

CAMPBELL

CAMAREST

Roberta Campbell

1. In 1958, Seth Campbell asked me if I would be interested in working for him at some dog shows. After much instruction, including remembering to take off my apron before going up to the ring, we drove into the Frasier Estate for the Montgomery County show. At the "Frazier place" crates and handlers were set up behind a huge hedge of firethorn that you either went through or around to get dogs to the rings. I was scratched and bloodied by the end of the day. It was there that I met Katharine Hayward for the first time. She was the nicest and kindest lady, as well as an encyclopedia of knowledge about Westie history and grooming.

2. Seth always had several Westies being readied or being shown. I came to love and enjoy the breed. After Seth died and I became a handler, I felt that handlers should never show against their clients. So I did not buy a Westie of my own.

3. All Westies I encountered were show dogs. I was blessed to make "house mouses" out of most of the numerous Westies that I handled. When I visited clients' homes, there were always old friends among the Westies to hug and enjoy.

4 & 5. The most important mentors to me were Katharine Hayward and Jack and Bea Marvin. They taught by word and example in a long and evolving process. When I didn't get it right, they repeated the lessons - always in a kind and "this is best for the dog" manner. Jack Marvin's books are still on my bookshelf for reference.

6. I learned about different bloodlines, coat types, temperaments, etc. from each and every Westie and Westie client that I had. Today, I can recognize the carry down from certain bloodlines as I am judging. Exhibitors probably wonder why I ask, "Who is the sire, dam of this dog?" as we take photos.

7. My most memorable win was Best of Breed at the Associated Terrier Clubs event the day before Westminster with Ch. Huntinghouse Little Fella in 1968. I was so scared, to be all by myself as a handler. Could I really compete with all of those terrier *men*? As I remember, Kay Gately was one of the few women regularly in competing in East coast terrier rings and she was a force to be reckoned with. There would be many memorable moments later on.

8. My favorite shows are Montgomery County with the accompanying national Specialties in spite of the mud, cold, and other extremes of weather both as a handler and a judge. At Montgomery County there are so many wonderful dogs in top condition and old friends to see. There is just not enough time to cover it all.

9. Yes, I've always groomed my dogs. Seth and I had worked it out that he could trim one side and I would do the other. There is always something new to learn, to do or not to do about a breed, whether its handling, judging, grooming or whatever. If you just sit and watch and watch and watch, then try out what you've observed, you may find you have "upped your game." I love to sit and watch groups with breed standards available.

10. I bred other Terriers, Working Herding and Hound breeds, and whelped puppies for several clients. Each breed has its own style, timing and growth rate. Today, I love judging the puppy classes and seeing (sometimes) the grown results.

11. & 12. I don't discuss clients or competitors.

13. Montgomery County: thirty-three years of always attending as a handler, and the remembrance of wins from beautiful large classes of Westies in the sun (sometimes) on pristine green grass. Standing and trying to keep the Westie clean while ankle deep in mud during the Group.

Roving: Judging in Oklahoma, excellent quality classes with gracious exhibitors. I loved every minute of that day.

14. I didn't attend the Centennial.

15. Jack Marvin, author, and Dorothy Hardcastle, artist. I read constantly. Some I believe and some I don't, "Doubting Thomas" that I am.

16. Plates hand-painted by Dorothy Hardcastle, framed head study by Priscilla Barley. Tragically, my house burned in 1979, and destroyed paintings, ceramics, catalogs and all records.

17. I have never been active in regional Specialty clubs. I avoided politics that way.

18, 19 & 20. The future? I would like to see the Westie remain a moderate breed in size and length of leg. Please avoid exaggeration. Grooming has become an art form, with some strange, teased "melon-heads". Grooming Westies correctly is not easy, and takes a lot of time and practice. I hope Westies continue to have the delightful, cheerful personality that we love. In every litter, some will be pets. These must have the correct temperament to be loved and successful pets.