

THE SAMOYED QUARTERLY

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B. HORNE

Samoyed people



The Samoyed Quarterly
Talks with
Judy Mears
TRAILBLAZER
Arvada, Colorado

This interview was conducted at the home of Judy Mears in August of 1999 by Brenda Abbott.

How did you get started in dogs?

We started in purebred dogs with a Sheltie that was a pet. We got him as a rescue adult and he was a fantastic dog. When we moved from Texas to Colorado we had to leave him there with Jerry's brother because we were moving into an apartment. By the time we had a house and could have a dog, Jerry's brother's kids did not want to give up the Sheltie so we talked about what kind of dogs we wanted. The kids wanted a Saint Bernard; realize this was 1970, and they were very popular then. I wanted a Sheltie. So we compromised. I knew someone who had a Sammy, so we looked at some, talked to some people, and ended up with a Sammy.

Who was your first Sammy?

Ch. Paymaster Stormproof Cotton. We had met Doris and Harold McLaughlin. We went up and talked to them at Silveracres and several other people. They did not have puppies at that time but there was a litter available from a friend of theirs, and they were getting pick bitch as the stud fee. So I told Jerry,

"Okay, let's go look at the puppies. As soon as they pick the one they want, we'll pick the one they reject." And that's what we did. Cotton, in honor of a cottonseed that is planted in west Texas, was second pick from an inbred Nachalnik of Drayalene litter. We picked her up when she was eight weeks old.

I'd never shown a dog before. I'd only been to one dog show before. She was a fun dog. She had a lot of good qualities. She had some faults. Susan showed her in Junior Handling. We trained her in obedience, but never got a CD on her. She did finish.

How did you know you wanted to go to dog shows? How did you go from Saint Bernard-Sheltie-Sammie, to let's go to dog shows? (laughter)

I'd been in 4-H when I was a kid. I'd never been able to have purebred animals. Even the milk cows we had - we had a Jersey milk cow that we bred to a Guernsey so we would get high butterfat, lots of milk - I couldn't show in 4-H. I could do the housework things - the needlework, the cooking and that sort of stuff - but I wanted to work with animals even from the time I was ten years old. Genetics had always fascinated me in high school. Just something I wanted to do - work with animals - and Doris knew when I talked with her that I had never been to a dog show, that I'd never shown a dog. But she said the kids were well-mannered, which was a requirement with her, and she knew that if we could train kids, we could train dogs. (laughter) And so she recommended this litter, and I was invited to one of the local club meetings, met people there, and went to a couple of matches.

So you were told that your puppy was a show-quality puppy?

Yes, because when Doris and Harold looked at the litter, there were three bitches. Doris wanted one bitch and Harold wanted another. Doris wanted Silveracres Kandi Bear and Harold wanted the one that I ultimately got and called Cotton. Silveracres Kandi Bear finished first, Paymaster Stormproof Cot-

ton finished second and, I don't remember what Mindy's kennel name was, but the third bitch was Mindy and she finished third. All three of the girls finished. One boy in the litter was killed in an accident as a youngster. The second boy had thirteen points and three majors and the people got tired of showing.

Who was the dam?

Saarinin Sabacoa and the sire was Silveracres Rogue Krabri Vok.

So it was inbred on Chief?

Yes, Rogue and Coa were both Chief get.

So then it was half brother to half sister?

Yes. The dams were totally separate, and at that time, I didn't know enough about genetics to know that I was getting an inbred puppy. I just knew that Doris and Harold recommended her and they said she was show quality. She was not a successful brood bitch.

Cotton is who we are talking about?

Cotton. The first breeding we did to her was to Bob and Dolly Ward's Painter. That was the second breeding that they did with Painter and we didn't know until she'd whelped that Cotton was affected with an autoimmune disease. So when she had puppies, the stress of having the puppies drew her immunity down and she didn't pass on any immunity at all to the puppies. Every puppy in the litter of seven died. The first one died within 24 hours. The second one died a couple of weeks later. The kids, Susan and Joe, were in the fourth and fifth grade. I was working. Dr. Kirkley had us take the puppies off of the mother. Since they had peritonitis, he thought that she must have bad milk and just as a precaution he had us take them off of her. So we were tube-feeding those puppies every two hours.

You didn't know what was wrong?

