

GREG SHIVELY

SKERRYVORE

The February 12, 1971 edition of LIFE Magazine had a feature on "BESTS BETS FOR BEST IN SHOW AT WESTMINSTER - the TERRIERS". Inside the article were pictures of the terriers who had dominated the Dog-show world the year before. One of these terriers was the WEST HIGHLAND WHITE TERRIER - Champion De-Go Hubert handled by Cliff Hallmark of Mendham, New Jersey. My wife fell in love with the cuddly-looking little guy and I guess I realized it was only a matter of time before one of those little white tykes would be coming to live with us. Little did I know that Westies would influence the rest of my life.

We bought the book by John Marvin entitled "THE COMPLETE WEST HIGHLAND WHITE TERRIER", I read it from cover to cover and became enthusiastic about showing and breeding Westies. I found out that John Marvin lived in Doylestown, Pennsylvania - not far from our home. I checked directory assistance and lo and behold there was a telephone listing for John and Bea Marvin. I called. I got Mr. and Mrs. Marvin on the phone at the same time, and after over an hour of conversation, they told me they would send me an application to join the West Highland White Terrier Club of America and suggested that I go to the Trenton Kennel Club Show that weekend (May, 1971) to see what was being billed as the largest dog show in the United States. They also said that their friend and past West Highland White Terrier Club of America president, Mrs. Anthony M. Walters would be judging Westies.

We went to the show. It was very overwhelming, there were a total of 5,000 entries of which 27 were Westies and the BEST OF BREED and BEST IN SHOW went to none other than CH. DE-GO Hubert! Later that year, we watched De-Go Hubert take Best in Shows at Montgomery, Boardwalk and KC of Philadelphia!

We eventually became good friends with Polly Walters who mentored me in all things Westie. She sold Tyndrum Moidart (a De-Go Hubert) daughter to me, who became my first Champion and the foundation of SKERRYVORE Westies. While "Moidi" only went through the paces to finish her CH - she was a superb physical specimen.... Her son and my first homebred Champion SKERRYVORE CHIMES finished with a Group One out of the classes and Best of Opposite Sex at Montgomery under Dorthea Daniel-Jenkins in the mud and rain of 1979. All told, I handled (actually, I just held the lead) CHIMES to 6 Group Ones and over 50 Best of Breeds. Cliff Hallmark showed him to Best of Breed at the Greater Washington Specialty in 1980.

In the years following, together with my sister, Jane Hagy, we've finished over 30 homebreds including many regional specialty winners. I first became a member of the WHWTCA in June, 1971 and except for a one-year lapse in 1986 have maintained that membership. I'm a past president of the Mid-Susquehanna Valley All Breed Club Inc. I've held memberships and offices in the following: WHWTC Greater New York, WHWTC of Greater Philadelphia, WHWTC of the Delaware Valley, William Penn WHWTC, and the WHWTC of Northern New Jersey. In addition, I'm currently a

member and assistant show chairman of the Devon Dog Show Association. I've also judged Sweepstakes at the Greater Baltimore WHWTC, the WHWTC of Western Pennsylvania, the WHWTC of Northern New Jersey, the WHWTC of South East Michigan, and will be judging sweepstakes at the WHWTC of Northern Illinois and the WHWTC of Greater New York in 2014...

I do have some major concerns for the breed and the future of Westies and all the aspects of breeding and showing for conformation. Donna Hegstrom in her 25 Year Biography states it very well. "The cost of raising, training and exhibiting a dog in the ring has risen to a point that middle income exhibitors find it hard to continue in the sport. In addition, life styles have changed significantly and there is not the interest among many young people in devoting the time and effort necessary to raise and show a dog. (We) must take an active role in mentoring and supporting those who show an interest in any aspect of the dog world or we will lose what we have gained over the past century."