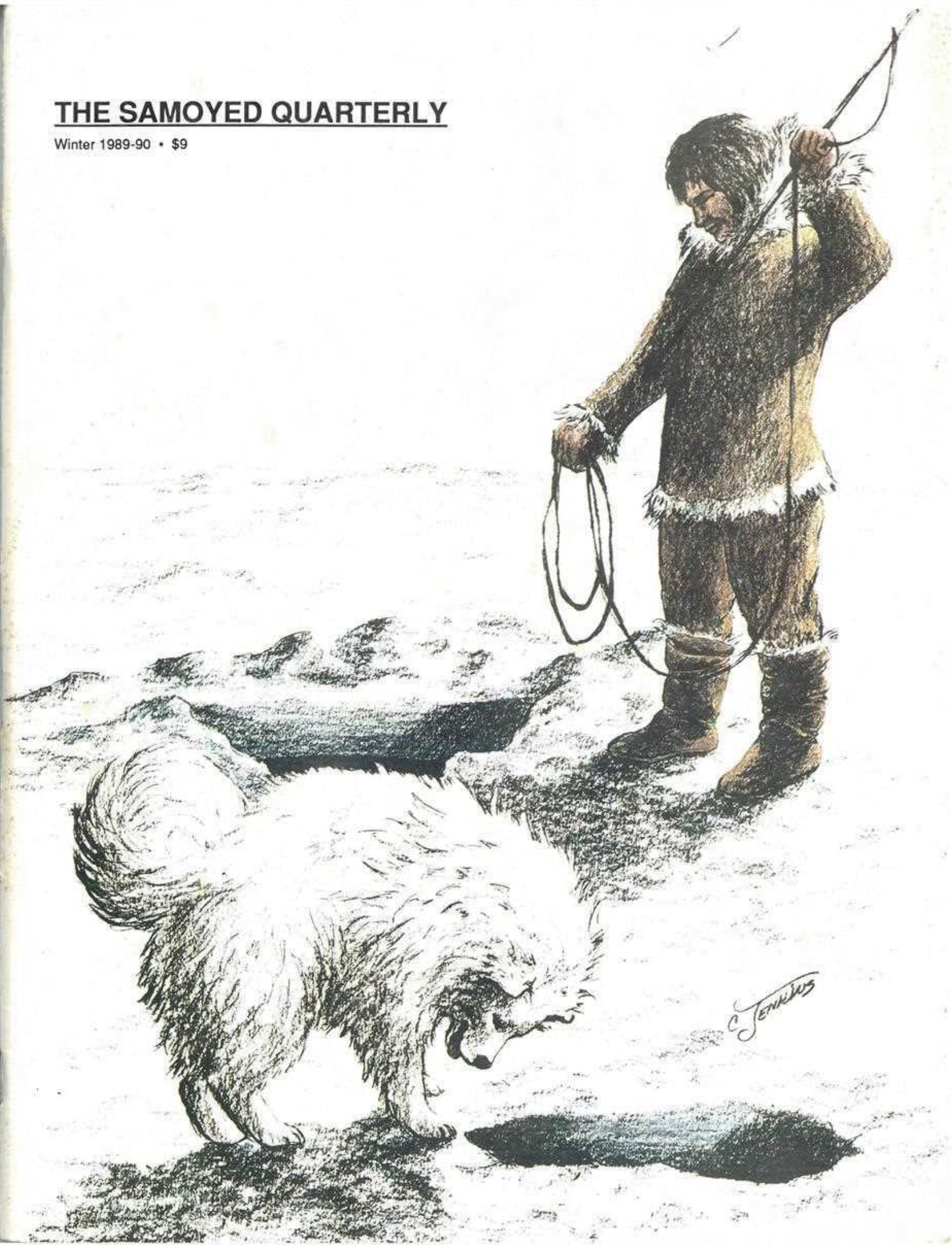


THE SAMOYED QUARTERLY

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Samoyed people

The Samoyed Quarterly
Talks With
Lynette Hansen
POLAR MIST
Bend, Oregon

This interview was conducted at the home of Lynette Hansen on July 8, 1989 by Katie LeCour.

How and when did you first get started in Samoyeds?

I got my first Sammy in the spring of 1965. The summer before we had been to a Fourth of July fireworks show at a golf course and somebody sat down right in front of us who had a five-month-old Sammy. I had never seen one before. Of course, I instantly picked up on the dog and asked if it was a Spitz. I had seen pictures of white Spitz. They told me what kind of dog it was. I thought, "Boy, when I get a dog that is what I want." I had dogs all my life. I was engaged to be married at the time, so our first dog was going to be a Sammy. I decided then and there. About a year and a half later after I had

gotten married and had my first child, we decided it was time for a dog. We combed the classified ads for a Sammy. We found one ad. It was clear across town, about 50 miles away, which was a long way! We called and they had one female left. We hadn't picked a sex or anything, but that was all they had. We drove out and bought her. She cost \$25. No papers. They wouldn't let us see the mother. I know why now. At the time I couldn't understand. It just kind of took off from there.

What did you do with this first dog?

She was just our pet. She was actually more my husband's dog. She took to him more than to me. He took her places. We were renting a home and were building a home in another area. On the weekends he would drive over to work on the house. She was about a year and a half old at the time. While he was over there, she was playing with a neighbor's dog that had come across the road. They were playing in front of the construction of the house and got to chasing each other. The neighbor's dog ran across the road, she ran across behind her, a car come along, hit and killed her. It was a freaky accident because this house was at the very end of a dead-end road and there was no traffic back there whatsoever. This old guy who owned about 300 acres of land was coming back to drive on his property. He wasn't driving fast and the dogs weren't paying attention, just playing.

So, of course, I proceeded to go out and look for another one. We looked in the paper again and got our second one, which was another female. She was also unregistered. Another \$25 dog. (laughter) We probably had her a couple of years when I was out in the yard with her one day. All of a sudden she went totally stiff, fell over and died. I was frantically on the phone to the vet. We had her autopsied and she had been poisoned. Years later I found out it was one of my neighbors who poisoned her. There went our next one.

