

THE REX CAT—LONG MAY IT WAVE!

Mable and Charlie Tracy



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For the first time in the history of recorded feline breeding, we have been given the unique opportunity to completely and accurately document the history of a breed from the time of its inception . . . the REX CAT!

Why the name "Rex"?

The very first recorded Rex mutant was the Castorrex rabbit; the name CASTOR-REX means, "King of the Browns". This odd looking rabbit, "long in body, long in leg, with a decidedly arched back, and a pair of ears which were out of proportion, they resembled a kangaroo as much as anything"*.

was found by a rabbit dealer in France. This French dealer took the "different" looking animal to a local priest, M. Gillet, and through his efforts, and those who worked with him then, and carried on the work later, the REX coat was established and developed until it exists in all breeds of rabbits today.

Fortunately, Mrs. Ennismore, Cornwall, England, who bred and recorded the first REX mutation in cats (mutations have also been recorded in rats, mice, and have even occurred in horses!) was also a breeder of rabbits and was able to recognize and relate this feline mutation to the rex rabbit.

Helen Weiss has faithfully detailed the early history and development of the Rex cat in **The CFA Yearbook of 1965**, pages 138-147, so we will try to bring further developments up to the present.

In 1962, THE REX SOCIETY INTERNATIONAL was formed, and in 1967, the GERMAN REX SOCIETY was organized. We were charter members and board member of the latter group. However, there was still a dearth of information for breeders of both mutations and we found it impossible to intelligently plot a course of breeding since background information was non-existent within the structure of the GERMAN REX SOCIETY. Acting independently, we contacted the two pioneer German Rex Breeders in the United States, Mrs. Sally Muckenhoupt, BIRCH WOODS CATTERY, from whom we purchased our first curly coated Rex, and Mrs. Joanne O'Shea, HI-FI CATTERY. About the same time, we began to correspond with Mrs. Margaret Baxter, EMBEE SIAMESE, Leeds, England, who most graciously researched the British **FUR AND FEATHER** publication to send us all the information she could find on the English Rex. Mrs. Baxter also directed us to Mrs. Alison Ashford, ANNELIDA, Maidstone, England, one of the early Rex breeders in England, who shared her breeding information most freely. Through these two British breeders, we began to exchange information with Mr. Roy Robinson, the eminent Geneticist in London. Much of the valuable information later published in THE FORUM, the newsletter of REX BREEDERS UNITED,

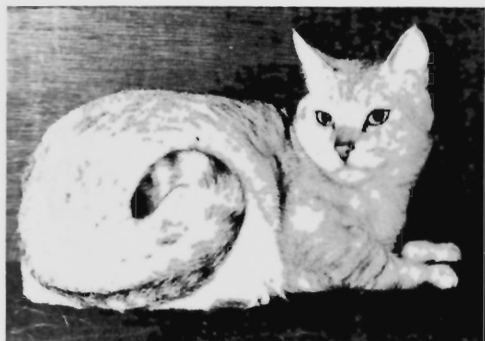
was made available through these early contacts.

Helen Weiss, Hetti van Winsen, Mildred Stringham, to name but a few, have contributed much in pictures as well as material to document the development of the Rex breed here and abroad. All of our contributors have stressed the need for accuracy, a good omen for the future of the Rex cat, and now every interested Rex breeder has a source from which he can become reliably well-informed.

