

Lines from Linda



by LINDA AYERS TURNER KNORR

Star Struck!

Feeling his hot breath on my neck was one thing...but when he began to flick his tongue on my cheeks, I was overcome with excitement! I could hardly wait to go home and tell my husband Jim about the afternoon I spent rolling around on the ground with a movie star. In an instant I was in love!

He was born in England where he began his career on film. Only recently he moved to South Carolina. Now we are only separated by thirty short miles and he spends much of his time very near my office so we can rendezvous as often as we wish.

His movie has enjoyed tremendous box office success since its national release as a holiday special. Actress Glenn Close lusted after this young star's passionate eyes. She along with actor Jeff Daniels shared billboards and premieres with my new friend.

Vanessa Redgrave's daughter, Joely Richardson, and Joan Plowright also appeared in the movie directed by Stephen Herek whose credits

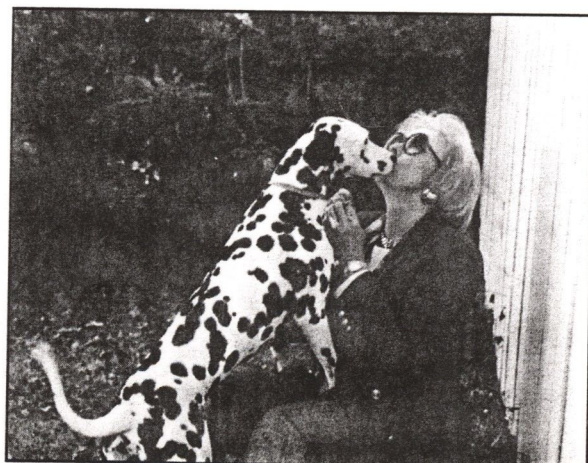
include "Mr. Holland's Opus." John Hughes produced the film which will certainly surpass the successes of his "Home Alone" series of theatre hits.

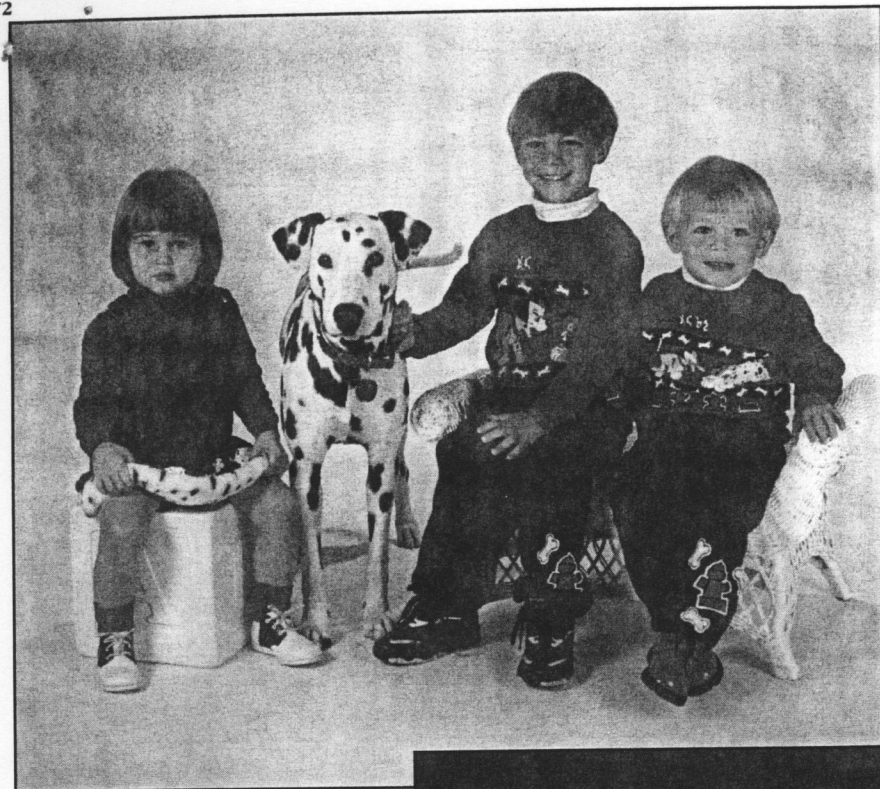
Lucky me, My British actor friend has moved all the way from London, England to live permanently in Spartanburg, South Carolina with John and Suzanne Freed. All of us should be familiar with this family whose positive contributions to the dog world are immeasurable.

