

## REFLECTIONS FROM THE BIG SKY COUNTRY

One more ABC National Show behind us - all that's left are the shadows - created by all those members and the AMERAUCANAS that were in Milwaukee. Unfortunately, I was not one of them. There are reports by some who were there - found elsewhere in this newsletter.

One of the highlights, I heard, was the great meeting held in the Gilbert's room and the presentation of the special plaque to Bernard Kellogg. Well earned and deserved, long overdue, Bernard.

Next ABC National is in Sept. 1992 in Hampton, Iowa. Details in the next newsletter. Plan on being there..I've heard great things about this show.

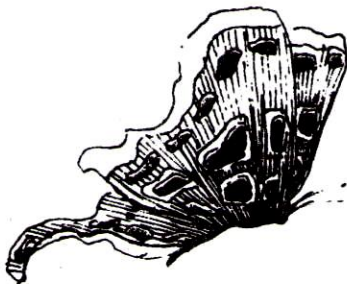
There are several things that need to be mentioned in this newsletter - to start with - the election coming up in the Fall of 1992. We need nominations for President, Sec/Trea and all four District Directors. Keep in mind nominees must be paid up members of the club and must give permission to the person nominating them to nominate. More on duties of officers of the club elsewhere in this newsletter. I will mention I talked to Jeanne Trent and she would like someone else to be nominated for the S/T position this time. She is still trying to get her life organized after the fire.

I've said this before and I will say it again - it isn't easy to be an editor of any newsletter yet a newsletter is a vital part of any club. It isn't a snap to figure out what is best to print for the members or what they would need to know to help them. Does an editor print more social news? or just facts and figures? The true success of this newsletter (and club) has been the input of the members. And, of course, the more input from you, the less you have to listen to my voice.

These past few months have been rather tedious for me - sometimes I take life a little too seriously, -lots of doubts - I guess. Anyway, I ran across this poem in my address book (I had typed it on a divider page some time ago) and I would like to share it with you.

Take yourself  
Strip away any layers of egotism and self pity  
Cut out all seeds of unkind thoughts  
All unhappy emotions  
Remove all worry and doubts  
Then add -  
One firm belief that life is worth living  
Mix well with the practical idea that you are SOMEBODY  
Season with love  
Then add strong determination  
To live life to it's fullest  
Every hour of the day - everyday!

Jeannette Frank  
President/Editor



REFLECTIONS FROM THE BIG SKY COUNTRY

I was trying to get an early start on my part of this newsletter...and got interrupted. Sometimes ideas and thoughts come so easily and then there are the times when I can't even remember why I bother. I thought maybe you might like to know why I really try to get this newsletter out to you -

I have belonged to lots of clubs and associations in my many years. The ones that I felt I wanted to stay with are the ones that kept me upto date on what was going on in that particular association...usually in a newsletter. I'm not fond of attending meetings on a regular basis but I do want to keep "in touch". And I am the type of person who believes in keeping my word when I give it. Just remember if at times this newsletter seems less (or if we are lucky - more) than expected remember I can't do it all alone.

A short time ago I sent out letters to several member for articles. I was pleased with what I did receive. As you can tell from this newsletter it paid off. Thank you to those who took the time to send their articles, thoughts and cartoons.

One of the letters got me thinking - we want to know about our new members - maybe they would like to know about some of the older members. So we'll try that with this issue.. kind of an "Old and New" section.

I had heard a few years ago about John Blehm's set up..pens and how well kept they were. I had asked John to give us a run down of them. Thank you, John, for the fine article and drawing.

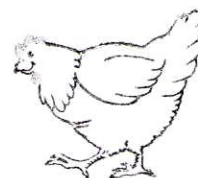
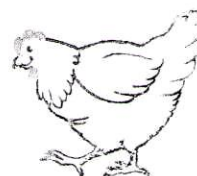
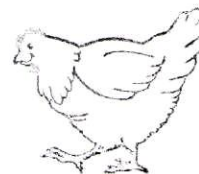
Nominations are slow - guess maybe it doesn't matter who runs your club as long as it is run...right? I've had nominations for President, Sec/Treas., Central DD & Southern DD. How about Eastern DD and Western DD? Anyone want to run for Pres. or Sec/Treas? Please let me know before July 10.

