



Mary Lou

John W Blehm

Congratulations!
 You've just received the world's
 most fowl birthday card.

Mike Bernard Dave
 Lon Joanne
 & ALL OTHER ABIGYLS!



BLUE FEATHERS

When I was about 7 years old I received as an Easter gift a baby chicken whose feathers had been dyed blue. As I look back now I can understand that most of those baby chicks probably died soon after they were received because of being mishandled by children. However, I was a little frightened of mine so I hardly touched it and as a result it kept on living and growing.

After a few weeks it was necessary to hold a family conference and discuss what was to be done with the chicken. I voted to keep it, but was informed that the "LAW" would get us for having a chicken in the house in the city. Well, I didn't want the "LAW" to get us, so I reluctantly agreed to a plan to take my chicken to my aunt's farm -- with the understanding that I would have visiting rights on weekends.

The first Saturday I went to visit "BLUIE" (I had given him a name by this time), my aunt told me he was dead -- that the other chickens had killed him because they were jealous of his blue feathers. I was literally shocked and unable to comprehend such a thing. I even walked out to the chicken pen and when no one was watching I threw a few small rocks over the fence.

Several years later I was talking to a man who said he had been raised on a chicken farm so I told him what had happened to my chicken. He said, "I can believe that. Chickens are funny creatures. I've seen thimes when a chicken would get a smudge of dirt on his wing and another chicken would begin to peck at it and soon there would be a wound. The other chickens would peck at the wound and the next morning I would find the chicken dead." I expressed my utter disgust for dumb chickens and he said "You know, there are those in the human world who are not a lot smarter --- you watch and you'll see that many people destroy one another in a similar way."

I began to analyze my own life and I can remember with regret, circumstances where my peers and I have pecked at others because they were different than we were. By different, I mean prettier or uglier, smarter or dumber, not of the same religion, not of the same color -- just anything that made them different.

The full impact of this didn't hit me, however, until I found myself one day as the one with the blue feathers.

There will be many occasions in our lives when we, along with our peers will have occasion to "peck" at those who are different than we are and when the next occasion arises I hope we'll remember three things:

1. Blue Feathers
2. We should be smarter than chickens
3. The law of average being what it is, some day we'll be the one with the blue feathers, and as a wise teacher once said ---

"AS YE SOW, SO SHALL YE REAP."

Written by: Joan Nickle - Aug. 11, 1977

This article was submitted by Mary Lou Phelps. Thanks, Mary Lou.

Comments by Mike Gilbert from his Breeders form.

Hatched very few wheatens & blue wheatens this year, but quite a few brown-red bantams. Two Silver standards. I hope to be able to show these two varieties at our National Meet in 1989. Will share stock at that time. Will try to hatch off a few bantams in wheaten, blue wheaten and white this fall in order to have some birds for the cock and hen classes at Highland, ILL in 1989.

I am also still working on buff, but I think they want to be black tailed buff instead. If no one else is working on buff, I would not mind seeing our standard (APA & ABA) changed to the black-tailed variety, which is very attractive. However, I will go along with the majority on this issue. How about a vote on this in the fall election?

Ed. note: You will find this on the ballot. Thanks, Mike.

FROM THE OZARKS -

It's the 23rd of August already and I am really looking forward to fall and some cooler weather. This has truly been a long, hot summer. We were lucky enough to get a good rain before the 4th of July. Fireworks are still legal down here and we were tinderbox dry at that time.

Cooler weather also brings the fall show season - starting with the North Iowa Show in Hampton where we are having the Central District Meet. Our Southern Missouri Show is the third weekend of October. I hope to show at Highland, Ill (ILL-MO) and am thinking real serious about going to Columbus, Ohio in November. This is an APA National Show. IF - I can afford it.

I attended six shows this spring and showed at five of them. I'm really fortunate to be in area where there are a lot of shows within a six hour or so drive. My "Wheaties" got "BEST" in all but one and got a reserve there.

