

## Doberman People

Doberman World

Talks With

Ray Carlisle

CARA

Washingtonville, New York

*This interview was conducted at the home of Ray Carlisle in November of 1992 by Mary Jo Schroeder.*

*Please tell us how you got started in the Doberman world.*

Actually, I have liked animals all my life. When I was a young boy my parents got me a dog and they eventually bred a few litters of Boxers. I always wanted a Doberman and the first opportunity that I had to get one, I got one. I was around sixteen or seventeen years old when I got my first one. I was in Indiana and met some people from the Singenwald's Kennel, Bea Rickert, and got a dog we called Tracy, a Singenwald's puppy out of Prince Kuhio. She was my first really good dog. I'd had another Singenwald's dog before, my first one, but it wasn't a good quality dog like Tracy was. She was a good, black bitch that I really had a lot of fun with. I always had fun with my dogs and enjoyed them so much, when I started to realize that each dog I had seemed to be a little bit more fun and I got a little more excited and more involved. There was a period of time when I didn't do anything but dogs. You can't make a living doing dogs and I had to cut back my fun with the dogs to start to make a living. The enjoyment of being involved with my dogs is, without question, one of the real fun things I do. I don't do much else except business. From the point of view of a hobby, I've thoroughly enjoyed the breed.

To get back to your question, I began with the first chance I had to get a Doberman. I always loved the look of the breed and how they seemed to be so uniquely different – the all-purpose dog.

*How are they the all-purpose dog?*

Without repeating the history of how the breed started, it's a breed that was created as a guard dog but with the ability to do all kinds of things. From what I've studied and researched about the history of the breed, when they created the breed, they had in mind that the dog do a variety of tasks. The predominant task was for the dog to serve man as his guardian, so, he's a guard dog, basically, but with the ability to do all types of services to man. He has an excellent nose, he's an extremely athletic dog. When you think of a Doberman you



think of this real athlete, this dog that has the strength of the Bulldog, the speed of the Greyhound, and the working ability of the herding dogs, the Shepherds. To me, when I think of the Doberman, it has those elements, the best of everything. It's the best dog for this purpose to serve man and it was created specifically for that. This is a breed that was really selectively produced to do the job for which it is serving man now. Breeders over the years have improved it considerably. If you look at the breed today versus what it was years ago, obviously, it's considerably better. But we're still holding true to course and creating a breed that is very versatile, very beautiful, taking its athletic ability and demonstrating its usefulness to man. It's a breed unique unto itself. There are very few other breeds that have all the qualities that a Doberman has. That's why I love it! (laughter)

*Have you had other breeds as well?*

I had Cocker spaniels when I was a little boy and I had Boxers. I've owned and bred several Great Danes, and also judged Danes. I enjoyed a variety of breeds in my lifetime. I grew up with hunting dogs in Arkansas. There most of our fun was with the animals, hunting and so forth. Not that I do any real killing of animals, but I enjoyed the activity with the dogs. It's been a natural progression for me.

*How are you involved with the dogs now?*

I judge a pretty good bit and I'm very involved in trying to create a good blend of the European dogs and the American dogs.

I'd like to be able to be a breeder now. I've been in the breed for a number of years and have bred some litters, but I've never really been a breeder, not in the true sense of the word. Breeding litters is not, in my opinion, a qualification to be called a breeder. But now I am really intent on trying to do what a quality breeder would do, which is produce animals according to the standard and, hopefully, I've educated myself enough so that my interpretation of the standard is correct. I've certainly studied long and hard and had some of the best teachers there are, and I've tried to get a good foundation for producing a line of dogs that are mentally and physically very sound and very stable with good true Doberman type. That's my goal and quest now. I'm very defensive about the breed because I really feel that the Doberman is and should be respected as one of the best working dogs in America. Unfortunately, it doesn't enjoy that reputation right now for a variety of reasons. I have my own theories as to why. I enjoy being out there competing in the sport of Schutzhund, which is a sport that many breeders use as a method of evaluating the working abilities of their dogs, similar to the way we evaluate the structural values of our dogs in the conformation ring; and the obedience ring, for the trainability and also working skills of the breed. I'm involved in that because I really enjoy demonstrating that our breed is just as good, and in most cases better, than any of the other breeds.

The only reason the Doberman is not

respected as it should be is that there aren't that many good dogs that have had the opportunity of demonstrating how good a working dog they are. Many of the breed's best dogs have not been sold to people who want to work them. Many of the conformation breeders have been considerably more interested, and justifiably so. Look at the beautiful job they've done. They've really created a very beautiful dog and over the years I think the breeders have done the breed well, but they haven't been as intent on protecting the working heritage of the breed. I think they usually just wouldn't sell their better dogs to working homes, but would sell them to show homes. As a result, the better dogs didn't always end up in the working arena. I'm enjoying doing just that, showing the Doberman has the ability and is every bit as good a working dog as the German Shepherd or the Rottweiler or any of the other well respected working breeds.

*You say you want to get more involved with the breeding aspect. How do you get to that next level?*

I've judged in several different countries and my judging has given me the opportunity of seeing the breed basically all over the world. I really feel the breed has excellent specimens in different parts of the world. In general, the stronger lines that seem to breed true are those lines that I'm looking to, to take the best from Europe and the best from America, to the best extent that I can, and marry those two together. I've had planned this breeding program for several generations in the future, genetically. That will create my, hopefully, good quality gene pools that will produce not only genetically and physically sound, but mentally sound dogs. Combining the phenotype with the correct genotype from within this planned breeding program, I feel that we can produce a better dog. That's the object, to produce better than what you have and to continue to strive toward excellence. I have in my mind the ideal Doberman and have studied long and hard to learn as much as I can and I learn every day. Combining Europe's top dogs with America's top dogs, I brought over one of the ladies that you see here now, Alida, an excellent dog that was bred three times. I bred her twice while I had her and I'm now into my second and third generation of a long-range plan which couples a lot of what Alida has to offer, a lot of what Windwalker has proven and is offering, and, so far, I'm very pleased with what's happening. We are just at the beginning. This is not a program that has a line created but is in the process of creating a line and, hopefully, we will have extremely good, stable working dogs that are also very beautiful. So far, so good.

The male I have here, Clemens v. Falltor, a Schutzhund III, an Alida grandson, is



*Above: Ch. Tranell's Maxwell Smart, Ray's first champion, being handled by Monroe Stebbins.  
Below: Ch. Tranell's Maxwell Smart, one of the top winning Dobermans from 1972 to 1975.  
Handled in this photo by Jeffrey L. Brucker.*







*Ch. Marwood's Anubis de Scudamore and Can. Ch. Marwood's Agent 99 shown going Winners Dog and Winners Bitch at the same show (Ch. Tranell's Maxwell Smart x Marwood's Highly Go Lightly). "Jason" was Maxwell Smart's first champion in 1974.*

a 100 percent European breeding with an extremely good character and temperament. It's kind of interesting. Every time I see dogs, I learn from each one of them.

