

WESTERN

Kennel World

SEPTEMBER

35c

1953

SAMOYEDS

By Vera Lawrence

610 Colusa Avenue, Berkeley 7, Calif.

We are offering some more interesting pictures this time—two of them showing Mrs. Mason's famous lead dog, Rex of White Way, with his handler and trainer, Lloyd Van Sickle. Of particular interest to our readers will be the news that Mr. Harry Miller, Director of the Gaines Research Center had written a letter to Mr. Van Sickle, requesting—(quote) "out of the wealth of your knowledge and experience with sled dogs could you answer a question put to us by one of the big magazines?" The inquirers were interested in having a sled dog, either living or in the past, who could be rated as a Dog Great to go alongside outstanding sheepdog, bloodhound, greyhound, etc."

Mr. Van Sickle's letter, in reply to Mr. Miller's request for facts and reasons for his choice is of such interest it rates publication in full—

as follows:

"Dear Mr. Miller:—

I feel honored that you consider me as qualified to make a choice of a great sled dog. It is the most difficult decision I have ever had to make. You see, a sled dog team is comparable to a football team. While one player is a good quarterback he would make a poor tackle. Also one dog may be a good "wheeler" but a poor "leader" and still be a good sled dog. But since a good lead dog is most indispensable I will first limit the field to lead dogs.

(1)—My ideal lead dog must have the following qualities: The ability to hold the towline tight at all times. He must get the feel of it and pick up any slack instantly. He must be able to make a "Comeback" "Haw" — straight back and still keep the towline straight.

(2)—He must have a sense of responsibility. It has been my experience that some dogs are born with it and they are the only ones that you can train into a good leader.

(3)—Power and Strength; (4)—Endurance; (5)—Speed; (6)—Adaptability; (7)—Versatility.

I have been training dogs for twenty years and the lead dog that comes nearer to filling these qualifications is a Samoyed Lead Dog owned by Mrs. A. E. Mason of Sacramento, California, that I have been training and working since he was nine months old. His name is registered Rex of Whiteway — I prefer to call him Blizzard King. He is not quite three years old but has the qualities usually possessed by leaders 8 and 9 years old.

In February of this year, a plane developed engine trouble, flying from Sacramento to Reno



Picture of Lloyd Van Sickle's Team Taken Just After Winning the Speed Race at West Yellowstone, Montana—February 22, 1953

and crashed up on the snow bound emergency Truckee Airport. They called me to attempt to go in with the dogs. I started out at 10:00 o'clock at night in pitch dark and it was 18 degrees below zero. I hooked fourteen dogs up and towed two sleds and Ed Crandall went with me. There was absolutely no trail and I just had a general idea of the direction to go. But

I put Rex on lead and since he has that most important quality of keeping the towline tight we made to there in good time without any entanglements although I couldn't see the dogs.

Then I loaded the most injured man on one sled and hooked my seven targhees-speed dogs on one sled and started back to the waiting ambulance. I left seven Samoyed dogs with "Rex" on lead for Ed Crandall to drive out and bring the other three men. They made it back in good time. Since Ed Crandall had never driven a dog team before about all he did was hang on, and Rex brought them out, proving his sense of responsibility.

He is equally good on slow heavy pulling that requires endurance, or on light fast going, as in a race, that requires speed.

He is the best dog I have ever known to break trail in virgin snow. Also he is the best dog I have ever seen to be able to face into a fierce blizzard and keep going. This I believe is due to his slanted eyes and heavy lashes that permit him to see where other dogs are forced to turn their heads.

He is the most versatile lead dog I have ever seen. Before I had him I usually had one dog that was a good "trail leader" and one that would break virgin snow and still another for a race and perhaps another for exhibition on parade work, but Rex is good for any of it.

He is most happy when breaking a trail in virgin snow, but he performs his lead dog duties equally well, pulling a sled on wheels in an arena before 10,000 people, as he did recently in the Western Sportsman's show at the Los Angeles Gilmore Stadium.

