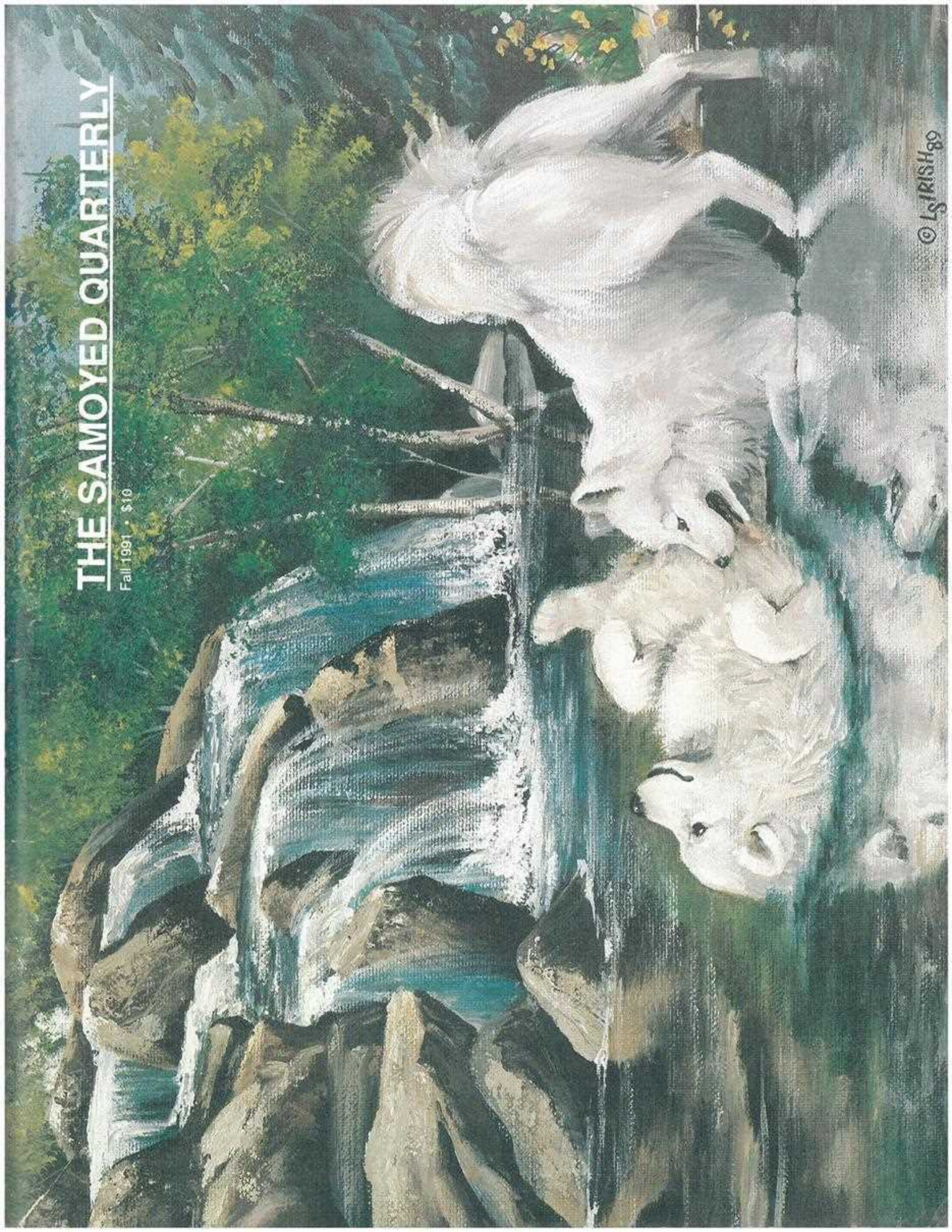


THE SAMOYED QUARTERLY

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Samoyed People

The Samoyed Quarterly
Talks With
Beth Ingram
SNOWDRIFT
Prattville, Alabama

Part II

This interview was conducted at the Ramada Inn Civic Center in Birmingham, Alabama in October of 1990 by Katie LeCour.



When you were a handler, did you ever think about going on to become a judge?

No, but my husband did. In fact, he was filling out his AKC judge's application when he died. He loved it. He judged matches all over. I too have judged matches. Friends of mine in Florida who are judges have been on me to get a judge's license. I don't know. Sometimes I say yes and then again I say no, because I don't believe I want to do all that traveling. I did so much traveling when I was going to shows. I just want to take it easy. Someday I may apply, I don't know.

