
Chelsea Collies

A SMALL BREEDER SUCCESS STORY

Here at *Collie Expressions*, we have special respect for breeders who can produce a consistent family of Collies over multiple generations while working with only a few dogs. Although they may be limited in how many Collies they keep, these breeders are *not* limited in their knowledge, experience, and creativity. We now bring you the latest installment in our series of Small Breeder Success Stories, featuring Gayle Kaye of California's Chelsea kennels.

Gayle Kaye
Chelsea

CE: In what year did you decide to commit a serious effort to being a Collie breeder?

GK: Around 1971 when I began a search for two foundation bitches.

CE: What event(s) inspired that commitment?

GK: Collies have been in my life since I was born. Thanks to a predominantly Collie mix that arrived before I did, the Lassie TV show, and Terhune, I grew up always wanting a purebred Collie. Some people have goals of becoming a doctor, a lawyer, whatever: I wanted a Collie!

Although I bought that first Collie (a linebred Wind Call male) in 1968 while still in college and attended my first specialty show the same year, bred a few Collie litters over the next couple of years for fun and attended dog shows on a regular basis as a spectator, it wasn't until the early 1970s that I decided to become seriously involved.

Right from the start I felt right at home at dog shows. My first time in the ring came in 1970, but I didn't start seriously exhibiting until 1975. My first homebred champion, Ch. Chelsea Gold Mist, finished in 1976 with four majors! That same year her daughter, Ch. Chelsea Moon Pebble, won one of the largest Futurities on the West Coast under judge Ben Butler, in one of his



*The foundation of Chelsea: Chelsea Evening Elf and Marnus Chelsea Morning.
All of today's Chelsea Collies can still be traced to these two bitches, both whelped in 1972.*

last judging assignments. Two weeks later, this same bitch won a 4-point specialty major and Best Puppy in Show (beating 63 bitches!), with me handling!! I was drawn in hook, line, and sinker!

It has turned into a lifelong commitment.

CE: Who were your original mentors? What can you give them credit for teaching you?

GK: I met Glen Twiford, Ed Sellman, Judy Mansure, and Fran and Joe Thibault early on. All were extremely helpful, but my real education came via Sandy Tuttle. Her Arrowhill/Kasan kennel was one of the last really large operations on the West Coast to have several generations of families. Weekly visits throughout the 1970s and into the 1980s provided a wonderful education, with lots of hands-on learning. We spent hours talking dogs, looking at adult dogs, and evaluating litters of puppies at various stages and ages. At any given time, she usually had multiple litters. She taught me dogs, families, and pedigrees. At that point, she was showing all over the country, seeing dogs in the flesh that to me were only pictures in magazines. I also got to meet a lot of breeders since she had friends all across the country. And she loaned me her old club yearbooks!

Another mentor, although I didn't know her at the time, was Pat Starkweather, thanks to her book *All About Collies*. That book became my Bible and I studied it religiously.

CE: Tell how/in what areas you think your dogs excel. What distinguishes a Chelsea Collie from others?

GK: I think overall they excel in good type, with particular emphasis placed on length and cleanness of head, with pretty expression. I've only had Roughs and I am extremely proud of the fact that most of my champions have finished with multiple specialty majors in strong California competition, with points won almost entirely under Collie or Sheltie breeder-judges, and most have been owner-handled.

CE: Who was your foundation Collie?

GK: Per Pat Starkweather's advice in her book *All About Collies*, I started with two of the best bitches I could afford.

CE: Who bred it and in what year? If there are more than one, or if you started with one and changed direction, focus more on the one most influential in your current breeding program. Also, if you think it's enlightening, perhaps you can discuss the reasons for such a redirection occurring.

GK: When I started out, *Collie Cues* was THE magazine. Thanks to ads in *Cues*, I found myself constantly drawn to pictures of the GinGeor Collies. Plus I had seen several in person, such as Alice Wharton's beautiful Ch. Country Lane GinGeor Patrice. At that time GinGeor was one of the top winning Eastern kennels and their

Continued on page 18





dogs were gorgeous - excelling in outline, coat, style, and extremely beautiful, finished faces. I wasn't able to get anything directly from GinGeor, so I went looking for other breeders working with the family.

My two foundation bitches were whelped and arrived here in 1972. A normal-eyed pure for sable bitch, Chelsea Evening Elf (sired by Ch. GinGeor Jack of Tamarack ex a daughter of Ch. Parader's Golden Parade), came via Joan Able of Tamarack. A tri bitch, Marnus Chelsea Morning (Ch. GinGeor's Indelible Choice ex a daughter of Ch. Lick Creek's Pizzazz), came from the Kellers. Both traced to just about all the GinGeor dogs I had fallen in love with in the magazines and the two shared many of the same virtues the GinGeor dogs were known for: lovely heads, nice eye and expression, and beautiful outlines. Both also had great temperaments, something that was extremely important to me right from the start.

Both bitches were equally influential in starting my breeding program and all my current dogs trace multiple times to both.

