



The home of the Hildreths and Cindahope Shelties.



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Golden Web Of Houghford. Katherine Nichols of Walnut Hall had imported him from England. I also visited Eula Rhoads' kennel and found the prettiest bitch I had ever seen, a light sable sired by "Golden Web." She soon became my first Sheltie, Rhoads Golden Cinderella. "Cindy" had a beautiful expression, and she was the inspiration for my kennel name, Cindahope.

Dick: I also had dogs when I was growing up, generally mixed breeds. As a boy, my dogs were my constant companions and I became very attached to them.

It wasn't until I met Nancy, after her divorce, that I saw my first Sheltie and was sold on the breed. After we were married,

we bought my first Sheltie, "Heidi," in 1965 from Betty Jane McCracken of Betsubar Shelties.

How did you two meet?

Nancy: We met at a social group called Parents Without Partners. We both had been previously married, and we both had children. A funny coincidence is that my first husband was Kenneth Hildreth, a dentist. It seldom happens that your second husband has the same last name as your first. But as soon as the coordinator at my first Parents Without Partners meeting heard my name, she led me over to Dick and introduced us.

Dick: We were married in 1965, and I moved in with two Shelties, "Lanny" and "Heidi," and three kids. Nancy's youngest daughter, four-year-old Cynthia, was the same age as my daughter, Debbie.



Nancy and Dick Hildreth were married in 1965 and shortly after bought their first Sheltie together.

What were your first experiences breeding Shelties?

Nancy: I bred "Cindy" to Am/Can Ch Nashcrest Golden Note, ROM, CC (sire of 26 champions), and she had two males. Mary Van Wagenen advised me they were pets, but I persevered.

Later on, we bred Cindahope Lovey Dovey (Ch Betsubar Ringmaster ex Deerfoot's Queen Of Spades), who is a great-grandam of Ch Sunnybrook's Heritage Spirit, ROM, ROMC ("Ryan"). When we bred "Dovey" to Ch Halstor's Peter Pumpkin, ROM, ROMC, CC, we had a litter of five bitches that included Sunnybrook's Abby Of Cindahope, "Ryan's" grandam. Collie breeders Rebecca and Charles Cram bought "Abby" as a puppy; she was their first Sheltie. They eventually bred her to Ch Romayne's Sportin' Life, ROM, ROMC to produce Ch Sunnybrook's Matchmaker, "Ryan's" sire.

We kept "Abby's" sister, Cindahope Fanciful Wish ("Jill"). But although we also bred "Jill" to Ch Romayne's Sportin' Life, ROM, ROMC, we didn't have the same results as the Crams had with "Abby."

Dick: Like most breeders, Nancy learned by doing. She found traits she liked and figured out how they were passed on from generation to generation. She experimented with different stud dogs.