

# THE SAMOYED QUARTERLY

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## Samoyed People

The Samoyed Quarterly  
Talks With  
**Jack and Helen Feinberg**  
NORTHWIND  
Bedford, New York

*This interview was conducted in February, 1985 at the home of Jack and Helen Feinberg by Lyn Snyder Hofflin.*

How did you end up "going to the dogs"?

Jack: I went down the street, bought a dog from this lady ... (laughter) Actually, when I was in graduate school we wanted to get a pet which we thought we might like to show. As a kid I had always wanted to show a dog. Being more of the "research oriented" variety, we went out and got a book and researched the breeds, researched histories and narrowed down to Old English, Golden and Samoyeds. We couldn't find a Samoyed breeder at the time, so we went to look at a litter of Old English. After looking at the size of the dogs and the hair that was involved, we decided that the Old English was definitely not in the cards. We fell in love with the Samoyed and decided that as soon as we could, we would get a Samoyed. We liked the personality, temperament and the history of the breed. When we moved back to New York we started looking in the Times for a Samoyed breeder and happened to come across a lady out in Long Island by the name of Mildred Davis. We bought our first dog from her because she had three litters of Samoyeds at the time. We picked out of one particular litter because it was of the right age, and we could take it home that night. The whole thing was very scientific!

Helen: Yes, it chewed my nose and was so cute! "This one likes me, Honey!"

Jack: Anyway, we took her home, spoiled her rotten and did all the wrong things. We made her into a terrible pet: obnoxious, spoiled, demanding. She chewed the house, ran away, ignored us and had no respect for us. For some reason, we loved her so much we bought another one! I had more confrontations with that first dog than I have had with anything else since.

Helen: She was the worst dog we have ever owned. Conformation, temperament, there was nothing good about her!



Jack: We showed her a few times and got a few ribbons, like second out of two. I went to handling class with her and it became obvious that she wasn't going to put us on the map. Then she turned up dysplastic and was replaced with another dog. In the meantime we were chomping at the bit and decided we needed a male. There we were in an apartment in New York City with two Samoyeds, and going to dog shows in our semi-sports car with no crates and a little bag for a grooming box. We fell in love with the whole thing and had to do more of it for some unknown reason.

The third dog came into the family and that is when we decided to buy a house. We moved out to Northern Westchester where there was some land; little did we realize they had a three-dog limit.

Helen: We never bothered to find out about things like zoning. We just thought since we were in the country, everything was cool. When we got to seven, the neighbors decided that it might be time for us to find yet another house.

Jack: At this point we had already bought our first boarding kennel, because what we started as a one-time, one-pet love, became an avocation and then a vocation. We decided that we had so much fun doing this as a pastime

that we had to do it full time. I quit my job and we bought a small boarding kennel. I began working days at the kennel and at night I was pumping gas. There wasn't enough business to pay for food, and we had a baby.

Helen: A baby, no money — still no food on the table!

Jack: We had a dog who won a specialty, had all of his majors and needed two points to finish. We weren't going to enough shows to get him finished. I had no employees at the time, except one part-timer, and money was a real problem for us in those days. Eventually things began to get better. business built up and we began going to a few more shows. We extended our breeding program because we had more time and bought a great dog from Don Hodges. Just about that time was when we had seven dogs. We moved to twelve acres and then we had twenty dogs, and we actually checked out the zoning this time. We were allowed 100 dogs (laughter) and we couldn't get there overnight! That takes two or three litters!

Our first male, who was our first champion, was the most reliable dog we have owned. Helen would come into the kennel and work with me during the busy season. Nicki was such a spoiled dog



Ch. Northwind's Ivan the Terrible (lead), Northwind's Tiger Lily (right point) and Ch. Czar Nicholas of Northwind (left point).

that we would leave him around the house. The house was deep into 150 acres of woods with a big reservoir in the back, and we had a small pond on the property. He would go down to the pond and swim when it was real hot. One night he didn't come back.

Helen: We were sure he had been stolen because he was always there when we came home.

Jack: He was always home, no matter how long we were gone. The minute we drove up he would make his way back. We were so upset we had to have another one right away. We called up our good friend, Connie Richardson, and asked her if she had any males. She owned the sire of our first male, and we wanted one just like him. She told us about this super puppy that she had seen out of her stud dog; in fact, she had liked the litter so much that she tried to buy the bitch. I asked how to acquire the puppy and she told me. The breeder sent us a film of the puppy in movement.

He looked like a very nice puppy. As a matter of fact, those films were so good, I've used them for teaching movement. I've used it as a lecture program. He was really nice coming and going, with really nice side movement, the film showed his movement in slow motion. Anyway, that dog became the Number One Samoyed in 1980 and 1981, Ch. Northwind's Running Bear.

About two days later we found our missing dog. We think he was grazed by a car. He was so bruised (nothing broken though) that he couldn't make it home.

Instead of leasing a home, we bought our second kennel, a bigger place that we could own. This was the original Carillon Kennels, which was the old obedience kennels, where Blanche Saunders and Mrs. Whitehouse Walker started obedience in the States. Very famous, but also very old. For a period of time we lived back on our mountain and traveled between the two kennels.

Eventually we moved into the bigger kennel.

We developed a pretty good boarding business. In between we found time for showing, time for breeding and time to have another child. Our daughter, at three months old, spent a lot of time sitting on crates at the Sawmill Kennel Club while I groomed the dogs.

#### That's Mindy?

Helen: Yes. Our kids have grown up around dog shows whether they wanted to or not.

Jack: Mindy's first time in the ring was when she was a year-and-a-half old. I was setting up Ivan the Terrible for the Breed (he had just gone Winners Dog) and was down on the ground at the time. Mindy saw me and came running over to give me a big hug. She came in through the gate, right into the ring, and gave me a great big hug while the judge was standing there!

Helen: She knew he had done well

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and wanted to congratulate him!

Jack: I don't know if she knew that or not, but I was just about to gait the dog!

We were also running the dogs on the sled. There was a period of time when I wasn't doing much showing and I really got into sledding. We really enjoyed it from a recreational point of view; we formed a club. We ran a race, joined a couple of clubs that ran races and got involved with "semi-serious" sledding. There are two systems, the

wheeled rig and the sled. You have to train the dogs differently. The best time I've ever had was at Mindy's party. We hooked up the team and gave sled rides to all the kids at the party.

Helen: It was the hit of the birthday season.

Jack: The mothers of the children wanted to know if the team was for rent! However, the thing that kind of killed it for me was that I had already gotten into specializing Running Bear and we had done some winning. We had a good

judge for Westminster and it was right about this time of year. We hardly ever had snow on the ground, so I was using a wheeled rig. I was running on a dirt trail about a mile and a half long. Bear was my wheel dog and I spent the entire time scared to death that the wheeled rig was going to hit Bear and make him unable to be shown at Westminster. It was such a miserable experience that I got off the rig and said, "I'm not going out to do this again until I stop specializing." Considering that I haven't stopped specializing in five years, I haven't been out in five years. It is too easy for them to get injured; they are minor injuries, not permanent injuries.

We ran mixed teams, too: Malamutes and Samoyeds, Shepherds and Samoyeds. That tells you a lot about the differences in structure. The Shepherds were great on the sprints and the speed was phenomenal, but they started breaking down on the pulling and the distances. They would outrun the Sams after a mile, but you get beyond the mile and the Sams were pulling as fast as the Shepherds. The Shepherds had been working so hard that they began to falter; they became more of a problem to the team than a benefit. It is kind of what you would expect out of them by the way the breeds are built. The Malamutes are definitely stronger than the Samoyed, but they pulled at about the same speed. And the Siberians are crazy - they just ran without any regard to what was behind them.

There were some very funny experiences in this regard. Every Sunday I went to a race. One weekend there was a race put together by another club, we were going to it and I felt pretty confident. I thought I would place in the top five or six. We got there and the Siberians were very excited, screaming and howling. The Sams got out of the truck and they looked at me and they looked at the Siberians like, "Weird, really weird!" They just turned around and said, "We'll just get back in the truck, thank you very much!" Whatever these dogs were having done to them, the Sams sure didn't want to have done to THEM! I thought I was in trouble then. We got our starting time and were in the last third, which was fine with me because I could watch other people go. I watched these Siberians go and it was very exciting. They would charge and pull and off they went! Then they would come back in with their



Ch. Czar Nicholas of Northwind.

