

PRESENT DAY BREEDERS

Doris Weston

Silver Persians have been the only cat for me since I saw my first one, Silver Mesa Miss Pixie, at the home of Doris Cook, a friend and neighbor of mine. Doris gave her little sister, Silver Mesa Miss Mitzie to my daughter and we were "hooked" for life. Gwendolyn Webb, one of the top silver breeders at that time, gave me a lovely little chinchilla female, Silver Mesa Miss Codette. These girls needed a mate so I bought Las Lomas Man About Town, (Frontispiece), from Mrs. Cook who bred him, and I was in the cat business.

No one could have known less about the cat fancy and purebred cats. We had always had a cat or two along with our two dogs and four children, but breeding, showing and selling kittens were new to me. I learned everything the hard way, by trial and error and have decided the more I learn, the less I feel I know.

Ch. Las Lomas Man About Town, was a fabulous cat and the foundation of all my cats. He was awarded Best in Show many times, but his main contribution was as a great stud cat. He lived in good health and still siring for fifteen years. He owed his good type and magnificent bone to the Silver Mesa cats behind him.

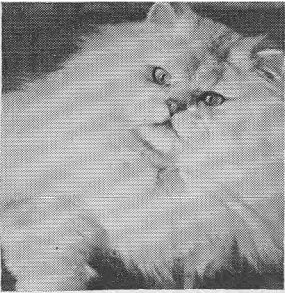
Man About Town's mother was bred back to her son to produce Las Lomas Julio of Walnut Hill, (Fig. B), my first grand champion and the sweetest cat I have owned. The first grand champion of my own breeding was Gr. Ch. Walnut Hill Delight, also a daughter of Man About Town. My biggest thrill in showing was when Dick Gebhardt held her up and said "Best Cat in Show".

Gwendolyn Webb had many fine silvers, her most famous were : Silver Mesa Sir Valliant, (Fig. G), Silver Mesa Sir Pixie, Silver Mesa Miss Pixyanne, (Fig. H), Silver Mesa Sir Ronlore, (Fig. I), grand champions all, shown, always at the peak of perfection. The Silver Mesa cats are still winning through their progeny in the United States and England, Ch. Silver Mesa Apache having been sent to Mollie Turney of Bonavia in the fifties.

Fanny Mood, former CFA Recorder, also bred many a fine silver under the Delphi name. Many of our finest silvers go back to the Delphi Cattery which was registered in 1938. After a lapse of some years during which the arduous duties of the recorder's office made breeding impossible, Mrs. Mood again took up the breeding of silvers, founding new lines with the same success as before. Of course, since the old Delphi stock is in so many of the best lines, her new cats do have the



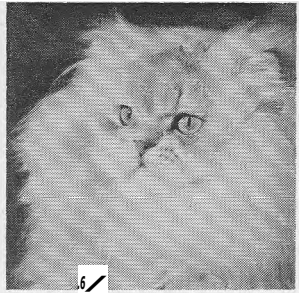
Mrs. Weston



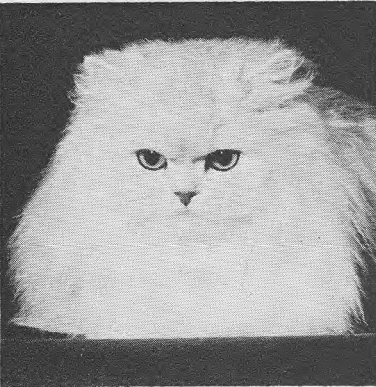
C. Gr. Ch. Walnut Hill Delight



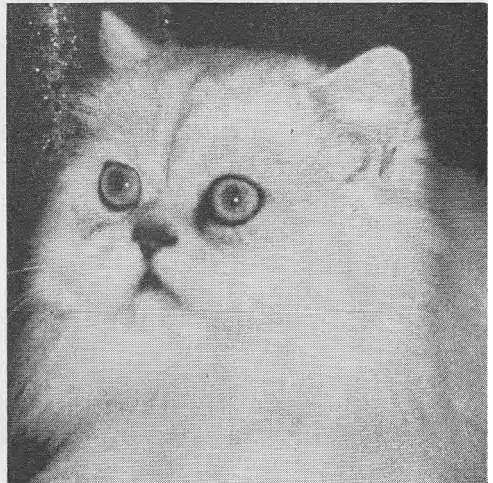
D. Gr. Ch. Walnut Hill Rondo



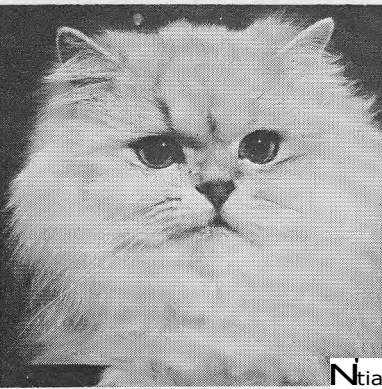
B. Gr. Ch. Las Lomas Julio of Walnut Hill



