

AMERUCANA BREEDERS CLUB  
P O BOX 824  
GREAT FALLS, MT 59403-0824  
NOV/DEC 1994 Vol.XVI #6



*The Season's Greetings*  
WITH BEST WISHES FOR THE NEW YEAR

# Ameraucana Breeders Club

1994 Election Results  
as of Oct. 24 deadline.

President: Don Cable (22) Elected

Sec.-Treas. Jeannette Frank. (22) Elected

## Districts:

Eastern Susanne Morgan (Ma) 1  
Richard Orr (Ct.) (4) Elected

Central Mary Lou Phelps (Mo) (7) Elected  
Mike Gilbert 1  
(Write in)

Southern John McGrath 1 Tie  
(Write in)  
Sande White 1  
(Write in)

Western Ken Duval (Ca) (5) Elected  
Larry Jenkins 2  
(Write in)

24 ballots mailed in; About 50% membership voted  
(Election Commissioner)

I, Bernard Kellogg, certify that  
ballots have been carefully counted  
and recorded as listed above.

Dated:  
Oct. 28, 1994

Signed:  
Bernard Kellogg.





FROM THE KICKAPOO HILLS

Winter is coming to the old Kickapoo Hills so have my bantams moved into their winter quarters and outside buildings and pens cleaned. Mowed my lawns for the last time. This year we had lots of rain but just a little snow mixed in the other day and could hardly see it. Flower bulbs and roots all dug for winter. I really cut down to just two colors in bantams as old age is creeping up too fast.

Went with Mike Gilbert of Holmen to the show at Hutchinson, Minnesota. A real nice show and I had a very good win.

As to our National at the Illini Show, I was impressed by the nice carved awards by George Cairns, but disappointed as several others were that the club didn't start judging the Ameraucana National nor the Naked Neck Breeders Society National first or until I said something. We didn't have a choice in selecting the judges either.

We have been thinking of selling the old family home and moving to a smaller place as this one is too much to keep up.

Early, I know, but Happy Holidays to everyone.

Bernard Fellogg.



# HOLIDAY GREETINGS

## FROM THE MEMBERS

Dear Jeannette,

It's been awhile since my last letter, so I thought I'd better drop you a line!

Things have finally slowed down around here. Both of my kids were active in 4-H this year, so we were twice as busy! My son, Travis, will be showing some Wheatens next year. My daughter, Jessica, is sticking with her White Crested ducks. My nephew, Scott McAlexander, is showing geese. His just 4, but my kids recruited him for next year.

I have a question for you, or anyone in the club. As I have said before, I got some Wheatens las year. My chicks are now pretty much grown and a lovely bunch they are too! However, some of my cockerels are blue-breasted. I have looked in my Standard and they appear to be Blues. Since I am new at this... How did I get BLUES??? They are beautiful and I cater to them something awful, but I bred Wheaten to Wheaten. Do you breed a Wheaten to a Blue to get a better Wheaten? If so, may I breed these Blues back to my Wheaten hens? Any information would be helpful. If anyone has any Blues for sale, Please let me know. After seeing their color I have fallen in love!

Well, I hope you enjoyed your trip. With the great job you do on the newsletter, you deserve a rest. Take care.

Sincerely,

Amelia  
McAlexander

Rand-Am Exotics  
RR 1 Box 238  
Nebraska City, NE 68410

## New members:

Pat Church - 10241 N Croswell, St. Louis, MI 48880

Preston Fields - 722 Fucton, Indianola, IA 50125

Harry Hellwig - 7483 Dansville MT Morris Rd., Dansville, NY 14437

Max Huff - P.O. Box 416, Lindale, GA 30147



## BREEDING BUFF

My congratulations to Matt Berg on his champion Ameraucana bantam. It is gratifying to find buff moving into the champion category which has more often gone to wheaten and white. This is particularly impressive because of the relative short length of time that this variety has been in existence. Moreover, the champion bird came out of a class of twenty-two which speaks to the rise in popularity of the buff variety.

In as much as buff, like black and white, is a self color, it is often thought that it is relatively easy to produce since there is only one color to deal with and no intricate pattern to strive for such as lacing. Dealing with one color IS the problem. To achieve a uniform buff color throughout all sections is difficult and an ongoing challenge with this variety.