I had a special lead dog that I had trained since 1942 to use just for exhibition and parades. He got hurt so I had to use another. I tried Rex and he did as well the first time as the tenth.

So my decision is that Rex "the Blizzard King" is qualified to be rated as a Great Sled Dog.

Yours very truly,
Lloyd Van Sickle."

Our first picture shows Rex in the team, handled by Lloyd Van Sickle, that won both the speed and draft races in Yellowstone, Montana on February 22, 1953. It was noted by the handler that though Rex did not start out as fast as some of the other dogs he ended doing most of the pulling. Before the races started, comments were made to the effect that Lloyd "could not win the race with that white dog in the team.

The picture shown was taken right after the

Wychwood Kennels

The Samoyeds with the
Winning Ways



English and American Champion
Princess Silvertips of Kobe

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Wychwood

North Hills

Manhasset, N. Y.

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ex Dewie of Polar Cap)



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speed race in which this team was the winner—time 12 miles, 60 minutes.

Rex and his kennel mate Jacko also ran in the team which won the Freight Team Race on February 23. In this race the team hauled 315 pounds of freight and completed in better time.

A dog named "Lucky" was the lead dog in both of these races.

Our second picture shows Rex with Mr. Van Sickle on leisure time in the snow country.

Rex, it will be remembered, is a son of White Way Kennels sire of many champions, the late imported Ch. White Way of Kobe, and whelped by the home-bred Ch. Herdsman's Faith (Silver Spark of the Arctic ex Cleo).

You will note in Mr. and Mrs. Burr's ad shown elsewhere in our section that puppies are due in the south—sired by Rex of White Way.

Another picture shown in this issue shows White Way's Snow Fluff (A.K.C. championship to be verified). Fluff was bred at the Mason Kennels, is out of Ch. Starchak's Warnistura (Ch. Starchak, C.D. ex Ch. Staryvna of Snowland) bred by the Robert Wards of Culver City, California. Fluff's sire is none other than Snow Boots.

The following is copy of a letter from "Fluff" addressed to "Sissy and Boots Mason" written by Fluff's owner, Mrs. Jeanne Wingo of Downey, California.

"Dear Mom and Dad:

"I sent you a picture of me 'graduating' last Sunday, at Pasadena. I never even started until the Harbor Cities show last June when I went fourth. Then the next time, in July, I got 4 points. The one I have been most proud of, I think, and my 'mama' Jeanne is too, was my RW at the San Mateo Specialty. I really had lots of excellent competition there.

"After Azusa, where I again went RW (what with being out of coat—in season, etc.) I didn't get to go to the shows until San Bernardino when I went 2nd.

"At Bakerfield I got some more points, at San Diego, just before Glendale, I got 1 and at Santa Ana I made it again—and went Best Opposite.

"Here I am boasting away about me, but my daughter, Princess, took all the starch out of me at Oxnard by doing what I did at Pasadena.

"I haven't received my diploma yet, but my 'Mama Jeanne' is pretty sure I have 18 points and two majors.

"We were all glad to see your 'Mama' down here last Sunday.

"Your daughter,

Fluffy.

(Champion [?] White Way's Snow Fluff)"

Some months ago we published a letter sent to us by Mrs. Mason saying that a Sammy had been found by Mrs. Ruby Daniels of Gridley, California. Mrs. Mason has recently received a letter from Mrs. Schwing, also of Gridley, that she has located her Sam—named "Polar". Mrs. Daniels who had received the dog from a tran-

sient, had cared for him while trying to locate his owner, who had not advertised his loss—hoping that he would return home. However, Polar (bred at White Way Kennels) is now back at home again with Mrs. Schwing, his owner. Congratulations!



