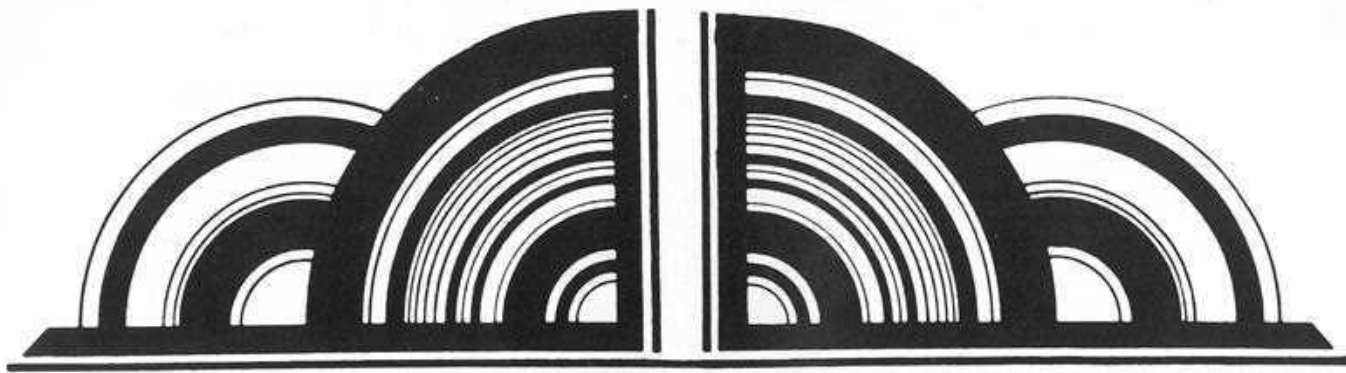


The
SAMOYED
QUARTERLY



Summer 1980

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SAMOYED PEOPLE



The Samoyed Quarterly
Talks With
JOE and MABLE DYER
Caribou Samoyeds
Shelley, Idaho

*This interview was taped by:
Sue Skrobiszewski*

*How long have you been in
Samoyeds?*

Mable: For twenty-five years.

What got you started in the breed?

Joe: I was looking for a hunting
dog.

*Why did you decide upon a Samo-
yed?*

Joe: In the beginning we were
looking for this hunting dog and I was
thinking about a Weimaraner. I read in
a magazine that Mable had gotten and
it was telling about the Sams. And the
more I read the more interested I got.
It mentioned in there that they could
be used for training - for hunting dogs,
so I decided I would get one and give it
a whirl. And, that's what I did.

*How many litters have you bred,
approximately?*

Joe: Oh, I would guess around one
hundred.

*Were you breeding for show stock
or just to increase your own kennel, or
what?*

Joe: We don't believe in breeding
just to get white dogs. We like to get
good ones.

*In the litters you have bred, what
do you feel is your best litter?*

Joe: That would really be hard to
say because you never know for sure
whether they're going to be shown, and
a lot of dogs that we have raised, that
have been certainly show quality, have
gone into someone's backyard. They
were just an ornament there for people
to come and look at and just never had
a chance to get into the ring to see if
they could do anything. But, those that
really had a decent chance to be shown,
have done well in the ring.

*Mable, I think you do most of the
babysitting and that kind of thing. Do
you help the bitches whelp?*

Mable: If they need help, I give
them help. Otherwise, I let them take
care of it.

*Do you supplement your pups or
do you let the bitch do it?*

Mable: I supplement feed them
when they're three weeks old. I usually
start them out on baby cereal - and then
puppy food. Now, we feed the lams
puppy food right from the time they're
three weeks old.

*Exactly what do you feed them?
Have you ever had to tube feed, and if
so, what do you think about it?*

Mable: Never have.

*How many champions have been in
your litters that you know of or have
kept track of?*

Joe: Do you know what? As silly
as it seems, we have never really kept
any track of it. We've always been
very proud for everybody that has
raised one, shown it to its championship,
but to write down and keep track of it,
it's just something we've never done.
And, we should have.

*In your opinion, what is the best
dog you have bred?*

The very best one we've bred?
Oh, boy! I think, probably, that wouldn't be a very fair question because we've bred a lot of dogs that would be equal. One that I can recall the most is Bauzuhl because we had him probably the longest and did more with him than any of the other champions that we've had.

Mable: We used him more in our breeding program.

Was he also the biggest winner?

Joe: I wouldn't say that he was probably the biggest winner we had, although he did get a Best in Show. So, I would have to say, really, he was probably the biggest winner that we've had. But we've had a lot of them that have done almost as well as he has.

What has influenced your breeding the most?

