

THE EXOTIC REX

by Dr. Rosamonde Peltz

THE REX CAT

It seems that sometimes we get too caught up in our mutations. Maybe we lose sight of the whole. We preserve oddities, or at least most of us do, until they become incorporated and, thereby, lose their oddness. It is right to preserve them because each of us involved in the fancy is involved with the love of animals.

There has been an increasing awareness of what is good and what is bad about mutations, and because of our devotion to the cat, preservation has been directed in favor of the healthy animal.

A mutation occurs in the domestic cat. The breeder carefully preserves the mutation by evolving crosses that will reproduce it. Thus, breeding stock is obtained and acquired by other interested breeders. The dominance and recessiveness of the mutated gene(s) is established. This is what happened to coats in cats.

Perhaps it might be worth-while to pause, however briefly, to merely consider the events in coat mutations and their relationships, one to another. For there is a spectrum, from short to long coats, which encompasses a series of living, changing dynamic events. The spectrum ranges from the moment of conception to the births of the kittens and extends during that period of time from the embryonic germ layer to the formation of follicle and single hair. What can happen in the fraction of a millisecond of time to modify the biochemistry of enzyme systems that control genes may remain a mystery. But it is important to think about what has happened to coats in cats, to consider what makes one end of the spectrum lethal and the other not only viable but vigorous.

The story of the Rex cat and its variations focuses on only one small segment of change from the norm. Perhaps it is equally important to place the Rex in proper perspective and to remember its relationship to the whole. Although rex mutations had occurred in other mammals, the phenomenon was first noticed in cats in 1950. And for the next ten years, the rex coat in various forms appeared throughout the world. As each variation on the theme appeared, a new name or designation was sought to describe a curly coated cat that had been born in Cornwall or California. Cat literature of the beginning of the breed is replete with Gene I and Gene II as names for the mutations. And at the beginning and with each nuance of the coat, the cat became a piece of geography.

With the help and cooperation of Rex breeders, a period of twenty four years will be telescoped into a short history of the breed. It has been an exciting period for those who followed and become involved with the Rex. How difficult it is to convey the great curiosity and the very excitement that began on a Cornwall farm and which ultimately enveloped the fancy of the world.

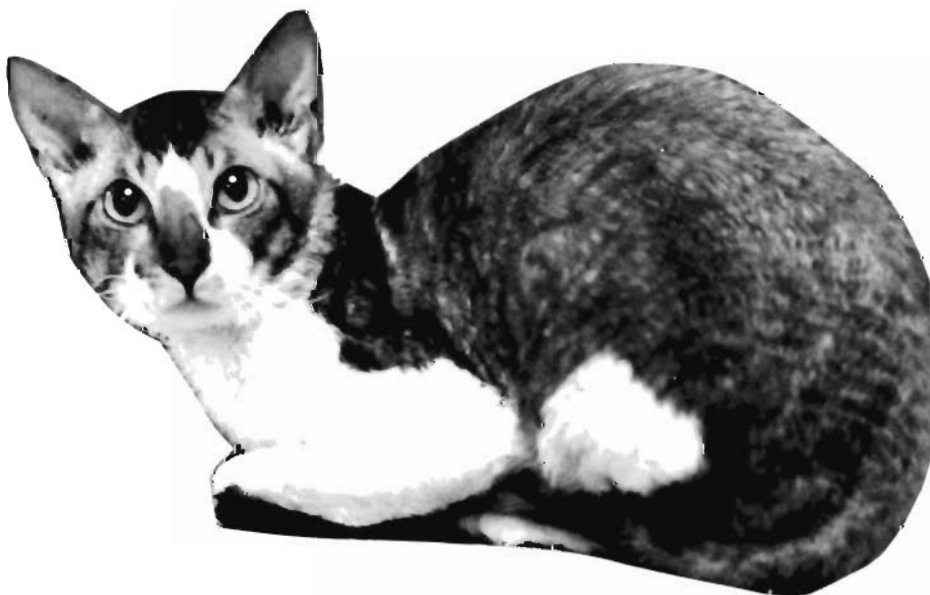
COMPARISON OF COATS

In order to appreciate the various mutations it is best to begin with the normal coat of the cat and from that point describe the rex mutations which have occurred.

Normal Coat

The normal coat can be divided into two groups of hairs, an outer and under coat which are further subdivided. Both parts of the coat are protective in that the outer coat is harder and protects against destruction or injury to the softer undercoat. The under hair which is dense and soft prevents heat loss.

The outer coat consists of guard hairs and awn hairs. The outermost guard hairs are the thickest hairs of the entire coat. Until they taper to a point, the guard hairs are of the same caliber in diameter. The awn hairs compose an in-between layer of the coat, and this is obvious in their variability in shape. While some resemble guard hairs, others are quite similar to down hairs. Because of this, the layer of awn hairs has been divided by some observers into awn and awn-down hairs. The down hairs which constitute the dense, soft layer of the cat's coat are thin and undulating or crimped along the shaft.



RODELL'S RIMSKI OF PAW PRINTS Cornish California Rex which sired the first German/Cornish cross consisting of three males, a white, a brown and a classic silver tabby. Rimski was bred by Bob and Dell Smith and is owned by Mabel and Charles Tracy of Sparks, Maryland. Photo by Francis Herzberger.



GR. CH. RAMSU BLACK CAMILLA, British Import bred by Malcolm Lauder and owned by Mary J. Dunn of Towson, Maryland. The sire of Camilla was Ch. Patshull Black Oedipus and the dam Blue Ice Princess. Camilla was whelped April 16, 1972.

Alterations in the guard layer, mainly, have appeared in cats since 1950. The term rex has been used to describe the mutation as it has appeared in other mammals and the same designation was applied to cats.

