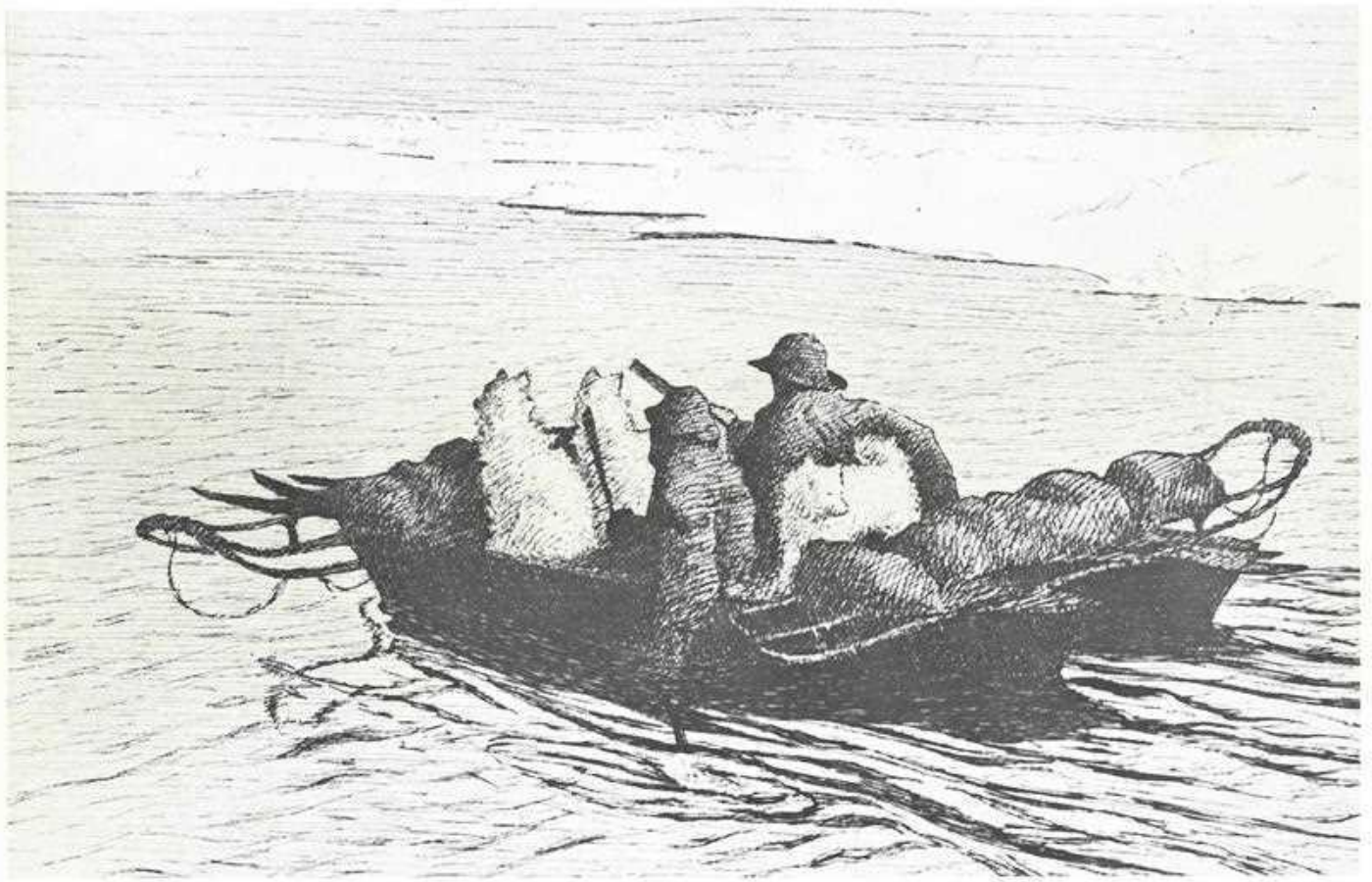


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The SAMOYED

QUARTERLY



Winter 1978/79

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SAMOYED PEOPLE



The Samoyed Quarterly Talks With
HAROLD & DORIS McLAUGHLIN
SILVERACRES SAMOYEDS
Morrison, Colorado

This interview was taped at the McLaughlin's home in October, 1978.

Tell us about your life BEFORE Samoyeds.

HAROLD: Life BEFORE Samoyeds? Well, we were married in 1948 and we started in Samoyeds in 1952. I used to work in the oil patch in West Texas. We moved to Denver in '52 and then moved into the mountains in late '52. 'Bought our first place and we've been in the mountains ever since. There isn't much to tell about BEFORE Sams!

DORIS: We got our first dog, like so many other people, from the Dumb Friends League. It was a Chow. We brought it home, and it had distemper when we got it, so we returned it. We decided to be more serious about it and got books and studied dogs. We decided that Sams were the breed we wanted. We started trying to find one. There weren't any in Colorado that we could locate anywhere. So we ordered one out of "Dog World" from a breeder in Iowa for \$50. Sent them the check and waited for about two months. Never got the dog. First they said she wasn't in "good enough" condition - and this was a mature bitch about two years old. The wife had died and the husband was selling off the dogs. We strongly suspected that he sold it for a larger price because when we said, "OK, either send us the dog or we want our money back," he promptly refunded the money. In the meantime, we were watching the paper every day and a Sam came up for sale in the "Denver Post." We paid \$35 for her and finished her championship in about six shows.

We had her for about a year before we started showing her and one of our neighbors, who is now an AKC judge, suggested we start showing her. We thought that sounded like fun. In the meantime we bred her once. Then another breeder from Indiana said, "Oh, you shouldn't start out with just mediocre quality stock," so she sold us another bitch. When we bred our first bitch we got one male puppy, that was all there was. We didn't lose any; she just had one. So at our first show we went in with three dogs. This neighbor, Betty Morgan, helped us fill out our entry. We had never gone to a dog show, even to see what was done. We just entered all three of them! I would

really like to know who the ring steward was, way back then, because she was so helpful. There we were, knowing absolutely nothing and she kept saying, "Now bring this one back in. Now bring THAT one back in." And, unbelievably, we took the points at our very first dog show with our puppy out of this "nothing" bitch, as this breeder had told us. This "nothing" bitch did finish and she continued to take Best of Breed even when out-of-town male specials would come in. We never got a group placement on her because we didn't know enough to go back for group! We took Breed and we went home! It wasn't until sometime later that there were any Samoyed people here in Colorado to discuss this sort of thing with. That was our first dog, Ch. Fancy of Critchell Creek.

We did start out luckily with a very nice girl, but we didn't realize how lucky we were and we got talked into a totally different bloodline. We would have saved a lot of years if we had known more and had stayed with what we had. She was a very well-bred bitch, as it turned out. She didn't have a champion sire and dam, but the pedigree behind her was very good. We doubled on Rex of White Way and Cleo. Some very good, old-time, early dogs.

So on the advice of other breeders did you sell that first bitch?

No, we kept her until she passed away at fourteen years of age.

Did you ever breed her again?

Yes, but we never kept a puppy out of her because everyone we knew at that time said, "Oh, you ought to have a champion sire and dam behind them." Even though she finished very well.

Tell us what happened with the second bitch you bought.

We did point Rhythm. This was Ell-Tee's Rhythm Rave. She was a litter sister to Ell-Tee's Roxanne, who was a very good winner. She was a totally different type from our first dog, Fancy. In fact, she was a big, rangy girl. Seems like we did put minor points on her, and then we bred her. We bred her to the male out of our first dog. She had seven puppies; and this was back in the days when distemper was deadly. Everybody lost dogs to distemper. You gave them the shots but they weren't very good. Rhythm was out in the woods walking with us and stepped on a piece of glass and cut her foot badly. We took her in and had it sewed up and bandaged, but she lost so much blood. It didn't dawn on us that this would weaken her immunity to distemper. She did get it, and we lost her and a couple of puppies. This was to the old "hard-pad" distemper. So we never finished her.

Out of the seven puppies, we pointed Silver of Silver Acres and Frosty Fang of Silver Acres. . . and, let's see, we pointed Melodious. So we pointed three of them ourselves, but never finished any of them. They weren't really that good.

So where did you go from there?

We were doing our share of winning in the show ring. We were going along with the same bloodline, and we won. Really more than I should have at times. But then there was a gal who moved to town from out-of-state and she had better dogs than we had. We were still specializing Fancy and doing Breeds regularly; in fact, I think she was only beaten for Breed a couple of times. And then this gal, Donna Yocum, came to town with better dogs. And we fooled around about a year and lost and decided that we couldn't hack



Left to right: Ch. Silveracres Karell, Silveracres Karavella, Ch. Frostfire's Galadriel, Ch. Silveracres Elegance, Ch. Silveracres Jinni of Frostfire, Ch. Silveracres Samba, Ch. Silveracres Kantishna, Ch. Silveracres Charm, Ch. Silveracres Kandi Bear.

that! By this time, Fancy was ten years old. So we retired her and we went to Helene Spathold and said, "Hey, we need some better dogs! We're not doing so well."

In the meantime, Helene had helped me in my grooming and all, all by letter, because there was no one here to learn anything from. And, Helene said she would look around and see what she could come up with. Shortly thereafter she called and said she had found us a foundation bitch. It was Jinka. Beckeye Austin owned her and she wasn't doing anything with her, she was ready to part with her. So we got in touch with Beckeye and this is where we got Jinka, Champion Cnejinka, and she was our foundation bitch. We told Helene, "Well, now we have to have a male to go with her," so she came up with Chief, sometime later.

We bred Jinka the first time to one of our old males, Khatangas Toby and we had a litter of four females. One of the females died as a puppy; in delivering, Jinka was a little too eager and cut the cord too short. We took her in and had it stitched, but it got infected and we lost her. So that left us with the three puppies out of Toby. One was Khajinka Tang of Silveracres, owned by Marlene Shurtleff, who finished over in Utah. Another was Summer Gale of Silveracres who finished very rapidly at eight months of age; she finished in less than 30 days in four shows. The other one was Lady Gi Gi of Silveracres who got a group placement from the classes but was never finished. The owner lost interest in showing. Jinka was our foundation bitch. Then, we got Chief from Helene Spathold and everything we have now is linebred or inbred on Chief with Jinka in the background.

Why was Chief (Ch. Nachalnik of Drayalene) such an extraordinary stud?

According to the standard he was as near perfect as any dog I have ever seen. His one big fault was that he was not a "show dog." He did not enjoy the

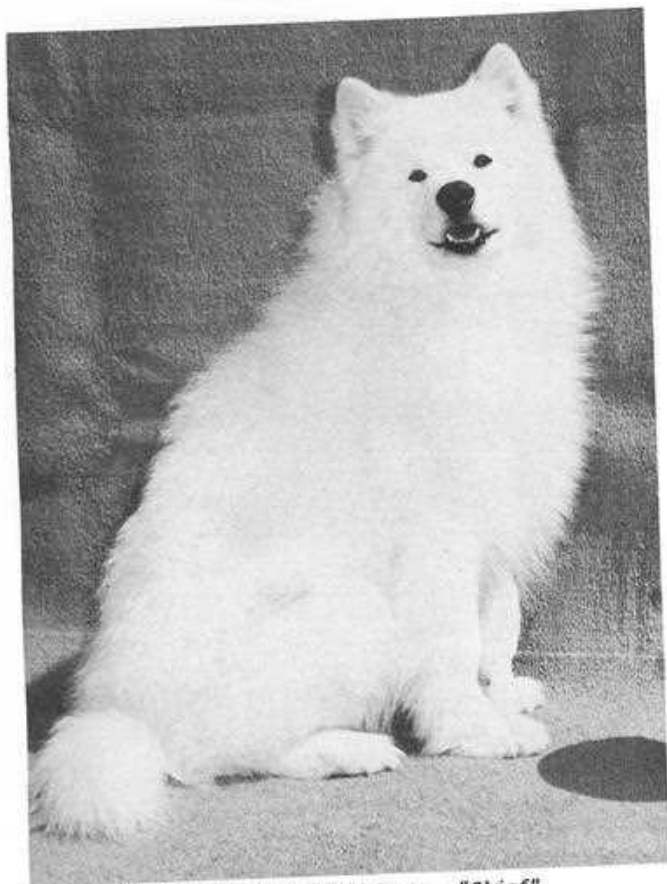
show ring and he was totally "dead." Trying to get his attention for the judge was a waste of time. Baiting him as impossible. He was totally devoted to Harold and me and he gave us his full attention. When I stepped back for the judge to see him he turned his head and watched me. The judge could have thrown his keys or stood on his head, Chief would not have cared. He showed no animation at all to the judge. He had an extremely good temperament to live with, and even his puppies two generations away show this really sweet temperament, but he was such a totally "non-aggressive" dog that he didn't come across in the show ring. Chief was so non-aggressive that Toby, one of our first males who was an aggressive dog, was very jealous of Chief and the attention he got. One day when we had them all out running together, Toby grabbed Chief and we couldn't get him to turn loose. Finally, after we separated the dogs, Toby was sitting there being held by one of us and Chief ran up to wash his face to show there were no hard feelings. That was the type of temperament he had.