I can't remember how we got the next one. Oh yes, we had the one that had been poisoned bred. My husband worked with a guy who had a male. Of course, you know how that goes. I had kept a puppy from her. I finally got a registered Sammy. It was a registered adult. I thought if I was going to have these dogs I was going to have a registered one. I was going to have a good one with papers. I went out and bought the adult registered female. I thought I really had something. I had a dog with papers. She had two champions in the fifth generation. That was it. I thought since she had a pedigree this was a really good dog. I was



going to breed these purebred dogs. I did breed her. I can't remember to whom. I kept a puppy from that. This was going to be the start of my Sammy kennel.

I was kind of dabbling around with these dogs I thought were really wonderful. I had never been to a dog show. I didn't even know a person who showed dogs. I had no contact with any kind of a breeder. It was just something I was stumbling along with on my own.

My mom then remarried a guy who, together with his first wife, had raised and showed Dachshunds. He had all three varieties and sizes. They had really gotten going in the Dachshunds and were heavily into showing. When he married my mom, he kept one smooth bitch that was a Standard. She was champion pointed. He saw me dabbling along with my couple of Sammys and he said, "You really seem to have an interest in these dogs. If you are going to do it, why don't you really do it right? You should show your dogs." I said, "Oh really, how do you do that?" He put me in contact with a gal, a Dachshund person, to find out about matches. The first dog match I ever went to was with a Dachshund. (laughter)

We ended up taking his smooth bitch because she really wasn't housebroken and my mom was having a fit. He told us he would love to breed this smooth bitch to a wirehair. We happened to be looking in the nickel ads and saw a young adult wirehaired male, AKC, for sale. We were still pretty new and didn't know anything about bloodlines, quality and that sort of thing, but we thought if he wanted to breed his smooth to a wirehaired, we'd buy one. We bought this wirehaired Dachshund, got his papers and his pedigree and brought him home. He was really a neat dog.

At the time my stepfather had had a heart attack and was in the hospital. We trotted up to the hospital with his pedigree and told him we had bought a wirehaired male to breed to his champion-pointed smooth Dachshund bitch. We brought the papers up, he took a look at them and said, "My God, do you know what you have here? This is a fabulous pedigree." When he got out of the hospital, he looked at the dog and said, "He is top show quality." I think we paid \$50 for him. He said, "You ought to show this dog." So I took him to a match and I didn't do too well. I was very embarrassed. Then I entered him in an AKC dog show where he ended up going Winners Dog and Best Opposite Sex over a couple of male specials. One of them was one of the top winning wirehairs in the Northwest at the time. This was his first dog show.

I decided I was going to show Sammys.



Ch. McKenzies Polar Mist Nikki.

This was what I wanted to do. I didn't know any Sammy people and figured the only way I could find one was to go to a dog show and talk to people who were showing. Somewhere in that time period, we had run into a gal who owned a Samoyed male. She was divorced and worked. The dog kept getting out all the time and spending his days at the school with all the kids. The animal control kept picking the dog up and she kept getting all these fines. I don't remember how we met her, but we got to talking. She said she had this male she would really like to find a good home for. We took him. He happened to be linebred Misty Way, which was Peggy McCarthy down in Eugene. I didn't show him. He was blind in one eye. He had been in a dog fight, had been bitten in the eye and had some other scars on him. I thought he was just the most beautiful Sammy I had ever seen.

I went to the dog shows and decided I was going to find Peggy McCarthy. I remember asking about her, it ended up the person I asked was her sister. She wasn't there. She was outside or somewhere. I never did

meet her. I ended up sitting at ringside next to Martha Beale. Tiki (Ch. Lulhavens Snowmist Ensign) was being shown. He took the Breed that day. I told her I was looking for a show Sammy. She said she knew of a litter in the Seattle area that went back to her line. She gave me her name and address. I wrote her and she sent me the breeder's name and phone number. I called the breeder and she had a litter. We drove up to Seattle, where I bought a male. I named him Polar Nanuck. The breeder was a novice person who had a bitch that was from the Beale's breeding. She had bred to a male that was a Saroma's Polar Prince grandson.

This was my first show Sammy. I took him home and started entering the matches. He started winning. He took Best of Breed right away. Of course, I was totally hooked. I still had not met Peggy McCarthy or anybody else in the Oregon area. I was doing this totally on my own, just stumbling through it.

About a year later I decided I wanted to get a bitch. I went back to the dog shows



Am/Can Ch. Polar Mist Spring Break.

again where I started talking to breeders. I told them I was looking for a female. I ended up talking to someone who had a litter at the time that were just about ready to go. This lady was from the Eugene area. The dam was a champion, so I drove down to Eugene and bought a female from her. This bitch was inbred. She had been bred to her sire, whose name was Metu of Dexter. The bitch was Ch. Misty Maid of McKenzie. Metu of Dexter was sired by Ch. Rokandi Of Drayalene, whose sire was the famous Ch. Yurok of Whitecliff.

This was in Eugene where Peggy lived. Metu of Dexter was the sire of Ch. Silver Raffles of Misty Way and Ch. Stormy of Misty Way, two of Peggy's biggest winning dogs, both Best in Show winners. Stormy also won the National Specialty later on, but this was before that. This was in the early seventies.

The little bitch I bought from her ended up being my very first champion and my foundation bitch. Her name was McKenzie's Polar Mist Nikki. At the time I bought Nikki, this gal, Marianne, had bought two dogs from back East or the Midwest. They were

linebred Baerstone dogs. She was really high on them. They were so pretty.

Shortly after that, I heard about the Samoyed Club of America and found somebody to sponsor me. I wanted to join. I joined the Sammy club and looked through the first Bulletin I got. At that time I wanted to get another male Sammy. In the Bulletin I saw Ruth Mary Heckeroff had an ad. She had a picture of Ch. Oden of Aasgard. I thought he was the most beautiful Sammy I had ever seen in my life. I wrote to her and to Jeannie Zuver who was advertising Kerlu, which was an English line Sammy. Like most novices, what attracted me to these dogs was the big, heavy coats, the big heads. I didn't know anything about movement and structure. The "pretties" is what attracted me. I ended up buying a male from Ruth. This was my second male. Neither of those males finished. The first one had a front problem. Actually, later on when I learned to show, I probably could have finished the male I had gotten from Seattle, but by that time I had gotten more involved in some different lines and decided it wasn't what I wanted to go on with. The male I got from Ruth did not turn out. He was big and pretty but he hated dog shows. He wouldn't show at all. I ended up placing him in a pet home.

