



CHAMPION SKYWAY'S RAJAH OF SIMBELAIR DM

Bred by Mrs. V.V. Schuh and owned by Mr. & Mrs. S. Weston

Photo by Grant Weston, from the Simbelair Archives of The CFA Foundation.

Celebrating
ICONS of the
CAT FANCY
Lois Weston



BY KAREN LAWRENCE

Lois Weston registered her first litter of Persians in 1960, and her last in 1987. Over the 27-year span of the Simbelair cattery, Lois produced 42 Grand Champions and 5 Grand Premiers, an amazing feat considering the large number of solid color Persians that were competing in those days.

For an example of how keen the competition was at the time, in 1967 the Championship Class at the National Cat Show at Madison Square Garden had entries of 6 blue-eyed whites, 11 copper-eyed whites, 2 odd-eyed whites, 11 blue, 6 black, 3 reds, and 11 creams – a whopping 50 solid colors!

Lois began her journey with cats when she became the owner of a pet quality Persian purchased by her mother, who lived with Lois and her husband, Stan. She took the time to visit cat shows and study the Persians there, determining just what she wanted to see in the Persian and deciding that whites were going to be her destiny.

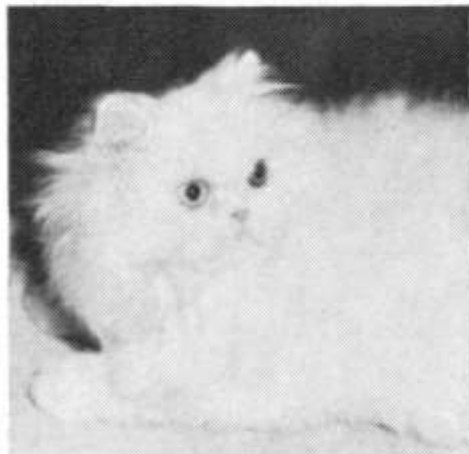
Once she knew what she wanted in the “look” and the “boning”, she set out to find cats that would hopefully produce her “ideal” Persian. Her Simbelair cattery name, registered with CFA in 1966, is a combination of the name of her first cat “Sim” and the Weston’s car at the time, a Chevrolet “Bel Air”.

Lois’ first purchase for her new breeding program was one of the smartest moves she ever made – she acquired CH Skyway’s Rajah of Simbelair, a copper-eyed white male from Vi Schuh. Rajah was born April 4, 1964; sire - Skyway’s Gai Duke of Evergreen, copper-eyed white; dam - CH Skyway’s Charlene, a blue. If the Skyway cattery name is familiar to you as belonging to Don Williams, you should know that he inherited the name from his mother-in-law who was Vi Schuh.

The next year, Lois returned to Mrs. Schuh to purchase GC Skyway’s Gai Doll of Simbelair, DM. Gai Doll was a copper-eyed white female born January 12, 1965 out of Gai Duke, the same sire as Rajah, and a copper-eyed white female, Doris of Skyway (out of Castilia and Klinkhammer lines). Gai Doll achieved her Grand Championship the first year she was shown in CFA and was also a Canadian Cat Association (CCA) Grand Champion.

SIMBELAIR

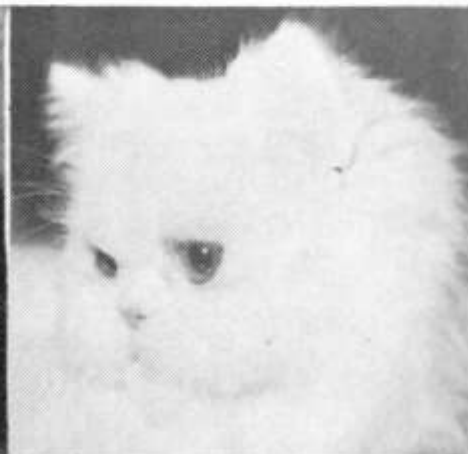
The Canadian Home of Skyways Rajah of Simbelair and Gr. Ch. Skyway's Gai Doll of Simbelair who present their pair of Beauties to watch this coming season



**Simbelair's Aristocrat
of Castilia**



**Gr. Ch. Simbelair's
Sandstar**



**Simbelair's Memory
of Vi**

Gr. Ch. Simbelair's Sandstar

All Eastern Cream Female 1967 C.F.A. Eastern Best Cream Female 1967

Inquiries Invited

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**One of Mrs. Weston's early CFA Yearbook advertisements,
featuring offspring of Skyway's Rajah of Simbelair and Skyway's Gai Doll of Simbelair.**

Image: CFA Yearbook, 1967.