The rex coat mutations which have thus far been recognized in cats are as follows:

1950	Cornish (Gene I)
1951	German
1952	Ohio, USA
1959	Oregon, USA
1959	California, USA
1960	Devon (Gene II)

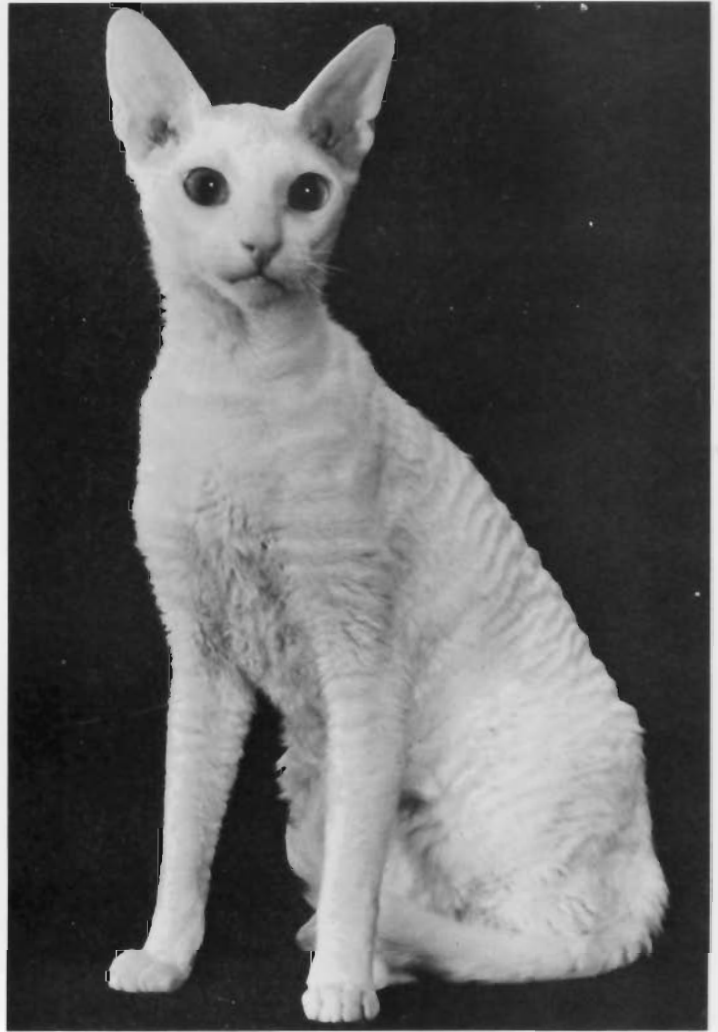
There have been one or two others, but of these mutations the main ones, Cornish, German and Devon, will be compared to the normal coat.

The Cornish rex coat is composed of awn and down hairs, the latter are present in greater quantity. The Devon coat, on the other hand, is constituted of guard, awn and down hairs. The German rex and Cornish rex coats are quite similar. There is a greater number of awn hairs in the German rex coat, while the Oregon rex contains awn hairs which are thicker than those of the other mutants. Robinson pointed out in 1969 that there was a great similarity between the Cornish and German rex coats.

Some of the changes are identified only by microscopic means. The following chart presents in simplified form the alterations discerned grossly and microscopically. Plus signs indicate presence of particular hair forms and arrows indicate either an increase or decrease from the norm.

	<u>Guard</u>	<u>Awn</u>	<u>Awn Down</u>	<u>Down</u>
Normal	+	+	+	+
Cornish	absent	+++	+	+
Devon	+++	+	+	+
German	+++	↑	+	+

The Devon Rex differs in that it does not have a well formed vibrissae, and in addition, the Devon coat is shed regularly.



GR. CH. KATZENREICH'S BIANKA, copper eyed white, bred and owned by Bill and Madeleine Beck, of Towson, Maryland. During the 1970-1971 Show Season Bianka was National Best Rex, National 4th Best Cat and Southern Region Best Cat. Born May 7, 1969, her sire was Hi-Fi's Horstand, her dam was Gr. Ch. Katzenreich's Misha. This photo was taken at 3 A.M. after she had won a Best Cat award at the 1971 Empire Cat Club Show in New York City.



CH. TRINKA'S ICARUS OF DAZ-ZLING, a Cornish Rex owned by Helen Weiss.

THE REX

INHERITANCE

The rex coat is inherited as an autosomal recessive. Any of the Rex cats crossed to those with normal coats will produce normal coated kittens. However, when heterozygous rex cats are crossed, the rex coat will reappear. Cornish Rex crossed to Oregon Rex results in normal coated kittens indicating two independent mutations. The same occurs when Devon is crossed to Cornish or Devon is crossed to Oregon types.

As had been stated earlier, Robinson pointed out that the Cornish and German rex coats were quite similar. In May, 1970 two separate crosses between Cornish and German rexes produced curly coated kittens indicating that the mutations were the same.

HISTORY

The first rex coated cat, recognized as such, appeared on a farm in Bodmin Moor, Cornwall, England. A tortie and white cat named Serena delivered a litter of five kittens on July 21, 1950. The cat and her kittens belonged to Mrs. Nina Ennismore. In the litter was a curly coated cream male that she named Kallibunker. Since Mrs. Ennismore knew of a similar mutation in rabbits, she called the new coat in cats the same name, specifically rex.

And so it began with Kallibunker. Although Kallibunker had sired Butterfly and Orange Girl, it was not until 1952 that he was bred to his dam Serena. Their litter of three kittens, born August 27, 1952, contained two rex coated kittens which were kept. One of the kittens failed to thrive and died March 1953. However, the other rex kitten named Poldhu grew to maturity and sired. Poldhu was thought to be a blue-cream male, and because of his fertility, unfortunately, interested the local veterinarian. A testicular biopsy was done, and thereafter Poldhu sired no more. Helen Weiss has suggested that in all likelihood Poldhu was a blue tabby and white. Although fertile blue-cream males are rare, they are not unheard of. Kallibunker and Poldhu were bred to several normal and rex coated females. From the breedings came a number of cats that were historically significant. Millie Brim, a normal coated female, when bred to Poldhu produced Lamorna Cove. Another was Pendennis Castle, a red male. Lamorna Cove and Pendennis Castle were sent to California.

Kallibunker's brief span of life was from 1950 to 1956. Although Mrs. Ennismore received help with the breed from the late Mr. Brian Sterling-Webb and A. C. Jude, she bore the brunt of expense herself. Ultimately, she destroyed a number of rex and the dam Serena and her son Kallibunker were among the number destroyed.