CE: To what dogs/bitches was this foundation Collie bred that advanced your breeding program in the first generation? Discuss your thought process for combining the two partners. Talk about your expectations; which ones were met and which ones weren't... and how they impacted the next step. Tell the origin of the decision - suggestion of mentor, gut instinct, or other inspiration for thinking it would work.

GK: My original plan was to breed both foundation bitches back to the other one's sire, but thanks to a breed problem that resurfaced during the 1970s, my plans quickly changed.

Following careful consideration, weighing both foundation bitches' virtues, faults, and family compatibility, I decided to go with the Arrowhill dogs. Sandy Tuttle was just hitting her stride following Ch. Black Hawk of Kasan's great wins, and her Rough Collies were doing really well all across the country. She had some beautiful dogs. In retrospect, the GinGeor and Arrowhill families blended exceptionally well. Both were strongly based Parader families that shared several common ancestors and many of the same virtues. I decided to breed each

bitch to different sons of Ch. Arrowhill Oklahoma Tornado.

Evening Elf was bred to Margate's Wanderlust, a pointed dog with a lovely head and really pretty eyes. From the litter of 10, I kept a beautiful golden sable bitch, Ch. Chelsea Gold Mist, who went on to become my first homebred champion. Finishing with four majors, she won under some of the best, including my all-time favorite judge, Alex Gibbs. Looking back, Tiara was a really good one to start out with and she was exactly what I wanted - feminine, excelling in head quality, eye, and expression, with a well-fitting coat and a wonderful temperament.

Meanwhile, Chelsea Morning was bred to Ch. Arrowhill Oklahoma Tribute. An inbred Oklahoma Tornado son, Bootie excelled in head length, eye, and expression. I kept a mahogany sable bitch, Chelsea Summer Breeze. She wasn't exactly a show bitch, even though she did well the few times shown. She would have been too much for some people - too much bone, substance, and muzzle, but she had beautiful eyes. Her brother, the pick male, went to a local fancier and became Ch. Chelsea Midnight Breeze, finishing with back-to-back specialty majors!

Over the years, most of the breedings I've done were based on a gut feeling of whether or not the dog and bitch go together and/or complement one another. That's why if at all possible, I like to see

the potential sire in the flesh. In other cases, I have made breedings to the sire of puppies or adults that I like.

I ended up placing both foundation bitches following their litters (each was only bred the one time) and decided to continue with the daughters, since both were better than their dams.

As both Gold Mist and Summer Breeze were basically a GinGeor/Arrowhill cross, I decided I needed to continue linebreeding in order to "set" a solid foundation for the characteristics I desired. The opportunities for breeding to anything GinGeor had become even more limited than when I began my initial hunt for foundations. So I decided to stay with the Arrowhill cross. Following numerous trips to Sandy's kennel in search of a sire for each of



Ch. Chelsea Gold Mist, whelped in 1973



Chelsea Summer Breeze



Ch. Advantage Of Arrowhill



Ch. Chelsea Ice Castles



Ch. Chelsea Of Arrowhill

the bitches, two males in particular caught my eye: the tricolor stud, Ch. Jude Of Arrowhill, and one of my all-time favorite Arrowhill dogs, Ch. Advantage Of Arrowhill.

As a result, Ch. Gold Mist was bred to Ch. Jude Of Arrowhill. The resulting litter of four produced Ch. Chelsea Moon Pebble, the Futurity/Sweeps and multiple specialty winner mentioned previously. She was owner-handled to most of her wins at a time when I barely knew what I was doing!

I felt the other bitch, Chelsea Summer Breeze, was more suited to Ch. Advantage Of Arrowhill. He was a big, upstanding dog with beautiful head detailing and he had substance and attitude. When she whelped her litter, a

sable dog stood out from the get-go. He was the one that Sandy Tuttle would take in lieu of a stud fee. With beautiful eye and expression and gorgeous finish of foreface, this handsome sable grew up to become Ch. Chelsea Of Arrowhill. At his first show at 6 months, "Trick" not only won the large California Collie Fancier's Futurity, but also the same day, went WD for a five-point major! Wanting a bitch, I kept a sable sister, Chelsea Sea Breeze, a multiple Sweeps winner, with points (I ended up placing her following one litter because my numbers were getting up, and down the line, I had her better sister from the second breeding). So taken was I with the combination, that I decided to repeat the breeding the following year. The second breeding of Advantage and Summer

Continued on page 22



Dogs
Bitches

Margate's Wanderlust
Chelsea Evening Elf

Ch. Wickmere Battle Chief

Ch. Chelsea Gold Mist

Ch. Chelsea Of Arrowhill

Ch. Jude Of Arrowhill

Ch. Advantage Of Arrowhill

Chelsea Moon Shadow

Ch. Chelsea Moon Pebble

Chelsea Cavalier
(see also link to Ch. Chelsea Ice Castles)

Ch. Amberhill's Bouquet Of Chelsea

Ch. Amberhill's Chips Of Gold

Ch. Chelsea Shadowgold

Chelsea Mythic Conqueror

Chelsea Shadowlight

Putting Theory into Practice...
Taking the advice of Pat Starkweather in *All About Collies*, Gayle began with the two best bitches she could afford, blending the families that came down from them into the current Chelsea Collies.

