

Earl's love of Boxers started one weekend in 1955 when he saw a Boxer on the beach in Ocean View.

The True Virginia Gentleman..... Earl W. Overstreet

By Carol McGuire



Lula and Earl Overstreet

We were all very disappointed to hear the news that Earl was going to retire. Most of us who know him well didn't think he even knew the meaning of the word. But then, how could we be too sad to think that this man who had been in dogs most of his life, and who gave so much of himself to whoever needed his help, was finally going to get a much deserved rest.

Earl Wallace Overstreet was born on September 30, 1926 in Bedford, Virginia, one of four children. Following his graduation from Montvale High School in 1944, he entered the Navy and spent 23 years on active duty. His assignments took him to Iceland and Cuba, missions on gunboats, a tour on a WW II minesweeper, and in his first year on active duty he found himself on a salvage ship in the Pacific, whose task it was to tow a ship back from Pearl Harbor. Following his Naval career, his military job was converted to a civilian position at the Naval Security Station in Washington, D.C., where he worked for an additional 13 years.

Earl married his wonderful wife, Lula, in February, 1950 and they went on to have six, yes six, terrific daughters - the last two being twins. I have to say that Earl and Lula's daughters are some of the nicest, smartest and most talented women I've had the pleasure to meet. They are Linda, Pamela, Denise and Lura (the twins) who all live with their families in Virginia; Sandra lives in Texas and Donna lives in Colorado. Earl and Lula have eight grandchildren - two boys and six girls - two of whom are working on their Masters degrees!

Earl's love of Boxers started one weekend in 1955 when he saw a Boxer on the beach in Ocean View, Virginia. He thought she was the most beautiful dog he'd seen and so, before the weekend was over, he'd purchased his first Boxer from Marjack Kennels. This

Boxer was the plain fawn bitch - Marjack's Golden Wit, a littermate of Ch. Marjack's Golden Windjammer, SOM. She was sired by Am/Can Ch. Captain Lookout of Thornhall, SOM. x Ch. Marjack's Golden Mist, DOM. About this same time he joined the Indian River Boxer Club and started showing his new bitch. It didn't take too long for him to realize that you "didn't win with a plain bitch." In 1959, Wit had her second litter, sired by the Ch. Bang Away of Sirrah Crest, SOM son, Ch. Hectic Acres Loud Speaker. This litter produced Earl's first champion, a bitch named EWO's Miss Wink O'Dawn who in 1960 won the ABC Annual Award for the bitch winning the Most Working Groups, her first Group win coming from the BBE class!

Earl became a professional handler in 1967 and it was about that time that he developed an interest in the Pug breed. He had Pugs until 1979 and during his years with the breed, bred 10 champions. Some of his champions include Ch. EWO's Suzie Wong, Ch. EWO's Johnny Reb, and Ch. EWO's Charlie Chan. Ch. Charlie Chan was BOB at the Maryland Pug Dog Club two years in a row - his first BOB coming from the classes and his 2nd Breed win was over 12 specials! Two very exciting wins.

In 1983, Earl was chosen to judge the Futurity at the American Boxer Club's National Specialty and gave Grand Prize Futurity to a beautiful brindle 6-9 month old bitch, Bee-Mike's Ebony 'N Ivory. Although Earl judged several puppy sweepstakes, one being for the Cincinnati Boxer Club, he prefers to stay behind the scenes and show dogs. I know for a fact that he has turned down a lot more opportunities to judge than he has taken.

One special win for Earl was in 1989 when he handled Verena Jaeger's dog, Jaegerhouse's Cody Curacao, to a Best of Winners award at the American Boxer Club National Specialty in Newark, NJ under judge Patsy Connolly. At this same show he won an Award of Excellence with Ch. Heldenbrand's Jet Breaker who had finished just prior to this show and was a move-up to the Best of Breed class. Later that year, Earl and Breaker went on to win Best of Breed at the ABC Regional held in Arlington Heights, IL under judge John Connolly. In the spring of 1990, the team of Earl and Jet Breaker won the Breed at the ABC National Specialty in Newark, NJ under judge Joe Heine. Jet Breaker qualified to compete in the Top 20 in 1990 and 1991, under Earl's guidance. And boy, did he look sharp in that tux!

