

THE SAMOYED QUARTERLY

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Samoyed people



The Samoyed Quarterly
Talks with
Joseph and Evelyn Kite
Las Vegas, Nevada

This interview was conducted at the home of Joseph and Evelyn Kite in October, 1999 by Nancy Corby.

How did you first get started in dogs?

Evelyn: When we first moved to California, my husband was doing some drapery work, and there was a beautiful Samoyed dog at the house where he was installing the drapes. He came home that day and said, "I am going to have to get a dog like that." I was afraid of dogs because I had been bitten three times as a child, so I said, "Not in my new home." He didn't pay any attention to me and went to Dr. Fineman, a veterinarian, and asked if he knew of a breeder in the neighborhood. He mentioned Robert Ward, who was living nearby. Bob was in the yard, thought my husband was a salesman, and told him that he didn't need whatever my husband was selling. My husband told him that he was there to talk about Samoyeds, and Bob Ward invited him in. As it happened, his dog, Kazan of Kentwood, had sired a litter of eight or nine puppies. Dolly Ward's sorority sister from UCLA, named Mary Mollet, had a champion show-dog. Her litter was only one and she had a lot of milk. The bitch of Bob and Dolly's litter

did not have enough milk, so they gave a puppy to Mrs. Mollet. Joe, my husband, took our son and daughter to see that puppy. As a gift, Bob and Dolly then gave Mrs. Mollet one of the puppies, which she was really too busy to care for, and she wanted to get it into a good home. I told my husband not to bring a dog home, but he did. The puppy was a ball of white fur and beautiful. He was eight weeks old, and I said, "Give me my dog." (laughter) He was Sayan of Woodland, but we called him "Chuckie."

We didn't know much about the breed, but Bob and Dolly Ward told us about a dog show in Santa Barbara. Our puppy turned out to be nice - a good specimen of the breed - and Lindy Ward, Bob, and Dolly's daughter showed him in the 6-9 Puppy class. He came in second out of three dogs. We were thrilled because we knew nothing about dog shows. As it happened, Chuckie became a four-time winner in California in specialties. The man who beat us in that Puppy class never finished his dog. He later said, "My dog beat your dog once." So, we got hooked on dog shows. We liked it. It was something to do because we were new in California, and it helped us meet a lot of nice people. We had to hire a handler because Chuckie was too close to my husband.

Joseph: If I had to correct him in any way, he would just

fade."

Evelyn: Roberta Bickerstaff was a breeder and handler. I used to drive out to her handling class in Ventura, California, so she could work with him and show us what to do. We put him in the first dog show and won the Los Angeles Specialty. The next time it came around to a specialty, we got Jack Dexter to show him. He finished Chuckie at 22 months of age. Chuckie was a big dog, but in beautiful proportion. In fact, Gertrude Adams used his measurements for the Samoyed standard for his size of dog. Then, they asked Jack Dexter to judge Puppy Sweepstakes at a specialty, so he couldn't show him. William Holbrook showed him, and he won the next specialty. He started winning a lot. We then went to San Diego, and he won the specialty there. That was three specialty wins, which was great. Then they held the Samoyed Club of America National Specialty at Conejo, California. Joseph and I were in Santa Fe, New Mexico, because he was doing a move there. I came home early with my son and Chuckie. We entered, but Jack, our handler, was in the hospital, so Jim Manley showed him and he won that specialty under a breeder-judge, Joyce Kane. She never had liked Chuckie because he was too big for her, but she said that when she saw him run around the ring, she just had to give him the win.

Joseph: Another judge, George Shroth, loved his movement, too.

Evelyn: When he won at another show, Judge Shroth sat in the middle of the ring and asked the handler to just run Chuckie around the ring because he loved his movement.

Joseph: He finished his championship in Bakersfield, California.

Evelyn: Then we used him for stud. We opened a bank account under his name. My husband took him in the bank to open it, and the girl behind the counter asked how a dog was going to sign his checks. My husband said, "Why, with his

pawprints. How do you think?" She believed him. We then bought a female Sam from Mardee Ward and named her Sayan's Bouquet of Chatique. I asked Dolly Ward if she minded if we called our new puppy "Dolly." She answered, "They name cows after me, so you know I wouldn't mind having a beautiful Sammy dog named after me" ... and she was beautiful. We lucked out. We had one litter of puppies. That was enough for me. They were all sold before they were born because they had a beautiful pedigree. From that litter, we got our "Clancy." We took him to Canada and he finished his championship in one trip. It was a lot of fun for us.

Joseph: It was a nice era.