Mrs. Ennismore provided records of the majority of the early Cornish Rex breedings to *The Forum*, newsletter of the Rex Breeders United Club.

Following is a summary of the breedings published in *The Forum*, April, 1971.

Birth Date	Sire	Dam	Kittens
3/21/53	Kallibunker	Serena	R, 3N
6/15/53	Kallibunker	Orange Girl	2R, 1N
7/10/53	Kallibunker	Serena	2R, 1N
8/17/53	Kallibunker	Butterfly	2R, 1N
12/5/53	Kallibunker	Serena	2R, 1N
4/30/54	Kallibunker	Orange Girl	3R
8/19/54	Poldhu	Millie Brim	3R
8/29/55	Poldhu	Loveday	2R

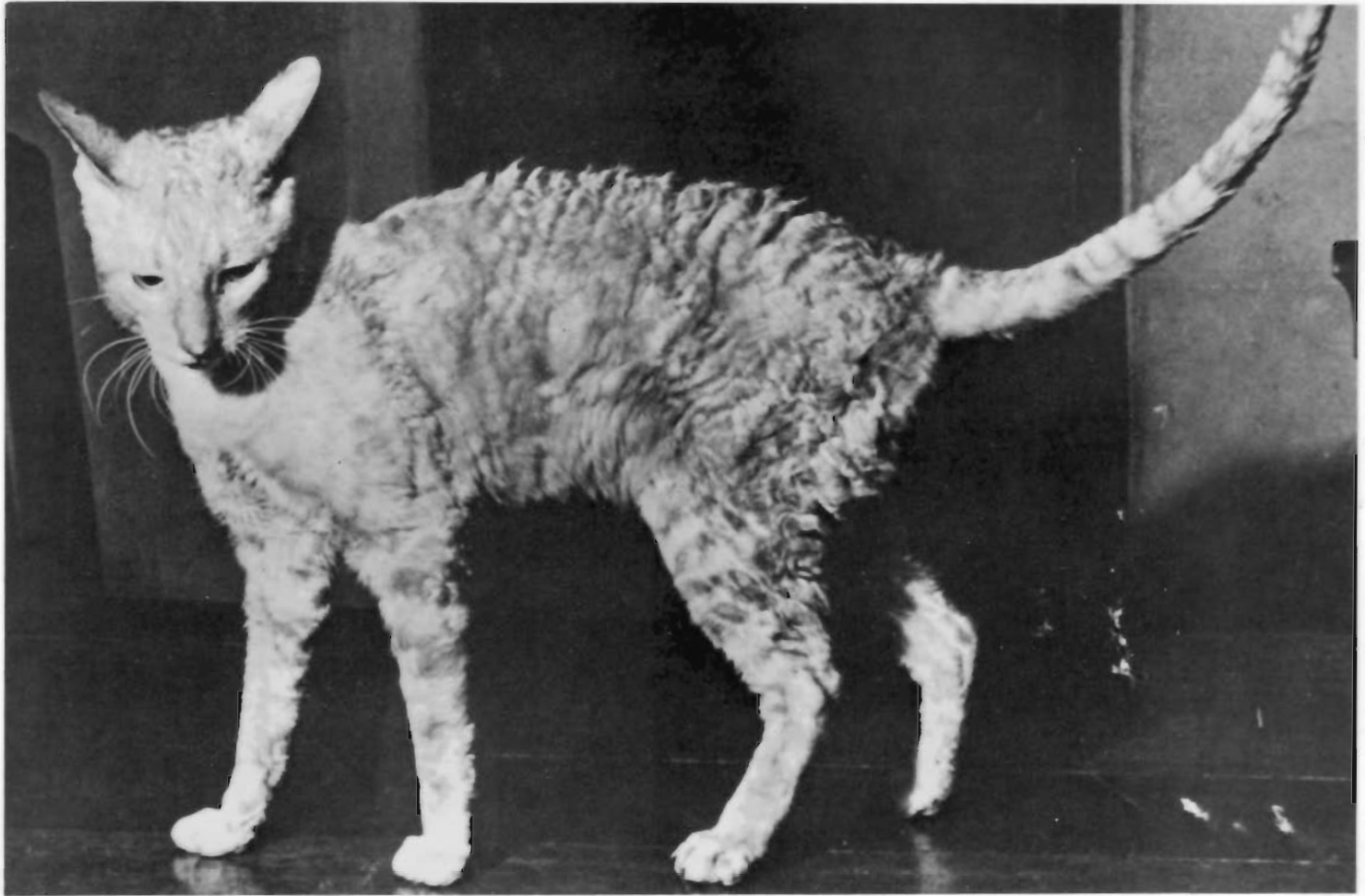
Mrs. Ennismore had enlisted the help of interested breeders, and they worked together to preserve the breed. Mr. Sterling-Webb had bought a male and two females. Mr. Rickeard had been given a cream male.



DIAMOND LIL OF FAN-T-CEE, exhibits the expressive head so desired in Rex. Owned by the Daz-Zling Cattery, Sugar Land, Texas.



MARMADUKE OF DAZ-ZLING, photographed at three years of age. He is in the pedigree of most Cornish Rex cats, even those in England. Born in California in 1957, he was the first Rex registered in CFA. His number 990-0001-PR1. Owned by the Daz-Zling Cattery in Sugar Land, Texas.



KALLIBUNKER, pictured here, was the first Rex ever registered. Born on July 21, 1950, his registration number is SR78021. Kallibunker died on September 12, 1956.

In 1957 Lamorna Cove and Pendennis Castle went to Mrs. Frances Blancher in California. Having been bred to Poldhu prior to export, Lamorna delivered four kittens, one died in less than a year, one male lived to age six years and never sired, while the other two kittens went on to establish the Cornish Rex in America.

The kittens were Diamond Lil of Fan T Cee and Marmaduke of Daz Zing. As the suffixes indicate, Diamond Lil went to Mrs. Fred Galvin, while Marmaduke went to Mrs. Helen Weiss. Various breedings are outlined by Mrs. Weiss in her excellent article *Rex the King*, published in the C. F. A. Year Book, 1965. It is important to note that Diamond Lil and Lamorna Cove had no more kittens.