Ch. Tartanside Impressario

Squire's Chelsea Imprint

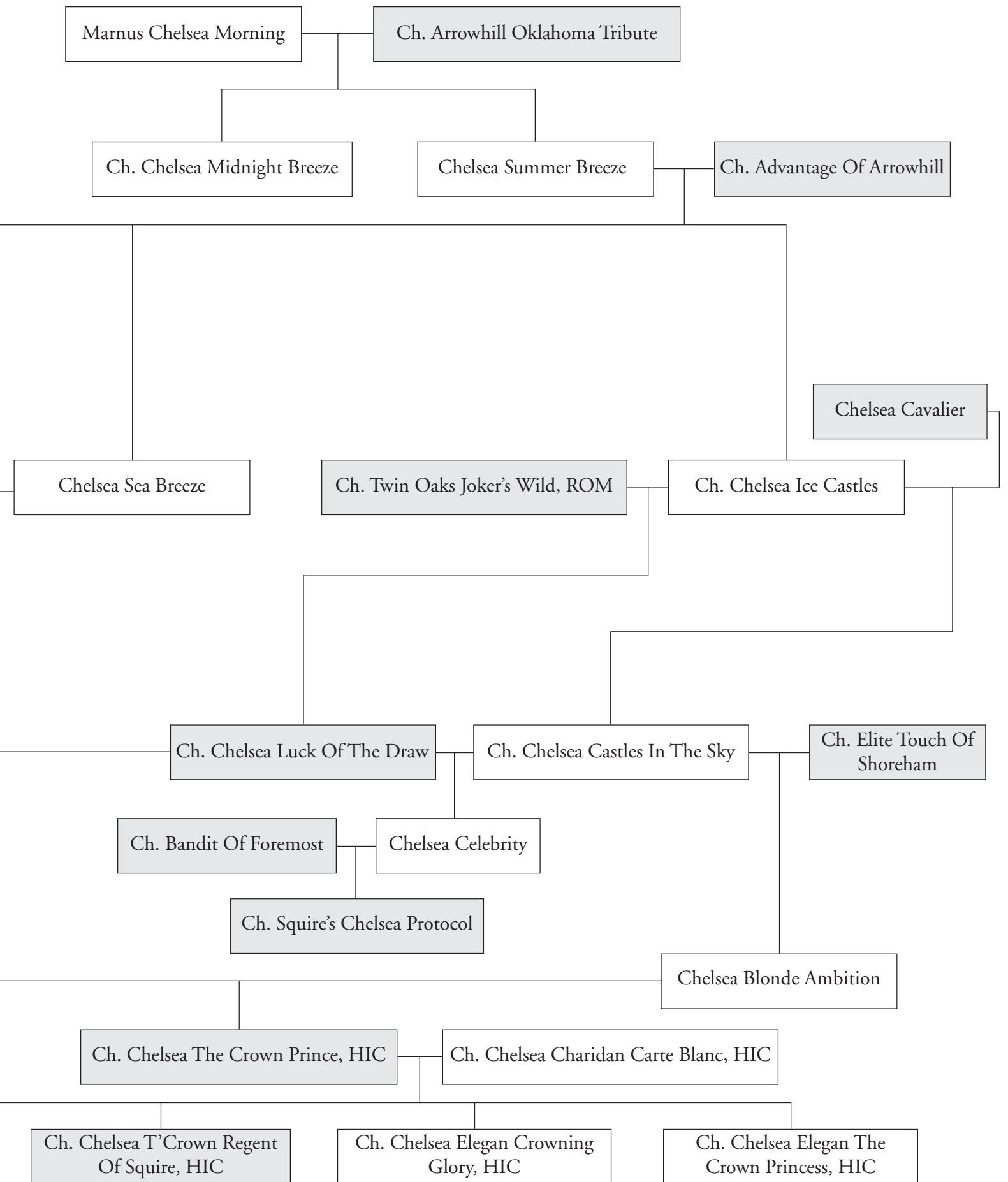
Chelsea City Squire

Ch. Chelsea Summer Blonde, HIC

Ch. Chelsea The Crown Jewel, HIC

Chelsea Sunshine Girl

Ch. Chelsea T' Crown Heir Of Squire, HIC





Breeze in 1979 produced the specialty winner Ch. Chelsea Ice Castles. Major pointed at 6 months, she finished at 15 months with four majors.

By the late 1970s I was feeling pretty good about my breeding program. The dogs were becoming more consistent, and I was coming up with puppies that excelled in the areas I felt were important and they were doing very well at large specialty shows. Nonetheless I was always on the lookout for another dog to breed to. At the 1973 CCA in Anaheim, I fell in love with a 9-12 puppy bitch, Ch. Shamont Sabrina, sired by Ch. Wickmere Battle Chief. She went WB the day following the National and went on to found a family dynasty. Judging by what Gold Mist had produced in her first litter, I felt she might be a wonderful choice for Battle Chief, and so in 1978 I made arrangements to do the breeding. As luck would have it, he had just been sold to Southern California. The result of that combination produced one of my all time favorite homebreds, Chelsea Moon Shadow (more on her later...).

