

STOREY

LONSDALE

Patty Storey

Why Westies? After the demise of our Welsh Corgi, the family wanted another dog. I had thought of a Cairn terrier, but John Storey suggested a Westie. A research visit to the public library affirmed the wisdom of this decision. I first fell in love with the Westie head and expression. The next was the breed's personality and intelligence. We purchased our first Westie, Am., Can. Ch. Westcote Ghillie of Gairloch, from Helen and Diane Fronczak. Although he was to be the family dog, he was supposed to be good enough to show. Shirley Nichols, the owner of Ghillie's sire, Ch. Westcote Highloch, suggested we contact Edla Cummings about grooming. With Edla's encouragement to show, my son Tom at the age of nine handled and finished "Ghillie" to his championship.

Katharine Hayward, a remarkable Westie breeder whose encyclopedic knowledge of the breed, confirmed my choice. I fondly remember her interest in other people and her generosity in sharing her wisdom. Even as she aged, she continued to offer periodic nuggets of information. Additionally Bettina King, Nancy Boston, Edla Cummings, Christine Swingle, Linda Servin, Triskett Vogelius, and Billye and Tom Ward helped me choose bloodlines. We had a friendly and open feeling of togetherness because we helped each other. Others who contributed to my breeding choices were Kathy Ferris and Ronald Carty. Anthony Zambuto has continued the Lonsdale line and retains my prefix.

Judging the National Specialty at Montgomery County in 1990 was my most memorable moment. Additionally I judged two National Roving Specialties and the Canadian WHWTC Specialty. While adjudicating the Roving in Sacramento, California, I placed the Veteran and eventual breed winner Ch. Olac Moondrift at the end of the line. At the completion of judging, a friend said she was very worried that I was ignoring the Veteran, but I knew he was my BISS and placed him where I could easily observe him as I examined the others.

In addition to Montgomery County, my favorite shows are the Ladies Dog Club (my own club) and the Westchester Kennel Club.

Edla Cummings taught me show grooming as I only did pet grooming. Bettina King, Edla Cummings, and Linda Servin taught me to evaluate litters and young stock. I also travelled to see other breeders' puppies and learned to evaluate by examining the many and various litters.

My son Tom and I flew to Canada and purchased Roseneath New Moon, my foundation bitch, bred by Tom and Thelma Adams. "Laurie" was most influential in the Lonsdale line. My direct line of twelve generations of champions (45 Westies) all came down from her. I personally showed and finished sixteen of these champions. Because I sold real estate and was occupied on weekends, I eventually hired handlers to finish my dogs. My

favorite dog to show was Ch. Lonsdale Cass who won Best in Sweepstakes at the WHWTCA Roving in Colorado. My favorite Westie was Ch. Lonsdale Fanfare.

Sires who, in my opinion, strongly influenced our breed were Ch. Elfinbrook Simon and Ch. Pillerton Peterman. Most dominant sires in my own breeding were Ch. Lonsdale Rowsby, Ch. Lonsdale Digby, and Ch. Lonsdale Rattray. In addition to Ch. Roseneath New Moon, Ch. Lonsdale Pinchpenny was my most dominant bitch.

My most memorable Montgomery moment occurred when I judged the Specialty there in 1990. The response of the fancy was very gratifying as I drew an entry of 184 (47 dogs, 90 bitches, 7 veterans, 35 specials and five non-regular entries,

Regrettably health concerns prevented me from attending the Centennial.

John Marvin was the most influential of authors as his book; *The Complete West Highland White Terrier* was the benchmark for the breed.

I treasure a Westie needlepoint pillow because it reminds me of my "Rowsby."

I was one of the founders and three times president of the WHWTC of New England. Gleaning information from a show catalog, I mapped the home locations of Westie people from New England, New York, and New Jersey. Based on this I wrote and mailed postcards inviting exhibitors to attend a meeting at my home to discuss the formation of a Westie club. Nine showed up including Katharine Heyward, Priscilla Barley, Jeannette Poore, Christine and Judy Swingle, Bettina King, and Barbara Langdon.

Future of our breed - As long as we pay close attention to the soundness of our Westies and keep closely to the Standard, our Westies will go from strength to strength. Ethical breeding and good sportsmanship will ensure their quality and their ongoing popularity.

While showing and breeding Westies, I did many other things. Some of which include being the first woman president of the Massachusetts Horticultural Society, a position I held for three years, chairmanship of reservation land in Canton, Massachusetts and chair of its master plan, and volunteering at the Museum of Fine Arts. Although my life was not defined by Westies alone, they made all else possible because I loved them and they gave me so much including my many Westie friends.