We didn't know what was wrong. We didn't know that she had this immune problem. We just knew that the puppies were dying of peritonitis. The oldest one lived 30 days. But

they all died. So I can very honestly tell people, if you are going to breed a litter to show the kids about birth, realize you may very quickly need to be prepared to show them about death. That was so hard on my kids to love, feed, and hand clean those puppies. And they all died. We bred Cotton a couple of more times. She produced a couple of champions, but she had the autoimmune problem. The puppies, in my opinion, showed signs of having the autoimmune problem. None of her puppies lived past maturity. None of them lived to be old, healthy dogs. And they all had minor constant infections: ear infections or lip fold infections or foot fungus infections, those sort of things. Not a good situation.

Did she start your line?

Well, she started us because she taught us about dog shows. But right before she finished, we bought Silveracres Trailblazer, the dog we called "Sparky," from Doris and Harold. He was my pick from two litters and he was the one that Doris encouraged me to get. Nice dog, nice temperament, pretty head, an ungodly bad front - just looked like a Mixmaster coming to you - and the typical old Silveracres rear that was a little bit close. He had good sidegait. He was a lot of fun. We did finish him. But my foundation bitch and what my dogs still go back to strongly was Silveracres T'Blazer Regina, "Jeanie." She also finished. She was out of Silveracres Rogue Krabri Vok and Frostfire's Galadriel, "GoGo." This was the first breeding that Doris did with GoGo after she got her from Joan Sheets. There were only two bitches in the litter. We got Jeanie. Doris had intended to keep Jeanie, but that was when they had the fire up at the kennel building, and she didn't have time to socialize and work with her. She let me buy her. Jeanie had flat feet, a curly coat and a pink nose. (laughter) But she had a beautifully shaped head; wonderful dark eyes that were correctly set; beautiful, small ears; nice long, arched neck; and a correct front with



Ch. Paymaster Stormproof Cotton, 1974.

the shoulder layback, upper arm, sternum and good chest-shape. She moved correctly front and rear. She had a beautiful rear. Really, when I started breeding Jeanie, and she was bred four times, was when I started getting dogs that I was really proud of, that I was happy with.

And how did you breed Jeanie?

The first two times that she was bred was to Silveracres Trailblazer. Sparky was a Chief son, out of a Chief daughter. So that again was very close linebreeding on Chief. Out of that breeding I got Trailblazer Silver Talisman. "Jonathan" was a flier. He was a pretty dog. As a puppy, he was a very, very showy dog. He did lots of

match winning. The first show weekend that I took Sparky, I took Jonathan too. Doris and I went to Kansas to dog shows. This was before very many people in Colorado did much traveling. It was a five-point major all three days in dogs. Every dog in Samoyeds except Jonathan was in the Open class. I had Jonathan in Bred-by. We

had gone to practice with Jonathan, for Doris to finish the male she was taking and we would, hopefully, get points on Jeanie. Well, Jonathan walked in and took the five-point major. And Doris' bitch that she had taken to play with took the bitch major. (laughter) And we did the same thing again the next day, but the major broke the



Ch. Trailblazer Silver Talisman CD, "Jonathan," and Trailblazer Talaria, "Tally."

next day. There were five specials there. This was before you got points for specials. He went Best of Breed over the five specials.

We took him from there - he had gotten a five-point major, a three-point major and a two-point win - to shows in west Texas. Doris' dog took the points the first day and Jonathan took a major the second day and again the major broke on Sunday. But both Saturday and Sunday that weekend, he went Breed over specials. If I had gotten points for the Breed over specials, he would have been finished in two weeks. As it was, we had thirteen points and it took us a year to get the last two

single points. (laughter)

I was determined. He had done all of that from the Bred-by class and nobody was showing in Bred-by. He would be the ONLY dog in Bred-by and for the next year I had several judges say, "You know this is a really nice dog. If you had been in Open, I'd have given him the points." And I would just smile sweetly and say, "Well, he's got thirteen points and three majors and he just needs two singles to finish. I'll finish him out of Bred-by." And he did. But by the time I, as a novice, got him finished I had him so ring sour because I'd get so tense and he realized that.

"What's mom afraid of?"

Yes, what are you so worried about? He didn't do well as a special until I went to Nancy Johnson at Blue Springs Canine Center and said, "Nancy, let's show this dog in Open again and have fun with him. To teach him that being in the show ring is fun again." And we did. And back when the Working Group was Working and Herding both together, with a novice owner-handler, he got a Group 1 and a couple of Group 2s and a Group 3 before I retired him. He was a fun dog for me.

