

G SEASON'S G R E E T I N G S

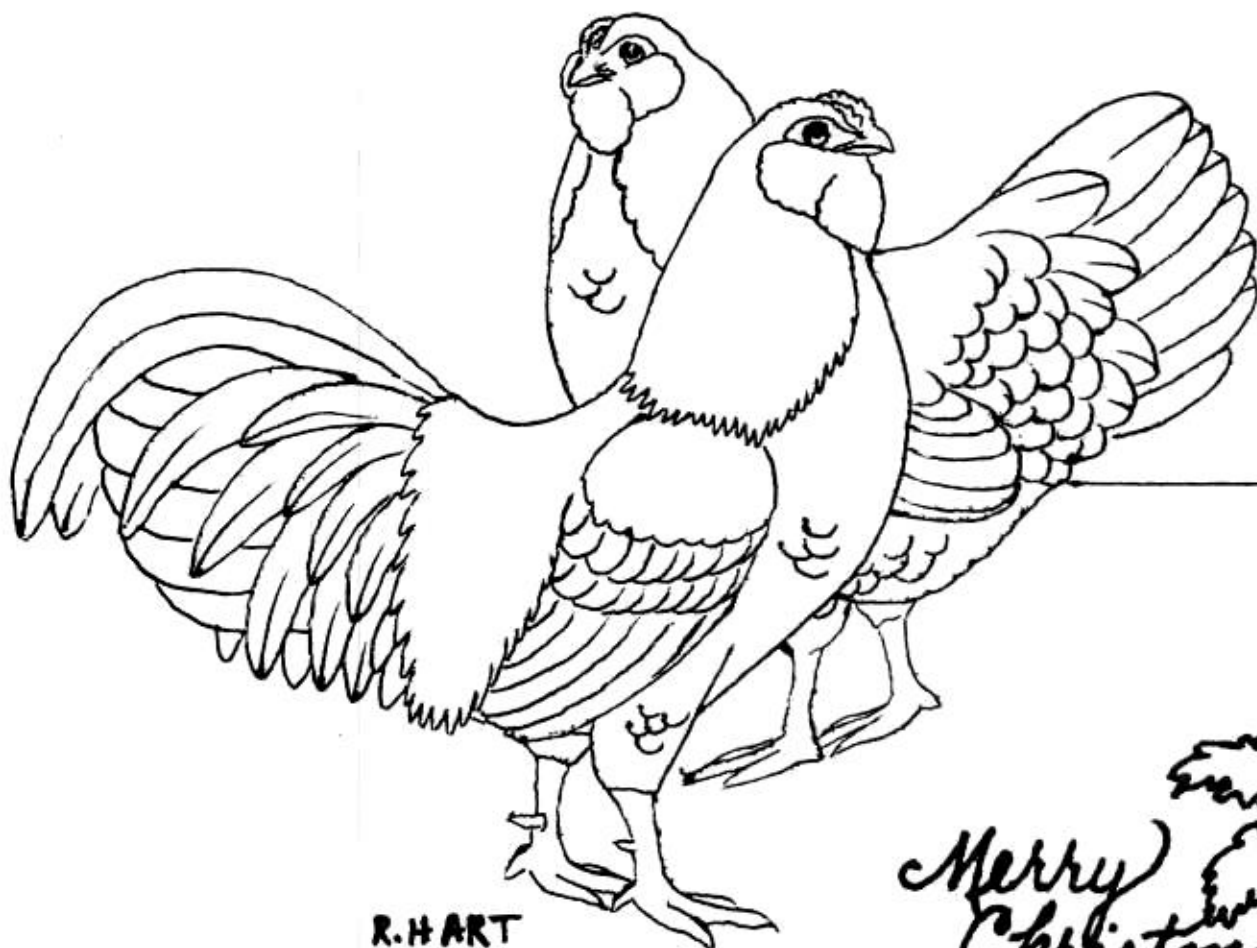
AMERUCANA BREEDERS CLUB

Winter - 1990

Vol. XII #4

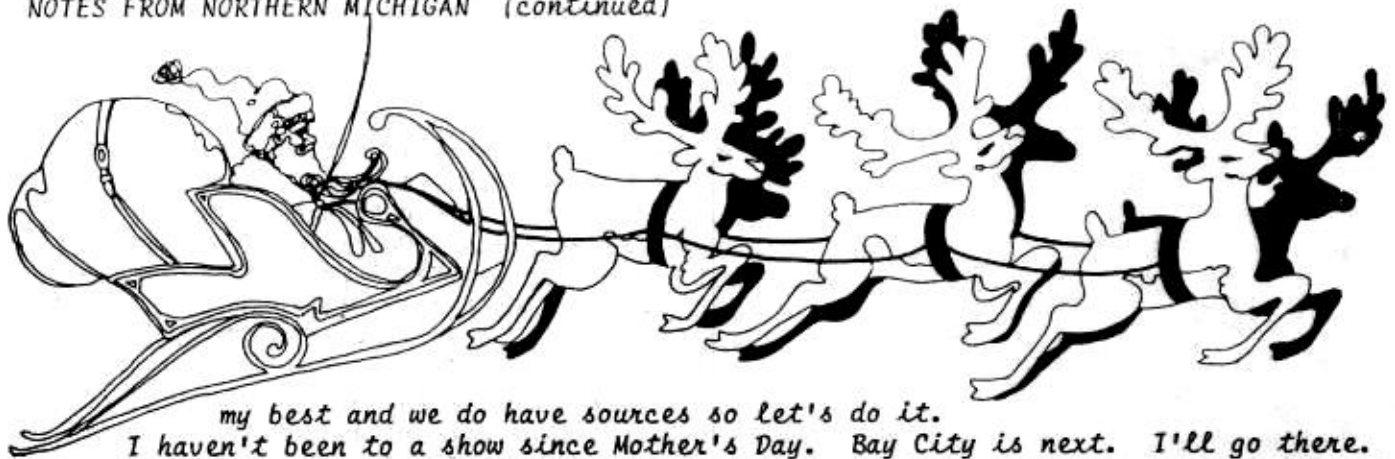
S.K. HULLER

R.R. 1 Box 196H, Central Lake, MI 49622



R. HART

Merry
Christmas



my best and we do have sources so let's do it.

I haven't been to a show since Mother's Day. Bay City is next. I'll go there. It's only three hours away. John Blehm and I can go head on again. We have a great time about who's going to snatch who's bird. Looking forward to seeing him and remember he also helps.

From someone who didn't have anything to say, I managed to think of something. Hopefully some of my ramblings was helpful. I'm always on the alert for articles or any bits of helpful information. Just didn't have anything this time until I started digging and lo and behold...I could ramble for several more pages. I always enjoy doing my "N from NM". I sit down and feel as tho I'm writing a letter to a friend. Which is what is so great about this club. We all feel as friends, helping each other. JF and I (JT) hope to encourage and contain that attitude. That's how this club was founded and it seems to be carrying through the years. It makes me feel proud to be a part of it. It is one of my most fierce determinations...to perpetuate the club and get more AM's to all.

I'm dying to see Rusty's cover. I know it will be special.

Well, folks, thanks for listening. Hope you all have a Happy Holiday and don't get to frazzled.

Much Love and God bless
Jeanne Trent

MERRY CHRISTMAS

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Jeannette,

Greetings from the sunny south. I know I'm late again. It's ahrd to believe it's been a year now that I've had Ameraucanas. Most fun in the five years of being retired.

Like a lot of first timers, I hatched some of anything I could find. I have about 10 fairly good wheaten pullets and 7 or 8 cockerels. Glad I waited on several..muffs and beards look much better at 6 months. Seems that best hackles in males are paired with bad muffs. In fact the best golden hackles is on a male with no muffs.

