

...SAMOYEDS...

By Vera Lawrence

610 Colusa Ave., Berkeley 7, Calif.



"HEADED FOR THE HILLS OF WESTERN, NEW YORK."

This is the caption on a delightful newspaper picture rushed to me (Feb. 6th) by Mrs. Bev. H. Ward of the Oni-Agra Sams

of Gasport New York.

The picture shows a sled team of 5 Sams "mushing" in true Arctic Dog style—taking part in the weekend dog-sled races. At the controls is none other than the amazing 14 year old Marna Smith of Prattsville, N. Y. Marna has never entered in the Junior Division. In 4 times out in the Novice Division, she has completed twice in the Senior course, and in 4th position. The Senior drivers, many of whom have been racing for years, have nothing but praise for her.

She's raced across a frozen lake at Syracuse, out of sight of everything under small blizzard conditions. Her father, who is Postmaster at Prattsville had been reluctant to let her try, with no compass experience—but she made it for the full 14 miles both Saturday and Sunday.

At Glenwood Acres (Buffalo Area), she again went the senior course, and it was 75 per cent bare road, due to the very excellent road crews in that area. Some en-Marna Smith and her Sams at the New

tries turned back, but she went the entire course both days—again 14 miles per day.



York sled-dog races.

(Buffalo Evening News photo)

Marna was runner-up out of 24 teams, for best behaved team—award being made over the 2 day period, and judged on, Stake-Out Behavior, Starting line approach, Course Behavior and Finish. It is agreed that her progress has been fantastic, and her well-mannered behavior appeals to all who see her.

The race pictured, started from Glenwood Acres Ski Club—the starting point for the 22 teams that came from all over the state of New York.

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN THE SAM BREEDING WORLD?

Are too many seems being bred—and disposed of too easily—at prices sure to ruin sales of quality dogs?

Why are there so many "free" puppies being offered on the market?

Mel Fishback sent us a letter recently that is most disturbing in content and brings up the subject of what is to be done with those extra pups.

I give you her letter here — and shall welcome responses from you, our readers. Give us your ideas—your experiences!

"I think the sales situation in Sams is really becoming critical. In the last month we have once again been offered three Sams that would make "wonderful sled dogs", all for free, all out of "excellent bloodlines". For a long time after we moved

here, we got away from those offers of free dogs; apparently we've been found again now, and for some reason people always assume that a dog they have mistreated and neglected until he is unmanageable and impossible as a pet, will be a "wonderful sled dog". This also applies to the dog if he is too big, too short-legged, too rangey, or too-almost-anything. We feel sorry for the people who are "stuck" with these dogs, and we feel sorrier for the dogs themselves, but we already have a large kennel of our own and cannot take in give-away Sams; attempting re-sales in this part of the country is absolutely hopeless. The one Sam we gave away to local people wound up completely ruined, a menace to any neighborhood, a nuisance to any prospective owners, his papers lost in the hands of the first owners' husband who had walked out and disappeared . . . and after a year or so we lost track of the dog himself and we don't know to this day where he is. Some friends of ours bred a very nice litter of Sams and except for the help of the stud owner, could never have sold them for more than \$25 apiece (the only alternative being keeping them all, which would have been impossible.) The parents of these puppies were both X-rayed normal for HD and the sire was a near-champion; both of the parents were of high enough quality to deserve breeding, and the produce of the previous breedings for both were good enough that both the stud owner and breeder were anxious to breed again. This was definitely not a "puppy factory" operation and one of the pups from this litter has been appraised by a dis-interested party as definitely championship material; he is due to enter competition soon. Now . . . WHY should such a litter be virtually unsalable? Because of the hundreds of poor Sams that are for sale at insanely low prices all over California (and other areas too!) Not to mention the free ones . . . if we hear of three within a month up here, how many must there be in the pounds, sympathetic kennels, and back yards around the country?

