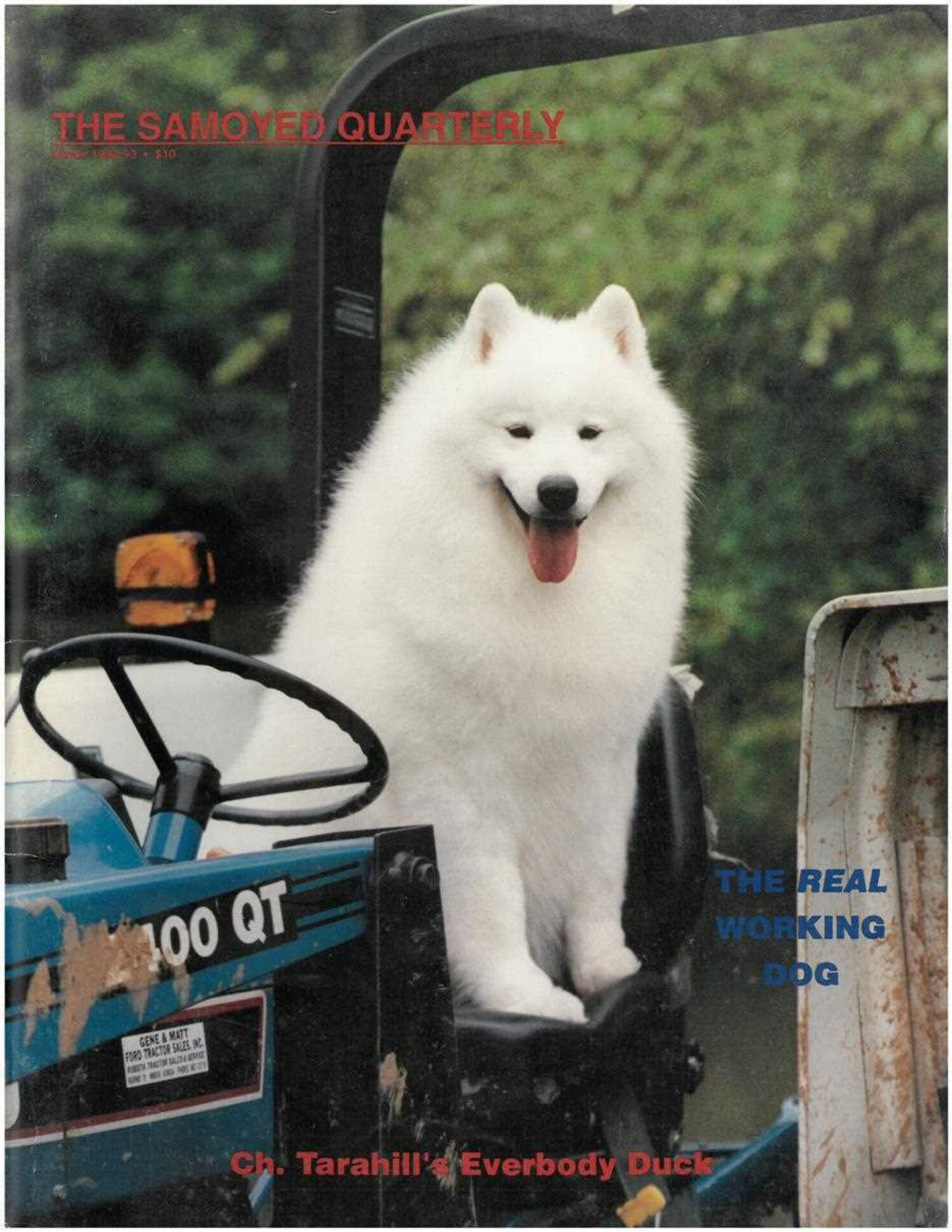


THE SAMOYED QUARTERLY

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Samoyed People

The Samoyed Quarterly
Talks With
Wilna Coulter
WHITECLIFF
San Carlos, California

This interview was conducted at the home of Wilna Coulter in January of 1992 by Debbi Sencenbaugh.

Tell us a little about the people you have met through the Samoyeds.

There have been so many wonderful people. Elizabeth Mihalyi, who is a very well-known artist whom I met at the first show at Cow Palace, when we had our first dog, Dorka, stopped by because of the benching for the background of the dog was turquoise blue and she was very taken with my colors. She gave me her card and wanted me to come by and see her. It took me about a year before I came across her card and said, "I think I will," because, at that time, she was living in Redwood City which was very close. I stopped by to see her and we became very close friends and she has done this painting of myself and the dogs in 1967. When we did the painting, she wanted me to wear the blue dress that she had liked and that's why, in the painting, I have on that blue dress.

It was very interesting how she did the painting. She spent two or three afternoons just sitting in my living room taking color pictures, at random, of the dogs. She would take a picture of this one and that one and when the pictures were developed, she said, "Now, let's plan the painting," and I said, "I love the position of this one and that one," and we'd pick out the pictures of the dogs in different positions and she roughly sketched them and numbered the picture. When she got ready to paint the picture, she came over and we would place the dog in the same position that we had taken in the photograph. That way, it was a very easy thing to do for her. She would work on it at home after she got some of the outlines, then come back and do another dog and another part of the picture. But we planned where we wanted each dog from the color photos she had taken, and then she did each one in the



picture from life.

She taught art here in a Redwood City studio. She was a very talented woman, not only in painting, but in music, she played the piano beautifully. Her husband was of Hungarian nobility and when the communists came in she got out. He said, "If you are born in Hungary, you die in Hungary." He was much older than Elizabeth. She said she had been born in London and she didn't have to stay. Her mother, an opera singer, and her father had been divorced. She was an intensely interesting person. When she left Hungary, she took a pregnant Vizsla dog with her and that's how the Vizslas first came into the United States. She was honored quite a few years ago at one of their specialties in Santa Cruz and asked to give out the trophies. She is a person I am so glad I had the opportunity to know. She died five years ago at the age of 85. She was also a member of the Peninsula Symphony. Also, horses were her love and she was a member of the horseman's association and did a lot of paintings of horses. She did a painting of Arthur Godfrey and his horses and had been chosen to do the Orvil Freeman portrait for the state capitol. She was, as I say, a fascinating person and I met her through the dogs.

She had three sons. Her oldest son stayed with his father. Her second son came into the United States through Canada. He had been all over the world and became head of the Geography Department of Chico State University. He and his wife are very good friends of ours still. Elizabeth spent either Thanksgiving or Christmas with us every year. If she spent one holiday with her son and daughter-in-law, then she spent the other with us. My kids just adored her and everybody did who

ever met her. I still meet her friends today who say how much they miss her and it's nice to be missed like that.

The picture we are talking about is a large oil with the three dogs sitting with me. Ch. Dorka, our first Sam, that we bred to Ch. Yurok, which produced the two male puppies, which we later kept. Dorka was a granddaughter of Yurok. My second son wanted to give a graduation present to his high school girlfriend. He had seen a Sam puppy. We went to Leona Powell's and bought a puppy from her. At the time she lived in San Rafael. My younger son, who was seven years old at the time, absolutely could not stand it. He wanted that puppy so badly. I have four sons and the older boys put their money together at Christmas time and bought a Sammy for him for Christmas, which was Dorka. We, again, contacted Leona Powell and she told us Helene Spathold had a litter at the time and Rockandi was the father of that litter. We bought the puppy and Helene kept it for us for about three weeks until Christmas time.

We didn't know anything about Sams. In those days people didn't give you very much information. I made up my mind a long time ago that I would help anybody in grooming or anything else, who needed help with Sams, that I could. We had no idea that Dorka was such a fantastic little bitch, except that everywhere we took her, the people absolutely flipped over her. When she was six months old a technician at the veterinary hospital said, "Look, my daughter has shown Sams and I want her to see this little bitch." She filled out a form for us for the Westlake Fun Show. My husband and I didn't even go. The kids went. We had a little turquoise jewel collar on her. I told them, "Now, don't be disappointed if she doesn't get anything because she hasn't ever been to a show and she doesn't know anything. Just take her but don't expect anything." She came home with awards. Her sisters had been there and she beat all of them and her brother. This girl, Judy Law is her name now, called me up and said, "I would love to show her. If you will only put her in the shows, I will show her for you. There's Del Monte coming up." She filled out the entry and sent it in for us. By that time, Dorka was about seven months old. Sitting on that lawn at the Del Monte Lodge with the dog and two of my sons, about four Sammies came across that lawn and I thought it was the most beautiful sight I had ever seen. Del Monte Lodge is gorgeous, anyway, there on the water.