My husband had his own business, he made outdoor porch and patio furniture. We didn't get rich off of it, but we did all right. When he died, he left me as well fixed as any

poor man could ever leave his wife. My home is paid for (I have about twelve acres), my kennel is paid for and my cars are paid for. I don't owe any debts like that. I have rented my kennels a time or two, but it's just not worth it. Nobody ever does what I want them to do. They always go off and leave the kennels full of poop and we have to clean it up. It's just not worth it. I'd rather just do the repairs on them just to keep them going. If my darling grandchildren wanted to sell the property, it would keep up the value of it.

Does making the Top Ten or Twenty mean anything?

Not really. My Ch. Snowdrift Grenadier Kara Sea made the Top Ten several times. I see a lot of dogs that have done about as much winning as a better dog that never made the Top Ten. In a way, I think it is overrated. He made his championship and made a lot of wins for us. He went Best of Winners. Also, Best of Breed - Winners Dog. This was in Marietta, Georgia. Then the next Atlanta show, he went Best of Breed over all the specials from Open class and finished his championship that day. Every trophy they had, I won it with him. The day I got everything, I felt terrible. (laughter) I was walking through with them in a box, taking them to the car, and my friends said, "You think you're smart, don't you?" My friends were teasing me about winning everything. My husband didn't get to go, and I had to call him and tell him. I just had to.

Do you think that judging is fair?

I think most judges are fair, but being in it as long as I have, I have seen a few rotten apples in the barrel. You scratch my back and I'll scratch yours. I heard from some people this morning about one of the judges in the ring. They said a certain handler could take anything under this judge and win. I just listened, I didn't comment, because I don't want to get into that. I'm out of this now. I'm not going to take part in any gossip, tale telling, backbiting or anything. I used to, but I don't do it anymore.

When I was showing dogs, dog shows got to be my god. I wasn't satisfied if I wasn't in a dog show every weekend. After I lost my husband, I became a Christian, so I look to the Lord now, or try to, so I can go to a better place someday.

When you were showing the dogs, did

you have a preference as far as an all breed judge or a breeder-judge?

That's a very good question. I find that a lot of breeder-judges, in all fairness to them, if they have friends who show under them, sometimes they will put them up because they're obligated. It becomes a tight situation to be in which I would not want to be in. For myself, I would rather have an all-arounder.

Do you think that advertising influences judges?

Yes, I do, if a dog's done a lot of winning and they send the judges these magazines with all these pictures, that does influence them. A lot of these breeders take the ads and send them to the judges themselves because they think they won't get a copy of the magazine. I have never sent a judge a copy of any advertising at any time in my life. I always had a reputation. They always said when I was showing under Dennis Grivas, who is retired now, that I could go in the ring with a squirrel dipped in a barrel of flour and win. (laughter) I had people tell me that, and I said, "That's not true, I just happen to have the type of dog that he likes." I have never sent a judge an ad of mine in my whole life. I like to take my chances and win on my own merits. If I can't win that way, I don't want any part of it. I don't want anybody to scratch my back and let me scratch theirs. I would rather win on my own merits and my dog's merits.

How did you train your puppies, and at what age did you begin?

I used to start them walking on a leash at six weeks. I would put a leash on them and tie a heavy rock to the end of it. I would stay out there with them. I never left. I would let them drag it around. That way they would be used to something heavy on the other end of the leash. Then they went right along with me. I found that was the best. You have to stay with them because that rock can get hung up on something and the puppies can get hung.

We started show training around four months. We worked with our dogs every day. We didn't work with them until they got tired, and we always rewarded them with some little snack. I really enjoyed training my dogs. Even now, I just want to train so badly, but I had surgery on my knee in '82. I could do it, but I'm afraid my knee

might give away and I might fall and might get hurt. I think it's best, if I show a dog, to let someone else do it.

Did you attend fun matches and/or training classes with your dogs?

Yes, we went to a lot of match shows. We judged a lot and attended a lot of match shows. The only thing I have against the matches, as I've always said and will say again, it's good for puppies, but why does it drag on and on? It's so late getting started and nobody seems to be organized. When it gets that way and the sun gets hotter and hotter ...

Have you done any obedience training with your dogs?

One time. I was in the ring through one round. We were at Paterson Field at that baseball thing, and it was hot. I got so hot I got bored and said, "This is just not my cup of tea." I never tried it again. I never put a CD on a dog. I just wasn't cut out for obedience.

Have people who bought puppies from you gone on to do obedience?

Yes, other people have obedience trained my puppies. I said, "Go to it, it's not for me!"

How important is training to winning in conformation?

I really think it helps a lot, because it's bad to get a dog in there that's really unruly and you can't control him. It's bad for you, the judge and the spectators, because they're seeing something that they're not supposed to see. They're supposed to see a well-trained, behaved dog in the ring, not one that you can't control.