Joe: I would think that, probably, the general appearance of the dog. We've got definite ideas as to what a dog should look like and we try to breed something that goes along with that structure and stature. We like what a lot of people call the "bear" type of Sam. Mable and I don't care for a really small Sam. If it's just maybe bigger than a Spitz, we've always felt that that was a poor dog to have to show - and I'm sure there have been some really good small ones, but they just don't appeal to us like the larger ones do.

How many Sammies do you have now and what's the most you've ever had?

Joe: Right now, we have five. The most we've ever had was sixteen.

Do you exhibit your own dogs?

Joe: Yes, mostly. We have had them with handlers.

When you are going to have a breeding, do you help the mating along?

Joe: I've been very unsuccessful in helping it along. Usually, if I get out of the way, though, they take care of it.

Have you ever refused to service a bitch?

Joe: Yes. I remember one thing that's most fantastic. Some guy drove all the way from southern California and came up to our place, walked through the yard like he owned the place. He went back and looked at our dogs. I was wondering what he was doing out there, so I went out and asked him what he had in mind. He said, "Well, I brought a bitch up to be bred." And I asked if she had been X-rayed. He said, "I think so." And I said, "Have you got her papers because I'd like to see the kind of pedigree she's got. You just don't breed white dogs to white dogs and expect to get anything." So, he said, "Yeah, I got the papers." And he handed them to me - and it was a Greyhound! An Italian Greyhound that he wanted to breed to my dog. So, I kind of thanked him for his trip and told him to go on. Lord, he was mad at me because I wouldn't do it!

Mable: We never breed to an unregistered Sam.

What do you feel is a fair price that a puppy should sell for?



Ch. Bauzuhl

Mable: Not less than \$150.

Do you ever go on terms? Do you ever ask for puppies back?

Mable: We have sold on terms. And, we usually don't ask for puppies back.

What do you feel is a fair stud fee?

Mable: One hundred fifty dollars. When do you feel puppies should be placed in their new homes - at what age?

Mable: I think, not before they're eight weeks old.

Do you think that the pedigrees that we have on our Sammies are to be trusted as to their accuracy?

Joe: Most of the time, I think they would be pretty accurate. I'm sure that in all breeds there are people who delight in changing them around. But I think that by and large you can just pretty well say that the Sam people aren't in that class. Most of them are really honest and really care. So that the guy that breeds his dog has a fair chance to know what he's going to breed.

In your breeding program do you mostly do linebreeding or inbreeding or crossing?

Joe: Personally, I think we more go to the linebreeding. We have inbred a time or two and I might say that the result from the inbreeding in some of the pups was very good. But, by and large, I think it's just like anything else. If you get one pup out of the litter that is extremely good (in an inbred litter) you've done well. If you get no puppies that are what you could really say were

outstanding, you'd best leave it alone. Because, what you do when you inbreed is you lock in the genes that can't be gotten out unless you breed about five times to an outbreeding. And I think that the effort that's put forth in that line is something that you don't want to get involved in unless you're pretty darn sure that you're going to have things that aren't compounded, like bad faults or crooked legs, narrow heads and long backs, and stuff like that.

Once you do that, you can't get the darned things gone for years and years. They're impregnated in that dog so you just can't get rid of them. And they show up and show up and show up. Makes you sick of what you did!

Mable: I'd prefer linebreeding in most cases, but I think, occasionally, you



do need to outcross to correct a fault.

If there were a dog that you thought had really outstanding points and everything, but had a serious fault, would you consider breeding to him or her, if it were a bitch?

Joe: I'm sure that I wouldn't breed to a bitch that I thought had a really serious fault. I don't believe in doing it because the fact is, why take a chance on putting that fault out in puppies, when there's too many good bitches running around that you can far better yourself by breeding to them - and not waste your time. You might as well do something that's right when you do it, and you don't really have the kind of time that it takes to raise a litter, and it's too hard work to raise a litter, that you know darn well you're going to get bad faults in. And, I think a serious-faulted dog is bound to throw off, just because of Murphy's law, more bad things than he's going to have good. So, I'm not in favor of breeding a real poor animal at any time, for any reason.

Everybody knows that if you win a Best in Show or a Specialty, that that dog, if it's a male, is going to be in demand for stud - or the demand will be for the bitch's puppy if she's the winner. How many people do you think really understand that just because they're a winner doesn't make them the best dog available for a breeding?

Joe: Oh, maybe one in fifty.

How do you think that situation can be improved?

Joe: I think people should talk about this in their Sam clubs - and in

all dog clubs. I don't think it hurts a bit to have an occasional discussion about pedigrees and what can be expected of dogs. And I don't think the Sams are any different than the Greyhounds or Borzoi or any other breed. I think that, basically speaking, you can get a good dog by following good principles. And I think that's what should be promoted in dog clubs so that people understand that. And I'm sure that you get better dogs when everybody breeds to a common cause rather than just a fly-by-night affair when they buy a puppy from this Best in Show dog, or breed to the Best-in Show stud more often than they would to one that's kind of in their dogs' bloodlines. It's important to outcross to good dogs, but very seldom can you get a dog that's outstanding when you outcross. I think that to outcross to eliminate a fault is wonderful, but it takes several generations after that to get something that you can go along with and kind of know what you're going to get every time you breed.