I basically have the two sides coming down from both foundation bitches. Gold Mist was bred one final time to Ch. Chelsea of Arrowhill, a breeding that incorporated the two sides that I started with. From this litter, I kept Chelsea Cavalier, who wasn't shown but a few times, but he does figure prominently in later champions and generations.

The third generation....

I was so pleased with the quality I was getting from Advantage of Arrowhill that in 1980 I bred Chelsea Moonshadow (my Battle Chief/Gold Mist daughter) to him and got one of my biggest winners to date. Ch. Chelsea Shadowgold finished with two five-point specialty majors, all from the Bred-By class, before the age of two. Those were the days of huge Collie entries when the average specialty show had class entries of 60 to 80 bitches. The only time specialed, she won the large Nor-Cal District Tournament, but ended up not going to the National. She is behind all my current dogs and remains even twenty-five years later, my ideal of the type of Collie I want to breed. She was sound, typey,



Ch. Chelsea Shadowgold

with a beautiful face and had elegance and attitude to burn. She was a handful and on more than one occasion was penalized for her exuberance in the ring.

When it came time to breed Ch. Moon Pebble, I wanted to use Ch. Advantage of Arrowhill, but he wouldn't breed her, so she went to Ch. Attention of Arrowhill instead (a Tribute son). This litter produced Ch. Amberhill's Bouquet of Chelsea, a sable bitch given to Jill Bassler, a junior handler just starting out at the time. Her first big win was a major reserve from the puppy class (to her cousin, Shadowgold), with Jill handling at the age of 12. Jill later handled her to her championship including a major win under Bobbee Roos.

For Ch. Ice Castles' first litter, she was bred to Reflections of Arrowhill, a blue Rough male owned by Sandy.

A really good friend, Penny Bassler (Jill's mother), took the pick male from the litter, Chelsea Silver Reflections. Jill and I then bred the aforementioned Ch. Amberhill Bouquet of Chelsea to Silver Reflections, resulting in Ch. Amberhill's Chips of Gold, a really nice sable merle that finished in 1986, handled totally by Jill as a junior handler. Unfortunately that line faded out, as I never had anything I felt I could breed to a sable merle. Now I wish I had made a greater effort! But numbers again....

By the mid-1980s I was in a bind - I had five champion bitches and it seemed there was nowhere to go with them unless it involved shipping.

All along I had mostly been using Sandy Tuttle's Arrowhill dogs with a few selective outcrosses, but by mid-1985 most of her good Rough dogs were gone, leaving me in a predicament of finding related or compatible males to breed to.

A good case in point was Ch. Chelsea Shadowgold. Because I was afraid to ship her, I bred her to a local male that I had sold to a friend. He was not necessarily my choice selection, but at least I didn't have to put her on a plane. She ended up dying young anyway from a rare form of leukemia so all my protection was for naught. Not only was it a good lesson, but a fateful blow to my





*A photo pedigree:
Dam, daughter, and grandson*

Ch. Chelsea Moon Pebble



*Ch. Amberhill's Bouquet
Of Chelsea*



*Ch. Amberhill's Chips Of
Gold*



breeding plans, as I do not feel the bitch produced what she was capable of. She only produced five living puppies, and I kept Chelsea Shadowlight from her litter sired by Chelsea Mythic Conqueror (sired by Chelsea Cavalier ex Chelsea Sea Breeze - a sister to Ice Castles).

In 1985 I bred Ice Castles to Chelsea Cavalier (by Ch. Chelsea of Arrowhill ex Ch. Chelsea Gold Mist). From the litter came a really quality-headed bitch in a plain brown wrapper, Ch. Chelsea Castles In The Sky. As a puppy, Brigitte won numerous Futurities/Sweeps and major reserves and later went on to finish with 3 majors. She was the type of bitch that judges would walk right by and do a double-take. She had almost no white and sometimes looked like an endless sea of brown. Nonetheless upon closer inspection, she had some really hard to get qualities... beautiful head length, finish of muzzle, underjaw and skull, with a well-fitting coat. More on her in a bit.

I decided to breed Ice Castles one more time. At the 1986 National, it seemed like every puppy class had the most beautiful puppies, all sired by the same dog - Ch. Twin Oaks The Joker's Wild. By the end of 1986 I shipped Ch. Ice Castles to be bred to him. The resulting litter produced Ch. Chelsea Luck Of The Draw. As an 8-week-old puppy, he was given to the aforementioned Penny Bassler (Amberhill Collies). However, I ended up getting Thomas back following Penny's accidental death in 1988 and the resultant placement of most of her dogs. Not only did I lose a really good friend, but we had a good thing going. She loved the boy dogs and took several of my pick boy puppies. In spite of not wanting to keep a male, I kept Thomas for two reasons; one was sentimental and the other was because the bitches in the litter didn't turn out as I had hoped. Living to the ripe old age of 12, Thomas had absolutely the best Collie temperament I have seen on a Collie. Upon his arrival back, I bred two bitches to him: Shadowgold's daughter, Chelsea Shadowlight and Ch. Chelsea Castles In The Sky. I kept a daughter from each litter.