But really, my best breeding to Jeanie was to Joan Scovin's Scandia's Kejsare, "Chucky." Joan was one of the most intelligent people about dog structure

and dog movement I'd ever met. For her, Chucky was too small. She just showed him because he moved so well. He just flew around the ring and he was light on his feet. It was really correct movement all the way around. But when I bred to Scandia's Kejsare was when I really started getting dependably correct fronts and getting away from the narrow rear. I kept the long arched neck because Jonathan had a short neck and too much coat. But with Scandia's Kejsare I did a breeding with Jeanie and got some nice pups there, and then I bred Jeanie's daughter, Talaria, to Scandia's Kejsare and got Trailblazer's Tumultuous, Trailblazer's Tenacious, Trail-

blazer's Patience, and Trailblazer's Persistence. And that's really what my lines are based on.

And they were all champions.

Oh, yes.

So, you said you bred her ... ?

I said I bred her four times, I bred her three times. I bred her to Sparky twice. The first litter I got Jonathan to keep. The second litter I kept Talaria. And the third litter I bred her to Scandia's Kejsare, and I have to stop and remember what I kept out of that litter. The first breeding we did with Talaria and Scandia's Kejsare, I shipped her back there, she came home and had seven puppies. And they all died of heart problems.

As puppies?

As puppies. At that point, nobody had ever heard of parvo and that's what the veterinarians at CSU established, after time went by, that she had been exposed to parvo. She had been exposed to parvo in her pregnancy, so the puppies all had heart defects and they all died of those heart defects. The veterinarians called it myocardia, which means dead tissue in the heart muscle. At the time they were coming up with myocardia, the cardiologist at CSU said that this happens in people and it happens in pigs, but it doesn't happen in dogs. And it didn't that the cardiologist knew of, until they started running into parvo.

But to go back to Jeanie. The dogs that came out of Kenny Mateer's dog are Ch. Trailblazer's Shooting Star, who ended up with Judy Clark in Houston, and Trailblazer's Weathervane, who belonged to Barbara Downard in Georgia. He had majors and several points. He was supposed to be being finished when someone stole him from a run in their yard. The dog disappeared. The lock was cut and he was gone. So, good dogs have been lost due to strange things.

From the two breedings that I did to Scandia's Kejsare with Jeanie's daughter, Talaria, the second one was because CSU asked me to repeat the breeding. They said, "Please repeat this breeding because we have never run into anything like this before. We want to know if it's genetic or if it was something else." My agreement with them was that I had to keep the puppies until they were four months

old so they could do all of these tests on them. They agreed to pay the medical bills, the tests, their shots, if I would just drive them up there every other week so they could check them.

It was a research litter.

It really was. Talaria had ten puppies. (laughter) Can you imagine having a litter of

was afraid to sell them for fear that there was one affected with a heart problem. But none of them were and we've never run into anything like that. But the next dog that I really worked with was Ch. Trailblazer Tumultuous, "Buck." His litter-sister was Ch. Trailblazer Yukon Sunset UD, "Spicy,"

the most fun dogs I ever showed. When she was about eighteen months old, Tommie Lohmiller in Grand Junction who owned her, agreed to let me take her to the National Specialty in San Diego. I showed her in San Diego and she went first in the 12-18 month class. I came home through Grand



Susan Mears with Ch. Trailblazer Charisma at eighteen months of age (in the rain).

ten puppies to deliver every month?

And you kept all ten of them until they were four months old?

We kept all ten of them. I

and his litterbrother was Ch. Trailblazer Tenacious, "Buddy." They all three finished very quickly.

Spicy was probably one of

Junction and there was a dog show there that weekend that was still just a single show, and she took the two points that day. Tommie had allowed me to

enter her in the shows Labor Day (two shows in Wyoming and one in Denver). She took two four-point majors. For some reason, the major broke on the third day again. (laughter) It was kind of funny because both Buddy and Spicey took the points the two days in Cheyenne. And we came down to the Colorado Kennel Club show and several people didn't come to the show. Buddy did not take the points that day. In fact, he had finished up in Cheyenne. And Spicey ended up the weekend having two majors and just needing two points to finish. So I called Tommie and talked her into letting me take her down to west Texas to Lubbock. That's when there were shows in Plainview and two in Lubbock. We showed in Plainview and I took Buck. Buck just needed two points to finish, too. They both went Reserve the first day. They both went third the second day and Edd Bivin, the first time he ever judged Sammies, finished both of them on Sunday. So that was fun. But Spicey, from the first show I took her to at the National Specialty until she finished, was in a total of ten shows. She was fun and a great obedience dog. Tommie had arthritis and had a hard time walking and showing her, but she put a UD on her.

