

# WOW

BY LINDA AYERS TURNER KNORR



CHAMPION

COVENTRY QUEEN

TOP HERDING DOG 2000

# “BEBE”



Expectant mother, Bebe, dreaming of her offspring — Wow!

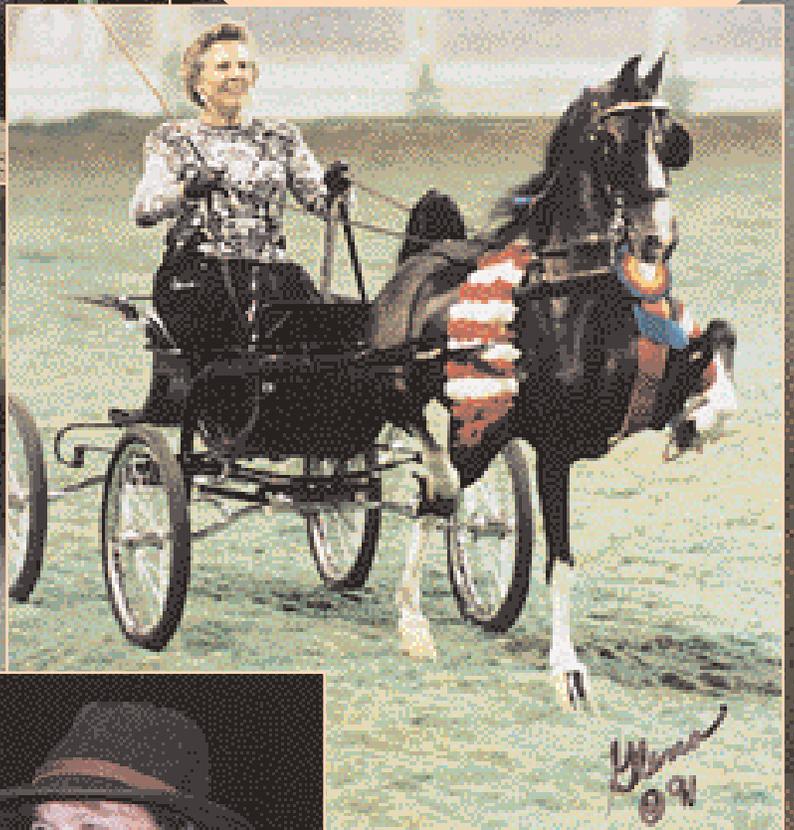


Above: Steve Leyerly, your author Linda Ayers Turner Knorr and Bill Shelton.

BREEDERS  
WILLIAM SHELTON  
and  
STEVE LEYERLY

CO-OWNERS  
MRS. ALAN R. ROBSON  
STEVE LEYERLY

HANDLERS  
MICHAEL AND JOAN SCOTT



Right: Revelation —  
21 Time Worlds Champion  
Hackney/Fairness Pony  
guided by lovely owner  
Mrs. Alan Robson.



Left:  
Michael and  
Joan Scott —  
One of the world's  
most attractive  
couples.

My life has always been full of travel experiences. Wanting to share the best times and exceptional places with loved ones I would send them picture – post-cards. Time is precious so desiring not to lose it writing cards, I would inscribe each note with three large letters. . . .WOW! Cheers, Linda The simple three letter word conveyed my feeling that I was enjoying the best of everything.

WOW also expresses my sentiments in describing the year 2000's Top Herding Dog team! **Ch. Coventry Queue, "Bebe,"** bred by **William Shelton** and **Steve Leyerly** is co-owned by **Steve Leyerly** and **Mrs. Alan Robson** and was guided to the top spot by **Michael and Joan Scott**. Feeling as if you've got so much to do and so little time to do it? Few, if any, could keep up with the agendas of this dynamic group.

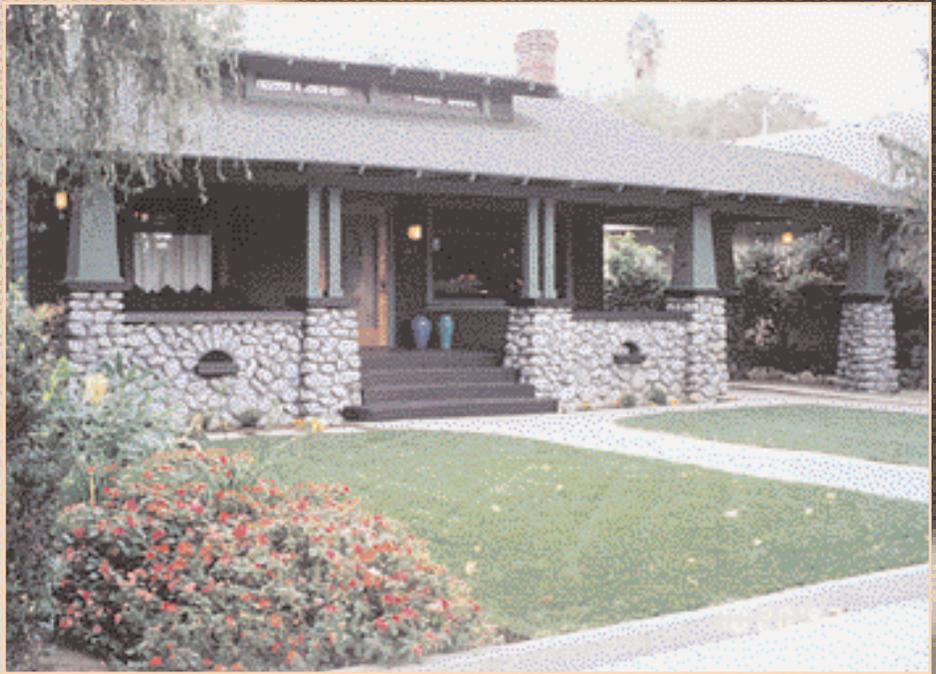
**Bebe** has been a success story since the beginning, from almost dying after lapsing into anaphylactic shock from a vaccination, to her very last success at the 2001 Westminster Kennel Show.