Daughter #1 was Squire's Chelsea Imprint, ex Shadowlight whelped in 1989, and she went to live at Tim and Marilyn Mothersell's. Renè had points and was just coming into

her own when we were hit with her untimely death. Fortunately just four months prior to her death, I shipped her back to Tartanside to be bred to Ch. Tartanside Impresario. It was to be her only litter, but produced Chelsea City Squire, also co-owned with Marilyn. Not wanting to keep two males, I kept him for a short while, but ended up placing him when his son came along.

The other Luck Of The Draw daughter, Chelsea Celebrity (ex Ch. Chelsea Castles In The Sky - making it a double on Ice Castles), was a beautifully headed bitch that had both majors and way too many reserves. For her only litter, she was bred to Ch. Bandit Of Foremost and produced Ch. Squire's Chelsea Protocol, co-owned with Tim and Marilyn Mothersell.

For her second litter, Ch. Castles In The Sky (Brigitte) was bred in 1991 to Ch. Elite Touch Of Shoreham. I always liked the head type of the Shoreham dogs, and coincidentally over the last 30 years or so, many of our

dogs ended up winning at the same specialties. Touch was extremely elegant with great style and presence. I was hoping to gain elegance and shorten the bodies somewhat, while keeping the head details. Selecting for head length has forced me to keep a constant vigil on body length. From the resulting litter, I kept an elegant, full-bodied, beautifully coated, big-muzzled bitch, Chelsea Blonde Ambition. Bred to the above-mentioned Chelsea City Squire, she produced my current male, Ch. Chelsea The Crown Prince,



Ch. Chelsea Castles In The Sky

HIC (Bailee), whelped in 1996. Tragically and one of the downsides of breeding dogs, Madonna died following that litter, due to a botched-up C-section that became necessary when she couldn't deliver 13 pups that ranged from 16 to 18 oz each. It left me with the entire litter to hand-raise. Not only did all the pups survive, but they flourished! Owner-handled, Bailee finished his championship in 1999 and so far, in three litters, has sired six specialty-winning champions and others with points. The breeding that produced him incorporated just about every breeding I had ever done.

In the summer of 1997 I judged a specialty puppy match and fell in love with a beautiful 10-week-old tri bitch. For weeks following the match, I couldn't get her out of my mind! Later when I heard she was available, I con-





Ch. Chelsea Luck Of The Draw



Chelsea Shadowlight



Squire's Chelsea Imprint



tacted the breeder. Several people had turned her down, so I guess it was just meant to be! I ended up purchasing her not only to show, but with the express purpose of breeding her to Ch. Chelsea The Crown Prince. Their family backgrounds were similar, both tracing to a variety of closely bred Parader descendents, through Tartan-side and Arrowhill. Plus they greatly complemented one another. Ch. Chelsea Charidan Carte Blanc (Betsy), bred by Dante Fangon, finished with four majors, all owner-handled. She is what many would describe as a meat and potatoes bitch - very sound, with great substance, a nice enough head, great ears, temperament and good coat. Bailee on the other hand has nice detail and length of head, beautiful muzzle, an elegant outline, and great ears and coat. They were bred together twice, resulting in two litters and so far the breeding has produced six Rough champions and another one with points. All have done some very impressive specialty winning either as class dogs or as specials. I currently have three sisters from this breeding, Ch. Chelsea Summer Blonde, the puppy flyer who finished with four specialty wins; Ch. Chelsea The Crown Jewel, finished with two specialty wins; and Chelsea Sunshine Girl, who is pointed but has rarely seen the inside of the show ring due to cycling every six months. Sometimes a shot in the arm is needed and Betsy gave me that and more!



Ch. Chelsea Charidan Carte Blanc, HIC

CE: How has your “eye” (or mental image) evolved since your first good one?

GK: I think it has grown to encompass more of the overall Collie. In the beginning I was totally obsessed with head, eye, and expression. I have grown to appreciate the importance of balance, elegance, and soundness, in addition to the crucial head details.

My first good ones were Ch. Gold Mist and her daughter Ch. Moon Pebble, but probably one of the best was Ch. Chelsea Shadowgold. I think any one of them could win in today’s competition.

CE: How do you define your mental image at this particular point in your life as a Collie breeder?

GK: If you mean my mental image of the perfect Collie, it would be a Collie with a beautiful, graceful outline, nice legs and feet, neck and style, with beautiful head details and pretty expression. Throw a beautiful well-

fitting coat and sound movement into the package, topped off with great showmanship and attitude and you have my ideal!

CE: What do you see as your strengths as a breeder and/or manager of a breeding program?

GK: My strengths have always revolved around bitches and puppies. I have picked many puppies at birth, still wet, right out of the sac. And I am a great puppy raiser. To me, nothing tops the excitement of a pending litter and even after all these years, whelping puppies is my very favorite thing to do! Also I love raising, training, and conditioning puppies and it’s something I am very good at!

