

The
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QUARTERLY



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SAMOYED PEOPLE



The Samoyed Quarterly Talks With
JOAN SCOVIN
Bethany, Connecticut

This interview was taped at the Westminster Dog Show, February 1978.

How did you first get started in Samoyeds?

I have to go back to when John and I first got married. I said we weren't going to have any dogs at all but he convinced me we should have some dog for our son. We went to a local pet shop and picked up a \$35 Beagle-cross whose biggest problem was that he couldn't be housebroken. We gave that one away. Two months went by and we tried another \$10 "pet shop special" which was a Husky-cross. It was home an hour when it bit my son, so we went back and got our \$10 back. Then John started on a year-long brainwashing campaign with my son to get him to ask for a puppy for Christmas. At that point I said he could have a dog if it was little and small. So we decided on a West Highland Terrier, my son had decided he wanted to name his dog "Frosty the Snowman" and it was a white dog.

By this time we had smartened up and we went to a breeder. We walked into this place and there was one male dog and I was brilliant enough to realize that this was not the way you had puppies. What I didn't realize was that the puppies they were getting were stud-service puppies. The woman quoted me a \$90 price and gave me a receipt. Then the owner walked in and nearly had a heart attack because the price was \$190. But he said he would give it to me for \$90 and would have it there at the beginning of December.

The beginning of December came and went and the middle came and went. Three days before Christmas he still had not gotten that puppy to give me. Somehow or another he just hadn't gotten around to getting those puppies. We got our deposit back and I started looking around for ANY white dog just to put under the Christmas tree. I knew that Poodles came in white and some Samoyeds must come in white because the picture in The World Book was white. I figured they were small enough because the book said they were only 22 inches. I thought 22 inches wasn't bad - they weren't too big a dog.

There were two ads in the paper which I called. I called the Poodle ad and the lady had one white poodle. I called the Samoyed ad and we went through the price and did he have any male puppies that were ready for Christmas, and yes, he did. And I said, "Do

you have any males left in white?" And he said, "Lady, they only come in white!" (Laughter). I thought that was really neat - I'd have a whole litter of white puppies to pick from.

So that's how we got into Samoyeds. We went over to pick the puppies out and he said that some were show quality and I couldn't have those because they were more expensive. I'd pick a puppy out and he'd say, "No, you can't have that one, it's show quality." I'd pick out another and he'd say the same thing. After this went on for awhile John said, "Take out all the ones we can't have and leave the ones we can." So he did. Out of the four that were left I picked out "Frosty." Frosty was the only one out of that litter that became a champion, he was Ch. Snowflakes Early Frost. He was our first dog. The rest of the litter just disappeared into oblivion someplace.

How did you get from just going out to purchase a pet to showing?

I told John that if we were going to have a dog that big we were going to have to get it trained so he went to a local training class. And, of course, the breeder that we got him from, Bill Miller, was showing the mother and he had casually talked to us about showing. "It really isn't that expensive, the entry fees were ONLY \$7 a show. You didn't HAVE to have a handler, you could show it yourself." So we kept going to these training classes and everyone kept saying there was going to be a match. So we went to the matches and Frosty was winning every match going. He was beating his brother, who was handled at the matches by a professional handler, and we were beating him all over the place.

Then people asked if we were going to the Specialty. We didn't want people to know we didn't know what a Specialty was... (Laughter). We asked friends of ours who had German Shepherds and they told us what it was and showed us how to make out an entry blank and we entered our first dog show. We were so new at it that we entered Frosty in two classes, Puppy and Novice. (Laughter). Off to the show we trotted. Frosty was entered in a class of 5 and there were 3 of his litter brothers and himself and another dog. Frosty took fourth and we were in a state of shock and I was crying and hysterical. We went back to the benching, it was a summer bench show, and I'm crying and my girlfriend is patting me on the shoulder - completely forgetting that Frosty had another class to go into. A few minutes later John comes walking down the aisle and he's got this great big silver tray. I asked him where he'd gotten it and he said, "Frosty won it." I said, "No he didn't. You just went out and bought that for me because you know how bad I feel and you're just trying to make me feel better." He said, "No, he won it." And he had. He had gone back into a Novice class with 2 two year old dogs and won it. (Laughter). So we were hooked - with our first trophy we were hooked.

The following weekend we went out and John handled him and we got beat but we didn't think he should have been beaten. The handler that the breeder was using, Bernie Kennedy at that time, who later went on to handle Sam O'Khan's Genghis Khan, said to us that he shouldn't have gotten beaten either. So we decided to hire a handler and we let the handler take Frosty home with him that night. Came home the next day with 2 points out of puppy class. We were hooked. We ran with Frosty that whole summer and wore that poor dog out. Any show within driving distance of Connecticut. He kept taking a lot of Reserves and we finally



Ch. Siayes Schnegora Boickh

decided, when he was about 11 months old, that the only reason he wasn't winning was that we were holding him back. So we took pocketbook in hand and went into hock to hire this handler to finish our dog. He finished him in nothing flat. He didn't have any problem at all. And we had our first champion.

Do you have anything in your present stock that you send with a handler?

No. I wish I'd known more then. I had bought a bitch from the same line to breed to him. I realize it was Canadian lines and wasn't what was winning in the States at the time. I had to go someplace else to find something to win.

How long ago was this?

We got Frosty in 1963, he finished his championship in 1965, when he was 15 months old. In December 1964 was when we bought our second dog.

Was Frosty the first dog you'd owned in your whole life?

Yes, the first I'd ever owned. My mother always had dogs. She usually had some kind of pedigreed dog like a Cocker Spaniel or Boston Terrier. There had always been dogs around the house but I didn't want dogs around my house. As a teenager going out I was always picking dog hairs off my clothes and the dogs were always chewing my best shoes. I was not about to put up with this any longer.

When you selected Frosty did you feel you had an "eye" for an animal then? Or did you just pick him because he had a nice head or something?

Just picked him, I guess. It was just a little white puppy and I think I picked him probably for personality more than anything else, at that point. Just happened to luck out that he was probably the best one in the litter.

So tell us what happened as far as Samoyeds.

We bought the second bitch. The breeder in Canada who bred her, Mrs. Miller, tried to tell me she would not finish in the States and I didn't listen to her. I was an instant expert, like most people after their first champion. Actually he wasn't a champion yet but only needed a couple of points. I just knew everything. I brought her back down here and put maybe 2 or 3 points on her but she was just not show quality. She hated the shows and would stand and pant with her ears flat against her head and be absolutely miserable the whole time.



Ch. Karatyll's Tia of Weathervane

We bred her that summer but lost the whole litter, unfortunately. There we were with one champion and Frosty didn't like to show either. I decided it was that line that didn't particularly like it. Frosty hated the shows and I had nothing to show. By this time we were hooked on going to dog shows and I had to have something.

There was a breeder in Texas who had the same line that we did and was very successful with them. She had a lot of champions in the States. So we called her up and she wrote us back and said she had this two year old bitch with 7 points, both majors, and a Group II from the classes. That was back in 1965 when we bought Tigger, Ch. Marylakes Nina Belle. Back in 1965 I paid \$400 for her, which was a lot of money then. In fact, we went to John's credit union and borrowed the money to buy her. (Laughter). I took Tigger out and was very successful showing her and that's how I kind of really got into showing the dogs. Up to that time John had been doing most of it. Tigger was just a natural showman. She would stand there and plant all four legs in exactly the right place, put her tail up over her back and look at you like you were the most marvelous person in the world - as long as you held a piece of bait in front of her. Anybody could have shown her.

This is when you really got interested in handling?

Yes. I liked it. It was fun. As long as you won it was fun. (Laughter). But Tigger was very easy to finish. We got her in September started showing her in October and we finished her by February.

So where did you go from there in your breeding program?

We had three Samoyeds. This was back when people were just beginning to talk about x-raying and hips and hip dysplasia. We had had Frosty's hips x-rayed and the other bitch. I bought this bitch, Tigger, at two years of age from a very large breeder. I had just assumed she had been x-rayed. The bigger breeders were going through and getting OFA numbers but I didn't know any of this. The reason I didn't know was, up until this time, nobody had even told me that such a thing as The Samoyed Club of America existed. I had no idea. We were operating in limbo all by ourselves with no one to guide us.

We got Tigger and then bred her to Frosty which was a linebreeding. We got what I thought was a very nice litter of puppies and we sold them all. The following year we bred her again and when she was in



Ch. Scandia's Kejasare



Ch. Snowflakes Early Frost

whelp we started getting little phone calls from people who I'd sold puppies to saying that the puppies were dysplastic. At that point I was hysterical. I called the breeder in Texas and she said she didn't x-ray her stock - she didn't believe in it.

That must have been awfully hard for you.

Yes. With all due respect to the breeder, she still believes the same today. Her father worked with the men that pioneered x-raying in the United States and had evidently died from over-exposure to it. She really believes strongly about it. Her daughter fell from a horse and was in the hospital in a coma for 3 days and she refused to have her x-rayed.

Anyway, she just did not believe in it. I told her my other dogs had been x-rayed and that I was going to have Tigger done just as soon as she'd had the puppies. She had a puppy from our first breeding with Frosty and my other bitch and she asked if they had both been x-rayed and I said yes. She said, "I don't want your dogs. I'm giving them away." She did. Because they were x-rayed. She said I had changed their genes and she gave them away.

So Tigger had the puppies and we x-rayed her and she was a Grade 3 dysplastic, at 3 or 4. We had sent the x-rays off to Angell Memorial and had Dr. Snelling read them. He sent them back and said that if this was a really super top winning bitch and we wanted to breed her, well... but he really wouldn't advise it.

So we sat on the litter until they were four months old, eight puppies, and had them all x-rayed. We took the ones that were very obviously dysplastic and had them put to sleep. We took the others and put them in pet homes and they were castrated. I think there were only two out of the whole litter that were questionable.

It must have been heartbreaking.

It certainly was. I also had a lot of puppies to replace from her first litter. No bitch to replace them with.

By that time Ethyl Stuckey had gotten me into The Samoyed Club of America and I was more aware of what was going on and that there were other people in other parts of the country with dogs. I saw an ad from Carmelita Avery in Oklahoma advertising a litter out of Ch. Whitecliff's Polar Dawn who had all these other champions. So I called her and made arrangements to purchase a pick of the litter bitch out of that litter. She also had two older bitches that she was selling and I bought one of those who was eight months old.

What was your criterion for going with her over all the other Samoyeds in the world?

She had Whitecliff's Polar Dawn who was a top producing bitch, I think she had an all champion litter. She was a very pretty bitch from her picture. At that point that's all I knew. She was pretty, she had a lot of champions, she came from good stock that was all x-rayed. I didn't have to worry about that so we purchased this one.