Back when I started handling a long time ago, there were some handlers who used to resort to doing tricks. They would stand in front of you and your dog, between you and the judge, getting out of line. One time there was a handler behind me who kept walking up on me. My dog kept looking back to see what was going on. Finally, I got mad and said, "Listen, will you get your dog's nose out of my dog's tail? I know what you're up to and it's not going to work. You get back where you belong!" They just can't do things like that, it's not right.

Do you have any specific advice for people who would like to handle their own dogs?

I've told many people how to train their

puppies and how to show their dogs. I've helped them in every way I could. I've even helped them at shows. I've seen people have stage fright, and I have taken the dog in for them. (laughter) I found that many times a dog will do better with somebody other than their owner in some cases. Most of my dogs would show well for me because they loved me and wanted to please me. I've had very few unruly dogs. I've had a few puppies that, when they got in the ring, were all eyes. They'd never been before and I had to hang on to them. When I'd give a good jerk, they'd calm down. I have never mistreated my dogs. My husband said that nobody better ever think about that around him.

He sounds like a wonderful man.

He was, and he was always for the underdog. He got the reputation around the shows as Mr. Fixit. He mended everything from a carburetor to a broken pair of glasses, running around with his little tool kit trying to help people. He never charged anyone a cent. He was great. He was a precious man. I've missed him.

When you were breeding, were you there to help a breeding along?

I never leave my dogs when they're breeding. I stay right there with them because so much damage can happen, especially to a young bitch. If she pulls away from a male, she can damage him. I never leave them at all. I have had to hold a virgin bitch. I couldn't do it today because I hurt my shoulder, and I couldn't hold them up. I could just hang on to them for dear life. I did that with many bitches that came in, and really, my own, too. I will not breed a dog if she is not of good quality and has not been x-rayed.

So your males were available at stud to outside bitches?

Yes, they were. Most of my males were proven. I offered them to select bitches only.

Have you ever refused to service a bitch?

Yes, if a bitch was not good quality and did not have an OFA number. I needed their veterinarian's guarantee that the X-ray had been evaluated. Frankly, I do not go for preliminary X-rays, I never have. You have to have all that done, spend all that money to pay your vet, pay OFA, and you're still not sure. You go ahead and use the dog because

you have a preliminary, and you might come up with some faults, hip dysplasia and a whole lot of things. I just don't believe in using a dog until it's verified. You should believe it to be concrete before you even breed a dog so you know if you have a dog with good hips. Even though we've come a long way, it could happen again.

What about eye checks?

I have my dogs' eyes checked. I have a thirteen-year-old, and I haven't had him done lately, but he's all right. We don't do anything for him as far as this goes anymore. Just let him be happy, we love him.

Is Ch. Sweepee still used at stud?

Oh, yes, he's really ready and raring. (laughter) He knows what it is. Even my 21-month-old knows what it is. He got in the pen the other day when one of my friend's females was down for a few days. He got in the pen with her and was trying to service the wrong end. I said, "What are you doing in there?" and moved him. He got out of the gate, and when he did, he crawled under the fence. I went down there and saw him and said, "She's not in season, and anyway, you're using the wrong end." (laughter)

Did he pay any attention to you?

No, he just went right on with what he was doing. I went in, got him and put him back in his pen and put the snap back. Sometimes my help forgets to put them back.

What faults might keep you from breeding a dog?

Lots of faults. A bad bite, for one thing. Poor tail carriage, and especially a dysplastic dog or one with a narrow, bad front. Those are my pet peeves that I look for, and I do not like the light eyes.

If someone brought you a bitch with a light eye to breed to one of your males, would you breed her?

I wouldn't unless I could see her pedigree and I was familiar with her background and knew she had enough dark eyes behind her to offset that. That would be the only way.

Do you think it's a good idea to breed to the top winning dog regardless of pedigree?

That's a good question, because I have seen these top winning dogs that do not produce well. Just because a dog's a top winning dog that does not mean he's going to be a top producer. I've seen some of these

top winning dogs that have produced puppies that have bad faults. I've seen them where they were not show quality. They had no bone, breaks in the pigment. Maybe part of the nose didn't turn or one of the eye rims wouldn't be dark, little things like that. If I used the top winning dog, I would have to see what he had been doing. I would have to see some of his get.

There's a top winning dog I've never seen except for pictures. I've heard he's a beautiful dog. He's getting old now. My young dog I have now has him behind him in about the third or fourth generation. What I've seen that he produced I liked, but on the other hand, I saw another dog once that has done a lot of winning in years past. He's one of the top dogs of his time. He was not producing sound puppies. He was producing puppies with heart trouble. I know someone who bought a puppy out of him and he had a heart problem. There was another one out of the same litter. He produced something else, but I can't remember what. It was some bad fault, though. He, himself, was a beautiful dog, but my Ch. Grenadier beat him sometimes.