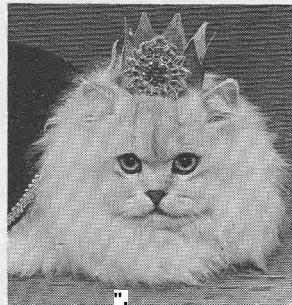
E. Gr. Ch. Walnut Hill Genii



F. Gr. Ch. Walnut Hill Bravo



H. Gr. Ch. Silver Mesa Miss Pixyanne



G. Gr. Ch. Silver Mesa Sir Valliant

old Delphis behind them even if not very close. Now co-owned by Mrs. Mood and Sophia Wyborny, Delphi is located in southern California. Ch. Delphi Periwinkle, (Fig. J), represents the new line, Ch. Delphi Don Juan, (Fig. 27 in the Martha Wise section), the old line.

The lovely silvers from the Kitza Cattery of Ursula Zuest owe their start to the Delphi strain. Mrs. Zuest came from Australia in 1958. She has concentrated on silvers since 1963 and has ten grand champions to her credit since then. Gr. Ch. Kitza's Silver Cloud, (Fig. K), shown as a kitten and Silver Cloud's kitten, Ch. Kitza's Desiree, (Fig. L), are two of her breeding.

Of course, all silvers have a common background and most silver breeders feel that color breeding by selection is the best way to produce consistent winners. Grace Over of Gray Ivy Cattery has certainly proven this theory in her own cattery with her many fine silvers. (Co-author's note: Doris Weston has proven this theory in her own cattery as well, but would consider it immodest to point out the quality of her own cats. I can boast since I am only boasting of my friends, and I am proud and happy to count these two people who are every bit as lovely as their cats, and that's saying a lot, as my friends M.W.)

Combining of Walnut Hill and Gray Ivy cats has proven of benefit to both catteries. Gr. Ch. Walnut Hill Rondo, (Fig. D), Gr. Ch. Walnut Hill Genii, (Fig. E), Gr. Ch. Walnut Hill Cristolite, Gr. Ch. Walnut Hill Bravo, (Fig. F), Gr. Ch. Gray Ivy Ron-de-Voo, (Fig. P), Gr. Ch. Gray Ivy Fanfare, Gr. Ch. Gray Ivy Wee Wonder, (Fig. Q), Gr. Ch. Gray Ivy Dresden Doll, Gr. Ch. Gray Ivy Keepsake, to name a few are all of this combination. Grace has been breeding silvers for about twenty years and has produced some of the finest in the country. Cats from California to New York carry the Gray Ivy prefix and heritage.

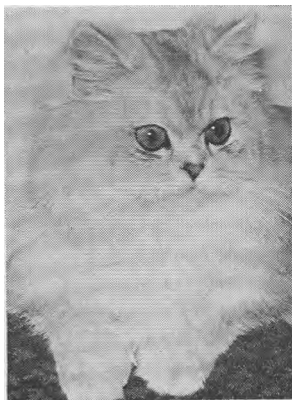
Both Gray Ivy and Walnut Hill have sent cats carrying this combination to Connie Bean of Bean Ridge. Connie has most successfully bred these cats into her own Bean Ridge lines with excellent results including some top ones like Bean Ridge Lancer and other current winners.

Pat Baccelli of Sequoia Cattery, who has completed three grand championships to date, began her lines with a kitten from the first Gray Ivy-Walnut Hill mating, Gr. Ch. Walnut Hill Parfait, litter mate of Gr. Ch. Walnut Hill Rondo, Gr. Ch. Walnut Hill Genii and Gr. Ch. Walnut Hill Angel of Bean Ridge. Gr. Ch. Sequoia Sir Laddie, (Fig. T), was the first Sequoia bred grand.

Mrs. Reichle of Diadem has used Sequoia, Walnut Hill and Gray Ivy cats in producing her lovely lines.