They both came in together. The puppy we purchased out of the litter, it was Dawn's second litter to Tar's Snowboy Grandson of Taz. We purchased Prinny, Ch. Taradawn's Snow Princess, out of that. On the same plane came Ch. Sivdik's Shena Snow Maidel. Shena was eight months old so I started showing her. She was only eight months but she was fully grown, one of those that everyone calls an early maturer. At her very first show, Trenton, one of the big shows out here in the East, she proceeded to roll over on her back when the judge came over to examine her. All four feet straight up in the air. (Laughter). I wanted to die. I gaited the dog in the ring and her stomach was about 2 inches from the ground. Somehow through all that I still took a third out of 5. I never figured out how I quite did that - but we did. I gave her ten shows to straighten up or she was out - that was it. I think she heard me because at the tenth show she picked up her first couple of points. She suddenly decided it really wasn't so bad and put her tail up over her back and showed very well. We finished Shena. Shena, however, coarsened up very very much. At the time that I bought her I had the choice of her or her sister. Carmelita had said that while she wasn't as pretty she was bigger boned and all around a bigger bitch. At that particular time that's what I wanted - more bone and more coat. That criteria has also changed since then.

So you got the two bitches and you finished the one.

I finished Shena and we had taken Prinny out and John had finished her. About that time I had seen an ad that Carmelita had run in Dog World that she was selling two of her champions.

How many Samoyeds did you have at this point?
We had our first dog, Frosty...

He wasn't dysplastic then?

No. He was clear but I wasn't using him much. The first bitch we had gotten, our second Samoyed, we'd given away. I had Tigger, who was dysplastic,

but I was still showing her because I didn't have anything else to show. She was a champion but we weren't breeding her. I had Shena and Prinny.

Then I saw this ad that Carmelita was selling two champion dogs, a brother and a sister. I called her about the bitch but she'd already been sold. She still had the brother. We toyed around with it and we decided that Frosty wasn't exactly what we were looking for because we couldn't show him and you couldn't win that much with a bitch. So we bought the champion dog because we had nothing to show at the Eastern Division Specialty that was coming up in September. (Laughter). So we got Ch. Siayes Schnejora Boich, who was called Schnej. Put the entry blank in as soon as we got off the phone, got the information on the phone and got it in. (Laughter). In the meantime, the dog is coming in. We got the dog in that night, drove all the way back from New York, two hours, and let him out in the backyard. We had a half acre all fenced off for the dogs and they ran together in the backyard. We turned on the floodlights and turned him out to exercise and he took off and gaited on all four sides of the yard, pacing if off for about 10 or 15 minutes. I think that was the first time I was ever aware of how beautifully a Samoyed could move. The dog was just absolute poetry in motion. It was just gorgeous.

We went out and John showed him at the Eastern Division Specialty and I showed Marylakes Nina Belle. John took Best of Breed over some top winning Sams on the East Coast then, including Jingo, and I took Best of Opposite Sex with Tigger. (Laughter). And nobody wanted to talk to us much. (Laughter). Someone said at the dinner that night, "Oh, she's really a lovely bitch but don't you think you should take some of that hair off her? She really has too much hair." I said no, she'd really been winning enough and I didn't think I'd trim her hair. (Laughter).

You still hadn't bred another litter?

Oh yes, we had bred... The years kind of run together when you're in dogs, you can't differentiate one from another. At that point, before we got Schnej, we had bred Shena to Frosty and we had sent Prinny out to be bred to Carmelita's and she'd gone out of heat on the plane so we never got the breeding. She was a full sister, a different litter, but a full sister to Schnej so we couldn't breed her to him. I really didn't have anything to breed to Schnej. I had gotten a young puppy, in the meantime. When I had written to Carmelita I guess I had written to the Winslows in Texas at the same time. They had written me back and said they were finally going to do this breeding. They had finally picked out a stud for the bitch and was I interested? I said to John, "Well, why not? The price is so good and we can always use another dog." (Laughter).

And here a few years before you didn't want any dogs. (Laughter).

Yeah. (Laughter). So I sent them off a deposit and I almost forgot about it. They were going to breed her the next time she was in heat and I just kinda forgot. Then I got a letter from them that she'd been bred and the litter was there. I said, "Gee, do we really want another puppy right now?" We decided that we'd contacted her and the price was right so we'd get her.

We expected the puppy to be shipped in at eight weeks. Well, it didn't work that way. The Winslows couldn't make up their minds about which they were going to keep and the one I was supposed to get, which was going to be second pick. I'd had to twist their arm to get that since they usually kept first and second pick. But I didn't want third. Finally, when they were about 3 months old, they made the decision and they sent me Tia, Am. Can. Ch. Karatyll's Tia of Weathervane. She got off the plane and I looked at this little puppy who I didn't think had a

lot of bone on her, didn't have a lot of coat, and this long pointed head and I decided that I definitely did not like this bitch. But I didn't have the guts or courage - it didn't even cross my mind that I should send her back - I just figured I'd bought a dog that I didn't like and I was kinda stuck with it. My son seemed to like her a lot so it made up for it. Out of all the dogs she was the only one he really took to. My son never did really like dogs, unfortunately.

We brought her home and I watched her grow. Oh God, did I watch her grow! She was so ugly - so bad. I just kept watching her walk around the house with this funny rear end and I kept saying to John, "You know she's going to be dysplastic. Look at the way she walks. She walks with her rear end funny. She's going to be dysplastic." I figured I'd just sit on her and have her year-old x-ray done and she'd be dysplastic and we'd have her spayed and I'd get my money back. I'd carry her back home and that would be the end of it.

I kept taking her out and trying to show her that summer because I didn't have anything else to show. You couldn't set her up because she'd collapse in a heap. You couldn't free bait her because she'd turn her rear end East and West and crouch. I decided that there was never any way anyone was ever going to make this bitch a show dog, no way. I was quite disgusted with her. We took her, when she was about 11 months old, as a filler on a circuit, just to make sure there was going to be a major for another bitch we were showing for Carmelita Avery. The first day out she takes Reserve. I take the major but she takes Reserve. I kinda looked at John and decided, "Well, the judge likes John." (Laughter). It was a woman judge and I thought she just liked John. (More laughter). She was in Puppy that day. The second day out, for some reason, we put her in Open. I don't know why. She took third in Open. I said, "These judges must think we're professional handlers or something." I finished the bitch I was showing that day. Then the circuit after that the majors went off and there were only one or two points and she picked up 2 minor points the last two shows. I decided that the others were so bad that the judges just didn't have a choice. It had to be that because she was so bad. All this time John had been saying to me, "You ought to look at that bitch." I said, "I can't look at her." Her tail was straight out from her back - it looked like a corkscrew. I said, "She's got long, big ears and she's ugly and I don't like her." I should have listened to John.

Anyway, we came home at the end of July from the circuit and put her out in the backyard. About a month later I was standing at the kitchen sink and looking out the back window. I saw this dog moving across the yard. It was the nearest thing to Schnej that I'd seen in movement. I said, "God, John, who is that?" He said, "That's Tia. That's what I've been trying to tell you all this time. You haven't looked at her." So I took her out and looked at her and thought she looked pretty good after all.

We took her down and had her x-rayed and her hips were terrific. Threw her in a show. Took her down to Maryland and the first day out she got beat by a puppy bitch. Connie Richardson had the puppy bitch and she came over afterwards and said, "You really should have won today." I was rather taken back and she said, "This judge just happens to like to put up puppy bitches. You've got a gorgeous bitch but the problem is that you're not used to showing a bitch that you have to stack. You're used to free baiting your dogs because they've always done well for you that way. You've just got to work with her more."

So I took her to the motel that night and I thought about it and decided the darned dog was going to stack for me if I'm going to kill her. We went out to the parking lot and had a very hard lesson on how to stand still and how to stack. The next day we went into the ring and took a four point major. So that was

Tia. Tia has turned out to be one of my better bitches.

Did you breed her?

Yes. The first time we bred her to Ch. Kondako's Dancing Bear.

Where did Weathervane come from?

John thought of that.

JOHN - Well, I figured we'd get diversified after a few years and pick up enough breeds, other than Samoyeds... North, South, East and West... covers all of it.

Getting back to Tia. We bred her first to Dancing Bear and she had a litter of 12 that she whelped on either the 55th or 57th day, depending on which breeding you count from. Because they were so premature we only saved one of them and that is Ch. Weathervane's Ko-Mar, who has produced some very lovely dogs for me. So that one-puppy litter turned out to be really important in the breeding program.

We re-bred her again the following year to Dancing Bear and the second litter was not as successful. We did not get that much out of it.

When I was going to breed her originally I thought of linebreeding around Joli. I didn't like Tia's tail, that was one of the things I really didn't like, her tail set. Lila said if I was really concerned about her I shouldn't linebreed her on Joli. I decided the heck with it, I was going to do it anyway. Tails, at that point, really weren't that important to me anymore.

Out of that litter to Ch. Polar Star's Tiger, we got Ch. Weathervane's First Million, who was B.O.S. at the 1975 Specialty. We got Ch. Weathervane's Twit Twilliger, who finished with two 5 point majors and two B.O.S. over two Group placing bitch specials. Ch. Weathervane's Macbeth, that we just finished this year. We only got him back last year and John took him out and I think he was defeated only once in the classes. The first time out he went Best of Breed over my special, Ch. Scandia's Kejsare. (Laughter).

That was an exceptionally good litter. We planned to repeat it the following year. But my kennel help let Tia out after a dog show into the backyard... Their male Samoyed that they had from me was in a crate in the grooming room and the crate was not locked. The dog promptly opened the crate and went out and bred Tia. That was at five at night and at seven we were at the vet's getting it aborted. Tia still had four puppies. (Laughter).

Who was this dog?

Weathervane's Sunny Day. Three of the puppies went to pet homes and one bitch went to a home that, originally, was going to be a pet home. That's Weathervane's Simcha. They decided they wanted to show her and she's almost finished. She turned out to be a nice bitch.

We repeated the breeding to Tiger the following year. I got one really super puppy out of it. I thought she was going to be really super. At four weeks of age (the puppies) Tia decided that she didn't like the exercise pen I had she and the puppies in. When I was out to dinner one night she lifted up the pen and started to crawl out underneath it. One of the puppies tried to go out with her and didn't make it. She dropped the pen on her. So we lost the bitch from that litter.

We tried re-breeding her in 1976 and we only got one puppy out of that litter. She was getting old by then and I decided we weren't going to breed her anymore. She's now nine and a half. She's still my favorite. She's still spoiled and still the queen of the house. Everybody's under Tia, she's definitely an Alpha bitch.

So she's really the foundation of your breeding?

Tia is and Velvet is. I got Velvet when Tia was

about two. I discovered Doris McLaughlin's Ch. Polar Star's Nika Frost. I had seen one bitch that Ruth Hale had that was sired by him. I went to Canada to show Tia when she was about two and I saw another bitch up there that was sired by him. They had all this bone and this great coat. While Tia had great movement and great style and beautiful type - the one thing she did not have a great deal of was coat. So I decided that what I really needed to add to my line was a Polar Star's Nika Frost daughter. I called Doris McLaughlin and she said he was really too old and she wasn't breeding him anymore. She gave me the names of all these people with bitches out of him and maybe they would be interested in selling. I called everybody in God's creation and nobody would sell, lease, rent, co-own, nothing. They would not part with them. I called Doris back and said that if she ever heard of anything to let me know.