How many litters do you think a bitch should have?

My policy was to usually skip the first time and maybe the second time. If I bred at all, I always had a policy of breeding twice and skipping the third time. I never bred a bitch every season. I believe in giving a bitch a rest, but that's what I adhered to, twice and then not the third time.

Did you have a cutoff age?

Yes, I don't believe after six years old. I have a friend who bred one of the very few pure Snowdrift bitches that is still left around here when she was six years old. She had not had any puppies for about three years. My friend asked me about breeding her. I said, "You can give it a try and see what happens as she has not been bred in three years." She bred to a male I like, but he has a narrow chest. The six-year-old bitch had a real wide front, so I thought maybe it would work. She had six beautiful puppies and had them normally, just as easy as falling off this table. She had them quickly, too. She had three dogs and three bitches. She didn't lose a single one. They are beautiful puppies and they have good fronts on them. They were born this past April.

When you were having puppies, were you there to help your bitches whelp?

I never leave them. I used to have a bitch that, if I left just for a minute to go to the bathroom or get a drink of water, she'd call, "Mama! Mama! Come back, mama!" She'd do that until I came back. She would do that with every litter she had. I had another bitch that kept her puppies sopping wet. I told her she was going to kill them licking them so much. She'd just look at me and go right back to licking them again. After a few days, she quit that. I couldn't keep them dry.

They were good and clean I bet.

They were the cleanest puppies in town!

When you had real young puppies, did you ever do any supplemental feeding of them?

Yes, many times. Unfortunately, I had a couple of litters of twelve. I do not like that. I would rather have smaller litters. But they seemed to be good healthy puppies. I have lost one or two out of a big litter, but not often. I have had puppies that had the fading puppy syndrome. We never have been able to find out exactly what caused it.

Did you have a special formula that you used to supplement the young puppies?

Yes, I did, I had one that my vet gave me years ago that seemed to work for me. I used three-fourths Pet milk with one-fourth water, an egg yolk and a tablespoon of white Karo. That works very well. We were always careful not to get the milk into their lungs as we were feeding them. We would let them take it as they would. We did not force them. I've done it many times, feeding puppies through the night.

Did you tube-feed them or bottle-feed them?

I bottle-fed. I was always afraid of tube-feeding. I was afraid of getting unnerved and puncturing their stomachs. I just didn't trust myself. I had good luck with a bottle.

Did you wean the puppies or let the bitch do it herself?

My bitches were usually pretty good about weaning them. I had a lot of them upchuck their food for the puppies. I didn't like that, but they did it. Usually I started weaning my puppies at three weeks. I put them on real soft, soaked dry puppy food. They usually got more on them than they got

on the inside. They'd get in the pans and lie down in it. (laughter) I have been in there when they got full, and every one would lie in that pan in what food was left. I had to clean them up.

When you were weaning the puppies, was there any special food or formula that you had?

No. We usually used good puppy food with a little cooked hamburger, cottage cheese or something in it, and they liked that. I did not give my puppies egg whites. It has too much albumen in it for the kidneys.

At what age(s) did you evaluate your puppies for pet/show quality, and what were your looking for?

I didn't let them go until about eight weeks. Once in a while somebody who had driven a long distance could take them at six or seven weeks if they were eating and all right. I like to cull them, if there's any culling to be done, before they go to new homes. If I was planning to keep a puppy from that litter for myself, I did not show it. I would take the puppy out and just bring out the others. I wouldn't even mention it.

How did you differentiate between the pets and show quality?

There's a lot of difference between a pet and show quality. A pet quality does not come completely up to the standard. A lot of times they're light of bone. They don't have the coats they should have. They really don't have good angulation or tail carriage. A lot of things could make a pet puppy. A show quality puppy would overcome all of that.

Did you sell your puppies on spay/neuter agreements?

Usually, yes. I specified that they were not to be used for breeding. In many cases, I did not give the papers unless they were spayed or castrated. Fortunately, I did not have very many of those because we did not produce puppies that were that bad. We had some that were not good, but they were not so bad that they couldn't be used for breeding. Sometimes even a bad dog will produce better than he is.

What about puppies back when you sold a bitch?

I had a bad experience with that years ago. I gave a lady a stud service to a bitch, and she brought the puppies over to the



Ch. Snowdrift Whitewings O'Kobe.



