

THE SAMOYED QUARTERLY

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Samoyed people



The Samoyed Quarterly
Talks With
Janet and Wayne Heffington
GREY-GHOST SAMOYEDS
Saline, Michigan

This interview was conducted at the home of Janet and Wayne Heffington by Brenda E. Abbott on May 21, 1988.

How did all of this begin?

Janet: I have always had dogs and when Wayne and I married I told him about one special dog that I had known when I was a teenager. We tried to find a Sammy but they were really unheard of at the time (this was 1970). They were common in other parts of the country, but not here. They just weren't around. There was a couple who had some puppies for \$150, but there was no way we could afford that at the time. Wayne and I had both just come out of bad marriages and had a lot of bills. We socialized with a gal who worked for him and another couple - we went to pick them up one time and there was a board across the gal's porch with two little white faces with little black eyes sticking out. I had a fit! They were left because somebody owed them some money and were going back to Colorado, so we

bought the little girl for \$15 down and \$15 if we ever got the papers. The mother had died soon after the pups were born and the father was killed by a rattlesnake out in Colorado. They never knew what the parents looked like or anything.

Did you know who the parents were?

Janet: We didn't at the time. We finally got papers. We had to register the dead mother; the Ann Arbor Kennel Club was super helpful for us. They ran an ad in the paper all the time and I called them. A gal by the name of Barb Stoll helped me. I asked her a million and a half dumb questions for a year and a half until we finally got the papers on our girl. That was "Ninky." She became Am/Can Ch. Ghost-O-Princi's Lady Ninki. She became our foundation bitch. My first try with her at a show was at a puppy match and she took third out of three. The judge was Jack Aldred and he proceeded to tell me everything that was wrong with her. (laughter) At that point in her life she really looked bad. She was a little fine-boned, totally out of coat, no maturity at all and yet we thought she was the most wonderful thing in the world. We didn't know who she was or who her parents were. He wanted to know if I knew of any of the dogs behind her. I knew that the father was Whitesmoke. He started

telling us the background of this dog, and right then I was sunk. It kind of gave us an identity really. We just started showing her a little more and more. She finally grew up and at seven years of age, she was unbeatable.

Wayne: I never will forget when Janet came back from the puppy match and she was so disappointed. I told her that we would put Ninki in another show and we would see. I told her not to believe everything that this gentleman had told her. We entered her in the Ann Arbor show and, of course, I went out with her.

Janet: Remember, we thought she was perfect.

Wayne: She took third out of six at the show. Right away I thought if she could be three, she could be number one. Once we left, that is when everything got started. Of course, we purchased the original "Grey-Ghost" from Jack Aldred and we started with him.

Janet: Our first litter was out of one of Jack's males. Even though he wasn't too kind as far as his critique, he was nice to us. Our first litter was because of him.

Wayne: We were going to keep one bitch out of the litter and sell the rest. We sold a male, Showboy, to a couple in Ann Arbor. It didn't work out so they brought Showboy back to us. That became my dog and he was the grandsire of Butcher, who we're showing right now.

Tell me about your first litter.

Janet: It was so hard finding Ninki (Wayne called her Nitchie) and we were so scared that something would happen to her. We thought it would probably be easier to find someone else with a male that we could breed her to than to just go buy another puppy someday, to find a whole litter somewhere. We went to the Ann Arbor Kennel Club again and they were still very nice to us. It was from one person to the other. They had just got out of it; they weren't doing stud service; there wasn't anymore; no, they hadn't had puppies in five years. They were all so far away and then the kennel club told us about Jack Aldred judging that match and that's why we went to the puppy match, to meet Mr. Aldred. We were suppose to be impressing him with this little girl, hoping that he would want to breed one of his males to her, only to find out how he felt about it that day, of course. We went to his home and he laid out pedigrees. We got on the floor and read over pedigrees for four hours one night alone. We kept in touch with him, and actually became very good friends with him. We did breed Nitchie to his Little Tiki, which is a son of the great Tiki (Lulhaven's Snowmist Ensign). We kept the two puppies, Sissy and

then Showboy, after he came back. We knew Nitchie was lacking in some points and we were trying to get something a little bit better. Jack was very helpful, he had Little Tiki at the time and he had the Norwegian import, Ibur, which was the sire of Grey, that we started with, too. He helped us, and between all of the studs, I think he did select the best one for us, for what we had to achieve.

