

A Blast From The Past

by Mrs Eleanor G Fischer,
President Ex-Officio
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The ATCA year 1977 started out on a happy note. The Annual Specialty saw an entry of 21 in the Sweepstakes and of 49 in the classes and no absentees!!! Probably the first time ever! What a thrilling sight it was to see so many good looking Aussies strutting their stuff!!

I was very pleased to once again be elected your President.

During the show week, I had a conference with the AKC regarding our application for membership. I came away with a very happy feeling that our long held dream would become a reality before the year was out.

The next highlight was the traveling specialty held in Albuquerque, N.M. in May. It was my very good fortune to attend it and the lovely after show cocktail party (courtesy of Dr Hathaway) and dinner (arranged by Kiku), while on my way to "Aussie Land." Mr Graham, the judge gave an interesting after dinner speech in which he brought us more good news regarding the AKC membership.

Many members, who had been just "names" before, now became faces and new friends were made. It was lovely to see such a commitment and devotion to our breed.

From there I left on my long planned trip to the Far East, ending up visiting our "down under" members and famous Aussie kennels both in Australia and New Zealand. Six new members were secured thru "missionary work." I reciprocated and became a dues paying member of the clubs in New South Wales and Queensland and the newly formed club in New Zealand. I have and still am contributing trophies to their specialty shows and matches to tighten the handclasps across the sea. One of our new members in New South Wales has already sent money for our next specialty and is planning on having a special ribbon, like a long sash, made up for a later show. This to given to "Miss Aussie of 19__". Miss America Pageant, you better watch out!

On September 13, 1977, a day to go down in history, the AKC granted us membership.
What a date to remember!

On September 15th, my official year ended as your president, as you are aware. My love for and devotion and total commitment to the breed and the club has, in no way, ended and I stand ready to help anyone in any way I can.

Some of the goals I still feel are important for us all to work on are:

1. A more active commitment by all members, Board and Officers to the Club's goals as set forth in Art. 1 of our Constitution which really sets up the basis for our being.
2. A total membership striving to see that the Aussies who achieve championship status are really good specimens of the breed by our breed standard.
3. The encouragement of more members to go into obedience where titles are based solely on how well YOU and your dog work together.
4. More of us showing our own dogs and this minimizing the commercial side and reemphasizing the hobby aspects.
5. To continue the fight against the puppy mills.

I am glad that I could see the achievements the year has brought and trust that these will only be the platform on which we build a better ATCA.