About a year after I got Nikki, I saw an ad in the paper. (On Sundays I always liked to look at the Sammy ads in the paper.) It advertised Baerstone. I recognized the name right away because the gal I had gotten Nikki from had two Baerstone dogs. I called. These people had just moved to Oregon from Missouri. They had brought the dogs with them. They had an accidental breeding between a Gro-Wil and a Baerstone dog. In fact, the bitch was a litter sister to Ch. Sulu's Karbon Koby of Baerstone. There were only three puppies in that litter and this was one of the bitches. I didn't know any of that at the time. I went over and ended up buying a bitch. These people didn't continue on with the dogs. Later on down the road, I ended up helping them find homes for some of the puppies.

This second bitch I bought did not finish her championship. She could have, but circumstances prevented it. She was Polar Mist Baerstone Nishka. She is Dr. Pepper's granddam. She did get up to ten or eleven points. She had both her majors, but I never finished her. That is how I got my start. I just kind of stumbled along and figured things out on my own. I eventually did meet Peggy McCarthy and joined the Oregon Samoyed Fanciers. Peggy became a good friend and was a lot of help to me. She was the person who gave me some guidance and help. I learned a lot from her.

Nikki was a very good-moving bitch. She wasn't very pretty. Her head wasn't pretty, but she had a nice body. She was a leggy bitch and just moved beautifully. My first win at a dog show, the first points I ever took with a Sammy, were with Nikki. At her second show, she was an adult and her first weekend out she won both shows. The second show was under Bob Ward. Right of the bat he sent us around and put me over in a corner. He never looked at me again while he judged the other dogs and I thought I had been totally dismissed out of the running. He ended by putting her up. That was a real surprise for me and a big thrill.

Nikki moved beautifully. Subsequent dogs I had gotten, like the two males, were just pretty average-moving dogs. After having a dog that could really move well, even though she wasn't as pretty as the other dogs, I decided that was what I liked. It was so much fun to be able to outmove all the other dogs in the ring that I decided I had to have good-moving dogs. Pretties were secondary at that point. At the time, it seemed the dogs that could really move well were rangier or coarser dogs (not all of them, but most of them). They were leggy dogs with short coats and really not pretty. I decided I wanted to have the best of both worlds. I wanted a dog that could move and be sound, and I wanted it to be pretty, too. That has been the goal in the back of my mind.

Nikki was your foundation bitch?

Right.

Did you buy males to breed to her or did you go out to find a male?

I bred her to my first male. The first breeding was to Polar Nanuck. After I was in it a while, I realized that wasn't the direction I wanted to go. I bred to Ch. Kalmarli's Lord N' Master, Sandy Adams owned him at the time. He was basically linebred Kubla Khan. Sandy and I had become friends and she ended up moving very close to me, virtually in the same neighborhood. I kept a bitch out of that litter, Am/Can Ch. Polar Mist Ain't She Sassy. Every dog I have now goes back to Sassy and Nikki. Sassy was so much fun. She was very showy. She moved good, she was pretty, she was typey, and I had a really good time showing her.

I ended up breeding Sassy to Ch. Silver Raffles of Misty Way who was a Metu son, which was Nikki's sire. Her daughter, the result of the breeding to Raffles, was Am/Can Ch. Polar Mist Ain't She Foxy who is very close to breaking the record of top producing Sammy bitch of American champions in the breed. She has tied the record. She has two kids right now who are very close, within one or two shows, to finishing.

When one more finishes, that will break the record for American champions.

How many litters have you bred?

I'd have to check my records. I didn't even think to count. I have had anywhere from one to three litters a year since back in the seventies.

Did you have a best litter?

The first breeding with Ain't She Foxy (who we called Kit), was to Ch. Iceways Ice Breaker. I guess you would have to say that was a pretty good litter because all the puppies became champions, an all champion litter. One of the sons in that litter was Winners Dog at one of the Nationals. Another dog in that litter was the sire of my Ice Vixen. Ice Vixen has a Best in Show son. One of the bitches in the litter went to Alaska, Ch. Polar Mist Salcha Queen. She went to Carol Haas who was Subarctica. Carol has gone on to have a family and has backed off on the dogs. She has formed a co-ownership with Annella Cooper on her dogs. Annella's little bitch that recently took some nice Group placements is one of Salcha Queen's daughters. Ch. Polar Mist Ice Show is the foundation stud for Silversage Sams.

Another bitch in that litter was Ch. Polar

Mist Heart Breaker who is Naughty Angel's dam. Naughty Angel is a multi-Group placer. She has kids that are Group placers and specialty winners. The pick of that litter was a bitch that was a dream come true. She had everything you could ever want. She moved, she showed, she was beautiful, and I lost her to parvo. She was the best one in that litter. That was a pretty nice litter.

Kit has only been bred to Ice Breaker. She has produced five litters from him. She has seventeen champion offspring, three are Canadian champions and the rest are American champions. They are all sired by Ice Breaker.

How many champions have you bred?

Most of them are American champions. Right now there are about 57. I have several others that are very close to finishing. There should be several that finish this year.

You have mostly kept bitches, is that right?

Yes.

Do you keep any males at all?

Yes. I did not buy a male that became a champion. My first champion male was one I bred, that was Am/Can Ch. Kohoutek



Am/Can Ch. Polar Mist Great White North CD.



Polar Mist Up Town Girl.



Am/Can Ch. Polar Mist Ain't She Daring.

of Polar Mist CDX, Can. CD. I had gotten his dam from Peggy. She was a Saroma's Polar Prince daughter. Her dam was Ch. Tempest of Misty Way, Raffles' and Stormy's dam. I bred her back to Stormy. This was after he had won the National in 1974. I kept Kohoutek out of that litter. Peggy and I co-owned the bitch so we split the litter. The bitch was five years old when I formed the co-ownership on her with Peggy. She was actually a dog that had been condemned to death. She was in a home somewhere in the Eugene area and had gotten to running with a German Shepherd and they had been killing sheep. The dogs were to be impounded and put down because there is a law in Oregon stating if an animal kills or even chases livestock the dogs are put down. There are no ifs, ands or buts about it. They managed to get her out of there before she was picked up. I got this call asking if I wanted her. I didn't know this was the reason I was getting the bitch at the time. That way they got her totally out of the Eugene area.

