

# THE SAMOYED QUARTERLY

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B. HOSKIN  
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## Samoyed People



The Samoyed Quarterly  
Talks With  
**George Fitzpatrick**  
**SAM O'KHAN**  
Grandview, Washington

This interview was conducted in January 1984 at the home of George Fitzpatrick by Lyn Snyder Hoflin.

### How was your Sam O'Khan line blended with that of Doris and Harold McLaughlin of Silveracres?

Am./Can. Ch. Sam O'Khan's Tsari of Khan was bred to their Chief, Ch. Nachalnik of Drayalene and from that litter we got Tsarina, Am./Can. Ch. Sam O'Khan's Tsarina of Khan. That is the connection, plus the fact that Batu Khan, who belonged to the Watson's was sired by Muhuli. The Watson's were looking for a healthy place to live, and they were in Colorado for awhile. That is how the McLaughlin's got Batu and they used Batu for breeding. Then, we bought the Silver Khan from them because it was definitely our line, the Sam O'Khan line. That, and the fact that Doris is one of the best authorities in the country on lines because she has been in it so long. It is unusual for a person to be in it as long as they have.

### How did you get started?

We had a Cocker and took a trip down the Oregon coast over Labor Day. We didn't want to take the dog down there so we left it at a kennel in Richland. When we came back to get the dog they said, "Oh, that was the dog that got out and got killed!" So we were looking for a dog and began to ask around. The people in the Richland Kennel Club recommended Peggy

Rouse and we went out to look at the dogs. Shows how funny people are ... they had four males there and they said, "The three kids are going to keep this one, this one and this one, and you can have that one!" Right away we figured it was an inferior dog, so I said, "For extra can we buy THAT one?" "No, it's for the kid." So we went on home, decided we wanted the dog, called up to see if it was still there and went back and got the dog.

When the dog was six or seven months old, the Rouse's were going over to Walla Walla to a sanctioned puppy show match. This was in 1958 or '59. They asked us to come along, so we took our puppy. His name was Zaysan of Krisland. Because he walked around as though he owned the place, and because of our age in dogs, we called him "the Khan." We won and beat the other dogs at that match. Years later, Peggy Rouse would come to the house (she was very active in the Richland Kennel Club) and shake her head and say, "I guess we sold the wrong dog." The other dogs didn't amount to much except the bitch of the litter was very good. She took the Seattle show one time. She later cut her paw and that was the last of her shows. She was well worthy of being a champion.

We always believed that you will enjoy a dog more if they have had obedience, so we took him to obedience class. People would come around and ask why we didn't show the dog. We knew nothing of the show ring, but Frances and I went ahead and got two legs on the dog. Then we went to Vance McGillbry who had the Columbia River German Shorthairs, which was a very good line at the time. I said, "Would you like to show a dog?" and he said, "Sure thing!" He went to the January show in '59 in Portland and he came back storming. "Don't let that dog go in obedience anymore!" He came in second, Reserve, his first show out. We went on and at the Everett show he got his third major in that one year. From there on we were hooked on showing dogs. We made the attempt to do some breeding, and this is one way you can tell if you are reasonably conforming to the standards - in the showing ring.

After his championship, I took him back and got his third leg; it was a little



Frances Fitzpatrick with puppies,  
January 1960.

difficult because at that time one of the bitches was in season, and obedience doesn't work then.

### How did you get involved in breeding?

You have to realize that in the breeding I did the work, I delivered puppies, and all the things like this. But the real intensive study and picking the bitches was Frances' idea. First, we bought a very good bitch from Maple Valley; it was a very close relation to Chum. We were about ready to breed and we lost her to a brain tumor. At that time, Yurok was great. Jean Blank brought up two bitches and I can remember that they talked all night. Jean brought her granddaughter up with her for company on the show circuit with Yurok. They asked which one I liked and so I picked one, but Frances liked the other one and that was Whitecliff's Polar Dawn. We bought Dawn. Before that, just to see what Khan would throw, we bred Kita. There was not much linebreeding involved, but we got some very nice dogs.

