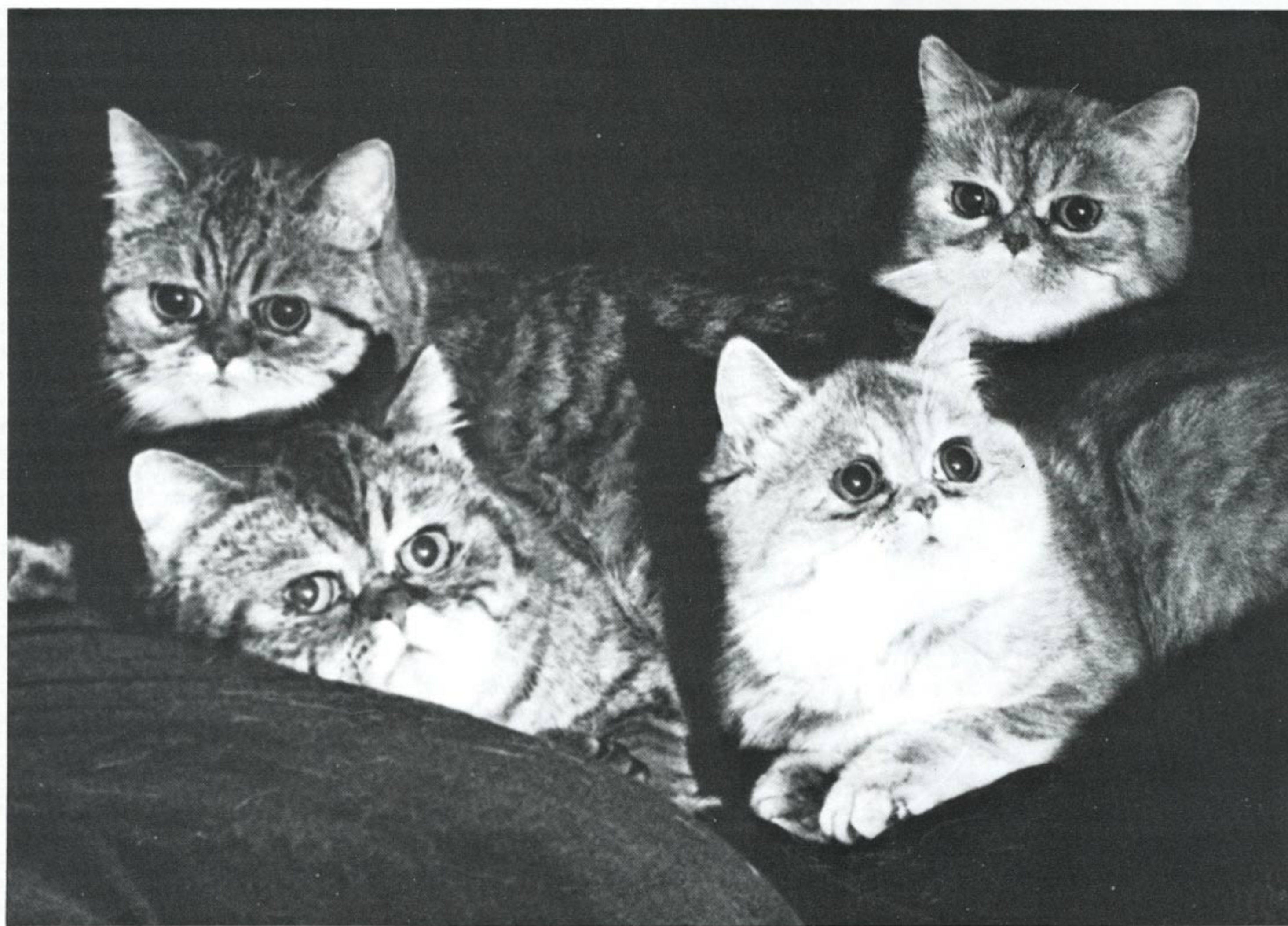
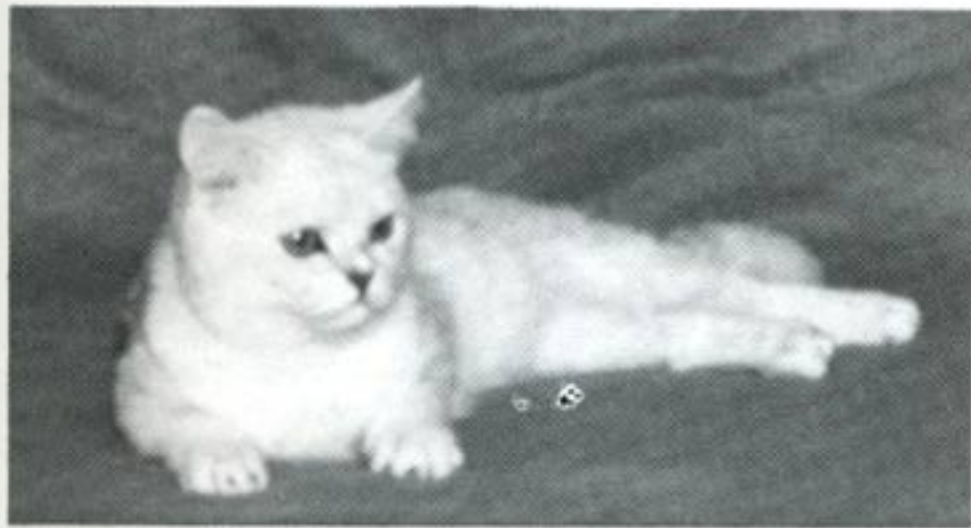