A few weeks later I got a letter from Doris and she said they'd been up with the vet to give the dogs their yearly shots and she'd had the dog checked out and the vet said that yes, even though the dog was going on 11 or 12, he'd certify that he was capable of breeding. Doris had bred him to Silveracres Mona Lisa again. I kinda felt that Doris just did it for me and she said I could have pick of the litter bitch. There was a litter of four and that's how I got Velvet.

Velvet has added a great deal to my kennel but she was quite an experience, I'll say that much.

Tell us about it.

Ch. Silveracres Icy Weathervane. Icy Weathervane because Doris had to have Silveracres and I had to have Weathervane and that left us three letters in the middle. (Laughter). I tell everyone that starts out in dogs to pick out nice short kennel names. Don't do what I do - do what I say, you can't get in any letters otherwise.

We took Velvet out when she was three months old. We had her at three matches and she took three Group Placements. That was it. I never put a lead on her again until she was almost a year and a half. The main reason being that Velvet decided she was claustrophobic. She did not being locked up all day in a dog pen while John or I worked all day. She used to take the metal dog pens, wire mesh, and bang her head against it until she had a hole. Then she'd try to put her head through the hole, which tends to scar up the face a great deal. For a year we called her "Hole in the Head" because she had all these holes. (Laughter). Finally I decided that I was never going to get her out and shown with all these scars on her face so I took her out of the dog pens and put her up in the bedroom when I went to work. She was perfectly happy.

We took her out when she was a year and a half and I'll never forget the first show we took her to. I kept writing Doris about her and Doris said, "I don't know how you got a dog with big ears from that litter. I don't know how you got that." I kept saying, "I don't know how she got them either but she does." We walked up to ringside at the show and everyone said, "Oh, who are you showing?" They looked down at Velvet and I could see them all thinking, "Tee hee hee. What is that head on the end of that body?" (Laughter). Velvet standing outside the ring did not look like the prettiest bitch in the world.

Well, we went into the ring and I'd never been under, before or since, the judge's name was Piper. He had a very unusual method of judging. When we first walked into the ring we all stood there and he told us all to go around the ring once and stop. He rearranged all the dogs according to how he wanted them for movement. He sent us around again and stopped us. Had us all stand still - looked at us standing still and rearranged us again. Then he examined them all, put his hands on them, and as he was putting his hands on them he'd arrange them all one, two, three, four. All this time, since we'd gone around in the beginning, movement wise we were at the head of the

line. He individually gaited us and we were still at the front. We ended up taking the major that day at the Bronx Kennel Club Golden Anniversary Show.

We finished Velvet in seven straight shows. She was defeated twice, taking Reserve at a 5 point major, and at a 4 point major she took 4th out of 10 in Open. Those were her only two defeats. The last major she took John handled her under Vincent Perry. When he was giving the ribbon he said, "You know. When she first walked into the ring and I looked at her head I thought it looked hard but the longer she was in the ring and the longer I looked, the softer it got."

It's true. She had rather melty eyes and the longer she stands there her face, literally, gets soft for you. But she's producing beautiful dogs for me.

We bred her first to Ch. Silveracres Rogue Krabi Vok which produced a pointed daughter who only needs a major to finish. We then bred her to Ch. Weathervanes Ko-Mar, who is out of Tia and Dancing Bear. Out of that litter we kept Ch. Weathervane's Up-and-At 'Em and Ch. Weathervane's Katie-Did. Katie-Did is the dam of the Futurity winner. At 'Em was Best of Opposite Sex at the P.B.S.C. Specialty. When we were finishing him he took Best of Opposite Sex, believe it or not, over THE top Samoyed in the country - from the classes. He took a Best of Breed over Group placing specials. He's done a lot of winning. But he's big, he's 24 inches, a big dog. In contrast, Katie-Did, his litter sister, is small, petite and pretty. People are always amazed to find out that they're littermates because they're so completely different in type and style. One thing they both have, however, is movement. Schnej really started me with that. Once I decided that movement was what I was really looking for... I stopped looking for what was on top of the shoulders of a dog and started looking at the rest of it. I think that's probably improved my dogs more than anything I can think of. Try to tell people that. But everyone has their own hangup, I guess.

In California in 1973 for the Specialty I was sitting next to another breeder and we were watching this dog move. She said, "Oh! Look at that dog. I just love that dog." And I looked at this dog that could hardly get around the ring and looked back at her and said, "But it can't move!" She said, "I don't care if it can move, it's got a pretty head and a lot of coat." I just shook my head and decided that people had their own hangups and there's not much you can do to change it.

Is movement something that you had an "eye" for or is it something that you developed?

I think Schnej gave me an "eye" for it. The kind of free flowing movement. Once I had Schnej I really started looking at dogs moving and suddenly realized what "single tracking" in our Standard meant. Then I had Tia and she had movement that, to this day, at nine and a half, is absolutely flawless, you cannot fault it. She single tracks just beautifully. She had, I think, five Group placements and with a bitch with quite a short working coat I think that's quite an accomplishment.

Several years ago I went to one of the first Rachael Page Elliott demonstrations. I was absolutely enthralled and sat there the whole night thinking, "My God, why wasn't this here when I really needed it back in 1964?" I could have saved myself so many years. You end up that evening, after watching it the first time, thinking, "I wish she'd start it all over again so I could see, from the beginning, what I've missed." You want to sit through the lecture twice. It's an excellent presentation. I think that anyone who's starting in dogs, if it's being presented anywhere with a hundred mile radius, out to get in their car and drive there and make sure they don't miss it.

Is it the dynamics of canine gait or something?

It's a visual and verbal demonstration of her book, "The Dog in Motion." She really does an excel-

lent job with it. I mean when you see a dog and it is moving faultily she'll stop the film and show you why it moves that way - because it's not in balance or the shoulders are not laid back correctly or because the topline is not correct. You learn to really pull your movement apart.

Is that what you'd recommend a novice to do?

I've taken people that are just starting out in dogs. I've taken a few couples, when I can drag them, because most people don't want to go to a lecture. Everyone I've taken have always been very grateful. "My God, I never realized!" I remember one young couple that, unfortunately since have been divorced, but at the time they were just starting out in Sams. They came up to my house the following weekend and said, "Take out all your dogs. We want to watch everybody move. We want to fault them and see if what we're thinking is right." We moved all the dogs and they faulted them and they picked the ones that moved well and those that didn't. They had learned a lot just from watching that one film. To that point they had just been looking at the pretty white dogs.

A Samoyed is not just a pretty white dog. A Samoyed has a function to fulfill. While I certainly want type and I want a pretty dog, I want a dog with four good legs under it, too.

If you were judging Samoyeds would you select first on the basis of type and then separate them by gait? Or would you select them first on the basis of gait and then separate by type?

I would select them first on gait. If the Samoyed is not going to be able to fulfill the function that it was originally meant to do it's not a working dog. A little fluffy dog that takes short, stilted steps, or a little tiny, pretty dog that has twelve inches of coat hanging off his elbows. A coat like that would bog a dog down on a trail in five minutes, or even if it were herding a reindeer in the snow. It would be up the the elbows in ice in no time at all. That's not a Samoyed. You need everything. You don't need JUST gait and you don't need JUST type and you don't need JUST coat. You need everything all together. We're all still hoping to get it - the perfect dog.

Do you feel that most judges recognize the proper gait?

Unfortunately, no. I don't know if it's because so many of them...coming from other breeds that don't single track or that gait is judged mainly from side gait and not on coming and going so that they don't look at it. They look at it. They stand there and their eyes see it but I don't think their eyes relay to their heads, all the time, what they're looking at. So many times I'll see a dog going and coming away from me and I'll go, "Oh, God!" The judge will turn around and look at that and put the dog up. He'll say, "But it moves beautifully. Look at that, the topline doesn't move when it gaits." I kind of look at him.

That happened one time in a show and I didn't even have a dog in the class. It was a four point major and one of the absolutely worst dogs in the ring went up. I went to the woman afterwards and just said, "Why?" "It moves beautifully," she said. The dog was in the ring for pictures and she had it move around again and said, "Look at the topline, it doesn't move." She had actually asked my opinion because three breeders had walked into the ring with copies of the Standard and handed them to her after the judging. (Laughter). So she said to me, "What do you think?" I said, "But the dog can't move, coming and going." She still maintained, "I think it moves beautifully." Coming and going the dog's hocks were all over the place and it was absolutely horrible, it was throwing its front. Side gaiting it was beautiful.

What are you looking for in the side gait of a

*Samoyed?*

You look for reach, extension, balance of movement, a nice even topline that doesn't go up and down. How the dog puts the leg forward and how it extends it in the rear.

Do you see much padding in Samoyeds?

You see an awful lot of bad fronts in Samoyeds, I'm afraid. Just all different kinds of bad fronts. Rears in Samoyeds, we do not have anywhere near the problem, in my opinion, with rears that we have with fronts. You don't see too many cow-hocked Samoyeds. The rears are fairly decent. The biggest problem, probably, you see with rears is that they'll be too close. But we have an awful lot of trouble with fronts. Shallow fronts, especially.

What do you mean by shallow fronts?

I call it both legs coming out from the same socket. We see one exaggeration or the other. Either shallow fronts, with both legs coming out of the same socket, or you see a front that is so wide it is practically out at the elbows. You'll see a dog that is single tracking in the rear and parallel gaiting in the front. Coming at you you can see both hind legs right in the middle of the front legs.

Do you want to see the rear legs being put down in the same path as the front?

You want to see both legs covering in a 'V' shape from the hip line down to the center of the body. I know the Standard says that when at a walk the Samoyed will not single track but people kind of bend this to fit their own image. I think the Standard was written to mean exactly what it says. When at a walk or a slow trot - that does not mean a slow trot going around the ring. That is not a slow trot. That is a moderate gait. A Samoyed is not a Siberian, it is not going to race at a million miles an hour. I've had some judges in a show ring say, "Walk your dogs." There are very few people that can even walk their dogs in a show ring. The dog is way up ahead

of them - they will not walk at the side.

So what do you think is the big problem with the fronts besides the legs coming out of the same socket or moving too wide? Do you think the shoulders are adequate?

The whole problem with fronts is that you're going to get a lack of chest depth and poor shoulder layback. You're going to get shoulders that are too steep that cause one problem and shoulders that are too far back that will cause others.

What do you mean by shoulders too far back?

You get some where the shoulders are almost too well-laid back. I don't think you get that too much in Samoyeds, I've seen it in some other breeds in matches I've judged. But not too much in Samoyeds. Mostly you're going to get too straight a shoulder, what I call a Terrier front. It's covered up in the Sams because of the coat so many times. You see all this coat, making this nice, rounded, working front, chest on this dog and you put your hand on it and the chest isn't there. It's just coat sticking out.

