

A TRUE CHICKEN STORY

At our house food is never wasted.

Chickens think my cookin's the best they ever tasted.

Leftovers never linger, we just toss 'em out the door,
then all the critters come a-runnin', eat it up, and beg for more.

Every now and then they may even get a bite of chicken.
They don't care if it's their cousin; they think it's finger-lickin'!

When the 'frige gets cleaned out, well, they really have some fun.
It's like Christmas and Thanksgiving dinner all rolled into one.

So if you ever want to have some fun, come over and you'll see.
Open up the door and yell "BIG CHICKS"! and instantly there they'll be.

by, Michelle Atkins

AMERAUCAANA BREEDERS CLUB

MARCH/APRIL 1997

VOL XVIII #2



More of Mike's Meanderings (groan-n-n)

Here it is Thursday, March 13th, and I'm home instead of putting in the usual (for this time of year) fourteen hour day at work - thanks to mother nature (or perhaps Providence?). At any rate, we're having an old-fashioned *blizzard* in the coulee country of western Wisconsin, and everything is closed down for the day. Having started out early on the 28 mile trek to work this morning I didn't get far before deciding to return home, and to warn Mary to stay home as well, as neither of our vehicles have four-wheel drive. Fortunately, we both have very understanding employers.

It has been a rough winter, although the bone-chilling cold has abated, and a few less-hardy birds didn't make it. Though respiratory disease has been totally non-existent, a few went down with range paralysis, or Marek's, and a few succumbed to intestinal problems, apparently having gotten into some spoiled feed. The latter were poor creatures that were trying to moult during the coldest weather, and the combination apparently just "did them in." Overall, the crematorium hasn't been *too* busy though.

Surely by now many of you have started to hatch some 1997 champions, as our national meet is about a month earlier than last year. Hopefully we can respond to the challenge this year with at least a hundred Ameraucanas. The Wisconsin International show is always very well run, and the good Rev. Ashbrook will see that we receive fine treatment. Paul is a good friend, a true Christian, even though he specializes in Sussex and Plymouth Rock bantams - some of the very finest, actually. So let's all make the effort to put down some extra-fine Ameraucanas in 1997, and plenty of them! How about it, Michigan? Minnesota, Illinois, and Ohio - Wisconsin is calling *you* too!

We have not been satisfied with our own efforts in recent years, and finally came to the conclusion that, in order to make real progress, more young Ameraucas need to be hatched and raised. What had prevented this, in our situation, was keeping too many breeds and varieties. Something had to give, and as a result the bantam Brahmas, Rocks, and Wyandottes have departed to other pastures. We are now truly Ameraucana specialists, as that is the only breed we will be working with. We keep all the standard - recognized bantam Ameraucana varieties except Silver, and we have commenced a breeding project on those. Also we continue to work on brown-red large fowl, though the non-standard birchens still predominate. And we have started to dabble in developing a large fowl strain of Wheatens and Blue-wheatens as well. That's all, and that's enough!

We recently elected a fine slate of officers to run our club for the next two years. Let's all encourage them to let the membership know of upcoming Ameraucana meets well in advance, and to publish meet results in the newsletter. They will need *our* participation to accomplish this, so be sure to communicate with them, especially the regional directors.

Don't forget the Silver bantam futurity challenge for the year 2000! Would anybody out there care to join in and offer awards for bantam Silvers at our national meet in the year 2000? It's really not that far away, and so far we have \$100.00 pledged. Please write with your ideas and input. With enough participation and by the Grace of God we *can* resurrect this nearly extinct variety. That's all for now folks!

M.K. Gilbert, W5171 Baker Rd., Holmen, WI 54636 (608)857-3386

2/17 7:30 P. M.

Well, Hi all AM people,

I just came in a bit ago after feeding and tucking all in safely for the night. I have many things to relate.

First of all we here in N. Michigan are having tons of snow again. Last year broke all records with 260 + inches plus it snowed from Nov 1 until May. This year we've lots of snow again - 187" as of last Mon. but then it snowed since. I've got six broody hens, all wheaten. I have never had hens setting in February. They must know something. I've been getting lots of eggs... have been all winter. That amazes me as well. I don't have lights in my old chicken house or the "night club".

I met one of our new junior members and her mom at the Columbus show last Nov.. Kerri Clarkson. I sent her two dozen bantam eggs UPS two weeks ago. They got there (NY) in two days. Only cost \$5.50. All eggs safely arrived and are in Kerr's new incubator. Got that message on my machine when I got home from work a couple weeks ago. I know I'll get a further update as we get closer to the magical hatch day.