The funny thing is, she was only

seven months old and we never put her in anything but Open Bitch. She didn't win anything that day. Judy said, "You've got to teach her not to sit." (laughter) Judy started working with her and she started winning and that's when we found out there was a great deal of hostility toward us. At the Del Monte show there was only one person who came up and talked to us and that was Alice Thomsen. She was very nice. Helene Spathold was furious. She had sold us the dog for a pet and here we were showing her, and she wouldn't talk to us. This didn't really matter because dogs weren't our whole life and we thought these dog show people were a little peculiar. Alice encouraged us to show and when she began taking the points, all of a sudden, we would go to shows and we'd be the only bitch entered. What we didn't know at the time and found out later was, there had been a lot of hostility towards Yurok and all of his winning, and we didn't know what was going on in the background. In fact, in order to get the last point on Dorka, the breeder of Dorka called us and told us what was going on and that people were not going to compete against us and give Dorka any points. She said, "If you will pay the entry fees for a couple of her sisters, I'll get them ready and get them to the shows so she'll have some competition and she'll get her one point." We paid the entry fees for a couple of Dorka's sisters and we got the point we needed. But isn't that ridiculous? It was an education, believe me.

When Dorka was a champion, people were talking to us again. She was a champion and even though she would beat some of the males, she was not that big of a threat to some of the male champions, so some people were wanting to breed with her. We were a little smarter then, too, and we began to see what we liked and what we didn't like. A show where Dorka first got a point or placed was Yurok's last show and he was retired, so we had only seen him that once at that show. I went to Jean Blank with the pedigree and said, "Who would you breed her to?" and she said, "Yurok." I said, "But that's her grandfather," and she said, "It's the best breeding you can do, but don't go any closer." Jean arranged the whole thing and we went to Grass Valley and bred her to Yurok and that's how we had this litter of five. We didn't know what we had. We sold the two males that we later got back, which were Dorok and Czar. The person who bought them was a girl I worked with and they absolutely adored these two puppies, but when they had their first



Ch. Elrond Czar of Rivendell CD, "Ron" (Ch. Sho-off's Czar of Whitediff x Ch. Snow Princess of Darius), Best in Show at 1971 National Specialty. First Best in Show Samoyed in Mexico. Featured to represent the standard in Dog World magazine in 1972.

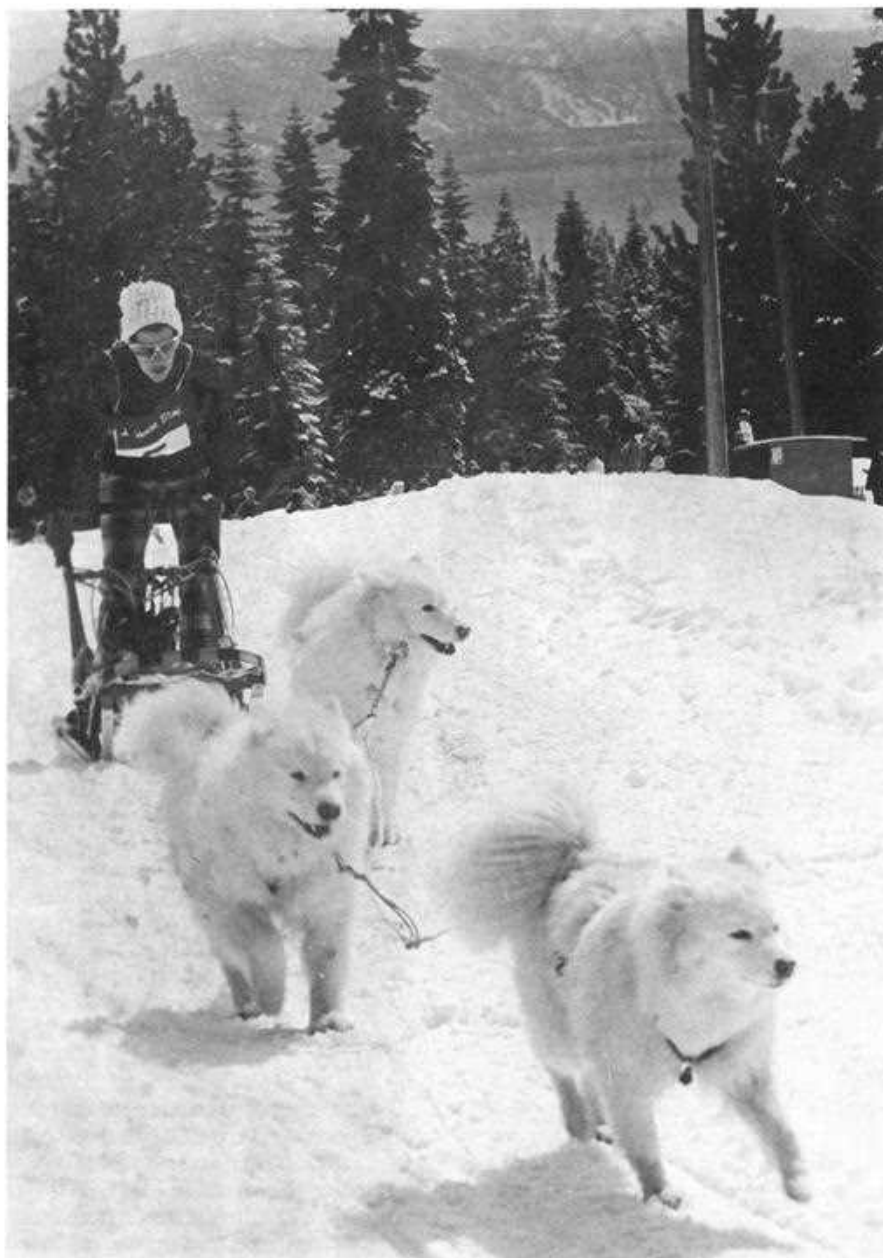
child ... These two dogs got into everything imaginable. They chewed off all the electrical wiring on the husband's sailboat and tore his underwear to pieces from the laundry basket and things of this sort. When Czar lifted his leg on the baby's playpen, that did it. (laughter) We got them back, which was the best thing in the world for us, but we didn't know that at the time, either.

By this time my third son, who was in college, would go to the shows and show these two dogs for us. Tom had absolutely no training, but he would usually take Czar in Open and turn around and take Dorok in American Bred and would win with both of them. Then my husband would have to take Dorok in and Tom would come out with Best of Breed. We had good dogs but we didn't know it. Bob di Giovanni wanted to buy them from us and no way were they for sale, but he was very nice coming up to the shows and would give us little helpful hints at the time.

Judy Law had been divorced and

married again and was no longer showing dogs, and we needed someone to handle our dogs. We only needed one more win for Czar and he would be a champion, so we had Bob di Giovanni take him in and he did and he got the points. Carley Harriman, Averell Harriman's brother, was the judge at that show. It was a hot day in Petaluma and the judge had taken off his coat and put it on a chair by the trophy table. When Bob di Giovanni came out of the ring with Czar and handed him to Don, because he had another commitment and could not take him in for Best of Breed, he said, "Here's your champion." Don took the lead and went on back in, went by that trophy table and the judge's pocket on his coat was kind of cupped out and Czar lifted his leg and wet into the pocket and on they went and everybody was yelling, "Oh, no!" but the judge didn't see it. (laughter) I thought I would die! But that's how he celebrated being a champion.