We've Only Just Begun

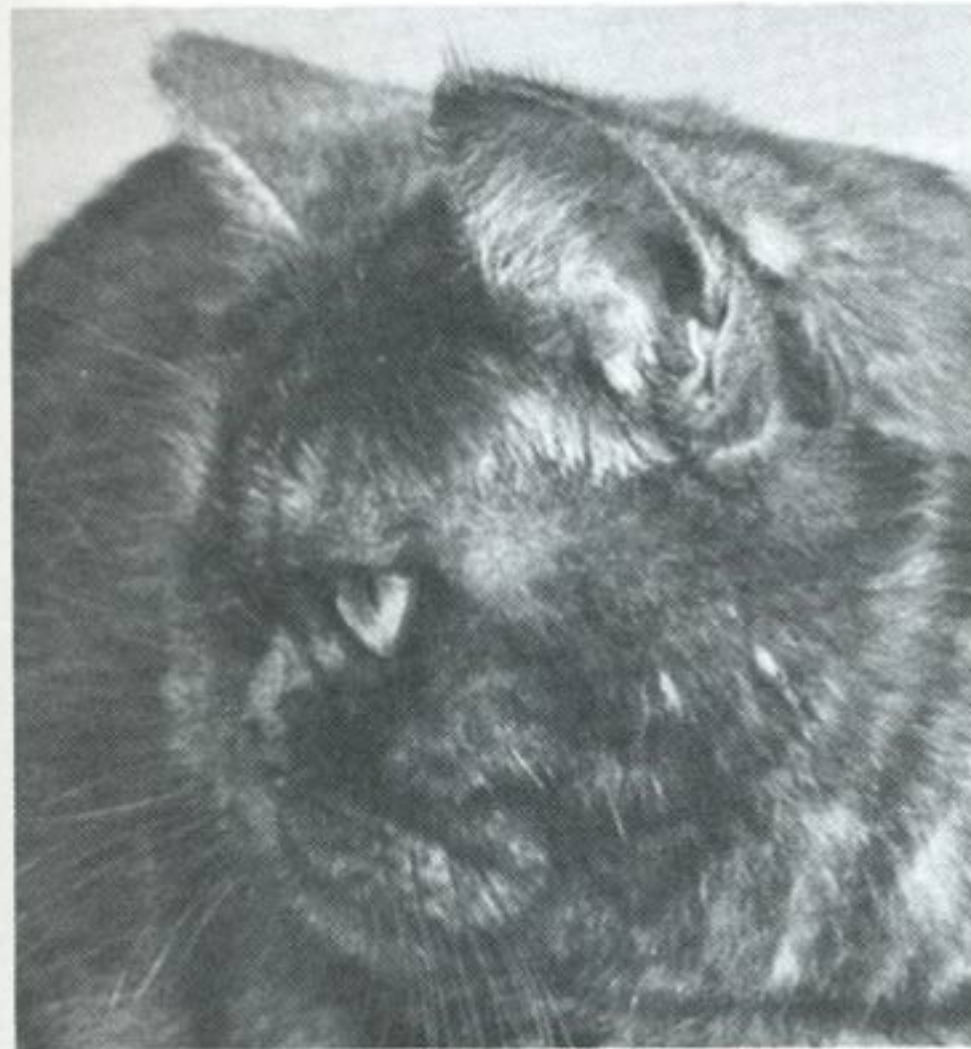


THE EXOTIC SHORTHAIR STORY

by
Johanna Leibfarth



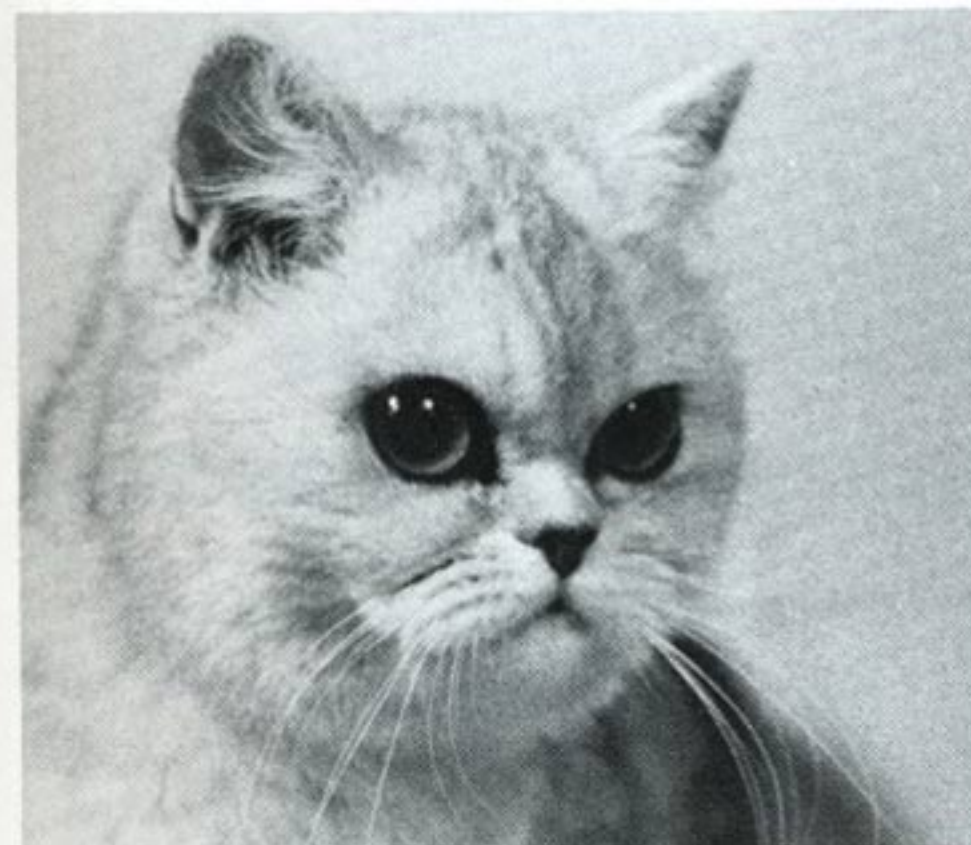
GRC. GRAYFIRE'S CHEYENNE



GRC. DOCIA DAO'S TRILBY



GRC. KALAMAR'S SWEET PEA OF SWANY



GRC. CARNIVAL CHRISSEY

WE'VE ONLY JUST BEGUN The Exotic Shorthair Story

by Johanna D. Leibfarth
(Desmin and Chandelle Catteries)

The phone rings. Someone is looking for a pet kitten and they were told that we might have one available. "What kinds do you have?" they ask. When we answer, "Exotic Shorthairs," their inevitable reply is "What are they?" Then we launch into our explanation of an Exotic Shorthair. "It is a hybrid breed which was developed to combine the personality and type of a Persian in a cat with a short, plush, easy-to-care-for coat. All of the advantages of the Persian, without the knotting hair!" Although these Exotic Shorthair attributes are true, the breed actually wasn't developed to create "the lazy man's Persian." Far from it. The origins of the breed lie in a darker area of American Shorthair breedings.