CE: What areas are you striving to improve?

GK: Breeding is a difficult balancing act. You take two steps forward and one step back or vice versa. A breeder needs to constantly assess all breedings done since each one can bring something new to the plate. Sometimes by trying to improve one particular area, something else unexpected creeps in. I feel it’s important to look at your own dogs honestly and be able to see their faults along with their virtues. AND... study the Standard. Sometimes traits that are considered important aren’t even mentioned in the Standard.

Mrs. Cummings of the original Arrowhill Collies

had a wonderful saying: “Try to make your Collies fit the Standard, rather than making the Standard fit the Collie.”

CE: Do you have any particular innovative ideas you’ve used to overcome obstacles and optimize your ability to participate and succeed as a Collie breeder? This could be ANYTHING... from trading handling for puppy-sitting to some kind of little gadget that makes your whelping area more efficient.

GK: My living situation - a small yard divided into even smaller areas - has been my forte. We love the San Jose area, but land is at a premium and dollar-wise, acquiring acreage here is almost impossible. I’ve learned to live with my space limitations and I have tried to make really excellent use of a very small space. About a quarter of an acre is divided into chain-link areas that have cement and



Pedigree of Ch. Chelsea The Crown Prince, HIC

SIRE: CHELSEA CITY SQUIRE



DAM: CHELSEA BLONDE AMBITION

“The breeding that produced him incorporated just about every breeding I had ever done.”

Gayle Kaye

Ch. Tartanside Heir Apparent, ROM
 Ch. Tartanside Th' Critic's Choice, ROM
 Ch. Briarhill Midnight High
 Ch. Jancada Tartanside Traveler
 Ch. Tartanside Apparently, ROM
 Ch. Tartanside Rhapsody
 Ch. Executive's Handle With Care
 Ch. Tartanside Impressario
 Ch. Tartanside Heir Apparent, ROM
 Ch. Tartanside Th' Critic's Choice, ROM
 Ch. Briarhill Midnight High
 Tartanside Charisma
 Ch. Tartanside Heir Apparent, ROM
 Ravette's Midnight Memory
 Ravette's Fiesta Lark
 Ch. Executive's Table Stakes
 Ch. Twin Oaks Joker's Wild, ROM
 Ch. Twin Oaks Executive Affair
 Ch. Chelsea Luck Of The Draw
 Ch. Advantage Of Arrowhill
 Ch. Chelsea Ice Castles
 Chelsea Summer Breeze
 Squire's Chelsea Imprint
 Chelsea Cavalier
 Chelsea Mythic Conqueror
 Chelsea Sea Breeze
 Chelsea Shadowlight
 Ch. Advantage Of Arrowhill
 Ch. Chelsea Shadowgold
 Ch. Chelsea Moonshadow

Ch. Shoreham Three-D's Hi'N'Mighty
 Shoreham Three-D's Tri N'Mighty
 Shoreham Three-D's Truette
 Ch. Shoreham Kailyn Of The Hills
 Ch. Shoreham Three-D's Hi'N'Mighty
 Shoreham Tangerine
 Shoreham Queen Samantha
 Ch. Elite Touch Of Shoreham
 Ch. Cinderella's Hit The Road
 Ch. Cinderella's One For The Road
 Kadon Sophisticated Lady
 Ch. Society Elite Daytime Star
 Ch. Cinderella's Hit The Road
 Ch. Braedoon's Devilsfood
 Braedoon's Midnight Magnolia
 Ch. Advantage Of Arrowhill
 Ch. Chelsea Of Arrowhill
 Chelsea Summer Breeze
 Chelsea Cavalier
 Margate's Wanderlust
 Ch. Chelsea Gold Mist
 Chelsea Evening Elf
 Ch. Chelsea Castles In The Sky
 Ch. Jude Of Arrowhill
 Ch. Advantage Of Arrowhill
 Arrowhill Oklahoma Prudence
 Ch. Chelsea Ice Castles
 Ch. Arrowhill Oklahoma Tribute
 Chelsea Summer Breeze
 Marnus Chelsea Morning



Chelsea Moonshadow, shown going Best in Match (128 entries) under judge Pati Merrill in 1978

pea gravel, so it's fairly easy to take care of. I have designed and redesigned this kennel setup several times, each time learning a new way of making the best use of this given space. Two years ago we remodeled and doubled the square footage of our house, resulting in the loss of even more yard. Once again we had to redo the yard setup. My current layout and routines are based on successful experiences of the past in raising and conditioning show dogs. Not having enough space for a kennel building, my garage has saved the day! I have several chain-link pens in my garage, with a full-size tub, grooming table, and dryer. While I could consider my limited space an obstacle, I have chosen to turn that obstacle into an opportunity by designing a kennel layout that works effectively for me.

CE: Describe your daily routine.