Peggy had a co-ownership with Sandy Hill on a male out of that litter. When Peggy died Sandy assumed the Misty Way kennel name. This was Sandy's first champion, Ch. Wildfire of Misty Way. His litterbrother was my Kohoutek. Those were the two champion males from that litter and my first champion male. I went on to obedience work with

him as well.

I started doing some obedience with the male I had gotten from Ruth Mary. He wasn't too good at that either. (laughter) He didn't like dog shows and he wasn't real good at obedience. I thought I was really smart, I had gone through Novice obedience class so I was going to train this dog at home (Kohoutek). I never even took him to a class. This is where I really made a big mistake, because this dog was a natural for obedience. He was so intelligent and so good. I totally trained him at home, out of a book, no classes. He got his CD in three consecutive shows, he was a young dog somewhere around a year of age. His scores were in the low 190s. The judges would tell me the dog was doing beautifully and the points off were handler errors. This dog had the potential. I went on training him. I got his CDX. I trained him in Open at home out of a book. I had never been to a class for Open work. In between the CD and the CDX he had gotten his championship. I don't think he got consecutive wins in the Open obedience class.

I remember him, at times, taking the jump, picking up the dumbbell, peeking around the jump at me and coming back over to me with it. Things that Sammies like to do. He was a smart dog. I feel if I had had some proper instructions this dog could have really gone far in the obedience ring. I finally went

to class for Utility work and trained him through Utility but by then he had gotten ring-wise. I had made handling mistakes with him, training mistakes with him. The trainer I had said "This is the type of dog that is going to get even with you for the mistakes you've made with him in the past." He would work beautifully anywhere but in the ring. Once he got into the ring he would pick something different each time to mess up. It was just being totally ring-wise and getting even with me. Anything I had been too hard with him on, come down too hard on him or lost my patience with him, those were the things he always messed up on. I learned a lot with this dog in the obedience ring.

I used him for breeding a few times. He has produced eight champions. He won a Sammy specialty as Best of Breed. He has produced a specialty Best of Breed as well. He has produced some nice puppies. We bred Sassy to him at one time. One of the bitches she produced was a show prospect and could have been finished, but the gal who bought her just wanted to do obedience. She did show her a few times and she did okay. The gal was very novice and didn't have any help. This bitch has gone on to get a CDX and a tracking dog title. Her name is Polar Mist Lil Poltergeist, CDX, TD. I co-owned the bitch with Roberta Cutsall who has done all the obedience work with her.

We bred her to Ch. Iceways Ice Crush, litterbrother to Ice Breaker. I took a pick male out of that litter and later on I sent him back to Anne Bark. Anne Bark and I co-owned him. That is Ch. Polar Mist Flash Dancer. Flash Dancer was the Winners Dog at the AKC's Centennial show in Philadelphia a few years ago. He is a multi-Group placer and he placed in the top ten winning Sammies. This is a Kohoutek grandson.

I bred Nikki to Ch. Belaya Sergeant Pepper after I had bred her to Kalmarli's Lord N' Master. She only produced one puppy which was born with a cleft palate and it died. She might have had an infection or something to only produce one puppy and to have a problem with it. I had a stud service coming because there had been a guarantee of a live puppy.

I guess I basically had two foundation bitches, Nikki and Nishka, I had bred Nishka to Ch. Silver Raffles of Misty Way and kept a bitch out of that. That ended up being Am/Can Ch. Pepsi Kola of Polar Mist. There was another champion bitch in that litter which was Ch. Polar Mist Ain't She Something. She went back to Stephanie Kroell, who was Timberline Samoyeds. She bred her back to Kohoutek which got another line going and some of these dogs are on the East Coast. When she bred to Kohoutek, that breeding produced Ch. Timberline's Lord Tikal, who is the sire of Ch. Polar Mist Spectacular Bid, owned by Jack Jermyn in New Hampshire. He has produced quite a few champions on the East Coast, in the New England area. In fact, one of Spectacular Bid's daughters was bred to Flash Dancer, who produced this last year's National Specialty Winners Dog. They did a linebreeding and combined on some of the Kohoutek kids and have come up with some good stuff.

I had kept Pepsi, she is the one I had taken to Belaya Sergeant Pepper and used the stud service I had coming. She produced Am/Can/Bah Ch. Polar Mist Dr. Pepper. There was one other champion in the litter, Ch. Polar Mist Kelso of Lupine. That is how I got Dr. Pepper.

It was really funny because Stephanie, who lived in Virginia, and I had become good friends. We had gone back and forth visiting each other. She and her husband were out here for a visit. Dr. Pepper was just a little over a year old. The first dog show he went to was the Washington State Specialty. He went Best Puppy in the specialty. I guess that was the start of things to come. He was not a showy dog but he had a presence to him, although he wasn't extremely showy.

When Stephanie was out visiting we had the National Specialty coming up in Atlanta. This was in 1979. I was going and

she was going. We were trying to figure out which dogs to take to the National. I said I was taking Kohoutek and somebody else. She said, "Why aren't you taking Pepper?" I said he was not ready. He was just fourteen months old. She said, "I think he is. In the East and the South they show dogs younger and what you think isn't ready on the West Coast is usually ready for the South or the East Coast. The type and the quality are quite a bit different."

At the last minute she talked me into showing this dog. Because the entries closed the next day in North Carolina or somewhere, the only way we could get him in was by calling her friend Sue Dye and asking her if she could get the entry in, which she did. Dr. Pepper's entry in that show was the absolute last entry taken for the National, the last number. At the last minute I didn't even know if he would be going. It depended on how things worked out. He did go and I had him entered in the Bred-by class. He ended up winning the Bred-by class and went on to be Winners Dog. Thanks to Stephanie. It

never would have happened if she had not been out visiting and talked me into entering this dog at the last second. Things just started happening from there with Dr. Pepper.

