

Some Farm Dogs Said True English Shepherds

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THESE DOGS NATURAL 'HERDERS'



Here are Mr. and Mrs. John Blankenship, at left, and Mr. and Mrs. Tom D. Stodghill, with some of the prize English Shepherds kept by the Blankenships at their Salem Pike home. Stodghill, of Quinlan, Texas, is secretary-treasurer of the English Shepherd Club of America.

Some 'Farm' Dogs Said True English Shepherds

The grandson of a former Rutherford Countian came back to Middle Tennessee this week, this time trying to find other cattle dogs like his grandfather took to Texas with him some 60-odd years ago.

The man was Tom D. Stodghill, of Quinlan, Texas, not far from Dallas. He is secretary-treasurer of the English Shepherd Club of America. And he found a number of dogs over Middle Tennessee that he says are quite evidently true English Shepherds and could be registered in the recently-established English Shepherd club, thus establishing new blood lines.

Some Middle Tennessee families owning these dogs did not even know what breed the dogs were, Stodghill said—only that the dogs were excellent for handling livestock and had been used in the families for this purpose for long years.

But color markings and other features as well as the performance of these dogs show definitely that they are of the English Shepherd breed, and have bred true down through the years, Stodghill said.

The Texan and his wife spent several days here with Mr. and Mrs. John Blankenship of the Salem Road, who are the largest breeders of English Shepherds now in Tennessee. The Blankenships accompanied the Stodghills on their travels into DeKalb, Jackson, Putnam, Wilson and other counties, looking for dogs that might seem eligible for registration.

Stodghill's grandfather was George Dromgoole, member of a well-known Rutherford County family, and a brother of Will Allen Dromgoole, the writer. Stodghill's mother, the former Miss Ada Dromgoole, is still living in Texas, now 74 years old. Stodghill and Mrs. Douglas MacArthur, whose grandmother was a

Dromgoole, are therefore cousins.

Stodghill said that the formation of the new association had brought about a great revival in interest in English Shepherds. The association now has 72 members in 28 states, he pointed out.

The English Shepherd, Stodghill
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Number of Phones Climbs to 6,344 in Murfreesboro

Expanded telephone service was part of substantial progress recorded in Murfreesboro in 1962, according to G. K. Lott, Southern Bell group manager here.

During 1962 the number of telephones in service here increased by 415, or 7 per cent. As the year ends, 6344 telephones are in service, as against 5929 at the first of the year. "The number of people with telephone service is regarded as a good barometer of economic health, and the number in service at Murfreesboro continues to increase," Lott said.

Lott explained that the total number of telephones now serving Murfreesboro is more than double the number it was at the end of 1945. He pointed out that 29 long distance circuits now carry calls to and from Murfreesboro.

The expansion of Murfreesboro's telephone system was a part of a Tennessee wide telephone growth which in 1962 added more than 29,000 to the total telephones in the state. Tennessee now has over 633,000 telephones in service, which is nearly twice the number in service in the state at the end of 1945.

Southern Bell in 1962 provided
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Farm Dogs

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explained, is a "natural born working dog," with a definite in-born understanding of the cattle and sheep herder's problems. They have been used for herding purposes for many centuries, he said, and were brought to America from England in the early days. The dogs are affectionate and intelligent, he said, naturally obedient and faithful, but of great courage and stamina. Their natural traits make them ideal as children's pets and watchdogs, he said.

The English Shepherds breed particularly true to type, he said. The preferred color is black and tan, although some dogs are black and white. The dog with "perfect" markings has a bar of tan across the chest just above the legs, a spot of tan over each eye, and tan around the muzzle and elsewhere on the underparts.

Pups with the most desirable markings bring as high as \$100, Stodghill said. He pointed out that some English Shepherd owners, not knowing the value of their dogs, have been giving the pups away.

The Blankenships obtained their first English Shepherd from Stodghill some eight or nine years ago—but it was pure coincidence that they happened to buy from a former Rutherford Countian. They had a Spitz, and decided that what they needed more was a farm and cattle dog. They saw Stodghill's small advertisement in a magazine, and ordered a pup from him, not knowing that he came from a Rutherford County family.

Today, the Blankenships have about 10 English Shepherds, and do a brisk business in selling the puppies over the country. They say they give full credit for the fact that their son, Henry, now 9, never got hurt on the farm to their first Shepherd. The dog guarded the child so closely that he could go all over the farm at any time without danger that he would be hurt by stock.

Stodghill said that the future of the English Shepherds as a breed appears particularly bright. So far, the Association has registered 16 unrelated blood lines, he said. More are being registered, but the books will eventually be closed, he said, as soon as it appears there is enough foundation stock. The Association has worked out standards for the dogs, and work is being done on a breeders' manual, which it is hoped will eventually grow into a regular magazine. Stodghill said consideration was also being given to a suggestion that Murfreesboro be the site for a national meeting of English Shepherd breeders.

The Blankenships are sold on the English Shepherd as the "world's best all-purpose dog."

"They are fine watch dogs," said Mrs. Blankenship. "They will guard children, and are also good hunting dogs. They will tree squirrels, coons, mink and skunk. An English Shepherd will go a mile after cows, and when it comes to herding sheep can't be equalled. One English Shepherd is better help in loading stock into a truck than a dozen hands. In fact, an English Shepherd can help his master do just about anything it is possible for a dog to do—and we say that out of our own experience, and not just because we are English Shepherd breeders."

Stodghill is interested in raising OIC hogs in addition to English Shepherds. He is the largest breeder of both the hogs and the shepherds in the state of Texas.