... tongues hanging, just exhausted. They were really spent and had worked their little hearts out pulling with every ounce of energy they had left to cross the line. They were only gone fifteen seconds, you know (laughter). I looked at this and I said to myself, "I've never seen my Sams that tired. I've never seen my Sams pull that hard." It was beginning to dawn on me that maybe I was in even a little more trouble, but I still had a bit of confidence. Anyway, we had to be hooked up and ready within three teams of our starting time. We had the wheeled rig ready and watched the team ahead of us go zooming off just like the others had. I saw a line of men there to hold the team down, a couple of guys with the leaders and a couple to hold the wheel dogs, a guy to help the driver get ready and the official who was starting the teams, and then the timer. I worked my dogs into position after the team in front of us left. The men got ready to hold my dogs and I said, "Do they look like they need holding?" The Sammies were just standing there, looking back at me like "Why are those dogs making all this noise? This is weird! We have never seen anything like this!" My Sams got up to the line and said, "Hello, how are you?" wagging their tails. They thought all those people were there to see them, it was a party. They figured they only ran in the woods by themselves; after all, those PEOPLE were here to talk and socialize. So, I told the holders to leave them alone. They left them alone and the dogs were fine. The official told me "Go," and I yelled, "Hike," (which is the term that one uses to ... )

... get them to lift their leg?  
(laughter)

Jack: Maybe THAT WAS the problem! My lead dog looked at me (Ch. Northwind's Ivan the Terrible, the brightest dog I've ever owned) like I was NOT too bright. I said, "Ivan, hike!" and he said, "If you insist." That was the third thing that convinced me I was in trouble, and they trotted off one foot at a time. They didn't trip over themselves going out of the starting gate. We got around the first curve and were already two minutes behind the team BEHIND us at this point, they had caught us. There were two minutes between teams and we were only about one-quarter of the way done! Ivan hears this and thinks, "Oh rats, they can't do that to me," and he starts really pulling for the first time. There is now competition and somebody is challenging his ego. Of course, the



Ch. Northwind's Running Bear.

guy yelled "Trail," which means, according to the rules, that I have to stop my team. When I stopped the team Ivan thinks, "One time you yell at me and then you stop me! What do you want?" We started off again in a slow easy trot.

We got to a puddle that the Siberians had flown through without



Northwind's Running Bear at 12 weeks.

even noticing, but my Sams skirted around it so they wouldn't get dirty, wet or muddy! We were going to a show after that and didn't want them all muddy. There were puddles all over the trail and we walked around all of them!

Helen: It was half snow and half mud and ice. It was messy.

Jack: We were two-thirds around the trail with a third left to run. Another team comes by and yells for trail; we were four minutes behind that team. By the way, I was on my hands and knees begging Ivan to run. I pushed the rig, pulled it, threw rocks at him to get him to run; he looked at me like "If you don't like it, YOU get up here and run, I'll ride back there!"

Helen: They finished eleven out of twelve because the twelfth team got lost. However, they were clean; there was no mud on our dogs.

Jack: The Siberians came back spent with their tongues to the ground; Ivan came back thinking that it was fun!



Am/Can Ch. Northwind's Robin Hood.

He was ready for another walk. I was mortified, that was our last attempt at serious running. That was an experience. It taught me that I didn't really know what I was doing. But it was fun and we really did enjoy doing it. It took a lot of time.

One thing I learned about Ivan was that he was very intelligent. He really knew how to lead the team, he just needed someone to train him ... I didn't know how to train. He knew more than I did. We ran on woody trails with a lot of rocks and plenty of trees, and when you are running a sled you don't have that much flexibility or steering. He seemed to know how to keep the team from getting all tangled up; he would keep the lines tight, and he paid attention to what was behind him. He was not ignorant by any means.

Helen: He kept us from getting killed several times.

Jack: She was a lineman who helped hold the dogs and hook up the dogs. We had permission to run in this park, and a whole series of our friends were also running their dogs. One

person would drive and the other person would run behind to pick up loose bodies, human or canine. At one point I had gotten the team out about a half a mile into the park and I asked Helen if she wanted to take the team back. It was fun because we had snow for a change. So she said, "Sure, I'll give it a whirl," and she got on the sled. The next thing I know, Ivan was taking the team back on this wide trail (at first) and then there was a 90° turn onto a narrow trail. My heart stopped. I hadn't really given her full instructions on how to maneuver the sled, drive the team; I hadn't gotten into the technicalities.

Helen: I had no idea which was "gee" and which was "haw" even if the dog had known.

Jack: It dawned on me a little late that this was the dog's first time on that trail.

Helen: He could have continued straight and we would have been up a tree in another 25 feet, or he could make the turn. It was such a sharp turn and I didn't know whether I would be killed more quickly by hitting the tree or

jumping off. I decided to stay on because I was too frightened to jump off. He took that turn just beautifully, nice and wide. It was great, a really super ride. I got to the bottom, got off the sled and said, "Never again!"

Jack: Ivan was a really fun dog. We have had a lot of new experiences with him. He was the one we used on the modeling when we did about thirteen ads for Helena Rubinstein. Whenever I go and do a talk at kennel clubs, it is always the advertising aspect that interests people the most. I can see them sit up and listen.

We got hooked up with Helena Rubinstein at the time they were doing this Great Gatsby look. They came up with this new campaign of "white on white." Someone decided that a white sports car from that era, with a man in a white suit with a white hat, with a blonde in a white dress was part of that whole image. Then they needed a white dog. Originally, they thought of a Borzoi because there was a Borzoi in the movie, and the 1930's was big on white Borzoi, but they had trouble with the other dog. In fact, we still get called when they want to use a Samoyed and a Borzoi, but when the budget gets cut the Samoyed goes and the Borzoi stays.

We went down to New York City and I took along two dogs, one being our first male Sammy, who was a really nice, well-behaved dog. I figured he was the most obedient and would be the best one to use in this location shot. I also took Ivan, who was the most rambunctious, clever, conniving dog I had ever owned. I took him for the socialization. As it turned out, the older, calm, well-behaved dog was scared to death of the whole thing; he trembled, cried and pleaded. We were doing a location shot at Jones Beach in January. I took Ivan, put him in the shot, he was a natural. He thought the whole thing was great and worked for four hours straight in twenty degree weather, at sixty miles an hour in an open truck in traffic. He stayed, he worked, he gave me expression, he baited, he looked left, looked right, never left his seat. Many photographers hate working with kids and dogs, and it is true because dogs will not stay when you need them to. Anyway, they loved the pictures with the dog. Ivan was a very sweet dog and loved to be in your lap. The girl in the photo was scared to death of Ivan. At

one point, she reached for the rear view mirror to check her makeup, Ivan nuzzled her, and she drew back out of fear. Apparently her fear of him came through on film so they rescheduled the shot; same dog, new girl! We went to work with a girl who was later seen in "Rich Man, Poor Man," Susan Blakely. She did some Cover Girl commercials.

Helen: After working with Ivan, she became famous!

Jack: Right, he was her "break" and the one who made it for her! (laughter)

We got great pictures and they decided they really liked Ivan. They ran the ad all over the country in practically every magazine they could for about four or five months. Their recognition factor was apparently highly increased because of it, so they became enthralled with using this. They started creating things to use the dog in, and we got called down for about three or four shots a year until the company ran into financial problems. If the dog wasn't available, they didn't do the shot. The one shot with two dogs is of Running Bear and Ivan. That was when Running Bear was a baby, and that was one of the last two shots they did.

We did a photo session on a heliport, which is totally open with no walls, just a railing. Someone forgot to bring something to elevate the dog to the model to get in the New York City skyline, so they decided to ask the dog to put his front paws on the railing looking over the side! I don't want to tell you what MY feelings were about being 86 floors up, and I'm not afraid of heights in general. Ivan had no problem with it! None! They wouldn't even let us go up the regular way because you had to go through a restaurant. Ivan and I had to walk up a catwalk, around the air conditioning units to get there because of the health laws. My heart was in my mouth walking on this steel open decking. Ivan just looked down the side and charged right up. He was either braver than I, or dumber than I!

Ivan was very outgoing, friendly and worked with everybody. He was very perceptive with people and if he disliked someone, you knew it. We worked with six or eight models and everything was fine.

The other funny thing that happened on that shot was that I had Running Bear who was about five months old at the time, and I asked if they wanted to use a second dog and they said, "Sure, go get him."



First in Junior Showmanship.

Meanwhile, Ivan is sitting on the beach with this girl, off-lead. Ivan was a dog who, if you gave him a small crack in the back door, would be gone for days. But when he was on location he was a phenomenally obedient dog; it was important for him to behave and respond. I left him on a "sit stay" with my heart in my mouth; I expected to see him running down the beach. But when I got up to the car I checked and he was still sitting there! At this point I was about 1000 yards away from him and couldn't do anything if he took off, anyway. So, I'm at the car getting Running Bear, who from day one has had the biggest need for everyone to like him. I took Running Bear back to the shoot, and as often happens when you are doing location shooting, we had

picked up a "gallery" or group of spectators watching. I was coming back with Running Bear and he sees this crowd of people and he figures they are there for him. He went up to every one of those 30 or more people sitting on the sand and said "hello" to them all. Then he went up to Ivan who was sitting there with the model and screamed "Daddy!" and the two of them started licking each other in a really cute way. When they got finished with this ten second greeting, the photographer said, "Oh, can we get the dogs to do that again?" His camera wasn't ready. I looked at him and said, "Are you out of your mind? Do you know what you are asking me to do?"