Evelyn: We bought a motor home and the dogs, even with two males, never fought. Everyone loved our dogs. People would call us up to invite us over and tell us that we couldn't come if we didn't bring the dogs. When people in the neighborhood moved away, they would come back to visit the dogs. Chuckie lived until almost twelve years of age. In California, when I would have him groomed, it was by two girls who owned a grooming shop called "Clip and Dip." They loved him and bought one of his puppies. When they had him in to groom, they never put him in a cage to dry. After he was groomed, he would jump out of the tub and they would put him on a table to dry him. When we were in Santa Fe, New Mexico, before the National, I had him groomed, and they had a three-legged table that I didn't know about. When he jumped out of the tub, he automatically jumped onto the table. It fell over with him onto some fish tanks and he got all cut up. I had to run him to the vet to be stitched up. This was only a couple of weeks before the Samoyed National I mentioned above. He had one scar where the hair never grew back. One of the makeup men at the movie Joseph was working on made him a little wig, and we glued it on, but when he was running around the ring, it

blew off. (laughter) He won anyway. There are so many cute things that happened with our dogs. We were so lucky. They were all wonderful. They were all OFA clear.

Joseph: They were wonderful people. (laughter)

Evelyn: We had them all buried up at Calabasas at the pet cemetery in child-sized caskets. We have a bench there. Whenever we go to California, we go up there and take care of the graves. Joseph would love to get another dog now.

Joseph: I would love to have one because they are great company, but our life here isn't conducive to having one.

Evelyn: We aren't home enough.

Joseph: We might leave the house at 9am and not get home until 10 or 11pm. It isn't fair to an animal to sit in the house alone, or outside alone.

Evelyn: Joseph did some judging for the United Kennel Club for a while. Pitbulls, American Eskimos, and Australian Shepherds, but it is too hard now.

Joseph: I had two knees replaced and two hips replaced.

What made you choose Samoyeds in the first place?

Joseph: When we first moved to California from Chicago, I had a drapery store, and I also was in the motion picture industry. I couldn't break into the motion picture industry immediately in California, so I went back to draperies. I was hanging drapes, and there was a big, white dog in the house. I climbed up the ladder, and he would climb up the first two steps and watch me. When I came down, he would come down too. When I went up again, he went up again. Whenever I went up or down, he went up and down with me. I told the lady, "If there is any problem with your drapes, your dog can fix it." (laughter) The outcome was at about 3pm - he was sitting at the window. I told the lady, "I think your dog wants to go out." She said, "No, it's time for the kids to come home from school, and he wants to see them." I said, "Oh my God, what kind of a dog is this?" When I came home, I told my wife that if we got a dog, I wanted to get a Samoyed.

Evelyn: And he did.

What made you decide that you



*Ch. Kazan of Kentwood, "Clancy," at two years of age
(Ch. Starctic Storm x Winter Trails Kazanna), judged by Helen Spathold.*

wanted to show and breed in the first place?

Joseph: We really didn't know. We fell into it accidentally.

Evelyn: Since we were living so close to Bob and Dolly Ward, Joe would take the dog up there quite often, and they said he was turning out to be a good specimen of the breed. They said to try him at this one dog show, a specialty, at the Miramar Hotel in Santa Barbara. We met many nice peo-

ple, and it became a nice outlet for us. He turned out to be a big winner. He won four specialties, and that is pretty unusual in California because of the competition.

Joseph: That is where the most competition is in Samoyeds, because they have so many shows.

Evelyn: When we were in Santa Fe on location, we would take him to the plaza to walk. There was a gentleman there who painted pictures of people.

I asked him if he would like to paint an animal. He said that he preferred painting animals to people, so he painted a picture of Chuckie and only charged us about \$35. The fur isn't well-done, but he did a great job on the head.

How many litters did you breed?

Evelyn: Only one. That was enough. We didn't believe in overdoing it.

Joseph: And our bitch, who produced excellent dogs, went down after the litter. She wasn't



Ch. Sayan of Woodland, "Chuckie," first four-time winner of Samoyed specialties in California, in 1966. Pictured with handler William Holebrook, and judge Nicholas Kay. Trophy is being presented by Agnes Mason.

the same.

Evelyn: We weren't in it to make money. A lot of people become puppy mills. We had one nice litter, and that was enough for us. It is also a lot of work.

Which was your best dog?

Evelyn: Chuckie. He did most of the winning. During his time in the '60s, there was a lot of competition, but it was easier. It was easier to show a dog, but after that, it started getting political. We finished our female, Dolly, just before she had her litter.

Joseph: We went to San Francisco to a specialty. The judge told us that if she had been a little more alert, she would have won Best of Breed.

Evelyn: She didn't trust another dog to run behind her after she was bred once. We bred her to Dolly Ward's dog,

Ch. Kiskas Karaholme Cherokee, called "Painter," and after that, she didn't trust another male dog near her. The next day after the specialty, she finished, and we never showed her again.

We kept one of the puppies, "Clancy." We named him after his grandfather, Ch. Kazan of Kentwood, who belonged to the Wards. We had become very friendly with them because we lived so close.

Joseph: Chuckie died when he was almost thirteen. Clancy was almost sixteen, and Dolly was eight.