Next, I've been on a rather major, much more complicated project to get eggs, birds or anything to yet another new member, Daniel Dalton in Sydney, Nova Scotia. All kinds of rules and regulations., health papers, etc. Plus UPS won't take live birds. The UP post office won't take adult birds out of the USA. The airlines won't take adult birds unless it's within 24 hours from pickup to delivery. If I flew with the birds that would be okay or if I had people along the way to care for them. As I write this Daniel has 13 eggs from me in his incubator. Hopefully 3 doz. more arrived today. I have never met Daniel in person but we both have outrageous phone bills from our often and lengthy conversations.

Tues. 2/18 7:30 P. M. what a day it's been. 51° and sunny. It was quite pleasant walking around feeding the birds in balmy weather. Sunshine and daylight at 6:30 P.M.

My newsletter arrived today. I was glad to see the message from MLP. I totally agree. As I've mentioned before, I, two years in a row got 25 wheaten AMs from the Crow Hatchery. They are the sweetest, friendlies birds, quite typey and a little dark on teh females, but a definite good place to start. Two other good features...they are small. Some of the bantams I've seen lately are far too big. The other good feature is that they lay all winter.

I looked up Janesville, WI. I think I can probably attend that show. It doesn't appear to be a million miles away. Hopefully, I'll see some of you in Sept. My next show is the Centreville, MI Show, Mothers' Day weekend. Last year I didn't take any birds. Hopefully this year I'll be able to show. The two MI shows are more enjoyable than years past as MI usually has more exhibitors of AMs now. It used to be me and our new president, John Blehm.

For the first time in many years I FEEL SAFE, thanks to a friend. Laura doesn't have birds at the moment so she brought me a huge piece of netting. It was large enough to cover both my chicken yards.

I'm ready to fire up my Roll-X this Sun. I've sent seven doz. eggs and still have some for me. This year I'm ready with medications on hand and CORID to put in the chicks' water from day one. The feed stores should have CORID. It costs me about \$11.00 a package and will treat lots of chicks. 1 teaspoon per quart of water.

I never had laryngo or coccidiosis until last spring. I had both then. The gasping is a big clue with laryngo, in addition to rattling chests and sneezing. Mega doses of tetracycline helps and keeps them from dying...500 mg a day on bantams. Doesn't cure it, nothing will, but it helps when it hits. Again, I agree with MLP...vaccinate. I spent \$9.00. That's enough for 1000 birds. We did it at night...easier to handle the birds.

I'm lucky to have a friend here in MI that knows all kinds of chicken ailment solutions. I have learned alot from Tim but every now and then I get stumped and call him. And Daniel Dalton has all kinds of interesting things of chicken health to relate...growing oat sprouts, giving chicks a drind of milk, skewing a head of cabbage in you poultry yard, etc.

3/5 Just got in from feeding birds. I have another broody hen. This time it's a LF AM. I'm running out of places to put my broody hens. One of the wheaters hatched 3 a week ago. I brought her and her chicks in as we are still having winter with "feets" of snow. Official snow count 215.5" as of today.


The Roll-X has been running since last night. I have to fine tune it before I place any eggs in it. The wet bulb reading is 80° should be 85°. That's too low humidity. Low humidity in the incubator, I've found, is the worst evil. Sticky chicks and they just can't hatch. The shell is too hard and tough. They should just pop out on the 21st day, dry out and be fluffy in no time. If they really struggle to hatch most likely the humidity is too low.

Well, I've rambled long enough. Take care. Spring is soon.

Many kind thoughts to all of you,

Jeanna Trent.

John - my apologies for being so late with this newsletter. After three weeks of being sick I got a full time job - put in over 90 hrs the first ten days - now I'm working part time but still have my regular job. If you feel you want someone else to do my job just let me know. Keep in touch - Jeannette



MARCH 3, 1997

Dear JEANNETTE,

As of NOV.96 due to a heart condition, which required a pace maker, I had to get rid of all my poultry. My daughter ,Darlene of Tx, came and helped me while I was hospitalized and had to get rid of my chickens, I practicaly gave them away.

On Dec 12th, 96 I headed for El Paso Tx. detouring by the way of Hornbeck ,La. stayed a few days with my son & family. So the rest of the winter I have spent in El Paso , o n the west side of Mt. Franklin. The temperature ranged in the 20 degrees.

This is a mountain I use to look at when I was a young RR soilder some fifty some plus years ago. When I took my training at Ft. Bliss. In those days are transportation was on horse back (7th Calavry). I could not believe how the community and the boundary has changed. Ft Bliss has changed a lot. There is a new V A hospital attached to Wm. Beaumont Hospital (Ft BLISS. This is where i get most of my medicine from.

