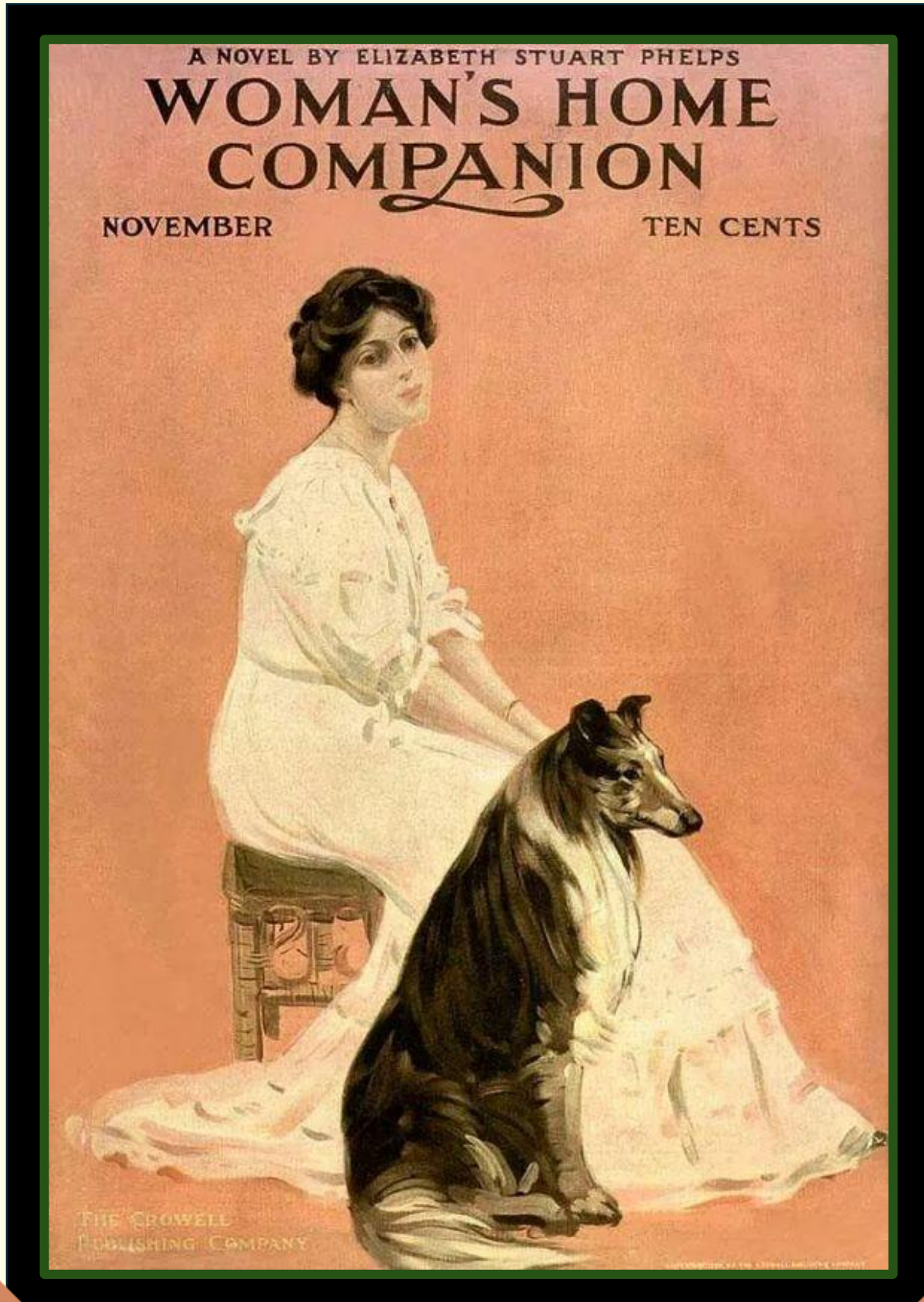


The TAILWAGGER





*It's always nice to credit the various artists chosen for the TailWagger's cover art, yet it's often very difficult. For this 1907 February cover of **A Woman's Home Companion**, I was utterly unsuccessful at finding any information about the illustration or the artist who created it. However, Elizabeth Stuart Phelps, whose name you see written on the cover, is worth a mention.*

*Phelps was born in 1844 and led a fascinating life as a dog fancier, feminist, and American author who wrote 57 volumes of fiction and numerous essays, articles, and poetry. She challenged traditional Christian beliefs of the afterlife (insisting that, "Oh yes, you are reunited with your family pets"—my paraphrase), challenged women's traditional roles in marriage and family, and advocated clothing reform for women, even going so far as to encourage women to burn their corsets. So now that we've established that she was 'pure dead brilliant', we can understand how she became the first woman to present a lecture series at Boston University and marry a man 17 years her junior. Near the end of her life, she was also very active in the animal rights movement. Her novel, *Trixy*, published in 1904, became a standard polemic against the experimentation of animals. She was an extraordinary individual.*

