

## **78<sup>th</sup> ARBA Convention Cavy Show Dedication**

### **MAROLYN BRIESE**

JACBA Fall 2001

#### **Breeder-Exhibitor-Club Participant Cavy Judge-Mentor-Friend**

Undaunted by hospitalization and multiple surgeries just weeks before the ARBA Convention, Marolyn Briese attended the Del Mar event where she was caught surprised with dedication of the cavy show in her honor. She was presented with a certificate and roses to commemorate the occasion.

Marolyn joined the American Cavy Breeders Association in 1964 at the time she started raising Peruvian, Abyssinian and American cavies. Over a period of 37 years, Peruvians have remained her favorite and her breeding program and the expertise care given them has produced some dandies on show tables.

She has been a member of the San Gabriel Valley Cavy Breeders Association (established in 1948) for almost 40 years and has served as board member, vice president and president at various times. She's ramrodded and superintended cavy shows for 35 years.

She joined the ARBA in August 1968 and obtained her cavy judging license in 1969. This makes her the longest practicing active woman cavy judge in the United States. Marolyn has judged all over the U.S. and Canada in a career spanning 32 years.

Marolyn has gained a reputation as a tough but fair and honest judge. She knows the Standard

and cavies. She also knows how to make judging fun and instructive when it's appropriate, but knows how to get them over the table when time's at a premium.

Marolyn's been very active in the promotion of the show cavy with youth. She helped with 4-H educational days and spent many a time in school classrooms talking about cavies. In 1974, Marolyn was interviewed on the local *Good Morning LA* television show where she promoted the show fancy. In the 1980's, she was interviewed by the Los Angeles Times about cavies and her beautiful White Peruvian made the cover of the Arts and Leisure section.

It's hard to say how many kids got into cavies because of Marolyn. At age 16, Ron Smelt met her and became intrigued with Peruvians. Obtaining stock, she taught Ron basic cavy care and how to bathe, wrap and groom Peruvians.

In the 1990's, Marolyn was appointed to the ACBA Standards Committee and served as interim chairman. She managed to further the lines of communication with members and garner input on the grouping issue.

Though her health is such that she doesn't travel much these days, Marolyn Briese continues to judge locally and garner the respect of her friends, in the fancy she's admitted she's "married to," around her.

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