

PAJAK

HERO

Cookie Pajak

Westies were embedded in my brain from childhood. My crib even had an old decal of a Westie on it. My mother painted old Scotties plaques white. (Inspirational?)

I acquired my first Westie in 1964. He was actually my first anniversary present and he was purchased a pet. I acquired him from Mrs. E.K. Fischer (Mar Els Westies). I did not know anything about dog shows at first. I did learn from Mrs. Fischer and other people I met early on. I did purchase a female to show two years later. I met Bergit Coady who explained that my bitch needed more neck. I then went to Peggy and Chuck Lewis from whom I purchased my foundation bitch. She also became my first champion, Ch. Nic Mac's Gemini. I did have a beautiful homebred champion around the same time, Ch. Hero's Hurricane Aggie.

I learned about stripping from Dr. John Rudawsky, and general grooming at the same time. I worked with him for several years. Other mentors were Lanny & Penny Hirstein who finished several of my dogs while I was learning from them. I also read many Westie books and watched many a groomer and handler at dog shows. Although I own many different books on Westie history, my most enjoyable ones were May Pacey's book on Westies during World War II and various editions of John T. Marvin's *The Complete West Highland White Terrier*. A very interesting book also is *Westies from Head to Tail* by Ruth Faherty. There are many good books about Westies. The list goes on and on. The dog that most influenced the breed in my opinion was Ch. Mac-Ken-Char's Irish Navigator. On saying that, I must admit that Joanne and Jaimi Glodek were also most helpful to me.

Other stud dogs that I feel stamped themselves on the breed were Ch. Donnybrook's George and I had nice champions from Donna Young's Ch. Greenbriar's Going My Way. Ch. Round Town's Ivan the Terror gave me six champions. When piloted by the famous handler, George Ward Ch. Hero's Top Brass went Best in Show some 32 times.

I belong to the WHWTCA and The WHWTC of Northern Illinois. I am President of the Burlington Wisconsin KC. I was the Treasurer of the WHWTCNI from 1965 and until 1968. I have been a show chairman and involved in running dog shows.

I do believe in line breeding with occasionally breeding out. My most memorable experience at Montgomery was in around 1984 - 85. I was sitting next to Mrs. Daniel--Jenkins (Kennels of the Rouge) Canada. I did not know her at that point. I was very excited to see a young male that I had just bred to take Winners Dog. "D-J" gave me very valuable advice that day. She said never breed to a dog by his wins but by what he puts on the ground. I never forgot that and she was so right. I also most

enjoyed seeing an owner breeder handler win at Montgomery (Ch. Czarcrest's Blue Moon). Being at Montgomery is always exciting.

I hope that breeders in the future maintain the Westie's wonderful personality. They are the most loving, caring "people" dogs that I have ever known. They want to please us and know exactly what we are thinking. Their loyalty knows no bounds and if you share your like with one or more, you are fortunate indeed. Future breeders should not breed dogs that are too nervous or have produced health issues. Do not breed dogs for only the sake of winning.