Ch. Snowdrift Grenadier Kara Sea.

house when they were five weeks old. I picked my puppy out and put a piece of ribbon on it. She took it back home and finished weaning it. When she brought the puppy back to me, it was not the one I picked, and I told her so. She had already sold my pick puppy, so I had to take it. I sold it, I didn't keep it. That soured me on it, so I tell them now that I'd rather have the money when I do a stud service. If there was only one puppy, they can keep the puppy and I will breed the dog again at the next season. If there was no puppy, I would breed them at the next season. I did guarantee it one way or the other.

Have you ever had to take dogs back from people that you sold them to?

Oh, yes. I've had people who couldn't keep them. There were people who got tired of them, people who found fault with them when there was really nothing wrong with the dog. There were people who couldn't cope with them. They didn't know how to train them, didn't try. They couldn't house-break them, they didn't try. There were various reasons. I always took them back because I was concerned about what would happen to the dogs. Usually, if they were really good dogs, we would try to find out what the problem was, correct it and sell the

dog to a good show home. If they were not correctable, we would place them in a good home as pets if they did not have outstanding faults, like dysplasia or something like that.

How long is a breeder responsible for a puppy he sells?

I guaranteed mine for two weeks, because I figure after two weeks if they've been exposed to anything they're going to come down with it within that time. After two weeks, if they get sick, I am not responsible because I feel that's the timing for incubation for whatever they took. If they took it somewhere else, it's not my fault.

I had a woman one time who kept the puppy for a month and wanted me to take it back. She said something was wrong with the puppy. I said, "Let me take the puppy to the vet and see." I took the puppy to the vet and the vet told me there wasn't anything wrong with the puppy except it had picked up worms. The worms had given it diarrhea, and she had been overfeeding the puppy. We straightened it out and she took the puppy back. She kept the puppy. The puppy is seven years old now. As far as I know, she still has it.

You said you have a thirteen-year-old. Do you keep your older dogs and let them

live out their lives at your house?

If there's nothing wrong with them, I just let them live their lives out. They want to live just like we do. Unless they can't see, or can't get up or something like that, or have something incurable, I see no reason to take their lives.

Some people have a policy of selling their dogs to pet homes when they get past producing age.

I do that too sometimes. After my husband died, I placed a lot of my older dogs into good homes. As far as I know, they're still there and haven't died. The ones I have in the kennel, like my thirteen-year-old, don't seem to have anything wrong with them. He calls me to come down there to pet and love on him a lot of times. We live in the country. We live kind of off of the highway. When we do have ice and snow, it's a fairyland, because it's hanging off the trees. We have a lot of hard wood, like oaks. It's shady and my dogs are cool. We have an artesian well and also have city water. I have city water to the big kennel and an artesian well on the small kennel I'm using. Then I have an artesian well on my house and the mobile home. It's delicious. There's no end to the water.

When your girls reach six or older and

you're not going to use them anymore, do you spay them?

Not usually, because I had such a big kennel. There's not much point in me spaying them. I usually find homes for them, where they will be taken care of and loved and definitely NOT BRED again.

What about when you were actively breeding?

No, because usually when my dogs got older I would find homes for them. I kept very few. Ch. Kluga of Kobe lived until he was fourteen. There was never anything wrong with him until he went down and we had to have him put out. He just would not die. He must have had a very good heart. I finally told them to take him and have him put out. He brought him back and he buried him in the pet cemetery. I went down there when he finished burying him and cried. I believe he lived longer than any dog I've had. This thirteen-year-old is his son, he is Snowdrift Clonemaker O'Kobe.

When you had all your dogs, what were you feeding them?

We used a good basic dog food and fed it dry. My husband made me some feeding troughs which we could wash and disinfect. We had the outdoor furniture factory and he had the machinery to make everything. We still use some for our dogs. They're great. We keep dog food out for our dogs all the time.

Years ago, I used to make dog food. I put cottage cheese and eggs with horse meat which I cooked. I would make a stew with cabbage, carrots and onions added and soak the dry dog food in it. That was bad. I hope nobody will ever do that, but we didn't know any better back then. I had a lot of tooth problems in the dogs. When my dogs began to get old, they started losing their teeth early. My thirteen-year-old I still have has good teeth. They're worn, but that's all. My Ch. Sweepie's teeth are beautiful. He loves the Nyla bones and everything. He loves to chew on them. It keeps his teeth shiny. I have had hardly any tooth problems since we've been on dry food. When this idea first came out, I was skeptical of it.

One of the dog food companies came out to the kennel. I wasn't there, my husband was there. I was gone somewhere. The man said, "Why doesn't she feed those dogs dry food? Then you wouldn't have to worry



Snowdrift Snowwhite Elegance.

about mixing all that food in that big old tub." I told my husband I wouldn't do it, I wasn't going to kill my dogs with bloat. I had visions of them drinking lots and lots of water. He had a talk with us and told us it would not cause bloat. So I decided to give it a try, and it works great. We give all the dogs supplements. We cook chicken for them and things like that. We always have. We have a deep freeze. We would go buy the meat wholesale. Our dogs were well fed. Two or three times a week we would give them something different, like chicken, liver or whatever.

