

**Reprint from old NNTC News: Interview with Mrs. S.P. Fell
by Barbara Miller**

Q: Your family has always been interested in dogs, haven't they?

A: Yes, Mother and Father had whippets and wire-haired fox terriers. In those days racing whippets was their big interest. The dogs raced in lanes on the Phipps Polo field, a portion of which is now Old Westbury Gardens. We lived in a house on the property. I helped breed the whippets for racing. For years the Westbury Kennel Club held their all breed show on the grounds.

Q: Did you handle dogs as a child?

A: In those days, the closest I got to the show ring was being allowed to hold the dogs. Somewhere there's a picture of mother, my sister and I sitting on a running board of our car. My face shows how intent I was holding the dog. I seem to recall I was about six and we were at the Southampton show. My mother gave me a Sealyam for my sixteenth birthday present. He wasn't a show dog but he hooked me on the breed. She bought me another from England whom I turned over to Frank Brumby, a noted handler. This Sealy became a Canadian and American Champion earning a Best In Show along the way. Sealyams were a love of mine. Mother was considered a top Pekinese breeder. Unfortunately, I never owned one oher dogs.

Q: I know you lived in California for awhile. What brought you to the West Coast?

A: When Tiny and I were married we lived in Pasadena for 8 years while he was associated with the Union Oil Company in Los Angeles.

Q: Were you involved with dogs at that time?

A: I took a pet poodle to California. When he died I purchased a Whippet. I showed him on the West Coast and finished him when we returned to Long Island in 1956.

Q: When you met Mr. Fell did he display an interest in dogs?

A: He always like dogs but only as pets. It wasn't until I gave him a Beagle as a Christmas gift, when we were engaged, that his interest perked up.

Q: You lived in England for some time, I understand Would you tell me about it?

A: We lived in Kent for ten years. Tiny was an executive to Gulf Oil. He was in charge of public relations from Norway to Turkey. We travelled quite a lot during that time...France, Italy, Greece, Norway and Finland. The house we lived in in Kent was set on a hill overlooking a large pasture, beyond was the National Forestry. It was an ideal

place for me to run my dogs as the Forestry was completely fenced. We brought the Whippets to England with us. The Labs we bought there. That was about 1960.

Q: When did you become interested in Norwich and Norfolk Terriers?

A: At the Westbury Kennel Club show in 1935, I saw two Norfolk belonging to Henry Bixby. Percy Roberts brought these dogs to the States for Mr. Bixby. It was years later, in England, that Tiny and I became interested in the breed as owners. In 1961 we bought a Norwich from Mrs. Bunting's Ragus Kennels. Marjorie approved of me having one of her Norwich because she was aware I knew the breed having judged them at Westminster. While still living in England, the Westbury Kennel Club invited me to judge. We returned to the States whereby we saw a Norfolk bitch, handled by Len Brumby. I asked if she were for sale. That bitch was purchased from Rita Haggerty. [Ch. Newry's Mrs. McThing](#) was bred to a Bethways stud. During her quarantine period she whelped one pup, [Badgewood Bonnie](#) was the result of the breeding.

Q: While living in England, did you do any judging?

A: You bet. I judged Sealyhams at Ladies Kennel Association in the early 1960's and Whippets at West of England Ladies Kennel Society and Manchester. These were championship shows. I judged many others, open and limited shows. When I judged Norfolk and Norwich, [Ch. Ickworth Ready](#) was ten months old. I put him up over champions at the Hammersmith Open Show.

Q: What prompted you to become a judge?

A: You won't believe this...my mother! She thought if I judged, I wouldn't be excluded from participating at shows. Mother was a judge. The rule was and is, I couldn't exhibit. (AKC rules do not permit family of judges to exhibit at shows at which relatives are judging). And so I became an AKC judge in the 1930's.

Q: You and Mr. Fell were responsible for the founding of the Atlantic Whippet Association. Are you still active in that club?

A: He was the founding president. Yes, I'm still active and serve on the board as well as being the AKC delegate of the American Whippet Club.

Q: When I first saw [Ch. Badgewood Monty Collins](#) I fell in love with him. How did Monty get his name and incidentally, how did Badgewood?

A: Monty is named after a Cavalier King Charles Spaniel who was Ch. Ickworth's best friend. Badgewood comes from badger and woodchuck which are the prey of Sealyhams.

Q: When you bought Badgewood was the kennel there or did you build it?

A: The kennel was nothing more than an overgrown shed, housing old farm equipment. We reconstructed the premises turning it into a kennel. We have a special whelping room, allowing kennel help to spend comfortable time there with the bitch and puppies. The room is well heated when we have pups. The kennel has a full kitchen. All the floors are tiled. the kennel is fully heated and air conditioned. All the dog runs are partially covered so that the dogs can go out in the rain and snow.

Q: Which Norwich that you've bred is or was your top bitch and why?

A: I'd say Jericho Penny A Pickle of Badgewood. I didn't breed her but received her in lieu of a stud fee from Mrs. Monckton. "Perky" was a delight and a terrific brood bitch.

Q: How about applying that same question to a Norwich stud dog?

A: Ch. Badgewood Watling Street, now eleven and my housedog, was a great stud dog. I'm changing your question a little. I didn't breed him but my "Reggie" was his sire. He was out of Ch. Whinlatter Cornflower.

Q: "Reggie" was a favorite Norwich?

A: Reggie was a Jericho Norwich. I don't know why but I loved him. Tiny used to call him "my best friend." Reggie responded to my ups and downs. He died on my bed at age 17 years, one month, three days. You bet I cried.

Q: As for Norfolk, is there an outstanding bitch you've bred?

A: Well, Carrie, of course, [Ch. Badgewood The Huntress](#). She won the National Specialty in 1977 and 1978. In 1978 the entry was huge. She won under judge James Reynolds. Carrie went on to place second in the Terrier Group. To date she has a champion daughter and grandson.

Q: What about an outstanding Norfolk stud dog?

A: Nimmie, of course! [Ch. Ickworth Nimrod](#) won the Specialty in 1971 or was it '72? There's also Specialty winner "Monty." He is the sire of [Ch. Badgewood Monty Collins](#), [Ch. Badgewood The Huntress](#) and [Ch. Badgewood Miss Alice](#). We had [Badgewood Bonnie](#) and were trying to finish her. This is of course while we were in England. At the time I was unable to show Bonnie therefore she was with Miss Hazeldine. She was bred to [Ch. Ickworth Ready](#). Now here was Nimrod, a bit in the background because of Ready. Tiny saw great qualities in Nimrod and asked to buy him as a going away present for me as we were leaving England. He's been a wonderful winner and stud dog for Badgewood. He's also sired your Ch. Max-Wells Lone Ranger and Ch. Max-Well's O'Henry.

Q: What qualities do you look for when you evaluate a litter at birth?

A: At birth I just look to see if they are breathing. At each stage I look at the head bone and body. I like a broad head, strong muzzle, good shoulders and good hind legs. At four months I look them over to decide which puppies to keep for the show ring.

Q: What are your "doggy" plans for the future?

A: I'm sure I'll be exhibiting at many summer shows, though I try not to expose the dogs to too much heat. I'll be judging in northern California. I'll also be judging Westbury Kennel Club in the fall, some sporting, toys and hounds. Oh, I'll be busy!