Dorok was a different thing. They were beautifully matched dogs but Dorok was aggressive with other males



*Some of Yurok's grandsons also worked on sled teams.
Left is Ch. Winter Frost of Whitecliff, a Czar son.*

and we had to really watch him. He never did it with Don, me or di Giovani, but if anyone else took him by the lead, he knew he could take a step and throw them. We had more people land on the ground, and then he'd stand there, but he knew exactly how to do it. Then we had a time because people knew that on a long lead with their dog, they could blow it for Dorok. He would turn around and challenge the male, but he didn't do it unless they came up to him. Bob di Giovani had no problems with him so he finished Dorok for us. Dorok hadn't any points

at all when Czar finished. We took him down to Southern California and in one weekend he took two five-point majors. He never had anything but majors. His next two shows were a four-point and a three-point. What had done it with him a lot of times was his ring behavior but I will say we owe a lot to Bob di Giovani for helping us with those two dogs. Here again, we have met some wonderful, wonderful people through the dogs. We had those dogs all those years and I just wish I knew then what I know now.

In breeding Dorok and Czar we

found that we could breed Czar to almost any female and she would have beautiful puppies. With Dorok's some were like him and some like the females, but Czar threw more of himself. Czar's dogs made a bigger splash in the show world than Dorok's did, although Dorok's pups had some Bests in Show, too. One of Dorok's puppies, Pushka, was one that we took back. His breeder Tony Buttell owned him and we suddenly had to find a new home for him. They were in the middle of a divorce and Tony had placed him someplace in Stockton and this was not working out at all and he called here and said, "I have to do something about Pushka." The Wendelins happened to be over here at the time. Randy Wendelin said, "I'll take him," and right then and there the Wendelins took over Pushka. Of course, it didn't cost a cent, it was just a good home, but he became a Best in Show dog.

The amazing part was, he was shown by an eleven-year-old girl who could show as well as any of the handlers. She was really terrific. It was very spectacular, this big dog and this little girl that could handle him, and she handled him so well that it amazed people, and she did get the Best in Show with him. Sometimes you have a very good dog like Pushka and people will breed to everything. I think that Pushka was bred to just anybody who had a female, which is too bad. I didn't realize until the Hoflin book came out, "The Samoyed Book," because I had never gotten completely through it, that some of these people in there were so nice to give me credit, like Susan Hampton giving me credit for Ms. Molly, her foundation bitch. Ms. Molly was a litter sister of Frances Powers' Tibu and Gail Spieker's Kashmere. All three of those dogs were outstanding. We were just very lucky. Fate plays a part.

Fifteen or more years ago I met Frances Powers - that was when she was living out here in California - and I think that was one of the nicest things that's ever happened to me, meeting Frances. I am so glad she is my friend and Whitecliff has really done so well under her. We would not have the dogs in the show today, a lot of them, if it weren't for Frances' breeding and her showing. At that time, too, Gail Spieker had gotten a Samoyed who was a beautiful male, but did not have a good rear. At the same time Frances Powers bought Tibu, Gail bought Kashmere from me and these two people have become my very closest friends. I'm so glad Gail lives right here in Menlo Park. We have co-owned many of our

dogs and the dogs I have today are all co-owned by Gail. She can get them to the shows. With my husband having been ill for a quite a few years, I was curtailed quite a bit from getting very far away from home. It's been just wonderful that Gail has been able to get my dogs to the shows. Frances, Gail and I are able to communicate and there has never been any problem. Our telephone bills get pretty hefty at times but those two, I am so thankful they are into Sams. There is no one better to take over when I am no longer around than Gail here on the West Coast and Frances on the East Coast.

Will they share the Whitecliff name?

Yes, definitely. They are very good friends, also. This way, Whitecliff will go on. We are a group of people who have fun and at the shows. It wouldn't be worth my time to go to these shows just to win. I want to go and have a good time and we do. We'll win our share and we're not going to win under a lot of judges, but there are times when I will put my dogs in even though I know we haven't got a chance. Sometimes it's no more than I think they better have the practice because they haven't been in for a while, (laughter) even though you know under certain judges you are not going to win. But you learn these things as you go along. It doesn't stop me from showing and it doesn't get me mad.

I have often said, I live three lives. We have been here in San Carlos for 44 years, and my kids growing up here and going to school here, we have quite a number of people that we've known in our social life for years. I also have friends from my high school days and so did my husband. He was from South Dakota but I was from just across the bay over in Concord, but we still have high school friends we are very close with. That is one part of my life. I worked for 24 years with San Mateo County Probation Department as a deputy probation officer. When you work in law enforcement, it's a different world entirely. The dogs are my recreation. They were our fun. We would plan vacations and plan to go where there were some dog shows.

When we had Star, Gainer and Chelsea quite a few years ago, we decided to go to Kalamazoo, Michigan where there were three dog shows. That was when John Studebaker lived there. We would go back once a year to visit my husband's mother who lived in Rapid City, South Dakota. Occasionally, when we would go back to South Dakota, we would take in dog shows. This time when we were going



*Percy and Lena Matheron with Yurok.
Lena has on sweater made of Samoyed hair.*

to Kalamazoo, Don said, "We are not going to take all three dogs. That's all there is to it. We absolutely will not!" I said, "Okay, which one do you want to leave at home?" and we took all three. (laughter)

Star was a champion, Ch. Whitetar IV. Gainer was Ch. Whitecliff's Gainesborough. How he got his name was, when he was born we owned his mother Kristahl. She was a very lovely bitch and had a few points, but we never finished her because we were using her more for a brood bitch. When they are first born we put a different colored ribbon for each puppy and I had a blue ribbon on Gainer, and we kept calling him Blue Boy. My daughter-in-law came over and said, "Gainesborough! That's what you should call him." So we did and that's how he got his name.

At that time, there was a young couple just getting out of the air force who had been stationed in England for quite a few years, and now he was retiring and they were coming home. They had gotten Chelsea's mother, a show dog, over there, of the Whitewisp line. They contacted me when they came here because they had bred her when they were in England and she had her puppies in Sacramento. Gail and I and Janet Rollins, another very good friend of mine, a young veterinarian, all went to see this litter and I decided then to buy the female. We picked out Chelsea and, of course, she was Chelsea of Whitewisp. We got everything from her we wanted - coal black eyes, lips and nose that never, never faded and she moved beautifully. She also had this marvelous disposition. You could

put her with any dog and she would get along with them. We never had her growl at another dog or another dog growl at her. She was just wonderful. We did get points on her but we never finished her either because she didn't like to show that much, and just forget it if she was in season - her tail would go down and her ears back. Gail's daughter Debbie was showing her in Santa Clara when she was in season. We did everything to try to get her to get her ears up, but, no, and then she'd drop her tail when she'd stand. Debby came out of the ring and said, "Someone has stapled this dog's ears to her head." (laughter) Other times she would show pretty well. As a rule, my dogs loved to show, and this was something different for me, to have one that didn't care. I never had a problem of a tail up or the ears up - they were always alert in the ring. Chelsea got her obedience degree and loved obedience.

Frances Roe, a handicapped lady, who does the spinning and knitting of things out of dog hair, had even gotten the tracking degree with Snow Job, her first Sam, and she wanted to show Chelsea in obedience. This was very good and Chelsea loved it. Frances Roe got Chelsea's CD. Frances has never been without crutches, has been on crutches ever since she was able to walk, and been handicapped since birth. Yet she got a CD on her dogs and Chelsea. We just let Chelsea have her CD, she didn't need to be a champion.

Frances Roe is another very unique character who is now bedridden; her husband died about three years ago, and she kind of went downhill after that. Before her husband died, Gail was going over and made sure their bills were paid, helped them get everything done that they were no longer able to do. After Harvey died, we got a woman in to stay with Frances for a while, especially to be there at nights. They also had another woman who came in about five days a week, but this is the amazing thing, the only friends that Frances has are the few dog people she knows. She has no relatives to take care of her, though financially she is secure, owns her own home and she has money to take care of herself. We have been having quite a time ever since Harvey died, seeing that she has care. You wouldn't believe the people we have interviewed to take care of Frances, but we have round the clock care for her and are trying to keep her in her own home as long as we can. She still has Ch. Whitecliff's Chelsea's Kira CD, who is eleven years old, and

knee and I was having a time because of having to run up and down stairs and taking care of my husband and taking her to obedience, so I did drop out. She loved obedience. I have felt that I should continue in obedience with her because I think she would really do well. Maybe I will. My husband died last Easter and it's taken me quite a while to get things around home taken care of. I'm very fortunate that my eldest son is an attorney. He takes care of many things for me. My second son is in mortgage banking, and my third son owns the two bars in San Francisco, and my youngest son, after he graduated from San Jose State, described himself to someone not long ago as a musician and part-time actor and traffic school instructor, but that's what he wants to do. Whatever a person wants to do, I think they should. You don't have to follow just what someone else has done.

