

# Ameraucana Breeders Club

Summer - 1991

Vol III #2



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

Koralyn Kibbee  
9069 Wooden Shoe  
Manhattan, MT 59741  
(406) 284-6978

## NOTES FROM NORTHERN MICHIGAN

Hi all AM folks. Looks like we've sprung into summer, kind of skipped spring. Lilacs are in full bloom, spirea getting ready. 80° predicted for tomorrow (May 22). Pat and I went to a marvelous greenhouse Monday and bought our flowers. I went kind of crazy and got 8 different perennials. They were only \$2.50 each. Wonderful, healthy plants. I just couldn't resist. Then the usual marigolds, moss rose, etc. The last two nights I've been out until dark planting flowers while listening to the Tigers. I've been using plenty water. We are kind of dry.

The Centreville show came and went Mother's Day weekend. It was a hot one this year. 92° at noon when we left and oh so muggy. We were glad to get back up north. Warm here too but not that hot. I took only 6 white birds - 2 trios..1 LF and one bantam. Yes, all white birds and you know what that means...6 baths on Thursday night. I was a little nervous. The bantams I've done four or five times. This time I had three large fowl. The bantams are so little and easy. Well, folks, the large fowl enjoyed it just as much and were equally cooperative. I was amazed. Takes longer to dry them. Rex helped and we finally were finished by 2:00 A.M. He slept while finished getting things ready. By 9:00 A.M. we were all set to go. We stopped in Cadillac to Mom day gift shop. I slept the rest of the way while Rex drove.

We got to Centreville about 6:00. The very first person we saw was BK looking fit and trim. He helped us coop in. I also had a pot of bean soup for the lunch stand. I had the only LF, as usual, but the bantams had more and 11 additional spots...same exhibitor and I correctly assumed it was Carl Fosbrink. We fed and watered then left for Mom's house. I came back Sat. (it was hotter still). 11 holes still empty. No Carl Fosbrink. Came to find out he wasn't there because someone went to his place and stole a bunch of birds..show birds, breeders and even chicks. Those of you not living in the midwest may not know Carl is known here as "Mr. Barred Rock" and he had good ones. He got interested in Ameraucanas several years ago and was working on them and helping junior, Matt Betz, with showing. The AMs were stolen also. I don't know what is worse..to lose bunches of birds to "the thing" like I have over the past three years or just to come home and they are all gone...stolen. It takes a lot of hard work and dedication to develop such a good line. I would urge any of you to keep an eye out for someone who all of a sudden shows super barred rocks or AM bantams. He had blue, black, splash, silver and wheaten. That's all I can think of at the moment. If you see such a variety of AMs at a show I'd be real curious where that person or persons got those birds. Maybe ask a few casual questions...play detective and let Carl know. I don't know what he could do to prove anything unless he had them tattooed or something. I really think we all should keep our eyes open. If the person or persons had enough nerve to steal all those birds they may have enough nerve to show them.

Carl, you have all of our greatest concern and we'll do anything to help.

I thought chicken folks were above that sort of thing. I can honestly say I don't think any of us AM folks would do that. We are all so helpful to each other. Example: I missed seeing Beverly Fledderjohann at the show but she left 2 dozen bantam eggs with a friend for me. They are currently in the Roll-X. THANK YOU, BEVERLY.

The Ficken Family was at the show - all four kids bigger of course. Long trip for them but they enjoyed the show. Catherine was proudly carrying a trophy for the Pee Wee Showmanship. Friend Tim had 17 kids this year in showmanship. He said the kids get better each year. I've got the 4-H handout on that if you need it for your juniors. Pegi (Mom) Fricken says Wisconsin doesn't have it. If you need it let me know. Nice to see the Fickens.

Lot of new faces at the show and a lot of familiar ones didn't show up. The trio of white large fowl Ameraucanas caused favorable comments from various skeptical folks. Still fighting the AM stigma. Thanks to MG, I have this trio of nice white AM large fowl. A real rarity. They looked great. If any of you are interested in white LF Am's maybe Mike would help. Somebody he knows in WI raises them. They have all the points we want.

