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 NEWSLETTER OF THE IRISH TERRIER CLUB OF AMERICA  
 \* \* \* \* \* JANUARY, 1978  
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PRESIDENT'S REPORT

With this newsletter you are receiving other documents as follows:

- 1) Notice of annual meeting and report of the Nominating Committee.
- 2) Proxy form.
- 3) Agenda for the annual meeting.
- 4) Revised constitution and by-laws of the Club as proposed by the Constitution Committee, with changes therein indicated in ink which have been approved both by the Constitution Committee and the Board of Governors. Action on this proposed constitution will be taken at the annual meeting.
- 5) A roster of Club members as of October, 1977.

The September newsletter contained an editorial and Mrs. Joan Elliott requested that she be permitted to reply to that editorial and that her reply be printed in full in the newsletter without commentary. A majority of the Board of Governors approved her request and you will find her letter immediately following page 5 of this newsletter.

Yours,

*John S. Best*  
 John S. Best, President  
 280 E. Wisconsin Ave  
 Milwaukee, Wisc.

LITTER BASKET



Puppy coordinators Rocky and Margaret Stone will be taking a one-month vacation to New Zealand and Australia. Until February 20 it would be a good idea to send puppy announcements to both Margaret and Secretary Bob Peters for action during this time and so that Margaret will have a record when she returns. The addresses and phone numbers are

Margaret Stone  
 133 Humboldt Road  
 Burlingame, CA 94010  
 (415) 344-2700

Bob Peters  
 RFD #1, P.O. Box 252  
 Dry Fork, VA 24549  
 (804) 724-7100

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Puppies available:

Mr. and Mrs. Lyle Moffitt 3D, 2B  
 1543 S. Evanston  
 Tulsa, OK 74104  
 (918) 932-4772 Whelped: 12/15/77

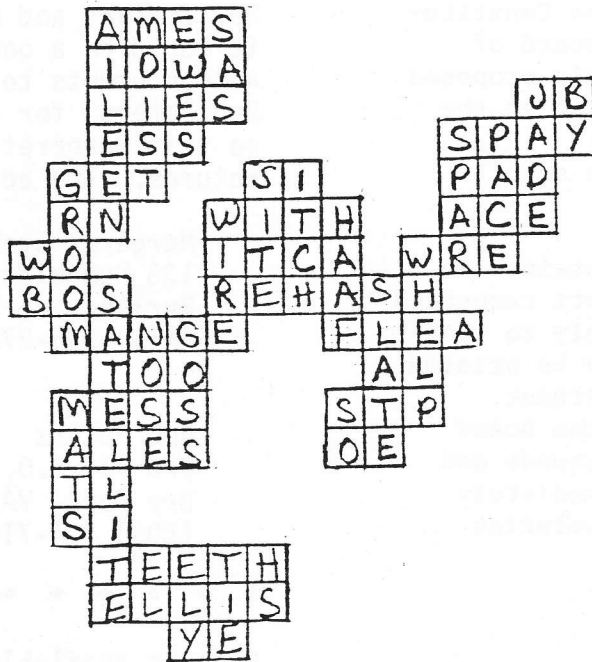
Sire: Cobblestone Happy Red Baron  
 Dam: Baystone's Bit of Dynamite

We enjoyed the following article which appeared in the December, 1977, issue of the Daredevil Messenger, the excellent newsletter of the Irish Terrier Club of Greater Detroit. It is reprinted here with the permission of the editor, Ann Kelly, and was written by Jim Kelly of Berkley, Michigan.

You come home after a hard day and sink gratefully into a comfortable chair. All the while, your faithful Irish Terrier has been pressing in upon you; the wagging tail, the body all aquiver, the head thrusting under your hand eager for attention. "Ah, there's a good dog!" "Good old dog!" "Fetch!" "Fetch my slippers!" What was a picture of domestic bliss is beginning to deteriorate rapidly. Most Irish Terriers of my acquaintance have a remarkable vocabulary where it suits them. This has nothing to do with tone of voice or inflection. The words "eat," "food," "go for a walk," or "ride in the car," gleaned from a normal conversation, produce an extraordinary reaction. Whereas, other words and phrases spoken clearly, succinctly, and directly, are acknowledged with a wagging tail, a cocked head, and a quizzical look; "No speaka da English." Of course, there is a whole involved step by step process for teaching a dog to do something it doesn't particularly care to do that may eventually be effective in some cases. But from my experience, the Irish Terrier may be the only dog in the world that can shrug its shoulders.

