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Mr. and Mrs. Frank Fonseca  
6535 SW 49<sup>th</sup> Street  
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Dear friends,

Luck got you over the ditch because you jumped so hard.

I especially think of Mercy's devotion to Gem when I flip through the reasons for the success of not just the Ames trial, but the season. It is fine to win the National Championship with its symbolic history and its lofty place in the field trial community, my personal preferences notwithstanding.

For my own satisfaction, give me Gem's superb performances on the magnificent prairie, with its wild game and mind-filling vistas. Ah the thrill of nature, unfettered by the meddling of man.

You were so loyal to her, and she gave in return.

The accomplishments of Rebel this year put him in rarified company. His Florida is so good in consideration of the big entry. His Continental runner-up gives him a classic placement, and the quality of his National performance is not only the classic win, but done in such a way to set him clearly apart. Six finds while his white bracemate, champion of the previous year, does nothing, all in an event when only 5 of 41 even completed the time.

It is such a credit to Fred and his maturing into a truly accomplished dog trainer, developer. A rarity.

I recall only Crossmatch winning at Dixie and Ames in the same season. He belonged to a great friend, Dr. Gordon, who was at my place when he got the news of the Continental win. Over a few drinks the night before we had given him to me, agreeing I would bring Mack here and breed him. But the great win changed the plans and he went on to take the National.

Over time he was retired and spent lots of time down here. But my counsel concerns his management.

Be clear that Mack was not a handsome dog. He was ultra strong. A bull. Never with an unproductive. Not that attractive. World of heart if not beauty.

I counseled, put him up, just run in the classics, but handler Bud Daugherty wanted to run him, and they did. So more people saw him and few then wanted to breed to him. Oh the critics come out of the woodwork. Jealousies abound.

There are obvious differences in the two. But Rebel has done so much that he needs do little more to be a big part of history. The main thing is sire some useful dogs. Stay healthy.

He then will be a Hall of Fame cinch.

My counsel would be to offer him to the public at stud at a reasonable price. Run him only in the classic trials. There is more opportunity for ill than good at most of the circuit trials.

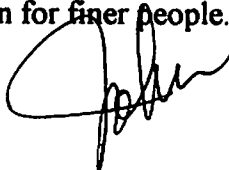
Numbers are a basic of making a successful sire. It is just so obvious that the ratio of success to failure in pups demands as many litters as possible. So few are well managed and so few have the talent if they had the opportunity. There are so few men able with young dogs. Fred and Tommy Davis come to mind. So the odds must be increased by numbers.

There is every reason to believe he will do his part in siring quality, for he is genetic granite. Not just on one side, but both. I plan to write something separately about the part of his pedigree I intimately know. I look out to the red kennel on the hill where I believe 12 of the ancestral entries in his sire's pedigree were whelped or produced, like 36 years ago when I shipped Cuz to A Rambling Rebel and raised Buckboard.

Over the years I was honored to judge 50 open all age championships, to put on so many trials large and small, including placing Fred's first, Texas Hummer in a Derby stake at Ardmore, and his first championship placement, runner up in Florida, the best down-south stake I ever witnessed. Unfortunately failing to stay healthy stopped that joyful part of my life.

I know you will continue to do so well by Rebel and so enjoy him, with my certain knowledge that you have raised the bar of achievement.

It could not happen for finer people.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'John', written in a cursive style.