Another interesting thing happened one time when we were doing an Alpo

commercial with Running Bear. It was Alamo dog food, just a print, a still shot.

Helen: In fact, we never saw the food in this part of the country. If Dolly Ward hadn't sent us a copy of the ad, we would have never seen it at all.

Jack: I thought it was interesting that she could tell from the ad that it was Running Bear. We had never told anybody and she saw it and said it had to be him; she was right. I found out something interesting about my dog that day ... he is a very neat eater because every kernel was eaten one at a time and in direct progression. The bowl was rounded off and he ate from corner to corner, which left a mound in the middle. The food kept its shape as he ate; I was very surprised. The photographer loved it! They refilled the bowl and then he would tell me which side of the bowl he wanted to dog to eat from. Have you

ever tried to tell your dog which side of the bowl to eat from?

We did a lovely shot one time in early March. We had twenty-degree weather, small watercraft warnings were out and we were doing a boat shot. This, like most of the stuff we did, was on location. They wanted a sailboat (which was supposed to be on the dock, but its engine died and we had to go out to where the boat was moored). They had a motorboat to take us out to the sailboat, which was under sail and we were shooting out in the harbor with craft warnings out! The wind was gusting about 30 miles an hour, heavy seas, and we were shooting. The deck of the boat wasn't big enough to allow nine people on top, so I had to be down below giving orders to Ivan who was a very responsive dog; but he couldn't see me. He lost his center of control,

plus the fact that he was counterbalancing his weight on a wet fiberglass deck going 30 knots an hour. There were no sides, only a railing, and the water was freezing. He would have had fifteen seconds of swimming time if he fell in. I said, "No way, I'm not letting my dog be used here," and I cut it there. We got back to land and the photographer had shot less than 30 pictures. There wasn't time to set up another shoot, so whatever he had shot, they were going to have to go with. The photographer turned to me when we got back to shore and said, "Thank you for saying no."

The money is not as great as people seem to think. They treat you as a prop, we're non-union, and we get no residuals. We didn't even get residuals on the TV commercial we did; it is not like you are getting a personal endorsement. If you are endorsing a particular product, then you get union scale and the residuals. Not when a dog is a prop.

**You mean Ivan didn't use Helena Rubinstein cosmetics?**

Helen: We tried the mascara but he didn't like it. (laughter)

Jack: On the seventeen ads we did, there was always an art director, photographer and a various assortment of people: account executive, wardrobe lady, makeup guy, etc. In those seventeen ads, I think the same photographer was used no more than twice, same with the account executive and art director. The wardrobe lady and Ivan were the ones who were with the campaign from the start. When I would get called, the only one who would know me from the last show was the purchasing agent, and we never met. He called me up and I would ask where to go for the shot, he would ask what the rate would be, and that was the total extent of contact. We worked for the company on and off for five years. It was a fun time and I got to see how well my dog functioned in a lot of different circumstances.

Helen: The Samoyed is supposed to be an all-purpose dog; it's just that when they wrote the standard, they didn't include all of his talents.

Jack: Ivan was a "run away" dog at any opportunity. He had a really funny grin that he used when he knew he had just put one over on you like "See ya, sucker!" It wasn't speed that he beat you at, however, it was the mind game. When we did location work, he never



had to be on lead. They called me down for a TV commercial one time and I mentioned that he was not obedience trained and wouldn't work off lead. They said that was okay because he just had to walk down a flight of stairs and out into the street with the model, on lead. When we got there, they changed it and wanted him to work on hand signals off lead. He was to sit at the head of the stairs, walk halfway down to meet the model and then go out into the street with her. I said, "This isn't what our contract calls for. I don't think he will do it." They wanted to give it a try anyway and I agreed, but made no guarantees. This was being shot in Greenwich Village in front of a brownstone that had been painted white. My vision was that I would be running down Broadway chasing this white dog, but I put him in a sit-stay. He looked a little bewildered, but the director yelled, "Action," and that was my cue to have the dog start down the stairs to meet the model. I was dumbfounded, but he did it. They wanted to do it again!@!" We did this a total of nine times. Through the sixth shot I saw a guy walking a black dog on the street. Ivan had been attacked by a black dog at a show once and this guy was walking a black dog, of course. Ivan was a very macho dog, I could see it in his face, he was planning an attack. But he was on a sit-stay command and never left that position. I could leave him on a sit-stay and leave the room; he would stay there. I could change his expression for the photographer, depending on what he wanted, by hiding or coming into his vision. He was a funny dog.

He had a very interesting relationship with Helen. In the beginning, he thought Helen was a play toy. For years they had a love-hate relationship, but as he got older his role changed. He became the oldest and the protector. A new relationship developed and it was interesting to watch the two of them relate because I wasn't part of it.

Helen: The males dogs we have had since Ivan have been much less cunning and much easier to live with. Much more pleasant to live with from day to day. Running Bear is by no means the brightest dog, but he is charming. Robin is probably even less sneaky than Running Bear, wouldn't you say?

Jack: Robin is sweeter, more polite. Robin Hood is probably the most polite dog I have ever met. He'll walk into a room thinking, "If you know me



Helena Rubinstein ad, 1976.

you are going to love me; and you are going to love, you just don't know it yet!" (laughter) Ivan thought "If you don't love me, that is your problem, not mine!" When Ivan and I would get into confrontations, which happened every now and then, if I got tough, he got tough. The only thing that worked was when I laughed at him, it challenged his ego. He got very upset. I really had to outthink that dog to win any situation.

The most recent era of Northwind Samoyeds was Magic, Bear and Robin Hood. Magic was the mother ... we bred Magic and Bear about five times and they produced really well together. That was our best breeding to date. They were consistent in type and what we got out of the litters. The differences between them were very interesting, it told us a lot about our genetic throw and where our random samples would be; size, height, coat density and that kind of thing. Our breeding program came together very well. We did some experimenting once and bought a couple of older bitches, tried a couple of things, went out on stud dogs, and so forth. Then we came up with Magic. Magic was the puppy that everybody talked about; you just knew he was a Best in Show dog. I think people have rosy glasses on when they look at their own puppies. We are very careful with

our dogs. We're far less critical of someone else's dogs than we are of our own. Everyone thought Magic was breathtaking, I thought it was a lot of malarkey. She did catch your eye, everything about her. She would sit and pose, run around, but in a litter of six or eight puppies your eye would be grabbed by this ONE puppy, and it was the same puppy every time. I have a friend in German Shepherds and we would always talk dogs and breeding programs. We went to shows together. She looked at Magic and said, "Something like that could get me out of my breed." It is true; a dog like that, regardless of the breed, is so breathtaking that, when you see it, it doesn't really matter if it's your breed or not.

When she started, she was shy and timid. Then we thought she was too small. We took her to her first show untrained, not even leashbroken, because we just didn't have the time at that point with three puppies out of that litter. We really weren't spending a lot of time socializing them like we should have. I figured Magic was going to take forever, and I would probably never get her finished. The second day in the ring (the day after her first show), she took a five-point major. The third day she was Reserve to the five-point major, and won

it again on the fourth day, and was Best of Opposite over two bitch specials. She walked into a ring and lit up; her eyes got bright, her ears and tail came up and her whole attitude changed like night and day. I have never had another one quite as extreme in that respect.

Helen: We took her on the circuit just because we figured she needed to socialize. We needed to get her out of the kennel, we worried that she would have the "kennel dog syndrome." Magic's sister, which we thought would do well, bombed!

Jack: I showed her 30 times and took two points on her. Just goes to show you what kind of super eyes we have.

Helen: Well, she had nice things about her, too, but Magic was definitely the standout. Repeated the breeding and didn't get anything. A dog like that just comes along once in awhile, and maybe it will be another ten years before we get another one. She was a real

standout and bred to Bear, they just clicked. It was the perfect breeding. We were so pleased with what we got out of her first litter, that we thought we'd try it again. They kept getting better and better. It was a real consistent breeding.

