

LOOKING BACK . . .

In 1959, a group of dedicated Sheltie fanciers in the Denver area were seeking insight on the Shetland Sheepdog and decided to band together.

The Colorado Shetland Sheepdog Club was officially formed on December 7th of that year with Joan Rejholec, Nancy Washburn and Sadah Loomis as the charter members. The first planned meeting of the club saw a lovely turnout of 17 for the gathering on January 15, 1960, at Tobrok Kennels in Littleton. Joan served as Chairman, Nancy Washburn as Secretary-Treasurer, and Sadah Loomis as Communicator.

All-breed obedience and conformation classes were started, dues were collected (the treasury went from \$10.10 to \$27.60 at one early meeting), informative programs were offered at the meetings, and a newsletter, "The Colorado Sheltie", was published.

The idea behind the club was one of friendliness, fun and service. Members supported the area's official ASSA member club but their main concern was activities with and about Shelties. AKC and ASSA rules were followed at all the club functions.

By the end of 1960, membership had risen to 79 members. The cost for 12 weeks of obedience classes was \$9.00 while non-members were charged \$.50 for conformation classes, and members paid only \$.25. Joan and Otto Rejholec conducted the conformation classes.

Animal behaviorist Vic Cross became the training director in January of 1961. He requested that the fees for his services be donated to worthy dog-oriented organizations. The club followed his wishes and made substantial donations to Guide Dogs For the Blind, the Colorado Humane Society and the Morris Animal Foundation. The second specialty (1976) was dedicated to Vic Cross.

In April of 1966, the training classes were moved from the National Guard Armory in Englewood to a leased building at 2620 South Federal Blvd. Volunteer trainers kept the programs going for many years and through several zoning variances on the property.

Club ads were placed in local papers asking those looking for a Sheltie to call the club, thus promoting Shelties and educating interested persons about them. Members were also able to help people with various Sheltie problems, i.e., several lost Shelties were found through the efforts of club members.

Wilmah Faidley was one of the early members who contributed her time for many of these club projects. The club's OTCH title award is in her memory.

The club's award for completing a Championship is given in honor of Bob and Evelyn Wiseman, long-time members and tireless workers for CSSC.

In the early 70's members decided it was time for the club to take its place as a vital, nationally recognized specialty club, and efforts were expanded toward that goal.

At the request of the AKC, the name of the club was changed to the Centennial Shetland Sheepdog Club of Greater Denver, Inc in 1972. The constitution was changed to conform to AKC standards, and AKC recognition was sought and received.

On December 02, 1972, the club held its first sanctioned B/OB match after only a few weeks of preparation.

The current logo first appeared on the November 1973 newsletter. The logo was taken from a design by Jan Leonard.

The first A/OA match was held on September 13, 1974, and the second (two were required) on April 11, 1975. The first specialty on December 06, 1975, with Mary Hays serving as Show Chairman and Jan Leonard as Obedience Chairman, was dedicated to the memory of Marlene Balke.

Now, as then, the goals of the club have been to promote Shelties and to educate interested people about them. Hopefully, the club's efforts have contributed to the quality of life for Shelties in the greater Denver area.