One thing I would like to see in these above shows are more variety and breed awards instead of all the "cash" going to the class winners and show champions. There are very, very few who will ever get the so-called "big bucks" - most of us will be lucky to go home with a ribbon. Granted, all that cash makes for good advertising in Poultry Press, but it would sure go a long way to make a lot of people happy if they spread it out a bit. The Christian County Poultry Association had breed awards at both of their shows and although we are a very small club (only 13 members) all awards were sponsored. Last year we gave plaques and this year - trophies. the plaque I got last year for AOCCL Class is one of my proudest possessions.

I'm really glad to see some of the judges giving the AMERAUCANAS the consideration they deserve - Bernard Kellogg's AOCCL win in Michigan and I see by the PP that Matt Betz had reserve AOCCL at an Indiana show. I got a reserve AOCCL at the CCPA show in April. Just because our name isn't Sheriff or Castleberry doesn't mean we aren't for real!

Think Highland '89 and let's get a starred win for one of our members.

It's not too early to be thinking about setting up the breeding pens for that future champion.

It's hard to believe that it's been almost a year since Hutchinson, so time does have a way of slipping away.

See Ya'll at Hampton.

Mary Lou Phelps

Comments from Rande Buske with his Breeders Form:

I am in search of a silver male or pair in bantams. Have been having problems with vigor, cross beak (really bad) and sudden paralysis in chicks that are or appear healthy and range in the age of 2-3 months. I have had abundant hatches in silver but end up putting most of them under. What I don't understand is that the adult Silvers are just loaded with vigor. I am getting quite frustrated with them. I think it has a lot to do with genetics and their age (cockerel & pullets of '87).

I raise the Silver, Whites, Milles & Sebrights together and have lost very few of the other varieties. I have almost 30 whites hatched from a trio of pullets and an old cock. They are well on their way and I am really proud of them. I also really like the Silvers - nice body type, good strong heads - the only thing I can fault critically are the females tails (quite upright instead of a nice fan) and the males peacomb is not tightly secure to the base of the skull.

Cornish are all doing well - averages hatches - but the little ones that I do get have good vigor. Due to some bad luck earlier in the season I have had to do some extensive outcrossing of the various strains. I might have sacrificed some body type from the original strains, but I have really improved the vigor. I cannot stand a listless bird that eternally mopes around. I guess you can always have the best typed birds on God's given earth - but if it doesn't have enough get up go to reproduce itself - it doesn't retain much value. At least in my eyes!

You know what I like about the ABC - people seem to be so open, ready to share and so friendly. I belong to another club and everybody seems to be so competitive and so uptight. Some will share some info with you but it seems like you have to pump info out of them - intruding into their space - as if a secret might slip out - like they are walking on ice. The best and most fulfilling encounter has been with Art Prall out of Seymour, IA. He has been helpful, willing to share both info, experiences and stock. I fell onto Art quite by accident. I by chance answered an ad from the PP of his and made his acquaintance and found he was quite a fellow. Since then we have been sharing birds, info and eggs.

Well, I suppose I have rambled on long enough. Have to close shop and go home to mow the grass. Hope to see and meet you at the Hampton Show.

SIERRA SLOPE -

With the fall shows at hand many of you are no doubt looking over your young birds and wishing they were a bit more finished. This time of year you will often hear, " If I had just hatched a few weeks earlier " or, " If I just had a few more weeks before the show, " etc., etc., but remember most folks are in the same boat, and if it's any consolation, the earliest chicks are often larger and coarser, which is not good news for bantams, anyway.

Pullets are frequently at their best at the point of lay, so if you can bring in a few in this condition, you might just do better at the show than you think. Cockerels are often slow to finish beard and muffs and wheatens will sometimes show a good deal of white in these sections until finished.

And if things don't go as planned for the fall show season, enjoy yourself in the company of other like-minded people and remember, you have a poultry show of your own out back every day of the year!

Much has been written about preparing birds for the show and how to get them to be at their best, but little is mentioned about exhibitors showing their best side. At our National Meet last year in Minnesota I was extremely proud of the AMERAUCANA exhibitors - I don't know if they had the best birds in the building, but I do know that as exhibitors they were the class of the show. If we can't be the biggest club, let's continue to try to be the best.

