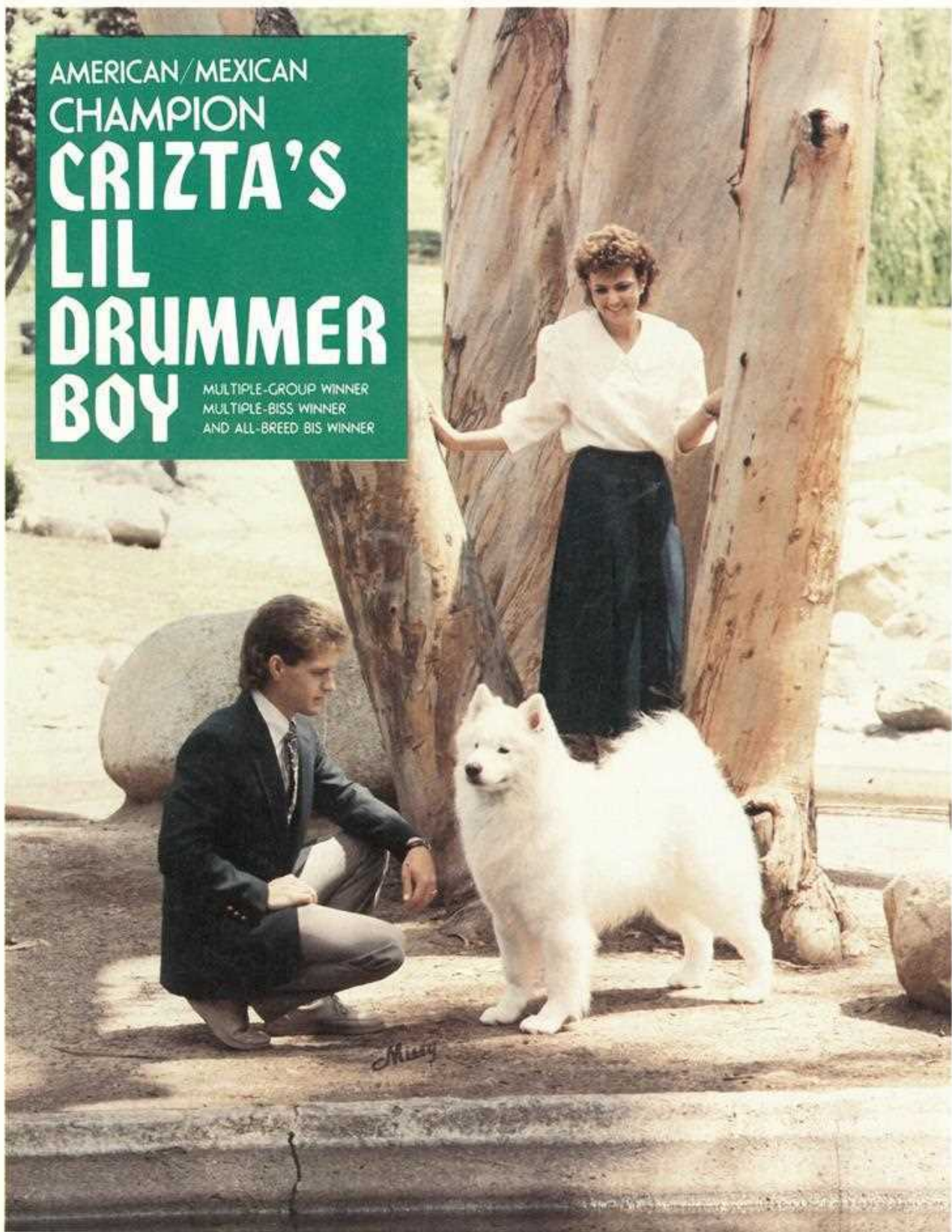


THE SAMOYED QUARTERLY

Spring 1989 • \$9

AMERICAN/MEXICAN
CHAMPION
**CRIZTA'S
LIL
DRUMMER
BOY**

MULTIPLE-GROUP WINNER
MULTIPLE-BISS WINNER
AND ALL-BREED BIS WINNER



Samoyed people

The Samoyed Quarterly
Talks With

Janet and Wayne Heffington
GREY-GHOST SAMOYEDS
Saline, Michigan

Part II

This interview was conducted at the home of Janet and Wayne Heffington by Brenda E. Abbott on May 21, 1988.

You have a "top ten" list of judges that you won't show under?

Janet: Actually, I have a top three. The others I will give another chance, but it depends on what dog I have. There are three that I don't care if I have the perfect dog, I'm not going to waste my money on them. Other than that I will give almost anybody another chance because we have shown such a variety of dogs. Other people say that they have seen a dog and they know that it is a Grey-Ghost. I think, how could they possi-

bly, because we have about three different types that we have shown over the years, especially between our big ones that he likes and the more standard size that I like. Just because a judge was really turned off by his big one doesn't mean that I won't take one of my smaller ones under him. By the same token, I take my little ones in and I can see that the biggest one won right on down, you better believe I'm going to come home and get one of his dogs and take it back under that judge again. I will give anybody several chances and some of them have surprised us. You can't be too judgemental.

The thing with Canadian shows more than anything is that for anybody who thinks that they have about had it, about ready to give up showing, they ought to go to Canada and see a different way of showing dogs. I think it helps you to think more in perspective. Things aren't going to change here, but it is going to help you take it a little bit better and put in perspective what is really important. To me the bottom line is, "Do you still have the dog that you want to take home and feed tonight, and love and take care of through

old age? All the medicine and things that go with old age until that dog can be with you no more?" It is not so much to try to get the dog that you go in every week with, it is not the kind of dog that you want to live with.

The Canadians have the right attitude. Maybe the judge doesn't like my dog, but I still think it is the best. If that judge can't find this dog, I don't care. I'm going to take it home, love it, breed it, and I'll bring it back under somebody else later. We don't take that loss, that day, as the end of the world. I think it does help people put things in perspective because there is more one-on-one with the dogs over there. The Canadians love their dogs, they really do. I think there are too many people who go to dog shows for what the dog can do for their reputation instead of saying, "Okay, let's go to a dog show because I think you are a great dog and I want to show you off to the world!" It is just a matter of putting pride back into it and doing it for the right reasons.

Why did you decide that you wanted to judge?

Janet: I judged my first match in 1973



Janet and "Grey."



Wayne and "Kassa."

and fell in love! I loved it! There is a euphoria that I feel when I go into a ring. I can be so uptight ... in fact, he gets so mad at me, like the night before. I feel if I can't memorize a standard for the breed I'm not a good judge. I'm not a book type, but I love to go over the dogs and my feeling is that I was never always able to breed the dogs that I really wanted to breed, but when I'm judging there are all of these dogs. I can say, "If I could have bred it, that's what I was trying to get to! That's close to what I would like," etc. To me, when I am judging I try to take the attitude that the ark leaves at seven and Noah wants me to bring a couple Sams. I am a little more lucky than Noah was, he only got to take a male and a female of each species. The judge gets to take two choices, Winners Dog and Winners Bitch and you get the Best of Breed and Best of Opposite. They might be the same, but the judge still gets to pick out two good pairs, if she wants. There is just something that happens, when I go into a ring to judge, I love the dogs.

Wayne: I have never judged and mostly because I couldn't go through all of the work you have to go through with the initial application. I gave up on that. I saw what she had to do just to get her judging license. The paperwork alone would boggle you down. I just don't care for it. As I said earlier, I would just as soon go along with her and watch, and go to the best places to eat while we are on the road and walk around the day of the show. As I said, they don't know who I am.

You travel with her on all of her assignments?

Wayne: Yes.

Janet: There will be times when he won't be able to.

Wayne: It is surprising.

Janet: Oh, he has stories to tell me on the way home, it is fun!

Wayne: You stand there and you listen to people who are ringside and they are really not that bad, all kidding aside. Of course, there is always someone, some dog that she didn't put up, that's got a little sour grapes, but for the most part they are great. Most people at ringside and most people we have seen across the United States judging so far are just great to us.

Janet: In fact, there's a special incident we call to mind. I love working, especially with novices, when I am judging and hope that I made a difference whether they ever want to come back to a show or not. One club I judged for sent me the loveliest letter complimenting ME on the remarks they had gotten on how I had handled their exhibitors.

How many breeds do you have approval to judge?

Janet: I have Sams and Malamutes. I



Am/Can Ch. Jac-Lin's Tibrana of Grey-Ghost.



Am/Can Ch. Grey-Ghost's Chuki Chickasaw.