When I met Clemens and found him, here was a dog as good as I had seen mentally. He was extremely clear in his mind, he had a very trusting personality, you could trust

him with everything, he was not weak nerved at all, he loved people, yet, he was extremely protective when called upon. He goes out on the sport field and demon-



*Ch. Tamarak's Rampage v. Flores (Ch. Tranell's Maxwell Smart x Ch. Tamarak's Tasmine v. Rehli). "Java" was Maxwell Smart's second champion.*



*Can. Ch. Cara's Wild Ruler (Ch. Tranell's Maxwell Smart x Ch. Aries Dark Briggett).*

strates all of these great qualities that we want to see in our good Dobermans. He has that character and that temperament and is very stable. You turn him on, you turn him off, and he loves the competition of it. It is a sport to him and fun to him and, yet, he is very serious if called upon to guard me and my family. That's what I consider the correct Doberman temperament as well as the correct socially acceptable attitude of a dog. He has good character, the character that we want in our dogs.

The breeding program long-range is, we are taking the quality dogs from each breeding and going out to lines where they have proven success records in certain specifically proven areas, we are very selectively breeding and creating a good alternative for those serious breeders who are looking for an alternative. There are dogs that we are bringing into this country and breeding in this country that, used correctly, can and will produce significantly better dogs, and that's what I think every breeder's goal is.

*What differs in European breeding from what you see here?*

They have a little bit different type of dog than we do here. When I think of the European dog in general, I think of a dog that is a little heavier boned, a dog that is a little more square, not quite as elegant as our dogs, a dog that has a considerably straighter hind quarter than we prefer here, but with a considerably better front quarter than we normally see here. When I think of a European dog I think of a more compact dog with a heavier, more muscled body, but characteristically they are not as clean as they are here, not as chiseled.

Many times, they are considerably more coarse than we would like to see in our breed here. The American dogs, on the other hand, are more refined, more elegant, smoother and, in general, a bit more exaggerated than any of the European dogs.

They exemplify type in many areas that the European dogs don't give me that impression of, yet, the European dogs are very typey, but a different type than the American dogs. Bringing those qualities that we see in Europe and mixing them with those qualities we have here in America, to my way of thinking, will give me a good gene pool that I can use to breed for the future which combines the very needed traits for the American lines and the very needed traits for the European lines and, thus, have a much better Doberman than I've got now.

*Can you describe this perfect Doberman that you are hoping to achieve?*

The perfect dog is the dog described in our standard. That is the ideal dog and our standard leaves that ideal up to our own interpretation of this, but it states very clearly any deviation from this ideal is to be penalized in judging, and, in turn, where we



*Ch. Aries Dark Briggett, handled by Monroe Stebbins, co-owned by Kathy Ozley.*

try to correct accordingly in our breeding programs. As a judge, I judge with that ideal in mind and as a breeder I also have that ideal in mind. We also have had some very serious health problems in the breed and while our breeders are making a very conscientious effort at improving the health of our dogs, I find it's much easier to do that with better breeding practices. By that, I mean going with direct outcrosses and considerably less linebreeding at this time when one is trying to eliminate a health condition or at least reduce the odds of producing that. You would want to breed away from that, so, obviously, an outcross is the best way of accomplishing that. Again, that was a major reason for me selecting a European dog to breed with our American breeding.

After my last dog died, I guess it really hit me over the head that I had to do something, because he was only five. His name

was Cara's Chip Off The Block, my first Schutzhund dog and my first guinea pig dog. I'd been in the breed for years, but I'd never really done any training and never really understood anything except conformation because I'd had so much fun living with my dogs and showing them in the conformation ring and doing all kinds of interesting things with them that I never really had any time to do anything else. When I was involved as president of the DPCA I decided to see what this working dog could really do and "Chip" was a heck of a dog, but he died so young. I was just so devastated with it. I just couldn't believe it. He was only five years old and he was in a long line of dogs of mine that had died from cardiomyopathy and it hit me so much over the head that continuing to stick my head in the sand and ignoring it or not knowing how to do anything about it, I just decided the only way I could make an



earnest, honest contribution from this point forward to the breed was to try to do something that wasn't a continuation of producing unhealthy dogs. So, I have, in effect, started all over, basically, I guess, because of the health issue.

Also, I wanted a dog that was trained in the sport of Schutzhund. That was my other reason. When I first saw Alida in Germany she was just gorgeous and when I saw her get they were outstanding dogs. Jens and Alison Kollenberg were really super interesting Doberman people with this gorgeous bitch they didn't want to part with for love nor money. After a lot of negotiating, I was fortunate enough to buy her. She was the 1985 Bundessieger in Germany, which means she was evaluated as the very best Doberman bitch in Germany in 1985. She is just a gorgeous bitch and comes from a long line of longevity and healthy animals. She is now nine, has had three litters and is now spayed. Maybe you can call it idealistic and maybe it doesn't hold water but my attitude about it is, if you breed a bitch and you've done your job correctly and produced better than she is by having selected the right stuff for her, she should be retired.

Prior to that I did some breeding and I thought I was doing the right thing. I

wasn't really breeding to prove any theory or to create a line, but I was just breeding to keep a dog from that litter. That was usually my objective in those days.

*You mentioned judging in Germany. Have you judged in other countries as well?*

Yes. I've judged in Brazil, Canada, Indonesia, Japan, the Philippines, Uruguay, Venezuela and Germany twice, and in Australia for the first time in 1992.

I've been very fortunate in the breed. As I said, I got into it when I was a kid and had some of the best mentors in the breed that a person could ever expect to have. Monroe Stebbins was Mr. Doberman. I mean, he was, without question, the major influence in my Doberman life. He was a handler and handled Ch. Tranell's Maxwell Smart for me, which was one of my first real quality dogs, and certainly my first champion. I used to sit and talk dogs with him and he introduced me to a man named Alva Rosenberg, who is referred to as the dean of judges. I was very fortunate and got to study a lot about the dogs with Alva and learned a lot about the dogs in general from him. Dobermans, in particular, were my main interest, though I enjoyed a lot of other breeds and Dobermans were obviously Stebby's main interest, too, and he and I had a great time

together in my earlier years. Then I started getting more and more involved in the breed and got to meet Peggy Adamson and Frank Grover and became involved in really studying to be a judge. I really wanted to be a Doberman judge and be a good one. I studied a great deal with Frank Grover and the DPCA's Judge's Education Committee and Peggy Adamson.