In 1958 Mrs. Weiss was obliged to breed Marmaduke to a Siamese mate. At that time it was thought that Marmaduke was the only fertile male left. When American Shorthair stock was available, Marmaduke was used at stud, and Mrs. Weiss had a variety of colors for stock for the Cornish Rex. And so the breed was established in the United States.

THE GERMAN REX

According to Dr. R. Scheuer Karpin, the first German Rex, a female cat named Lammchen, had been observed prior to 1947 at the Hufeland Hospital in Berlin-Buch. The cat had been fed by members of the hospital staff but was not found by Dr. Scheuer Karpin and Miss Dorothy Diamond until 1951. Lammchen usually mated with Blackie, a tom to her liking, and produced only normal coated kittens. After the death of Blackie, the Little Lamb of Berlin was crossed to her son Fridolin. The products of the cross were two curly male kittens and two normal coated ones. From the next mating which was to a roaming tom, Dr. Scheuer Karpin retained a black kitten. After reaching maturity Blackie II and Lammchen produced kittens with some degree of regularity. From one of these matings came Christopher Columbus, a black male exported to the United States.

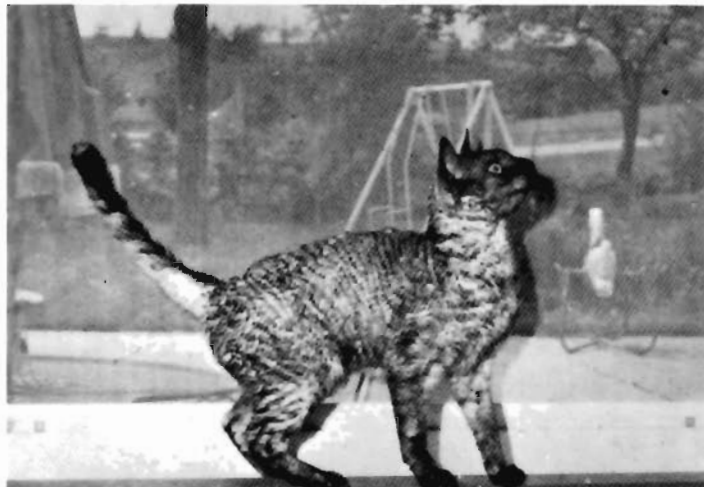
Lammchen died of cancer on December 19, 1964. Dr. Scheuer Karpin estimates that she was about 20 years of age. Two years prior to her death she delivered her last kitten named Cleopatra.

Four kittens of Lammchen came to the United States. A pair of normal coated hybrids were sent to Mrs. Sarah Muckenhoupt, and then both Christopher Columbus and Cleopatra came to Mrs. Joan O'Shea of New York.



CH. PAW PRINTS AMY, brown/tabby mackerel German/Cornish Rex born in December 1970. She is pictured here at 5 months of age. The sire was Rodell's Rimski of Paw Prints ex Ch. Birchwood's Ingrid of Paw Prints. Bred by the Tracys and owned by Bernice Cool. Photo by Charlie Bauer.

AMERICAN REX



CH. PAW PRINTS LIEBLING, black smoke female, bred and owned by Charles and Mabel Tracy of Sparks, Maryland. The sire was Paw Prints Frederick and the dame was Paw Prints Schatz.



KINKY MARCELLA, an Oregon Rex, bred and owned by Mrs. Mildred Stringham. Marcella was born in May of 1959 and died on May 23, 1972. This picture was taken when she was approximately 12 1/2 years of age. This photo was featured in The Forum, Vol 3, No. 1, September 1971, along with her history.

AMERICAN REX

Ohio Rex

In 1953 Miss Mary Hedderman of Plainville, Ohio became the owner of the first American mutation when her cat gave birth to a curly male kitten that she named Toni. Although Toni died at ten months, the mother cat delivered three more rex in succeeding litters. Regretably Miss Hedderman was unable to continue with breeding cats.

Oregon Rex

Under the general term American Rex are included the mutations which have occurred in various areas of the United States. Perhaps the best known is Kinky Marcella. Mrs. Mildred G. Stringham has reported of her sudden thrust into the fancy when her pet cat Calie delivered a curly black and white kitten on May 9, 1959. Kinky was one in a litter of four; the three litter mates had normal coats.

Upon reaching maturity Kinky Marcella was crossed to Cornish Rex stock and produced only normal coated kittens. Through several back crosses Mrs. Stringham finally acquired sufficient breeding stock to establish a line.

Kinky Marcella died May 23, 1972. Since she had been born in Oregon, Kinky was called the Oregon Rex. Robinson has stated that the Oregon coat samples were very similar to both the Cornish and German coats.

California Rex

Because they were peculiar looking, the owner placed two cats in an animal shelter in California. Fortunately Bob Smith found the mother cat and her male kitten. This occurred in 1959. These two peculiar looking animals were an odd-eyed calico and her red tabby male kitten. The coats were more unusual than the Cornish Rex in that they were fine and silky and longer than that of other rex cats. Because of the length Mr. Smith elected to call the coat "marcel" rather than rex. The calico was named Mystery Lady of Rodell and her son was called Terry. Mr. Smith then devised a series of crosses, utilizing the marcel coat with the Cornish Rex. The first such cross was between Mystery Lady and Fan T. Cee Blue Boy, a normal coated Cornish hybrid. Three normal coated kittens were born August 13, 1960. The marcel was thus incorporated into the Cornish Rex cats in the Smith's cattery.

Had it been desirable, or if the discoverers of the wavy, semi-longhair coat had wished, the California coat could have been established in much the same way as the Cornish Rex had been. But breeders intimately involved must make such decisions. It is difficult to travel in two directions at one time and assume a responsibility that requires time, money and space in a cattery.

Pennsylvania Rex

In the summer of 1971 Mr. Mark Ropel discovered that his cat had given birth to two curly coated kittens. They had been born in a barn on Lakeview Farm in the vicinity of Harrisburg, Pennsylvania.

The two male kittens named Elmo and Radar grew to adulthood in Mr. Ropel's care. In April 1973 Mr. Ropel's home was destroyed by fire, but the two Rex escaped injury. Because of the tragic situation in which Mr. Ropel found himself, he gave Radar to Mary Dunn of Towson, Maryland. Elmo had been neutered and remained with his owner.