Once he won at the National, Stephanie talked me into leaving him there, this was in October. I didn't have any more dog shows for quite some time. I was living in Montana at the time. There was just nothing until spring. She said, "This dog is hot, he just won Winners Dog at the National. Why don't you leave him here where he can be shown?" Of course, he was finished by November. He finished in nothing flat. In fact, Sue Dye ended up finishing him for me. He stayed out there for a while. I had taken Tikal back home with me, who was out of Pepsi's litter-sister. I ended up showing and finishing him.

We went from the National to the Potomac Valley Specialty which followed. Tikal was Winners Dog at the Potomac Valley Specialty. We had a fun week there. I flew out there the following spring, took Tikal back and brought Pepper home. After he



Ch. Polar Mist Society Girl.

had won at the National, a lot of people started calling wanting to buy him. Some big name people, I was offered a lot of money for the dog. I was very attached to him, he was my baby. I just couldn't bear to sell him. I didn't want to give the dog up, but I felt where I lived in Montana there was no way I could special a dog. I was a jillion miles away from a dog show.

As I said, several people contacted me. The Ronalds contacted me about him. I had already had several years of association with the Ronalds. They bought their champion bitch from me, Ch. Timberline's Sparkling Kayta. Stephanie and I did some breedings back and forth, so some of the dogs that I actually bred carry the Timberline name and vice versa. Stephanie did breed Sparkle, but I had bred the sire and dam. She was a puppy that Stephanie had sold and gotten back. I was taking her. John had contacted me looking for a puppy and I told him about this bitch, she was five months old at the time. They decided to take her. That was how I got to know the Ronalds. We formed a friendship, the group of us. They had talked to me about Dr. Pepper and we worked a co-ownership on him. That way I could still own him and he would be able to be shown.

I have used Dr. Pepper at stud as well. He is Naughty Angel's sire. Of course, Pam Richardson had bought Angel's dam, which was Heart Breaker, so I worked up a deal with Pam to breed to Dr. Pepper if I could get a pick bitch from the litter. This turned out to be Naughty Angel.

Is Dr. Pepper the biggest winner you have bred?

Yes. John being an owner-handler, not a professional handler at all, it is quite a feat to have a special do much of anything. You have to work very hard at it and I know he had a lot of disappointments when he first started specialing him. He had judges actually tell him, "You have to pay your dues, boy." He had to stick with it and not give up. He just keep going, and pretty soon the judges started paying attention to him and looking at the dog. That was a pretty grueling pace they had when they were campaigning him. It was a lot of work and I don't think they would ever want to do it again. I don't know how many Breed wins he took, but he did take 142 Group placements. He had thirteen Bests in Show, eight Sammy specialty wins and five or six Awards of Merit. He is definitely the biggest winner I have bred, for sure.

There are several other dogs I have bred that have done very well, but none have been campaigned like Dr. Pepper. One of his sons, whose dam is Ice Vixen, has been

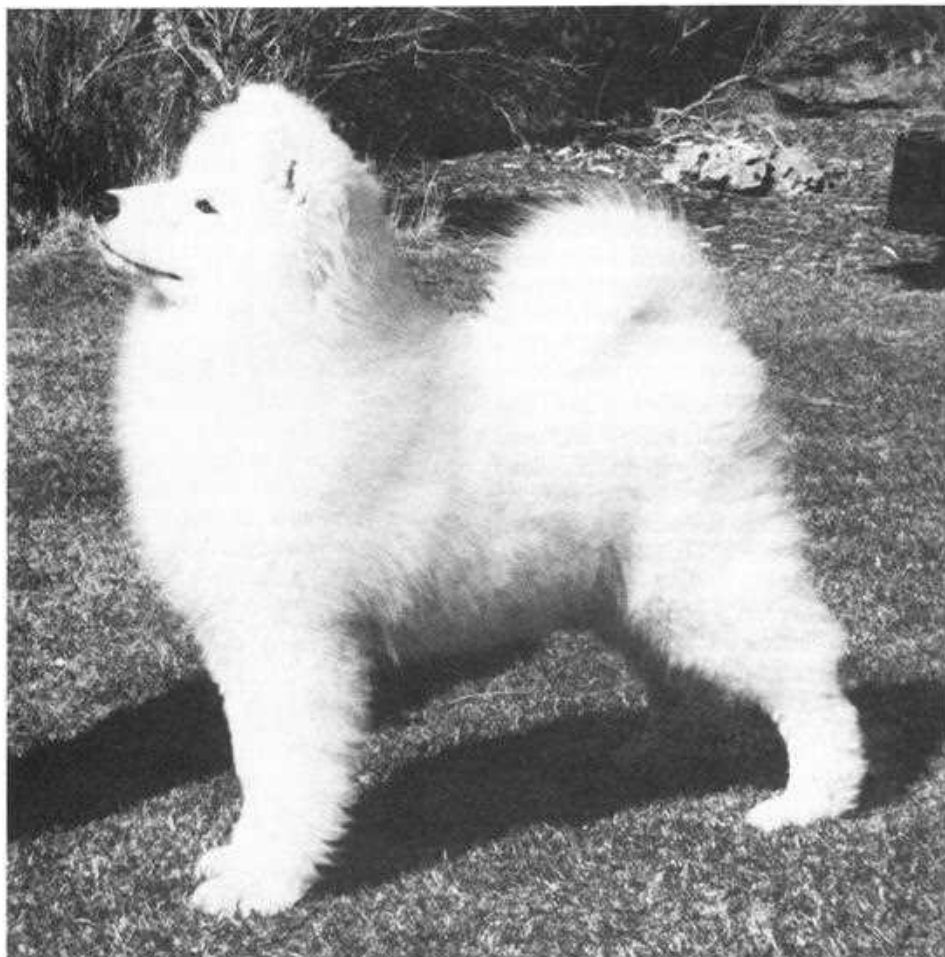
out being specialied. That is Ch. Polar Mist Slice of Pepper. He has two Bests in Show and several Group placements. Another Best in Show winner is a half brother to Dr. Pepper, same dam (Am/Can Ch. Polar Mist Great White North, CD). He lives in Canada with his owners, Moria Towriss Smith and Hartley Smith. He has been shown as a special on a very limited basis. He was Winners Dog and Best of Winners at the 1986 National. He had been Reserve Winners Dog at the 1984 National (to his uncle who was Winners Dog, Ch. Polar Mist Val's Dante from the first Kit and Breaker litter). He only came to the States to be shown during National Specialties. In 1985 he was Winners Dog the day following the National. This dog has two Bests in Show as well.