Detroit KC, 1982. Left to right: Mandi, Krissy, Nikki, Teesha, Kassa, Gunner, Nitchi, Chuki, Missy, Pixie and on down-stay in front, Grey.

just did a Sammy specialty and I am going out to California in two weeks to do both breeds out there. I am doing several matches this summer and then this fall I am going back out to Denver. I'll be doing Mals the day after their specialty out there. The end of November I'll be back here doing a Mal specialty in the Detroit area, I'm looking forward to that.

How did Mals get to be your second choice?

Janet: I've always loved the breed, probably just as much as Sammies. There was just something more appealing about the Sams and that was why I began with them first. There is something awesome about both breeds. I don't know if I would have lived with Mals as extensively but the Sammy is definitely the kind of personality that I wanted to live with. Yet, the Mals have always intrigued me. I have always watched Mals, every show I went to that I possibly could.

Wayne: We also got Punk in with the Mal club on weight pulling. We put him in weight pulling trials; we actually had him trained for weight pulling. We did go to several of their meetings that they had and he pulled very well for us. We got to know a lot of people in the Mal clubs around the state. Naturally, it was the next thing for her to go for.

Janet: It was just kind of natural.

Wayne: There have been several matches, she really loves the matches.

Janet: In fact, I think I still hold the

record entry for the Mal specialty match. The highest that I drew was 63, that was back in 1975, quite a while ago. It is just a really lovely breed. They are not unlike the Sammies in temperament, much more like a Sammy than the Huskies are. You talk to Mal people and they will tell you the same silly stories about their Mals that you've heard us talk about with our Sams. They are personable dogs, they really are, but the power just awes me and this is probably where the biggest change in our breeding program came from. During the weight pulling days, early 1970's, I had not realized how soft the Sammy breed, as I knew it, had become.

Physically or mentally?

Janet: A little bit of both. Sammies had become marshmallows. They were sweet pets, but they weren't a working dog at all. They were just gobs of hair, short legs, this attitude "Just let me lay here and feed me!" type. In my novice mind, I thought Sammies and Mals were supposed to be pulling dogs, working dogs, all of this stuff. Why shouldn't they be a little bit more similar than the Sammy would be to a Spitz-type?

There were a lot of Sammy breeders at the time that were also into Keeshonden, they found them very similar. I really started studying the standard again and I started going through the history of the breed with more intensity than I ever had before. With the weight pulling ... we put Punk in just because he was big. We figured he was as big as a Mal and he should be able to pull just

for strength and size. We watched these Mals pull and the best puller was this little tiny, 60-pound bitch. She was small for her breed, but she was the record weight puller; her name was Angel. She was a working fiend - the attitude, the muscle structure, the chest, everything. That day I really went over those Mals a lot. Feeling them, checking for structure and I played around trying to decipher a little bit about their attitudes.

When we started breeding litters after that I was looking more for that type of a dog that could be trained for working. Whether or not they ever did or not, at least they had to be built so that they had the functional parts. Better length of leg, rear-ends ... we were fortunate that we had good movement right from the beginning, right with our first litter. We became real bugs about movement. Most people had a lot of straight stifles, but they were cute. They were real cute dogs with lots of hair, cute little pudgy faces, the whole bit. Bear-head, fox-face, all that stuff then. Back in the 1970's that was a big thing. You just didn't have the proper wedge head; you had fox-faces, you had bear-heads and the complementary body builds that go with them, the short necks. We had always been fortunate, we had the nice long neck type. The dogs were basically what we needed, but we really started sorting the litters even more. That is when we really started critiquing litters better. I can't say that we were picking any better puppies, I think we were still basically picking from the same things. We were looking at it differently, and I think

that has been the biggest influence when I judge.

There are two words in the first couple lines of our standard that I really feel that not only the judges, but a lot of breeders are overlooking. That is elegance and agility. A Sammy is not a sledge dog, it is a multi-purpose working dog. It should be able to turn on a dime to herd. Why would these people use dogs to pull sledges if they had the caribou? They needed the dog for herding the caribou so that they could pull the sledges. The dogs were used as multi-purpose. They would pull smaller sledges but they weren't the power animal that the native people needed. I thought, why couldn't the dog be more functional? They were used for hunting, for herding, for sledding and everything.

The dog has to be very functional, pivotal in the rear end and with those straight stifles they weren't going to be able to turn. The front didn't seem as important to me as that rear-end did. We got to be known as real bugs on movement. No weaknesses! I had the most darling puppy that the world has ever seen (so who hasn't)! In 1977, we had done so well with the litter with Kopi that we took Sissy's mother, Nitchie, our first Sam, and bred her to Kopi. It was a very tragic litter. My one survivor out of it, we called him Blackjack, or BJ, and I loved that puppy with a passion. He was everything I had ever wanted. The face was perfect, he was just ... everything was perfect about that dog except his legs. I tried to show him, I idolized him, that's all there was to it. We took him on a circuit to Florida and I had him in Bred-by class and I was so proud of him, but he just wasn't getting looked at. Wayne got a couple of our friends that were on the circuit and they made me sit there and watch him, coming and going. Everything was wrong and I had to admit that we had worked too hard to accept his faults. He had everything but the legs.

Wayne: The rear wasn't too bad and neither was the movement considering the faults he had. The front was ... he just didn't have anything. I couldn't see any way that his chest was ever going to develop enough.

Janet: I saw him again when he was eleven years old. He finally, in old age, looked fairly decent. He is still a little bit hocky and the chest dropped, but it never broadened like it should have. Wayne was right, and we made the right decision. Standing, he was the most beautiful thing you ever wanted to see. He looked like what the standard was written for, but once he moved those legs, that was the end of it. We just worked too hard and we had quite a reputation for being real bugs. We went off another direction and ended up keeping Punkette.

What other direction did you go?

Janet: Well, we took Punkette and bred her back to Old Grey again and we were just kind of fooling around with some other stuff. In 1980 we had a super nice litter. There are several people now showing, like the Gardens and Lazettes, who got their start under us, and they are still at it and doing some nice winning, they really are. They finished the dogs. We had six people wanting girls and two wanted boys and I knew that was never going to happen. I told the last two who wanted girls I just didn't want to take any more reservations. They said to take them just in case there was one extra one.

When she had the puppies a couple of months later at four o'clock in the morning, we thought we were all done. I was real happy, we had four girls and two boys. I thought, at least the two boys are there and

were 13 Grey-Ghosts entered out of 39 Sams. We were all on the bench together. We had finished Gunner that day. He was our third dog to finish at that show, which is very prestigious in this area. He finished, but Wayne had a male from that Kopi litter, the smallest one who was seven years old. Wayne took him in for his owners and he took Best of Breed and there were about ten specials. His name was Kassa and he had been sold strictly as a pet.

Wayne: We sold him strictly as a pet and since then we don't sell any more dogs as pets unless they are pets. All of the dogs that are sold that had the potential to be shown have been shown. He was supposedly the "runt"; this dog did everything.

Janet: He was small - not under standard but he was as small as you would expect a male to be.



Am/Can Ch. Grey-Ghost's Sissy of Shiloh.

the four people I was comfortable with were going to get just what they wanted. Nothing else happened for a couple of hours and she seemed so content so I came up to bed. I went back down at 7:00 and she had had two more girls! I couldn't believe it. The next year, six out of the litter of eight were being shown. They had a ball. At the big show at Cobo Hall in Detroit, the next year, there

Wayne: He was Group placer and a Group winner. He took Group I at Valdosta, Georgia. This dog did everything. I went in because his owner couldn't be there. I said, "You bring him down and I'll show him!" Under rare times I will show. I took him in, showed him and took Best of Breed with him. All the "puppy people" had gone to the photographer and said they wanted a special

"family" picture, we had no idea that they were pulling all of this off. The photographer said he didn't do things like this. When they told him it was the Grey-Ghost dogs, he said, "I'll do it!" It was Marty Booth, and, of course, Marty has since passed away, but we got them all in there. He only took two shots.

Janet: We lined them all up and we didn't realize what we'd done. Originally Kassa was down at the end next to another bitch that was in full season. At the last second we pulled him out and brought him up to the middle next to Gunner. Mind you, we have about three stud dogs in a row there. Kassa is the one that looks to be laughing, and rightly so that day! Our Best of Breed and Best of Winners are the two dogs sitting dead-middle. We never planned it that way. We all went into the ring and we knew that we would never get that many legs all looking right so we just sat them all down. We had started out of the ring after the wins and official win photos and everything and a couple of the people said, "Wait a minute, Janet, we have something else going on. Wayne, you come back too." We had no idea what was going on. Marty was still there and I asked what was going on. He said that we were going to take a family portrait! I couldn't believe it, you think they were all going to sit still at the same time? Forget it! I lined them up. I took Grey out front, he was in Exhibition-only on that day, and put him on down and stay. They are not obedience-trained but they are manner-trained! I told him to stay put and I went around behind so I could handle Gunner, and those are the families of all of those dogs. All the tongues are out, they are all smiling, all the ears are up, that's been our favorite. Marty said that he had never seen anything like it. That picture has

been around a bit, we have been rather proud of it.