Lloyd Van Sickle with Rex of White Way—
Lead Dog of the Mason Sled Dog Team

Information via newspaper headlines bring us the thrilling news that a Samoyed has again gone Best Dog in Show (all breeds). This time it's a copy of the New York Times of Sunday July 26 which gives us the following "Champion Silvertips Scion of Wychgood—Best in thirty-first Dog Show at Tuxedo Park." The item under the by-line of William J. Briordy, continues in part . . . "Bernice B. Ashdown's Samoyed, Ch. Silvertips Scion of Wychwood, went best in show today at the Tuxedo Kennel Club's thirty-first annual event.

The Tuxedo fixture which drew a fine field, was conducted on the old polo field and the proceeds went to the Tuxedo Memorial Hospital. Silvertips' triumph was a signal one. The home-bred Samoyed who shows much promise, defeated a strong line-up. Not yet three years old, Silvertips (Scion) was selected by Carey W. Lindsey of Baltimore. Lindsay's decision

was warmly received by the audience. It marked the first Best-in-Show for this striking Manhasset, L. I. entry.

Lindsay was high in his praise of Silvertips Scion. "He's an outstanding dog. He won a fast working group and deserved the victory on his splendid condition."

The handler of the winner, Charles L. Rollins, who worked overtime putting Silver ip (Scion) through his paces was easily the proudest person on the grounds. Silvertip's family is a top-notch one. His litter sister took three groups last spring, while his brother was best at Hartford and Boston and best American-bred at New Haven." (This was Ch. Silvertips Surf Spray of Wychwood).

Previous to the above, Scion's mother, the famous Ch. Princess Silvertips of Kobe, took her second Best in Show (all breeds) at the Green Mountain Dog Club show at Montpelier on July 12 under Mr. R. A. Engle. She was also first in the Working Group at Central N. Y. Kennel Club show on June 28, and at the Bald Eagle Kennel Club show on July 19, making three successive working group wins.

Her record in the United States now consists of forty-six Bests of Breed—thirty-one Group placings, thirteen of which are First—along with the two Bests in Show. Scion completed his championship by going Best of Breed at the Monmouth Kennel Club show, June 14. Thus Scion becomes the fifth of this litter to gain its championship.

The following is a real story of a real dog—a story just sent us by Mr. Jack Baird, who writes—"I shudder every time I think of what might have happened if Scion had not been on hand." This is the fourth time in Mr. Baird's life that a dog has either saved his life, or kept him from serious injury. In the story is sure proof that our Samoyeds have as much

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(Noskoi of Encino x Kizil II)

—and—

Sired by the Famous Lead Dog
REX OF WHITE WAY
(Ch. White Way of Kobe ex Ch.
Herdsman's Faith)

AT STUD—Ch. Tarko's Kazan of Encino
Mr. and Mrs. Charles Burr

2660 Benedict Canyon Dr.
Beverly Hills, Calif.

brains and intelligence as they have of beauty and "winning ways."

Here's the story as written by Mr. Baird.

"As everyone knows—I've got bad legs, still threatened with amputation and they raise so much hell at times that I get little sleep and I have to keep them heavily bandaged to get around. Saturday morning I'd not sooner hit the show than I had to strip the bandaging off, and went over the huge show area unbalanced. It caught up to me that night, and I had hell to pay. We had accepted invitation to spend the night at the Ashdowns' summer home in Westmorland, N. H. Just Midget and me and Charlie Rollins and the Ashdown Samoyed Ch. Silvertips Scion of Wychwood. Scion was entered for Wachusset show, but because I had so much pain and so little sleep, Charlie decided to wait for me to feel better, and thus scratched the dog from the show. I didn't want him to make the sacrifice, but Charlie insisted because he said I'd had too much trouble already to risk having to go back to the hospital and maybe lose my legs. That's how come the incident that makes this story.

"Scion is a friendly dog, but more devoted to Charlie and Midget, and accepting me. Mrs. Ashdown has always called Scion her "psychic dog", and that must account for the fact, that although I had gone up and downstairs several times Saturday night and Sunday morning, he had remained with Charlie and Midget. Along about lunch time when I said I guessed that I was improved enough to take to the road, when I went upstairs again, Scion went up the stairs at my side, and wouldn't go down until I was ready.