Speaking of the best, about fifty years ago a certain Iowa farmer was informed that he was just presented with a new baby girl - his reply was, " The hell! " I hope that girl has a wonderful time at Hampton and I send my very best wishes.

Poultry Press will be having it's 75th Anniversary edition coming up in December. This publication has always been very supportive of our club and deserve our support in return. I would like to see a club ad in the December issue and hope there are enough interested members to fund this venture. Give it some thought, please.

It looks as though I may get a ride to Phoenix next February for the big APA-ABA Show. I won't be able to stay for long - a few hours perhaps - but I would certainly like to meet some of our members down that way...and will look for you folks in the good old AMERAUCANA alley.

Finally, please mark those ballots and get them to our election commissioner, Bernard Kellogg. This is your club and we need your input and direction.

Best of luck at the shows!

Don K. Cable

SHOW RESULTS:

So.Iowa Poultry Association - June 4, 1988

AMERAUCANAS - Bantams: 13 entries.	BOB = cock	= Bernard Conkling
	BB = hen	= Jo Kasper
	2nd = hen	= Jo Kasper
	2nd = cock	= Jo Kasper
	1st = cock	= Chris Simpson
	1st = hen	= Steve Simpson

1988 AMERAUCANA BREEDERS CLUB

Audit report from January 11, 1988 to August 24, 1988

Balance on hand January 11, 1988 ...	\$304.30
Expenditures for period	\$198.75
Cash received for period	<u>245.12</u>
Total	\$549.42
Less Expenses	<u>- 198.75</u>
Check Book Balance as of 8/24/'88	\$350.67

This audit or balance does not include any expenditures or cash received after 8/24/88.

I, Bernard Kellogg, certify that I have checked over the Treasurer, Jeanne Trent, checkbook, bank statements, deposit slips and bills plus cash received to the best of my knowledge and find her books in good order. signed: Bernard Kellogg, Auditor

WHAT IS A GOOD CLUB MEMBER?

I am really enjoying my membership in our Ameraucana Breeders Club. Every member I have had any dealings with has been so honest and willing to help me get a start of pure-bred birds.

I first ordered a setting of hatching eggs from Mr. Jerry Segler. He was very generous with his hatching eggs. My white ones are all pullets. Every fancier that sees them wants them. In silvers I have a cockerel and pullet. I have never raised such pets. Just as soon as I open the gate to their pen they begin to fly up on the feed bucket until the feed is emptied into the feeders.

Jeannette, you mentioned complaints. Of course, some are just naturally complainers. I have spent many years in leadership in church and clubs. Honest criticism can be very helpful sometimes. It all depends on how it is said.

For example, when I began this work with young people - getting them lined out to breed Ameraucanas for our shows - I was told this poultry work wasn't being carried on by a bunch of "little old biddies out of the Garden Clubs".

You all might be surprised how much knowledge us "little old biddies" have accumulated in the past 50 years. Through World Gardening we gave hundreds of agriculture students scholarships; drilled deep wells all through Central and South America where people had never had a clean drink of water before, sent tons of garden & field seeds, garden and farm tools. Many of us were raising poultry all these years.

I bought hatching eggs from Crow's Poultry Farms at Windsor, MO. of the wheaten Ameraucana bantams. I got 1/3 hatch. Balance of eggs were clear. I fear we do have a problem with fertility in the Ameraucana bantams. If so then we should correct this if we can.

I have already found a younger fancier who has my wheaten chicks and is seriously working to build up a flock for the shows and hatching eggs.

I am used to the Dominique eggs hatching 95% yet, they are not the pets the Ameraucana Bantams are.

I have always loved the Buff color in poultry. For many years I raised the Golden Buff Plymouth Rocks. Then I took up the work of bringing the old historical all purpose Dominique back to the Ozark REgion of our country. Now we have them well established again.