The subject of feet comes up quite a bit, especially when Sams have hare feet. What do you feel is the ideal foot?

Joe: I like a cat foot.

What's your reason for that?

Joe: I like the closeness of the toes, and I think they're prettier.

Do you think that a dog with bad feet should be used in a breeding program?

Joe: I don't think that that's necessarily something that would be passed on. The environment, I think, has more

to do with the feet. Very few people that have their dogs constantly on concrete can help the splayed foot. The individual that's lucky enough to keep them on gravel usually has a tighter foot.

Have either of you seen crimps or crooks in Sammies' tails as they were coming from the sack or born?

Mable: Not often, but occasionally. *Have you seen it a lot in many lines?*

Mable: No. *Do you think that Sams with crimps should be used for breeding?*

Mable: That would depend on how bad.

Are your breedings natural or controlled?

Joe: It's probably fairly natural. But we definitely don't just throw them together and leave them forever and ever either. We control it, I would say.

How many litters do you feel a bitch should have in her lifetime?

Mable: No more than three or four.

And the reason for that?

Mable: I just feel like that's enough.

At what ages do you evaluate your pups and what do you look for when you do?

Mable: I watch them from the time they're born and usually by the time they're seven or eight weeks old, I pretty well know what I'm looking for in them. I like good heads and coats and good bones. You can't tell much about the gait until they're at least that old - eight weeks or so to get them to move at all.

It's been commented, occasionally, that some people say they can tell by looking at a puppy right after it's born if it's going to be any good or not. What has been your percentage? I mean if you really liked it at birth?

Mable: I think it is very true that you can watch them and most times find that the ones you like, if you mark them in some way and keep track of them, that the one you like right after they're born is usually the one that turns out to be one of the best.

Have you ever had to cull? Or do you? Why or why not?

Joe: Yes. I remember one time we had a puppy born with only half a tail and we culled it. I am sure that if I had some blue-eyed puppies I would cull them. I think that cleft palates and stuff like that, if you get them on occasion, that you would have to cull them.

Mable: We've been very fortunate and not had to do much of that.

Let's get into size a little bit here. What do you feel is the ideal size for a dog and a bitch?

Joe: I like the larger much better. I prefer a bitch to be at least 22 inches and I like a male that's about 24 inches.

Do you find that this is just because of personal preference or because that is usually what is picked in the ring, or what?

Joe: I think that size in the ring is definitely something that judges look



1964 - Ch. Shondra of Drayalene & Pam Dyer.
Sire: Ch. Shondi of Drayalene x Dam: Silver Dede O Snow Ridge
The year that Shondra won the National Samoyed Specialty
in Montecito, Calif. - 92 Sams entered (20 champions) and
Shondra went from Open class to BOB.



Fifteen pups whelped 9/17/69, 14 pups lived.

Sire: Ch. Bzuzuhl x Dam: Flurry (Dazzle's Snow Flurry) with Pam Dyer, age 8.

at, and I've found it true that unless a small dog has really got a lot of showmanship and that kind of thing that he is not going to win under equal circumstances, over the big dog. Why, I don't know.

One of our better dogs that I think we've owned through the years was Champion Muushka, C.D.X., who was certainly not a real huge dog. He wasn't nearly as big as his son, Champion Bauzuhl, but he had so many other things that were outstanding that we just liked him and loved him for what he was. But, by and large, I'd have to say I like the big dog better.

Do you feel that pertains to the

bitches also?

Joe: You bet! I think the small bitch is just something that I don't really care for.

Mable: There are extremes both ways. You don't want a huge, leggy animal either.

In your opinion, what do you feel is a good, moving Sam, rearwise? How should it appear to you, when it's going away from you or at a slow trot?

Joe: I like a good, sound, straight-moving rear. I want that foot to be on a corner and I want it to come down square. I don't want wobbling around or flinging around, or anything like that. It should move with determination and

soundness.

Do you think that they should have a wide rear movement, with the hocks parallel when they're moving, at any time?

Joe: I think the hocks should be parallel and I think that you don't want one so spraddle-legged that it looks funny, but I think that a leg should be on each corner. I think there should be definite space between the two legs and you surely don't want them rubbing one another or anything like that.

How about a tendency to single-track?

Joe: I think that should be left to the Collies.

What is your opinion on good front movement?

Joe: I think that's as important as the rear movement. Usually, I think that a dog that has got good rear movement is going to have good front movement. There are very few times that I've seen a really bad moving front that I think is caused by anything but lack of exercise. I think most dogs that are exercised well and are tight in muscle tone don't move badly when their rear is good. When you get a badly moving dog, they move badly all over.