While observing Bill Shelton judge Pems at the May Bucks County Kennel Club Show I enjoyed talking about **Bebe** with Steve Leyerly.

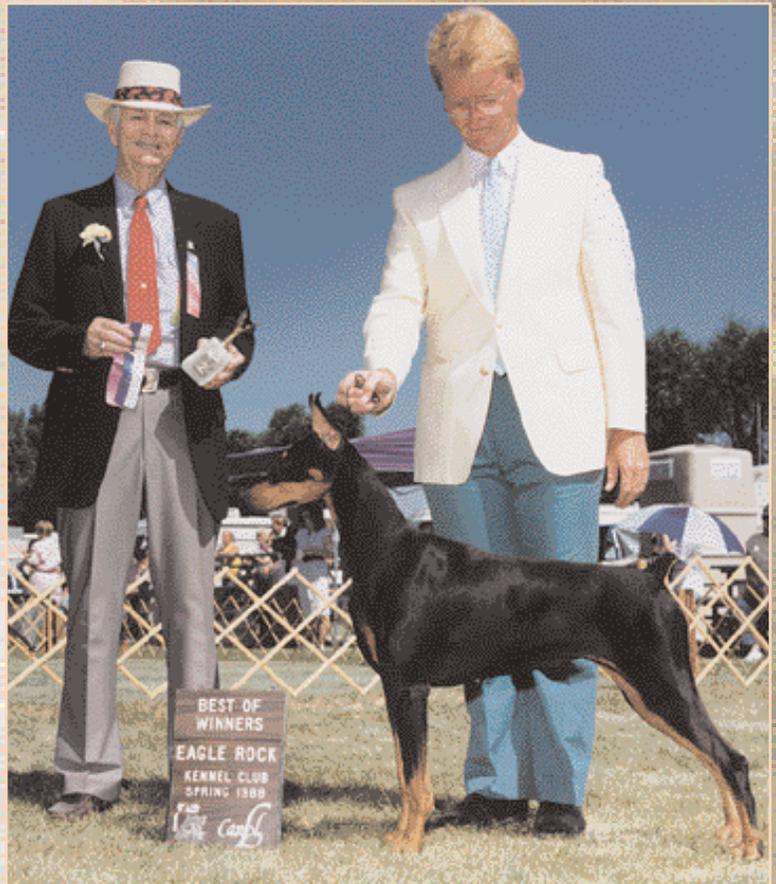
"We always believed **Bebe** had great promise and our expectations were to be confirmed. The esteemed breeder Tim Mathiesen of Nebriowa fame speculated when she was only seven months old that **Bebe** would have a promising Specials Career. As **Bebe's** show history progressed she would complete her championship in nine shows, with two Group One awards and several Best of Breeds at such prestigious shows as Beverly Hills Kennel Club and Santa Barbara Kennel Club. She made history before her first birthday!

We have much joy in our lives, but the friendship and camaraderie that the Corgi people have so graciously shared with us has gone beyond generosity. We have come to know that the success of any Corgi belongs all of us."

**Bebe's** destiny was assured when long time Corgi breeder and owner, Mrs. Alan Robson, acquired her at fourteen months of age. Mrs. Robson and Steve Leyerly, breeder and co-owner, decided that Michael and Joan Scott would handle **Bebe**. No strangers to the conditioning and presentation of top Corgis, the Scott's requested that **Bebe** come to them in late 1998. Her career was jump-started by being awarded Best In Show at the Detroit Kennel Club in March under the esteemed judge Mrs. Ann Rodgers Clark. Adding to this honor **Bebe** was ranked in the top ten by May of that year. **Ch. Coventry Queue** was well on her way! Since then **Bebe** has garnered seventy Bests In Show and over one hundred Group Ones, making her the top winning Pembroke Welsh Corgi in United States history. She also earned the honor of being the best Corgi and Herding Dog at the 2000 and 2001 Westminster Kennel



Wendell House. 1914 Craftsman Bungalow, California home to **Bebe** as well as Steve Leyerly and Bill Shelton.



William Shelton, handler.  
1988 — Eagle Rock Kennel Club.  
Judge Roy L. Ayers.



Substance and stamina in a small space. Bebe plays at Wendell House, the California home she shares with Steve Leyerly and Bill Shelton.



Bill Shelton at home with Bebe's nieces and nephews.

Club shows as well as capturing seventy Bests In Show in only twenty months.

Another family success is **Bebe's** sister Ch. Coventry Candle n' the Wynd, she was shown twice as a Special in January 2000 winning two Group Ones and a Best In Show after just completing her Championship. This was the first Pembroke litter in American Kennel Club history to produce two all breed Best in Show winners! "Wyndie" whelped a litter of seven five weeks later out of Ch. Tallyrands Archangel Michael. Now two of these puppies have completed their championships and another is nearing theirs.

Beyond having bred, handled, and owned multiple Best In Show dogs, Bill Shelton and Steve Leyerly have an on-going passion with the three "A's", antiques, art and architecture. They are founding members of Pomona Heritage and have worked diligently to have their neighborhood designated as a historic landmark to be included on the National Register of historic places. They own and are continuously restoring their Historic Lincoln Park District 1914 Craftsman Bungalow they purchased nearly twenty years ago. The interior of this home is filled with an extensive collection of Art Nouveau glass, Stickley furniture, period pottery, Plein Air paintings and textiles. Their "**Wendell House**" has been featured in print and written about in the regional newspaper and it has also been featured on the local historic home tour.

Steve is in the restoration and repair business of Jaguar automobiles. A 1959 Mark Nine Saloon and a 1969 E-Type roadster are among his collection of treasures. Steve also enjoys gardening. Orchids are his passion. Bill manages to occasionally finish a bronze sculpture and is politically active on a local level.

A stray Basset Hound was Bill Shelton's first love. After finding the dog on the street, the eight-year-old boy made a sign and posted it on the street. When the young Shelton's poster was spotted by the dog's owner, Bill reluctantly returned his new love.