Suzanne Walpool Freed's parents are Tom and Joyce Walpool. In 1972 they bought their first show dog, a Golden Retriever, from Betty Hoggard. Suzanne was eleven. As a novice Tom handled this Golden to win all the points except for the last Major which

Houston Clark put on the dog in Greenville. The Walpool's neighbor was Sissy Antonio, an Afghan breeder. Sissy became a support system for these beginners. Suzanne worked for her after school and weekends.

Fondly recalling those days Suzanne remembers, "Sissy taught me All Breed Grooming. Later in

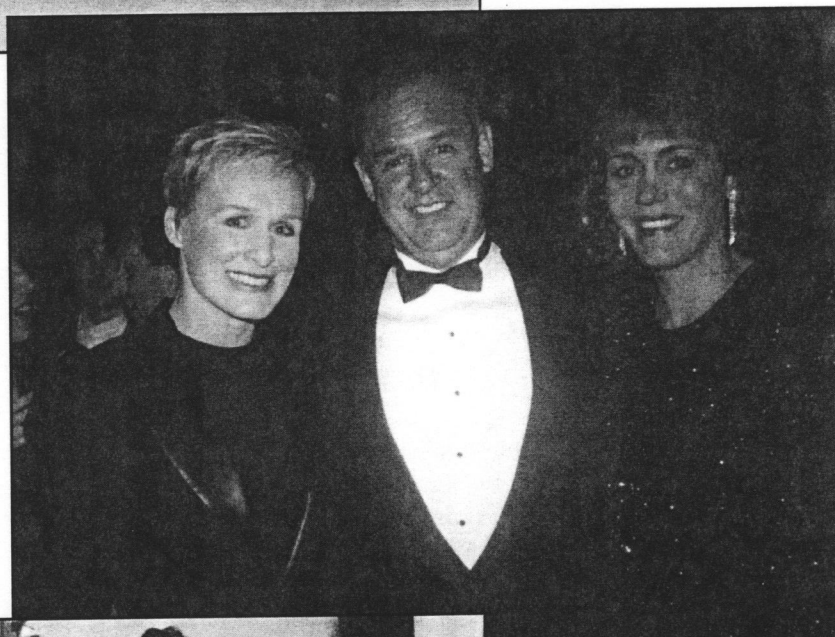




*Top left:
"Wizzer" with cousin Hannà,
Scott & Brad. He has grown
into a real family member!*

*Center:
Actress Glenn Close with
John & Suzanne Freed in
New York for the Premiere
of "101 Dalmatians."*

*Bottom left:
Movie Star Jeff Daniels
spending time on location in
London with the Freed chil-
dren Julie, Scott and Eric.*



1978 mom and dad built their first twelve runs at Hollycrest, where they started a boarding kennel which has now grown to eighty-seven runs. Sissy and I traveled to shows together with our second Golden. Daddy grew less interested as my mother became more involved. Mom bred "Simon" (our first dog) to "Ginger" (our second Golden) in 1977. We kept a male puppy named "Josh," I practiced showing "Ginger" so I was much better when it came time to enter the ring with "Josh." He became **Ch. Hollycrest Gentleman Josh**. He is in the Golden Retriever Hall of Fame. "Josh" became an All Breed Best in Show dog with me finishing him while I was still in high school. I campaigned him while going to the University of South Carolina and working for professional handlers Carroll and Mary James.

