

with her own veterinarian, Dr. S. Kydd, also of Brevard. They have helped with spaying and anything else that has come up. Hill's Science Diet has helped me with the food for all five puppies, and that, too, has been appreciated. With five to raise for over a year, all this help has been just great.

On Labor Day, we had a big Apple Festival parade, and I had been asked to be part of the Humane Society's float. We had a pickup truck with banners down the sides and the Pilot Dog logo; all of us wore Pilot Dog red t-shirts, and we had all five puppies on board: Stormy, Bliss and Liberty were in harness, and Heather and Laurel were on leads. The crowd loved the Dobes, and we got a huge hand all the way along the parade route. It was a good test for the dogs' temperaments, as there was so much noise with the bands, etc., and all five took it in stride, as I knew they would. The float won first prize in the not-for-profit division, so the Humane Society was very glad they had asked us to join them.

While I would still take on a rescue Dobe to train, it is now my aim to try to provide as many quality Dobes for Pilot Dogs as I possibly can, as they have a waiting list for Dobes. Word is getting around among the blind about just how great this breed can be as a guide, and I am glad to say that Pilot Dogs is careful with whom they place the Dobes, as they are not the dogs for every blind person, just as they are not the dogs for every sighted person. Somehow, I feel the late Glenn Staines would be happy to know that someone is helping to provide Doberman guide dogs. He was the first person to really believe that Dobes were suitable for this work if they had the correct temperament. His Pathfinder Dobes were the start of it all, and after his death, Pilot Dogs came into being, founded by Stanley Doran who had been one of Glenn's trainers. So it is thanks to these men that so many blind people can still know the joy of having a Doberman as their eyes.

Right now, I have a waiting list of people who have offered their homes as foster homes for a Dobe puppy or older bitch (up to two years of age), so if any of you out there would be willing to donate a nice, smaller-type bitch, please do contact me. Soundness in mind and body is a must, and the shy one that won't let a judge go over her is not what we can use, nor one that is overly aggressive. It's a wonderful life for a Dobe, and they are so loved by their owners. If you have a dog



Rev. Mark Schwalter, Carol and Vondura Amy of Marks-Tey, dam of our Pilot Dog litter. They raised the litter out of Amy.

you think might be suitable, do give me a call or drop me a note so we can talk about it.

Many of you will remember little Extra, who's story appeared in this magazine. She and her owner, Tacia Troutman, flew in to visit us recently and what a reunion that was. She knew us at once at the airport and was full of kisses; then when we got home, she and Joy, with whom she had grown up, really had a greeting, as they remembered each other. Extra then went through our house, and while she had never been here before, she did know our furniture and

smells, and she ran from room to room with her stub of a tail going a mile a minute. She came to our bedroom where there was the big sheepskin rug at the foot of our bed; she flopped down in the middle of it, and she knew she was in her old home again. Extra has matured into a top working guide dog, and no dog could be more adored by its owners. This is really my reward: keeping in touch and often seeing again the dogs I have trained, plus the friendships that I have developed with the owners of these dogs.

Stormy has grown into a beautiful young bitch; she is excellent show quality and could finish, which has been pointed out to me by several people. She will probably be the best looking Dobe that Pilot has ever had donated, and she will turn heads when she leads her blind owner down the street. She has just the perfect temperament for this work. She is eager to please and bold so she will lead forward past big trucks that are noisy; she pushes her way through crowds when necessary, and she will lie for hours at my side, as you see her in the picture at our Lions Club booth where I was helping to collect eye wills. She is obedient, on or off lead, and she's going to be a credit to our breed, as will her two sisters. After we have delivered Stormy and Bliss to Pilot Dogs around October 25, 1988, Liberty will come home with me, and I will start her harness training in earnest. Already she feels at home with us, as she comes to visit, and I am sure that I will be bragging about how good she is, too. And before I know it, she will be off to Pilot Dogs, and Laurel will become part of our family. After that, who knows?

Yes, being retired is lots of fun, BUT where does the time go! As Keith put it, "I don't know how I had time to work before I retired!"

## From the Home Country

**Eighty Years in the  
Dobermann Breed: A Look  
at the van Neerlands Stamm  
Kennel and its Founder,  
Mrs. Vera Knijff-Dermoût**

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I don't think there are too many corners of the world where serious Dobermann breeding is done that haven't at

least heard of the kennel van Neerlands Stamm. In this article, I'll cover some of its history and the story of the indomitable little lady behind its success, Mrs. Vera Knijff-Dermoût. Although the zenith of the van Neerlands Stamm dogs was during the post-war period, Mrs. Knijff's involvement with the breed stretches back to well before World War II. Perhaps this article can share some appreciation for a person who has become a legend in her own lifetime and something of an institution in



1915. The irrepressible Prince and Mrs. Knijff as a girl in Java with one of her first bred pups in her arms.

her homeland.