Wasn't Chief an extraordinary stud in terms of producing clear puppies?

Hips? Yes, very. We had the first all-clear, OFA-certified litter of any breed. This was when OFA first started. We had a very nice letter from Dr. Riser who was very interested in this and how it progressed, because the sire and dam of all five puppies out of Chief and Jinka were clear. Of course, there are a lot of them now, but this was back when it wasn't so common. He has produced extremely clear for us.

Wasn't Chief unusual in some other respects, like in his head?

He was very dominant for his head type. In fact, the first time I went out to California to a show I was really upset that people out there were saying that Chief was a "Drayalene freak." This really bothered me until they sat down and explained it. The Drayalene dogs usually had a very narrow distinct-



Ch. Nachalnik of Drayalene - "Chief"

ive head. Chief didn't have this and yet he was very dominant for his head. So in that sense, yes, he was not the usual Drayalene dog. However, if you go back and look at his littermates, his litter-brother, Argo, who was also a champion, had exactly the same type of head as Chief, and one of the litter-sisters, Flicka, also had it. It was the identical head of his dam, whom I did get to see. Chief was very much a male Clarissa, his dam. You can still see this down several generations. It is not unusual for people to say, "I'm sure this comes from your kennel because it has a Chief-type head."

What are the characteristics of his head?

Broad, very pretty, properly shaped muzzle, width of the skull between the ears, good eyeset, and the pretty expression. A very sweet expression.

When you got Chief, did you realize that you had an extraordinary dog?

No. Helene said at that time. . . "This is the puppy for you. He is the best that Rokandi has ever produced." He was a stud-service puppy. When we went to the airport to get Jinka, she stepped out of the crate and we were both really, really pleased with her. When Chief stepped out of the crate, he had such a different head - it was more of a round head that anything we had ever owned. Harold was immediately taken with him; he really liked him. I was a little bit reserved about my feeling for him. He was just enough different that I wasn't sure this was exactly what I wanted. I was put off by his biscuit ears and five biscuit freckles. The rest of him was white. We hadn't had any biscuit before, and this totally different head! He was nine months old and came in by United Airlines. It took me a few days to decide, "Yeah, I really do like him." And it was his temperament, even then, that won me over, rather than the head. But now I think that is absolutely the correct head!

Did Helen have an extraordinary eye for the dog?

Yes. She was an AKC judge and so was her father, Layard Spathold. The Drayalene names comes from a combination of Helene and Layard Spathold. Both of them had a very good eye for the dog.

Chief was Helene's father's dog to start with, and this was why we were so slow in getting the dog. He was nine months old when we got him; we had sent our money to purchase the dog quite some time before that. But Helene's father was dying of terminal cancer and we could not have the dog until he actually passed away.

Why did you seek her advice? At that time, did you feel she had a greater knowledge of Samoyeds than you did?

I KNEW she did! Of the dogs she had, I particularly liked Sikandi - this was Chief's grandmother. I thought she was one of the nicest bitches I had ever seen pictures of. I never saw Rokandi or Sikandi, either one. They were doing some nice winning, and they were pretty dogs. They were sturdy, large dogs. By large, I mean Rokandi was a little over the Standard, probably so was Sirkandi, for a bitch. Chief was 23½", right at the top of the Standard. They had good bone and were well-balanced, overall good dogs. I thought Helene had an exceptional eye. She had been very patient - trying to teach me how to groom and how to do all of these things by mail, which isn't easy when you have nothing to compare with.

How did you meet Helene? It sounds like you hadn't had a lot of help from people in the state.

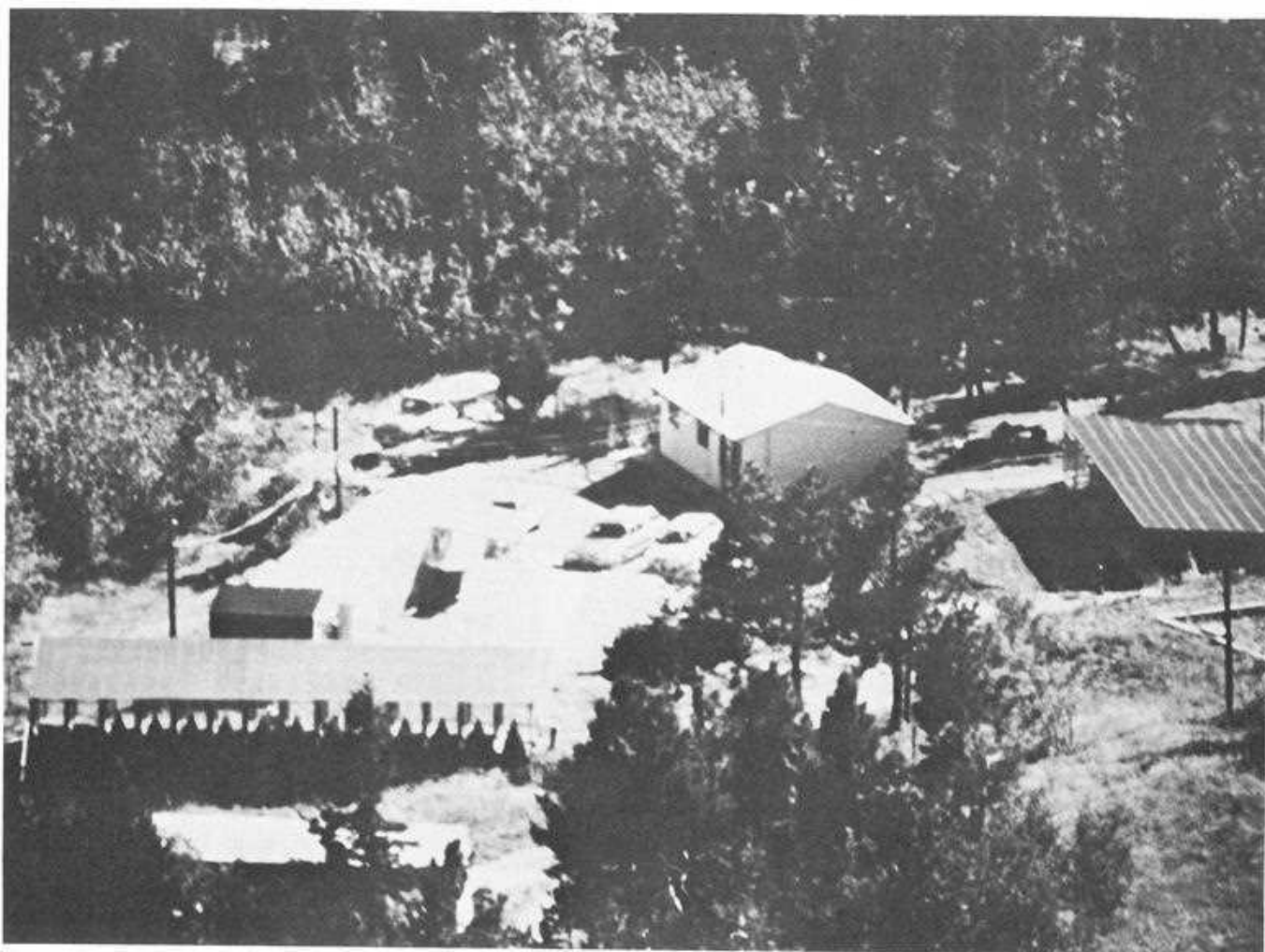
There wasn't anyone in the state at this time! When we first started showing, there were no Colorado Samoyeds shown. There were two people who used Colorado as the pick-up point for their majors. One of them was from Salt Lake City, Utah, and he would bring his own dogs and his own major and come to Colorado in the Spring. This is where he got his majors on whatever dog needed one. And in the Fall we had one from Laramie, Wyoming, a college professor. He used to come down and do the same thing; bring her own competition and pick up majors. They were usually five point majors because back in those days six in one sex made a five point major. These two people never came at the same time; they disliked each other intensely. They had sort of an unwritten agreement that she had the Fall and he had the Spring. (Laughter). Well, we walked in with Fancy and finished her on these five point majors and weren't particularly popular! It wasn't too many years thereafter these two people didn't come to Colorado at all anymore.

Prior to getting into Samoyeds, hadn't you had some previous breeding experience with other animals?

Not before we got into the Sams. AFTER that we raised fox and running Quarter Horses. The fox we raised for pelt and I found it rather distastful to raise something that you were just raising for the pelt, to kill. We didn't stay in that too long. And we raised the racing Quarter Horses. HAROLD: We had the horses for about five years, when we raised them. We kept a couple of them ten years.

What was your incentive to become involved in foxes and horses?

HAROLD: Our incentive was that we lived in the mountains and we wanted to make a living in the mountains. We didn't want to go to town and punch a timeclock. So, we tried a variety of animals to make a living up here. Horses were one of those ventures. Horses were a lot of fun but there was not much profit in them. When we got into it hay was \$18 a ton and by the time we had been in it two years hay was \$40 a ton! When you don't have sufficient grazing and you are having to buy your own hay you can have an awful lot of money in a horse. The only way you are really going to make any money out of horses is if you have a lot of grazing land. We put too much money in feed into them, and vet bills, to come out with any profit. But, we had good bloodlines so we had a market for



The kennel building and two boarding units.

them, got good money for them. We had a direct son of Leo for a stud horse, which at that time was a big name, still is. We bought good bloodlines and did all right with them, but just didn't have enough profit to make it worthwhile.

In all of these animals, didn't you experience difficulty over many years with fertility problems? Maybe our readers would like to hear about them. I find it very interesting.

HAROLD: Our water problem? (Laughter) Yeah, our water problem has been a terrible thing! The simple fact is that no one can raise or produce animals unless the water they give them has sufficient trace minerals in it. In this particular area, and in our particular water well here, there are no trace minerals. Our water is distilled water; it makes excellent coffee but it will not reproduce animals! It took us many, many years and many thousands of dollars to find this out. For instance, one of our ventures was a "cage house:" hens in cages above the ground. Egg business. This is when we owned some other property, we had 80 acres up above, and we had a thousand laying hens. Out of the thousand hens, we got 850 eggs a day. We had a contract with Safeway and they bought every egg we put out. Went into town twice a week to take the eggs in and bring feed back. Everything was going fine until we had a drought year and our well went dry. So, then, we bought this 40 that we have here now, and this distilled water, not knowing it of course. And we hauled water from this 40 up to the 80 to water those chickens. But when our well went dry up there we lost production - and on this distilled water we never regained the production.

The most we ever gained back was 450 eggs a day. We finally just sold the chickens and went out of it, never knowing that the problem was no trace minerals in the water.

Then, again, we had foxes up above on this 80 acres, and they were reproducing. When we sold that property and moved down to this property we brought the foxes down. They got on this property and never reproduced again! Again, we didn't know it was the water so we went out of the fox business. Later on we put in rabbits. We went to Salt Lake City and we bought the best rabbits available. These rabbits were to put out ten every litter. We brought them down here and the first time they put out ten. Then they quit producing! Again, we didn't know it was the water, so we went out of the rabbit business.

And we kept having fertility problems with the dogs. A series of things would happen. . . vaginal infections - we would have them checked and they would have cow infections rather than DOG infections! We'd have weak puppies, we'd have dead puppies; we had a series of breeding problems. We could take a bitch of our breeding here, she could leave here and she would have eight, ten puppies. No problem! And, yet, you take the same bitch and bring her back to this water and within six months she wouldn't produce. It was a very frustrating thing.

Finally we had extensive water tests run, and the government installation out here at Rocky Flats had a machine that could run 50 water tests at one time. We knew someone out there and they accused us of bringing in distilled water. They said it "was as pure as double-distilled water." The only trace



Ch. Silveracres Charm



Ch. Fancy of Critchell Creek

mineral that we had was floride, we had twice the amount of floride that normal water should have. But we had no iron, sulfide, we had nothing. They explained that trace minerals get into water through sandstone dissolving into the water. Our water here at an altitude of 8200 feet comes over solid granite - and granite doesn't dissolve. So the water on this property is double-distilled water with no trace minerals and will not produce any type of animals. When we had the horses we had them on a different water supply (there is a spring up near the barn). They reproduced fine, but they were the only animals we have ever had here on that water.

Anyway, we tried to compensate for this by adding minerals to the food. And we had it balanced at one time and the litters were averaging about seven puppies. And then we changed dog food. The dog food we were feeding was putting out quite a bit of bloat at the time and after we lost a couple of champions to bloat we changed dog food! We changed to Iams which has beet-pulp as the filler rather than soybeans or soy products. But, that threw the mineral balance off again. Finally, just recently, we gave up fighting the situation and we haul our water out of Denver which is what the breeding stock drinks. We have stabilized the breeding program now, but it has been a real problem.

This is incredible. I have never seen anybody so persistent! What did the vets tell you?

HAROLD: They had no answer. We tried several veterinarians, and all they ever did was treat the infections and so forth. But, they could come up with no answer. The popular thought at the time was that it was our inbreeding that was doing it. We did do a lot of inbreeding and from outside one could surmise this was it, but from where we were at. . . There were many occasions where the dogs left here, produced and then came back and did not produce. Or, we would sell them as puppies and they would go out, and then we would get them back at some point, and after being on this water for six months they would not reproduce again.