Upcoming Events

Sunday, March 9th

Dog Fancier IECC Obedience &
Rally Fun Match
SDTC

March 14-16

AKC Obedience & Rally
Columbia Basin Dog Training
Club
4 Paws DogWorks, Richland
WA

March 16

AKC Tracking Dog and
Tracking Dog Excellent Tests
Wenatchee Kennel Club
RV Ranch, Palisades WA

March 22 – 23rd

Patty Biggins Obedience
Seminar
Contact Linda Ward
SDTC

April 4 - 6th

AKC Scentwork Trial
Columbia Basin Dog Training
Club
JMS Construction

April 4 - 6th

AKC Scentwork Trial
Wenatchee Kennel Club

April 11 - 13

AKC Agility Trials
Spokane Agility Club
Spokane WA

April 25 - 27th

AKC All Breed Obedience &
Rally
Yakima Valley Kennel Club,
Inc.
Sozo Sports Complex

Sunday, April 27th

AKC IECC Tracking Test
Miller Ranch, Sprague

Sunday, May 4th

AKC SDTC Tracking Test
Miller Ranch, Sprague

May 9 – 11th

AKC Agility by SDTC
Sontag Park, Nine Mile Falls

May 16-18th

AKC Scentwork
Trial
Wenatchee Kennel
Club
Chelan County
Expo Center

May 17 – 18th

AKC All Breed
Obedience and
Rally Trials
SDTC

May 22, 2025 ♡

IECC Specialty
Spokane Fair &
Expo Center

May 22 - 26th

AKC All Breed
Obedience & Rally
Coeur d'Alene Dog
Fanciers, Spokane
Kennel Club & The
Inland Empire
Golden Retriever
Club
Spokane County Fair & Expo
Center

May 23 - 24th

AKC Agility Trial
Wenatchee Kennel Club
Grant County Fairgrounds

May 30 – June 1st

AKC Agility Trial
Greater Spokane Shetland
Sheepdog Club
Spokane County Fair & Expo
Center



A Wee Bit of Collie History

Florence Bell Ilch, Award-winning Collie Breeder



MRS. ILCH WITH CH. LAUND LECTOR OF BELLHAVEN

Florence B. Ilch put Red Bank, New Jersey, in Monmouth County on the map of the dog world with her outstanding Collies. For more than forty years on the Navesink River shore, Bellhaven Kennels produced and imported some of the country's best dogs and still holds the record for the first Collie to win the Working Group and the only Collie to win Best in Show (BIS) at the Westminster Dog Show way back in 1929. That dog, "Ch. Laund Loyalty of Bellhaven," shown here, remains the youngest of any breed to win Best In Show.

Here is the description of her Collie journey in her own words, published in the Collie Club of America:

"I was born in New York City, the only daughter of the late James Bell and Lida Pearce Bell. My father was born in Ireland, as were his ancestors for generations back. He was educated at Dublin College and became a silk and velvet importer until joining the firm of R.H. Macy, with which he was connected for twenty-five years until his retirement. Shortly after I was born, we moved to Brooklyn, which became our winter home until my father's death in 1913, at which time we made Bellhaven, then our summer home, our permanent all year residence. I was educated at the Convent of the Visitation.. Though no one in my family were Roman Catholics, I had always had a great fondness for the sweet, black-robed nuns, and the Convent was my own choice. A few months after graduation at the age of 16, I married Alfred Ilch of New York City. Two sons, Alfred and James were born in Brooklyn. One daughter, Virginia was born at Bellhaven. After Virginia finished her education, she decided to join up

with the business end of Bellhaven and has been a most wonderful help to me. In fact, were it not for her we would not have been able to make half the shows we have, as aside from the care of the dogs while away, which of course is the kennelmans job, there is a great deal of responsibility at Bellhaven that must be properly handled. I grew up with horses and dogs, and always thoroughbreds. On my ninth birthday, my father presented me with a huge Saint Bernard pup. I had read about the coming Westminster show and showed my pup in a class of eighteen. He won H.C., and I can truthfully say I have never since been so proud of an award. However, I admired the beautiful winner, Kingtonian Golf, shown by Frank Gould, who explained where my dog was wrong. I realized then I had no show dog and never showed "Marquis" again. Until my boys were nine and ten years old, I had no time for anything but them and their baby sister, but after that, they wanted a dog. It was one of the oldest Collie fanciers in the country, John Gamewell, then of Little Silver, NJ, now of New York City, a close friend of the late Albert Payson Terhune, who was instrumental in starting me in Collies. He suggested I buy a Collie from the late Pat Tully, and the only requirement I stated when writing for a pup was that he must be a tri, my favorite then and always. The dog came - a grand big fellow, and the children made a great pet of him. Shortly after, Westminster came around again, and the old showbug came to life (It seems I never picked small shows). Major was placed third in a class of three, and I realized then that you cannot expect a \$150 pet to win at Westminster. I then bought three of Mrs. Lunt's (Alstead) best bitches, paying top price; two of them, Alstead