It was a breeding of these two cats, Rajah x Gai Doll, that produced GC, NW Simbelair Aristocrat in their first litter. The Simbelair cattery was up and running, having produced a cat that was undefeated and had 46 Best Cats in a row to his name. Lois had hit the jackpot in her first litter... not a bad way to start!

Aristocrat, an odd-eyed white male born November 22, 1966, was the first of the Simbelair National Winners. Aristocrat was eventually sold to Marcena Myers, and was awarded #2 LH male (2nd Highest Scoring Cat) in CFA's Hydon-Goodwin All-Star Awards.

In total, Rajah was used extensively in the Simbelair breeding program, and earned his Distinguished Merit status by being the sire of 20 white Grand Champions, many becoming the foundation cats of other catteries. His DM status would be confirmed by linechasers, well after his breeding career had ended.

Lois again returned to Mrs. Schuh for another white, this time the odd-eyed male GC Skyway's Perri of Simbelair. Perri was a son of Lois' Rajah, out of a copper-eyed white female, Evergreen's Penelope of Skyway. During her 1985 interview with *The Persian Quarterly*, Lois admits that she did a lot of inbreeding: -

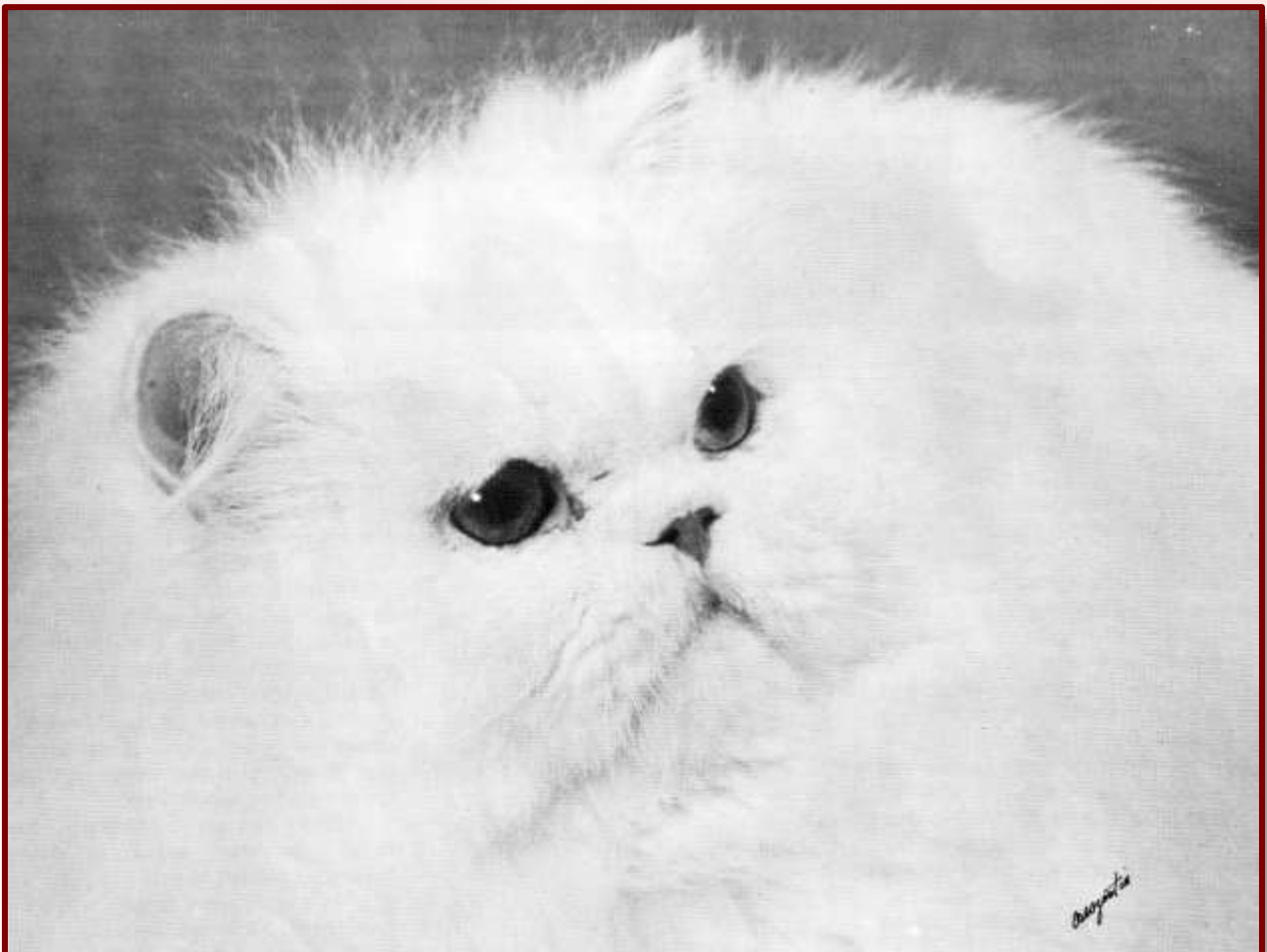
"It was successful for me because I felt there was a lot of improvement to be done by cross-breeding and staying within the line. Each litter was bettering itself."