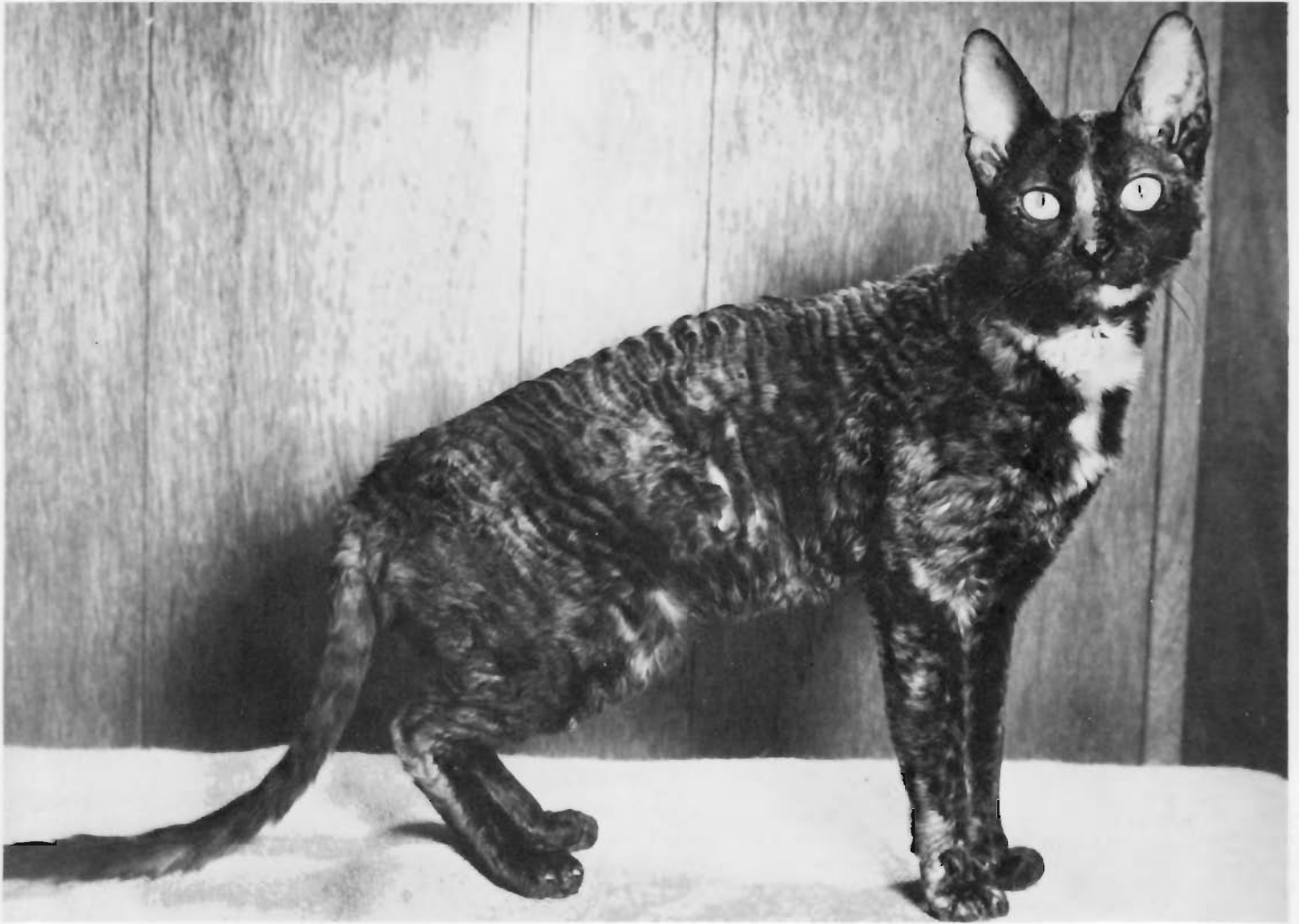
The Pennsylvania Rex cat has hair similar to the Cornish type. Breeding experiments to determine the type and to establish it are being conducted at present.

Connecticut Rex

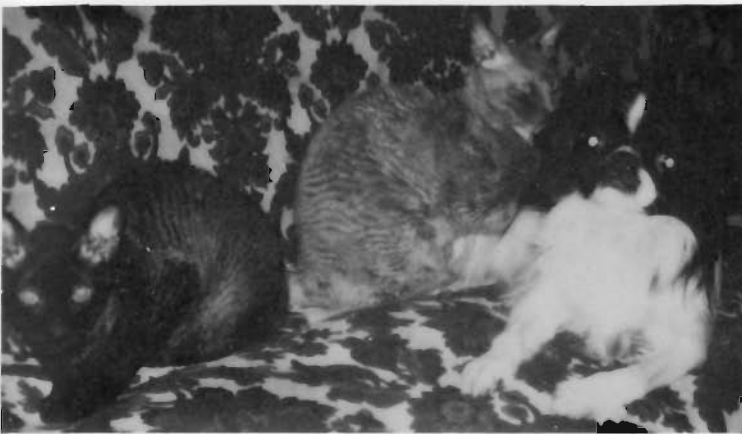
On April 21, 1972 Mrs. Millie Bourelle's cat Puff delivered a litter of six kittens, one of which had a curly coat. Mrs. Bourelle has said that Puff was a mixed breed and had been allowed to roam at will near her home in Windsor Locke, Connecticut. The black male kitten was named Schatze, and Mrs. Bourelle sent coat samples of Schatze to Roy Robinson who has indicated that the Connecticut mutation is closest to the Oregon type.

Puff had another litter on August 17, 1972 which consisted of three curly kittens and three normal coated ones. Two of the rex kittens died within twenty-four hours.

Rex breeders have become involved in an effort to help Mrs. Bourelle with the Connecticut mutation.