"In May of 1982 mom and I went to the Memorial Day Specialty Show weekend in Cincinnati, Ohio. There I met John Freed while we were house guests at Laura Kling's home. John had year old puppies. The handsome bachelor asked me to show one of his dogs and conversation started between us. John and I were writing and talking all summer while he was in school at Michigan State studying veterinary medicine. John came to South Carolina for a week in August and stayed one month. We were soon engaged and were married in December of 1982. I moved to Michigan after the wedding and continued showing the dog I had exhibited for John in Cincinnati. She finished and was a litter mate to "Rally" one of the top producing Golden retrievers of all times. What a great litter that was! Five of those puppies finished. We continued showing with great success. Carroll and Mary helped build a strong background exposing me to a lot of people in the dog world. John finished school and we moved to South Carolina and bought our first boarding kennel in June of 1984.

"John and my dad founded The Hearing

Star Struck!

*Cruella DeVil
(Glenn Close) at "101
Dalmatians" World Premiere,
Radio City Music Hall, New
York, New York.*

The inside story on Disney's "101 Dalmatians"

—continued—

by Linda Ayers Turner Knorr

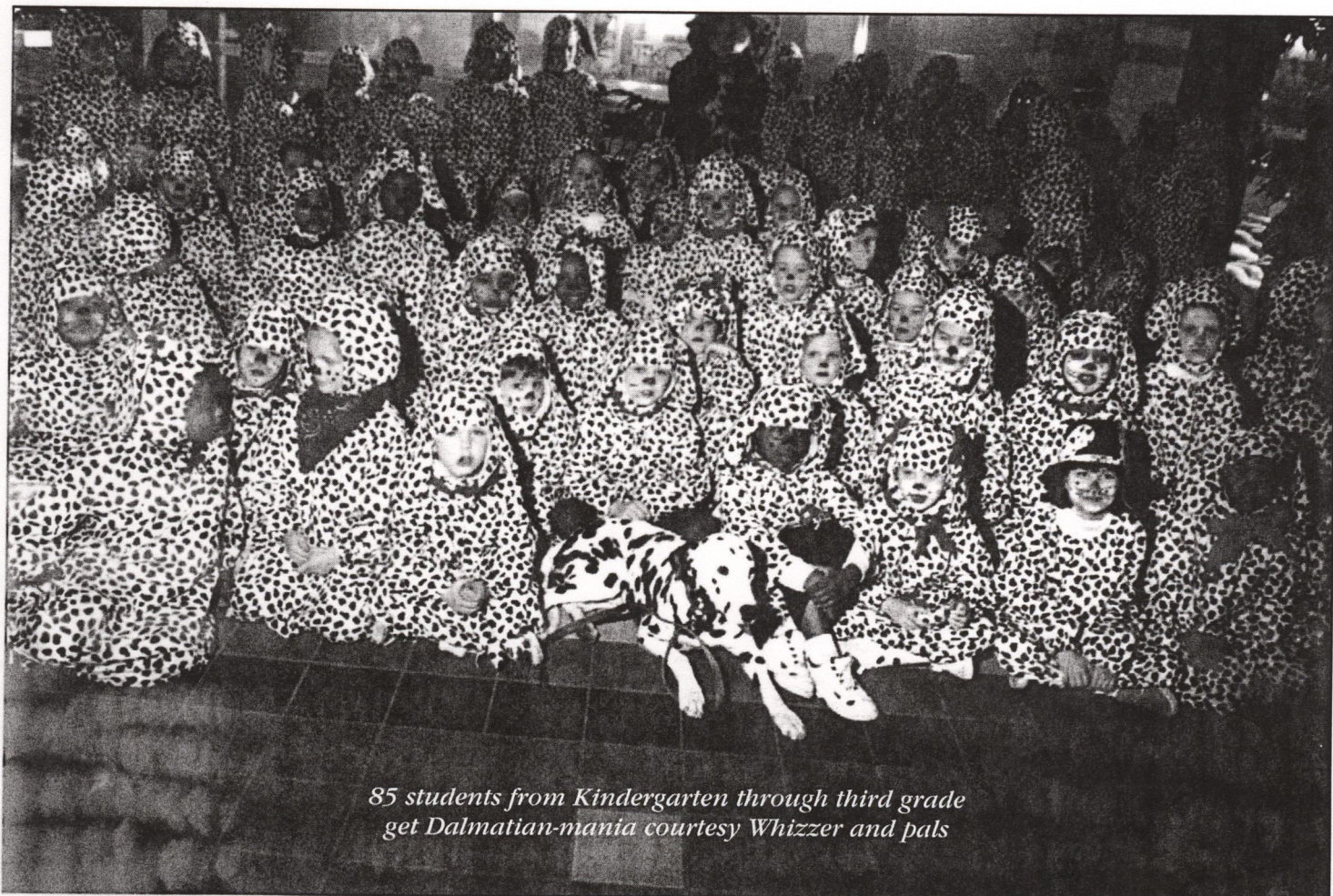


Dog Program. Daddy was the Director of the Speech, Hearing, and Learning Center in Greenville. The first kennel was in Greenville. I was working for Emily Latimer at her boarding kennel in Spartanburg while John was running Freedom Kennel. I was pregnant with our first child, Eric, who was born in

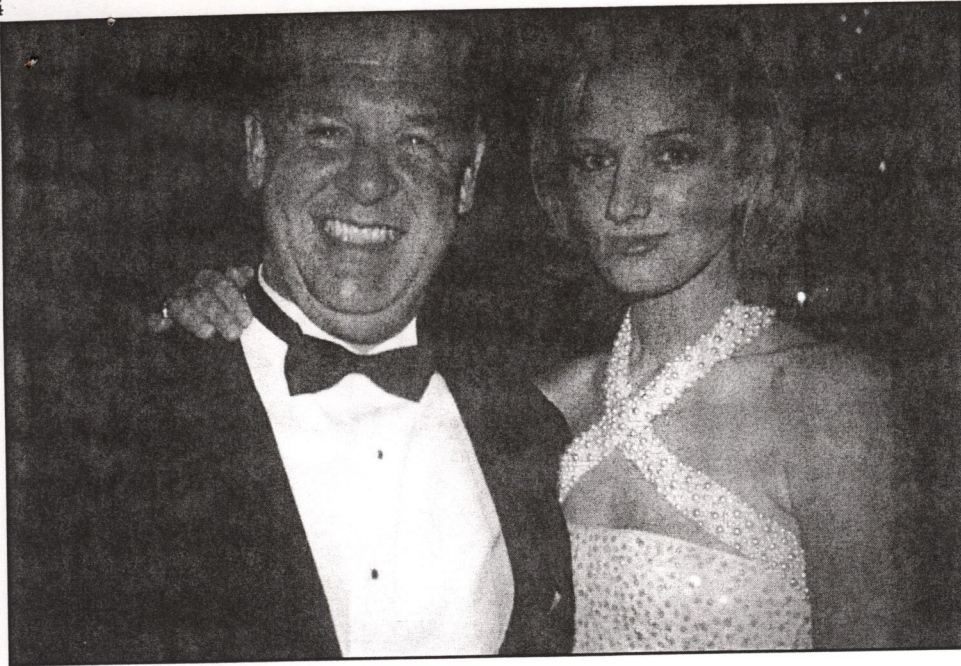
October of 1984. John and I purchased Emily Latimer's Kennel in January 1995 and it has always been mine to run.