I am still being plagued by the "THING". I finally say it. It has been three years. It is a dog. A wild dog. Maybe even a half wolf or coyote or something. It looks like a big shepard. All brown. Three years it's been plaguing me. It is sooo smart. Rex and I are totally amazed. I called Roger out again. I'm going to bill the township for the loss of 30 or so chickens and a trio of geese. It is just absolutley driving me crazy. I had the white LF stashed at Rusty's and a trio of wheaten. Came time for the show so Rex and I decided to get them on Sunday, I work all week and then they would be here to



## Progress in the Midwest

On March 24th, Mike and Mary Gilbert picked me up on a beautiful Sunday afternoon and we traveled to scenic Reedstown Wisconsin, home of the famous Naked Neck breeder, Bernard Kellogg. After viewing Bernard's great collection of glass sitting hens ( he has hundreds) and looking over his Naked Necks in the basement, we sat down for a planning session for the annual meet in Milwaukee. Judges, a reception at the headquarters motel, a club table and raffle were discussed.

We decided to hold a raffle at the annual meet to raise some money to build up the treasury. We have a painted circular saw blade with a Blue Wheaten in a barnyard scene, which was painted by Mary Gilbert's supervisor at the local savings bank she works at. Nice job on that. Mike has all of the club bulletins ever printed and we decided to make copies of the first 5 years, 1978 to 1983 and put in a 3 ring binder for the raffle. This should be a nice addition to a poultry library. Other items will be added in coming months. We are going to encourage members who will not be attending the annual meet to send in money for raffle tickets to the treasurer and their tickets will be in the raffle, and will have the same chance as the people who are at the show.

Bernard is going to take care of the club table again this year with his photo bulletin board. Anyone who has new pictures please send to Bernard.

Mary Gilbert is lining up motel accommodations for the show, and along with Mike, Bernard and Dave Horman will put together a reception type get together for members attending the show.

We have received cash and pledges totaling \$110 plus a trophy and two 1991 Silver Eagle silver dollars for specials for the annual meet to date. Keep them coming.

Mike Gilbert hatched out a few eggs for me this spring and now my hens have hatched out a few Whites and nice group of Wheatens, plus some Columbian and Buff Columbian Wyandottes. If it doesn't stop raining here soon though, the chicks will need webbed feet.

A couple of weeks ago I gave new meaning to my nick name "Chain Saw". It took 8 stitches in my knee after I got too close to my leg with the chain saw while cutting up some logs. Nothing serious, but a good reminder to pay attention.

Hope everyone is having a good breeding season, and will have a lot of birds for our annual meet.

"Chain Saw" Dave

## FROM THE OZARKS

Greetings on a hot, humid, partly sunny day. Lots of rain the past two weeks-nearly 3" on Monday PM-this in nearly 2 hours. It's really threatening looking and weather people are advising to keep an eye on the sky and an ear tuned to the radio. I'm hoping my laundry will get dry enough to take off the line before I have to go to town.

I've been a working girl again for the past month - this time at a nursery-greenhouse. I work in the garden center with bedding plants and "veggies". It's been a learning experience and fun, but sure tiring on the old legs. I've been doing 40 hours plus a week, but expect to be laid off after Memorial Day. It'll be nice to be home for awhile - my "little guys" have been doing for themselves, except for feed and water.

Still have a half dozen eggs in the incubator and a couple of hens on eggs. Didn't plan on them, but guess I'll go ahead and let them set. A sporadic hatch which is why I didn't try to send anyone any eggs - I'll try to catch up with you two fellas at Hampton in Sept.

I did get a very disturbing phone call last week from a club member. As he told me..he ordered chicks from a fellow member - well, they were sent 3rd class - took them three days to arrive at his post office - half of the chicks were dead on arrival - the others were so dehydrated and stressed they probably won't make it.

My point is this - IF YOU - anyone - who ships babies (or eggs for that matter)...but especially chicks - pay the extra dollar or so and send them PRIORITY MAIL! If you don't have hatchery shipping boxes mark them LIVE ANIMALS SPECIAL HANDLING. Get priority stickers from your post office..they don't cost anything...just ask. Surely, it's not that much trouble - and ship on a Monday or a Tuesday, so they don't get delayed over a weekend.