Instead of bouncing down the stairs, he went down just ahead of me and looked back up at me from each step. I had gone about four stairs when the right knee buckled under me. Had it been the left leg, I could have grabbed the railing going down—but there was only a blank wall, and of course nothing to grab on the right.

I had visions of crashing down about 10 feet and likely breaking my neck. Scion had been looking at me, and when the knee started to buckle, he put his forepaws and head back up toward me and braced from the rear—so I could grab hold of him—and thereby saved at least my neck and serious injury and more likely saved my life. My heart was in my mouth until I steadied myself on Scion, and believe me I breathed a prayer of thanks to God for having sent along the "psychic" dog that wouldn't move away from me on this one trip which could have cost my life.



Judge Suzanne Hawkins, Awarding Best of Opposite Sex at Pasadena to White Ways Snow Fluff. Owned by Mrs. Jeanne Wingo of Downey, California. (Fluff's is awaiting confirmation of the title). Congratulations!

Scion missed his chance to take a possible second big win at the show but to me he was a greater dog than the best of show dog of the day—or any day—he'd done his good deed and proved the worth and right of dogs in the service of mankind. So that makes it four times that I've owed my life to dogs—so you can see why I have a fondness for Newfoundlands, Weimaraners and Samoyeds. In 1901 my Newfoundland saved me from drowning and later hauled me out from under the wheels of a moving commuting train, both in Savin Hill, Mass. Then in the late 40s, at Wappingers Falls, N. Y. my Diana pulled me out of a creek where I'd collapsed after an auto accident and now, August 2, 1953, comes Scion the Samoyed to be uncanny in knowing I needed guarding and being right where he alone could save me from a broken neck. God bless dogs!"

The following notice came to us from Mrs. Alyce Seekins, President of the Eastern Division of the Samoyed Club of America.

"The wonderful trophy list for the National Specialty of the SCA to be held at Westchester KC Show, Rye, New York October 11th has been completed with prizes right down through fourth place in Every class—the top placings well provided for as well. Also, the Brace and Team classes, as well as the Veterans class for all dogs and bitches over seven years old.

"It is now the job of EVERY one of us to work up an entry for this gala event. The Eastern Division will sponsor a Banquet to be held

Saturday evening before the show with a speaker, etc. Also the Eastern Division plans to hold its Annual meeting sometime during the weekend, so that we may have a good representation of all the membership.

"Miss Ruth Stillman of New York City will be the Specialty judge; and she has expressed to me personally her extreme gratitude and pleasure that she is to have this assignment."

It is hoped that there will be a record entry for this Specialty show, October in the East is a lovely, lovely month.

Milton McDonnell of Austin, Texas asks that we correct an error in the caption of a picture shown in the July WKW—that titled "Snow Dawn, owned by Roy Anderson of Australia."

May we assure Mr. McDonnell that IS the correct name of the dog, even though confusing! It must be remembered that many names of dogs bred and owned out of the United States are duplicated here. The A.K.C. is concerned only that no name of an American-bred dog is duplicated in the AKC records. There may be a "Snow Dawn" in every country outside of the United States—but ONLY ONE may be registered here—and thus Mr. and Mrs. McDonnell's Ch. Snow Dawn, bred by Mrs. Lucile Miller of Albuquerque, New Mexico, a daughter of the late Ch. Prince Kofski out of Zem Zem of Breezewood is the only Sam bearing that name here in the United States. (But there is a "Snow Dawn" in Australia).

Incidentally, Ch. Snow Dawn and her litter sister, Ch. Snow Nada, were the "puppy-love pups" shown on the cover page of the 1945 Christmas issue of K.K.W. They have their own spot in the history of our Sams which cannot be taken from them by any other. (We do hope that this will clear up any confusion. V. L.)

Can Anyone Help Here?

