

## **SUNDIN SUN CREST**

### **Beverly J. Sundin**

1. Why Westies: A friend's mother bred Westies. Her name was Georgia DeWitt, a well-known breeder of show dogs in her time. I was a large dog lover, and only considered a Westie if I ever had a small dog. My husband was not fond of my German Shepherd, so I purchased my first Westie from Georgia DeWitt.
4. Mentor: While living in Florida, I had no regular mentor, but I met B.G. Frame and the C.C. Fawcetts at my first show, where I was showing a six-month-old puppy. Since I had no idea how to groom a Westie, a handler in my club offered to do it for me. B.G. and the Fawcetts said that the handler took off what should have been left, and left what should have been taken off. The three of them surrounded my puppy bitch and went to work. She was a new dog when they were done.
6. Other mentors: Katharine Hayward really helped me get into a good breeding program and set me on the right path at the beginning.
7. Best moment: Standing by watching my bitch present her first litter - eight puppies. I thought "this is a cinch." Boy, did I have a lot to learn.
8. Favorite show: All of the Rovings that I attended were my favorite shows. People came from all over, and it was easier to get acquainted at a Roving than at Montgomery.
9. Grooming: When I started, the only grooming info I could find was in John Marvin's book, and pictures in *Dog World* magazine. Nothing else seemed to be available back in the late 1960s. I became pretty good grooming the old way, but I cannot compete with the current grooming style.
- 10 Litter evaluation: I had no one to evaluate my litters. I would try to figure out the standard, and see if anyone came close to what I was reading. Then, years ago, when George Ward and Cliff Hallmark would answer my questions, they gave me a lot of good advice. It really was touch and go what with my living so far away from any center of Westie activity. I was very lucky.
11. Influential/Favorite Westies: Ch. Sun Crest Gingerbread Man, who I used at stud several times, produced some very nice puppies for me. At the time, he looked like he was a good example of the standard, and his temperament was to die for. My two favorite Westies not owned by me were Ch. Holyrood's Hotspur of Shelly Bay (Ted) and Ch. Sweet sound's King O' Rock N' Roll (Elvis). Ted produced the smartest puppies, and it carried on through several generations. Elvis moved around the ring like he was floating on a cloud. Both dogs appeared happy all the time.
- 12 Strong influence on the breed: Ch. Cruben Dextor did it all. The quality of Westies

was then established. He was a great show dog and a producer of some of the best Westies.

13. Memorable Montgomery moment: Showing my special in the mud at Montgomery around 40 years ago. As he moved, he threw up a clump of mud on his side. He stopped and looked up at me, then at the mud. He did this two or three more times before I could get him to move again. Those at ringside just roared while watching this.

14. Centennial: Believe it or not, the best part of the Centennial for me was having everything in one location, and not having to drive all over the place to each event. One could enjoy all of the events that way.

15. Best Westie artist/author: John Marvin.

16. Favorite collectible: A ceramic planter with flowers with a Westie head sticking out of it. I won this at the live auction at the Roving in Texas. I don't know who created it.

17. Regional Club: I was active in the Florida Suncoast Westie club.

18. Future for Westies: It's hard to say what the future holds for Westies. They are big, then they are small; short, then long. The standard changes to suit the breeders and not breeding to suit the standard. I would like to see good, healthy Westies.

19. What members can do: The best thing is to be honest about their breeding stock. Eliminate from their breeding stock those dogs who have or have produced significant health problems.

20. Advice: Win or lose, one must have a good attitude. Be friendly with all fellow exhibitors, even when you think that you had the better dog in the ring. It is the judge's opinion on that day, and not yours, so accept it and move on. We all think that our Westies are the best, but we must evaluate our dogs with an honest eye, and not just with our heart.