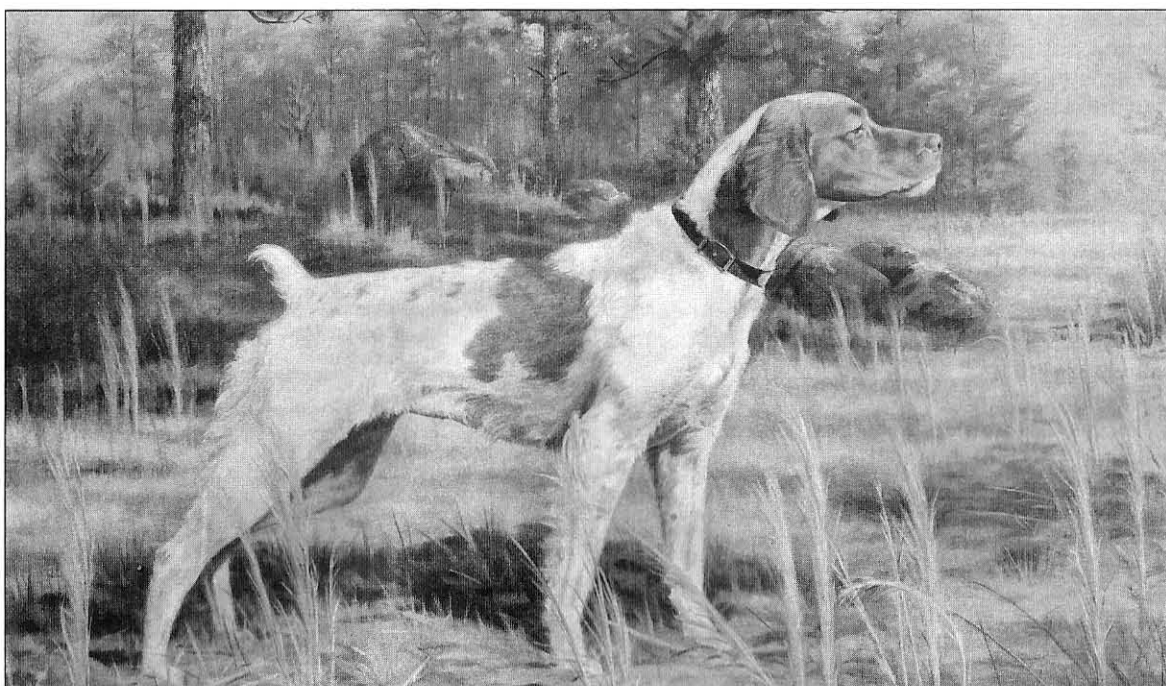
They wanted an emphasis on intelligence and intense desire to find birds, proper location of coveys or singles, a proper back of brace mate when called for, proper manners at flush, strong hunting and the stamina and determination to finish the hour hunting strongly.

They wanted to establish a stake that would get nationwide recognition and have the winners used in breeding programs to improve the shortcomings of the breed. They wanted the field trial Brittany to be more athletic, to eliminate that short, choppy gait from some bloodlines, by breeding and developing dogs with better gaits, better lungs and breathing, and above all to produce a wonderful one-hour dog with all the right qualities.

As Delmar said his colloquial "Okie": "The Brittany gaits were short and choppy. The dogs huffed and puffed beyond the 30-minute mark . . . we had to breed them up."

How were they prepared to get there? What steps would they take? This group of visionaries set about their task.

**T**HE United States Open Brittany Championship was patterned after the National Field Trial Club's Free-for-All Championship, a creation of A. G. C. Sage of Alberta, Alabama. Mr. Sage established his



#### JACOLET'S WANDERING STAR

Three-Time Winner of the United States Brittany Championship

Sedgefields Plantation near Safford, Alabama near the turn of the century. He hired Clyde Morton as his trainer to train and compete with his pointers; they (Sage and Morton) won with dogs such as Ariel, Luminary and Paladin, and many, many more. Mr. Sage was a regular entrant in the National Championship over the Ames Plantation at Grand Junction, Tennessee. He competed there and won there but he was never happy about some parts of the format of that trial. The entrants in the National Championship had to qualify to get there but the quality of the qualifying trials was not as good as it is today. He was moved in 1912 to begin a new trial which he entitled the Free-for-All. Your scribe was fortunate enough to be the reporter of the Free-for-All for thirteen years.

The Free-for-All was established for almost the same reasons as the United States Open Brittany Championship. The field trial dogs of the day prior to 1912 were not as athletic as they could have been to hunt winter covers for three hours; they needed improvement in their breeding. There were no qualifying placement requirements for the Free-for-All. Entrants performed in a one-hour qualifying series in which they displayed their abilities but did not have to point birds or be under judgment at the finish to be called back for the three-hour finals. They did have to show great desire and determination in their hunting and above all look decidedly like they could go three hours stamina wise. No dog was ever out of contention from the first series. If judges were not satisfied with the callbacks for three hours they would call back more dogs from the first series to go three hours or re-run named qualifiers a second time. It was a unique championship and is still one of the great events on today's yearly field trial calendar.

