

(This letter is re-typed from a letter submitted to GSP Ancestry. The original letter was printed on Ringneck GSP Club, Inc., Sioux City, Iowa stationery with George Wells, Secretary, McCook Lake, Jefferson, South Dakota, 57038, printed on it.) (GSP Ancestry has added GREEN color to all names of persons and BLUE coloring to all names of dogs to highlight them.)

The cover letter was written by **Jerry Craig**, President of the Ringneck GSP Club, to **Dean M. Kerl**, Board member of the GSP of America. The date is September 16, 1975.

Dear Dean:

The Ringneck GSP Club of Sioux City, Iowa wishes to submit the name of **George Wells** for honorary Life Member in the GSP of America. Enclosed is his resume which you will find extremely interesting.

(Signed)

Jerry Craig, President

Dear Friends and Fellow GSP Fanciers:

You have asked me to write something concerning my experience with German Shorthaired Pointers. I fear that you do not realize the chance you are taking with this request; I could bore you to death on this subject. The twenty years that you mention is so recent that I would like to go back to a very rainy morning in Montreal in 1924 when I opened the side-curtains on **Ed Frauentholtz's** Franklin Touring Car and climbed into the back seat with a solid liver male and a roan female with a ticked chest and dark liver stripes thru her roan body – much like a tiger – a most unusual marking that I have never seen since. Many of the early ones had the ticked chest but the tiger stripes were different. This started the whole thing with me. Ed was German (sic) born and knew the breed from his homeland and word of them had reached us from fellows returning from the first World War.

I had been working with pointers and setters since 1921 but not getting paid for it from the older fellows that I was helping. Didn't start charging for my work until 1926 – got \$10.00 a month for training – lot of money back then. Our group through **Ed Frauentholtz** engaged a Rogue by the name of **Karl Obermeier** to get us a pair out of Austria and bring them in on a boat bringing cattle out of Scotland for **Bill Galloway**. Karl told Ed that he got the male from a Yeager and the bitch from a poacher; I've always thought that he probably stole them both – no papers but no one was concerned about papers in those days.

I had a one eighth interest in this pair and did all the work on them for nothing – I still say that what these two gave surpasses any fee that I have received since – I have never recovered; we hunted everything with them – fur or feather, Upland game (except pheasants – didn't have them then) and waterfowl. About all the water dogs around at that time we Chesapeakes and rat tailed Water Spaniels and the Kurz Harrs held their own with them. Let me remind you who say that the GSP doesn't have the coat for cold water that I have seen very few long haired seals. When these dogs when to pointer and setter men and they started to calling them pointers instead of Kurzhaars – somebody got the idea that they were not water dogs – it's an old wives tale.

In the 1930's, I located at Spirit Lake, Iowa. By this time quite a few legitimate imports had been made to this country and I became associated with the late **Jack Shattuck**. He came up with a fine male (**CH Fritz v Schwarenberg**) out of two of the first imports in this area – **Bob v Schwarenberg** x **Arta**

Hohreusch – that really got the country talking about the GSP as he won about everything there was to win at that time. I got a fine bitch sired by him out of a **Berg's Choice** daughter (**Berg's Choice** also being out of **Arta** by **Bob**). **Arta** was also bred to imported **Hallo Manheimia** and produced a dog named **Treu v Waldwinkle** that sired no end of fine dogs and many, many...

It was at this time that what few GSP people there was in the area, got together and formed the original German Shorthaired Pointer Club of America and went to AKC for recognition. If my memory serves me right, I think **Shattuck** was the first President – I was a member. We established a breed standard and procedure for field trials. At time that the Ringneck Club here in Sioux City hosted the Amateur National Championship, I gave **Dr. Kline** what I believe to be the only remaining copy of this standard procedure to be put into the present Parent Club library.