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Below is the answer to the crossword puzzle from last month's Newsletter.



NOTES

LATE BULLETIN

Irish Terriers placed in the Group at two shows in the midwest the weekend of January 21-22. At Wheaton, Illinois on Saturday, Doug McClain handled Sheehan's Irish Heather to a group 4th. This bitch is owned by Patricia Kostal, who is ~~not~~ a member of the Club, and those of you who attended Montgomery County may recall that she was Winner's Bitch and Best of Winners there. On Sunday, Doug showed John Best's Ch. Blackacre Barrister to a 3rd place in the group under Ed Bracy at Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

The report of the Trophy Committee giving the placings for the Club's annual awards will be in the mail shortly.

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Margaret Stone was the recipient of the Gaines' Good Sportsmanship award at a recent meeting of the Irish Terrier Club of Northern California. Besides her long association with Irish Terriers, Margaret is secretary of the ITCNC and is the "puppy referral person" for the ITCA. Congratulations, Margaret, for this well-deserved award!!!

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1977 literally went out with a bang for Marie and Gary Johnson and their Volkswagen. The car exploded on New Year's Eve, either from a faulty gas heater or faulty fuel injection--since the car was a total loss, it cannot be determined. We are happy to say that we escaped without any injury. Unfortunately, the trophies that we had recently picked up for delivery to the February specialty trophy chairmen Charles and Lauren Ritter were not as fortunate. While we were not carrying any of the perpetual trophies, we did have the tablecloth used at specialties and the unused trophies from the 1977 winter specialty. These, along with the car, were a total loss. Our insurance has covered the loss and a check has been sent to ITCA treasurer Dennis Sheehan. Charles and Lauren have told us that there will be a new tablecloth at this winter's specialty.

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This issue concludes our year as newsletter editors. With the upcoming elections at the February meeting, it is not possible at this time to know who the next secretary of the ITCA will be. Whether Bob Peters is reelected or a successor has the position, it is likely that they will want to delegate the responsibility of Newsletter editor to other ITCA members while they concentrate on other duties of the secretary. In any event, your present editors have become involved in some of the recent controversies of the ITCA and feel that under these circumstances it is best that they not continue in their position. All ITCA members who think they might be interested in editing the Newsletter for 1978 should inform Bob Peters as soon as possible.

We have enjoyed our year and wish to thank all those who have supported this effort with their articles and their encouragement.

Marie and Gary Johnson

### COMING EVENTS

- April 1 and 2, 1978 International Kennel Club of Chicago. Terrier, Toy and Non-Sporting groups will be judged and benched on Saturday, April 1. Mr. Robert Moore will judge the Irish Terriers. Group judge is Mr. Derek Rayne. This show is supported by the Irish Terrier Club of Chicago. Supt: Webb, due March 15.
- February 19, 1978 Irish Terrier Club of Greater Detroit sanctioned "B" match at the Lapeer County Michigan Center Building. Arlene Czech will judge.
- March 12, 1978 The Detroit Kennel Club at Cobo Hall, Detroit. Louis Auslander will judge the Irish. Entries are \$12.00 and are due Feb. 22 at the offices of Crowe dog shows.
- March 19, 1978 Genessee County Kennel Club, Flint, Michigan. Judge for the Irish is Jim Kelley. Entries are \$9.00, and the superintendent Laughter, due March 1. The ITCGD will support both the Detroit and Genessee Valley shows.