Another tortoiseshell Rex Grand Champion this one Katzenreich's Gretl, owned by Bill and Madeleine Beck of Towson, Maryland



Ch Nike Peppurr Pot of Margus and Ch Nike Draggin' Lady of Margus with their friend, a Japanese Spaniel. Owned by Margery Hoff of Cranford, New Jersey



Gr Ch Lee Lu's Nova, copper eyed white female bred and owned by Lee and Louise Sweet



Ch R Jaye Gannet, odd eyed white male, bred and owned by Rhona Wene, and winner of a Best Rex award in the North Atlantic Region



A trio of Connecticut Rex bred and owned by Millie Boureille. Details of this mutation can be found in Forum Vol 4, No 3, May, 1973



CH. SENTRY-TWIX CRESPATIS, born August 1966, Gene 1 (Cornish), bred and owned by Mrs Nancy Hardy of Devon, England. The dam was Senty Twix Phoebe

THE DEVON REX

Ten years after the appearance of Kallibunker in Cornwall, Miss Beryl Cox saw a curly coated cat near a tin mine in Buckfastleigh, Devon. She acquired a stray tortie and white cat that delivered a curly coated kitten. It seemed that the tom living in the tin mine was possibly the sire of the litter which also included normal coated kittens. Miss Cox named her kitten Kirlee. He was a distinctive cat with very large ears, a broad face and short nose and quite unlike his predecessor the Cornish Rex.

Mr. Brian Sterling Webb set up a breeding program using Kirlee but found that crosses to the Cornish type produced normal coated kittens. Mrs. Agness Watts assisted in the program and together with Mrs. Madge Shrouder established the Devon Rex in England. The Du-Bu cats of Mrs. Watts and Mrs. Shrouder's Hassan cats became world famous.

Perhaps one of the most interesting cats was Mrs. Allison Ashford's Annelida Curly Coon. This Cornish girl when mated to a Cornish male produced Devon kittens as well as normal coated hybrids.

The Devon Rex is recognized as a breed separate from the Cornish type, and official recognition was given by the Governing Council in 1967.



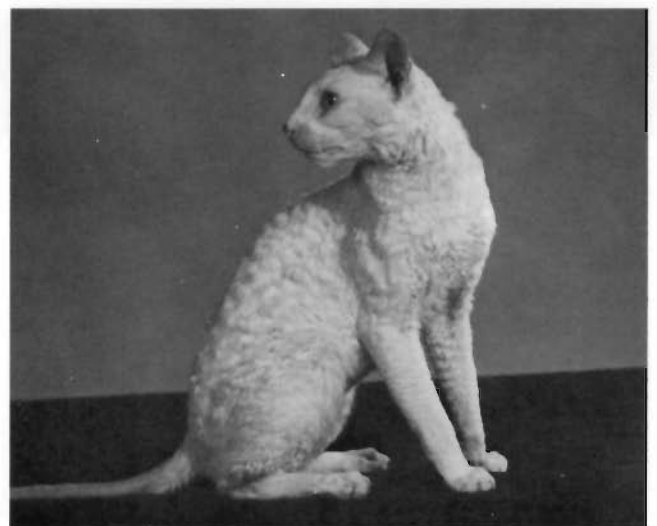
PENDERIS CASTLE, another Rex imported with Lamorna Cove, by the Daz Zling Cattery. Penny is pictured here at six months of age. Unfortunately he never sired.



ANNELIDA EBONY, Devon Rex (Gene 2) bred and owned by Mrs. Alison Ashford of Kent, England. The sire was Boughm and the dam Briarry White Heathe.



LAMORNA COVE, an import and her first Rex litter whelped in the United States in 1957. The famous Marmaduke is left center and another famous Rex, Diamond Lil, is right center. Daz-Zling Cattery, Sugar Land, Texas.



GR. CH. DAZ-ZLING LIGHT, white Rex male, and three time winner in the Hydon-Goodwin awards. He was the sire of many Grand Champions, including two in the top 10 in the past three years. He was also winner of the Shorthair Male Kitten Hydon-Goodwin award in 1965-1966. Owned by the Daz-Zling Cattery, Sugar Land, Texas.



INTERNATIONAL CH. GERALDINE PLYS OF WESSEL, a black female Devon Rex born in 1967 Bred by Mrs. Petersen, Denmark, the sire was Annelida Pearly King, a Devon Rex (carrying Cornish) and the dam was Kernow Lur, a Devon Rex Geraldine is owned by Mrs. M. Alkema of Holland. Photo by Mr. C. A. Adriaanse of Amsterdam.



ANNELIDA CURLY COON, a Gene 1 Cornish Rex sired by Du Bu Niculaus ex Belhaven Zarakhat Bred and owned by Mrs. Alison Ashford of Kent, England.

REX BREEDERS

As the story of the establishment of the varieties of Rex has indicated, numerous breeders have been involved. Of course, Nina Ennismore and her cousin Miss McAllister began it all with Kallibunker. With the help of Brian Sterling Webb, A. C. Jude and Dr. Searle, the Cornish Rex cat became known internationally.

In England, the Cornish and Devon Rex are recognized as two separate breeds, and there are breeders devoted to each. Mrs. A. E. Ashford's Annelida Cattery is well known for both varieties. While Mrs. Fisher's Hephaesto Cattery seems more interested in the Devon Rex, other modern British breeders are now concerned with the Cornish. Mrs. Nancy Hardy's Senty Twix cats are well known as are the Hephzabah cats of Mrs. M. John. Mrs. A. Blount breeds both Devon and Cornish Rex, but Mrs. Leo Heath's Lohteyn Cattery is best known for the Cornish breed.

In the United States Mrs. Blancheri and Mrs. Fred Galvin imported Cornish Rex and interested breeders, Mrs. Helen Weiss of Daz-Zling Cattery and Robert and Dell Smith. Mrs. Weiss for all practical purposes is the pioneer of the Cornish Rex in this country. Mrs. Sarah Muckenhoupt initiated interest in the German Rex in the United States.

Unlike other countries, all varieties of Rex are recognized as one breed in the United States. It has been proved that the Cornish and German Rex cats are the same breed. Two independent breeding experiments took place in 1970. Two separate crosses between Cornish and German Rex produced Rex kittens.

The first breeding was planned by Mr. and Mrs. Charles Tracy and Mr. and Mrs. Robert Smith. Rodell's Rimski, the Smith's Cornish Rex, was bred to the Tracys' German Rex Paw Prints Schatz. On May 16, 1970 two rex kittens were born.

