

BARRIE

O' PETER PAN

Tom and Barbara Barrie

1. Why Westies? In early 1964, we were thinking of getting a pet for our two daughters' sixth and third birthdays in March. Tom was in the Air Force, we were living on-base, but subject to moving at any time. As an engineer, he tends to analyze every decision, so on a visit to the library, we brought home a stack of dog books (he cleared the shelf). The criteria included: small size, adaptable, good with children, sturdy and easy to travel with. From that zero knowledge base, the search focused on two breeds, the Westie and the Miniature Schnauzer. We began watching the paper and bought *Dog World* magazine, looking for puppies available in our area. The first ad we found was for a Westie litter located about 100 miles from us. The litter was newborn, but the owner agreed to let us visit, and we met a Westie for the first time.
2. From whom did you obtain your first Westie? The person who furnished our first Westie was a nice lady, but strictly a back yard breeder.
3. Was this Westie purchased as a pet or show dog? "Bonnie" was to be the girls' pet and companion. About a year later, after a reassignment to Southern California, we decided to visit a dog show in Los Angeles. The only Westie entered at the show was owned and handled by Ron Davis, [Jennessey]. He spent a lot of time with us, and invited us to a Westie fun match scheduled for a few weeks later. In preparation for the match, we had our dog "professionally groomed" at a local pet shop. In spite of her Scottie trim and pantaloons, she was awarded second in a class, and we were hooked on showing.
4. Who was your most important mentor and why? At that match, we were introduced to Florence Sherman, who lived in a town near us. She helped patch together Bonnie's coat on the day of the match and offered to help us further to work on her and teach us to groom. As good as her word, she did give us advice and assistance with our first puppy.
5. What do you remember most about this mentor? Shortly afterward, Tom left the Air Force and took a job in Houston on the space program. On arrival, and while house-hunting, Bonnie escaped from the motel room and was killed. Our tearful report to Florence resulted in her finding another female puppy for us, "Wendy." As the new puppy was growing up, we made frequent phone calls to Florence asking for advice and tips, including detailed grooming instructions. Wendy was successfully shown as a puppy, and on her second season, Florence assisted in arranging a breeding to Ch. Glen Havens Ceaser. Again, frequent telephone coaching from Florence got us through the gestation and delivery of a litter of four, one of which became our first champion, Ch. Pride of Peter Pan.
6. Who were some of the other mentors that influenced you? How did they do so? Ron Davis had established a successful strain of Westies based on Ch. Elfinbrook Simon. We were able to purchase a bitch from him, out of Ch Kirkaldy's Roxanne, with the plan to breed her back to Simon at the appropriate time. Ch. Jennessey Paradox O' Peter Pan was bred to Simon, three of the four puppies finished, and became the foundation of the Peter Pan line.
7. To date, what has been your most important/ memorable moment in Westies? Without a doubt, it was when our dog, "Charley", Ch. Playboy O' Peter Pan, went Best in Show from the classes at the Antelope Valley Kennel Club over 3000+ dogs, handled by Bergit Coady under Derek Rayne.

8. What is your favorite dog show? Why? We believe Great Western Terrier Association has the prettiest show, most pleasant surroundings and some of the nicest people in dogdom. If Great Western is the Eden of dog shows, Montgomery County must be Mecca.
9. If you groom your own dogs, who taught you to do so? Florence was our early mentor on grooming, mostly by long-distance telephone. Hours on the phone, supplemented by exchanges of photos, were the basis of our first grooming education. These were supplemented by exchange of ideas with other club members, exhibitors, handlers and judges. We are still learning.
10. If you are or were a breeder, who taught you to evaluate litters and young stock? Mostly we have been self-taught in litter evaluation. It was our practice to line breed, so we became familiar with the traits that a promising puppy will show and at what age. We believe a key factor in breeding, after having a quality bitch, is stud selection, based on a blend of pedigree, type, and soundness. Going with the current top winner is like grasping at smoke.
11. When you look back, which of your Westies would you consider your favorite *or most influential*? Why? We have found that often our favorites were sometimes not the best in conformation, but the ones who made us laugh. First of all, a Westie should be a personal companion. Which Westie not owned by you did you consider a favorite or most influential? I believe that the dog we are most proud of from our breeding was sold as a puppy to our dear friend, Marcia Lozes, who successfully trained and owner-handled Ch. Pennywhistle O' Peter Pan NA CD JE OA CDX SE ME NAP NJP RN. "Chrissey" was also one of the spokes-dogs for *Little Cesars*, her endearing expression making many friends for the breed.
12. Also looking back, which sire, in your opinion, had a *strong* influence on the breed? There are too many to list, but any list must include Ch. Elfinbrook Simon, Ch Whitebriar Jeronimo, and Ch. Holyrood's Hootman O' Shelley Bay.
13. What was your most memorable Montgomery County moment? Roving moment? Montgomery: Tom - judging the Westie classes in 2004. Barbara - judging Sweepstakes a year later.
14. If you attended the Centennial in 2009, what were your greatest experiences from it? Barbara being able to show our Ch. Praline O' Peter Pan in the Veteran Bitches class after recovering from knee transplant surgery.
15. What Westie author/artist influenced you the most? The bible for Westie fanciers has to be John Marvin's *The Complete West Highland White Terrier*. *Westies From Head to Tail* is also must reading for the Westie enthusiast.
16. Do you have a favorite Westie collectible(s)? From nearly 500 items of all types, our favorite is an oil portrait of our first champion, Ch. Pride O' Peter Pan. It is a gorgeous head study in a casual pose, it would not mean much to anyone else, but to us, "priceless."
17. Are you or were you active in any regional Westie Clubs? Which one(s)? We have been active and supported the regional clubs wherever we have travelled: Southeast Texas, California, Trinity Valley, and have held offices in each club. Tom was also President of the WHWTCA, and is currently the AKC Delegate. Barbara was a Director for WHWTCA.
18. What do you think the future holds for the breed? Where would you like to see Westies in 10/20 years? Through the efforts of the Westie Foundation with support of the

AKC-Canine Health Foundation and Morris Animal Foundation, research is discovering the causes and cures for the diseases and hereditary problems of our breed. We hope for the continuation of these pursuits, and success in eliminating most afflictions encountered in the breed.

19. How best can WHWTCA members assure the future well-being of the breed. Remember the Standard. Keep a broad focus on the character and characteristics that have endeared the Westie to us. Try to avoid being hung up on one or two features – look at the whole dog.
20. What advice can you impart to present and future Westie enthusiasts? Love the breed. Support the Club and the Foundation as they strive to keep the Westie breed healthy, well-balanced and a wonderful companion. Compete hard but remain friendly. Have fun.