Attractive and Alstead Allysum, won their championships. I found I needed a stud dog (the bug was then taking hold), and I bought Starbat Strongheart for a thousand dollars, at 9 months, after he had been beaten at Westminster. The old timers lifted eyebrows and said I would learn only by experience. Nobody considered him worth half the price; otherwise, they would have snapped him up long before I had a chance to buy him, as I only did so as the show was closing the last night. One person did not think I was crazy - and that was Mike Kennedy, then a perfect stranger to me, and Stronghearts handler at that show. Strongheart came back the next year to the Garden to take Winners, and the two consecutive years to Best of Breed, and was unofficially selected (there was NO official Best of Show that year) as Best in the Show. He won all over the country, defeating every good Collie out at the time; won three championships, 45 points, all big shows, and sired 23 champions, three of his sons

winning over 45 points each. This justified the price I paid and proved that my eye was not as far off, after all. I then wanted new blood, and it was my mother who financed most of my earlier importations. Had it not been for her, I could never have brought over all of the great dogs that I did. I mentioned above that my eye for the Collie was not so far off as the purchase of Strongheart proved; to add to this, I think I had an eye for a good handler also, as others had a chance to hire Mike Kennedy at the time but failed to do so. It is not necessary for me to dwell on Mike or what he means to Bellhaven. Everyone knows him and acknowledges he has no peer. He has just celebrated his 25th year as Manager of Bellhaven. We have bred 84 champions and completed 126 championships in the last 27 years."

Bellhaven ceased operation in 1966, with Kennedy's retirement. He passed in 1979, and Ilch followed in 1982 at 90. Today, the property is a town park named after the estate.



BRAGS



MBIS MBISS GChG Moxie's RockNRolla IT "Caper" won the Variety at Westminster for the 2nd time.

Caper's son, Ch Moxie Clique Bait "Pogo", won an AOM.
He also won a competitive Group 3 at the Rose City Classic in Portland



Puppy News

DOB 01/01/2025

Sire: "Bennett" - Cynclair A Chorus Line

Dam: "Alela" - Sinkona's Mystical Vortex BN NAP NJP SBN CGC

1 Blue Merle Male

2 Tri Smooth Males

2 Blue Smooth Females

2 Blue Rough Females

2 Tri Rough Females







The puppies had a long road trip last week; I drove to my friend Rebecca Julien-Moe's home in Maple Valley. There, they were released into her small side yard and actually saw ground and green!! They loved it! Not just snow and cold! The next morning, we drove to **The Boulevard Animal Clinic** in Olympia for an appointment with Dr. Nathan Kice, DVM DAVCO, who did their eye checks. Nancy Mathes of Cynclair Collies (owner of Bennett) met us there to see the litter and helped. Dr. Kice is building his own eye clinic, **Rainer Animal Eye Clinic**, in University Place, WA, which will open on March 10th. He worked hard with me to get the eye checks done as very few places do litter eye checks anymore. He's a very nice and knowledgeable gentleman. The puppies did very well on all the road trips. This past Wednesday, we made a shorter trip to **Fairwood Animal Clinic** for Wellness checks and microchips. Thank you to **Leslie Brost** for meeting me at the clinic to transfer puppies back and forth to crates and keeping puppies in crates while one was taken out to be examined. Again, the puppies passed the exams. This litter has kept us busy, but it's a very nice litter and worth it!

Elsa Brags

GCH CH PACH2 RACH UCDX URO3
Sinkona's Dream Catcher UD BN

GN GO RM3 RAE2 HSAdS HSBd HSAsM
MXP8 MXPG MJP10 MJPC

PAX2 MFP T2BP CA BCAT CGC JHD GV -
ELSA

2/14 Spokane Dog Training Club - Rally
Choice - Q 4th Place

2/16 CCA 2025 National - Performance
Invitational Invite!



Ebony Brags

CH UCD URO1 Sinkona's Black Magic CD BN RI HSAd OAJ OF OAP

AJP CGC VX - Ebony

2/14 Spokane Dog Training Club - Rally Advanced B - Q

Aella Brags



Sinkona's Mystical Vortex BN NAP NJP SBN CGC - Aella

2/22 Spokane Dog Training Club - Scentwork - Novice Container - Q

2/23 Spokane Dog Training Club - Scentwork - Advanced Buried - Q

Petra Brags

CH BN RO1 Cairdean's Tsesit Stone Sinkona CD
PCD BN GN RE NA

OAJ OAP OJP BCAT CGC - Petra

2/15 Spokane Dog Training Club - Novice B - 198 1st
Place

2/16 Spokane Dog Training Club - Novice B - 198 1st
Place



By John LaFree

John LaFree

Lives somewhere on the Gulf Coast of Florida, several miles north of 'good enough'. Visit his website at:

<https://caninecaricatures.pixels.com/>