I hope tp be back to my old address in Iowa by the last of the month. I probably will sell all of my chicken equipement including brooders, incombators, which one is a n old metal Oaks 500 eggs incubator. I have put a 3 gallon humidifier attached to the incubator. this incubator, if some drawers are taken out can be used to hatch emus and rhea .

I have had this incubator for some 20 years and the motor over hauled about 8 years ago..

Wishing everyone a good hatch this year. Will probaley see some of you at the S.I.P.A. show Memorial week end. Our daughter ,Darlene is a 20 year veteren of the Navy., and is now looking for a job.

I am enclosing money^mfor another years membership..

Yours Truly,
Bernard & Gladys Conkling
R R 1 Box 63
Stanton, Iowa 51573

Thanks,

Bernard & Gladys Conkling.



Dear Jeanette,

you may recall sending me some Ameraucana club newsletters a few months back - loved 'em! Thanks so much. So now I'm finally getting around to joining. Enclosed is ten dollars - a guess on my part, keep the change for the club if there is any. Also if you ~~you~~ have extra newsletters from Nov. 96 or I'd love to have them.

You recommended Arne Schmidt to me for Butt Large Fowl. He got me started with eggs for a song. Three dozen are in my incubator now and my fingers are crossed! Next I'll be looking for Butt Bantams.

We don't see many Ameraucanas at the shows here in California, a few bantams and a couple of large fowl, I hope to promote them the best I can.

Once again, as a relatively new fancier, I appreciate the work you are doing to promote the breed.

Sincerely,

Jay Horn

Jay Horn

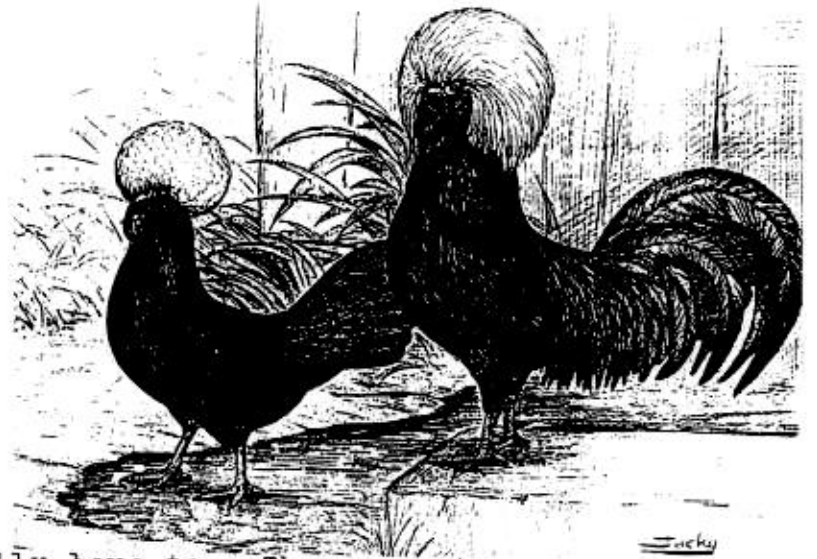
168 Moore Lane

Arroyo Grande, CA. 93420

(805) 481-7925

10/22
CASH

Feb. 21st, 1997 Friday



Dear Jeannette;

I really enjoy the newsletter from ABC. I like the exchange of information from different breeders.

I will not be going to the Great Falls Fair. I would really love to. There are two things I plan to do in July and this is just too many miles for me. I hope to exhibit at the Bozeman Fair. I will just get unpacked and the next weekend is my 50th Class Re-Union in Helena. I don't want to miss this one; I have attended everyone we have held. Of course, "I graduated real young". ??/ I was younger than most, but it still dates me. I always say, it is not the age, it is the mileage that shows.

I have had a very busy January. Our winter has been mild. I don't think I want to ever live on the East slopes of the continental divide again. We escaped your sub-zero weather. In December, we had rain, lots of rain which is unusual. We were getting Washington State weather except on Christmas day. We had a foot of snow and strong winds that closed all county roads, some state roads and many city streets. I cooked my 17 pound turkey and was alone all day---how strange??? I will definitely remember this one. My daughter's family lives about 15 miles away. This is really strange, the next day it poured rain. They opened all the roads. This snow did not last very long.