In your opinion, what are some of the most serious faults that you see in our Sams' conformation these days?

Joe: I don't know. I think that I just have personal preferences and I hate to come right out and say that one or the other is really bad. I would be very cautious about bite and movement. I think that a dog that is going to be shown should move well. And I think that you can get dogs with no coat and don't have any chance of getting any. You have to look at that. I hate to see double hooks in their tails and stuff like that. So, those are faults that you should look for when you go to buy a puppy and I would let those go to the pet homes.

What is your opinion of the ideal tail length and its set?

Joe: Do you have any preference, Mable?

Mable: As long as they're up and over the back like they should be.

Joe: You don't want a high-set tail. I think they should come out about centered in the croup. But, I like a tail that when it's in full coat you could put it down and the hair almost touches the floor. I've seen some dogs that look mighty sharp with a short tail, but they had a lot of pizzazz. I don't think a really short-tailed dog is going to do very well in the ring.

What's your ideal ear and ear set?

Joe: I like a good, bear head. I think as far as the ear set, that says it all. There's only one way.

How important, in your opinion, is eye color? I mean in the browns?

Joe: I think I'm like everyone. I like the dark eye, although I've seen some lighter eyed Sams that I do think are beautiful. In fact, I've had a couple that I liked very much, but I had a tendency not to use them at stud too much for



Ch. Beau Brummel of Caribou



Ch. Muushka, C.D.X. -
Best in Show winner.

that reason.

On occasion, we see some dogs that have relatively excellent conformation. When they're standing there, they look just great, but they move kind of in a restricted manner. Then, we see others that just don't look all that great standing there, but once they get moving, they flow. What's your opinion as to why this is?

Joe: I think the dog that's standing there - and when he moves, he just flows - is one that's got good muscle tone and I think that is absolutely the desirable character of a dog.

Mable: That describes Champion Muushka quite a bit. He wasn't too noticeable standing still, but when he moved, he was very noticeable.

Everyone brags about Sammy temperament. What is the ideal, in your opinion?

Joe: Well, I surely don't approve of some I've seen that want to bite every dog that it sees. I don't approve of them wanting to bite any person, either. I think the true Sam temperament is more of a lover and a Christmas-type person-

ality, and those dogs that have got a personality that wants to fight every dog that they see ... I just don't think it's a good idea to use them for stud or breed a bitch to a dog for that reason. Because I think good temperament is absolutely a very high characteristic of a Sam.

The subject comes up of intelligence as compared with other breeds. You've tried yours at hunting. Do you think Sams are intelligent?

Joe: I don't think I've ever seen one that was dumb! (Laughter)

Mable: Sometimes they're too smart!

Do you want to elaborate on that, Mable?

Mable: No. (laughter)
We've kind of hit on the heads, here. You said you like the bear head. Is it just because it's massive across the skull or the muzzle, or what?

Joe: To me, that's the beautiful head and I just prefer it. I guess that's just my personal opinion, rather than what's right and wrong.

Back in England, in judging, they used to (and maybe they still do) scale one to one hundred. How many points do you think, if we did that over here, would be assigned to the head?

Joe: I don't know. I think that that should be a good twenty-five.

What's your opinion on pigment? Do you think there should be any missing pigment?

Joe: I don't think pigment ... I'm sure that I like the black pigment and I like the solid line, but if I had a good bitch that had a broken lip line or a stud that had a broken lip line, I wouldn't feel all that torn up about it. I don't think it's all that important.

What about missing eye pigment?

Joe: The eye pigment I would be more concerned about - more than the lip line. But, by and large, I think it's very few dogs that don't have a fairly good eyeline. I've noticed a lot of puppies that maybe don't fill in until they're a year old, but I don't recall ever having had one that didn't fill in, do you?

Mable: No, I don't.

What do you think about the winter nose? What do you feel causes that? You know, they have a tendency to lighten.

Joe: Yeah, I noticed that! But, I wish there were something I could do about it.

What should be the relationship of chest depth to the rest of the dog? Do you think the chest should come above or to, or below the elbow. Or, how many have you seen that honestly came to the elbow?

Joe: I like a deep chest on a dog, but to me it's got to balance with the rest of the dog. And, I don't really know how to answer that and be very informative. It's just got to balance with the dog.

You've done quite a bit of judging at different matches, sanctioned and what have you - and fun matches. How

many have you seen that have honestly come to the elbow? Just a guesstimate.

Joe: I wouldn't have any kind of a guess on that because on that thing, I just look for a balance. I haven't thought of it in that line.

On a point scale of one hundred, again, what do you feel should be the relative weight factor of coat?

