

Archives & Manuscript Collections
National Sporting Library
Middleburg, VA

**Treweryn Beagles
Hunting Diaries
1930-1987**

Name: **Treweryn Beagles (est. 1924)** **MC 0016**

Materials: Hunting Diaries

Dates: 1930-1987 (bulk dates 1930-1953)

Volume: 2.0 cubic feet (Document boxes 1-4)

Donation: Bequest of David and Rebecca Sharp, 1988, and gift of J. Clayton Bright, 1999

Usage: Unless otherwise stated by NSL staff, these records are open for research without restrictions.

Historical Note

The Treweryn Beagles were established in 1924 by William Newbold Ely of Gwynned Valley, Pennsylvania near Philadelphia. The bloodlines of the pack came from Mr. Reynal's Beagles of New York, the Thorpe Satchville Pack in England, and from the Vernon-Somerset Beagles of New Jersey. The pack took its name from Ely's farm, Treweryn Fields. In 1929 the pack was taken over by James R. Kerr, Jr., who combined the pack with that of David B. Sharp, Jr. ("Bun"). Kerr left in subsequent years to assume mastership of the Rose Tree (PA) Hunting Club. In addition to Ely's farm, the pack's hunt country included the estates of several of the most renowned huntsmen in Chester County, such as Stockton White of Sugartown, Upton Sullivan of Goshenville, and the Thomas Brothers of Edgmenont. The beagles also hunted the West Chester Police Pistol Range and frequently were the guests and hosts of the Readington Foot Beagles of New Jersey and the Christiana Beagles of Delaware. Sunday was the traditional day of hunting for the pack.

The breeding program at Treweryn consisted of crossing bench beagles with successful field trial hounds. While this method did produce winning couples for the annual National Beagle Club trials, the pack enjoyed less success at bench shows such as Bryn Mawr. Therefore the cross-breeding program was dropped in favor of introducing the established bloodlines of champion English beagles.

Sharp became synonymous with the Treweryn Pack since having

assumed the mastership with Kerr in 1929. In 1955 he had married Becky Lanier Trimpi, an accomplished horsewoman and the master of the Nantucket Beagles. The two maintained the separate packs until 1964, when the packs were merged to form the Nantucket-Treweryn Beagles. This merger combined the third and fourth oldest packs in the country (Treweryn, 1924, and Nantucket, 1926, respectively). Sharp had reduced the size of the Treweryn pack to five couple, the rest of the hounds going to Robert Montgomery Scott to form the Ardrossan Beagles. The combined pack continued to hunt in both Nantucket and Pennsylvania until 1970, when the whole establishment moved to Middleburg, Virginia. The Sharps served as joint masters until their deaths in 1987. Today the pack is still active in Berryville, Virginia and is recognized by the National Beagle Club.

Collection Description

The Treweryn Beagles Hunting Diaries chronicle nearly sixty years of hunting and competition by the pack, from 1930 to 1987. These diaries, which are arranged in chronological order, were compiled by David Sharp as Master of the beagle pack, as well as some of his hunt staff. The detailed accounts of hunts and competitions, complete with lively commentary from the authors, are supplemented by fixture cards, invitations, statements to the subscribers, newspaper clippings, and several photographs. The last two diaries, dated 1952-1971 and 1971-1987, contain results from hound shows and field trials in which the Treweryn (and later the Treweryn-Nantucket) Beagles competed.

The diaries dating from 1931-1932 to 1938-1939 were written in the back of *Baily's Hunting Directory*, an annual English publication containing information on hounds and hunting in Great Britain. Pages for use as a hunting diary for each season were bound in with the rest of the journal, and Sharp and his staff utilized these pages to record their exploits. These diaries contain firsthand accounts by Sharp et al., as well as cards, clippings, and many photographs, just as the later individual diaries do. These nine volumes were part of a larger set of the *Baily's* journal bequeathed to the National Sporting Library in 1988 from the Sharps' estate.

For whatever reason, the nine diaries contained within the *Baily's Hunting Directories* were included with the 35 volumes of the periodical which went to the Library, thus creating a break in the record when the majority of the Treweryn diaries were bequeathed to J. Clayton Bright, a member of the hunt and a personal friend of the Sharps. In 1997 Bright edited and published those diaries as a book, The Treweryn Hunt Diaries, 1939-1953, a copy of which is held in the Library's section on Beagling. In 1999, after the completion of the book, Bright donated the diaries to the Library. Since the two sets of diaries together create a continuous record of the Treweryn Beagles from 1930 to 1987, they have been combined into one collection.

Several changes have been made to the diaries for the purpose of long-term preservation. The compilers of the diaries had originally created them in three-ring binders which had already begun to rust and destroy the paper documents contain therein. Because these binders

were not of any particular artifactual value, they were removed; the contents of each diary have been retained intact and have been placed into corresponding folders. Also, many items such as photographs had been stapled onto pages to affix items to the diaries; these staples have also begun to rust and to damage the surrounding documents. Therefore the majority of the staples have been removed. In the case of photographs, a photocopy has been created and then the photographs have been placed into acid-free sleeves. Non-acidic paper has also been inter-leaved into the diaries to slow the deterioration of acidic paper like newspaper.

Series and Subseries

I. Hunting Diaries, 1930-1987

Document boxes 1-4

Accounts of hunt outings and competition result of the Treweryn Beagles compiled mainly by David Sharp with entries by his hunt staff. Also contain fixture cards, clippings, invitations, and many photographs. The same places are recorded many times in the diaries, as the hunt country was limited: Sugartown (Stockton White), Goshenville (Upton Sullivan), West Chester Police Pistol Range, Edgemont (Thomas Brothers), The White Horse, General Green Inn. Also, results for Gladstone Beagle Club Field Trials and the National Beagle Club Field Trials, both held in November. Diaries arranged chronologically.

Container List
MC 0016

I. Hunting Diaries, 1930-1987

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Contents</u>	<u>Dates</u>
1	01	Hunting diary (loose)	1930-1932
1	--	Hunting diary (in <i>Baily's Directory</i>)	1930-1931
1	--	Hunting diary (in <i>Baily's Directory</i>)	1931-1932
1	--	Hunting diary (in <i>Baily's Directory</i>)	1932-1933
1	--	Hunting diary (in <i>Baily's Directory</i>)	1933-1934
1	--	Hunting diary (in <i>Baily's Directory</i>)	1934-1935
1	--	Hunting diary (in <i>Baily's Directory</i>)	1935-1936
2	--	Hunting diary (in <i>Baily's Directory</i>)	1936-1937
2	--	Hunting diary (in <i>Baily's Directory</i>)	1937-1938
2	--	Hunting diary (in <i>Baily's Directory</i>)	1938-1939
3	01	Hunting diary (bound)	1939-1940
3	02	Hunting diary (bound)	1940-1941
3	03	Hunting diary (bound)	1941-1944
3	04	Hunting diary (bound)	1944-1947
3	05	Hunting diary (loose)	1947-1950
4	01	Hunting diary (loose)	1950-1953
4	02	Hunting diary (loose)	1952-1971
4	03	Hunting diary (loose)	1971-1987

This collection was processed by Michele M. Tourney, May 2004.