The 1st part of January had to butcher a whole pen of chickens that were healthy birds exposed to a dread disease carried in the Pigeon Poop. I canned 8 pints of boned out Chicken. This is a lot of work. I canned a real cute rooster, and he is in a jar. I should exhibit my canned chicken at the Fair. I was a 4-H Leader in Montana and I had Horses-sewing-cooking and canning. We always went to the Great Falls Fair. I won a National award from Kerr Canning Co. with a jar of Apricots. We raised Appaloosa Horses, exhibited them as well. My daughter was into everything. I was saddling her horse on one side of the grounds. She was in a style review on the other side. Busy-Busy. The Great Falls Fair has many memories for me and I would love to exhibit again. Not this year.

Next on the 28th and 31st of January, we poured cement in the chicken house for a floor. We did $\frac{1}{2}$ and moved the chickens on the part that was done, then did the remaining half. It is a fairly good size building. I understand my article, "Danger Ahead, Pigeon Poop will appear in the next News Letter. I would like a footnote on this. I have since added concrete floors to my Chicken house and I'm confident this disease is in control.

Apr. 1st
1997

Dear Jeanette;

Enclosed are some stamps that I want to donate for the newsletter mailing. Being I paid dues late last fall,

I think this is the best newsletter that I received. I'm winding down the hatching of chicks. I have about all the Polish I want. I had far too many last year. I need to conserve this year and have more time to spend on my Birds.

Sincerely,
Dith R.



Thanks, Betty, and all of
you who have sent extra \$\$
for substitutes.

REFLECTIONS FROM THE BIG SKY COUNTRY -

My good intentions sometimes get blindsided. I had planned on getting the directory and the newsletter out to you by April 1. I have not received all the information sheets back from some of the members so did it with what information I had. My generous spouse wanted to share his virus with me. I have not had a head cold for years and this virus was a really nasty one.

Mother Nature has had the last laugh in Montana..we tasted spring in mid-March then got slammed but not like North Dakota and Minnesota. By the time you receive this I hope all are drying out and life seems "normal" again.

I received a special gift in Feb. from Ron Nelson...a dozen very colorful eggs. Ron has been trying to find an Ameraucana that lays the true sky blue egg. The eggs he sent were from the Ameraucanas he has and his Welsummers. Some were blue and some were speckled or dark red. At the time I wished I had an incubator as the eggs were very fresh..two days old when I received them. I still have the empty egg shells.

Any of you waiting for the 1997 APA Standard will have to wait until July. I have received my copy of the 1997 ABA Standard..in the loose leaf binder. Very much appreciated. I have wished for this kind of Standard from both associations for as long as I can remember.

As you know or should know the 1997 ABC National will be in Janesville, WI in Sept. I don't have all the details from Mike Gilbert or Arne Schmidt at this time. Hopefully they will send info on motels, etc. for the next newsletter.

I've received a number of notes and letters from the members and some have sent extra \$\$ or stamps for the club to use. A personal thank you to all of you for your support of the club in whatever way.

This summer promises to be a good show time in Montana...with four APA sanctioned shows and one ABA show. The first will be the APA/ABA show in Bozeman, MT, July 18-19. One of our members, Koralyn Kibbee and her husband, Larry, are great hosts for this show. It promises to be worthwhile for anyone in the area. The State Fair in Great Falls is next with a back to back APA show. One of our members, Paul Kroll from NY State, will judge the first show, on July 31. This is open to anyone in the USA. I hope the ABC will allow this show to be the Western District Meet. The fourth show will be in Billings, MT on Aug. 14. It is open to anyone in the USA.

Koralyn Kibbee is very supportive of the youth and with the help of some of the members of the Montana Poultry Fanciers has put out a neat little handbook for the junior exhibitors. Anyone who knows Koralyn knows she never slows down and is always coming up with some great ideas to promote poultry.

Had a call from a gal the other night who was upset because the purebred Ameraucana eggs that had hatch (7 out of 12) had feathered legs and others unAmeraucana traits. My first question was "What else is in the Ameraucana pen?" "Just a Silkie.." She did not think a Silkie would mate with an Ameraucana. I chuckled and said..If it is a chicken they don't care what breed you said it is.

One other thing..I have had several complaints about a breeder who consistantly sells crossbreeds and inferior quality stock as "pure". I have already related one problem a breeder had with some of the stock received. Now another ..seems as tho the Cubalayas sold to this fancier had an excessive amount of white tail feathers. (White feathers are a problem in this breed.) The breeder told the fancier to pull them out. This is against show rules. The wrong earlobe color was because everyone knows "White earlobes are on birds raised inside and red earlobes are from keeping birds outside." Honest..that is what she was told.

Hope life is being good to you and yours.....Ameraucanally, Jeannette