Now, with the many fairs and 4-H Shows there is a need for the cute little Ameraucanas. I understand us older fanciers not being able to travel all over the country to shows like the younger fanciers yet, our interest in the work brings with our membership experience, honesty and financial support.

We need time to seed out the sincere young poultry fanciers and help them get their breeding flocks established.

Nobody cares about going to our shows and just seeing the same breeds of chickens year in and year out. We keep adding something different. I would like to find some golden buff Ameraucanas - Standard or Bantam.

Elva Hemphill

!!

SHOW RESULTS

Badger Poultry Club, Inc. 1988 Dairyland Classic July, 1988

<u>AMERAUCANAS</u>	- Bantams	- White	- D. Horman	= 3 c; 2 h
			M. Gilbert	= 2 c; 1 h BOV, BOB
			B. Kellogg	= 1 c BV, BB; 4 h; 1 k; 1 p
			R. Buske	= 4 c; 3 h
		Black	- B. Kellogg	= 1 c BOV; 1 h; 1 p BV
		Blue	- B. Kellogg	= 1 c; 1 h BV; 1 k; 1 p
		Silver	- R. Buske	= 1 c BOV; 1 h BV

ANY OF YOU WHO WOULD SEND IN THE REPORTS FROM ANY OR ALL SHOWS YOU ATTEND IT WOULD BE GREATLY APPRECIATED. My eyes are getting old and tired from reading the fine print in POULTRY PRESS. Thanks. JF

NIGHT RAIDERS -

I built a modern chicken house 500' back of our main house about 20 years ago and have a cement floor & fiberglass vertical siding with 1" poultry wire on the windows on the south side. This building is 84' long by 12' wide and contains 6 rooms with a 6' wide feed room. Five rooms are used for breeding pens. After the hatching season is over I would put the cock birds out on free range and they roost in a 12'x12' house with the door open all the time. The reason I built the chicken house back so far is to let the hens out in the evening and they don't get into the garden and flower beds up around the house. In the evening when I went back to water and feed I would throw corn out to the cock birds.

So one evening about two weeks ago I went back and all the cocks were gone. I looked in the roosting shed and two poles were knocked down and one broke in two. Foxes had paid me a visit. Foxes will always carry their kill away. Just a few tail feathers were laying around.

When the young chickens were out grown the brooder room, I moved them to the larger back chicken house. The oldest young I put in one room weighed about two pounds. In another room I put some weighing 1½ pounds. I doubled up some hens to make some room. This has been the procedure for 18 to 20 years.

So one the morning of Aug. 10, 1988 I found 40 dead chickens scattered all over the floor. In another room I found about 12 young blacks dead. In the room of barred and blue hens I found five barred and two blue hens dead.

I had a cement floor in the room in the main barn that was used to milk cows and had two big windows in each end. I moved 8 black hens and 10 barred hens up there. Two days later the same thing - 6 dead black hens and 6 dead barred hens. Nothing was eaten, just blood sucked out under the head.

I have spent the past week on the big chicken house - tightening up every hole as big as a fifty cent piece. I nailed 26" x 8" corrugated metal roofing horizontally around the bottom of the entire building. I removed the 1" poultry mesh in the windows and put in ½" x ½" hardware cloth.

In one or two nights a family of weasels destroyed 20 years of selective breeding.

I have also installed a mercury vapor light which I burn at night. They tell me weasels, foxes and mink shy away from such a light.

So the weasels and foxes multiply on and on. Trappers say that a weasel is 98% trap shy and if they step on a trap can jump at the click of the trap and get out.

Since sealing off this building I put 35 young pheasants back there with 50 young guineas and the only hens I have left.