Jack: One of them won the National Specialty four years ago, and won the Grand Futurity. He was the only Samoyed to win the Futurity and the Breed at a National Specialty. That was Am/Can Ch. Northwinds Maraiva Bearfoot. We kept a male from one of those breedings. The first one that we kept was a really nice dog, and he was a one puppy litter, so we named him the Lone Ranger. The Lone Ranger was liked by a lot of people. He was only shown a few times; he had fourteen points and both majors. He got hit by a car at thirteen months old; he would have been a great one. Then we kept Robin Hood, who we think was at least one of the best. Janice McGadrick

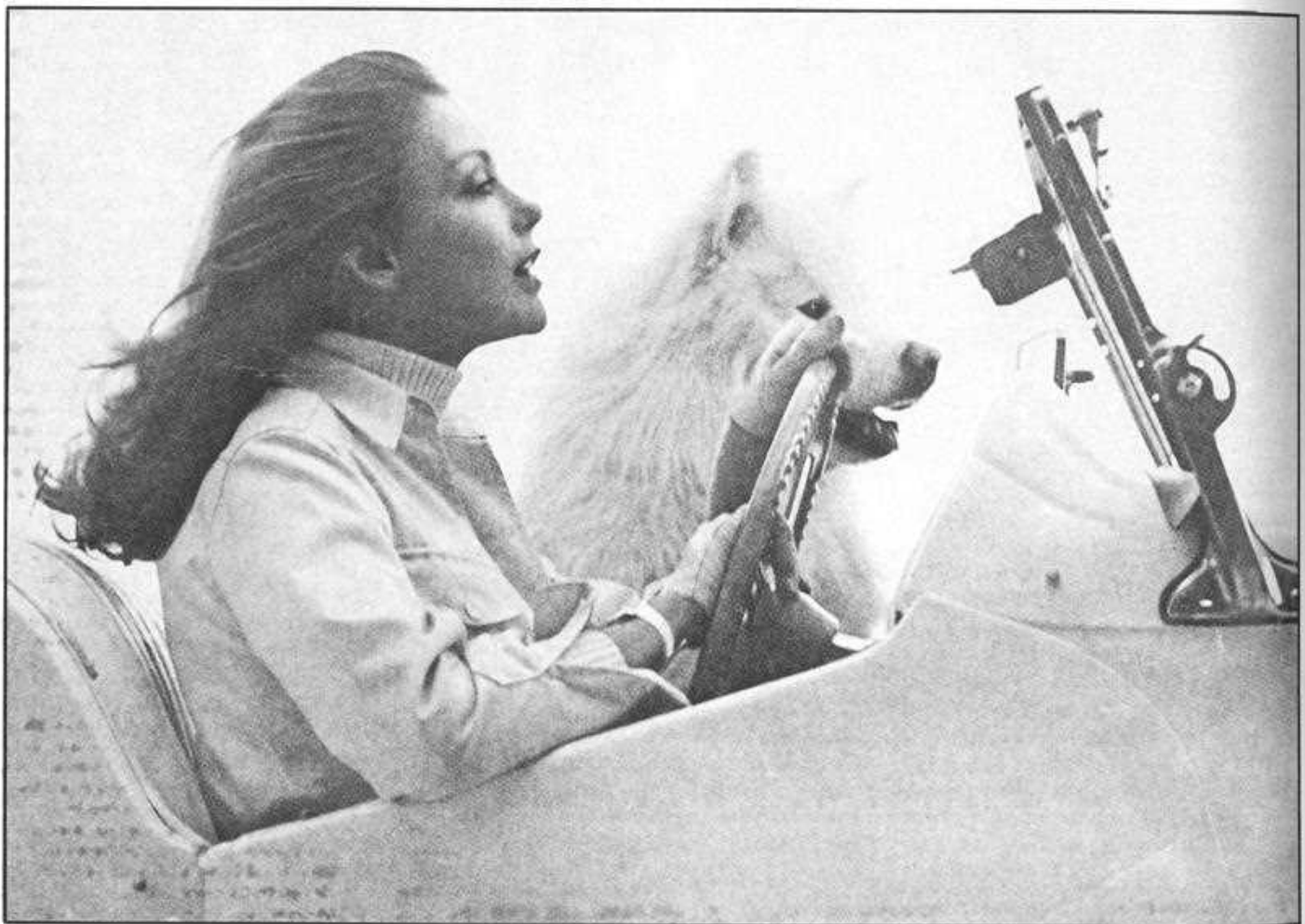
Hovellmann has a very nice male out of that same breeding, also. It produced three, probably four, really super males.

Helen: Quite a few bitches finished, as well. Spice, Clover and Flurry. Robin Hood's litter sister was on her way until she got killed.

Jack: Several accidents happened to our dogs. There were about five or six really nice show dogs who died. One got hit by a car, one had a bout with a pancreatic virus, and another one just dropped dead (autopsy showed nothing). Nothing was genetic or disease-oriented, all were unrelated.

Helen: There could have been fifteen or twenty champions had all of them lived and gotten shown. There were a couple, of course, who were put in pet homes and turned out to be nicer than the ones put in show homes. They were spayed and altered and have great coats! (laughter)

Jack: There was this really nice female out of one of the breedings that



Helena Rubinstein ad, 1975.



Helena Rubinstein ad, 1977.

we sold to a local lady who wanted a pet, maybe to show. It was one of those dogs who wasn't bad, but not as glamorous as a couple of the other puppies in the litter. Maybe she will be show material and maybe she won't; maybe this woman will be interested and maybe she won't. A nice match! When she was one-year-old, everybody wanted to buy her! Other breeders. The lady wouldn't sell her because she was going to show her "one of these days." SHE got hit by a car when the housekeeper let her out to go to the bathroom.

From a breeding standpoint, we have had our successes and our failures, as has anybody who has bred more than one litter. After we started breeding Bear and Magic, and getting some nice litters, we started campaigning this nice male champion that we had finished and had a few Group placements on. We had always wanted some Group placements; one thing led to another. The dog started looking better and started performing better, won a Group here and there. Then I wanted to get a Best in Show. He

ended up being the Number One Samoyed, all systems in 1981, and certain systems in 1980. His name was Ch. Northwind's Running Bear!

Helen: He goes by a few other names, too! Running Fool, Running Mouth...

Jack: He was a fun dog to show because he had so much personality. He went Best in Show at the Kennel Club of Northern New Jersey, a few years back, which is one of the heaviest spectator shows; they get 10,000 spectators there. Running Bear thought they were all there to see him. He works a crowd better than any con man I've ever seen. He built up a lot of spectator interest in himself when I was doing the grooming, so when we got into the Group, he had a fan club. We never solicited people to clap for us, they just decided to clap on their own. By the time we had won the Group, and were going for Best in Show, he was a longshot favorite. This unknown, unidentified breed, was suddenly getting the attention.

Helen: I think they are a breed that looks much better in the Group ring

because the white stands out against the other dogs. They look much flashier than when you see them all shoved together in a small ring.

Jack: One of the other interesting things we found with Running Bear was that he became my personal friend, when traveling. He was always by my side. He even tried to help me drive sometimes, which is a great help when you are alone going home late after losing the Breed. Sunday night after losing the Breed three days in a row and we were hoping for Best in Show, is a bit much to take on your own.

**When did all this dog craziness begin?**

Jack: It must have all started in January or February of 1969.

Helen: We got married in 1967 and were out in Michigan for a year, and came back and bought a dog.

Jack: This is 1985, so it has been sixteen years?

Helen: I'm not even sixteen years old, so how can it have been that long?

Jack: Right, old people breed dogs for sixteen years. I'm not an old person. I was still driving a sports car when this started. It sure wasn't a van or an RV. There is a very good article about the "dog disease" that appeared a number of years ago. It is one of those articles that talks about you and your experiences, but uses somebody else's name. You have to laugh at yourself.

Helen: Those of us who have been around "as long as we have" have all gone through the same things. You can't function with a car and no crates. You can't function with more than two or three dogs in a station wagon. Jack handles for other people as well, so it is really inconvenient to travel without crates. Our personal preference is for a trailer when we are traveling long distances, we don't want all the dogs living in there with us, and we didn't feel we could afford a motorhome big enough to put the dogs "back in China" and us in the front. The trailer has worked out very well for our purposes. We use it every weekend once the weather thaws, from the Tar-Heel circuit on through.

**Do you have any idea how many litters you have bred?**

Helen: At one point I was very good about keeping those kinds of records. I would guess probably sixteen to twenty. We average one or two a year, although in the first few years we had very few. We have had a couple of "one puppy" litters, a couple of "ten puppy" litters.



L. to r.: Ch. Northwind's Ruff 'N Ready and Ch. Northwind's Razyzy Bear

We think we had some problems at one point, in our house on the hill, with the water supply.

**Other people have had that problem, too?**

Helen: Yes, and that is what helped us make the connection. Oh, it wasn't the house on the hill, it was here. We have since dug new wells and new septic. It was because of other people with the same problem that it dawned on us that it might be our problem, as well. We also had dirt runs at the time, and there had been dogs on this property for 50 years before we bought it. Sanitation was impossible. Which is why, as quickly as we were able, we built a totally modern, sanitizable facility. It is not ideal, but it has made a difference.

