

INTERVIEW WITH BARBARA LEE WILLIAMS

I was Blest to have been born into a LARGE , LOVING FAMILY...
In Southern California...near the Great Pacific Ocean...

Two years after my birth, along came My Baby Brother!! He and I have always been Very Close and 'Best Buddies!'...Our Dad, was Our Hero and Best Fun Friend ...and he loved ALL ANIMALS!! OUR Beloved, PATIENT Mother was the One who kept it all together...and it wasn't easy, as we were quite inventive and adventurous...

Our Dad's Mom, had 2 German Shepherd Females, of German Import lines, "Afra" and "India"... My Grandmother said, 'You learned to walk, Barbie, hanging onto India's coat..'

When we were growing up we had one of India's sons, we named him, "TARZAN".. "King of ALL the Dogs!"...He went everywhere with us, and lived in the house.. The German Shepherd reigned SUPREME in those days...Tales of their Valor and Courage and Intelligence, that circulated from the returning Vets from World War One. .had quickly spread..

My Grandmother owned a small Neighborhood Grocery Store, and she kept India and Afra, with her, in the Store.. and in the Yard and House, when the Store was closed.. They were VERY PROTECTIVE!!! We loved to stay with our Grandmother 'Nannie', as we called her and play with the dogs..

She would often yell at us, when our 2 cousins came over for the weekend , also, , and all Four of us would get running and Raising Cain!!...Nannie would call out: " If you kids keep running around the yard, yelling like a bunch of Wild Indians, (please take no offense..I am part Cherokee Indian myself) you are going to get bitten!!"..

Tarzan was a natural addition to our home and we all adored him!! I learned to LOVE GERMAN SHEPHERDS from my early experiences, and mostly from TARZAN... He was our "Guardian".. "Our Devoted, Fun-Loving Buddy." ".Our Defender and Protector." I believe that is what has had such an impact on my way of thinking about the GSD Breed's Character... They are your Best Friends and Best Protector's..

A German Shepherd who lacks the Character and Mind to Guard. .Defend and Protect his Master and his Master's Possessions... Children...Home.. Car. .etc. . isn't really a REAL German Shepherd in my eyes...just another 'Nice' Dog...

My Mother and her Family, were Horse People(My Great Grandfather built one of the first Harness Horse Race Tracks in Texas and bred and raced them)... So, my life was rich with tales of Horses and their GREAT HEART and GREAT RACES.....

I was happiest when I was in the Company of GS'S and Horses...I loved to ride bare-back.. Because you could actually feel the Horse as they moved ...thru all their

gaits. .You learned to appreciate the power and the perfect coordination when a really Good one, moves correctly...and when they don't, you understand their limitations and inability to Continue in Motion, for very long...

Page two

When I divorced my first husband, I had our 2 children, Candy and Randy, to raise, who were very young and , of course, first thing I did, was to buy an AKC Reg. German Shepherd Male Puppy for 'us'...For Protection and Family Fun... and he was from the old San Miguel Bloodlines of the West Coast. He was a beautiful dark Grey and he did look like a Wolf,, so I named him " Baron von Silber Wolf"... In 1955, I met Doyle, who was a 29 yr. Old confirmed "Bachelor" and raced Motorcycles.. for a hobby.... and we got married ...Fortunately Wolf had great instincts and allowed Doyle to join Our Family, of the three of us, and .." Wolfie ", who was very protective of us and he had the final word on who was welcome, into our home..

Wolfie became our FIRST SHOW DOG!! Doyle trained and handled him in Ruth Schriefer's training classes, and he won First Novice in a very large entry at the Los Angeles Specialty Show under Mr. William Erhler... Doyle handling him... That was the end of racing Motorcycles, and the beginning of Handling GSD'S for Doyle...He loved the Competition and the Dogs, and the Friends and the Fun of it all..

We bought a really pretty New Home in Buena Park, California...in 1956 , as did many War Vets, like Doyle, with the aid of the G.I. Bill... It had a huge pie-shaped lot and plenty of room for Dog Runs.. About the same time, a couple, named Morrie and Shirley McWilliams, and their two children, moved onto the same block and they had a GS female, ' My Sin By Du Sha'..... from Top Quality American Lines, as well.. So, it wasn't long until we were close friends. .and talking dogs!!! Morrie and Shirley choose their kennel Name..." Sin's Shepherds..." after their Shepherd, 'MY SIN'...

We chose 'Santana Shepherds' for Ours, named after the Great Santa Ana Winds that came every Year.. The California Natives called them ' SANTANA WINDS'...