She is a mercurial character, with a multi-lingual (and sometimes outspoken) tongue that has landed her, on more than one occasion, in the centre of stormy scenes with kennel clubs and fellow breeders. But her dominant personality fascinates, and her many interesting stories of past great dogs and their breeders can absorb one for hours. Certainly all don't agree with her opinions, but they are always considered with respect (even with, on more than one occasion, battle lines being drawn up).

Although Mrs. Knijff now feels her time is almost over, she still desires to keep the van Neerlands Stamm name alive in the future. Therefore, it was not so surprising that she adopted a partner to continue breeding and showing under her suffix for future generations. Mrs. Knijff continues to live at her long time well-known address in Gentestraat 164, in the coastal town of Scheveningen, Holland. Her new partner, Han v.d. Zwan, is further inland in the town of Dalf, Sterrebosweg 6. It is on this latter estate that much of the current breeding and preparation of show dogs is being done.

Until only a few years ago, Mrs. Knijff was still actively showing her own dogs, as she has done most of her life. When not showing herself, she had a talent for finding those handlers who could bring out the best qualities in her dogs. This show ring success resulted in at least 30 self-bred champions and some bundessiegers also. On top of this, she made at least another 30 champions from dogs she had bought. Her home-bred champions are familiar names - dogs like the "Graafs" Questor, Iskander, Ido, Gust, Vestor, Aristo and Gento. Then there were the bitches, the "Gravins" Diana, Ursel, Wanda, Faby, Wietske, Nancy and her all-time favorite, Aranka, to name just a few.

The explanation of the Graaf and Gravin before the names is quite simple. These German words translated into English mean count and countess. It was done to represent the nobility of the Dobermann breed, and all van Neerlands Stamm dogs' names begin with these prefixes and end with the kennel suffix.

Her very first litters were bred under the "Pure Daimonds" prefix in Java (now Indonesia). This was where Mrs. Knijff

was born, grew up and got her first Dobermanns. It was a small world even in those days, as one male she used then was Falstaff v.d. Zwanenburg, a dog imported by the mother of Gaby Santoso (a breeder and author of note in France whose kennel prefix is D'Hati Gabi). Mrs. Knijff is one of those few people still alive today who can claim personal friendships with such breed authorities as Philip Gruening, Herr Klöppel (v. Grammont kennel), Herr Fleitmänn (Westphalia - the German judge who later moved to the USA and then founded his kennel there), Herr Wilking (v. Forell) or Herr Utecht (v. Spree - whose 65-year-old son is, incidentally, a current Dobermann specialist judge in the German Dobermann Club today). She also knew Herr Akkeren of the v.d. Konigstadt kennel, whose famous Favoriet v.d. Konigstadt would no doubt be remembered by enthusiasts today as well. Those named here are only a few whom she knew.

Leaving Java and settling in Holland during the war, she established her new kennel name that was to bring her such good fortune. Her foundation bitch was Roeanka v.d. Rhederveld, from which most of her important winners originated. Roeanka was later sold to Fred Curnow of the Tavey kennel in England, along with another bitch of Mrs. Knijff's - Princess Anja v.d. Scheepgeskerk. This bitch was the mother of the first English champion, bred by Mr. Curnow - Elegant of Tavey.

At the same time, Mrs. Knijff was importing dogs from Germany such as Tom v.d. Eversburg (full brother to Troll, who was later exported to the USA). Then there was Dorle v. Ruhrtal, producing fifteen puppies in her first litter. Tom had been purchased from the president of the



1940. Post-war foundation bitch, Roeanka v. Rhederveld, here together with Mr. Curnow's father at Colwood Court.



1930. Foundation bitch Dora v. Engelsburg, pulling a dog cart holding Mrs. Knijff's son, David.

German Dobermann Club, Ernst Wilking, and he was followed by Valbo Germania, purchased from his breeder, Herr Schneider of the Germania kennel. After them came imports such as Rado and Miko v. Fürstenfeld from Herman Palmer's kennel in Fürstenfeldbrucke, plus dogs from Herr Kroners' Hagenstern kennel and also the Forellenbäckle and Hagenstolz kennels. In retrospect, she feels today that many of her most significant dogs came from Roeanka's children, Diana and Dagobert, although it was Diana's descendants that were best to breed on, despite the fact she took four years to conceive.

From her rows of champions, it was perhaps Graaf Questor van Neerlands Stamm that achieved the most widespread fame, as popular studs are often wont to do. He sired over 1,500 puppies, although today, in retrospect, he did not prove to be a particularly prepotent sire. Questor himself was an incredibly impressive show dog. A large, strong-boned male that could perhaps be faulted for being a bit long in the back and having somewhat loose shoulders, he was, however, a dog of great substance and elegance, winning the Dutch Winner Show twice in Amsterdam, in 1974 and 1976. He was also the Dutch Specialty Winner Male in 1975 and 1976, and Dutch and international champion as well.