In those days, we'd have brainstorming sessions. We'd sit around and get into some really good discussions of different dogs, the standard, function versus type, soundness versus type, and all kinds of very interesting discussions on the breed. At each DPCA National and even at interim special events, different seminars the DPCA would hold, Frank Grover was, without a doubt, the best educator I've ever been around. He absolutely can teach better than anybody else I've ever met and I learned so much from Frank. He took a special interest in the Judge's Education Committee and he is really responsible for the best educational system of educating judges that I've seen. There were other people I learned from but these three people, Stebby, Frank, and Peggy Adamson, really were teachers and I worked with the parent club, and through them, learning to be a judge.

I was licensed to judge Dobermans, Danes and Junior Showmanship and started judging. That took me to all places that I never expected to be. One thing I didn't give credit to that gave me one of the best educations I could ever hope for, came from publishing *Top Dobe* and *The World of the Working Dog* magazines. That came at a period of time when I was overwhelmed with my hobby. My hobby with Dobermans and dogs became all-encompassing, but I couldn't make a living at it, and after eight years of an education that you could never purchase, I was able to meet, interview, talk, discuss and learn so much about the breed from so many different people because of the magazines. It was a learning experience coupled with studying so very diligently with the DPCA's Education Committee so that when I applied, I was ready to judge. I'd served the parent club on the board of directors, as its vice president and as its president. It seemed like a natural thing to become a judge. I really wanted everybody to understand and learn as much as they wanted to learn and be given the ability and the proper forum to learn in.

This is the book I was talking about, *Learning to Judge the Doberman*, produced by the DPCA Judge's Education Committee. Frank Grover with the San Antonio Club were the original producers of it.

*How does the Committee do its training?*

It's not that they train you, but they put on seminars on learning to judge a Doberman. I've been to so many of them



*Cara's Jaclyn Smith (Gre-lemor Demetrius v d Victor x Marwood's Agent 99).*

and each one you go to, you learn something else. I wasn't able to attend this last year but I try to go as frequently as possible. But this particular process here is a committee which Frank Grover heads that is teaching those interested in learning to judge. This manual is part of the seminar that they give you as part of your fee. Right now, I am convinced that our AKC judging system is, through the DPCA education program, preparing Doberman judges better than it has ever been done before. I think you will find now that we are a considerably more educated group of people as a result of this than those who judge more by eye than literally applying the standard. Those who have attended these seminars and have been students of the breed and standard, have learned to apply it much better and every time you judge you get better. I think I'm a considerably better judge now than I was when I started and every time I judge I will get better as a result of the experience of judging itself.

Even though judging is a wonderful experience and a lot of fun and I do enjoy it, the fun of owning a Doberman Pinscher, being involved with it and having that friendship and that bond, is what it's all about. That's where I come from. I'm the only person in the family that is involved with the dogs. My wife is not a dog person, this is my hobby, my entertainment and fun and I enjoy it. I overdo it. There is no question that I enjoy it considerably more than I should because it's my hobby and not my livelihood. It's fun, relaxing, entertaining, and when I go up into the woods back here with my dogs or when I go anyplace with my dogs, I have a lot of fun. It's more fun than playing golf or any of the other things that I've tried.

*How did your hobby and love for the dogs lead into publishing?*

That was back during the time when I was very involved in the breed showing my dogs with Monroe Stebbins handling for me and it was just so much fun. I wanted to learn so much so fast and I was impatient. I went to every seminar, bought every book, every statue, every this and every that. It was like I couldn't get enough. Mary Rogers had started *Top Dobe* and had sold it to George and Candy Sangster. There was only one Doberman publication at that time, the *Doberman Quarterly*, and Steve and Joan Barrett were doing it. I felt there was room for another viewpoint and there was also an opportunity for me to really get right into the thick of things with Dobermans and publishing a magazine is an instant way to get right into the middle of everything. I bought the magazine from George and Candy. Actually, what I did was to continue their contract that they had with Mary Rogers. I went forward with that and started another magazine called

*The World of the Working Dog*. I just had a lot of fun. We were doing well at it but you can't live on \$4,000, \$5,000 or \$6,000 worth of profit in a year. There wasn't any profit in the way I was doing it because I tried to do it as good as I possibly could, making it an extremely educational publication and I wanted things that were interesting to working dog people, and Doberman people, in particular. We published it for about eight years and then decided it was considerably more work, even though it was a whole lot of fun, and it was taking more time than I could afford to give it, because my construction business was being neglected very badly.

To make a long story short, I decided to cease publications. I could have sold it, but I didn't want to sell. I always kept in the back of my mind that someday I would start them both back up again. But I can't do that until I retire and until I have enough time where money doesn't mean anything and I have time to put into it. The publishing business is a lot of fun, but it's a lot of work. I haven't really regretted stopping publishing, but I've missed it a lot. There was nothing more interesting, more fun, and a better way to learn about dogs than publishing a magazine, from my viewpoint. I got to speak to the very best breeders, judges and got to see so many things firsthand that I would never have seen firsthand, that I would have had to read about or hear someone else talk about. I remember interviewing Al Feldman and I entitled the article, "The Complete Dog Man," because here was this guy who was chairman of the board of the American Kennel Club, president of the Great Dane Club of America, involved in the Westbury Kennel Club as president, and involved in so many dog related activities. There wasn't anything this guy hadn't tried, hadn't done, and hadn't done very, very well. There I was able to interview this man. He was Mr. Dog. He was a gentleman. I've never met anyone more sincere about dogs in my life. I also interviewed Bob and Jane Forsyth and found out so many interesting things they had done. What an education. People would pay millions for that kind of education. Of course, I didn't make any money, but it was more fun and I had such a good time. (laughter)

I guess that's how you are supposed to approach this. It is a hobby and is not my livelihood, though it's a livelihood for a lot of people. It's a business now. Dog shows began back when we were trying to maintain amateur sportsmanship and have an arena for breeders to exhibit what they had bred. This whole thing started with that concept in mind, but it's now very commercialized, very professional. It isn't anywhere near as amateur as I think the forefathers expected to maintain and continue it. It's a sport now that provides a livelihood



*Cara's Son of a Butch CD, SchH I, WAC  
(Ch. Rockelle's Butch Cassidy x Cara's Pegasus).*

for a whole lot of people, and entertainment and enjoyment for literally thousands, and breeders who are doing a fantastic job at improving several breeds.

I particularly enjoy working my dogs. It's a relationship with my dogs that I just never knew existed when I was showing dogs and actively campaigning show dogs. I really thought in those days that was all. I didn't realize there was another dimension, that there was more you could do with your dogs that was so much fun, though I knew there were other things to do with them. I never realized how much fun, how rewarding and how entertaining it was. When I got involved in Schutzhund, which is tracking, obedience and protection work, I get up in the morning to go tracking with my dogs and it's so unbelievably different from the experience of getting up and driving to a dog show and showing your dogs there. Both are a lot of fun, but this is different, much more rugged, much more one-on-one, you and your dog. You and your dog are out on the track looking for the articles, he's tracking, it's a competition where you get into the dog's head and learn what makes him tick and why he does what





VDH/D Ch., Bdsg., DV Sg. Alida v. Flandrischen Lowen SchH III, FH, ADPr, ZTP V1A. Without question, one of the breed's greatest bitches of all time!

he does. Then you come back and do obedience work with the dog because he's up and wants to work, he's enjoying what he's learned and he's become precise, accurate and is a really happy, working, up dog.

