

Dec. 5, 1970

# Permian Trials

By HENRY HAVENS

THE Permian Bird Dog and Sportsman's Club of Big Spring, Tex., successfully held its five-stake trial on October 25-28 over the superlative quail country courses of the W. T. Martin ranch about thirty miles north of Sweetwater, Tex.

This ranch is located in what is called the high plains, an area that is about 3,000 feet in elevation—in some places it goes up to 4,000—and runs generally north-south from west Texas up through western Oklahoma and the panhandle of both states. This is great quail country, make no mistake about that, but it is also rugged country. The average annual rainfall is very small, grass is very short and cover is sparse, the humidity probably averages a dry 20% and this makes scenting difficult. Birds run a lot and are far tougher than they are in good cover conditions. Many young dogs simply come unwound when they keep seeing large beavies running on bare ground. However, most Oklahoma-Texas based professionals have arrangements whereby they can work some out here each year. These trainers will tell you that if a young dog can learn to handle these quail and look good running this country, he'll look good anywhere. Almost every bush will either prick or cut, cat-claw thickets will bloody the legs of horses and dogs, there is a generous supply of cactus and prickly pear, sandburs are thick in most places and a dog has to be booted, and pulling the boots through thickets and deep sand takes a lot out of a dog. Body water evaporation is rapid, and handlers must carry a number of canteens and be able to recognize the danger signs of dehydration.

The Martin ranch covers around eight sections, is rolling country with a few long rocky ridges, a few long shallow draws and one little dry creek bed with some pretty good cover along the banks. Club members have laid out twelve thirty-minute courses and six one-hour courses that are very nearly equal in terrain, cover and game population. Almost all the mesquite has been root plowed and most of the ranch has been terraced. All this plowing has greatly stimulated and improved weed growth and it seems certain weed seed is the primary source of quail feed here.

Most of the game population is bob-white, with perhaps 20% consisting of blue quail. The Blues are far more difficult to handle than the bobs, but both can be very trying at times. Jim Pearson, besides performing many other duties so well, served as head of the game tabulation. Saturday, 67 beavies were totaled. On Sunday, which was our most pleasant day afield, 103 beavies were counted. Monday was hot, with the temperature above 80°, no wind, and the count fell to 55 beavies. Tuesday was cold, cloudy and windy, and the count was 61 beavies. These tabulations included all beavies that were pointed, ridden up or just seen to flush. At one time, while changing braces Saturday morning, seven beavies were seen to flush within the space of a couple of minutes.

Bill Mathis of Midland, Tex., is the very capable president. The Club is particularly fortunate in having a man of his enthusiastic and talented leadership. Peggy Smith ably holds down the position of secretary, with assistance from her husband Roy.



the gate work besides their assistance in other areas. Others working to add to the success of the trial include R. E. Graham, Raymond Fomby, H. R. Parsons, Bob Myers, Ed Edwards, W. E. Kirkpatrick and W. O. West.

Judges were Wayne C. Cornelius of Fort Worth, Tex., and your scribe, Henry Havens, of Ardmore, Okla. Wayne is a natural born horseman and a serious, capable judge, and working with him is one of life's really great pleasures.

## AMATEUR SHOOTING DOG STAKE

Highpoint's Bolide June, consistent winning pointer bitch, gave an outstanding performance in the first brace after lunch on Saturday, certainly not the best time of day, but she dug up three beavies with positive location, high, tight style, and flawless manners. She honored her bracedmate's stand on sight on one occasion and ran one of the best ground heats of the stake.

Kemik Creek Kit had three well earned bevy finds and a good searching race with serious application. Two beavies were jam-up and the other lifted prematurely while we were going to her stand. She was charged with one barren stand but this is not so serious in this country where running blue quail are numerous.

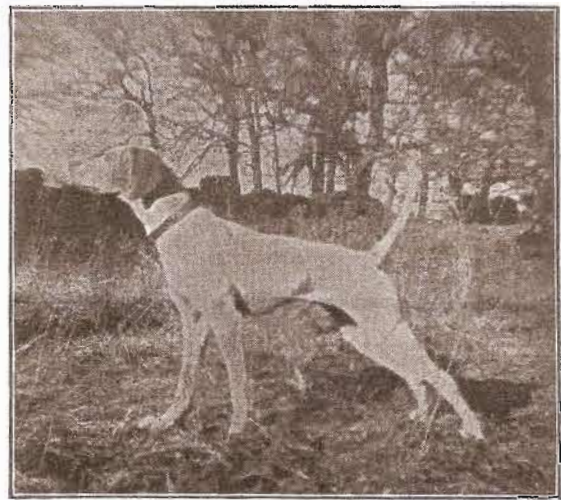
Big Coon's Sam had two perfect finds, a third that he nailed solid after a sharp relocation effort, a mannerly back and a diligent, searching ground race.

Big Spring, Tex., October 24

Judges: Wayne C. Cornelius and Henry Havens

AMATEUR SHOOTING DOG—18 Pointers and 4 Setters

- 1st—HIGHPOINT'S BOLIDE JUNE, 759411, pointer bitch, by Bolide—Wild Card. J. E. Jones, owner and handler.
- 2d—KEMIK CREEK KIT, 816714, pointer bitch, by Rig-gins White Knight—Mercer's Sioux Bec. Mill Mathis, owner and handler.



HIGHPOINT'S BOLIDE JUNE

First in the Amateur Shooting Dog and Third in the Open Shooting Dog Classic

- 3d—BIG COON'S SAM, 774023, setter dog, by Commander's Big Coon—Lou Peerless Pride. James Pearson, owner and handler.

## AMATEUR PUPPY STAKE

Texas Midget, started rather moderate in pace and range, improved rapidly, gaining momentum as he went and putting to flight seven separate beavies along the way with a big bold forward pattern and strong finish. Fugitive's Little Bit was big, bold and swift afoot, but was not so consistently forward as the winner. Tiny lacked the boldness of range displayed by the other two, but he hunted his country forwardly in a merry manner.

AMATEUR PUPPY—5 Pointers and 1 Setter

- 1st—TEXAS MIDGET, 867825, pointer bitch, by Bill's Sunset Sam—Missy From Plano. Dr. D. J. Ekvall, owner and handler.

Easy Jed, a trial appearance scored two cr racked up fou with accurate ners, coupled to the front.



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Treating of their a qualifiers v kling bevy off form, scored two forward p determini tude of ga in training initial app pulsating 33-minute finds.

## OPEN SH

- Heats;
- 1st—PEGGY Wahoo handler
- 2d—EASY --War dier.
- 3d—HIGHFI by Bo Hopson

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