Jack: Since the new construction, our mortality problem has disappeared. We have an acceptable level like ten percent or five percent. Before, we had as high as 80%.

Helen: We lost whole litters from time to time and that was very depressing.

Jack: We own eleven dogs, currently.

Helen: Some of them are distinctly senior citizens, like a couple of spayed bitches, a couple that should have been

spayed. We only have the two males. Our experience has been that Samoyed males don't really love each other; some breeders say that they never have that problem. We are too closely associated with our males because they are our show dogs and are out with us or Jack every weekend. They develop a very close relationship and they get jealous if they are not out. Running Bear, for example, was retired and Robin was being shown all the time ... Bear's favorite thing in the world is to go to dog shows and he is just plain jealous when he sees Jack pull out. He has no great love for Robin, and Robin has no great love for him. We had the same problems with the older dogs. When Nicki was getting old, Ivan put him in his place. When Ivan was getting old, Running Bear put him in his place, and so we have learned. As the years have gone by, we just don't give them the opportunity to "best" each other like that anymore. It is just not fair to them; we love them each too much. Running Bear is pretty much the housedog. Robin is in the office with us all day long and at shows on the weekends. Running Bear is a miserable kennel dog. They are all miserable kennel dogs, so we rotate the bitches in the house. We generally

have two, or sometimes three or four, in the house at one time, but that is as much as anybody can stand.

Jack: The bitches don't seem to mind, they run back and forth and bark at each other. The boys seem to take it harder. When I started to take Robin out as a special, Running Bear would watch me load up the truck. He knew that I always took the special out to the truck last, and he was very patient at that point. When I would start up the engine at five o'clock in the morning, he would get hysterical thinking I was leaving him. Then for awhile we tried keeping Robin in the house and put Running Bear in the kennel, but Running Bear moped so badly, he thought that if he ever got the chance he was going to beat up on Robin. This is a dog who has been attacked four times at dog shows, and never responded once, and one was a really serious attack. He is anything but an aggressive dog, but he charged Robin with no warning. He had just decided he was "going to get him!"

Helen: It was the end of a beautiful relationship; they were great friends prior to that time.

We have been talking about just the dogs that we speialed, but we have so many dogs back in our background that if we hadn't had them, we wouldn't be where we are. Running Bear, of course, we bought, but the others for the most part have been dogs that we bred. We have gone out from time to time and bought an adult bitch or two and nobody ever heard of them because you don't special bitches very much. Magic was probably the only one and we did special her briefly, but she was always either in whelp or out of coat. It is impossible, I think, to have a bitch special who is also a brood bitch. It just takes them too long to come back into a full coat and by then you want to breed them again. We have had a lot of really nice bitches that we finished and bred a couple of times, and did nothing more with. Names appear on pedigrees, but unless someone was at a show where they were, people have not really seen them.

Jack: They all finished in six shows.

Helen: Well, they didn't ALL finish in six shows, but we were pretty lucky with a few of them.

Jack: That was supposed to be a joke.

Helen: One of the disadvantages to Jack handling in our breed is, that when

you show other people's dogs, you forget to bring your own out and then they are four or five years old and they have only been to two shows. They are waiting their turn, and that is not fair.

Jack: Yes, and we don't breed until they are OFA certified and hopefully a champion. OFA is easy enough to get, assuming your breeding program is working, but championships are earned at the age of two or three years for the average decent dog, unless you don't get them to dog shows! Then they may not get it at all.

Helen: We have had several over the years who have been quite close to finishing, and just never quite got there for one reason or another. This is too bad because it would have looked nice to have had all those names in red on the pedigree.

**Do you have any idea how many champions you have bred?**

Jack: I know we have owned twelve or fourteen. As far as those who were bought by other people, we really haven't kept those kinds of statistics. My guess would be not as many as we have owned; maybe another ten. There are some who have come out of the woodwork, but they weren't sold as show dogs and all of a sudden they showed up in the ring.

Helen: As Jack said, we tend to be extremely critical of our own puppies and we won't keep something that we don't think can finish. If it doesn't look like it is going to finish, and we have kept it, we will find a pet home for it. We don't have the "emotional" room for unlimited numbers of dogs.

We are also very critical, too, because we really don't want to put a dog out in a show home in California, and find out that it was really a dog that should have been in a pet home in New York. Unless we really feel a dog is going to do well, we won't send it to a serious breeder. We must feel confident about the dog. If you are only breeding two litters a year, and you must keep something for your own breeding program, there is just a limited number of dogs that we will consider really good enough to be out in the ring. We have probably wound up keeping a lot more of them than we have sold that could have been worthwhile in somebody else's breeding program. Other breeders can find seven show dogs in a litter; we would like to be able to find a dog and a bitch in each litter! Maybe someone else evaluating the same litter would see



Am/Can Ch. Northwind's Maralva Bearfoot.

three or four and say we are overly critical.

Jack: The best we got at predicting was in the Bear/Magic litters. We saw the same thing. By the time we got to the last three litters, we knew what we were looking for in a dog and we knew what we were looking for in a bitch.

Helen: It is fun to be able to do that. It is a lot harder when you all of a sudden bring in a new stud dog, look at the puppies and go "Oh, dear! Where did this come from?" Obviously the stud dog, right? (laughter) It makes you look a lot smarter when you can predict.

Jack: That is the nice thing about repeating breedings because you can look at heads, for example, and know how they'll turn out. When you introduce new things, heads look different. You have to know how honest the stud dog owners are as far as predicting things, too. We have found variations in perception between breeding programs. We talked to one group about their breeding program and they are honest, forthright and knowledgeable. Then you can have an honest person who is forthright and not very knowledgeable; or a

knowledgeable person who is not very honest! You get any of those combinations and it is very easy to get protective about your own breeding program because your enemies are your best critics. They'll make sure the world knows about your problems, whether or not they exist! It takes a great deal of trust to say, "Yes, I have a problem and I could use a little more 'X' in my line."

I think that is the thing I would change about this whole game if I had the ability ... the inability to lay things out and be honest. Every once in awhile we find somebody we can really relate with, and you can really be honest about the problems you run into. All of a sudden, THEY are being honest about problems they have been running into. You feel so relieved because you don't have to protect yourself, and you can talk about what it is that you would like to change. They give you thoughts and ideas and ask the same of you. It takes awhile to really lay it out because people will tell you "half-truths" as 100% absolutes.

Whatever problem I may be having in my experiences, someone along the line has had the same problem. If they

had any luck getting out of it, they could share that. The "game" makes them very defensive over this thing because all of a sudden it is a lifelong problem and you never get out of it. Back in the days when hip dysplasia was rampant, I heard of one particular breeder who had a lot of hip dysplasia in his line and the line he started with. The breeder of the line he started with didn't care about it and didn't do anything about it. This man did, though, and went a long way to get rid of it. I repeated this story to someone and shortly thereafter I was verbally attacked at a dog show by the breeder involved. "Why did you say all my dogs are dysplastic?" I replied that I hadn't said that at all, but that I had heard that he had started with a lot of dysplasia and had made great strides in getting rid of it in his line. I thought this was a great compliment to the effort that he put into it. This man was ready to take me out and fight me, but when I got finished he actually felt a little complimented. The emphasis of the story was changed! The facts weren't 100% inaccurate, but it was the way it had been related. That is so typical of this game and the way people treat each other. That does a great injustice and keeps us a little bit in the "dark ages." I know horse breeders don't do that. If someone develops a problem with a litter in this game, all of a sudden the world knows about it and it's the stud dog that caused the problem. That's because if you own the bitch and recognize the problem as being from your own line, you don't tell the world! You keep the information closed until you can blame it on the next stud. This is a great shame, because one doesn't learn that way.

#### **How did you get your kennel name?**

Jack: We used to live on Northwind Drive and it seemed like a nice name for a northern breed.

If anybody were to ask me what is the best way to get into breeding and showing dogs, it would be nothing like we did.

Helen: We did everything wrong. The only thing we did right was not buy from a pet store. The initial results might not have been any different because the first one wound up not being what we had anticipated it would be. We loved her as much as all of our boarding clients love their animals they bought from pet stores.

Jack: If someone were going to read this as an article on "How to Get

Started," don't use nine letters in your kennel name, it takes too long to write on show entries.

Northwind is not a registered name because it is too common. It is a name that the AKC won't hold off from the general public because there are five or six different breeds that are using "Northwind." There is someone else in Samoyeds who is breeding under "Northwind," who is not related to us.

Helen: Is that your advice to the novice? That and, don't name your dog "Snowball"? There are a lot of things that you learn after ten or fifteen years of being around.

