

Longs - even visiting the Simeon Kennels of Ruth Simon, the leading Standard Long breeder at the time, at Bellevue Hill. This was an interest that I had successfully discouraged but, with the establishment of Lohengrin at Dural she was not to be denied and, unknown to me until duly presented in the kennels, she purchased Chemnitz Black Satin from Mrs E Quigley of Castle Hill. Satin, purchased by Rhonda after much consideration as the foundation bitch for her Standard Longs never gained her title - but she did prove Rhonda's uncanny eye for a dog by producing numerous champions and, in particular, the outstanding show exhibit and prepotent sire, Ch Lohengrin Espresso, BIS at the Dachshund Club of NSW Specialty in 1968, 1969 and 1970 and sire of no less than 34 champions and also Ch Lohengrin Black Coffee who, in turn, was the dam of a number of dogs and bitches who continued the dominance of Lohengrins in the Standard Long variety.

In 1973 Ch Swansford Doolittle (imp UK) was imported from Mrs Margaret Swan and, although not used extensively at stud outside Lohengrin, he sired five champions and provided an outcross that had great significance at Lohengrin. In 1975, on one of her many visits to England, Rhonda personally selected from Miss

Late in 1991, after a lengthy period of negotiation Rhonda, in partnership with her friend Judy Poulton, was able to acquire the spectacular Am / Aust Ch Boondox Jumping Jack Flash (imp USA) from Dan Harrison. Arriving out of quarantine early in 1992 J.J. (as he was known) soon gained his Australian title and commenced an influential stud career. Unfortunately J.J. died in 1995 before his full potential as a sire could be reaped.

While Rhonda was a great organiser throughout her life one of her failings was in the keeping of complete records of her breeding results, particularly in the early years. This was probably due to her having a phenomenal memory from which she was at all times able to recall the breeding of any of her dogs - and, for that matter, anyone else's dogs as well. However from the limited information available since the introduction of computerised recordings she bred five Standard Smooth Champions, 28 Standard Long Champion dogs and 27 Champion Standard Long bitches.

Truly a great breeder!

While her interest in Dachshunds never waned, in 1972 Rhonda decided to take up breeding Miniature Poodles under her Elysee prefix. Within five years she had demonstrated her uncanny abilities as a stud breeder by becoming one of the leading and most successful breeders in Australia, exerting a very strong influence on the breed and, in due course, being recognised for her successes and efforts by being elected unopposed as President of the Poodle Club of NSW.

But her eye for an animal was not confined to the dog world.

Following the establishment of Lohengrin Murray Grey Beef Cattle Stud at Exeter in the Southern Highlands in 1967 Rhonda displayed her uncanny skills by directing the breeding program for the cattle stud, supervising the purchase of stud bulls and female breeders and, within a few years, establishing the stud as a dominant member of the Murray Grey fraternity.

A person of very positive views but with a great love of people her great ability was to get people to work with her to achieve a given goal.

For many years she conducted the RNSWCC's most successful Hound Group Judges' Training Scheme programs for aspiring Hound Group judges and was at all times available to pass on her vast knowledge of Dachshunds and dog affairs generally to all those who wished to listen.

A long term Committee member of the Dachshund Club of NSW she was accorded due recognition for her efforts by having Life Membership conferred on her by the Club in 1974.

In addition she also occupied the position of President of the prestigious NSW Womens Dog Club for a period only rivaled by the Foundation President of the Club, Mrs Olive McDougall.

A breeder of Dachshunds of international renown, a font of knowledge, an enthusiastic and successful exhibitor, an organiser who put back into the breed much more than she took out, a fun person and good friend and, above all, a lover of dogs, Rhonda Berge Phillips, some nine years since her passing, is still missed by all her knew her - and continues, through the progeny of her magnificently bred stock, to influence the breed today.

And that legacy is presently being carried forward by Ch Lohengrin Adoniss, (Gr Ch Keaton Jaks ex Ch Lohengrin Night Nurse) who, besides being a provensire of quality stock, has had a distinguished show career having commenced with Puppy in Group at Melbourne Royal Show followed by Best of Breed at Sydney, Melbourne and Brisbane Royal Shows in the same year; Runner Up Best of Breed (to his sire) at the 6th National Dachshund Show in Adelaide; Best in Show at the 2001 Dachshund Club of NSW Specialty; Runner Up in Show at the Novocastrian Dachshund Club Show and, in 2002, Runner up Best in Show at the Dachshund Club of NSW Specialty Show and Best of Breed at Sydney Royal Show

The Lohengrin legend lives on.
Rhonda Berge Phillips - we owe you!

Ern Berge Phillips

Jacqueline Reading

Tandem Standard Smooths



Ch Lohengrin Chocolate Coated

Mollie Raine's famous Imber kennels and imported Ch Imber Irish Coffee (imp UK) who proved a major influence on the variety, siring 18 champions including Ch Lohengrin Sugar Daddy who, in turn, sired 15 champions.

In 1980 Ch Jamanean Maxie (imp UK) was imported. While not used often at stud Max produced the absolute brood bitch Lohengrin Taffeta who, while never making up her title, was the dam of five outstanding champions, L. Butternut, L. Brandy Sauce, L. Humbug, L. Red Ribbons and, last but not least, L. Xmas Carol who when mated with Mrs Avril Varley's Ch Swansford Mancini of Murrumbidgee (imp. UK) produced Ch Lohengrin Flame who had such a spectacular show and breeding career over recent years, being awarded BIS at the First National Dachshund Show in Sydney in 1991 and starting a record for Lohengrin bred exhibits at National Shows that reads:

- * 1st National - BIS - Ch Lohengrin Flame [Ch Swansford Mancini of Murrumbidgee (imp UK) ex Ch Lohengrin Xmas Carol]
- * 3rd National - BIS - Lohengrin Flamboyant [Am & Aust Ch Boondox Jumping Jack Flash (imp USA) ex Ch Lohengrin Flame]
- * 4th National - BIS - Gr Ch Keaton Jaks [Am & Aust Ch Boondox Jumping Jack Flash (imp USA) ex Ch Lohengrin Flame]
- * 5th National - R/UP BIS - Gr Ch Keaton Jaks



TANDEM
DACHSHUNDS

CH. TANDEM DORIC

The outstanding Best in Show winning chocolate and tan dog at just over three years of age has been the standard smooth male winner of The Dachshund Club's Top Ten competition in 1970, 1971 and, at the time of going to press, is the leader in 1972

TANDEM LOGANBERRY

A shaded red 11 lbs. miniature long haired. He excels in coat, feet, length of neck and ribbing. These dogs are AT STUD and puppies are occasionally available.

Mrs. G. Reading,
"Tandem",
Galston Rd.,

TANDEM
CHAMPION FANTASY

Runner up to Best in Show, Dachshund Club, 1960
Best in Show, Dachshund Club, 1965

HER SON HER GRANDSON

CH. TANDEM ROC
Best in Show Dachshund Club 1963
Best in Show L.K.A. 1964

CH. TANDEM THE WOLF
Best in Show Liverpool & Dist. A.H. & I. 1970

HER GREAT GRANDSON
CH. TANDEM DORIC
Runnerup B.I.S. Hound Club 1971
B.I.S. Hound Club 1971
Runner-up B.I.S. Toy & General 1971
B.I.S. North of the Harbour 1971

from Dachshund Club of NSW Handbook 1972