



Tale Of The Ear goatsleap.com Quixote LaManchas

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Barbara has been interested in the history of the breed even before we purchased our first LaMancha doe.

The following is an attempt to organize and communicate what she has learned to other breeders.

prologue

This is my version of the story of the development of the American LaMancha. I have attempted to bring together informative scraps about the "prehistory" of the breed and its possible origins. I will also be emphasizing the breeders, and highlighting the does and bucks, their credentials, and their legacies.

Since I am, with my husband, an active breeder of LaManchas here in Northern California my information bank is understandably biased. We do not travel widely, however I have collected articles, written a few, and have saved breeders' advertisements from the national magazines for three decades. (My sales catalogue collection is now looking quaintly archival compared to the wonderful stuff we can access on the web.)

I felt it was important to future breeders of LaManchas to pull together as much of this public and private communication as possible before the words and pictures have faded any further.

Perhaps I am not going to provide you with any information you don't already have and some of you will object to my interpretations. I apologize in advance to anyone who feels they were slighted or misrepresented. Any prejudice or lack of knowledge on my part is only human but sincerely unintended.

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Tale Of The Ear pt1 goatsleap.com Quixote LaManchas

that mute, but very visible mutation

The genetic mutation that created the LaMancha ear is not exclusive to any particular region. "Tiny Ears" exist in many geographically disparate communities as we shall see later.

Some 40 years ago a small group of Californians was inspired to create a breed out of this offering of nature. To this date most of the rest of the goat keeping world still views these "mutants" with scepticism at least on the official level. In the US we have given them a home and have been recording their family histories for almost half a century.

The name which American breeders adopted for their short ear goats - LA MANCHA - is traceable to a label on a crate bearing a cargo of stubby ear goats. These Spanish imports were exhibited at the 1903 Paris Goat Show. The contemporaneous authority, Joseph Crepin, printed a photograph in his book LA CHEVRE of an alert dark haired doe with a pale muzzle and eye rims and, yes, those short EARS (not, however, showing the trademark bent tip.) Crepin proceeded to identify her as MANCHA and the name stuck. Unfortunately, LA MANCHAS (the usual pluralization) is not a comfortable fit with its decidedly ungrammatical look and sound. The geographic origin of the name is not the problem. Most breeds acquire their names this way. Had a "ns" been added and the "la" dropped (MANCHANS, or even LAS MANCHANS) the awkwardness could have been avoided.

This most publicized tie to a specific geographic origin for our American Lamancha is a huge mesa in southcentral Spain - the largest wine producing area in Europe - roughly bordered on the west by Toledo, the north by Cuenca, the east by Albacete and the south by Cordoba (from which the "famous" crate was shipped.) The area owes its name to the arabic language: AL MANSHA translates to "dryland." It is best known as the setting for celebrated 16th century novel DON QUIXOTE. In more recent times it has established an international reputation for the sheep milk cheese MANCHEGO.



Windmills of LaMancha

For centuries Spain has been subjected to invasions of Celts, Phoenicians, Greeks, Romans and Visigoths in addition to the dominant Moors, those arabic speaking 8th century nomads originating in Mauretania. They all arrived with livestock and doubtless left some behind on departing - creating the potential for an interesting mix of genetic material.

Although contemporary Spaniards have no official name for their short ear goats they do recognize that they are different and dub them "monas" (little monkeys) or "monadas" (cuties.) They are associated with the most numerous Spanish breed: Murcian or Granada which, as of 1975, was officially recognized as one and the same with red (Murcian) and black (Granada) varieties. The true Murcian/Granada goat carries her erect ear somewhat horizontally.

The "monas" were described by the Spanish authority R.G. Ortiz in 1953 as follows:

HEAD: shortened forehead, massive muzzle
WITHERS: pronounced, strong
RUMP: slanting, angular
UDDER: shortened, closefitting, compact
LEGS/FEET: strong
COLOR: blonde, reddish brown
SIZE: Male: 34" - 198# - Female: 30" - 143#

He also noted in reply to a written request by Tom Draper, one of the early California fanciers, that the LaMancha did not exist as a separate Spanish breed, but when these "monas" did appear they were recognized as sturdy animals as well as excellent milkers. Another authority, Pedro Valera of Murcia, in response to a USDA inquiry in 1972, "There is no breed of goat in Spain with ears such as you describe. The breed with the shortest and the most erect ear is the Murciana...what occurs in this breed, and some others, is the presence of some mutation which dominates. But this is a mutation which is undesirable. These are culled." He enclosed a photo of a group of Murcianas including one whose ears were slightly shorter and set more vertically than the others.

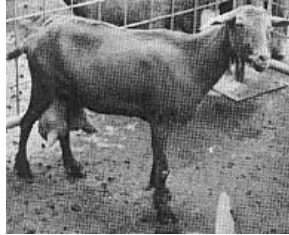
Crepin in LA CHEVRE describes characteristics of the Murcian breed which many decades later could also be considered characteristics - for better or for worse - of many American LaManchas:

HIGH BUTTERFAT MILK: "exquisite flavor"

PUTS ON WEIGHT EASILY: "stout and plump"

EXTREMELY HARDY: "adapted to every terrain."

He goes on to gush, "The Murcian, whose harmoniousness of overall appearance is noteworthy, is undoubtedly the most attractive of all goats." What smitten LaMancha breeder could disagree?



Murcian Doe

One strikingly negative trait of this putative ancestor is the set to the teats: "pointing forward and outward." Many authorities have noted the typical lowslung udder with weak medial ligament and "sheepy" teats of the Murcian.

Hopefully this look has been bred out - forever - in American LaManchas if indeed it was embedded in the genes in the first place.

Whether the ear mutation had one, presumably Iberian source, or many is probably unknowable and irrelevant. A variety of "sightings" makes the question continually interesting.

Valerie Porter in her GOATS OF THE WORLD reports that descendants of Murcian imports exist in Brazil, Mexico and other parts of Latin America. She mentions two Brazilian subtypes with tiny external ears: Nambi ("without ears") and Muvo ("nouveau".) Brazilians recognize style when they see it!

Excepting the foregoing references to New World imports most of the citations referring to goats resembling LaManchas are indigenous to an area roughly grouped around the 40th parallel from Spain through the Mediterranean/Black Sea basin to the Caspian Sea.

One possible exception is an African variety noted in Countryside Magazine (1977): "A LaMancha breeder reports the visit to her farm of a foreign student from Ethiopia. He recognized the goats. There were goats like that back home. Later the breeder happened to see a travelogue on television featuring Ethiopia. There was a brief glimpse of very fat, short legged, GOPHER EARRER goats!"

Likewise the well known American livestock expert, George Thompson, reports in 1904 concerning a reference to a "goat found in Abyssinia (Ethiopia) with a convex facial structure and a very short, straight, pointed ear.

Before we leave the continent of Africa a curious reference to the Zaraibi goat of Egypt should be noted. In the 1926 Year Book of the British Goat Society in an article about this nubian type is the following: "Strangely, enough, some of these goats are born with small, almost abortive, pricked up ears."!!!

I can report two film sightings somewhat closer to the 40th parallel. Sitting in the local movie theatre watching a documentary (People of the Wind - UK/Iran 1976) about the Baktari tribe on their annual migration across the Zagros mountains, I spied among the lopeared/piebald kids cavorting on the stony paths an elf ear creature curiously familiar. I sat through this movie twice just to make sure I was seeing what I thought I was seeing - "an Iranian LaMancha."



At least a decade later while watching yet another television travelogue - this time on Turkey - I found myself observing the children of nomads playing with their goats and once again the familiar face pops up. The photographer was so charmed that I was able to capture on tape a closeup of what must have been a representative of the Kurdish branch of the LaMancha family: a small, longhaired, black goat with white GOPHER ears, a white muzzle and graceful horns, probably an offshoot of the same gene pool as the "Iranian kid."

The island of Cyprus in the eastern Mediterranean is home to a breed of large, shorthaired, white goat (MACHAERA) at a monastery in the Troodos mountains. It is known locally as Aspri Tou or Aspri Mitou - the later meaning "white short eared." In the British Goat Society Journal (February/March 1994) this goat is described as having "almost non-existent ears." A photo verifying this description accompanies the article. These does apparently produce rather small quantities of milk of approximately 5.5% butterfat and 5% protein and appear to be highly uniform (inbred.)

The English Golden Guernsey breed is said to have as its origin the Syrian goat whom "ancient writers" suggested had ears which turned upwards and outwards at their extremities. Our expert Crepin refers to the tips of the Syrian goats' ears as being very wrinkled and bending outward. He also mentions goats with "very short ears" being imported to Haifa (close to Cyprus!) from Malta and Spain.

In 1996 the well-known dairy goat breeder and judge, Jennifer Bice, was invited to Latvia and Poland as a technical consultant to local breeders. She saw a few animals that looked suspiciously like LaManchas. Her hosts were not eager to display them and referred to them as "deformed" - laughingly suggesting that they were "chernobyl" mutants since one or more had presumably originated in the Ukraine, scene of the nuclear disaster. They otherwise resembled their herdmates, reported Jennifer, who assured her hosts that Americans admired and cultivated these "oddballs."

In the course of a judging trip to Mexico City in the 1990's LaMancha breeder and judge, Dan Laney, uncovered another chapter in the story of the heritability of the LaMancha ear. He visited a large goat ranch in a rather remote area. The aging aristocratic owner pointed out - amongst the Alpine does - a small group of elf ear does with the characteristic "bent tip" to their ears. In 1972 a five month old LaMancha buckling had bred 10 Alpine type does and promptly died. No other LaMancha buck had ever been used: convincing testimony to the remarkable potency of the mutant ear.



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the hundred some years before registration

Several years ago while collecting material on Angora goats I stumbled across the following passage in a rather old book: SHEPARD'S EMPIRE by Town and Wentworth:

"In 1846 a battalion of Mormons under Captain Philip St. George Cooke was assigned to break a wagon road to the coast from the southwest. His journal notes: "...Tesson killed in the mountains two of the domestic goats with CROPPED EARS. They were very wild, stolen - I suppose - then lost by the Indians."

Perhaps Captain Cooke got it wrong like those who attend county fairs and frequently accuse us LaMancha exhibitors of cropping our goats' ears. Maybe these too were actually born that way.

Domesticated goats in the southwest and western territories probably accompanied the successive waves of Spanish conquistadors and missionaries who arrived by land and by sea. All we really know is that goats were not indigenous to this part of the world. But there they were - and are - with, or without, "traditional" ears.

In the Sierra foothills of Northeastern California angoras and meat goats have been herded, together with sheep flocks led by Basque shepards, for many decades. Tiny ear kids frequently appeared among them and still do. These animals were not used for dairy purposes and may have been "bred" - to use the term loosely - for meat and to suckle bummer lambs.

We do know that at the end of the 19th century a Miss Phoebe Wilhelm in these same Sierra foothills (Mokelumne Hill) was milking dairy goats including several short ear does. Apparently she never used short ear bucks for breeding. It is known that early on she used Toggenburg bucks from the well known herd of Jane S. White. After 1930 purebred Alpine and Nubian bucks from the Blue Ribbon herd of Mrs. C.R. John were added to the mix. Obviously Phoebe was a lady who kept up with the times.

Sometime between 1935 - 1940 she died and the Goodridges of "RioLinda" goat reknown purchased 125 of her animals. According to Edith Goodridge about half carried gopher ears and the other half elf. She also noted - somewhat cryptically - that after 30-40 years of breeding LaMancha does with long ear bucks the "LaMancha type" ear persisted.

Some of the Wilhelm does were sold to a Mrs. Brashear of Weimar (NE of Sacramento.) In all likelihood she bred only LaManchas. In the beginning she used Alpine and Saanen bucks out of heavy producers

and in her later phase, only LaMancha type bucks. Again according to Mrs. Goodridge - "Mrs. Brashear was a skillfull breeder keeping only the LaMancha doe kids from eight quart dams." It is significant that up until the early 1940's there is no other reference to anyone attempting to breed "type to type" to establish a true breeding short-ear goat.