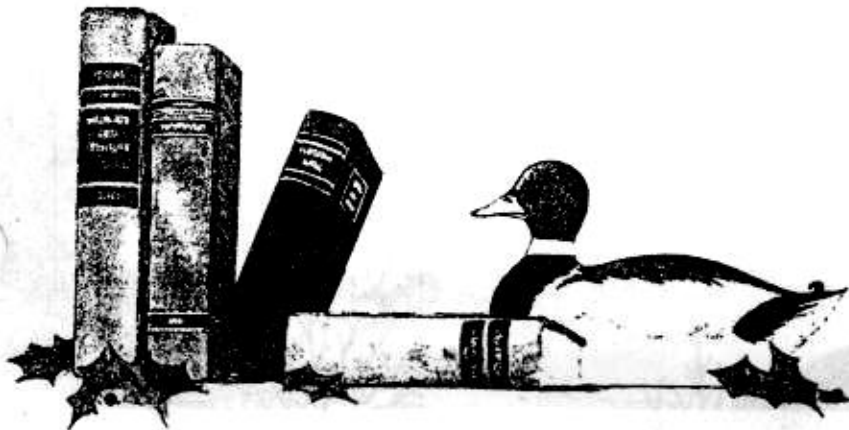
In buff males, problems in color arise when hackles, saddles, and frequently flight and main tail feathers often develop a shade or two darker than other sections. Females can develop the same faults, though more often less obvious. In either case, this destroys the overall uniform buff color desired.

Extremes in color are a problem as well. Some breeders place so much emphasis upon richness of color, that they develop a family that moves from true buff over a period of time, to a shade of buff approaching red. This reddish-buff is most obvious in the mail tail and sickle feathers. The reverse is also true. It is also possible to lose color, particularly when white begins to manifest itself into the buff. This problem can be detected by examining the feather shaft in the wings of birds losing the true buff color. White, not buff can be found in the shaft of these feathers and the same may be true of main tail feathers. Shafting may occur in other sections as well. Constant exposure to intense sunlight can also have a bleaching effect upon buff color including split and broken feathers across the back. Finally, smut or black peppering in wing tips and tail may be another problem to have to deal with.