But we were determined to make a living up here in the hills and that is the reason we kept trying animal after animal. We kept the dogs through all those years, mainly because of Doris. We have a boarding kennel here and the boarding is the mainstay of the business. The water doesn't bother the board dogs because they are not here that long, and they are not here for reproduction. We have sufficient water; it is just a matter of reproduction.

When did you put your kennel in?

HAROLD: This is the third kennel that we have had up here. Our first kennel we put in in '54 down on our first piece of property. Then, we put in a larger kennel in about '56; we had the kennel when we had the chickens. Then we bought this property in 1958 and put our first units in - and another unit a couple of years later. We are still small; we have only 40 kennels, plus other facilities.

After you got Chief, was your next litter when you bred him to Jinka?

DORIS: That was our next breeding, yes. That was the litter that was our first all OFA-clear litter. That litter had Charm, who finished, and Dondi, who was owned by the Hays, who finished. Stormy did not finish. He was well-started with a major and some minor points. But, unfortunately, he was lying under the car one day and his owner backed over him; it didn't kill him or break any bones but he never moved correctly after that. He always turned one leg out badly, so he was not shown any more. And, then, Mona Lisa who is probably one of my biggest regrets in the dogs. She was Harold's favorite of the litter. We kept both girls and Charm was my favorite. Mona was probably a better bitch than Charm - and that is saying a lot for me because Charm was ALWAYS my favorite. But Mona was one of those girls that was a super brood bitch; she really produced top quality puppies. When you breed a bitch it is difficult to get her out and finish her. So we kept showing other dogs and finishing her kids rather than her; she never finished. She was major pointed though. And then there was Polar in that litter, who was never shown. He was a big boy, well over-standard.

Out of Chief and Jinka's puppies, 12 of them, all 12 got their OFA normal. There were five in the first litter, three in the next (this was where our water started catching us). All three of the second litter finished. They were Rogue, Tish, and Chalinka. Chalinka is back in New York and one of the few Chief/Jinka kids still living; she is quite old now. The next litter was a litter of one and this was Big John owned by Joan Lueck. I believe the next litter was two, and the one after that was again one.

That's doing it the hard way!

DORIS: That's doing it the hard way! (Laughter)

HAROLD: The thing that confused us so much on the water was in the early days we fed tremendous amounts of cottage cheese. We used to get the day-old cheese from the dairy. We were feeding 50 pounds a week, in those days. The cottage cheese had so much water



that we were actually picking up some of the trace minerals that we needed through the cottage cheese. We didn't realize this until later. Then, when the dairy closed and our supply of cottage cheese was cut off, our reproduction went to hell!

DORIS: I kept telling Dr. Kirkley and Harold that it all went back to the cottage cheese. They would analyze it and say, "No, there is nothing in cottage cheese that would affect the production." We went all through the diets; everyone agreed that we were feeding a good diet. I kept going back to the fact that we started getting infections, started having no reproduction when we quit the cottage cheese! So they said, "OK, let's try powdered cottage cheese," which, of course, didn't work because we weren't hauling in any water in it! That was a very disheartening time.

HAROLD: We finally started hauling Denver water just last year. We fed minerals for a couple of years before that. It was in 1976 that we had it stabilized - then it went to hell again.

So you fought the problem about 20 years, then?

DORIS: Not the full 20. We did on the other animals, but not the dogs because of the cottage cheese. That was another deceptive thing because the foxes didn't produce, the rabbits didn't, but the dogs did until Sealtest closed and moved out of Colorado in about the late '60s.

Was that your most successful mating, that of your original two dogs?

DORIS: It was one of the best. But then we turned around and using one of those girls, Mona Lisa, with Bear, one that we got in from the Northwest, we had a VERY successful breeding. This was an outcross, but it was one of our successful outcrosses. Even today we have one of Bear's sons, Tiger, and he is a champion.

How many champions has Chief sired?

DORIS: 42 American champions. We just had a new Canadian Champion finished, Chant, Shirley Marshall's. This gives Chief 11 Canadian and 6 Mexican Champions. There are several other Chief kids that will finish; there are several of them around that just need a major. I have two that I should finish eventually.

HAROLD: He'll probably hit 50 AKC champions before his record is finished.

Have you had any extraordinary bitches?

Yes, Jinka was. We only had fifteen puppies out of Jinka - total, and out that fifteen, ten of them are champions. Percentage-wise, that is pretty darned good. I'm not sure whether the top-producing bitch in the breed has eleven or twelve champion get.

For a long time, Jinka was top, and then she was tied with a couple of others. But Archangel is top now and I think she has eleven, so she has one more than Jinka. Of those other five of her puppies that didn't finish, Mona was pointed, Stormy was pointed, Knight was pointed, and Gi Gi was pointed. The only one that Jinka produced for us that was not pointed was Polar. . . and he never went into the show ring.

From your original two bitches, do you have any of that bloodline remaining today?

DORIS: No, none. However, one of Fancy's puppies just recently passed away. She was owned by a neighbor and she was sixteen years old.

So all of your stock descends from those first two and you went out and brought in one other stud?

DORIS: Bear.

Do you have anything else in the kennel from anywhere else?

We do now. We have Batu and his mother, Setathi, from Florence Watson, the St. Croix kennels. We had planned on using Batu with GoGo and one of GoGo's daughters, so when Florence decided to get out of dogs for health reasons we were delighted to get Batu rather than paying stud fees. And, Setathi reminds me so much of my original dogs, Tish and Kelly, that we also have her.

We do have quite a bit of an outcross in GoGo. I co-own her with Joan Sheets, who is no longer active in dogs. When Joan went out she had two bitches, both of whom I now have. That's GoGo, Champion Frostfires Gladriel, and Jinni, Champion Silveracres Jinni of Frostfire. When we got them neither of them were champions. Jinni was pointed but GoGo was not. GoGo is out of the Sam O'Khan dogs, the mother being Ch. Sam O'Khan's Sali Sarai and her sire being Ch. Konkado's Sun Dancer. Sun Dancer is a grandson of Chief, so it is not a total outcross.

What is your breeding philosophy with regards to inbreeding, linebreeding, and outcrossing? What have you found to be most successful?

DORIS: Well, we have found our inbreeding to be most successful. I was very concerned about inbreeding the first litter. This first inbreeding occurred because a friend wanted a puppy out of Chief and Charm. I really had reservations about this, but she really thought she wanted one. This was Jan Kauzlarich in California. (Charm was a Chief daughter.) So after much soul-searching we said OK. We did the breeding and got three puppies out of it - two girls and one boy. The only one to finish was the boy. He went up to Clarey's in Canada and they shipped him back to me. I got all but one major on him and Joan Scovin



Ch. Silveracres Elegance



Ch. Cnejinka



Ch. Silveracres Kandi Bear

got the last one. This was Am. Can. Ch. Silveracres Winter Chief, Teddy. Jan and Wally came out to pick their puppy and they ended up taking both girls. They took one for themselves, Chiefa, and the other one for Madeline Druse. Wally and Jan's was pointed, but she was never finished because she met a very untimely and strange death. She was a very happy,

outgoing girl and just about everything that Wally and Jan have comes down from Chiefa. Well, that litter did turn out quite well so we decided that it wasn't quite such a scary thing, to inbreed - if you knew what you were inbreeding on. After that, we have done quite a lot of inbreeding, with just enough outcross here and there to bring in the things we want.

Mark and Melody are one of our more inbred litters. That, again, was a litter of three. Chief is their sire, their grandsire, and their great-grand-sire. Then Kathy Metter came along and she wanted a puppy "just like Mark." By this time, Chief was gone. We still had the mother, who was Jinni, and we said, "OK, we'll do what we can for you" - so we bred Mark back to his mother. This came out very well. We got three very nice puppies out of it, and they are now fifteen months old. That is probably the most inbreeding we have done.

We have seen close inbreeding done on Bear. We never inbred on Bear because he came in as an outcross dog. He was extremely pretty, one of the super glamorous type dogs. But we couldn't find out anything about him. Trying to get information out of the area was practically an impossibility. Therefore, not knowing what was in back of him we were afraid to linebreed on him. John Roberts in Missouri has some extreme linebreeding and inbreeding on him and has come out very well. But, not knowing, we were afraid to take the chance.

As far as wildly outcrossing, we rarely ever do. We consider it a wild outcross if it is a grandson to a grandmother or something. To us, that is getting pretty far out.

Have you done any brother/sister breedings?

DORIS: Half-brother and sister, very, very often. Full brother/sister, no. We never felt that we would improve anything that way. You are not increasing your gene pool - you are just, gene-wise, breeding exactly what you already have.

So your inbreeding has been primarily daughter/father?

DORIS: Yes. Half-brother and half-sister are very

common. We do this for an awful lot of other people who have our stock and come back to breed here.

Have you ever had problems from inbreeding where you had to put puppies down?

DORIS: From inbreeding, no, I don't think so. Are you talking malformed puppies, this sort of thing? No.

Some people say that over time you get decreasing size and decreasing fertility. Would you say that has been your experience?

DORIS: No. Mark, who is from our very inbred litter, is 23½", just as his sire was. He weighs just about the same, too. He is a little bit rangier dog, but not much. He is, in fact, the nearest to Chief that we have ever bred. His puppies are extremely uniform. The dominance really shows in his get.

What advice would you give to other people in terms of inbreeding and linebreeding?

DORIS: Know your bloodline. I don't think that you can ever judge one bloodline by another. I like to go out and look at other bloodlines when they have a new litter of puppies; but, as far as helping people grade, I would not do that again. I really learned this when one of the girls locally here had a Bearstone bitch that she shipped back and bred to the Sulu male who is basically Baerstone. And Lori said, "Come and help me grade my puppies." I said, "Sure, sounds like fun." Fortunately, she had already pretty much decided what she thought was pick and this is the way she sold them. The one I considered to be pick of the litter turned out, as they grew up, to be, probably, third pick. These puppies developed very differently than mine; they have different faults than mine have - and I was looking for the faults mine have in these. It doesn't work that way. Each bloodline is very different, they mature differently. So my only advice is to know your bloodline and know what you are doing in it.

Are you breeding, currently, the kind of Samoyeds you want? What does the future hold?

DORIS: Not entirely, no. Everytime we come in with something new, a new bloodline, we pick up the good points from it, which of course is what we want, but, invariably, you pick up a few things that you don't want. Then you have to breed that out. It just doesn't work out that you get all good out of anything.

Have you been pretty successful with picking up the good that you want without too much of the bad?

DORIS: Pretty much, yes. We have held our soundness; one thing we have always had has been extremely sound dogs. But I wanted a prettier and more glamorous type of dog. The frosting on the cake! I wanted blacker points - we have never had a problem with lip-line breaks or never had an eye break but I wanted a black, black nose. We have always had the liver nose. I wanted less biscuit. So what I was after was a dog with the same structure that Chief had, with a showier disposition, jet-black nose, and the pure white coat. I have not achieved this. When we get the black points and the white coat, we seem to lose some in our gait. So, no, we are not producing what we want.

Where did the name Silveracres come from?

DORIS: We like it. We thought it described the dogs. We started out thinking we would call the kennel "Dor-Mac" because at that time everybody called Harold "Mac" so this was to be a combination of our names. Our very first puppy out of our very first bitch was Humphrey of DorMac. The AKC accepted it and he was shown under this name. However, there was a Bulldog kennel using the DorMac name, which we didn't know. The first time we entered the show ring and the name was published in the "Gazette" the Bulldog people promptly applied to have the name registered. They got it, of course, because they had been using the name for years. That took care of that combination!

Then we moved up to the 80 acres that Harold was talking about and there was this pretty little creek running through it, Critchell Creek. So, then, we started out on that. But, we really didn't stay up there too long. It was a little too far back and at that time we were both still working in Denver. Harold as a salesman and me as an accountant. So, we decided that we really didn't want to carry that forward. This is where Fancy's name came from: Fancy of Critchell Creek.

So after looking around, we liked the name Silveracres. The first litter of puppies to carry the Silveracres name were Ell Tee's Rhythm Rave and Humphrey's dogs. There were Silver of Silver Acres, and Frosty Fang of Silver Acres, Melodious of Silver Acres. It was spelled as two words. Then we applied to have it registered. AKC said no, they would not register any more kennel names carrying the names "Silver" or "Gold." There were too many of them in use. We could use it, but we couldn't register it. So, we went along for several years using "of Silveracres." We had built up a really good reputation for soundness and all this. We went to a show one day - someone pointed out the fact that in the German Shepherd ring there were all of those "Silver Acres" dogs. We muttered a bit, what are you going to do about it? Then, one day coming home through Morrison, we saw this station wagon with a sign reading "Siberians of Silveracres." I again applied to AKC, and, again, got it bounced. About six months later we got a call from this gal and she said she wanted a refund on her dog. She had this badly dysplastic dog. I didn't recognize the name - and, if anything, I am a record keeper! I talked to her a little bit longer to try to see where she had picked up one of our dogs. Turned out it wasn't one of our dogs; it was a German Shepherd! But, we were Silveracres Kennel so she wanted a refund on her German Shepherd from us. So, I wrote to AKC and shed a few tears about our good record and all of this. We had been x-raying for years; our very first dog was probably OVER x-rayed. She was x-rayed clear back when they read in the "frog" position, and when they came along with what they called the "butterfly" position, she was x-rayed again. Every time she came out clear, but we kept x-raying her in every new position! I wrote all of this to AKC and, lo and behold, they registered it. It was one word, but they registered the kennel name. This was about 1962.