In 1937 (September) Eula Fay Frey and her husband, Jene, purchased the Poplar Goat Dairy in Bell (SE of Los Angeles) which included 130 resident goats. Two had very small ears: a small roan doe and her young son, "Tommy," who was to be used on does from whom they had did plan to keep kids. "Rose" - a tricolored Nubian Alpine cross was the last doe bred to him. On May 23, 1938 Rose produced a "golden-brown, curly haired, short ear doe kid with very large eyes." For whatever reason they decided to keep her, named her "Peggy" and she became Fay's pride and joy. She was taught several tricks. Louise Erbe of K-Lou fame remembered seeing Mrs. Frey parading her around on a leash. No doubt, she was thought to be eccentric. Peggy was the start of something interesting in the official goat world: The first and only American-made breed of dairy goat.

Nesta with friend



1940 Fay purchased - from the Goodridges - a LaMancha doe she named "Nesta." Peggy and Nesta, both of which she thought were beautiful and very productive, were destined to become matriarchs of the "Fay" LaMancha herd. (Mrs. Frey's story - in her own words - was published in the January 1960 Dairy Goat Journal.)

Fay bred her LaMancha does to purebred bucks of

the Alpine, Toggenburg, Saanen, and Nubian breeds as well as a Nubian/French Alpine buck and a bright red Nubian/Murcian buck, "Christopher." She remarked on the fine flavored, rich-in- butterfat, milk of the Murcian breed and regretted not saving more of Christopher's male descendants. She credited Mr./Mrs. Harry Gordon as the owners of the Murcian who was the sire or dam of Christopher.

By 1954 she had bred and kept quite a number of LaMancha type buck kids and after 1957 consistently bred only LaMancha to LaMancha. In the same period she purchased 36 LaManchas from Ira Peel, a breeder/dairyman, who had acquired them at a sale. She culled most of the does and kept only one of the seven bucks.

Significantly Fay Frey thought she recognized more than just a "look" in the tiny ear goats. She formulated a standard having special relevance for dairying:

"A doe that would be able to produce 3 1/2 to 6 quarts of fine flavored milk with 3.5% or more butterfat over a period of 1-3 years after freshening. She would have the two-way wedge body, strong legs, well placed, udder well attached, both front and back, good barrel, short hair, any color or combination, horned or hornless, and near the size of Toggenburgs."

Mrs. Frey was not alone for long in publicly promoting the merits of the earless "wonders." A few active supporters came forward although for many years there were many more naysayers and the

scornful - in the dairy goat world as well as the general public - who disliked the "thrifty" or "something missing" look.

By 1953 Mrs. Brashear had died and her LaManchas were back in the hands of the Goodridges who sold (or gave) Tom Draper of Chico (north of Sacramento) two sets of twin does (2/white and 2/chamoisee) and their sire from this group. This was the start of Tom's adventures with his Blue Diamond LaManchas which he detailed with great enthusiasm in a Dairy Goat Journal article - January 1974.

He and fellow breeder John Lutes showed off their mixed and inbred milkers and kids at the Chico Silver Dollar Fair (May 20, 1954) and at the Sacramento Fairgrounds (June 6, 1954.) Draper describes the experience:

"They were very controversial. There was admiration for their grace and beauty. The does stood square and straight with beautiful, closeup, round, well balanced udders. They were very alert, but quiet and gentle. Spectators commented

....."The kids are so cute, but you cruel thing, why did you cut off their ears."

Tom's cheerleading style led to the founding of the first LaMancha breed organization - California LaMancha Breeders Club - in 1953. Mrs. Frey was elected President and Draper, Secretary. There were five other members identified (Lutes, Foss, Dean, Wolf and Brown.) Within three years they had secured a promise from AMGRA (ADGA's earlier name) to open a herd book. Secretary Robert Soen's letter dated February 29, 1956 stated "the herd book had been approved by the association and was ready for entries whenever the club and the inspection committee could supply certified initial animals."

Some of the early Draper LaManchas ended up in the herd of a Saanen breeder, Mrs. Schmidt. This herd was sold to Dolores Dunlap (Midolane) who operated a dairy in Stockton for a relatively short period of time. These animals (or more probably their descendants) are interesting because many were inspected and became "basic stock" in the second wave which might explain why many of the Midolane LaManchas were white, especially the bucks who, at least in this herd, were not required to be gopher eared.

Draper can be credited with suggesting the tail tattoo as an alternative for a breed with an ear too small for the conventional tattoo.

The following 1956 statement by him is illustrative of the depth of his observations.

"An important characteristic of the LaMancha is her adaptability. She will adapt to any condition or circumstance. She is docile, quiet, loving but independant, a good feeder, congenial in a herd and a steady milker. She is not a flash producer, in fact, you won't notice her especially in the first months, but when your other milkers begin to drop down, she will attract your attention with a steady flow and good fleshing... (You may not react pleasantly to them on sight - but you will when you see how fine they are in behavior, appearance and productivity.)"

It is interesting to note that both Draper and later Louise Erbe (private communication) referred to these early LaManchas of being

of more than one type. Mrs Erbe described one type as "long bodied and real dairy", and the others as "the fat ones: heavier boned, shorter legged with high, round udders." She also said she culled heavily at first and admired their good temperment and non-fussy attitude about eating.

Dr. C.P. DeLangle, the American importer of the basic French Alpine stock, in writing about the Murcia, the presumed common ancestor, in the August 1921 issue of "The Goat World" states: The true Murcien goat, is one, if not, the handsomest goat known. It is a made-up breed like most all important goats." As we advance into the 21th century American LaMancha breeders struggle to make their "madeup" breed into "the most handsome goat known." Knowing more about their predecessors efforts can't help but make the adventure more interesting.



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Quixote LaManchas

laying the foundation

During the 1930's Hard Times Economics and Purebred Concepts collided; the North American dairy goat world was rent apart with the adoption by AMGRA of the "Tenth Cross Rule" which allowed goats with ten generations of purebred sires behind them to be registered as purebreds. (SAANEN ROOTS - Alan Rogers - pages 26,27)

To the AMGRA loyalists it made sense to figure a way to retrieve more goats for the herdbooks which would - at the same time - keep the association solvent. Those purists who could not live with this "heresy" departed forming the American Goat Society. A bitter battle ensued.

For the record: it was known that the Swiss, from whom Americans imported Saanen, Toggenburg and Alpine stock, had never put much store in written pedigrees for their breeds. Regular inspections by "experts" were considered more than adequate to designate breed differences which in most cases came down to color preferences. Anglo Nubians - imported from Great Britain - arrived with pedigrees which clearly indicated that their imported lop eared exotic bucks had been crossed with either British Alpines or - early on - native stock (NUBIAN HISTORY - Reinhardt & Hall - page 70)

This philosophical (or maybe just semantic) problem was not resolved, but the registry door now stood slightly ajar. Opportunity knocked and a new "breed" whose uniqueness was her mutant ear stepped over the threshold.

On January 27, 1958 AMGRA inspection of the goats which were to become the first registered LaManchas finally began after a delay -for reasons unknown, but perhaps because Fay Frey was in the process of relocating to Southern Oregon - of two years from the date of the announcement of intent.

The inspectors were AMGRA president Marvin Maxwell (Delta), N.S. Goodridge (Rio Linda), Ted Johnson (Gold Crown - Oregon inspections only) and Donovan Beal (Naja - California inspections only.) How restrictive the inspections were - any candidates rejected? - has never been clarified.

The initial group of approximately 28 Fay LaManchas included 9 polled bucks and 2 horned or disbudded ones. An odd fact considering how few polled LaManchas are seen 40+ years later. (In the smaller Midolane group - which we will discuss later- one buck, Prince II and some of his progeny were polled.)

There are no known dates for the succeeding Frey inspections following the first 28 in 1958, however all these registrants (L1 through L183) have Fay prefixes with the exception of 10 animals

with Bomar prefixes all of whom have registered Fay sires and dams. The AMGRA secretary, R.W. Soens (Bomar) moved a small group including 8 does and one polled white buck, Fay's Stevie L138p, to North Carolina putting them on DHR test in 1958. We will return to their story later.

The majority of the first 118 registration numbers were assigned to animals with either one of both parents

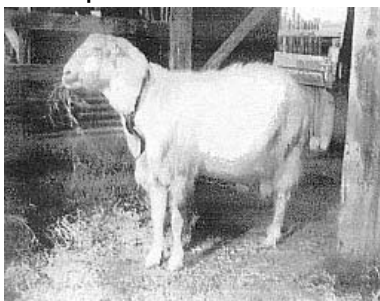
designated "unknown." A few had parents "named" with lower registry numbers. (In the later Midolane and Blue Diamond groups some parents are named but not given registry numbers - presumably because they were not offered for inspection or even alive at that time.) The last Fay goat to be registered with a parent listed as "unknown" was L118p Tammy born in 1957, which would imply that there was no further need for inspection of Fay animals.

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Fay's Ernie L1p

Approximately 1/4 of the first 78 LaManchas registered were sired by Fay's Ernie L1p, a tall, "wedgy", straightfaced, light colored buck - born 4-16-48 - only 10 years after the Frey's had first encountered LaManchas.



According to Mrs. Frey most of her foundation herd had "regular" (elf) ears and "cookie" ears (her name for elf ears with a reverse tip) and the rule to register only "gopher" (apparently also a term which originated with Mrs. Frey) ear bucks was made only in 1960. This rule did not disqualify bucks with "regular" (elf) ears that had been registered prior to 1960. The reason for this rule was to eliminate the possibility of a throw back to the standard: prick (swiss) or lop (nubian) ear.

There is no record of her making any comment about breeding gopher to gopher ear individuals which we now know will, invariably, only produce more gopher progeny without any serious possibility of a throw back to elf ears. She did however make a distinction between a "long" and "short" gopher ear. A distinction which is apparently now too vague to be relevant.

The gopher ear is a rounded, wrinkled fold of skin lying quite flat to the skull with a triangulated "pixie" tip flap with limited mobility. The elf ear, which is essentially a marker of crossbreeding, stands out from the head, indicating the presence of cartilage. It also must carry the trademark bent "pixie" tip associated with the gopher ear. The maximum length allowable and just how to measure that length on the elf ear has continued to be controversial. Anything measuring much over 2 inches at maturity and measured when the ear is NOT stretched out appears to be unacceptable.

The few surviving (unposed) photographs of Fay Frey's crossbred does show images of rather ordinary, dairy type. grade goats with longish, but obviously, LaMancha style elf ears. The udders were clearly not well attached. Perhaps there were good udders within this large group, but the photographic evidence is not available to us. It should be noted that prior to this time there was not much agreement on uniformity of good type in the other breeds either. Udder

improvement on a consistent basis was the biproduct of several developments which began to gather steam in the 1960s.

There is no indication that Mrs. Frey ever showed her LaManchas competitively - although she apparently loved to "show them off."



Fay Frey wearing a sunbonnet and driving a team of matched cou noir LaMancha wethers pulling a miniature covered wagon in the Oregon Centennial parade on June 20, 1959.

ADGA paused at the end of the decade to recognize Fay Frey's truly original contribution to the world of dairy goats. On October 15, 1960 at their annual banquet held in Springfield IL Mrs. Frey was presented with the Mary L. Farley award: "In recognition of her years of work in developing the LaMancha breed." She was so surprised that her many friends had difficulty convincing her that she was worthy of the highest award they could bestow on her.



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expanding the range

In the summer of 1953 when eight Californians banded together to form a club devoted to promoting the American LaMancha they were appealing to two types of goat keepers:

- 1) The family seeking a troublefree, easy keeper with tasty milk.
- 2) The smallscale dairyman seeking does producing high butterfat milk throughout a nearly level lactation of long duration.

(The fancier/hobbyist with stars in her eyes and a show schedule in her pocket was not far behind.)

For the next 35 years or so California goat dairying in all its permutations was a boom or bust affair - mostly the later. (Only in the 1990's did the demands of the newly arrived cheesemakers begin to stabilize the business to a modest extent.)

Throughout the 1950's and 60's the experiences of Tom Draper and his family exemplified this capricious economy as they and their goats moved from place to place. To his credit through all his travail - and it got worse in 1969 - his love of the LaMancha never wavered. His enthusiasm and energy made a difference. As secretary of this, for the moment, regionally based club he exhorted the faithful to "send in your news and dues."

Some of the names and herd prefixes of those who owned LaManchas in the late 1950's and early 1960's are known to us but few of their stories have been handed down. The exceptions which stand out are Soens (Bomar), Nixons (Nixon's), Considine (Diamond), Tates (Law-Zel), Erbe (K-Lou) and of course Tom Draper (Blue Diamond.)