What year was that?

Janet: That was 1982. That was our last big "log."

Wayne: That was the most that there had ever been from one kennel at Cobo Hall; nobody has topped it since then, in our breed.

Janet: We go up and down the aisle every year to see if anyone has more than thirteen Sams on the bench. That was a really great time.

Wayne: Janet made a sequined banner which is a confederate flag behind a Sam.

Janet: There are 16,000 sequins in that banner. All of the blue and white, other than the dog's head, is sequins and they are all stitched on singly. It took me awhile!

Wayne: By the way, we also have a flag that we fly on our trailer that has the confederate flag with the Sammy head on it.

Janet: For awhile it had a Pom on the backside. (laughter)

You said Wayne was the groomer?

Janet: Yes. He actually perfected a dry cleaning program for us. We got tired of bathing every single week after about five years of that.

What grooming tips do you have for us Wayne?

Wayne: You think I'm going to give my grooming tips?

Oh, come on, you can give us some general grooming tips, can't you?

Wayne: Well, you have a brush and you have a comb. (laughter)

Janet: A lot of people have picked up on his dry grooming technique.

Wayne: In generality, what it is is that

you have to figure out some formulas. What I use is waterless shampoo (about half a pint) plus about 1/2 cup Miracle White mixed into it. You mix that all up and spray the dog down and you towel dry it. Then you take cornstarch and start working it into the coat and let it dry. Then I take a sticker brush and I go through the coat. As you are pulling the corn starch out with the sticker brush you are cleaning the coat. After you go over the complete dog with that, generally they are still damp but you can take a hair dryer and, of course, it blows out the excess. I would then recommend vacuuming the rest of it out so there isn't any residue when the judge runs his hand down, he isn't going to get powder all over his hand. I don't like chalk, and corn starch really helps the coat. It really conditions the coat. I tried, years ago, to use the chalk because that is what most people were using in this area. To me, it tore their coat up.

We just more or less fooled around with different stuff, and tried to figure out what works the best. I have found that this works the best for us. As far as grooming tips, everybody has their own way of doing it. I like either a sticker brush or a pin brush and finishing up with a comb. Chuck King and I have been fighting over this for years. He is a comb man, he likes the comb on the Sam and that's it. He doesn't believe in using a sticker brush. I think a sticker brush has its place in grooming Sams. In some of the coats it may have a tendency to break some of the coat off, but I don't think you can beat it on the backs, I don't think you can beat it on the legs and under their stomach.

Janet: I can use it the same way he uses it and I can't get the same results. I can't groom like he does, he and I groom entirely



All entered specials were "Grey-Ghosts."

different.

Wayne: I quit twice a year. I go out and groom the dogs, she will go out and say that she doesn't like the way that I have done it, she picks up a comb and I quit! I either groom a dog or I don't. I don't do nails, kind of like I don't do windows type of thing. I don't do nails and I don't trim. As far as the feet are concerned, she does the trimming on that. I guess I could but she has always done this. I don't get into her end of it.

Janet: That's about it as far as trimming. We tried trimming whiskers, real early on, 1972, 1973, somewhere in there. Then the hassles started coming up about trimming and we found that we didn't like the bitches trimmed. If they went back into the whelping box you had these prickly things, because it takes so many months for it to grow out and I didn't want them pricking their own puppies for heaven's sake. The puppies - I couldn't see any point to it. The only thing that there would be any point in would be the older males and I just got tired of trying to do it and I didn't like it myself, so we just quit it.

Wayne: Also, if you are going to a Canada show, you can't trim whiskers.

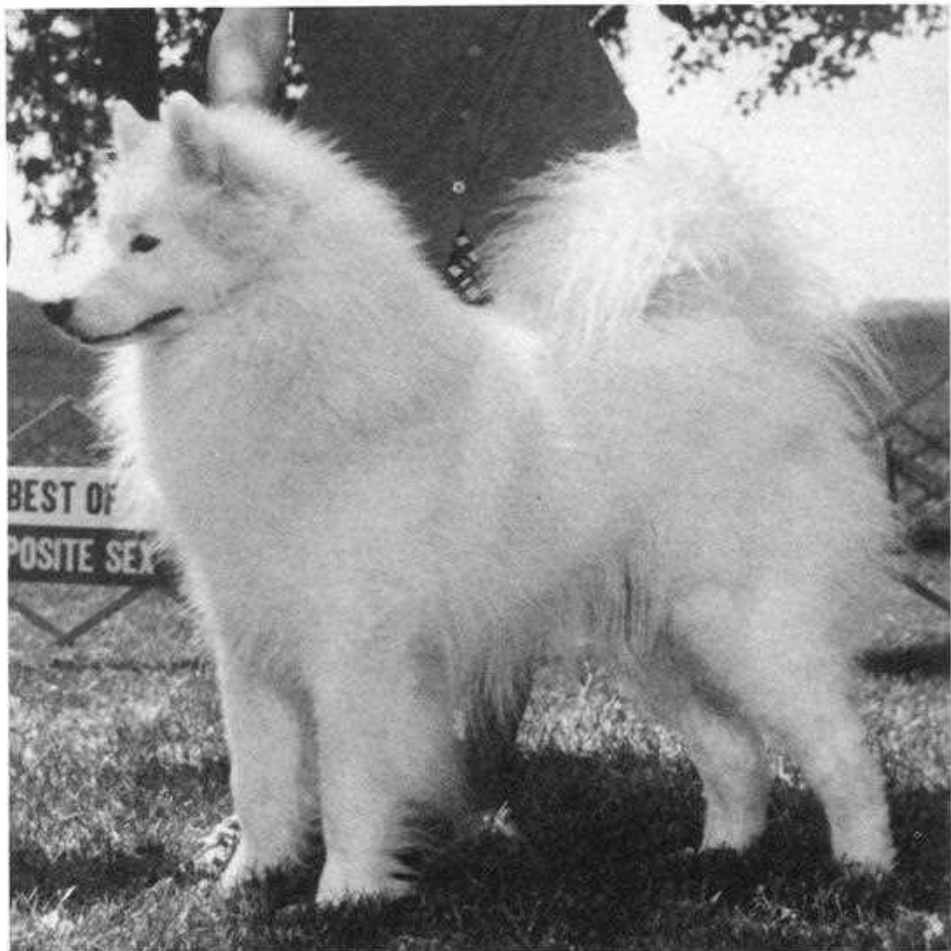
Janet: Right. We never did get into all of the trimming techniques, at least in Sammies. In the Poms and other things we did, but in our Sams we never did. In Canada they show them so totally natural, they didn't even trim hocks over there.

Do they now?

Janet: Somewhat. Mostly because you have so many more Americans over there and more of the Canadians show here. When they go back to Canada they have the trimmed dog and they are more acceptable. For years, when we showed our dogs, we would take them to the shows here and they looked like amazon monsters with all of this hair and the fat hocks. We would trim the bottom of the feet and around the toes and that was it. We still don't trim that much, we may neat up the hocks a little. If I have a narrow front on a dog, I am not going to try to make it look nine miles wide because when the judge feels it he will find it, if he doesn't then he isn't a good judge. If he is a good judge he will find the good things about my dog, I hope. We just haven't gotten into making a dog over for the trimming. I hate to see a trimmed up Sam, I really do.

Did your son go on all of those trips with you?

Janet: Yes, Jon, in fact, was only about three or four when we started. I really think he grew up faster because of the dog shows. He got cheated by five cents one time. He had twenty-five cents to spend at the concession stand and that was when you could get a coke for ten or fifteen cents. He got



Ch. Grey-Ghost's Showboy of Shiloh.

cheated by a nickel and he was so mad because it was HIS money. So that kid, at four years old, learned how to make perfect change, it was just second nature to him. He learned how to meet strangers because sometimes he would need someone to point out the restrooms or something. He knew how to conduct himself around these crowds.

It's not like these kids were running loose around the dog shows, like they are now, because there weren't that many kids at dog shows. Dog shows were more of a reserved adult sport at that time, and they had to act like adults in order to get any respect. I really think that molded him a lot. His birthday always seemed to fall the weekend of three big shows down in Columbus, Ohio. They were very important shows and one of the few that you could count on for majors. We always made a big to-do about his birthdays, so a couple of times his birthday fell right on the eve. We would go down, we would have his birthday presents and his cake in the trunk and we would sneak them up into the hotel room. He always thought that we felt the dog show was more impor-

tant, only to find that when he went to play the pinball machines we would bring everything up. We had a lot of neat birthday parties on the road.