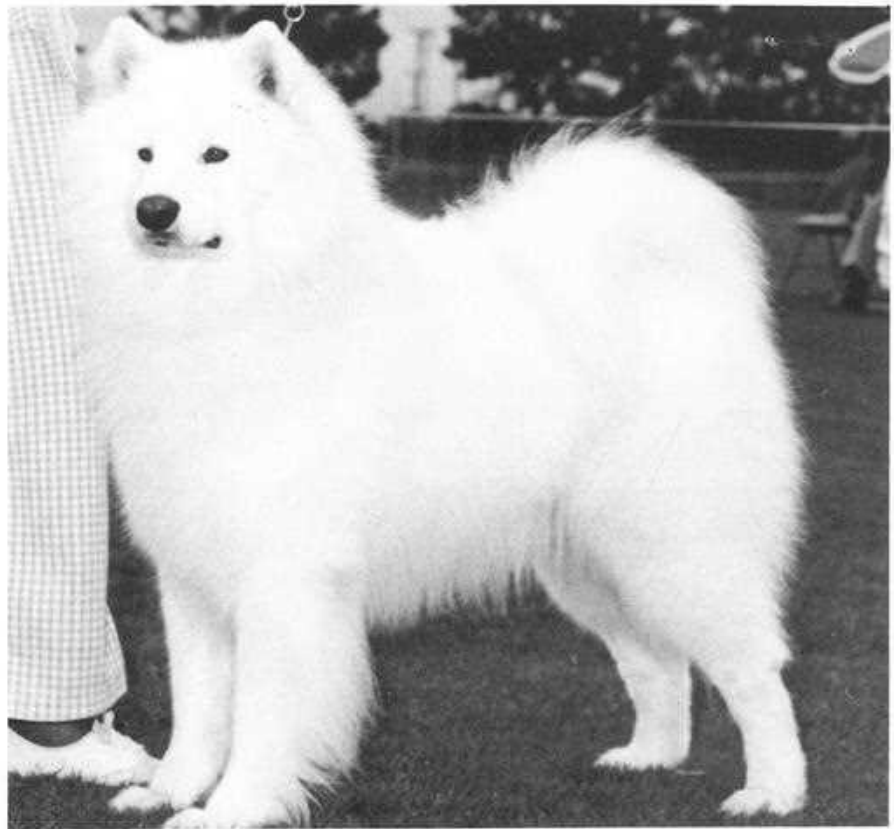
We have a very close family. Every single Christmas Eve the whole family is home. Even my granddaughter, who is a chemical engineer in New Orleans, as is her husband, went back and got her masters and then went on to Tulane University and was awarded a fellowship as the most outstanding post graduate student in engineering in the state of Louisiana. She now has her doctorate and her husband is going for his, too. Our two married sons alternate Thanksgiving with the two in-laws. No matter what, they all come home Christmas Eve, but I'm lucky the two oldest ones live in Saratoga. My fourth son lives in the Mountain View area, so it's all close. They tolerate me doing anything I want to with the dogs. (laughter)

Do they have Sammies, too?

The two oldest boys' wives and children have cats. We did co-own Gainer and Chelsea with my two grandchildren. They were little kids then, of course, Kelly and Christopher. We had their names on Gainer and Chelsea.

How did you come by the Whitecliff name?

It's quite interesting. When we bred Dorka to Yurok we became quite good friends with Lena and Percy Matheron, whom Yurok lived with. Percy and Lena Matheron took care of the dogs and got them ready for shows. Jean Blank, who co-owned Yurok with them, would take the dogs to the shows. Lena, while she was very interested because Dorok and Czar were doing so well in the shows, and we had done so much with Dorka, said, "You folks are the only ones who own Yurok's progeny who have done any-



Ch. Yeti of Whitecliff.

thing with his children. We want you to carry on the name." They were in their seventies then and they asked us to and we did. That's how we came into it. Of course, we have requested that Frances Powers put Whitecliff on all of her dogs and Gail with hers, but we all consult each other. I have letters in here from Lena saying how pleased she was with what we were doing, before they both died. Lena had said they wanted us to have the trophies, and when she died unexpectedly with a heart attack, Percy called us up one day and asked us to come and get them. We did, but we said there were a few of them in the house that we thought he should keep, like a little sled team and things of that sort that were part of the decoration of his house. Percy, shortly after that, committed suicide. Jean Blank took the little sled team and things over to the Geletichs'.

At that time, Jo Geletich and I co-owned some dogs, including Star. Star, a daughter of our Czar, had been sold when she was six weeks old, to a retired couple. This man took this little bitch out every day for a walk and this is how he met people. She naturally thought she was the most beautiful thing in the world because every day

people told her she was. Her owner died when Star was seven years old. Before she died, I got the call from Stanford Hospital, and she told me then that she wanted me to take Star back. She said her husband would never be able to take care of her like she should be taken care of. This little woman who owned Star had everything immaculate.

I went up to Paradise to pick up Star where she had been living before her owner went to Stanford University Hospital, and brought Star home. I gave her a bath and she stood in the middle of the family room and started barking at me and I thought, "What in the world is wrong with you?" and then it hit me - she'd probably had a rug to sit on after a bath. I put down a rug and that's what she wanted. She had been trained that after her bath she had her own rug. When I finally put crates in the family room it was because of Star. I had a rattan set at that time and there was one chair with arms on it and she chose that as her chair but when company would come, she would try to nudge anyone out of her chair and that's when we started putting crates in the family room and we've had them in there ever since. She didn't care, that



Ch. White Star IV (Ch. Sho-off's Cear of Whitediff x Ch. Tsonoqua of Snow Ridge), a granddaughter of Yurok. Started her show career at age 7 and took a Group placing at age 10. At ages 12 and 13 took first in Veteran Bitch two consecutive years at the National Specialty. Also received an Award of Merit at the National Specialty. She was retired from the show ring shortly before her 14th birthday. She had everything. Wilna's all time favorite female.

was just as much fun, but it was hers.

She was such a chow hound and could steal something so quickly that you wouldn't know that she had it. One time my son was standing at the refrigerator door and I saw Star run and get into her crate with something, and she had a good sized chunk of ham. I ran and got it away from her. (laughter) Another time, Frances Powers and Janet Rollins were over here bathing their dogs, getting ready for the Portland Dog Specialty. I had gotten two steaks out of the freezer, getting ready for dinner, and my husband came home and fixed a martini and I had taken a glass of wine out to the girls. I said to Don, "Now watch those steaks on the counter while I'm gone." Star had been fed, and I guess he wasn't paying much attention. I came back in and no steaks. She had eaten them that quickly and later threw them up. I was so mad at my husband for not watching! (laughter) This was the night before we were leaving for Portland.

A lot of different people have dif-

ferent tales to tell about Star. I co-owned her with Jo Geletich, and we immediately put her into the shows. I think about her third show at the age of seven years in Santa Clara, it was a big entry and some of the best dogs around were entered, like Ch. Midnight Sun Kimba, who had taken the National Specialty at one time, and some of the Best in Show dogs were in that particular show. Star took Best of Breed out of the Open Bitch class and beat all of these males. I'd never seen a judge do this before, but he took Star out, put her in the middle and ran her against about four or five of those males and gave her Best of Breed. I don't remember the judge's name right now. She put it over beautifully. She had this puppy face and more bone than Alexis. She was possibly a little stockier dog than Alexis but absolutely a darling dog. When she was twelve years old we had her at the Portland Specialty. I guess that was the same weekend she ate the steaks! (laughter) She took first in Veterans at the Portland Specialty

when she was twelve. The next year we took her to Marietta, Georgia. I flew with her there and John Colomo was showing her and he had her up on the grooming table and people would come by and say, "Oh, what a cute puppy. How old is she?" and we'd say, "Thirteen." They would say, "Thirteen months?" and we'd say, "No, thirteen years." Soon it got around that this thirteen-year-old bitch looked like a puppy and people were coming up from all over to see her.