The article titled "The Gift" was written by Mike Gilbert. He told me if it was too long or too personal to just trash it. Mike, I think we all need to read this fine article.. I hope everyone feels the emotional side of the article like I did. Thank you for sharing.

Since I am in the APA judges apprenticeship program and the APA Judges Committee has decided to include the apprentices as recipients of the official judges newsletter I asked if I could use an article out of The Judge's Stick and was given an okay by Sam Brush. We all need to take more time to look over our Ameraucanas and be sure we are living up to our standards.

I threw in the fun page just for fun.

Jeannette Frank  
President



I have talked to Mary Lou Phelps, Central DD, several times in the past couple of months. She is busy (as always) with her younguns. Some have graduated to the outside pen..some hatched under mommas. She is so proud of the eggs she sent to her friends in Pennsylvania - the Voters. She had sent them Wheaten Ameraucana eggs and couldn't believe the hatching %. Voters sent Mary Lou pictures of the "kids". Three boys and three girls. Mary Lou said they looked like all Blue Wheatens but one pullet. Like any proud parent..."They look great." The Voters can't get over the fact that the "boys are chasing the "girls" and they are only eight weeks old.

I know Mary Lou is looking forward to the National in September. Hope we have more information for you before the next issue. Anybody know anything? Get in touch with me. I'll send out a special newsletter if necessary.

We still need pledges, monies, etc. You can get in touch with me, Mike, Mary Lou or Dave for the National. Mike was hoping to see Bart Pals at a show on May 30th. Hope he lets me know if he found out anything. I'll see Bart Pals in Minot, ND in late July.

Keep in touch and let me hear from you.  
Jeanne - where are you?

Jeannette

ABC - THE OLD AND THE NEW (For lack of a better title)

ABC's first president and one of the founding fathers of Ameraucanas -

Mike Gilbert was born in 1943. He and his wife, Mary, have four children: Chad born in 1966, Melissa (only daughter) born in 1971, Robbie born in 1976 and Jason born in 1978.

In order to upgrade the general information on Mike I called him a few nights ago and caught him and Jason busy washing chickens for an upcoming show.

Mike has always enjoyed poultry as a hobby when he lived where he could keep them. His first bearded blue egg layers came from an assortment of chicks from Marti Poultry in Missouri in the early '70's when Mike and his family lived in Iowa.

Mike said he started attending shows and got bit by the bug. He generally was not impressed by the mixture of Araucanas and the standard for them so he started going for what he liked best in the birds. Somewhere along the line one of his Wheaters got a picture in the Poultry Press (late '77 or early '78).

About here is where Don Cable in CA gets into the picture. He saw the picture in PP of Mike and his wheater - contacted Mike. Mike airfreighted two cockerels and two pullets to Don. Don liked what he recieved and the mail between California and Wisconsin kept the USPS in business for some time.

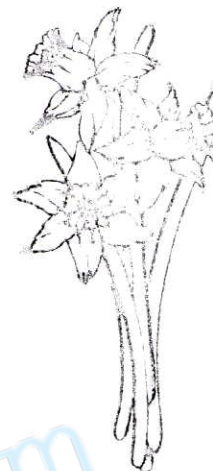
The first article about the new breed of Araucana and the ABC appeared in the Nov. '78 issue of Poultry Press. Mike was the interim President of the new club until he was officially elected. And he remained president until pressures of work forced him to turn his gavel over to me in 1986.

Mike and his family live on 40 acres of mostly woodland in western Wisconsin. He has a business degree from the U of WI - LaCrosse and a year of post graduate work at Colorado State U in FT Collins, CO. For awhile he was co-owner of a public accounting business. He became a full time farmer from '82 to '86. He currently works for the Farm Credit System.

