

# ANOTHER NEW-COMER

**Will our boys in the  
armed forces bring  
us new knowledge of  
the Rhodesian Ridge-  
back? asks**

**GEORGE L. GILKEY**

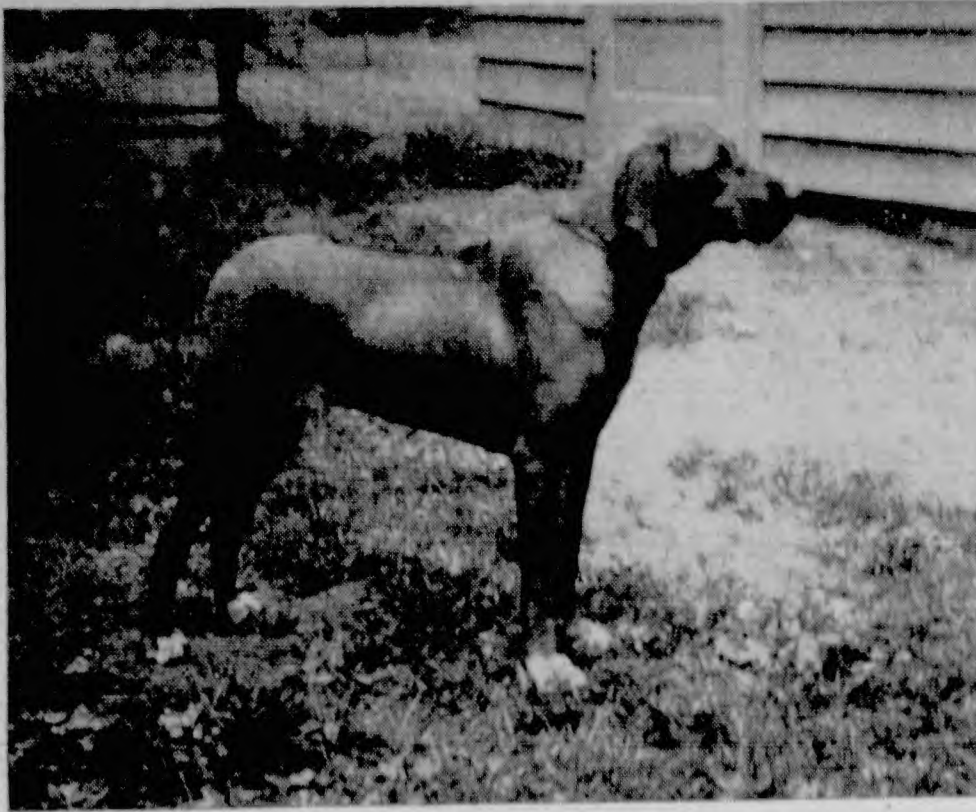
*A*BOUT 1000 B.C. Solomon wrote: "Of making many books there is no end," adding with his usual skill in following up with a "punch line," "and much study is a weariness of the flesh." The more we delve into canine history, the more we are bound to conclude that, even in that distant day, the man who made the proverb famous might have substituted "breeds" for "books" without subtracting one iota from the truth of his statement. For, as all of us who are devoted to dogs know, the creation of new breeds seems to have begun soon after the creation of the world itself; and while "much study" of the process may not be, to some of us fanciers at least, "a weariness of the flesh," we have a notion the AKC finds the question of their official recognition or rejection something of a headache.

Under the circumstances it requires no crystal ball to justify the prediction that the finish of World War II will find an unusual number of "old, rare and curious" breeds landing on our shores. If the numerous dog fans in our far-flung fighting forces fail to bring back with them enough specimens of this kind to make the AKC's official headache even more severe than usual, we miss our guess.



Which is why we are taking time by the foreface to discuss such a breed—one that, as it happens, is already here, even if in such small numbers as to be in the "curiosity" class. We feel that it may be a case of "now or never," and that this particular dog is sufficiently individual in type and his history interesting enough to deserve a brief write-up before he becomes lost in the shuffle of post-war arrivals. This dog is the Rhodesian Ridgeback; and the fact that the writer has for some time owned and bred these unique foreigners from South Africa, and for that reason is in a position to offer direct evidence as to their appearance and character, is his excuse for this article. So here goes, and "thanks for list'nin'," as Kate Smith says.

