

Heavy weather at National Trial proves that the little spaniels can take it and do a real job of flushing and retrieving under bad conditions



Five inches of fresh snow in the bird field gave the cockers a chance to show their stamina

## PIN WINS FIELD & STREAM COCKER CUP

**T**HE weather on the weekend of November 16 and 17 at Amwell, New Jersey, conspired to put the competition to the test—to be the downfall of the little flushing dogs, or to definitely dispel the idea that cockers are boys sent to do a man's job. The little men—and women—hunted their way industriously through a continuous snowstorm Saturday and five inches of snow on Sunday to demonstrate conclusively that they have a place in the American hunting scene.

Albert Winslow's Greatford Meadowcourt Pin, handled by Jasper Briggs, completed the four land and one water series with vigor and no serious mistakes to take the Cocker Cup. His name is the third to be engraved on the Field & Stream Perpetual Challenge Cup.

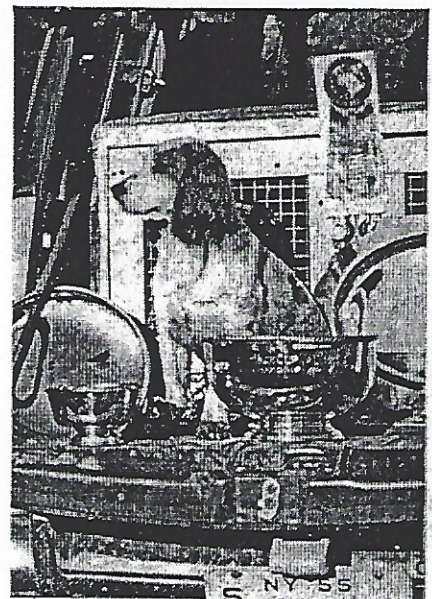
Pressing closely throughout was the ever-pleasing National Field Trial Champion, Camino's Cheetah, the 1953 winner and last year's runner-up. Cheetah, owned by H. C. McGrew of California, was handled this year by Bain Cobb, to whom she was shipped only two weeks before the trial.

Work of a high caliber was contributed by several dogs as well as by the judges, Robert McLean and Edward Elting, who slogged through two days' snow to make a careful evaluation of the dog work. In view of this, it seemed fitting to have a brief critique of the better performances right from the horse's mouth, so to speak, and the following are some notes from Ed Elting's pen:

Nat. F. T. Ch. Shawfield Glenfire—Last year's National Champion and sire of this year's National Champion. A great bird dog that any hunter would be proud to own.

F. T. Ch. Berol Lodge Drum Duff—One of four litter mates in this year's National Trial, two of which are Field Trial Champions. A sound dog who enjoys his work and is anxious to please.

Nat. F. T. Ch. Camino's Cheetah—This dog was flown from the West Coast about ten days before this year's National, and came from a temperature of 80 degrees to a blinding snowstorm. She was handled by a complete stranger (Bain Cobb). She was the winner



Winner Greatford Meadowcourt Pin poses with the Field & Stream trophy



the first Cocker National in 1953, a great bird dog, but only ten days' time to get acquainted with a new handler was too much of a handicap to overcome. A little more time and she would have been a very serious contender for first place.

**Ru-Char's Busy Bee**—This is the first time there has been a best amateur handler award in the Cocker National. The award went to Mrs. Charles K. Greening, a young woman who has been in the field trial game for some time, and the only woman who has ever handled a cocker to its Field Trial Championship. Here's a dog, although very small in size, that has great courage and ability with a desire to please to the utmost.

**Berol Lodge Gay Lady**—This dog and handler scored second. The dog is a sound hunter with lots of style and ability. This applies to both the handler and the dog.

**F. T. Ch. Berol Lodge Glen Garry**—This dog had four good land and one water series, and if he hadn't messed up one retrieve badly in the third land series he would have been neck and neck for the National Championship.

**F. T. C. Prince Tom III, U.D.**—Here is a five-year-old dog that was never shot over until he was 3½ years old, and this is only his second year in field trials. He holds great promise for the future.

**F. T. Ch. Greatford Meadowcourt Pin**—The winner of this year's National was only four years old. He was imported about two years ago and has acclimated himself beautifully to our trials. This dog also won the Cinar Trophy since his importation. A stylish dog and very sound."

**Greatford Charlie**—This dog, imported last year, was used as a personal shooting dog in England. He is reported to have had over 2,000 birds shot over him, and when he finally gets adjusted to our trials he will be a hard dog to beat. He is really a great going little dog, and it is a pleasure to watch him.

The report of this trial would not be complete without tribute to all the owners and the handlers who are so faithfully carrying on their crusade to reestablish the cocker spaniel as a hunting dog in this country. They are a relatively small nucleus, but the fringes are deep. Now established, the sphere of these field cocker owners should greatly increase. The successful running of this year's Cocker National was especially due to the unflinching perseverance of Henry Berol, Jim Greening, Bucky Moore, Evelyn Monte, and Dean Bedford.

### 13th BRITTANY NATIONAL

**TOWSEY**, a Brittany from Kansas, was winner of the Open All Age Stake at the National Trials held by the American Brittany Club at Crab Orchard Wildlife Refuge the week of November 27 to December 4. Owned by Tom Black of Wichita, Kansas, Towsey was handled by Delmar Smith. For the full hour heat this class Brittany hunted hard, combing thickets and woods and styling on a quail covey that he held stanchly despite a jealous brace mate. There were fifty-five Brittanys competing in the Open Stake, which climaxed the trials, run in bitter winter weather, sleet, and rain. The

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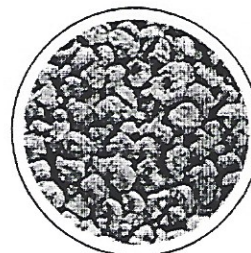
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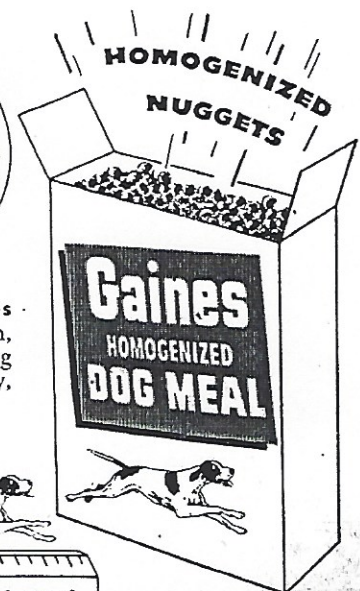
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