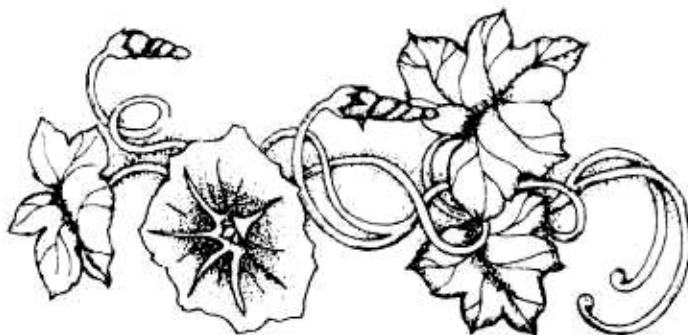
This really upset me and as much as I'd like to mention names, I won't. But a stunt like this is unforgivable and there is no excuse for it. After all, those babies are living creatures - put yourself in their place -!

I'm really looking forward to Milwaukee this fall. Hope everyone has a good hatch and we can really make this show set up and take notice of the ABC.

It's also not too soon to be thinking about our '93 National and where to place it. North Iowa, at Hampton, would like to host our meet and I know from past experience with them, they'll roll out the red carpet.

Best to all - see you in September

Mary Lou Phelps  
May 15, 1991



WHY CHICKENS?

How many times have you had this kind of conversation with acquaintances who find you have chickens:

"Chickens!"

"Yes"

"Do you keep them for eggs?"

"No, but occasionally I do eat their eggs."

"For meat then?"

"No, they're usually too small to bother with."

All of this is frequently followed by a period of pregnant silence as people mull over your seemingly unsatisfactory answers. To save them the uncomfortable "Why" question sure to follow, I generally offer, "I just like them." At this point, some will write you off as having just slipped over the edge, but that's all right, just one of the hazards of the poultry fancy.

You could keep llamas, chinchillas or pot bellied pigs and people wouldn't bat an eye, but chickens? These same people are often greatly surprised to find we have our poultry organizations, our shows and even our own newspaper. The response to this information is generally a good natured chuckle, to which I usually join, and why not? The poultry fancy is just a tad unusual in this day and age and if we can't laugh at ourselves, we're in big trouble.

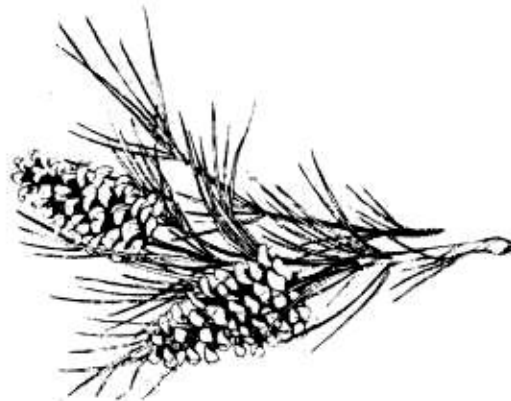
So why do we have a fondness for poultry?

The answer is no doubt as various as the folks who keep them, but as for myself, the best answer was given in an article in Poultry Press some years ago. A Canadian named Green penned the item entitled "Father Was A Fancier" in which he stated that keeping poultry for many takes us back to our youth - a gentler, more innocent time spent in the country or some small town where poultry were associated with a happier era.

As a boy I was packed off to spend my summers in Lincoln, a small town on the edge of California's great central valley. For a small boy escaping the confining city, cold fogs and endless overcast days of San Francisco, it was an idyllic existence. Not only was school out, but all of the warm, lazy days of summer were at hand with opportunity to fish, swim and enjoy a special treat: looking after my grandmother's chickens. It was my job to feed, water and gather the eggs - which were few and far between, but that is another story.

The point is that chickens are a part of fond memories of those days and who knows but that they color my attitude toward poultry and the people who share my enthusiasm for them?

Don



Dear Jeannette,

First let me say that I am happy to serve the Club as Western Director. I hope I can promote our lovely breed in this area.

Unfortunately the only show that I can attend is the Del Mar Fair. This is the fair for San Diego County.

I have Wheaten and Blue Wheaten bantams. My first pair of Wheaten chicks came in a shipment my daughter's 4-H leader got from Murray McMurray in the bantam chick assortment, 8 years ago. These are not the so-called Easter Egg chickens. They are true Ameraucanas. I still have my first hen. "Wheatie" is a great layer and a good mother, too.

A year and a half later we went to a poultry show at the Los Angeles County Fairgrounds. I bought a Blue Wheaten hen from a 4-Her. He said he got his original birds the same way.

Besides chickens we have French Lop rabbits, wood ducks, two cockatiels, a horse, two dogs and six cats.

My daughter is in 4-H and FFA and raises swine for the fair. She will graduate in June.

I enjoy baking, cake decorating, cooking for a crowd, all kinds of crafts and I love to read.