Above: 1949. One of the best show dogs of this year was Ch. Graaf Iskander v. Neerlands Stamm (Igon v. Naunhof x Gravin Diana v. Neerlands Stamm).

Left, bottom: 1948. Ch. Graaf Dagobert v. Neerlands Stamm. A great breed PR dog, he won 27 championship awards in 7 countries.



The bitches Gravins Faby, Wietske and Aranka van Neerlands Stamm also proved excellent representatives for the best that the kennel was producing after the war. The two former bitches were not only champions but also bundessieger. The Dutch and Luxembourg champion, Gravin Faby van Neerlands Stamm, was a daughter of the international champion and bundessieger male, Rado v. Fürstenfeld. She became bundessieger in 1968 and was Winner Bitch at the Dutch Winner Show in Amsterdam in 1968 and 1969. She died at thirteen years of age, her prime legacy to the kennel being her son, Questor. Then from Questor came the German, Dutch, French and international champion, Gravin Wietske. Wietske



1960. Mrs. Knijff showing one of her German imports, Ch. Valbo Germania (Nigo Germania x Anja v. Weleberg) in Rotterdam.

proved to be an early maturer and was winning her first championship awards from the youth classes. She became a bundessieger in Germany in 1978, despite much criticism of her weak head type. She was only rarely beaten and was also the Best Bitch at the Dutch Specialty Show in 1976. Her future contribution came by producing two champion children in combination with the champion and bundessieger male, Guys Hilo vom Norden Stamm. This combination produced the most recent "big star" for the kennel name in the form of Aranka, who was also Mrs. Knijff's all-time personal favorite.

Gravin Aranka became a Dutch, Luxembourg and international champion, as well as scooping the pool by being awarded the grand title of Dutch "Dog of the Year" in 1980. Here she'd been selected by a panel of over fifteen specialist and all breed judges. Aranka was a big, impressive bitch that could be faulted for her slightly off-parallels in the head and middling tan colour. She was one that made a great impression in the public sector as well as on fanciers, much like her predecessor, Questor, was able to do before her.

The accompanying chart of dogs follows the line from the post-war foundation bitch, Roeanka v.d. Rhederveld, up to the modern van Neerlands Stamm champions. It covers ten generations, and, apart from the full sisters, Anusjka and Ariane,

all were champions (these bitches did not become champions at that time as there

was a show ban on in Holland due to a rabies scare). From Anusjka came the Dutch and Canadian champion Jorinda van Neerlands Stamm. Her full brother, Nandor, was the Dutch Youth Winner in 1972 but did not go onto greater things, as he seemed to lack show temperament. Anusjka's litter sister, Ariane, was an equally successful brood bitch, as from her came Gravin Faby. Another littermate called Alexander later became a champion.

Times were bad in Holland then, especially with a show ban in force due to the rabies scare. But Mrs. Knijff continued her breeding, and this quiet period produced several later champions for her kennel. For example, Gravin Ursel van Neerlands Stamm, who became a champion in 1962 and was a BIS and IDC winner the same year under German specialist judge, Ernst Wilking. The prize for this win was a princely one indeed - a huge silver candlestick presented by the German Crown Prince of Hessen. It still graces her mantelpiece today. Ch. Graaf Dagobert also had a brush with royalty. After becoming BIS in Brussels in 1948,



1967. Ch. And Bundessieger Rado v. Fürstenfeld (Citto v. Fürstenfeld x Blacky v. Fayette Corner). Mrs. Knijff imported him from Germany to Holland where he sired Faby for the kennel before being sold to Japan for 15,000 U.S. dollars (which was a great deal of money then). Tragically, on his arrival in Japan, he was hit by a car and killed, so he never sired any progeny there.

van Neerlands Stamm Bloodline Chart of Post-War Period

FOUNDATION BITCH:

Roeanka v.h. Rhederveld (bitch, 1939)  
(Ador v. Cubahof x Pauwina v.h. Noorderlicht)

bred to Ch. Waldo v.d. Wachtparade  
(World Sieger Troll v.d. Englesburg  
x Gazelle v.d. Bismarcksäule)