He tried junior showmanship for a short time. The National Specialty was held in Pontiac, in 1977. There wasn't anybody competing in juniors in the specialty, except him, and he didn't want to be the only one, so he entered the other shows, all-breed shows, the next two days. He did take first and he was competing against all the kids in all of the other breeds too. That was pretty neat, the week of the specialty, a kid with a Sammy was winning.

Wayne: He never seemed to take the junior showmanship seriously, but he did see a lot of the country with us. When she was talking about the driving in the car, I remember we went to Georgia and Florida in '72. There were only three shows down there which included Valdosta, Albany and Tallahassee. We took Grey Ghost down there and we had to ride all the way down there with Grey Ghost and him in the back seat. Two kids fighting over who had the



The all-champion Grey-Ghost team at the 1980 Jaycee's Annual "Happiness Fair."

window seat!

How do you respond to people asking for a Sam?

Janet: The first thing I will ask them is if they have ever had a Sammy before. The second is, how do you feel about having another two-year-old child? (laughter) That is exactly what a Sammy is. I will tell them flat out that it is going to be like bringing a two-year-old child in. They are so inquisitive, they challenge your authority, they will fight over toys. They do all sorts of things that kids in the two's will do. There is no telling them "NO." They are marvelous in that respect, they really are. Jon and Grey were quite a team. They would fight like brothers and sisters but yet it was nothing to find them curled up together. That is really what we got the Sams for, they really seem to be a marvelous child's dog. Grey would wrestle with Jon so hard and just look like he was eating the kid up, and sounded like it too, he was putting on such a show. So many times Wayne would go running out there thinking that the dog was going to kill that kid. We pulled Jon's arm out of Grey's mouth - it was soaking wet but not one red mark on it. They played a lot.

How did you evaluate your litters?

Janet: I don't compare them to the other littermates, I am looking for certain characteristics at that time. The shape of the head, which isn't always reliable because of birth position. There is a certain breadth of a skull, length of the muzzle, ear set. Also length of the tail, length of the back, the legs themselves tell me a whole lot. How well they can bring their legs under them right away says a lot. When I pick them up, how do the legs

form around my hand? Wayne just wants to see them.

After that one deal where momma popped a couple of extra puppies on me, I have religiously spent the first three nights down there. I have a couch right next to the whelping bed and I don't leave it, from about the night before I think she is going to whelp until at least two nights afterward. Wayne is considering getting an electric blanket, but that's okay. (laughter) I come back eventually.

There is a lot I am looking for in those puppies. Also, their determination to get to the mother. Things like that. A lot of that tells me what kind of attitudes they are going to have and I am watching them as they grow up. Size means nothing to me at that age. We had Dink, the biggest dog we ever had; he was born at six ounces and dropped to four ounces. That is actually below survival rate in our breed. The determination was there! He was obviously nothing but bones, he was several days if not a full week younger than the other mates. He had to have been conceived through a later breeding, that is the only explanation for it. This guy was so determined. I had to tube feed him and help massage him. You just can't imagine, it was pitiful, just a little ball of bones all over my hand. He would fight the tube by the third day. At the time that the other ones left at eight weeks he didn't stand out as the biggest one but he was the middle size of the boys in that litter. He had the most beautiful block head. It wasn't a good Sammy wedge head but it was what we fell in love with. He was just awesome to look at, it was a beautiful head. It was balanced with his body and

the dog would just flow when he moved. He showed that at four and five weeks when he really started moving on his legs.

We put carpeting down for the puppies when they are born and I really think that helps to get them on their legs faster too. Watching the puppies those first couple of weeks - digging in with their hind legs, you are watching all of the flexing of the stifles and the hips. This is where I am learning from to start with. Every dog I have kept was good except BJ. He was so beautiful I didn't care.

Wayne: I like to see them running. Maybe when they are about six weeks I will wander down and see how they are doing.

Janet: I like to see them at three weeks, they really start filling out.

Wayne: I don't care to see them until their eyes are open and they start walking around. As far as going through them and thinking that one is better than the other, I couldn't.

Is there an age when you can say "This is what this dog is going to look like as an adult?"

Janet: We are basically pretty good at predicting. When we had the litter of six girls I had families that were adamant. There were two that wanted to show, there were two that were leaning either way, and two that strictly wanted pets, they could not have cared less about showing. All of them ended up showing the next year! They developed a comradeship, all having the puppies.

We hold a tattoo clinic annually for all of our puppies. They are born one year and the next year they all come back and we tattoo their registration numbers on them for the owners. Out of that litter, seven came back. What was really neat was that during the course of the day, at one point or another, each one came up and told us how happy they were with their puppies and that they didn't particularly like the other sisters. You know a lot of that is that you learn to love what you have around. They had become very attached to their puppies, but it made us feel very good. The two that were adamant about showing finished their girls. The one male was finished and the other one didn't get finished. He was the only one that wasn't tattooed and he was stolen, so you know what bugs we are about tattooing.

Our tattooing got so popular that some of our puppy people would call and ask if their friends with Golden Retrievers or whatever could come along and be tattooed, too. We were tattooing everything for awhile, it seemed. The two puppies we have now are not tattooed, one just turned a year old and one will be a year old. A lot of people will tattoo them at eight weeks, and I don't be-

lieve in that. The youngest one we ever did was six months and that was because she was moving to the East, and they really wanted her done. We were horrified. They had just had her spayed a couple of days before. She still had the sutures and it really kind of blew our minds away, but we didn't want to send her away without a tattoo.

Do you use spay/neuter contracts with your pet puppies?

Janet: I feel that it is my responsibility to convince the people how important it is to neuter and spay. We were extremely fortunate in that respect. Back in the late 1970's, we encountered heart defects, it had been building, but we were unable to identify it until about 1978. Of course, I am talking about the tragic litter with only BJ left. Three of his littermates passed away with aneurisms apparently. Several others had then as well, from other similar type breedings that we had done. In one generation they were just heart murmurs and then the next generation they were full-blown aneurisms. We started going back. What I had done for years as part of our contract was state on there that this puppy was to be kept by the owner and if the owner needed to get rid of it to please contact us first. Also, that when it is full grown it will be bred only to other AKC registered Sams or be neutered/spayed.

We offered rebates if they had the pup neutered/spayed. They would send us the certificate and we would send them a rebate to help them pay for that operation. We were getting some, but not many, requests for neutering/spaying rebates. We were doing some follow up, but not as much as we probably could have. When this heart problem developed, we started contacting everybody. I have always kept in contact with people who buy puppies from us. I still talk to people who bought puppies from us fifteen years ago. We started contacting these families to at least tell them to have their dogs checked, once we found out what we were dealing with and how to check for it. We asked if they had done any breeding with it or anything like that, so that we could contact those people. Of all the puppies that we had placed up until that time, which was probably 60 puppies total, 90% of the females had been spayed and about 40% of the males had been neutered. It is just that they were so happy with the results of the neutering/spaying that they didn't feel that they were entitled to be paid to have it done.

Before the puppies go home I send a packet. I have the families come when they are five weeks old and give them lots of information and help them pick out the puppy that we think is going to be best for them. Among all of this information I have several

articles. One is about the advantages of neutering/spaying, even if they are getting a male puppy, they still get an article that I found years ago by a kennel club. It is just superb, it is called, "So You Want To Raise A Litter Of Puppies." It goes into all of the pros and cons, and there are more cons than pros, and that goes with everybody. If it is a male puppy I also have an article that was in Dog World about a dog that went through prostate cancer, and how it was dead in such a short time. I will sit and talk to them for hours. The first question I ask them is how do they feel about neutering/spaying. Most people feel like that is what they were hoping, but they figure since I am a breeder we wouldn't let them do that. There is more relief on the puppy inquirers, because they would really like that. They are coming to us for a pet.

Wayne: We have found with pet homes that you find just as many show dogs. If you start putting things in the contract that says they must show the dog, people have a tendency, later on, to rebel.

Janet: If someone wants to inquire

about showing, I will take them to puppy matches and help them get started. We will have them come out here and learn the training that is important. To me, I would rather put a potential champion quality puppy into a good pet home. That person is going to take it to picnics, parks, little league games, on vacation. More people are going to see that beautiful puppy and when they think that is a neat dog and they want a Sammy, too, they are going to look for something of that caliber, rather than something that comes out of a pet store. Too many pet store mutts are running around and people think that is what our breed is. How are they going to know? The average public does not go to dog shows. So what if they get neutered/spayed and they can't pass it on to future generations? It is not like we have a rare breed, we have enough other people breeding. I want to put out good pups that people are going to be proud of. If they want to try their hand at showing it, fine, and let these other guys go on. That's great. There has to be some of us who want to put them in pet homes, too. You don't just put the odd ones



Ch. Grey-Ghost's P.T. Butcher.