He and his boys are still active in poultry. His youngest, Jason, starts high school in the fall and is the Buff Ameraucana fancier. Robbie is 16 and will be a senior in the fall. He's busy with the conference band but still likes the Black Wyandotte. Daughter, Melissa, just graduated (see Mike's article) from NE MO State. Very busy young lady. Proud papa gave me all kinds of info on her. She works two radio stations...what else did he say? (Wonder if she'd like to take over the ABC newsletter?) He still keeps the SL Wyandottes for Melissa. Mike and Mary's oldest son, Chad, is busy with his own family...6 yr old step son and 3 yr old daughter. He is the only one (other than Mary) that really didn't get too involved with poultry.

In closing I'd like to say Mike has always been there to help me... to listen and advise. I hope he never gets tired of my sudden phone calls or letters asking for an article. Thanks, Mike, for everything you have done to help the ABC'ers and the Ameraucanas.

Hope (?) to see you in Iowa about the third weekend in September, 1992.



John W. Lehman

May 20, 1992

Ms Frank, Pres. Ameraucana Breeders Club

I'm writing just a note to answer your inquiry of 5/13. Sorry to be so slow but I've been in difficult circumstances lately. I am working parttime at the local hospital and have irregular hours (all 3 shifts) which is doing me in.

My interest in the Ameraucanas is a new one as I received 6 hens (multicolored) and a rooster as a gift at Christmas time. They are hatchery run and don't seem to fit into any accepted color pattern. I learned this from what I have gotten, so far, as literature from the club.

I joined to learn of the breed. No one close by has any that are true to type, as far as I can determine. Folk here call them "Auracanas" and have no idea about what they should be.

I have about a dozen and a half chickens, all mixed breed - hoping to keep a preservation flock of about 2 dozen eventually. I am low income, so it takes time to accomplish much of anything which requires cash expenditure.

I will continue to keep Ameraucanas as they really are the only ones which show a great deal of individuality as far as behavior is concerned. Some day I hope to procure hatching eggs of quality stock; these to set under my hens.

I am 53 years old, was forced to retire in 1986 due to elimination of factory job in Cincinnati. Wife and I have 6 children (3 boys - 3 girls). Youngest graduates from H.S. the last day of May. We have 4 grandchildren (2 girls 0 2 boys). We live on 67 acres which we've owned for 26+ years; located 40 miles east of Cincinnati.

I'm an avid gardener, specializing in heirloom vegetable varieties, having collected 100's of varieties across the last 15 years. (Mr. J. Segler of ILL belonged to the same organization for preserving heirloom vegetables that I do.)

Wife and I have been married 32 years. She does housekeeping for others, I do part time housekeeping at Brown Co. Hospital on a part time schedule that usually ends up being full time. I never thought I'd wind up mopping floors and scrubbing toilets after making good wages in can making plant for 20 years, but so goes life.

I've loved poultry since a child, as my Grandma had chickens, ducks and guineas. I was city-raised (Dayton, OH) but spent summer on farm with Grandma and Grandpa (not far from where I live now). Wife was born and raised 1 mile from where we live.

In closing, I'd make the comment that I feel you are doing a quite worthwhile thing to get acquainted with your members. As a 15 yr. member of the 'Seed Savers Exchange'. I've noted lack of recognition for the bulk of the members across the years - this is causing many hard working, dedicated folk to drop out.

So, keep up the good work. Hope to be able to contribute something worthwhile in the future as I learn more about Ameraucanas and the club. So far, it looks like the favorite type would be 'Silver Duckwing' (if that's the same as Silver in other breeds). My rooster may be all most (!) that type. I also am working on getting "Buckeye" breed - thru a good friend who has these.

Thanks for your inquiry -

Tom Knoche

P.S. Forgive long windedness and bad writing. Hands have arthritis and carpal tunnel syndrome. This from over 40 years playing piano, organ and doing hand work in factory. pain is continuous.



Breeding Pens  
John W. Blehm 5-22-92

I have two chicken coops, each with an attached fenced in area. One is for bantams and the other for large fowl. Since I breed more than one variety, of each breed, I separate birds into breeding pens, from a month before collecting hatching eggs, until the breeding season is over. During this time the coops are used to hold extra cock birds and for rearing chicks as they come from the brooders.