As editor of Northern Dog News I get a lot of letters from readers in all parts of the U. S. and Canada and a great proportion of these ask "where can I sell my pups?" Our ads do sell a few and I can recommend advertising . . . but I often get letters a month or so later, saying "I sold one puppy through my ad. Now, what do I do with the other four?" In most cases these litters were not bred for the puppy market, or so it seems . . . the breeder wished to keep one or two pups himself and the extras were just extra; everyone assumes he can sell those extra puppies easily enough, and make back his investment in care, feeding, stud

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and so forth, UNTIL he actually puts his ad in the paper and begins waiting for calls. THEN he either finds himself stuck with three or four unsold puppies, or he cuts his price to \$25 and \$35 to match the prices of his competitors.

What DOES a person do? Our personal solution has been . . . not breed Samoyeds. Our own Samoyeds (or Sam in the singular) has not enough reputation to sell his pups; our kennel is out of the way, our expenses are high. Sure, we would love to have a good son of our dog; it is sad to love a dog so much and yet see his good qualities pass on unreproduced as he grows older without siring a litter. But we feed twelve dogs that we use in our business and we cannot keep the usual five or six pups that would result, if they did not sell. And we won't hand them out in the neighborhood to run the streets, kill deer, spread disease and finally turn up back in our own kennel. So . . . no breeding, not Sams at least. When we breed a litter of huskies, we only do so to replace dogs on our team; we give the owner of the stud as many pups as he wishes from among those we don't want to keep; the remainder (if any) we send out of the country to other working kennels. We expect to take a loss on the pups we don't keep, and we invariably do . . . but at least it is possible to sell a pup into a team for a reasonable price, or if necessary send it away free for a future exchange, or some such thing. Have you tried this recently with a Sam of relatively unimpressive bloodlines and just average quality? Can't be done, ma'am. There is something very wrong here.

Some breeders do exaggerate the cost of raising a litter. If there are complications, of course, it can be expensive. We once spent \$175.00 on a bitch and her pups, and came out of it with only the bitch still alive. But in most cases a breeder spends far less than \$50.00 on each puppy to raise it to saleable age. I think it is as wrong for people to shout about their tremendous losses on \$75. puppies as it is for them to starve the puppies and sell them at bargain prices. The factor that brings the worth of a puppy up to \$75 or \$100 is the love, care, attention to background and quality . . . NOT the cash spent on his upbringing. A conscientious breeder deserves to be paid for his time, but the fellow who does the minimum, lets his bitch raise the pups, and sells them instantly when they're weaned with no shots or special food doesn't. There are too many breeders in the latter category,

WHITE CHRISTMAS

Samoyeds



SALUTE
YOU
FOR
1961

Vera Lawrence
610 Colusa Ave.
Berkeley, Calif.

and unfortunately there are also too many who are overestimating both the expense of raising puppies AND the value of their dogs. These people are hurting the breed as badly as the puppy-factory; they sell inferior dogs for fantastic prices and their buyers soon discover, if they take the dog to a show or have much contact with other Sam people, that they've been rooked.

From what I've been able to see, the Samoyed fancy is all topsy-turvy. Pet quality dogs are in the show ring; show-quality dogs are pets; good puppies sell for \$25 and poor puppies sell in other parts of the country for \$125 or more. \$25 bitches are accepted for \$100.00 stud fees. Some parts of the country are glutted with litters of Sams that nobody can sell and nobody will buy. Breeders show a bitch with legs like corkscrews and look you in the eye and say, "I'm breeding her to get her beautiful head on the pups." And now, in the age of HD, other breeders are saying about their miserable, pop-eyed, drippy coated little females, "I am breeding her because she X-rayed sound." There is one statement you seldom hear; That is: I am breeding her because she is close to perfection in my mind, and the stud is the best dog I know, and I think this litter will be "it". "Why is it that Samoyed breeders do not have that attitude of "the next litter will be IT" that most dog breeders have? They breed because they feel like raising a litter. They breed because they have some sort of notion that if they don't breed a bitch when she is in her second season, she'll be lost forever as a brood matron. They breed because she is a champion . . . and who ever heard of not breeding a champion? They breed when their kennels are already full of dogs, or they're already over the neighborhood limit for number of dogs permitted. Then they cry to anyone who will listen that they don't know WHAT to do with the puppies. Down go the prices . . . in come a few buyers who wouldn't have been interested enough to buy a Sam for a higher price, and sooner or later someone like us, or anyone else known to be interested in sled dogs, has another offer of a free dog.