Out of that litter Sis and Showboy actually became our foundation. Everything that we have done over the years has Sissy and Showboy behind them. What we did is, from Showboy and Sissy each, we actually bred two different lines. We had Showboy's lineage and we had Sissy's lineage. We would take pups out of Sissy and breed those to Showboy. Take pups out of Showboy and breed back to Sissy. We did quite a bit of uncle-niece and aunt-nephew type matings. They were always very successful for us. Like Teaser today! His mother, they call her Teesha, she came from one of those types of breedings. It was very successful for us, we were very fortunate, and knock on wood, we haven't had any hip dysplasia or eye problems. We had some real good basics that were given to us that we carried on. We bought the young dog that we call Grey; he was the first to carry the Grey-Ghost name, from Jack in 1971, the spring. He was not the first pick puppy but when we went to see about the second pick puppy the first, of course, was already reserved. We pulled into the yard and saw Grey and we thought, "Oh, I know that's the first pick puppy and that's the only one I want, the other one is too ugly." He was so big and klutzy! When we found out the one that I liked was the one that we got to take home, we were ecstatic. We thought he could do no wrong. Back in that time everyone warned you to stay in your own backyard, Jack especially. He always told us to show in our own area, get used to the judges here and what they like, and don't leave. We thought we were on top of the world, we could do anything. We took Grey to Florida at about nine months old, and took Breed all three days. We called Jack back and we were glowing. Nobody could tell us anything then, of course, but he WAS a super puppy. Again, we had some good starts there with him and a good breeding program. The first ones with Grey were a couple very nice litters in 1973 and 1975. Several of the pups became champions. We never really had a long-range goal, we just kind of did it for what we were doing at the time. We liked a couple of special dogs and got their pedigrees matched and we did it more by gut reaction than anything, I think.

Wayne: See, I like the big dogs, but she



doesn't like the big dogs. (laughter)

So that has kept you in the middle all of these years.

Wayne: Well up until the last few years. Actually Showboy wasn't real big, but at that time he was a big dog. No, he wouldn't be considered as big.

Janet: He was 24 inches, and towered over everybody.

Wayne: It seemed like in every litter he produced there was at least one big male. We kind of got a reputation in those days for showing the big dogs. I guess it is because I like them, more than anything else.

Janet: He pays the bills; I let him show what he wants.

Wayne: We had Gunner, who was big, and Dink was even bigger.

Janet: We should have entered him in the Derby, he was the size of a horse.

Wayne: I always got a kick out of going to Cobo Hall (the benched show in Detroit) and putting any one of those guys on a bench and have someone come down the aisle and tell me that they had one at home that was bigger than he was. I don't think so. Maybe they were too big. At the particular time when we started in Sammies, we were going against Maur-Mik's Kim, which in that day was a big dog.

Janet: He was a full 23 1/2 inches tall and burly. You don't see too many Sams of his stature now. He just had that magnificent presence, he was a load of hair coming at

you.

Wayne: If you really wanted to win in this area, you had to have a big dog so that is kind of how we got into it. We found out that we could produce them whenever we wanted to. All we had to do was breed out from Showboy and you would get a big dog. We are finding now, with Butcher, the same thing is happening again. Butcher throws one big male in every litter. If we ever want to go back to the big ones we can, but we probably won't. She says no but... We have a daughter of Butch now that is as big as he is. That is my dog.

How many litters have you had?

Janet: For the first seven or eight years we only had one every other year. On the other hand there have been several years in the last ten that we had two litters a year, or three if we had a small litter, like of three pups. We've probably had thirteen or fourteen over the years. Not all survived. We were more interested in finding a combination to where we could get what we were looking for. We weren't looking for the perfect Sam, we were looking for the one that could add to a dog that we really liked, and she may have had something lacking there. We were looking for the dog that we thought could produce that, with an eye towards the resulting puppies out of that litter being something we could build on, we were always looking three or four generations away. We weren't looking at that litter, we were

looking at where it would lead us ... eventually. We bred eight generations compared to where as a lot of people competing with us over the years were only in their second or third. They would get a nice male, campaign him hard, but they kept nothing coming along behind him. We saw this so much when we first started that we could see the pitfalls. We saw one breeder after another just vanish and go away because once the great dog died, or was retired, they had nothing coming along behind it. We were very adamant about always laying the ground for the next generations. We always felt impressed when someone would say that they got their first Sammy from us, and it wasn't something that they had to put into a pet home and then turn around and buy a show dog. We always wanted them to say that their first pet was also their show dog, or that their first show dog was also their pet, whichever way you want to put it. As you have seen, our own are pets first. If they turn out to be show dogs, fine. If they don't, then that's okay, too. A lot of the show dog is an attitude, but I want them to look like they could go into that ring at any time. I want them to look nice and to be nice pets. Breeding is more a work of art - you are creating. Just because it looks this way doesn't mean that you aren't going to reshape the clay later, and the results will look a little different.

Wayne: We liked to raise the dogs and finish their titles and we also liked to go to Canada. We were never too gung-ho about Specials. We liked to finish a dog and then go on and try another one or something. We did special Grey-Ghost quite a bit and of course, Nitchie; we showed her. She was quite a little bitch, she was our real pleasure.

