

DREXLER

TARADINK

Lois Drexler

Our family was like many others, watching on television and smitten by the spunky white dog that won Best in Show at the 1962 Westminster Kennel Club dog show. As we all came to learn, he was Ch. Elfinbrook Simon. However, since we already had a cat (Whiskers) and a Fox Terrier mix (Jasper), we managed to wait until 1968 to purchase our first Westie - Lady Bonnie-Dink Dulcinea. Then, her breeding to Ch. Jenessey Sir Scott (a Simon son) in 1971 gave us our Ch. Taradink Lord Dunsinane.

Earlier, in 1970, we bought our second Westie - Glenkiltie Lady Christie. She was a compact little girl, but did seem lacking in pigment. Tom was eager to learn more about this, and contacted Mr. and Mrs. Tom Adams in Canada. Soon, we were driving north, and spent a most informative afternoon with the Adams. It was at this point that I knew we were in the Westie World for "the long haul."

Tom and I were founding members of the WHWTC of Western Pennsylvania. I served terms as Secretary, Editor of our *Westie-Gram* and worked on various club committees. We joined the national club in 1971, and attended many of the Montgomery County shows and traveled to several of the Roving specialties. Each of those specialty shows was truly enjoyable, and it is difficult to choose a favorite one. Then it was in 1989 that I took the new position of Corresponding Secretary of the WHWTCA, and served for several years.

As new members of the parent club, we had many people willing to answer questions and give us advice. Mrs. J. H. (Dorothea) Daniell-Jenkins always gave us a warm welcome; Clarence and Jeanne Fawcett would go out of their way to take time to chat. Ed Keenan gave Tom encouragement to strive for perfection with his newly found talent in sculpturing dogs. Ed served well as Tom's mentor.

Each of our Westies had their own unique way, and I loved each one for it. Now having only one Westie - Taradink's Wisdom of the Wild Wind (Willow), naturally she is my favorite.

To answer which Westie had a strong influence on the breed, I would name Ch. Elfinbrook Simon.

The 2009 Centennial had a great location. The hotel was large and it was very convenient to have all of the activities in one location. The grounds were most attractive. I suppose the highlight to me was the costume contest. It was most enjoyable to watch and the outfits were really spectacular. The trip to Gettysburg was a close second though.

Since I have many of the books on Westies, the choice of authors is difficult. Still, my

number #1 favorite would be Ruth Faherty. Other favorites would include Daphne Gentry, Cecil Alden and Seymour Weiss. My choice for favorite artist is easy - Tom Drexler, naturally. Other favorites include Dorothy Hardcastle, Judy Swingle and Barbara Hands. Regarding collectibles, I have so many, but I am slowing down these days.

For the future, I hope energetic people will continue to join the club. The betterment of the breed should be their main concern. All Westies should get daily attention and love from their owners. My advice to prospective Westie owners - read and go to dog shows, but always remember, you are getting a Terrier.