We bred Tsari to Chum and there we got the champions. We got Chingis Khan, Khyber Khan, Kubla Khan (although I think he was in the second litter) and Sali Sarai. We bred to Chum twice and the results were good both times, but you cannot duplicate the results of the first breeding. I believe you can make a champion out of a dog if you keep showing it, but what does his get do? Does the quality carry on through? Sam O'Khan's get has thrown many champions. There were other breedings. We went to Kris Kringle, who comes back through on Sibir Khan, who



All in the family.

was by then with Carmalita Avery.

There is an interesting aspect of this. We lived in Richland and you could only have a limited number of dogs. Richland became a city from a government project and we did have a kennel license for a long time, even though they weren't aware of it. We had to keep the number of dogs down, but when you breed, you tend to keep your

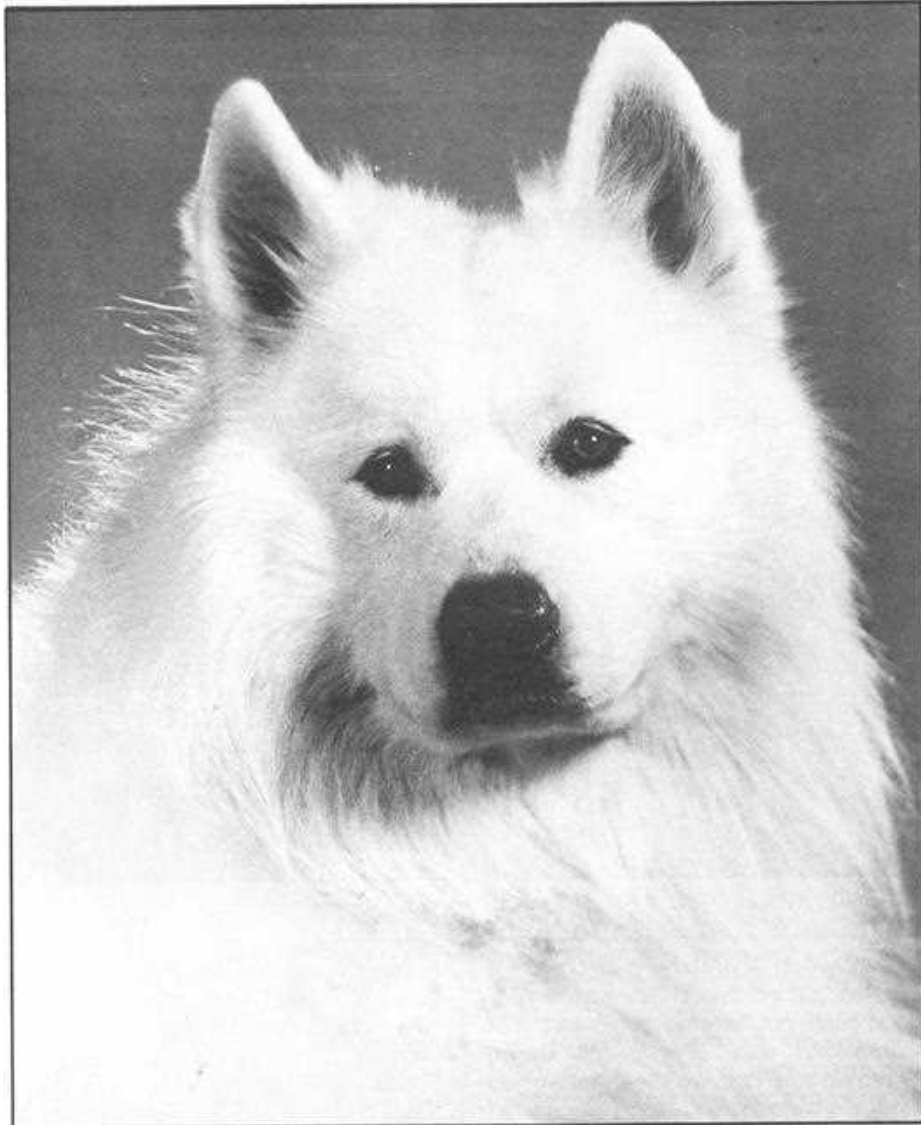
own breeding and show your breeding. We recognized that Dawn was a very good bitch, but here we got Tsari out of a breeding with Zaysan and Dawn. When we saw Tsari we knew that we had what we were looking for. I always felt that if you are breeding you have to keep a dog of your breeding to see what you are doing. I felt we should then sell Dawn. Some people in the kennel club

never forgave me for that. Carmalita Avery of Tulsa, Oklahoma bought Dawn. She was a very doggy person who showed Dawn and made her Top Producing Bitch one year. We raised Tsari and that was the right thing to do because from Tsari came all these other Sam O'Khan champions. Carmalita was thrilled with Dawn.