Evelyn: Yes, she had a brain tumor. We were treating her for epilepsy, but it turned out that the brain tumor was causing all her problems. She was a beautiful bitch.

Do you have any favorite stories about any of your dogs?

Evelyn: One day, we had arrived at a dog show just before the dog had to go into the ring. We had a motor home that had air-conditioning. Joseph had a grooming table that he had set up. It must have been 110 degrees outside. A lady walked by and said, "That poor dog with all that fur ... it's so hot. How do you leave him out in the sun like that?" Joseph said, "It's just a hobby." (laughter) He was just kidding, because the dog had just come out of an air-conditioned motor home. We also went to a dog show in Canada. We never took Chuckie or Dolly to Canada - just our youngest one, Clancy.

Joseph: I couldn't arrange my schedule when we were showing Chuckie, but in Canada I had Clancy in the ring, and the first two days, he was doing great. He was doing everything

I wanted.

Evelyn: He took the points both days.

Joseph: Yes, but after that, he started getting a little sassy. I'd plant his foot, and he would pick it up and move it. He blew the show because, although the judge kept looking at him, he kept doing things a show dog shouldn't.

Evelyn: We didn't want to have to go back to Canada. We wanted to finish up that trip for his championship.

Joseph: I should say, after the second show, I took him in the back of the motor home and sat him on the bed and told him, "You know they have dog pounds here, too, and if you don't shape up, into the pound you go." The next day, he got into the ring and did everything I asked him to. He was like a different dog.

Evelyn: He finished that day. (laughter)

Which of your dogs was the biggest character?

Evelyn: He was our baby. Chuckie, our first one, was regal. Dolly was beautiful. Clancy, as I said, was so sweet. When we had the litter, I didn't know which one to keep. We had sold all but two, because I couldn't decide. One was a barker - the other was just so beautiful.

Joseph: He had better conformation.

Evelyn: The day the family was coming to get him, I had him groomed. His ears hadn't come up yet because he was so young. I was crying because I knew I was going to have to get rid of him. When our son left for school that day, he told him goodbye because he knew the puppy wouldn't be there when he came home. I took him up to Dolly Ward and told her, "I just can't get rid of this dog. I don't know what to do." So, Dolly said, "Just keep him." The gal who was to get him had another Samoyed and had already put a deposit on him. Joseph had just come home from being out of town, on location, and he told me to keep him, too - so I gave the girl the other dog who was not groomed.

Can pedigrees in this breed be trusted as to accuracy?

Evelyn: Yes, I think so.

When you had your one litter, was it inbreeding, linebreeding, or outcrossing?



Chuckie and some of his get.

Joseph: It was a linebreeding. It seems like that line was producing excellent animals.

What influenced you to make that decision?

Evelyn: He was an English import, and I liked him. There was one time when we were at a show that we thought was kind of political. The judge was an English judge and didn't give Clancy the Breed, even though Clancy was an English-style dog. The judge told us after the show that if we had been in England, he would have given Clancy the Breed, but he said, "When in Rome, do as the Romans do." That was that. It was kind of a slap in the face. He didn't pick the one he liked.

What is the most dogs you have kept at one time?

Evelyn: Three, but they each had their place. Nobody got into anybody else's way. Even in the motor home, we had to look for them.

You started, when?

Evelyn: In 1964.

If you had to rate type, temperament and soundness in order of importance, how would you rate them?

Evelyn: They have a wonderful temperament. It depends on the individual who raises

them, of course, but we treated them like family. They never fought. The Samoyed breed, as a whole, has wonderful temperament with children and adults.

Which do you think is the most important trait?

Joseph: Being a judge, I'd say soundness, and then temperament, and then type.

How about conformation? Can you describe your idea of a perfect Samoyed?

Joseph: The movement, structure, the texture of the fur, the eye, the earset. Everything is all conformation.

Why do you think that some dogs look good standing and posing, but not so good when they move?

Joseph: That's structure. If a dog isn't right, you can't see it if they're standing still. Some look good running, but not when you have them walk. One thing that I would do to evaluate a dog was to have him walk away from me and walk up to me. If he looked correct, then I knew I had a good dog.

How should they move in the front and from the side?

Joseph: You want them to single-track, to come to a V down the center. You don't want them wide, and you don't

want them narrow.

How about in the rear?

Joseph: The same thing.

What are you looking for in the



Chuckie.



Ch. Sayan's Bouquet of Chatique, "Dolly," the day she finished her championship.

head?

Joseph: I have a preference for a bear head, but if you have a fox head, and the rest of the dog is good, I wouldn't disqualify it. But, if I had a dog with a bear head, that had lousy structure, I certainly wouldn't give it to him.

Evelyn: I prefer the bear head, also. I don't like the narrow head. It is too foxy for me. We were lucky with all our dogs. Our girl had a broad head and was perfectly gorgeous.