It is a far cry and a long trek from China to South Africa, but the Ridgeback apparently made the journey and did so centuries before the days of modern travel. There is no recorded history of his antecedents, nor of how and when he migrated from China to southern Rhodesia, yet appearances, like actions, sometimes speak louder than words. In this case they consisted of a trio of characteristics—a prick ear, reddish color and blue tongue—a combination the average dog authority will tell you is found in but one breed, the Chinese Chow. But the fact remains that some ancestor of the Chow transmitted



"The natives also find them invaluable for jackal hunts, in which the blacks find the 'earth,' as Anderson calls it . . . have their Ridgebacks ready . . . send in their Basenjis as we use terriers . . . And the Ridgebacks soon make quick work of the kill . . ."

these same three characteristics to another breed, the Phu Quoc, a native of the small island of that name off the southwest coast of China's next-door neighbor, Siam. The color of tongue and coat were also transmitted to the Rhodesian Ridgeback. Whether this heritage came to the latter directly from the original ancestor or by means of a "double play," Chow to Phu Quoc to Ridgeback, no one knows.

In any event, the similarity between the Chow and Phu Quoc ended at that point. Down through the ages the Chow took unto himself a thick, heavy coat, whereas the Phu Quoc developed the short hair more suitable to the hot Siamese climate. But the most important difference of all, and one that not only must have taken place long after the two breeds parted company, but also serves to indicate a very definite relationship between the Phu Quoc and the Ridgeback, is a characteristic that only these last two breeds possess. This is a peculiar ridge of hair running along the back, from withers to loin, and unlike the rest of the coat, growing forward toward the head. If one strokes the dog's back in the usual way, or "against the grain" of this hair, it will stand erect, forming the distinct ridge already mentioned. Normally this hair lies flat and is noticeable only when the light strikes it, causing a slightly different shade of color to become apparent.

Where did the Phu Quoc acquire this ridge and when? No one knows for sure. There is no data to indicate that any other present-day, or even prehistoric,

animal had such a coat formation, which would seem to dispose of the theory of evolution. As a rule, cases of this kind can be explained only by the word "*mutation*," which Webster defines as "a sudden variation, the offspring differing from its parents in some marked character—as distinguished from a gradual variation in which the new characters become highly developed only in the course of many generations. The occurrence of mutations, and the characters so appearing, are well-established facts."

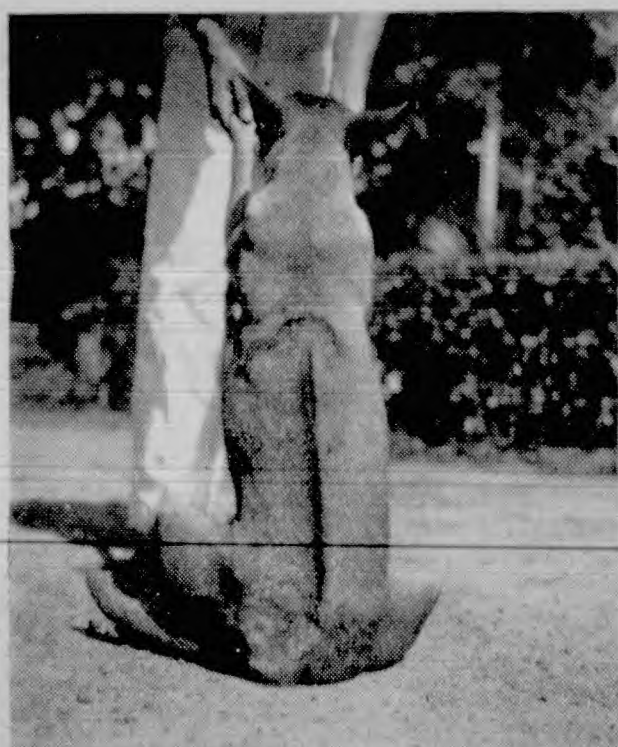
This, then, would seem to be our answer. Apparently, at some time in the dim and distant past and on the little island of Phu Quoc, a native dog gave birth to a litter of puppies, of which one or more carried this strange mutation. Isolation and its consequent in-breeding may have "set" this character in succeeding generations; but the writer is more inclined to the belief that the Siamese people, who have shown no little understanding of breeding principles and appreciation for unusual animals (as witness their white elephants and odd-looking cats) deliberately perpetuated this characteristic by clever selective breeding, possibly for the express purpose of making it the "hallmark" or "escutcheon" of the breed.