The famous Beverly Serrano cats have been at the top of the silver world for a long time. Vivian Peterson's Gr. Ch. Beverly Serrano Petite, (Fig. W), headed the list of cats of her breeding. Vivian's importing of Fanfare of Allington being the best thing to happen to the California silvers. Most all of us have him many times in the background. He himself was never shown, but he produced numerous winning progeny both for Vivian and for the fortunate ones who were permitted to breed him. Gr. Ch. La Chata of Beverly Serrano,

I. Gr. Ch. Silver Mesa Ronlore

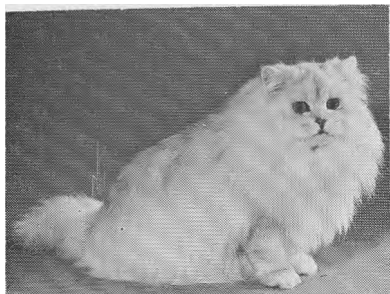


K. Gr. Ch. Kitza's Silver Cloud

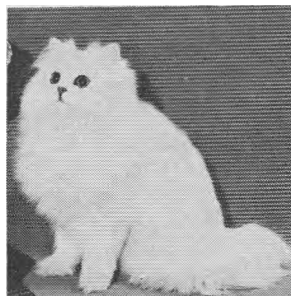
J. Gr. Ch. Delphi Periwinkle



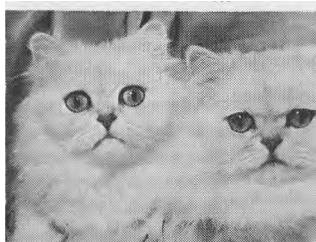
L. Ch. Kitza's Desiree



M. Ch. Gray Ivy Aladdin



N. Gr. Ch. Gray Ivy Toy Ann



**O. Gr. Ch. Gray Ivy Winsome of Cordell
& Gr. Ch. Gray Ivy Peek-A-Boo**

(Fig. X), one of his first daughters, was regretfully put to sleep at the age of eighteen, due to incurable cancer, to be followed within a matter of months by her mistress' death, a victim of the same terrible disease.

Gr. Ch. Beverly Serrano Petite was Fanfare's granddaughter and great granddaughter. Petite, the best known of Vivian's breeding, was the epitome of a show cat. She would stand on the judge's table and look around to see she had the undivided attention of the audience and pose for all to admire. Her show presence has never been equalled. She is still alive at 15 year's of age.

Silver breeders all had a sense of great loss at Vivian's death. Even in her last illness she had great concern for her cats and she willed the Beverly Serrano Cattery to Jeanne Ramsdale. Jeanne has kindly taken over all the remaining cats and will continue to breed them along with her own Dearheart line. The Dearheart cats are famous for outstanding eye color which is so hard to hold onto in silvers. Jeanne is the author of the most popular book written on Persian cats. It is a bible to new breeders and contains a wealth of information for us all. Gr. Ch. Dearheart Oliver, (Fig. Y), and Gr. Ch. Dearheart Tina Marie, (Fig. Z), are cats of Dearheart breeding.

- I don't want to neglect any silver breeder, but it is impossible to remember everyone. I am most familiar with the California silvers, but there are good silvers throughout the United States. The Cashmere cats of Agnes Mahony are renown for their lovely bone structure and cobbiness. The CoMc silvers of Virginia Coughlin and her daughter, Jean McPhee, have included some lovely ones, especially CoMc Silver Cherub. Lessie Garrison, with Las Montanas stock, was breeding good silvers in Texas before her death. Dr. Coutare of Mer-C Cattery in Rhode Island, Kay McQuillan with her beautiful Silver Quest cats, Mata-Blu, Sheromar, and the great Nor-Mont Cattery have had some fine silvers. Herondale and Citrus Ridge in the south, have some fine silvers. Irene Powell of Chatami began the Chatami lines with Kildare and Nani Lei stock. She now has Silver Dawn, Rio Casa, Skyland and the old familiar Starlight, Silver Gables and Beverly Serrano lines. Her beloved Gr. Ch. Las Montanas Emerald of Chatami* was sired by Chatami Barbu II of Las Montanas. There are Louise Eckenburg of Silver Dawn in the north, Favors Twilight and Shy's Castle in the mid-west, Chayzar of the Francos, the Pahlavan cats of Linda Munfrey, Irene Buchan with her Wee Heather cats, Wee Heather Midget has sired many a champion, and a host more.