Joseph: And she had a great personality.

Evelyn: In one instance, there were about twenty bitches in her class and the judge had to separate them because there were so many. When she got to Joe, he asked, "Where should I stand?" She said, "Anywhere you want." He figured that he wasn't going to place, and she had her picked the whole time as the winner. She stood out like a shining star.

What would you say about the earset and eyeset?

Joseph: I don't like the ears too far apart. The eyes should be almond-shaped and darker. I

like the earsets to be perky, with no floppiness.

Evelyn: The eyes should angle up toward the ear.

How important is the color of the eyes?

Evelyn: Darker is preferable. They cannot be blue, although that would be beautiful.

Joseph: I would not disqualify a dog with a lighter eye. The structure of the dog is more important.

How important are missing teeth?

Joseph: I would say that it's very important. Bite should not be overbite or underbite.

If you could base the whole dog on a point scale of 100, how many points would you give the head?

Joseph: I would say 25.

How important is pigment?

Joseph: That would be 50 percent.

Would you ever breed to a dog with missing pigment?

Joseph: No. I just believe you are looking for problems.

Did you ever have any problems with winter nose?

Joseph: No.

What should be the relationship of chest depth to the rest of the dog?

Should it come to or below the elbow?

Joseph: It should come just below the elbow.

Was it your experience, when you were showing, that coat was very important in the ring?

Joseph: Yes. Some judges were looking more for a coated dog, and some more for structure. Different judges were looking for different things. Personally, I liked the judge who looked at an all-around dog.

There are some variations in coloring in Samoyeds. Which variation do you prefer?

Joseph: I prefer the lighter dog. Biscuit is pretty, and you can't prevent some from being there because it is in the genes. But I prefer the whiter dog.

What is the correct topline, and is it functional or for beauty?

Joseph: I like a straight topline. It is functional because a Samoyed is a draft dog. He should be able to do what he was bred to do. The topline is very important.

What should the croup drop-off be like?

Joseph: There needs to be a 45 percent croup drop off.

What is the ideal height for the dog and bitch?

Evelyn: They are breeding them bigger now.

Joseph: The dog should be 24 1/2 inches.

Evelyn: Chuckie was 23 1/2 inches, but looked bigger because of his fur. As I said before, many years ago, Gertrude Adams used his measurements for the standard size of the breed. She was an old-time breeder.

Joseph: And the bitch should be about 22 inches.

What about the feet?

Evelyn: You don't want any splay in the feet.

Joseph: Right. You want a nice, tight paw.

What is the ideal temperament of this breed?

Joseph: They are very protective of their families, but they aren't aggressive.

Evelyn: They're wonderful with children.

Joseph: They aren't a noisy dog. They don't bother you or bark all the time.

Evelyn: That really depends upon the owner. Some owners just throw them into the backyard, and only throw them a bone or meal. They become backyard dogs. Ours always lived in the house as part of the

family.

What are the most serious faults today?

Evelyn: Overbreeding.

Joseph: Hip dysplasia - that is probably the biggest.

Do you think the standard is a good one?

Joseph: Yes, I think so.

Is there anything that you would like to see changed?

Joseph: I would like to see the judges judge to the standard.

Evelyn: Yes, that is important, and look at the dog, not the handler.

Do you think there should be any disqualifications?

Joseph: Definitely. Nasty temperament or a blue-eyed dog or a crippled dog.

Do you think that champions should be specced?

Evelyn: Yes, they are the epitome of the breed.

Joseph: Yes, because they are the showcase of the breed.

Does making the Top Ten or Twenty mean anything?

Joseph: Just to the people - the dog doesn't care. (laughter)

Do you think that popularization would help or harm the breed?

Joseph: It harms the breed, because then you get backyard breeders and puppy mills that try to pump them out as fast as they can. Then, they aren't turning out quality.

Evelyn: That reminds me of another story. We were here, in Las Vegas, at the Silver State show, and we had Chuckie with us. At that time, in Japan, they were trying to get the best dogs for breeding purposes. After Chuckie was finished in the ring, a man came up to my husband and said, "I'm going to give you a signed check, and you fill in the amount. I want your dog." My husband said to him, "First you take my tooth brush - then you can have my wife, but you aren't going to get my dog." (laughter)

Do you think most judging is fair?

Evelyn: Not like it used to be. It's more political now. There are some judges who are honest.

Joseph: As far as I'm concerned, a judge should never look above the show collar. The judge should put up the dog and not the person showing it. While I was in the ring showing, I saw people put up some pretty bad dogs. I never mind losing to a good dog, but when

you know that there is a bad dog in there, and it is picked, I don't like that.

Would you rather show to an all breed judge or a breeder-judge?

Evelyn: I never showed or ran around the ring, but I think that both are okay.

Joseph: Yes, but when you find that a lot of breeder-judges want a certain type of dog that they like, whereas an all breed judge will try to find the best dog in the ring at the time.