Meanwhile, Mrs. Weiss and Mrs. Una Bailey of New Orleans achieved the same results. Trink's Icarus of Daz-Zling was crossed in New Orleans with Kristina of the Willows and on May 25th of the same year five curly kittens were born.

Several breedings, since these first two, have occurred to demonstrate the compatibility of Cornish and German Rex varieties.

This it is demonstrated that a great spirit of cooperation exists among Rex breeders.

The catteries involved were Rodell, belonging to Bob and Dell Smith, well known breeders as are Charles and Mable Tracy of Paw Prints in Maryland. Una Bailey is a well known breeder in New Orleans and has bred and shown cats for many years. Mrs. William O'Shea of New York imported German Rex and introduced the breed to Bill and Maddie Beck. The Beck's Katzenreich cats are outstanding examples of the breed. Mrs. Thomas Dugle's Nike cats and the Moonrider Rex of Barbara Layton are well known as are those of the Estes in Texas. These devotees of the breed as well as many others in the United States have produced some extraordinary cats.



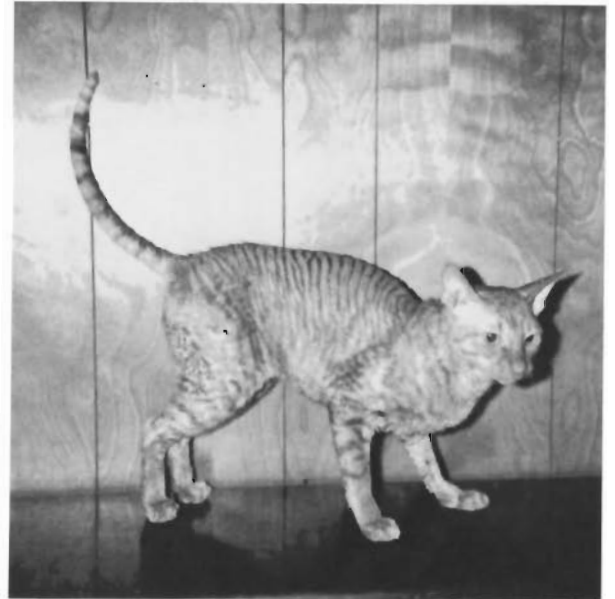
BOBBY PRETTY FEET, owned by Mrs. Clover of England. Photo by East Anglian Daily Times, England.

THE REX

continued

Consider the cats which have brought distinction to the breed and to their breeders and owners

Daz Zling Great White Father	Helen Weiss
Birchwood's Martin Frobisher	Sarah Muckenhoupt
Christopher Columbus of Hi Fi	Joan O'Shea
Hi Fi's Hedwig of Katzenreich	Bill and Maddie Beck
D'Este Quintessence of Rachel	Jim and Marge Estes
Rodell's Ricacho of La Casa	Jane Schilder
L'Ané The KangGuru	Laura Drane
Who Cat's Night Raider	Linda Donahoo
Rodell's Ramona of Ristra	Frank Roderick
D'Este Quincy	Jim and Marge Estes
Shoreham Red Rascal	Bernice Cove
Moontide Lilruss of Rodell	Bob and Dell Smith
Thalia's Velvet of Millcreek	Ann Kimball
Trinka's Icarus of Daz Zling	Helen Weiss
Daz Zling Light	Helen Weiss
Katzenreich's Grete	Bill and Maddie Beck
Katzenreich's Bianka	Bill and Maddie Beck
Casto Carnival of Nike	Mrs. Thomas Dugle
Rindy's Haven Nipper of Van Dal	Mr. and Mrs. Virgil Nitz
D'Este Opus Rachel	Jim and Marge Estes
Daz Zling Galaxy of D'Este	Helen Weiss
Lee Lu's Mas	L Sweet
Lee Lu's Nova	L Sweet
Nike Glynda of Rae L	H K Bates
Rendy's Haven Sno Ski	E H Rindfleisch
Rodell's Reglesse of Royal Lee	J Royal and R Welgh
Rodell's Delilah	Mrs. P. Christie
Rodell's Roi	Bob and Dell Smith
Seatime Marigold of Keni Katz	Mrs. C T Redmon
Rodell's Ravensque	Bob and Dell Smith



GR. CH. SEATIME MARIGOLD OF KENI KATZ, owned by Cynthia and Ed Dyer
Marigold was CFA National All Star Best Red Rex and Southern Region 2nd Best Rex, Best Red Res



MARFA VOM GRUND, German Rex, bred and owned by Klaus and Alice Barenfeld, the last known German breeders behind the Iron Curtain. Photo by Gerhard Kiessling. Breeding records appear in the *Rex Breeders United. The Forum*, Vol. 4, No. 1, September, 1972

The Rex cat is now well established, and remarkable examples of the breed are exhibited throughout the world. Twenty four years have passed since Kallibunker was born, and during that time a variety of coat mutations have occurred. It should be quite evident that much work is required to establish any new breed and it is accomplished, as the Rex breeders have done, only with cooperation and the sharing of ideas and information.

COMMENTS FROM A NON-REX BREEDER

Perhaps it's almost too simple to say, but the truth is that the Rex coat is the Rex breed. Regardless of body conformation, coat is the distinctive feature. The cat may be the epitome of type, but unless the coat conforms to standard description, that cat is undesirable in a breeding program. Balding is becoming a serious problem in Rex and it will get worse unless breeders direct a serious investigation into the causes. Breeders must also present cats with the best coats. If all Rex in a show class have acceptable coats, then there will be less opportunity for judges to focus on type to the exclusion of coat. Then it will not be possible for a judge to hang a Best of Breed ribbon on a magnificent Rex, naked in all its glory.

Sometimes we do get too caught up in our mutations. Once a breed is established there seems to be a lack of attention paid to what made the breed in the first place.

REFERENCES

The Complete Cat Encyclopedia, ed. Grace Pond, Crown (Publishers) N. Y. 1972, p. 248-255.

Searle, A. G. and A. C. Jude. *The 'Rex' Type of Coat in the Domestic Cat*. *J. of Genetics*, Vol. 54, No. 3, November 1956, pp. 506-512.