Shattuck (sic) imported a solid liver male (**Mars v Ammortal**) and bred him to a bitch line bred from three of the first imports – **Bob**, **Arta** and **Feldjagers Grisette** and got the first Dual Champion in this country, **Rusty v Schwarenberg**. He also bred **Mars** to a bitch out of his **CH Helga** by **CH Fritz** – **Fritz** being by **Bob & Arta** and **Helga** their grand daughter; of this mating, he got his **Red v Schwarenberg**. I like **Red** better than **Rusty** for all his fame; also like his progeny better – more to my liking anyway and felt that he was better bred on his dam's side. I bred my earlier mention **Berg's Choice** grand daughter to him and got a solid liver male that suited me better than any dog that I have ever owned – he was my constant companion for 17 years. I wanted a half sister to him and we persuaded **Walter Mangold**, importer of **Claus v Schlesweg**, to breed a daughter of **CH Fritz S.** out of a daughter of his **Claus** to **Red** and I was to get a female from this litter. This pair of half brother and sister produced no end of fine hunting dogs for me. I imagine that you have heard enough ancient history by now and I should get on with other things but there are many, many more than I could talk about. I still have a lot of pictures of these early ones and have thought, many times, about having them reproduced with what I knew about them – it might be of great interest to some of you.

I have had two great frustrations since locating in Iowa. The first was that I had to fight the Iowa legislature (sic), the Humane Society and the Audobon Society for twelve years to get it made legal to use pigeons for training dogs – you could shoot them off a church or about anything else except use them for live targets and dog training. You “Johnny Come Lately” that take their use for granted have no idea what a battle that was. The second being my not able to organize a GSP Club for Field Trials – this took some thirty years. What few trial that there was operating were so far away – this was in Model T and Model A days – that everything had to go to hunters as that was all we had. Was able, however, to organize and serve as Secretary and Treasurer for eight years, the first Club of Retrievers to be licensed by AKC to hold field trials in Iowa.

GSP was still a step child – more or less held in ridicule by the old timers – “Bob Tailed Coon Dogs” – they called them. It wasn't until we started having a pheasant season that they got even; and that's when the knockers started coming around (with egg on their faces) and saying that maybe they ought to get one and try it out for a while... The rest is history that you all know... they cover the area like the dew covers Dixie.

I moved my kennel to Sioux City in December of 1954 and tried to get a club going as there was a few GSPs locally. The best that we were able to do was form field trial club covering all breeds – GSP, Retrievers, Pointers and Setters, Coon dogs and Beagles. AKC wouldn't recognize us, covering so wide an area but we had some fun; held some fun trials in all the areas and the new comers were beginning to

find out what it was all about. Sometime later, I was lucky enough to meet a man by the name of **Dean Kerl**. He had never owned a GSP but somehow I managed to be in a high stage of contagion and was able to infect him with the disease to the point of no recovery. **Chuck Peterson** had moved to Sioux City at about that time from Omaha. We reorganized the now dormant all breed club (Central Westfield Trial Club) and formed a GSP Specialty Club named Ringneck GSP Club – held two sanctioned Trials that were well attended and became the first GSP Club in Iowa to be licensed by AKC. I have held some office in it since it was organized and have served as it's secretary and treasurer for the past good many years. It's been a long road but it is all down hill now.

I have fought for the breed when everyone thought I was crazy till they finally found out what I knew all the time. I have done everything that I could do to encourage their showing and field trialing because I knew that through competition was the only way that we could keep the early great ones producing more great ones. I have judged field trials since they started having them and served in every other capacity in Licensed trials and National Championships at some time or other. Until just the past several years, field trials were so far away and since I've never had more than about two nickles that I could rub together at any one time and not having a rich uncle inclined to early demise, I have had to content myself, to a great extent, to training for those wanting a fine hunter or for those who did make the trials as the long trips and paying entry fees was more than I could handle but I have enjoyed producing and training them for those who could. Three of our past National Champions had some of their puppy work here. I don't know whether I have done anything outstanding for the breed compared to what I know others have done but one thing you can't take away from me is the fact that the German Shorthaired Pointers have done a lot for me!! – also they have been responsible for my being able to have met some of the finest people in the world.

Yours very truly,

(signed) George Wells