Would poor judging, when it occurs, be the result of politics, or the fact that the judge doesn't know the breed?

Joseph: If he is licensed to judge a breed, he should know the breed. I say it's politics.

Do you think that advertising influences the judges?

Joseph: I believe so. Like the judge from England whom Evelyn mentioned above - he just knew there were certain dogs that were doing some big winning, and he didn't put up the dog he liked because he didn't get advertising on it.

Do you think it's ethical to retouch a photo that is used in advertising?

Joseph: No. You want to show the dog the way he is.

Did you show your own dogs?

Joseph: I showed Chuckie for a while, but it didn't work out too well. However, I did show Dolly and Clancy.

Evelyn: Joe was too close to Chuckie, so we had to get a handler for him. That was in 1964 and 1965.

So you have used professional handlers?

Evelyn: Yes.

Did you ever handle for someone else?

Evelyn: Yes. For Lavera Morgan one time at a specialty in Washington.

Joseph: Yes, and I also showed Herb Bann's bitch, and her name was Ch. Cherokee Sweet Lollipop, but I didn't make a habit of it or become a handler.

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

Joseph: Immediately, because they seemed to understand what you wanted.

Evelyn: We taught them as puppies to never cross the street, and to stop at driveways until we said okay.

Joseph: That was when they were a couple of months old.

Did you ever go to fun matches or training classes?

Joseph: Oh, yes. I took Chuckie to obedience also.

Evelyn: We belonged to four different Samoyed clubs in California.

Do you believe in obedience training?

Joseph: Yes, I do.

Evelyn: But we never did very well. (laughter)

Did you ever get any obedience degrees on your dogs?

Joseph: We got a .01. (laughter)

Evelyn: I went to the obedience graduation. I didn't want to go because it was so hot out, but I did. I stood outside the ring and watched them, and

Chuckie did everything wrong. A woman standing outside of the ring said, "Look at that dog. He's not doing anything right." I said, "I wonder who he belongs to?" I was so embarrassed that he was my dog. After that, Joseph never took him back for obedience.

Joseph: Every time I would jerk him on the lead, he would just fade away on me. He just wasn't an obedience dog. I could talk to him in the house, and he always seemed to understand exactly what I said to him.

How intelligent do you think they are in comparison to other breeds?

Evelyn: They have nice, big heads, and I think they have a lot of brain in there.

Joseph: On a scale of one to ten, I'd say they're an eight or nine.

Do you think it's appropriate to ever take a dog off leash?

Joseph: No, because you never know what he can get into.

Evelyn: One day, in California, Chuckie was sitting on the front lawn, and a little kid waked by with a Boxer on a leash. The Boxer was aggressive, and the kid couldn't hold him. The Boxer ran for our dog, who was not aggressive, but had a lot of fur. I saw the Boxer try to bite Chuckie, and I opened the car door so he could jump in. I told the little boy, "If you can't handle your dog, you



Dolly.

shouldn't be out walking him." When Chuckie came in, the Boxer hadn't gotten through the fur. If Chuckie had wanted to fight, he probably could have done something to the Boxer, because they don't have much fur. I was panic-stricken, because he used to stay on the front lawn without a leash. He wouldn't go off of our property. In fact, one day somebody walked by and saw our dog there, and said to my husband, "Does he bite?" and my husband said, "Do you mean today?" The man kept walking because he didn't want to go near him. (laughter).

How important is training to winning in conformation?

Joseph: A certain amount of training is necessary. The dog has to know what's expected of him.

Do you think that big-name handlers help a dog to win?

Joseph: Definitely.

Evelyn: Absolutely. We've seen it happen many times.

Could you give specific advice to owners who want to handle their own dogs?

Joseph: Go to a handling class. Learn how to handle, and know what's expected of the dog in the ring. Different dogs need different ways of being shown.

Evelyn: I think it's wonderful when you can own/handle the dog yourself. I think that would be the greatest pleasure.

Joseph: It is.

Evelyn: These people who just send their dogs off with handlers, and don't even go to the shows, but just do it for the prestige, are ridiculous. We never let our dog go to a show if we weren't there.

Joseph: I'm very selfish. If we can't go, my dog can't go. (laughter)

So when you used your handlers, the dog didn't stay with the handler?

Evelyn: No. He always stayed with us. We would bring him to the show.

Do you feel that the breed should do what it was bred for?

Joseph: Definitely - and they're getting more and more shows, now, with herding and tracking in them.

Have you ever done any herding, tracking or sledding?

Joseph: Yes. I've done sledding.

Evelyn: We used to go to Big Bear, California, and race our dogs. There were two

younger fellows and my husband, and we were going to have a three-dog sled team.

Joseph: We used to go out along the unfinished freeways and train the dogs.