Three weeks ago had my first live bird shipment from Jerry Segler. It's great! 24 hours or less. Birds in good shape. Acted like it had been a long night. First pullet has started to lay a big blue egg. I think this is the way to go.

Been thinking about the '91 National. 18 months ago many were praying for 100 birds. "200 in '91" is not to hard.

Love to all and a Merry Christmas
Bruce Hutchinson
Southern District Director
November 14, 1990

MERRY CHRISTMAS



Let there be Peace on Earth

PROGRESS REPORT: November, 1990

Frequently, I am asked by prospective Ameraucana owners, "Where can I purchase such-and-such variety of Ameraucana large fowl?" Unfortunately, if the requested variety is anything other than black, white, silver or blue, I really don't have a ready answer. The other four recognized varieties, namely buff, brown-red, wheaten and blue wheaten, still need to be developed by someone - to the best of my knowledge. If someone is breeding any of the latter four varieties in large fowl, and has any stock or eggs to share, I for one would like to know so as to be able to pass on the information to others.

I would love to take on the task of "breeding up" the four needed large fowl varieties, but space and time commitments prevent it. In my mind I know how to go about getting the job done, so if any has an interest and needs ideas, please write.

At this point I have "bred up", practically from scratch, the bantam varieties in all standard colors except white, plus the non-standard variety of black tailed buff. Some of these projects are nearing completion, but still need a generation or two to finish up. (Those would be bantams in buff, silver and brown-red.) I hope to be able to show a few of all these at our 1991 National and will be looking for persons to take over some of those projects, either partially or totally. No one can do a good job of producing show quality birds when they have as many breeding projects in progress as I have been carrying. If we are to continue with and be successful with all these varieties, other members will need to take over. If this sounds like a pleas for help, it is!!