How deep a chest do you want? In relation to the elbow.

I don't know. Between those front legs you should be able to take your hand, on any Samoyed standing still, and get your hand right between those legs. When he's standing naturally, not when the handler sets him up. I've found that on the dogs that I've had that have moved well - Schnej, Tia, Chuck and At 'Em and Katie - they were all that way. You don't have any problem with that hand, you don't have to double one finger over another to slip it in between those two front legs.

Have you found any relationship between distance between the shoulder blades and the shoulder angulation?

I think when you have too much space between the wither bones you're going to get a poor front. I



don't know if I've ever thought about correlating it with the rest. If that also goes with a narrow front or a wide front, I just don't recall having had the problem and having to pull it apart. I know people have asked me to fault their dogs and I've put my hands on them and I know that if I get up there and those bones are too far apart I know the dog is going to have a bad front when it moves. It always does. I wish I knew more but I haven't been into it long enough. I've only been in it since 1963. Another twenty years and I might have more answers.

Do you like to see a dog with a lot of bone, a lot of substance?

Yes. Probably more so than maybe they should have. I know the Standard says it's supposed to be moderate but I like a well-boned dog. Not overly bones but well-boned in proportion to the body. I like a dog with a good thick coat - profuse coat. But I can live without the coat if I absolutely have to.

How about biscuit?

I love biscuit. I know a lot of people don't. I just had a litter of puppies recently and the people who had a deposit on pick of the litter bitch came over when they were four weeks old and said, "We want that cute, little tiny one over there, she's so adorable." She happened to be the bitch I had picked out because, conformation wise, I thought she was beautiful. Square, neat, with good angulation and she was going to be a nice moving bitch. I thought, "Oh well, they wanted pick and I have so many dogs, what difference does another one make?" Eight weeks old I washed the puppy and called them up and said they could come and pick her up. They walked in and looked at her and after about ten minutes they finally said, "But she's got this funny color." And she does. This little one has two biscuit blazes that start at each eye and flair back to cover both ears. It looks almost like a Siberian mask. They said, "We don't like it." I said, "Fine, you want one of the others?" I washed up one of the others and they were perfectly happy. No one, so far, has bought this little bitch and I love her. She's the neatest moving little thing I have and she's cute and she's got beautiful little almond eyes. Because she has so much biscuit we have called her Mexicali Rose. I think she's going to do rather well for herself.

Do you think you need the biscuit to keep the pigment?

People say that. They say you need it to eventually get your white coats, your really pure white

coats down a couple of generations. I don't know if any of them are necessarily true. I just don't think it happens to matter that much. If I had my choice between two dogs that were absolutely, perfectly equal in every respect, and one was biscuit and one was not I might go with the one with the pure white coat, everything else being equal. But biscuit doesn't bother me. At 'Em was really the first biscuit dog we ever showed. At 'Em also has a very short working coat. You go in the ring and he has this big biscuit spot right in the middle of the judge's side, can't miss it. And he's got these little freckles on his face. You walk into the ring and you could always tell if you were going to win or lose that day. The judge would stand there and kind of put his hand up over his mouth and rubbed his chin - we knew we'd lose. He was looking at that biscuit and he didn't know if it was right or wrong. That day we'd always go Reserve. Any of the judges that had seen me show my Sams, and knew that I had good Sams, you could see them saying to themselves, "Well, if she's bringing it into the ring it can't be wrong. She wouldn't bring in a Samoyed that would get disqualified, so it's got to be right." I don't think enough people show biscuit Samoyeds and the judges just don't know what to expect.

I heard a story one time about one of our Specialties in the last several years. A certain judge was supposed to judge and he had judged another individual Specialty someplace else and had put all the dogs that were biscuit toward the back. Someone had asked him why, afterwards, and he said, "I don't like dogs with biscuit." And I said to him, "But the Standard says it is acceptable." He said, "I don't care what your Standard says, I don't like it." Needless to say he did not judge part of the National Specialty that year. (Laughter). I guess some judges don't like it so it is a little harder fight to show a dog with biscuit than without. But it's the dog that counts, not what color the coat is. White, cream, biscuits - it's all legal.

How about height? What's the ideal height for a Samoyed?

The ideal height is to put a dog in balance with itself. (Chuckle). I wouldn't like a male any smaller than 22½ certainly. I thought that when we first got Chuck he was too small, because everything else we had at the time was big. Bigger is not necessarily better, despite the American syndrome that it is. On the other hand, big is not necessarily bad. At 'Em is 24 inches and he is very good. I think a big dog certainly makes a bigger impression in the ring, it stands out more for the judge, whether it's right for the breed or not - I think it's up to the individual person as to what they like. If a dog is sound I don't care how big or small it is.

The majority of the time doesn't the dog that is larger, all things being equal, go up?

I don't know. We just finished Noel. I haven't even measured her; I don't want to know how big she is. She's the littlest, tiniest thing you've ever seen. She won the Bred-by-Exhibitor class in our National Specialty, and she was the littlest one in the ring. She took a five point major the third show of that Specialty weekend. She's not big but she's sound and she's put together well. She's got a Best of Breed over her father.

I think if you have a good dog you're going to win with it - I don't care what size it is. I think people say, "I'm not winning with my dog because it's too big." The reason they're probably not winning is because the dog isn't sound. Or they say, "I'm not winning because my dog is too small, they don't like small dogs anymore." I don't get that. I can win with a small dog or a big dog - just give me a sound dog.

Tell us about Chuck. How did he come into your

breeding program?

The price was right. He didn't cost me anything. (Chuck). The first time I ever saw Chuck, I'd gotten a call from some people...

Maybe you should say something about him before we get into it. He's not your run-of-the-mill Samoyed. What kind of record does he have?

Last year he had eight or nine Group placings in tough Eastern competition. Depending on which system you believe, he was rated from Number 3 to Number 7 in the standings of Samoyeds in the country. His son won the first Samoyed Futurity held last year, Weather-vane's Double Trouble. He won the Stud Dog class at the National Specialty this year. One of his other sons won his division at the National Specialty. That was his daughter, Noel, that I just mentioned before.

I got a call from some people that said they had a bitch that they'd bought from Moe Carter, who used to live in New York and had since moved to Illinois. Joe had recommended that they bring the litter over to me to grade because they had no idea if they were good or bad puppies. They thought they might want to keep one if it was a good litter. They had bred the bitch to Ch. Sam O'Khan's Temushen O'Dudinka. They brought the four puppies over, two dogs and two bitches. I looked at the two males and they were very nice. I picked out one for them to keep for themselves, which was Chuck, and I had some people who called me for a show quality puppy and I didn't have any, and I referred them to this other puppy because I thought it was really lovely. Beautiful, heavy-boned, lovely long coat, nice dark pigment, lovely head. They both seemed to move well at that age. Chuck, I thought, moved a little better than the other. The other was a tiny bit weak but I wasn't that sure. I wasn't that familiar with the lines because I had had nothing related to the line.

The people said they wanted to show the bitch when she came back into coat and we made arrangements that I was going to show her for them. They went off on their merry way and that was the last I heard from them. Then they called me up and said she was in coat and they wanted to put her in a show. So we put her in but they never came and they said, afterwards, that she'd blown coat. Never heard from them after that.

About a year later I got a call from the fellow and he said they'd kept the male puppy for awhile and then his wife had gotten pregnant and the bitch had gotten spayed and the puppy given away. Dogs went down the drain when the children came. He'd gotten the puppy back because the couple had gotten a divorce and he didn't know what to do with him. He had tried selling him in the local paper starting at \$100 and backing down to \$50. He'd put up notices on the bulletin board and tried to give him away at work. No one would take this dog. I said I could find a home for him eventually but it might take a few weeks since homes don't come up right away. Older dogs are harder to place. So I said I'd call him back in a few weeks.

Five days later I got another phone call from him. He said, "Can you take the dog now?" I really didn't want another dog running around. So I said, "Well..." He said, "If I don't get it out of here by Monday my wife is going to have it put to sleep. She can't stand having it in the house any longer." It seems she thought he raised his leg all over the house and she had cut velvet furniture and he was not about to get on it. So I said to go ahead and bring him over. John is in the backyard screaming, "Don't you dare bring another dog in this house!" I said, "Well, it's got a good pedigree and it was a nice puppy. If I can't sell him, and he's not show quality anymore, if he didn't turn out that good, I can always find a pet home for him. He won't be here that long, John. He will be out before the boarding season starts in July. Don't worry about it."

Well, in came this dog that was so nervous and so

uptight that his ears looked like they were stuck together on the top of his head. His coat was all shot and burned and dead. I took him and put him with the other Samoyeds and we washed him and groomed him and put him in the kennel and kind of left him there. I didn't think too much about him, one way or another. He was there and he was for sale - he was certainly finishable.

We had this Fourth of July party coming up along with a bunch of shows and we took him out at this one show. We had him entered under only one judge because I thought he was a little small for the other judges. He took fourth out of 5 and screamed the whole time he was in the ring and embarrassed me to tears. We went home and the next day we had the party for the Samoyed people. Everyone was going through and saying, "Who's that dog and who's that dog?" We came to Chuck and I'd say, "This is Chuck and he's for sale. Want to buy him?" They'd ask how much and I'd say \$350. "Well, we'll think about it and let you know." A month went by and no one had "let me know." I'd finished the dog that we'd had out at the time, class dog, and I thought since I didn't have another class dog I might as well take him out and show him and put some points on him. Get more money for him that way.

We took him and showed him at little one point shows in August and picked up most of his minor points. September came and there was the Delaware Valley supported show, it was a four point major, and he went out at that show and took the major, going Best of Winners. By the time the Potomac Valley Samoyed Club Specialty show came along he still needed a major. John took him out that weekend and the first day he took a five point major. That's another story too.

I had had a client call me and ask me to show a class dog that weekend. I'd said no, that I had my own dog entered. He said, "Can't John handle your dog?" I said, "Well, yeah." He said, "I don't care if your dog is in as long as you handle my dog and John handles yours." I replied, "Alright if you're sure, that's the way it'll be." He said, "Oh yes, that'll be fine."

So, as I said, the first day Chuck took a five point major and my client's dog went Reserve. The next day we get into the ring and it's the Specialty. During the lunch break before the Open dogs he comes over and he's a little perturbed. He doesn't want us to show the dog. John said, "Well, you agreed to this ahead of time." He said, "Well, yeah, but it's different, blah, blah, he doesn't need another major." I said, "He doesn't need another major but it's the Specialty. I'm not going to walk away from a Specialty." He said, "I'm going to report you to the AKC and the PHA. You can't show your dog against my dog." I replied, "I quit. I just won't handle your dog. I'll go to the Superintendent and quit." So, officially, I'm off the dog. His wife talked to him and he came back and said, "O.K. You can show your dog in the classes, providing neither you nor John nor any AKC licensed handler shows him." We said O.K. and walked over to Tom Quigley and asked Tom if he'd like to show our dog for us. He said, "Yeah. Sure." He walked into the ring and went Best of Winners with him. (Laughter). My client's dog didn't make the first cut.