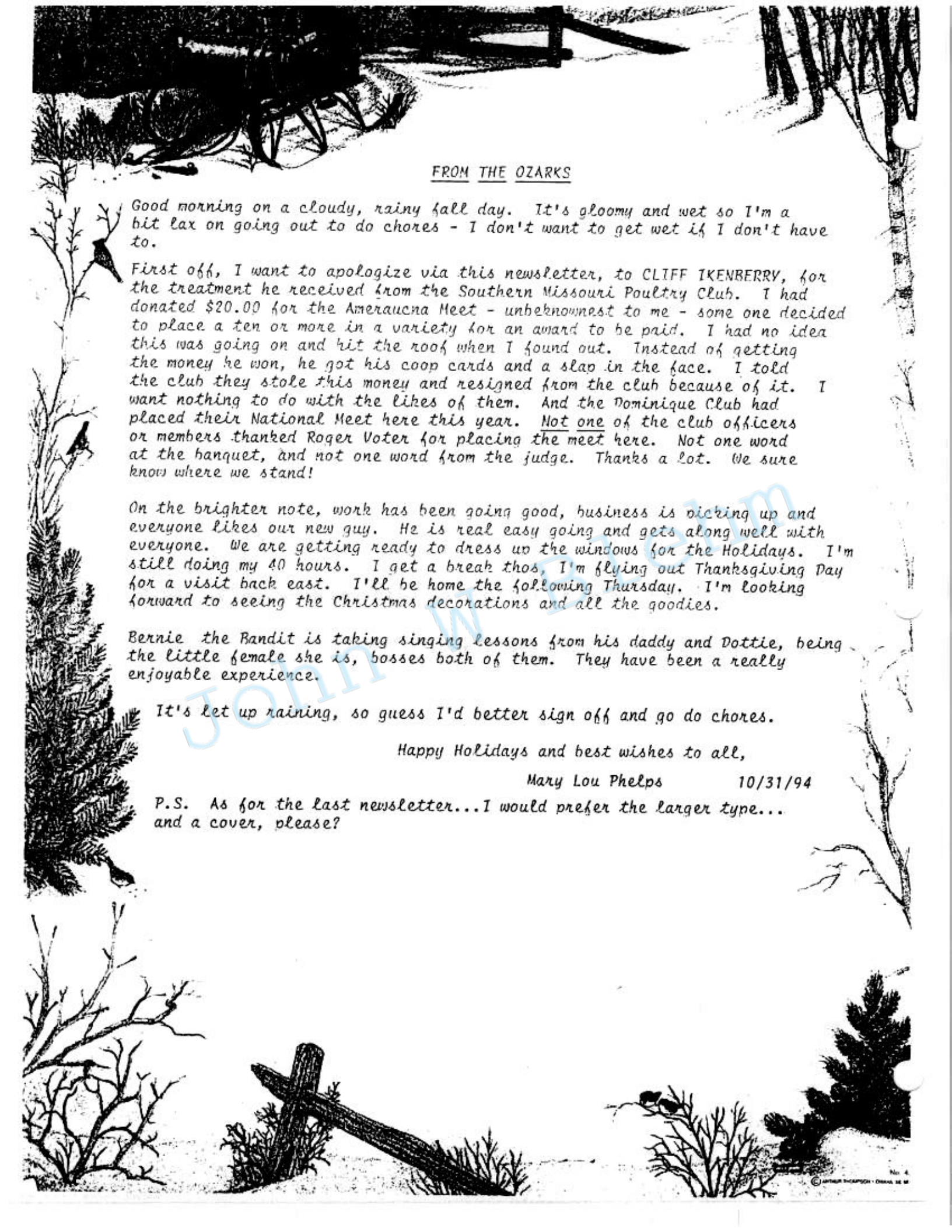
Maintaining an overall uniform buff is the key to success. Some breeders advocate mating extremes in color to achieve a balance in the progeny, but most have success in mating birds of both sexes having the desired color and culling severely in the young produced by this method. Good buff color is not easy to produce and even more difficult to maintain, but when it's right, it's easily one of our most stunning varieties.

My congratulations also to those who took up the development of this variety and who have achieved so much in so little time. I think this is a tribute to the quality and skill of the breeders in this club. These people are second to none.

Don Cable  
On the road







FROM THE OZARKS

Good morning on a cloudy, rainy fall day. It's gloomy and wet so I'm a bit lax on going out to do chores - I don't want to get wet if I don't have to.

First off, I want to apologize via this newsletter, to CLIFF IKENBERRY, for the treatment he received from the Southern Missouri Poultry Club. I had donated \$20.00 for the Ameraucna Meet - unbeknownst to me - some one decided to place a ten or more in a variety for an award to be paid. I had no idea this was going on and hit the roof when I found out. Instead of getting the money he won, he got his coop cards and a slap in the face. I told the club they stole this money and resigned from the club because of it. I want nothing to do with the likes of them. And the Dominique Club had placed their National Meet here this year. Not one of the club officers or members thanked Roger Voter for placing the meet here. Not one word at the banquet, and not one word from the judge. Thanks a lot. We sure know where we stand!

On the brighter note, work has been going good, business is picking up and everyone likes our new guy. He is real easy going and gets along well with everyone. We are getting ready to dress up the windows for the Holidays. I'm still doing my 40 hours. I get a break thos, I'm flying out Thanksgiving Day for a visit back east. I'll be home the following Thursday. I'm looking forward to seeing the Christmas decorations and all the goodies.

Bernie the Bandit is taking singing lessons from his daddy and Dottie, being the little female she is, bosses both of them. They have been a really enjoyable experience.

It's let up raining, so guess I'd better sign off and go do chores.

Happy Holidays and best wishes to all,

Mary Lou Phelps 10/31/94

P.S. As for the last newsletter...I would prefer the larger type... and a cover, please?