There are a few other breeders who have had the vision to work on developing new varieties, among them Jerry Segler of Illinois, John Blehm of Michigan and a former member but still active breeder Wayne Meredith of Milwaukee. I'm sure there are others I will regret not having mentioned, but these three have certainly done much to advance the breed.

There have been a few others, lacking in vision, who persisted in raising birds lacking certain standard characteristics when a simple 2 generation outcross program would have brought the strain into conformity. Most of these have departed the ranks, and the breed is better off for it.

This is not to say the so-called "finished" varieties have reached a level of acceptable, recognizable uniformity. Work needs to be done yet on all the bantam and large varieties. If judging has been inconsistent, perhaps it is because we are not showing birds with a consistency of type that is easily recognizable, at least not to the same level as for example: Rocks, Cochins, Wyandottes or Leghorns.

All breeds were new at one time and must have suffered through a similar phase. We can look forward to a very bright future for the Ameraucanas, because as they gain standard uniformity they will advance more and more in popularity. In my opinion, this is a breed that has ~~more~~ more to offer than many of the old, established breeds. It could be the wave of the future if we rededicate ourselves now to its steady improvement.

Mike Gilbert

Season's Greetings

November 18, 1990



FROM THE OZARKS

It's a cloudy, blustery, rainy, off and on, kind of day today. After a couple of cold snaps, we've had a most delightful fall. Last week our temps ran in the upper 70's - way above our mid 50 normals. It's really been a strange fall - flowering crabapples blooming in Oct. - Iris here and there. I've never seen or heard of anything like it. I can sure vouch for the crabapples - my Radiant by the back door was full of blooms in mid October.

It has been a fun fall for me. Right after the So-Mo Fall show, I took eight days and flew to Pennsylvania to visit my Dominique friends - Roger and Carol Voter. This trip has been a couple years in the planning stage. They really rolled out the red carpet and I believe we must have toured the whole SE section of PA. Even a trip to a poultry show - the York show at York, PA. Met several folks who before had been only names and pictures in the PP. We went to Philadelphia to the zoo - saw the Liberty Bell and Independence Hall and ate lunch at the City Tavern - a place as historic as Independence Hall. I was totally in awe! A trip to Valley Forge on another day. Another was a journey to Strasburg and a ride on the old steam locomotive (I love steam trains by the way), and the PA Railroad Museum. This is right in the middle of Amish Country. (Lancaster, PA) and it is truly beautiful. The farms are neat and well kept - and they do this all without any kind of "modern conveniences" - like electricity and tractors. Being an old farm kid myself I really enjoyed it. And the mode of travel for these folks is horse and buggy. It was raining the day I arrived so Carol took me to the Brandywine Museum - I'm a Wyeth admirer so this was a real high point. And, in the gift shop I found a print by Wyeth's son, Jamie, that I "couldn't live without". It's called Leghorns - a hen sitting in an old white enamel wash basin and a rooster standing beside her. I really like son Jamie's work better than his fathers. Jamie does more with animals and chickens! Probably the high point of the trip for me was a trip to Paoli to visit John Norris at his home there. A brief visit then "Let's go upstairs to the "chicken room". " WOW - This must be heaven!! Even tho Mr. Norris has more or less retired from dealing in books he still does some buying and selling. Needless to say, I didn't get away from there without leaving some \$\$\$\$. But I had taken some trading stock - a couple of years ago I bought three old poultry books at our Friends of the Library sale - among them was an 1888 Standard of Perfection and an 1887 one by Felch and this 1898 book on the the American Game by C.L. Fransisco. To make a long story short the only one I took along was the book by Fransisco. When he offered \$50.00 for it I nearly fell out of my chair. It ended up that I brought home a three volume set by Harrison Wier (without the color plates) another oldie and the Chicken Book by Page Smith. It's a fairly new one but full of interesting goodies. All told, it cost me \$18.00 out of pocket. John Norris had recently bought someone's collection, but was sending most of them to England to Veronica Mayhew.

There weren't any Ameraucanas at the York Show and only two Dominiques - bantam cockerels - whose ancestry was very much in question - but it was fun to see a new show in a different part of the country.

I've been kind of wandering around since I got home thinking about who to put with whom for next year's chicks. It's sure not too soon, because Milwaukee rolls around a month or so earlier than most of us are use to for showing. That means Feb. chicks at the latest - the weather can be great around here or it can be cold and snow up to you know where! It will sure be great to see everyone again - even tho time seems to fly by two years is a long time. We all need to go thru the picture stack and get some new ones sent to Bernard for the bulletin board. I'll bet no other club has one that even begins to compare with Bernard's - great job, BK!! Keep it going.