The Times then, in the early 50's... were so DIFFERENT...no one today, could imagine... There were no Internets... Only Mail and telephones (long distance calls were very expensive!) and if you needed something 'Pronto', there was the Telegraph service.. East was East and West was West and we were separated as far as The German Shepherd Fancy was concerned... Our BIG Connection was the ' GERMAN SHEPHERD DOG REVIEW'... Few people flew about the country and shipping dogs was a scary, iffy business. There were many tragic losses of dogs in the planes cargo holds in those days.. or left in crates, at a stop-off airport and not reloaded onto the plane they were supposed to be on.. There were very few breedings of West Coast Shepherds to any in other parts of the USA, like the East Coast Shepherds, etc.. There wasn't any shipping sperm, etc..It hadn't been 'invented' yet. Our cameras were not of the quality of today and hence the 8 MM films were often disappointing, as well as the popular 'slides' we took.. Doyle and I were like many other Shepherd Fanciers and breeders of those days.. We N EVER (to this day) had any Kennel Help... We bred, raised, trained,

conditioned and handled our Own Shepherds... We were literally, almost living in the kennels with the dogs and always were VERY CLOSE to Them!!! My Mother used to say, “ You eat and drink and sleep German Shepherds!!” ... Don’t you ever get tired of them?”

I always just smiled and said, “Mom, being with my Dogs, is as natural to me, as breathing”... She would just shake her head ... She knew I would never change... I didn’t and I haven’t...

The EARLY “ BIG” DOGS then were the Imported Ch. Pfeffer von Bern, who was owned and stood at Stud on the East Coast... He was a tan dog with a black saddle..

On the West Coast, his Half=Brother the Gray Ch.Odin von Busecker-Schloss was owned and at Stud with Sydney Heckert, Jr. in Santa Barbara, California.... Odin was considered the superior of the two, by some, including myself, particularly in motion... There is an old film somewhere of him gaitting beside a car, that is most extraordinary!! Odin and Pfeffer were half-brothers, as they shared the Same Sire...Dachs Von Bern... They were often combined in pedigrees..

Pfeffer had GREAT Influence thru the LONGWORTH lines of Lloyd Brackett , ...as he also did thru the EDGETOWNE lines of Ed LeCocq.. and ROCKY REACH lines of Margaret Pooley , and the VON SCHRIEF Lines of Ruth Schriefer... The Mi-Noah lines of Noah Bloomer...and on...

Ch. Jory of Edgetowne and his litter brother Ch. Jolly Arno of Edgetowne, called ‘Jeff’ were extremely Influential, all over the USA...Needless to say the entire GSD Breed was GREATLY influenced by Dachs von Bern, and his Sons...So, if one goes back to the Most Influential Sires in the Modern History of the GSD Breed in this country... Dachs von Bern,(particularly thru his sons... Pfeffer von Bern and ...Odin Buseckerschloss and Marlo Hoheluft)

And Axel Deininghauserheide.. , particularly thru his son Gr. Vic. Troll Richterbach and his Grandson CH. Bernd von KallengartenTroll was the Sire of Gr. Vic. Lance of Fran-Jo who is still the Most Dominant Sire today, from the Fran-Jo Kennels of Fran and Joan Ford, thru his offspring...Axel was also very Influential thru his son the Gr. Victor Axel Poldihaus...He was a very Impressive dog in motion, but not one I particularly admired.. He was a Gray with a brown undercoat.. He became very influential thru Eko-Lan offspring and the G litter (Genghis, etc.) of Llano Estacado. Kennels ..

Axel Deininghauserheide...survived thru World War 11, as he was a Border Guard Dog , one of the many that Hitler confiscated to serve in his Military Machine.. There were many other GSD’S that were kept alive only by the love of those who owned them,(and hid them at the risk of their own lives, from the Military confiscators), and who also shared their meager food and comforts with them.. Germany has always advocated no close breeding...and always had an ‘ OUTCROSS ‘ line to go to, when their bloodlines become too concentrated . A “ Back-UP , Blood- line “.. Axel was considered only as ONE of those Outcross Lines..... Axel’s Breed warnings : Soft Ears: Long Coats: Dilute colors (Blues-Livers) Troll vom

Richterbach also carried that same warning.... Troll was not of the striking rich black and red, pigment of Bernd... Troll was a Golden Tan with a black saddle..

I did not particularly like Troll..,as, to me, he lacked fore-quarter, and was not the Stallion Male that Bernd was, and lacked the strength of head..... I liked Bernd, very much, and he was one of the few Shepherds, that you could hardly fault, in my personal opinion... with the single exception that he did not like the Show ring and was a 'lazy' performer... He did pass that on...as well as an outstanding Temperament and Strong Character...Full Dentition, and an outreaching, effortless movement..