What has been responsible for the success of Silveracres?

DORIS: Trying to deal ethically with the people we sell puppies to. We do not hold strings on puppies, we will not buy a dog with strings. I almost didn't get Chief because Helene wanted to hold so many stud services on him. We have tried to keep our dealings clean and above-board. Sell sound puppies, and do just a little bit more than just our half of it. HAROLD: And we win. That is the only reason that any show kennel has a market: because what they sell wins. If what they sell doesn't win in the show ring then they don't maintain a market very long. It is like any other business. What we have sold has won well so we have maintained a good market. And, as Doris said, we don't make any deals. When we sell a dog, we sell it 100%, and if we buy a dog, we buy it 100%. There are no "breed-backs," no strings. That is what causes all your hard feelings in dog deals. Later on, the strings that are held... when people sell a dog and they have puppies coming back or stud services coming back or this sort of thing. At the time, they don't think much about it, but so often this causes hard feelings later on. We don't do any of that, period. We just don't hold any strings. We sell a dog and, of course, we hope they are going to show it, but if they don't there is nothing we can do about it. By only making clean



Silveracres Charm, Silveracres Rogue Krabri Vok (1968)

deals we feel that we have kept our name clean; it has gone a long way toward doing that, anyway. We feel that if you make any kind of deal where the purchaser has to give you back anything at a later point you open up the possibility for hard feelings. Therefore, we make no deals whatsoever, with anybody, at anytime, for any reason. When we sell a dog it is 100%. We feel that this has saved us many, many problems with people.

Quote "deals" unquote are really common in dogs. Do you feel that that REALLY hurts a lot of people?
 DORIS: Very much. I have seen people who were good friends when the deal was entered into, and a couple of years later, over these same deals, they don't even speak. I think this can be very, very bad.

We have had one bitch that we have taken a "stud service" puppy from. This was Saarinen Sabacoa. She was a Chief daughter and the first time the people came up and wanted to breed her to one of our males, we bred her. They paid the stud fee. We couldn't get over how extremely pretty this bitch was. We watched the puppies grow up from that first breeding, watched the care the people gave. (Their name was McLaughlin, no kin). So, the next time they wanted to breed her. . . well, they didn't actually come up to breed. They talked about how they would like to breed her, but due to finances and so forth. . . This was the only time we ever voluntarily bred a bitch for a puppy. This puppy was Kandi Bear, Ch. Silveracres Kandi Bear. We were very pleased with the litter, and every year thereafter we bred Coa

for pick-of-the-litter puppy. That is where our Ellie is from, our Jinni came from, Ann Hogue's Caress came from, Mear's Cotton, Riesburg's Saarina, and Ken Coors' Quito. It was a very, very successful breeding. But we watched these puppies grow up, the care the people gave, and entered into this very cautiously.

Then, I have leased bitches; but, this was always with an AKC WRITTEN agreement. So far as deals of selling and getting a puppy back, we never do.

Do you feel that the "puppy back" agreements are the worst?

DORIS: No, I don't think they are any worse than the "stud services" back or any of the other "deals." Some of them work out very successfully, but they have to be entered into so cautiously and you always have the human element to deal with - which can change from month to month.

What other factors have been important in Silveracres' success?

HAROLD: Well, Doris keeps in communication with a lot of people around the U.S. She has been in it a lot of years. She has been an officer of the Samoyed Club of America for many years. I think probably her communication with people all across the United States is a help.

DORIS: This, and the fact that we live with our dogs. Our dogs are our life. The boarding kennel supports us. We live in a mobile home and we have ten dogs in it. They have a doggy door; they have full access to the house (which is sometimes not so good; we may lose a book or something!) but our dogs are not kennel

dogs. You would think with seventeen dogs they would all be in the kennel except maybe one, but that isn't true. Ours are all house dogs; they get their socialization.

And the communication. I try to keep good relations with all of the people who have our dogs. I am a "record keeper." I know exactly how many bitches each of my boys has bred, their number of puppies, and I try to keep up with as many of the get as possible. I find the people I have dealt with are very good after the puppies are gone. They do send me a list of the new owners along with the dogs' registered names so I can watch this in the "Gazette." Otherwise, you don't really know what your stud dogs are producing.

Tell us some of the interesting statistics on your kennel.

DORIS: That I would have to have the records on.

How many litters have you bred?

DORIS: With eleven breeding-age bitches right now, this year we have had five litters. One of them was a one-puppy litter. So that is not really overpopulating the world! We don't breed that much. I have no idea how many litters we have bred; I could go out and count them up and figure it out that way.

HAROLD: A lot of years we have only put out three or four litters. Many years we haven't put out ten dogs. When we were having those small litters with that water problem, a two or three-puppy litter was more common than anything else. So there have been a lot of years when Silveracres hasn't put out ten or fifteen dogs all year.

DORIS: Then when you figure you keep some of those...

Would you estimate 100 or 200 litters?

DORIS: In the 23 or 24 years, probably. That is a lot of years. Of course, the first years we weren't putting out a litter a year even. I did count up and we have produced 52 champions.

These are dogs bred here?

DORIS: Yes, bred here. Dogs where we are the breeder. That doesn't count the ones we have finished of other peoples' breedings - like Chief, Tiger and these.

At this time we have seventeen dogs. Twelve of them are champions. A couple of others are started.

How important has advertising been in the success of Silveracres?

DORIS: I think it has been very important. We use a negative-sell type advertising. And Harold's photography, of course, has helped a lot. We never go to a specialty or anything like that that we don't get comments on Harold's pictures, particularly his puppy pictures. We run an ad every time whether we have a puppy to sell or not; that is not the idea, you are selling the name.

HAROLD: There is an old saying that "a picture is worth a thousand words." I photographed dog shows for seven years; I quit in 1973. I have some pretty good equipment. I do very little of it anymore; it is just for our own use. I do believe that a good picture is a good sales tool and having been in the sales field for some time, I believe in selling the "sizzle" rather than the "steak!" It has paid off for us. As Doris said, we use a "negative-sell." I believe in selling an idea rather than a product. If we run a puppy picture it speaks for itself; and if we run one of the boys, without all the words, he is "at stud." It is just a type of advertising that I believe does better for us, and builds a better image for us than putting a thousand words with every picture. I believe that most people look at pictures rather than read all this stuff anyway. At least I do! Just basically, good pictures do help give your kennel a good name, especially when you have a registered kennel name, such as we do. Several books have used my pictures. THIS IS YOUR SAMOYED has my photography on the front and back covers, and

twelve other pictures in the book. The newest one out, by Jan Kauzlarich, has Chief on the front. Advertising like that you can't buy, either. That is nationwide advertising that will sell dogs for you from now on. We like good clean advertising, low-key. Negative-sell. If you want a Silveracres dog, fine - if you don't, the hell with you. That is the attitude we have always had with it and, at this time, we have a good market for our puppies.

Getting back to this communication. How much time would you estimate you spend on correspondence in Samoyeds?

DORIS: I probably spend eight hours a week. This is on correspondence on letters that come in, club stuff.

So you take it very seriously.

DORIS: Very seriously, yes.

Hasn't that time been cut down considerably since you had your brochure printed up some time ago?

DORIS: Yes, that helped a lot! For people who write in just asking questions, it is very easy to drop one of the brochures in the mail. That answers as many questions as possible.

Tell us about the brochure.

HAROLD: Well, I made the brochure up. Doris thought it was a little "loud" for our normal type of advertising. (But, I probably do brag a little more than Doris.) But I think "if you got it, flaunt it" and Chief is the top producer of all time so why not let people know it. And it is a common thing around the country. In any locality you have a "strong" breeder and if someone local wants a puppy, they build up their bloodline and push down the other bloodline. When they are pushing down the other bloodline they sometimes "hedge" or "fudge" a little bit on facts. So I feel that the brochure is good. By putting the "facts" about Silveracres in the brochure, then when we send it to people, there isn't any question about what we are saying. It is down there is writing so we can back it up. There aren't any questions about what we sell puppies for, it is down there in black and white. I think it is very beneficial to us in keeping that clear line of what we do and what we don't do. It just saves problems. For instance, we don't sell one puppy to one person for \$500 and sell the litter-sister to someone else for \$50. Our prices are there in black and white - what we sell show quality for and what we sell pet quality for. Again, we just try to avoid problems. If somebody buys one for a certain price on one end of town, and then somebody buys one on the other end of town, they don't meet at a show two weeks later and say, "Oh, somebody really took me to the cleaners!"

And I believe the brochure is beneficial in keeping the reputation clean by publishing these facts. It is the same thing as that "we don't make any deals."

Exactly what does your brochure contain?

HAROLD: It tells when we started. It states our prices on our puppies, who pay the freight and this type of thing. It states that we deal in cash, not in credit. We don't sell on a "nickle down and a nickle a week." When you buy from Silveracres we have the money in our hand before we ship the dog. On our stud service, it states our policy. The same fee to everybody. It states our hip dysplasia guarantee. What we'll replace on it; and, in general, the policies of Silveracres. It says how we deal, it states the prices, and it gives our guarantee.

Are there a lot of pictures in this brochure?

HAROLD: Just a couple. We've got one of Ellie there, one of Chief, one of Mark. Just three pictures in the brochure.

So how many studs do you have right now?

DORIS: Six, but one of them is a youngster who's unproven, unx-rayed, untried.

What do you charge for a stud fee?

DORIS: \$200 for our champions, \$150 for our non-



champions. All of them are OFA-certified; all of them have their eyes checked; all of them are checked twice a year for brucellosis.

What exactly does one get for \$200? Does that include boarding?

DORIS: That includes five days free boarding and picking up and taking back to the airport. The owners pay any veterinary bills which are incurred, but we've only had one or two cases where there have been vet bills and these have been very special cases where you're running blood everyday or something to try and catch a bitch who really has fertility problems.

How did you arrive at \$200?

HAROLD: Figured that's all we could get. (Laughter).
DORIS: Our stud fee is low when compared to the national average and it probably should be higher because our show-quality puppies are \$300. In fact, a couple of the prominent breeders around have been complaining for a couple of years that our stud fee is about a hundred dollars lower than it should be. But, most of our stud services come by air. By the time the people pay the air fare out and back I think they need that extra hundred. We figure this gives us better quality bitches than if we priced it so high that the only ones who could use our boys were the local people who didn't have to pay the air fare.

Do you feel that a reasonably priced stud fee has contributed to the success of Silveracres?

DORIS: Yes.

HAROLD: You take Chief. Nobody ever paid more than one hundred fifty dollars to use Chief. We kept his stud fee low deliberately. We could have gotten more for Chief, especially in later years, but we kept it low. We were after that top-producing record. I believe that if you put a reasonable price on your stud fee you will have more good bitches to breed to. I don't believe in any give-aways, however. I believe it's a heck of a lot of money.

DORIS: Instead of getting a higher fee we put more restrictions on the bitches we breed. We want the bitch to be of good quality; we won't breed a pet quality bitch. There are enough pet quality dogs around without putting the Silveracres name on more. We have not gone to the policies that some have of breeding only champions because some dogs that don't have their championships still have a lot to offer the breed. An example could be Coa, who now has nine champion get. She was never in the show ring and very few people ever have seen her but she produced some very fine quality puppies. I think you have to look at the bitch and determine what she has to offer before you breed her.

Well, how do you do that if someone is shipping one in from New York state?

DORIS: For something like that I want the bitch to be major pointed or to have someone who really knows Sams to say, "Yeah, this is a good quality bitch."

What percentage of the inquiries that you have do you turn down because of the quality or the pedigree?

DORIS: Or hips.

HAROLD: I can give you the figures on Chief for one year. In one year we turned down fifty percent of the stud services on Chief or, rather, to Chief. Most of those, probably ninety-eight percent, were because of dysplasia. If anyone wants to breed to Chief or any of our dogs the bitches have got to be x-rayed. And, the x-rays have got to be clear. As I said, we turned down fifty percent of those people who wanted to breed to Chief because when they x-rayed they were not clear. So, when you're talking about dollars and cents and you're feeding as many dogs as we are and have the feed bill we have, and you're taking up as many of the kennels as we do with our dogs when we could be boarding where the bucks are, you're talking about a lot of money turning down that many dogs. But, you have to remain ethical. It is hard sometimes to turn down the money, but we've done it all through the years. It comes down to trying to maintain a clean reputation.

DORIS: We have turned down champions that were not x-rayed clear.

Have you ever turned down a champion that x-rayed clear?

DORIS: No. We did postpone one. She came up with a brucellosis positive and we didn't get her cleared in time for the breeding.

