

*Daphne Myers'*

# Bloodhound Legends

*Remarkable bloodhounds and the people who loved them*



Trackland's  
Beauregard

April 24, 1988 -  
October 31, 1998

*(CH Hope's TW Seventh  
Heaven x Anna Belle  
Ledroopin)*

owned by  
Allen & Patti  
Means

bred by  
Ronald & Rose  
Meier

In early 1988 I received a phone call from Patti Means asking if she and her husband could come over sometime and meet our bloodhounds. They had done their homework on the breed and were looking to purchase a quality puppy. Ironically, Patti went to high school with Bob and me, which I didn't know until she told me her maiden name. We remembered Patti as a very popular and pretty girl, who also ran for homecoming queen. Couldn't imagine seeing her with a big, drooling, messy bloodhound, but, let me tell

you, we were never farther from the truth! We set a time to have them stop over to meet Danny and Lizzie.

The Means' were very pleased with what they saw in our two bloodhounds. After many questions and lots of discussions, we agreed to meet in a few weeks at an all-breed show in Baltimore, where they could see other hounds and talk to different breeders.

Al told me he remembered that dog show and talking to Anne Legge for a long time. As I was interviewing him and Patti for this article,



*Left:  
Beau looking  
across his  
"North 40"*

*Right:  
Al, Patti  
and Beau  
at one of  
their many  
demonstrations*



he reminded me that it was most definitely my fault and Anne Legge's fault for getting him and Patti into this "bloodhound thing." I took it as a compliment.

One day in early summer, Patti called me and said they had just gotten back from a relative's wedding in Tennessee. She was so excited because, while down there, they had gotten a puppy. We made arrangements for them to bring Beau over to our house.

Just like new parents, Patti and Al were beaming when they arrived. We evaluated Beau and thought he looked like a very sound puppy. That's what they wanted to hear. You see, the Means' were very interested in what a bloodhound was bred to do, and they fully intended to work Beau as a mantrailer. Since Bob and I were strictly into conformation showing, we weren't much help other than pointing them in the right direction. It was obvious they would do just fine entering the world of the working hound.

In the beginning, according to Al, "trial and error" was used because there was no one else in the immediate area who could teach them. Phil Wendt and Harley Simons from New Jersey were early contacts who proved to be instrumental in helping them hone their novice skills. Later in Beau's career, DFC Terry Davis and other VBSAR members were influential in improving Al and Patti's training skills. In 1989, at the age of six months, Beau worked his first criminal case where he trailed three escaped convicts who wrecked their getaway car and fled on foot. Beau trailed three miles across fields to the spot where another car (put there by one of the convict's girl friends) was waiting for their use. The police officer who accompanied Al and Beau asked, "do you think he's still on the trail?" At that very moment, Beau rolled a rabbit in its squat and failed to pick his head up. Al heard the officer quickly report by radio that, "he's still on the trail!" Shortly thereafter, all three convicts were apprehended.

In 1989, the Means' formed the Red Rose K-9 S.A.R. (Search and Rescue) Team. They



*Beau in harness with his handler, Patti*

contacted local fire companies to tell them how they could work together during those early critical hours when trying to locate a missing person. Al and Patti also helped educate many firemen on securing areas so they remained as uncontaminated as possible. Community service was a high priority for them, and they planned to give it their all with Beau by their side.

Beau and Patti were called out for their second case where a 92-year-old Alzheimer patient named Elizabeth was missing from her room at a retirement home. It was in the very early hours of the morning and authorities believed she wandered outside into frigid winter conditions. After his first elevator ride,

Patti scented Beau from the woman's bedding, and he went right to work. Beau located Elizabeth safely tucked away in another resident's room, waiting for her friend to wake up.

Beau and the Means' continued to work as a team when the calls started to come in. In 1991, I got a call from a local woman who had a young bloodhound bitch that she needed to place due to aggressive behavior towards her physically challenged daughter. After talking to her for quite some time, I felt that the dog wasn't aggressive but probably just a heck of a lot of puppy for them. She agreed to let me visit the dog. When I met Clementine, my suspicions were confirmed.