I think there were quite a few veterans entered in the class and John Colomo really is a very good handler and a showman. He came in with her and I was sitting in the balcony, and when he got first in Veteran Bitch, the whole place came apart, just like someone had won at a ball game. I sat there, could not believe it, the whole place just erupted. I looked over and the woman next to me, I don't know who she was, was crying and she said, "I've never been emotional at a dog show in my life, but I am over her." Isn't that something? After the Marietta show, we showed her once more at a specialty in Southern California and they made an announcement that this was her last show and people started crying. Ann Hamlin was the announcer and she broke up. She started crying over the microphone, so it was a little bitch that you never got over. She had a mind of her own, too. (laughter) But we had a lot of fun with her.

How long did you have her?

From the time she was seven years until she was fourteen. Then we had her put to sleep. She had had a mammary tumor and it was probably cancer, I don't know now, because we did not have a biopsy. She became ill shortly after we had her operated on and she didn't want to eat. I did everything. In fact, I didn't want her put through exploratory surgery at age fourteen. I even called in Dr. Basko who did acupuncture and herbal things. He said, "If we can pull her through this week, we may have a chance." She rallied a bit but then relapsed again and I said I didn't want to put her through any more and we took her down and had her put to sleep. Right up to the end, my husband carried her in there, and she was looking all around and was interested in things, but she was sick. There comes a time when you know it, and we felt her time had come. I didn't want this gorgeous little bitch to ever be sick. She didn't want to be sick, either.

We've had some great dogs. With it all it's been fun. It isn't a matter of life and death whether we win, believe me. I can't see how some of these peo-



Ch. Yurok of Whitecliff, age 14 years.

who is out of our Gainer and Chelsea. Gail goes in every week to make sure the help is paid. The help we have is very good. They keep her just spotless and her house nice and clean. If Gail is not able to go in then I go in to make sure they are all paid. Eleanor Craigen, Gail and myself went to an attorney and had Gail made power of attorney because Frances was no longer able to take care of things like this. Gail was the youngest of the three of us.

Eleanor Craigen is the wife of the superior court judge in San Francisco who died in office about eight years ago of a massive heart attack. Eleanor is still a very, very good friend of ours. We met them over twenty years ago when they bought a puppy from us and became our very good friends. We have taken vacations together. With the Craigen's, we've had a great time and Eleanor is still one of my best friends - but it's through the dogs. Her husband Edward was quite a famous attorney and is responsible for the Miranda Act. He took the Bobby Dorado case to the supreme court and won it and it is a case that every law student has to study. When Ed died of a heart attack they had the honor guard of the sheriff's department and all the dignitaries of San Francisco and some of the craziest people you've ever seen at the funeral. I said to Eleanor, "Who was that person?" at the funeral. She said, "That is the neighborhood drunk that Ed helped out many times," and he did. Ed had helped out many, many people who were of all walks of life. I have often told Eleanor that we should

write a book on Ed and she says she knows we should. (laughter) Everybody living in San Francisco has a tale to tell about Ed. He was that kind of a person. This has made our lives very interesting, knowing these people and becoming their very good friends. And it's all through the dogs.

Don and I went to the Crufts show in England. The plane tickets had been a gift from my son Tom. He was the one who showed the dogs for us while he was in college. He is my third son. One Christmas this was his gift to us, airline tickets to London for the Crufts show. It was very interesting. I had joined the Samoyed Club of England and had been corresponding with Trudy McElnea Westwood. We went to dinner with them. They entertained us beautifully while we were in London and it was quite an experience. I don't understand their judging but I do have an 8mm movie that I'm going to have made into a video. I haven't got around to doing a lot of things like that yet but I am going to. In fact, Bob and Dolly Ward were there the same time we were and in one shot of the video you can see Bob and Dolly across the ring. It seemed like at their rings, the people were sitting around, instead of having it roped off. Their benches were not decorated. They were just the plain wood with the dogs on rugs. It's something I'm glad I did and I'd like to go again. If I go again I'd like to see some of their small shows, and, possibly, I will. I don't dare say that to my son Tom or all of a sudden I'll have an airline ticket. (laughter) "Mom, go!"

We used to go to all the Santa Barbara shows. They were all our favorite shows, especially with Dorok, Czar and Dorka. One time when we were down there, one of the last bench shows they had out in the polo field, Czar took Open Dog and Best of Breed, Dorok took his American Bred class. Czar went from Best of Winners to Best of Breed and Dorok took American Bred class. At that time we had Dorka in but she had cut her foot and was limping, just before ring time. We went in the ring and asked if she could be excused and the judge agreed. But I think she could have gotten Best of Opposite. Our first Santa Barbara show, she took the points and Best of Opposite. That was nice! I believe that year La Vera Morgan's Darius took the Breed and Dorka took a Best of Opposite. We have done very well and we have never really campaigned our dogs. We just go where the fun is. (laughter) Frances Powers campaigned Laika. She campaigned her dogs maybe a little more than we have out here. We stay just in this locale.

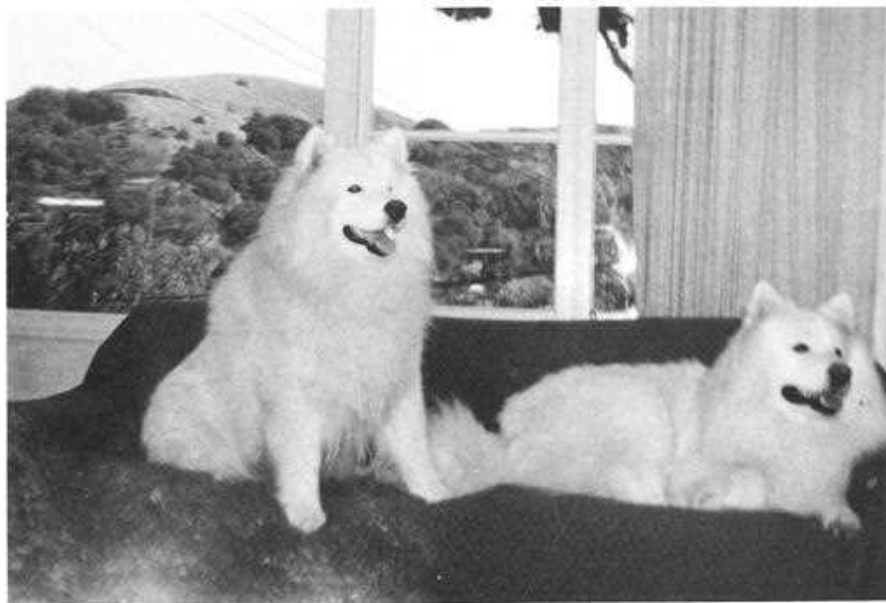
Another thing I think a person should do, and we haven't, is to stick with one handler. We haven't stuck with one handler. Debbie Speiker has shown Ch. Whitecliff's Alexis, and we've had everybody on God's earth show Alexis, she'll show for anybody. If a person really wants to campaign a dog, they should stick to the same person. That way, the judges connect the dog with a person and maybe they are putting up the person instead of the dog, I don't know. (laughter) To really get a good record for your dog, you should stick to the same handler if you can. Gail took Alexis in a year ago over in Oakland, and took the Breed and first in the Group. Anyone can take Alexis in and she'll do it by herself. She loves the shows and is very, very showy. She can't wait to get in there and she's all business when she is at a show and doesn't want other dogs to come up and bother her. She'll actually stand at ringside and watch what is going on and can't wait to get in there. She goes in and just has a ball. Once in a while she won't like a judge and then she'll do crazy things, like swish around and show the judge her tail - "Instead of looking at my teeth, look at my rear!" (laughter) But never does she stop showing. It can be a hot day and it doesn't bother her a bit, and that's good.