During the 1950's and 1960's, it was a common practice to cross American Shorthairs with Persians in order to "improve" the type of the Americans. Because of these illegal hybridizations, the appearance of American Shorthairs gradually started to change. Rounder heads and silkier coats began to appear. These hybrid breedings were most obvious in the Silver American Shorthairs being shown at that time because silver did not exist in the shorthair cat. The gene had to be introduced into the shorthairs from the Persians. (Ref. 1) Nonetheless, these cats were stunningly beautiful. Breeders and fanciers adored them. Judges sanctioned them at the shows and rewarded them with high honors. Some breeders admitted openly that they were hybridizing with Persians. Many felt that it didn't really matter, as long as the end product was a beautiful cat. And there were those who denied any hybridization. Consequently, many people acquired animals with falsified pedigrees and never learned about the heritage of their cats. The pedigree, which should always be regarded as a sacred document, had become a meaningless piece of paper for some American Shorthairs.

In 1966, thanks to the initiative and foresight of the late Mrs. Jane Martinke, a program was started by CFA to put an end to all this confusion and possible dishonesty. A class for Persian-American Shorthair crosses was created. A standard, based on the Persian standard, was written describing a shorthaired Persian cat. For lack of a better name, the new breed was called the Exotic Shorthair. This move restored integrity to the American Shorthair breeding program and created a legal place in the fancy for a beautiful new hybrid cat. All breeders and owners of hybrid American Shorthairs were given the opportunity to transfer their cats to this new class. With the beginnings of the 1967-1968 show season, the Exotic Shorthair was accepted for championship competition!

Originally, only Persian x American Shorthair crosses were allowed to be registered as Exotic Shorthairs. This rule, however, was not strictly enforced. For many years, any shorthair cat could be used. The Burmese seemed an ideal choice, because its type was closest to what was wanted in the Exotic. But the Burmese crosses introduced a flat, undesirable coat and color gene. Therefore, the original rule has later been enforced. The American Shorthair is now the only acceptable outcross breed (except for the Persians, of course)!

The creation and acceptance of the Exotic Shorthair was a significant event in CFA's history. Through Mrs. Martinke's foresight, knowledge and integrity, CFA not only created an honest place in the fancy for a new hybrid breed, but it opened endless possibilities to create the most appealing, sensible, practical, healthy,

beautiful, cuddly, lovable, ideal pet and companion. More importantly, it gave the cat fancy another opportunity to broaden its comparatively small gene pool. (The growth of the fancy, in part, is related to the variety of breeds and colors available. Therefore, any new mutation or experimentally achieved variation should be explored and fairly evaluated.)

The Silvers Who Started It All

During the first three years of their existence, none of the Exotic Shorthairs exhibited (if any) received the Grand Champion title or a National Best of Breed award. The first Exotic Shorthair graded in 1971. He was **Silver Secret of Gay-O**, a shaded silver male, owned by Mal and Kay Campbell (Hi-Camp). Silver Secret was a "transferred" cat who received the title of Grand Champion not only as an Exotic, but also as an American Shorthair in a different organization. Silver Secret was awarded Best of Breed that year. **Grayfire's Cheyenne**, a chinchilla male, bred and shown by Mrs. Doris Walkingstick, also graded in 1971 and he was the first Grand, who was bred as an Exotic Shorthair. Although the silvers were the ones who started it all, their success story is limited. In 1972, **GRC Grayfire's Pow Wow of Cindy Lou**, a shaded silver male owned by Cindy L. Roberts, was shown to Best of Breed Nationally. In 1973 there was **GRC Gay-O's Naughty Lass of Hi-Camp**, a shaded silver female owned by the Campbells, and **GRP Norpark's Caliento of Rio Vista**, a shaded silver male bred by Wayne Park and owned by Ray and Susan Ironside. The only other silvers receiving major recognition in CFA appeared in 1977. They were **GRC Carnival Chrissy** and **GRC Carnival Kachina**, two beautiful litter sisters, bred from Delphi, Kohinoor, Aberdeen, and Norpark lines by Joan Uzee of Atlanta. To date, there are only nine shaded silver and two chinchilla Grands.

I personally have not seen a silver Exotic at the shows since Chrissy and Kachina. It is sad and regrettable that their sparkling faces, with those emerald eyes, are found so rarely in the Exotic Shorthair classes in our country. In Germany, however, Robert and Elke Deutschman have shown **International Grand Champion Pahlewi's Exoti Mighty** (a shaded silver male of their own breeding) successfully in 1983-1984. He was honored as Best Shorthair and 4th Best Cat by the Deutsche Edelkatzen Züchter Verband. He was bred from American Persian (Hillsbury) and American Exotic Shorthair (Kamisha) lines.

A Slow Beginning

Although the Exotic Shorthair appeared here and there in the Shows, acceptance by judges and Persian breeders was slow and reluctant. Changes are often met with conservative attitudes, and the introduction of the Exotic Shorthair was no exception. Many Persian breeders felt that any association with Exotics would tarnish their images and lower the quality of their precious cats. An overwhelming number of people felt that, because the Exotic Shorthair does not breed "true," they have no place in the fancy. Others had the notion that their cats of lesser quality were good enough for an Exotic Shorthair breeding. It was a very frustrating time for the

Cover Photo

GRC. Cyndi-Kits Paper Tiger, GRC. Cyndi-Kits Blueberry Muffin, and daughters Cyndi-Kits Tabitha and Felicity
Br. Jane Stephens

breeders who saw the ultimate potentials of this new breed and knew that only by using the best Persian cats could the Exotic Shorthair evolve to meet the standards of the Persian and most of all; meet the approval and win the heart of Persian breeders. At a show on Jeckell Island in 1974, I approached one of the most prominent Persian breeders with the request for stud service. The reply was, "Why do you want to destroy this beautiful breed?" Her answer was "No." Experiences like this made me even more grateful to those breeders who were willing to help me and not only that, but who understood the difficulty in developing a new breed and realized the low financial return of any of these early generation Exotic Shorthair breedings. Although this was many years ago, I would like to mention with great appreciation and gratitude the names of those who were willing to help me on my way: Mrs. Gladys Morgan (Larks-Purr), Sheila Reyes (Kazmazad), Brenda Rubel (Bur-Rue), Jim Rambo (Rambo), Ben and Margaret Ehrhardt (Ben-Mar), and most of all Mrs. Carolyn Ray (Black Bluff) and her late husband. (Gladys Morgan and Ben and Margaret Ehrhardt now have their own Exotic breeding programs.) Marti Fellman, who had similar experiences and shares my sentiments about the early years of frustrations, writes that "My success in large part is due to the great generosity of friends who gave me either stud service or cats, including: Dorothy Rodgers (Charcoal), Mary and Craig Rothermel (Cra-Mar), Don and Leta Williams (Squire and Jo-Le) and my very dear friend, the late Meriellen Dunston (Meri-Rose)." Today the roads are paved for those who wish to breed and show, or just own an Exotic Shorthair. Many probably do not realize what a struggle it was in the beginning!