Today, we have little of Bernd left...But Troll reigns supreme thru his many , many progeny, in particular Gr. Victor Ch. Lance of Fran-Jo ROM.... That have carried on for him...thru many Kennels breeding programs, like Kaleef and Kenlyn ... As I write this I would believe, that " Ch. Kaleef's Aries of Hi-Cliff" and repeats of his breeding, are the Dominant Force in the German Shepherd Conformation lines of today , in the USA .

In the 1950's , when I came into the Breed, and long before... German Imports were exhibited with American Breds and a few English Bred Shepherds...No one thought anything about separating the Breed , as regards to their Country of Origin... If you check the old Show catalogs you will find that a Majority of the Shepherds were German Lines or Half-German.. There were, to the Breed's Advantage, many wealthy people who could afford to go, or send a person, extremely knowledgeable in the Breed, to go, to Germany and bring back Superior Imports...Many of Which were used to bring in New Blood.. and Strengthen and Enlarge the GSD Genetic pool. The long list of US Grand . Victors , and Champions, Dogs and Bitches, supports that , as many were German imports or of German Import Influence , having German Import Lines, up close on their American pedigrees..

It was a time of GREAT EXCITEMENT and Participation of MANY eager GSD Breeders and Exhibitors, many young, and eager to learn from the Wise Words of the Ones who were 'well-seasoned' in breeding GSD'S.. The entries were huge... The first GSD Specialty Puppy Match , I Judged, had 176 entries... all present.. That was great training for those of us who needed that experience to learn how to manage a Show Ring FULL of Shepherds...when we actually became AKC Judges..

Doyle and I attended the Santa Ana Valley All-Breed Kennel Club Show and there was a huge entry in German Shepherds, as usual... They were provided with the same extremely large grass ring, as was supplied at all the shows.. Some were almost the size of a Football Field.....with the usual Specialty Judges provided just for the German Shepherds, at all the Large All-Breed Shows..... Our Breed was truly the 800 pound Gorilla of all the Shows.. as our entries were so over-whelming.. People crowded more than 10 deep around the ring, to watch the exciting event of Shepherds and handlers and to witness the 'Flying Trot'....It was kin to an 'Olympic Sport Event'....

At the Santa Ana Valley Show, a particular Male entered the ring in the Open Dog Class, I was enthralled by him!!! He was a STALLION in every sense of the word and the most Beautiful ALL-MALE, Shepherd I had ever seen... I quickly checked his number to find his name in my catalog... There it was!!! . ARNO OF BERVIC . Owner: Ruth Schriefer...I asked a Lady standing there, do you know Ruth Schriefer? She answered.” Yes, she is sitting right over there “...

I walked over to Ruth, and said, “ Is that Arno of Bervic your dog? .” She politely answered me, while she was paying rapt attention to her Dog in the ring.. I said, “ I want one of his Daughters”.....She asked, “ What do you want one for?” I said..” To love and to Show and Breed’ ... She turned and looked at me, and answered, “ I have a litter coming it is a repeat ..I kept the pick female from the first litter, (which when grown was Ch. Von Schrief’s Nannette) ..So if you want the pick bitch from this coming litter, you can have it ...but you need to come to my kennel tomorrow and we can talk more about it”...She gave me her phone number and said “call me.. I want to watch the judging now, “ Big Imp” can finish today”... I asked “ Big Imp?” Is that Arno of Bervic?’ She smiled and said, ‘Yes, “ Big Imp” is his Call name’...

I wanted to be VERY SURE we were talking about ARNO of BERVIC, who that afternoon became CH. ARNO OF BERVIC...and the Beginning of Santana German Shepherds...

I could hardly wait to call Ruth and when she invited me to come over and visit her large Boarding Kennels and See her Shepherds, I was on my way... Ruthie was a rather shy person, very kind ,gentle and rather quiet, but you couldn’t miss the wisdom in those Blue Eyes of hers, that could look right thru you..... I think in my eagerness I was overwhelming, but we hit it off...She mentioned she needed to hire someone to Groom the Boarders and her Shepherds, clean kennels, feed, etcSo, that began a Life-Long Relationship...I always called her ‘ My Other Mother’....

I asked her how much a puppy would cost from the repeat litter she had coming up of Big Imp and Belgard’s Roguetta... She told me \$ 85.00 for the Pick Bitch...That was a lot of money to us, in those times... So, I asked her if I could work off the cost, taking the Job she had talked about... She smiled and said, ‘Yes’, if you really want to do it..It is a LOT of HARD WORK!!”... So, It began, the next morning...I rode my Bike to work.. We only had one car.. It was only about 5 miles away.. Her Husband..Roy, was a kind of person, who stayed to himself... He used to always stand outside the front of the Kennel, in the mornings, and watch for me... When he saw me riding up the street, , he would yell out.. “Ruthie...Here comes your Little Indian”...