Janet: She had seven years against the younger males. She would have to battle herself out of the breed from anywhere from five to nine males. She was the only bitch showing in the area most times. Nobody was campaigning bitches much then. The Hodges had Kandi and I think that she was the only other bitch that was really being pushed much. We just didn't cross paths too often. In our area here, it was always males that she had to go against to get Best of Breed. When she got Breed she always got a nice looking in Group. As far as the campaigning part; we never felt that any one of our Sam's deserved more finances and attention than the others. They were all equal and quite often we found ourselves with four champion males here. As you can see, when you are in this situation you have to be selective. The most we have ever had is eight, although for about six months we did have nine dogs. That means some real doubling up here. They are all house dogs.

Our two current puppies have never had a single accident in the house, but they are lousy in the kennel; everyone has to take his turn. Somebody will come in and stay all night, have breakfast with us, then go out to the kennel. Another one comes in and he'll spend the morning with us. At noontime we let that one out and another one comes in, we constantly switch so they all have their own time, one-on-one with us and they don't have to compete with each other. That carries over to campaigning, it was the same thing. Okay, this one has been showing for two or three months now, it is time to let him rest and let someone else come back out. It is just equality more than anything. We had several, we look back now and wish we had specialized.

Wayne: We missed some of them. We were very critical of our Sams, maybe that was somewhat of a downfall in not specializing them. I look back now at Showboy and Showboy should have been campaigned. If we couldn't do it we should have put him with a handler.

We took him to Canada and we finished him. The same with Grey-Ghost, he had no problems.

Janet: The youngest dog that we ever took to Canada and finished was seven years old. Wayne took Sissy at ten years old and took her to finish her undefeated. He took Sissy's daughter, Punkette, at eight years old and finished her in four shows, undefeated. With Punkette's daughter Pixie, she is eight years old and we are thinking of taking her. She will finish in no time, once I get the weight off her. She and I both have to do a lot of running this summer first.

We quite often find ourselves with six or seven champions and want something new coming along. What we would do, generally, was weed out the males and put one or two in pet homes. The cutest situation was a family down in Tiffin, Ohio; they had come to us about getting a puppy. They had two very young children and they didn't seem, to me, to have the energy to raise a puppy right then. They had good intentions, but they were so devoted to those kids that I could see that the attention would go to the children first. I knew it would be a good home for a Sammy. Rather than put them off we had one little lovely, Saint. We placed Saint with them, he was three. I finished him, no problem, lickety-split. He was sort of last in the pile because all of his brothers and sisters got finished first so he was a little older. We placed him with this family and a couple of months later here comes this newspaper article. They are so proud! Mind you, they have a champion, but they only attended one show in their life and that was the one where they met us. So here comes

this front page article, Saint had won Best Long-Haired Dog at the local pet show! They were busting buttons! They had no idea what they really had.

Wayne: They already had a champion!

Janet: That was okay though. Then about two years later we get this letter from their insurance agent. He wants us to help him assess a value. Finally somebody must have convinced them that they had a valuable pet; do you want him insured. They had no idea what they had until somebody inquired if they knew what a championship meant. Now they are a little more common, but this was 1975 or 1976.

How many champions have you made?

Janet: It is somewhere around 27 or 28, we have kind of lost track. I had a goal, before I started judging, although every one including him had been pushing me. I said, "No, I want 25 champions and a Best in Show." We got our 25 champions, although this doesn't count when I was handling dogs for other people in other breeds. This was just our dogs that we had purchased and were showing in our own breed or that we had bred ourselves. Once we hit 25 I kind of lost track, we have finished a few since then. We never made the Best in Show on a Sam, but at least I can say that we had been there.

Tell us about your Bests in Show.

Janet: Well, we have two in Canada and two in the U.S., on our Pom, Rocky. He is something else. He finished both titles, undefeated. In fact, we had to take him to Florida to get a second major because nobody would come out against him here. We thought we would take him to Canada to see what he would do over there since we were showing our Sams over there. I hadn't studied Poms in Canada and I didn't know what his competition was going to be. We got over there and he took Breed and Group I the first day. He took Group I the second day; he came home with nine points and we had to go back for one more win. The next time we could get over there was six months later and there were three shows in a row. We entered all three. We got over there and he took Group I again on the first day. So then we have this dog with fourteen points and it only takes ten. Over there we couldn't move him over to specials yet. He finished so quickly that we didn't have time to get him registered. We couldn't go to Specials, I don't think they were even doing it then. We had this dilemma: Do we pull him so that somebody else can take points the next two days? Or, knowing that out of three shows he has taken three Group I's, and we have a chance at getting Best in Show, do we leave him in? We left him in and he took Best in

Show the next day! The third day he took Group I again. Five straight shows and the worst he had done was Group I. We turned around and a couple months later we brought him back out to see if it was just a quirk. He walks in and takes Best in Show again! Out of six shows we had all Group I's and in two of them he went Best in Show. For years I wanted to do this on a Sammy; this little guy is walking all over everything. The cutest part was during the highlight of his career, I was exercising a couple of Sams in the x-pen at the show. Somebody came up to me and they were saying that they couldn't get over watching me trying to show this Sam in an Ohio show. I couldn't understand what they were talking about. They said that I do much better on the Poms. They said that it was funny watching me handle that big dog. That one little Pom got me so much attention that everybody was used to seeing me with him, and I had been showing Sams for nearly twenty years! Again, it goes back that we never really campaigned a Sammy. I guess we were just that comfortable with the Sams that we showed them for our own pleasure.