Just how the Phu Quoc and his fancy backline traveled from Siam to South Africa is largely a matter of conjecture; but apparently the trip was made in one jump, as no similar dog is to be found at any intermediate point. "*Canis*," the *nom de plume* of an English writer and

authority on canine matters, advances the theory that early Phoenician sailors, whose trade routes carried them past the island of Phu Quoc, saw and fancied these strangely-marked dogs and took some of them along when they started on their long voyage around the Cape. Whether or not this theory is correct, and the dogs escaped or were shipwrecked with the ships' crews, will never be known. In any event, they never reached the desired port, getting no farther than South Africa, where they seem to have run more or less "wild."

Sometime after their introduction there another change in their physical appearance took place, probably the result of crosses with other breeds. By this cross or crosses the dog lost its prick ear and acquired a pendulous one, indicating, with other changes in head structure, a Mastiff, Boarhound or Great Dane cross. The Rhodesian Ridgeback also lost its blue tongue, and its body became a bit heavier; but in most instances, the color remained reddish; although wheaten, black-and-tan and even blues, are not uncommon today. Yet despite all these changes, the dog retained that all-important distinguishing characteristic, the ridge, and after being known as Kaffir Hound, Hottentot Hunting Dog and Rhodesian Lion Dog successively, was finally and formally christened Rhodesian Ridgeback and officially sponsored by a club bearing that name,

The Phu Quoc, below, aside from prick ears and a blue tongue, is very similar to the Ridgeback



In this view of the Ridgeback we can see the peculiar ridge of hair which gives the breed its name

formed a few years ago to promote and standardize the breed.

This club has its headquarters in Salisbury, Southern Rhodesia, and its president, H. G. Mundy, tells many interesting stories illustrating the high degree of intelligence and loyalty to their masters that are characteristics of the breed. Among other such incidents is the following:

"My wife," says Mundy, "had one particular dog that was especially devoted to her and was with her at every opportunity, going out with the European nursemaid only when his mistress was not at home. One day, while alone in the house with this dog as her only companion, Mrs. M. received a cable that caused her to break down and sob bitterly. The dog tried by every means in his power to console her, but without success. Finally he could stand the situation no longer. He left the house and went in search of the nursemaid, calling at several houses where she was accustomed to drop in for a 'crack,' and finally locating her at his fourth stop. There he took her firmly by the hand, as he had learned to do in play, indicating by his actions that he wished