Evelyn: My husband told the other guys that, since they were younger than he was, one of them, Murray Miller, should be the musher. But Chuckie was the lead dog and wouldn't move unless my husband was on the sled or running in front of him. So, Joseph had to be the musher.

Joseph: At Big Bear, for a novice team, I brought them in three seconds out of second place.

Evelyn: Chuckie did weight pulling, too. He got a trophy for that. When we moved to Las Vegas, I gave away many trophies to various dog clubs, because we didn't need them. They can take the plaques off and give them as trophies at

matches and such.

What about the training for weight pulling?

Joseph: Actually, I'm afraid to say that I never trained him. I put him into a harness, and he seemed to know just what to do.

Evelyn: Joseph wasn't there once at Big Bear, and I took Chuckie to a weight pull. Another person worked with him, and he pulled quite a bit. We didn't do it with the other two dogs.

Joseph: I hope that a lot of people don't start doing weight pulling with too young of a dog, because you can hurt them.

Evelyn: We also raced Chuckie at some other races at Palm Springs, California Aerial Tramway.

Joseph: It was a nice time in our lives.

Evelyn: Yes, from 1964 to 1990, almost 30 years.

You have trained the dogs over the years. What have the dogs taught

you?

Evelyn: Not to be afraid of dogs. Joseph took a lot of care of the dogs. He brushed them a lot. You have to take care of them. They're a lot of work. If you don't keep them clean, it isn't good. Their coats get ratty and matted. We also belong to the rescue clubs. We try to find homes for Samoyeds. People are overbreeding today.

Joseph: I really don't know what they taught us. They're such a nice breed, and we're nice people. We just seem to go together. (laughter) They're a labor of love.

You only did this one breeding. Was it natural or controlled?

Joseph: Natural.

You didn't help it along in any way?

Evelyn: No. With Chuckie and natural instinct, he would know just what to do. If we would come home from a dog show or from racing, and some-



Ch. Cherokee's Kazan of Bouquet, "Clancy."

one would bring over a female, he would know just what to do. He sired quite a few litters.

Were both of your males at stud to outside bitches?

Joseph: Yes.

Did you ever refuse to service a bitch?

Evelyn: If a bitch was in bad condition, we didn't want to breed to it.

Joseph: Or because I didn't like the bitch. There was one bitch that was so bad it should have been put down. I didn't want my dog's name on her puppies.

What do you think is a fair stud fee, and do you think it should be the same for proven or unproven dogs, regardless of titles?

Evelyn: I don't know what it is today, but we didn't charge that much. We would either get first and third pick of the litter, or we charged about \$200. We weren't in it for the money - we just wanted to have nice litters.

Joseph: We wanted them to be nice offspring.

Evelyn: We would pick first and third pick and then we could sell them, but they weren't going for as much as today. Talking about prices, when Joseph bought our first dog, he didn't want to tell me what he paid for him. I think he paid about \$100 for Chuckie in 1964. Ms. Mollett just wanted him to have a good home. When he brought the dog home, he told me \$50, and I said, "For a dog?"

My mother was living with us at the time, and I told her \$25, and she said, "For a dog?" Then, he became such a big winner, and when we would go up to Big Bear, there was a man named Harold Keepers, an old-time breeder, who loved our dog. He was sitting at the bar, one time, and Mr. Mollett was there for the races. He told Mr. Mollett that, whatever the Kites paid for the dog, he was robbed. Mr. Keepers used to bring over bitches all the time to breed to our dog, but they didn't always take.

Would you breed to a dog with a serious fault if he were outstanding in other areas?

Joseph: I would be afraid to.

What kind of fault would keep you from breeding a dog?

Joseph: Structure - definitely.

Evelyn: Temperament. If it's a nasty dog, I don't want



Clancy.

any part of that. They can inherit that. We have been to some shows where the dog had to go to the end of the line because they were snarling and barking and carrying on in the ring.

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

Joseph: Again, if it was a top-winning dog, it has to be the conformation of the dog. It has to be a good dog, no matter what the status is in the winner's circle.

Evelyn: A lot of these dogs that have been winning, as he said before, it isn't the dog, but the handler who has been winning.

Did you help your bitch whelp?

Evelyn: No. She did it all naturally.

Joseph: She did it herself.

Evelyn: Thank God,

because I didn't know what to do.

Did you have to supplement feed any of the puppies?

Evelyn: No. I stayed in the bedroom with them at night to be sure they got what they needed, but she took good care of them. Joe would stay with them on the weekends, when he didn't work, because I was tired. Every few hours, they wanted to eat. That's why I said I'd never have another litter. You were working for a nickel an hour. (laughter)

Joseph: Less than that.

Did your bitch wean the puppies herself?

Joseph: Yes.

At what age did you start to evaluate whether they were pet or show quality?

Joseph: About eight weeks.

Evelyn: There were eight puppies, and one female died at

birth. We had two girls and six boys, and never had a problem.

Did you sell on terms or cash only?