We have an interesting letter from Robert J. Wood of Chittenango, N. Y. who is most anxious to obtain information as to how to build a dog sled such as used in the far North—and how to make dog harness and rig the dogs up to the sled.

Mr. Wood asks for "sketches, pictures or dimensions or tell me where I can find such information—or purchase dog harnesses such as I need and/or a Dog Sled."

Mr. Wood is happy in the possession of a pair of splendid Sams—and a litter of six young puppies which he hopes to break in for sledding this winter. He states that "Samoyeds are very rare around this part of the country, and I would like to make them better known

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Signed

ADA of Snowland.

P. S.—Hope to make the grade myself sometime soon!

(Have 14 points—But no Coat Yet!)

Samoyeds of Snow Shoe Hill

Puppies Occasionally—

Selected Breeding

Correspondence Invited

JULIET T. GOODRICH

Land O'Lakes

Wisconsin

around here—as of all the various breeds of dogs I have had, I have never known any as good as Sams.”

And so folks, please—if any of you do have the information or knowledge that might be of help to Mr. Wood let us know, won't you—that we might put you in direct contact with him. Thanks, for your help.

Betty Kimpflin's new "heart-stopper" the young son of Ch. Chuckles of Breezewood, sired by Ruth Kilbourn's Ch. Deyomas of Ibur, is one of the most "popular young men" in Chicago. Mrs. Kimpflin writes—"It is such a pleasure to watch him develop. Every day there's something new for him to discover. His curiosity is not to be denied. If discouraged he only returns time and again until his curiosity is satisfied. Spoiled?—well, what can one expect from a wee "boy" brought up on a bottle from the time he weighed only eleven ounces—he had to be handled a thousand times." Mrs. Kimpflin tells us that time and time again she thought he would not last until the next day—but steadfastness of purpose, sacrifice of sleep, etc and a firm determination to do all possible to bring him through have had their reward—for at 8 weeks Kim, the only surviving son of Ch. Chuckles and Ch. Deyomas, is holding his own and improving steadily. Congratulations, Betty—you've done a swell job!

Santa Barbara Show Winners

It was a four point show for Sams (both sexes) at Santa Barbara July 26th—15 dogs—5 bitches, with 5 for Specials only—for Mr. Oliver Charley Harriman of Beverly Hills, California to judge. Winners dog was Mr. and Mrs. Robert H. Ward's Starchak's Witan (Ch. Starchak, C.D. ex Ch. Staryvna of Snowland) with Reserve going to Victoria Wheelock's Geor-Gki of Encino (Ch. Kunto of Encino out of Suretta of Kobe). This was Geor-Gki's very first show.

Winners bitch was taken by Mr. and Mrs. Fred Shapiro's Maxine's White Jade (Ch. Maxine's Snow Boots ex Princess Tanya of Hi Point).

As this young bitch went Best of Winners, she of course captured four more points toward her championship. Reserve winners bitch was William Tapscott's senior puppy—Dwaladi of Encino (Ch. Kobe-Sur-Raff of Encino out of Polar Dawn of Wimundstrev).

Best of Breed was taken by Mr. and Mrs. Charles N. Burr's Ch. Tar-Ko's Kazan of Encino (Ch. Kobe-Tar-Ko of Encino out of Rhanor's Tynda of Petsamo).

Best of Opposite sex was Edwin L. Adam's Ch. Suzanne of White Way (Ch. Petrof Lebanof ex Ch. Herdsman's Faith).

Elizabeth Wyman had a lovely buffet dinner at her home for all those who could arrive in Santa Barbara the night before the show. There were several new club members there as well as guests who own Sammies but are not yet club members.

Mrs. Gene Burr reported that everyone said they had such a lovely time, and it was a nice prelude to the show the following day—

as everyone had an opportunity to become acquainted before the show.

The Burrs are now enjoying their new home in Beverly Hills—with their Sams Kazan and Tussy (Chastuska of Encino) though it is still a chore to get the yard in shape to prevent tracking dirt in the house.