The U. S. Open Brittany standards are almost identi-

cal with those of the Free-for-All, with the exception of the final series being one-hour rather than three.

How was the U. S. Brittany Championship successful in establishing an event with a Championship title? A trip to the AMERICAN FIELD offices at 222 West Adams in Chicago was made by Delmar Smith to make his proposal for the U. S. Open, including how it would be structured, and editor William F. Brown was entirely receptive to the proposal and the Championship was granted.

The American Field approved horseback handling which the American Kennel Club had not in a previous meeting. That meeting was also spearheaded by Delmar Smith who sat with the AKC and American Brittany Club officials and made his pitch for a two-series stake with horseback handling. There was a hitch. Aside from Henry Holleyoak of Michigan there was no one among that group that had ever been to a pointing dog field trial or knew anything about what happened at one. Delmar Smith's proposal was turned down, and Delmar turned to the American Field.

**A**S the years passed, the United States Open Brittany Championship grew and prospered. The dogs and bloodlines that won there were heavily used by Brittany breeders, and Delmar's "breeding up", and the notation that it was a "breeders' stake" was unfolding.

Many others stepped up to guide this wonderful trial. Dr. C. T. Young, an Oklahoma City dentist, became president and later secretary in the early 1960s. Dub Emde, a resident of Ardmore, was "keeper of the grounds" for many years and put in a great amount of work.

John Doak became president in the mid-1970s, followed by Doyle Bradford. Also stepping up in the 1970s was Dr. John Webb who has served as president, secretary, marshal, reporter and now, in his eighties, drives a mean dog wagon. Wife Judy has also filled important roles, especially as a writer and reporter. Dr. Robert Rankin of Oklahoma City has also served a long (20 or more years) term as president, secretary, marshal and reporter. Other secretaries of the U. S. Open were Don Norris, Joe McCrary, Barbara Wade and Mary Karbiner, who has also done a major share of the reporting in recent seasons.



Rick Smith with Sno Fun Mack, Paolet's Wandering Star and Bazooka's Brandy.

Directors who were not mentioned in other offices include Joan McCrary, Cy Springfield, Star Taylor, Marc Appleton, Bill and Rheta Cartmell, Luther Bell, Paul Hinch, Ken Jacobsen, Bill Norvell, Wayne Oliver, Tim Poling, Rick and Deb Smith, Robert and Carol Storez, Leon and Evelyn York, Ike Zamrzla, D. W. and Ethel Dawson, H. M. Holtzhoff, Lloyd and Billie Manck, Loyd Budd, John and M. E. Mercer, Martin Riphahn, Jerry and Julie Hoffman, Jim Askins, Joe Epperly, Al Gorrow, Francis Clasen, David Ayres, Charlie and Doris Johnson, David and Joyce Lincoln, Bob Weisz, Jake and Jo Jo Schroder, and Tom and Linda Milam. Other directors in recent seasons have been Rick Smith, Ronnie Smith, Delmar Smith, Ed Tillson and Scott Johnson.

It would be impossible, in terms of space, to write about performances from the starting field, the performance features of the winners and those that challenged for placements but included is a roster showing all of the winners and, when named, runners-up for the complete 50 years.

What I would like to include with here is a list of all the dogs that have been multiple winners (winners and/or runners-up) in this Championship, especially if they have also been the sire or dam of subsequent winners or are a son or daughter of a previous winner.

**WAY KAN JILL** won the U. S. Open Brittany Championship in 1963 and again in 1966. She had an impressive win record in field trials, some against pointers and setters. As a brood matron Jill produced twenty field trial winners, her most notable being Bazooka's Brandy, winner of the 1968 U. S. Open Brittany Championship. Jill's owner was Jim Leverich and her handler Delmar Smith.

Britt's Bazooka, 1965 U. S. Open winner, was also runner-up in 1966. His sire, Holiday Britt, won the ABC National Championship. He also sired of Bazooka's Brandy, the 1968 U. S. Open winner, and Gundy, the 1971 winner. He sired 59 field winners. Owner was Al Pillow, handler Delmar Smith.

Bazooka's Brandy won the U. S. Open in 1968. His sire, Britt's Bazooka, and dam, Way

Kan Jill, both won this Championship. He sired 32 field trial winners, including the notable winners and producers Brandy's Bullet and Scipio Spinks. Owner was Dan Huddleston, handler Delmar Smith.

Pacolet's Cheyenne Sam won the U. S. Open Brittany title in 1970. He was the epitome of a big running Britt that would handle and find birds. He went a long way in fulfilling all the things the U. S. Open was created for. Amazingly he won the three-hour International Endurance Championship (1973), a great event that this scribe judged and reported on two occasions. Sam also won the 1970 AKC National Championship and two other American Field Brittany Championships as well.