"In June of 1985 John was selected to be the Director of the Greenville Humane Society. From 1982 through 1985 we had experienced the dog world from the veteri-

narian school perspective, showing, boarding, grooming and training hearing dogs and now involvement in the Humane Society. We have covered every aspect! Needless to say it got to be too much to handle and I was pregnant again with our second child, Julie who was born in May of 1985. John called Connie Drobac



*85 students from Kindergarten through third grade
get Dalmatian-mania courtesy Whizzer and pals*

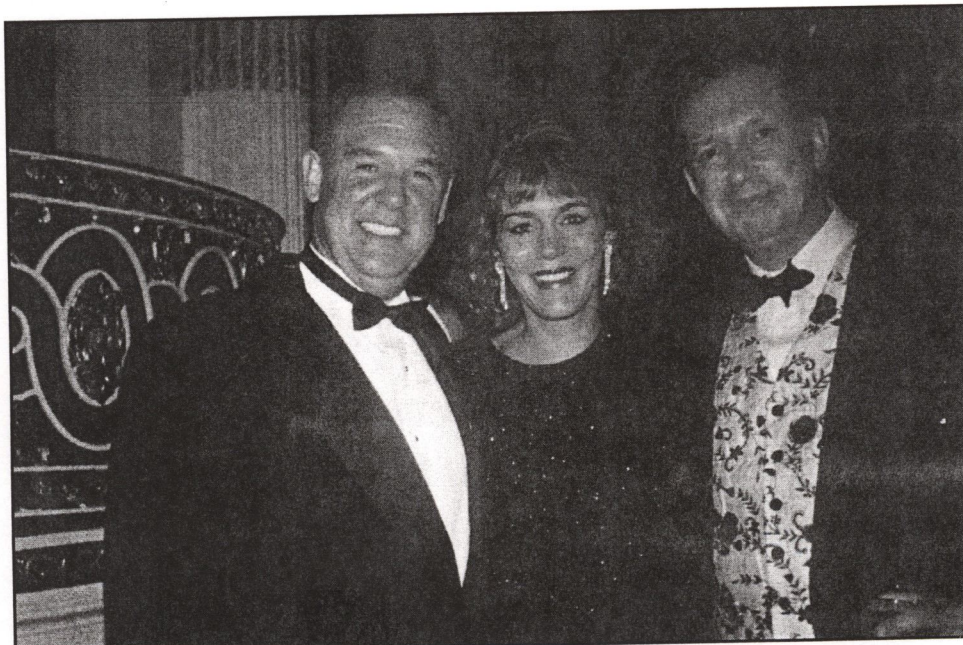


from Michigan to move to South Carolina and take over our growing Hearing Dog Program. (See **SHOWSIGHT** February 1995 Lines From Linda) We continued showing and breeding Golden Retrievers. I was doing the majority of the showing, running two kennels and The Humane Society as well as raising two children until 1990 when we leased out the Greenville kennel. During this time John and I realized that being good parents should be our most important priority. Our showing and breeding programs slowed down while the businesses continued to grow.

"John was involved with the National American Humane

*Above:
Radio City Music Hall Premiere
Party; Joely Richardson and John
celebrate.*

*Bottom left:
Suzanne and John laughing
with Film Actor Mark Williams dur-
ing the Plaza Premiere Party.*



Association giving seminars on shelter sanitation. He was always serving on a board of some sort. That gave way to the American Humane Society asking him to go on some small movie sets being filmed in the Southeast involving animals. His job was to oversee the care and treatment of the animals used in the filming. He was very good and was asked to do more on his job at the shelter. He resigned at the shelter in April 1993"

With John Freed's guidance the Greenville Humane Society accomplished big things:

1. They were the first shelter in the country to advocate shelter animals to be adopted through pet stores.

2. The shelter was operated as a business offering quality product, meaning healthy animals with a broad selection of varieties from which to choose.

3. Freed insisted on quality presentation, a clean, bright, happy, odor-free environment with a sales staff of happy and helpful, knowledgeable and positive personnel.