Evelyn: Cash.

Did you sell the pet puppies on a spay or neuter contract?

Evelyn: No.

At what age did you place the puppies?

Evelyn: Not younger than eight or nine weeks.

You said you did some rescue work - could you talk about it some more?

Evelyn: We weren't in it too long while we were living in Woodland Hills, California.

Joseph: For about two years.

Evelyn: We would go to the pound, and make sure somebody would pick the Sammy up. We didn't have room at our house.

Joseph: We had arrange-

ments with the kennel, where we could take them. He gave us a reduced rate. We had a veterinarian go in and check the dog. Then, we put them up for adoption. In fact, we have a website now ... The Samoyed Club of Southern California.

Evelyn: And we made sure the dogs were groomed and taken care of. If they were really poor quality or sickly, we would have them put down.

Did you find that they were in pretty good condition?

Joseph: Yes, unless the dogs were runaways. Then they would have to be groomed and taken care of.

How were their temperaments?

Joseph: The majority of them were excellent.

Evelyn: I found, just before we got out of it, that there were a lot of backyard breeding, and that was bad. There was a lot of inbreeding, and things like that.

What motivated you to get started in rescue?

Evelyn: Well, we loved the breed.

Joseph: We thought it was absolutely necessary.

Evelyn: And we couldn't see letting them run around and get killed.

Joseph: And being drowned in pools - so we started a rescue in the Samoyed Club of Southern California.

Were the pounds easy to work with?

Joseph: Yes - definitely.

Evelyn: They would call different people in the club to tell us when they had a Samoyed.

What were some of the reasons they were given up?

Evelyn: People would move out, or there was a divorce, or some people thought if they just dropped them off, someone would pick them up and give them a home.

Joseph: We found the biggest thing was that people would move away and didn't want to take the dogs with them.

Do you have any particular stories that were part of the rescue?

Evelyn: We are charter members of most of the clubs that we have joined, and still get their newsletters. They're still working with rescue. Another thing about Sammies is that people would take them to convalescent homes, and show them to sick people. I'm sure they do that in other breeds, and people

love that. It was nice.

What did you feed your dogs?

Joseph: Iams.

Do you think that diet is very important to this breed?

Joseph: Absolutely - It's a living thing, so diet has to be important.

Evelyn: Our dogs weren't really big eaters, even though they were big dogs.

Joseph: Well, the only one that was a fairly good eater was Dolly. She ate more than the others. It was cute. When I had her and her puppy at the house, they both would eat, and he would leave a little in the bowl so that she could lick it out. He always left a little for her. Then they would go out and have playtime in the yard. She'd warn him not to finish his food.

Did you feed any supplements?

Joseph: Yes, a full complement of vitamins. We gave them zinc and vitamin C.

Evelyn: We treated them like children.

Did you do a lot of conditioning of your dogs?

Evelyn: No. We had a big yard, three-quarters of an acre, and we had a doggie-door.

Joseph: It was all fenced in.

When you're showing this breed, how much grooming should be done?

Evelyn: Lots and lots, but Joe did that.

Joseph: It took me two days to put the dog into show-condition. I would bathe them and brush them. On the day of the show, I would spend about two hours brushing them up. Every hair was standing separately.

Evelyn: That was with the younger dogs. He was working, and couldn't groom Chuckie.

Joseph: They were beautiful animals.

Do you have any grooming products that you particularly liked?

Joseph: I used Drummel to do their nails. Then, there were brushes and combs, and I would strip the knots out. I use thinning shears to get the knots out, also.

Should these dogs be scissored?

Evelyn: No.

Joseph: You aren't supposed to. The only thing that I would clean up would be the feet.

Did you trim whiskers?

Joseph: Yes.

Evelyn: He didn't like the whiskers. They weren't pretty - they were curly.

Joseph: You aren't really

supposed to trim the dogs, but I did because I thought it gave a better look on the head.

Evelyn: It wasn't a disqualifying thing, though.

You didn't have a kennel set-up, did you?

Joseph: I had my grooming table set up, but I didn't have a kennel. They lived in the house.

And you never had any trouble with your males and females getting along together?

Evelyn: No, never.

Joseph: They seemed to know that each one belonged there.

What advice would you give to a breeder who is just starting out?

Joseph: Make sure of the quality of your dogs. Make sure that you breed for quality, and not just to breed. Anybody can breed and buy your Sam from a breeder, not a pet shop.

Evelyn: Treat your dog like one of the family. Don't make it a backyard dog. When it's living in the house, it's part of you, and that helps with the temperament. We used to take our dogs wherever we went, and they were always welcome because they were well-behaved.

Do you think that a new breeder should go to a kennel with big winners to purchase a puppy?

Evelyn: I think that a person looking for a dog should go to a dog show and see the dogs. They should find out who the parents are, and what kind of litters they have.

