

## 'WOODS' HOGS

After returning to the Berry home from Mr. Wengler's, Mr. Berry showed a friend the pictures of the Wattle hogs that he and Bob had seen at Mr. Wengler's. This man then told us the most interesting story. He had helped on a hog ranch of 20 square miles, his father, grandfather, and uncle raised hogs 50 years ago, over east in the wilds. He told us that many of their hogs were the wattled hogs. They were red with some black markings. Some were nearly black with some red on them. They were a very hardy hog with a lean head and straight nose and with upright ears. These were called woods hogs.

He told how the hogs lived in clans or families, each in an area of their own in the woods. Each man had certain ear marks on his own sows. Each sow had this mark placed on her pigs when they corralled them. Each time they rounded them up to vaccinate for cholera, castrate, ear mark, or what ever work was needed, they used horses and spotted cur dogs, trained to work hogs. Each man on horseback had 3 or 4 dogs behind and men ahead leading, that were special hog callers. They would call the hogs into the corrals for working on the hogs and sorting the ones ready for market. The buyers then took the hogs on barges, which came along the corrals of the hog raisers which were along the river. Then the hogs were taken into town and shipped to Chicago by rail cars to the slaughter plants.

He commented on the very good quality and flavor of the meat, being a superior meat to the blood hogs of today, as he described them. He also claimed the Wattle hogs were a quieter hog than the other hogs. The area they had in the timber back then is now all plantations or farms to raise crops such as soybeans and milo.

The hills and mountains are forest controlled by big wood companies now. They have given bountys for extermination of these hogs. It is against the law to let any hogs run in these areas because of the damage the hogs would do in rooting around the trees.

This area may be close to where Mr. Wengler found his wattled hogs, some 10 years ago.

## BEGINNING THE ENDOW WATTLE HOG LINE

In March of 1982, a young friend, Dana Fairchild, was driving Bob from LaCrosse, WI Allergy and Poison Center to Kansas City for more chelation treatments, when Dana suggested they stop at home to get the pickup truck and go on to the Kansas City medical center where Bob could receive treatments through Friday morning. They would have the rest of Friday and until Monday before the next treatment. Dana suggested he could drive Bob to Texas where Dana had a friend and they might locate some hogs as Bob had heard of a man that had a Wattle sow and boar he had bought from Mr. Wengler. After getting into Texas, they contacted a Mr. Jester. From there the word got around fast, Bob bought hogs from several owners of Wattle hogs who had been selling them to Mr. Wengler.

Mr. Fairchild helped with Bob's selections. They took the sow Rosebud and her litter, pigs from Coy and Jungle Belle, gilts from Little Red and Billy B, and the boar, Mr. Magic, from King and Queen (litter of 15, 12 raised).

One month later on a weekend between treatments at Kansas City, Dana and Bob drove down for another load, including Big Mac, another son of the litter from King and Queen. A third trip was made later in the year for pigs from a litter from Big Mac, his litter mate sister and others including pigs from Mr. Lucky and Miss Ann. The hogs were all selected for leanness, conformation, etc., leaving the ones with 10 teats, shorter bodied, too much excess fat around the jewels, wagon wheel-top line (to much arch in the top line). In all, 30 head of selected hogs were brought to Iowa to foundation the ENDOW WATTLE HOG line. Mr. Magic and Big Mac were the best young boars seen in the 7 herds and at Mr. Wengler's. They were litter mates as stated before. These boars were double grandsons of Samson. The Longfellow boar was used in the herd. He also was a double grandson of Sampson. The boar Ernie, a Jungle Papa, Jungle Mama boar was also used, again a great grandson product of Samson. The boar OX was used, again a great grandson by sire and same dam as Longfellow was from, as daughter of Samson.