Now hooked on the breed Bill asked his parents for another Basset. Finding one advertised in the local newspaper, they purchased a dog whose original owners lived nearby. A problem presented itself when Bill's new pet continuously returned to his original owner's home. The Shelton's returned the dog and purchased another one.

Obedience training fascinated Bill and he was determined to train his new companion. Have you ever seen a Basset Hound attempt jumps? "**Winston**" would try to leap stopping to peak around the corner at his owner. The pair earned a CDX and Bill was part of the dog world.

Friendship with Walt Disney's animal trainer and author Bill Koehler led to an after grammar school and summer job training dogs.

Shelton was in Junior High School when his parents bought a

Doberman for him. Fortunate he was in that his start in the breed was with Mary Rodgers of the famous Marienburg Kennels in El Cajon, California. While attending High School Bill lived at the Marienburg Kennels learning as an apprentice. Working with the late Yvonne Chashoudian also added to his knowledge. These great opportunities gave him the experience and training to go on to enjoy a very successful career as a professional handler for the next two decades.

In the early 90's Bill pursued becoming an AKC judge. Now he is approved to adjudicate all Working breeds, additional breeds in the Sporting, Hound and Herding Groups as well as Best In Show.

Shelton says, "The privilege of judging specialties, particularly Nationals is the highest honor bestowed upon a judge." He has judged Nationals not only in the United States but abroad. The Doberman Pinscher Club of America and The Newfoundland Specialties top his list of memorable judging occasions.

Most of all Bill Shelton impresses me with his willingness to share his knowledge with others. He has served as chairman of the Doberman Pinscher Club of America's Judges Education Committee and the Illustrated Standard Committee. You may have had the privilege of hearing him lecture at one of the American Kennel Club Judges Institutes. The AKC Gazette has featured several articles penned by Shelton and he has also written for various national breed publications.

Steve and Bill have a love affair with Corgis, dog people, competition and with art. Using outdoor antique markets as training grounds for their puppies, they seek architectural gems. The residential works of the Greene and Greene brothers, Gustav Stickley and Frank Lloyd Wright are their favorites. So Steve and Bill scour the countryside looking for American Arts and Crafts furnishings to compliment their extensive early 20th century collection.

The pair shared their thoughts on a few questions I asked as follows:

**If you were preaching a sermon to a congregation of dog show judges, what would be your topic?**

*Only judge a breed when you have an affinity and aptitude for such. Judge only those breeds which bring you pleasure.*

**You are the keynote speaker at an AKC Board meeting. What will you tell them?**

*Reference judges approval - Prompt the approval process to be one which will benefit the purebred dog not the political climate of an election.*

**You must have a favorite all time dog show judge. Without mentioning his or her name, tell me what qualities make them such a great one.**

*They love the dogs more than the sport and have a humble arrogance in which they approach each exhibit. They cherish the art of judging and respect the science.*

**Charities advance many causes. Are you actively involved with any particular ones, dog related or not?**

*We have and continue to support Take the Lead when and where we can.*

**Winning the TOP HERDING award is a great achievement.**



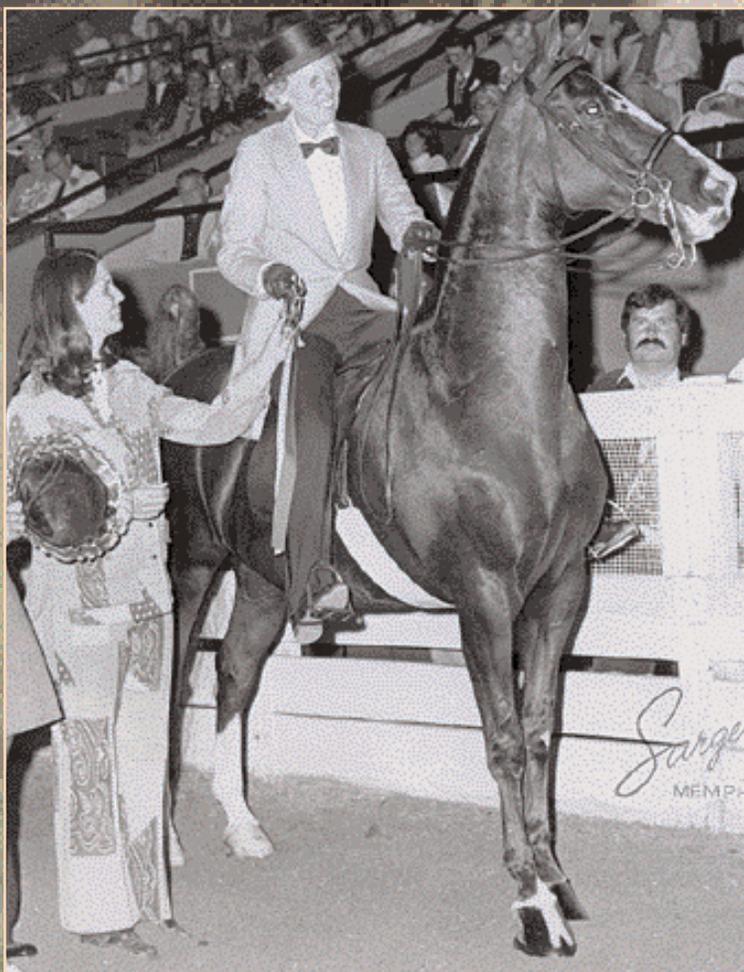
*Judging her original breed at the Dalmatian Club of America National Specialty 1989, Mrs. Alan Robson presents an Award of Merit.*



*Revelation at home with Isabel Robson.*



Isabel and Alan Robson playing in Hawaii in 1987.



Ch. Christmas Carol bred, owned and shown by Mrs. Alan Robson winning the Amateur 3-Gaited World's Championship.