How were your dogs conditioned?

Back then I could run like a deer. We have a long driveway that goes all the way up to Snowdrift Road. They named that road after my kennel. I'm getting famous in my old age. (laughter) I would run my dogs up and down Ingram Lane up to Snowdrift Road several times a day. And then we once had a sled with wheels on it. They could pull it with weights in it. So my dogs were in

pretty good condition most of the time. I loved working with my dogs. That was my life. I loved it.

When showing Samoyeds, how much grooming should be done?

In grooming a dog, there is a stopping point. I think you can overgroom or undergroom. Frankly, if I had my choice, I would rather see an overgroomed dog than an undergroomed dog. An undergroomed Sammy is the most unkempt looking thing I've ever seen. It's just not like a Sammy. On the other hand, you can keep on brushing and combing until you finally get the oil out of a dog's coat. Then the coat becomes dry and brittle, and it will break off. It has its merits and things that just don't work out. I like to see a beautifully groomed Sammy. I have to say that all the Sammies I saw today were beautiful. I didn't see a single one that wasn't groomed to perfection. The only way you could choose one out of the whole bunch would be to close your eyes and just touch one.

When I picked out my male puppy, somebody said, "Beth, how did you come to the conclusion that that was the best puppy in the litter?" I said, "I can't answer that, because you would have to be in it as long as I have been. I can see things that you can't see, and I can't tell you what they are." It's something I have an eye for. My husband had a beautiful eye for a dog. I have a good eye, but I always thought he had a better eye than I do. He used to laugh about judging at matches. He said, "You know, it's a funny thing about judging these Sammies, these white dogs. You have a lot of them in there, and if you keep looking at them long enough, they all get to looking alike." I imagine they would! It would be the same way with Irish Setters or anything that's one solid color.

What advice might you give to other breeders who are just starting out?

I could teach them from my mistakes, that's for sure. We all make them as we go along. We can look back and see. I can look back and see more than I could when I was doing it. I would advise new breeders to go with the linebreeding if they know how to do it. It's a tricky business, you have to know what you're doing. It took me several years to really get on the ball with it. There's just something in that linebreeding, and if you don't do it right, it's not going to work because you'll come up with a lot of things you don't want, like cleft palates. I mean very bad defects. There are so many things. If you do it right, you can produce beautiful dogs. I do not approve of breeding brother to sister. That is one trait you won't be lucky in and you can be unlucky in. I've seen them have beautiful puppies, but I've seen them where their ears never came up. They've had bad bites. The eyes were round. There were a lot of things that didn't work. Therefore, I would say linebreeding is the best method I've found for breeding good, sound Sams if you know how to do it. You need somebody to kind of coach you along when you're new at it.

I didn't have anybody, I had to learn the hard way. The Lord knows I was trying. I might have goofed a lot, but it was not intentionally, they were honest mistakes. I was really trying to do my best.

Do you think they should go to the kennel with the big winners to purchase a puppy?



Ch. Kluga of Kobe (English import).

If there are top winning dogs that are producing good top puppies, I think it would be a good idea to go with the best bloodlines and the best type. But if the dog himself does not seem to be producing what he should, then I would have to say no. I would rather go to a dog that's not a champion that's producing very nice top show quality puppies than go to a top winner that's not producing anything to speak of.

Do you recommend that people join a local breed club or an all breed club?

I think it's good for them. I was on the board of directors of the Montgomery Kennel Club for years. After the war, that club got inactive. I think I put about 2,000 miles on my car contacting people to reactivate it. I resigned from the Montgomery Kennel Club a few years ago because I got so involved in showing that I did not have time

to go to the meetings. My husband and I organized the Tuscaloosa, Alabama Kennel Club along with another couple. I went over there for three and a half years every meeting night to teach those people what to do. They didn't know anything. When they learned, I told them, "I can't keep this up. It puts me home after midnight." It's about 85 miles from Prattville. By the time we had the meeting and I talked to them and all of that, it was after midnight when I got home. I said, "I'm not going to be able to come back anymore, but I'm as close as the telephone. If you need me or need any advice, you call me. You know how to run a show now and do not need me anymore." I'm still head of their catalog sales committee when they have shows. I got involved in catalogs. I don't know how, but I did.

You're the champion catalog salesper-



Ch. Silvermist of Kobe (English import).

son.