Left to right: BOS, Ch. Ninki; WB, Ch. Grey-Ghost's Kiki-Ti of Medshee; WD,BOW, Ch. Grey-Ghost's Promised Saint.

in pet homes. Put some good ones in pet homes, too, let the general public see what our breed is. It is beautiful, it is a lot better than what people think it is.

Do you have any feelings about the standard?

Janet: We belong to several judging organizations, one of which we have here in our state. Some of our fellow judges have really knocked the standard, saying that it is kind of ambiguous. I don't find it so. I like the general description of it very well. I will tell anybody who will listen that I think the two most overlooked words in our standard are grace and agility. I want to see a Sam that can do anything that it was ever used for doing and yet be an elegant dog.

To me, the Sammy has always been to the dog world what the Arabian has been to the horse world. If you go back and look at the pictures of all of the champions, they are elegant. They have the length of leg, they have the beautiful arched neck. They are not the puff balls that so many people acquaint with our breed. The puff balls don't have the elegance. There are so many people who say, "Oh, our breed has come so far, look how much we have improved it, made it stronger, sturdier, healthier." It is true in their breeds because they are man-made breeds. They are derivatives of several other breeds. The Sammy, as we are told, is purebred from the beginning of time. Why do you want to "improve" on it? Sustain it, keep it to what it

always has been! Don't try to make it a concept of what you think it should be. If you want something that looks like a Keeshond but is all white, that is not our breed. Get a Keeshond and live with the color. I still go back through my old books and look at those pictures whenever I think I have lost something.

Wayne: I drive her and I give her money, and I don't have opinions! (Laughter)

Janet: He keeps me down to earth. Sometimes I will get foolish about a dog, like BJ. We had one not too long ago that was just as cute as a button, as was her daughter. They weren't dogs to be kept and he is the one that keeps me on the straight and narrow, he reminds me, "Janet, you know what you have always wanted in a Sammy, this is not it. You are getting too emotionally attached for the wrong reasons." He is right and at that point we decided that they would be better off spayed and put into pet homes. We have also put champions in pet homes as well. Sometimes these dogs really need to be an "only dog." It is sometimes very sad because we want all of them in the house. We can't do that because we feel that the others deserve their special time as well. Those are the ones that you have to say, "Well, he is a good stud dog, she is a good brood bitch etc., but are they happy?" For us, if we have to answer no, that the dog is not happy, then that's the decision.

We don't want to see that dog kept in a

crate someplace else and we don't want to put him in a pen in our own place. Why would we let it go somewhere else other than to a total pet family where it can be THE dog? A lot of these dogs end up going cross-country skiing or yacht riding or cross-country hiking. Warren Avis Jr., son of the founder of Avis Rental Cars, called for a puppy, but we had no idea who he was. He and his girlfriend came, she was buying the dog for him and he came out dressed in clothes out of the 1890's. The starched black cottons and starched white shirt, that was really strange, it was before kids were into that stuff. They wanted a Sammy and got one. We kept in touch with them a while and then about six months went by where we couldn't get hold of her or him, which was strange because they had been keeping in touch so well. All of a sudden we found out that they got on a 28-foot sloop he put on the St. Lawrence seaway and went all the way down the Atlantic. They were eighteen weeks at sea. Some of our dogs live more exciting lives than we would ever dream of!

Considering your co-breeder's feeling about size, may I assume that you are not in favor of a height disqualification in our standard?

Wayne: No.

Janet: I think it is more an effort of educating judges. Judges' seminars. The Malamute people of southern Ohio are putting together a seminar and have invited a lot

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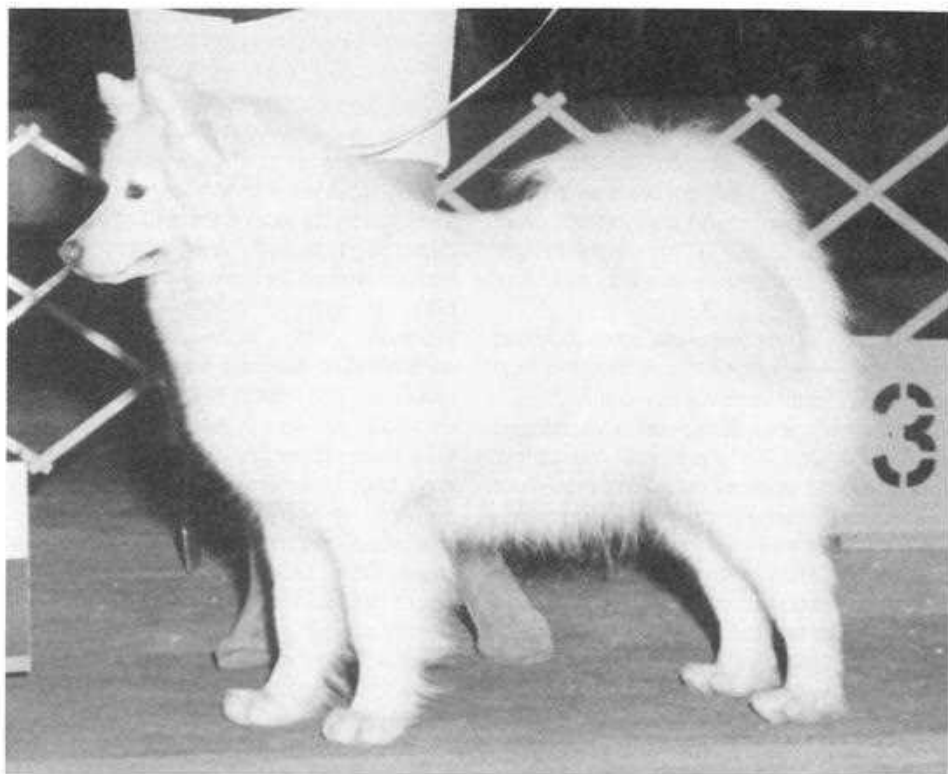
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of us judges for input, as to whether we would attend. I think that is what our breed needs to do. Any breed that really thinks that there are big discrepancies in how it is being judged, needs to be doing more of this. Put on seminars, show judges a better way to judge them, or a better way of looking at them while judging them. They might still go away with the same decisions, but at least give them more reason to look harder at the difference. There is a lot of difference in our breed. I have heard other people say that they have never seen any other breed that had such a wide variety of type that our breed (meaning our Sams) has.

As far as the height, because of all of the dogs that he liked that were big - the first time I judged Sammies at something semi-official was at a sweepstakes. I looked in the ring and everybody had brought all of their big dogs to me. These were puppies, but they were BIG puppies. Wayne thought that I had a marvelous entry! (Laughter) Probably the biggest one went up that day, it was way too big for me but it was so well-balanced, perfectly groomed, could move like a dream, you couldn't deny the dog. I had just wished that it wasn't so big. When I came out of the ring, I thought I would never see anything but big dogs.

I have not always judged that way. If anything, I think I am beginning to be known as a judge that puts up bitches more than anything. I think any breeder really does look at bitches harder, from all of the time that they spend in the whelping box and seeing how much influence that bitch has had on those future champions. Most people I have talked to in our breed who are breeder-judges were really dedicated breeders before they became judges. Not the ones that had a few dogs, or co-owned a few dogs long enough to get judging approval. I might be something different when I judge Pomeranians; it is going to have to be a really outstanding bitch in order to get Breed over a male.

In judging the Sams, I am so in tune with how important that bitch is in our breed, and for the good of our breed for generations that if somebody could bring an outstanding bitch to me, I am going to be drawn to her just because I know there aren't going to be too many bitches brought just because of the show of numbers. There are always more males than bitches being shown in specials. If someone has one that is good enough to bring then I think it is something that she is going to be raising puppies. If she has the right attitude - and I still say that you can judge attitude in dogs. It is not just judging the structure, you can judge attitude in those dogs. When you are talking to them, when



Am/Can Ch. Ghost-O-Princi's Lady Ninki.

you are handling them, how they react to it. The bitches that I have put up have really shown me a lot.

What about size in bitches?

Janet: I can't stand a big bitch! (Laughter) I'm in trouble. We won't mention what puppy, but we have one puppy out there that we should have named Derby Entry. She is a horse, but she is elegant. She does have an elegance there that my cute little one doesn't have. I can't stand short legs.

What size bitch is too big for you?

Janet: I like to see the standard size. When you start getting the 22-23 inch bitches, they can still look bitchy, but if they look doggy, that is bad. I would rather see too much leg and too long a neck, than to see short leg and short neck. The dog has to have the elegance, has to be able to say, "Here I am." They can't do this on a little short neck or short legs.

What sort of feeding program do you use?