1960 was a banner year for the LaMancha fancy. Their most visible breeder - Fay Frey - had been honored by her peers. Secondly the first LaMancha Dairy Herd Improvement Records were published in the 1960 AMGRA Handbook and two Lamancha doelings were sold for the first time at the seventh national "Spotlight Sale" sponsored by AMGRA.

The milk records were made in the North Carolina herd of AMGRA secretary Robert Soens. Four aging does (5&6 years) had endured a long journey and a change of environment. True to their reputation they averaged nearly a gallon of milk/day containing well over 4% butterfat for 10 months:

Fay's Blondie *M L36 - 2544# milk 118.5#butterfat
Fay's Pollyette *M L63 - 2454# milk 113.4# butterfat

Fay's Saucy Flossie *M L45 - 2308# milk 106.7# butterfat
Fay's MaryLou *M L 18 - 2096# milk 91.9# butterfat

The Soens were also credited with consigning the first LaMancha -Bomar Blondie's Golden Queen L165 - to the Spotlight Sale where she sold for \$95 to a Florida breeder. Secretary Soens then turned that \$95 over - making the winning bid for Fay's Meena L162. Mrs Frey's consignment, Meena, was described as "Black sprinkled with white, silver nose and ears, white in face and behind left shoulder!"

The third breeder to register Lamanchas with his herdname was southern Californian Amos Nixon who early on was "taken" with the breed according to his daughter Sheila Nixon, whose 4H success had driven the family's goat dairying commitments.

Their growing multi-breed herd was augmented with seven does and one buck purchased from Fay Frey at about the time of the initial inspections. The buck was Fay's Randy L91 and the does were named Myrna, Spider, Ava, Mea, Icy and Skeeter, most of whom also earned DHIR stars later on. Prior to the Midolane inspections in 1961 the Nixon's acquired the buck Fay's Ringo L183 and several more Fay does.

Meanwhile in that other dairy state - Wisconsin - goat dairying entrepreneur, Harvey Considine, was not content to sit on the sidelines merely observing the west coast LaMancha phenomenon. He made a pilgrimage to the Frey family Oregon mountain top ranch not once, but twice. First in the early 1960's to select a group of Lamanchas (40 in number?) to inaugurate his enterprise: promoting the earless ones in the eastern half of the continent. The second time occurred soon after Mrs. Frey's death in 1968 to relieve her heirs of the remnants of her pioneering stock. The Fay/Bomar animals were also, in time, to find a home at the Considines' Diamond Goat Dairy.

Harvey promoted LaManchas in the same style as his predecessors. He wrote about their purported adaptability as "easy keepers", their high butterfat potential and their signature long, level lactations. He added an extra twist suggesting that LaManchas should be crossbred and the offspring graded-up since the American LaMancha was the only breed free of the prejudice burdening the other breeds when "graded-up." "American" was the endpoint in status for the LaMancha. He bred LaMancha bucks to "good grades" and "poor purebreds" and he liked the results.

As a practical dairyman the observations he made make sense:

"Another desirable trait is their good dairy dispositions. While they enjoy attention, they are relatively independant and like to spend their time eating and making milk. They are usually very businesslike - come into the milking parlor, eat and get milked, then back to their pens with a minimum tendency to dawdle (like Saanens) or get into mischief (like Toggenburgs.)

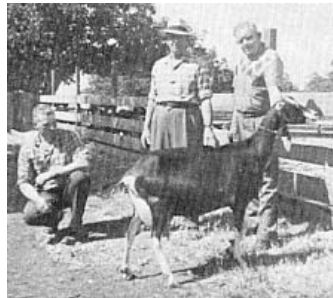


Tale Of The Ear pt5 goatsleap.com Quixote LaManchas

the next wave

On May 8, 1961 over three years after the initial group of 28 Fay LaManchas were inspected and registered as "Basic LaManchas" another group of approximately 23 was presented for inspection that was to have an equal (or greater) impact on the future of the breed.

Midolane Little Francis with inspection team.



Nubian breeder Dolores Dunlap and her family had acquired a dairy in Stockton along with some - in residence - LaMancha type goats. She gave these animals her prefix - Midolane - and sold them after they had been certified as "Basics." Apparently she had little - or nothing - to do with their breeding. A little

sleuthing reveals that they were apparently the descendants of the Schmidt LaManchas as we had noted in an earlier section.

To recapitulate: the Brashear stock which originated from the Wilhelm stock and which, Tom Draper had acquired eight years earlier from the Goodridges had - in part - been given to Mrs Schmidt ("Ma Schmidt") a Saanen breeder, who in turn sold the herd to the Stockton (Fawnhoff?) dairy whose new owners were the Dunlaps. In all probability these animals had some of the same ancestors - many generations back - as the doe, "Nesta" which Mrs Frey had acquired from the Goodridges.

It is worth remembering, however, that both crossbreeding and LaMancha to LaMancha breeding had been practiced by all of these successive breeders and each in some - now unknowable - way had stamped their own preferences on these animals.

A few other herdnames show up in this inspection - notably "Red Gables" (Mr/Mrs Clair Taylor - Manteca CA.) There is little indication that these animals represent new strains.

The Erbe family (K-Lou) and Larry and Hazel Tate (Law-Zel) snapped up the Midolane offerings apparently at the time of inspection. Since they were both experienced dairy people and established breeders these animals were in trustworthy hands.

The polled white buck - Midolane Prince II L204p - was the sire or paternal brother of most of these LaManchas. His sire was Midolane's Old Prince (unregistered) and his dam was Tom's Frenchy (unregistered.) That name being yet another indication of the origin of these animals.

The first Law-Zel herdsire: Midolane Prince Charming L212 was sired by Prince II and his dam was Midolane Frances I L197 who was black with white spots. Her sire was identified as "Tom Draper's buck" and her dam was "Mama's Girl."

The first K-Lou herdsire: Midolane Country Gentleman L217 was a "snow-white" kid with elf ears. He also was sired by Prince II and his dam was Midolane Francine L201p who was sired by (guess who!) Prince II. Francine's dam was Little Francis who, as we shall see, was probably the most important individual in this part of the story.

Midolane Little Francis L198 was the daughter of Old Prince and Frances I. K-Lou became the owner of Little Francis and her daughters: Francine and Starr. Law-Zel became the owners of her daughters: Fandango and Flirt. These four does were all sired by Prince II. Little Francis' paternal brother. It is now apparent that the lineage of this group of animals is as intertwined as the ancient Egyptian royals. The Erbe's and the Tates' were dividing up a very tight gene pool. As Mrs. Erbe said, "we culled alot, especially in the beginning."

(We will take up the legacy of the Law-Zel LaManchas later but suffice to say their approach was more insular than that of the Erbe's.)

Little Francis (sometimes spelled Frances) was a black doe with cream trim in the typical sundgau, or black and tan, pattern. She had an impressive cream muzzle, cream face striping widening above the eyes and cream elf ears. Her head is striking: resembling the "monkey or "mona" look associated with the Spanish does imported into France at the beginning of the century.

Needless to say these markings are not exclusive to the LaMancha, her ancestors or her descendants. However, the modification of the prick/lop ears to elf/gopher ears has the effect of placing more emphasis on the large eye and broad domed forehead which are also associated with the LaMancha breed and when combined with the "Little Francis Pattern" can create a different and distinct look which some affectionately call the "monkey face."

Midolane Little Francis

In 1962 - only one year after she had officially become a "Basic LaMancha" Little Francis defeated 30 (!) other LaManchas to become - at the age of five years - the first LaMancha National Champion. The show was held in Pomona CA and was judged by the Texas nubian breeder, George Proctor (Cadillac Farms.) Her well proportioned body, femininity, and shapely udder lead to a repeat of her triumphs the next year under judge Andrew Stewart. She never achieved permanent champion status, possibly because of the dearth of officially sanctioned shows. She did acquire the *M tag, although I have been unable to discover whether it is awarded on the basis of her own milk records or her progenys' records.

It is clear that her real gifts to the breed were her offspring: five daughters and one grandson. To reiterate - her first daughter -Francine - was the dam of Country Gentleman. Her second daughter - Starr - was bred to a Country Gentleman son - Night Raider -producing K-Lou Longden Acres Night Starr, whose notable daughters' story belongs in the Nancy Lake (Longden Acres) section. Arguably her most important daughter was K-Lou Velvet L257, whose sire was Country Gentleman. This truly linebred Little Francis daughter was

described by Louise as "long bodied and real dairy." She was bred to Nixon's Casper L512 (2nd generation Nixon buck from pure Fay ancestors) producing Velveteen who became a National Champion at the age of two years in 1970 defeating 114 other does. Her name is sprinkled throughout succeeding K-Lou pedigrees.

K-Lou N. Velvet Star, the dam of one of the most dominant bucks in the breed - Antares M. Voyager - comes down from Velveteen on all four branches of her family and - in fact - her dam's dam was Velveteen in person. Voyager's sire's line was mostly derived from Fay stock, however, it's a good bet Little Francis' offspring would eventually show up there too in the early K-Lou outcrosses if one did a pedigree search.

At least three other Midolane does left permanent tracks in later K-Lou pedigrees. Lucy L196 was described by Louise as "heavier boned, shorter legged and with a high, round udder." She had gopher ears and was marked like Little Francis, her paternal sister. Her dam's name was "DirtyFace"! Bred to the short lived Leprachaun, a Little Francis/Night Raider son she produced Rumpelstilskn L673 whose sons became premier sires in these herds: Diamond & Semper Fidelis (K-Lou Diablo), Laurelwood (K-Lou Flasher), Goat City & Clovertop (K-Lou Macho.) She was also the dam of K-Lou Springtime L258 who was the first LaMancha permanent champion and the fourth National Champion in 1965.

Midolane Dominette, a black/white spotted doe became the dam of K-Lou Nightraider L259, first important homebred Erbe buck, and the double granddam of K-Lou Twinkle L521, the sixth LaMancha National Champion. Midolane Minette L213, Dominette's daughter by her sire -Prince II - became the dam of K-Lou Tootsieroll L384, the fifth LaMancha National Champion.

A dark brown/white doe of unknown parentage - Erbe's Betty L193 -was the only "Basic" registered by the Erbe's. This doe appears to be the beginning of a strong female line as her progeny and grand progeny appear many times in the early K-Lou pedigrees.

K-Lou LaManchas dominated the show scene throughout the sixties and provided seed stock for those who admired their animals and the work they had done culling and consolidating the gene pool they had inherited from their predecessors. Their story is a continuing one and will be taken up later.



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diamond blues

On June 10 1961, one month after the Midolane inspections, four Blue Diamond does - Tia, Teresa (also spelled Terise), Kitty and Nita - and one buck - Nino - were admitted to the AMGRA registry. Tom Draper's friend, Al Meeder, who was caring for them in San Bernardino CA, had transported them to Norco for the inspection.

Although sires and dams are recorded for these animals and Tom did publish some notes about their breeding, it is next to impossible to follow the mating trail as these animals were moved from northern California through the Central Valley to southern California. This much is clear: Tom was philosophically committed to inbreeding. He also outcrossed to other breeds - principally Toggenburgs - when backed into a corner, which seemed to be happening with alarming frequency as his small herd was moved from place to place.

His favorite doe, Teresa, great granddaughter of a LaSuisse Saanen buck, was bred to Meeder's Toggenburg buck which produced "Manuel." Blue Diamond Nino L222 was the offspring of Manuel and his dam, Teresa.

That, at least, is one scenario. The other is that Nino was the son of Meeder's Togg buck (comment written on granddaughter's registration paper.) I am writing about this now because up until recent times many parentage questions have arisen which were not amenable to resolution. It is also true that not everyone keeps careful records. Now that blood typing is accessible to anyone who wishes to use the technology when a question arises in the future it can be resolved. Honest mistakes are one thing. Integrity is another. Accuracy in a pedigree is the only justification for keeping these records in the first place.

Some time during the 60's Draper purchased a few Fay does. A story suggesting he wanted to add more "red" color to his stock may be true, however the buck he also acquired - Fay's Jerri Andi L567 was decidedly black and white in a broken "cou noir" pattern. (I have been unable to obtain any other specific information about Draper in the period 1961-69.)

October 15, 1969 marked a turning point in Tom's impassioned involvement with LaManchas. A serious truck accident brought to an abrupt halt his California dairying ventures. The story is both sad and confusing. I do know the herd was divided between Tomahawk Ranch in Ukiah and Laurelwood Acres in Ripon. Over time several of these animals and their descendants flourished and provided seed to many small herds.