I have six breeding pens each numbered "1" through "6". The pen number is written, in pencil, on the top of each egg collected from that pen. A list in my hatchery tells what variety is in each pen, such as 2 = amer. bantam black. When the eggs are placed in the hatcher they are segregated, on different trays, according to their pen number. This helps in culling as chicks are hatched and they may be toe punched, for identification, before going into the brooders.

There are many ways to build breeding pens. Of course I wish I had made mine differently after having used them for a few years. My brother put up some last year and incorporated ideas from mine and others. Here are some ideas to keep in mind. Build on high and dry ground or haul in lots of sand. Use treated lumber, 4 x 4 x 10's for corner posts, and 2 x 4's and 2 x 6's for framing. My pens are 8 feet wide by 12 feet deep and each shares a wall with the pen next to it.

Galvanized siding, used horizontally, around the perimeter, partially buried serves as a rat wall and sight barrier, at chicken level, to the outside and between pens. It keeps the chickens from being bothered by passing by critters and keeps the rooster from having a cock fight with the rooster in the next pen. Since metal siding conducts heat it gets very hot when the sun is on it. Plywood could be used but it should be treated so it doesn't rot in the ground.

Nylon netting stretched over the top keeps chickens in and owls and hawks out. The weave on the netting should be small enough to keep in the birds, of course, but large enough so that leaves and snow pass through without weighing it down.

One or two nest boxes (12 x 12 x 12 with a perch) should be mounted in each pen on the wall facing south. I close off the nest box openings and provide a box on the ground, under cover, when I want to force a hen into setting.

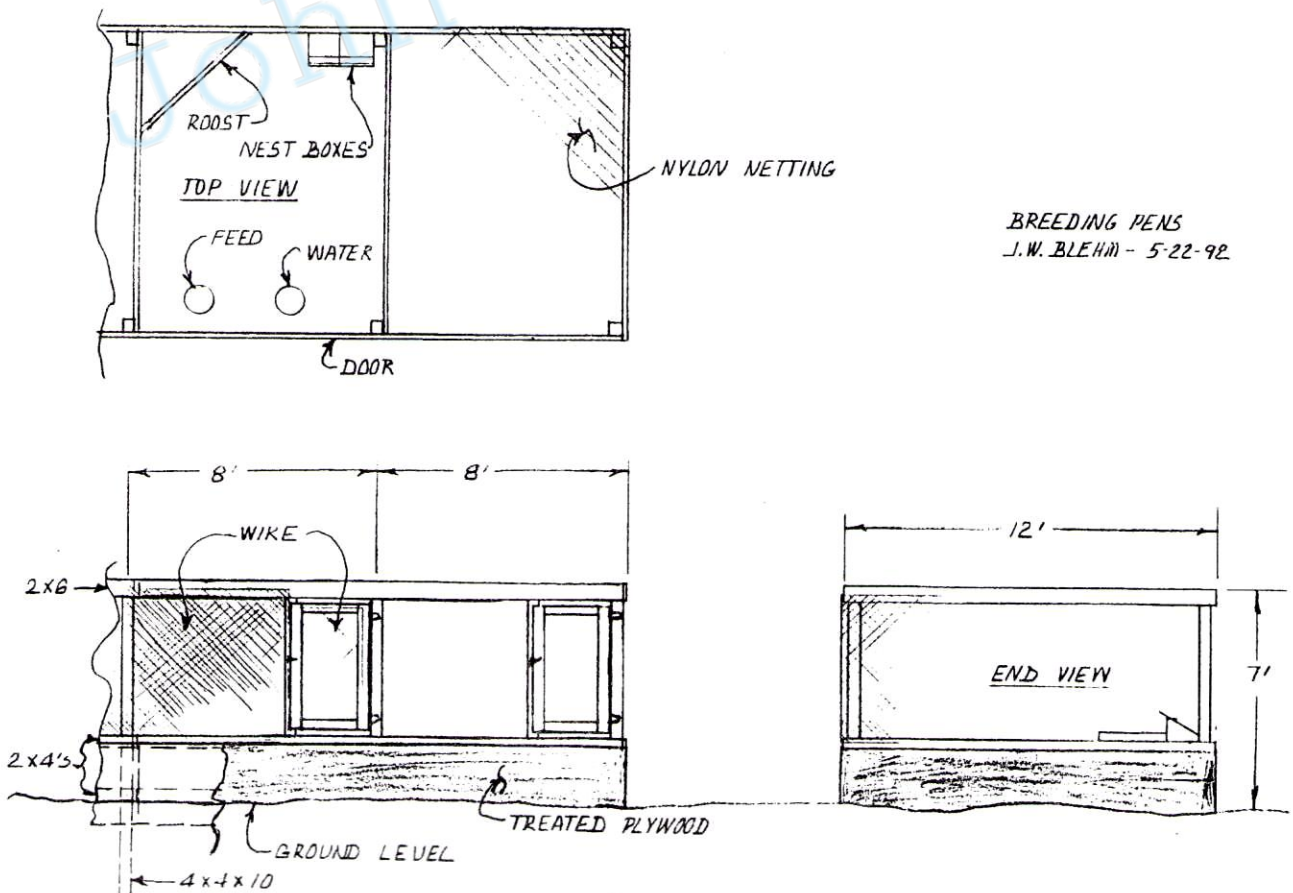
In one corner, a piece of plywood, angled for rain and snow run-off should provide shelter in bad weather and a place to keep the feed. I keep feed in 5 gallon plastic pails with a couple elongated holes, cut out, in their sides, big enough for the birds to get their heads in but small enough so they can't scratch and waste feed. Water pans are kept near the doors for easy access.