I am not one of those in favor of destroying puppies; we did this just once, when a bitch whelped ten puppies and one of them was very small and weak, and even knowing that this puppy had little chance to become a good dog, it hurt our consciences badly to quench his little life so abruptly. I don't think that most Samoyed breeders have the strength of purpose to destroy all the bitch puppies in a litter, if they are only interested in keeping a male, or vice versa; the only solution to the problem that I can see is simply for people to pass the bitches when

they come in season, do the best for the dogs they already have and try to build the sort of reputation for their particular strain that is necessary in selling Sams for good prices nowadays. I don't think this necessarily involves a lot of expense; it costs no more to show a good dog more frequently than it does to show two or three mediocre dogs at different shows. An outstanding record in Obedience costs very little but time. One man in the east selling Sam pups for suitable prices because his dogs have been proven worthy of respect in harness; he is not the first Sam breeder to do this, but the total number of people who have sold pups on the basis of actual working accomplishments are very few. As I see it, the time has come when the Samoyed breeder must offer more than cute teddy-bear puppies to make sales, and if he cannot offer more, he has no right to complain about the low prices he gets.

I might add that when a breeder has immense pride in the accomplishments of his dogs, and has added to his own respect for them by making them close to perfection in some respect, he automatically loses his desire to unload his puppies in a hurry, too! The standards of his buyers must be a little higher to meet the standards of his dogs.

One would think the breed club should be able to do something about the situation; so far no club, and no individual within it, has offered a solution. And the above — proving the dogs are worth something before breeding them — is the only solution I can think of. Unfortunately it won't touch the guy who has the puppy-factory and is not a club member. But how about all the club members who have puppy factories? That the SCA can't touch these people means to me that the intended purpose of the club is being ignored and is being taken seriously by no one. Certainly the club was never intended to justify the breeding of dozens of unwanted Sams by the membership "just because they're Sams."

Certainly something must be done about it. Sam breeders must stop thinking, "it's his problem not mine" when they allow their studs to be used on every bitch that is brought in. And they must certainly cure themselves of the idea that although this

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BITCH is not very good, and that **DOG** is not much better, their **PUPPIES** may turn out to be worth while and therefore let's breed them! We've done it ourselves but that was back in the day when, by a little scratching, you could get \$50 or more for any Samoyed pup. Tain't true no mo. The low price problem, and the unwanted Sam problem, is the responsibility of every person who breeds a bitch . . . and it looks very much as if some serious thought is going to be needed if Sams are to continue rating high in anybody's opinion."

REMEMBERING — It is with sincerest sympathy that I offer you here a picture of Mrs. Walter Gradt of Itasca, Illinois—taken with her Wani during a happy daytime rest in their game-room. It was in early January that Wani (Jowani) developed a sudden undetermined illness—and in spite of immediate Veterinary care she was gone in a couple of days.

I have received Mrs. Gradt's permission to tell you of this, in hopes that in some way it may help to save others such a tragic loss. It is so necessary to realize how swiftly illness may overtake a Sam—and the need to be ever on guard. It was just a little over a year ago that Wani suffered an attack of rheumatism—but with prompt Vet care, she recovered fully, and Jackie recalls: "I've watched Wani practically every moment since that horrible attack—and then, almost overnight, she was gone! And not to be sure just what happened—it's maddening.

Dear readers, may I add, that from Mrs. Gradt's mention of certain symptoms—the near-likeness to that which took my "Khetta" (Kara Kobe of Oceanside) a few years ago, suggests that it may have been Leukemia, spoken of as Cancer of the blood.

Don't be deceived if your Sam appears well and hearty—they are really sturdy—a little overweight perhaps—this can happen so quickly. Become alarmed if its gums become pale and whitish looking—and if it drinks great quantities of water, which is almost immediately disgorged in perfectly clear form. Sharp crying and coma come so quickly—you are stunned. There is nothing you can do, and after it is gone, you try to think why you hadn't noted that your dog was ill, and how you could have saved it had you known. The fact is, unless you have

the practiced eye of a Veterinarian, you can not really know that your dog is sick.