Jack: We haven't set the world on fire, but we've had our share with a couple of multiple Best in Show dogs and specialty winners. All the nice things that you want to do, we have done. A lot of people don't know who Northwind is ... "What was your name again?" There aren't a lot of people actively showing now who were there when we got started. A lot of them who started with us aren't in it anymore. What I am saying is, much to my surprise, we have been around this game longer than most, are more informed than most (I hope), and people have absolutely no idea who I am! We have put it in advertising, we have put it in words and we have put it in wins, but it still doesn't mean anything if you didn't do it "yesterday." It always amazes me how low the recognition factor can be in this game.

I do think that showing dogs is something we take very seriously. To answer some of the questions on how to go about doing it, like anything you wish to do well, you must have a logical game plan. If you try something and it doesn't work, you try something new and keep improving on what you do well, and eliminate the things you do badly. Through trial and error you become good at what you do. There is no magic secret to it other than hard work and a little brain power. Every now and then I get some jiving about the handling I do with some degree of "pizzazz" in it; my feeling is that we are out there to SHOW and to present a nice picture, and the better picture I present in grooming, training, handling, right on down the line to what color tie I am wearing, all helps. I don't think there is anything in life that we attempt that we don't take seriously. To those who think there is a shortcut ... there are no shortcuts; it has been hard work. All the show dogs I have shown,

with the exception of one, needed to be trained. They needed to learn, and it took work to gain the knowledge to properly train them. Anybody who is reading this article could have the same success I have had, given a good breeding program and some hard work. Don't look for the shortcuts. They think we use them, and we don't. If we did, we couldn't have done it with every one of the dogs that we've shown. If you look at the dogs that we've shown, they have all come along in their own way through training, relationships and personalities, in developing that style.

Helen: All our dogs show like Samoyeds whether they are Samoyeds or not!

Jack: Right, I get criticism for that with the Dalmatian special that I show. That is how the owner wants the Dalmatian shown, like I show my Samoyed special. Really, what I am doing is basically creating poses, I like posing dogs. I train the dog to pose and that takes some effort because it is not natural for a dog to do. Except if he is in a field and he sees something he likes, he sets a pose on his own. All I do is try to train them to do it in front of somebody in different circumstances. This is not always easy, but that is the basic concept.

The other key thing that I think people have to do if they are going to be in this game, is have a good time at it. A lot of people don't. I think you have to enjoy what you do and have no personal gain other than the pleasure of what you are doing it for.

Helen: When it stops being fun, it is time to stay home. That's why I'm at home every weekend and he is at dog shows every weekend! (laughter) I go to my obligatory two circuits and a couple of odd shows here and there.

#### **Nobody knows your other half?**

Jack: That has been a problem over the last couple of years.

Helen: It is true. It has been a problem for us, but it is something we have learned to live with. Our mothers do not understand in the least. I do have children and a kennel, and it is impossible for both of us to be away at the same time. We have good kennel help, but no kennel help is perfect and you just can't go away and leave the kids every weekend. We do the Florida and Tar-Heel circuit together, and I go to a few shows here and there as much as I can. I'm looking forward to the day ten

years from now, if we are still around, when I can be flitting around, too. I don't know if I can take it every weekend. I'll find out when the time comes.

**Obviously, the boarding business is your occupation. How large is the kennel?**

Jack: We have facilities for 200 dogs.

**It is a fantastic setup.**

Jack: Thank you. The dogs' TV is color, because why should they have anything less here than they have at home! That is our philosophy. The building is (air conditioned) and I haven't heard any complaints from the dogs on the music we play. We used to have an "easy listening" station on and the dogs didn't complain, but the kennel help wanted something a little livelier.

Helen: Once an owner wanted to know why we weren't listening to a particular radio station and I said, "Well, I don't know. We are behind a hill here and we can't get all the stations." He never brought his dog back, and I found out he works for this other station. Maybe it was a coincidence, but it was strange. We only play music during office hours. In spite of the background noise, we are perfectly happy to have them bark all day long, but at night they are generally quiet. We have had a house on the drawing board through several kennel constructions, and someday ...

Jack: That is one of the sore spots between us, the fact that I haven't been able to come up with the REAL house. This is temporary.

Helen: This is our third temporary house. This one has been temporary for nine years now.

Jack: There are a lot of things I haven't done around here because it is all going to be ripped out and changed. What is the point? After nine years she is getting used to the wallpaper, and besides I'm never home on the weekends! (laughter)

Helen: He keeps me busy seven days a week, so when do I have time to go pick out wallpaper?

Jack: I'm the public relations officer for Northwind Kennels. Incidentally, CBS news is interested in covering the deluxe suites (out in the kennel) and there was an article about us in New York Magazine in mid-December. CBS saw the article and checked it out and will probably do a story in the summer when people are thinking about boarding.



Ch. Northwind's Lucky Clover.

Helen: Their vantage point, apparently, was also rather negative. They wanted to point out how stupid it is for people to spend that kind of money boarding their dogs. Jack was rather negative to the girl he spoke with on the phone, and went into the whole psychology of having these deluxe suites. Obviously, it is not for the dog, it is for the owner. If it makes the owner more comfortable about leaving an animal, and she has the money, why not? Some people are very uptight about boarding situations.

Jack: We had only been using these runs since Christmas. We had this Shepherd who bloated, this was his first time with us. When I called up the veterinarian about the dog, he said, "Be very careful, he does not board well. He bites and so on." I was calling about feeding because I wasn't happy with the instructions I had been given; the diet wasn't sufficient for the kind of stress the dog was under. I felt weight loss was going to be a real problem with him, so I had called to see if I could change the diet without risking bloat. He told me

not to bother because if the dog did get bloat, then it would be my fault. Based on that I decided I would go along with it. He warned me that the dog was nasty and difficult to handle, which increases his possibilities of bloat, anyway. We had him in the deluxe suite because I had nothing else available at the time his owner called; the dog did VERY well in his suite. He was calm, quiet ... it was like being in someone's bedroom, basically. He would go outside to his run which was super wide and very large, with limited contact with the other dogs. He didn't feel too threatened. When he was brought back inside he was in his own private little world. He was very relaxed, much more than I see Shepherds in general. It dawned on me that it has a lot of sense, particularly for special cases. It would be worth it if money wasn't a problem, if I had a dog with a problem like that, to always put him in something of this nature. It is very expensive for me as the kennel owner to provide, but if someone is willing to pay for it, it makes a lot of sense. Not every dog is like that ... the

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Sammies would rip those beds apart in no time at all! It would be a great game!

**What do you charge for a "Samoyed-sized" dog in one of those suites?**

Jack: Well, a Sammy in our regular kennel is ten dollars a day. The deluxe suite, and this goes by the room size, is \$40 or \$45 for the night. The price difference is fairly substantial and the

creation. The furniture has to be fairly indestructible, yet cute and house-like. The TV has to be anchored (although I can't see the dog walking off with it!) because the dog could jump and knock it off.

**"I don't like the color of this room!"**

Jack: That was an interesting problem because we did worry about

been an all-encompassing pastime. At this point, the kids are involved and their life-styles are affected by it. There are pluses and minuses, too. You are your own boss, but you are the one who has to worry about whether you can pay the mortgage this month; and if you can't, you are the only one who can solve that problem. The other problem is that I don't have freedom of choice to call up the boss and say, "I don't feel like coming in today." You are still going to have Mrs. Smith pounding at your door. If you have a twenty-inch snowstorm out there, the dogs still have to be fed and watered and somebody has to get that snow moved. If the help can't get in, the help can't get in!

Helen: So, we are the "help"!

**How many employees do you have?**

Jack: My full-time staff, including grooming, is six during off-season. During busy season we are up to nine or ten. No, twelve including groomers. The construction increase we are doing is a 50% increase in capacity. We gained access to a part of it in late August, and December was the first time we had access to all of it. We are really feeling our way at the moment with how large of a staff we need to function. Our employees work a four-and-a-half day week, because I need a fair number of bodies. Seven a day are needed to work in the kennel and one or two in grooming. Those figures do not include Helen and I. We have gone to a computer for our reservation system.

**I notice there is a "No Vacancy" sign.**

Jack: That is valid.

**What is your goal in breeding Samoyeds?**

Helen: I think we are pretty much accomplishing our goals. We are breeding the best dog that we can.

We are doing the best that we can. I think that we have not shut our minds to the possibility that there might be something that we don't already know. We have had the audacity to go out of our line and try other things from time to time. Jack's goal is to be as far away from the kennel every weekend as possible! (laughter) We always want to do a little more. We had the Top Winning Owner/Handled Dog at one time, but that record has long been shot. It will be a long time before anybody bests Tazz's show record; it is something to shoot for. Those kinds of things are always goals that you can reach for, but



Ch. Northwind's Black Magic.

cost to me is fairly substantial.