Then you go to the protection phase where the dog demonstrates those attributes that are so important in temperament and in working ability where the character of the dog is displayed. The ability to watch this dog in protection demonstrate those natural instincts that are well-balanced because those that aren't well-balanced, are just like a dog in a conformation ring with structure that is not well-balanced. You see what is wrong when you have the dog in the trial, you have the ability to evaluate that knowledge and take that knowledge back to the whelping box. This is adding such a new dimension to my life and to my involvement with dogs that I'm having more fun now than I ever had and I didn't think I could have any more fun than I was having fifteen years ago.

Dobermans, dogs and dog people are the greatest. I cannot imagine doing anything that I could have more fun with.

Believe me, I've tried everything. I've done a lot of things in my life but nothing that has been anywhere near as challenging, as rewarding and obviously as much fun as this. My whole involvement in getting this property and building the training field and the little kennel, I have to say, this home was built for the comfort of my dogs. Obviously, I built this home for more than my dogs, but I built it with a great deal of stress on how to enjoy my dogs more. I made it convenient because I want to enjoy them conveniently and don't want it to be a hassle to enjoy them. We live where I don't have to worry about my dogs barking and disturbing the neighbors. They are a guard dog and should have the opportunity to bark and here they have the greatest opportunity in the world. They can hunt if they want to hunt, they can guard if they want to guard, they can do what I want to do with them. If I want to go hunting with them we do, and if they are here in the house they are very protective, but they are also very loving and fond and once you are introduced to them they are your best friends. But woe be unto you if you decided to break into my home. Obviously, they are here for protection and they serve

a very valuable function.

One thing that really should be discussed is probably the most serious thing involving Dobermans today, which is the possibility, if not probability, of the breed with long ears and long tail. They may legislate through animal rights activist groups the prevention of cropping and docking of dogs. If that is passed where you can no longer crop or dock a Doberman, you won't have a Doberman anymore. This is really upsetting to me. Of all the things we dog people should work together for and demonstrate why it's wrong to legislate against it, it's the cropping and docking of the dogs. This is a breed where if it isn't done it won't look like a Doberman and if it doesn't look like a Doberman, you don't have type. There is that age old question about type and soundness but I've always said, you can have a very sound mutt but a Doberman has to look like a Doberman. To me, type is more important. You have to look and act the part. Dobermans that don't look like Dobermans, with long ears and long tails, would totally destroy the type. For a wheel to look like a wheel it has to be round and for a needle to look like a needle it has to be long and slender



Photo of Alida while she was in California being bred to Windwalker for her second litter.



Ray and Alida winning SchH III at the DPCA National Schutzhund Trial - 1989.

and for a Doberman to look like a Doberman it has to have cropped ears and a docked tail.

This is not only a type issue, but a very functional issue. The Doberman was created to serve man as a guard dog and it was created with cropped ears so that nothing could grab onto it and make it bleed as readily and they also wanted them cropped for the extremely keen hearing ability. This breed was designed and manufactured by man and when it was designed originally it was designed to have a cropped ear so that it could hear better and so that its ears would not catch on things and bleed. If you ever see hounds, their ears will bleed like crazy. This was purposely done. Many other countries, Australia, England, etc. already can't crop but they will also tell you they would have preferred to keep the dog with a cropped ear. They were legislated against and cropping couldn't happen in those countries and it's unfortunate and they will tell you that it's unfortunate. Taking it a step further with no docked tails, they are docked so they are not a source of injury to the dog. They should not be grabbed. When you see other big breeds with their long tails, such as the Danes, it's always a source of injury to them. When this breed was created it was for function and cropping the ears and docking the tails is a part of that function as a guard dog. If this gets passed and we Doberman people don't stick together and don't go out there and educate and start really banding together to let the American Veterinary Association understand the reasons behind it, and bringing in allies ... They'll say there is no reason for it but there are very good rea-

sons for cosmetic surgery at different times. Their logic just isn't there. Why would a person get braces? The American Dental Association subscribes to braces as cosmetic but it's functional for health. If you fix your teeth correctly, that's a reason for the cosmetic surgery. We have a reason for cropping ears and we have a reason for docking tails. All of us need to keep these issues in mind and group together and go forward to educate the public that our breed is uniquely different from other

breeds and that ours is for function, not just cosmetic, even though I believe there is good reason for cosmetic surgery in our breed, as it relates to ear cropping. I wanted to make sure I spouted off on that because I feel the AKC and the DPCA and all Doberman and dog clubs have a distinct responsibility, which is to preserve and protect this breed: it is a docked and cropped breed and our standard calls for that. We don't just change the standard to conform. That's not where it's at. We need to educate those who need to know why our breed is docked and cropped and make our voices heard.

This leads into another area, which is all the dog legislation going on in our country. We're being legislated out because of lack of education. We don't educate people. For whatever the reason, we seem to avoid our responsibility of educating the public, the breeders, the judges, the owners and fanciers and instead we give in and say, "Okay, you win. You're right." Instead of standing for what is right and demonstrating what is right, we just don't educate people. We say, "Okay, it's too difficult to educate, therefore, you win." In many areas across this country they have breed specific legislation which will go beyond that to legislation for pets in general because people are not educated to the benefits of owning animals and, in particular, to the benefits of owning a Doberman Pinscher, or any of the working breeds.

Several years ago the AKC for reasons of their own decided to forbid the Doberman Pinscher Club of America from any activities involving Schutzhund. Their reasoning was the vicious dog legislation.



Alida and her well-known daughter, Int. Ch. Kalina v. Norden Stamm SchH III, from her first litter sired by Ebo v.d. Groote Maat SchH I.





*Ch. Cara's I'm The Gambler (Ch. Electra's The Windwalker x VDH Ch. Alida v. Flandrischen Lowen SchH III, FH).*

While I understand and appreciate the problems associated with vicious dog legislation in this country, the solution is not to turn your back on it and stick your head in the sand. There isn't any doubt there is common ground for all of us to agree upon and one thing would be education. But because of the AKC's fight against this legislation, they decided to forbid any Schutzhund activity because of the biting aspect and that the perception of the general public would be wrong. Instead of assuming the proper responsibility of educating the general public, they decided to just forbid the activity. So, in our breed, there isn't an area or an arena to evaluate adequately, much less properly, the working attributes of a Doberman Pinscher.