Joe: I've seen some dogs that had powder puff coat that I thought was very becoming and appropriate for that particular dog. And, I've seen some dogs with long coats that I thought were appropriate. But, I would have to say that the extremely long coat that looks kind of like an angora goat or a sheep, I'm not much in favor of because they gather snow. And in our area, where we have so much of it, they get weighted down with ice and it just, to me, is a characteristic that I wouldn't want.

What colors do you prefer in a Sam?

Joe: I'm different than most people. I'm not totally on white. I like some biscuit and I have noticed that down through the years that if you totally eliminate biscuit, you totally eliminate



Chakaloff of Caribou



Ch. Marengo Royal of Caribou.

pigment.

Do you feel that all the colors should be acceptable on an equal basis?

Joe: I don't think I could judge a dog that was a pinto type, spotted all over really harshly, I should say. I have seen so very few of the cream dogs that I don't know. In fact, I've never seen one in the ring that was totally cream, although I've seen two or three of them that have been around. You've got to put them in the ring to really judge them, I think, to see what you really like on them.

Mable: I think a little biscuit's fine, but I think too much takes away from the beauty.

Have you noticed, at the shows or whatever, that some colors go up or don't go up at all, compared to the others in the show ring?

Mable: I think, usually, the ones that are most totally white go up over the others. A lot of judges don't understand that biscuit is allowed.

Do you feel our Standard is a good one?

Mable: Yes, I think it is.

Joe: I do, too. I really like our Standard and I think it's appropriate for the type of dog that we've got.

Would you like to see it changed in any way?

Mable: I wouldn't.

Should it be more specific?

Joe: I don't think it's ambiguous. I think it pretty well tells you what you should get in a Sam.

Should there be any disqualifications?

Joe: You bet!

Do you want to elaborate on that?

Joe: I think a bad temperament should just kick the dog right out of the ring, immediately!

How about the topline over the loin?

Joe: I don't think it should be really high. I like the loin and the backline to be nice and straight. But, you take the real rounded hip, like the quarter horse ... I don't think that is necessary and I've seen a few dogs that even give the appearance of being extremely high in the rear because of that very thing.

In your opinion, do you feel that the judging is fair?

Joe: No. I think you've got a lot of politics going on and I think that you've got friends that meet friends - and I don't think it's very fair at all any more. And, I think that it's getting worse and I hope that someday, somebody does something about it. I recall one incident where the dog was biting every other dog in the ring and that's the dog that got put up because the rest of them didn't have enough hair and tails left to go ahead and show. And that judge knew the dog. My wife had asked the judge why that dog got put up and the judge said, "Well, he wasn't mean toward me!" And, that's not what the Standard said at all.

What do you think can be done to improve the situation?



Ch. Bauzuhl of Caribou - 7 months of age



Ch. Frost Chief



Tybo - Sire: Ch. Muushka

Joe: Clean up their act. Try to get a rule to have dogs with bad dispositions disqualified from the ring.

Do you feel that advertising influences the judges at all?

Joe: I do. I understand, from talking to some of the judges, that we've gotten for our shows, that they have free subscriptions to a lot of the magazines.

And, I think they certainly don't waste their time looking through something else when they can look through some of them and see what's being put up and I think it has an awful lot of influence on them.

Do you feel it's ethical to retouch the show photographs that are used in advertising?

Joe: No.

Do you feel that Sammies should be Specialed? We just talked about judging. Do you think it's worth specialing a Sammie?

Joe: I think that that depends a lot on the dog. I certainly think there are a lot of them that should be special-ed and I think that there are some of them that complete their championships that maybe wouldn't do that well as a Special.

Does making the Top Ten or the Top Twenty mean anything?

Joe: Well, it would to me. I think that's pretty important.

Do you think that popularizing the breed ... do you think it would help or harm the breed, as to quality?

Joe: I suppose that you could take that either way, but to me I think that if people like to have dogs that other people enjoy looking at, and they like to be complimented on their dogs, then I think if you popularize them extensively you're going to get people breeding dogs that don't mean anything, but just white dogs.

The way it is now, I wouldn't say our breed isn't popular, and I wouldn't say that it isn't well-known. But, I don't think it's being harmed by it now.

How do you train puppies, and at what age?

Joe: Quite frankly, I like to start training them when they're seven weeks old and go from then on.

What do you do for your training?