I'm originally from Bay City, Michigan. It always makes me homesick when Jeanne writes about going to the Bay City show.

We may be moving to Lexington, Kentucky this fall when the company I work for relocates there. If we do then I'll be able to attend some of the shows that everyone writes about. It would be great to meet some of you fine people.

Hope you have a great show season.

Sincerely,  
Sue Getyina

P. P. S. Perhaps I could meet your son while he's in San Diego. We live 35 miles away. near Camp Pendleton Marine Corps Base.

~~~~~

Dear Jeannette,

This is the first time I have written. I really enjoy getting the ABC newsletter. I do have a small problem. I need to know the weights of the large fowl Ameraucanas. I have the Golden Duckwing variety or at least it is close to that color. I have had different types of Ameraucanas over the years but most would not breed true to type. I have been to several shows in my area and most shows have not had Ameraucanas or else the tailed variety was shown as Araucanas. Most birds offered for sale were being sold as Araucanas. I have said something about this and most people look at me as if I didn't know what I was talking about. I would like to get the handbook if possible. I have not received one to show people what Ameraucanas look like. I live in Southern VA. right on the NC-VA line. I attend shows in both states and hope to get some Ameraucanas good enough to show. Thank you for the good work being done in the club. I would like any information on the Golden Duckwing color that I can get.

Keith Rorrer  
Rt 1 Box 504  
Spencer, VA 24165

Genealogy - interesting isn't it? I have a sister who has done extensive research into our family history. I do love research and had lots of fun when I worked in a State Library doing all kinds of research for so many people. Just think how little we would know about us if someone had not kept those records.

Vep - this is leading to something dealing with poultry - record keeping.

I have a friend who has kept excellent records on all her poultry - she can tell you about her stock and all the offspring of each hen and rooster - even those that she has sold. Unfortunately she is not the common poultry keeper - she is the rarity. She has brought in outside stock but prefers to refresh her bloodlines with stock from someone who also keeps good poultry records so she knows what to expect from such crossings.

There are several in our club who have practiced good record keeping. I have asked for articles on the general basics for us unknowledgeable ones but so far I haven't had anyone volunteer to come forth with such. So we'll remain in the dark on this subject.

Generally the poultry fanciers I know use the hit and miss system - you know...hopefully the male that looks good strutting around the chicken yard will mate with the right hen and the eggs you gather from the common nest boxes will hatch out to be the champions.

Is that a pretty good description of your method? Or do you do the breeding pen bit? One rooster in a pen of two, three or four hens? What difference does it make if you don't know which egg comes from which hen - they all look alike - so the chicks should be champions..right?

I'll admit I don't have any records of my flock but then I don't have a flock any more. The few good birds I have are in a pen by themselves - scratching in the grass and dirt for a change as their numbers dwindle from old age. I'm not intending to show them or breed them. They are my defiant gesture at this point. I enjoy seeing them and talking to them. I can look at each one and tell you when and where I got them.

My barnyard flock is also kept in a separate pen and building. They are just there. I collect a few eggs every day and just enjoy watching them and listening to their barnyard chatter. They are strictly for me. None of them are worth anything but they all have their own personalities.

There was a time when I kept records of every bird - my notebook was full of all kinds of information on my birds. I still have the notebook for nostalgic reasons. Now if I were to keep records I'd have two sets...one in a notebook or a card system to take outside with me and the other would be on a computer disc.

Just for the record - how is yours? Care to share your techniques with the rest of us? Just a peek?

