

Champion Di Dio' Dogs Are A Breed Apart

A gracefully aging Arizona roams freely about the terrain, still displaying the royal look of the queen she once was.

Meanwhile, the young and dashing prince Dozier dances and prances around in a never-stopping fashion, impatiently waiting for his still-maturing physique to reach its peak that will surely come.

But for now, the empire belongs to King Barnabus, the most recent in what is quickly becoming a well-established line of national show dog champions bearing the Di Dio' trademark.

Di Dio', which translates to English from its native Italian to mean "of or from God," is actually a pet-grooming business operating out of a small shop in Dyson Square.

It is Bob Busby, a bearded marble supplier and creative designer by trade, who has borrowed the name of the business house, and which is operated by his fiancée, Susan Mahaffey, and applied it to the title of his dog breeding hobby.

"When we were looking for a name," explains Busby, who admits that during the past 12 years his hobby has become more addictive, "Di Dio' just seemed to fit perfectly."

And it's been a match made in heaven.

Since Busby, an avid dog lover who continuously brought home strays during his childhood in New Jersey, first became deeply involved with dog breeding, his success in the area has boomed.

Di Dio', which competes against professional breeders and continues to top them, has fielded a number of national champions, with the most recent one being perhaps the most memorable.

Barney, as he is fondly referred to, becomes one of the first ever to earn the crown of American-Canadian Champion after being brought up entirely among the Di Dio' family.

"He's the first one we raised and bred that has become an American-Canadian Champion," beamed Busby, "and we're very proud of that."

Like most the dogs Busby has become most attached to, Barry, too, is a Rottweiler, a rugged-looking breed that makes up for that sometimes frightening appearance by being known as often very affectionate.

"Just to look at a Rott," offered Busby, "isn't enough. You have to get to know them. They might look mean, but deep down, they're one of the best companion dogs you can have. They're great around children, too. Once you pet them, they become your friend. They get trained, now, to serve as true guard dogs, but overall, they're really a gentle breed."

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Barney Flashes The Form Of The Champion He Is



Busby In Office Splashed By Pictures Of Success



Arizona, Left, Dozier Sandwich Beloved Owner

who's business office in the front room of his house is splashed by pictures of former successes. "It's very hard to be an American-Canadian champion, and that's what he is. There have been sacrifices made, but they've all been worth it."

In addition to his two-country championship status, Barney, who is expected to be in high command at a stud, has also attained both a coveted obedience, known as a CDX, and tracking, referred to as a TD.

"We're very proud of what Barney has accomplished," stated Busby, "and we're very proud of that."

Barney, owned and bred since birth by Busby, earned the coveted double-title back in August, at the annual get-together that featured all 16 cheerleading squads, eight each in a pair of different age divisions, within the Southland Football League competing against each other for the first and last time this season in the Southland '87.

The attraction took place in a Lincoln Citizens Center, and it was sponsored by the East Lincoln Optimist Club.

Mooresville featured an affair-high four teams in the competition, and it was these girls who pulled just as hard for one another as they cheered against the others.

The competition, during which two squads at the various levels were awarded trophies, followed by a day within the youth league, which is also divided into the two age groups.

Eight teams, and corresponding cheerleading units, competed within the Pee Wee division, while the same number, accompanied by the vocal support groups, squared off at the Midget level.

In this first season as a member of the Southland League, Mooresville was also the largest, as it was the only league member fielding two teams at each playing level.

And so it was that Mooresville was also represented in Sunday's cheer-off by four pom-pom-waving squads, each of whom sat nearby and offered words of encouragement to sister teams until it was their own turn to perform.

And perform is exactly what each had to do, as a number of requirements were forced to be met by each attending cheerleader unit.

Each squad was allowed a five-minute routine, which had to include a minimum of three full cheers, a pyramid, gymnastics, and a two-minute dance session.

The cheerleaders were judged based on appearance, projection, finesse, overall appeal, overall excitement, transitions, and the degree of difficulty of their various routines.

The top two squads in each division were awarded trophies, and, while no Mooresville team brought home an award, they each finished in the middle of their respective divisions, which represented a total successful effort for their first season of competition.

