

Lines from Linda



DRAGONS, RABBITS, PONIES, PUPPIES...AND SPINNING YARNS -

Corky Gauger

The American Kennel Club Judges Directory lists her name as Mrs. Myron M. Gauger and states that she is approved to judge breeds in five of the seven groups. To those of us who know her well, she is Corky, a vivacious southern lady just full of surprises!

*Young Corky's
favorite pet -
(Beagle-Foxhound
cross)*



censed as an all-breed professional handler. She handled for over thirty years finishing dogs in every group. During this time she also trained obedience through U.D.T. as well as participating in mantrailing Bloodhounds, Bird dogs in the field and entering her Beagles in

My Daddy Is A Lighthouse Keeper - What Does Your Daddy Do? is the title of the book she is presently writing. When little Coralyn Mary Brock was born, her father and grandfather were lighthouse keepers at the Portage Lake Lighthouse near Hancock,

Michigan. The family owned thirty-five dogs, her favorite childhood pet being "Ring", a Beagle-Foxhound cross.

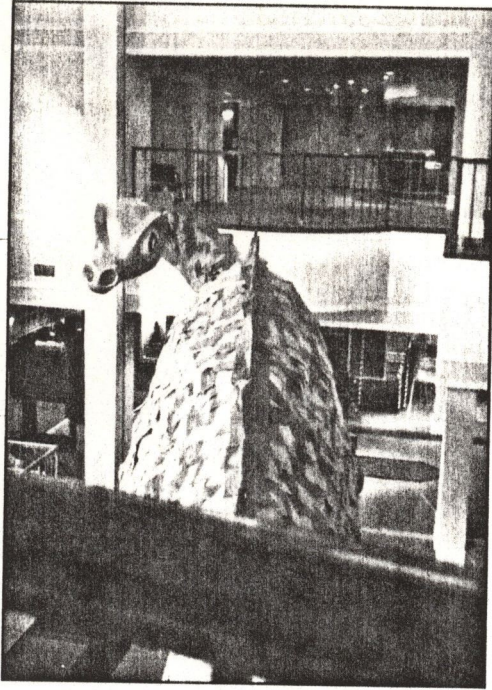
In 1947 Corky was lis-

By Linda Ayers Turner Knott

the field trials.

Not allowing any grass to grow under her feet, Corky commenced her

Son Myron's Dragon on exhibit, Discovery Place, Asheville



judging career in 1978. Along the way she was married to Myron N. Gauger (Mike) and they raised two extremely talented sons,

Kenneth D. of Athens, Georgia, a computer specialist at the University of Georgia, and Myron W. an artist, sculptor and woodworker living in Asheville, North Carolina.

A dragon thirty five feet long dazzles all who visit Discovery Place in Asheville. It is the cre-

ation of Mike and Corky's son Myron. Myron created, out of a thirty-five-hundred pound slab of red Tennessee marble, his sculpture "La Femme" which can be enjoyed by visitors at the Biltmore Square Mall. His talents are highly sought after by designers and architects and he is considered an expert on large projects.

Rabbits, miniature horses and puppies are all found at the Perry, Georgia home of the Gaugers. To be more specific, the puppies come in the form of Yorkies, Beagles and Shelties.

Corky lives her life in the fast forward speed, and whatever interest she pursues, she goes at it with a passion.

Some years ago Corky took up spinning wool from brushing her champion Angora rabbits. Her ply, dye and knit sweaters have won

It took son Myron W. Gauger almost one year to complete "La Femme," his sculpture on permanent exhibit at Biltmore Square Mall in Asheville, North Carolina



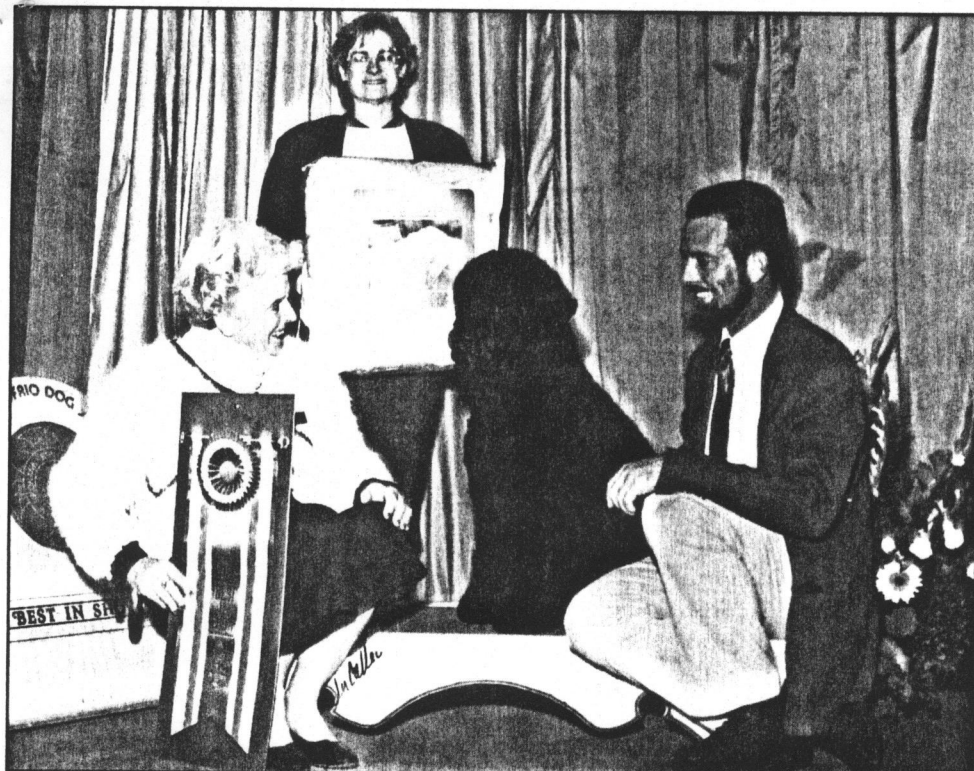
spinning at their Southern Governor's Conference. Corky

amazed a delegation of Japanese industrialists, spinning yarn from her Angora rabbits, and she was invited to the governor's mansion to spin for the governor's Industrial Developers Conference.