Each pen should have a roost in a back corner. The roost, in one pen, should never line up with the roost in the next pen to eliminate the possibility of cock fights through the wire. If your birds will be in breeding pens during very cold weather the roost should be protected from the elements. A small sloped roof above and a wall on the north side of the roost should be considered. I used a 2 x 2 wire on my pens and most any wire will work but "chicken wire" is so fine that it rusts out quickly and I would not recommend it.

Doors should be high enough so that they still open after a snow storm and high doors lessen the chance of birds running out when the door is opened. I put extension springs on my pen doors so that they stay closed even if they aren't latched.

The size of your pens depends on the size and number of birds you put in them. My 8 x 12 foot pens can handle seven large hens and a cock but when I put a trio of bantams in, there is a lot of wasted space. I only use one cock per pen and figure he should service up to seven hens so I would guess you could get by with 6 x 8 foot pens for bantams.

Although breeding pens should be built on sandy ground our faith must be built on the Rock (Duet.32:4)



PUZZLE PAGE FOR ALL AGES

Connect the dots

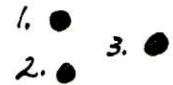
For the beginner:

Connect the dot.



For the advanced:

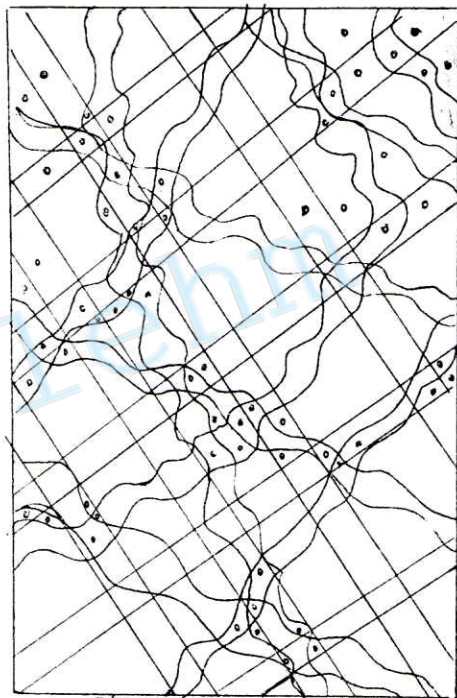
Connect the dots.