A few Persian breeders, however, sensed the potential of the Exotic Shorthair as a magnificent show cat and decided to use their own Persians to produce Exotic Shorthairs. They were confident that they could maintain the admired qualities of the Persian cat, their sweet wide-eyed expression, cobby short-legged bodies, and quiet personalities and combine them with a shorter, trouble free coat.

Docia-Dao

The first incredibly successful breeders (who excelled to National recognition within three years of the start of their ESH breeding) were Don and Barbara Yoder. The Yoders began to breed ESH's in 1970 and granded their first Exotic (and CFA's first non-silver) a copper-eyed white female, **Docia-Dao's Patricia** in the 1971-72 show season. The following year the Yoders exhibited **Docia-Dao's Trilby**, a black smoke female. Trilby was only a second generation Exotic Shorthair (her grandsire was **GRC Docia-Dao's The Mug**, a copper-eyed white Persian). Her type was so exquisite that her qualities could not be ignored and overlooked by the judges. She also was very popular with the exhibitors and spectators. Trilby became Second Best Kitten in the Nation and was 18th Best Cat during the same show season! The following year Trilby was 9th Best Cat and her younger sister, **Docia-Dao's Supercat** was Best Kitten. Supercat was shown in thirty-eight rings and finalled in all of them! A record which has seldom been repeated.

Trilby and Supercat changed the opinions of many breeders and judges who only reluctantly wanted to accept this new little "mutt." The Yoders had begun what was to be an almost never-ending chain of National and Regional winners.

The Die-Hards

Docia-Dao Cattery produced a total of nine Grand Champions and Grand Premiers including their four National Award Winners. Bob & Nancy Lane (Leprachaun) were also early Exotic Shorthair breeders with a notable record. They produced six CFA Grand Champions, the first being **Leprachaun's Texas Tea**, a black male who granded in 1972. The Yoders and the Lanes regrettably are no longer breeding cats. Between 1971 and 1984 many other names have appeared and disappeared from the list of Exotic Shorthair breeders.

The only die-hards from the early years, who are still producing winning cats in CFA today, are (in chronological order):

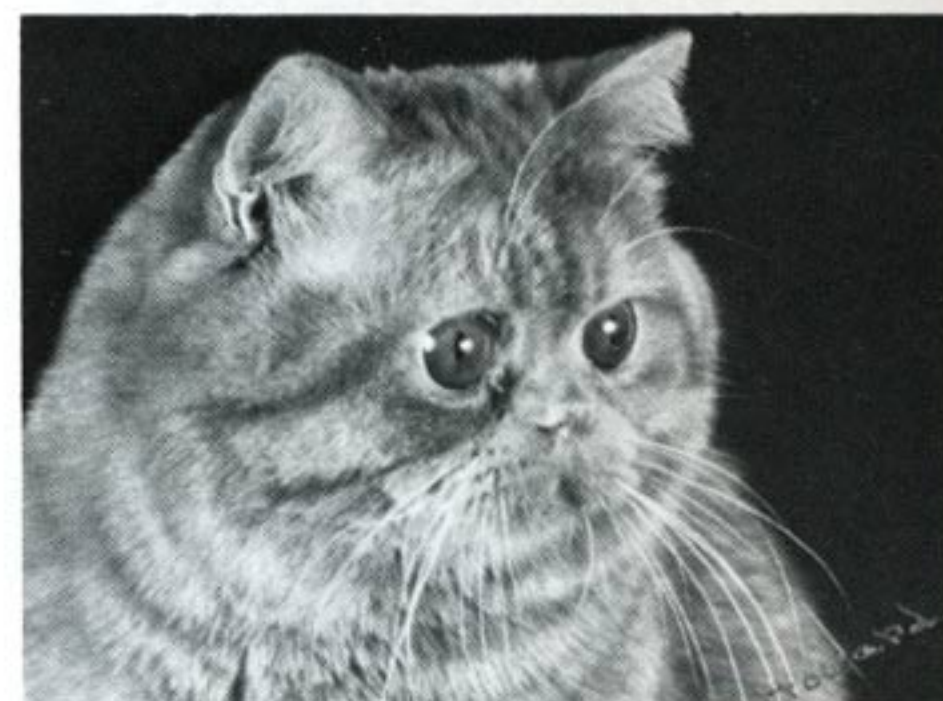
NEW DAWN - It was about 1960, twenty-five years ago, when Carolyn Bussey saw a chocolate colored Longhair. She became so enamored of this cat that she decided to try to produce one herself by breeding a Burmese to a Persian. To her amazement, all of the kittens looked like charming little Teddy Bears! Never mind the chocolate Longhairs! These new, cuddly babies were fascinating! Carolyn sensed the potential of the kittens resulting from this experiment. So she continued to produce chubby kittens for her friends and neighbors. Little did Carolyn know that she had already started what would become one of the cat fancy's most admired new breeds.

Due to a tragic accident in her family, Carolyn could not keep in touch with the fancy for many years. It was not until the mid 1970's that she became aware that there was now a name and a place in CFA for her lovely new cats! In 1977, she granded her first New Dawn Exotic. Carolyn has since produced seventeen Grands, and her cats have received three National Awards, a remarkable achievement which speaks for itself! The Persian lines Carolyn has worked into her pedigrees are Bloemhill, Silva-Wyde, and Woodland. In later years she introduced the beautiful copper-eyed white gene through Babalong Carte Blanche, a well balanced, very typy male.

Today Carolyn writes, "I am still pursuing my goals—to produce typy, sound, loving Exotics that can be shown, by their owners, with pride, anywhere in the world."