Schutzhund is such an arena, but now that we can't do that through the DPCA we've had to start and organize another club, which is called the United Doberman Club, which I am currently president of, as a method of conforming to the AKC's directive that chapter clubs belonging to DPCA or participating in any of the DPCA's activities, not be able to host any Schutzhund activities. UDC was formed as a means and method of continuing to preserve and protect the working heritage of the breed; not just the structural beauty of the breed, but the working quality of the breed, as well. So, UDC was formed and we are doing, in my opinion, a very good job so far. We have a lot of very dedicated people and most of them belong to both clubs, the DPCA and the UDC, and we are doing what we feel is right, preserving and protecting the Doberman Pinscher, not only its beauty, but its brains. Its working heritage is extremely important to us. The idea that Dobermans are no longer preferred by the police departments, no longer referred to people to work for them, just infuriates me because it's such a wonderful working breed. Joanna Walker at the DPCA National had some people there who were blind, with the Pilot Dog Program, demonstrating the great working ability of our Dobermans as working dogs for the blind. The demonstration there was so heartwarming, to see these Dobermans doing the work. Obviously, that, in itself, proves our breed is a very good working dog. Further, we have therapy dogs. What UDC is doing literally takes a great deal of pride in paying particularly close attention to bringing into the spotlight all Dobermans and the Dobermans' working abilities, so, we're very pro work. We have special projects paying special attention to the Dobermans who have worked in serving man, such as our war dogs. Dobermans have never received proper recognition for what they have done for our country.

Our club is very educationally motivated. We have critiquing for conformation, which is a considerably longer process, but

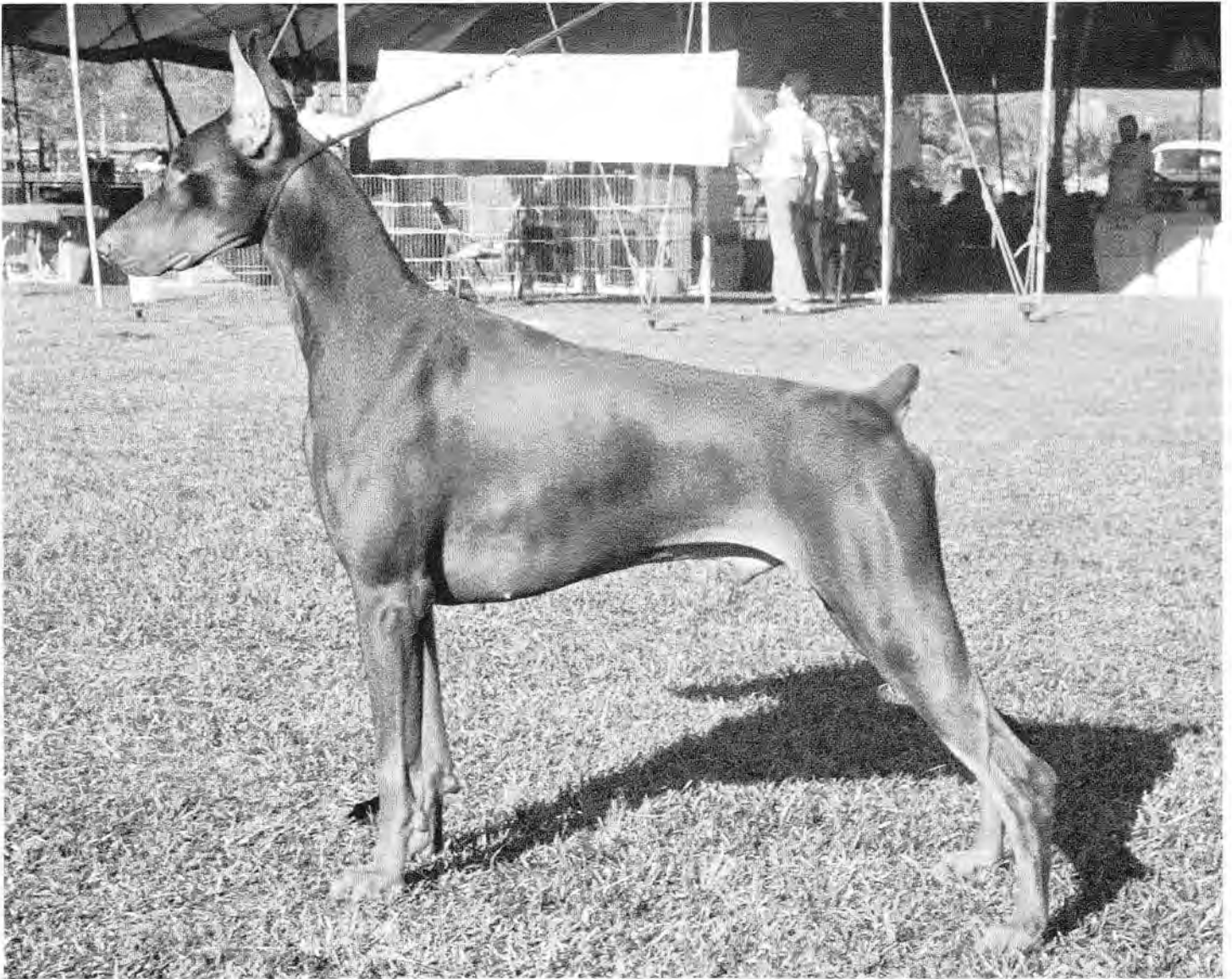


Above: Ch. Cara's Irish Dancer 'n Romancer CD, ROM, "Cinder" (Ch. Electra's The Windwalker x Gr. Ch. Alida v. Flandrischen Lowen SchH III, FH, ADPr, ZTP 1A).

Below: Ch. Cara's Red Hot and Sizzling (Dexter von Franck Enhorst x Ch. Cara's Irish Dancer 'n Romancer CD, ROM), Cara's most recent champion.







*Am/Braz Ch. Cara's Willing and Able (Windwalker x Alida) at the Brazilian National Show. "Willy" was #1 All Breeds in Brazil for 1989.*

it's also very good education, and a series of these critiques from a variety of judges indicates the consensus of opinion about your dog. If you have a series of critiques from those judges you respect and those you may or may not agree with, seeing what their critique says. Not only are we tightening up the conformation requirements of judging of our dogs for critiquing, we are also putting a great deal of emphasis on anything the Doberman does, including Schutzhund, therapy, obedience, tracking, pilot dog program, police dog canine services and search and rescue. We have Dobermans that are performing very well serving man in a multitude of instances. So, that's what UDC is all about. It's doing something that the AKC won't let the DPCA do. The DPCA is America's parent club. UDC was not formed in competition with the DPCA and couldn't compete with

it. It was formed to perform something the DPCA wasn't allowed to do. UDC is affiliated with the American Working Dog Federation, which is seeking affiliation with FCI, the international kennel association, which is how dogs in Europe, Brazil, England, and Australia are judged. FCI represents a variety of countries while the AKC only represents America. So, UDC will try to affiliate itself through AWDF with FCI and, in turn, have a second alternative method of enjoying your dog, competing at different types of trials and at different kinds of activities. It's a very different evaluation system, but all with the same goal in mind, producing better Dobermans, and enjoying your Doberman to the fullest extent that you, as an individual, want to. With such a versatile breed, a breed capable of doing so many different things, this club will have a bright future because it

gives that organized opportunity to a great many people who otherwise wouldn't have that opportunity.