Our personal Rex breeding experiences began with the first litter from BIRCH WOOD'S INGRID OF PAW PRINTS (called Kindchen, our original purchase from Sally Muckenhoupt), consisting of five kittens. One was an unusual solid gunmetal color which contrasted with a black litter mate. The gunmetal changed as the kitten grew and when her coat went into the suede look (a large number of Rex kittens go through this extreme coat change, then back into a lovely curl), appeared to be almost a brindle color. A description of her development sent to Alison Ashford confirmed our feeling that she was a black smoke, and she was later shown as such, PAW PRINTS HOLLY WEEN². She is now 3½ years old and most decidedly a smoke. From this, we decided to try an outcross to further develop the silver gene in HOLLY. After a disastrous attempt at outside stud service to a shaded silver American Shorthair, (we can say with authority born of personal experience that Rhinotracheitis does NOT necessarily leave a female sterile! Ear Mites CAN be eliminated! Mange is NOT hereditary, and Ringworm CAN be confined and eliminated and is also NOT hereditary!), we purchased a shaded silver American Shorthair male, NORPARK'S SALAZAR³, from Wayne Park. We are still pursuing the silver gene and are aiming at developing a Silver Rex. Following our breeding program, we have outcrossed CH. PAW PRINTS HOLLY WEEN (black smoke German Rex) to NORPARK'S SALAZAR (shaded silver ASH), producing a litter of 3 silver tabbies and 1 blue tabby normal coated German Rex kitten, carrying the Rex gene. The male silver tabby from this litter, PAW PRINTS FREDERICK⁴ (Sam to the family), has been bred to PAW PRINTS SCHATZ (German Rex, curly) and the kittens are due the end of July. A female silver tabby from the litter, PAW PRINTS FRAULEIN FRIEDA, owned by Mrs. Janis Buczacky, has been bred to RODELL'S RIMSKI, bred by Bob and Dell Smith, (Cornish Rex), who is also carrying silver genes, and that litter is due in mid-June. A daughter of NORPARK'S SALAZAR (shaded silver ASH), PAW PRINTS LEIBCHEN (Normal coated German Rex) has also been bred to RODELL'S RIMSKI, and that litter is due in early July.



No. 2 PAW PRINTS HOLLY WEEN (German Rex)



No. 3 NORPARK'S SALAZAR OF PAW PRINTS
Shaded Silver American Shorthair

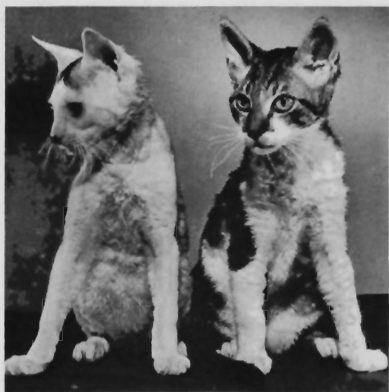
us to contact Mrs. Elizabeth Freret with the possibility in mind of organizing a new club, including both the English and German Rex breeders. An effective avenue of communication was very necessary and what could better do the job than a good, factual, regularly published newsletter? This concept was later made a fundamental objective of the organization and is so stated in the Articles of Incorporation, prepared by Elizabeth, "to document and publicize the origins of the Rex cat and its continuing development; to provide a forum for the exchange of information pertaining to the care and breeding of Rex cats."

Elizabeth contacted the English breeders and we contacted all the German breeders to form a nucleus of 14 people interested in forming such a new organization. REX BREEDERS UNITED resulted and was accepted as a CFA affiliated club at the Annual Meeting, June, 1969. Our first issue of THE FORUM was circulated to 64 first year Charter Members and complimentary copies were sent to all CFA judges, now an established and continuing policy. The initial officers and Board of Directors for that first year were: President, Bob Smith, California; Vice President, Helen Weiss, Texas; Vice President, Sally Muckenhoupt, Massachusetts; Secretary-Treasurer, Mable Tracy, Maryland; Board Member, Sue Dugle, Ohio; Board Member: Charles Tracy, Maryland. Our membership has grown to 84 members, including 7 associate members, (friends but not owners of Rex cats) and 3