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <p>produced:<br/>1. Ch. Gravin Diana v. Neêrlands Stamm (bitch)<br/>produced:<br/>2. Ch. Graaf Iskander v. Neêrlands Stamm (male)<br/>produced:<br/>3. Ch. Gravin Roeanka v. Neêrlands Stamm (bitch)<br/>produced:<br/>4a. Gravin Anusjka v. Neêrlands Stamm (bitch)<br/>produced:<br/>5. Dutch/Can Ch. Gravin Jorinda v. Neêrlands Stamm (bitch)<br/>ANUSJKAS' LITTERSISTER<br/>4b. Gravin Ariane v. Neêrlands Stamm (bitch)<br/>produced:<br/>6. Ch. and Bundessiegerin Gravin Faby v. Neêrlands Stamm (bitch)<br/>produced:<br/>7. Int/Dutch Ch. Graaf Questor v. Neêrlands Stamm (male)<br/>produced:<br/>8. Int/Dutch/French/Ger Ch. Bundessiegerin Gravin Wietske v. Neêrlands Stamm (bitch)<br/>produced:<br/>9. Int/Lux/Dutch Ch. Gravin Aranka v. Neêrlands Stamm (bitch)<br/>produced:<br/>10. Graaf Igon Neêrlands Stamm (male, 1984)</p> | <p>bred to Sieger Igon v. Naunhof<br/>bred to Lotte v. Naunhof<br/>bred to Bundessieger and Lux. Ch. Cito v. Blue Blood<br/>bred to Sieger Argus v. Neroberg<br/>bred to Int/Dutch Ch. Graaf Questor v. Neêrlands Stamm* (see seventh generation)<br/>bred to Int. Ch. and Bundessieger Rado v. Fürstenfeld<br/>bred to Vico v. Brünoburg<br/>bred to Dutch/Can Ch. Gravin Jorinda v. Neêrlands Stamm* (see fifth generation)<br/>bred to Int/Nor/Swed/VDH/Ger Ch., Bundessieger and Europasieger Guys Hilo v. Norden Stamm<br/>bred to Int/Dutch/French Ch. Graaf Aristo v. Neêrlands Stamm (incest mating)</p> |
|--|--|



he repeated this in Luxembourg in 1949. It was here that the Grand Duke of Luxembourg was presented to Dagobert and Mrs. Knijff by the prime minister.

Also around this era was the champion Gravin Wanda van Neerlands Stamm, one whole alphabet and 26 litters before Wietske, for those of you thinking they were perhaps littersisters. Many authorities considered Wanda one of Mrs. Knijff's very best bitches, but unfortunately, she never got any puppies, although Wanda was mated a number of times. Wanda won the prize for all breed best owner/bred dog at the Winner Show in Amsterdam in 1964. Also in the same period were the champions Graaf Quito (1959), Graaf Victor (1964) and Gravin Jounda. (Quito was a whole alphabet before Questor.)

At left: 1970. Energy and nobility were the hallmarks of Ch./Bundessiegerin Gravin Faby v. Neerlands Stamm. (Rado v. Fürstenfeld x Gravin Ariane v. Neerlands Stamm).



1972. Faby's famous son, Ch. Graaf Questor v. Neerlands stamm at 4 months of age.



1974. Van Neerlands Stamm champions - Gravin Wietske, Graaf Questor and Gravin Nancy.

Apart from her numerous self-bred champions, the kennel finished another 30 champions that were bought from other kennels as either puppies or young dogs, dogs such as Gazelle and Gitta v. Sanvesti, both children of Graaf Iskander van Neerlands Stamm. This included the champion Arabella v. Frühlingshof, who was later sold to France, and the German imports Ch. Tom v. Eversburg, Ch. Jupp v. Naunhof, Ch. Dorle v. Rührtal, and Ch. and Bundessieger Rado v. Fürstenfeld (see photo).