**RICHARD A. ORR**  
DEPUTY SHERIFF  
FAIRFIELD COUNTY

JOANNETTE, I TRUST THAT YOU  
RECEIVED MY LONG LETTER ABOUT MY  
TRIPS THIS SUMMER, INCLUDING  
MY GREAT VISIT TO SEE  
JOHN BLEHM. —

40 WOODLAWN ROAD  
MONROE, CONN. 06468  
HOME (203) 268-5745  
OFFICE (203) 268-9669  
MOBILE CAR (203) 556-1040

November 15th, 1994

To: Ameraucana Breeders Club and the Araucana Club of America ( and members)

I have just returned home from attending the Ohio National at Columbus, Ohio, and am writing to fill you in on my observations and opinions about that Show. I attended that Show primarily to participate in a "National", and because Columbus is my "hometown". It was an 11-hour drive, each way, driving out there on Friday, in a Nissan Pulsar, alone, with my 10 chickens, and returning on Sunday, after the Show closed.

I have mixed feelings about the Show -- I was happy to see such a large show, I haven't any idea how many entries in all, but certainly the LARGEST show that I have seen. However, it was dominated completely by the more popular breeds, and the Ameraucanas and Araucanas were relegated to the LAST rows, FAR from the center of activities. Fully a third of the bantams entered were Old English or Moderns, a huge number.

There were numerous trophies, as advertised, But I was ( and continue to be) very disappointed that they had NO RIBBONS for those of us who should have received them. I entered 10 birds, and received 10 "1"s, qualifying for 10 Blue ribbons, but they had no such ribbons to distribute. Thus, I have nothing to show for having been there.

I made contact with two breeders of Araucanas there, Steven Shonk, from Paris, Il., and Rick Seymour, from Culpepper, Va. These two fellows had the distinction of being the ONLY exhibitors of Araucanas. And I acquired a pair of Araucanas from Rick Seymour, Golden Duckwing, VERY well tufted, and good colors ( rumpless). Steve had a bunch there for sale, but it didn't appear to me that he had made any sales ( they were all culls).

I entered 8 Bantam Ameraucanas, one White LF Ameraucana, and my LF Welsummer cock. The 8 bantams were of different varieties. All eight received "Blues". There were NO OTHER Ameraucanas entered in Bantams -- in the LF, there were a total of 6, including my one White. These were 3 Silvers, and two Blacks, and the Blacks got the BB and RB, although NEITHER of them had the required BLACK legs ( They had willow and yellow legs).

There were six (6) LF Araucanas entered, with a Black taking BB and a Blue taking RB, both belonging to Rick Seymour, though he had two others also that were nice, but were DISQUALIFIED for leg color ( which SHOULD be a "defect" for points, and NOT a disqualification).

In the bantam Araucanas, Steve had entered two beautifully tufted rumpless Silvers, which got BB and RB, and Rick had entered three clean-faced rumpless, one Silver and two Golden duckwings, which got "blues".

There being no other entries in the Ameraucana bantams other than mine ( eight), I can report only that the Blue pullet got BB, and a Blue Wheaten of my own hatch this Spring took RB.

It might sound like sour grapes, but the results demonstrate to me the need to continue to try to EDUCATE ( spelled, RAISE THE ROOF) with the Judges about the requirements of the Standards -- in this case, with regard to Leg Colors. It seems to me that although the licensed Judges all know the fine points of Cochin foot-feathering ( for example), they give short shift to the Ameraucana and Araucana breeds. Many of them simply don't know the Standards, regarding these breeds.

I had a "discussion" with one exhibitor who LOUDLY stated to his companion, " Look at all those AMERAUCANAS -- They ought to throw them all out of here. Those guys just mongrelized the Araucanas, and called it a new breed -- These barnyard fowl don't belong in any Show !!!" I took it upon myself to argue with him, telling him that he shouldn't talk so pointedly and in such a LOUD voice about something that he didn't know about.



He proceeded to tell me about how the Araucana is a "pure-breed" that goes back to the Indians in prehistoric days, etc. etc. I tried to point out to him that although it is true that the Ameraucana was accepted as a Standard only as recently as 1984, the ARAUCANAS were admitted only in 1976, and as I understand it, without a "qualifying meet". As I have been told, that Standard was adopted as a "goal" to be achieved in the breeding going on with the Araucanas, whereas the Ameraucanas were admitted following qualifying meets. This guy would listen to none of that, but continued to sound off loudly thereafter about the "bastard Araucanas," at every opportunity. (He didn't have EITHER of the two breeds.) I learned later that he is Bill Mayer from Westland Michigan, so maybe John, you can educate him! I was told that he is big on Waterfowl, and appears at all the nearby Shows regularly. What surprised me was his insistence on LOUDLY berating that breed to all the Judges, etc., which was NONE of his business anyway. Real loudmouth!