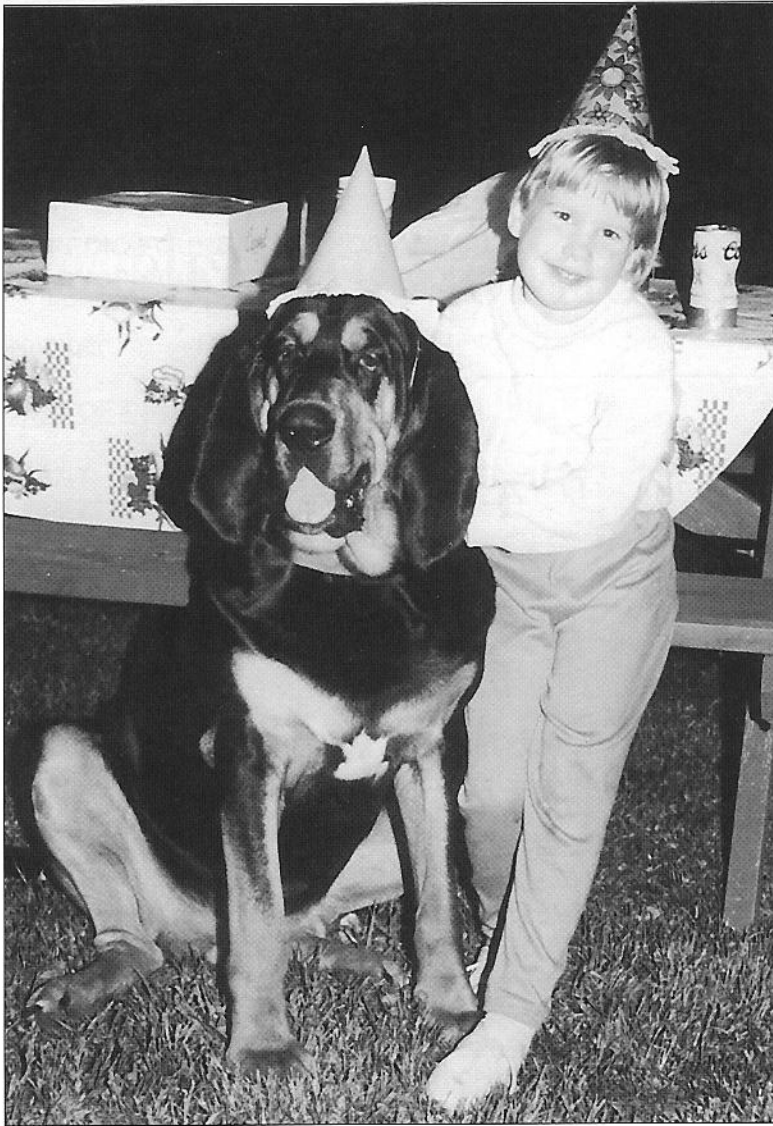
*Above left: (from left to right) Claudette, "Bonnie the Bloodhound," Beau and Hannah at a "Hug-A-Tree" program for girl Scouts  
Above right: Patti and Beau at a community function*

She was just too much dog for them, and they agreed to give her to me for placement. I contacted Patti and Al immediately. They weren't sure they were ready for another bloodhound but agreed to take her since I did not have accommodations for a third dog. Needless to say, Clementine never needed another home. She became the Means' second working dog. In 1991, Al and Clementine were called to work on the now nationally known "Lisa Michele Lambert Murder Case," in which Lambert and two others were accused of murdering fellow classmate Laurie Show. Clementine worked a trail and eventually found the rope used to tie up Laurie Show. Al would later be called to testify in the murder trial at the local and federal levels.

Patti and Al were always busy and their family kept growing. In 1993, they got Hannah from Jim and Bea Zarifis; and in 1994, they got Claudette from Rene St. Louis in Canada. They became involved in presenting the "Hug-A-Tree Program" on a volunteer basis to scout troops, church groups, senior citizens, schools and others. Beau always waited patiently out of sight until the end of the program when he would be introduced and everyone could see him work. Kids went nuts over him, but he remained a perfect gentleman. He loved the limelight!

Beau did several bank robbery trails for the FBI. In most of these cases, a dog is called in to verify that the fugitive has left the area. It can be months before it is ever known if the

suspect gets caught. When Beau was around five, he performed his most significant trail. A teenage girl had been lured into a car by a man who then raped her. After letting her go, he attempted to pick up another young girl but failed. The police were notified of the description of the car, and when they spotted it, a chase ensued. The suspect hit two cars head on and then rolled his car over an embankment near a creek. He crawled out of the car and fled on foot. Patti and Al got called to bring Beau to the crash scene. Beau wiggled his way into the overturned car and picked up the scent. From there he dragged Patti through the woods causing her to fall. He continued on the trail dragging Patti on her backside. Finally, three quarters of a mile

***Beau the birthday boy!***

Claudette had just had puppies on Labor Day. They got the call that no one wants to get - Beau had died. The dog sitters thought he was sleeping. Beau was right up next to the gate which separated the puppies from the rest of the house. With his two big paws resting on the bottom of the gate, he observed the next generation for the last time. His work was done here and that was okay. It would now be another's turn.

Patti and Al still deeply miss Beau, but thanks to him they have forged many close friendships with fellow "bloodhounds." As a good friend once told them, "some people train their hound all of the dog's life and never make a significant find." Beau was fortunate to have succeeded in this way and was instrumental in the closure of numerous searches. The Means' will continue to work long after Beau's passing. He was the beginning. In addition to search and rescue with their other hounds, Al and Patti are working their way through the ABC standards to become qualified judges for the ABC trailing events. They are certified to judge up to and including MTI tests.

The Means' have made a life-long commitment to community service, and they say they "owe it all to Beau." He was their inspiration and gave them ten wonderful years as a companion, partner and loyal friend.

away, Beau plunged into the cold creek at a dam breast. Several weeks later, the Suspect's body was recovered from the water as an apparent drowning.

At age seven, Beau bloated and torsioned, and Al and Patti thought they'd lose their beloved boy. Little did they know how strong he really was. He battled back and made a full recovery. He continued to work for the next three years. He and the Means' were given the Sertoma Club's "Service to Mankind Award," and they were nominated three times for the nationally recognized Jefferson Award.

Beau loved his couch and slept as much as possible. Al says it was because "Beau never knew when he'd be called to work a trail and so he'd have to be rested up." He also adored

ice cream sandwiches and until he got the last bite, he was very vocal. Beau's favorite pastimes were swims in the pond and rides in their carriage pulled by Duke their draft horse. Patti recalled some of Beau's funny antics, particularly one summer night when she let him out to take his routine run around their farm's borderlines. Patti noticed the smell of barbecue coming from a neighbor's house as she called for Beau to come in. He came running back carrying a large plastic bag containing several marinated steaks all ready for the grill. It probably ended up being a "pizza night" for those neighbors.

In October of last year, Al and Patti were in Virginia attending a mantrailing event. Their neighbors were dog sitting since