**Have you won it before?** No.

**Who or what reference is your greatest resource for solutions in solving genetic problems.**

*Our veterinarian*

**About what subject are you most passionate?**

*The homogenization of pedigrees as they relate to phenotype and genotype – The rearing and training of puppies as pets first and the great show dogs they can be*

**How many litters do you usually have each year?**

*One and maybe two*

**Have you given your input to the AKC Canine Health Foundation?**

*No, never been asked*

**Since you earned recognition as having bred the best, has your National Breed Club asked you to teach any of their seminars for judges?**

*Not in Pembrokes. Bill has served many years as the past Chairman of the Judges education chair and the chair of the illustrated committee for the Doberman Pinscher Club of America.*

**You are planning a seminar for novice breeders, what will be your most important piece of advice?**

*Research! Research! Research!*

**Who or what inspired you to enter your first dog show?**

*Our love for dogs.*

My husband Jim and I are looking forward to Steve and Bill traveling to South Carolina to visit us. Our next-door neighbor Fredrick Bristol, Jr. (Bristol-Myers family) has invited all of us to dine on the decks of his Frank Lloyd Wright home **Broad Margin**.

The home is filled with original Frank Lloyd Wright pieces and works of art from around the world. Rick's five and half year old son Patrick dreams of someday having a Corgi puppy at the Bristol's Hilton Head estate. Dinner conversation will be lively!

**Famously complex Mrs. Alan Robson is the epitome of the word, WOW! Her name imparts energy, depth and excellence!** Horses share equal importance with dogs in the life of Isabel Robson. She raises and shows American Saddlebreds and Hackney Ponies. Showing most of them herself, **Mrs. Robson has bred and owned over fifty Worlds Champions horses over the years.**

She loves most all breeds of horses and has owned and shown Hunters, Quarter Horses and Shetland Ponies as well as showing Morgans and Arabs for friends. On the Board of the American Saddlebred Horse Association for eight years, President of the American Hackney Society for ten years and President of the Eastern Saddle Horse Breeders Association for six terms, Mrs.

Robson was voted the **Horse Woman of the Year in 1971** by the American Horse Shows Association and elected into the **World's Championship Horse Show Hall of Fame in 1997**.

**At Westminster Robson owned dogs have won two Sporting Groups, two Herding Groups (2000 and 2001), one Hound Group, five consecutive Non-Sporting Groups (1996-2000) and one Best In Show.**

There's nothing like knowing a fellow AKC judge with whom to share the same special interests as your own. Isabel and I are **big** sports fans! She loves baseball's Philadelphia Phillies and the New York Yankees. The Atlanta Braves are my team! The Miami Dolphins are her football team. I am a season ticket holder of their rival The Atlanta Falcons. When time permits both of us can be found cheering at stadiums around the country.

Reminiscing, Isabel Robson shared these thoughts, "I was born hooked on dogs and horses. None of my family was involved or interested in either. They were all golfers and that is all I heard about as a child. I had to beg, plead and use all my persuasive powers to get a dog at the age of nine and a horse at the age of twelve. My next-door neighbor, Carol Harris of Whippet and IG fame, as well as owner of the great Quarter Horse, Rugged Lark and I showed our dogs as youngsters even though they were not show quality. We stuck with it and improved our stock considerably and we have remained best friend always.

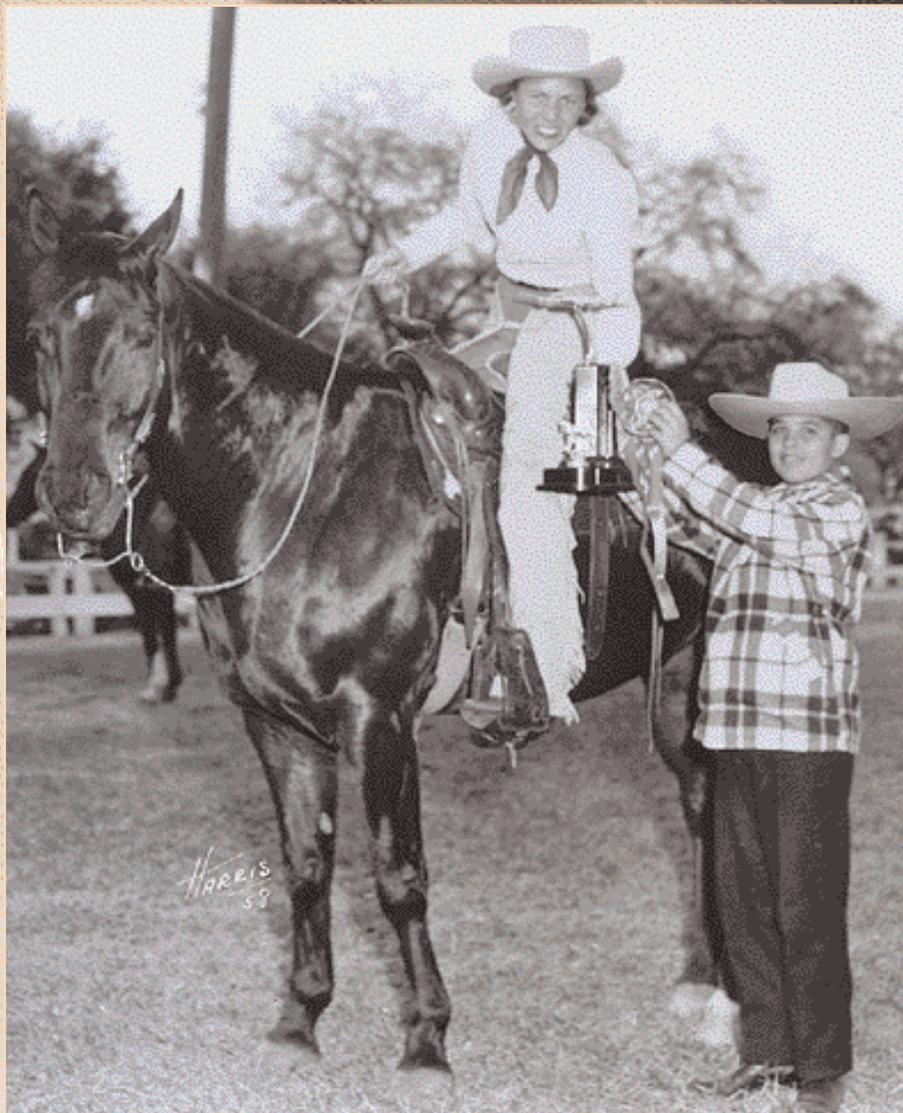
Before I married I studied voice and wanted to sing opera. Wouldn't you know I would marry a golfer. Alan has twice been Club Champion and has had several Holes-In-One. We have a winter home in Florida right on the golf course and our address is Village of Golf, Florida.