So you require a brucellosis test too.

DORIS: Yes. And we must have a brucellosis negative.

Is this a common practice among breeders?

DORIS: It's getting to be more common. We had a bad scare once when we thought we had a bitch in our kennel with brucellosis. We brought her back from the Michigan specialty to breed to Chief and even though she had a negative reading on a brucellosis test ten months prior to that time we decided to run a current test. It came up positive as did a second test. We promptly sent the dog back. Well, after much testing it was determined that the bitch was a negative. She had much, too much protein in her blood, which was giving a false positive reading on the test. Eventually, she was bred to Chiefie and had four very nice puppies which will be hitting the shows back East in the next couple of months. That was the one case where we turned down an OFA champion bitch for breeding.

When and why did you begin requiring the brucellosis test?

HAROLD: Well, it started showing up on the East coast. We figured that with all the traveling being done by dogs nowadays that pretty soon it would start showing up here. We've spent too many years developing the studs we have to risk contaminating everything we've got for a stud service fee. Brucellosis can knock your stud out where he'll never be any good anymore and we won't risk any stud we've got for a fee. We require a test done within the last ninety days.

So how long have you been requiring tests?

DORIS: About two years.

HAROLD: Just since it's got to be a problem.

Can you describe what happens with brucellosis?

DORIS: Well, the dogs are sterile, for one thing. It's also very contagious.

HAROLD: You can't cure it. You might compare it with a venereal disease in that it's within the reproductive organs and it may not show from the outside. The dog may appear healthy, but when you breed a female to your male and the male gets it, it may knock him out. You may be able to knock it down with

antibiotics but you can't cure it.

DORIS: It's not contagious just through breeding. It can also be passed on through the bitches' urine. It's a dangerous thing. A kennel could be wiped out. Anybody using a dog at public stud should have him checked twice a year because you don't know where you're going to come into contact with it.

When determining whether or not to accept a bitch, which is more important - genotype or phenotype?

HAROLD: They are equally important.

DORIS: I think they're probably equally important. What matters is what the people are breeding for. I like, of course, to linebreed and I like the bitches that come in to be linebred. Occasionally you get a total outcross. And, when we are going to outcross I want to know why, what the people are looking for.

Have you every accepted bitches that were of themselves very poor quality but had extraordinary pedigrees?

DORIS: No.

Have you ever accepted an extraordinary bitch with a very poor pedigree?

DORIS: Yes. As a result of those, I don't think you get as good puppies. But if one shows up that's really an exceptional bitch it's hard to turn her down. If she's got all of your requirements and the pedigree is just really zilch we probably will breed. We have done it and will probably do it again. I don't think you get the quality puppies out of them that you really should, however. Occasionally, there is a flier who really does well.

HAROLD: We're in the fortunate position that we deal mainly with knowledgeable people. Most of the bitches that come in here come from knowledgeable people. It's your novices that you have problems with.

What do you sell your dogs for?

HAROLD: We keep a fairly low price on our dogs. We get \$300 for our show quality dogs and we get \$200

for our pet quality. We have on occasion made a mistake and the dog turned out not to be show quality. We have refunded \$100 and told people, "OK, now you've got a pet quality" and they've been happy with it. As I said earlier, you sometimes have problems with novice people and you do when it comes to price. You get these people who sell their dogs for \$500-600 and those people who buy those dogs go out and breed it and expect to get the same price for their puppies. They run their ads and they may sell one or two and the rest get older. They've got a kennel full of six-month puppies and they're mad. They paid a high fee for a dog and they can't get it. We've seen it time and again. They sell maybe one puppy out of a litter for a high price and then dump the rest of them for \$150. In general, when you start selling your puppies for \$500-600 you may find one or two people who will pay it, but then if that dog isn't a Best-in-Show dog the people aren't happy. The sellers quite frequently get the dogs back if they're not perfect or Best-in-Show. And we've heard of cases where the seller can't come up with the \$500-600 to return to these buyers. It's a problem. I guess it's just a matter of how you want to deal.

Do you sell the pick of the litter for anything more than the other puppies?

HAROLD: Pick of the litter? No, the exact same price as the next one and the next one.

DORIS: We linebreed and inbreed so much that it's rare when we can look at a puppy and say this is pick of the litter. If we've got a litter of seven puppies we try and match our show quality puppies with the people getting them. Different people want different things in a puppy. Now, we do have a waiting list on our puppies. That means that whoever's at the top of the list gets first choice of a puppy. That may not be my pick of the litter. Three different people may each feel that they got pick of the litter.

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SATURDAY, MARCH 3, 1979 (NOTE NEW DATE)
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Sweepstakes: Jean Brown
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Obedience: Laddie Scheffel

Club Headquarters - Excel Inn of Milwaukee
115 N. Mayfair Road - Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53226
Telephone 414-257-0140

Banquet Information - Celine Kohlman
3905 Oak Park - Deerfield, Wisconsin 53531
Telephone 608-764-8001

Superintendent (both shows) - Roy Jones
P.O. Box 307 - Garrett, Indiana 46738
ENTRIES CLOSE FEBRUARY 14, 1979

Who's to say who got pick of the litter?

Surely there are litters, even inbred litters, where a puppy really stands out?

DORIS: Once in awhile, yes. In outcross litters, yes, there is one that's different.

If you were going to go out and buy a puppy for show or for breeding would you rely more on what you saw in that puppy or in the pedigree?

DORIS: The pedigree. I would rather have a lesser quality puppy with a good pedigree than I would a super puppy with a poor pedigree and by "lesser quality" I still mean show quality. I am as interested in breeding as I am in showing. The super puppy will do very well in the show ring but when it comes to producing it's going to produce that pedigree.

Of those 52 champions, how many have been pointed or finished by you?

DORIS: Maybe 15. It's just a guess.

How important has really good handling been to the success of Silveracres?

DORIS: Not that important.

HAROLD: A good dog's really more important than good handling. Of course, today's competition is really tougher. There are many more dogs than there were twenty years ago. It's a different ballgame.

DORIS: Grooming is so much more important now that it was. When we first started I didn't know how to groom. We bathed the dogs, we brushed them - sort of, and we took them to the show ring. At that time I thought having a freshly-bathed dog was really important and I can remember taking damp dogs into the show ring. Get up the morning of the show and give the dog a bath so she would be spotlessly white. That doesn't do much for having a really fluffy coat. I almost didn't do any trimming (we still don't trim whiskers).

I did take a damp dog into the show ring and I did win with her once in Kansas. We got into our motel at six o'clock the morning of the show which was to begin at eight. Having well-trained dogs, we didn't have them on leads. When I got over to the door and turned around to call Simba she started coming to me the quickest way possible, which was straight across the motel swimming pool. She jumped in and Judy's dog got so excited she joined her. We had two sopping-wet dogs and show time in two hours. Since all we had was one little hand dryer we prevailed upon the motel to furnish us with extra towels. We toweled and dried and went to the show. I couldn't believe it when I got a major. The dogs looked pretty good on the surface, but when the judge touched them the finger-marks stayed on the dogs. The hair went down and it was damp. But, I did get a major that day and it's the only damp dog I've taken in the ring in many years. Anyway, grooming is so much more important now than it used to be.

Do you think grooming is more important than handling?

DORIS: Yeah, I think it is.

HAROLD: Well, you've got a lot of good trimmers today. You've got a lot of poodle groomers in this business. By the time they take a Sam and get through with it it looks like a different dog that it did when it walked in there.

What are some of the things being done?

DORIS: They take the skirts off the bitches to shorten the body. They trim the tuck-up. If a dog has no tuck-up they can trim it in and a really good groomer can take a straight stifle and get the look of a pretty good stifle. Now, a good judge will catch these things, but he only has about two minutes to judge and the optical illusion becomes important.

HAROLD: You can take a dog with no neck and trim it in where it looks like it has a neck.

DORIS: I have to breed better dogs because I'm a lousy groomer. I do a fine job when it comes to bathing and brushing, but I don't do very well with the



Ch. Silveracres Trademark

scissors. I trim my hocks and clean-up the feet and that's all I do.

Are there people spending five or six hours just to groom a Sam for a show?

DORIS: It takes three hours just to blow a Sam dry.

Do you think that all the extra grooming and trimming is a fair practice?

DORIS: I don't see anything unfair about it.

HAROLD: If you can make your dog appear to be better and the judge thinks it is, more power to you. We are, of course, in the breeding business and what we want to do is breed better dogs.

DORIS: And trimming them doesn't make them breed any better.

HAROLD: Trimming down to give an illusion of something that the dog isn't may win you shows but the quality of the breed is lowered when that dog is bred. We don't see any satisfaction in that.

Surely you've seen instances where poor handling has kept good dogs from finishing?

DORIS: Yes, in Dobermans, for instance. Maybe it's because of better handling or because there are more of them in the ring.

HAROLD: I don't think you have as many people in Samoyeds putting out the money to make top dogs as you do in some of the other breeds. For example, we just heard that the woman who has the top Doberman spent eight thousand dollars making that dog number one. That's a lot of money and I'm quite sure there's no one in Samoyeds putting out that kind of money in a year trying to make a top Samoyed. Not only do we not have that amount of money spent in Samoyeds as in some other breeds, we don't have the "go-for-blood" competition that you see in some other breeds. You've got a few that are after the top this or that but I don't think the Samoyed ring is as competitive as some other breeds.

Have you seen any instances of superior handling making it possible for a dog to finish that otherwise might not?

DORIS: Yes. I believe that a good dog will make it through, but that a poor dog will finish faster with a good handler. It's also possible for a good handler to finish a poor dog.

HAROLD: There's no question that good handling is

important.

What advice would you give to other people about handling a Samoyed?

DORIS: You must have a good rapport with your dog and start training him while he's young. Most important, however, is the socialization that your dog must have. Conditioning is important. Some dogs are naturally easy-keepers and some aren't. A lot of this is heredity, but not all of it. You get them in the best condition you can.

Do you condition your dogs?

DORIS: No. We only have two or three that should be exercised. Most of ours get all the conditioning they need in the exercise yard.

What else in terms of handling is important?

DORIS: I think most people overbait. I also think it's important to have the dog under control at all times.

You spoke earlier of socialization being important to a show dog and important to winning. Do you think the socialization that you do here is one of the reasons you are successful?

DORIS: Yes, I think socialization is extremely important. I think it's vital not only for a show dog but for a good pet. We spend a lot of time with our puppies. They see people regularly and are handled by a number of people by the time they are five weeks old. We want them very people-oriented. Individual attention is important. I play ball with them, set them up on the grooming table, and get them used to having their teeth checked. Pick up the feet. . .

At what age do you start stacking?

DORIS: About six weeks. Whenever you brush them, you stack 'em.

Do you think there are a large number of Samoyeds being raised in kennels or by novices who are not being properly socialized?

DORIS: Yes. It's very difficult to work full-time and to socialize a litter of puppies. A lot of people take the time, but a lot of people don't. They're in a pen, they're raised in a pen, and when they're seven weeks old they're sold. Hopefully, the new owners get them out and get them socialized.

Do you think it's important that socialization be done at a young age then?

DORIS: Yes, it's very important. You cannot fully make it up later. Their personality is set very, very early and if you wait until a puppy is four months old before you take him out of a kennel it's almost impossible. Now, if a puppy has had the early socialization and goes to a new home where he's left out in the back yard and not taken any farther and you get him back in a year he will return to that early socialization. You can bring him out and he will make a good adjustment. I'm a firm believer in Pfaffenbergers's book THE NEW KNOWLEDGE OF DOG BEHAVIOR. That is the "Bible" of raising puppies as far as I'm concerned.

At what age do you ship your puppies?

DORIS: At eight weeks. The only time we've shipped them earlier has been when experienced and knowledgeable obedience people have wanted them at six weeks. This has only happened on two occasions.

Do you keep many puppies beyond eight weeks of age?

DORIS: Just those we're keeping for ourselves. We have a waiting list on our puppies so they're ready to go. Occasionally we will keep them longer for the new owners if they're on a trip or something. It's better that I keep them here than to have them sit in a kennel for a month. These are rare occasions though.

At what age do you evaluate your puppies and what do you look for?

DORIS: We start at birth, but I'm not one of those rare individuals who can look at a puppy at birth and say "This is my puppy." At five weeks I start



looking at the head which to me is very important. At seven weeks you can really start watching your angulation and your gait. Get down to the puppy's level and start rolling a ball very slowly and watch the puppy's gait. The puppy will be moving freely.

What makes a puppy pet quality rather than show quality?

DORIS: Several things. You can have straight shoulders, straight stifles, a bad bite, a bad tail set, or, occasionally, you can have a double-hook tail. We do have tight tails in our line and recently we put a puppy out as a pet that was super in every way except for his tail. This dog could probably be finished with a knowledgeable, experienced person but we put him out as a pet.

Can you tell temperament?

DORIS: Yes. You can tell heredity temperament by six weeks of age. Your environment plays a big part in temperament and you just hope that the new owners will continue socializing the puppy and do all of the things which are important in keeping a good temperament.