I started Alexis in obedience and she loved that, but that was about the time my husband was ill and it was getting harder and harder for me to get away that much. I also had injured my

ple make it their very life. There doesn't seem to be anything else except winning at that dog show. We had some marvelous experiences with them. Another person we met because of the dogs is a very good friend, Beatrice Lydecker, who wrote the book, "What The Animals Tell Me." She was giving a talk at the Palo Alto Cultural Center and we decided we would go to hear her. Marilyn Clark, who is a teacher in Belmont and has had dogs of ours for years, said, "Let's have a private consultation with her. You bring Dorok and I'll bring Yasha." Marilyn went up to arrange a private consultation and this was on a Sunday night. Marilyn signed us up and Tuesday night was when we had the consultation. I arrived at 7:30 and Marilyn was supposed to be there at 8:00. I arrived with Dorok and we were sitting there talking and Beatrice said to me all of a sudden, "He's lost his playmate, hasn't he?" Czar had died the day before very suddenly and she had no way of knowing anything. I had told her nothing, not that they were show dogs or anything else. I said, "Is he grieving?" because these two dogs had been raised together all of their lives, and she said, "Animals don't feel the same way about death that people do and he is upset because you are. When you settle down about it, he'll be okay, too."

She went on and told me how much they loved the shows and I had never told her they'd been in shows, and then she said, "But they tell me, 'Boy do my owners have a ball!'" (laughter) Then she said about Dorok, "He isn't feeling very well. I see his liver as being involved and spots or something. Get him to your vet." The very next day I took him in for a thorough checkup because of Czar. The vet called me in the afternoon and told me he had a liver problem. We were all very impressed with everything she had told us and then we arranged for her to give a talk in San Carlos to benefit Samoyed Rescue. She did and stayed here at our house and we have been very good friends ever since.

When she is in the area for a TV show - and she's been on all the TV talk shows, including Johnny Carson - she always stays here. She called me when she lived in Los Angeles and said she was going to be up and asked if I could meet her at the plane because she had an appointment with an attorney in San Francisco, George Davis. He had a client who was being accused of murdering his wife and a cat was the only witness. (laughter) I met her at the airport and took her to the attorney's office and I was so amazed they invited



Ch. Sho-off's Czar of Whitecliff and Ch. Sho-off's Dorok of Whitecliff, sons of Yurok, at home in San Carlos in 1966.

me in. I thought I would just sit in the reception room but they told me to go in so I did. It was absolutely fantastic what she told this attorney. George Davis said, "You have told me more in just a short time that would have taken me months to find out."

Another time when she was over here she had an appointment with a girl whose house had burned. She brought in this little Silky Terrier. She had two, a male and a female, and the male died in the fire but the little female got out. The fireman said it was arson and she wanted to know. Bea began describing a man, even to what he was wearing and everything about him and said, "This man came into your house, smashed up your furniture, kicked the little male and killed him instantly." After she got through telling her this, the woman said, "You have just described my ex-husband, who is a very violent man."

Another time when she was here she said, "I have an appointment over in Sunnyvale. This man has a Dalmatian that he takes all over because the dog does mathematics. I have called him for an appointment," and I went with her. We went to Sunnyvale and the man invited us in. The dog's name was Sunny and she said, "How old is he?" The man said, "He'll tell you," and he said, "Sunny, close the door," and the dog closed the door. He asked the dog how old he was and the dog barked nine times. He was nine years old. Then the phone rang and the man went into the next room to answer it

and Bea said, "The dog reads his mind, like animals do read your mind. They know what you are thinking. The man mentally tells him when to stop barking." When he came back in she said, "He reads your mind," and he said, "Yes." Bea told him exactly what he did with the dog and he said, "Yes. People would rather believe that he does mathematics. If you tell them he reads your mind, they think you are crazy but they think the dog can do arithmetic." (laughter) Then he demonstrated different things, anything up to ten - a square root and things like this. He'd say, "Okay, Sunny, what's the answer?" and the dog would bark and, evidently, the man would mentally say, "That's it." Things like this I actually witnessed.

She has just been marvelous helping us with Sam rescue. One time we had Chris Keckley Stauffer helping us and we picked up this dog from the humane society in Santa Clara. It was such a nice dog that Chris said, "I bet this dog has papers somewhere." They knew the area where he was picked up and they talked to the humane officer, who had brought the dog in, and he told them exactly where the dog had been. Chris and her husband went to that area and they found quite a few people in this little shopping place that had seen the dog and one man said the dog had a rope tied around his neck and he himself had taken the rope off. They said he had been around a week or so before he had been picked up.

Bea was up here on a trip and we



Czar, age 8 months, taking BOB at his first show.

asked her to tell us more about this dog. We told her as much as we knew. Bea sat there and she described the house and said it wasn't very far from where we had been. She said, "I think I could find it," so Bea and I and the dog went down to the San Jose area. I was driving, and Bea would tell me where to turn. The dog was telling her and she said, "That's the house." No one was home so we went to the next door neighbor and she said, "Yes, I know that dog. The people were getting a divorce and they placed the dog in Morgan Hill somewhere. I couldn't ever figure out why all my children's toys ended up in their yard! We discovered that dog had been jumping the fence and gotten the toys and they all ended up in the other yard. He used to be over here as much as over there. I'm sure it's the same dog." She gave us the name of the woman who had owned him and we got in touch with her and she said, "I can tell you for sure if it's the same dog." It had been a

year. The people she gave the dog to in Morgan Hill had told her the dog had been hit on the freeway and killed. It was probably some other Sam, but this dog had chewed through the rope and gone home. Morgan Hill was not that far from the south San Jose area where they lived. This woman told us he had been raised with her female Shepherd who had never tolerated any dog but the Sam. We took him in the backyard and they were rubbing noses. Chris decided to keep him and she put him through obedience. He did have papers and he was a nice dog. She never showed him in conformation but did get a CD on him. But there's a whole book someone could write about things that Bea has helped us with.

What did she tell you about the Sammies being in tune with people?

She didn't go into it. Her love was Shepherds and you have to live with a Sammy. But she is another person we met through the dogs. She wrote in the fly of her book that we have, "To Don

and Wilna. Two of the most precious people I know, my second family. I cannot express to you both the love I feel for you personally and, I repeat, for the well being of all animals. I hope this book will further your understanding of those you already understand and love so well, your precious and unsurpassed Samoyeds. With Love and Gratitude, Bea Lydecker." When I have a problem now, I still call her. I called her about Whitecliff's Sebastian simply because this man who had Sebastian, when we went over to see about him, said that Sebastian had attacked him on the upper arm. That was so unusual and I felt something was wrong. When I called Bea and asked her what happened and told her that he bit him on the upper arm, she said, "Sebastian was talking and growling, as they do, and this man kicked the hell out of him because he was growling and that's when Sebastian protected himself," which I'm glad he did. Then Bea said, "The man then picked a board up and really beat him."

Sebastian is just starting his show career. We've had to put weight on him and we've had to get his trust in people. He is so terribly attached to me that sometimes at the shows, when we were first starting him, he didn't want strangers coming up. He would get between me and strangers. Now, he knows that it's okay, but I know he would be very protective of me. We've now got him to eating and he is gaining weight and we'll get him a champion degree yet. It's so much harder when they are two years old; but he's a young boy yet, thank goodness. In another few months when we really get him to know what he is supposed to do in the ring, he'll do okay. He is just such a beautiful moving dog, but he is antsy in the ring. We are getting everybody to look at his teeth so he will quit "talking." He is a talker and if anyone didn't know Sams, it might frighten them. They don't realize what talkers Sams are, and mine are. (laughter)

Some of our very best friends weren't dog people but they loved Dorok and would go to the shows with us quite often. If Dorok won, Mae would cry and if he didn't win, Mae would cry. (laughter) We've had all sorts of great experiences with them. I very much feel that Sams should not be in kennels and should live with the people. I think they are missing a lot if they are not family dogs. Of course, they usually have one who is the house dog or something and that's fine, but I feel so sorry for these other dogs who don't get their turn. If they do, it's not on an everyday basis.

What kind of behavior does the Sammy develop in a kennel?

They aren't quite as smart or intelligent or something; they miss that contact with people. Dogs that have been in kennels and have then been put into a private home, bloom, and you miss this with dogs that have been in kennels all their lives. I have people call me all the time to tell me about the wonderful things that they've done with their dogs. It's very rewarding to have people who so appreciate the dogs that you've gotten for them, and there's not everyone that's going to be a success story, either.

