

# A Tribute to Dick and Nancy Hildreth (Cindahope)

interviewed by  
Carolyn Ing  
(Foxglove Shelties)



Nancy and her Rascal scooter buddy, "Teddy," at a recent National.



The "silly sisters" relax with Dick in the motor home after a successful 2006 National.

Nancy and Dick Hildreth are longtime Sheltie enthusiasts who have met with the highest levels of success in breeding and showing Shelties. Yet they are refreshingly modest and unassuming about their accomplishments. They are always generous with others in sharing their successes and a newcomer who might strike up a conversation with the Hildreths would never guess that they've bred or owned 36 champions, bred and owned the Best of Breed winner at the 1997 ASSA National, and bred, owned, or co-owned multiple ASSA Award Of Merit winners and Century Club members.

I met with the Hildreths at Cindahope Farm in Ashland, Massachusetts, on a frigid winter day recently. Ashland has changed quite a bit since I first visited the Hildreths, and instead of navigating the long dirt road through the woods to get to the

farm, I now turn into a neat subdivision of new houses and continue through a cul-de-sac to the Hildreths' driveway (see photos on the facing page). I continue down the now abbreviated dirt road and, because of the cold weather, notice the absence of the usual Sheltie greeting committee racing along the fence lining the driveway.

When I enter the house, the senior dogs wake from their naps to say a brief hello as Nancy, Dick, their daughter, Liz, and I settle in the sunroom so we can enjoy the cloudless afternoon and the view of the barn and wooded surroundings as we have our conversation.

### **When did you first become interested in breeding dogs?**

Nancy: When I was in high school our Collie had a mixed-breed litter by accident. Of course, I really enjoyed the puppies. Later, while I was married to my first husband, we had two other Collies. One whelped a litter of nine puppies. When several were still not sold at four months of age, I realized that the smaller Sheltie would be a much easier apartment dog!

In 1957, I visited a kennel that bred both Collies and Shelties, and I fell in love with a small, handsome Sheltie male named