

OWEN

GALORE

Debbie Owen

Why Westies: Wish I had a better answer for this one. I saw a picture in an encyclopedia, and thought a Westie was the cutest dog I had ever seen.

First Westie: After seeing the aforementioned picture, I almost made mistake number two - I looked in the classified ads in the paper for a puppy. Thankfully, my local kennel club had a breeder referral number. I was given Betty Williams' phone number. She wasn't at home when I called, but her husband gave me Melinda Lyon's phone number. Melinda gave me the name of a person who had purchased one of her dogs, and that bitch had puppies. The lady's name was Juna Crane. I don't think she ever showed.

Show dog or pet? My first Westie was purchased as a show dog, but she wasn't. I tried, but to no avail - she did earn one point, but she did get her CD.

Mentors: Betty and Melinda were definitely my mentors. They were both very welcoming and answered all my questions. I had always been a dog lover, and always felt like I wanted to show dogs, although I didn't really know what that meant at the time. We spent hours in the car traveling to shows, discussing dogs, pedigrees, etc. We sat at ring side watching at specialties, and I learned so much about evaluating conformation and movement.

Most memorable moment: I'd have to say it was winning High in Trial at the WHWTCA National Specialty in 2001 with Twink, who was a rescue from a puppy mill.

Favorite dog show: I love the Louisville cluster, and of course, there is nothing like Montgomery County when the weather is good.

Grooming: It's my biggest failing as a dog owner! I am not a groomer. Many people tried to teach me. Although I hated stripping dogs, I have to say that I could do a good job grooming a head.

Litter evaluation: I keep going back to my mentors - Betty and Melinda. Also, our Westie group here in Kentucky has always taken time to have gatherings to evaluate each others' puppies; it was always helpful to get each person's comments.

My favorite Westie: It's difficult to pick a "favorite". I was very proud of the accomplishments of my "Doc" - Ch Kilkerran Kildare O'Wicket. He received the WHWTCA Stud Dog award. His champion children came from different dams, which to me meant he definitely left his mark on those breedings. He lived to be 17.

Memorable Montgomery or Roving moment: All of the Montgomery County and

Roving shows hold fabulous memories of wonderful road trips with great friends and lovely dogs to see. My most memorable Montgomery is mentioned above in "Most Memorable Moment". My most memorable Roving memory was a bit embarrassing. I had a lovely bitch that I took to the Roving in Seattle in the 80s. She had one tooth that wasn't exactly aligned correctly. The late Anne Rogers Clark was judging. I had Caddie on the table, Mrs. Clark went over her, and then we did the down and back. She then asked me to put my dog back on the table, where she promptly checked her mouth again. Oh well, I told myself that Mrs. Clark was telling the audience that she liked my bitch but she didn't like her mouth!

Centennial: I did attend the Centennial in 2009, and thought it was a nice event. The year 2009 was also my 25th year in the WHWTCA. I kept thinking about the first Montgomery County dinner I'd been to, and they would announce the 25 year members and all of the little old ladies would stand up. I don't think I fit into that group!!!

Regional Westie club: Our WHWTC of Indiana is a very close knit group of Westie lovers and friends. I have been and will continue to be active in that group.