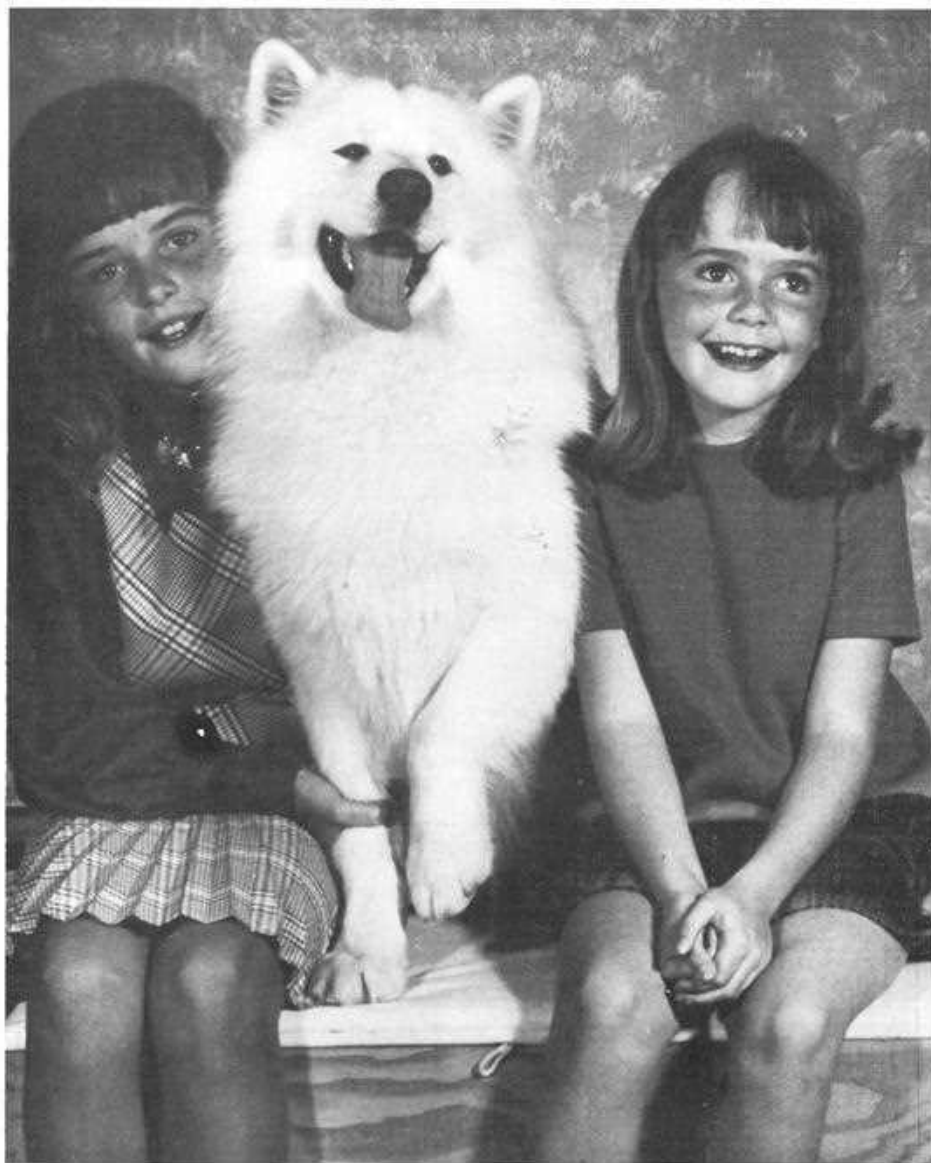
Joe: Stand them, pose them, and I kind of like a pretty good portion of obedience in all the training that I do. A lot of people don't agree with that. I remember Tom Ralphs, who has been around Sams for years and years and always showed dogs in obedience as well as in the conformation ring. And, I certainly had to admire him because his dogs worked well in both places, and you would never know that the dog in the conformation ring maybe had a C.D.X. or a U.D., or whatever. I think that if you're a good trainer and do the job well, it's going to be something that you'll appreciate all your life. I like that very much.

I was just going to ask you about Obedience training and whether you believed in it or not. And, I guess that pretty well answers it. How important is training to winning? Do you think an untrained dog can win?

Joe: On occasion, but not too often.

Occasionally, you run into shyness. Do you think a shy dog can be corrected by training?

Joe: I think that's related to the degree of shyness. An extremely shy dog is more than likely liable to bite



H.B.J. of Caribou

*Sire: Polar Prince's Honey Bear x Dam: Frost River Missy of Snowview
Pam Dyer on left - Terri Dyer on right.*

someone rather than have the confidence that it takes to be shown. But, a dog that's maybe just been in a kennel and not around people and doesn't understand what's going on ... I think it can be overcome by quite a bit of training. But, the old dog that's just plain shy because it's scared of its shadow and everything like that, I think it's best to leave them out of the ring and not take the chance that they're going to bite somebody.

How about diet? What have you fed over the years and what do you think has been best, and why?

Joe: I feel very strongly about the diet. When we first started out, we started out with a meal, Friskies, I believe it was. And then we went to Gaines. Then they changed the structure of Gaines food and we weren't very pleased about it. In fact, I think we even wrote to the company and asked them why in the world they did such a

thing as that to us.

What was the effect on the dogs?