Tom Lippincott

SHOW RESULTS:

Southern Ohio Poultry Association - May 28-29, 1988

AMERAUCANAS - Standards - Champion AOSB = Barred hen = Tom & Kay Lippincott
BB & BV = Barred hen = Tom & Kay Lippincott
RV = Barred pullet = Tom Lippincott
BV = Blue cock = Tom Lippincott
RB, RV = Blue hen = Tom Lippincott
BV = Black hen = Tom Lippincott
RV = Black pullet = Tom Lippincott
BV = White cock = Tom Lippincott
BV = Brown/red cock = Tom Lippincott

AMERAUCANAS - Bantams - Reserve Champion AOCCL = Black hen = Matt Betz
BB & BV = Black hen = Matt Betz
RB & BV = White hen = Matt Betz
BV = Self Blue hen = Matt Betz
BV & RV = Silver Blue cock = Philip Jenkins
BV = Birchen cock = Matt Betz
BV & RV = Blue hen = Don Ward

REFLECTIONS FROM THE BIG SKY COUNTRY -

With this edition of the **AMERAUCANA BREEDERS CLUB NEWSLETTER** comes the ballot for your club leaders for the next two years. I hope each and every one of you will take the time to first study the duties of each of these offices (found in your ABC Handbook) and then will take the time to vote and return your ballots to Bernard Kellogg, Election Commissioner.

We are sending out ⁶⁵ ballots. If you are typical you will receive your newsletter and put it aside to be read "at a better time". In fact, by the time you are reading this message I'll bet you have had the newsletter at least a week. There are a few (and you know who you are) who are so anxious to read this newsletter you probably haven't even taken the time to see what other mail you received. And there are some of you who will take the time to mark your ballots and get it in the mail within 24 hours after receiving it. But then there are quite a few of who will read this whole newsletter and lay it aside - You will vote later, when you have more time. Unfortunately, the majority of you won't bother to vote at all. And I want to tell you right now, those of you who do not vote will be the ones complaining the loudest when the club isn't being run the way you think it should be.

Maybe I'm a rare breed of bird but to me voting -whether in the state poultry club, a national breeders club (like ABC) or the national election - is an honor and a privilege. I hope each of you will feel that way about this election and will send in your votes. (It's good practice for the one coming up in November.)

While I'm on the soapbox, I might as well continue ... there are standards for our particular breed of poultry. There were dedicated people striving to perfect our breed so it would meet the qualifications we wanted and so our birds would be outstanding in the showroom and in our poultry houses. We want people to stop by the cages of the **AMERAUCANAS** in the showroom and admire our birds ... not snicker and make smart remarks. The only way we can acquire the admiration due our breed is to strive for the qualifications required by our (THAT IS OUR - LIKE IN YOURS & MINE) standard. I know how difficult it is for some of us to cull - especially when generally the bird is good in other ways..but if the leg color, or the beard and muffs, or the eye color, or the comb isn't what is called for in our breed then we are not doing our breed or our club justice. How can we show a bird that isn't up to our standard and hope noone (especially the judge) notices? Maybe the cage will be in an unlighted area and it will be difficult to notice the leg color? You can always claim the cage mate pecked the feathers out of the beard..or its in a moult. Right? WRONG!!!

My point is...there are too many of us anxious to get the birds in the cages in shows and we're not taking the time to really check to see if the bird is up to the **AMERAUCANA BREEDERS CLUB STANDARD**. Isn't it about time for you (and me) to sit down and study what the standards are for our breed? I know how angry it makes me to see exhibitors of other breeds trying to pass off inferior quality birds at a show .. and them getting angry because the judge disqualifies the birds.

Before your next show - scrutinize those birds with an eye toward perfection. You have to be the judge before your birds ever get into the showroom..HOW WOULD YOU JUDGE THEM?

Hope everyone who attends and/or shows at Hampton has a great time.

THINK HIGHLAND IN '89.

Jeannette Frank

AMERAUCANA BREEDERS CLUB supports:

AMERICAN POULTRY ASSOCIATION - 26363 S. Tucker Road, Estacada, OR 97023

AMERICAN BANTAM ASSOCIATION - P. O. Box 127, Augusta, NJ 07822

POULTRY PRESS - P. O. Box 542, Connersville, IN 47331

"As we have opportunity, let us do good to all men." Gal. 6:10

This space is ready for your comments, letters, articles and so forth. This is your newsletter. Let Jeanne or Jeannette know what you want to read..