NOTES FROM HERE AND THERE

There are two pictures here on my desk I'd love to share with you. They were sent by Mrs. Antoinette Callahan of Dunellen, N. J. One shows Bell (Tazbel's Tinker Belle) and her darling puppy sired by Nordly's Cavalier. The other shows the pup alone—in a "big, big room". Mrs. Callahan and Mrs. Ulfeng (Nordly's Sams), took an early morning train trip down to Maryland to see Miss Elizabeth MacGill, and Belle's family. Miss MacGill met them in Baltimore then drove them out to her home, some 30 miles away, at Westminster. It's a beautiful spot high up in the hills of Maryland—with a marvelous view in all directions, with the Blue Ridge Mts. crowning the vista.

Of course their first visit was to see all the Sams, who greeted them joyously. Then to see Belle's family. Such a satisfaction to see how happy Belle was in her new home.

After a delicious dinner of Southern fried chicken with all the fixins—they were driven back to Baltimore for the ride back to Dunellen. With them on this trip was a charming little puppy, who was destined to go to folks in Long Island. He was so good on the trip—and the delight of the passengers on the train.

Mr. and Mrs. Henry Bousquet of Manchester, N. H., have become show-minded—and write that they entered a dog and a bitch in the Eastern dog show in Boston February 4 and 5. It's too early yet to have the results of the judging—wonder even, if the heavy snowfall prevented holding of that, and others of the Eastern shows.

The bitch was entered in a Sanctioned Match early in January at Troy. She took Best of Breed and placed 4th in the Working group. Mr. Bousquet's 6 months old pup

was shown in Puppy Sweepstake and out of the 72 entries, he placed 4th. Mystic of Aardvack took Best of Breed at Portland, Maine and Worcester, Mass. He is out of Ch. Bunky III of Lucy Dee — is now owned by Mr. Messier of Candia, New Hampshire.

A request for information has come from Dolores Quinney of Arvada, Colorado, and Arlene Lane of El Segundo, Calif., as to where they may purchase the new English Samoyed Pedigree Book edited by Miss Ada Goodchild and Mrs. Dorothy Perry of England. This may be obtained from Miss Ada B. Goodchild, Hon. Secretary 71 Falmouth Rd. Highams Park, London, England. Cost of the Book including postage.

Mrs. Betty Selsor, now at 55 Rogue Moraes, Mill Valley, Calif., showed a Sam at the recent Golden Gate show, named Kenny's Blazer Boy of Caribou, C.D. He took second in the American bred class, and picked up the second leg on CDX Obedience class with a score of 189. This fellow is sired by Ch. Winter Trail Blazer, and is out of Capella, CD. His owner is Mrs. Donna Yocum of Denver, Colo. Mrs. Selsor is hoping to show him at Oakland show, March 4 and 5 — as well as at some other shows previous to returning him to Denver. Mrs. Yocum plans to send out a nice bitch this spring to make her debut in Conformation as well as in Obedience work. Later Mrs. Selsor hopes to attend some Denver shows with her Chu Sam.

There were 23 Sams at Golden Gate—for Mr. J. P. Hackett to judge—2 points in each sex. Benching for the Sams was done by Mrs. Gracie Scannell and her committee, who did a beautiful job.

My thanks to Helene Spathold for a report on the judging of Sams.