Everyone, I don't care who they are, has had a case of hip dysplasia. We do everything we can to not have any with hip dysplasia, but one will pop up every now and then, and I am still not convinced that it's all hereditary. I think some of the cases of hip dysplasia are man-made. I am very careful with people with small children. I have seen them trying to pull a leg and you have to make sure that these people who are buying a puppy, and who have small children, are going to protect that puppy. One thing we tell them is to not let a small puppy jump off of chairs or couches and to keep them off very slick floors. My kitchen and family room linoleum have never had a coat of wax. (laughter) I'm getting ready for my third linoleum floor in my family room. We've been here 23 years and I've had it replaced twice and I'm getting ready for a third go-round of linoleum. I haven't found any that has a lifetime guarantee with dogs. (laughter)

When we built this house, we drew up the plans ourselves with the dogs in mind. We spend most of our time in the family room and that's where the dogs are. They come in if they want to and they go out when they want to. Right now, I have Sebastian in the pen but he'll come in for the night, and when I'm here alone and in the family room, the dogs are down there with me. We had the dutch door put in because the minute anyone comes in the dogs want to see who is there and they pop up to have a look. I have the baby door on the dining room, the big double door, to keep them out of the whole house and they know they aren't allowed in here, because if they really wanted to, they could go over that barricade easily, like Chelsea did one time during a thunderstorm, but she only did it that one time. They could, but they don't even try. We built this house with the dogs in mind.

When our dogs have gotten older and have very little time left, they usually end up in our bedroom where I can



Wilna at the dog bath. When the house was planned, this dog bath was an important item.

really watch them. That has been true with practically every one of them. We retired Gainer from the show ring when he was around ten and would put him in only for special shows, mostly around here. Then we got a call from an agency that provided animals for fashion shows and modeling, etc., and they wanted Gainer for modeling. The first was an emporium ad that he, actually, in that ad, looked something like a bear rug. (laughter) But they were paying him \$75 an hour and his agent twenty percent. The modeling was sometimes an hour and sometimes a couple of hours. The second ad was a full page Macy ad of Nordic sweaters and that was a beautiful ad. We were in the Diamond Heights area of San Francisco, which is a big, rocky area, and the model and Gainer were up on the rock. I about died when I looked back down and thought, "Oh! If he should move too far!" We had a white lead on him, and the model that he was being shown with was very familiar with dogs and very good with him. It was very interesting how they did this. They took a whole roll, maybe, of Polaroids and then decided from those what kind of a picture they wanted and they then got the picture. It turned out to be a very beautiful picture.

The agency called and wanted us for a big celebrity passport fashion

show in San Francisco, which is a very big affair. They have it at Ft. Mason and the featured person the first time was Elizabeth Taylor. They had a building for the fashion show and in the building next to it they had the food, the most beautiful hors d'oeuvres, any kind of ethnic food you might want. It was absolutely a fabulous affair. Gainer was in a mountain resort scene. We had to go to a rehearsal, too, and then were paid for a couple of hours of the show, plus the rehearsal.

The following year we got a call from them and they said we didn't need to be there for rehearsal because Gainer was very well behaved and he did just what they wanted him to do. He would be going down the runway with a celebrity family, and we didn't know until we got there who the celebrity family was, but it was Roger Craig of the San Francisco football Forty-niners, and his three children. They were all dressed in winter white and went down the runway with the white dog and it was very impressive. Also, at both these shows, both years, they had Roger Craig and his wife modeling and Joe Montana and his wife modeling. They also had Mayor Agnew, the mayor of San Francisco, and his wife modeling. It was quite a celebrity fashion show. I think we got paid about \$300 for that and the agent got twenty



Litterbrothers Ch. Sho-off's Coar of Whitecliff (1963-1974) and Ch. Sho-off's Dorok of Whitecliff (1963-1977) in Santa Barbara in 1968. Sons of Ch. Yurok of Whitecliff x Ch. Bar-eea's Dorka of Drayalene.

percent. I would hate to have to live on that! (laughter) But it was fun.

That was the same year that Gainer was twelve years old. We had him in the Ontario National Specialty. The day he was twelve years old he took first in Veteran Dogs in the United States. That was quite a rewarding thing for us because my husband was able to go. Even though he was on oxygen most of the time, Gainer was really his dog. When my husband retired, Gainer was a puppy and followed him all over. Everywhere my husband went that dog was always right at my husband's feet. I was so glad that he was able to be at that show because it was the last show that Don was able to attend. It was a fun thing.

Gail and I had arranged the breeding that Alexis came from. The people who owned her mother wanted to keep Alexis and we agreed. We kept track of her and when she was six months old, Gail started taking her to shows. Her first show was a Southern California specialty and I think two weeks later there was the Cow Palace show. At that show, at the age of just six months, she took the points. The following year, when she was a year and a half, she again took the points and Best of Breed and second in the Working Group. Since then, she has had many Group placements and Bests of Breed, but we do not show her very much. Gail takes her out every now and then to some weekend shows but we have mostly been showing her around here. I flew with her to Westminster a year ago because she had been out there the year before for breeding and showing and out of fourteen shows on the East

Coast, she had taken Best of Breed at eleven. We sent her to the Westminster show the following year knowing that, as out of coat as she was, that it was not going to be her day. They did pull her for consideration because this is a beautiful moving little bitch and she loves every minute of it. It's much more difficult to show a female for Best of Breed because if you are breeding them, it puts them out for so long and the females, getting their hair back and all, you can't show them as often as you do a male. But she's had her day and we haven't quit showing her. We'll pop her into the shows every now and then but we have never really campaigned any of our dogs. We show them when we feel like it and we are in it really for fun, and it has been fun!

Alexis' father, Whitecliff's Isbjorn Bror, was sent down to Gail and me from Barbara Weing in Alaska and we started showing him from down here, and although he got points, we never finished him. He proved to be a fantastic stud dog, especially in the females he produced - beautiful females! He was a character. Gail and I would take turns having him in the house being that we both had males and had to keep them separated. Gail's husband, when they were having trouble keeping the males separated, said, "I'm going to kill Wilna Coulter." (laughter) But we finally found a great home for Bror which saved our marriages and our own sanity. (laughter) He went to a young couple who had had Sams for years and they had a young female of ours. This made it perfect. They were very able to understand him and to understand that he was very spoiled in a way. He

would stay in a crate so long and then pound and you'd have to let him out or the whole house would shake. If he decided not to stay in the pen he would bark and it wasn't the best situation for our family. (laughter)

With our Samoyed Rescue - it was probably around fifteen years ago - that Frances Roe was placing Sams and her telephone was ringing all the time with people wanting to place their Sam or something, and this poor woman, we found, was even spending her own money for things that had to be done. We said, "Frances, you really can't afford to do all this," and we formed Samoyed Rescue. An attorney friend of Frances' had incorporated it for us. We also found out that it's very difficult to get people to help in anything like this and it ended up that Frances, Gail and I are doing the whole thing. We had to figure a way to earn money to spay, neuter and board these dogs because sometimes we would have to board a dog for a month at a time before we would have it placed. That is when we started putting on the Samoyed Rescue Fun Match in the middle of January. It's a very rewarding thing. Of course, the judges and stewards work without pay and we have to put out a pretty hefty fee for the fair grounds. Gail and Frances would get the judges and stewards, Frances would take care of the obedience, and Gail the whole thing. Now, all of that falls on Gail. My only duty, which was very easy for me, was feeding the judges, stewards and all the people who worked on our show. Being it's a very cold time of the year, we take a two-burner electric plate and I have homemade hot soup and a salad bar. It's been very successful and that's what we've been doing for a number of years now at the Vallejo Fair Grounds. We have to allot just so much money we can spend every month in order for this money to last the whole year, and, of course, sometimes we have more expenses than at others. But sometimes the telephone is just ringing off the hook for our Samoyed Rescue and we have very few Samoyed people who are willing to really help us with it.

One thing I must mention is my very good friend Kris Lierboe of White Fish, Montana. For years, she worked only part-time during the year, and when she was working, she would send us \$25 a month to help our Sam Rescue at a time when we really needed it. We sent out a "help" letter quite a few years ago to a great many of the Sam people and received very little money from them. In fact, there have been a few people who, when their local club sug-

gested sending a small donation to the Sam club, vetoed it.