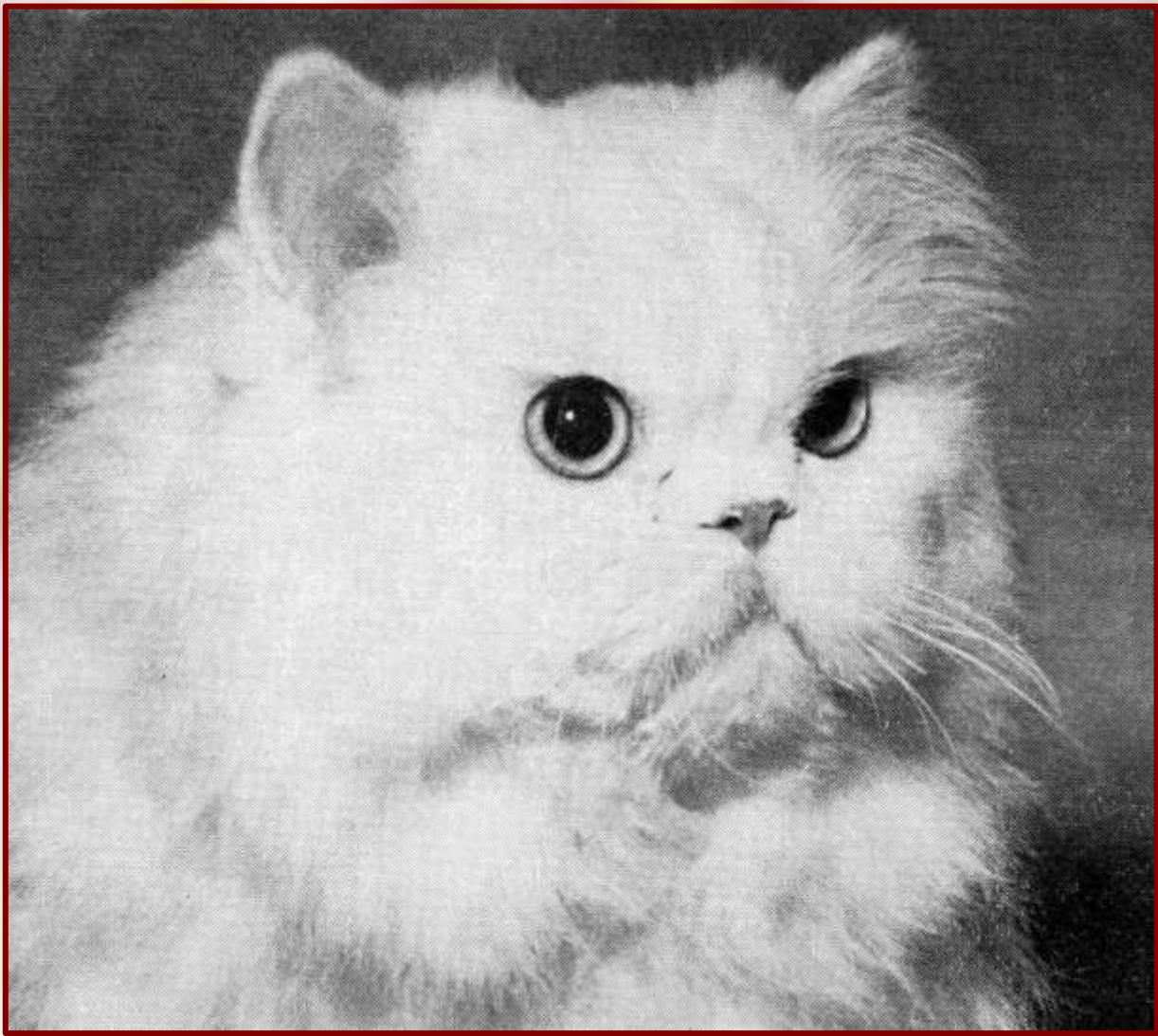


Above: GC, NW SIMBELAIR ARISTOCRAT born November 22, 1966 Multiple Best in Show winner.

Image: CFA Yearbook, 1968

Below: GC. SKYWAY'S PERRI OF SIMBELAIR. Photo: Creszentia Allen, The Persian Quarterly, Fall 1985





GC, NW AZULITA PALEFACE OF CASA CIELO – CFA’s CAT OF THE YEAR 1963

The only outcross male that Lois Weston used, over GC Skyway’s Gai Doll of Simbelair.

Photo: Rochester Times Union, ‘Our Cats’ Magazine, Oct/Nov, 1963

The majority of Lois’ outcrosses were attained through the purchase of new cats from different lines, with only one exception when she sent a female out for stud service. Lois sent Gai Doll to the copper-eyed white male GC, NW Azulita Paleface of Casa Cielo, who has been CFA’s Best Cat in 1963. The hope was for inheritance of the boning for which Paleface was well known. The litter resulted in three whites that were sent to other breeders, and a blue female, Simbelair Pale Doll, that Lois kept for breeding.

Pale Doll was bred numerous times to Lois’ in-house studs, producing GC, NW Simbelair Fantastic and GC Simbelair Tecumseh of Jeannel, and the CCA Grand Champion Simbelair Don Juan of Kilarney.

Lois’ ultimate goal was to produce a white Persian that was as “typey” as those cats found in the other colors. She was a big fan of the Babalong lines, so for assistance with her whites, she added Babalong Babs and Babalong Bebe to her cattery in the 1970’s. Both of these whites traced back to earlier Simbelair cats, following Lois’ belief in inbreeding.

Against all advice, Lois introduced cream, blue and bluecream into her white lines to assist with depth of eye color and boning. She says she *“used blue and bluecream background because they had what I was looking for.”* In *The Persian Quarterly* interview, Lois admits *“That combination, going back and forth, is what I used primarily right up to my last breedings.”*



**GC SIMBELAIR FLASH, a blue-eyed white male born May 21, 1970,
was the son of GC Skyway's Perri of Simbelair and GC Simbelair Sacht of Chota-Li.**