Naturally I have traveled all over the country with judging assignments from New England to Florida and from New Jersey to California with all stops in between. I have also judged in Hawaii several times. We have been to England, Scotland, France and Switzerland many times. We even attended the famous Crufts Dog Show. However, these trips were not doggy outings but were for sightseeing, shopping, and of course golf.

My husband has been very supportive of my dog interests. He was Treasurer of the Chester Valley Kennel Club for over forty years and its Delegate for thirty-five years. He just gave those up this year. He still is Treasurer and Co-Chairman of the Devon Dog Show Association. His career in the ring was very brief - not his cup of tea.

It has been a good life. We have made wonderful friends through the dogs and horses. There is always something to look forward to and plan. Right now I am anxiously awaiting a new litter of Whippets due very shortly."

Between horse shows Isabel Robson replied to my following questions.



*Ch. My Chum, registered Quarter Horse, Western Pleasure Champion many times. Isabel Robson accepting award.*

**If you were preaching a sermon to a congregation of dog show judges, what would be your topic?**

*Love what you are doing or don't do it. An unpleasant judge makes the day unpleasant for everyone.*

**You must have a favorite all time dog show judge. Without mentioning his or her name, tell me what qualities make them such a great one.**

*Excellent ring procedure - Fairness and kindness to all dogs and exhibitors - Most important an eye for a dog - The ability to "find" the quality and not to be afraid to put it up*

**You are the keynote speaker at an AKC Board meeting. What will you tell them?**

*Wouldn't touch that*

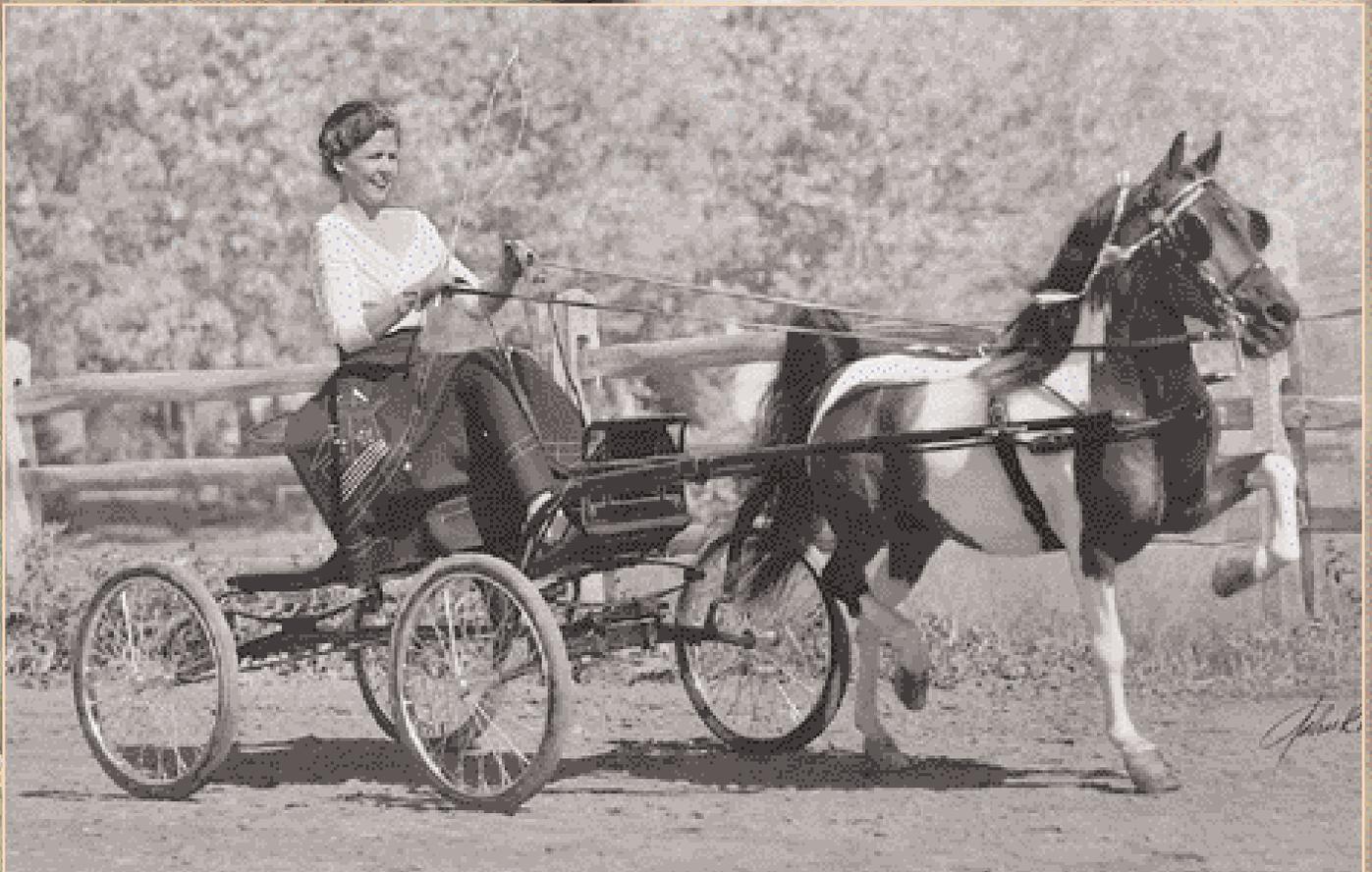
**Charities advance many causes. Are you actively involved with any particular ones, dog related or not?**