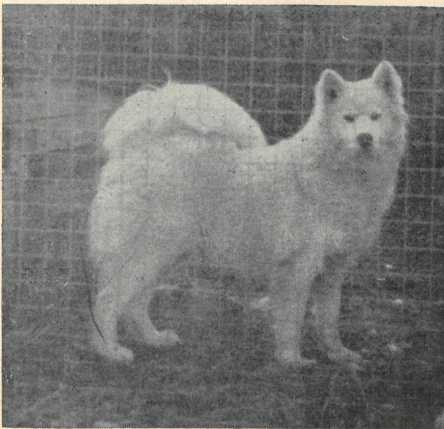
Best of Breed was the Percy Matherons' and Jean Blank's Ch. Yurok of Whitecliff. BOS was Margaret Keepers' Ch. Smirnoff Kate. WD and BW Helene Spathold's Rokandi of Drayalene—WB, Allure of Lewclaire owned by Joanne O'Connor, Veteran dog winner, Ch. Cheechaco of Whitecliff. First in Stud Dogs—Ch. Yurok. First in Brood Bitches Ch. Nakomis of Whitecliff, Ch. Yurok went on to place second in the Working dog class under Mrs. Milton Erlanger.

Was very disappointed late in January when the terrible rain and sleet storm that hit Dallas, Texas—prevented Mr. and Mrs. Mitchell from making their airplane trip to California. A later telephone call from Mr. Mitchell assured me that they hope to make the visit to the Coast later in the year.

Had a mighty pleasant visit from Mr. and Mrs. Rennie Colling of Woodinville, Wash. They are the proud owners of Shoina (Ken-Dor's Mishka Shoina). Do hope they find it possible to enter her in our own Oakland show, March 4-5.

After working for days to save the life of their new little female called Silverina of Wychwood, Mrs. Ellis Sneer writes that they

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lost the fight to that tricky virus that has taken so many dogs this year. "She was a little beauty" wrote Mrs. Snee (of Washington, D. C.)—and the pity of it is that they had waited 2½ years for her.



Ch. Sweet Darlien of Byrillian
Mrs. Byron Lewis—Owner
Livonia, Michigan

Mr. and Mrs. Glenn Crosley of Morrison, Colorado, keep their Christmas WKWs to show to their customers at the TRADING POST, their ranch near Denver. The Trading Post is really a fox-ranch—located at an elevation of almost 8,000 feet above sea level. On December 16 there was over 20 inches of snow on the level, at the ranch.

Among their Sams, Mr. and Mrs. Crosley have 2 from Margaret Tucker's Encino Kennels in North Hollywood—8 year old Naida of Encino, and the recently purchased 2 year old male, called Kobe's North Star of Encino—a beautiful young animal.

Mrs. Violet Johnson of Seattle, Washington, tells how she and her husband "tracked" each other to see who would get their Christmas WKW first — "and, says she, I lost. She tells us that Mr. Roy Reeves, a new member of the NW Division of the SCA, has recently purchased a female pup from Georgia Gleason. The pup is from a litter sired by the Gleasons' famous Ch. Stormy Weather.

Mrs. Robbie Hoernig of Dyer, Indiana, one of our Obedience Training enthusiasts, feels that Obedience Training is most vital for a beginner in sled work. Although she has not yet started her dogs in harness, she feels that obedience to the commands of Down and Stay are most important.



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Misty took third in her training class graduation with a score of 193½, could probably have done better—as could her brother, Ranger — had their training not been curtailed due to Mr. Hoernig's illness.

Mrs. Hoernig says that Siberian Husky lovers will be pleased to hear that a Husky took 4th in Misty's class with a score of 191. This is a great piece of publicity for sled dogs in general—at least in this area where people look on sled-dogs as vicious.

"This idea I personally helped to destroy a little" writes Mrs. Hoernig, "when during the training class graduation, a tiny two year old girl was hugging and playing with Misty as we waited our turn in the ring, even falling on her several times in an effort to hug tighter. I'm proud to say that Misty thoroughly enjoyed this affectionate attention. Many spectators commented to me that they had thought sleddogs were vicious and that they (the people) were very pleasantly surprised at Misty's reception to the little girl, whom she had never seen before."

Next month we'll have the report of the San Diego and the Oakland Kennel Club Shows. And don't forget the great International Kennel Club Show April 8-9 at Chicago, Illinois. Entries for this show close March 21st.—V. Lawrence.