Probably the top winning bitch I have bred has been Ch. Polar Mist Ice Princess (whose dam is also Ice Vixen), owned by Belinda Virnich. She has several Group placements including at least two Group Firsts. I believe she has gotten as far as number three top winning bitch one year.

Vixen has done some nice winning considering she was only specialied at or around specialties. She has three Bests in Show at specialties, plus winning an Award of Merit at a National. In 1985, she took the Breed following the National in Rochester at the all breed show, plus a second in Group. Her kids have gone on to do that kind of winning as well. There are several other dogs and bitches that have done some nice winning with Group placements and specialty wins and have been in the top ten or twenty, but right now no one other than Slicer is being campaigned much.

What are your feelings on inbreeding, linebreeding and outcrossing? How do they fit into your plan?

I definitely believe in linebreeding and inbreeding on the right dogs. I have done a lot of both. I have done some outcrossing when I decided I wanted to bring in something else. I have done some father-daughter breedings. In fact, my foundation bitch was the result of a father-daughter breeding. The Baerstone bitch was heavily linebred.



Polar Mist First Stryke.

They both proved to be successful and produced very well. I have had a lot of success breeding to Ice Breaker.

When I bred Kit to him (Ice Breaker is now twelve years old and Kit is eleven years old), she was two at the time. I had such success breeding to the dog, the first litter became all champions. I have used the dog a lot, probably more than anybody in the country. He has consistently produced some really outstanding dogs for me, some nice winning dogs. We have a multitude of Group-placing dogs out of him.

I have gone back and linebred on combinations I have done with him. I have inbred with him. I have one of his daughters that I bred to him twice. The first litter produced Ch. Polar Mist Law Breaker II. He did well right from the start. At his second show he took a four-point major. He finished with five majors. He won the Puppy Sweepstakes at the LA Specialty. He was Reserve Winners Dog at the LA Specialty from the Puppy class - 6-9 months. The following fall he went on to take Best Futurity Junior and was Reserve Winners Dog at the National. After that he finished with five majors and two Group placements from the classes. This was one of my inbred breedings. The Best Futurity Puppy at the National last year and Best Futurity Junior happen to be cousins. Law Breaker's dam and the dam of the Best Futurity Puppy are litter sisters. There is a lot of consistency there.

The second time I bred Minx back to Breaker; the dogs are young, there is one champion male out of it. So far, Sharon Hurst owns him. He finished with four or five majors as well. That is Ch. Orion's Bud Light of Polar Mist. He did very well. He ended up, going Best Opposite Sex in the Sweepstakes at the LA Specialty. Two years in a row we have had Best in Sweeps and Best Opposite Sex with two brothers from two different litters.

I believe in inbreeding and linebreeding if you are breeding on good dogs and you know what is behind them because if there are recessives they are going to come out and you are going to find them. Sometimes it is not until years down the road. What is nice about some of the dogs now that I have been inbreeding on is that they are older dogs, we find out what has come out and what is where. It gives you a very good idea. Certain traits come out with linebreedings and inbreedings. I have had a lot of success with it. They are some of the nicest breedings I have done. What produced Spectacular Bid was a nephew-aunt breeding. I have done a lot of half brother-half sister, a lot of grandsire-granddaughter, granddam-grandson. Vixen was from a grandson-grand-



Ch. Polar Mist Law Breaker II.

mother breeding as well. Some of my best dogs have come out of linebreedings and inbreedings.

I have done some outcrossing. Probably the most recent outcross was when I took Vixen to Wolf River's Drumlin, which produced Ch. Polar Mist Society Girl. She has done well. I had a lot of fun showing her. She likes to show. She was Winners Bitch at the Northern California Specialty last year and at an all breed show the next day as well. She picked up both of her majors that weekend. She just moves beautifully. She is a big bitch. She is 22 1/2 inches, leggy and she can go.

I bred Society Girl (I call her Tess) to Breaker who is her great grandsire. I kept two of her offspring from that. Both of them have done well. The male I kept I am very excited about. He is two minor points short of finishing his championship. He has three majors. He had a Breed win at seven months old over several specials. His litter sister, at her very first show, picked up a four-point

major and went Best Opposite over a special. I am really excited about these two young kids. This was not a close linebreeding but it was a linebreeding that produced these guys.

How many Samoyeds do you keep now?

I have eight. I have always stayed pretty much within six to eight dogs. I don't like to have more dogs than I can take care of and give proper attention to, even though I don't work out. I know other Sammy people have 30, 40 and 50 dogs. I just can't even imagine 20 dogs or even over 10. I have a bitch I co-own here with me now so that gives me another one. At various times I have other Sammies here I have bred and it is just so much more work. I want to keep them groomed, clean, give them individual attention and you just can't do it with a lot of dogs unless you have a lot of help and I have never had help. I have virtually done everything on my own.

Is eight the maximum number of

Samoyeds you have ever owned at one time?

Yes.

How would you rate type, temperament and soundness in order of importance?

They are all very important. I guess you have to put sound structure at the top of the list because you have to have sound structure to have correct type, in my book. To me, temperament is very important as well, disposition. Most Sammies have really good temperaments anyway. We are fortunate to have a breed that has this type of temperament. In the past, at various times, I have seen Sammies that did not have a very good temperament. That is the exception rather than the rule. Soundness is very big on my list. I see a lot of Sammies in the ring that aren't sound and have a lot of problems, and it makes me wonder sometimes where these dogs are coming from.

Could you describe your ideal dog?

The young male I have right now, Jet Set'r, is very close to my ideal dog. I am really excited about him. He is out of Society Girl and Breaker. For a male, I like the top of the standard. Jet Set'r is 24 inches, a bit over. He is a good-sized boy. I don't like to see them any bigger than that. I don't like to see the great big ones, but I do like a dog around the top of the standard with nice length of leg. I don't like a body that is too long.