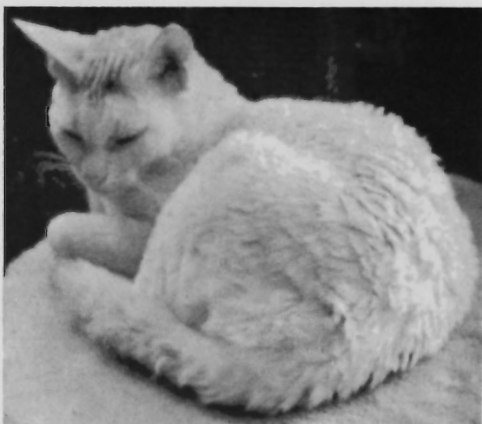


No. 4

PAW PRINTS FREDERICK — Normal Coat German Rex



No. 5
PAW PRINTS ADAM & PAW PRINTS EVAN
First litter, German/Cornish cross,
born May 16, 1970



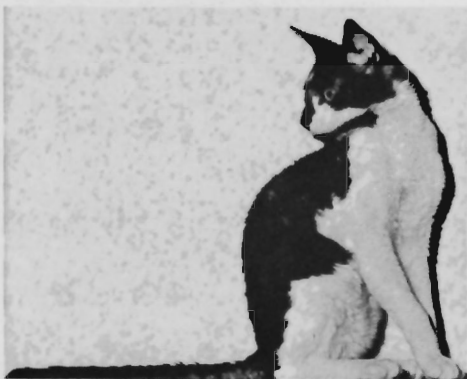
No. 7
PAW PRINTS SCHATZ — German Rex



No. 8
Second litter, Cornish/German cross,
born May 25, 1970



No. 6
RODELL'S RIMSKI OF PAW PRINTS
Cornish Rex



No. 11
PAW PRINTS AMANDA
In Third litter, German/Cornish cross,
born December 10, 1970



No. 9
CH. TRINKA'S ICARUS OF DAZ-ZLING
Cornish Rex

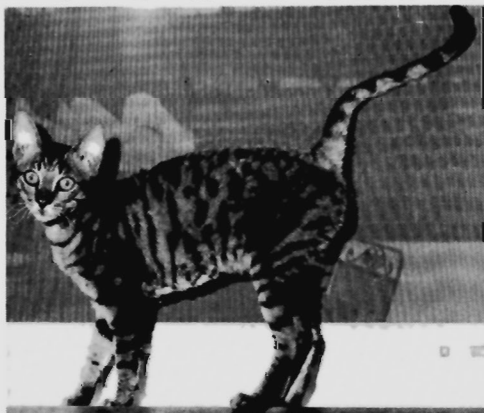
members in Holland. Charlie and I agreed to serve as Editors of THE FORUM, and as such have taken the position most seriously, feeling it our duty as well as our pleasure to stay as fully informed as possible of the Rex history and its development around the world. In this global pursuit of Rex knowledge, we belong to the COLOURPOINT REX-COATED AND A.O.V. CLUB, England, THE FELINE ADVISORY BOARD, England, SHORTHAIR SILVER SOCIETY, C.F.A., United States, MARYLAND FELINE SOCIETY, unaffiliated All Breed Club, Baltimore, and subscribe to *Cats Magazine*, England, *Cats Magazine*, United States, *International Cat Fancy*, *Cat Fanciers News*, *The Siamese News Quarterly*, *CFA Yearbook*, and correspond with breeders and judges in England, Holland and Australia, as well as the United States, plus new leads for future contacts from these correspondents for breeders in additional countries. It is a very busy typewriter we have plugged in!

Early hair studies by Mr. Roy Robinson had led him to venture the opinion there was a strong possibility the Cornish and German Rex mutations could be identical.

Soon after the formation of Rex Breeders United, contact was made between 2 sets of Cornish and German breeders. Bob and Dell Smith of California sent *RODELL'S RIMSKI*⁶ (Cornish Rex) to our cattery in Maryland, where he sired a litter of Cornish German cross, out of *PAW PRINTS SCHATZ*⁷ (German Rex), on May 16, 1970, producing 2 males, both curly, *CH. PAW PRINTS ADAM* and *PAW PRINTS EVAN*⁸. *CH. PAW PRINTS ADAM* was judged Box Novice All Breed at the Empire Show, New York, in one of his two show appearances. Both males have been neutered and are happily living as beloved pets.