Wayne: Janet and I were both in pressure jobs and this was our escape. We really went to the dog shows for a release. Something to get away, you can pretend - it's like running away to a circus-type atmosphere. We enjoyed pulling into the Holiday Inn in the middle of Ohio and people coming out who knew us. Down in Florida, the same thing.

Janet: You are driving down the highway and somebody yells "Hey Grey-Ghost." You're driving in opposite directions or you pull into a motel halfway across the nation and somebody hollers over the balcony "Hey, Grey-Ghost!" We just never got tired of it. We would have grooming parties outside our motel rooms. There was a relaxation that we just couldn't duplicate here. We could go sit and drink wine and have cheese parties or whatever. There was just that super relaxed attitude. I think part of it was because you were outdoors more, we didn't care for it when we had to groom indoors. We still don't to this day, we prefer to groom outdoors any chance we can. Visiting with people is fine indoors, but you get so closed in and I don't think people are as natural. Lou Hoehn used

to kid us the most, back then, especially about our name.

Wayne: When I came out of the building to get in the trailer to go home he said "Well, there goes the Grey-Ghost again. If you don't see him before the show, you certainly aren't going to see him after a show." (laughter) He said the exact same thing, fifteen years ago, down in Gary, Indiana, to us.

Janet: He was parked next to us and he wanted to talk to us real bad. He was showing Kopi, and we had talked about breeding to him, which we ultimately did. He came back and said "I came out to my van thinking I was going to talk to you since you were parked right next to us. You were gone again! Now that is about four shows in a row where I come straight out of that ring thinking I'm going to come back and talk to you." The elusive Grey-Ghost ...

Wayne: By the way, Grey-Ghost (if your wondering where this came from), came from John Mosby. John Mosby was known as the "Grey Ghost" in the Confederacy. By the way, he never surrendered. That is how we got the Grey-Ghost name. I am from the South and I am a Civil War buff. So many times I can pick up a Civil War book and tell you within the first two pages whether that author was from the North or the South. I have given lectures here at our library. I do it from the South's side and from that side it is unique. I don't know of anybody else who does it like that. At least, I have never heard of anybody.

Janet: They have standing room only for his lectures.

Wayne: It is not that I'm trying to set the record straight so much, it's just that you always hear different sides. Of course the North won, so you don't hear much about the South and what they did, what they did in some of their battles or what some of those generals did. They did a lot of things; this was a very costly war, the Civil War.

Of course, you have to remember we were fighting each other, brother against brother. As far as this interview is concerned we can go on for hours on this, too.

Janet: We started out naming our litters after Civil War battles the South won. Of course, our first litter was the Shiloh litter. Grey-Ghost's Showboy of Shiloh, Sissy of Shiloh, Sassy of Shiloh. The one that came back to us years later had been named Grey-Ghost's Shilo, not knowing that we had already picked Shiloh as the litter name. After the Chickasaw we ran out of names.

How did you choose the breedings that you were going to make?

Janet: I was looking for the perfect pet to satisfy something that WE wanted. The hardest decision we had was in 1973 or



Ch. Grey-Ghost's Echo of Snowboy ("the Punk").

1974. We had Sissy coming along, we thought she was just about perfect and we knew that we wouldn't have to find that much to offstand her since she really was outstanding. We knew she had some flaws so we were looking for a stud that didn't seem to have the same flaws. As far as trying to improve on head or movement or something like that, we felt that we had quite a bit of room that we could play with there. Our hardest decision was when we came down between two outstanding studs of the time. My dream was to breed to North Starr's King's Ransom, he having the same background that Sissy did, coming from the Aldred dogs and all. Ransom's pups, like ours, were slow maturing. We were anxious to kind of get a reputation going. Kopi, that Lou Hoehn had, was putting out pups that were finishing as six- and seven-month-old puppies. We took a gamble and we were quite ostracized at the time because there were several really lovely studs here in Michigan. You really didn't go out of your backyard at that time, as we mentioned earlier, for anything. For showing or for studs. It is funny that Sams were so rare in 1969 and 1970 and in 1973, 1974, and 1975 everybody seemed to have them. We did go with Kopi and out of that litter four out of the six were finished before they were two years old. Every weekend we would go and win with one or the other or maybe a couple of them would win. We were riding high, that is all there was to it.

Wayne: Out of that breeding we were very helpful in earning Kopi Top Stud Dog that year.

Janet: Lou sent us a real nice letter too, thanking us for bringing out those pups.

Wayne: Our Sissy just missed being Top Brood Bitch because at the time two of the puppies who finished were published in the next year.