**A color TV and a brass bed are not cheap!**

Jack: The amount of space provided is triple, if not more. There are also special doors and the walls are different. Then you get into furnishings. We have \$1,000 worth of decorating in each room. The cost factor alone is phenomenal. We tried to get an interior decorator, but this was such "small potatoes"! (laughter) There are limited kinds of materials that can be used properly with dogs! The rooms can still be washed and disinfected without being hazardous, this is a special kind of

color. There is a special epoxy coating on the walls in there. There has been research done on how colors affect humans, but nothing on animals. There is an argument as to whether dogs can see color, anyway. We didn't settle the problem so we made no decision.

These white dogs have caused us to make this a "livelihood." It is all that first dog's fault! I could have a nice "nine to five" job and get a paycheck, and not have to deal with these crazed people.

**But you are your own boss.**

Jack: I'm my own boss. I report to the bank every Monday. Anyway, it has

in reality, I just want to keep on breeding the best dogs we can. I want to see them all in happy homes with fenced backyards and I want them all to be beautiful and representative of the breed. I don't want to hear that they attacked "grandma" or the kid next door. I think we have a charming breed and it is our duty to continue it, protect it and promote it within reason. We shouldn't push it on people who really shouldn't have it. This is not the breed for everybody.

Jack: One of the things I have noticed is that as you achieve one goal, you set a new goal. The first goal was to get a point on a dog, or even to get a ribbon. The next goal was to have a championship. Then the next was to breed a champion. Then to win a Breed, win a Group and win a Best in Show. Then the goal was to have the Top Winning dog in the USA in a given year. We have achieved all of those goals. I think at this point my feeling is to continue having dogs that I am happy with temperamentally, personality-wise and looks-wise. That is one thing that has not changed. I have always wanted to have a dog that I am proud to own. A dog who is a friend at my feet, greeting people, beautiful and eye-appealing. These dogs are extensions of me as much as possible, and I enjoy the things they do that make them "them." That part of all this has not changed, and I hope it doesn't change.

One thing about dogs is that in order to stay in place, you have to keep growing. The minute you stop growing is when you fall behind and your breeding program stops and it all falls apart. You have to plan to replace what you have today in order to still have it three or four years from now. This dog at my feet is the greatest canine friend I have had, and he is starting to get old. I see it happening. If you are not replacing, growing and planning the next breeding, and the next great dog, then you will have all senior citizens in a few short years. You can't rest on your laurels in this game, or you are out of it. That is one of the things that I have noticed about a lot of the breeders. They achieved a certain measure of success and reached their goals and the next thing you know is that they no longer have any dogs left. Some of those people are starting to come back and they are asking for dogs from us, which I find very interesting. Two people whom I thought of as serious breeders and

people to emulate, have requested dogs from us and they have nothing themselves, so it is not as if they are adding or making changes. They are starting over and we are that starting place. It is interesting that things go in full circle and it is also interesting that these people have simply "come back." I've noticed that a lot of people are absent, but I hadn't noticed they came back. Some are. The handwriting is on the wall ... if you don't have that new "next" one, you are out.

Helen: All of a sudden you turn around and the "puppy" is seven-and-a-half.

Jack: He isn't typical of what you have been breeding. He isn't good enough to have your kennel name on him. You go back five years ago to the great kennels, how many of those are still around and can sell you a great dog today? Not more than a very few. It is the same thing today, because half of the great kennels won't have good dogs in five years.

Helen: There is the problem of

"burn out," also, when you are at the top ... although I guess there is even more of a problem if you are NOT at the top because you are always striving and being frustrated.

Jack: Sometimes I wonder if it isn't too high of a price to get to the top. Once you get there you realize you paid an awful high price to be here and what for? What is the real advantage of being here? What are the benefits and what did I have to pay?

Helen: We have tried very hard to keep things in perspective. The family has suffered from time to time with Jack being away as much as he is. The kids understand, but they are resentful at the same time; the wife understands, but is resentful at the same time. He is basically working seven days a week, like I am, because he is home for four or five days in the kennel. It is rough driving six hours to get to a show and six to get back at the end of the weekend. Then he has to get up on Monday morning and work in the office and that kind of thing. It has been very



Am/Can Ch. Northwind's Robin Hood.

stressful, but on the other hand, I guess we have pretty much gotten used to it at this point. I still gripe and moan from time to time. (laughter)

Jack: She is very supportive.

Helen: We have been married for seventeen years and we are still together, so I guess that is the bottom line. We stopped at two kids because there was always the risk of a real "litter"! My grandmother was a twin, and Jack's brother has twins.

**As the mother of twins, I can tell you that he has nothing to do with it! It is your body that decides.**

Helen: My body decided that having lived through two single litters was about all it could take! (laughter) We have two wonderful children. Our daughter is not as active in Juniors at the moment as she has been, but plans to be active again. She qualified for and competed in the Garden last year. She was Best Junior at the National two years ago; she loves it but has social obligations also. Even with her it is in perspective. Larry is anxious to get into Juniors at some point. He is very annoyed that everyone else is participating and he just watches.

Jack: He is very good at leashbreaking the dogs.

Helen: Yes, he is the official leashbreaker. He will be nine in March so he has another year. He attends the puppies and walks dogs at the shows. Both kids have very easy hands on the dogs; they inherited that from Jack. They all have a very gentle touch with the dogs, and that is the best thing you can say about anybody in this business, I think. Mindy works in the kennel and is part of the part-time staff. It is the only way she can afford to dress herself in the style she would like. I can't afford to dress her like that!

Jack: An interesting price to pay, and an interesting benefit from this lifestyle ... the kids get some ridicule from their friends about living in a kennel. We don't have a fancy house, and this is an affluent area with a lot of nouveau money.

Helen: It isn't what you are worth inside yourself, but how many cars you have, and which camp you go to. Do you own your horse or ONLY take lessons? That sort of thing.

Jack: This is a negative that has created a "positive," a very good sense of "self" in both our kids. One thing I will say is, in this game the kids learn really

quick to be responsible for their actions. It is either that or an animal may lose its life. I can't imagine giving kids much better of a background for responsibility.

**Have you ever refused to service a bitch?**

Jack: Oh, sure. I think that ethical breeders will find bitches of good quality and those of not such good quality, and say to themselves, "My name is going to be on that and it will show up somewhere."

Helen: There are a couple that we have serviced over the years that we probably shouldn't have, but when somebody comes to you with a champion bitch, with an OFA and CERF number, and you just HATE the bitch ... you really don't have justification for turning it away. On the other hand, it may not be something that you would give ten minutes' worth of kennel space to, but you have to make those judgements. The easiest thing is to say, "Do you have an OFA number?" and they say, "What is that?" and you are off the hook.

Jack: One has to be very diplomatic when refusing a stud service. You are going to make a permanent enemy of this person because you just turned them down. That is a guarantee. Sometimes you have a problem with a particular dog, and the bitch they bring you has the exact same set of problems. To be honest you really don't want to perpetuate these problems by doubling up on them, so if you are an honest breeder, and the money isn't the main thing in your life, you say to them, "Frankly, this isn't the way to go." Recommend a dog that you would use if your stud dog (with the same faults) were a bitch. The problem is that I have a tendency to be a little too honest, and people only hear half of what you tell them and they make up the rest.

**What is a fair stud fee?**

Helen: A fair stud fee has always been traditionally the price of a show puppy. It varies. I don't think it is fair to put it in terms of dollars; puppies go for different prices in different parts of the country. You might even sell a puppy for more or less depending on where it is going, and to whom it is going, and what you know is going to be done with it. I don't see any excuse for exorbitant stud fees, I really don't. I also don't see any excuse for giving away a stud service, because the stud owner is paying for the campaign of the dog and

why should he not be reimbursed at least somewhat for his expenses? I think an outrageous stud fee says to the public that you really don't want your dog to be used.

Jack: That is a difficult question to answer in terms of dollars and cents. This has recently been an active area for debate. One person triples his stud fee, and another adds 50% to his because the other guy raised his! It is almost an ego trip to see how much you can get people to pay for the service! We think it has to be a fair market value because the owner of the bitch benefits by the effort that goes into the campaign of the dog. Their pedigree becomes more noticeable ten years down the road by the efforts put into making the stud dog known and successful. There is cost in doing that and the bitch owner must share that cost because they share the rewards.

Helen: The bitch, unless she lives around the corner, has expenses, too. If the owner has to pay the air fare to get the bitch to us, an exorbitant stud fee is unfair to a serious breeder. It may be all right for the bitch around the corner that you really didn't want to breed to anyway. If, after shipping, you wind up not having a litter for whatever reason, or if you have only one or two puppies, or if you have an awful litter and you just want to "deep six" them ... (laughter) ... you have still had those expenses. We bred a litter not long ago and only had three puppies in the litter, but we had air fare and stud fee, and all that. We lost money on that litter. When you are only breeding two litters a year, to lose money on one .. I'm not in it to MAKE money, but on the other hand, I don't want to lose any either. Our boarding supports our breeding program because we just don't breed enough puppies to go anywhere near supporting anything.