BON APPETIT - Marti Fellman registered Bon Appetit with CFA in 1971 for the purpose of breeding Exotic Shorthairs. She writes: "... my first Exotic was **Scissors Blueberry Chantilly**, a blue-cream, a gift from Gladys Sears. This cat was the foundation for all of my Exotics. (Chantilly's) first litter produced **GRC Bon Appetit Roquefort** and **CH Bon Appetit Pecan Torte**, who became the mother of both **GRC Bon Appetit Honey Torte** and later **GRC Sparkling Burgundy**." Bon Appetit cattery has produced six Grand Champions, the last granding in 1984. **GRC Honey Torte** was Best Exotic in 1981.

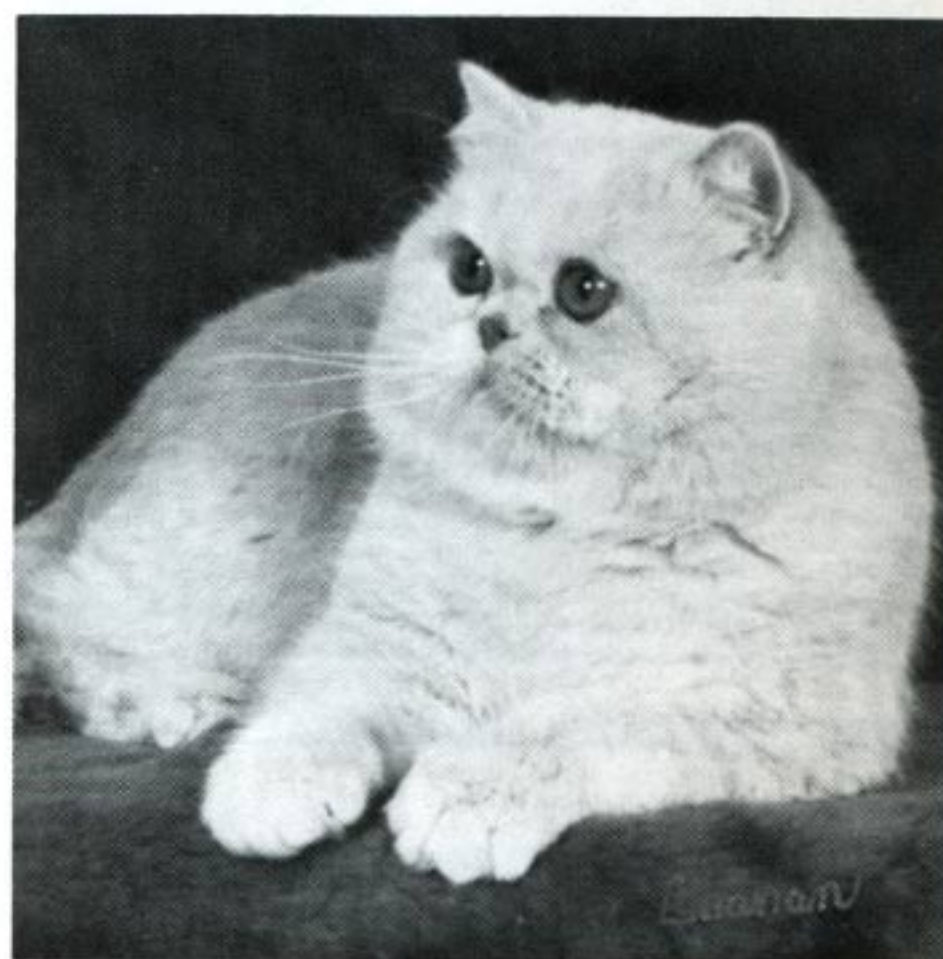
COLCHESTER - In 1972 Rita and Sandy Krebs began to breed Exotic Shorthairs. They are still occasionally breeding and showing. There are three Colchester Grand Champions to date. One of them, **Qute-Aza-Button**, granded twice! First in the United States and later in Japan (the first Exotic Shorthair Grand in Japan). Rita and Sandy exhibited **New Dawn Short Stop** to 15th Best Cat in 1979, and a lovely copper-eyed white female **New Dawn Le'Lani** to 5th Best Kitten in 1981. To produce their own Exotic Shorthairs they are using Sandef and Jensen Persians. Sandy and Rita made their start as silver fanciers. Their first Exotic litter was a 100% silver shorthair litter, and one of the girls from this litter still shares their home! **GRC Colchester Mork From Ork**, a black