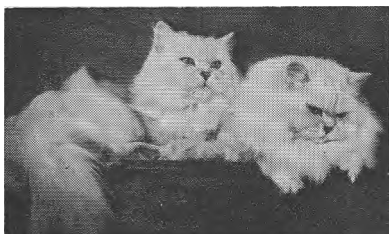
BREEDING AND CARE

Silvers require more care than most Persians, their coats being very perishable. To see a silver in show condition, presented to perfection, means this is the product of year round care. Proper diet, consisting of raw beef or horse meat, cat chow, oil, chopped kidney & cottage cheese, plus multi-vitamins must be maintained.

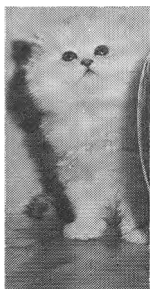
Daily grooming, even in summer, absolute cleanliness, teeth

*Pictured page 378

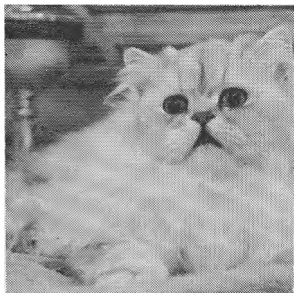
**O. Gr. Ch. Gray Ivy
Wee Wonder**



**R. Bean Ridge Tweeter & Gr. Ch. Bean
Ridge Hi-Fi**

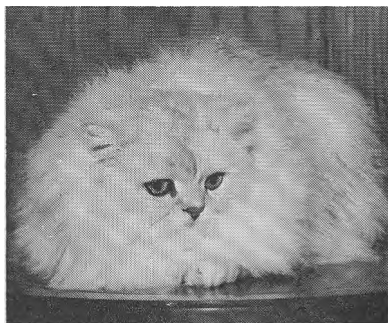


S. Bean Ridge Cresse (as kitten)



**U. Gr. Ch. Walnut Hill
Kaper of Sequoia**

P. Gr. Ch. Gray Ivy Ron-D-Voo



T. Gr. Ch. Sequoia Sir Laddie



V. Vivian Peterson & Kittens

cleaned periodically, freedom from fleas, etc., but of course, this is true for all cats, not just silvers.

A show cat means just that, a cat shown not in good condition should be penalized by the judges. And condition does not necessarily mean long coat. A firm well muscled body and a coat that is soft and silky regardless of length means a cat in prime condition.

Silvers have been bred for many years, yet to obtain the short nose and short cobby body without losing the delicate beauty of the silver and the lovely blue-green or green eye color with its mascara-like outline is still a real challenge.

Those who breed for Chinchillas only are especially liable to encounter the problems of retaining full color in the nose leather, lips and rims of eyes. Lighter tipping means less pigmentation and if this extends to the mucous membranes the nose may be pink and lack in outline. If the rims of the eyes and the lips have a brownish color, instead of black, a distinct loss in the contrasts that make the silver the lovely cat it is, results.

A slanted or biased eye is always a fault. On a silver it is a catastrophe. The sweet expression called for in the standard for all Persians must be maintained. With a slanted eye it is impossible. Large eyes are desirable on all Persians. On a silver they are a must. Size and placement of eyes might be considered almost more important than color. The brilliant green or blue-green eye color is a distinctive feature of silvers alone. To keep this color bright and clear we must breed only silver to silver. It has been proven repeatedly that the desirable type and eye color can be maintained by selection rather than by solid color crossing. This is the method advocated by our top silver breeders now, and has been for over half a century on both sides of the Atlantic. Color bred silvers by all means, but it is not possible through regulations ; education is the only way. Results prove that color breeding is the best way to get consistent quality in silvers.

Personally I do not feel that crosses to solid color will do anything for either cat. An occasional show cat could well result, but not consistent quality. And after all the improvement of the breed is what dedicated breeders are after, not a quick flash in the show ring.

There has been so much talk about the brown or golden, or as I call them, "tarnished silver" kittens out of pure silver stock that I decided to try to explain this phenomenon. In spite of the talk and opinion of people who really do not know anymore than I did when the first one occurred, it does not necessarily mean that there has been some breeding to other colors, or the pedigrees have been falsified as many have claimed.

The "tarnished silver" is a simple recessive gene which could be hidden for many, many generations because it would never show itself until it met up with a similar gene in another cat. Now the chances of the average breeder who has two or three unrelated breeding queens that are mated with unrelated studs, ever getting a brown kitten, are pretty remote, but any breeder who over the years line breeds and in-breeds, could, if just one cat in the cattery carried this recessive gene,

eventually have a tarnished silver kitten.