GOLDEN GATE PEMBROKE WELSH CORGI FANCIERS

By Carol R. Simonds

23 Meadow Dr., San Rafael, Calif.

The 1961 shows got off to a good start with the Golden Gate show in January, at San Francisco. The corgi entry of eleven was judged by Mr. George Leatt of Skipton, England, and exhibitors were delighted to have him say he found the quality in corgis to be much higher than he had expected. WD and BW was Mrs. E. Pimlott's Halmor Hi Fi, and WB and BOS went to Douglas Dundock's Justrite Ember Glow, a junior puppy. With four specials in competition, some suspenseful moments were added, until Mr. Leatt gave BB to Ch. Rover Run Gibson, owned by Mrs. Victor Dykes. Once again, thanks to our talented members, Glad and Doug Bundock, the corgi bench was a real "eye-catcher". As in other years, the partitions between the dogs were removed and the corgis rested on imitation grass matting, with a low white, wire fence along the front of the bench. The pale green display cardboard background was centered with a two dimensional poster of Windsor Castle complete with a company of Guards and a corgi peeking out the gate. Our theme slogan this year, "The Pembroke Welsh Corgi—At Home in Castle or Cottage" was lettered on wide streamers on either side of the center. The sight of so many corgis getting along so well together in such an attractive setting always brings the breed many compliments.

At the January GGPWCF meeting the following officers were elected for 1961; Pres. Carol R. Simonds, Vice Pres. Doug Bundock, Secty. Margaret Downing, Treas. Bev. Kuster, Board of Directors, Virginia Darnell, Rita Etheridge, Jack Liecty, Leonard Manthei, Phyllis Young.

Bay Area members are looking forward to a February visit with Miss Anne Biddlecombe from England, whose prefix, Teekay

is well known to all corgi breeders. Miss Biddlecombe is en route to judging assignments in Australia and has arranged to spend a few days visiting the San Francisco area. Although we are not fortunate enough to have her judge any show here, plans have been made to have her see as many of our corgis as possible, and we know it will be an instructive and enjoyable experience for us all.

Congratulations are in order to the Roger Mansfields of Bakersfield, whose Cote de Neige Christmas Story recently finished her championship. The Mansfields are two of our most enthusiastic exhibitors in both breed and obedience, and already have several obedience degrees, so we are sure that this first championship is only the beginning for them.

Plans are in the making for a Spring All-Age Corgi Match to be held sometime in April, probably in Marin County, to give Corgis and owners alike some pre-show experience before our Specialty, which will again be held at the Del Monte show in May. More information regarding the match will be sent to members as soon as plans are more definite.

After a considerable "dry spell" as far as corgi puppies are concerned, a number of GGPWCF members now report new litters, either already born, or on the way. A card or note to the club secretary whose address appears in the club ad in Western Kennel World will put anyone interested in contact with breeders who have puppies available.

SIBERIAN HUSKIES (From Page 5) added Malamutes to their Siberian team and the Ruch's have added a couple more Siberians to theirs. Pat Daniels will be driving a nice new leader, Chorus, in front of her six dog team and plans to finish somewhere out in front. New races, new teams, and many new dogs will be making their appearance in 1961, while the Chuck Emrich's will run their same old retreats. Fun for all, won't you plan to come?—G. E.

DID YOU KNOW

The name Chow Chow has little basis for its origin in China; it is believed that expression evolved from the pidgin-English term for articles brought from any part of the Oriental empire during the later part of eighteenth century. It meant knickknacks or bric-a-brac, including curios such as porcelain and ivory figurines, and finally what is described today as "mixed pickles", whether of the edible variety or not. It was far easier for the master of a sailing vessel to write "Chow Chow" than it was to describe all the various items of his cargo. So, in time, the expression came to include the dog . . . from THE COMPLETE DOG BOOK.

—It does not seem possible, but the Cornell University's Research Department on Diseases of The Dog is going into its eleventh year. They have made useful contributions to the better health of your dogs and mine, and could use some financial assistance in the furtherance of such work. Clubs are urged to consider making this department the beneficiary of their bounty . . . (when the treasury permits). Contact the Laboratory Director, care of Cornell Research Lab for Dogs, Cornell U., Ithaca, N. Y.—H2.

GOLDEN GATE

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