Are you still handling for him? (Laughter).

No. I did handle for him after that for awhile but with another dog.

What litter has been your most successful?

Without a doubt, at this point, I think it's the Katie to Chuck breeding.

When was this?

That was in November 1975. I wasn't originally going to do that breeding. We had just built the new kennel and had absolutely no money. I had originally planned to send Katie out to be bred to one of Doris

McLaughlin's dogs because I firmly believed in line-breeding. But since I had no money and Chuck was there... This girlfriend said, "Don't be stupid. Of course breed her to Chuck. Why not?" I said, "Oh. It's an outcross. I don't want to outcross." She convinced me I really should do it. After all, if the litter turned out to be so-so, I had the rest of her breeding life.

We bred her. Seven puppies; six males and one bitch. It is now jokingly referred to around our house as "The Rejected Litter."

They're just a little over two years old now?

Yes. That's the litter that ended up everywhere where it shouldn't. The first pick of the litter was Weathervane's Double Trouble, was supposed to be sold to a man in North Carolina who was definitely going to show him. He'd had one of my dogs before and it had died and he called and wanted another one. When John hung up I said, "Did you ever quote him a price?" He replied, "No. He never asked for a price." Well, time came for him to get the puppy and I told him to send me a check for X number of dollars. He said, "Oh, My God. I don't want to pay that much money for a dog. I only paid \$175 eight years ago." I said, "Well, that was eight years ago for a pet and this is now and it's a show quality pup." Well, he didn't want to do that, it wasn't right, he'd think about it and let me know. I got off the phone and John and I talked it over and I said, "If he's arguing about how much money he's going to pay for the dog he's certainly not going to take the money to show him." We decided we wouldn't sell him the dog after all. He called back and decided he wanted it. I said, "We decided we're not going to sell him."

A couple of months later the Frey's came to us and wanted a puppy. They saw him and fell in love with him. We decided that we already had Chuck, we could always repeat the breeding, so we sold them Double Trouble.

The second puppy, Kristopher, went to a home in Florida to an elderly man that had had Sams for many years. When the pup was seven or eight months old the man had a massive heart attack and sent the dog back to us. Kristopher ended up in a second home.

Weathervane's Chuckie was sold to a friend that John works with. His wife, after a few months, could not stand all those white Samoyed hairs. Chuckie came back and was sent to a second home. He went to the Jacobs.

Noel, the only bitch in the litter, was really really tiny as a puppy. I decided she was just too small to be shown and I sold her off as a pet with the stipulation that she was to be spayed. They brought her back when she was about six months old and I said, "You can't spay her - she has got to be shown." So we took her out and showed her for awhile. They got divorced and gave her back to me. I put her in another home with people that had one Sammy, on breeder's terms. Three months later they were getting a divorce and she came back to me!

So, at this point, we have a completely rejected litter. Double Trouble has now won the Futurity and finished in six straight shows. Kristopher finished his championship this year and took a four point major as a puppy. Weathervane's Chuckie was Winners Dog at the Potomac Valley Specialty this year. Noel won the Bred-by-Exhibitor class at the Specialty and a five point major at the Specialty weekend this year, her first time out since she was a puppy.

I think I would like a couple of more litters just like that. All rejected and I get them all back. (Laughter). It's been a very successful litter. Oh! And we have the sixth pick male back now. Last August we got him back and when we finally got him back he'd been through like six different homes. If I can ever get him to stop loving every other Samoyed in the ring when he's in it, and put four feet on the ground, we'll get him finished. Every dog in that

litter was just perfect and if I can get a repeat breeding I'll be very happy.

Who do you feel has been your best dog?

I think it's a toss-up between Schnej and Chuck. Because, unfortunately, Schnej did not stay around. We only had him in 25 shows, he took 19 Best of Breeds with 3 Group Placements. We weren't handlers then, weren't anybody and knew nobody. Then he had an accident. He was playing tug-of-war with a bitch, with a pillow, he fell off the bed and twisted his spinal cord and became paralyzed in his rear. So we didn't get to use him at stud and we didn't get to show him anymore. I think he probably could have done as well as Chuck but up to this point Chuck has been the most successful.

What do you normally charge for a puppy? Also stud service.

I don't sell a pet puppy under \$250. That's the lowest I would go. Show quality, depending on the litter, will range around \$300 to \$400. Stud service also depends on the litter. Chuck, at this moment, \$225.

Do you sell many of your puppies on terms?

No.

Do you ever sell on a puppy-back arrangement?

Occasionally, with people I know, I'll sell one on part cash and puppy back. When I have control of the stud on the first litter I will take a pick of the litter puppy back.

I've found with co-ownerships and terms, generally, you end up with a little hard feelings on both sides, somehow or another. You have to know the people really well. Everybody has different opinions in dogs and you can never seem to get two people to agree on the same thing at the same time.

Do you help the mating along when you're doing a breeding or do you just let them free in the yard?

We always supervise it. I will let them breed by themselves, if they can. If you have a bitch that is a little hard to get bred or is difficult we'll hold her. On occasion I have had large bitches to be bred to Chuck and we've had to build him a small platform to get on. (Laughter). Then you've really got to hold onto the bitch so you can keep her up next to the platform. Most of the time you can get a normal breeding just free and easy, unless the bitch is terribly uncooperative. We've had bitches that we've had to muzzle and hold them.

Do you ever turn down any bitches?

Oh yes. I turned down two in one day in January of this year, as a matter of fact. One man had written me and sent a pedigree and listed all the faults his bitch had. I looked at the pedigree and thought he was just being too critical of his own dog. She had a very good pedigree and I didn't think she could possibly be as bad as he said. We made arrangements to meet on the circuit and I was going to look at the bitch. On the same circuit this other couple asked me to look at a bitch who was also out of a very good breeding. I looked at both bitches and turned them both down. I just didn't feel that Chuck could help them enough. Even breeding to Chuck... I thought the chances of them getting show quality puppies were so nil it just wasn't worth it.

We all hope to get "all champion" litters. But we also realize that if out of every litter you get... taking two super dogs and breeding them, super dog and super bitch... if you get half of that litter to finish you're doing great, percentage wise. If you get half of them into show homes you're doing great. Just getting them into GOOD homes is so important. Your breeding a mediocre bitch is just producing a lot of other mediocre Samoyeds, no matter how good the

stud is. The stud can't carry the whole litter. The bitch has got to be there too.

Do you think the phenotype of a bitch is more important than the genotype? Is what you actually see in the animal itself more important than the pedigree?

Oh, I don't know. I think that's a point that's been argued back and forth. (Chuckle).

I think the pedigree is really important, to a point. You've got to know what's in back of your dogs. Your grandparents are going to come out in that second generation - you're going to see it. I just saw it in a litter we bred last year. We bred Twit to Kristopher and I've got two bitches that are the spitting images of both grandmothers. Absolute images of those two dogs. You've got to know what's back there because it's going to come out. It might not sneak out for a couple of generations - but it will.

What are you looking for in your own breeding plans? What are you aiming for?

The same thing everyone else is - the perfect Samoyed. (Chuckle).

I don't have a specific goal in mind. At this point I just want to breed good, sound, even-tempered Sammies. Temperament is so lacking in a lot of the breeding we're having nowadays. I want a typy... and along with typy also goes soundness. You can't have a typy Samoyed that isn't sound and doesn't move well. That's part of the type. I prefer, I hate to use this term because it's used so much, especially in Sammies, a bear head over a wolf head. Rather than saying bear, I prefer a dog with a more well-defined stop, than a dog without one. But I don't have to have it.

I'm breeding for Best in Show Samoyeds, the same as everybody else.

What is better for a breeder to aim for? Are you trying to breed litters of all champions or should you be breeding for the one dog in the litter? Would you take a "safe" breeding where you know you'll get a lot of champions or would you take a "chancy" breeding where you could have something great?

If somebody could guarantee to me that out of a "chancy" breeding I was going to get one positively, absolutely super dog - at this point in my breeding program I would probably take the chance and go with it. I wouldn't recommend that to everybody, however. It would be a toss-up as to whether I would really do it or not. You're never going to get a sure thing either way. You're never going to be sure that, no matter what you do with a dog, that you're going to get a litter of all champions either. You can't be sure. Proof of that pudding is... we all go back and do repeat breedings and the repeat breedings are never the same. The genes never fall as they did with the first litter. You always get something different, a little bit different. You might get a little bit worse, you might get a little bit better. They're too many variables, too many factors involved. That is why breeding is so interesting. Everything is different all the time. You don't know what you're going to get.

We did the breeding, last year, Twit to Kristopher. Now I'm breeding Twit's brother to Kristopher's sister. I think it's going to be really neat. I'm reversing the whole pedigree. I want to see if I get the same thing I got last year. I'm to the point that I'm experimenting a little bit. I want to see what I will get if I do this or do that. I've got a little more leeway now. I've got a whole kennel of dogs. Most of the male puppies I sell I keep stud rights so I've got stud dogs out there that I can use when I want to.

Do you do this with all your picks?
Generally.

Do you keep a co-ownership or just breeding

rights?

On occasion I've kept co-ownerships. If the people haven't been in dogs especially. I'll keep a co-ownership. If they're just starting out and they haven't been around that long - just to make sure that the dog is really going to be shown and I have a little bit of control over it. It's down on paper but I really don't do anything else with the dog except have stud rights on it for myself.

Would you breed to a dog with a very serious fault but who has something outstanding or would you rather breed to a dog without any bad faults but, likewise, without anything outstanding?

That's an interesting question. I just made a comment about that to someone at a show last weekend.

I said that if I had my choice of two dogs, one of which you could not fault, didn't have any outstanding faults, who was just a nice, average dog OR a really super show dog, who showed his heart out but had maybe one, really bad fault - I'd take that dog that was really a super dog with that one fault. I'd breed to a bitch that had one outstanding fault if I thought I had a stud dog that could correct it. Correction, that could HELP correct the fault.

We bred to a bitch recently who was a nice bitch. Shows well, has a nice rear, beautiful pedigree, nice coat, dark pigment, good head - not a good front. The people that own her don't like her for it. I told the people that in the litter they'd probably get half with good fronts and half with bad, about a 50% correction. The litter has not been born yet, it's due this month. I hope they get it. I think the two dogs will go very well together if we can just improve on that bitch's front.

Do you supplement feed your young puppies?

As a general rule, no. Not unless you've got a litter that has been born early that you're having trouble with or if you have a "fading puppy" syndrome in the litter or something. We've only had that just recently.

Do you bottle feed or tube feed?

I tube feed to the stomach. It's quicker and simpler. A lot of people say it puts too much stress on the puppy but I have been very unsuccessful with bottle feeding.