GK: For years I worked part-time which worked really well with the dogs and going to dog shows. Two years ago I was lucky enough to take an early retirement, so my schedule is more flexible now that I am home most the time. Work or not, I have always fed twice daily, more if I have puppies. I have always been a morning person so my dogs are all fed and watered by 6:00 am. I pick up yards several times a day and change water daily, more often in the summertime. Our weather is very temperate here and there are very few days during the entire year that one cannot go outside. It's one of the big pluses that keeps me in this very expensive area... no snow, no ice, no house-bound for days, etc.!

CE: What do you feed?

GK: I feed Eukanuba Lamb and Rice. The adult dogs are fed the regular formula and puppies get the puppy food until a year of age. I am a dyed-in-the wool Eukanuba fan and no, I don't work for the company. I just think they make a great product and the condition and health of my dogs bears this out. I don't add any vitamins or coat supplements. However, for puppies, I pressure-cook chickens and make a gruel - bones and all - and add this to the food until a year of age. Just for variety, occasionally I add scrambled eggs or plain yogurt to the adult dogs' food. I won't tolerate fussy eaters unless a dog is pregnant or sick and all of mine will eat just about anything.

CE: How many dogs do you generally keep at one time? What is the distribution of dogs - bitches - puppies to grow out - old folks? Do you keep your old folks their entire lives; if not, how do you retire them and when?

GK: Living in metropolitan San Jose, with neighbors, ordinances, and dog limitations, has forced me to be extremely selective in what I breed and/or keep. I generally keep 6-8 dogs. I much prefer bitches. It started out that way and remains that way 35 years later. On several occasions, I have kept a male when offered no other choice, but my kennel situation is much more conducive to keeping bitches. However, I have to admit, there are times I have wished I had the room to keep more males. The downside of keeping a kennel of good bitches is finding complementary stud dogs and getting your bitches to them.

I usually try to place dogs that don't turn out for breeding or showing, but I usually keep those that I have shown and bred. As a result, I usually have several older guys running around. It would probably be more prudent to finish, breed, and then place them in a good home, but unfortunately, I always get too emotionally attached (perhaps it is due to my situation where I have house dogs instead of kennel dogs). In the beginning years, I was averaging one litter a year. In recent years, I haven't even kept that pace and in fact I've had just four litters in the last eight years. That's why it has taken me a little longer to get where I am.

CE: What role(s) do family members and close friends play to enhance your participation?

GK: My family has always been supportive and understanding. My husband, Don, has been especially supportive and quite frankly without his help and encouragement, I could never have done it.

CE: What health screens do you routinely perform and at what ages?

GK: My vet routinely checks all litters at 1 to 2 weeks. He makes a home visit to check hearts and general health of the puppies and dam. I do eye checks at 5-6 weeks, hips at 2 years and thyroid around 1-2 years. My philosophy is you might as well screen upfront for the things that are easy, since there are so many genetic problems that afford no screening. The breed has a low incidence of hip dysplasia and I think it would be nice to keep it that way, since all we need is one sire to make it a problem....

CE: How do you market your show puppies? Talk about any arrangements you're comfortable sharing - co-ownerships, terms, etc.

GK: All breedings are done for me first and foremost and usually when I need something to continue. I have never marketed or promoted show puppies. I normally don't do co-ownerships, but over the years, I have done a few select co-ownerships with friends. Perhaps it is the old adage "once bitten, twice shy," as one time I let a really promising bitch go to a novice (I should have actually kept her myself, but for my numbers). Turned out the novice who at first seemed very nice, was not at all stable. For years, I tried to get the bitch back, to no avail. I have learned the hard way several times that if I want puppies out of a bitch, I need to keep her myself.

CE: Briefly discuss some of your show sales that have been successful. What screening procedures did you follow with these buyers to satisfy yourself of their sincerity and commitment to a Chelsea puppy?

GK: I have been lucky because most of the champions I have bred have been owned and shown by others. I love it this way - you get the best of both worlds and don't have to keep a bunch of dogs! The first requirement for a potential show home is that they be known for taking care of their dogs. Keeping promising puppies in good condition, training them and keeping an eye on ears is extremely important in the making of a successful show dog. Many a promising dog has been ruined by improper care during stages of crucial development.

In the last couple of years, two bitches finished for Janet Hitt, including Ch. Chelsea Elegan Crown Princess who recently won back-to-back specialty Bests of Breed. Also in recent years, I have bred, co-owned, and finished three males with Tim and Marilyn Mothersell, including the specialty Best of Breed winner, Ch. Chelsea T' Crown Heir Of Squire and his brother Ch. Chelsea T' Crown Regent Of Squire. I have Janet and the Mothersells to thank for training, conditioning, handling, and presenting the dogs so beautifully, making all their championships possible.

CE: What do you see as the purpose and importance of advertising?

GK: I usually advertise because I am very proud of the winning my dogs have done. Not only is it a way to let others know what you are doing, but it's a good way to promote your dogs. There's an old saying, "Don't hide your light under a bushel".... Plus all ads become a matter of historical record.

CE: What issues are involved when you plan a show season or campaign?