Tom recovered from his injuries and moved out of state, eventually making a home in Florida. Almost exactly four years after his accident nine does and one buck were returned to him by the Nordfelts (Laurelwood Acres.) He lived until January 29, 1987 maintaining sporadic contact with breeders he had known from earlier times. His herdname - Blue Diamond - has still not been given exclusive "historic" status by the American Dairy Goat Association. It needs to happen soon.

Coulter R Nieta Julie

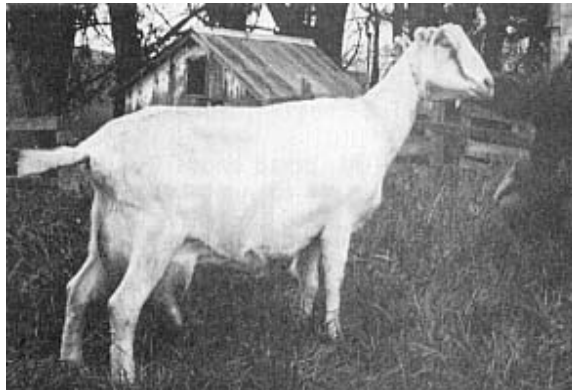


"Swiss Miss" (Al Meeder's herdname) and "Coulter R" (Ed Coulter's herdname) appear on some early LaManchas registrations. All of these goats derive, apparently, from Blue Diamond stock. Doreen Ross (Goat City and Free Lance) also, using similar stock slipped in and out of the LaMancha orbit in this time period. The large, white buck - K-Lou Macho - provided a counterpoint to Doreen's use of Blue Diamond genes.

Many of the best of the Blue Diamond does found a home at Mary Stefani's Tomahawk Ranch. Blue Diamond Barri L1130, a red and white Jerri Andi son, became her first herd sire. With the help of her daughter, Nancy Turner, she milk tested, exhibited, advertized and sold kids nationwide.

Her foundation stock, which included some of Tom's Fay acquisitions had a different look from the K-Lou/Nixon/Longden Acres LaManchas, which were dominating the show scene in that period. They were mostly large framed does: chamoisees, red or black with white paint. Their heads often lacked breed character and could be coarse and undistinguished, but they stood on strong feet and legs and projected plenty of dairy character.

Tomahawk's Faith



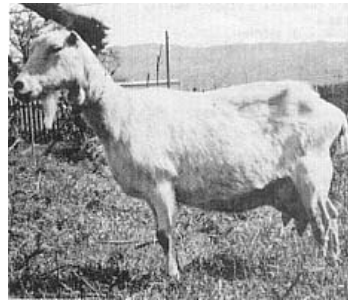
Many milked very well. Tomahawk's Faith L1406, Steven Schack's (Companeros) first LaMancha, became the All-Time LaMancha production record holder in 1974 having milked 3408# starting at one year/11 months. Faith, a Barri daughter, who fit the proceeding description rather well, died suddenly or doubtless she would have exceeded her previous record.

In 1976 a Jerri Andi daughter, Tomahawk's Feather L1151, tied for butterfat production with a 141# record made at the age of four years. Feather stood out in the showring, when she was exhibited by

her owner, Nancy's daughter Heidi. She was big, she was deep red with splashy white paint, and she had a capacious udder. Unfortunately this udder was adorned with rather small "sheep" teats, angled to the outside. Mercifully these dysfunctional teats were bred out in the succeeding generations. Her granddaughter, Tomahawk's Chick-A-Dee, became the dam of Redwood Hills J Chickory, one of the more successful bucks in the breed.



Tomahawk's Feather

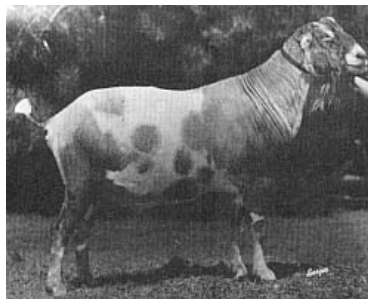


Tomahawk's Tan Spots

Two of the longest running shows on the LaMancha stage got their start with, among others, Tomahawk stock. Both of these small herds were headed by mothers with growing children, careers and a persistent devotion to their LaManchas. They helped to promote the breed by volunteering in the American LaMancha Club and they purchased stock from far away places when it wasn't so common to do so. The Washington "Ever Lovin" herd is the pride of Mary Curry (previously Vickery) and her family. I am sure it is aptly named. Ruth Anne Barker of Vermont owns the Revelation herd. She is famous for her entertaining, politically correct sales lists. She claims her animals are highly evolved spiritually. My impression is that Ruth Anne is very evolved.

The Blue Diamond contingent at Laurelwood Acres Goat Diary was headed up by Jerri Andi and his six month old son, Blue Diamond Busy Boy L1054, who grew to truly live up to his name. By the time he was eight years old he had at least 60 registered daughters and six sons, more or less. And the numbers continued to climb in the ADGA Handbooks for the next couple years. Harvey Considine, who was an ADGA classifier at the time, classified him: Excellent 94 at the age of nine years and at the age of seven had awarded him "Best Buck in Show." The Nordfelts seemed to particularly enjoy showing this buck whose skin was as wrinkled as a Shar Pei's.

Blue Diamond Busy Boy



Several of Busy Boy's sons, most of which were owned by Laurelwood, became permanent champions. But alas, apparently only one of his daughters made the "permanent grand champion" grade in the showing and she was owned and shown in Washington. To be fair a few of the does had show wins, but none were memorable for good type. Even Flouncy, the daughter of GCH K-Lou Bouncy, was a lesser

doe than her dam. It is not hard to understand why other breeders were not lining up to use Busy Boy on their does, especially those who were looking for mammary improvements.

Some of the milk records his daughters made were remarkable, especially for a commercial dairy the size of Laurelwood, but most were a just a bit better than average with butterfat averages on the high side. A few achieved " Breed Leader" status, but so did daughters of other LaMancha bucks domiciled at Laurelwood that were not used as heavily.

The Erbe's dairying efforts experienced a serious financial setback some time in the early 1970's and several K-Lou does and at least one buck were picked up by Laurelwood. I asked Louise why some does with K-Lou prefixes were sired by bucks owned by Laurelwood as it had not been their practice to use these bucks in the past. She explained to me that the registration papers for their dams had not been transferred before the breeding season had gotten underway.

The bucks, K-Lou Flasher L932 and Law-Zel King Zog L469, were both bred directly from the Midolane "Basics" and tended to have a beneficial effect on type, particularly udders. Laurelwood's use of these bucks was proof of that as they produced more show winners than Busy Boy. The 3x National Show Champion - Rocinante Kellie - is a mix of Flasher/ Zog and a few of the direct descendants of the Blue Diamond "Basics."

Even though the LaMancha breed was not a favorite at Laurelwood Acres, the breed is indebted to them for taking in animals at risk and providing them with a dairy setting in which they were able to prove their value. They kept very accurate records and sold La Mancha kids to individuals who perhaps could not have obtained them easily otherwise.

I have a very personal connection to Laurelwood: my introduction to the breed was a magazine photo of an adorable LaMancha kid peering over a fence at Laurelwood. That magazine was the late lamented "Dairy Goat Guide," which I spent hours pouring over in the city prior to our "return to the land" along with all those others in the 1970's. Because of that photo we never considered any other breed when we sought to acquire our first kid.

In 1968 after three decades of dedication to the nurture and promotion of the tiny ear goats, who had endeared themselves to her, Fay Frey died. As we shall see the breed was in safe hands and the Seventies Goat Boom was about to erupt.



Tale Of The Ear pt7 goatsleap.com Quixote LaManchas

keeping the faith

In 1965 the American Milk Goat Registry Association updated their image by becoming the American Dairy Goat Association.

At the same time breeders - from west to east - were beginning to show a serious interest in the latest officially recognized breed of dairy goats: the LaMancha.

Six years prior to the dispersal of the Fay herd, Betty Harrington and her husband moved from Reno, Nevada to Beaverton, Oregon (near Portland) where her Emerald Nubians were soon well established. Sometime after 1964 she acquired (or used) K-Lou Springtimes'Maverick (a buck very inbred on Midolane basic stock.) Breeding him to Fay's Galeena, the result was a buck kid: Emerald Apache's Chief L630.

Chief traveled to Pennsylvania where in the Sugarfoot herd he was bred to the Shutte's 1966 Spotlight Sale purchase: K-Lou Tootsiepop. An AMGRA judge, director and an experienced nubian breeder, Dick Shutte was no novice.

Although the Shutte's did not continue to breed LaManchas for very long their contribution to the breed was Sugarfoot Anejo, the son of Chief and Tootsiepop who was to consolidate much of the best of the east and the west when he was bred to Diamond Stevie's Evelyn L367.

Evelyn's son by Anejo: Brookside Anejo's Eugene L822 was bred back to her producing Brookside Edie L1076, the buck who essentially created the image of LaManchas in the east in the 1970's.

The Emerald herd name continued to be factor in the northwest until Mrs Harrington's death in 1987. Emerald stock was put to good advantage by the Morey's in their show herd (Nolee's) in the early '80's. And Steve Richter (Nestucca) had considerable success exhibiting his doe: Emerald Bonus Mad Madam Mim, a very dairy, very red doe, who was twice Reserve National Champion and a butterfat breed leader.

Another Oregonian, Doris Vant - now no longer active as a goat breeder - bred and sold many LaManchas. Breeding with Fay stock primarily, she helped to sustain interest in the breed by making her Long Gone animals widely available in the region. For reasons known only to Mrs Flower (later Vant) the Long Gone LaManchas often carried names with a Japanese flavor. Many of them were sired by Longden Acres Cavalier L1111 (1970-78), who was her primary sire up to 1975 after which he worked in the Mesquite herd.

Jan Slama (Antares) owned a few Long Gone does, which she later combined with Longden Acres and K-Lou stock to produce the

celebrated buck: Antares Voyager L475748 (1981-87.)

Remnants of the Fay stock were picked up by Harvey Considine -including a Maverick son - in 1968 (his second acquisition of Fay animals.) Aside from his indomitable and vocal enthusiasm for the breed, Harvey's most discisive contribution to its advancement was the sale of the aforementioned Evelyn to Patrick Rooney (Brookside) who was boarding goats at Margaret Jacobs' (Rockspring) dairy in Pennsylvania.

Patrick was, and apparently still is, a good friend of the Stonebacks (Amyr). All of which explains how Edie came to be crossed with Rockspring toggenburgs and their Fay derived stock which had been acquired from Harvey. Edie eventually ended up with the Amyrs, where he was used extensively.

Rockspring LaManchas became one of the longest running, most successful, enterprises of the breed in the hands of Mrs Jacobs' daughter, Ann (Miller) Weikel, judge and former appraiser, who operates a successful dairy which enables her to maintain a large herd dominated by LaManchas. Through the use of artificial insemination she has integrated several proven bucks in her breeding program and exhibited the results nationally with great success.

The third eastern herd which has flourished with considerable distinction over the years is Little Orchard (Bill and Martha Griner) in New Jersey. Founded in 1954, their first LaManchas were added in 1969 and after 1981 it became the only breed in this small, influential herd, individuals of which could, and still can, lay claim to being the "gold" standard.

The Griners were co-owners of two early Spotlight Sale LaManchas. In 1969 they acquired K-Lou Sparkle L188, whose dam, Twinkle, was national champion in 1968. A year later they paid \$260 at this ADGA sponsored auction for K-Lou Western Raider L1091, her full brother. They were sired by K-Lou Springtime's Maverick, the Edie forebearer out of Springtime, another national champion (1965.) Western Raider was eventually sold to Amyr and a son was purchased : Amyr WR Sampler, who became the premier herd sire for the Griners. To complete the circle - his full sister, Seena, became national lamancha champion in 1977.

The Southern Californian, Ron Maahs visited the Griners early on and took home Little Orchard E. Festival L2126, an Edie son, who was used by K-Lou, among others on the west coast in recognition of the contribution being made by eastern breeders.

In competition for the longest running show in LaManchas is the aptly named Longden Acres herd of Nancy Lake. Nancy, a younger friend of the Nixon's and Erbe's, can look back with satisfaction, noting that hardly a herd exists that does not owe something to her influence as a breeder. She has never been a judge, appraiser or director, but she has shown goats, mostly LaManchas, with her herddname since 1965 and continues to do so.