The Forum, ed. Mable Tracy, Vol. 1, No. 1, Vol. 5, No. 2, September 1969, January 1974.

Weiss, Helen. *Rex the King*. *CFA Year Book*, 1965, ed. Christine Streetman, pp. 138-146.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The author expresses her grateful thanks to Mrs. Mable Tracy for her suggestions and help in obtaining photographs from Rex breeders in the United States and abroad.

GR. CH. SHARTEBO SNOWFLAKE, born June 2, 1972, and sired by Ch. Trink's Confection of Nike ex Ch. Mai-Ed Honkee Tonk of Shar-tebo. Bred and owned by Ted and Sharon Bolander of Flusing, MI.



CH. SUNBRONZE DANNY BOY, winner of 7 CCs, and Twice best shorthair adult, with Hephaestos Roman Emperor. Photo submitted to the Rex Breeders United publication The Forum by Mrs. Grete Fisher, Hesperaestos Rex Cattery, England.



GR. CH. HI-FI'S HEDWIG OF KATZENREICH, a tortoiseshell Rex bred by Mrs. William F. O'Shea and owned by Bill and Madeleine Beck. The sire was Hi-Fi's Schwartz ex-Meer-schaum Grindl of Hi-Fi. Hedwig was CFA All-Star Best Rex in 1966-67, and one of the first Rex to win a Best Cat Award in a CFA show in 1967. Hedy was an early CFA Grand Champion as well. While now a "happy spay", in her prime she produced litters of 5, 6, and 7 kittens. She is a granddaughter of Lammchen, the German Rex mutant first observed in 1947.



The William Beck's "BINKY" (later Gr. Ch. Katzenreich's Bianka) photographed at four months of age with her dam, Gr. Ch. Katzenreich's Misha. Misha is a blue-eyed white with several Best in Show wins to her credit.



CH. NIKE DRAGGIN' LADY OF MARGUS owned by Margery Hoff of Cranford, New Jersey.

more rex next pages

THE REX continued



PAW PRINTS SCHATZ, German Rex white with black cap and tabby tail Bred and owned by the Charles Tracys of Sparks, Maryland, she produced the first litter of German/Cornish cross



Dr. Rosamonde Peltz



PAW PRINTS ADAM, Kitten #1 in the first litter of German/Cornish cross, born May 15, 1970 Adam is pictured here with black cap and black on tail, and just four hours old. Bred by the Tracys of Sparks, Maryland



PAW PRINTS EVAN, Kitten #2 in the first litter of German/Cornish cross, bred by the Tracys Evan is a brown classic tabby and white male and photographed by Francis Herzberger at four hours old



GR. CH. LEE LU'S MARS, black male owned and bred by Lee and Louise Sweet



William Beck judges Ch. Nike Draggin' Lady of Margus owned by Margery Hoff



BIRKI OF YALA, born in December, 1967, is a Cornish Rex white female carrying Devon Genes. The breeder was Mrs. Henny Knudsen of Denmark. She is owned by Mrs. N. C. Schram of Holland. The sire was Annelida Pearly King (Devon carrying Cornish Genes) and the dam was Annelida Lori (Cornish carrying Devon Genes). Photo by Adriaanse, Amsterdam

**BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES ON
DR ROSEMONDE PELTZ**

Dr. Rosemonde Stevens Peltz was born in New Orleans, Louisiana, which immediately places her in the company of artists and gourmands, a heritage she keeps as scientist and practicing physician in Georgia. Her first love was art which she studied at Sophie H. Newcomb College, graduating in 1948 with honors in Art. Later at Louisiana State University School of Medicine she received her degree in Medicine. From 1948 to 1950 Dr. Peltz worked in medical art and medical photography illustrating medical textbooks and scientific articles. After receiving her M.D. in 1954 she moved to Atlanta to intern in the Crawford Long Hospital, until 1958 when she entered private practice in Decatur, Ga., where she now lives, her practice is limited to Internal Medicine and Cardiology. She is also college physician at Agnes Scott College, and Associate in Medicine, Emory University School of Medicine. Finally, rounding out her busy schedule with teaching, she is tutor in Cardiology at the Grady Memorial Hospital, Cardiac Clinic.

Dr. Peltz has been busy otherwise, in the field of writing, and in her favorite hobby catwatching. The Year Book has had the pleasure of publishing several interesting articles by her, and including **The Abyssinian Cat** in this issue. We list the other articles written by Dr. Peltz below.

- Domestic Cat in Art**, C F A Year Book 1963 Reprinted in **International Catfancy Magazine** Charter Issue 1965
- Inheritance of Coat Color**, C F A Year Book 1965
- White Cats Odd-Eyed and Otherwise**, **Int. Catfancy Magazine**, Vol. 1, No. 1
- That Lovely Brown Cat**, **International Catfancy Magazine**, Charter issue
- The Burmese Cat**, C F A Yearbook, 1968
- The Spotted Cat**, C F A Yearbook, 1971
- The Abyssinian Cat**, C F A Yearbook, 1972
- The Exotic Shorthair** With Joan Uzee and
- Notes on The American Wirehair** - Same Issue

Dr. Peltz was elected to the C F A Board in 1971 and has been serving a two year term. She is former President of Cotton States Cat Club and is actively breeding and showing Burmese, ASH, Exotic SH and American Wirehairs. Her ability as researcher and lecturer is well known.

The Heatherwood Cattery was established by Dr. Peltz in 1961, where she apparently keeps almost every cat fortunate enough to be born on the premises. Because of her experimentation, Dr. Peltz has more cats than she might have had otherwise, but each is equally loved and cared for. Her address: 715 Decatur No. Professional Bldg., 755 Columbia Dr., Decatur GA 30030.



KATZENREICH'S VON RICHTHOFTEN, red tabby male at 12 weeks of age. Bred and owned by the William Becks of Towson, Maryland.



ZUREIGA PIP AND ZUREIGA PIPPA, bred by Mrs. R. W. Hamilton and photographed for the East Anglian Daily Times and Associated Papers in Suffolk, England. These kits also appeared on British TV in August 1973.