You can tell the aggressive and the shy puppies. I prefer to have one right in the middle. I do not want an aggressive puppy, although an aggressive puppy probably does better in the show ring if properly handled. They are harder to live with, however. On the other hand, I do not want a shy puppy. We haven't had a hereditary shy puppy for many years, not since our second bitch.

Have you ever had a puppy you thought might be too aggressive for the show ring?

DORIS: No, we haven't. We also have not had one that wanted to fight everything.

Have you ever had to put a dog down because of being overly-aggressive or having a temperament problem?

DORIS: No, we've never had an overly-aggressive one. Way back, we did put some puppies down because of them being hereditary shy. These were from our first Mona. I have seen some adults that probably should be put down because they are overly-aggressive, but I think that had the dogs been handled differently and socialized early and correctly the problems would not have occurred. It's very unfortunate.

You were, before AKC changed it's designations, a licensed all-breed handler. Tell us about your handling.

DORIS: I handled a lot of breeds - at least two or three times. The reason I got my all-breed license was to cut down on the paperwork. The paperwork with the limited license was just too much. I found that

I had better rapport with some breeds and enjoyed handling them more than other breeds. With the exception of the Whippet, for example, I am not that fond of smooth-haired dogs. I much prefer the long-haired dogs and that poses a problem because of the amount of grooming involved. I would rather spend the extra time it takes to groom and have dogs that I actually like and enjoy, however.

I handle very little. I don't like to work that hard at it and handling is hard work. I like to go to the shows and enjoy them; it's not a job for me, it's an enjoyment.

When did you start handling for other people?

DORIS: Many years back. I handled a few Sams to start with. In the last ten years I have handled only one or two other Sams and those were exceptional cases. I always felt that I was going to a show to enjoy myself and to show my own dogs. If I was handling somebody else's Sams I obviously couldn't handle my own so I would take other breeds. I believe the first breed other than a Sam I took was a Siberian Husky. I've handled several other breeds since then but now about the only dogs I handle are my Sams and your Borzoi. Occasionally I'll take something else, but, primarily, this is all I have.

You don't take ten, fifteen, twenty dogs to a show?

DORIS: I've never taken over five, ever. And that includes my own. When I take five that usually means that I have just one of my own and four that I'm taking for other people. That is my absolute maximum. That's all I feel I can do and give the proper attention to the dog.

Are you actively looking for other dogs to handle?

DORIS: No. Usually when someone calls me about handling I refer them to another handler. I don't attend that many shows and I'm just not interested in handling that many dogs. With AKC having so many rings going at once it's hard to avoid conflicts. I recently took a Sam, a Borzoi, and a Cairn Terrier to a show and would you believe that I had a conflict with all three breeds. Someone else took in the Sam and the Cairn while I was in the ring with the Borzoi. No, I don't want any more dogs than I can personally handle.

Have you had any bad experiences with people that you've handled for?

DORIS: No, I've been very, very selective in who I've handled for and I've never really had a bad experience with a client. They've all been very agreeable people. If they weren't, I didn't handle their dogs. I not only have to like the dog, I have to like the owner.

Harold, tell us about the dog show photography business. How and why did you get started in it and why did you get out of it?

HAROLD: I'd just as soon leave that out of the interview. I've got a lot of hard feelings about the deadbeats. The Samoyed people were the best. But you've got the deadbeats/old bitch element that costs the photographer so much. Most of the photographers around here when they don't collect for a picture send the next one C.O.D. Well, most of my work was in Canada and I couldn't send C.O.D. up there, so if I had a deadbeat I either had to send it or not send it. If you don't send it you eat it. It gets a little expensive, particularly if it's color. You see, I broke color photography in Canada for dog shows. I broke color for Denver.

DORIS: Harold, for the whole country. There was no color photography when you started.

HAROLD: In this area. . .

So you're the one I have to thank for getting color pictures for ads instead of black and white?

DORIS: That's right. (Laughter). Literally.

HAROLD: I broke color in this area. In the days when I started photographing dog shows, which was

about 1967, most everybody was working in black and white. Black and white was cheap and is still cheap when compared to color. It could be developed by yourself; it was fast and cheap; you couldn't make a mistake. With the cost of postage and the mailer included you only had about 50¢ invested when you sent the picture out. And, the pictures were selling for about \$5. But color is a horse of a different color. There are different processes or techniques now and it may be easier for a photographer to develop his own color now, but at that time you had better have about \$10,000 worth of equipment or stay away from color printing. Getting color pictures is a delicate art. So you had to have a processing laboratory do it for you and the amount of money that you had to invest to go in and photograph a dog show amounted to about \$700 a show. Out of that was my air fare, motel, rental car, processing and so on. It was costing me between \$400 and \$500 a show just for the color processing. That was just for two 8x10" color pictures. Each negative had to be printed and if you took a bad shot or took two or three shots you had to eat the extras. If you took three shots of a dog you got six 8x10 color shots back from the processor. You had to pay for all six of those so you lost money. Even if the customer paid for his shots you lost money on the deal. It was that expensive and there was that little profit in it for the color. The boys in black and white had no problem, but color was expensive. The time element was also a factor. About the quickest I could get color back was in about a week. Now the boys who have their own processing plants themselves, if they're big enough - if they have a hundred shows, to where they can have their own color setups or if they're in with someone who will give them fast service--then, they've got it made. But, color is expensive. It's the difference between black and white costing a nickel and color costing a dollar. The film you use is very expensive, the care you have to take of it is expensive, your strobe lights that you have to have are expensive. They've got a few things out now that they didn't have in those days, but it's still high. In the old days you could go in and photograph a big show and only have fifty dollars tied up in black and white and if you were ambitious you could have the prints in the mail the next night.

If black and white was so much more economical, why did you go to color?

HAROLD: To get the business. And once the people got color, black and white didn't do anything for them. They still use black and white for advertising, but most people prefer color. The magazines used to complain about the color prints. They said you couldn't get a good picture off of it. Now, I'll bet the majority of the pictures you get are in color, aren't they?

The vast majority of them.

HAROLD: Yes, I broke color up in Canada in 1967. But what I ran into was the losses on the color. You've got your no-pays.

There's a twenty-five percent turnover rate in the dog shows each year. For every hundred people at the show this year, only seventy-five of them are ever going to come back. There will be twenty-five new ones next year. So, in dog show photography you have the time element. You have to get the picture to them and you can't qualify a person where credit is concerned. Photographers don't get along well enough to have a universal deadbeat list. The dog shows are full of professional deadbeats. And there will always be another photographer around they can beat out of their money.

The ones that hurt you most are the ones who use a photographer to impress a judge. They're trying to politically influence the judge through photography at the photographer's expense. They'll have a picture

taken and when they get it they'll send it back to you or have a copy negative made and have several made someplace else and then send it back to you. You've got a bunch of these.

You've got the people who can't stack a dog up right or perhaps are dissatisfied with their smile and you get those pictures back. It's the return business that really makes you mad in the dog show photography business. The photographer can't stack the dog or take a lot of time. In the breed ring the photographer has to be fast. You've got to get the picture and be out of there in 30 seconds. And you can only get what's out there. You can't make them look like a Best-in-Show when they're not. Then, there are the people who are always trying to get a better picture than what they've got for advertising. So they have several taken and keep sending them back. But, meanwhile, the photographer has the same expenses. Everytime he snaps that lens he has to pay to have those two 8x10's printed, for the mailer, for that postage. Everytime he snaps that thing he's shot two dollars. So when you get enough people playing games the good people aren't sufficient enough to make it profitable. You can't do it unless you have enough of the big shows to show a profit on volume and you usually have to buy off someone to get the shows to start with.

Different photographers have different policies on that. I got to the point where I was giving away fifteen or sixteen free pictures to the officers of the club to buy the show. By the time I added up all the costs it got out of line. Between the freebies, the deadbeats, the returners, the judge-impressers, the ones searching for a little better shot for advertising than they had, and the others, you're only getting paid for half the pictures you take, half the pictures you send out. The profit becomes marginal.

Did you every refuse to take a picture for anybody?

HAROLD: No, you can't. Oh, there have been a few times I've just flipped my flash rather than my shutter. They thought they got one when they didn't. (Laughter). And I got some bad shots.

Going back to the deadbeats. . . their clothes are different, they've got on a different wig, their hair is different. It's sometimes difficult to put a name with a face. You've got to go back into the ring two or three times to get the deadbeats lined out. They'll come with a different dog; the dogs are co-owned with a different person and it's listed in the other person's name. . . these people are experts at conning the photographer. It's amazing how many there are who are really expert at conning a photographer. In the black and white days that was fine, the losses were minimal; but, with color it's two and a half everytime you push the lens.

DORIS: It's more than that now.

HAROLD: Yes, it's more than that now. But, you had two and a half there, plus the mailer and the postage. Then, if you want to break down your transportation and other costs you're running between \$3 and \$4 for every picture. That's your investment. So it doesn't take too many people to bring that profit line down. It was really a problem.

Were there quite a few people who keep the pictures and didn't pay?

HAROLD: Quite a few. There were a lot of good people in the business. You got a lot of nice letters; you got a lot of people who ordered reprints where you made some money. But, you had so many bad people who took advantage of the photographer that it soured me.

How long were you a photographer?

HAROLD: Seven years. I had just enough shows to starve to death. I took forty shows to make it a profitable business and I had fifteen at the most. I would have



Ch. Polar Star's Nika Frost

made forty shows in 1973, the year that I quit. I would have gone all the way across Canada. I also would have had some in the U.S. I had Colorado Springs for seven years, by the way. It was the only show I had in Colorado. The old-timers were running the Denver shows and had the old-time photographers in with them. I couldn't bust in so I was flying from Denver to British Columbia while the Denver folks had people flying in from California. Somebody was always flying in. The reason I got out of it was economics - it was just a matter of economics.

What kind of interesting experiences did you have?

DORIS: Getting the cameras into Canada.

HAROLD: Yeah, getting the cameras into Canada. On the big shows I used to take Doris with me. We would split between buildings or inside and outside. On one trip to Vancouver, British Columbia, I took Doris with me and we were stopped at customs. It seems as though some local photographer had complained that I was coming in and taking his business away from him. I showed the customs officials my contract and explained that I wasn't going in there looking for work. I was asked to come in and photograph the show. I also told them that my agreement with the dog show people was such that I would stay there and take every picture that needed to be taken and that I would be the only one there who would take pictures for money. Well, the officials told me, "You can't bring your cameras in. You have to rent your cameras here in Canada." I said, "You can't rent this kind of equipment here. This is specialized equipment." Then, they asked me how much it was worth. When I told them \$1500 they said, "Fine. You have to pay us \$200 duty on it." And, I had to pay that \$200 - in cash. For that \$200 I got a little slip of paper that said I could bring my cameras into Canada for five years. \$200!

DORIS: Fortunately, we had some friends there who were able to cash a check for us so we would have some money while we were there because that just about took all our money.

HAROLD: It took practically all of our cash to get in there. You know, a lot of Canadians don't like Americans. Just like anybody else, they want your money, but then they want you to leave. A lot of Canadians resented an American coming in there to photograph the show. But, anyway, I did the show.

Then I ran into trouble on the way back.

The American side claimed that I was going to Canada, buying the cameras at a cheaper price, and bringing them back to the States without paying any duty on them. As it wound up, I had them registered on both sides of the border with serial numbers. So we got by that hassle.

Then, we had another one. This was about the time all the skyjackings were going on and there was always one guy at the airport who wanted to open the case when it had fifty rolls of film in it. Here was the film going everywhere. Plus, it had to go through all those x-ray machines and everytime it went through one of those I took a chance on my film being smoked-up. There were different problems.

What was the last straw? What made you decide to quit?

HAROLD: Well, as I said, if I had stayed with it one more year, I would have had the forty shows I figured would make it a profitable full-time venture. But, when I washed out I just wrote the fifteen people I had and told them, "I quit." That was in 1973.

I gave it up when the boss I had at my selling job here told me that I had to take one or the other. You see, for a two-day show I would probably be gone four or five days. I wasn't making enough out of the photography so I gave it up.

Did you get to know many judges when you went to the shows?

HAROLD: Yes, I got to know a lot of the judges. I associated with the judges. There's a difference in Canada though. I might stay at the same motel, go out on the town with them, or go to dinner. If you were a photographer it was OK to associate with the judges. If you were an exhibitor you might hear "favoritism" but not if you were a photographer. I got to know some of them on a personal basis. I enjoyed listening to their comments.

What were some of those comments?

HAROLD: There were comments about the dogs in the ring, about how hard it was sometimes to pick the best from the worst. There were comments about some woman who might have been trying to impress them in a sexual manner, the kennel club member who was monopolizing their time and making other demands on them, and so forth. A lot of the comments were interesting.

In Canada all of the judges sit together and watch the groups being judged and the photographer sits with them. They all watch and you hear the comments of whomever you're sitting next to.

DORIS: Tell about the half-time entertainment.

HAROLD: Yeah, some of the shows up there have half-time entertainment, between breed and group. Sometimes it's rather elaborate with Chinese dancers and all kinds of things.