She acquired her first LaMancha doe, Nixon's Mary Lou, a cou blanc, from Amos Nixon in 1962. Nine years later she acquired an Edie daughter, Catotins Happy New Year, from Maryland breeder, Florence Parker. Happy became a national champion and the dam of a very successful Spotlight Sale buck, Hustler.

Nancy bred one the most memorable - post registration - early sires: Longden Acres Casperson L933. As she tells the story he was saved by accident, being the only buck born from Nixon's Casper and quite incidentally out of a Casper daughter. As it turned out this solid black buck proved to be prepotent for excellent udders.

Casperson, who traced back to the Fay stock purchased by the Nixon's, when crossed with the established K-Lou lamanchas of Midolane derivation, set yet another standard for udders from the memorable K-Lou Sparkledust, who died quite young, to K-Lou Darcee, Best LaMancha Udder at the 1987 national show.



Clovertop is another western herd which ranks at the top in longevity and celebrity. Ray Vieira has invented his LaManchas at least thrice, coming back stronger each time.

He purchased his foundation LaManchas from Doreen Ross (Free Lance/ Goat City) and promptly began to milk test, exhibit and sell stock. He later climbed the ADGA hierarchy as judge, appraiser and director - all the while increasing the size of

Ray at REDGA 1986

his dairy, which he sold a few years back. His influence in the breed has over the decades waxed and waned and should never be counted out as his love for and knowledge of the breed is peerless.



Tale Of The Ear pt8 goatsleap.com Quixote LaManchas

patterns and pigment

The American LaMancha is a breed whose standard does not restrict it to one coat color. Anything goes, which fascinates and charms many breeders.

While we know relatively little about the precise mode of color/pattern inheritance in goats, barnyard observations, in lieu of reliable genetic data, are adequate for most inquisitive breeders. What I am presenting here falls somewhere between the two. Fairly easy-to-read dog and cat studies - some available on the web - are useful in studying goats with only a few major exceptions.

The most convincing account of color inheritance in goats is provided by Dr. Phillip Sponenberg in "Breeding for Colored Angora Goats" which includes extensive material on "regular" goats (as he calls them.)

Thanks to the phenomenon of mutation many genes have evolved variants which are called "alleles" (contraction of allelomorphs meaning "other forms of.") Genes are strung on chromosomes ("capacity to take up dye") which travel in pairs, one inherited from the sire and one from the dam (think of the double helix.) Because the chromosomes have identical "addresses" (loci) for each gene form, only two alleles can be present in one individual. They can be the same (homozygotic), or different (heterozygotic.)

In the homozygous state genes can be either dominant or recessive in their expression. In the heterozygous state they are mixed dominant and recessive. Obviously, identical gene pairs are easier for the breeder to work with because they are expressed in the appearance (phenotype) of the carrier for better or for worse. Identical dominant genes present little mystery. Even though dominants may express imperfectly or incompletely, they do materialize in the phenotype, as we noted, whereas the recessive gene may be lurking for several generations without any indication of its presence. A recessive gene is not necessarily negative in spite of its murky reputation.

Since several genes have the potential to influence coat color there are different loci for the many variations. An alphabetical series keeps them in some sort of order for discussion. Problems arise as one tries to sort out the interactions of the genes. For example some genes can mask the action of other genes (epistatic - "placed above.") The genes being masked are referred to as hypostatic ("standing under.")

The color we see is produced by two types of pigment granules: pheo-melanin (red-yellow) and eu-melanin (black-brown.) The characteristic nature of the pigment as well as the greater or lesser amount (density or dilution) of the deposit determines the outcome.

Variations can exist from hair to hair as in roaning. Also along the hair shaft (banding.)

The "A" locus is named after the agouti, a South American rodent whose hairs contain light and dark bands. Agouti is also used to signify the original camouflage color of many wild, later domesticated animals, showing ticked or banded hairs. The chamoisée, either wild or domesticated, is the model in goats. The typical chamoisée goat is tan. These hairs are either banded or roaned with stripes on the face and legs.

The most dominant allele on the "A" locus is not, however, the chamoisée, who is second in order of dominance. A non-stripe white/cream or tan color is the most dominant. It can, in effect, mask all of the patterns to follow on this locus. This should not come as any surprise to a LaMancha breeder.

Sponenberger postulates that all of the striped patterns, commonly referred to as "swiss markings," can be assigned to variations on the "A" locus.

Here are the colors/ patterns in order of dominance as assigned by Sponenberger with my simplifications:

- 1) A white/tan
- 2) a⁺ chamoisée
- 3) a^b oberhasli
- 4) a^{ts} toggenburg
- 5) a^t black & tan, or sundgau
- 6) a^c cou noir, clair, blanc
- 7) a black/brown("no stripes" - eumelanic black)



Black & Tan LaMancha



Chamoisée LaMancha



CouClair LaMancha

The B series introduces the recessive gene (b) which produces the grey-brown color associated with Toggenburg breed. The Togg, like the Oberhasli, can carry a gene for self (solid) black, although it is rarely expressed since both breeds have been subjected to many generations of pressure to eliminate the nonconforming gene. Dominant B causes dark pigmentation at any location to be black.



Togg marked LaMancha

D can either refer to "dense" in the dominant state, or "dilute" in the recessive state. The dilute modifiers (dd) are black to blue/grey and red to tan/cream.

The "E" locus controls the extension of the eumelanin pigment granules down the entire length of the hair shaft. In the dominant state (E) black masks the striping on the agouti locus. In the recessive state (ee) a true red specimen can be produced when the individual is also carrying the most dominant A gene. If she were an a^t then the stripes would be dark red. If either of the above carried the d gene, the red would express as cream or tan.



Red LaMancha

White can be thought of as the absence of color. It is a mutation associated with domestication, and is usually considered dominant when expressed in the Saanen and Angora breeds. White can be inherited in other modes: both the "dilution" and "spotting" loci, provide a pathway when combined with other genes. Most "white" LaManchas are really light cream (A) and often carry color genes recessively thus not breeding true for white as the other two breeds consistently do.



White/Cream LaMancha

The S locus is made of the white "spotting" genes which express independently of the black/red genes. Anklets, stars, tips, flags, blazes, and just plain spots, pop out seemingly at random and are all indicated by recessive "s," another marker of domestication. Great variability as to location and size is common. The "Dutch belt" pattern (a white ring encircling -more or less - the belly) is probably dominant. Ticking and reverse ticking (roaning) may, or may not, operate on a separate locus. The same applies to frosting, usually limited to ears and muzzle and possibly the throat.



Spotted LaMancha



Belted & Ticked; LaMancha

Two categories which are difficult to fold into this classification series are the red-tinged black (sable?) and the red roan, which appear to be the most common LaMancha colors, reflecting their Spanish heritage. These two varieties cover the gamut from almost true black to mahogany and from almost true red to a roan indistinguishable from cream. Roaning is considered to be colored hairs intermixed with white hairs and may have its own locus. Sable is thought by some to reflect incomplete penetrance of black.



Black/Sable LaMancha

It is difficult to imagine that in the future the LaMancha breed will become a one color breed, but individual breeders may attempt to achieve more consistency of type within their herds by concentrating on one color or pattern.

Genes which control a variety of non-color traits (body type, size, production, component percentages etc) could possibly link up with

genes for color when situated close to one another since genes on the same chromosome tend to stay together and be transmitted as a unit. Knowledge (intuitive or otherwise) of linked genes can lead to breeding greater overall uniformity. (Links can also be broken of course, and new combinations produced.)

The breeder's low-tech application of the "marker" theory, in effect, linking an observable color to other more elusive traits is more likely to be observable in a closely-bred family of LaManchas than across the breed as a whole.

Two easily recognized ancient breeds: The Greyhound dog and the Arabian horse are not limited by their standards (or nature) to a single color. However, breeders of these two venerable animals have always been highly mindful of the type which they are nurturing, without which the result would be common, plain, and lacking in any consistency regardless of color.

LaMancha breeders can take comfort in remembering the colorful history of the Greyhound and Arabian as they attempt to consolidate certain unique and desirable traits associated with their breed. Without having to give in to "one color fits all," some may find that one color may fit their family of LaManchas very well.



Tale Of The Ear pt9 goatsleap.com Quixote LaManchas

Boom Time 70s

As the undeclared war in Vietnam raged on ADGA membership and goat registration exploded. Fueled mostly by the "Back to the Land" movement, instigated by disillusioned urbanites who became footloose hippies, ADGA was poised for major growth.

The similar phenomenon was happening in Europe following in the wake of the 1968 student revolt in Paris. Newly minted French goat keepers took a different route than their American counterparts. Building on native cheese making traditions, they focused more on the milk, and less on the four legged producer as a source of income and creative challenge as we are inclined to do. In other rural enclaves all over Europe young goat cheesemakers were also honing their skills.

At both the consumer, and the producer level, it took a couple of decades for gourmet goat cheese to catch on in the US. As producers we had a dearth of artisan tradition - hence few models - and secondly, a legacy of "squeamishness" about the use of raw milk in the processing. This lack of practical knowledge was compounded by the scarceness of appropriately sized equipment - especially the required pasteurizing vats. No ready access to cultures/molds/coagulates/packaging materials, and such, added more problems.

Higher quality cheese, both imported and domestic, and greater sophistication within the food industry, allowed chevre to become a chic, saleable commodity in a relatively short time. US cheese producers with their goats and enterprising spirit geared up to exploit the market. The rest is history as they say - cheese history - not goat history, which is what we are about here!

Had there not in this period been more Americans breeding more goats it is doubtful that the LaMancha would have developed as quickly as it did since there were so few of them in the 1960's. Sellers controlled the market and few LaManchas were culled without serious cause. In some parts of the country LaManchas were routinely crossbred to increase the numbers.

The numbers of goats being milk tested on a continuous basis climbed and classification - later linear appraisal - developed following the cow model. Regional goat clubs sprung up with more shows flowering as a result. FFA and 4H encouraged dairy goat projects in their youthful members. Some thought this new-found prosperity would go on forever (the 90's were to tell a slightly different story.)

Rapidly increasing goat numbers came with a very high price tag: disease on an epidemic scale. As both large and small operations pooled colostrum and milk to hand-feed kids, an insidious retrovirus

spread through an entire generation and into the future. Enlarged knees, the most visible symptom, were frequently seen even at shows. The debilitating phenomenon was soon given a name: Caprine Arthritis Encephalitis. As we began to understand more about CAE (and that other retrovirus, HIV, to which humans are susceptible) the awful truth sunk in: we were (and are) going to be dealing with this problem for a very long time.

A second disease - Caseous Lymphadenitis - equally debilitating and disfiguring, was also spreading rapidly at this time. CL abscesses were routinely opened and their contents spilled in the barnyard thereby, potentially, contaminating an entire herd as the organism is long lived in the environment.

In the decades to follow many a goatkeeper lost enthusiasm for a naturally hardy species that, seemingly, now required ever increasing amounts of care to thrive.

Fortunately, not everyone abandoned the challenge. Enthusiasm for the LaMancha soldiered on.

At the ADGA 1968 annual meeting held in Maryland 14 people banded together to form the American LaMancha Club. The dues were set at \$2/year (\$4 to include a listing in the quarterly newsletter.) Louise Erbe was elected president, Pat Rooney, vice-president and Pearl Ryon secretary/newsletter editor. Harvey Considine master-minded the session with Vivian and George Proctor, Paul Ashbrook and Eloise Osborn (Judy Kapture's mother) as fellow participants.

Club sponsored advertisements began to appear in the ADGA handbooks. Someone dreamed up the slogan "The Prima Donna Breed." Like the idea of changing the term "gopher ear" to a more glamorous "rose ear", which I tried to promote in the 1970's, neither whimsy caught on.

In 1975, when the club could boast of 178 members, the popular All-American program was inaugurated with Bill Griner as the founding chairman and 37 entries in the initial program. Based on the dairy cow model the program seeks to reward good type by publishing photos of the winning contestants. Five years later, following some years of discussion, a milk production award was put in place. Appropriately, the paper prize is an "earring": diamond, gold, or silver-in order of merit-for outstanding records (DHIR.)