4. **The shelter was an adoption center. Unfortunately they had to euthanize some animals; however, it was not a death camp trying to save a few animals. Adoptions tripled in four years.**

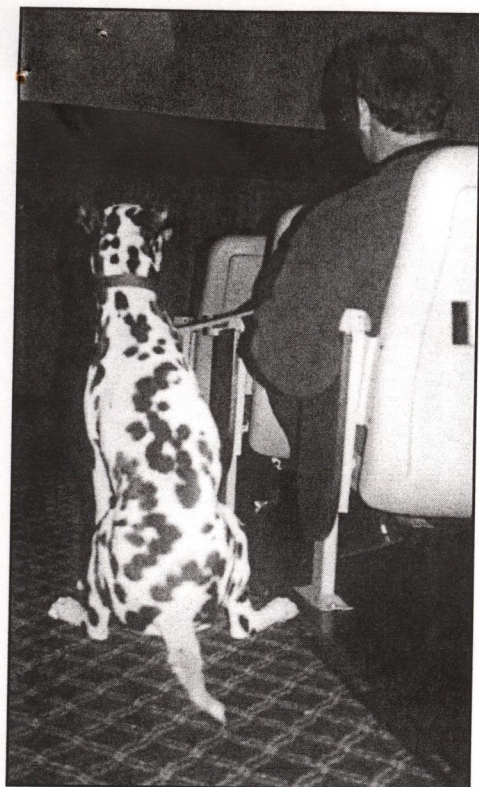
5. John pioneered the transfer of surplus animals from one part of the country to another where there was a shortage of pets available for adoption.

6. He established the largest low-cost spay-neuter program in the country with the average number of surgeries exceeding fifteen-hundred per month. The service included transporting the animals to and from locations sometimes hours away to provide spay-neuter services to communities with no other access to this surgery.

7. John served on the National Advisory Committee of the American Humane Association from 1986-1989.

The young couples next move was to purchase Hollycrest Boarding Kennels from Suzanne's parents, the John Walpools. John Freed took over while Suzanne continued her career

The inside story on Disney's "101 Dalmatians"—continued by Linda Ayers Turner Knorr



*Above:
Wizzer & John watching "101
Dalmatians" at Woodspoint's Party.*

*Below:
Wizzer, Eric, Scott and
John watching "101" at
Woodspoint's Party.*



in motherhood. John and Suzanne's third child, Scott, arrived in April of 1992 and Bret, their fourth, child entered their world in August of 1994.

In 1989 John became the first non-employee of the American Humane Association to be hired to go onto movie sets to monitor animal action films. Some of the notable popular hits he has overseen are the filming of **"The Last of the Mohicans," "Wild Hearts Can't Be Broken," "Paradise," "Mr. Destiny," "Ace Ventura II,"** and **"101 Dalmatians."**

After John completed his work on **"Ace Ventura II,"** the American Humane Association hired him to oversee **"101 Dalmatians"** which was filmed in London from October, 1995 through March, 1996. All the puppies in the movie were leased by Disney and later returned to their breeders. John fell in love with a particular puppy named **"Burlington"** whose ears were dyed black for his role of **"Wizzer"** in the movie. His breeders were going to keep him but John convinced them to let him buy their movie star puppy. **"Wizzer"** came to the United States when John flew home for a

Christmas break.

Imagine the exciting tales Suzanne and three of the children have to share from their experience of getting to join John during a part of his six months on location in London.

For **"101 Dalmatians"** Disney employed two hundred and eight Dalmatian puppies (my new friend **"Wizzer"** being one of them), seven adult Dalmatians playing the roles of **"Pongo"** and **"Perdy,"** three Airedale Terriers were used for the part of **"Kipper"** and two old English Sheepdogs can be seen on film as **"Fogey."** Joining them one day were one-hundred-fifteen adult Dalmatians. On another occasion one-hundred-ten adult dogs of many varying breeds were on hand. Dozens of other dogs were intermittently used for four and five day periods.