Talking about the DPCA, I served very proudly as its president and I can tell you that it is, without a doubt, one of the best dog clubs in the world. It's a very highly respected club internationally. It hosts a convention week of activities that are unmatched by any club that I've ever been around, from its entertainment to its educational process, to literally thousands of Doberman people and, this year, I think, over 1,000 Dobermans. You are talking about the converging in one area of the fanciers of the breed all over the world, not just America, and the ability to learn from each other. I'm so proud of being a member of it and having served as its president. This is my 21st straight National. Toledo was the 20th anniversary and I started the

year before with my first one. It's a great club and there has been a lot of misconception about UDC. It's not a rival club, but a sister club with the same goals and will and can preserve and protect the working heritage of the breed which, because of AKC's direction, the DPCA can no longer do. So, UDC will do what DPCA can't do and try to do other things which will also promote and protect the breed as a whole.

*There must, in fact, be people who see the new club as a rival. Is that why you are speaking to that?*

Yes, a lot of people have felt it was a rival. Most people don't read enough to be informed and when they read, they only read a portion, and, therefore, they are not totally informed of what, when, why and how. So, I just thought I would take the opportunity to say that the United Doberman Club is not a rival club, but a sister club to the DPCA. I think it's important to be understood that it isn't rivalry, but was mandated by the AKC that Schutzhund not be done. That is simply unacceptable to a breed whose main purpose in life is to be a guard dog. To preserve function, you need an arena to evaluate the working ability of your dog and that includes bite. All dogs bite. People don't know the difference and have never taken the time to learn and I was as guilty as everybody else. Right now, it's kind of mind-boggling when you think about it. You so often hear people make the comment, "This is a great show dog, but this one is not a great show dog and will make a great obedience dog," meaning that the junk dogs in their litter will make good obedience dogs, when they don't realize that the best quality dog in their litter is the one that should be the obedience dog. To believe that the less than sound dogs are capable of doing good obedience is just naive and a totally uneducated response. The need to keep the fancy educated is so important that without the ability to evaluate our dogs' performances, both mentally and physically, we can't do what our constitution says, and that's what we swore to do, preserve and protect the Doberman.

There is no problem when people only want to show their dogs in conformation. A person should be able to do what he wants to do with his dogs, but if he wants to do more than that, he should have the right to do it and he should have a place to learn how to do it. This is a breed that, if you don't know a great deal about it, you shouldn't own it, because a Doberman Pinscher is not for everybody. It is not a breed that everybody should own. It's a breed that requires a specific and special type of owner and I don't think we do enough educating about that. We are very deficient there. Many breeders don't know how to qualify a prospective owner. Most breeders don't understand enough about their own



*Cara's Caution Hily Flameable SchH II (Windwalker x Alida). Ray and "Flame" earning SchH II.*

responsibility to educate those people they are selling a dog to.

There are a lot of things I believe are

not always handled correctly nor always understood that I am concerned with and it took me many, many years before I real-





*Ch. Rothäppchen v.d. Cara SchH III, FH (Windwalker x Alida),  
the first American bred German champion.*

ized there was more to dogs than the showing and more to dogs than just raising healthy dogs. When you think about the physical and mental attributes of the dog, understanding what our standard says about the physical beauty of the dog and understanding what is correct about the mental attributes of the dog, the average person, the normal owner of a Doberman, doesn't have the interest, but he has a responsibility to know basics. Those of us who want to know more obviously continue to educate ourselves and learn where possible. The problem as I see it is, most Doberman people don't realize how little they do know. There is no school where you can learn about Dobermans. You can go to various seminars and be affiliated with different groups and people, but it's not an educational system where one can go to learn so everyone understands what there is to know and learn; therefore, your educational process is limited to who you are involved with and what you are involved in doing. I guess it's kind of

mind-boggling to me that people would presume that just any old dog can do obedience or that the castoff dogs are the dogs you give to working homes, and for breeders to have that attitude only further promotes and continues to create the problems we have in the breed now. There are just not good-looking, sound Dobermans out there doing the work. The majority of the Dobermans that are out there doing the work are not our better dogs. They are dogs that are physically poor, not structurally what they should be. If you go into the conformation ring, there are certainly a great deal of them that are not mentally what they should be.

I started doing a lot of writing in an endeavor to educate, and I found it such an overwhelming responsibility. I don't know enough myself to be an educator, but I enjoy sharing what I do know with people. Temperament is a very important thing to me and structure is equally important, but one is not more important than the other. It bothers me when I hear people talk who

really don't even know what temperament is. Terms are very important.

When you think of the Doberman as a working dog, probably the standard speaks to that through its temperament. The first question that comes to mind is, what is temperament and how would you define and describe temperament? Temperament is a dog's reaction to any stimulus in the environment. It's the combination of the dog's physical ability and its emotional intensity in response to any environmental stimulus. That's really what it is, the dog's ability to react to whatever is going on around it. People usually confuse temperament with other things. Every dog has temperament, but some dogs react more to certain things than do others. Some are considerably more aware of things around them, some are a lot more active and lively, some are more dull. We evaluate temperament through the dog's behavior. How they are behaving and reacting is their temperament and some reactions are instinctive and some are learned.

I do an evaluation test at around seven or eight weeks. The 49th day is the day I have learned is the best to evaluate these things. We do what we call a Volhard Puppy Temperament Test which is done at 49 days old. That's when the nervous system is fully developed and is ready to respond to most stimuli. Temperament even at 49 days has already been influenced by a number of different things – exposure to other dogs, the dam, and the amount of human contact, especially with men or women; and the interaction of that dog with grown dogs, larger dogs, males in particular, even its sire versus the dam, how much stress, changes, nutrition, etc. Temperament has so many different things involved in it and is comprised of a variety of things. It's comprised of the energy level of the dog, its endurance, its hardness, its sharpness, how fearless, how courageous, if it's sociable, trainable, its intensity, the character, sensitivity, both body and sound sensitivity. Many people get temperament and character confused. Every dog has temperament but not every dog has character. Character is the dog's sense about himself, how he feels about himself, the image he portrays, his own self-esteem, his willingness to defend himself, how proud he is of himself. A dog with character walks, acts, feels and looks the part. You can tell how he feels about himself if he has strong character. He walks out there and says, "I am a Doberman." That image, that sense, is what I call character. Not all dogs have character as an element of temperament.