Gene says—"poor Kazan spends his day waiting for the ground squirrels to come out of hiding. Upon seeing one he takes off like a streak of lightning—but alas he never catches one as there are so many rocks that offer a quick refuge for the squirrels! If the novelty doesn't wear off he will be harder and sturdier than he is now, because up to this time he hasn't had any running territory."

Chastuska (C.D.X.) incidentally is expecting the very early arrival of her puppies sired by Mrs. A. E. Mason's Rex of White Way—the famous lead dog of the Mason sled team.

Rex is by the imported Ch. White Way of Kobe out of Ch. Herdsman's Faith. Chastuska of Encino is by Noskoi of Encino out of Kizil II.

Of course Mr. and Mrs. Burr are hoping to keep a bitch puppy out of the litter for future breeding to Ch. Kazan—who, by the way, is now offered at Stud.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles LaCoste and their two of Encino have just returned to their home in Sams; Frosty of Kithee and Trinkka's Polar Star Vallejo after a two weeks vacation and attendance at three dog shows in the North. Frosty—2½ years old, finished his championship (subject to AKC) with five points to spare.

Polar Star—8 mo. old, took first place in Junior puppy classes and placed second highest in the Obedience Trials at two of the shows.

At Vancouver, Washington, July 12, Frosty was winners dog (5 points), Star best in Jr. puppy and had an obedience score of 191½ for highest scoring Sam. At Portland, Oregon July 18, Frosty was Winners Dog, Best of Winners and Best of Opposite sex—four point major.

Star repeated her Jr. Puppy win and took second highest in Obedience with a score of 196—again the highest scoring Sam.

At Salem, Oregon the next day, Frosty went on to Best of Breed—a three-point major.

To date point ratings for Sams are not as high in Oregon and Washington as they are here in California. In fact, California leads in its point ratings for Sams. There's another circuit due in the north. Redding, September 4; Klamath Falls, September 5; Bedford, Ore., September 6; Eugene, Ore., September 7.

Here's Great News for the West!

Mrs. Maxine Shapiro tells us that they have bought from Mrs. R. R. Allen of Romallen Kennels in Massachusetts "an eight weeks old daughter of the beautiful English Champion Janet Jan Mayen, recently imported from England by Major General and Mrs. Allen, and whose picture appeared in the May issue of W.K.W.

The new little lady is to be called Jan Rusky A.K.C. approving a combination of her parent's name, Samoyland Rusky and Ch. Janet Jan Mayen).

Mrs. Ada Wescott considers Rusky her best stud—with more champions in his progeny than any of her living studs.

Mrs. Shapiro writes—"We feel very fortunate that Mrs. Allen let one of her "babies" come to us so far away. Little Jan is really quite a traveler: at such a tender age. All the way from England (escorted by her dam of course) and then all by herself by United Air Lines from the East coast to the west.

Mrs. Allen will have one of Major Allen's aides take Jan to New York from Fort Devens, Mass—and personally see her aboard the plane and stand by until the take off. Such a precious little package as she is.

(By the time you read this, little Jan will have reached her new owner—and we are looking forward to receiving the picture of her).

Lots of good wishes, Mr. and Mrs. Shapiro, and congratulations!

I wonder how many of our readers saw the pictures of Mrs. Ritter and her "Snow" which appeared in local papers during the recent auto show held in the Bay region. Mrs. Ritter and "Snow" and their "prize"—a 1924 model Dodge sedan, which is still in excellent running condition, were the honored guests at the Dodge exhibition of cars. A picture for you soon, we hope.

And now, folks, that's all for this time. May we ask you to read the note in my sister's "space" in this issue. You will find the substance of a story which we find too hard to write just now.—V. L.

In Memoriam



LENSEN'S SNOW CHIEF
July 30, 1939—August 1, 1953

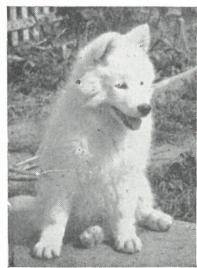
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