I have to have necks on my dogs. I like nice arched necks. It just drives me crazy to see a head sitting on shoulders without any necks. That just doesn't appeal to me at all. I am really a neck person. I like a body with a tendency towards being cobbier. Not totally square but as close as possible. Nice leg, nice neck, nice body, presents a nice picture.

I like a nice masculine male with nice bone, a nice coat. I don't like overdone Sammies. I don't like extremes in any form. I don't like what most people refer to as the bear type. I prefer something in the middle, and I believe that is what the standard calls for. I don't like the extremely coarse-looking dogs.

One thing that really bugs me is extreme bone. Jet has big bone. Everybody who sees him says he has nice big bone. He has about the maximum amount of bone I would like to see on a Sammy. He is not overdone. He is at the limit as far as bone size. I have seen some that almost look like tree stumps or something, they are just huge. You don't see them that often but it seems like the ones I have seen that have such huge bone usually have a lot of coat as well. They are overwhelming and a lot of judges put them



Am/Can Ch. Polar Mist Saucy Minx.

up. That is not what a Sammy is supposed to be. They do draw your eye because they stand out. A lot of judges who don't know what a Sammy is supposed to be will put that kind of dog up. If they are a bigger-boned dog I want them to be light on their feet, agile and able to move. If they can't, their bone and structure is too heavy as far as I am concerned.

In a bitch, I like a medium size, around 21 inches, nice bone, good coat and head. I want her to look like a bitch and not be doggy. I also want to see a nice neck on her. I do prefer a nice standoff texture to the coat rather than lots of volume, on both males and females. I want good length of leg on both males and females. Even some of my small bitches have good length of leg. They are in proportion. You see some Sams that are small-looking because their legs are short, even though they have the body size of a larger dog. I don't like that type of look at all.

What about eye color and pigment on your dogs?

At first, some of my dogs had more of a medium-brown eye. On occasion I would get some that had a tendency to be a little bit

too light. It is something I have worked on. The things your dogs may be lacking you want to work on gradually. If they need a better-textured coat, you don't want to lose the structure because correct structure is the most important thing, so it is really a gradual thing. Years ago, the dogs that could move were more coarse and not very pretty. The really pretty ones didn't seem to be able to move very well. I wanted a pretty dog that could move, so I have tried to do it very gradually without losing the basic structure. When I add things I will breed to a dog that has that particular trait, but I don't want to lose the others. Eye color is one of those. I had some lighter eyes and all my dogs that are under five years old have a dark eye now. Prior to that time some of them had lighter eyes. Breaker has a dark eye and I got darker eyes from him. Drumlin has a dark eye, too.

I do get a percentage of liver pigment or brownish-black noses. Of course, everybody likes the black and I am not an exception. If I have my preference it is going to be black, but it doesn't bother me at all to have a dog with a liver-colored nose or lighter if the

rest of the dog is there. That isn't a priority. It is something I like to have and I try to add it gradually if the right dog has it, but I don't breed for it. There are other things that are more important.

What about biscuit in the coats, do you have much of it?

I haven't had much of it. I've had some. Once in a while you get a puppy that has more biscuit. Dr. Pepper has a biscuit saddle on his back. Silver Raffles had a biscuit saddle. These aren't dark biscuit. It is a light biscuit that blends well. It doesn't stand out to where it really catches your eye because it is lighter, but it is a biscuit. I have seen it in dogs at different ages. It will come in with a new coat. Sometimes it will come in darker, maybe a couple years down the line the biscuit is lighter. The same pattern is there but it comes in lighter with different coats sometimes. I have seen that happen. I have seen it with Dr. Pepper. There are different ages when he was lighter then it got darker, but it isn't a real standoff biscuit. I have bred a couple of puppies that had quite a bit of biscuit on them. Most of mine have some around the head, the ear area. Not all of them, but a good percentage of them. I get a percentage that have biscuit freckles, which I think is really cute. I have never had any with the real dark freckles. In fact, you don't really know they are freckles until they have had their bath. I have seen Sammies with really dark freckles on them. A couple I have bred have a medium-color freckle.

What do you like in ears in type and earset?

I like a medium-length ear. The thing is some of the dogs I started with like Nikki, my foundation bitch, was linebred Drayalene. The Drayalene dogs had big ears. A lot of the Misty Way dogs had big ears. They seemed to go with legs. A lot of the time you had nice legs and big ears. A lot of the good moving dogs had the bigger ears as well. I have some big ears back there and every once in a while they come through. A lot of my dogs tend to have a higher earset. I like the earset that the standard calls for. That is probably a preferred earset but I do have a little higher earset on some of my dogs. Some of them also have a bigger ear. Most of them anymore have a medium-sized ear.

On occasion when you get out of the Northwest into other areas where other lines have been dominant, you find some very tiny ears. I am not used to seeing that kind of ear, not just on my dogs but in this whole area you don't see tiny ears very often. It almost looks deformed to me to see a little tiny ear. The dogs' ears should be of medium length, not too big and not too small.

What about the tail and the set of the

tail?

What the standard calls for. I don't have much problem with the tailset. The tailsets on most of my dogs are very nice and correct. Nikki had a short tail. Sassy had a short tail. Vixen has a short tail.

Does it crop up every once in a while?

It does crop up. Breaker has a long tail. I have bred to Breaker a lot so he has helped to put some length of tail on my dogs. I have gotten some nice long tails. I guess since I had several dogs that had short tails, I am just totally in love with a long tail. Most of the tails on my dogs now are the correct length, but on occasion I get a short tail. It is not short short, but it is a half inch short of reaching the hock or somewhere in that neighborhood.

What are the most serious faults in Samoyeds today?

Fronts are a serious fault. I see a lot of bad fronts. They are slowly starting to get better. I know it is something I have worked real hard on, although I have never had any really serious front problems. I have always had really good rears, strong rears. The old

Misty Way dogs had really strong rears. I have always had to deal with a really strong rear and try to find a front to go along with those good rears when I wanted to breed out. That's one of the main reasons I used Breaker so much, he has a really good front and so did his dam, which I feel was excellent. I will go to specialties and sit and watch judging. It seems like the corners, the down and backs are the most popular places for people to sit and watch. That is one of the biggest problems I see, the fronts.

