

GIBSON

Norene Gibson

My affection for the breed started when as a girl, I wished for a little white dog like the one in the Black and White Scotch ads. Not until 20 years later was my wish fulfilled.

My involvement with showing Westies was minimal, but fulfilling. My first two Westies were pets, one of which was purchased from Don and Evelyn Mayer. Along the way, I met Mary Torre (Elmac Kennels) who offered me the opportunity to co-own a Simon daughter, Elmac Dew West PepSi Bubl-Up. When bred to Ch. Kar-Ric's O'Thank You, she produced Ch. Brytwood's Gidget.

My most memorable moments with Gidget were when she received a Group 4th from renowned judge Johnny Murphy in very good competition, and when Mrs. Daniell-Jenkins awarded her Best Veteran bitch at the WHWTC of Northern Ohio Specialty in 1976. At the same Specialty, Gidget's daughter Am., Can. Ch. Brytwood's F'Goodness Sake (sired by Ch. Lymehill's Birkfell Solstice) was awarded BOS.

I feel that Ch. Elfinbrook Simon was a most influential show dog and sire. His records have been eclipsed, but he made his mark at Westminster (who can forget that "leg lift"), and in the capable hands of George Ward, changed how we presented Westies. Westies today are so over-groomed!

Favorite collectables: Probably Marguerite Kirmse's etchings, Black and White decanters and Tom Drexler's later sculpture. I also have a sepia print of "Dignity and Impudence" in an old ornate frame which I enjoy.

I still don't know how to groom. I can "pull" hair, and then hope for the best. As of this moment, I have a rescue. She's very soft-coated, but a willing guinea pig - she LOVES to get groomed.

In addition to life membership in the WHWTCA, I am also a life member of the WHWTC of Northern Ohio, helping it get restarted in the early 1960s. I was an active member for quite a long time.

Where would I like to see Westies in 10 to 20 years? I would like to see them HEALTHY! Let's get rid of the skin diseases, cancer, etc. I'd like to see them revert back to the strong-boned, hard-coated, cobby, little white dogs with short tails and excellent pigment that I fell in love with over 70 years ago.