Helen Weiss of Texas provided the Cornish stud, *CH. TRINKA'S ICARUS OF DAZ-ZLING*⁹, who sired a litter* of German Cornish cross out of *NEW MOON KRISTINA OF THE WILLOWS*, (German Rex) owned by Mrs. Una Bailey, Louisiana, on May 25, 1970, producing 5 female kittens, all curly, among which was *THE WILLOW GENIE OF DAZ-ZLING*¹⁰, now owned by Mr. and Mrs. James Estes of Texas. *GENIE* has accumulated an impressive show record already: Best Kitten Shorthair, Houston, *BOX* Shorthair and Third Best All Breed, Houston—in top 5 Kittens under five other judges (from Best to Fourth Best), Best Novice, St. Louis — and Best Champion, Dallas . . . well on her way to a Grand Championship!

A third litter was born to *CH. BIRCH WOOD'S INGRID OF PAW PRINTS* (Ger-



No. 12
PAW PRINTS AMY — In third litter, German/Cornish cross, born December 10, 1970



No. 10
THE WILLOWS GENIE OF DAZ-ZLING
 In second litter, Cornish/German
 cross, born May 25, 1970

CH. PAW PRINTS HOLLY WEEN, (German Rex), January, 1971.

Twenty years, and many breeders after the recording of the first Rex cat mutation in Cornwall in 1950, these breedings proved Mr. Roy Robinson's theory to be correct: The Cornish and German Rex mutations are genetically identical. The exciting opportunity for future breeding made possible by this discovery is apparent: the best of both strains can be combined to produce better and better Rex cats through selective breeding, and inbreeding is no longer necessary to retain the Rexed coat. This important finding, plus the publication of *THE FORUM*, the instrument used to broadcast this event, has more than justified the founding of **REX BREEDERS UNITED**, and holds a great deal of promise for the expanding future of the Rex cat!

We have come to a crossroad in breeding. Decisions made now will affect the Rex cat as a breed forever. The following quote is taken from the June issue, 1971, of *THE FORUM*, **The Fascinating Rexes**, by Alison Ashford and Roy Robinson:

"So far, hair samples from the Cornish, Devon, German and Oregon rexes have been studied. As a group, the Cornish, German and Oregon rexes tend to be similar. No guard hairs could be seen but awn hairs were observed in most samples. The Cornish rex, the numbers of



No. 13
GR. CH. DAZ-ZLING LIGHT — Pure Cornish Rex

awn hairs are greater or more easily identified in that they are more perfectly formed. The Oregon rex possesses the most perfectly formed awn hairs. They also appear to be thicker and

man Rex), sired by **RODELL'S RIMSKI** (Cornish Rex), on December 10, 1970, again producing 4 female kittens, all curly.

Both Cornish sires used in these 3 litters also had the California Rex mutant, **MYSTERY LADY** of the **RODELL** Cattery, in their pedigrees, so to rule out the slightest possibility of the California Rex influencing these results, Helen Weiss then bred **NEW MOON OF THE WILLOWS** (German Rex) to **GR. CH. DAZ-ZLING LIGHT**, (Pure Cornish Rex), producing 5 kittens, all curly, 4 females and 1 male . . . Proof Positive German and Cornish Rex are genetically identical!

PAW PRINTS ADAM, from the first litter of Cornish German cross, sired a litter of one curly male kitten, born to

less bent than the awn hairs of the other rexes. This has the effect of causing the awn hairs to protrude above the general level of the coat to a greater extent than that observed for the Cornish or German rexes.

It has already been mentioned that the Devon rex differs from the Cornish in that the former often loses its coat prematurely and sports fewer whiskers. The Devon hair samples reveal a further difference. Two types of stouter hairs were seen. One corresponding to the awn hairs and other, much thicker, fibres which could be vestigial guard hairs. All of the hairs in the various Rex samples have an irregular appearance but this effect is more noticeable for the Devon. The awn and guard hairs, in particular, show constrictions of diameter at many points. Often, there is an absence of the tapering tips, as if these may never have formed or have been broken off. The latter possibility is suggested by the observation of broken but not parted hairs in the Devon samples, a feature not seen in the other hair samples. If the awn and guard hairs are liable to breakage at their thinnest points, the responsible agent could be the rough tongue of the cat and occurs during grooming.