Ch. EWO's Crystal, sired by Harlyn Boxers' Ch. Cedar Hill's Capital Classic, SOM out of EWO's Jasmine, presented Earl with seven champion get - five sired by Jet Breaker and two sired by Ch. Karmel's Dreamweaver. Dreamweaver, or Siggie as he was known to his friends, was the Grand Prize Futurity winner and Reserve Winner's Dog at the 1991 ABC, and also qualified to compete in the 1995 Top 20, specialled by Earl for owner Karin Wilson of Karmel Boxers.

In 1992, Earl won First Prize Futurity Junior from the 15-18 month fawn class with EWO's Cinnamon, a Ch. Heldenbrand's Jet Breaker daughter out of Ch. EWO's Crystal DOM under judge Stephanie Abraham. Reserve Futurity Junior went to Seaside's EWO Surf Breaker, a litter brother to Cinnamon. This same year, Earl competed in the Top 20 with Ch. EWO's Tie Breaker, a son of Jet Breaker out of Crystal. The fol-



Earl's first champion, EWO's Miss Wink O'Dawn who in 1960 won the ABC Annual Award for the bitch winning the most Working Groups



Ch. EWO's Charlie Chan was BOB at the Maryland Pug Dog Club two years in a row - his first BOB coming from the classes

lowing year, both Tie and Surfer qualified to compete in the Top 20. Both boys also gained very special titles-Surfer becoming a SOM LOM and Tie SOM LOM. These boys are two of Earl's greatest accomplishments!

Earl competed again in the 1997 and 1998 Top 20 with a Ch. EWO's Tie Breaker son, Ch. Tejelo Reflection of Hunter SOM, who is also the sire of the top winning Ch. Arriba Talisman Ego, SOM and his litter brother Ch. Arriba Talisman Epitome, SOM.

Earl has piloted several dogs to All Breed Best in Shows - the first being Ch. Becrelen's Export, which was a BIS winner from the classes back in the early 1970's, Ch. Sam-El's Maker's Mark, SOM, Ch. Heldenbrand's Jet Breaker, SOM LOM, and the latest being 'Allagash' - Ch. Standing-O Galaxie Gasheran. Earl also piloted Allagash to an ABC Award of Excellence in 2003 and to the Top 20 in 2004. Allagash loved Earl and would howl every time Earl left him. I'm sure some of you witnessed his distinctive 'yodel'! Earl's latest specials were Sue & Doug Tolbert's Ch. Masue's Out of Luck and his own homebred, Ch. Ewo's Reflection of Breaker

Earl became a Life Member of ABC in 1992, and he was given the

Good Sportsmanship of the Year award in 1994, which he so richly deserved! Earl has always been a friend to everyone, whether he knew them or not. He was always there to help you with anything that you needed. If it was a jumper cable, a flashlight, oil for your motor, Lula's scrumptious desserts, anything, Earl usually had it and was always willing to share with others.

Recently, I talked with someone new to the show ring. She had this to say about Earl, "Little did I know that when I went to a dog show this past summer in Virginia, I would also be receiving advice and help from Earl Overstreet himself. Being a "newbie," I wanted to make sure the first taping of my show prospect would be done correctly. I was to meet my puppy's breeder at the show that day for help with the ears, but they asked Earl if he would do the taping if he had time. He said yes, despite the fact that his motorhome had broken down that morning and was being repaired, and he had just finished showing dogs all morning and the temperature was climbing. He put my puppy up on the grooming table and preceded to give me a detailed tutorial on ear taping and even dug up some 'special' powder for the edges before wrapping them himself. Before you knew it, she



Earl awarding Grand Prize Futurity to the 6-9 month old bitch, Bee-Mike's Ebony 'N Ivory, 1983, at the American Boxer Club's National Specialty



Earl's first Best in Show winner, Ch. Becrelen's Export



EWO's My Fair Lady and Earl, December 1964



Earl & Ch. EWO's Crystal



1983 Best In Show, Earl & Ch. Sam-El's Maker's Mark.

was done. Meeting a man like Earl Overstreet, who was so generous with his time and expertise, was a great introduction to the dog show world. As for my puppy, her ears are perfect."