*I have been a Board Member of the Local Red Cross Chapter and served as its Chairman. Was on the Board of the SPCA. Worked with the University of Pennsylvania Veterinary School as an aide.*

**Winning the TOP HERDING award is a great achievement. Have you won it before? How many times? What about other groups?**

*This is the first time winning the Herding award, but I have won the Non-Sporting many times recently with the Dalmatian and Standard Poodle.*

*Below: Isabel Robson and her Shetland Pony, Batchelor's Dream.*



Two of the most special people in dogs, Ray and Ginger Scott are proud parents of professional handler Michael Scott. Just as my brother Roy Ayers and I were born into the dog show world, so it was for Michael and Doug Scott.

The elder Scotts' first show dogs were Standard Poodles. Their Kamelot Kennels later gained success breeding Beagles. Ray and Ginger were feared competition when they traveled as all breed handlers. Now the American Kennel Club is benefiting from the Scotts' family tradition of every member loving the sport of purebred dogs. No one could be better prepared to serve as an AKC Field Representative than Ray Scott. He has given advice and counsel to many aspiring judges myself included. Each of us is blessed to have such a man deep with experience in every phase of the game working at the AKC.

Michael and his brother, Doug were active with their parents every step of the way and were seriously involved in Junior Handling. Doug worked for Bob and Jane Forsyth. Michael went to work for Pat Craig Trotter in California for a bit before his father went to work for the AKC. At that point Michael came home and entered into the business.

A Virginian at birth Joan Hatcher lived in the Old Dominion state through high school. Ligonier, Pennsylvania was her next stop. There she lived and worked for General Mellon on his Rolling Rock Farm reclaiming race horses for the show ring. Following Mellons death Joan returned to her home state where she attended Roanoke College while teaching riding and showing horses.

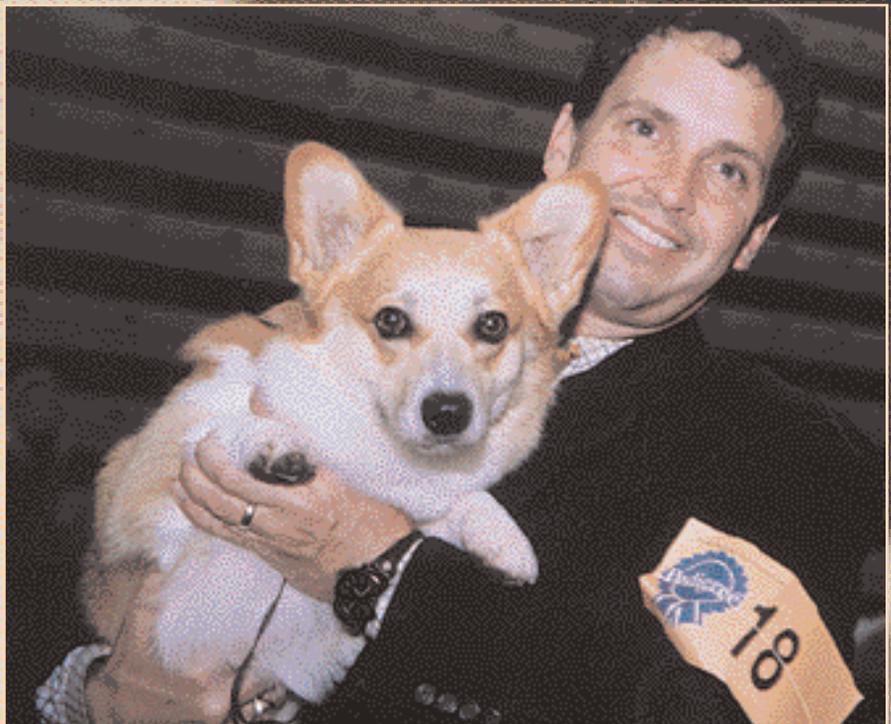
Riding and training with Rodney Jenkins in Charlottesville, she spent her teens and twenties on horseback. Joan owned and showed the top green hunter in the country. She lived and breathed horses until the one she mounted went through a triple oxer and fell on top of her. Joan lost her nerve for competitive riding.

After returning to Roanoke Joan married, gave birth to her daughter Elizabeth and started showing and breeding Pembroke Welsh Corgis. Jack Russell Terriers have also been at her side for over thirty years. Her love for the dogs has continued. The first union ended.

Married now for thirteen years, Michael and Joan Scott are one of dogdoms most attractive couples. They met when Joan hired the handsome bachelor to show one of her Corgis and I guess cupid took over at that point.

Together they share a soft spot for Pointers, Pembroke Welsh Corgis and Jack Russell Terriers, currently breeding and showing all four breeds.