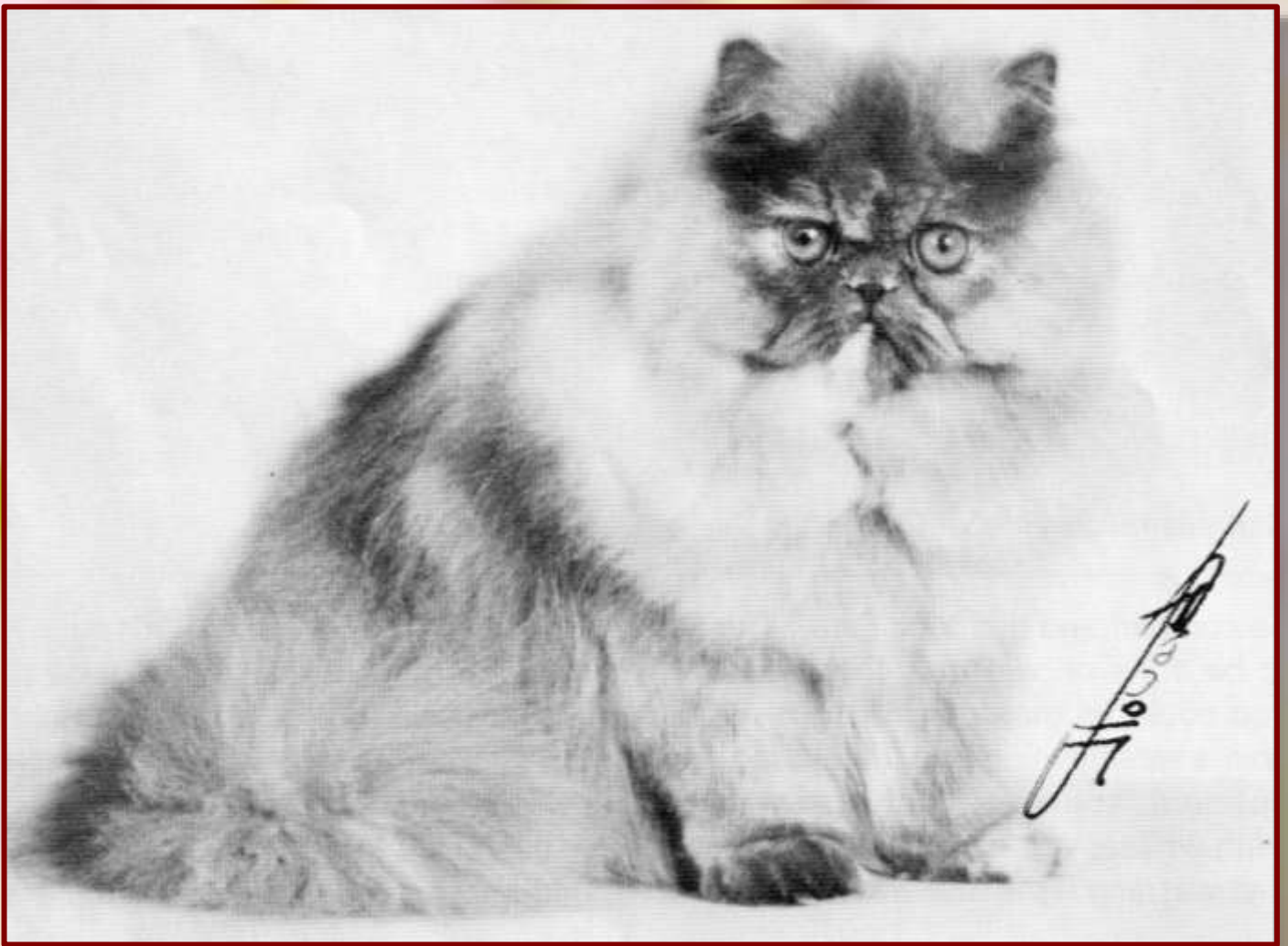
Photo: The Persian Quarterly, 1985.

Lois didn't take in any cats for stud service, but she very generously sold kittens and cats to other breeders, many of them just starting out. In fact, the vast majority of Simbelair kittens were shared with others, numerous of them overseas. Simbelair cats were exported to Australia, Germany, Italy, Japan, the Netherlands, and South Africa. Lois said, *"I sold them and placed them where I hoped and felt that these people would carry on with the tradition of keeping a pure bloodline..."*

NATIONAL WINS

While Lois generously shared her cats, she also worked closely with other breeders in southern Ontario, notably her friends Edna Field (Chota-Li) and Luisa Barsi (Marlu). Her friends south of the border also fared well in the exchange of cats. Tom Hollister and Tom Campbell (Sofondakatts) of Michigan were great friends with both Lois and Luisa, and regularly exchanged or co-owned cats. In particular, Lois' friend Peggy Blackburn (Northbrook) hit the jackpot, showing three Simbelair cats to five National Wins including Best Cat and Best Kitten. I have fond memories of spending fun times at shows with Lois, Edna, Luisa, Tom and Tommy.

National Awards for the stunning Simbelair cats naturally followed as a result of Lois' tightly controlled breeding program. In total, nine cats bred by Lois attained CFA's National Winner title – eight were white and one was a bluecream. Again, Lois didn't keep many of these excellent cats for herself – she simply shared her lines with other breeders. As is expected, Lois thought the highlights were CFA's Best Cat in 1891-1982 with GC, NW Simbelair Carla of Northbrook and CFA's Best Kitten in 1983-1984 with GC, NW Simbelair Etcetera of Northbrook. Both of these cats were shown by Lois' good friend, Peggy Blackburn.



