

## ADAMS

## ROSENEATH

### Thelma Adams

My love affair with that grand breed, the West Highland White Terrier, began in 1940 in Detroit, Michigan. When my first husband presented me with a tiny, white puppy, I was unaware of the breed as the puppy wasn't registered. I had him for five years when I had to find him a new home. I met and married Tom in 1946. He was a Canadian who was on an extended leave as General Sales Manager of Ford Motor Company of India.

We sailed on a "slow boat" - a freighter with 12 passenger cabins - to Bombay early in 1947, taking 31 days to complete the trip from New York. Tom had a Silky Terrier and another small terrier-type waiting for him. After a few months, Tom was transferred to Ceylon as manager of that branch. I was very homesick, so Tom decided to return to Canada, where he joined Nash Motors as General Manager. We brought the two little dogs back with us, and when they went to doggie heaven in 1950, I had to have another dog like "Skippy".

We went to our vet and described the breed, and he directed us to Bencruachan Kennels in Aurora. We purchased Punch Jr. at seven months of age. The charming breeder, Victor Blochin, a white Russian Count, fled from his homeland to Scotland during the Revolution, staying with a Westie breeder. When he immigrated to Canada, he brought a male and female Westie with him. I believe he was the second, if not the first, to introduce the breed to Canada. He said that Punch Jr. was a prospective show specimen, and showed him in a three-day show at the Canadian National Exhibition in 1951 where he was BOB twice and placed 4<sup>th</sup> in the Terrier Group, accumulating five points. I decided to show him myself thereafter and finished him quite quickly.

By this time, we were bitten with the showing and breeding "bug", so purchased Bencruachan Judy 2<sup>nd</sup>, whom I showed to her championship. We heard Punch Jr's sire, Ch. Punch Sr. ("Pops") was for sale at three years of age by a Scottie breeder. His show career was quite impressive, so we bought him.

We were hampered for breeding in Toronto, so we moved to Unionville where we had five acres and had a kennel built. Tom finished the inside 11 4' x 6' pens and 25-foot-long outside runs. He also made sleeping boxes for them. Tom decided "Roseneath" was an appropriate kennel name for us, since the Duke of Argyle used that name for his breeding, one of the first of the breed in Scotland. Eventually eleven more pens and runs were later added to our kennel for boarders.

Our first litter sired by Punch Sr. in 1952 consisted of two males and one female. We made champions of all three since we couldn't bear to part with them. One of the males won the Terrier Group at a prestigious show in Toronto. The other male met an

untimely death with acute gastritis while we were out for the evening. The female, Ch. Roseneath New Dawn was bred to Cruben Dugald, imported by Victor Blochin, a son of the famous, beautifully made Can., Am. Ch Cruben Dextor, imported by Barbara Worcester Keenan. There were two males and one female in that litter and we also made champions of them, but later sold one of the males. The other male, Can., Am. Ch Roseneath White Knight (Rocky) was “not only a good dog, but a great one” remarked a judge when he awarded him a Best in Show. Rocky had quite a career, winning BOB from the classes in 1957 in the WHWTC of America Specialty in New York and BOB again in 1959. He won seven BIS in Canada, 11 Best Canadian Bred in Show, 26 Group placements, including 11 Firsts (one in Buffalo), 14 BCB in Group and 36 BOB including four in the US. He was also Top Winning Dog, All Breeds in Canada in 1957, much to our surprise and delight, as we were unaware of a record being kept until we saw it in *Dogs in Canada* magazine. He lived almost 17 years.

Returning to Punch Sr, (who first put our names up in the dog world) he gave us our first BIS at the two-day Oakville all breed show. At the second show, he won Reserve BIS, which was never offered again. He was BCB at both shows. He won three BIS, 10 Group placements (including four firsts) and 11 BOB awards in the two years Tom showed him.

Another Westie I campaigned quite successfully was Can., Am. Ch Feolin Angus of Rosemead (Dennis) whom we kept out of a litter I whelped for Patricia Steele in 1967. He took BIS at the Montreal show in 1970 under an American judge. Other wins included Best Puppy in Sweepstakes at the Indiana Specialty and a 5-point win in the regular classes. He won four BCB in Show, 17 Group placings, including seven firsts, nine BCB in Group, 32 BOB and one Canadian Specialty.

From 1959 to 1964, I showed Can., Am. Ch Roseneath White Crusader (Willie) extensively who won one BIS and perhaps could have won another at the Canadian National Exhibition, since the judge who gave him the Terrier Group remarked, “This is a BIS dog”. Unfortunately, I was rushed to the hospital that day before BIS judging for an emergency appendectomy. Willie never got another chance to try for a BIS as he developed a malignancy and regrettably, had to be put down. He was a magnificent showman and besides his BIS, he won 29 Group placements, including eight firsts, 11 BCB in Group and 33 BOB.

Another male, our last to campaign and shown by Tom from 1973 to 1978, was Can., Am. Ch Roseneath Candy Man (Terry). In 1973, when he was seven months old, we took him to the WHWTCA Specialty at Montgomery County. He was 2<sup>nd</sup> in a large entry of puppies in the Sweepstakes under Ed Keenan, and Reserve Winners to the Best of Breed winner under the English judge and breeder Sheila Cleland of Birkfell Kennels. He finished in four shows in the States and also finished quickly in Canada with 55BCB in Breed, 14 BCB in Group, three BCBP in Show, 45 Group placements including 14 firsts and 52 BOB. He sired 25 litters. Sadly, like Willie, his life was also cut short by a malignancy.

Can., Am., Ch Roseneath Fair Charmer (Charm), a half-sister of Candy Man, although up to size, did very well in the ring. Out of 23 times shown in three years, she won one Canadian Specialty, one BCB Puppy in Show, 10 Group placements including one first, 15 BOB, 17 BCB in Breed and three BCBP in Group.

After leaving Nash Motors, Tom Joined the CKC as Office Manager. He retired after 12 years and in 1974 we sold our property and got homes for 11 retired Westies. We moved to Narmada (near Penticton), bringing nine Westies with us, but later selling two.

From our last litter, out of Charm sired by Candy Man (in 1977) we kept as a pet Roseneath Candy Kisses (Pixie) which I had until 1991. Thus ended my close association with Westies, but not my obsession and love affair with this wonderful and beautiful breed. During our 46 years of owning and 22 years of breeding and showing Westies, we had 100 litters and finished 40 champions, seven of which went BIS, eight won BCB in Show and two BCBP in Show. In obedience, Roseneath Tuppence, trained by our kennel girl, earned her CD title.

I was awarded honorary Life Membership both by the Canadian West Highland White Terrier Club as well as the West Highland White Terrier Club of America. The Canadian Kennel Club gifted me with a long-time membership pin.

Tom passed away in 1987.