*(Please turn to page 174)*

# "WHAT'S IN A NAME?"

There should be more than meets the eye  
writes

**ELRICK B DAVIS**

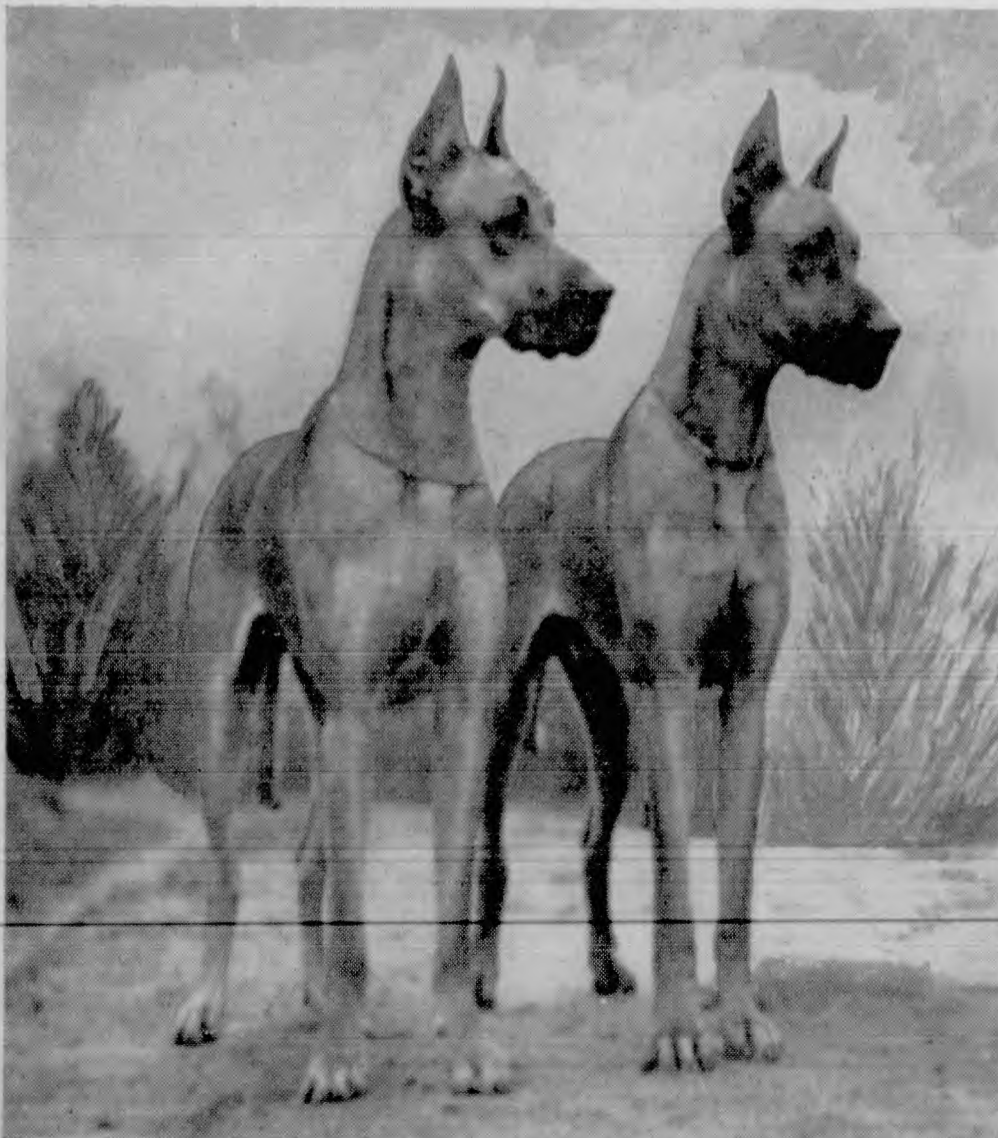
SECOND AND LAST PART

**N**ATURALLY sentiment and allusion often play a part in the choice of names for dogs—how successfully depending on a variety of factors. If, for instance, John Kieran, official Shakespeare expert on the radio program, "Information, Please," were to present a bright, sharp, guard-tempered bitch to his detective-story-writer sister, Helen Reilly, he might conceivably name his gift "Desdemona." He could be sure that even so round-about an allusion to Iago's description of his mistress' dog would be understood and appreciated, not only by Miss Reilly but in literary circles in general.

Quite different are allusions so obscure

as to be purely private jokes. I remember a litter born as the radio boomed, program after program, the hit song of that day. So the smallest bitch was named "Sweetie Pie." As might be expected, a year or so later a number of "Sweetie Pies" with differing kennel prefixes appeared in the shows; but the name suited few of its bearers. On the other hand, Dr. Wm. Foster Peirce, President Emeritus of Kenyon College, returned from a year abroad during which he had failed to find in all Europe as good a specimen of a French breed as he promptly acquired on reaching home. But during his absence Mrs. Peirce had been more fortunate—she

had found and engaged an admirable French cook. The moment the latter saw the new dog—small, exquisitely feminine, alertly engaging—she ejaculated in Gallic delight, "O-la-la!" That instantly, and quite appropriately, became the dog's name—a truly French and truly spontaneous tribute to a truly French dog's dainty personality; and as O-la-la was not destined for a career in the



"Ever since . . . I learned enough Anglo-Saxon to enjoy the heroic sonorities of Beowulf . . . I have harbored a desire to own a family of Great Danes; this solely because of the names . . ."

# LEDGELANDS' KENNELS

Chow Chows  
Labrador Retrievers  
Champions at Stud

*Puppies and Grown Stock Occasionally for Sale*

MR. & MRS. DAVID WAGSTAFF

*Owners*

'Phone Tuxedo 289 Tuxedo Park, N. Y.

Schipperke Club  
of America, Inc.