Would you recommend joining a local breed club, a national breed club, or an all breed club?

Evelyn: We belong to all. We belong to the Samoyed Club of Los Angeles, the Samoyed Club of Southern California, and the Samoyed Club of Orange County, which are three local clubs, and then, we belong to the Samoyed Club of America.

Joseph: And then, we belong to the LAPD, an all breed club (Los Angeles Purebred Club).

Evelyn: Years ago, when there were divisions, I was secretary of the Samoyed Club of America's southern division.

Do you feel that the parent club does enough to educate judges and new members?

Evelyn: I think so. I think the Bulletin is very informative.

Joseph: Yes, but I don't think that the SCA does keep

judges informed of changes, etc.

Is there an AKC video on this breed?

Joseph: Yes.

Is it a good one?

Joseph: Yes.

Do you think that there's adequate literature available for this breed?

Evelyn: Yes, I have two books here that the Wards wrote, and I imagine you can get a lot of other things.

Joseph: Yes, and I can bring them up on the computer.

Do you have anymore funny or interesting stories about your dogs?

Evelyn: We used to go to all of the dog shows, and with the motor home, we would meet other people and have parties. Everyone would bring their dogs, and we would have picnics and barbecues.

Joseph: And then there was the story of Dolly and her litter.

Evelyn: Oh, yes. When Dolly had her litter, we kept Clancy, and we were at a dog show one day. She hadn't seen her other puppies in her litter in a while because they had all gone to different homes. A policeman, who lived in Orange County, brought his puppy, a male who was a year old, to the show. Dolly never liked other dogs, especially males. So, this dog came over and she started licking it and kissing it, like she knew it was one of her puppies. It was really cute.

Joseph: That was really something else.

How long have you lived in this location?

Evelyn: Five years.

Why did you move here?

Evelyn: We were in the 1994 earthquake.

Joseph: It shook us out of California. (laughter)

Evelyn: We have friends here, and the climate is so nice. It is similar to California. It is a little warmer in the summer, and a little colder in the winter. It's seasonal, and we love it. And they're very nice to older people here - the senior citizens. We have a lot of fun. I never cook.

We eat out every night because food is so reasonable. And, it is close to California. We get to go in often to see our kids, or they come here. We have a son and daughter who live in California, and a daughter who lives in Hawaii. She comes in quite a few times a year.



A son of Ch. Sayan of Woodland winning BOB with handler Sue Skrobreski.

Where did you live previously?

Evelyn: We lived 35 years in Woodland Hills, California. We're both originally from Chicago.

And how old are you both?

Joseph: I will be 80 in May.

Evelyn: I will be 76 in December.

And how long have you been married?

Evelyn: It will be 55 years on May 9, 2000.

And what kind of things have you done for a living?

Joseph: I was a sound technician for the motion picture industry.

Evelyn: Before that, he had his own drapery store in Chicago, and he did some motion picture work there, also.

Joseph: My family were all in the motion picture business.

Evelyn: Then, we moved to California, and he went right into the studios.

Joseph: That was quite a jump, from draperies to motion pictures.

Evelyn: Yes, it was a little more money, and he had too much competition in the drapery business. I never really worked that much. I sold clothes and jewelry at a department store. Then, when Dolly was due to have her litter, I stopped working completely, because I wanted to be around the puppies. I didn't have to work. I just wanted something to do. Our son, at that time, was going to military school, and I used to drive for the school and got free tuition. Our local school, at the time, was overcrowded and I thought he needed a better foundation. So this military school, where he could go daily, and didn't have to stay over was good. And, he got a good education that way.

What about your educational

backgrounds?

Evelyn: Joe is a college graduate, and I have two years of junior college.

Joseph: In fact, I'm back in school now, taking computer classes.

How have your dogs affected your lifestyle?

Evelyn: They gave us a wonderful lifestyle. We were busy every single weekend. We saw lots of the country, which we never would have seen if we hadn't had the dogs to show. We met a lot of nice people. Belonging to all these clubs, it seemed like every weekend, if we weren't at a dog show, we were at a meeting.

Joseph: We had a very busy life out of it. It was nice.

What were the particular benefits to being in dogs?

Evelyn: Well, we were never going to get rich doing it, but it was a lot of fun. It was

something that we liked to do. It was a nice, clean hobby.

Joseph: It was one of those things wherein we had a sense of responsibility to the dogs, and they were so giving of themselves - I really enjoyed that.

Were there any drawbacks of being in dogs?

Joseph: Yes - pooper-scoopers! (laughter)

Evelyn: When we moved here, I didn't think it was fair to have only one dog, so we didn't get any. We are older now, and didn't want to tie ourselves down. We had three dogs and the motor home, and used to take them everywhere we went ... on trips and things. But they always were company for one another. I don't think it's fair to only have one dog.

Is there anything else?

Evelyn: I don't think so. I think we have chewed your ear off enough. (laughter). •