ADGA's "poor relation" the American Goat Society began registering LaManchas in a closed purebred herdbook in 1975. Using photostatic copies of ADGA records as proof, third generation LaManchas with no grade LaManchas among his/her parents or grandparents as of July 31, 1974, became eligible for AGS registration. The current (2003) protocol for registering AGS LaManchas has been liberalized: "as long as no animals on the (ADGA) papers are designated GL (grade) or experimental" the individual may be registered with AGS. This is the same number of generations that ADGA requires to certify a buck as an "American." Thus one could have a purebred buck in AGS when the same one in ADGA was still registered as an American.

The earliest AGS LaMancha breed standard was rather long, did not seriously contradict ADGA's description of the ideal generic dairy goat, but did describe the "elf" ear as being of "any length or shape as long as it is less than 3 inches long, measured from the skull on the top of the ear, and the ear is not stretched out."

ADGA describes the "elf ear" as having an "approximate maximum length of two inches, the end of the ear must be turned up or turned down and cartilage is allowed." (Neither standard permits elf ear bucks to be registered.)

The current AGS standard states categorically that the gopher ear contains no cartilage. Elf ears are described as appearing in "many shapes and sizes" and "looking small in comparison with the size of the doe's head." No size or coat color restrictions are specified.

The ADGA standard describes the gopher ear has having very little, or no, cartilage with a maximum length of one inch. Any color is acceptable. Minimum size restrictions: height 28 inches - weight 130 pounds in a mature doe; height 30 inches - weight - 160 pounds in a mature buck.

The ADGA standard asserts the LaMancha face is "straight" period. AGS is more expansive: "the head and muzzle should be wide, as in the other breeds, and the nose will probably be concave." Although the ADGA LaMancha standard does not refer to the "roman nose" as is the case with all ADGA's swiss breed standards it does include the LaMancha in the category of "moderate to serious defect" for the "roman nose." (The convex facial arch is a defining feature of the Nubian breed.) Over the years opinion has swayed from a push to disallow any discrimination against a roman nose LaMancha to outright acknowledgment of its inappropriateness. This issue, as with many others, remains unresolved.



Roman Nose, Elf ears, LaMancha cross



Typey Purebred LaMancha with gopher ears

In 1975 when the AGS LaMancha purebred herdbook was opened it was hinted, in some circles, that the move had been instigated by a few ADGA breeders, who were also AGS members. Impatient to create an ADGA purebred book they sought to use this AGS move as a goad to stimulate ADGA to action.

In 1980 the breed standard discussion once again became contentious when two respected breeders, who were also judges, proposed changing the standard to include elf ear bucks. The argument being: the gopher ear was subject to disease and if breeders continued this potentially disastrous practice of breeding "gopher ear to gopher ear" we would end up with "no holes at all in the openings of the ears." Apparently this prediction has not materialized.

At the other end of the spectrum, there materialized some outspoken grumbling concerning the admittance of "elf" ear does to purebred status. The elf ear does not persist through multiple generations and,

in fact, is usually "lost" in one or two generations of breeding gopher to elf. A denial (or ignorance) of the true genetic implication of the ear forms is widespread.

By the end of the '70s the matter of opening an ADGA purebred herdbook for La Manchas was finally coming to a head. Several long-time breeders pushed this obvious next step to put the breed on the same footing as the other dairy breeds. The real problems emerged later in the implementation, which coincided with a long-delayed changeover to computerized record keeping.

The 1976 American LaMancha Club meeting was held in Santa Rosa at ADGA's annual convention. The standing-room only turnout, after lengthy debate, voted to request that a purebred LaMancha herdbook be considered favorably by the ADGA directors. As a result the first purebred LaMancha was registered on January 1, 1980.

The intervening four years brought to light two, not inconsiderable, problems:

1) A question remained about how to "recover" the existing, and earlier, LaManchas with "L" numbers and three generations of LaManchas in their pedigrees.

The last question came down to "money" and since ADGA was, at the same time, busily recovering, recording and registering a sixth breed -the Oberhasli - something had to give.

As a result the registration papers of the LaManchas with "L" numbers were converted to LaManchas with "AL" numbers. (Thankfully, their progeny were elevated to "L's" with the title of "purebreds" in the next generation.) The pre-1980 "L" LaManchas originally had blue papers subtitled "American LaMancha" in recognition of their putative origin. The post-1980 blue papers read "Purebred LaMancha" or "American LaMancha" and the brown papers for recorded goats of unknown or cross bred heritage have the breed percentages spelled out in accordance with the system.

2) The issue of a closing date was not then, or yet, properly addressed: leaving one breed in the association in a unique status. In the other breeds ADGA registers goats in both open American Herdbooks, which reflect the grading-up process, and closed Purebred Books, which conform to the record keeping process going back to the beginnings of the association. LaManchas have both American and Purebred open books.

The problems of an "open" herdbook and a more explicit breed standard have yet to be addressed decisively, after more than 20 years of debate. The club, which is an advisory position to ADGA, from time to time, takes on this matter with little result.



Tale Of The Ear pt10 goatsleap.com Quixote LaManchas

sires and sons I

Bucks who are destined to move their breed forward do so, often, on the basis of random circumstances:

1. How widespread is the sampling of their offspring? One herd or multiple herds in multiple states?
2. Was he routinely bred to very close relatives or was he outcrossed to grades or unrelated purebreds of his own or other breeds? Was he, in the main, crossed with only one other family?
3. Was he himself inbred and were any of his progeny linebred on him? Did his positive traits express themselves in his offspring on a consistent basis (prepotency)?
4. Did he leave sons, as well as daughters, to continue the line?
5. Was he, and his family, promoted through production and type testing, exhibiting and publicity?

(Other bucks easily slip into obscurity since they are sireing mediocre offspring at best, although some, on the basis of pedigree, may be used extensively early on, and a few of these may become memorable for one or two superior daughters.)

The question becomes - can the positive sires be sorted out for purposes of historical reference? And most importantly, can the breeding schemes that created them be analyzed given the 45+ years of recorded breed perspective?

Among the approximately 200 animals inspected and registered by ADGA as foundation La Manchas 30 were bucks and most were born during the 1950's. Of these 30 about 10 sired progeny which were to define the breed through their offspring for the next two decades.

The name of the very first LaMancha to be registered in 1958 - Fay's Ernie L-1p (polled) - appears, at least, five times in the pedigrees of the two most influential bucks of the 1970's - Longden Acres Casperson (L-933) and Brookside Edie (L-1076.) Ernie, whose parents are listed as unknown, resembled neither descendant - he looked like a Saanen with short ears. (Mrs Frey, as she noted in her bylined articles, crossbred during the 1940's and early 1950's with what she considered to be "top" bucks of the other dairy breeds, including the red Murciana.)

Casperson and Edie, mentioned in an earlier section, are given a second look here due to their dominant effect on the development of the breed. The production and type data for these two early bucks is fragmentary, therefore it seems more useful to rely on informants' opinions to judge their specific contributions.

LONGDEN ACRES CASPERSON L-933



Photos show Casperson to have been a compact black buck of medium size with a rather strong, possibly convex, facial profile, high withers, a long rump and sound feet and legs. Born in 1969, he died seven years later. His semen was collected and subsequently used. He sired over 100 registered/ recorded progeny, including several notable sons.

His pedigree reveals that he was very inbred - possible over 19%. His Southern California breeder, Nancy Lake, stated that she planned in advance to keep a son from his sire - Nixon's Casper (L-512.) As frequently happens there was only one candidate. In this case - the son of a first freshening cream color Casper daughter: Longden Acres Lela L-622. To make it more interesting Lela's dam was a 3/4 sister to Casper. The kid was aptly named "Casperson."



+B Nixon's Casper



Longden Acres Lela

As Casperson's daughters began to freshen it became apparent to Nancy that this was an "udder" buck. Their high, round mammaries and attractive general appearance garnered attention. She milk tested them and they didn't fail on that score either. Soon she was selling Casperson sons from her best does which were of Fay/ Nixon extraction.



Casperson Daughters

One of his most prolific sons Longden Acres Cavalier (L-1111 - 1970-78) worked in southern Oregon herds: first - Long Gone and later - Starsong. Pictures show him to be a cream color buck with an attractive, typey head.



Longden Acres Cavalier

Another Casperson son of similar type - K-Lou Bellringer L-1566 - sired both the dam and sire of K-Lou Golduster L-2294, who left many memorable daughters and, famously, was the brother of K-Lou Sparkledust L-2256, who died young without progeny, but left behind an image of the perfect udder in the minds of many, including the author. In the next decade several successful Redwood Hills bucks were produced by linebreeding on Golduster. Bellringer also left his mark in Pacific Northwest herds.



K-Lou Sparkledust

Longden Acres Marksman L-1396 sired kids in the Midwestern herd of Semper Fidelis and Longden Acres Job of Idelmar L-1482, another alpine marked Casperson son, strongly influenced Paul Ashbrook's

dairy herd in Wisconsin. Longden Acres Misty (K-Lou Nightraider X Nixon's Mary Lou) was the dam of both.

There is hardly a notable LaMancha - up to the present- who does not owe something genetically to Casperson, whose young breeder had the savvy early on to recognize his quality and promote it.

BROOKSIDE EDIE L-1076



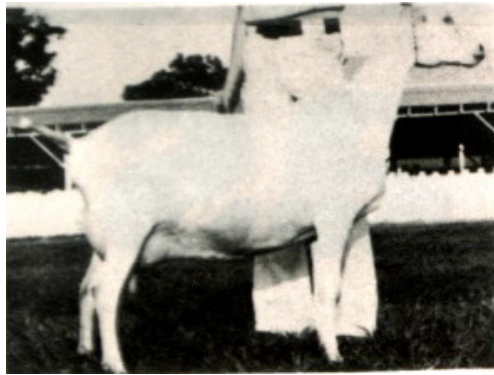
The other half of this bookend, Brookside Edie, was born in the Maryland herd of young Patrick Rooney in 1970. Edie's red dam Diamond Stevie's Evelyn L-822, was bred to her cream color son, Brookside Anejo's Eugene L-822. Edie (pronounced "Eddie" probably after his grandam - Fay's Edie L-152) was the result, a deep red kid with an irregular white belt and socks. He also is at least 19% inbred.



GCH Diamond Stevie's Evelyn **M

Even though he was to die at four years of age in late 1974, Edie also left over 100 registered/recorded progeny and a legend to match Casperson's. He was considered to be an "improver" who advanced the breed on the east coast in udder shape/ attachments and overall appearance. His daughters tended to be tight ribbed and were not dairier or more productive than their dams, but they were consistently more attractive.

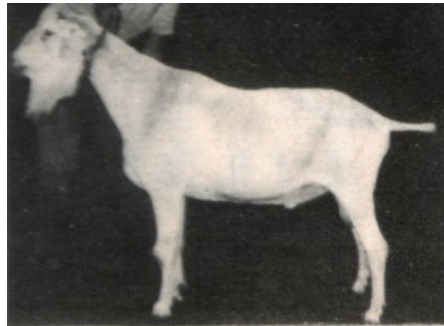
In 1972 Edie - and later Evelyn - were sold to the affluent (and influential) Stoneback family (Amыр) of Pennsylvania who recognizing Edie's potential exploited it successfully. A daughter, Amыр Edie's Dixie Lass L-3492 with a mammary as remarkable as Sparkledust's became a fixture at ADGA National shows.



GCH Amyr Edies Dixie Lass **M

The Griner's used Edie in their Little Orchard herd producing four offspring: Sparkle, Sprite, Fiesta and the buck, Festival, who traveled to the west coast to sire Edie grandchildren.

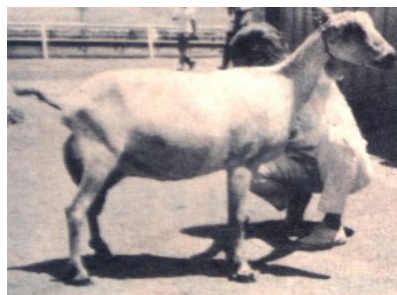
An Edie daughter, Selena, produced a son, Amyr W.R. Sampler L-2103, by K-Lou Western Raider L-1091. Sampler sons, many out of Edie daughters, were eventually used extensively from coast to coast further concentrating the genes of Edie. The Sprite sons: LO S Spellbinder and LO S Sea Skipper are among the best known. Spellbinder became the preminent sire in the Oregon Nolee's herd (George and Nora Morey.) The foundation dam in the Washington Lucky*Star herd (Judi and Don Hoy) was an A/I Sea Skipper daughter.