Is this California or national?

California.

Were you involved in the whole kennel of Sammies that were taken?

That was Madelyn Druse up in Redding. I have a letter here that Lila Weirs sent down and Betty Downs sent a copy of it to me, but, here again, they were trying to clear her name, but what business has she of having that many dogs? As far as I'm concerned, if you have five or six, it's almost too many - I mean, it would be too much for me. I want my dogs to be part of my family. I feel Sams should be family dogs and not kennel dogs, but everybody to their own. I'm not going to tell them how to live anymore than I would have anybody tell me I should have a kennel. (laughter)

Have all those dogs been placed now?

I think she's been allowed to have some of them back.

Didn't it put a lot of strain on the rescue groups?

The thing is, we could not get money for our rescue in the Bay area here and yet they will pour a few thousand dollars into something like that that I think really needs investigating. Just because you are a Sam owner doesn't mean that a person deserves a lot. I don't know. I think she said in the letter that Madelyn has been cleared but I'm not sure because I just briefly read it.

Did your rescue group get dogs to place from it?

We had nothing to do with it. You see, the humane society up there had taken them over, and, from what this letter says, she doesn't know where half of them went or anything about it. My own feeling is that she should never have had that many in the first place.

Is it hard to find good rescue homes?

All the humane societies have our names and we pick them up but we let them stay there until the very limit because there are so many people who come in to the humane societies to get dogs, so we let them have a chance at rescuing them. When they call and tell us they're going to be put to sleep then we rescue them. We have a very good relationship here in San Carlos with the Peninsula Pet Resort. It's probably the most modern, the nicest kennels, anywhere around here. Gail and I have had a very good relationship with them and they give us a good rate. We have sent so many customers to them and they give Sam Rescue a very good rate. Some man in San Jose had found a dog tied in his yard because he evidently rescued other breeds or something. He



Chelsea of Whitewisp.

found out about us and brought the dog down. He had already given the dog shots and Samoyed Rescue repaid him for all this after we got it all settled. He brought the dog to the kennels and Gail met him there. Gail said the dog was a lovely dog but that he was a mess.

Gail walked into my backyard with that dog and he was a big dog, maybe six or seven years old, fully matured, the sweetest dog you ever wanted to see, but brown with mats and dirt. I looked at him and Gail and I stood there and laughed. It was absolutely ridiculous how dirty and matted that dog was. At the kennels, even though they have a groomer there, the first thing anyone says about anything like that is, "Shave it." Gail brought him in and we put him on the table. He was so nice and we worked a long time on him that afternoon and he looked much better but we'd only started. When we took him back to the kennels, they couldn't believe that he looked that much better and it took us three days working on him to get him brushed out so we could even bathe him, and then he was beautiful. We found a great home for him and the people think he

is the most wonderful thing. They have never seen anything as sweet and loving as this dog. He is. He's a lovely dog. I have no idea where he ever came from or anything about him but he's got a great home. Sometimes it's hard. We had to board him for a month before we found the right home for him. We were not going to let him go to just anybody, of course. You have to make sure they've got a good home. The people who have him have children. They take him down and have him groomed all the time and they are just wonderful.

Do the Sammies generally adapt pretty well to going through the rescue process?

They are so happy to have a loving home that most of them adjust beautifully. We've had a few that have been returned. We had a Japanese couple, I believe it was, who were going back to Japan and couldn't take the dog with them. The dog was only a year and a half old. We tried two or three different homes and it just didn't work out. I have a note out there that the man wrote saying he hated to give up the dog and telling us to please be nice to her. It broke your heart. The amazing thing was we had a Chinese couple

who wanted a rescue dog and we placed her with them - we'd tried twice and had her returned - but she adapted right now and I think the language being similar to the Japanese had something to do with it. We told them she would have to be spayed and the woman almost cried, "I don't want to see her going through anything like that." So, what we did when they later took a male, was neuter him first. (laughter)

I had sold a puppy to a young fellow in Long Beach and this dog was this man's constant companion, on his boat all the time with him, and went everywhere that he went. He called me and said that all of a sudden the dog had come up missing and the man was distraught. He could not find the dog and had advertised and done everything. About four or five years later, Katie Molineux, at her art studio in Saratoga, saw this great big dog walking in front of her shop, so she went out and got him in and fed him water in an antique bowl. Her husband was an antique dealer and they had lovely things. She called me up and said he had a tag and we traced the tag down and the people said they didn't want him back, that he was always running off, and they didn't know what to do with him. I've kind of forgotten how we connected him but we called in Bea Lydecker when we first got him and she said this dog lived with a fellow near the water where there were a lot of boats and he was used to going on boats. She described just vaguely where the dog lived and a description of the fellow and we gave it no more thought.

When we contacted these people trying to get them to take the dog back, they said they had been given the dog by someone up near Redding. That's way up in Northern California, almost to the Oregon border. The people who lived in Hayfork had been down in Long Beach and had a boat. They went to Catalina, and coming home from Catalina, in the harbor, was this Sam swimming. They rescued him from the harbor in Catalina and tried to find the owner of the dog in Catalina. No one knew anything about him and no one had ever seen him before. They took the dog home with them, took him back up to Redding. The dog was killing chickens and they could not keep him and they placed him with these friends of theirs in Saratoga. When we interviewed Bea Lydecker about him she said, "He's always running away and trying to find this man and he will never be happy until he is with that man." Then, we began to

connect the two.

At this time, the dog has to be about nine years old and he's been away from the man for five or six years. The dog, at that time, was losing his hearing and was beginning to get a little crotchety. The vet said he had to be at least six years old, but he was nine, and he'd had a mighty rough life. Through Sam Rescue, I finally got hold of the fellow in Long Beach. The man just could not believe it but he said, "I can't take him," which broke my heart. He said, "I can't take him back because I'm traveling all the time, flying here and there with my job," and he just was sick about it but what could he do? We had the dog put to sleep. It was better. We did all we could.

We get these calls all the time with a problem they may be having and we try to help them solve these things because some of them have been buying these puppies and some of these breeders never give them instructions. They just sell the puppy and tell them what to feed it and that's it. We educate some of these people and some who have even been going to give up the dogs because of different problems. One said, "He barks all the time and is driving us crazy." They had never heard of partial debarking. I, myself, would never completely debark a dog but we did a partial debarking with Alexis because of my husband being ill and the high, shrill bark of hers was very annoying. When she was a year old and Gail and I got her back, we did a partial debarking which softened it. You can still hear her anywhere, but it isn't annoying. She's the only one I ever had that I debarked and that was because my husband was ill. We started taking her to the shows before we ever even owned her. When the people who owned her decided that two dogs was too much and asked us if we would like to have her, we said yes. I've had her here ever since she was a year old.

How did she get her name?

Right away, this little thing was so independent and so absolutely captivating and a gorgeous little bitch, but she is bitchy. Everything is hers and she's not going to give up anything that is hers. She doesn't want strange dogs in her yard and she is just like "Dynasty's" Alexis, so that's what we called her; she is Ch. Whitecliff's Alexis. Everybody who knows her and her personality says we named her right. (laughter)

Was Star's personality like that?

No. She was not bitchy like Alexis. Alexis is as sweet as she can be and yet if the chew bone is on the floor, you

are not going to get it. (laughter) The dogs are very odd in this respect: if one of them has it, they never attempt to get it from the other. They wait until the one forgets it or drops it and then sneak in and get it, but they never challenge each other when the other one has it. Also, if she can bamboozle another dog, she will try it. Like with Gail's dogs, she'll go in and growl at them and they come up and lick her face and that's fine, but she doesn't do this with Gail's Quinsey because he just turned around and nailed her down to the floor. She gets along fine with Gail's dogs but at the shows she is all business. When I take her to the GG benched show, she doesn't want any dog to get on the bench with her. You just have to say, "They're on this bench, too," and she listens to you and minds, but if she could, she would tell every dog, "Get off, the bench is mine!"

To be continued ...



STATEMENT OF OWNERSHIP, MANAGEMENT AND CIRCULATION			
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f. Total Distribution		100	
g. Total (b + d + f)		100	
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j. Paid Distribution Outside the United States		0	
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l. Total Paid Distribution (b + j)		0	
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