The hair samples reveal that the Devon rex differs from the other rexes. This observation fits in with the fact that the form is genetically distinct. It is, of course, not necessary for the coat to differ for a rex to be genetically different. Such is the case for the Oregon rex. It is distinct from the Cornish yet the coat is generally similar. On the other hand, genetic identity implies a similar coat and this is the situation for the Cornish and German rexes. In fact, it is of interest to recall that examination of hair samples from these two rexes (performed before crosses were made) led to the suggestions that they could be genetically identical."

The rex characteristic is recessive, so when the cat is developed, it is outcrossed (in CFA) to a normal coated domestic cat at an earlier date, later to registered American Shorthairs, producing normal coated kittens, carrying the Rex gene, that, when bred back to a curly coated rex, produce a litter 50% curly, 50% normal coated kittens, carrying the rex gene. The relationship of the different mutations was determined through this breeding process. When the Cornish Rex was bred to the Devon Rex, all the kittens were normal coated, showing the mutations to be distinct. When the Cornish Rex was bred to the German Rex, all the kittens were curly, for when rex is bred to rex, all kittens are always curly when the mutations are identical. The Cornish and the German mutations are the only two known mutations that are identical up to this time.

Please, also consider the following quote from CATS of England, Vol. 2, No. 4, November December 1970, page 12:

"Rex curls.

Can anybody tell us what is happening to the curly coats of Rex cats? We receive many letters from overseas breeders about Rex cats which seem to be having quite a vogue abroad if not here, and to help matters we carry another article in this issue by Alison Ash-

REX WINNERS FROM PAST YEAR BOOKS



HI-FI'S HEDWIG OF KATZENREICH
O—Mr. and Mrs. William Beck, III
Yearbook, 1967



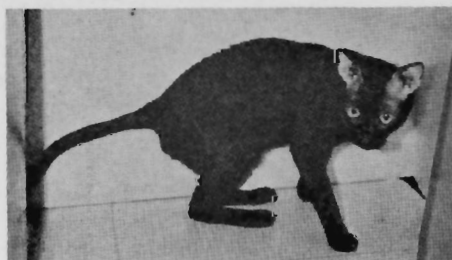
GR. CH. DAZ-ZLING GREAT WHITE FATHER, highest scoring Rex in 1963 and 1964 Yearbook, 1965
B/O—Mrs. Walter Weiss



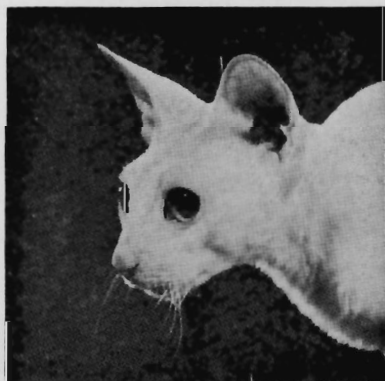
GR. CH. RODELL'S RAVENESQUE
B/O—Bob and Dell Smith
Yearbook, 1968



BIRCHWOODS MARTIN PROBISHER
All Eastern Smoke Rex, owned by Mrs. Muckenhaupt.
Year Book, 1965
(Weiss article)



GR. CH. AL-E BLACKJACK
B/O—Mrs. Dorothy Anderson
Year Book, 1970



GR. CH. D'ESTE QUINTESSENCE OF FACEL — Copper-Eyed White Rex
B/O—Mr. and Mrs. James F. Estes
Year Book, 1970

ford, this time with a picture of KIRLEE, the first Devon Rex — now, alas, deceased he was run over recently. Both these cats were really curly, as you can see. The rexes we see these days seem to be losing the curl, or is it being deliberately bred out? We have seen red cards on the cages of “rex” cats with almost smooth coats — why? We note that the American standard refers to the coat as having to be “short and dense, tight uniform waves or uniform curls extend from top of head across back, sides, hips and continue to tip of tail. Fur under chin, on chest, and abdomen shorter and noticeably wavy or tightly curled.”