Another thing, I see a lot of good driving rears, I see a lot of good side gait coming through on dogs, much better than I used to see a few years back. I will see ones that have really nice side gait then when I watch them going and coming they are doing funny things going both ways, or one or the other. I see that as a problem. I have seen some of the top winning dogs that are doing really well, that are real close in the rear, toeing out and looking hocky. They are flipping their fronts around or knitting or something. It seems the breed as a whole has improved on side gait quite a bit, but I am seeing a lot



Ch. Polar Mist Dr. Pepper.

of "not clean" coming and going.

I see a lot of parallel hocks when the dog is gaiting. They are supposed to form a V when they are in a trot. It is a slight V going away from you. In the majority of Sammies I see, the hocks are parallel because they are not falling toward the centerline, that's called single-tracking. That is why they form the V, because the legs are coming in toward the center. Most of them I see are parallel and close in the rear as well. A lot of judges are putting these dogs up even if there is a dog that has more correct movement. A lot of the judges apparently haven't studied the standard or they don't know it that well, and they don't realize this V look is the correct way for the rear to look, not like a Collie which is close with the parallel hocks. In the visual standard they did for AKC on the tape, they used Dr. Pepper as the example for the correct rear going away. His rear is just right on.

There was a gal at some shows last month who has a puppy she had gotten from me who has a nice rear and is very correct. She took Reserve with him, it was a big class. She is a novice and she went up and asked the judge what he thought of her dog and he mentioned this dog's V-type rear. That was one thing he didn't like about the dog because the dog's feet were coming in. (laughter) She said, "Isn't that the way they are supposed to look?" I said, "Yes, they are." This is probably one of the only dogs in the ring who had the correct rear but because he was different and didn't look like the others with their parallel hocks, the judge thought there was something wrong with that dog.

Is the Samoyed Standard a good one?

Yes.

Would you like to see anything changed?

Yes. The one thing I would like to see changed is the standard for bitches to be 22 inches. In fact, from talking with Bob Ward that was to be the original standard for bitches. The story I have heard is that when it was typed, the secretary who was to send this in to the AKC put in the 21 inches instead of 22. That is the way it was accepted.

Was it just a typographical error or was that just the way she wanted to do it?

I get the drift that it was the way she thought it should be. I am not sure if it was typographical or if that is what she personally wanted and put it in. The reason might be because on the East Coast the dogs tend to be smaller. In this part of the country, my bitches that are 21 1/2 inches are considered medium-sized bitches. I am showing a bitch right now, an Angel daughter who is 19 1/2 inches and she is the smallest bitch in the

ring. In fact, she gets lost in the ring sometimes. I like to get at the end of the ring with her so she isn't stuck in the middle somewhere because she is small. Everyone comments, "Boy, is she small!" The top of the standard bitches everyone calls medium-sized.

Tess (Society Girl) at 22 1/2 inches is considered a big bitch and she IS a big bitch. I had another bitch that won like crazy. She was a really good moving bitch. She was closely linebred on Silver Raffles and the Baerstone combination. She was 23 inches, had a real long neck, she pulled herself way up. She had a pretty good coat and she looked huge. When she pulled that neck up she looked much bigger than 23 inches. She didn't have one bit of trouble getting her championship. She even had a Canadian championship. She was showy and she could outmove everything in the ring. She finished like crazy, but here is this big 23-inch bitch that looked even bigger.

You take a 25 1/2-inch male, two inches over standard, I don't think you could even win with a dog that big. It would be very difficult. It would look so extremely large. People don't consider a 22 or a 22 1/2-inch bitch extremely large. I really feel 22 inches would be reasonable for a bitch height.

Another thing that bugs me a little bit in the standard is on nose color where it says "Preference - black." It goes on to say the other colors are not to be penalized, but they are penalized. I would like to see it just say "Nose color - black, liver, dudley or shades thereof." Those are the nose colors. A good percentage of our Sammies do have the liver nose. The word "preference" leads a lot of people into coloring noses. It is for that reason they feel they can't compete. I read in one of the interviews recently about the nose color where a judge had two dogs he liked and put up the one with the black nose over the other one because of the color of the nose. He was penalizing the other dog because of nose color. The word preference tends to create that. I know of a lot of dogs that have really done some big winning and been top winners that have dyed noses. It is a shame they feel they have to do that to be able to be competitive. That is another thing I would like to see eliminated - the word preference.

Do you special your champions very much?

No, I don't. For one thing, I lived in Montana. We lived in Oregon and moved to Montana and lived there for eight years. Dog shows were a long way away. The only time I will special my dogs is at a specialty or just on occasion for the fun of it. I do not have the will or the desire to do it. I like to show my

own dogs. To me that is fun; I enjoy being in the ring and showing the dogs, but I like to do things other than showing dogs. I like to hike, I like to ski and other things. I don't want to go to dog shows every weekend. In fact, two weekends in a row is plenty. I like to have a couple of weekends off and I am not avidly into it to just go every single weekend and run myself into the ground.

It is a lot of work. It is fun to show the dogs but you are only in the ring for a few minutes. The work is getting there and it seems like I always had to drive a long way. I am back in Oregon now, but I live in central Oregon and it is still driving several hours to shows. I am closer than I was in Montana, but I still have several hours of driving. I have always done this by myself. If I go with a girlfriend, they have their own dogs, I am loading, unloading, grooming, driving for hours and it is a lot of work. I just don't want to do that to myself, this constant "on the road and hitting all the dog shows" type thing. I am really not into the specializing. I do it because it is fun and when it ceases to be fun then I don't want to do it.

I really don't have the income to hire a top-notch handler to special a dog for me. I form co-ownerships with people who want to special and do special; that is fine if that is what they want to do. Some have handlers and some do it themselves. That is the way I like to do it.

Does making the top ten or twenty mean anything to you?

It is nice to have dogs up there, but there again you have to have somebody willing to show them and I usually don't do it myself. There are a lot of nice dogs out there that never made it or some of them never even saw a show ring because of the circumstances or weren't able to be shown and they could have been top winning dogs. If you have some nice dogs and they are able to be shown, it is nice if they make the top ten and get the recognition.

To be continued...