

Reflections

Reflections

John DeSaye

September 17, 1928 – September 7, 2000

By Claudia Leffler

John and Barbara DeSaye started in Scottish Terriers in 1966 while John was in the restaurant business in San Francisco. Like most of us, their first Scottie was a pet but their second became their first Champion: CH Wee Doc of Rancho Milandy. Mildred and Bob Charves became their mentors and sold them CH Charves Dashing Design, the foundation bitch of Sandgreg Kennel, which was named for their daughter Sandy and son, Greg. Over the years they have produced a formidable number of champions. Sandgreg's incredible stud force can be seen in a staggering number of pedigrees of the top winning and producing dogs in this country. Most notable of the stud dogs was CH Sandgreg's Editorial, a producer of 61 champions, and CH Sandgreg's Second Edition, the sire of 81 to date.

When they moved to Michigan, John and Barbara became professional handlers. In addition to Scotties, John showed Borzois, Dachshunds and Westies to their championships. One of his brightest handling moments was WD at Montgomery Co. from Ms. Betty Penn-Bull with CH Sandgreg's Nighthawk, owned by their dear friends, the Morrows. John won WB at Montgomery with CH Wychwyre Liberty, the first wheaten Scottie to win at a national specialty, owned by Bill and Sue Martin.

John and Barbara shared the heavy responsibilities of maintaining a large kennel on a day to day basis, the whelping and raising of many puppies, along with exhibiting. Yet, he still found the energy to contribute to many Scottie clubs. He served as President of STCA in 1985 and 1986 and on the board of the Scottish Terrier Club of Michigan. Together with Tony and Buffy Stamm and Cynthia and Berndt Wallgren, John and Barbara helped rejuvenate the Michigan club. Today the STCM is one of the most active clubs in the U. S.

John changed professions and became a jeweler: designing, manufacturing and repairing jewelry. He used his many years of Scottie experience to develop a line of Scottie jewelry, which is still available from the Razzys catalog. Many clubs benefited from his generous donations of unique jewelry for banquet auctions with all proceeds going to the club. When attending club banquets, John often was the skilled auctioneer as he was for our club in 1999.

He was certainly one of the most optimistic, creative, and humorous persons I have ever met. While serving on the STCA Board during his tenure as President, I learned how important it was to him to nurture and educate the novice. He was always eager to give of himself to the dogs and dog community. John DeSaye's enthusiasm and knowledge of the Scottish Terrier made him into a true and respected guardian of our breed.