A lady that has just started out in Sammies, who was in Corgis, just recently showed me a really neat way of feeding a puppy. With what is similar to a rubber balloon she takes the formula and puts it in the middle of the balloon. You know, if you take a rubber balloon and blow it up except for the tip the tip stays almost like a nipple. She pokes a hold in it and she says it's really much more like a nipple to them as opposed to a bottle. The rubber on a bottle is really so hard and this is so soft and pliable that it's really much better for them.

She was down at my house and we had our little puppies. We thought we had "fading puppy" syndrome we didn't. It turned out the bitch had a uterine infection that we weren't picking up because she was not running a temperature, she was eating fine and wasn't doing anything wrong. By the time we picked it up we'd lost several of the puppies. We had this one left and she came down to help. She stayed up all night with this puppy, hand-feeding it and carrying it around in her pocket. The puppy is alive. We cleared up the infection in the mother and she went back on her. I was going away on a circuit and she said she'd take the bitch and puppy home for me. But she said if she took it and kept it all that time when it was eight weeks old she wouldn't want to part with her. So she said, "Tell me how much you want for her now, I'll buy her." We came to terms on the puppy.

We went up to see the puppy when it was 3½ weeks old and you've never seen a more spoiled puppy in your life. A puppy that, at 3½ weeks, was nursing on its

mother, and when she went to the edge of the box and called, "Here puppy puppy," it stopped nursing and came to her. (Laughter). That's really spoiled.

What is the total number of litters you've bred and also the total number of champions you've bred so far?

Oh boy! I know most people keep a really accurate record. I haven't.

Approximately.

I think we've had between 20 and 25 litters.

We've had around 20 champions probably. It's only been recently that I've been able to put the puppies in show homes, it's not that easy. I don't know how it is for other people but it's not that easy to get people to show the dogs. I've sold an awful lot of puppies that could have been champions but there was no way those people were going to spend the money to make them champions. They're just not interested. I think it wasn't until 1974 or 1975, when we got the big boarding kennel, that I finally said, "That's it. I stop. I don't sell anymore show quality puppies unless they're going to be shown. I'll keep them myself first." But you have to get to the point where you have the facilities to do that. Until 1974 and 1975 I didn't. I've, more or less, tried to do that.

Have you ever had to put any puppies down?

Yes. We had a puppy, a year or so ago, that was one of the times I'd sold a bitch on breeder's terms, got a puppy back and she was badly dysplastic. In six months I put her down.

Do you ever cull for any other reason?

No. I've never really had to. We haven't had any disqualifying faults.

What should a person do if they have a litter of six pups and they can't sell them? Which I think is common when people are just starting out. They don't have a reputation and it's not even a question of finding show homes but just finding homes. Or shouldn't they have bred it in the first place?

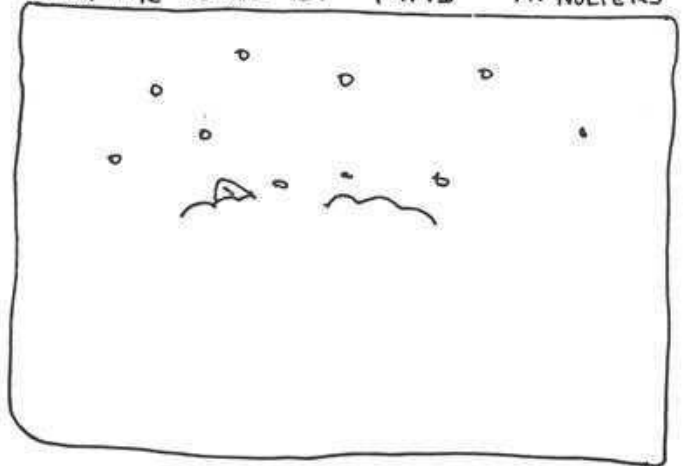
That's probably the answer. I try to impress that on people, I'm sure all breeders do. Sometimes we're successful and sometimes we're not. It is not that easy to sell puppies, you're sometimes stuck with them.

If you've had a litter of puppies and you can't sell them... If you've bred to someone who has a kennel and has a lot of dogs, go to them and ask them for help. Ask them to sell the puppies for you. I have, on occasion, bought a whole litter of puppies on consignment and sold them.

We had bred a dog that we had to a bitch in Massachusetts and the lady, when the pups were five weeks old, just wasn't ready for all the mess the puppies were making. She called me up and made some comment about selling the whole litter to a pet shop. I said, "Oh, My God! You can't do that." She said, "But they're going to give me \$75 and they'll take them when they're six weeks old. I can't handle this nonsense any longer." I replied, "I'll give you whatever the pet shops are going to give you." I did. I wrote her a check and bought the whole litter and sold them myself.

I tell people they've got to be prepared. Are they ready to sit with six or eight puppies in their house if they can't sell them? I tell that to people who come to me for stud service. I'm sure other breeders do too. It doesn't stop them from breeding. They think they're going to make a lot of money sometimes. The only really bad problem is, on occasion you'll get someone that will breed and the first time they'll luck out and sell the litter really fast. They don't know what you are talking about - that you can't sell puppies. Then they breed the second time

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and they get stuck with the whole litter. They've used up the market in their area. Suddenly it's not so much fun having six four month old puppies romping around that you can't sell. They generally get the point after they've made the mistake. It's usually too late.

If you're really stuck with a litter and the person you've used for stud service can't help you, give them away to a home without papers. I've given away dogs with the stipulation that I would even pay for the neutering of the dog. People that would really give them a good home but can't afford a dog. Five or six children and spending \$200 or \$300 for a dog is the last thing they need.

What do you do to socialize your puppies and at what age?

There are certain lines in Samoyeds, I'll probably get crucified for saying this, that absolutely should be in individual homes as soon as they're eight weeks old. They should never be kept in the kennel situation because they will never be socialized. I found that out the hard way.

I have gotten to the point where I don't have to socialize my puppies, believe that or not. I will breed and those puppies are going to be able to adjust themselves to any situation. I think a lot of it is breeding. I keep these puppies the same way I kept the puppies from the other line and the puppies from the other line never got into show homes and never ever could be shown. They were just too shy because they never got out until after they were a year old. Those that I have now are raised exactly the same but I don't have any problem with showing and socializing.

I bring up the litters to the house, usually the kitchen. They have a lot of activities. They have

the grown dogs going back and forth all the time. They see them and as soon as they're old enough they go out in the exercise yard off the back of the house. Some of the dogs are in the kennel and some are in the house. I'll usually take a puppy out to a show two or three times, if it's a puppy I'm keeping. I rarely campaign a puppy to finish him, just to get him used to showing.

You can socialize just about any dog, eventually. I got a dog that was 3½ years old and had never seen another human being other than its owners and their daughter. They lived way out in the middle of nowhere. All the way home, it was a 1500 mile drive to our house, he stood up in the crate and never sat down. The first three months we had him he lived under my kitchen table, didn't want to come out. Every single weekend that dog was washed and groomed and taken to the dog show. He wasn't shown but just taken to the show and walked around. After five or six months we took him out and showed him and finished him.

So you don't spend any time, individually, with puppies under eight weeks old?

I don't have to at this point. They get a lot of people coming in and out of the boarding kennel, they get a lot of people coming in my house. It's a lot different than when you tell people that take a puppy from you, they only have one dog, be sure to get it out and get it socialized. It's just a different situation. I'm not saying people should NOT socialize puppies. If I have a puppy that is especially obnoxious about going on a leash at a certain age, I just drop it and don't bother with it until it's much older. On the other hand, some will put a lead on them at eight weeks and they'll go off just fine. I have a little bitch home now that both litter sisters from puppy classes have majors on them - she hates the leash. I'm just letting her sit there and when she's a little over a year I'll take her out. By that time they have enough sense to realize what you want out of them and that it's really not going to hurt.

What do you look for in a puppy? How do you select and at what age?

Recently, after all this time, I now feel I can really trust my judgement as far as heads go, within the first few hours after they're born. Not six or eight hours, I mean right after. You can tell if you're going to have a really good head on a dog, that much you can tell then. The rest of it... if you can get an eight week old puppy to gait for you... (Laughter)... and that's a job all in itself, you can tell movement a little bit at that age. You can tell length of back and angulation.

How do you pick a pick of the litter? I don't know. I guess it goes back to the old-timers when they say you have to have an "eye" for a dog. I just look at a litter and say, "That's the pick of the litter." That generally is it. It probably moves as well as the others but it has a little more showmanship about it, even at that age. Maybe it's the first one out of the whelping box, or the one that's always barking, "Don't pick up the others, pick up me." That makes a good show dog.

If you've bred properly and you've bred for all the right things you shouldn't have any glaring or outstanding faults that you can't see in a young pup.

Are there any things with Samoyed puppies that look wrong as puppies but that you're not concerned about?

Probably. I've had some people say that the puppies are too close in the rear. I don't think that is such a problem. I would rather have them close as young puppies than wide. You're going to get a spread in the pelvic area and you're going to get a chest spread. I don't worry about narrowness in the front on a puppy as much as I would one that was wide. It

might go out but it's not going to go in.

Can you tell balance in a young puppy?
To some extent.

Is it something you can say or is it just an "eye"?

It's kind of an "eye". Most puppies at eight weeks look square. If you take them all and put them on a table they all look fairly square, they look in balance.

When looking at the rear of a Samoyed puppy, perhaps you have to hold the tail up, standing still, the way the rear hangs the legs may hang down in a 'V' shape or they may hang in such a way that you have quite good width through the hips forming more of a 'U' shape. What would be your preference?

I would definitely say to look for the 'U' shape. I have never had a Samoyed puppy with a terribly, upside down 'V' shaped rear. They're mostly wide while standing. If they were 'V' shaped I would think they would also tend to be narrow in the hips when they were adults. As I said before, we really don't have that much of a problem with rears in Sammies.

Do you have any feelings about head proportion? Some Samoyeds have much larger heads, relative to their body, than others. Some have much smaller heads. What do you feel is correct?

If you just look at a dog you can tell if the head is in proportion to the body. As they said with people, I remember from school, that your head is equal to seven times your body length.

In Borzoi we say that the distance from the nose to the occiput should be the same as the distance from the occiput to the shoulder, which should be three times the height. (Laughter).

You need a computer to figure out if your dog is right or not. (Laughter).

Well in Borzoi I think it's an ideal proportion. It is a classic proportion. I think we see dogs with much longer heads than that. Looking at the ads in The SQ I see tremendous differences in head sizes so, of course, the question comes to what is the ideal head?

There I think you're going to run into the question we've had in Samoyeds that everyone keeps screaming about. Bear or Wolf and what type it is. Depending on what kind of head you have you're going to have a different proportion. It's optically a different look. The head might be the same size but if the stop isn't the same, and the ear set isn't the same, the head is going to look larger or smaller. I think length of neck is a problem in Samoyeds. Enough people don't pay attention to it.

What would you like to see?

I would like to see a head set on a nice neck. If a dog doesn't have a long enough neck it isn't going to have enough reach in front. You've got to have an inverted 'V' when that dog is moving, the head goes forward at a certain angle and the leg goes forward at a certain angle and there's a relationship between the angle of the head and neck and the front leg as it reaches forward.