There's also a difference in the drinking laws. Drinking is part of a dog show up there. The bars are open and they're right next to the ring. By group time some people are pretty well looped. Some of the breed clubs even have their own rooms where the drinking goes on. Drinking is more synonymous with dog shows up there than it is in the United States. I guess CKC here in Colorado has a bar set up now, but it's not like it is in Canada. My goodness. You walk back to the handler's area up there and you see bottles here and there. It's drink a little, brush a little, drink a little. . .

The shows are also smaller up there. I would go up and photograph a show of only two hundred dogs. You have more winners though. My gosh, there are three winners for everything. You've got a Best in Show, a Best Canadian Bred in Show, and a Best Canadian Bred Puppy in Show. You have three winners, you have three breed winners; you have three group winners; you have three Best in Show. There are three winners in everything so there were more winners to

take pictures of. I could go to a two-hundred-dog show and take as many pictures as I could at a thousand dog-show down here. Here, you have about the same number of pictures if it's a five-hundred or a fifteen-hundred dog show. You've just got so many breed winners and so many group winners. Now, when you've got three times as many winners it makes a difference.

Were there differences between breeds and how people paid?

HAROLD: Yes. For instance, the Borzoi people usually had money and they bought a lot of pictures, a lot of reprints, and they paid good. They made a photographer a lot of money. In Canada the Afghan people were the deadbeats. They beat me out of more money that any other breed up in Canada. It sort of ran in groups.

Another difference between the shows up there and down here is that you have a lot of gazehounds, or sighthounds. You have a gazehound specialty the night before a show and then have races out back on the show days. They have straight tracks and would just run the heck out of those dogs.

There is also competition between the different clubs in decorating booths. Some of these booths were quite elaborate. Money prizes were awarded and photographs were taken. One time I took pictures of twenty-five dogs all in a row in front of an African motif area. I think the dogs were Rhodesian Ridgebacks, but I don't remember for sure. I wound up selling six of those pictures. Lost my shirt on it.

Multiple shows are also common. This helps the photographer. I've never gone up and photographed a show that didn't have two days in the same building and quite often there would be three shows in the same building for three days running. Three kennel clubs would hold their shows in the same building. Quite often I would go in on a Friday night when they had the specialties, photograph the shows on Saturday, Sunday, and often Monday, and be in the same building the whole time I was there. There would be different kennel clubs involved, but the Canadian Kennel Club was smart enough to realize that people had to travel a ways to a show and that one set-up was probably a good thing. They usually have many more shows close together than we do.

On the other hand, there were advantages to working in the States. I could go down here to Colorado Springs and make several hundred dollars in a day. It was a much more profitable show. There wasn't all that traveling involved. And the people down here paid much better; I was local and if they didn't pay they knew I was going to be around. Besides, you could send pictures C.O.D. down here. You have a certain percentage of deadbeats but I didn't lose near the money down here that I did in Canada. Colorado Springs was a very profitable show for me.

As a dog show photographer, who was the most interesting judge you got to know?

HAROLD: Oh, I think probably old Percy Roberts was. He and I were staying in the same motel one time in Vancouver and I got corralled with him. We went to a bar and he ordered a drink. When the waitress came around he said, "Where's my drink?" She says, "It's right here." It was dark in there and he couldn't see it. Of course, by that time he was practically blind anyway. He still had a sharp mind though. Anyway, the waitress came around again and he repeated the question. Again, she said, "Right there." The third time she grabbed his hands and actually put them around his Tom Collins. (Laughter).

When we started for the room he tripped over a chair. He said, "I don't see too good from the sides anymore, but I can still see good straight ahead." (Laughter). Later that night Percy reminisced over his early years when he used to go to England

to purchase dogs and when he handled dogs. He was a very interesting fellow to listen to. He was talking about thirty or forty years in dogs and he still had a very alert mind.

Did he purchase dogs in England for resale in the United States?

HAROLD: Yes. For instance, someone here would say, "I want a good Boxer," and he would go to England and buy one, acting as their agent. He was one of the early ones in the business.

Do you remember any other photography problems?

HAROLD: One time I was shooting a Poodle specialty in Canada and the people were complaining about the shadows behind their Poodles. When you're shooting with single lights, as any dog show photographer does, with one camera and one strobe, you have to throw a shadow. There has to be one somewhere. When you go into a studio there's back-lighting which knocks out a shadow, but in single light photography there has to be a shadow somewhere. They couldn't understand that. And, of course, people with black poodles don't understand that they're extremely hard to photograph - at least to show anything, any detail. Black just absorbs the light and it's hard to get detail.

DORIS: You might mention some of your last shows up there, your percentage of portrait work.

HAROLD: Yeah, as I became more well-known I did start doing more portrait work. I did more and more of that. We would go outside at the shows and find some shrubbery to use as a backdrop. I sold a lot of those. Those were profitable pictures. People never returned those. In fact, at one time I used to take backdrops to some of the matches and take portraits with different color backgrounds and it was very profitable. I've gone to a match and taken fifty portrait-type pictures. The dogs didn't have to be winners. The people just wanted a good picture of their dog. That was in the early days when I started color and used to do one for \$5.

What's the best dog you ever bred?

DORIS: The best dog we ever bred? Well, my favorite dog was Charm, Ch. Silveracres Charm. Better dogs we've bred. I think the one that's out right now, Silveracres Holiday Belle, may be every bit as good as Charm. She just turned two years old and she has tremendous potential. We've bred some very nice boys. Mark is an exceptional boy, so is Billy. I personally like to show the girls so I tend more to think the girls are better. Overall, I think we have bred better bitches than we have dogs.

Is that characteristic of your line?

DORIS: Yes, I think it is. For better bitches. Now, Bear, Ch. Polar Star's Nika Frost, produced better boys than he did bitches. But, Chief and his line produced better girls.

Harold, what was the best dog you ever bred?

HAROLD: Oh, I don't know. Probably Charm was the best dog we ever bred.

DORIS: Better than Rogue?

HAROLD: Yeah, I liked Charm better than Rogue. I liked Charm's gait just real well. I wasn't too fond of her head, but she had a real gait on her.

What was so outstanding about her gait?

HAROLD: It was the fact that she moved perfectly true. When Charm went in the ring and the judge looked down the row she didn't get much attention, but when that judge started gaiting them individually you could just watch the smile start to come on the face of the judge. With many judges, anyway. She had a gait that was really out of this world. She moved the truest I've ever seen a dog move.

DORIS: She was also one of those self-exercisers that never had to be conditioned.

HAROLD: But it's like the rest of the good ones. Seems like you can never reproduce the good ones.

DORIS: She got Best Opposite Sex as a veteran at two different specialties.

What is correct Samoyed movement?

HAROLD: Oh, they have a lot of different definitions for it in the Standard, but the main thing is that the leg should be straight up and down when they move out. As they move faster the dog is supposed to go into a single track. There are very few dogs who can move out straight up and down. It's very rare.

DORIS: One of the biggest faults in the breed is lack of reach in the front. As a whole, the breed has pretty good rears, but they don't have such good fronts. They don't reach. They have a good driving rear and no reach.

Can this be said of most breeds?

DORIS: Possibly. It hasn't been too many years ago when we didn't have good rears either. Now, you rarely see a cow-hocked dog, a double-hocked dog.

For our readers who don't know, what do you mean when you say a double-hocked dog?

DORIS: I didn't know until I went to my first Northwest Specialty about eight or nine years ago. I went with Joan Sheets, who is a superb teacher of structure and the faults of the Sam. She kept using this term and I didn't know what she was talking about. When I asked her about it she said, "All right, just watch what I show you when different people come to the room to visit and we go over their dogs. Don't comment and we'll talk about it later." Sure enough, she had invited different people over for this reason. On this one dog she commented about what a nice dog it was and picked up a foot and she bent it back. I was astounded at how far back it went. She did the other one and, later, after the people left she said to me, "Take Charm's leg, her back foot, and raise it up, and bend it like I did that dog's foot." It would not go; it would not bend back like that. She said, "OK, you'd have to break her leg to bend it like I did that dog's that just left." That's what I refer to as double-hocked.

Is that a structural deficiency where the hock attaches to the second thigh?

DORIS: I suppose that it is. I really don't know, but the hock was actually bent back.

HAROLD: Actually bent both ways.

DORIS: That's right. Double-hock may not be the actual correct term, but I don't know what the correct term would be. The older breeders around know what you mean when you say double-hocked. You rarely have a judge that checks for it. I have seen Bob Ward, Dolly Ward, and Kathryn Tagliaferri check for it. There are probably other judges who do, but these three I've seen check for it. Until I knew what double-hocked was, I didn't know what they were checking for. But, they do it as kind of a routine thing.

I saw Dolly find one in the ring one time. She was casually going over the dog, she picked up the foot, bent it back, and did a double-take. She really looked at the dog again, bent the hock again - and the dog didn't place in the ribbons. Somebody who didn't know what she was looking for didn't have any idea what she had discovered in that dog. It's not always something you can see in a dog's gait. Occasionally, you can see it in the gait, but not always. You can overlook it.

You said the front extension in a Sam is not what you would like it to be. What do you want to see in a side gait? Do you prefer an extreme side extension?

DORIS: No, not extreme. I don't want them to over-extend.

What do you mean by overextend?

DORIS: I don't want them reaching out so much in front that it's awkward. It must be a flowing movement.

Do you suppose that rears may be better now relative to fronts because they're easier to see, for the average person to see?

DORIS: Yes, and also because we've concentrated on

them so hard because of hip dysplasia. For so long people said, "Oh, I'm sure that dog is dysplastic. Look at that poor rear." It was rarely true. For it to show up as a poor rear a dog has to be so dysplastic he's crippled. Some of the better moving dogs have been dysplastic and some of the poorer moving dogs have got their OFA-excellent rating. So, the hip joint conformation was not all that good for judging sound hips.

What are you looking for in the front assembly of a Samoyed, structure-wise?

DORIS: Ideally, for a forty-five degree layback.

How can you tell this? By feeling? By looking at the dog? Isn't it pretty hard to tell on a lot of Samoyeds because of the tremendous amount of coat?

DORIS: You can't by looking at it. You must feel it. You should be able to feel it. Even in a puppy.

You can still, however, have a forty-five degree layback and not have a good moving front. The separation in the shoulders can be too wide, the elbows can be out; all kinds of things can be wrong and you can still have proper layback.

How much attention do you pay to the front assembly? Is that one of your main criterion in selection?

DORIS: No, I probably have not paid as much attention to it as I should have. The head is one of the first things I look at. We've never had a problem with ears so I've never paid that much attention to a puppy's ear. Fronts, yes, we're paying a lot more attention to fronts now that we used to.

Are there any things that you see in Samoyed puppies that might bother some people but, in fact, are not problems in puppies? For example, toeing-out is common in Borzoi puppies. Most of them do that.

DORIS: A lot of Sam puppies toe-out until the chest starts to drop.

So then you wouldn't be worried about that?

DORIS: I don't like to see it. I like to see Sams straight, even as a puppy. If it's straight as a puppy and it stays straight you don't have to worry about it. But, I have found that it's more of the toeing-in that correlates with the chest drop. When the chest drops the toes go out.

At what age does the chest usually drop?

DORIS: Unfortunately, on a lot of them, not until they're about two years old.

Do your observations on a seven or eight week old puppy usually hold?

DORIS: Yes.

Some breeders believe that there are only certain ages when you can evaluate puppies, like eight weeks or a year, or at other times. What are your feelings on evaluating puppies at three or four months of age?

DORIS: I think it's impossible. They go through that real gawky stage and nothing fits. The legs get long, the tail gets long, and nothing fits nothing. Occasionally you'll get one that just stays beautiful and they just get bigger, always in the correct proportion. They're delightful because they're ready to show at any time. At six months you can go in the puppy class and expect to take some points. Sometimes they'll fall apart later though. A gawky puppy should just not be evaluated at all.

Is there anything else you would like to comment on?

DORIS: I think we're seeing an extremely different type of head in the ring today. You can walk in some rings and see two different dogs where the only thing the dogs have in common is their color. They're just different in type. I think we're losing our typeyness.

What is correct Samoyed type?

DORIS: I think it's probably somewhere between the dogs in the show ring. Somewhere down the middle of what we are seeing. We have a lot of people in Sams now who are interested in racing and they're

breeding for that. They're getting a bigger, longer, rangier type dog and losing our type in the process. They're getting taller dogs, they're getting thinner-built dogs. The dogs are in good condition and they are moving exceptionally well, but the breeders are losing our type. We're seeing quite a bit of this. And, you will see some judges who will put them up because they're not that familiar with type and they are judging on movement. They are moving very well, for the most part.

So when you talk about type you are speaking of the overall conformation of the dog and not just the head?

DORIS: Yes.

Can you give us a description of the ideal Samoyed head?

DORIS: One with a shorter, broader muzzle, a dark well-set eye with an almond shape, broad back skull, a medium ear. I personally prefer the little, tiny ear, but it's not what the Standard calls for. I want not only a broad muzzle but a deep one. We're losing quite a bit of our underjaw on some dogs. I think that pretty well covers it.

What do you consider the ideal height to be?