GK: In California we are limited to about 15 specialties year round and all involve driving great distances, so you have to hit it just right. Planning a show season depends on what dog is ready and what shows and judges are coming up. I have always concentrated on showing at specialty shows, with occasional all-breed shows, if they have Collie judges. Though I have done it on some occasions, showing under all-breed judges has never been my thing. I much prefer showing under breeder-judges... those who have had true "hands-on" experience with the breed. I have always felt if you can't win under those who really know the breed, what is the point?? There's a phrase frequently bandied about: "breed specialist." What is a breed specialist? I find the term especially annoying when it is applied to someone who might have owned a couple of Collies in their lifetime, but never really bred or showed them with any amount of success. Our breed has a few very select "breed specialists" and if the term is used, it should be in reference to people who have had long term or long-standing experience in the breed.



Chelsea City Squire



Some of Bailee and Betsy's champions....



Ch. Chelsea Summer Blonde, HIC



Ch. Chelsea The Crown Jewel, HIC

I rarely special my dogs once they are finished because I have always favored showing class dogs.

CE: What aspect of your participation in the sport of purebred dogs has been the most rewarding and fulfilling?

GK: There are so many rewarding and fulfilling things about this sport that it's hard to know where to start. The dogs themselves have been a wonderful presence in my life, as have the enduring friendships that have evolved and lasted throughout the years. Having a continuous line coming down from both foundation bitches and breeding specialty-winning champions under judges I respect probably provides the greatest reward. I am proud of the fact that I am personally familiar with most of my current dogs' ancestors, having owned or seen many of them over the last 35 years. Plus, I love puppies. It's especially rewarding to see the finished product following all the hard work of raising, training, and conditioning. Nothing beats getting in the ring with an enjoyable and unpredictable 6-9 puppy and knowing you played a big role in getting him or her there!!

CE: In what ways has your enjoyment evolved over time?

GK: My enjoyment of the sport has pretty much stayed the same since I started. The equipment may be getting a lot heavier, the drives a little longer, the vagaries of the weather more irritating, the loading and unloading more

of a hassle, but my interest and fascination are at an all-time high.

CE: Any regrets?

GK: A few! Not moving to a bigger place (twenty years ago before land values escalated in this area) is perhaps the biggest regret.

Hindsight.... It's easy to look back and reflect on all the mistakes one has made and the wasted opportunities and things we would or should have done differently, but overall there's little I would change. In spite of being small and limited, I feel I have held my own for over 30 years! Would I get as involved in Collies if I had it to do all over again? In a heartbeat!

CE: What are the driving forces and unmet goals that compel you to continue?

GK: The driving force is to continue a successful breeding program by enjoying the new puppies that come along every season... hoping that each successive generation is better than the last! The illusive dream of producing that perfect Collie could be just around the corner....

CE: What methods/mental tools have you used to overcome discouragement?

GK: It's easy to become discouraged when you think certain dogs should be doing better in the ring; when breedings either don't materialize or don't pan out; or when



Ch. Chelsea T' Crown Heir Of Squire, HIC



*Ch. Chelsea Elean Crowning Glory, HIC and
Ch. Chelsea Elean The Crown Princess, HIC*

you lose dogs or puppies before their time. Dog breeding separates the men from the boys and the discouragement is probably the biggest reason fanciers come and go within a few short years. This sport is not for the “faint of heart.” Staying in dogs takes patience, persistence, dedication, and determination. You just have to pick yourself up... and stay focused.

CE: What has been the greatest obstacle to breeding dogs?

GK: Other than limitations of numbers and breedings, one of the greatest obstacles has been trying to find males... males that have what you want: quality and pedigree-wise that are accessible.

Living out here on the West Coast and trying to get your bitch to a particular male living on the opposite coast provides its own set of problems. Though the shipping of bitches has always involved some risk, it's even scarier since 9/11! I just spent years wasting time and money hoping that chilled semen would be the answer, but alas, so far, it's not proving to be the viable alternative to shipping your bitch.

CE: How have Collies changed since you started?

GK: Overall I think there are fewer really bad dogs, but when I started there were a lot more Collies being registered and being shown, so I'm not sure if the reason for an overall change is due to numbers or better breeding. When I started out the average specialty show out here

had 200+ total entries. Now they are sometimes lucky to get 40 to 50!

This is going to sound weird but I think the breed is getting noisier! Thirty years ago I actually had three to four dogs that were not debarked. Today, every dog I keep is debarked (as soon as my vet will do them). I have always hated debarking but it sure beats complaining neighbors. Plus, don't know if it's my imagination or not, but the dogs just seem noisier at shows. I do think this is one issue that has hurt our breed's popularity. Throughout most of last century, Collies were always in the top 10 in AKC registrations, but they have gradually slid during the last 30 years. I sometimes have wondered why??? I think the Collie makes a wonderful pet, but obviously the dog buying public is looking to other breeds.

Also I think that overall, dogs are much smaller today. A lot of the dogs around when I first started would be considered jolly green giants today!

CE: Where do you see yourself in the next 15 years (you, not your dogs)?

GK: I am working on another book and I was just approved for my provisional judges license for Collies, so I am about to enter a brand new phase. One thing is for sure, I see myself forever captivated and mesmerized by Collies - it's been a lifelong addiction and I see no reason to change now.