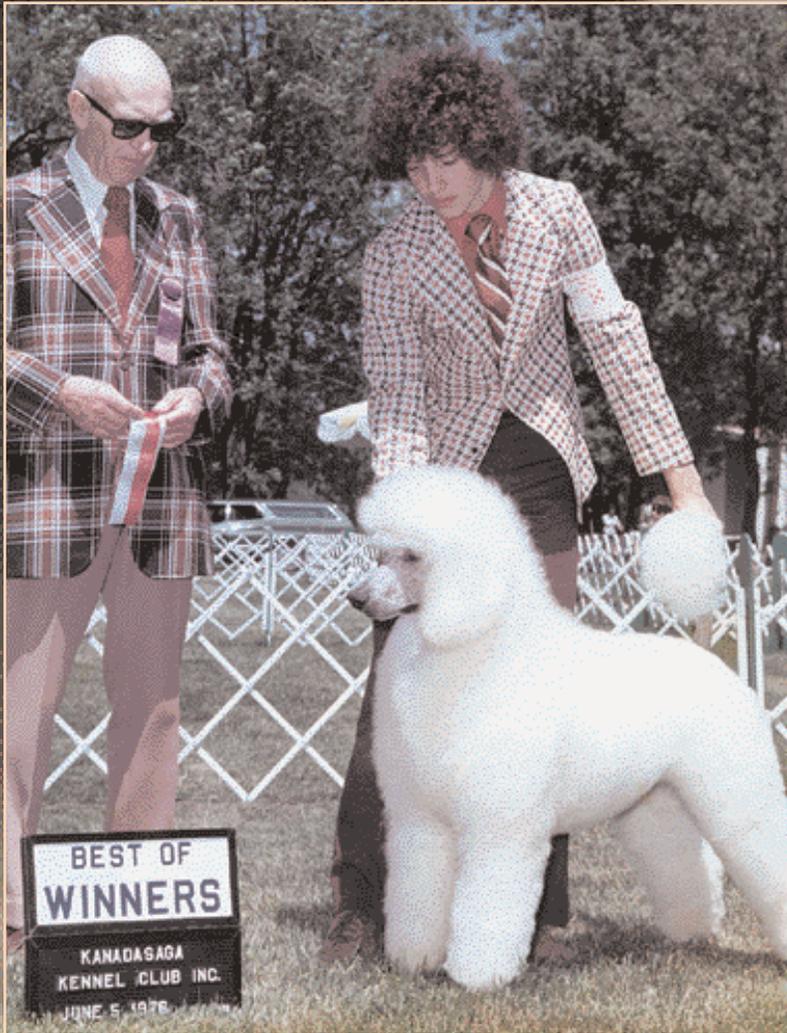
Recently at a show in Pennsylvania Joan took time to answer a few questions.



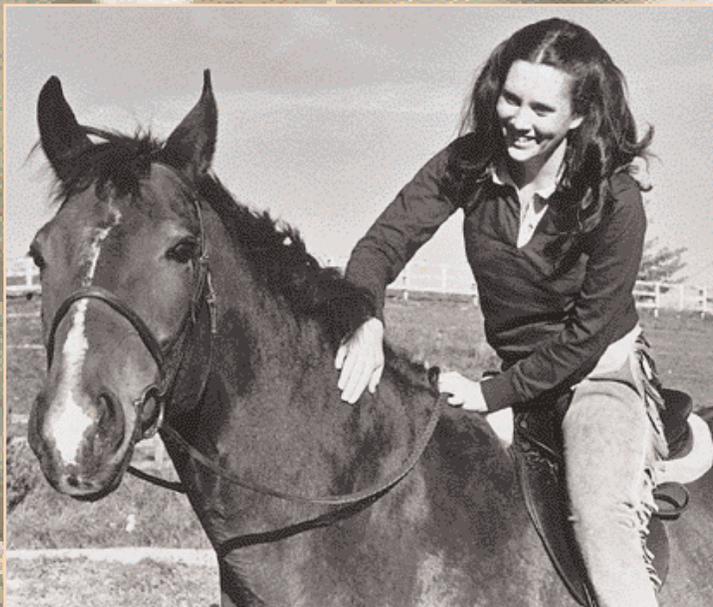
*Ch. Coventry Queue and Michael Scott.*



*Ch. Hobbysime Curtain Call. Owned by Ray Scott. Handled by Michael Scott. Junior Showmanship Novice A First Place 1971.*



Michael Scott, age 15, handles his family's original breed, the Standard Poodle. Judge Langdon Skarda, Kanadasaga Kennel Club, 1976.



Joan Hatcher Scott's first love was horses.

**Did you do anything special for "Bebe" after she won the Top Herding Award?**

*"Bebe" retired and went home the morning after winning the Herding Group at the Garden for the second year in a row and being awarded the Top Herding Award in New York that same weekend. She went home for a well deserved retirement and to have babies, leaving a huge void in our lives. She was happy to return to her breeders, Bill and Steve.*

**In the ring you exude confidence. Do you worry about what others think of you?**

*I think Michael is too intent on the job he is doing and his dogs to ever really be concerned about what others think about him. Of course he loves praise from the people he respects most, as all of us do.*

**Excluding yourself, of course, name the greatest handler of all time.**

*The one that come to mind immediately is Koz Hosaka. Not only is he a talented handler in his presentation, but a perfectionist in the job he does on the dogs that he trims and conditions. Last but not least, he is always a gentlemen and a good sport and that unfortunately is a true rarity in our sport today.*

**What has been your most memorable moment in dogs?**

*Winning the Herding group at Westminster the last two years. There is nothing more exciting than a win at Westminster!*

**Do you set priorities and goals or let the chips fall where they may?**

*Michael's priorities are always the dogs he is showing and conditioning and their well being. He absolutely spends the majority of his time caring, conditioning and preparing the dogs for the next show. He does the best he can doing this and his goals are being the best he can be. Our priorities are for our dogs to look and perform the best that they can and hopefully the work we put into it will show in the end. Taking **Bebe** to the top meant that they spent almost every waking and sleeping minute together. They became best friends and companions. . . . a relationship anyone could envy. . . especially me.*

**Who is your greatest cheerleader?**

*Michael says me. . . his wife. But he will also tell you that I am his biggest critic. **Bebe** was a natural show dog and was trained to show from the whelping box by her breeder Bill Shelton. **Bebe** and Michael bonded right away. They loved the show ring and winning and that was reason enough to form a relationship. **Bebe** adored Michael. I can't say she felt that way about anyone else in this household. She only had eyes for him and that was the way it was. She was always happy to be in the spotlight and loved to be in front of people.*

**What special things do you do to keep the deep connection between you and Bebe.**

*Michael loved her and she knew it and she loved him. It was as simple as that.*

**How do you deal with the intense pressure it requires to become Number One?**

*We always try to take a day a week and leave the house/kennel to do anything but talk or think about dogs. We also have a few outside interests and hobbies that help keep us sane and busy. Our friends were a huge buffer and stress reducer for both of us and they know who they are!!!*