Some time later, After “Roguetta” was bred to “Big Imp” I waited for the litter to arrive, very anxiously, and they did... hale and hearty... I picked Portrait out right away. Ruthie asked me “ Why that one? I said, ‘Because she looks like her Daddy to me”... and she did.... Ruthie let me take her home when she was 5 weeks old .She was nervous about it, but trusted me with her.

. So the “Cinderella Story of PORTRAIT” began...Ruthie had names for all the “P” litter , and she let me pick out the one I wanted... I choose ‘ Portrait”, because she was, to me, ‘The Picture of her Daddy”...I had no inkling of What the Future held for us, when I cradled her in my arms and took her home...I gave her the Call Name of “Marina”... Because , it suited her “One in a Million” Beautiful Presence...From the first , she went immediately to Doyle... She choose him for her Master and she adored him, all her life...and vice versa..

Portrait was Our JOY and OUR LOVE and OUR Foundation Bitch . As amazing in the Whelping Box as She was in the Show Ring!! She always was bred naturally and had litters of 12 and 11 , 9, 8, etc. with NO PROBLEMS... All whelped alive and healthy... and she raised them all herself.. She spoiled us FOREVER!!

There wasn't anything she couldn't do and do it in ‘Grand Style!’... She gave us, our “Santana's Inferno” who sired...’Santana's Darra”....(litter sister to our Ch. Santana's Deidre) Darra was bred to Great Ch. Bernd vom Kallengarten :.....

And from there>>>>>>>>> Our Greatest GSD Breeding Achievement.... Our

Dearly Beloved: INCOMPARABLE:

Champion Santana's Man O' War ROM.... “ BIG RED “

When “ Portrait”...competed at the National Specialty Show, in Dallas , Texas, under Mr. Reginald Cleveland , for USA Grand Victrix..... She moved as powerfully and as perfectly, as always, for hours, that day, in deep sandy soil..... and she had, just recently weaned her litter of ELEVEN!!!!!! 7 week old puppies.. She was out of coat, and still had some signs of nursing that entire crew that she fed, without any supplements, etc, and still she led the Class.. There was a very pretty, young female named Ch. Nanhall's Donna, who was a Texas Girl and was a Crowd favorite and in perfect show condition ...right behind her... Mr. Cleveland went to the microphone and spoke while Portrait was moving in front, of the VERY Large Class.....” Ladies and Gentlemen: PLEASE take note of this bitch in first place... You will NEVER see her likes again’ ...then, he signaled Donna ahead of Portrait, and Donna tried, but couldn't overtake and pass “Portrait”...So Mr. Cleveland had to stop the gaiting to put Donna in front, and then they started gaiting again, and he quickly, signaled Donna , Gr. Victrix and Portrait was 2nd.. .He said, over the Mike... as he passed out the ribbons...” Portrait is in 2nd place ONLY, because of her condition, as she is totally deplete of coat, having just come off a litter’.... His voice trembled with emotion... and years later, I had a letter from him, which I still have, and he said, in it..’ I wish to God, I had given Portrait Grand Victrix, that Day... an Honor , which she so richly deserved!!! “

Portrait went on to become a Top ROM Dam...and to my way of believing, a title more Important to the Breed, than Grand Victrix..

“ Fate” takes us on many Strange Journey’s

Our Ch. Von Schrief’s Portrait ROM also set a record for number of dogs defeated and became the Top Winning Specialty Show Shepherd (Dog or Bitch) in the USA in 1959 and the Number 7 TOP WORKING Group Winner in the USA in 1959...handled by William “ Bill” Hixson and Doyle Williams...Owner/Handler

There are just no words to even begin to describe her.... She was and is: “ a Once in a Lifetime Breed Phenomenon!!’....

As Reginald Cleveland put it: when awarding her BOB in a Huge GSD entry at Santa Barbara KC Show, on her way to going BEST in SHOW there..He stated to the crowd, over a mike....

“ SHE has TREMENDOUS POWER and she uses EVERYTHING She has... One’s like this, only come along ‘Once in a Lifetime’, and Only then, if we are VERY, VERY FORTUNATE!!” ...

PORTRAIT, (or ‘MARINA’, as we called her) was a Perfect “Gift from God...”

‘SHE’ WAS and WILL ALWAYS BE: “ SANTANA SHEPHERDS “

THE Alpha and Omega...