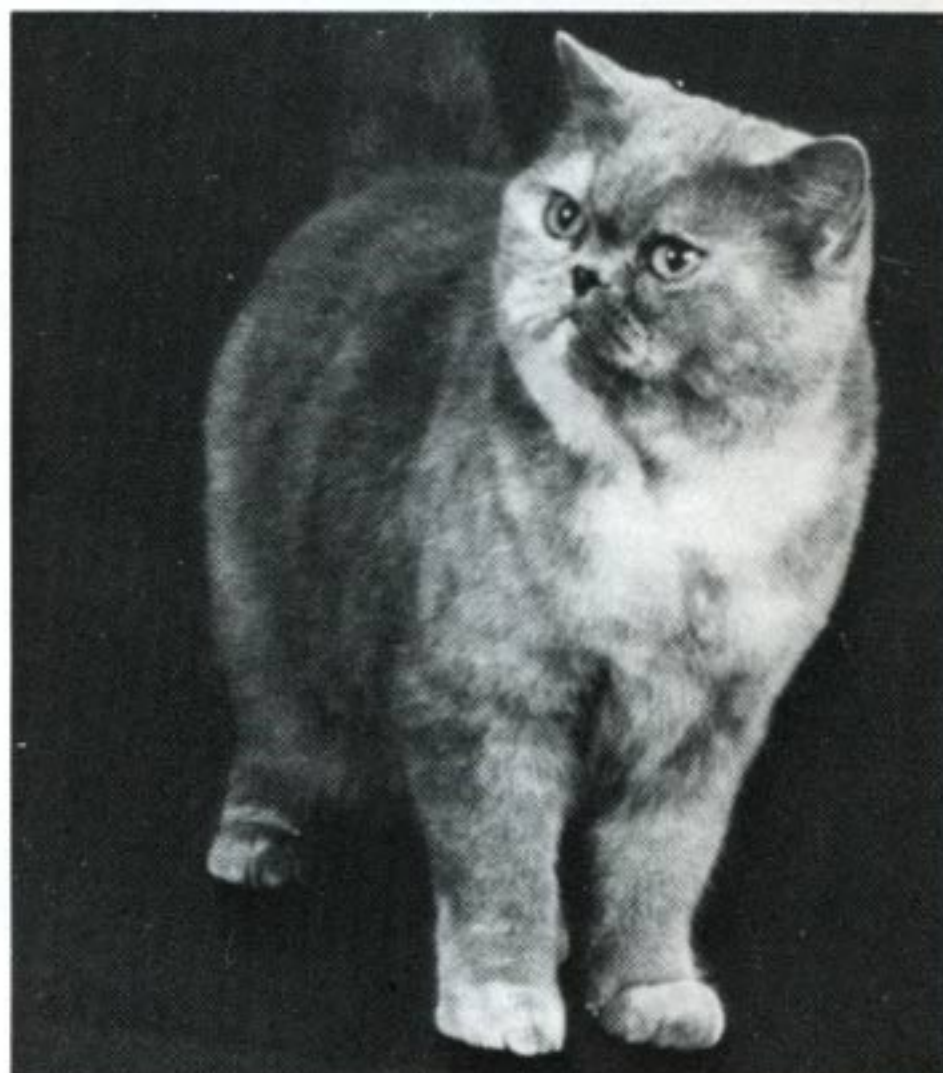
GRC. WOODLAND WARRIOR OF TAMRI



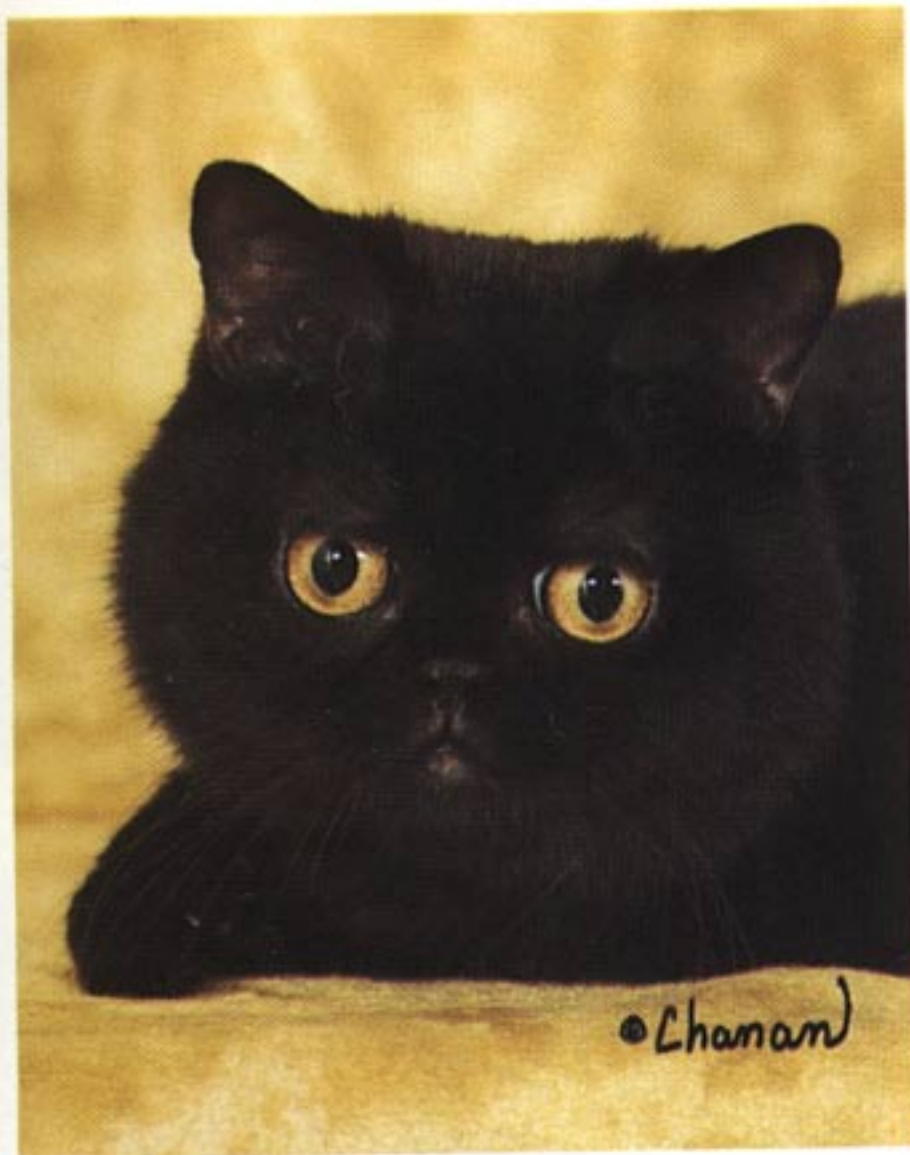
GRC. NEW DAWN SHORT-STOP OF JENITA



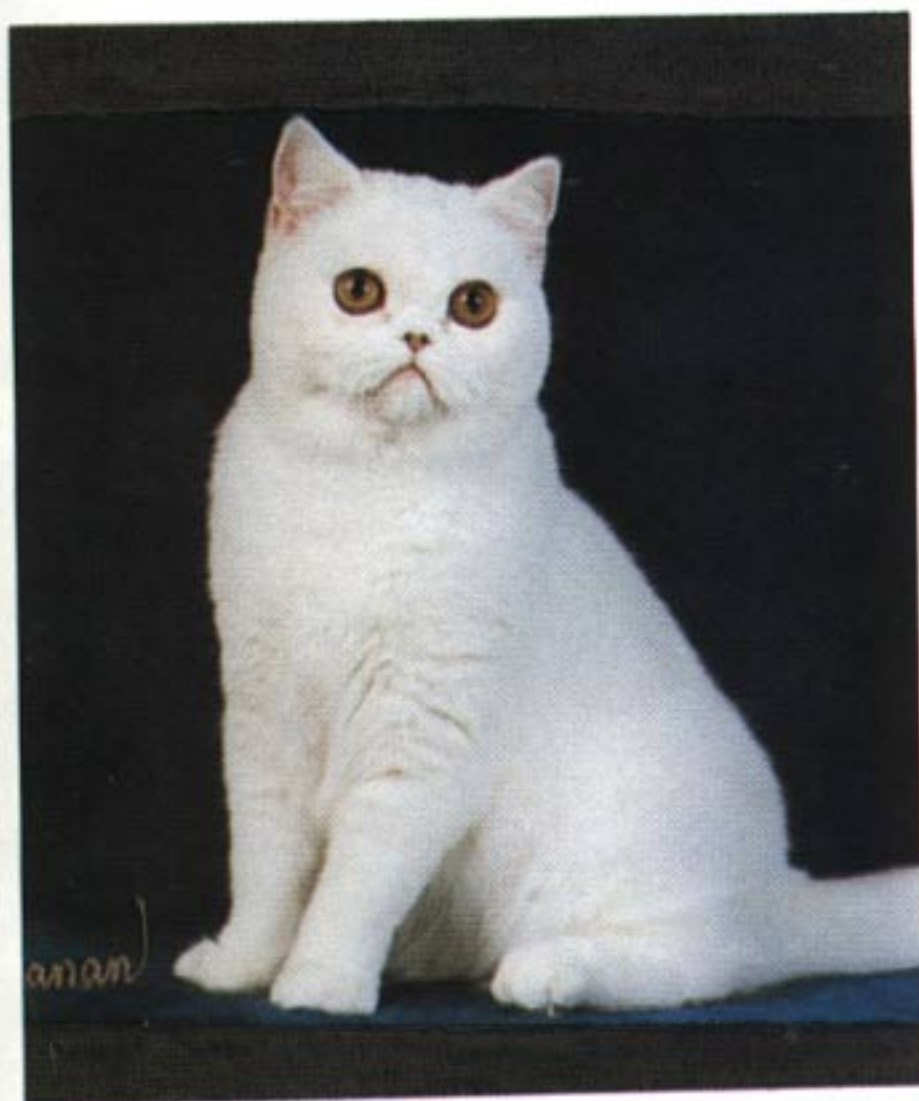
GRC. LOWLANDS TOM CAT OF LION HOUSE