Joe: The effect on the dogs was that it gave them the runs and everywhere you looked, why, you had splatters all over the kennel and it just was a hell of a mess! And so we got rid of that and we went to Purina. And, maybe it's just us, but we've had a lot of teeth problems with Purina. We never really fed much of the regular Dog Chow because we didn't have much better luck with that than we did with the Gaines, when it came to the splatters. But, we fed High Protein and got a lot of tooth problems with that. And so, now, we feed Iams and we have been extremely pleased with that, particularly the puppy food and we fed the meal, the minichunk and had extremely fine luck with all of it. We're very, very pleased with that and I think, too, that you don't have to have any additives with that.

You can feed it just as it comes out of the bag, with no additive or vitamin additive and we appreciate that.

How important do you feel diet is?

Joe: I think, if you don't have a good, balanced diet, you're going to have a damn poor dog.

You said you feed Iams right out of the bag. Then, I guess, you don't use supplements any more?

Joe: No, we sure don't.

Do you condition your dogs? Do you run them?

Joe: Well, don't do as I do, but do as I say. You absolutely should condition them!

Why?

Joe: It keeps up the muscle tone and, actually, when a dog is healthy and has lots of muscle tone, it just plain shows better than it does if it's overweight, under exercised.

Do you ever run two adult Sams of the same sex in the same run together?

Joe: Females, but never males.

If someone was just starting out, what kind of advice would you give to them, to other breeders who were just starting out?

Joe: If they're going to have a breeding program, I would say get the best bitch you can buy and that's the foundation. And, I think that that's the probably the most important thing you can do. Then breed her to the best stud you can find that carries some of the same bloodline and does not carry the same faults or weaknesses.

I've always noticed your dogs are very, very well-groomed when you're showing them. How much grooming should be done? How much time does it take to do a good, thorough job?

Joe: I can't do a good thorough job in anything less than eight hours and I think that crowds me. Probably, if you keep the dog combed at a reasonable rate, I think if you comb it before you bathe it, and then comb from the skin out after it's bathed, you're going to



Polar Prince's Honey Bear



Shanarock Zonka of Caribou



Ch. Caribou's Crstal O'Sitvermist



Rockashan of Caribou

have between six and ten hours of time involved.

In the shows and what have you, I've noticed most of us trim the hocks and have neat looking feet. Do you feel the tuckup should be thinned or the head sculpted at all? This happens occasionally.

Joe: I, maybe, will trim the whiskers, but I don't think I'd ... well, if you've got a really bad tuft of hair that sticks out, certainly you'd want to trim that off, but I don't mean by that that you should make a picture frame out of his ruff or anything like that. I think that here and there you're going to find a wild crop of hair that sticks up and that would look better if it's trimmed off. You certainly want the dog to look good in the ring. I think that sometimes you're going to get on the rear, some of the coat that maybe needs to be thinned or cleaned out a little better - and they look neater if you do kind of sculpture that a little bit. I don't do it extensively, but I do trim the back legs and I do trim the front legs up to that first little pad that's up on the leg.

How young should a Sammy be shown?

Joe: Well, I guess you can't show them before they're six months old.

Mable: I think it would depend on the Sam.

Joe: If you're going to be in a regular ring, but I think you should start them out in fun matches and sanctioned matches any time they can walk well.

Mable: Some are ready for the show ring earlier than others, I would say. More mature.

Do you think a big name handler helps the Sam win. Should a handler be used?

Mable: Yes, I think it helps.

Can you give any advice to the owners who like to handle their own Sams?

Joe: Don't be bashful, get right in there and do it because I think it's very gratifying to one's ego to win and I'm one hundred percent in favor of it.

We'll get down to personals, now. How long have you lived in your present location?

Joe: The house we're living in now, we moved into on January 13, 1958.

What prompted you to move there? Where did you move from?

Joe: We moved from across the street. The house across the street was sold and we got evicted.

Have you always lived in Idaho?

Joe: No. Mable was born in Idaho, but I was born in Nebraska and I belonged to kind of a gypsy family. We moved all over the country.

What's your background?

Joe: I'm an electrician. I've been doing that since I was in junior high school.

How have the dogs affected your lifestyle?

Joe: Oh, I think they've probably been one of the best things that's ever happened to us. We've had good family relations, by that I mean, of our four children, we've had one that really wasn't interested in showing and the



Flurry's Shonsee of Caribou, C.D.X.

other three, I think I'd have to say, did exceptionally well. Our son, who showed his dog in Obedience (Kenny's Blazer Boy of Caribou) had a C.D. and was also a champion, later when owned by Donna Yocum. And Bonnie had a little bitch that she showed to her C.D. And, then she showed several other dogs in Conformation as well as Obedience. And, I'm sure she got lots of legs on other dogs in obedience, but I don't remember for sure how many. And then, our middle daughter, Pam, has shown dogs for friends. We kind of are a doggy family.