**GC, NW SIMBELAIR LITTLE MEISHA
CFA'S 3RD BEST KITTEN 1982-1983**

Photo: Jane Howard

SIMBELAIR CATTERY NATIONAL WINS

#2 LONGHAIR MALE – 1968 (Hydon-Goodwin Awards)

GC, NW SIMBELAIR ARISTOCRAT OF CASTILIA

0104-00000289, odd-eyed white male, born 11/22/1966

Owner: MARCENA MYERS

2nd BEST KITTEN – 1969 (Hydon-Goodwin Awards)

GC, NW SIMBELAIR FANTASTIC

0102-00002210, copper-eyed white female, born 03/28/1968

Owner: MRS. S. WESTON

10th BEST CAT - 1973-1974

GC, NW SIMBELAIR AZARAF

0104-00000843, odd-eyed white male, born 11/05/1972

Owner: MRS. S. WESTON

11th BEST CAT – 1978-1979

GC, NW SIMBELAIR HIMSELF

0102-0009655, copper-eyed white male, born 01/26/1978

Owner: PEGGY-ARNOLD BLACKBURN



**GC, NW SIMBELAIR CARLA OF NORTHBROOK –
CFA'S 3RD BEST KITTEN & CFA'S 6TH BEST CAT 1979-1980 – CFA'S BEST CAT 1981-1982**