**Do you ever take pick of the litter for a stud fee?**

Jack: In the early days we did. We haven't recently.

Helen: Mostly because it is difficult when you are breeding bitches from other areas of the country to see the litter and determine what the pick really is. On both sides of it, both as a stud owner and a bitch owner, I would rather pay the stud fee and then go and look at the puppies and buy one if I'm interested. We could probably sell a million puppies a year because we are in a good area. There are not a lot of breeders in the metropolitan New York



Ch. Northwind's Running Bear.

area anymore, although there used to be at one time. We are listed in a couple of the local breeder referral services, and because we are a kennel and are visible, we get a lot of calls for puppies. If we sold a puppy to everyone who called, that would be over 30 a year easily. If we really wanted to sell a lot of pets, we could support our "habit" with puppies! (laughter)

Jack: I think the idea of taking back a stud fee puppy also puts you in a very touchy situation. It is not your breeding program that is involved here and you didn't raise that puppy and socialize it, but you are putting your name on the line when you go to sell it. Here, we are very visible and people have a certain feel of substance because of who and what we are. Their expectations are high and you don't always know if you can deliver what

people think you can. If you have to make good on this puppy, and it happens even with your own, that gets touchy. You want to make a policy that you can follow right on down the line, and this becomes a very compromising, difficult situation. If someone doesn't think enough of my dog to invest in a stud fee, then it was a matter of convenience and economics, and that isn't a real reason to breed to my dog. They have to want to use the dog for specific reasons, and if it doesn't work out, then I am very sorry.

**What do you sell your puppies for?**

Jack: For show quality - \$750 depending on the litter and \$500 for a pet. There can be variations. We don't really have any problem selling our show puppies and I would say that at least 50% are on reservation before the litter

is born. With only two litters a year, that isn't hard.

Helen: We sell a lot of puppies for other people!

Jack: I have sold puppies for breeders in Pennsylvania, Canada and California. I don't know if you have ever tried to sell somebody a puppy that isn't right next door, but it can be very difficult.

Helen: We have had calls from people wanting puppies who are willing to drive here, but not to New Jersey or Long Island because that is another hour. "Isn't there anybody closer?" The pet shop in the mall is closer, but that is about the extent of it.

**When do you like to place your puppies?**

Helen: Eight weeks old. All of the psychological studies say that puppies should be in their new homes between





developed since then. But she had so much information on what the old dogs shows were like and things like that so that little lights went off inside your head as she talked.

Helen: "Oh, wow, I wish I had been there," kind of thing.

Jack: When you talked to the McGoldricks you got one idea of how things were and when you talked to the Scovins you got another idea. Most of these people are willing to talk, if you asked at the right time, and not right in the middle of grooming. (That is when people always seem to ask me things! And then they wonder why I'm a "snob"!)

Helen: Well, that is the time that you see people and it is convenient for them. If people would take the time to pick up the phone or come for an afternoon or evening it would be much better. As you can tell, we love to talk! There isn't anybody that we wouldn't spend time with.

Jack: You take ten minutes worth of information from somebody like Bob and Dolly Ward, and ten minutes worth from some other breeder like that and it all adds up! I think our closest contact has been with the Richardsons consistently over the years. I have always admired Connie's frankness about her dogs. When someone is coming to me, I try to emulate that because I was always so impressed and gained a lot from it. I wanted to be dealt with and deal with others as fairly as she dealt with me. Perhaps someone will again pass it along and deal with others as fairly as she dealt with me. Perhaps someone will again pass it along and deal in such a manner with the next person. I like it when someone is confident enough in the dogs they have to be honest and not just defensive. Most of us have good dogs, but you

have to be confident in the quality to stand up and say what you want.

The McGoldricks, Scovins and Richardsons are three couples that we were most involved with in the early years. All of them were established breeders when we were just "babes in the wood," so to speak.

Jack: They gave us handling advice, grooming advice and each one of those pieces of information was very important.

Helen: Nonhofs, Hritzos, Audrey Lycan and Barbara Skalka are a few. There are a lot of people who we haven't named.

**Is there anything we haven't covered?**

Helen: We don't believe in supplementing, for what that is worth. All of our dogs are fed "dog food." I might throw in cottage cheese or egg, but I don't believe in oversupplementing with vitamins.

**Do you have some pictures for me?**

Helen: Yes. Here are a few. Ch. Northwind's Ruff n' Ready is the dog that Mindy has shown in Juniors. She didn't put all of the points on her, but did put many of them in the breed, also.



The dog that is in the picture with her is Ch. Northwind's Razy Bear to whom she was bred. The picture was taken in Florida where she was honeymooning on Leslie Vogel's boat. Razy Bear was a dog that we bred out of Clover who is a Robin Hood sister, bred to Ch. Quicksilver's Razzmatazz. Razy Bear is finished and being speialed. We have a zillion and two pictures of the specials and Robin's pictures are in general better than Bear's. So that is it.

**Thank you very much. •**

## Breeders' Directory

Kennels are listed in alphabetical order.  
**KEY TO ABBREVIATIONS.**

- p - puppies available occasionally
- d - grown dogs occasionally for sale
- s - stud service to approved bitches
- b - dog boarding available
- h - Samoyed handling

**LISTING** is free to paid subscribers to The Samoyed Quarterly. Just send kennel name, name, address, phone number and appropriate letters to The Samoyed Quarterly.

**CONDITIONS.** The Samoyed Quarterly will not accept listings from dealers who acquire dogs for resale. All listings must be for Samoyeds with the understanding that all dogs offered for sale are registered or are eligible for registration with the AKC.

- AL-A'RAF** (pds). 403-256-0858. Mrs Barbara F Selock, Box 8157, Stn F, Calgary, Alta Canada T2J 2V3.
- ALAKASAM** (psh). 914-246-7509. Thomas & Beverly Delaney, 7369 Fred Short Road, Saugerties, NY 12477.
- ALEVER** (ps). 414-876-2957. Eve Rittberg, Rt 1, Box 14, Elkhart Lake, WI 53020.
- ALLEGRO** (pdsb). 409-560-4222. Jim & Terry Young, Rt 3, Box 279, Lindale, TX 75771.
- ALPHA** (ps). 215-966-4079. John & Lucy Ackerman, 104 Fairview St, Macungie, PA 18062.
- ALTIER** (psh). 516-735-4829. Mrs Lillian Rusch, 144 Bloomingdale Rd, Levittown, NY 11756.

- ANATEVKA** (pds). 619-448-7371. Mark Joseph Walsh, 9934 Pratt Ct, Santee, CA 92071.
- ANTARES** (ps). 228-8286. Jo Anne Marineau, 4897 John Muir Rd, Martinez, CA 94553.
- ARNO** (ps). 213-933-4314. Barbara Arnaud, 915 Muirfield Rd, Los Angeles, CA 90019.
- AROKOP** (pds). 217-787-4905. Helen J Pokora, 841 N Oxford Rd, PO Box 3241, Springfield, IL 62708.
- ASGARD** (pds). 208-265-4695. Ruth Mary Heckerroth, 2299 Cocolalla Loop Rd, Cocolalla, ID 83813.
- AURORA** (ps). 514-437-0350. Renate M Frey, 107 Ile de Mai Boisbriand, PQ Canada J7G 1R7.
- BARBICON** (pds). 201-766-7704. Mrs Barbara Brisgel, Colonial Dr at Harding, Morristown, NJ 07960.
- BARRON** (pdsb). 314-724-2341. Barb & Dan Cole, 430 Blanche Dr, St Charles, MO 63303.
- BJELKIERS** (psh). 011-61-1474. Mr Werner Degenhardt, c/o Thea V Trauttmansdorff, 88 Seavoe Rd, Northport, NY 11768.
- BLEUARTIC** (pds). 403-756-3937. Lee G Shartau, PO Box 94, Stirling, Alta, Canada TOK 2E0.
- BLIZZARD** (pds). 401-397-5749. Roland & Jane Pelland, RR 3, Box 94B, Foster, RI 02825.
- CANDENZA** (pds). Betty Powell, 159 Lewis St, Soddy-Daisy, TN 37379.
- CANDIDA** (pdsb). 602-973-6717. Dave & Marguerite Seibert, 3140 W Loa Palmaritas Dr, Phoenix, AZ 85051.
- CAPRA** (pdsb). 314-745-2197. Mr & Mrs Monty Smoot, Rt