My experience in traveling with Earl was always exciting—we usually had lots of laughs. From people setting their hair on fire in his trailer, to collapsing bunks, we always had a great time. We used to travel a lot, back in the early 1980's, with several close friends. We all would spend the night together in Earl's 'then' trailer, which was equipped with bunk beds in the back. We were all in bed one night and the last person to go to bed happened to be sleeping in one of the upper bunks, over Earl. They climbed up on the side of Earl's bed, jumped up to sit on their bed, which then proceeded to collapse, all on top of Earl. We all certainly had a good laugh at poor Earl's expense, but even he found amusement in his predicament. The next week he was out buying a ladder for whoever used the top bunk in the future!

One spring a friend and I had driven to the New Jersey Boxer Club show to meet Earl. We were planning on spending the night with him so we'd be at the show early the next morning. We left the New

Meeting a man like Earl Overstreet, who was so generous with his time and expertise, was a great introduction to the dog show world.

Jersey show site before Earl and were to meet him at Bucks County. Now, this was before dinner, and if you know Earl, you know he likes his dinner at a decent hour—never late. Well, Earl never showed up. Dinnertime passed. It got very dark, and we were contemplating sleeping in our van, when here comes Earl. Immediately we noticed a wheel on his trailer was missing. He'd been on his way to the show site and didn't notice that his wheel had fallen off. Someone following him had seen a tire on the road, but didn't think too much about it until they saw Earl sitting on the side of the road, missing a tire. Somehow he managed to go back, find his tire on a dark, two-lane road, and fix his trailer well enough to limp to the show grounds. I think that night Earl had his dinner about midnight.

Just last summer, a friend and I were to meet Earl at the show-grounds in Virginia. We knew he'd been having trouble with his van but weren't too worried about his making it to the show site. Shortly



1992, winning Best In Sweeps Maryland BC under Ted Fickes with Ch. Harlyn's Clear Choice of EWO, who is now 14 years old



Ch. Harlyn's EWO Heiress, 1999 ABC in Frederick, MD



Earl winning Best of Breed at the Indian River Boxer Club in 1991 with Ch. EWO's Tie Breaker, SOM LOM, a Jet Breaker son.



Earl winning Best of Breed at ABC in 1990 with Ch. Heldenbrand's Jet Breaker under judge Joe Heine



2000, winning a Group with Ch. EWO's Reflection of Breaker.



2004, Earl and Ch. Standing-O Galaxie winning a Best In Show



2004, Earl and Allagash waiting for their turn to shine in the ring



Earl at home with Ch. MaSue's Out of Luck

after we arrived, here comes Earl with not one, but TWO tow trucks. His van up on the back of one and his trailer on the back of the other. He got his van and trailer all set up and went on to show all weekend, with everyone else more worried about his predicament than he was. That's one thing about Earl, he was never worried about how he was going to get things fixed, or when. He was always cool as a cucumber.

Finally, another good example of Earl's dedication and sportsmanship took place in 2001 at a show in Fayetteville, North Carolina. We got up early to exercise the dogs

and Earl, who suffers from an inner ear disorder, could hardly stand up because he was so dizzy. He knew that if his Bred-By bitch was absent that day the major would break, so with every ounce of strength, he got himself to the ring. He sat in a chair, close to the ring entrance and waited for his class to be called. When the time came, he made it only once around the ring, holding the major. Later that morning we did have to send him to the hospital, where he spent about six hours before they allowed him to go back to the show grounds. Fortunately, there were friends there that were going his way and saw to it that he got home safely.

If Earl really does stick to his retirement plans, we will all miss his smiling face around the show ring and the help he so generously and unselfishly gave. It would be an insurmountable task to document the hundreds of people Earl has touched over his distinguished career of breeding and showing our beloved breed. We'll miss his kind words of encouragement, his funny jokes, and help with whatever you needed—an extension cord, a battery charge, some of Lula's great cooking, all the little things that add up to make this humble man who he is—a special friend to everyone who knows him and a true gentleman.



Earl's Girls
front row - Pam, Lula, Lura, Donna
back row - Sandy, Denise, Linda