What litter was this from?

This was from the second breeding of Trailblazer's Talaria and Ch. Scandia's Kejsare.

So these three were some of the ten that were here until they were four months old? (laughter)

I have never been one to place a whole litter as show quality. I will pick what I consider the best two or three, sometimes four, puppies depending upon the size of the litter and those go as show quality. Because even if you are doing a good breeding, some are better than other ones and you constantly want to bring the quality of what you've got up and not remain the same. So I've always just picked a few to sell or keep as show quality and show, and the rest are neutered and placed in pet homes. I don't like finishing a whole litter. I have seen very, very few litters where I truly thought the whole litter was top quality. They can all be better than average and they can all finish but ...

How many litters have you had?

I've had 26 litters since 1971. I've bred 38 champions. There have been litters where there were two or three champions and there were litters where there wasn't anybody that finished. I've done some good things, and I've made some mistakes.

What did you continue with from there?

I had a bitch puppy that I'd gotten as a stud puppy from Anne Hill in Oklahoma City that was out of Trailblazers Silver Talisman and a Rogue Krabri Vok daughter. "Thea" had a UD. We considered her show quality but Anne didn't show in conformation. She only showed in obedience and she wanted to breed Thea to Jonathan. I got the pick bitch as a stud fee, and I took her to Trailblazer's Weathervane, who was the dog out of Jeanie and Chucky that I had sold to Barbara Downard in Georgia. That's where I got Trailblazer's Charisma. Also out of that litter we got Trailblazer Elan. Both of them were champions. Trailblazer Elan was the first show quality dog that Kristi Schopfer owned. Trailblazer's Charisma was linebred on Silveracres T'Blazer Regina. Jeanie was the sire's dam and the dam's granddam. Charisma was my daughter, Susan's, pick bitch. Susan showed her, put Group placements on her and had a good time with her. When we bred her, we bred her to Buck. We got three puppies. Our bitch puppy was dysplastic. There was a boy puppy that was long-bodied and obviously a pet. The pick male, Trailblazer's Savoir Faire, went to Toni Tadolini in Anchorage, Alaska. He became a Group placing champion.

I bred Charisma to Ice Way's Ice Breaker and that was probably the next giant step that I took. From that breeding, I got Ch. Trailblazer Circuit Breaker, "Kit," and Ch. Trailblazer Ice Crystal. I sold Crystal on a co-ownership to Nancy Golden. Crystal became a top-producing brood bitch. Nancy put a championship and a CD on her. I showed Circuit Breaker some, and Susan showed him some. Susan was a teenager. So I got to show Kit most of the time. One calendar year he was shown in twenty shows. The

rest of the time he was in less than twenty shows. He was always in the Top Five because, generally, if he took the Breed, he took a Group placement. He was a pretty dog. He could be showy or just as dumb as a rock, depending upon his mood. He won from the time he was a six-month-old puppy until he was an eight-year-old dog. Kit was a lot of fun for me. He had nine Group 1's. He had a total of 37 Group placements. He was sometimes beaten in the Breed, but when he was beaten in Breed he was beaten by some really good dogs, because we had some really good dogs being shown here then.

Isn't there one win that you didn't mention there? (laughter)

You mean the OTHER time I didn't go to the National Specialty?

And what happened?

In 1987, I couldn't go because that was when I still had the Kennel Shop and I had to work because there were the Labor Day shows here. So we went to Cheyenne and on Saturday he bombed. He wouldn't show for me. He didn't even get a look in Breed. On Sunday, he went Best in Show. (laughter) And all of these people do all of these gracious things when they go Best in Show, and I sat down in the ring and cried. The judge pointed to me and said, "Best in Show," and I just put my arms around Kit's neck and sat down and cried. The judge finally said, "Don't you want to come over and get this ribbon?" (laughter) The next day, at the Denver show on Labor Day, he went BOS to the class bitch. So our balloon burst in a hurry. But that was a fun weekend.

He gave me some really good memories. He gave me some beautiful kids. Kit was a fairly small dog. People were always amazed that a 22 1/2-inch dog could do as much winning as he did. He had rounder eyes than I would prefer. He had what I consider a pretty-shaped head. It wasn't a big, coarse head but you could fit a twenty-inch choke collar over his head. That's what I used on him. But it was very nicely shaped with a good stop. The eyes were well placed, just a little rounder than I wanted, so I liked showing him in the sunshine to make him squint. He had beautiful little ears, a faded

black nose, a black lip line, but a true Samoyed smile. His lips curved up even when his mouth was shut. He had a tremendous stand-off coat. In full coat, he had too much coat. I liked to show him best when he was about two-thirds of the way into coat. He needed a little more neck than he had. His neck actually was the correct length if you measured the dog as to the length of head and length of upper arm and length of shoulder blade. But when he was in full coat, because the coat was a stand-off coat, he looked short-necked.

