

## *A March Through ACBA History*

### **CHUCK STEEL ACBA Hall of Fame 2001**

JACBA Fall 2001

Born in Frankfort, Ohio, Charles "Chuck" Steel bred and showed cavies as a youth. He and his Mom would attend shows where he exhibited his cavies. Though he worked with numerous breeds and varieties, American Whites and Creams dominated. He also worked with Peruvians in the 1970's. To this day, he retains an affinity for Chocolates and the now unofficial variety, Blues.

Chuck has an ever expanding knowledge base of cavy genetics and can be seen frequenting libraries in Frankfort and nearby Columbus, putting the inter-library loan program hard at work ferreting out old publications by William E. Castle and Sewall Wright. He routinely tests these hypotheses with breeding program information given him by breeders and on his own "herd" of invisible cavies, the knowledge of which started as a lark on an internet chat line.

During the 1970's and 1980's, Chuck juggled his career as a chemical engineer with increased participation in the show cavy fancy. He obtained his ARBA Judge license in 1977 and practiced this discipline with a flourish around the US. He was a judge at the 1st ACBA Specialty Show held in Chicago, 1979. Health forced him to retire his license in the 1980's.

The ACBA saw his services as a board member and Standards Committee member. The ACBA membership responded to a 1980 poll overwhelmingly in favor of accepting the Dark-eyed White. Presented as an extension to existing Self Whites in all breeds, Chuck successfully sponsored the American DEW into the Standard in 1982.

Chuck considers Canada an important part of the fancy, having judged there frequently and at one time serving on the Ontario Cavy Club Standards Committee. Today, he regularly attends the big Ontario Cavy Club spring show, where annual festivities have men fanciers, Chuck included, donning outrageous bonnets made by women fanciers for the ever-famous OCC Easter Bonnet Parade.

It is his long time Canadian friend, Bruce "Boss Hog" Eisel that first called Chuck "Pappy" and the name has stuck ever since. So if you hear someone remark about "Pappy's herd of invisible cavies" with seriousness, you'll know Chuck's busy at work correlating another genetics hypothesis.

Chuck's service to the fancy and his friendship are appreciated by all who know him.

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