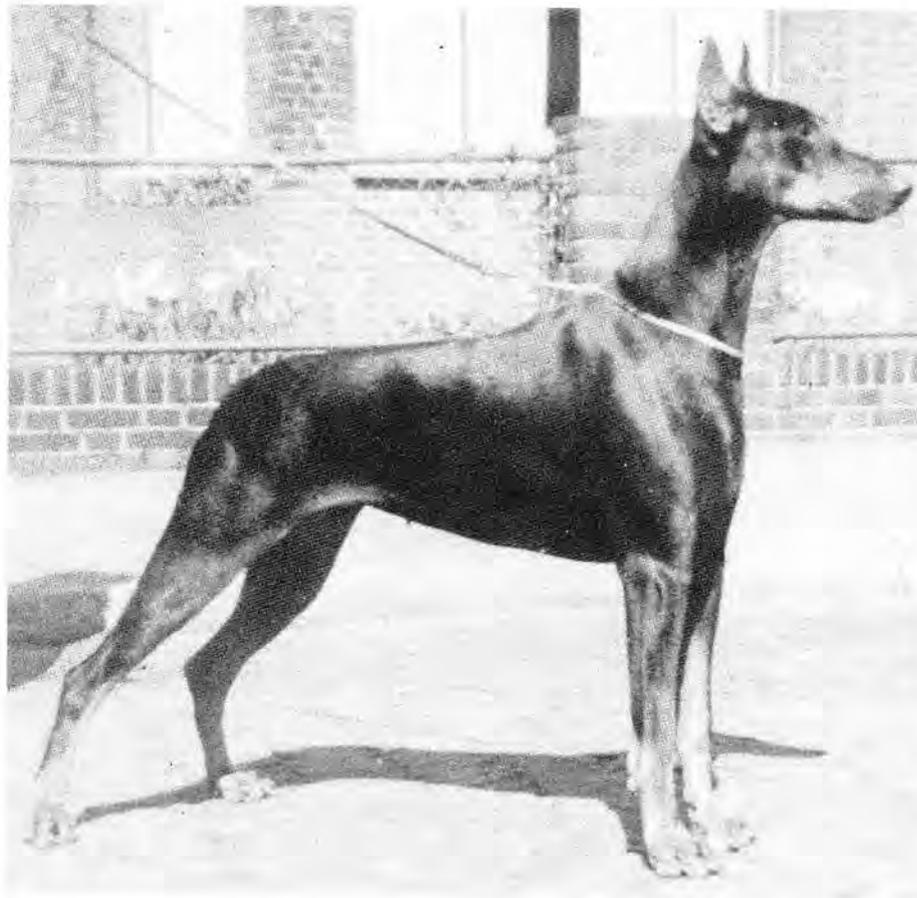
Yet another important bitch was the champion Gravin Jessy van Neerlands Stamm. Mrs. Knijff still regrets selling her even today. She was the blue litter sister to Jordina, and she holds the distinction of being the ONLY blue dog to be awarded a bundessieger title by the Germans since Ada v. Greer in 1950. Jessy was sold to German specialist judge and breeder Jens Kollenberg, then living in Norway. Accompanying her was an excellent Faby son, Graaf Igor van Neerlands Stamm, later resold to Günter Groth, a German specialist judge who had the famous Guntersforst kennel then situated in Finland.

Space really forbids the listing of all the champions and their histories here. The main purpose of the article is more as a tribute to one of the breed's greatest fanciers. Mrs. Knijff will be celebrating her 88th birthday this December, and I'm sure that readers will join me in wishing her many, many more to come.

The following autobiography is composed of extracts from Mrs. Knijff's personal letters and writings. It concerns not only her early childhood, but also her developing involvement in the Doberman breed that spans a whole lifetime. I hope others find as much delight in its reading as I did in compiling it.

"I was born on December 3, 1901, in Fjandi, a village in the hills near Semarang in Java (Indonesia today). My father, a descendant of Protestant-French refugees, was sent by his father (a clergyman) as a twelve-year-old schoolboy to the provinces to curtail his wayward tendencies. He was a rebellious type that was expelled from different schools. This was at that time the standard cure for such children of conservative backgrounds. He also had a love for dogs, and accompanying him was his Fox Terrier, who lived to a great age, as I can also still remember him when I was a child.

"My mother's parents set out for Indonesia on a sailing ship with their firstborn



son. Just out of port, the ship was wrecked, and, although my grandparents lived, the baby was lost. Undeterred, they again sailed for Indonesia, and once there, produced five daughters, one of whom was my mother.

"I had an ideal youth - a big garden and all kinds of animals: horses, cows and dogs, mainly the Fox Terriers of my father, the only "breed" amongst the mongrels of the area. It was shortly before my tenth birthday that I made a trip to the dentist. It was a terrible thing in those days, as everything was done without narcotics. There I sat, awaiting my fate, when a Dobermann (I didn't know it by that name then) appeared in the waiting room. He was the dentist's dog that he'd just bought from Europe. It was love at first sight and for a whole lifetime. I forgot all my pain and sorrow when I looked at that wonderful dog.

"On returning home, all my conversation revolved around the Dobermann dog. I had only one wish and that was to have such a dog. After hearing a name from the dentist, we found an ad in the paper offering a litter of Dobermanns for sale. My mother wrote to the breeder, the wife of an estate manager situated in the foothills of the neighboring area of Bruiensorg. We made an agreement to meet at a restaurant well known in that area. I will never forget how we arrived there first, and after waiting a short time, up drove an old-fashioned Ford and out jumped mother Dobermann and about nine or ten two-month-old puppies. It was the time for bread deliveries at the restaurant, and lying around on the ground were the big bread baskets that are carried by the "koolies" (servants) to different estates. Like a flash, the puppies discovered the bread, and all took one up in their mouths and ran off in different directions. A real panic arose amongst the koolies, and there was a lot of yelling and racing after the little devils. All the loaves were recaptured and returned to their baskets, but

At left, top: 1974. Ch. Gravin Nancy v. Neerlands Stamm (May-Key of Dobe-lock x Gravin Jordina v. Neerlands Stamm). She was the first champion of American/European breeding.