To John Blehm; I was surprised that my own Blue Wheaten pullet got RB, which justifies your advice to me that I had some keepers in the batch of 15 that I hatched out this Spring. That one really does have a "pretty face" - well muffed, and correct colors. Which goes to show that one can produce some good stock from mediocre parents. NONE of the males (fathers) were muffed, and the females were only so-so for muffs. But the off-spring were about half well-muffed, and three or four really good. Your Blue pullet really does deserve BB -- She was also selected at the New England Show for the winners circle -- but didn't make it any further. The Ameraucanas did well in the New England Show -- they were popular and well awarded. I entered also in the Boston Show, and was the only exhibitor of bantams, there being two more in LF against my White. The Black pullet got a Rosette there, as BAOCCCL. BUT NOT SO IN COLUMBUS !! (Not popular!

I had to use my Nissan Pulsar to drive there, since I was involved in a three-car accident on November 1st. I was the car in the middle, and the pickup truck behind me hit me and drove me into the car in front -- wiping out all the grill and lights in front, and the bumpers, etc. I was taken to the hospital by EMS, and am continuing to suffer back problems, in the area where I had had an operation on my back in June. But it has recovered sufficiently that I could drive to Columbus. I won't have my Taurus wagon again until after Thanksgiving. The chickens travelled there quite well in new boxes just acquired from Claude McAllister, another Araucana fancier (Seven Oaks Game Farm)

For the record, among my mixed flock, I now have eight LF Ameraucanas, 26 bantam Ameraucanas, and 14 Araucanas (mostly bantams - some intermediate size - nearly all golden duckwing). Few of the Araucanas are show-quality, but all are tufted or have the tufted gene, and all are rumpless, except one which HAD two tail feathers. I believe that three or four are good enough to be shown, but these are primarily for breeding. According to Fred Jeffreys, I am apparently the only person in New England who has the tufted rumpless Araucana, and I will be trying to show these and promote the breed, though as you know, it is difficult to win more than a blue ribbon with limited numbers of entries. Many shows require a minimum of 25 entries per breed to gain a rosette.

I am looking forward to the Spring already, for hatching, and will have to construct a lot more simple "pens" for breeding, in order to separate the various colors that I have. Right now, all the Ameraucana bantams are sharing the same comfortable house. And nearly all of the Araucanas are together. Looks like I will have my hands full building some small pens during the winter.

With nothing more to say for the moment, let me close with a repeat plea that the CLUBS should continue to try to communicate with the JUDGES about the need to know the Standards on these breeds. Ernie Durb apparently has discussed my complaint to him with other Judges here in New England, so that is making progress (that was where a Judge told me that "Araucana" doesn't mean anything more than "a blue-egg layer" -- and that was a APA-ABA Judge). Ernie was in Columbus also; the only person that I knew at the Show. My squawks have apparently had some effect here in New England, but not in Ohio !! And this was a "National" !!! And no ribbons available either !!!  
Best of luck to you all --

Cordially,

*Dick*

Dick Orr

PS: To demonstrate something about "popularity" at the Columbus Show, in Ameraucanas (Bantams), I was the ONLY exhibitor; but for "Black Sumatras", there were 21 birds, among SEVEN breeders, to mention another "unpopular" breed. A good show of them!!



**TOMMY ("CHIP") L. DANIELL, JR.**  
**1014 Cave Springs Road**  
**Douglasville, Georgia 30134**

September 30, 1994

Ms. Jeannette Frank  
Secretary/Treasurer  
AMERAUCANA BREEDERS CLUB  
Post Office Box 824  
Great Falls, Montana 59403-0824

Dear Jeannette,

Thanks for all your work and concern on finding me all the information on people raising Ameraucanas. I'm sorry I haven't had the time to write back to you sooner. My company has gone through alot of changes. Some that I could control and some that I couldn't control, like the weather. But thats a long story. During this process I have sold part of my farm, however, I still have plenty of animals left. I hope to start building it back up in a few years.