Janet: We have probably tried about everything, except for maybe some of the new brands that have come out in the last year or so. We have gone through Science Diet and ANF and lams and the whole bit. We keep going back, all kidding aside, to good old Purina. Purina Puppy Chow with Ken-L Ration Biskit for the puppies, we do mix that combination. For the older dogs I still feed them the basic Chow with the multi-

vitamins and a little Adult Biskit. If they are going through a stress period then the pet-tabs are increased. For pregnant bitches we get into iron supplements, calcium supplements. Our puppies have been born with pigmentation since we have started feeding iron tablets during pregnancy. I like the powdered Esbilac. I use that a lot for a multitude of reasons, mostly on the older dogs.

We found that our biggest problem was that in 1973 or so, we thought that Sissy was becoming diabetic. She was flooding constantly and had a horrible time. She couldn't keep anything down and was drinking a lot of water. We had a complete urine and blood run on her. We found out she had near kidney failure, severe liver damage and so we put her on the K-D diet and that helped us. At that time it was still fifty cents a can and you could get anything else for ten cents a can. We got her to a point where we could get her down to a general canned food and as time went on we got her on Purina Fit & Trim. They had just come out with that and it was 16% protein and low fat. What we have learned over the years is that the higher protein foods everyone used were not necessary. Our dogs, even when they are working hard, or what we think is hard, are not working hard enough to burn up all of that protein. The overload on the liver and kidneys was literally killing them. We were

noticing brittle coats and consuming great amounts of water and everything; it was the kidneys and liver breaking down on us. We were feeding a lot of raw meat at the time. We used to go down to a processing plant in Westland and get the frozen beef and would give them a lot of it. We got back on to basic chow with some ground beef, that type of stuff, and the vitamins. We have gone through the Super B complexes, the E's, all of that and cod liver oil.

Wayne: They found out when they had all of the tests run on Sissy that the high protein we were feeding at the time, which was Wayne's, was 26% protein. According to our vet, and our learnings, you cannot feed this kind of chow, with 26% protein, to these dogs for any length of time. Especially after they get a few years on them.

Janet: They have to be out in the field every day or on the sled every day - something to burn that up. We keep going back. We have tried the other brands, and people tell us what great success they have had with them, that's great, but at the same time that we are in the basic Purina foods people tell us that their dogs get violently sick on it. It is going to be the individual dog. We have found what works for us but we are not about to say that this is what everybody else should be feeding. We have found a good sensible diet, just like the vets keep telling us. Basic food, they get table scraps. Whatever we have left, that is what goes in their dinner the next night. I'm not just going to feed my dogs

plain old dog food. They aren't just dogs to me. We have our cereal in the morning, the milk and cereal we don't eat goes to the dogs. They get the good stuff too.

Some people may say that is the problem with the dogs. Back when we were having troubles with the dogs is when we were just trying to feed them all of the super-duper dog type stuff. We found that they do just as well as anybody else's household pets. Let them have the table scraps and the fun stuff, as long as they have the good, sensible diet, the multi-vitamins. When we raised our first litter in 1971, the Aldreds told us about putting our bitch on calcium and then keeping the puppies on calcium. We have been believers of that all along. At that time the vets were saying that you shouldn't use supplements, that it would only hurt them. Other breeders were having a lot of cases of dysplasia and thank goodness, we never had it. We were getting one OFA after another. We thought that maybe there was more to it than what we thought and we just stuck with it. In the late 1970's the vets finally said they didn't think it could hurt. At least we weren't being condemned like when the puppy people were calling and saying the vet said not to give them any and then finally it was okay.

In the early 1980's all of a sudden there was a Norwegian veterinarian who studied dysplasia and calcium and came to the conclusion that yes, it does help prevent hip dysplasia. Now the dog food companies are

jumping on it. The problem is that people are feeding just straight calcium, and they are coming up with calcium deposits. You have to have the balance and we found that calcium lactate, which you get at the drug store, is the ideal enhancer. You have calcium, vitamin D, phosphorous etc., and we have been very successful with it. We keep the puppies on it, the bitches up to a year of age. His monsters - we keep on it until they are two years of age.

Wayne: Whether it helps or not, it would be hard to prove. In our own mind it helps.

Janet: It has worked for eighteen years, why trade off now?

What kind of conditioning program do you use?

Janet: It depends on what I really want to achieve. If I have a dog out of condition, for muscling you have to give that dog some meat in with his food. I have always preferred canned food for a supplement. If I have extra meat of our own that we are eating, I will give them that. We don't go down and get the raw beef anymore. We bought a freezer one time just so that we could keep all that raw beef in there and now I am glad to say that we keep meat for us in it. (Laughter) I don't put that much of an emphasis on the extra meat in the diet because the feeds seem to be quite well-balanced for the protein that dogs need.

Dry food may not be the most palatable and it is not going to sell to someone who



Am/Can Ch. Grey-Ghost's Sissy of Shiloh, Am/Can Ch. Grey-Ghost's Kassa and Ch. Grey-Ghost's Lord O'Foxmanor.

wants red meat for his dog every night. Dog food commercials are geared to that mentality. If someone has the idea that their dog has to have ground beef every single night, I don't think they are going to accept less. I don't feel it is that necessary on a continual basis. I think you can really give too much red meat to a dog; they have to have it all together, just as if they were human I guess. I like the Esbilac, I use it for conditioning, as far as extra help when I want a good coat or when I think that a dog is a little lean and needs some meat on his bones. We've been pretty fortunate; we have never had coat damage that we have ever had to correct.

We brought a little girl in from Connie Richardson one year in 1978 or 1979. Her name was Perky; she came to us and had been raised in California during that terrible drought. She had never seen a drop of rain and she had a sunburned coat. We couldn't show her at all at first. We actually bred her so that she would go through a total puppy shed. We knew that a normal shedding wouldn't do it, she had to either go through a puppy shed or be shorn down. She was a beautiful bitch and we really had no trouble finishing her except that she didn't like shows. She had more Reserves! I think half of the ribbons out in the kennel are her Reserves. She was a gorgeous Sammy and could move like a dream. We went ahead and bred her because she was a good quality. She did go through a nice shed and came in with a beautiful white coat. That sun had really hurt her coat badly and we did have to condition it. She was starting to shed later and it was so brittle. When she first came in, Connie had her nice and clean, but as the coat started dying out and shedding a couple of months later, it was really rough. The first time she saw rain it was really funny. She was about two and a half years old and she had never seen rain in her life. All of a sudden a big raindrop came down and she tried to run away from the rain. Have you ever seen a dog try to run between raindrops? It was hysterical. She loved baths but she didn't know what to think of that rain.

Do your dogs get along?

Janet: We expect them to. A lot of the time we have found ourselves with four males on hand and it got a little rough. That is why we fenced off half of our back yard. Behind the kennel building is a long yard and then we also have the front backyard, which is more of a square shape. If the girls are in heat that really helps, we can get more dogs out at one time without them having to mingle and cause fights. We were running two males out one way and two out the other way. The two old guys were buddies and they would go one way and the two young



Am/Can Ch. Grey-Ghost's Son-Ova-Gun.

ones were buddies and they would go the other way. One time Punk climbed on the fence and he decided to take Showboy and Grey on all at once. Grey was on his back down there and Showboy was on his back up here. Punk had them both whipped! No problem. The silliest thing is that Punk and Gunner were young at the time and they were really buddies.

One day I walked out there and there on the floor was the funniest looking piece of white fur! Okay, I thought, somebody was starting to shed a coat. I go to pick it up and there is skin under it! They were kenneled side by side but somehow Punk had gotten the tip of Gunners ear. He just took it right off! We were just getting ready to show this dog, he was the youngest in the bunch and I was horrified. He was only a year old and here he had this amputated ear.

We were fortunate because at that time Kathleen Kanzler was showing Cinnar, the Siberian, and she went through the same trauma. She had the fortitude to show him anyway. Most of the judges knew that they had seen this dog before and knew that he had had a natural ear before, so they went

ahead with him for the win. If it hadn't been for that, we wouldn't have had the nerve to show him. I did trim the tip of his good ear down so they appeared to be the same length and I did round the tips to match. A year later, to the very week, the two boys were out in the yard playing. They still got along, they had just had that one incidence. I bring them in and Punk comes in with a tip of his ear hanging off the side! This ear was hanging off, so we took him to the vet. The vet wanted to sew it back on, I said no because I felt that it would always flop over, so we just removed the torn section. Several years later here I sit with these two champion dogs that between them had one good set of ears, but that is really the only real problem that we have had. They weren't fights, they were just somehow playing and playing too hard or whatever. We never saw an incident happen, it was just all of a sudden, they didn't have any ears. The only other injury we had was when Punk was taking on Grey and Showboy. You are talking about three big full-grown males that are fighting. The only injury out of that was that Showboy had a tooth rip in his shoulder. That was all! Males

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fight just long enough to establish a dominance, whereas females fight with much more intensity. We had a problem with Perky and Punkette and those two still ran together and periodically we would have to separate them. We traveled too close together. They had to get along being in crates side by side. We tried putting Plexi-glas between crates with the two males that we thought might get a little testy because we had a bitch in season at home or something, but we never had to count on that.