Well, I've rambled on long enough. Happy Holidays to all and let's get those little future champions on the way.



GIANT SPRINGS - Great Falls, Montana

REFLECTIONS FROM THE BIG SKY COUNTRY

Seasons Greetings from Montana

11/20/90

It is raining/snowing as I sit here with pen in hand trying to figure what wise words of wisdom to send your way. 1990 is on it's way out - it has been an extremely trying year personally for me. How about you? I've managed to keep my sanity but my poultry has had to take a back seat to everything else.

I've read all the articles by other members (see all previous pages) and find it interesting all the thoughts that cross the minds of fellow Ameraucana club members. None of them realize how very thankful I am for their contributions to this newsletter...or that without their input it wouldn't get printed or in the mail to you.

I am amazed at what our founders accomplished in such a relatively short time. We are still a long way from the top but as is pointed out in the articles...if we (the club members) do not share our know-

ledge and exhibit our Ameraucanas then how will the rest of the poultry world know what a great breed we have? In this case - exposure is the word!

I have admired Mike and his ability, patience and knowledge for years. Knowing what to breed, when and where.. proof of good record keeping and using what is stored in the mind. I really do appreciate the time he has taken to share his knowledge with all of us.

Jerry Segler is doing better than I am..I still have to finish transcribing his tape from last year. Thanks, for understanding busy schedules, Jerry, and for your upgrade.

Ever faithful Mary Lou. She always has interesting things to tell us about. This is the first time since I took over the newsletter that she was not the first with her article. I know she has been busy...very busy. It was nice to see that the Central District knew what a good director they had and voted to keep Mary Lou.

Bruce Hutchinson is a fairly newcomer to actually having Ameraucanas (he acquired his first at the ABC Nat'l at Highland last year). He's been a member for some time and is the newly elected Southern District Director. Don't be afraid to get in touch with Bruce. He is super fine fellow and will help in anyway he can.

Candy Patene in NV - the newly elected Eastern District Director contributed an article for the last newsletter. I hope we will hear more from her - often.

Susan Getyine in CA is the new Western District Director. I know she has been a member for a long time but that is all I know. I hope Susan will drop us a line and let us know more about her and what's going on in her section.

Our election commissioner, Bernard Kellogg, did a great job. I imagine you think that is a rather simple job but it really isn't. It can be rather exasperating..trying to get the votes in the right district. This year addressed envelopes were sent with the ballots. I'm sure glad we didn't waste money on stamps too. Half of the members voted. To those who took time to vote...THANK YOU. If some of you aren't sure what district you are in please check the election page again...District Directors are listed with their addresses.

Jeanne came thru with her article and the cover - before I had mine written or even composed in my mind. WAY TO GO, JEANNE!! She has had her hands full trying to outwit the varmit/dog. Her plans for a new barn and yard sounds like it might be a step in the right direction. Wish I could be there to help here.

I read Don's article when I first typed it (and sent to him to proofread) and then I read it again after it was printed (actually I read the whole newsletter when I get it back from the printer before I send it to you). I thought it worth the extra reading because I'm hoping to take my final by April. It is important for the exhibitors as well as the judges to know what the standard is for birds...be it an Ameraucana or other breed. And sharing what you know and what you have is so important .. for all of us. It is what makes our club work.

I had asked some of the younger members of the club for an article. Matt, thank you. We all need to hear from the junior members .. what they have to say. They are our future.

Election results are printed elsewhere. I want to thank all of you who voted to keep me as your leader for another two years. With your assistance and advice I will try to keep the club on the right road in the right direction. I will listen to you if you write me.

AMERAUCANA BREEDERS CLUB ELECTION RESULTS - 1990

President:
Jeannette Frank (MT) ^{votes} 25 - elected
Mary Lou Phelps (MO) 1

Secretary/Treasurer:
Jeanne Trent (MI) 23 - elected
Jeannette Frank (MT) 1

DISTRICT DIRECTORS:

Eastern:
Candy Patene (NY) 3 - elected
RR 2 Box 18, Pine Ridge Rd., Canastota, NY 13032

Central:
Mary Lou Phelps (MO) 16 - elected
Rt 22 Box 388, Springfield, MO 65803

Southern:
Bruce Hutchinson (AL) 5 - elected
RR 9 Box 571H, Gadsden, AL 35903

Western:
Susan Getyina (CA) 2 - elected
1401 York Drive, Vista, CA 92084