DORIS: I want the bitch to be right at twenty inches at the withers and I think 22½ is a very good size for a dog. That is right in the middle of the Standard and it will cover most judges. I don't like to see a dog that is over the Standard.

You don't like to see 24"?

DORIS: Not really. I've got one but I would prefer to have him a little shorter.

How about the bitch?

DORIS: I want the bitch to be right at the top of the Standard. Our Standard doesn't allow for any overlapping of the dog and bitch size. The bottom of the dog Standard is the top of the bitch Standard. There is no overlapping. I feel that you aren't going to get a medium-sized male without having a large female. I like the females at the very top of the Standard and the males in the middle.

Do you feel that's something that should be changed in the Standard?

DORIS: Yes. I think there should be a little overlapping. I think the bitches should be allowed to be a little taller.

So you have no objections to a 21 or 22" bitch?

DORIS: No. The bitches that win the breed are usually in the 22" range. Charm was 22". I've had larger bitches. Tish was 23½". She finished her championship in five shows and won Best Opposite Sex over two well-known bitch specials in the process.

Do you think there is a trend towards the larger dogs not only because of their racing suitability but because they win more?

DORIS: Yes, definitely. We're seeing a lot of dogs over the Standard, males and females. It's so rare to ever, ever see a dog under the Standard. I know we certainly never owned one. We've had a lot of them that have been over the Standard. Part of it is nutrition. We feed our dogs better, they're going to get bigger. People are getting bigger.

Do you think there should be a height disqualification?

DORIS: No. I think a disqualification would cause the breed to lose too many really good dogs. I would just like to see the breeders watch the sizes a little closer and try to get them a little smaller. We have attempted to breed ours down, we were getting too big. Our dogs are closer to a medium size now than they were ten years ago.

Won't they just keep getting bigger if there isn't anything to stop it?

DORIS: Hopefully not. Size has been a controversy ever since we first joined SCA - in 1954, I think it was.

Is there anything else about the Standard that

you think might merit reconsideration?

DORIS: No, I think, all in all, we have a pretty good Standard.

What's the top winning Samoyed that you ever finished?

DORIS: I don't know. Probably Charm. She had three Group 2s, and Group 3s and Group 4s with very little campaigning.

So you show primarily in the classes?

DORIS: Yes.

Do you think that "making the top ten" has any value?

DORIS: Oh yes. I don't attend enough shows to try for that, however.

HAROLD: We don't have the money or the time to play that game.

DORIS: So we go for top-producing instead. We breed good dogs and let other people show them for us.

But aren't there a lot of people who breed to a winning record rather than a producing record?

DORIS: Some, yes, but not that many. I think some people give a lot more thought to their pedigree than others.

Have you ever done any obedience work with your Sams?

HAROLD: Not for many years. The last dog I put through for a C.D. was in 1961. Haven't put one through since and I don't even know the rules anymore.

DORIS: We have one C.D. dog Terri Bednarczyk put the C.D. on. We've got another one, Kip, who has two legs on his C.D. He's a little old to finish and he had the legs when we got him back from Beckeye Austin's estate. That's all the obedience we've got in the kennel. I like to see obedience and I think it's a good thing, good for the breed. Not that Sams do all that tremendously at it.

About how many bitches are bred each year here though your stud service?

DORIS: About thirty. We have four champion males and Chiefie. Probably thirty, outside.

Do you assist in these breedings in any way?

DORIS: We're there. We never just turn them loose and leave them, but we prefer to free-breed our dogs when possible. Our boys know what they are doing. If we get a bitch that's afraid or flighty and they need assistance the boys look around for us to hold her head so they don't get bit. We've found that if we can free-breed we get the best conceptions. So normally, we're just present.

What about whelpings? Do you do anything to help the bitch?

DORIS: As much as possible, we let her whelp naturally. We want to do as little as we can to interfere. We don't want to lessen the natural ability of these dogs to breed or to whelp. If the bitch cuts the cord properly we let her do that. After she has whelped the puppy, cut the cord, and nuzzled it for a little while I take it and wipe it and mark my book. If she will do everything for herself we let her. Only if necessary do we help her. And, within 24 hours the bitch and the puppies are checked by our vet.

Do you ever supplement your puppies?

DORIS: Yes. We have a couple of bitches that are very slow to bring down milk every time. This has not been necessarily true of their daughters so I don't think it's a hereditary factor. But, they are slow and we supplement the puppies. We've had a couple of times when the bitches' milk has gone bad. We, again, tube-fed the puppies.

Do you think tube feeding is superior to bottle feeding?

DORIS: Always. We haven't bottle fed for about fifteen years. I had a puppy then that was about three weeks old that we had to bottle feed for some reason. I got a little impatient one day, squeezed the bottle a little too hard, and got milk in the

lungs. The puppy died and I haven't bottle fed since.

Some people say there's a danger of getting milk or formula in the lungs if you tube feed. Some people even say it's barbaric.

DORIS: If you read about it it sounds barbaric. Even the first time you see it it doesn't look all that great. But, this is the way they feed premature babies so I don't see where there's anything wrong with it, or barbaric. It's very efficient; it eliminates some traumatic experiences. You can get up in the middle of the night, feed a nice-sized litter and go back to bed. You're in better condition. The puppies are in better condition. They get full feedings and I think it's the only way to go.

What do you normally supplement and how much?

DORIS: We use the liquid Esbilac and the amount varies. It depends on how much the mother is giving them, if the milk is bad or if there just isn't enough. Normally, it takes 90 cc for each pound of body weight. This is over a 24-hour period. If you're going with supplementation from the start, about 10 cc's is enough to start with. It depends upon how much help the bitch is. If you're doing it all on your own you'll have to feed about every two hours. At least when they're brand-new.

When do you wean your puppies? How?

We start weaning them whenever the puppy starts sticking its nose in the mother's feed dish. And since we do feed Iams we just start letting them eat the mother's food. When the bitch is about halfway through whelp we change her from Iams to the Eukanuba and add no supplements. We've found it to be a complete diet in itself and have had very good luck with it.

Do you feed any other supplements to your adult dogs? Anything for coats?

DORIS: No.

Speaking of supplements, are there any secret ingredients or products that you use in washing or grooming your dogs?

DORIS: No. The shampoo I use depends upon how dirty the dog is. If a dog is getting ready for a show he has had a bath, hopefully, within a reasonable length of time. If he's not just really grubby dirty we use Ring Five Bright White Shampoo. It gives a beautiful sheen to the coat. If they're dirtier you use a different product. I like the Show Sheen for the males' tummies and yes, it does give a slick appearance and a slick feel. I have yet to see a judge reach under a male's stomach, however, to check the hair condition. With this, you keep from having any urine stains and it keeps your dog nice and white.

What advice would you give to someone just starting out in Samoyeds who wants to become a breeder?

DORIS: Get the best dog you possibly can to start with, particularly with the bitch. Everybody always wants to start with the male because they're bigger and prettier, more impressive. Then, they want to get a bitch later. Get the bitch first because you can breed to any dog in the United States. Good bitches are hard to come by and you want the best.

How does a novice select a good bitch?

DORIS: Determine what you really want this bitch for. Do you want her to be a show dog? A show dog and a brood bitch? If you want her to be just a show dog then you're after top winning records; you don't care what the dog is going to produce. Your best bet then is to get one about a year old that you can look at and see what it's going to be. Somebody else already put that first work into it. Expect to pay more for it.

If you want a show dog AND a producing dog, by all means watch your pedigree. Go for top producing dogs behind the bitch as well as the bitch herself. You can take a flier out of a poor pedigree and come up with a winner if that's what you want to do, and a lot of people do, and your pedigree isn't that important to you. But, if you want a producer buy

by pedigree.

What kennels do you consider the best today?

DORIS: There are quite a few really good kennels today. They're from coast to coast and everywhere inbetween. I'd hate to start listing kennels because I would forget somebody who would be offended. There are quite a few really, really good kennels. There are more now than at any other time.

Do you feel that the popularization of Samoyeds has hurt or harmed the breed in any way?

DORIS: No, not in either way. They're still ranked between the 28th and 32nd mark, which they've been the entire 25 years we've been raising them. So, really, they aren't any more popular - at least percentage wise. I would hate, though, to see them in the top ten. I would even hate to see them in the top twenty. Then, I think, you can get hurt.

How long have you lived here in your present location?

DORIS: Twenty years, this year.

And you lived on the eighty acres how long?

DORIS: A couple of years. We had the dogs before we even moved up there.

How old are you?

DORIS: I had a birthday yesterday. I turned 49. Harold is 51.

How did you get involved with The Samoyed Quarterly?

DORIS: I had been a member of SCA for many years and I had this idea that the bulletin should be sent to judges and should be open for subscriptions. There are too many people who own Sams who are not members of SCA and who had nothing they could subscribe to about the breed. For one reason or another they were not or could not be members of SCA. There are a lot of people who own dogs with ILP numbers and those who just don't want to join a club for their publication. This was brought up to the people who ran the bulletin and was rejected. I've been handling Don Hoflin's Borzoi for some years and when he got The Borzoi Quarterly I suggested that perhaps the Samoyed people could use a publication like The Borzoi Quarterly. Don thought it over for awhile and thought, "Why not?" So, The Samoyed Quarterly was started. It is sent to the judges and it is available by subscription. There is plenty of room in the breed for the club bulletin and a good breed magazine.

What's the worst thing that every happened to you in Samoyeds?

HAROLD: Getting into them. (Laughter).

DORIS: Let's see. . . The biggest shock was finding Rogue dead. All our males have just died natural deaths, from old age or whatever, and Rogue died of bloat. He was heavily depended upon in my breeding program so that was probably my biggest blow. Fortunately, we still had Chief and we did save other sons of his. That was probably the worst thing. He was a nice group-placing Sam. He had some Group 2s and a couple of Group 3s. . .

What's the best thing?

DORIS: Just the enjoyment.

HAROLD: Listening to them bark 24 hours a day. What could be better than that. (Laughter).

DORIS: It's kinda nice when you come home and they're always so happy to see you. They're not as fussy as people and they're always happy.

HAROLD: They're always glad to share their hair with you, your clothes, furniture, car. . .

DORIS: And instead of having some nice little sports car, of course, you always have a van. It's all those things that make it different. And you always find a head stuck in your lap.

Do you think dog people are different?

DORIS: Yeah.

HAROLD: You might say that, psychologically, a lot of them prefer dogs to children.

DORIS: Dog people share with their dogs, which keeps

them from being so self-centered. The show people are more competitive, especially those who give up a Bronco game to go to a dog show.

What is the most dogs you have ever had?

DORIS: Normally we run about 12 to 14. We have over that right now because we saved two youngsters, Boomer and Fancy. And then we turned around and got two which brought us up to 17. Only one time have we had more and that was back when he had 14 and a friend of our, Phyllis Watson of Prairiewind Kennels, decided she had to temporarily get out of dogs. We had 23 dogs then for about a year. Her basic stock was all Siveracres so it was basically an extension of our own breeding program, but it did give us a bunch of dogs for awhile. Gradually Phyllis, when she was able, took them all home. In the meantime, though, I did breed a couple of the bitches and I did finish one bitch and one dog. The dog was out of my breeding anyway.

Have the dogs had much of an effect on your life-style?

DORIS: Yeah. Yes, they have. Before we got the dogs we had a very nice apartment. We both worked in town and were drawing a good salary. We didn't have hair all over the carpet, hair all over us, and we didn't have a much fun, I don't think.

So you think it has all been worth it?

DORIS: Absolutely, it's all been worth it. I wouldn't change it at all.

Anything else you want to talk about?

DORIS: No, I think that pretty well covers it.

Thank you very much.

SQ

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to thank the breeder of your beautiful Samoyed you pet each day?
to give credit to other breeders in your dog's pedigree? (You didn't do it alone you know).
to give credit to the stud also, of your fine looking pups?
to thank the person for that lovely trophy you display on your mantle?
to thank the person you bought your dog from?
to congratulate the other person that just won the points?
How often I have seen these things overlooked each and every day...

-Sue Skrobiszewski

\$500 Reward

I am writing you in hope that you will publish my letter in the Winter edition of "The Samoyed Quarterly." It might help me recover my dearest companion.

Perhaps no one can better understand the depth of attachment and agony of loss than others who also love the Samoyeds in their lives. Tai has been my sole and constant companion for 4 1/2 years of living and travelling throughout this continent. We have camped and hiked, shared our meals and our pillow and our lives with one another. He is both brother and son to me, and my greatest, nay only, source of joy in my life.

On October 9th, Columbus Day, while visiting friends in the Catskill Mountains in upstate New York, prior to setting off on a hiking tour of the Fall foliage, Tai disappeared without a trace. In familiar territory, woods-wise and not one to wander from me, and wearing I.D. tags, it was hard to believe he was simply lost. Nonetheless, an intensive search was immediately mounted; all residents within miles were personally visited within hours, word of a substantial reward was spread, posters were mounted throughout the area and placed in stores, and all the radio stations were contacted. Letters were sent to all the residents within a 15 mile radius with his description and the reward offer. I personally drove every road and gravel

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