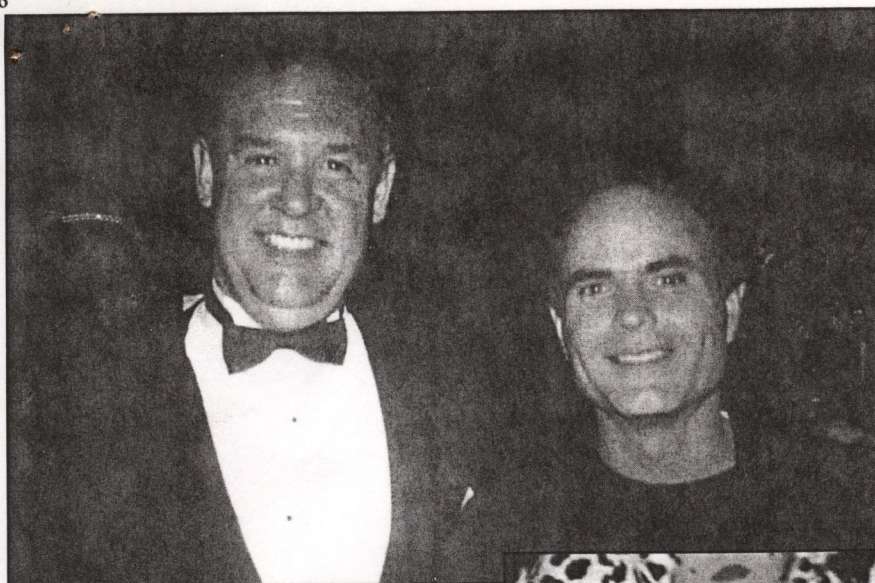
Joining the canine stars were a vast array of animal actors including: two horses, two cats, eight cows, six sheep, two goats, four pigs, five geese, twelve chickens, thirty rabbits, three raccoons, two skunks, four canaries, two woodpeckers, two ravens, two tigers, and eight mice.

The magnitude of responsibility resting on the shoulders of John Freed was tremendous.

New York's famed Plaza Hotel's Red Carpet Entrance was replaced for the movie's world premiere with white carpet full of black spots to look like the coat of a Dalmatian. John and Suzanne Freed were Disney's guests at the event joining **"Cruella DeVil"** (Glenn Close), Jeff Daniels, and the other human movie stars.

"Wizzer" flew to Denver for a premiere showing of his film and to raise funds for the American Humane Society.

Requests for appearances are too numerous to mention. John and Suzanne humbly share their experi-



*Top left:
Movie Director Steven Herek and John
Freed all smiles at movie's successful
Premiere Party at the Plaza.*

*Center:
Woodpoint's Party.*

*Bottom:
Giving Credit where Credit's Due!!!*

ences and knowledge by making "Wizzer" available for many great and worthwhile causes. "Wizzer" hosted a premiere event for eighty-five students from Woodpoint School at Spartanburg's Westgate Cinema. The children dressed the part wearing their own spotted outfits complete with floppy ears.

Santa Claus himself enlisted "Wizzer's" help during the holidays for appearances. Shoppers were seeing spots this season as Santa was overwhelmed with request for "101 Dalmatians" gifts in varieties for all ages.

The John Freeds continue their commitment to improve the animal world we share with our own pets.

Let us learn from their example. Ask yourself:

What are your motives for being a member of our sport?

Have you shared your knowledge unselfishly with others?

Have you made a positive impact to better the game?

It is a Brand New Year. What better time than now.....there must be "101 Reasons."

Linda Ayers Turner Knorr



Unit Nurses: NICOLEA GUY GUY 1941-1998
Rosie Bedford-Stradling
Rosemary Bennett
Unit Cars: Focus Transport Services
American Humane Association
Representative: John Freed
Veterinary Surgeon: Peter Scott

~ Second Unit ~

Director of Photography: Harvey Harrison, B.S.C.
Unit Manager /
First Assistant Director: Terry Bamber