***B Little Orchard Sea Skipper**

CASPERSON + EDIE

The competitive chasm between the east coast and the west coast conclusively sealed over with the importation of Catoctin's Happy New Year AL001602 by Nancy Lake. This Edie daughter, who became a National Champion in 1978 also had Edie's sire Eugene as her dam's sire.



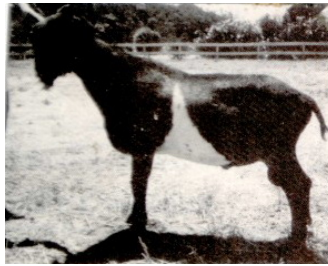
GCH Catoctin's Happy New Year

New Year produced twins by a grandson of Casperson - Happy-Go-Lucky (National Best Udder) and Happy Hustler (1976 Spotlight Sale

kid) - concentrating the genes of the bi-coastal bucks - Casperson and Edie. Hustler through his Barranca sons played a role both in the Redwood Hills and Me's Ranch herds in later years.



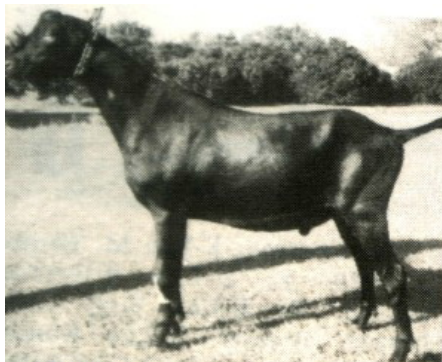
GCH Longden Acres Happy Go Lucky



GCH +*B Longden Acres Happy Hustler

The influence of Casperson + Edie was to extend well into the 1980's in the Rocking-M herd (Hardy Morris) for a short while the successor to Laurelwood Acres as the premier goat dairy in California. Longden Acres Midler's Pete-Oh L-328915 was used for linebreeding to build their LaMancha division. This black with white paint buck was a grandson of Edie on his sire's side and a grandson of Casperson on his dam's side. Eventually Rocking-M was to have a considerable influence on the development of Haute Caprine and Little Bic's and less directly on Coastside and Winterwood.

Another Spotlight Sale kid - Longden Acres Lucky Bid L-489080 became the buck most used for linebreeding in the development of the Aspen Hill's Herd in Virginia. Bid was a Casperson son and most of the foundation Broaddus does had Edie in their background.



***B Longden Acres Lucky Bid**

Antares Voyager L-475748 out of Washington state also combined Casperson and Edie. He was bred to many Rocking-M does garnering fame and fortune for the Haute Caprine herd as we shall see.



Tale Of The Ear pt11 goatsleap.com Quixote LaManchas

sires and sons II

1981 was a banner year for LaMancha sires. Within the space of a month three bucks were born which were to dominate the decade: Coastside Voyager, Antares M. Voyager, and Redwood Hills J. Chickory.

COASTSIDE VOYAGER L-450454

By the end of the 1980's the hold that Casperson and Edie held on the breed loosened a bit as breeders began to expand their horizons in search of a large framed, longer boned animal to better compete in the Best in Show arena.

The Alpine Look, as it is called, had always been a part of the breed's foundation. Blue Diamond, Laurelwood Acres and Tomahawk represented this tendency with their chamoise and sundgau LaManchas. Frequently they lacked the engaging breed character about the head of the K-Lou specimens and many carried the dreaded "pocket" at the foreudder attachment. In exchange the higher/wider rear udder attachment, more dominant in the Swiss breeds, was deemed adequate compensation.

In the 1980's the herd which most clearly represented this shift was Coastside (Harrison Family.) Barbara Harrison stated "We started with Alpines and that's the body type I've always liked." Her preference for what she termed the "mischievous LaMancha personality" factored in their ultimate choice of breed. Coastside foundation does were mostly daughters or granddaughters of "native on appearance" or "unknown" does. They used LaMancha bucks of Clovertop, Little Orchard and K-Lou breeding to build the next generation with these does.

Their first homebred champion - Coastside's Sandpiper - was so successful that soon the Harrison's were selling up to ten breeding bucks a year nationwide. Attractive sales catalogues together with continuous DHIR milk testing and extensive campaigning of the show herd put them on top until retirement and dispersal of the herd in the early 1990's.



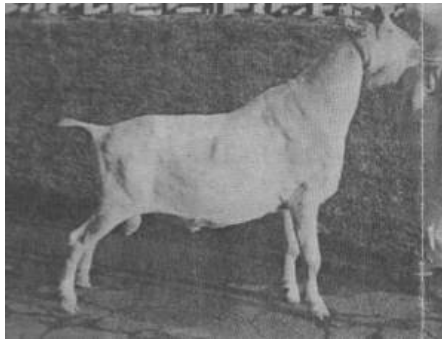
GCH Coastside Sandpiper 3*M

Coastside Voyager, a Sandpiper son, was sold to Secret Ravine (Scheuble Family) to head up the sire force at their dairy/cheese factory. A chamoisee like his dam, C Voyager was bred to the herd queen - Secret Ravine Tiffany Tammy's Dawn, a blonde, deep bodied, high producing doe of Law-Zel/K-Lou/Laurelwood extraction. This union produced three memorable bucks: Secret Ravine Dawns Shine-On - L497653, Secret Ravine Dawns Brite-Lite - L500677 and Secret Ravine Hi-Lite - L497654. Voyager daughters with Secret Ravine dams averaged 83 final score for type with 64% reliability.



Tiffany Tammy's Dawn

Krishellen (Sherry Welker) used Brite-Lite (84 type fs/ 71% ry) and Shine-On (84 type fs/ 67% ry) on her mostly Law-Zel derived does to great effect and in the process spread their influence to the Idaho herd of Gary & Greta Meyer and a California Sierra foothills herd of Timbercove (Linda Shuls.)

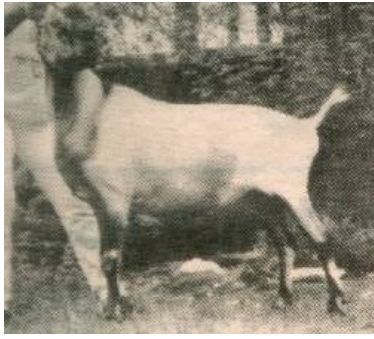


Brite Lite



Krishellen Brite Idea
Daughter of Brite Lite

A next generation chamoisee buck, San-B Acres TK Keynote of TC -L786743 was highly linebred (12%) predominately on Brite-Lite. Linda bred him to her foundation K-Lou/Clovertop does. His daughters averaged 86 type fs/ 71% ry. Many other Keynote daughters were born and blossomed in the Nevada AbILITY herd (Bill Able.)



San-B Acres TK Keynote of TC

Shine-On was the maternal grandsire of Hodges & Amolsch's Winterwood's The Medicine Man - AL825501 (86 type fs/ 75% ry), one of two bucks used to establish the successful One*Oak*Hill herd in the 1990's.

The Dawn/ Voyager sons also left tracks in the Bickel's Little Bic's herd: Little Bic's Back to the Future L-883788 (linebred on Brite-Lite.) He sired Kastdemur's Sprite, and Kastdemur's Gazette two of the most prolific dams in the Kastdemur (Karen Senn) herd who were repeatedly crossed with One*Oak*Hill.

The most inbred (28%) C Voyager son was another handsome chamoisee - Secret Ravine Voyager's Nomad - L610826 (Voyager crossed with his daughter out of Dawn.) He was widely used live and through A/I in several California, Oregon, Washington and Idaho herds. His daughters averaged 83 type fs/ 78ry.



Secret Ravine Voyager's Nomad

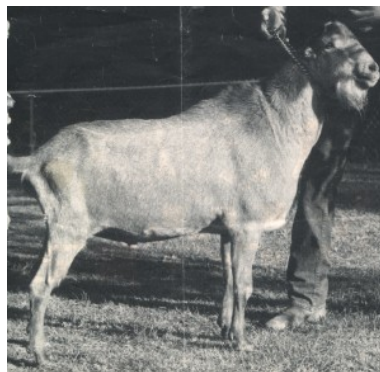
Photo courtesy of Lynn Fancher



Secret Ravine's Supreme's Ribbon

Nomad's dam, Voyager daughter

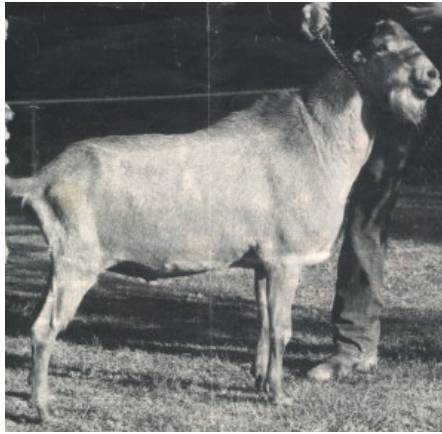
Another C Voyager son: Secret Ravine Rainmaker L-616578 influenced the Connecticut herd of the Moshers's (Sundew.) He appears on both sides of the pedigree of an important buck of the late 1990's: Sundew C Constellation L-965013 who will be discussed in depth later.



ANTARES M.VOYAGER L-475748

Born to a first freshener who didn't survive the year, A Voyager was sold as a kid into the midwestern 4H herd of Tony Laudner. (His breeder Jam Slama, a respected Spokane WA breeder,) had dispersed her Antares herd by the time A Voyager climbed to the top of the National Show pack (as Premier Sire.)

At the suggestion of ADGA judge Norman Austin, who was impressed with his daughters, the buck (and the daughters) were acquired by Jim Vandergriff of Kansas. Being anxious to breed more A Voyager offspring the Vandergriff's (Haute Caprine) purchased quality Rocking M does. They were not disappointed - "consistency of type and general elegance" came through. Also, as they expressed it, he was prepotent for mammary improvements and dairy character.



Antares M. Voyager

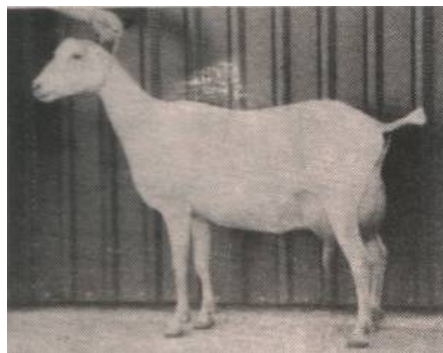
Jim contended that A Voyager was a "sport" - an anomaly, unlike any of his close relatives.

I would disagree. Although A Voyager was not linebred, as such, he was a fairly tight package of "Basic LaMancha" genes. His closeup ancestors carry these prefixes: Fay (including Edie,) Nixon/ Longden Acres (including Casperson.) And his dam was a typical little cream colored K-Lou yearling: K-Lou N. Velvet Star. There are really no unknowns aside from a few - long forgotten - herd names randomly attached to these same animals.

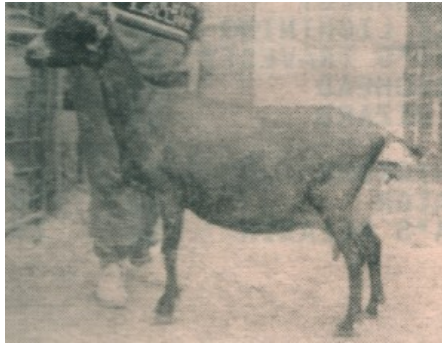
An unprepossessing dark red buck, he looked like a more dairy version of his equally red sire and he produced an even more intensely red A/I son: Hammerich's Voyager Z Dreyfus and a red great grandson, the author's: Quixote Mela's Fidel. (That dominant self- red strain looks suspiciously "Murciana -like".) A Voyager is also known for black offspring, many with white frosting on the nose and ears. An equal opportunity buck, he threw plenty of creams and black & tans too.

Several Haute Caprine bucks sired by A Voyager were used extensively in other herds in the late 1980's and into the 1990's. Among them were the Spotlight Sale buck, H C Pulsar L-662260 (84 type fs/ 78% ry) who sired kids for Shabby's (Engemans) and Rockspring. H C Doctor A L-6626264 (84 type fs/ 74% ry) was used mostly by Haute Caprine and H C Delta Air L-763878 by Rockspring and Posey Acres. Delta Air was 22%inbred (2X A V) with daughters averaging 85 type fs/74% ry.