Janet: They were all born in 1975 and all finished in 1976. The last two were reported in the Gazette after the first of 1987. So, actually, only two of our pups actually qualified in 1976. No other bitch in 1976 had four finish in that year. Technically she was the Top Brood but she had to share the eye with two or three other bitches that also had two that year. Nobody had three. We knew what we had! So the records show one thing, but we knew what we had. We were also showing two other Sams at the same time, Punk and Showboy. As we said, ours were slow maturing. Showboy was born in 1971 and this was 1976. He was five years old and we were still puttsying around with him, he had a few points on him. I decided that was Wayne's pet and if Wayne was going to put all of this money and energy into my dogs,

the least I could do was finish his pet. So we brought Showboy back out and his son, Punk, Grey-Ghost's Echo of Showboy, was doing very nicely; he was the monster. It was funny though, we would go in with these dogs and I would have Punk in there showing him. These people with the Kopi puppies - we showed a couple of them but there were other people who had them, too, they were showing these smaller dogs. If the judges liked big we won, if they liked little our friends won. It was fun! In the mid 70's it was really our heyday. We were finishing three, four champions a year. We are just into so many other things now, because of the dogs. I am into a lot of legislative work. In 1980 we lobbied up in Lansing. We got a bill into law that puts more restrictions on pet shops because of that problem. I am also into writing the Vicious Dog Ordinance for the city of Ann Arbor, that started being one of those anti-Pit Bull things. I have also been helping the city of Saline; we wrote their dog ordinance so multiple dog owners could stay out of the courts. They didn't have a dog ordinance, that was a strange story.

Wayne: Maybe you should go into that a little more. Someone else may read this and they would know what to do.

Janet: What Wayne is getting at, and rightfully so, is that a lot of your ordinances don't state how many dogs you can or can't have. In our case they stated that "A kennel is any lot or premises where three or more dogs are kept." In C-3, which is commercial district or business district it states in there that "Kennels can be had along with veterinary hospitals after prior approval by the city council." The thing is that when I ran for mayor after six years of being a councilman in 1986 my opponents decided that we had too many dogs. Mind you, these are the same people I had gotten letters from when they were chairmen of different organizations around town, asking for our dog teams. They knew our dogs were here, these dogs have been here longer than these people had been here. They said we were in violation because we were running a kennel in a residential district. The fallacy is that in most residential districts, it does not say anything about pet ownership. It says "The following uses are permitted ..." This is how most of your residential zones are drawn up in almost any community, by "permitted uses ..." They will state, for example, that you can have a garden, you can park a trailer or a watercraft in your yard; it can be used for churches or playgrounds, all of these things. Most of them never say one word about pets, whether they are permitted or not permitted. That is the way ours was, it never said a single word about whether or not pets were

permitted in a residential zone. Since the residential zone is covered only by uses permitted, that means that since pets aren't addressed, nobody can have a pet. They were saying that we were in violation because we should be in a C-3 district where it says that kennels are permitted. They were reading that we had to abide by something of their interpretation of it's own that we didn't even live in. This is where a lot of people are getting hurt. Most people don't know what their local zoning ordinances read whether it is a town or a county even. People really should look into it, especially if they are considering a move. Just because they may see where somebody else had a kennel - maybe that kennel was established prior to some ordinance being enacted. Maybe something was passed in 1980 and now they can't have kennels anymore, but the other is grandfathered. Just because you can see a kennel doesn't mean that yours is going to be welcome. By the same token, just because you don't see any other kennels doesn't mean that you can't have one. It might not be addressed. In my situation, the new city council - we did help get some of our own friends elected this last go around, this last November. The first thing they did when they took office in January they said, "Janet, Wayne, how can we work with you? What will you do to help us get all of this litigation resolved and get this mess cleared up? It has gone on long enough." (We hadn't taken it lying down. They said we were in violation and we got a lawyer and we took them to court for violating constitutional rights and civil rights. We took them to federal court.) We said, "Okay, if you really want to help us get established so that we won't ever have this happen to us again we will help you rewrite the dog ordinances in town." So we did, and that is why I am involved in that. They also passed a beautiful resolution, three or four pages long, listing everything that our dogs had done over the years. All of the events our dogs had participated in, giving kids rides, all of the parades they had been in. Any time we had stud fees, although we never advertised our dogs for stud, when we had a little bit more than needed for dog food and vet bills, we turned it all back into the community. We sponsored rec-teams here for kids that didn't have sponsors, we turned it back into the bicentennial in 1976. We bought a lot of bicentennial flags for the schools and the library. We contributed to the fire department when they had the Jaws-Of-Life fund drive here in town. We were the only private people who contributed to a lot of these things, most of them were big businesses, but it was our way of thanking the community for their interest in our dogs and

liking them and inviting us to things.