We had first sold Sibir to a guy back



L. to r.: Tsari, Shan and Tsarina



Am/Can Ch. Zaysan of Krisland, CD.

in Michigan. Later, Carmalita wrote Frances and asked where she could get a good male. We had none at the time, but we got a letter from a lawyer in Michigan who said the man who owned Sibir just died. He was handling the estate and the dog's papers made him aware that Sibir must be a very valuable dog. Did we know anybody who would like the dog? We contacted Carmalita and she bought the dog.

Whenever we shipped a dog we tried to get him acclimated. Put him in his crate awhile and maybe give him a tranquilizer or something. When the lawyer shipped the dog to Oklahoma from Michigan the dog made such a fuss that the pilot put the plane down in Detroit and put the dog off. The phone bill was \$75 just to locate the dog! He finally came by rail. They were very thrilled with Sibir also, and he helped

make Dawn the Top Producing Bitch.

**What is the most dogs you ever kept?**



Sam O'Khan's Chingis Khan (Jingo)

Five. It is difficult when you raise dogs; you must realize that whether it is dogs or women, it is hard to have two in the same house. One will dominate, one will become broken in spirit and be cowed. Of this litter of all the top Khan's we had Sali Sarai. You could tell right off that Sali was the top bitch, but we noticed Tsari was beating her down. We didn't have the facilities to keep them apart that much. Joan Sheets called and wanted a bitch. With a broken heart we decided to sell Sali Sarai, and on Christmas Day she was shipped to Joan Sheets. At that time we had Sali, Tsari, Khan, Shan and Temuchen.

You will note that all our names are Khans or Khanums. It is our understanding that the Samoyed people most likely originated in Ancient Persia, they were a lesser tribe, and were moved across all of Siberia, so they must have crossed Mongolia; all this time they kept their dogs. We picked the Chingis Khan family and we used that for the source of our names. Sibir is a river in Central Asia; Tian Shan is a mountain in Central Asia and a Chinaman there that Chingis Khan knew. We have no such names as "Snowball" or "Whitey" or names like this. It has always been well-received and many of the people who bought dogs that we sold stuck with the "Khan" idea. Pat Morehouse named her kennel Kubla Khan and Kubla Khan was Chingis Khan's grandson. Then when Muhuli was bred to the Watson's dog they named the dog Batu Khan. Batu was Chingis Khan's son. It has carried on from there.

We bred to a dog in Canada and took one of the pups. Most of the dogs were in Frances' name, but I was going to use Temuchen for obedience. Chingis Khan's name was Temuchen before he became Chingis Khan. Temuchen was my dog, and while he wasn't as small as many Canadian dogs, he wasn't as big as the average American Samoyed. He was about 22 or 22 and a half inches. We showed him and got his Canadian championship without any problem, and then I took him on to a CDX. The CDX was no problem, CDX was no problem, and then we went on to Utility. He took to it without any problem, but when it came to show where you had the two jumps (board and pole jumps) it didn't matter which you sent him to, he would go over that one first. I would tell him he was a good boy. Then he would be sent over the other,



Ch. Oakwood Farm's Kari J'Go Diko



Am/Can Ch. Sam O'Khan's Tian Shan

but he knew I was so pleased with the one he went over first that he'd do it again! (laughter)

At that time, my son had a lot of kids and we left Timi with my son once when we went away. When we came back, Timi wanted to go back to the kids. He was my dog until it came to the kids, plus it was nicer for him to be the "big dog in a little pond." He was always thrilled when I came around, but I never did get the opportunity to finish his Utility.