Most judges who put him up had never seen him before. I know there were two judges, Chuck Mulock and Bill Hixson, who were the only two judges who I ever showed that dog to twice that gave him Group 2 placements. Every other judge who gave him a Group placement had never seen him in Group before, which was kind of fun when you see people following judges all over the country. I traveled with him some because I had the money then to travel. I didn't travel the way people do now. He had a tremendously true, beautiful front. He could move a little close in the rear when he wasn't paying attention. There were days when he showed and he was up and he was wonderful and there were days when he would say to me, "If you want to do this, go ahead. I'm just going to stand here." (laughter) He taught me humility and he taught me that the important part was days when our heads worked together and he was with me, it just flowed. Kit was a lot of fun. He barked. One California handler that used to come in here very regularly with a top-winning Boxer hated him and he told me more than once in the ring to shut that dog up. (laughter) And I always said, "You know, I would if I could. If I could make him be quiet, I would because I don't like him to bark. But when he's showing and he's having a good time, he can do what he wants to as far as I'm concerned."

Sounds like a dog I used to have where I would say her mouth was attached to her tail and her tail went all of the time.

Yes! And to me, I was doing it for fun and he taught me how fun it could be and also

to be very humble, because if he wanted to do it, it was great. The best thing about showing Kit was WHEN we were showing him. Lana McClellan was showing Gandalf. The Dannens were showing Karibou. Nancy Golden was showing her Tommy. There were a couple of Kit daughters being shown when he was. One belonged to Lana McClellan and one belonged to Carolyn Bateman. There was more than one time when we would go into the ring and there would be five Group 1 winning specials in the Breed ring.

At a local show?

At a local show, not a National Specialty! So just to take the Breed, over what were five really outstandingly good dogs was a lot of fun. I feel that is one reason that when we won the Breed, we usually got a Group placement. Because when one of the other dogs won the Breed, they usually got a Group placement, too, because we had some outstanding Sammies here then.

How did you breed Kit?

I have never had a kennel. I have never had a lot of dogs. So I didn't have a string of bitches that I owned to breed Kit to. The bitches that were bred to Kit belonged to people who saw the dog and liked him. He was linebred on Trailblazer. He was linebred a couple of times on Polar Mist. Polar Mist, at that time, had Breaker right behind them. And he was bred to a couple of Breaker daughters that were Polar Mist bitches. He was outcrossed on other bloodlines. Most people who saw Kit and saw Kit kids would say, for an outcrossed dog and Kit was an outcrossed dog, he produced very true to what he was. I think that one of the reasons he bred so true was that his mother, Charisma, had an outstandingly good front, correct angulation front and rear, and a nice long neck. She had a lot of good qualities and we bred her to Ice Breaker to cement that good front, because Ice Breaker had a wonderfully good front. And we kept that front. Kit produced that front in almost everything he produced.

He was bred a couple of times to bitches that belonged to Seelah and produced nice champions then. One of the most exciting breedings, ultimately,

was when Katie LeCour bred her bitch to him. That's where Elmfield's Artic Mist, Carolyn Bateman's Misty, came from. She's a multiple Group winning bitch and won an Award of Merit at the National Specialty. Also from that litter came Lana McClellan's Elmfield's Galadriel. She also was a multiple

Charisma, Kit's mother, when I bred him to my Jeep, Trailblazer With Flair and got some nice puppies there. I have a seven-and-one-half year-old daughter out of that breeding and she looks like she's eighteen months old. (laughter) That was a good breeding for me. That produced some really nice dogs.

sweet dog. The bitch that I kept, Honey, I bred but she went into pyometra so I had to have her spayed. She's the only dog that I ever had go into pyometra. I kept her for a year until some special people came along, and she's now on a ranch down in New Mexico catching trout for breakfast every morn-



Ch. Trailblazer's Lepre Khan CD. Owned by Leslie Callaway, Morrison, Colorado

Group winning bitch with an Award of Merit at the National Specialty. And by Group winning, I mean Group 1. She had Group placements, including Group 1. They were both outstanding girls. There was a boy in the litter that Katie LeCour finished herself. She put every point on that boy. Then she and Bob divorced and she placed him in a pet home.