Then you get into all kinds of drives. You have different drives within the breed, dominance drives, protection drives, fighting drives, territorial drives, sense drives, etc. These are all the drives that are all part of what makes the Doberman tick. Every

dog I get I learn a little bit more about them, both physically and mentally. The sport of Schutzhund gives you the ability to see the dog in a considerably different light. You see him when he's tracking, when he's doing obedience, when he's doing protection work, and you really see a lot more character traits in that sport than in any other area that I've been involved with the dog. A lot of people interchange terms a lot. The different instincts, the different drives that make a Doberman what it is, are unique to the Doberman. We might take any drive, the desire for the dog to chase the rabbit or chase the ball, all of which is prey drive, and in many cases it's play drive interchangeable with prey because it's the same pursuit of the object. But a defense drive is the desire for the dog to defend itself, a different drive altogether, and you want balance in all of these drives to have the ideal dog with it. The strongest drive in a dog is the survival drive, its desire to live and the second strongest drive is probably its sex drive. Understanding these drives and what role they play in the dog, different dogs for different purposes need different drives. A dog utilized, obviously, for search and rescue needs a whole lot stronger hunting drive and a dog used for protection and as a guard dog needs a whole lot more fighting drive, a whole lot stronger territorial drive. Its protection drive and its protection instincts, in our breed, we take for granted they are automatically there, but they are not automatically there. They are only there if you breed and preserve and protect them. The comment, "My dog will protect me no matter what," may be true, but, then again, it may not be true. It's only true if you've been paying close enough attention to those, what should be, natural instincts, but we have a lot of Dobermans today that don't have the correct natural instincts and their protection drive is, in many cases, nonexistent and is not readily apparent unless you test it. You don't know that just looking at it. Just because a dog walks out into the show ring and puts its ears up, that doesn't necessarily mean good temperament. And just because it barks when somebody comes to the door doesn't necessarily mean it has the proper natural protective instincts.

Good balance in all of these is what's important. We want an exaggerated dog in many cases in many areas because that distinguishes it from just the plain Jane, ordinary mongrel or dog. I don't want just an ordinary Doberman, I want a really good one that stands out in the crowd. I want that dog to stand out and say, "Hey, I am a Doberman." That is the characteristic that I love about the breed so much. It's that dog that doesn't just blend in with all the others. It's the look of this dog, the way it acts, the way it handles itself, all of which are extremely important to be a good Dober-

man. That's the dog I'm looking for. There are other people who are not looking for those exact same things. It depends on what they want to use this multipurpose dog for. I want to use it for everything. I want the total Doberman, one that can do everything. My ideal would be someday to have a dog that is a topflight conformation dog, topflight obedience dog, topflight working dog, top therapy dog, good canine citizen dog, a dog that I can thoroughly enjoy doing everything with, not just one or two things. I'm getting much closer. Before too much longer, we will start producing significantly more dogs that perform multipurpose roles and we will dispel a lot of the theory that they can't, because they can do the work. We just have to have more people and more opportunities to do the work, instead of believing it's not fun, they ought to try it. I never realized how much fun it was to work my dogs, how much fun to judge them, how much fun to be involved with them. I love going to dog shows, I love judging, I love obedience, I love protection, I love tracking, I love almost any involvement. I love hiking with the dogs and I'd love to, some day, train a dog in

search and rescue. To me, that would be as big a service to man as you could produce with a Doberman. And, boy, do we have some topflight dogs working in search and rescue.

*You've identified character and temperament as areas that some people do not seem to have a complete understanding of. Are there other areas where education is lacking?*

It's hard to answer that, because it depends on the level a person wants to be educated. You can enjoy Dobermans without knowing a thing about them. It doesn't require that you know that much to enjoy your dog. It depends on what level of education you desire to do what you do well. You can't really do a lot of breed improvement without a considerably broader base of education. You don't just rely on luck. You have to have learned a great deal along the way to utilize that knowledge to enjoying your hobby better. If your total enjoyment is just your time and companionship, fine, then you are as educated as you need to be when you've learned how to care for your dog and how to enjoy your dog with that amount of understanding. But I find, sometimes, even the basic education is miss-



Ch. Cara's Talon CD, BH, CGC, VCX, ROM  
(Nero vom Norden Stamm SchH I x Ch. Rothkappchen v.d. Cara SchH III).





Ch. Cara's Black Rose Chilkat (Ch. Akele's The Vindicator x Alida).

ing. A lot of people don't understand you just don't want or need to take a Doberman Pinscher – a shortbacked, galloping breed, a very energetic breed, a breed that should not be docile, a breed that should be active and should be alert, attentive – and place it in an environment where it is expected to be lying down, quiet and unobservant. Many homes they don't want the dog to be involved, and the environment for this dog is not conducive to a Doberman. It might be good for any other breed that is willing to lie down in a corner and be unnoticed, but if it's a Doberman, it's going to be noticed. It's going to be out and involved and relating to what is going on around it. People should not sell dogs to people who do not have an environment conducive to Dobermans. That is a fundamental educational process that I feel breeders need to pay a lot more attention to.

A Doberman is very cute when you see it as a baby, and it is a thing of art and a thing of beauty when it is a grown dog. To believe this dog is going to stand perfectly still, never move and be that beautiful picture you look at is not realistic. It needs a lot of exercise, a lot of one-on-one. It needs to have your personal attention. It needs to not just be a member of the pack, it needs to be the single source of attention a great deal of the time. The Doberman needs to have a

purpose, a job, a reason for belonging. It's not just a fixture, not just a status symbol, not just a source of entertainment. It requires interaction with you, the person. If not, the dog becomes bored and then it becomes destructive and people wonder why it did the things it did. It's because you didn't know what was required to own a Doberman. It has to be involved in what is going on.

*How can other people who are interested in knowing more get this information?*

Through the DPCA there are tons of educational articles, activities and interests you can involve yourself in if you so choose, and through the United Doberman Club for those activities that you might want to do that this club offers. You can always learn if you really want to learn. It's the ability to realize there is more available to do with your dog and more you can enjoy with your dog and it's your choice if you want to do that. But if you are going to really do what's right about preserving and protecting the breed as a breed, you need to learn a whole lot more than just one aspect of it. It's not just a companion. You need to go to dog shows, to obedience shows, to Schutzhund trials. If you are going to be really serious about your hobby, you need to learn about all aspects of the breed. What I was referring to before is that people

have a very limited education, and that's not a criticism, because in many cases that's fine. But don't expect that limited education to stand up when you are trying to produce a much higher quality animal than what you've got. I continually find how little I know. I continually realize how little I know about most of the subjects. I learn more about structure, I learn more about the fundamental elements of the breed – its structural, mental and physical qualities – what it can do and has done for man, things I never even realized. Do you realize the Doberman holds the longest track in *The Guinness Book of Records*? I think it's a track that is over so many days and so many miles. It's entertaining to read, to realize our breed is that good a tracking breed, but it's also a good defense to those people who say the Doberman isn't a good working or tracking dog. (laughter) Trivia. (laughter)