At left, bottom: 1974. Questor with Wietske (3rd dog unknown). Holding the line is a former handler for the kennel, Eric v. Dongen - now a breeder of repute himself under the v. Stevin-hage suffix.

don't ask how.

"Then I could choose my puppy, but I found I could not take him with me, as he had to be cropped. We asked what this was and how it was done. The lady breeder told us it was nothing, and she'd do it tomorrow with the garden scissors. Those were our pioneering women of the past. Today, I often think about them when I see women growing faint and anxious at the sight of blood when having to treat wounds, etc. They are so useless that too often the husbands have to do their work they are unable to do.

"The next day, I got my puppy by train, with two bloody ear stumps. My first Dobermann! I called him Prince, of course. He was a real old-fashioned Dobermann, not so tall - I think he was around 62 centimeters (approximately 24 inches). He had a strong head and honest character. I could write a book about him. He was always good to those in his family but a devil to strangers and strange dogs. The vet in Semarang became his best friend, as he got so many dogs injured by Prince at his clinic. This same vet, the only one in town, also owned a Dobermann. He was taken with Prince and bred his bitch to him. To do so, Prince was taken to town and stayed there a week. He was brought back again by car and deposited in our garden, and we forgot about him till a later call revealed he was gone. Then came a phone call from the vet in town (about twenty kilometers away on the other side of the hills). Prince had made his way back there. This is a trait that many dog people have experience. How these dogs find their way like a homing dove, across borders and different terrains, will always be a mystery to us.

"Being fond of circus, I often trained my horses and dogs to do tricks. Prince could jump through a burning hoop or walk on the back of my Batah pony. I also trained them for whole circus numbers and spent two months of my school vacation with the circus, all for some toffees. Today in these dangerous times, this probably seems unlikely, but I had an absolutely free life. I'd spend whole days away from home on my pony, mostly alone. Sometimes I would meet soldiers, also riding the small Indonesian ponies, and I was always extremely pleased when they failed to discover I was a girl! I only played with boys, playing mainly cowboys and Indians, and I was always the chief because I had a horse. I also became a Boy Scout (there were no Girl Scout fanciers then).



1977. Graaf Widar v. Neerlands Stamm - brown litterbrother to Wietske.

"This free life ended when I had to go to boarding school to learn to become a school teacher. Two years later, I was back home after passing examination, and then I had to start work. I continued with my dogs and horses, and at this time

my parents also bought a Dobermann, a bitch called Lady, of course. I already said that Prince was an old-fashioned Dobermann, and Dobermanns then generally had very strong characters. They were nice with the family but could be danger-



1977. Wietske taking the wall in her Schutzhund I. Trainer here is Willie Bork, a DV and DVG judge who has also judged many times on the DV National Working Championships.



1978. Questor together with his Bundessieger daughter, Wietske and breeder, Mrs. Knijff.



1978. Ch./Bundessiegerin Gravin Wietske v. Neerlands Stamm (Graaf Questor v. Neerlands stamm x Gravin Jorinda v. Neerlands Stamm) at a show with her breeder, Mrs. Knijff.

ous with strangers. Once he found an Indonesian milk boy on the premises and bit him in the leg. He lifted the leg tendon right out of the flesh. My mother put the tendon back, bandaged it up, gave the boy a guilder and the affair was finished. Yes, those were the old times. Even my uncle (later president of the high court in the Dutch East Indies) could not be frivolous with Prince. Many times when he came to pick my father up to go to the office in the mornings, you could hear him trying to coax his way past Prince. It always ended with a call for help, though.

"Prince and Lady also had a good and free life. During the day, they would go across the gardens in Fjandi to the foothills to wait for the bus. Both Dobermanns would run after it, trying to bite the wheels right up to the highest point in the grade and then return to the bottom to await the next bus. Naturally, after a time there was an accident, and Prince was run over. His leg was totally smashed and had to be set in plaster. My mother had to carry him outside to do his duties. One time as she laid the still-suffering dog on the grass, a

bus passed by our house. In that moment, up jumped Prince, and at full speed on three legs, he flew to attack the bus again!

"But those were the last good years in the Dutch East Indies, and shortly after, my parents repatriated to Holland forever. I had to go with them and learn to be a school mistress in Holland. By then Prince was already dead, and I'd sold my horses. The next two years in Holland, I ended up buying a Dobermann bitch, Dora v. Engelsburg. (Folkhardt v. Grammont x Grada v. Grammont). I found her with the help of a Dutch judge, the German-born Herr Klöppel, owner of the Grammont kennels. At this time, I made several German friends whose friendship lasted during the war also, for example, Philip Grünig, who often judged my dogs and wrote about them in the German magazine.