The cutest thing is that my little Pom and Butcher are very good friends. They will sleep together out here. At night, Rocky doesn't always want on the bed. When Butcher is in for the night, Rocky wants to sleep on the floor with Butcher. They go out into the yard together and are on their own all of the time. I think you can breed this type of temperament into it. Some of our males I wouldn't be able to trust with Rocky, but again, I think it is a matter of selecting for the temperament as well as the conformation. If they have the disposition to get along with the other dogs, fine. If they don't there is nothing you can do to change it, you just take the steps to avoid letting a confrontation happen. The boys that did fight, between the old boys and the young boys, they would run and fence bite all of the time but as much as it sounds like they couldn't get along, once you put their harnesses on and put them on the team, we never heard a rumble. Punk and Grey hated each other. They could be side by side, one in front of the other, it didn't matter when they were on that team. They knew that was a time when they had to act a certain way. I think this still goes back to their working temperament, they know that they had to have a certain type of behavior and they came through. They are like children, they will live up to your expectation. If you think they are going to be rotten, they will be rotten.

How long have you been in this area?

Wayne: We came here in 1955. It has been 31 years in the post office, 22 years here in Saline. I will be retiring on December 31, 1989, it is all set.

Janet: That is why as the dogs have passed away the last few years we have not filled the pens back up. When he retires we want to do a lot of traveling and be able to put the dogs in the van and go. We would like to move to southern Georgia. We loved it when we were down there for a circuit in 1972 and several times since.

Wayne: I have a friend whom I graduated with that works for Georgia Power. We would go down to the shows and spend some time with him. We like to go down there. We have since talked to a real estate

agent and would like to go back down and talk to him. I'm not so sure if that is where we will end up. I would like to go to Gettysburg and through Virginia and through all of these so-called war battlefields through Virginia. Down through Richmond, Williamston and I want to see Wilson Creek, Missouri. I think everybody jumps too quick on where they want to go, so I want to make sure that we are going to settle in the right spot. Our intention for next year is to go down to Florida and come back in the spring and sell the house. We could put the money in the bank and then just go to wherever we decide to live.

Janet: With the breeding that we have planned with these two girls - we usually don't start breeding any of our girls until they are two years old, but the one girl will be



Grey-Ghost's D'Incomparable.

younger than what we usually do. It is more because of our time frame here, we have some very definite plans that we have going. The ultimate thing is that we want to breed Belle next year. To tie everything up so that I can breed Belle next year, I want to breed Starr this year. If it doesn't turn out the first time, I would have a second chance to do it. We have got a couple of families in this area that really want something out of Belle and Butcher. We will probably keep a co-ownership with some pups so that we can be free then to do our traveling and stuff for awhile, but we will have those breedings on the ground, if we want to get back and tie back into it.

That is quite important to us, that is why we got the two girls, because we are in a time crunch. The families we have talked with

that want these puppies from Belle and Butcher are real excited about the combination. We are really excited about the families. They are all real nice kids who are fairly new to the breed, but we have been in contact long enough that we know how they conduct themselves, and how they handle the dogs. To me, that is the most important.

Wayne: When Jon finishes up college this next year, he will probably come down South, too. When Janet gets too busy with judging she will not be able to do both judging and breeding.

Janet: For anyone who is considering judging, first make sure that you have finished anything that you wanted to do as an exhibitor at least because as a breeder, your breeding will be cut down. You are bouncing around all of the time and if you do breeding you have to be able to stay home and raise those puppies - if you want to do it the right way. If I am going to raise puppies I am not going to turn them over to somebody else. If the club calls you and wants a commitment, what if it is right when the bitch is supposed to whelp or the puppies are in the cradle stage or something. It is too conflicting. We went out to Los Angeles a year ago and when the plane landed here, I called our son and my little girl was in labor. Thirty minutes after I got in the door, she had her first puppy. That was too close. That is why I am judging at local matches this summer, so that I will be close by for the breeding I am doing this summer. If things don't work out time-wise, I need time to figure out that we can't do it this season and that we will have to do it next season. I am running out of seasons!

Wayne: I never thought that it would be like this when she went into judging, especially with only one or two breeds.

Janet: A couple of weeks ago we were all loaded up. The trailer was loaded, the van was loaded, I spent about fourteen hours with the dogs. I just knew that judge would finish them. Twelve o'clock on Friday afternoon I get the call, the judge I am counting on can't make it to the show and would I judge! The other day we were all packed and ready to go for this weekend, I get a call, they had run over on some judges for next week and they wanted to know if I would come down to Illinois and judge. That hurt to turn that one down, but you just have to finish business sometimes. (Yes, Butcher finished - a five-point show - his fourth major!)

Wayne: It is down by Peoria and it is quite a drive. We would no sooner get home from down there and then we have to get on another plane and go out to San Francisco.

Janet: Those commitments were already set, and that can be a problem. It is just as hard to say no to a group that got over-

loaded as it is to an advance commitment. The lady who called me is a very nice lady I have known from almost the beginning. They are nice people, they are hospitable in that area and they have nice dogs in that area. I would love to have judged there.

Wayne: You plan everything in stages on what you will be doing and it kind of throws everything out of kilter.

Janet: Of course, you have to be careful of the 200 miles/30 day thing. Especially if you accept to judge a specialty like I am with the Mal specialty in November. They ask that I not judge any Mal assignments in the Great Lake area for six months prior to the specialty. That makes it rough too. It is very awkward to say no, when people call and ask, but you have the commitment, so you have to be careful. There is a certain stress in setting up a schedule. Be sure not to say yes to a club, only to find out later that you really can't. When you are putting whelping schedules and campaign schedules and judging schedules together, it gets to be too busy and you really have to set the others aside. I was really ready to make the transfer. Butcher has won and I have been waiting for him to grow up. I liked him when he was first born and he just kept getting better and better. I just kept saying (when Wayne would ask why I wasn't bringing him out), I wanted him to look just right. Finally last fall, he was a little over three years old, I decided that I would show him. Bam, bam, bam - four point major every weekend. That is the way that I like to bring them out!

The winning is fine, but the losing is even harder now than it used to be. I don't know whether I feel that people expect more of me when I go in a ring, because I'm judging now. I think maybe I am putting too much back on myself. I think people expect me to bring in nothing but perfection. At the same time I like the judging. I have enjoyed being a breeder. I have enjoyed exhibiting the dogs but I like working with more breeds. I have been working with more breeders than ever because people are talking back and forth. It is not like they are just picking my brain type of thing, they are bringing dogs and really wanting to know my opinion. That makes me feel good! "If I could have made a dog, yours is what I was shooting for. I may have fallen short of it, maybe what I have is not exactly what I like, but I like your dog." I think that this is what judging should be, it is a way of saying that if I could have bred it that is what I would have bred. If the judge can't feel that way then they shouldn't be there.

What other clubs do you belong to?

Janet: I have belonged to a lot over the years, some of which I don't belong to any longer. I support a lot of clubs. When I got

into professional handling, I dissolved most of my all-breed affiliations, just because there was a lot of conflict of picking up judges and that kind of stuff. This is back when your clubs only had half a dozen to a dozen members at the most and everybody did everything. You still have clubs where you have a lot of members and you still have a cliché. This is at a time when dog clubs were really a tight nucleus. Being a professional handler and belonging to all-breed clubs was just a very difficult situation at that time. Anyone that was aspiring towards that really didn't have that affiliation. I do belong to the Samoyed Club of America. We now have our new Samoyed Association in metro Detroit. I used to belong to the Samoyed Association of the Midwest, which is now defunct. I belonged to the American Dog-Owners Association, the American Pomeranian Club, the Alaskan Malamute Club of America. Of course there is the Dog Judges Association, Senior Conformation Judges Association, Michigan Dog Show Judges Association. You think that is bad? You should be around at dues paying time. As far as the breed of dogs that I either judge or intend to judge I would like to be more than just someone who just receives a bulletin because I am a judge. I want to know what is going on in the public, what do they feel is challenging the breed, what are the problems in the breed, how do they want them resolved, how do they feel about judges who judge the breed. I want more of an intimate relationship. Granted, if I ever get up to 20 or 30 breeds, there is going to be some inhibiting. At this point I do belong to the breeds that I judge. We had the Dog Breeders Registry of Michigan that I belonged to for a long time. We used to all get together and go to the shopping malls and set up a bench for two or three days at a time. Just like at a bench show, and this was to show the public what show dogs were and where you could get a dog, other than in a pet store, and those were really neat. It was fun because we knew a lot of other breed people who belonged to it. It was really a nice exposé kind of exhibit.