I bred Kit and did a linebreeding on Trailblazer's

That breeding produced an Award of Merit winning dog, Trailblazer's Spruce Kiva. The people who were at the Santa Rosa show know that the judge ran us around and around the ring trying to decide which one she was going to give the Breed to. She took us up and down and around and around for 30 minutes. It was fun.

That breeding also produced Trailblazer's Flying High. He was a very special dog, really a

ing. Another puppy in that litter was Ch. Trailblazer's Allure, who was sold as a youngster to Karl and Jo Geletich. They got to a point where they couldn't keep her because they had other commitments and asked me if I could take her back and breed her and give them a puppy. So I was thrilled to death to get Allie back at six years of age, and I bred her and returned a puppy to them. The only time I ever bred a bitch after age seven

was Allie to Leah Benson's Indi. I honestly think that is one of the best breedings I've ever done. I got wonderful fronts, long necks and the best rears I've ever had in a litter. I've been fighting bad rears since I started breeding and I got really beautiful, true rears in that breeding.

And how old is that litter?

They will be two years old the thirteenth of November and that is my last litter.

Is it?

Yes. I've never done a lot of breeding. I breed every eighteen months to two years. I've tried not so much to breed pedigree as to breed type. I've tried to breed a bitch with a good front with a dog with a very good front. I've made a checklist of the qualities I have in my bitch and the qualities that her sire and dam had and then look for a dog that had the qualities I need and had the qualities in that dog's parents that I want to keep. I don't do a breeding unless I know something about the grandparents all the way around. If you don't know the pedigrees that far back then you don't know enough to breed.

You said that was the best litter; the most recent one, right? Was Kit the best dog you ever bred?

Kit was a heart dog. Kit's so close to my heart that it is hard to evaluate him. But structurally, no. Both his sons, Kiva and Flying High, out of Jeep, were better structurally, had better heads and moved better than Kit did. There were other kids that Kit produced. For example, Misty and Gala out of the Elmfield breeding were better than Kit. But they weren't my breeding.

They were half your breeding.

Yes, they were out of Kit. Trailblazer's Talaria was a wonderfully sound, beautiful bitch. She just hated dog shows. And Talaria was a full sister to Ch. Trailblazer's Silver Talisman, Jonathan. She produced ten champions. She never finished her championship. I've had dogs that were structurally better than Kit. Ch. Trailblazer's Tenacious was probably as good as anything I ever bred structurally but he wasn't showy. He was out of Trailblazer's Talaria and Ch. Scandia's Kejsare. He finished as a youngster. Liz Hooyman put most of the points on him. And I sold him because

I had his litterbrother. He was probably as good structurally as any dog I ever had. He was called Tenacious because he was out of that litter of ten puppies that I had to keep until they were four months old for CSU.

do anything except exactly what she wanted to do. So when she had to go to my house to be bathed to go to a dog show she would say, "You have to be kidding that you want me to stand here and look at a piece of

And when I bred Trailblazer's Charisma to Ice Breaker, I kept Kit. And I bred Charisma to K-Way's Omen of Destiny and kept a bitch out of that. I did a linebreeding that had this dog on both sides of the pedigree



Ch. Trailblazer Circuit Breaker, "Kit," winning Group 3 at Rapid City KC, under Judge Michele Billings, 1989.

and I placed the others but thought he was too good to place as a pet. But I couldn't find a show home for a boy. So we kept him and finished him. That's why he was Tenacious, because I just wasn't going to turn loose on him to a pet home.

Talaria produced ten champions for me. She was a nice bitch. She was soft-tempered. Bill Graessle, my partner in the Kennel Shop, had her so spoiled. He never asked her to

liver." (laughter)

I've been lucky in that I have bred to some really good dogs. There was a time when I had people say, "What are you doing, Judy? Why are you doing what you are doing?" I bred to Ice Breaker and one of the main reasons was because he went back on his dam's side to a beautiful dog I really liked. I also bred to K-Way's Omen of Destiny for the same reason. He went back to that same dog,

and nobody else had done that. And Wanda Kraus said "Judy, do you know what you are doing?" And I said, "Yes," and that's where I got Jeep. And then I bred Kit to Jeep's mother.

That was a good breeding. Well, that's where I got Kiva and Flying High. That was a nice litter with lots of leg, lots of neck, and really good movement.

To be continued ...