#####

**THE AMERAUCANA BREEDERS CLUB SUPPORTS THE FOLLOWING:**

POULTRY PRESS - R.R.4, Connersville, IN 47331 \$12.00 per year or \$32.00 for 3 years.

AMERICAN POULTRY ASSOCIATION - 26363 S. Tucker Rd., Estacada, OR 97023  
Adult: \$8 a year, \$15 for 2 years  
Juniors (under 18) \$5 a year, \$9 for 2 years

AMERICAN BANTAM ASSOCIATION - P. O. Box 127, Augusta, NJ 07822  
\$8 per year, \$15 for two years.



Views from a travel cage -

"Here we go again. If I belonged to a circus I'd expect these one or two day stands but I'm a chicken. Don't you think I should be able to do chicken things...like scratch in the dirt for a bug or roll in the dry earth and dust? I'd love to have a nice nest box with clean straw to lay my eggs instead of a show cage floor. Strange but lately I've had an urge to set on a clutch of eggs. Wonder what that means?

I really don't mind the warm, soapy baths. And the rinses with warm water feels good. I especially like the dry fluffy straw in a clean cage so I can fluff my feathers and preen. I really enjoy all the extra tidbits my owner gives me. I think I like being spoiled a bit.

Traveling isn't really too bad. I get to see alot of different places. I get a chance to gossip with a lot of old hens from different areas of the country and flirt with some really exciting roosters..all harmless since we are in cages. Usually the actual traveling is done in the dark so I can get my beauty sleep. Since there is no water or feed allowed while we are on the road what else is there to do by sleep...and dream of the handsome fellow in the cage across the aisle at the last show..Ummm.

You should see some of the crates, boxes and cages some of those other poor chickens are carted around in. And the horror stories some of them tell! I really am lucky. My cage for traveling has lots of space for just me. And I don't get shoved or stuffed into a tiny box with three or four others. My cage is always placed so there is plenty of air circulating..it doesn't get hot and stuffy. Wonder how many of those other poor birds make it home? No air holes in the cardboard boxes...no air in the stuffy hot trailer...so many in one box. Must be deadly for them.

Well, if they don't make it to more than one show in their life they'll never know what they missed, I guess. I'm going to get some sleep now. After this big show tomorrow maybe I'll get a chance to sneak off somewhere when we get home and sit on some eggs. Wonder what will happen then?"

A Little Bidy

.....

Membership dues for the Americana

Breeders Club are due Jan. 1 each year.

Family - \$10<sup>00</sup> per year

Individual - \$7<sup>50</sup> per year

Unpaid (under 18) - \$5<sup>00</sup> per year

Dave Horman, Treas.

W5381 Co. Tr. 1114W

Holmen, WI 54636

## SHOWMANSHIP

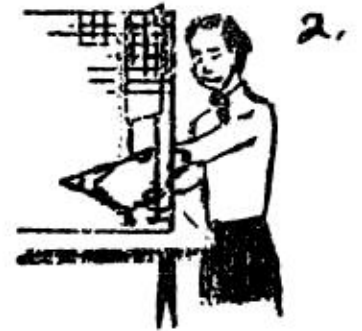
When asked by the Judge child will bring his/her bird to cage and put it into the cage (head first). Using judging stick, turn bird around, presenting all sides to the Judge. Pose bird for judge in stationary position. Remove bird from cage, head first. Figure 1 & 2.



Examine eyes for color and other defects (point to eyes.) Figure 3.

Examine comb for defects. Identify type of comb to the Judge. (point to the comb.) Figure 4.

Examine beak for color - defects. (point to beak.) Figure 5.  
Examine wattles and earlobes for uniform size and proper color for breed. (point to wattles.) Figure 6.



Examine back for length and defects. Figure 7.

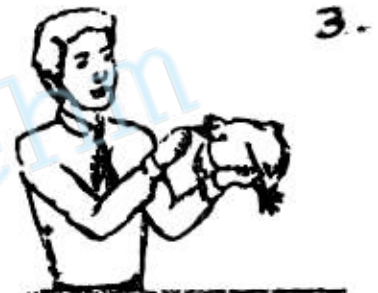
Examine tail for missing feathers. Figure 8.

Examine vent for signs of lice or egg production. Figure 9.

Examine breast for straightness of keel and depth. Figure 10.

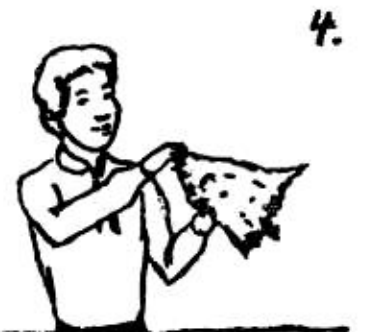
Examine shanks and toes for proper color, crooked or missing toes or toenails - stubs. Figure 11.

Examine wing - spread the wings of your bird for the judge - look for weak or open wings. Figure 12.



Quiz -

Child will identify their bird - White Rock Cockerel/Pullet, etc. to the Judge. The exhibitor will be expected to know some basic information about their bird - weights, origin, economic value (meat, egglayer or exhibition bird), eye and shank color, two defects and one disqualification of the breed.



Children will have an opportunity to observe handling of birds - and ask questions about the procedure and expectations for the class.