"At that time, I bred a litter from Dora by Prinz Favouriet v.d. Koningstadt. (This dog later went to America along with some Grammont dogs, such as the champion Angola v. Grammont.) After passing a

school mistress examination, I again returned to the East Indies, this time alone. I lived on the island of Ambon but was forbidden to have dogs because of the fear of rabies. It was here that I met my husband, and we returned to the mainland of Java. My husband was often away at sea doing hydrographic work, so I amused myself by training my dogs and horses once again. I brought Dora v. Engelsburg over and also imported other dogs such as Prinz Joangrim v.d. Koningstadt and Prinz Questo v.d. Koningstadt. I also bred some litters under the "Pure Daimonds" prefix, once using a male called Falstaff v.d. Zwanenburg, imported by Gaby Santosos' mother. We took a furlough to Holland, bringing Dora along with us, and on the return trip to Indonesia, she died of a twisted stomach.

"For the final time, we returned to Holland, just before the beginning of the big world war. It was only a few days before the invasion of Poland, a time of great unrest. We had no dogs at all then, and it was my intention to buy a Dobermann as soon as I could. I found a litter

advertised in the North, from totally unknown parents. But all Dutch dogs were unknown to me then, so I wrote to the breeder to get a puppy. The sire was Ador v. Cubahof and the mother was Pauwlin v. Noordlicht. As we had no car and I had two children, I couldn't make such a long journey, so I asked to buy the whole litter, which would enable me to make my choice and then resell the others. The price for a puppy then was plus or minus 25 guilders. When I got the five puppies, I was very disappointed and nearly cried. I thought they weren't Dobermanns at all but frogs. I decided to sell them all again as soon as possible. At the same time, I'd promised a puppy to my daughter, Joyce, so we gave her the smallest (and easiest for her to carry). This was Roeanka v. Rhederveld, a name the breeder had made up from parts of his own, his wife's and his son's names.

"We kept Roeanka during the war, and the Dutch Kennel Club distributed ration cards for dog food, many of which I could use to exchange for salt and other necessary things. In the beginning, we could get big sacks of rice, but later only bread.

"At the first show just after the war, Roeanka earned a champion award. She of, of course, the one-eyed man in the land of the blind. But she was strongly built and had good character.

"I mated her after the war with champion Waldo v.d. Wachtparade, a son of the Worldsieger Troll v. Engelsburg, who was sold to America. Waldo's mother was the German import Gazelle v.d. Bismarcksaule. Waldo was a dog with a lot of nobility, and this combination, along with the firmly built Roeanka v.h. Rhederveld, gave the base of the present-day van Neerlands Stamm dogs. It produced the littermates Dagobert and Diana. Dagobert was twice Best in Show (Brussels in 1947 and Luxembourg in 1948) and proved to be an excellent public relations dog for the breed. He had great nobility and showed himself beautifully. He



At right, top: 1980. Ch. Graaf Aristo v. Neerlands Stamm (Guys Hilo v. Norden sTamm x Gravin Wietske v. Neerlands Stamm). Photo at 12 months.

At right, bottom: 1980. The Dutch "Dog of the Year," Ch. Gravin Aranka v. Neerlands stamm (Guys Hilo v. Norden Stamm x Gravin Wietske v. Neerlands Stamm). She was her breeder's personal favorite overall.



1980. Multi Best in Show winner Aranka together with her breeder, Mrs. Knijff (middle) and German specialist judge Hans Wiblishauser (right) and Dutch specialist judge Mrs. Onstenk-Schenk (left).



Aranka in the Schutzhund work of her Schutzhund I.

achieved this impression with the help of my daughter, who only had to stand outside the ring with a ball in her hand to get his absolute attention. Many of my later dogs could also do this, especially the descendants from Gravin Diana v. Neerlands Stamm.

"From all my champions, perhaps Graff Questor is the most famous. One English judge even wrote that it was an honor for him to have known and judged this dog. He had much success all over: Cole d'Asur, Emo, Nic and Monaco. At this latter show, he beat two Bundessieger dogs - the black and brown ones that year. The black was the well-known Ero v. Franckenhorst. The Italian public was particularly exciting, and, as if feeling the approval, Questor became like a horse winning the Grand National. Today, it's not often one sees a well-built dog that can catch not only the fanciers attention but the attention of the general public also. One, though, was Aranka, the last really famous dog I bred. She had an unbelievable harmony of a strong character and

excellent conformation. She made a great impression on the whole public, and for a bitch, this is not as easy to do as it is for a male. At the end of her show career, she was chosen by a panel of over fifteen specialists and all breed judges to be the Dutch Dog of the Year. Today, I believe the best all, considering the character and conformation, was Aranka.