Finally, don't forget the 1978 winter specialty February 12 at the Armory on 168th Street and Broadway in New York City. The annual meeting will be held Saturday evening following the dinner at the Sheraton Motor Inn, 520 12th Avenue, New York. If you're planning to attend remember to send last month's reservation form to June Kennedy, 29 Skyline Drive, Brookfield, CT 06804. Reservations for the dinner are \$13.00 per person and are due February 4. The dinner will begin at 7:00 with a cash bar beginning at 6:30. More complete information on the meeting appears elsewhere in this issue.

### EDITORIAL

I received a somewhat disturbing bit of information this holiday season from one of our puppy customers. Their Irish Terrier bitch, who is now thirteen months old and who until very recently had been perfectly healthy began seizing several times a day. The seizures seemed to last two or three minutes. (They were probably considerably shorter, but in such situations time passes slowly.) During the seizures the bitch appeared to lose consciousness, chattered her jaw, and stiffened throughout her body. After the seizure she defecated, although she had been perfectly housetrained for the previous several months. After this she acted exhausted and depressed for about two hours. Between seizures she was nervous and did not act her usual self. Their veterinarian diagnosed idiopathic epilepsy, and began medication to control the seizures. At first he was unsuccessful using a moderate dose of primidone, a sedative and one of three drugs that are commonly used in such cases. Increasing the dosage had the desired effect--at least when we last heard the dog had not seized for several days.

I bring this situation to your attention because I had not before heard of a case of epilepsy among Irish Terriers. It may well be that this is a rare and isolated incident. However, it is possible that other ITCA members may someday be in a situation involving canine epilepsy and so I think the disease merits further discussion.

Typically in idiopathic epilepsy the first seizures appear when the pup is from six to eighteen months of age. They may vary in frequency and severity. There is no cure for the disease, but in most cases the frequency of seizures can be greatly reduced by medication so that the dog can live a near-normal life. The medication will, however, have to be given for the life of the dog.

Probably the most crucial question is whether the disease was genetically transmitted. A very recent veterinary text states that "it is usually congenital and may be hereditary." Congenital means that the disease was present when the pup was born. In the case of canine epilepsy, it is believed that the brain has a functional defect, which cannot be detected until the convulsions begin. Congenital defects can be genetic or they can be acquired before birth. This could come about through some freak chance event during the development of the pup or because the pup was in some way injured or became ill before birth. If the defect is genetic (hereditary) the pup received faulty genetic information from her parents and could potentially pass this faulty genetic information to her offspring. If the disease was acquired, one would expect the parents and offspring to be normal.

In this particular case, evidence does not support genetic transmission. The pup's dam was Cocksure Crackerjack (Brandy). She is strictly of the Ahtram-Kilvara line. She is getting on in years and has had several previous litters so that even before we knew of the epilepsy problem we had decided not to breed her again. In her earlier litters she whelped 32 pups. To our knowledge all but one of these pups lived to be old enough to be sure they did not have the disease. The effected pup had a brother and a sister. Neither of these pups have epilepsy (though they are young enough that they still could develop the disease).

I do not own the sire and thus do not feel it would be proper to identify him. (It was not Ch. Nutbrown Leprecaun, Nutbrown Duffy, or Ch. Professor Quill of Inisheer, sires of earlier disease free, Brandy litters.) To our knowledge the sire of the diseased pup has produced no other diseased pups or does he or any of his close relatives have the disease.

While I would like to conclude from this data that the disease was not inherited, I cannot be absolutely sure. It appears the disease is not passed on in a simple Mendelian manner. There may, however, be a more complex genetic basis for the disease. This can be evaluated only if one knows the true extent of the disease within the breed. If any of you know of another case of epilepsy in an Irish Terrier (or any other disease you expect may have a genetic basis) I would appreciate hearing from you.

Gary S. Johnson

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Note\*\*\* The AKC has announced that February 28 is the final deadline to submit photos for the 1979 edition of The Complete Dog Book. Color and glossy black and white candid and formal pictures are acceptable. The AKC also wants photos to add to its permanent collection. Send all material to: Art Department, American Kennel Club, 51 Madison Avenue, New York, NY 10010. Wouldn't it be nice to see an Irish Terrier in the Dog Book or on the cover of the Gazette? We can hardly complain of limited coverage to the Irish Terrier if we don't do the work behind it.

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