Photo: Creszentia Allen

**3rd BEST KITTEN – 1979-1980 / 6th BEST CAT – 1979-1980
BEST CAT – 1981-1982**

GC, NW SIMBLAIR CARLA OF NORTHBROOK

0103-00014952, copper-eyed white female, born 02/26/1979

Owner: PEGGY-ARNOLD BLACKBURN

3rd BEST KITTEN – 1982-1983

GC, NW SIMBELAIR LITTLE MEISHA

0151-00122289, bluecream female, born 04/13/1982

Owner: MR-MRS JOHN T. MORGAN

7th BEST KITTEN – 1980-1981

GC, NW SIMBELAIR KARINA OF ARISTY

0103-00016253, copper-eyed white female, born 05/13/1980

Owner: CARLOS-EDENIA ARISTY

4th BEST KITTEN 1981-1982

GC, NW SIMBELAIR FANTASIA

0103-00076829, copper-eyed white female, born 06/15/1981

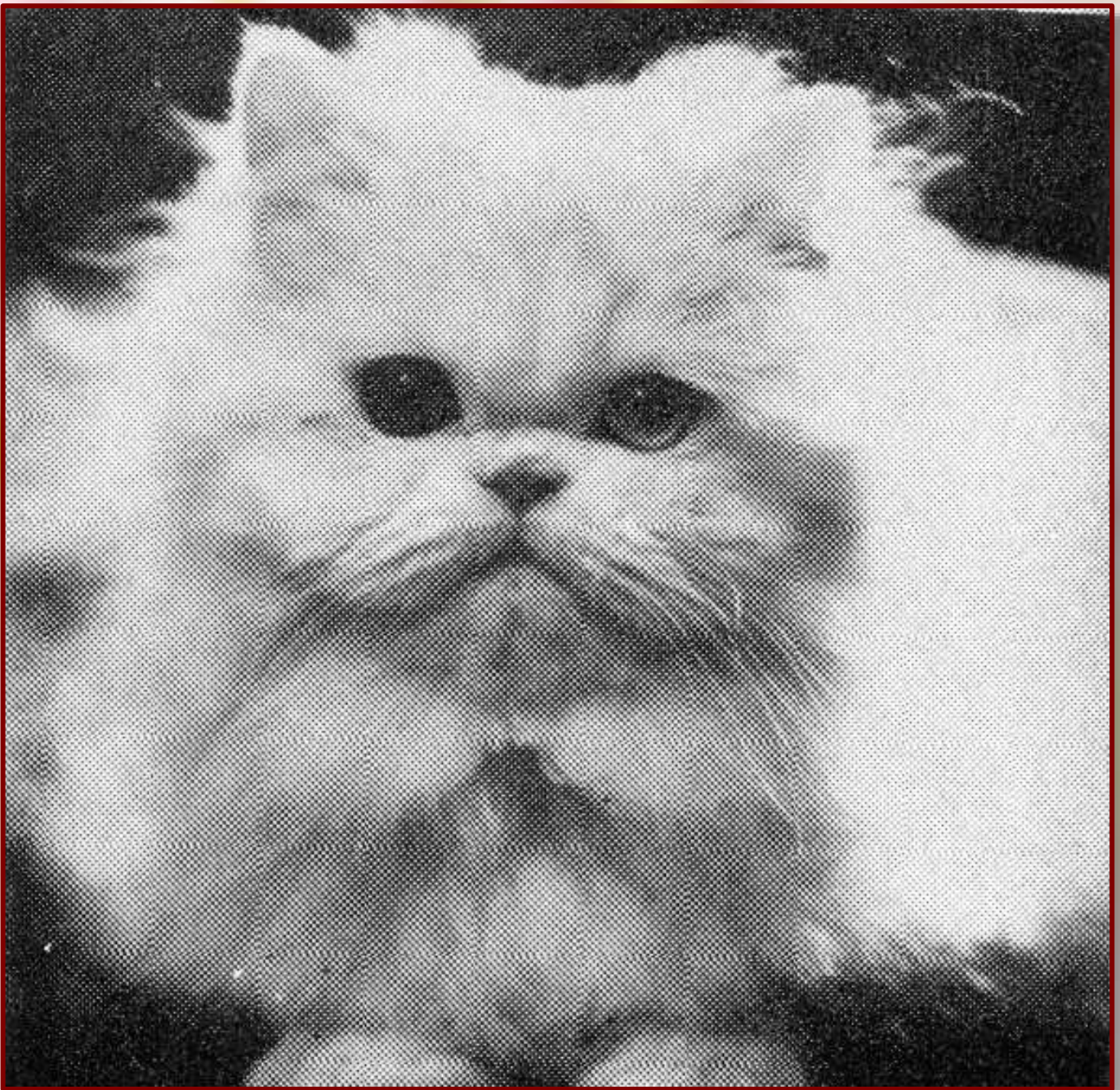
Owner: DR. TAIT RATCLIFFE

BEST KITTEN – 1983-1984

GC, NW SIMBELAIR ETCETERA OF NORTHBROOK

0103-00160793, copper-eyed white female, born 05/10/1983

Owner: PEGGY-ARNOLD BLACKBURN



Photos: CFA Yearbook, 1972

SIMBELAIR DISTINGUISHED MERIT CATS

Besides having Skyway's Rajah as their main stud cat and a DM himself, plus Skyway's Gai Doll who was a female DM, the Simbelair cattery produced three Distinguished Merit cats for other breeding programs.

Interestingly, none were cats that Lois has kept for her own breeding program, and none of them were whites! They were: -

SIMBELAIR FANFAIR OF WIL-O-ROSE, DM

0106-00005572, blue male born 08/30/1970

Owner: WILLIAM-ROSEMARY HERRMAN

GC SIMBELAIR GOLDEN APRICOT OF LEE, DM

0115-00004438, cream female born 03/29/1974

Owner: MR-MRS WILLIAM LEE

CH. SIMBELAIR ENCORE OF LANDMARK, DM