We should move with deliberate care from her on. Take heed from breeders who have run into problems of thin coats, loss of curl, loss of type, loss of the delightful disposition, one of the most engaging features of our breed. Strict selective breeding should be adhered to. Should we really combine all types of rex, regardless of their make-up, or should we make room in the Rex standard for mutations that might occur with radically different genetic makeup that would definitely affect the Rex as we know it today. Our standard calls for a **complete** absence of guard hairs, yet the Devon hair samples show it to contain guard hairs, as noted in Mr. Robinson's article. The Devon needs special handling by breeders who are well versed in their type of coat since there is a genetic difference in the makeup of the coat alone. The Devon has much to offer as a distinctly different type of rex. Hair studies can determine whether the cats can be bred together without changing the makeup of the coat, as Mr. Robinson stated, “As a group, the Cornish, German and Oregon rexes tend to be similar.” And, “The hair samples reveal that the Devon rex differs from the other rexes.” The basis upon which rex of the future might be admitted, if they did appear, could be determined by such studies, possibly, and thus allow for others to be bred, but not to affect those now developed.

We have had no previous breeding experiences with cats, so are completely rex oriented. Working with THE FORUM and REX BREEDERS UNITED has given us an unreal but innervating feeling of being the Sherlock Holmes of the Rex cat! This is a loving animal, participating wildly at times in petting marathons, bumping heads and standing high on the tip toes to make sure no pats miss their mark! Quite precocious, the kitten is most active at birth and often opens its eyes by 3 to 5 days, almost always by the 7th day. The earliest for one of our kittens to show the sparkle of an opening eye was KATZENREICH'S MISHA, bred by William Beck, later known as GRAND CHAMPION KATZENREICH'S MISHA, out of our KATZENREICH'S KATRINA, a normal coated rex. She started to open her eyes on her first day of life! They begin to use the litter pan between 3 and 4 weeks and are putting the cat pole to use by the 4th to 5th week, when the kittens usually are climbing to the first shelf. The Queen is a very devoted and loving mother, often sharing her litter with other Queens. Since we have had two or more queens, a litter has never been raised by just one mother. In fact, one kitten, LEIBCHEN, who survived an outbreak of Ulcerative Glossitis at the

tender age of 1 week, was reared by no less than 5 queens, each one feeling very responsible for her comfort! Our HOLLY outdid herself this past winter, and even provided milk for INGRID'S litter just four weeks before her own kitten was delivered!

The coat changes of the rex are always fascinating and the color development never routine. The long thin legs with the dainty feet, long thin tail, sometimes carried curled, the long slender neck and arched back, well-muscled hips on the long body with a decided tuck-up predict an agile, active, highly human-oriented cat . . . an intelligent friend who takes quickly to learning, loves to please and is truly a study in curiosity! Water is especially intriguing to a rex. The voice of the cat is generally softer than most cats; the call of the female in season resembles a chirping or guttural buzzing sound. An active physical creature that, in our opinion, does not lend itself to the constant confines of a cage. Smaller than the average cat and having no guard hairs (it cannot stand its hair on end when frightened!) proves no handicap for the alert rex, for it makes up in "posturing" what it lacks in physical "aids"!