Arizona was a national champion in her prime, and she now serves as Busby's personal companion, the only one free to roam in and out of the fenced-in dog lot as well as her owner's house.

And wherever she may roam, she feels right at home as a former queen residing among a host of other current and future members of Di Dio's dog-breeding royal family.

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Prospect Community News Briefs

By MRS. LURIE MCNEELY

—Mrs. Mary Lewis visited her brother-in-law, Mr. C.F. Lewis, and Mrs. Lewis in Kansas last Thursday.

—World Community Day, sponsored by Church Women United, will be celebrated Friday, Nov. 6, at Thyatira Presbyterian Church with a program and covered dish supper.

—Mrs. Irene Mayes of Statesville called on Mrs. Arvie Weddington last Friday.

—Mrs. Esther Caudill is sick at this time and is at the home of her daughter, Mrs. Colleen Brown.

—Mr. and Mrs. Ray Fries spent last week on the Outer Banks at Avon fishing. This was a gathering of all of Mrs. Fries' brothers and sisters which is an annual affair for the family.

—Next Sunday is Dedication Sunday at Prospect Presbyterian Church. Plan now to attend.

—Visiting in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Jimmy Kipka for the weekend were their daughters, Amanda, a student at Appalachian State University at Boone, and Scarlett, a student at Louisiana College.

—They had some friends from their schools for the weekend—Kim Edwards of Appalachian, Rachel Moody of Winston-Salem, Gwen Petty of Hillsborough, and Julie Kinsberry of Charlottesville, Va., all suitcases of Charlotteville, Va., a student at Virginia Tech.

—The infant son of Mr. and Mrs. Mark Rummage and great-grandson of Mrs. Edna Rummage is a patient at Charlotte Memorial Hospital.

—Mr. and Mrs. Mack McKnight, Mrs. Katie Cross and Jeff Teeter are patients at the Lake Norman Regional Medical Center in Mooresville.

—I am happy to report that Tracy Bradshaw has returned home from the Davis Community Hospital in Statesville.

—Mr. and Mrs. Frank Alexander returned home Monday from a visit of several days with Mr. and Mrs. Boyd Ulrich in Newark, Delaware.

—Dr. and Mrs. Paul Steadman and Julia of Jonesville visited with Mrs. Elizabeth Carrigan last Saturday evening.

—Sunday, following the morning worship service at Prospect Presbyterian Church, Mrs. Evelyn Lowrance's family and a number of friends gathered at the church's fellowship hall to celebrate the October and November birthdays in the family. Eighteen people enjoyed the occasion.

—Mrs. Louise Denham of Winston-Salem worshipped at Prospect Presbyterian Church on Sunday and was, later a guest of the Evelyn Lowrance family and the Harry Hart family.

—Mr. and Mrs. Bob Hupman and family of Mebane were Sunday guests of Mr. and Mrs. Harry Hart. They came to help Mr. Hart celebrate his birthday.

—Little Meredith Casey Robinson, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Tony Robinson, received the sacrament of baptism on Sunday. She is the granddaughter of Mr. and Mrs. Bill Wilkinson.

—The Rev. Robert Martin Jr. was guest speaker at Prospect Presbyterian Church Sunday. He is the college pastor, faculty member and director of international programs at St. Andrews Presbyterian College in Laurinburg.

—Mr. and Mrs. Don Howie spent last weekend at homecoming at Mrs. Howie's former church in Greelville, S.C. Mrs. Howie was the guest organist for the occasion.

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Medical Center Yard Sale

Lake Norman Regional Medical Center in Mooresville will be the site for an unusual yard sale this Friday.

The medical center will conduct the public yard sale to sell the furniture and other miscellaneous items currently stored in Purches Hall, the old nurses' dorm on the medical center campus.

Purches Hall, which was also the home of the Lowrance School of Nursing, is scheduled to be demolished starting Nov. 9. A new office complex for the medical center will be built on the site.

The yard sale for the items collected from the building will begin at 1 p.m. at the medical center. The yard sale will last until 6 p.m.

Items for sale will include dressers, desks, beds, night stands, lobby furniture and carpet as well as other odds and ends stored in the building.

For more information about the unusual yard sale, contact Viki West of Ann Tilly at the medical center, 663-1115.

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