Wayne: Even now, we are out of it somewhat but we are still helping the lamb club and our local clubs; we go out every year and buy two lambs. We have been doing it for so long that the night of the auction they have special chairs for us to sit in. It is kind of nice and again, we are the only ones, other than one other person, who are private citizens that have bought lambs out there. We are the only ones who aren't a business that keep buying the lambs. We are competing with the Citizen's Bank and R & B Tool and all of these people. It is very fun when we start bidding on lambs - they know that we come to support it and everybody quits bidding. They don't throw another price up on us, they know. That is the real neat thing.

Janet: We have tried to make the dogs citizens in themselves really.

Wayne: I guess what we are trying to get at is that any person out there that the city ordinance or the city fathers come down and start kicking, don't take it lying down. We didn't, and I don't think anybody else should. You are going to have to fight for your rights. I will say one thing - be very careful. You can go to an organization like the ADOA, we went to them and they referred us to attorney Gerald Goulet, who is also a show person, he raises Pyrenees. I would say that it gets to be expensive but sometimes you have to go through the expense. We didn't win or lose the case in federal court. We won half of it and we can say that we lost half of it. The federal judge ruled that since Janet did run for office that her constitutional right was not violated. We won the second half on the dog ordinance. He said that we did have a case and what he was going to do is refer this back to the lower courts, that we had not exhausted our state course. If the state courts did not satisfy us then we could bring the case back before him. Of course, this is why our city fathers, at that time, being wise, wanted to settle with us. It was very apparent that some of the decisions that had been coming down around the states - New Jersey being one of them and Kentucky being the other, that if we had taken them to the high courts in this state we probably, no, we WOULD have beat the city of Saline and probably cost them over \$100,000 because that was what the settlement would have been. We had some people who realized that it was going to cost the city some money. The best thing to do was to settle the best way we could, which was the resolution and of course, re-writing the ordinance.

Janet: The resolution was to invite us and our dogs and future generations to remain in Saline. That was nice. What helped us is

that if we had stayed secluded down here and they never knew we had the dogs then maybe this never would have happened. I don't believe that. Anybody with several dogs is going to be visible. Our neighbors knew we had them and they love them. Our neighbors, when they had out-of-state company would bring them over and ask if they could show them the "World Champion" dogs. (laughter) When we were practicing a team we would give the kids rides. Our sled is up on wheels, as you've seen in photos, and we would give these kids rides. The main reason we got into doing all of this city stuff with the dogs is that back in the early 1970's you started hearing about all of this anti-dog stuff. People really started coming down, especially on show people. There was hardly anybody in Saline who showed dogs, other than ourselves. We considered that a personal confrontation - show dogs are not hyper dogs, they are good dogs. We took the dogs and started taking them to little things, just taking them out around the public and introducing them. It was fun to say, "This is what a show dog is! See how nice and sweet he is and how stable." Our son, one year, had Old Grey in the pet show at fair time. I fixed up a harness and tied knots on ski-line rope. The harness was made with bells on it and he pulled our son in a parade in his little red wagon. The next year, a friend of ours was running for office. I hitched Grey and another dog up in another harness and pulled our friend's big political sign in the parade.

Wayne: By the way, I had a fit over this!

Janet: It was dumb!

Wayne: My brand new champion was pulling a little red wagon! (laughter)

Janet: He could have killed me! (laughter) Then we got so much attention, everybody loved it. All of a sudden he was saying, "This is our brand new champion; my wife made this harness!" He was bragging about everything. We hooked the two dogs up to the wagon and everybody loved that. We put crepe paper on the wagon, the whole bit, red white and blue and the whole deal. Another year rolled by and the Jaycees decided to hold their rodeo parade. Okay, we hitch up three dogs. That was even a bigger hit! Then, he gets carried away, we have about six dogs then. Wayne says, "Boy wouldn't it be impressive if we could get five together ... do you really think we might be able to?" We had our hands full having three because we had no training in sledding, harnesses or how to train sled dogs or anything. All we had was my basic obedience knowledge. We taught the dogs to move, go, stop and we would give them the gee and the haw. They were all sort of drive trained, like a driving horse more than anything. So, we tried it, we

hitched up five.

Wayne: Meanwhile we had picked up a sled. We didn't have the little red wagon anymore! (laughter)

