

dams will generally pass on their less desirable traits. I also found that when a strong tail-dam line rotates to the sire's side, it proves surprisingly valuable in a stud's record.

What memorable people have you met through dogs?

Nancy: There have been many memorable people, but I will only mention two. We were lucky enough to have met Gulie Krook when she bought her first two Shelties from us in the late 1950s. She soon began sending us photo postcards of her dogs. We quickly realized that the photos were more than just snapshots and asked Gulie to take pictures of our dogs. It wasn't long before she was taking photos of Shelties belonging to other-area Sheltie exhibitors.

Gulie took lots of photos here at the farm, experimenting with different backgrounds and lighting. Her portraits were so impressive that they changed the way we view our dogs. She was very exacting in her photos and settings and developed her own techniques for setting up the perfect shot. One day she was in our yard photographing "Neilly," and Gulie just couldn't get the expression she wanted. Then she noticed that every time "Neilly's" rival, "Dovey," would bark from her pen on the other



Little Lizzie and friend. This picture from the mid-1970s was part of Gulie Krook's early work with Shelties.

side of the house, "Neilly" would perk up her ears and get ready to defend her territory. Gulie said, "I'm going to tape record that and use it to get her attention!" She tried everything here first to test it out, then used it in other photo sessions if the method succeeded.

We also had the pleasure to sell a puppy to Catherine Coleman Moore, author of *The Shetland Sheepdog*, published in 1943, and we got to know her at that time. One in the litter was a small male, and Catherine was looking for a small dog so he would be easy to pick up. I believe he was one of her last Shelties.

Here are two of my favorite quotes from her book: "As for intelligence, I did not dream it could be so deep in any dog. He is so teachable that telling or showing once or twice is sufficient." And: "They are a lovable, inherently responsive breed with that something which every Sheltie lover knows but can never define, which has made them so beloved that to own a good one is to be ever after an unwavering upholder of a grand little dog."

What do you find is the most rewarding aspect of breeding Shelties?

Nancy: One might say showing and winning—that's always fun. It could also be seeing improvements over the years or making great friends—all that is true as well. But the best reward of all is taking time to enjoy our fur balls, who bring an enormous amount of pleasure to our lives. It's all about the dogs we have

now and those we've had in the past, playing together, charging around the field, sleeping on the sofa, growing old with dignity, taking trips with us in the RV, and all the myriad things that make us laugh.

Another very happy aspect of breeding Shelties is hearing from your puppy buyers. One family sends us Christmas card photos every year with their two girls and their Sheltie. This particular puppy had a problem with his back legs when he was little because of crowding in the uterus. Others might have put him down, but we worked with him and placed him with a family in a nearby town. One year they sent us the cutest Christmas card. The dog was lying on a rug between the two little girls in front of a large open book—it looked like he was reading to them. It's a perfect example of a puppy that might have not made it but ended up as a well-loved Sheltie home companion instead. We often hear from our puppy owners with e-mails, cards and phone calls, letting us know how their dogs are doing and how much they love them.

What has been the highlight of your career in Shelties?

Dick: Without a doubt, our biggest thrill in dogs was winning the 1997 ASSA National in Chicago, Illinois with our "Golden Girl," "Tess." When she made it all the way through all the cuts in Best of Breed, we were so pleased because we thought "Tess" would be getting her second ASSA Award Of Merit. It was a complete surprise to us when she ended up with Best of Breed!

Nancy: Other highlights, without a doubt, have been watching the amazing show careers of "Kissy" and "Bridget." They are currently the only mother-daughter members of the Century



BIS/BISS Ch Cindahope Golden Girl came from the 9-12 Years Veterans Class to win the 1997 ASSA National.