Wayne: We were talking about a show that we went to in Ann Arbor and Nitchie took third. It was \$6.50 to enter that show, now they are about \$17.00. Then you could buy a gallon of gas for 25 or 30 cents, I filled up in Jackson tonight and it was \$1.17 per gallon. That is a long way.

Janet: Plus the fact that we were horrified that we ran into a \$12 hotel, when we had been getting rooms for \$9.

Wayne: That is when Holiday Inns were \$11 or \$12 and, of course, they are \$50 plus. I think the last one that we stayed in was

around \$55. You have to take into consideration that you have to have a grooming table, you have to have supplies for the dogs.

Janet: My father was a horse and dog man, and I have always been around them. So we were off to these puppy matches with our first Sammy. She is blowing coat and it is driving us crazy in the car. We don't know what to do because we have never had a dog blow coat like this, I had always been around Beagles and Pointers. I made this beautiful little, silky blanket, with blue and silver fringe all around the edges of it. I embroidered "Ninki" on the side, it was just like a horse's blanket. Even though they were puppy matches, we loved the attention we were getting. Everybody was looking at us walking in with our dog with her little satin blanket on. It makes for beautiful FLAT coats. It did get wet once and it bled through onto my white slacks, I had a blue dog!

Wayne: Very seriously, dog showing is just like horse showing or anything else. It is very expensive. If you are going to do it you have to do it right. If you are going to do it and go at it nonchalant, maybe not.

Janet: You don't buy the cheap generic dog food, you don't cut on your vitamins, you don't cut on the vet bills. If the dog has to go to the vet, you take him to the vet, period. When the pin brush starts getting rusty, you throw it out and buy a new one or you will have a torn up coat. When you start taking short cuts you are really wasting time.

Wayne: We started out with a Dodge Swinger, with Grey Ghost. Before I can even start to a show nowadays, I have to have my trailer. We have now graduated up to a Dodge Van for pulling our trailer. This is our fifth van and this is our third trailer. We have a color television set, we have a generator that is big enough to pull the air-conditioner on the trailer. I will not even go to a show anymore unless I have all my comforts. We have graduated and gone a long way in the last eighteen years.

Janet: We wouldn't trade it for anything but sometimes we wonder how we did it for so long under those circumstances.

Wayne: We chose a trailer and a van over a motorhome because I don't like dog hair. By having the trailer and the van you can put the Sams in their crates in the van and then you have your trailer to yourself.

Where did Butch sleep last night?

Wayne: Beside my bed in the trailer! (Laughter)

Janet: Where did Butch sleep last weekend?

Wayne: By my bed, but he is not blowing coat.

Janet: I kind of get asthmatic when coat

is blowing. When we first started, people were raising Sams in makeshift kennels, except for Oakwood Farms; everyone talked about her setup. It was so superior to anything else at the time. People were raising dogs out of their garages, with chicken wire fronts, on bare dirt and everything else. You couldn't get rid of the flies. The dogs were just there and people just weren't that careful about them. Wayne said that if I wanted my dogs we were going to make it so that we could live with them. That is when he built the kennel for us. It is soundproof and it has the curtains and the little kitchen area. Sometimes we groom out there but usually outside or in the garage. It was built for bathing the dogs, but we still bathe the dogs in the house if we bathe them at all.

Wayne: It has everything in it, including an exhaust fan. It is getting old now, just like everything else.

Janet: We tried to establish it so that the dogs that weren't in the house could still FEEL like they were in a house. It wasn't that much different than the house here was.

Wayne: By the way, there are a little over 700 ribbons out there. Some of those shows we would go to and we wouldn't come home with a ribbon either. I was asked by a reporter, how many we had and we went out and counted them.

Janet: Yes, but that doesn't count all of the ribbons that went with all of the dogs that have left. When we place the older dogs the family gets to take the ribbons. Maybe someday we might be sorry that we didn't protect all of the titles, too, by putting them away but we've always enjoyed hanging them out there. The wires that are holding them are getting so rusty that I have a pile of them out on the kitchen counter that I have to re-wire and get back on the wall again. We have enjoyed seeing them out there. If they are put in a scrapbook somewhere, you can look at it and go through the picture, but this way it is a daily reminder of the old dogs. They are still here with us. My son's aunt used to show ponies for years. She would throw all the ribbons in a box and put it under the couch. When we first started showing they were first just pinned on a bulletin board in our son's room. They ran off the wall there so we built the building in 1973 and just started putting them out up there. We spent a fortune on grosgrain ribbon and fringe to decorate around to hang them from. We had fun because you could see each dog's career. You could see where they were going along fine as puppies and then we put them in Open or Bred-by and go through their thirds and fourths and almost every dog has gone through the near exact slump area. Butcher is just now climbing out of it, thank

goodness.

When Rocky, the Pom, finished undefeated, all he had were blue and purples, so I stitched all of them together. Of course, he had a lot of Best of Breeds, even in the puppy class. We stitched all of those together and for each show for the Best of Breed ribbon that took place in a grouping I would take embroidery thread, the same color as the group ribbon had been, I would tie a knot at the bottom of the breed ribbon. This blanket was nothing but blues and purples - that is really a one in a million dog. Everyone should have one like that once in a lifetime. Rocky is great, but he is not a Sammy! When people call here and start talking about a dog that has passed away, I can tell if it is a Sammy or not. If the dog just passed away or if they just came back from the vet, you can bet it was a Sammy. If they had one that passed away six months ago, you know that it was a Collie, or anything else other than a Sammy. It is just something about them - once you have them, you can't stand not to have them around.

You've lost several yourselves?

Wayne: It was hard to lose Nitchie and I guess even Showboy was harder, but neither of them was like losing Grey-Ghost. When Grey-Ghost went we kind of lost something that you can't explain, more than all the others we've lost.

Janet: Grey was more of a spirit than a dog. He was the dog that wasn't supposed to be the best one and yet he is the one that got us the recognition because Nitchie was quite a few years older before she matured and did anything. Grey was the super puppy. Even Jack Aldred, bless his heart, when we started showing Grey, the first match he took, Group I, the second match he took Best in Match. That was when people didn't know what a Sammy was. Judges, even at matches would say, "Oh, that's one of those fuzzy white dogs. What are they supposed to look like?"

Jack was afraid that we were going to get too big-headed too fast so he brought out some super puppies he had been breeding just to try to knock us off. He couldn't do it. We were floating with Grey; when he was nine months old we took him to Florida and did all that winning. Everybody at the time was talking about "that puppy dog." In 1971, nobody was showing puppies in this area. It was unheard of - you waited until a dog was two years old, fully matured, full proper coat, and then you started showing them. You just didn't show a puppy. We showed that puppy and we were taking Breed from the puppy classes. It was a matter that I had wanted a super special dog so bad. He was a super pet, but Grey was the show dog.



Grey-Ghost's Echo of Showboy in training.

He and I worked a lot and were very much in tune. He was a very beautiful pup, Jack had bred a very nice puppy. He had a beautiful coat, a lovely attitude, just a lovely face. If he didn't want to show that day forget it. If he wanted to show that day, you couldn't touch him! (Laughter) The dog was just great ... when we lost him it was like losing the whole Grey-Ghost name, really. He made us the Grey-Ghost. I was still specialing him when he was ten years old, he was the one that took Veteran Dog at the Milwaukee Specialty in 1981. He floated around the ring that day like he knew that this was going to be his last chance to show off and the applause that people had for him that day was just fantastic, I will never forget that sound. He looked back at me as if to say, "Let's go, Mom!"

I always showed him on not much more than a toy lead. I got ribbed several times because people would say, "A true Sammy would be pulling hard, you would have to have a heavy chain on him!" Grey's was just a thin lead, it wasn't a chain. We had always heard about the great Tiki, how he showed six feet out in front of Pat Tripp all the time. Grey had the same type of attitude, he wanted to lead the way. He was so ringwise, even as a puppy. He always watched the judge. If the judge would point out, he would follow and he would know the difference between triangle or down and back. He would look as we went around the last time, because judges would always pick as you went around. As soon as he saw that he had won, that dog would jump straight up. He KNEW he had won.

He probably added more to the breed than even Nitchie did, in a lot of ways. He was special. We never campaigned them and we look back now and wish that we had campaigned Grey, Showboy and Punk. They filled that part for what they needed to at that time. The showing was never the real important thing, their championship was!

Thank you. •