Janet: We did graduate to two other little red wagons that were a little bit larger. We got up in the sled and the ultimate - the five team went over so well in town that they had us going in all of the parades. We finally had to tell them that in a Memorial Day parade we didn't think it was appropriate. They knew people would turn out so they could see the sled team. I had big red pom poms on the harnesses and big sleigh bells and everything, it was fun. One year they asked us if we would pull Santa Claus into town, in the Christmas parade. He had always been brought in on the fire truck. They thought it would be great until the night of the parade, it dawned on them that our parade route starts at the base of the hill and goes up. The fire truck people panicked. They took the fire truck halfway up the hill and stopped it where they could "rescue" Santa, if need be, before we got to the thick of the crowd. They were all at the crest of the hill, at the main corners, and were all waiting for Santa Claus up there, of course. We turned the corner and were getting ready to go up the parade route. There is that fire truck starting halfway up the hill. We turned the team around and gave Grey, the lead dog at the time, the command to "hup." Those dogs danced up the hill! You should have seen the ten fireman trying to get the fire truck out of the way! The dogs were having a ball! This man was about 250 pounds at the time, he was heavy. We had fixed a big seat up on top where the handlebars are on the skimobile sled and that became a seat. We took plywood and Wayne cut the outsides and I painted them and it said "Santa's Special," on it. It looked like a big Santa's sleigh, with these white dogs, the red harnesses, bells jingling, everything, it was a circus. When we got to the crest of that hill the kids forgot Santa. We probably had 150 kids beseege the dogs. The police had to come and make a line for us so that we could get the dogs out of the crowd, that was the highlight!

Wayne: What is unique about this is that we had hired Tom Mac, a friend of ours. He is a photographer here in town. We also had the Saline Reporter there taking pictures and the Ann Arbor News was there. Did you know that out of all three of those people not one picture turned out?

Janet: Everyone talks about it, they remember it but there wasn't a photo. We even put an ad out in the paper one time asking if anybody had taken pictures. Everyone was so awed watching the dogs that

nobody thought to take photos.

Wayne: The gentleman that we had hired - for some reason the camera had broke.

Janet: No, the film just didn't develop!

Wayne: We do not have a picture of that and to me it is scary, it is really strange.

Janet: That was really a highlight for us. When I started my first campaign for council in 1980, the only identity I had was as "The Dog Lady," so Grey and I (who was nine years old or something like that) went down to the studio and had some photos taken of us together. That was on all my campaign literature, Grey and I, side by side. All of my ads in the paper and everything. They kidded me for a long time, that they had elected the dog, not me. I would show up at the door and people would ask if I was going to have the dogs for the parade this year. "I always bring my grandkids in to see your dogs!" It was an easy win! It was all the dog. It was all of this building up, trying to set out a nice name for the dogs. That is all that I set out to do - just to make people think nicely about our breed which nobody, in this town, knew very much about. It paid off for us because that is what rallied for us when all of this legality came up when I ran for Mayor two years ago. Everyone rallied to our side, they just couldn't imagine it, those beautiful dogs, those nice dogs.

Weren't you professional handlers at one time?

Janet: I was. I was licensed by the AKC, they quit licensing us in January of 1978, or something like that. I was licensed in not only Sams but I had Siberians, Malamutes, Collies, Norwegian Elkhounds, Keeshonden; I think that's it, about six breeds. At that time it was very difficult for women to get licenses unless their husbands were also licensed handlers. There were a lot of husband and wife teams, like the Forsyths and the Vrooms and all of those at the time. For single women, I was told it was going to be rough. I was turned down the first two times. Pure determination! I started real early but by the time I got licensed it was a little rough. They only gave me Sams the first year, just like with judging. Then the next year I got my five additional ones and then they quit licensing us the next year. That was kind of defeating but I loved working with the dogs; I didn't like working with the people. If you had a dog that was winning consistently, they didn't know how to take it when the dog would lose. If it wasn't a good enough dog and you told them so, they didn't want to hear it, they would just put it with somebody else. Trying to get paid was the hardest part of all. I loved doing it, I would have done it for free except that it was taking up the time that I could be

handling someone else's dog. I think I did a pretty good job with the dogs I had, and I felt that I deserved it but I hated having to beg for it. Really, that is what you do, you go through that. A couple of years ago before I started judging, I was showing Rocky, our Pom, and I was showing my Chow Chow called Ganzer. Those dogs I co-owned, so I did it for my own enjoyment and I had a ball. We won like crazy. The Chow was retired at number five and the Pom was number three in the U.S. and number one in Canada, simultaneously. So, we had a lot of fun with those guys, but we did it because we wanted to. After about two years of showing up with two Sams, two Poms and one Chow, you know we spent all day brushing. We decided that was enough.

Wayne: I spent all day brushing! (laughter)

Janet: He is a fantastic groomer!

Wayne: To be honest with you. I had never seen anybody groom a Chow. I just decided one day that she had brought the Chow and the co-owner came over and I wanted to know if he would bite me if I got him out of the crate. I figured either he would bite me or he wouldn't. I got him out and I said that I had never seen one groomed and I

groomed that Chow the way I felt it should be groomed. We put it in the ring and he was perfect.

Janet: He was perfect! Every hair. At that time people grooming the Chows would take a pin brush and just skim over the top. They felt that was enough. They had gobs of coat and that's all they cared about, they didn't care about how it looked. We went in with that Chow groomed like that and the judges could put their hands in his coat, they could feel it, it was clean, it looked clean, it was sparkling. We just felt good because he looked so good.

Wayne: They changed in this area! They groom beautifully now.