"I am asked what are the differences between Dobermanns of the past and present. There are great differences, both good and bad. The early Dobermanns were small and ugly, to my eyes, compared with today's dogs. Although I was not yet any sort of judge of conformation at the time, I can see from photos that they had many faults: falling croups, light eyes and markings, long hair, etc. But in general, they did have strong characters. If they did bite someone, you could kill them before they would let go. After the war, they gained more fanciers and would-be breeders in Europe, as well as in America, and also became more beautiful. Some judges make dogs champions and place

them on top, although they fail to have nobility and allure. In the magazines I get, the photos show me things are getting worse and worse. Many of the same problems in America are here also: bad head types without enough nobility; wide, heavy chests; and straight fronts. They stay in the ring and don't show themselves. Showing the way we do here in Europe is important. There is no hanging onto or stacking a dog (putting it together) as they do in America. Why does a "show" dog need that? A Dobermann must feel that he is a king. It must stand proudly. However well built, a dog without allure and nobility is not a dog for anyone's admiration.

"A good handler is, of course, also important, and there are not many good handlers. They must be able to let the dog show himself to good advantage. An example is a young dog, from Igon and Aldith v.h. Jonkerland, that I sold to a fancier in Germany. I felt this dog had all the possibilities to become a great winner. He took first place with SG1 in the youth



1987. Mrs. Knijff at home, together with her partner, Han v.d. Zwan (right).

class under Mr. Wiblshausen, but it was always a great pity that the owner couldn't get the best out of him at all. So it is with many dogs and their owners.

"I like to see a good head type on a Dobermann. Herr Klöppel (a German, but also a Dutch judge) once told me to avoid breeding to a dog with a bad head, as it will still be there in the tenth generation. His famous stud dog, Urian v. Grammont, who was the father of many champions, had an excellent head. Unfortunately, his body was deformed by rickets. He bought him back after the dog had been used to pull carts. He had a good pedigree. Herr Klöppel was called the "breeder-composer." He always made the best of combinations. He helped his friends also, for example, Herr Akkeren from the v.d. Konigstadt kennel. This man always had good results, and he sold several dogs to America also. He once made a combination, against Herr Klöppel's advice, using a very successful dog, Claus v.d. Spree. This dog was winning everywhere, also in Holland. He was a beautifully built dog, but he had a bad head type. From this,

Herr Akkeren sold a puppy named Prins Lustspiel v.d. Konigstadt (Prince Joyfulplay) to America. But this dog was so bad they called him Prins Trauerspiel v.d. Konigstadt (Prince Griefplay). I think the

breeder lost a good name in America because of this dog.

"Today I am fighting for my last CAC towards Igon's championship; he is the son of my beloved Aranka and Aristo. What different judges prefer today is very confusing for me. Sometimes I doubt myself, when I see how uneven results can be from week to week. I am even more doubtful when I only hear second-hand reports, as I cannot go to shows anymore as I did previously.

"One person says it is a beautiful dog, and the other says it is no good. How is this possible? Good dogs are put aside for the most trivial reasons. Judges today hand out Best in Show awards like treats, a thing particularly strange in a breed that was not popular in the past because of cropped ears. This anti-cropping movement that is around is a threat to the whole breed. I will never have a Dobermann without cropped ears. When that is done, it is no Dobermann to look at; the whole type is ruined. Uncropped dogs look more like hunting dogs. The cropped ears have a purpose. How can a dog look alert, fearless and noble with silly hanging ears and a wagging tail?

"I am feeling my time is over though, but I will never stop planning my next litters. I would like to buy a black puppy bitch from Kalina v. Norden Stamm. The name, just like with Guys Hilo, will then stay in our hearts.

"I wish most of all that Igon would earn his last CAC. This is really bothering me. I could tell so many stories, but I believe you have heard enough from me now." •

## LDPC Review

### Lakeshore Doberman Pinscher Club Specialty

Cindy Noland  
Beaver Falls, Pennsylvania

The weather was sunny and just a bit chilly, which was great for the dogs at the Lakeshore Doberman Pinscher Club's 23rd Annual Specialty Show.

The morning started with Jackie Beaumont judging a Sweepstakes entry of 42. She chose Triad's Cut-Up as her Best Junior from the 12-15 month Bitch class. The honor of Best Puppy and Best in Sweepstakes was awarded to Wynwoods N'Destiny, a black bitch from the 9-12 month class.

Meanwhile, Judge Tom Masterson was surveying an entry of ten obedience dogs, including one brace. Qualifying scores were earned by four dogs and the brace, two of which earned legs. High in Trial was earned by the Open B winner, Derbylane Von Feist CDX, with a score of 195.

Regular conformation judging got underway with Dr. Richard Greathouse doing the honors with Lakeshore's usual large entry of 130. He selected the black 12-18 Dog, Majyc's Talaris, to receive the four point major for the males. Reserve went to Bella-Donna Am the Warrior from the Open Black class.

Then the bitches filled the ring, and I do mean they filled it! As has been the