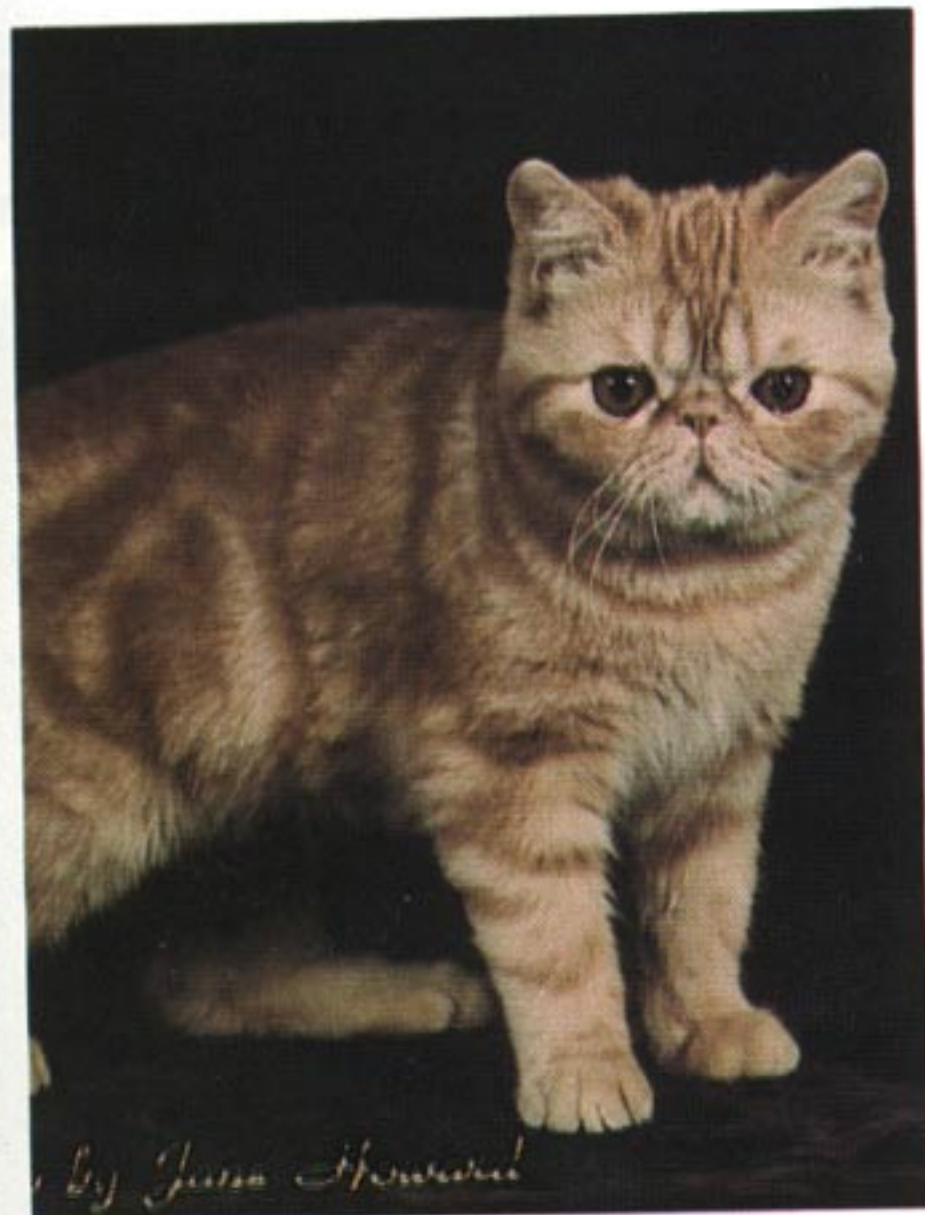
GRC. & GRP. DESMIN DAWNE OF CHANDELLE



GRC. MORK FROM ORK



GRC. NEW DAWN SNOW PETAL OF GWENLAR



GRC. BON APPETIT SWIZZLE OF REBECCA

male of which Rita and Sandy can be very proud, goes back to Docia-Dao Exotics.