How does a Samoyed with an outstanding front hold his head? High, level with his back or lower than his back?

Definitely not lower than his back. I don't think he's going to hold it high. If you get a dog with a straight shoulder the neck is set directly, almost in a straight line, onto the back of the back of the neck. It's very pleasing, optically, to see a dog standing that way in the ring. But the dog's front is probably not going to move correctly. You're

going to get a slight lean forward of the head and of the shoulders. It's not going to be down lower or up higher but rather right in the middle. Up higher than the shoulders but not way up straight.

What do you think an ideal shoulder layback is?
I think our Standard says 45 degrees.

Do you agree with that?
Basically. A lot of people put a lot of work into that Standard, I guess it's probably correct.

You might have two dogs, stacked, that appear to have relatively good conformation but when they're moving one dog will greatly out-move the other. Have you observed that?

Do you mean by out-gaiting that it will gait quicker, or will just move better?

I have observed dogs that appear to have very good shoulders but they mince around the ring and have no extension. Why do we observe things like that?

In Samoyeds it could be because you have a coat that can cover a multitude of sins. I don't know. Probably because even dogs with poor shoulders, if they're standing and baiting in the ring, will push the shoulders back and look up. You get the same optical effect as those with good shoulders. They're both pushing back and looking at an upward angle. Of course, when they're moving it's completely different. You don't get this false image of something looking up at you. I think it's probably because the dog that moves poorly is just giving a false impression. I think it has something to do with the way we show our dogs.

Earlier you alluded to temperament, that it is a very serious problem to the breed. Also when we talked about breeding and showing you talked about the importance of an outstanding temperament. Exactly what are you looking for in Samoyed temperament and what aren't you looking for?

First of all, I just discovered recently that when I say temperament it is not what other people mean when they say temperament. I don't mean other Samoyed people necessarily.

I was at a show, in a large Open class of dogs, 18 dogs, and there were two such bad-tempered, snarling, nasty male Samoyeds in the ring. I was having a picture taken with the judge, after the judging, and he was talking about the quality of all the dogs that were shown that day. He was commenting on their heads and I was commenting on their temperament. He said, "Oh, I didn't see any bad-tempered dogs. There was only one that shied away from me." To this judge bad temperament meant the dog pulled away. He did not consider growling, snarling and carrying on bad temperament. I was rather taken back. Granted, it was a German Shepherd judge.

I assume that someone who is going to judge our breed is going to look at that line that says, "unprovoked aggressiveness is to be severely penalized." It doesn't say "penalized" like it does about other faults in our breed. It says, "severely penalized." It's the only part of our Standard that uses the word "severely." And it doesn't allude to shyness, no place does it say anything about that. It says they're supposed to have an outgoing personality, which means it should not be shy.

When I say temperament I mean it should be friendly to all the other people. It should be able to stand in a ring and gait in a ring with other Samoyeds without attacking the dog in front or back. It shouldn't disrupt the whole ring. Unfortunately, the longer I've been in Samoyeds the worse the temperaments seem to be getting. I think part of the problem is that the judges aren't paying any attention to it.

Several years ago we had another German Shepherd judge in the ring. I did not have a dog in. She had

two male Samoyeds in; one that was behaving and one that never put four feet on the ground because he was standing on his hind legs growling at the other dog. She put up the one that was growling. I went up to her afterwards and asked if I could speak to her and she said yes. I told her I had never seen such a horrible display of temperament in all the years I'd been raising Samoyeds, at that point about seven or eight, and that before she judged Samoyeds again, in three months as scheduled, I would appreciate it, as a member of the Board of Governors of The Samoyed Club of America, if she would read the Standard. Because our Standard says that, "unprovoked aggressiveness is to be severely penalized." She said, "Oh, really! Is that what it says? I didn't realize temperament was that important to you people."

It scares you. These are dogs that are supposed to be able to sit with children, get on a team with other dogs and go nicely down the trail. Not eat each other as they're going down so that you have to keep changing dogs. It upsets me to see it in the ring and it's been happening more and more.

Do you feel a more outgoing than normal temperament is important for winning?

Absolutely. Some girl once said to me in the ring, when I came in third, "You've got the best dog in the ring." I said, "He didn't show today." This is what it's called, a dog "show." The dog should show. If you have the best dog in the ring and it's not showing you're not going to win that day, nine out of ten times.

So that's definitely something you'd breed for.

I don't go to the extremes that some people do and insist that all their males run loose together all the time and get along together. I do like my males to be able to sit in the living room with me and get along with another male if it's in the room. They don't have to be buddy-buddy and kissy-kissy, but they should be able to get along. Unless you have a bitch in heat or something. If you have two stud dogs and a bitch in heat they'll probably fight over her. If someone else attacks them I certainly expect them to fight back and defend themselves. But I don't want a nasty, growling, snarling dog. I realize that every kennel is going to have it's pecking order, so to speak. There's going to be one boss. I've found that I have more of a pecking order in bitches than the dogs. I have one bitch who will boss everyone else around. Chuck will get along with other males. There is no reason they can't. He's been used at stud so there's really not any excuse.

How intelligent are Samoyeds in comparison to other breeds?

They're too intelligent sometimes. (Chuckle). I think they're smarter than any other breed. I know some people that have training classes and you get stories back that Samoyeds are dumb and stupid and don't know any better. That's not true. The problem is that they're too smart. They're not going to do anything until you give them a perfectly valid reason as to why they should. They will not blindly and dumbly obey an order. They will do it because they love you and want to please you.

I knew a German Shepherd handler once who said, "German Shepherds are fine. The only thing you have to do - first you get their attention by hitting them over the head with a two by four." That's the basis they train every dog by and you don't treat a Samoyed like that. A Samoyed, if it loves you and wants to please you, will obey a voice command very nicely. There's no need to use anything else with them. I raise my voice in the house and they all think the roof has collapsed. "Mother's mad. Why is she raising her voice?" Somebody chews a shoe and you pick it up and say, "Who chewed this shoe?" The one that did it puts his ears down and runs behind the sofa. You

don't have to be overly rough with a Samoyed, they're very smart and intelligent.

We have one that just taught herself how to drink out of a water fountain. No one taught her, she just taught herself. Decided she was thirsty one day and got up and was drinking around the edge of the fountain. She accidentally put her paw on the button and water came up and she sat down and looked at it, looked at the button, got up again and put her paw on the button and drank from the water cooler. That's a smart dog.

Should Samoyeds be taken everywhere off lead?

I don't think so. I don't think any dog should be anywhere off lead where there's any chance of them getting into anything. They always say it's the unloaded gun that shoots someone - it's always the obedience trained dog that dashes out into the middle of the street and gets hit by a car.

We live way out in the country. Most of my dogs will walk back and forth to the kennel with me without a lead but I live in the middle of ten acres. I've found that female Samoyeds will never run away from me at all, ever. Males will, females generally won't.

Can all Samoyed pedigrees be trusted as to accuracy?

I hope so. (Chuckle). I think that I'd just better leave it at that - I hope so.

Does making the Top Ten really mean anything?

It means a lot, of course, to the person who owns the dog. It means that if you've got a professional handler on the other end of the lead you've got an awful lot of money to spend, and you don't mind spending it on your dogs. There are an awful lot of good dogs around the country that are not in the Top Ten. They have never been campaigned or shown as specials. That does not mean they aren't as good as the dogs that are up there.

If I had said that a few years ago when I didn't have a dog in the Top Ten, people would have said that was sour grapes. But I've got one up there now and I know there are dogs out there who are as good as he is. They've finished their championship and are probably sitting home in someone's backyard. Fortunately, I don't have to pay a handler, I am one, so all it costs me is an entry fee. Even then it's a lot of hard work campaigning a dog weekend after weekend. There are some dogs that people would really like to special but they just don't like to show. It doesn't mean they're not good dogs.

A lot of relatively inexperienced people in the breed are very impressed with win records.

Oh yes. People come up to you before a show and say, "Oh, isn't your dog lovely. I want a puppy out of him." Then you go in the ring and lose and suddenly they're not there anymore, they're over by the winner. That's typical. You'll even find certain people in the breed that, whoever the top dog is that year, that's the dog they'll breed to that year.

Many many people will do that. Breed to a win record.

I have found, recently, that while people were interested in Chuck the first year I had him out, when he was in the Top Ten, I didn't get that many actual stud service requests until people saw what he produced. Maybe Samoyed people are more cautious than people in other breeds. Perhaps the dog fancy is learning that maybe a top winning dog is not necessarily a top producer. It's terrific if you have both in the same dog.

Which is more important?

Producing. But if you produce and you don't win you don't have anything either.



How many people do you know in Samoyeds that really understand the dog? The Samoyed.

I don't think I've learned everything about Samoyeds, really, and I've been in it since 1963. I still have a long way to go and a lot to learn. How many people would I trust to pick out a dog for me if I wasn't there? One in California, one in Colorado, one in Texas - maybe three people. There's someone else in the Mid-West I would probably trust, that I know I would get a sound moving dog out of. But there are a lot of people in the country I haven't met too.

What can we do to improve the general education level of the Samoyed owner?

Try to remind them that they don't have a fluffy, pretty Pomeranian on the other end of the lead. They have a working dog. I think our dogs are so beautiful and pretty that many of us just get wrapped up in their appearance.

How do you feel about roadwork for conditioning?

Some dogs I have. Do I roadwork them, per se? I haven't found that I've HAD to work them. I went through a period where we did that and we sat on the tailgate and ran the dogs behind us with the station wagon. I think that if you give your dogs enough freedom and exercise, in a large enough exercise area, where they can get freedom of movement themselves... which I realize everybody doesn't have. If you don't have that kind of set-up where the dogs can run free all day long then you should probably roadwork and condition them. I am fortunate enough that I don't have to do that. They're out there all day and they all seem to be in very good shape. Their muscle tone is hard and they're out there winning so they must be in good condition. I'm not roadworking anymore so it's got to be that they're conditioning themselves or I'm breeding better Samoyeds. One or the other.

Have you noticed a systematic tendency for some lines to be hard-muscled naturally and other lines to be relatively soft-muscled without roadwork?

Yes. I can think of two particular lines in my own kennel. I don't know if that's a line I used to have that I would have to roadwork but they get very soft very easy and tend to go downhill if you don't work them. Another line was never roadworked. It fact, the one bitch is forever in the house, she never wants to go outside, and her muscle tone is just beautiful.

Is that something to breed for?

I would think so. I probably didn't take that into consideration at the time. I bred her because

she moved well and was sound and had type and other things I wanted.

Do you suppose that natural muscle tone had an influence on her moving well?

Oh, absolutely. As a matter of fact, the bitch in question was Tia. Another breeder pointed out to me one time that that was one of the reasons I thought she was going to be dysplastic as a puppy. She had so much muscle in the rear end that when she walked it gave her an odd look. She said I wasn't used to a dog that was muscled that well. She was right, I wasn't. I'd had a line before that was soft.