It looks like it. I'm chief cook and bottle washer of everything else, too. (laughter)

Do you think there is adequate literature available in the Samoyed breed today (books, magazines, etc.)?

Yes, plenty. Years ago, I thought that someday there would be a magazine for Sammies that would not be the SCA Bulletin. It would just be a magazine. When I saw my sample copy of The Samoyed Quarterly, I couldn't believe it! I said, "Thank you, Lord, my dream came true." I did have a dream years ago, too, that someday there would be a National Specialty in the South. It came to Atlanta in 1979. I thank the Lord. And it has happened again here at Birmingham now. So I have realized a dream twice.

You said that you've lived in your present location for 29 years?

Yes.

Where did you live before Prattville?

I lived in Sellers, Alabama south of

Montgomery for about twelve years. We had the kennel there. When we moved, we had the fence company take down our chain link fence and move it. We paid them for taking it down and moving it. We had some new rails put on the bottom when we moved it because those had been jumped against and had broken off. The top ones were all right. It worked out fine.

Were you born and raised in the Alabama area?

I was born in Montgomery, Alabama and raised in Montgomery. We moved to Prattville in 1961. Before that, we had lived in Sellers, Alabama. I had the kennels down there.

You said you have one daughter and some grandchildren?

I have one daughter and two grandchildren, and two young great-grandchildren.

Are any of them interested in the Sammies at all?

Yes, they love the dogs.

Are any of them interested in showing

the dogs or anything like that?

Yes. My grandson called me awhile back. They're big now. He's married and has a little boy, so I have two great-grandchildren. He said, "Grandmother, Zachary wants a Sammy puppy. I think he's ready for it." I said, "Let's wait a little while." I wanted to wait until he gets a little bit older. They live in Minnesota and would have a fantastic cold weather dog. It's a deep freeze up there. When he gets ready for one, I have several friends who owe me puppies and I can get one from somebody for them. A good one from my lines.

When I got rid of my dogs after my husband died, I gave many away. I had to reduce the kennel because I didn't have that kind of income to take care of them properly and I refused to do it halfway. I found homes for a lot of them. I placed them where I thought it would be to their best advantage. I don't want to do anything halfway for my dogs.

My grandchildren would like to show eventually. My daughter has shown some. She beat me in Indianapolis with her own dog once. It was a Snowdrift dog, but she beat mine. She's been teasing me about that for the longest time. I have never lived it down to this day! (laughter)

How have dogs affected your life-style?

I live for my dogs. They were on my mind 24 hours a day. If I went to a show, I worried about them at home. I knew the help I had would take care of them, but still, I had visions of one of them getting out and getting up on the highway and getting killed. We were lucky, we never lost one. If they happened to get out, we were right on their tails and got them right back in. Any dog can get out sometimes.

I had a woman bring me a bitch for breeding one time. She wanted to leave, and I said, "Let me ask you this, does she climb?" "No, she doesn't climb." That woman wasn't out of sight before that dog climbed the back fence. My neighbor called me and told me she was over there. I had to go get her. I called the woman and said, "You told me this dog wouldn't climb. I'm not going to be responsible, and I cannot stay out there all the time. If you want this dog bred, you're going to have to come back over and stay out there with them until they breed. If they don't, I'll get in there and help them breed."



Ch. Snowdrift Moonlighter O'Kobe.



Ch. Snowdrift Silver Sweepstakes.

But we are not leaving that dog anymore because I'm not going to be responsible for her getting killed." She came over and stayed with them until they tied up. She hadn't gotten out of my driveway before the dog was out. I looked out there and there she was in the yard. My poor stud was still in the kennel (laughter) but she wanted to go home.

What have been the benefits of being in dogs?

They have made my life happier. I've enjoyed them. I've made many friends through the years. I've met a lot of people and seen a lot of them go on. I still know a lot of judges still living, but not too many. I know there are a lot of new ones I do not know now. I knew Tom Quigley a long time ago. I didn't know the other woman judge who was judging today, but I do know Betty Chamberlain. I knew her when she was married to her first husband. I haven't had a chance to speak to her yet.

I've been at the show all day listening to dogs bark. As much as I love them, I get tired of hearing that. We never let our dogs bark incessantly. My husband and I could holler at them once and they'd stop. They barked if some woods animal came out, like a rabbit, coon or something. Or maybe somebody's dog or cat came passing through.

Have there been any drawbacks to being in dogs?

No, not really. There have been times when I would get in a predicament when I really wished that I didn't have the responsibility right at that time. But then when it passed, I would have been sick because I didn't have them.

Have you had any other pets over the years?

Yes, cats.

Do they get along okay with the dogs?