DESMIN - Desmin cattery was registered in 1972 under my maiden name Johanna Dobler. I attended my first cat show in Paris in 1970 and was fascinated by the Chartreux I saw there. They had large, round, copper eyes and light, dense, blue coats. When I returned to the United States in 1971, I learned about the Exotic Shorthair and decided that they were what I wanted to breed. The colorbred blue Persian (at that time) was the "in" thing and I wanted to produce a distinctive line of color-bred blue Exotic Shorthairs. My enthusiasm was quickly dampened. I could not find what (in my mind) was the logical cat to start my breeding program—a British blue or a blue Exotic Shorthair. After months of searching, I found two blue female kittens in a pet store! They were Russian Blue-type American Shorthairs, or perhaps they were American Shorthair-type Russian Blues—not exactly what I wanted, but they were blue! I bought two females for \$38.00. One of them is the shorthair ancestor of all Desmin Exotics born prior to 1985. Progress was slow, since I could only breed about one litter per year. In 1978 I graded my first color-bred blue Exotics—**Desmin Dumpling** and her mother **Desmin Dimple**. Dumpling was a third-generation Exotic, linebred on **GRC Dunhowa's Playboy**. Sadly, she died less than a year later. Dimple, however, continued to produce happily. Bred to Ben Ehrhardt's color-bred blue male, **GRC Ben-Mar Blue Jean**, she gave me six babies, one of them **Desmin Dawne of Kapa**. Dawne produced five Grand Champions for Kathy Reich (Kapa) and Chuck Hickman (Ariagus) and became the first (and to this day the only) Exotic Shorthair DM. And she happened to be a color-bred blue!

Later I began to deviate from the blues and bred Dimple to **GRC Raintree Lane Rumor of Ivey**, a cream Persian. They produced **GRC Desmin Dawne of Chandelle**. (Somehow two Desmin cats were registered with the name Dawne!) This Dawne, only a third generation Exotic, graded in two shows in 1980. Dawne is now a Grand Premier and the "house mother" of the cattery! We still enjoy showing her occasionally.

In 1979 Ed Leibfarth (Chandelle) and I began working together with Exotics and in 1982 we were married. We have kept both catteries alive. Desmin is devoted solely to Exotics. Our Persians, mainly Bi-Colors, are registered under the name Chandelle.

Until a few years ago, we were dissatisfied with our Exotics. We did not seem to get the type and faces we wanted, and almost gave up. Thanks to Ben Ehrhardt's encouragement, and Jim Rambo's offer to use his very extreme **GRC Rambo's Carnival**, we are still breeding today. We now have three Carnival daughters who, bred to **CH Circle C Blue Max of Chandelle** (a blue Persian), produce outstanding Exotics! To date, Desmin has produced a total of nine Grand Champion and Grand Premier Exotic Shorthairs. In 1981 **CH Chandelle Mathilde Moisant** (a copper-eyed white Dimple daughter) was Best of Color. In 1985 Desmin Exotics were Best and 2nd Best of Breed in the Southern Region and Best of Breed and 13th Best Cat in the Great Lakes Region.

We would like to take this opportunity to express our sincere appreciation to the people who have shown our Exotics so beautifully. Ann and Mary Green (Mydreams), with **GRC Desmin Dancing in the Dark**; Elaine Bartosavage (Bartos) with **GRC Desmin Dagwood of Ashmont**; Jim and Debbie Hahn (Deja) with **Desmin Desiree of Deja**; Whaneta Francis (Waneepaw) with **CH Desmin Dr. J of Waneepaw**; and a very special thank you to Donna Baldwin and Skip Hunt (Char-

donnay) who have **GRC Desmin Dickens of Char-donnay**. Some of these breeders have already produced and successfully shown Exotics of their own breedings. We wish all of them the best of luck for the future.

LION HOUSE - Sue Fraser-Gollighugh's Lion House cattery (with its very distinctive little lion as a logo) started to breed Exotic Shorthairs in 1973. Sue says, "I really enjoy the Exotics because they provide the best of both worlds. The Persian look without all the fuss! Now if they were only easier to produce!" Her chief stud today is **GRC Lowlands Tom Cat of Lion House**. Tom Cat crosses very nicely with her Lee female. This combination has produced my favorite Exotic, a very pretty, sweet-faced male, **CH Lion House Fearless Frederick**. Sue's cats have earned regional wins almost every year since 1975. She has produced eight Grand Champions and has received the National Second Best of Breed award in 1984.

SQUIRE - Don and Leta Williams, both CFA judges, began breeding Exotic Shorthairs in 1974 under the name Squire. (Persian cats bred by Don and Leta are registered under the famous Skyway name.) Their red tabby male, **GRC Squire's Zuper Hot**, better known as "Butchy" is one of the most extreme Exotics in existence. "Extreme enough," as Leta says, "to breed Exotic to Exotic with him." Butchy is a combination of Lowlands Exotics and Misty Mornin' and Jo-Le Persians. Butchy's first breeding produced Q-T Cats Surprise, who went on to become Second Best Cat in 1983—the highest award an Exotic has yet received! Butchy also is the sire of **GRC Cyndi-Kits Paper Tiger**. Squire cattery has produced four Grand Champion Exotics to date.

LOWLANDS - CFA Judge David Bandy also began breeding Exotic Shorthairs in 1974, but for a unique reason. Fellow Persian breeders were indicating interest in developing Exotic Shorthair breeding programs. David saw this as an interesting challenge. He made a bet with them that, by breeding his national award winning color-bred blue Persians to his barn cats, he could produce winning Exotics within five generations. David found it easier than he anticipated. He did it in three generations! By 1976, **GRC Lowlands Christy** was CFA's Best of Breed. And in 1977 **GRC Lowlands Maybelline** was 10th Best Cat. David commented that combining the genetically heterozygous "unregistered stock," with the intensely line-bred and therefore (relatively) homozygous Persians, his Exotics have always been very fertile and problem free. In addition to the National winners previously mentioned, Lowlands has produced a total of five Grand Champions, and in 1985 **GRC Lowlands Shanidar of Bilbet** was Best Exotic Shorthair.

SWANY - Another of our CFA judges to have become interested in breeding and showing Exotic Shorthairs was Don Swanson. He was inspired by the beauty of the Exotics, which he says fulfilled all of his wants in a cat. He exhibited **Kalamar's Sweet Pea of Swany** (bred by Marge Lee) in 1974 to Second Best Kitten, and to Third Best Cat in 1975. Exotics of his own breeding also received National recognition. In 1976, he had the Best Shorthair Kitten and in 1978, one of his Exotics was awarded Seventeenth Best Cat. To produce his Exotics, he used Simbelair Persians (Simbelair Fanfare) and the Kalamar Exotics. A longhair Exotic Shorthair male, **Swany's Red Trumpeter of Dala**, (Sweet Pea x Simbelair Fanfare) bred back to his dam, produced one of CFA's top winning Exotics—**GRC Dala Twilight Zone of Grandaries**.