Thanks to excellent management and national show/ spotlight sale promotion by Vandergriffs, A Voyager was given every opportunity to show the stuff he was made of - to the advantage of the breed. After five years of concentrated effort they dispersed the herd in 1989.



OK Doe Key Voyager Sabrena



Haute Caprine Wendy

C VOYAGER + A VOYAGER

In a small New England herd - Sundew - the talent of owner Patty Mosher paid off in 1995 when Sundew C Constellation L965013 was born. She experimented with some inbreeding, primarily by linebreeding with her best doe, Catalina. The mix accented both Voyagers' sons with a bit of Rocking M and Quixote thrown in. Constellation's inbreeding co-efficient is a high 22%.



Sundew CS Catalina

Constellation has been used mostly by one owner, Ann Weikel, at Rockspring, nevertheless, his daughters 88 final score type average with 75% repeatability is very impressive. He is in the 83 percentile for yield with 63% reliability proving his daughters are not slouches in the dairy either.

REDWOOD HILLS J. CHICKORY



Redwood Hills J Chickory

Not to disparage the proven talent of his breeders, Jennifer Bice and her late partner, Steven Schack, one could almost call- at first glance- the mating that produced Chickory - "incidental." Redwood Hills had leased milkers from Nancy Turner, including Tomahawk's Chick A Dee, who was subsequently bred to Barranca's H.H. Jamboree, owned by Spencer Pexton. The result: Chickory, a brown chamoisee buckling with white splashes on both sides, white stockings and dark trim.



Barranca's HH Jamboree



Tomahawk's Chick A Dee

Chickory was repeatedly bred to two does - Tomahawk's Shazam and Tomahawk's Shamballa, twins out of The Ananda Hills Shanna, a rather ordinary doe with a reputation for producing extraordinary daughters. The sisters were sired by Tomahawk's Dusty, a K-Lou Golduster son, who was also Chick A Dee's sire. This linebreeding on a true "udder" buck produced a raft of prepotent offspring.

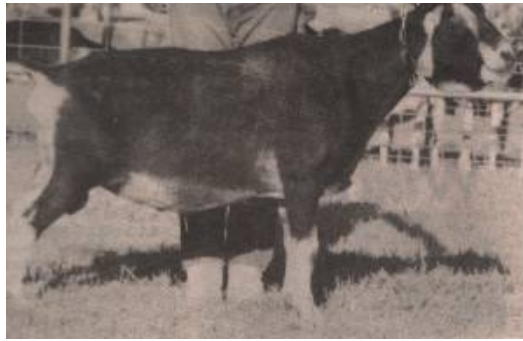


Tomahawk's Shambala

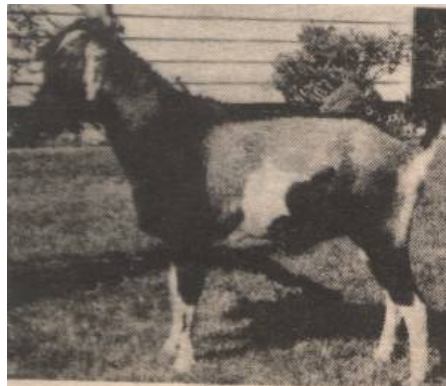


Tomahawk's Shazam

Mostly alpine in coloring, the Shazam sons were RWH Showman L- 665377 -85fs/89%rp - owned by Calico Rock and Yazz (Edith Jensen - AZ); RWH Silverado L-665376 - 86fs/70%rp - owned by Mt Olympus (Rimstidt family) and Clovermeadow (Paul Capiello - NY); RWH Chapparal L-631901 - 80fs/51%rp - owned by Worthy Master (Greg Murphy - TN); RWH Showdown L-665377 - owned by Little Orchard (Griner family - NJ.)



Redwood Hills Showman



Redwood Hills Showdown

Shamballa produced a cream son by Chickory: RWH Shogun L-531436 who was retained in the herd together with a few Chickory daughters, the best known of which was the sundgau Shazam daughter, RWH Chicklet, 1986 Reserve National Champion,

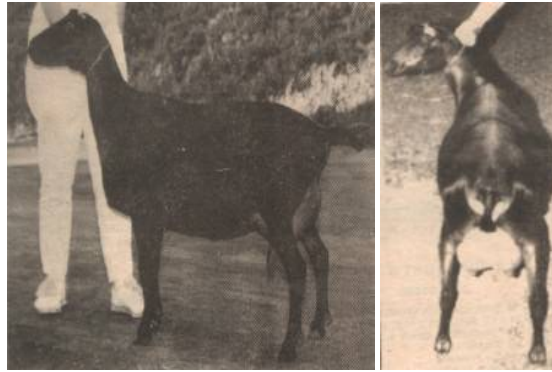


RWH Chickory Shogun



RWH Chicklet

Toggenberg color Companeros Pierre Dividend L-717978, a Chickory grandson out of his daughter, Companeros Chickory Diva - by a Rocking-M buck - became the founding sire for the Winterwood herd (Hodges & Amolsch - CA.) Dividend earned a more than respectable 85 type fs with 75% rp.



Companeros Chickory Diva

The Chickory connection has "long legs" as we shall see...

CHICKORY + c voyager (hi-lite & shine-on) + casperson (goldduster)

The most celebrated sire in Judy Hibbard's Hibb-Herd (CA) was WNH Tanner's Red Thunder L-693348. Thunder, who was indeed red and threw lots of it, boasted a Chickory daughter Tanunda for his dam together with Coastside Voyager sons and offspring of K-Lou Golduster, the Casperson son, on both sides of his pedigree.

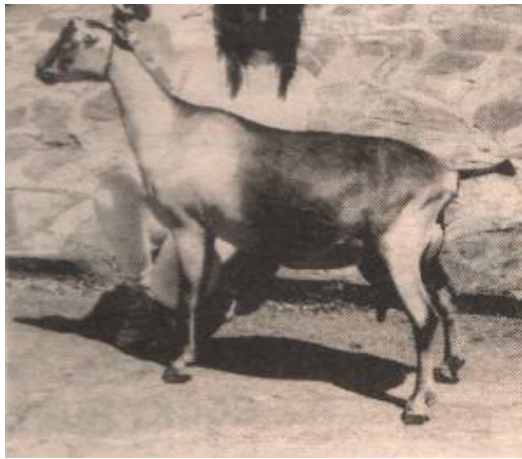


WNH's Tanner's Red Thunder



WNH's Kaiti's Tanunda

One of his showiest daughters, Hibb-Herd Zeamer, was a handsome rare cou-clair, Her dam was also a cross of C Voyager and Golduster genes.



Hibb-Herd Zeamer

Thunder's offspring showed excellent breed type and dairiness scoring 87 type fs/ 60%rp. A Thunder son was used in the Webb's South Fork herd in Colorado and several daughters moved to Arizona's Altrece herd (Alethea Swift) as the Hibbard herd was slowly dispersed.

A VOYAGER + CHICKORY

The A/I Antares Voyager son, Posey Acres VW Xavier L-664765, a handsome black & tan with a Redwood Hill's J Chickory sired dam, was the sire of Aspen Hill's Tess and Aspen Hill's Elviria (Broadus's of Virginia.) Both does' dams were closely linebred on Longden Acres Lucky Bid, the Casperson son. Xavier threw excellent type (85 fs/ 78%rp) of which the tall black & tan Tess, who appraised 93, was perhaps the finest example.



Aspen Hill's Tess

ME'S RANCH DUTCH BELTED L-769348

During the 1990's this California buck - black with a white belt - and his extended family, clearly dominated the LaMancha breed. Dutch, the son of a statuesque black & tan doe, Me's Ranch Oscar's Chantilly with a classic globular udder, came into the world in 1989. His breeder, Marty Holzhauer, developed a fancy for him early on and promoted him energetically as it became apparent his hunch held water.



Me's Ranch Dutch Belted
Photos taken at two years of age.



Dutch was linebred on Running Box Tess, a slightly less substantial version of Chantilly, his dam. Tess, the paternal sister to Chickory, compounded the influence of Longden Acres Happy Hustler in the rest of the pedigree. (Note how closely Dutch resembles Hustler.)



Running Box Tess



Me's Ranch Oscar's Chantilly

The Coastsides buck, C. Barracuda Oscar L-583950, who also figures in Marty's breeding, is sired by a buck who shares the same Longden Acres grandsire as Antares Voyager, giving altogether new meaning to "what goes around, comes around."

The dam of one of Dutch's first daughters, Me's Ranch Dutch Treat - National Champion in 1999, happened to be a fine experimental doe sired by Red Thunder. (Another Dutch daughter, Rockin C-B Dutch Finale, was Reserve N C that year.) National Premier Sire seemed to always be a possibility, as well as a reality, as Dutch was used more and more through A/I.

At Rockspring Ann Weikel A/I'd several does eventually producing a small family of Dutchies. Meyer's in Idaho did likewise. In Washington Pat Hendrickson (Rocky Run) used Dutch semen successfully, as did Cindy Silva (Rockin C-B.)

We, here at Quixote, borrowed Dutch in his second year. The results were mixed, but by compounding the Dutch genes with the use of a Dutch son we added many desirable traits.

Plainly a type improver: 86 fs/ 79% rp, Dutch could not increase milk production or solids in his daughters over their dams. However, daughters like Hesba and Mirin, not to mention several Dutchess's, were always in contention for Best In Show honors.

He sired several sons, but none more notable than the twins: Hannibal and Harlequin out of Me's Ranch Saxon Hanna, a slightly more feminine Chantilly type. The brothers were 19% inbred, accenting the Longden Acres effect.



Me's Ranch Saxon Hanna

Harlequin traveled East with Jennifer Lohman, eventually surfacing in the One*Oak*Hill herd of John White, where he sired Tullia, the dam of Tumult, Tumbleweed, and Tuzla, the 2001 National Champion. Tullia had been bred to Winterwood's The Medicine Man to produce this trio. This combination of Harlequin and Medicine Man genes was crossed repeatedly by John to build his highly successful herd of tall, long bodied LaManchas, which continue to climb in the type and production rankings.

THE CLOVERTOP CONUNDRUM

For the last nearly 40 years Ray Vieira (Clovertop) has been an almost mythic force within LaMancha breeding circles. Since he operated a dairy during most of this period he rarely sold does and, given his numbers, only a few bucks. His practice has been to inbreed - or perhaps he would call it linebreed - very extensively. Often the same buck is named as all four grandsires. Naturally given his experience, Ray is highly opinionated about what he likes including favoring tricolor bucks showing a great deal of dairiness.

Winterwood used Clovertop's L Don Juan (inbred 14% and the sire of Medicine Man) to breed several successful bucks for others. Three full brothers (29% inbred) C Lionel, C Lovie LaMor, C Lyle Luvit all have memorable daughters in various herds. Lucky Star (Hoy's in Washington) used Louie Torres (20% inbred) extensively and later sold him to Oak Knoll Dairy in New England.



Clovertop's Lionel

The Clovertop buck influence is pervasive, but possibly because they are so inbred themselves they have not produced many inbred sons which limits much of their

influence to dam lines.

IN CONCLUSION

At the start of this section we posed the question: Can the breeding schemes that created superior sires be analyzed? The answer is a qualified "yes." It's a tedious process with many loose ends. Photographs make the fragmentary records come alive. In summary:

1. Prepotency for quality is not the sole provenance of the inbred buck, but it helps, and is frequently resorted to by the experienced breeder.
2. Selection for individual preferences within the boundaries of correct dairy and breed type have and will continue to be exercised without compromising the essence of the breed.
3. Quality chases quality, especially when knowledge of the generations behind the parents is factored in. The right cross always matters.
4. In the future A/I will probably be used even more widely with the end result being that a few popular lines will tend to dominate the breed. However breeders who find it most satisfying to march to their own drummer will always be with us.

NOTE ON PHOTOS:

The images of LaManchas from 1970-80s were largely of poor quality. Anyone who wishes to share with us better quality photos should contact us by e-mail:

rabackus@sonic.net

A big thank you to Andrea Forrest who scanned these mostly black and white newsprint pictures for us.

REFERENCE:

Extended pedigrees and expanded production and type data are available on Gene Dershewitz's site: www.adgagenetics.org

Access to this data greatly expedited our work on this section.

Thanks, Gene!

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