Janet: He gave them something to shoot for. They had to start grooming like we did in order to try and beat him, and there weren't too many that did.

Wayne: She signed off on the Chow finally. I guess he is still being shown.

Janet: He was and I think his last show was at Cobo Hall in March. They took him and of course, did some nice winning with him, but we got him established. He was a magnificent animal, he really was. He got along so well with the Sams. We would take



Am/Can Ch. Grey-Ghost's Patent Punkette.

the Sams for their walks at night when we would get on the grounds to go visit and play with the dogs. That Chow begged to go along with us. Most Chows will just curl up somewhere and go to sleep or bark at somebody going by. That silly thing, even in the heat of July and August, he had to go for a walk with us and the Sams. He and Butcher were buddies. We brought Ganzer in the house one time and he cried until he could go back out. At that time Butcher was young and he was out in the kennel more often than when he was in here because the older ones are in here. Ganzer cried until we took him out there and he went in the pen next to Butcher and the two of them sat there, bumpers to bumpers, just as content as could be; they were buddies. They were glad to be back together. He was my red Sammy!

So the professional handling didn't last all that long?

Janet: Not really, like I said, I like handling the dogs; I didn't like being bothered with the paperwork and the people and everything else. I wanted to handle dogs because I enjoyed it and with our own dogs we could do that.

Wayne: We more or less went from the professional handling of it to co-owning the dogs. Essentially, we were handling just as many dogs as we were co-owning.

Janet: We were picking and choosing. If we liked the dog then we would see about getting on to the dog, and then we would promote it because we believed in it. It wasn't because I was being paid to do it, it was because we believed in the dog.

Wayne: Again, I had never shown a Chow before in my life. (laughter) You learn real fast; I don't care what you do, you are going to have conflicts. You get in there and you have a Chow and a Sam going at the same time or a Pom going at the same time. I learned to show Chows.

Janet: He had never really watched me show the Chows up to that point. We had Ravenna, in Ohio, which is a lot of acres of fields and the breeds were too close together, the Sams and the Chows. We had a Sam that was supposed to finish that weekend too, I think. I was showing Rocky, the Pom, I looked at him and said that I would never make it clear across that field in time. He said "Give me the Chow!" He came out afterwards and he said; "Well, now do you want to show me how to handle the Chow!" He held up the Best of Breed ribbon! He said, "I would really like to learn how I am supposed to show the Chow?!" For years he didn't show at all.

Wayne: Once she gets one done here, I like to go to Canada and finish them.

Is it more relaxed there?

Wayne: I call it a professional puppy match. They are not as vicious, and we all know that the shows are vicious. They are not vicious, it is just a good time, I go there and have a ball. The shows do bother me. It's not that I can't show a Sam, because I can. It is just that, to me, it is not worth the hassle. I have tension all day in my job and I certainly don't want to go to a dog show and be tense. That is why we go to start with - to relax. If I have to be tense, I will stay home.

Janet: Their attitude over there is, "Here is my dog, if you can't find that it is the best one here, then you are not that good of a judge!" Instead with over here "You better find my dog because I am the one who supports you with my entries!" Two totally different attitudes. We find it more like what we want out of dog shows to go there. We haven't been to Canadian shows since Rocky retired. We just haven't had anything to show, and we miss it.

Wayne: We have shown all over Canada from Thunder Bay clear down to Toronto, which is way down south.

Janet: For awhile there, we had four generations of which every single Sam was Can/Am titled. Pedigrees were fun to do!

Wayne: They have a real good circuit during the summer! You get tired. You can start in Thunder Bay and end up north of Toronto and just keep going. The best one is the Barrie show which is held on the Molsen's Brewery recreation grounds. That is the fun one. Every night you can go up to the brewery!

Janet: They also have dances and

parties for the youngsters too! Our son was a young teenager when we went over there quite a bit. He liked it because in the evening when we would all sit around talking dogs, or walk and play with the dogs, the youngsters could go up to these dances and mingle with others. It was so relaxing. We went up to Huronia one time and we no more got on the grounds and there was a soccer game going on. Our son just loves soccer so he went up to watch and he came back all excited. They asked him if he would play, they were short a man on the team. We found out later it was a semi-pro team! This kid was only fourteen or fifteen years old, he was dancing away, playing with these men. That is the attitude up there. We've got a game to play, let's do it anyway we can. It is the same with dog shows. We are at a dog show, we're going to make champions, let's do it and have fun. That's fine, that's just the way we like it.

Wayne: We are not trying to take anything away from the American shows. American shows have been good to us. There are some shows that are better; I think everybody finds that. There are some shows that you couldn't buy a win if you wanted to. Some shows that we go to, we have no problems at and we like them. There are some that we won't go to. We have a top ten list and on that list we wouldn't waste our money, we would rather take you out to dinner. Everybody has that, I don't think that we are the only ones who do this. For years, Janet kept a log and marked what the judges liked and didn't like. She doesn't do it much anymore, but we logged every one of them.

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