Getting and maintaining strong eye color in silvers is problem enough without compounding it by the introduction of a copper eyed cat. Contrary opinions notwithstanding, good eye color is not just a matter of pure breeding. True, cats with a solid color parent can be expected to have poor eye color but it can also appear in cats of purest silver heritage. Weak eye color is hereditary in silvers just as it is in any other color. Some very typy silver lines of old had poor eye color and passed both their good type and their poor eye color along.

Neither eye color nor coat color develops in the same way in all silvers. Each line develops differently. Some lines have full eye color while still kittens, others can take literally years to develop it. Slow developing color is not necessarily weak eye color, once in. No matter what shade of green or blue-green a breeder most prefers, every breeder hopes for depth and brilliance of color, just as every breeder whether preferring chinchilla or shaded silver hopes for even tipping, a good brick color nose, strong type — in short, the perfect cat, but the road is not easy.

Some prefer to begin with good eye color and coat color and work for type, others think it best to begin with type and work for color, but the goal is always the same. Let everyone do his own breeding. Time will tell which is the best method.

Coat color, like eye color is not always completely predictable. Just as with eye color, in some lines coat color is recognizable early, in others it may be subject to unexpected change by maturity. Most breeders have their own way of deciding what a kitten will be. Some go by the color of the ears, some check the underside of the feet, some go by the amount of tipping over the nose at five weeks or so, and everyone notes the shade of legs and head and the coat pattern at birth.

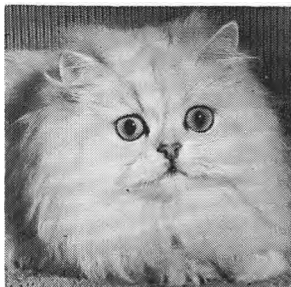
As a rule a strong tabby pattern means a Shaded Silver, and a coat scarcely more than stippled with markings is presumed to be a future Chinchilla. The fact that none of these methods is fool proof is attested to by the frequency with which the kitten registered one way is transferred to the other class when shown as an adult.

The Silver Persian is an exquisite, ethereal cat — like a fine piece of porcelain. The tipping on a Chinchilla must be even, very delicate, black, not blue, just enough for a sparkle. A Shaded Silver must have the same tipping, just as even, but with a greater depth of tipping which gives a darker hue but still a sparkle. This delightful sparkling appearance gives it the delicate, elusive beauty so important to most silver breeders.

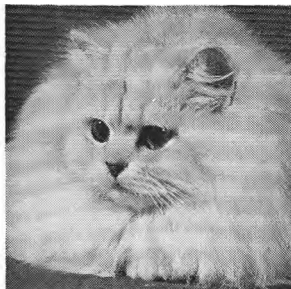
Biographical Notes

Doris Weston is a native of California who has lived all of her life in the San Francisco Bay Area. Married at a very tender age, she and her husband became the parents of three daughters and a son. All but the youngest daughter are now married and hard as it is to believe, have made their youthful, attractive mother,

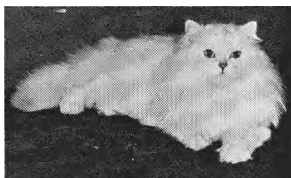
a proud grandmother of ten. Dorie, as she is affectionately known to her friends, has always loved cats. From her first pedigree cat on it has been silvers only for Dorie. In her almost twenty years of breeding she has never considered any other color. Some of the finest silvers are bred and shown in California and the competition is formidable. So many good lines to work from makes breeding good silvers easy, but breeding a top winner a tremendous challenge. That Dorie has met this challenge successfully is attested to by the number of Walnut Hill cats who have made it to the top. Address: 4 Elliott Drive, Pleasant Hill, CA 94523.



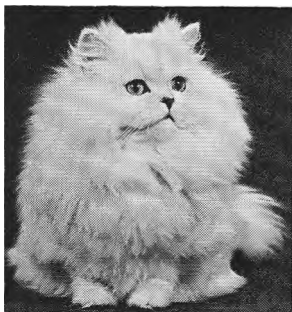
W. Gr. Ch. Beverly Serrano
Petite



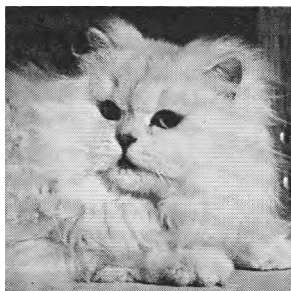
X. Gr. Ch. La Chata of
Beverly Serrano



***Gr. Ch. Las Montanas**
Emeraud of Chatami



Z. Gr. Ch. Dearheart
Tina Marie



Y. Gr. Ch. Dearheart
Oliver