I thought I would tell you a little about my family. I have a wife, Denise, and two daughters, Jennifer who is 7 and Cindel age 5. My wife shows some interest in my chickens, usually around show time when she helps me wash them. Jennifer, started first grade this year. It is an experience both for mom and dad. Both girls love animals, but sometimes lose interest in them. I always have a new animal coming in for them to enjoy. We show Frizzles, Cochins, Silkies, and standard Black Cochins. At least twice a year we go to the shows and would like to show more but, of course, my business takes up alot of my time.

My business is lawn and landscaping (Chip's Lawn Care, Inc.). I have enjoyed being a member, and would like to some day be a good active member. My interest is mostly in the black Batam Ameraucana. As of right now I have the standard white Ameraucana and they are not very good quality. We do very well with our other breeds. We have won plaques and a trophy. I am enclosing some information on Araucana chickens.

Thanks again for your help.

Sincerely,



Chip Daniell



Even tho it is Nov. 23 as I write this by the time you are reading it the last major holiday of 1994 will be knocking at our door. Hope you are ready for it.

Election results are in this newsletter. A THANK YOU to all who voted and a special thanks to those of you who voted to keep me as Sec/Treas/Ed. It is encouraging to see the increase of total votes cast. BERNARD, an extra special THANK YOU for the great job as Election Commissioner and a hug when next I see you.

I received several comments on the newsletter - most of them negative to the size of the printing. Most favorable were the comments on Don Cable's article. So, Don, keep up the good job. As you can see, I went back to the regular size printing..it is much easier to read. It may cost a bit more but what value is the newsletter if you can not read it? I would like to hear from the members as to what you think we should do about the cost of the newsletter and the size of printing and volume.

**A REMINDER TO ALL** - Dues for 1995 are due Jan. 1, 1995. Dues are still: \$7.50 for a single membership, \$10.00 for family, \$5.00 for junior (under 17). Your dues are what pays the expenses of the club...newsletters and postage included. I know who has paid for 1995...your new membership card is in this newsletter.

With the new year approaching a request ...I have a new file just waiting to be filled with articles for the 1995 ABC newsletters. Some of you older members keep in mind that just because you know it doesn't mean everyone in the club knows...so share some of the information that helped you in the past. Don't assume that it wouldn't be of interest to someone else.

There is a question in this newsletter from a member...can you help with an answer?

On the personal side: I used to be very involved in leatherwork...tooling, etc. so when my son asked for a pair of mountain man boots and my granddaughter asked for a pair of soft soled moccasins for Christmas it gave me a chance to explore my local Tandy store. I found a new hobby (like I needed one)...Dream Catchers. So now in the evening in between all my other projects I'm making Dream Catcher jewelry and wall hangings. And yes, I did get the makings for the boots and moccasins.

Winter has slowed down the fishing some. Last time we went fishing was 11/11 to a lake about 70± miles west of GF. The water was up 8' but there is still 3/4 of a block of rough shore and lots of rocks showing. I figured Jerry decided to change locations after about an hour and a half because I was catching more fish (2-1# rainbows to his 3-½# rainbows). I'm not noted for my ability to not fall and I did.. flat on my face in the rocks. Didn't break my fishing pole!! I wasn't sure what was bleeding but when I got to my feet there was a lot of blood..turned out to be a severe cut on my lower lip and a bruised cheek. Jerry took one look and decided we better go get my lip stitched. I told him I wasn't ready to stop fishing. We found a new shoreline...more sand...and I caught two more 1# rainbows to his zip. We only fished about three hours..we could see a storm coming in. My face and lip were sore for a few days but I'm back to normal(?) and ready to go fishing...as soon as the ice is thick enough to hold a freight train.

While we are waiting for the ice to thicken we can go scouting new fishing lakes and ponds in Jerry's new '95 Dodge pickup.

With that I had best sign off. Hope the Holidays are good to you and those you love. If I owe you a letter please be patient. I am starting to get caught up and as most of you know...a lot of my letters go out with either the newsletter or my Christmas cards. Christmas will be brighter at my house this year. My son will be home for a few days and my youngest daughter will be out with her family. My two oldest daughters will be together in Arizona. Maybe one of these days we will all be together..it has been a few years.. so with that...I'll see you next year.