What do you think about the Standard?

I think it's probably one of the better Standards. There's probably a lot of room for improvement if you wanted to tear it apart.

What would you like to see different?

Since there is so much controversy over heads I think I would like to see the Head Standard defined a little more. I know they say they want to see it wedge-shaped but that leaves a lot of room for interpretation. How big a wedge? You cut a pie. Are you going to cut it into 12 wedges or 3 wedges? I think it could be a little bit clearer. It would help some people who are starting out and are confused and don't know which way to go. At this point, I feel that if a person has a particular preference to a particular head - go with what you like. You've got to live with it. You're the one who's going to live with those heads every day.

Do you feel the Standard should be more explicit as to what the ideal gait is?

I think the Samoyed Standard on gait is one of the best.

Just ignored.

Yes. But not by everybody. It's the third thing they look at after coat and head.

What advice would you give to a potential Samoyed owner who is just starting out? How should they go about purchasing their first good puppy?

First of all, buy from a breeder. We assume, at this point, that that's what they're going to do.

Someone who seriously decides to show should to the shows and sit down and learn as much as they can from as many different people as they can. If Mrs. Smith hates Mrs. Jones - go away from both of them. Somewhere in the middle you can probably find the right thing. Then go to two other people that think differently than them. Try to get a good overall picture. Decide which way you want to go. What is more important to you as a person? I know I'm hung up on gait, movement and soundness, but that doesn't mean everyone else can live with that. Other people might not be able to live with a dog that has a lip break in his mouth, no matter how good the dog is. I've known people like that. Then just decide which breeder you trust the most because you've got to trust your breeder. That's going to be the one you should go to for advice, and if you can't rely on your breeder you're in a lot of trouble.

Should they go to the kennel with the big winners?

Go to everybody's kennel, not just the big winners. You go to the shows and look at the dogs there. They're not necessarily the dogs that win. I still believe that even some novices are going to have a good "eye" for a dog. See as many different people as you can and as many different kennels as you can. Look at dogs from as many different lines as you can. This isn't something you're going to do in one or two weeks. If you expose yourself to enough Samoyeds for a long enough time they will, eventually, stop all looking like the same white dog to you. All Weimer-

ners look alike to me.

It kind of reminds me of the story I read recently about Hiakawa, the Freshman Senator from California. He failed to recognize the Speaker of the House and someone called him on it and he said, "All those white people look the same to me." (Laughter).

When I first started out I knew my dog was the best in the ring because I owned him and he could obviously win. They all looked the same to me. People asked me, "What was so and so like? He was around when you were first starting." I said, "He was a big white dog, like all the other big white dogs in the ring." They all looked alike. Mine was the best and why didn't he win?

I think all of us who have had show dogs have had that pet owner come up to us on the street and say, "My Poopsie at home looks exactly like yours who is a big show winner." And to them it does.

I've changed course two or three times in this breed. I thought I was starting on the right course and found that I wasn't. No matter where you start you've got to be prepared, after a few years, to sit back and take stock. "Is this where I want to go?" If it isn't stop right there and go get something else. Go get what you want once you know what it is. You've got to have the guts to admit, "I've made a mistake. This isn't what I want." Too many people won't do that. They say they'll breed this bitch to this dog and get what they want. If you're not starting with what you want... You have to start someplace.

How important is handling to winning?

It's very important. As I said before, you have a very short period of time, I think the AKC allots a judge 2 minutes per dog. So at tops you've got two minutes to tell that judge all the great things about your dog. If your dog is standing on his head those two minutes and the judge doesn't see him absolutely perfect, you're not going to win. I don't care if he is the best dog in the ring. I'm not saying you have to have a "professional" handler. Some people need professional handlers and some don't.

I am a professional handler but I consider myself a breeder still. I came by handling because I wanted to keep going to shows and I couldn't afford it. There had to be some way to help pay for this expensive hobby that we were engaged in.

How many years have you handled?

I got my AKC license in 1970.

How many dogs do you handle typically at a show?

As few as possible. (Laughter). People look at me agast when I say that. I don't like handling a lot of dogs at a show. I just don't feel I can get up with that many dogs. I like to have an individual relationship with the dogs. I don't like to be pushed and harried and run from ring to ring and grab a dog. I hate it! Every Specialty I always say I'm only going to take a couple of dogs and I always end up with ten or twelve and that's it. I usually don't do it again for another year. I just don't like running around from dog to dog like that.

So how many would you handle at a typical show?

Maybe a class dog and a class bitch. One Siberian, one Malamute, four or five - tops.

What do you usually charge?

\$35 a show.

Does that include grooming?

Yes, if they get it to me ahead of time. It's still the same price if they groom it themselves and bring it to me at the show. If they want me to groom it... I'd rather do it myself anyway because I think I do a better job.

SAMOYED PEOPLE... CONTINUED ON PAGE 111

UTAH
CHUCKATAW (ps). Susan Skrobiszewski, 2455
S 550 W, Perry.

VERMONT
DIAMOND BROOK (b). Ernest J Palumbo,
RFD 1, Rt 30, Brandon, 802-273-2941.

VIRGINIA
PUDDIN' HILL (s). F E Dubisher, Rt 2, Box
199, Madison Heights. 804-933-8372.
TIMBERLINE (p). Keith & Stephanie Kroell,
Rt 1, Box 364, Leesburg. 703-777-5185.

WASHINGTON
CO-LEE (pds). Coralie Ingram, Rt 3, Box 66A,
Snohomish. 206-568-5123.
SUN STREAK (pds). Robert & Shirley Cornell,
Rt 14, Box 511 B, Olympia. 206-866-4410.

WASHINGTON D.C.
SNOW STORM (pds). Mrs. Judith M Williams,
1735A Elveth St NW. 202-667-8268.

WISCONSIN
BERL (pds). Don & Judy Berlinger, RR 1,
Box 144, Neosho. 414-474-4080.

CELTER (pds). Celine Kohlman, 3905 Oak Park
Rd, Deerfield. 808-764-8001.

FROSTAM (ps). Francis J & Ruth E Tausend,
12042 Diane Dr, Wauwatosa. 414-453-3303.

KAMODAN (s). Eugene Ney, Rt 1, Sheboygan
Falls. 414-467-6371.

K-WAY (ps). Bob & Wanda Krauss, Rt 1, Box 329
Kent Rd, Paynette. 608-635-4707.

POLAR BEAR (s). Mr & Mrs Howard H Haferman,
Rt 1, Box 208C, Junau. 414-386-2792.

ROYAL AMERICAN (pds). Robert J Ropicky,
7320 Cliffside Dr, Racine.

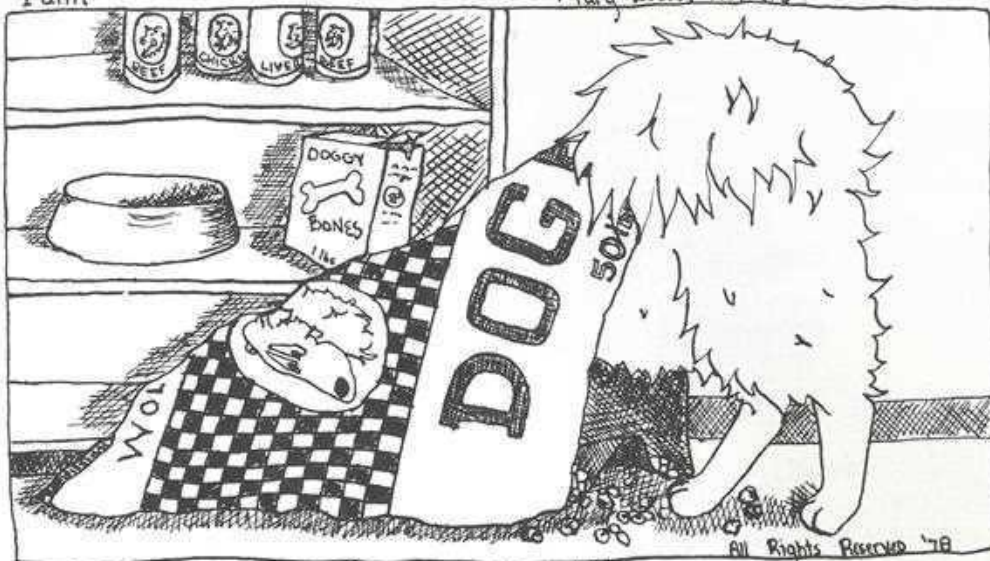
WILDELAIR (psb). Beverly J Will, 12152 W
Woodcrest Cir, Franklin. 414-426-3131.

WOLF RIVER (ps). Kay Bailey, PO Box 185,
Waldo. 414-528-7062.

WYOMING
WIND RIVER (ps). Lucinda A Johnson, 263
Capitol, Lander. 307-332-5530.

Tami

Mary Louise Walters



WHERE'S THE PRIZE!!!

SAMOYED PEOPLE... CONTINUED FROM PAGE 94

How long ago did you get your boarding kennel?

1974. We leased a kennel that was already in existence. We moved out of there in March of 1975 and built our own kennel.

How many runs do you have?

In the boarding kennel we have 20 runs. Some of my Sams are in the boarding kennel. We have a large exercise area off the back of the house and three large exercise areas off the side too.

Is that all you do for a living now?

That's all I do. John is still working.

What does John do?

He works at Sikorsky Aircraft. He's been there for 22½ years. He's a hydrolic check-out man on helicopters.

Looking back over your years in breeding, handling and boarding. Is there any money in any of it?

Taking only a couple of dogs to a show - there's no money in handling that way. You get your expenses paid to the show but you don't make any money at it.

There's money running a boarding kennel. If you're starting a brand new kennel it's going to take a few years to build up your clientele but there's money in that. Boarding and grooming is probably the only aspect of all this where there is money.

Your puppies and stud fees usually just end up paying for your show expenses, maybe, if you're lucky. Perhaps feeding your dogs.

So it's not a way to get rich quick?

Not hardly. It's a way to get poor very fast.

Tell us more about yourself.

Before I was in dogs I was an executive secretary. Two years of business college. Mainly in the financial field. Before that I was a legal secretary. I studied dancing for about 12 years as I thought I was going to be a ballet dancer. Unfortunately, when you come to the point that you can't see your hand in front of your face... you have difficulty seeing your way around a stage. (Laughter). So I gave that idea up when I was about 16.

Where were you raised?

Born and raised in Connecticut. My grandfather's family founded Stamford Connecticut.

How old are you now?

I'm going to be 42 in April.

Is there anything else you'd like to talk about?

I'm very flattered that The SQ wanted to do the interview in the first place. It's done wonders for my ego. (Laughter).

I certainly don't think I'm the living, breathing end of Samoyeds out here on the East Coast. I'm trying hard and I'm going to keep on trying hard. In another 20 years I might get it down pat, maybe, if I'm lucky.

SQ



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