This is no run-of-the-mill lady. Another hat she wears is one of a teacher. Instructing classes at Fort Valley State College in Fiber is also a favorite pastime of our well-known dog show judge. And Corky never turns down the opportunity to share her skills with school children of all ages.

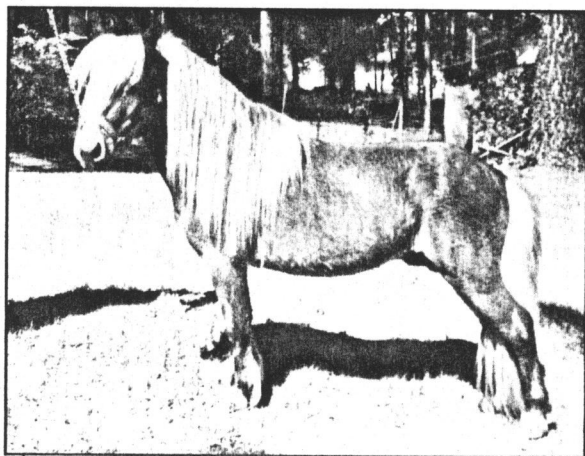
Ch. Etwin's Lil Timmy of Cor-Mik, bred and handled by Corky, owned by Ethel & Windol Hohnensee, Lake Charles, La., the seventh Sheltie to win over 100 Bests of Breed. He is shown winning Group 1 under judge Frank Foster Davis





If you have been fortunate enough to share a ride traveling to a dog show assignment seated beside

Corky with Ch. Rough Sea's First Buoy, the youngest Portuguese Water Dog to capture Best in Show. She is wearing a hand-spun Angora sweater - she spun the yarn and knitted the sweater herself!



Boone's Little Red, Corky's miniature horse stallion - 31 1/2 inches at the withers

recent Georgia National with an entry of over 3,500 rabbits.

Some little bunny, huh? The Angora became a Grand Champion in only two weekends of shows!

Mike and Corky Gauger are the epitome of a down-to-earth southern

Corky, then you know she knits her way through airports, long limousine trips and hotel lobbies. Time is precious and she never wastes a minute!

The Gauger's giant French and Satin Angora rabbits have won many shows.

Her current champion finished at the

Corky, spinning yarn from her grand champion giant Angora rabbit, Crystal Gayle, Mossy Creek Barnyard Festival, 1993.

their town Perry was their church. I had to wait to receive the photographs I requested for this article because Corky had to complete a gift she was knitting for her prayer partner, Mrs. Sam Nunn, Sr., the mother of United States Senator, Sam Nunn. Corky has her priorities in order. Her congeniality is contagious, and she always puts others first!

At a recent German Shepherd national specialty show, Corky was busy video taping the show to use in the future as she shares her knowledge teaching breed and handling seminars. Those of us seated in the VIP judges section also shared in the homemade chocolate mint brownies she baked for us. See, being around Corky anytime is a pleasure. She makes life fun!

As we watched the shepherds round the ring, Corky related this judging experience with me..."I had never seen this lovely shepherd before Jimmy Moses came out with her at Beaufort, South Carolina. After a day of judging hounds and toys, I was making pictures when the show superinten-





In 1971, showing the Yorkie Ch. Sarawen's Trella Pamela, Raleigh, NC, owned by Sara & Owen Parker, Atlanta, under the famous Clara Alford

across the grounds to the group ring and the herding group was assembling. The Puli and the Corgis were down at the end. I walked out into the ring looking at each dog and when I got to the head of the line...WOW!

dent came to tell me that the herding group that I was supposed to judge would be next. I walked

There was a shepherd bitch that was a knock-out! She was a little unsure of herself, but she was in

Needless to say, I gave her Group One. Then I found out this was her first show with Jimmy. He had just gotten her. She went on to her first Best in Show under shepherd expert, Dr. Carmen Battaglia and thus it began for Jane Firestone's 'Mystique.'

To update this conversation, Corky just judged the first point show for the Ochlockonee River Kennel Club of Florida. The herding group was on her schedule and again a very steady, confident and self-assured German Shepherd bitch was in the ring. Corky awarded the Group One placement to the Shepherd. Her handler Jimmy Moses told Corky after the show that this win was the ninety-ninth Group One for "Mystique". It is the ultimate accolade for a judge to find a dog and then see it soar!

Charming chaos describes the life of Corky Gauger...with her dragons, rabbits, ponies puppies and I am not just spinning yarns!

Joy in the new year!

Linda Ayers Turner Knorr



Ch. Altana's Mystique, winning the Group for her new owner, Mrs. Jane Firestone...Jimmy Moses launching another string of wins.

lovely condition and had movement that was flawless that day.

**Coming Next Month -
THE FIRST IN A SERIES
OF ARTICLES
INSIDE
THE
IVORY
TOWER**

*Linda Knorr visits
The American
Kennel Club*
**FEBRUARY:
PART 1**

**An
Interview
with Wayne
Cavanaugh**