Find the hidden word

AMERAUCANA  
MMXXXXXMM  
EXXXXXXE  
RXXXXRXXR  
AXXXAAXXA  
UXXUXXXXU  
CXXCXXCXC  
AXAXXXAXA  
NNXXXXXNN  
AMERAUCANA

Color in areas containing dot  
to find hidden message



TRIVIA QUIZ

1. What's black & white and read all over?
2. Where can you get down off a duck's back?
3. If a herring and a half costs a penny and a half what happens to a fool and his money?
4. How do you get an elephant out of the chicken house?
5. What do you call someone who saves money?
6. What do you call someone who takes time to try to figure out the answers to the puzzles on this page?

John W. Brennan

JEANNETTE FRANK  
P.O. Box 824, Great Falls, MT 59403-0824

Send to:  
an article for the next newsletter...deadline august 1, 1992.  
answer to #6 of the trivia quiz - someone who has enough spare time to write

Find there is no hidden message



**Ameraucana Breeders Club**

NATIONAL SHOW - 1992

MASON CITY, IOWA

SEPTEMBER 19-20, 1992

YOUR SUPPORT IS NEEDED FOR  
TROPHIES OR AWARDS PLEASE SEND YOUR PLEDGES TO:

MIKE GILBERT, WS171 DAKOTA CO., HOLMEN, WI

TO DATE WE HAVE:

- MIKE GILBERT - 10<sup>00</sup> Best ADU LF other than Cherry m-lawn
- 5<sup>00</sup> Reserve ADU LF " " Reserve
- 10<sup>00</sup> Best ADU Best of other than Cherry
- 5<sup>00</sup> Reserve ADU Best of other than Cherry
- 10<sup>00</sup> Best Best of in Open Class
- 5<sup>00</sup> Reserve Best of in Open Class
- 5<sup>00</sup> Crown of the Crop
- J. Treat J. Frank 25<sup>00</sup> LF
- 25<sup>00</sup> Best of " " to be designated when needed.



ADVERTISING

Standard Ameraucanas: Originator of barred variety. Blacks, Blues, White, Splash, and B.B. Red. No eggs, No chicks shipped. Stock at farm or at shows.  
Tom Lippincott, 2572 Loudon St., Granville, OH 43023 (614) 587-0168

Wanted: A trio of wheaten or blue-wheaten Ameraucana bantams. Will attend several Michigan and Ohio shows this year, including Columbus. Write to Jeanne Trent, RR1, Box 196 H, Central Lake, Michigan 49622

Wanted: A copy of the book "Genetics of the Fowl" by F.B. Hutt. McGraw-Hill Co., New York, 1949. Also Wanted: A copy of the September, 1948 issue of National Geographic. Send details to M.K. Gilbert, W5171 Baker Rd., Holmen, WI 54636, or call (608)857-3386

HEX HOUSE HERALD  
P.O. BOX 1011  
COUNCIL BLUFFS, IOWA 51502  
PROMOTING POULTRY AND  
SMALL ANIMALS, ALSO  
EXOTIC ANIMALS & FOWL  
SAMPLE \$1.50: SUBSCRIPTION  
BULK \$8.00: FIRST CLASS IS  
\$14.00: AD RATES ON REQUEST  
CLUBS, SHOWS, SWAP MEETS,  
INDIVIDUAL JUDGES WANTED,  
BUSINESS CARDS, PHOTOS AND  
ARTICLES PRINTED: 28 PAGE  
NEWSPAPER: PH 712-322-5011

ROGER HEYWOOD  
BOX 1011  
COUNCIL BLUFFS, IA. 51502  
A.B.A./A.P.A. LICENSED JUDGE

MODERN GAME BANTAMS:  
BIRCHEN, BROWN RED,  
SILVER BLUE, RED PYLE,  
EGGS AND ADULT STOCK  
GLENDA RAISES: COCHIN & FRIZZLES  
- WHITE, BLACK, BLUE, BROWN RED,