

Thisa and Thata

By Norma Hansburg

A Tale of Two Shepherds

This is the story of two German Shepherd Dogs. Both of them were their owners' very first dogs. Neither owner had very much money. Both dogs were shown about a dozen times in their entire show careers. Both dogs won under excellent judges and both were presented by top handlers. Both were completely sound in mind and body. Both lived long and useful lives, but their lives were very different.

The first dog belonged to an elderly lady who was retired on disability. The dog lived with her daughter who, at that time, was young, single and very involved in the Breed. She often did her own handling. His father was a long-coat who had a champion litter sister. He was the only dog ever produced by his father to attain a championship.

The second dog belonged to a young married couple with two children. They lived in an apartment. They did not belong to any Dog Clubs and had never shown a dog. His parents were both Champions. His father was a Select dog who produced several champions. He had a litter sister who won the Futurity and another brother with points.

The first Dog got his first points owner-handled. A well known handler really loved him and took him out to The Topline weekend where he won back-to-back 5-point majors. He was then brought back home where he finished his championship. He was specialed and won a group. His owner took him to Canada where she showed him herself a few times. He earned his Canadian Championship and his CD and at the very next American National went First Veteran Dog and Select Two. He lived out his life as a Stud Dog with a house full of bitches and attained his ROM very easily.

The second Dog won his class at the Futurity. His first time out with a handler he took a 5-point Major Reserve at a local Specialty. He got all his points within a few hundred miles of home, but for the last show they flew to Pittsburg where he finished with his second major, never going less than Reserve at any show. They retired him and he lived out his life as a companion dog to his owners' children. They bought a house in New Jersey for the kids and the dog. He was an Only Dog.

The first Dog was handled by Lamar Kuhns and Fred Olsen.

The Second Dog was handled by Fred Olsen and Jim Moses.

The owner of the first dog is very well known in the Breed: Her name is Anne Graham Brogden. You have never heard the name of the second dog or his owner. His name was Anthony Maniscalco.

Both of them were excellent dogs. Both of them gave their owners what they wanted. It is what the owner wants to do that determines those things.

By this time you probably know the name of the first dog: Champion Select Dotwalls Vance OFA CD ROM. The second Dog was Champion Alco Of Klarbach; you will find him listed under his Sire: CH Select Falco Of Thunder Rock, on the German Shepherd Reviewed website.

Norma Hansburg is a contributing writer to the German Shepherd by Design. She can be reached at NHANSBURGH@hvc.rr.com.