0115-00008229, cream female born 08/13/1980

Owner: MR-MRS JOHN T. MORGAN

Among other outstanding cats bred by Lois were GC, NW Simbelair Fantastic, as female, and GC, NW Simbelair Azaraf, a male who can be found in the background of pedigrees to this day.

Lois also set another record by granding white cats in all three eye colors: - shown opposite, at the top, is her **GC. SIMBELAIR TIFFANY** (an odd-eyed white); with bottom left, her **GC. SIMBELAIR FELICIA** (a copper-eyed white); and at bottom right, **GC. SIMBELAIR FLASH** (a blue-eyed white).

Lois had the temerity to stop breeding when she felt that she had achieved her goals. That, plus she didn't care for the super extreme look of the Persian head that was becoming popular in the late 1980's. In the interview with *The Persian Quarterly* Lois said: -

"The picture in my mind has always been the sweet, open look. Extreme, but not losing the sweetness. If they get too extreme, you sometimes lose that. In my opinion, this doesn't give the sweet look and takes away that expression."

To her dying day, Lois was always a lover of the Persian cat. In the last ten years of her life, she found the maintenance of coats to be too much for her and she was given two Exotic Shorthairs by her friend, Edna Field. To my knowledge, these cats were the only other breed Lois ever owned, and they were her beloved companions in her later years. Upon Lois' death in 2002, these Exotics were returned to Edna, where they lived out their remaining days.



GC, NW SIMBELAIR CARLA OF NORTHBROOK