Everyone wants to feel when they are involved in doing anything, that they are doing their very best at it. You measure success in a variety of ways. From my involvement in dogs, I've always attempted to set a standard that's higher, more in-depth, and pursuing the total dog seems to be what I've found most interesting about it and not just one facet of Dobermans. I've enjoyed all aspects of it and the further I've gotten involved and the more I've gotten involved, the more I've learned how to enjoy it and how much more fun I've had with it the more I've learned. From my first involvement in the breed, up to now, I've tried to enjoy it with the understanding that there is always something I could do better tomorrow than I'm doing today. While all of these things sound kind of corny and kind of idealistic, you hope that what you are doing for the breed is as much as what it has done for you. It has been a breed and is a breed that has given me considerably more pleasure because of its diversity and because of all the different things I can do with it and have done with it, and I haven't found anything that the Doberman couldn't do and do very well. When I find something new to do and do it personally, my dogs have always been able to do it right along with me, no matter what it is. They have enjoyed doing it themselves and my dogs have excelled in all areas. I've had the top show dogs in the country, the top Schutzhund dogs, top obedience dogs. Not that all of these have been handled by me, but they were all dogs that I was involved with. I've judged at some of the best, most prestigious shows in the country and in the world. All of these things combined have been a source of pleasure and fun for me.

Everybody, I presume, wants their life to have some kind of meaning and in an interview I want people to not just listen to what I'm saying, but to learn something from it. You like to believe that what you do makes a difference and you are not just



*Ch. Cara's Forget Me Not (Ch. Akele's The Vindicator x Alida). The next Cara breeding will be "Fergie" to Clemens in the spring of 1994.*

doing it for yourself, but you want to improve it so that others can have as much fun as you've enjoyed with the breed, and that's what I'm trying to do. I'm trying to do something that I enjoy to the max and share that enjoyment with others, and telling them how I've done it and what I've done is, hopefully, something you will find in this interview. It's not a technical interview. We could get very technical and that in itself is very educational and interesting, but we haven't done any of that to speak of here.

*Are there any aspects of that technical part*

*that you would like to speak to?*

Yes, I guess I should. A Doberman must be not only physically beautiful but must be mentally correct and stable. Today we find so many of the breed that are extremely beautiful specimens but aren't good Dobermans. They just don't have the proper character and those we find with proper character out in the Schutzhund field or obedience ring aren't physically correct. To speak to something technical is, to be a good Doberman you've got to excel in all areas, mentally and physically. You might be a good breed and not excel in both but to

be a good Doberman you've got to excel in both.

The United Doberman Club gives many titles that aren't available in AKC shows and one is a Versatility title. It's a title that you can earn through doing different things with your dog and through various accomplishments.

*What about your planned breeding program? Can you tell us more about that?*

As I said earlier, I have never considered myself a breeder. I am just now doing those things I feel are required of a breeder. I have a very carefully planned breeding





*Ray and Clemens von Falltor SchH III, shown going High in Trial at the 1993 UDC National Specialty.*

program that I am into my fourth litter. It's so new but it's very well planned with a lot of research into each individual breeding. Each generation, when you go back in a few years, you will be able to trace back why a dog looks and acts a certain way and that will be because it has been planned to be and look that way. It won't be by accident, but because we have very carefully selected the correct geno and phenotype from within

the line I am breeding to produce very predictable traits, both physical and mental, in each of the generations to come. In any breeding, you can't fix everything in one generation. It will take a series of generations to even approach getting those ideals we strive for. You may have to compromise in one area to gain in another. It's the learned experience of what fixes easier than others so that when you select breeding

mates from one litter and linebreed with mates from another litter, the ideal of picking the correct two dogs that complement each other and still maintain the strong gene pool, is really a very carefully selected planning program, and that's what my breeding program is. It isn't anywhere near there yet, it will take years, but that's what I'm involved in now and that's the fun of doing and watching the fruits of your labor and

watching your efforts come to life and become real. Right now, to look at the benefits of the first three generations is gratifying. We are getting some very good, high quality dogs that are doing both. They are working and they are showing in the conformation ring and they are accomplishing a great deal in all of the areas, in conformation, obedience and Schutzhund.

When I say breeding program, it's six generations that we have preplanned and now the objective of this program is to find those dogs that demonstrate physical and mental attributes that I want to continue in the line. It's considerably harder to preplan, to recognize and see those traits that breed true mentally, than it is physically. The physical attributes seem to breed considerably truer than do the mental characteristics. The challenge and the approach is always being improved and the challenge is always bigger and broader, especially as the gene pool continues to expand.

*Since you have judged all over the world, do you want to talk about the quality of the dogs in the various places you have judged?*

I've been very fortunate and have judged at some of the world's most respected dog shows. This past weekend at the Canadian National Specialty, previously over in Germany, judging at a dog show there and in Australia, Brazil, Japan, the Philippines, Indonesia, Uruguay, Venezuela. The breed throughout the world is similar, yet different. You will find the quality varies significantly from one area to another. I believe that Brazil has Dobermans that most closely resemble the American breeding program. They seem to have a type that is more in line with what we see here in the States. As I said earlier, Europe is a different type dog, yet similar. One experience I had was while judging this past summer in Australia. As you judge in different countries, you have to apply the standard of the particular country in which you are judging. In Australia, their standard is significantly different than what we have here in America. One of the main differences is, they do not have a disqualification for missing teeth. Their standard really doesn't discipline a judge on mouth problems as thoroughly as our standard does or as thoroughly as the German standard does. There are no missing teeth allowed in Germany. Here we allow up to four missing teeth. But, anyway, in judging in Australia, I realized there were such differences, even in height, their ideal dog is 27 inches and ours is 27 1/2, indicating we prefer a dog a little bit bigger and toward the higher end of the standard which is 26 to 28 with 27 1/2 being ideal, whereas, in Australia 27 is ideal. Little things like that, you really need to know the differences in the standard when you are judging in these different countries. As a result, when I was judging in Australia, I did point out that one of the things I found



*Ray and Clemens at home in Washingtonville, New York.*

extremely disturbing is that they have a great deal of mouth problems that need to be dealt with that it is quite apparent have not been dealt with for years. There were a lot of dogs I judged there with serious mouth problems. I don't want to single out any specific country.

But the uniqueness of judging in different countries and meeting so many different people, I've expanded and broadened my education and that's one of the benefits of judging, being able to go to these different countries and to different parts of our coun-

try. To see the dogs, talk to the people and you'd be surprised how much you learn even if, in many cases, you don't even speak the same language. Doberman people around the world are very special people. They want to learn and they enjoy teaching and learning. I have learned so much from so many people throughout the world. Of the things I enjoy most about judging, it's been the learning experience and sharing with others.

*Thank you very much. I've enjoyed talking with you. •*