**What do you do to relax?**

*We work on our house. We love to garden and work in the yard. We love to antique and we love spending time with our friends and family.*

**What's your secret to gaining an advantage over the other exhibitors?**

*Michael never thinks of it that way. This is a sport and Michael is very competitive in that he goes in the ring to win. He respects the fact that winning is what we all are trying to do. As I said before he does the best he can and tries to be the best he can be. And as you said the chips fall where they may. . . .*

**Considering the great amount of time you spend driving to shows every week do you listen to books on tape?**

*Yes!*

**If, so what would you recommend?**

*Some of our favorite authors are: Patricia Cromwell, Ken Follet, John Girsham, PD James and Robert Ludlum.*

**Do you have a lucky charm?**

*No, Michael gets very superstitious. **BeBe** had her own lead that was never used on another dog and it sits in the drawer of his bedside table since she retired. And of course his lucky comb. I guess that you could call it his lucky charm as he wouldn't go in the ring with **Bebe** without it. I never knew how he could tell the difference. . . . but he could.*

**Are you a member of the PHA? Why or why not?**

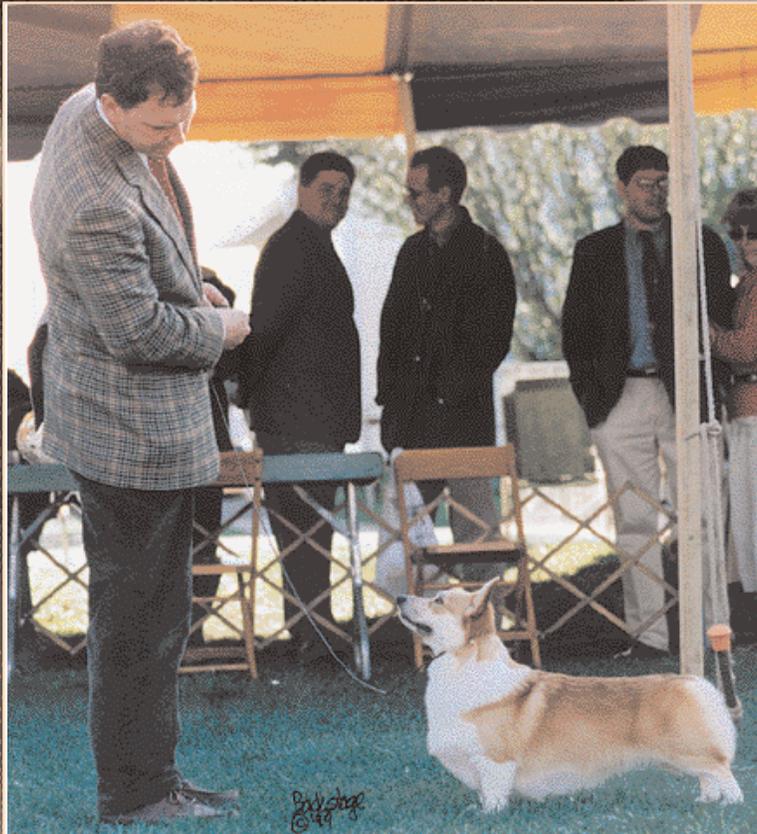
*Michael is the First Vice-President of PHA. He feels that there is a strong need for an organization like PHA. It represents Professional Handlers and gives them the opportunity as a group to better the sport of dogs in many ways. It acts as a liaison,*



*Before Michael swept her off her feet Joan Hatcher lived and breathed horses.*



*Westminster Kennel Club, Group One February 2000. Ch. Coventry Quee. Mrs. James Edward Clark, Judge. Michael Scott, handler.*



*Adoration works both ways.  
Michael Scott and Bebe.*

which improves relationships between handlers and clients and between the Professional handlers and the American Kennel Club. As a large and strong group of Professionals they strive to improve the Sport of dogs. Being a member of the PHA Michael feels that he can give something back to the sport that has been so good to him.

**Without naming him or her, please describe your favorite judge.**

*As it happens, the two best judges that I know are both tall. They have many of the same attributes. They are fair, they are opinionated and they are independent. They are excellent teachers. They are knowledgeable. Both like to share their knowledge. I think I know what they like in a show dog. Usually, I am right. Sometimes I am not. One is male, one is female. One is American, one is not.*

**Who is your mentor?**

*Pat Craig Trotter. In the short time Michael was with Pat he learned the basics that have made a difference. He learned that there aren't any shortcuts and that the conditioning and the care of the dogs are Pat's key to her success. There is no magic. It is all hard work and total dedication. The dogs always come first.*

**Mrs. Alan Robson's contributions to our sport have had a profound impact. If you've been around for awhile you will smile as you remember the highest standards of performance reached by some of her other great dogs and their handlers.**

... the Number One Basset Hound, Ch. Slippery Hill Hudson shown by Bobby Barlow . . . . . 1982's Top Toy Dog, the Pekingese Ch. Mike Mars China Dragon guided by Michael Wolfe. . . . . Ch. Luftnase Albelarm Bee's Knees C.D. the Number One Dog All Breeds in 1989 handled by the late Michael Zollo. . . . . Dennis McCoy was spectacular himself with the Dalmatian Ch. Spotlight's Spectacular winning Number One Non-Sporting Dog Awards two consecutive years in 1995 and 1996 . . . . . And who could ever forget Ch. Lake Cove That's My Boy the white Standard Poodle so expertly groomed and handled by the team of now AKC dog judges, Randy Garren and Dennis McCoy. . . . . "Tréson" was the Number One Dog All Breeds for two years 1998 and 1999.

As we were playing at the Bucks County Kennel Club Show, Steve Leyerly stopped talking to me for an instant. He bent over and plucked from the ground a large four-leaf clover.

Steve Leyerly just called. . . . . the sonogram reports that **Bebe** is carrying five puppies . . . . . Think of the possibilities. **WOW!!!**