Mable: She competed with her dad in the ring and used to say she was going to "depeet" her daddy.

I think that both of you have been judging, haven't you? Including Pam.

Joe: Pam has, and so have I.

What has been the benefit of being in dogs for all these years?

Joe: I don't know. I believe, and it's all in my heart, that a child that has a pet and is interested in animals like that is going to stay out of trouble. And it has proved to be that way with us. We haven't had any of the children that's ever been in any kind of problem with the law or hasn't developed into a child and a grownup that we can be really proud of. And, we certainly are proud of them.

Mable: We've met so many nice people through the dogs and through the puppies that we've sold. People that have been friends through the years.

What have been the drawbacks, if any?

Joe: Lord, they'd be so minor I don't think they'd even be worth mentioning.

This whole career in dogs ... has it been worth it?

Joe: You bet it has! Every minute of it! If I had my life to live over again, I think I'd go along the same lines.

I think in comparison, I'm pretty much a novice to all the years you've been in it and I think one of the dogs or the pictures I've seen through the years, that was of interest to me ... what



Ch. Keoke Sayansi of Caribou



Ch. Wind River's Zachariah, C.D.X.

about Shondra of Drayalene? Tell about how you came about getting her or her career, or what kind of dog was she? She was so beautiful - and who is the little girl in the picture?

Mable: We got her from Helene Spathold when she was a tiny little puppy. That was Pam in the picture with her. We really felt she was a great dog. She produced good puppies for us and was a natural shower. She was very easy to handle in the ring and we thought she was one of the finest Sams that we've had.

At what age did you get Shondra?

Joe: She was eight weeks old when



"Robs" Frosty Sam of "Caribou"



Ch. Shondra at Greeley, Colorado

we got her. We had her bought before she was even conceived; we told Helene what kind of a dog we wanted and she had decided to breed Shondi and Dede and when they arrived, we were notified that they were here and we were on needles and pins, as you might say, just couldn't hardly wait to get the dog and we got her off the plane and I think she was probably eight weeks and one or two days old. She came out of the crate and was just full of life and was very animated. And we were so pleased that we just probably had a heck of a time keeping our shirts buttoned. We just couldn't believe that we were fortunate enough to



Ch. Wind River's Zachariah, C.D.X., at 6 years.

get that dog and she certainly did prove to be everything that we'd hoped for all her life.

Did you show her in any matches or did you just start off at shows with her? What was her show career?

Joe: We showed her in some matches, I'm sure we did. In fact, we drove to Salt Lake a couple of times to some matches they had in Utah and then we showed her a time or two in a regular show and then the National Specialty in 1964. And then Mable finished her over in Denver, Colorado under Bob Ward.

What was her biggest win?

Joe: It'd have to be the National Specialty. That's absolutely her biggest win, and I think that's, to me, as great as any Best in Show.

How old was she when she won that?

Mable: Two years.

I know one thing I've noticed in photos of her, is that coat. What kind of coat did she have? How big a bitch was Shondra?

Joe: She was a good size bitch. When she was naked as a jaybird, she was not small. She had a very, very

full coat, but it wasn't what you would call extremely long. It was, I'd say, four to five inches long and so, possibly, you could say it was a long coat. But not as long as some dogs that I've seen that had hair eight and ten inches long.

Mable: For a female, I think she carried an extremely long coat.

I noticed, in the picture, that you can hardly see Pam's arm.

Mable: She never looked out of coat. In fact, when I finished her in Denver, Bob Ward wanted to know if she was the same one that had won the Specialty at that time, the Denver show, she had lost a considerable amount of coat and he thought she looked better without so much coat.

Was she good with children, and all that?

Joe: Oh, she was a fine dog with kids. In fact, she'd babysit most of the time. Pam was little then and then when we got Terry, they both had their arms around her and pulled on her tail, and stuff like that. Whatever they did was just A-okay with her. She didn't care about it at all.

How old was Shondra when she

died?

Joe: Seems to me she was about twelve.

Well, we got into one of the old dogs there. How about some of the people? Some of the older, more established breeders through the years?

Joe: Several years ago, I guess it was right after we had gotten Shondra, we decided to take a vacation and go down and see Mable's sister who lives in California. So, while we were down there, we took advantage of the time and we met Billy Tucker, who later proved to be one of our finest friends and we just really love her. And we got to meet Agnes Mason, who probably had more to do with developing good Sams than most people even realize. She had Rex of White Way who used to be a sled dog up in Idaho, carrying mail from Ashton, Idaho to West Yellowstone, Montana. And there was Lloyd Van Sickle that ran this dog team. And, that's how the mail got in and out of West Yellowstone. Agnes Mason furnished the dogs and Lloyd drove the team. This happened

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