We have leaned heavily toward breeding programs and future rex, so we would like to highlight the rex "stars" to date in the CFA awards with the All Star Rex Winners:

- 1963-1964 Daz-Zling Great White Father—All American Rex Cat
Breeder /Owner: Walter and Helen Weiss
- 1965-1966 Male — Ch. Daz-Zling Milky Way
Female — Ch. Daz-Zling Marguerite
Breeder /Owner: Walter and Helen Weiss
- 1966-1967 Gr. Ch. Hi-Fi's Hedwig of KatzenReich
Breeder: Mrs. Joanne O'Shea
Owner: Bill and Mattie Beck
- 1967-1968 Gr. Ch. Rodell's Ravenesque
Breeder /Owner: Bob and Dell Smith
- 1968-1969 Gr. Ch. Rodell's Ravenesque
Breeder /Owner: Bob and Dell Smith
- 1969-1970 Gr. Ch. D'Este Quintessence of Rachel
Breeder /Owner: Jim and Marj Estes
- 1970-1971 Gr. Ch. KatzenReich's Bianca
Breeder /Owner: Bill and Mattie Beck

We would like to invite all those interested both as breeders and friends of the Rex to join us in our efforts to make the most of a wonderful little cat. The officers for the club for the year 1970-71 are: President: Bob Smith, California; Vice-President, Sue Dugle, Ohio; Vice-President, Marj Estes, Texas; Secretary /Treasurer, Mable Tracy, Maryland; Board Member, Barbara Layton, California; Board Member, James Estes, Texas. The chairmen for the year are as follows: Stud Book: Carol Fields, California; Kitten Registry: Dottie Moeller, Maryland; Ribbons: Dell Smith, California; The Forum, Editors: Mable and Charlie Tracy, Maryland.

As we close, the soft velvety body curls warmly in my lap, purring

contentedly until curiosity calls . . . then, with a graceful leap, the Rex cat will become, "VELVET IN MOTION"!

*REX RABBITS by F. G. Woodgate, published by Fur & Feather, Idle., Brandford, England, and THE FORUM, June 1971, Vol. 2, No. 4.

AUTOBIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Working as a team, Charlie and I have enjoyed together the sometimes unpredictable twists and turns of the Cat Fancy! Right now, our consuming interest is in the publication of THE FORUM the official publication of REX BREEDERS UNITED. Except for this involvement, our Cat Fancy affiliations have been limited. We enter only a few shows each year, preferring the less dramatic but perhaps more fundamental efforts of documenting and promoting the breed. However, we did take active roles in promoting and staging shows while with the Chesapeake Cat Club. Charlie handled publicity for the years 1966, 1967, 1968 and 1969 with innovation like The Golden Gallery of Grand Champions, an organized display of Grand Champion Cats housed in a line of golden decorated cages complete with color pedigrees showing the development of the breeds exhibited. Cats of All Nations was the theme one year, linking today's cats with the lands of their early origin. A "Cat Man Of The Year" was selected another year. For the 1968 show, I devised a Master Clerking system that enabled the marked catalogs to be in the mail only a few days after the show. Charlie served as President of the Chesapeake Cat Club in 1967, was a Board Member in 1969 and in 1968 we co-chaired the Program Committee, organizing a correlated program for the club's 10 monthly meetings. We are also Charter Members of The Maryland Feline Society, an affiliated all breed club founded last year to promote the welfare of cats wherever possible.

We welcome correspondence with "cat-people" anywhere; our address is: PAW PRINTS CATTERY, The Tracys, 230 E. Padonia Rd., Timonium, MD 21093. (301) 666-3387.

(Before we went to press we checked up on the breedings mentioned herein: Rodell's Rimski x P. P. Fraulein Frieda, — no issue. P. P. Frederick x P. P. Schatz, — 1 very promising Black smoke kitten (Female). Rodell's Rimski x P. P. Leibchen, — 3 Normal coats, 2 white males and 1 very lovely blue coat female and 1 white curly coated female. Ed.)

HALL OF FAME FOR JUDGES

Judges Emeriti

Retired

Mrs. Naomi Favors
Miss Stella Harlos
Mrs. Marguerite Saxby-Mabie
Mrs. Louise Sample
Mrs. Gladys E. Weirich
Mrs. Louise Heron

Deceased

Mr. Anthony DeSantis
Mrs. John Hunter
Miss Elsie Hydon
Mrs. Alice G. Phillips
Mrs. John H. Revington