The best small dog. New book "The Schipperke," 84 pages, 76 illustrations sent postpaid for \$1.25. For all information address the Secretary.

MISS F. I. ORMISTON  
Bernardsville, N.J. Tel. 449



At Stud

**CHAMPION COURAGEOUS**

To approved bitches  
8—BEST IN SHOW, ALL BREEDS

Also at stud

**CH. OPALDALE'S  
MAINSTEAD STANDBY**

Puppies available

Mr. & Mrs. J. E. Armstrong  
Opaldale Farm, Albia, Iowa



**Ch. Million Dollar Blink III**

11½ lbs. Fee \$25

Ch. Mosholu Brown Bomber at Stud, Fee \$15.

**MOSHOLU KENNELS, INC.**

MRS. M. C. MCGLONE

1422 Pelham Parkway, Bronx, New York City

Phone WESTchester 7-1545

Ch. Schoolboy ..... Fee \$20  
Ch. Hagerty's Fascinat-  
ing Model ..... Fee \$20  
Winna King Blink, Jr. Fee \$20  
Hagerty Again Star ... Fee \$15  
Ch. Rockefeller Tops of  
Idlewood ..... Fee \$20

**DROLL & ROSENBLOOM**  
10 Delancey St. 38 Melrose St.  
New York, N.Y. Brooklyn, N.Y.  
Orchard 4-3373 Pulaski 5-0775



commander of armies, and Halga, the good. Hrethla, Hrothulf, Hrethel, Unferth, Wulf-gar. Thrytho, Offa's queen; Hygd, Beowulf's love; Hildeburh. But, though to me their mouth-filling quality is colorful, picturesque, the names in Beowulf may not suit every-one's ear and, chances are, few would be able to either spell or pronounce them correctly. So all but a few would have to be sacrificed.

The classical revival which was responsible for naming towns in this country Utica and Rome and Syracuse also popularized dog names from Zeus to Aurora that have largely gone out of fashion. But "fashion," accord- ing to an expert in that field, "is spinach." Style is something else—and hero names have style.

Scholars in general agree that in England

and on the continent all human surnames were originally coined either from bodily characteristics, from the names of fathers or feudal lords, from trades or offices, from places of residence, or from sentimental or other allusive associations. Thus, as kennel names are the surnames of dogs (usually ap- pearing first, as in the Chinese) it is not sur- prising that the American Kennel Club pre- fers that these be coinages of a similar kind. If one follows the ancient folk principle, substituting "breed characteristics" for bod- ily, these made-up names should not be dif- ficult to produce.

These folk-names make the field of al- lusion as a source of individual names un- limited and at the same time exceedingly appropriate. Nicknames are a good example. When haywire parents name an unfortunate child "Glorianna Potts" or "Chauncey Mont- morency Stubbs," childhood companions promptly correct the error. Ornate kennel names call for "given" dog names of equal weight. Lionel Barrymore for an actor and Flornell Glamorous for a dog were cut from the same high-quality bolt of cloth; and, at the other end of the counter, were Jack Dempsey, the famous old "Nonpareil" of the American prize-ring and the famous English pit-hill, Sullivan's Crib.

## ANOTHER NEW-COMER

*(Continued from page 19)*

her to follow him and that the case was ur- gent. The girl at once sensed the situation, followed the dog to my home and arrived in time to be of real assistance to my trou- bled wife."

At the present time, the Ridgeback, pos- sibly by reason of some of the breeds used in his development, is in reality a sporting dog of more than a little ability. James An- derson, of Fort William, Ontario, who spent several years in the Cape Colony about 40 years ago, writes of his experiences in hunt- ing with this breed, then known locally as Kaffir Dogs. One such experience was a ba- boon hunt. As he describes it, the baboons, which had become pests in the district, fre- quented a high, flat-topped hill, known as Hounds' Kop, and the Boer farmers made up their minds to be rid of them. A hunt was organized, and before daybreak, the party, composed of both natives and whites, assem- bled for the kill. The natives then made ready a ring of material for fires arranged at intervals around one side of the hill, while the whites formed in a similar circle on the opposite slope.