Yes, they get along all right. Ch. Sweepie doesn't pay one bit of attention to the cats. They just wander around outside and I feed them on the porch. They'll come in, but they're not afraid of him and he ignores them like they're not there. I have one cat, my pet cat, who is part Persian. She's a pretty thing. Her name is Pinafore. When she was a kitten, she looked like she was wearing a Pinafore, and she had such long hair, and it stuck. Every time I go down to feed the dogs, she follows me down there. She wants some dog food. I keep the cat food in my utility room. Ch. Sweepie waits until I get on the phone, then I'll tell whoever I'm talking to "Wait a minute." Then I say, "Hey, dog, get out of the cat food!" and he'll come back to me. I have a dog that eats cat food and a cat that eats dog food. (laughter) She's really a favorite around home. Ch. Sweepie is the only dog she'll let come real close to her. She'll slap the rest of them.

She'll let him smell all over her and everything else. She's used to him. The funny thing about that cat is she's spent most of her life in the kennel around the dogs. She's about eight years old now. From the time she was a kitten, she's loved to stay down there with the dogs.

You didn't bring any of your dogs up here with you. Do you have somebody at your house taking care of them?

Yes, I have a lady who lives in our mobile home. She's very good. She loves the cats and the dogs. She came up to the house one day and Pinafore followed her up there. She picked her up. When I opened the door, she was standing there holding Pinafore and said, "I have my kitty." She loves animals dearly.

Is there anything we haven't covered, any dogs you want to talk about, any soapboxes or pet peeves?

I have a lot of pet peeves. They'd cover a multitude. (laughter) One thing I have a reputation for, and I'm not proud of it, is I've always been a person who stands my ground when I know somebody's not in the right. I know the AKC has a policy against misconduct, but I have never been called before any bench show committee, because what I said, I said in a way that they would not have any grounds for coming back at me. I have told many judges that they err in putting up a



Ch. Tammikins Teddy.

dog. Not because it wasn't me but it was the wrong dog.

A while back, somebody was telling me about some bad judge who was terrible. She told me who it was. It was somebody new, I didn't know him. She said the Sammy people all protested to the American Kennel Club and the bench show committee. They filed some kind of a petition about it. She said, "I pulled a Beth Ingram, I went up there and told him what I thought. I told him in a way that he couldn't say anything to me." I laughed, I knew what she was talking about. (laughter) I never was ugly, I just told them they were wrong.

One time when I was showing Sweepie, who is real compact. The judge put up these great big dogs. They were all big, and most of the males were much too long in the body.

They were not short. She didn't put Sweepie up. That was unusual for him. He usually placed somewhere. I went in there and said to the judge, "Can I talk to you a minute?" I told her who I was and my kennel name. I told her that I was a breeder. I said, "I want to help you, not hurt you. Frankly, I think you should really study your standard a little better. Not because you did not place my dog, but because I think you really need to do it." She said, "Your dog's too short-bodied." I said, "No, ma'am, he's compact, but he's not too short-bodied. With an old breeder like me, don't you know that I would know better than to show him if he was too short-bodied? The dogs you put up are much too lanky and much too long-bodied. You think about that. The standard says the bitches can be longer in body, but

the males should be more compact. You read the standard." She thanked me. She was very nice. That's the way I went about it. I did not bawl her out because she didn't put me up. I just pointed out what she had done wrong. If judges judged right, I congratulated them. So I knew what this woman was talking about when she said she pulled a Beth Ingram. (laughter) She didn't have to tell me, I knew.

When we were living in Sellers, Alabama, we had a bitch that had puppies inside who was kenneled in the end run. We were out in the back and it was getting dark. We kept hearing this puppy howl, but we couldn't find it. I thought it was in there with the others, so I went in to check on it. There was one missing out of her litter. I could hear it, but I couldn't find it. I had one of my dogs out there with me. I went and told my husband he was going to have to come out there and help me find that puppy. It was out there somewhere. It had evidently crawled out and went through the fence. I think it fell out the door into the run and crawled through the fence. When we got out there, this dog was barking frantically. He was my house dog. He was looking at something on the ground. We went over there and that puppy had fallen into an old post hole that was full of water. We got him out, cleaned him up and filled up that hole. We didn't even know it was there. He had just kept crawling until he fell in the hole. His eyes weren't even open then. He survived and nothing happened to him because it was warm weather and he didn't get chilled. That's the truth that my Sammy found that puppy.

Thank you very much.

It's been an honor. My daughter has been sick, and I said, "Do you want me to come up there with you instead of going to the Sammy specialty?" She said, "No, mother, I went to the doctor and he says I'm better. I'm going back to work Monday. You go and have a good time." I called her right after you called me about doing this interview. She said, "Mother, that's great, I think it's time somebody recognized all you've done for the Sammy breed." *