He was bred to 23 different bitches, siring 60 field winners, including Jacolet's Wandering Star and Red River Lady, both winners of the U. S. Open. Star's owner was Ken and Erin Jacobsen, handler Rick Smith.

Ban Dee had the distinction of winning the AKC National Championship twice and the U. S. Open in 1973. He was the sire of many winners including Tall Oaks Bandolero which won the U. S. Open twice, 1981 and 1982, and F and S Count Geoffrey, the runner-up in 1983 and 1984. Ban Dee sired 148 winners, 35 field champions from 61 different females and his first four winners were from Princess De Sandra, including The Real Thing, sire of Rimarda's Trademark, a great competitor and producer in his own right. Ban Dee's owner was Wayne Oliver, handler was Loyd Budd.

Jacolet's Wandering Star won the U. S. Open Championship a remarkable three times — 1974, 1978 and 1979. She was everything the U. S. Open was created to produce. She had the fire, the range, the bird-finding and handling abilities and an hour was a breeze for this wonderful female. I was fortunate to be one of the judges and reporter in 1974 when she impressively captured her first U. S. Open Championship title. She won ten *Field Dog Stud Book* recognized championships and two runner-up titles during her field trial career. Star was owned by Paul D. Hinch and handled by Rick Smith.

Perry's Rustic Prince won the U. S. Open in 1976 and was also winner of both the AKC National Championship and the National Amateur Championship. He won seven *Field Dog Stud Book* recognized championships and sired 85 field winners from 54 different dams. Prince was owned by Lester May, handled by Rick Smith.

Bayou's Lonseome Sue won the U. S. Open crown in 1980, the first dog to win this title while of Derby age. She also won the companion Victoire Derby Classic as a puppy. Sue was owned by John McConnell, handled by Marc Appleton.

Two-time winner Tall Oaks Bandolero was named U. S. Open Champion in 1981 and 1982. His sire Ban Dee also won the U. S. Open. He had seven hour wins, and produced six field champions. Owned by John McConnell, the dog was handled by Marc Appleton.

Minnehaha's Tammy, owned by Dr. Bob Rankin, who had a twenty plus year term as president and oft' times reporter of the U. S. Open, won the U. S. Open Brittany Championship in 1986 and 1987. Tammy was handled by Lyle Johnson. F and S Count Geoffrey was a two-time runner-up in the U. S. Open — 1983 and 1984. The Count was a grandson of Ban Dee, the 1973 U. S. Open champ. Owner was Sue Hansen, handler Marc Appleton.

Tyoga Teddy Bear won the U. S. in 1989 and was runner-up in 1992. Owned by Bill and Rheta Cartmell, Teddy Bear was also the winner of two hour classics and the one-hour International Brittany Championship. Teddy Bear was handled by Loyd Budd.

Markar's Jac's A'Dan D, handled by Jim Holman, was runner-up in the U. S. Open in 1986 and '88, and was owned by Bob Weisz of Oswego, Illinois. Tequila's Joker won the stake in 1997 and was runner-up in 2000. Joker was bred by his owner and his bloodlines go back to two previous U. S. Open winners — Ban Dee and Gringo De Britt. Joker was owned by Ed and Judy Tillson and handled by Jim John.

Shambo's Dark Shadow was in the winners' circle, named four times, as champion in 2002 and 2006 and runner-up in 2002 and 2005. Shadow was owned originally by Philip Dangerfield and later Bernie Crain, and amassed 43 placements, including winner of the AKC National in 2002. Shadow was handled by Jim John.

T J's Prairie Blizzard earned runner-up twice in the U. S. Open — 2010 and 2011. Owned by Vicki Rankin, Blizzard was handled by Ed Tillson. His bloodlines trace to U. S. Open Champion and runner-up Tequila's Joker.

Several handlers earned premier laurels at the U. S. Open.

Jim John is the leader among handlers with 10 placements in the U. S. Open, followed by Marc Appleton and Rick Smith with seven each. Jim Holman, Lyle Johnson and Delmar Smith each have six; Ed Tillson and Loyd Budd each have 5; Vic Carrington, 4, and Chad Holman, Ed Wild and J. C. Fields two each.

The establishment of the U.S. Open Brittany Championship in 1963 was a landmark event. It has perhaps done more to influence the performance of the field trial Brittany than any other factor in the breed's history.

Those who had the vision to create this Championship and stage it for 50 years, never wavering from the grand design to improve the Brittany, are to be highly commended.

May the future always be bright and rewarding for this Championship created by these visionaries.



1970 United States Brittany Championship Winners. Kneeling at left: Dr. Claude Young, club president. Pacolet Cheyenne Sam with Rick Smith, Gideon of Richmond with Ed Wild. Standing: Judges E. B. Epperson, Dr. Adolph Utzinger with Buddington Prince Perpetual Trophy, and Truman F. Cowles.