Just about dawn, at a signal from the cap- tain, the circle of fires was lit and the hunters

began to advance. But baboons are no fools. They had their sentinels posted, and when these watchers gave the alarm, their frightened comrades began a hasty and, as they hoped, well-concealed retreat through the thick brush that covered the Kop, the whites firing at them and the natives, with the efficient help of their Ridgebacks, holding them at bay.

This put the monkeys in a panic and the affair was a "howling" success in more ways than one. Many of the baboons were killed by the shots, and the dogs did their part by finishing off the wounded with neatness and despatch. That's just one example of their use on game. The natives also find them invaluable for jackal hunts, in which the blacks find a burrow, or "earth," as Anderson calls it, station themselves outside it, have their Ridgebacks ready and send in their little Basenjis, which they use as we white men use our terriers, to drive the game out into the open. There the Ridgebacks soon make quick work of the kill, in one instance reported by Anderson, "leaving nothing but the tail."

In a word, this South African is not only a good dog—he's good for something. That's in his favor—in any country.

## SPOTLIGHTING THE SHOWS

(Continued from page 30)

the finale . . . best went to the Boxer bitch, Ch. El Wendie of Rockland, owned by the Rye Top Kennels . . . On the same grounds, next day, with John H. Irwin judging, best in show went to Mr. and Mrs. William A. Rockefeller's Bedlington Terrier, Ch. Rock Ridge Driftwood.

From New York . . . at Rochester, the Tonawanda Valley K.C.'s show was topped by the Kerry Blue Terrier, Ch. Kenmare Blue Bonnet, owned by Carl E. Geis and handled by Henry Sayres.

## FROM NON-MEMBER CLUBS

(Continued from page 58)

Due to instructions from the editor's office, we will have to avoid gossip localized to sections, groups, individuals and dogs. Their reasons are sound and we are glad to comply.—D. B. RUSKIN, M.D., *Caro, Mich.*

## FIELD TRIAL DATES

(Continued from page 77)

June 25—First Dog Training Club of Northern New Jersey, Inc. (License), Tenafly, N. J., Miss Gladys E. Bartels, Sec'y, 1273 Dickerson Dr., West Englewood, N. J., Foley, Supt.

June 25—Lake Shore Kennel Club, Inc. (License), Hammond, Ind., Mrs. H. M. Osgood, Sec'y, St. John, Ind., Bow, Supt.

(Please turn to page 177)



## ORCHARD HILL Champions at Stud:

Tri-International Ch. Remenham Derrie. Best of Breed Westminster, English Pekingese Club Show, and Pekingese Club of America Show, at Morris & Essex. Fee \$50.

Ch. Kims Tzu Shan and other Tri-International Ch. Pierrot sons and grandsons. Fees \$25 to \$50.

Ch. Han Chuan by Ch. S. Av. Hanshih. Fee \$35.

10 champions at stud. Show dogs and breeding stock for sale.

Mrs. Richard S. Quigley  
Orchard Hill, Lock Haven, Pa.



## NIBROC AT STUD

Ch. Thruppence of Nibroc  
Coin Box Currency of Nibroc  
*Pomeranian puppies of outstanding quality and grown dogs for sale.*

MRS. C. K. CORBIN  
60 Fernwood Road  
Summit, N. J.

## WIL - POM - KEN

MR. AND MRS. W. J. WILKINSON, OWNERS  
*Careful Breeders of Choice Pomeranians*

P. O. BOX 283

FREDERICKSBURG, VA.

## DARA POMERANIANS



BLOOD TELLS  
The World's  
Foremost Bloodlines  
SMALL POMERANIANS. Bred generations for type, sound action, huge orange coats. Owner and breeder of eight living champions.  
MRS. A. C. WALKINGTON  
2330 W. 21st St.,  
Los Angeles 7, California

## AT STUD

Ch. Sealand Moneybox  
Ch. Moneybox Currency  
Ch. Money Box Gold Coin

FEE \$25

*Lovely puppies and grown stock from above champions for sale.*

MRS. V. MATTA  
2618 Diltmars Blvd.  
Astoria, N. Y.



## LILAC FARM MANCHESTERS

Champion Stock

TOYS

STANDARDS

*Erect Ears, Perfect Marking*

BENNET

NEBRASKA

## MALTESE

Orders for recently born puppies of champions are now accepted.

VILLA MALTA  
Concord Mass.  
Tel. 298W