Then we were at four dogs: Khan, Shan, Tsari and Tsarina. Tsarina was the only bitch that Tsari would ever tolerate. Tsari was getting old, even though at fifteen she still thought she was a pup. She accepted Tsarina without any problems, although Khan would never accept Shan and that made things difficult. Shan did come through it all right because we managed to keep them apart. With Shan and Muhuli it was also a battle. We averaged four dogs. When we went back to Wisconsin in 1971 we had Tsari, Tsarina and Shan. Shan rode with me to keep me company. I did train Shan in obedience and he got his CD without any problem. However, my experience with Samoyeds is that they are not very good high jumpers, and he would hit the boards too often. I was using him for breeding at times and



Ch. Sam O'Khan's Sali Sarai

that beating from the boards just wasn't good for him.

While we were in Wisconsin, Frances bred Tsarina and Shan and produced Muhuli. In all our breeding experience up to that time, we never lost a pup. They averaged seven to nine puppies. But in this litter, they just didn't seem to eat well. Our bitches were certainly well-trained, in that they always whelped on a weekend, so I got to deliver all the dogs. At this time in Wisconsin I was the quality control supervisor on the construction of the Kewaunee Reactor that is east of Green Bay on Lake Michigan. I went down Monday morning to look at the pups and two were dead. The biggest and strongest of the litter were dead; that was the first time that had ever happened. I went to work and I got a call around nine saying one or two more were dead. I called up the veterinarian in Green Bay and said I was bringing in Tsarina and the pups. We brought them

in and he checked the mother's milk and said there was high acid. I had never run into that. He said the strongest ones had got into the milk right away and that is why they died; the weaker ones didn't get that much, so he gave them a shot of something that made their teeth all brown, I remember that! They had to be hand-fed, which is a rough job. You can either use a little nipple or you can go to the tube feeding. Unless you are very good at it, you can get the tube down the lungs and kill them.

We used goat's milk and a bitch's milk replacer and started the continuous job of feeding them. By the time you feed them all, two hours is up, and that went on for over two weeks. We pulled the five of them through without any problems. Muhuli was my next choice. I kept Muhuli as my dog and we sold the rest.

As I said, at fifteen Tsari was just like a pup, but right after that she came

down with cancer. Even though she would eat a great deal, her whole body and muscle tone went, and at about fifteen and a half she passed away. Shan lived to fourteen, and Zaysan died at ten. Muhuli is twelve now.

**Muhuli is the only one you have now?**

Yes, and his mother came back with us in December of 1978. We had Tsari cremated in Wisconsin. Two years later, Tsarina would cry when she got up and down, we took her to the vet who said her whole backbone had fused solid except for one place which was about to fall apart. We took her home for about three months and then she became completely paralyzed.

When we moved here we had that dog run that is in the backyard. It is 24 feet long and six feet high. We had it in Richland, shipped it to Wisconsin and then brought it back here. Emily (my present wife) felt it was too cold out there for the dogs so we brought Tsarina and Muhuli in the house a couple of years ago. Muhuli has been in the house ever since.

**Are you going to get any more Samoyeds?**

When we came back from Wisconsin, one of my granddaughters wanted a Samoyed and at that time Batu was with Doris McLaughlin. We wrote and asked if she had any pups of our line. They came back with a nice one and we bought him for Sheila. The dog was beautiful, and at two we got his OFA. We showed him the first time in Spokane and the judge liked him very much; it was Sheila's first time in the ring. She was watching the dog, and as you know you are supposed to have one eye on the dog in front of you, one eye on the dog behind you, one eye on the judge and one eye on the dog! She had both eyes on the dog when the judge pointed to her, so he pointed to the other person and she came in second and Reserve in a large class. Whether it was the fact that she didn't win right at the start, or because of her schoolwork, etc., she lost interest in it. She graduated from high school, specialized in language and went in the Air Force. I couldn't take the dog because Muhuli would not tolerate another male. We have some close friends in Vancouver, Canada and they took the dog.

A Samoyed is a lot of work. To enjoy a Samoyed, he should have obedience and should be brushed a couple of times a week. I wouldn't have

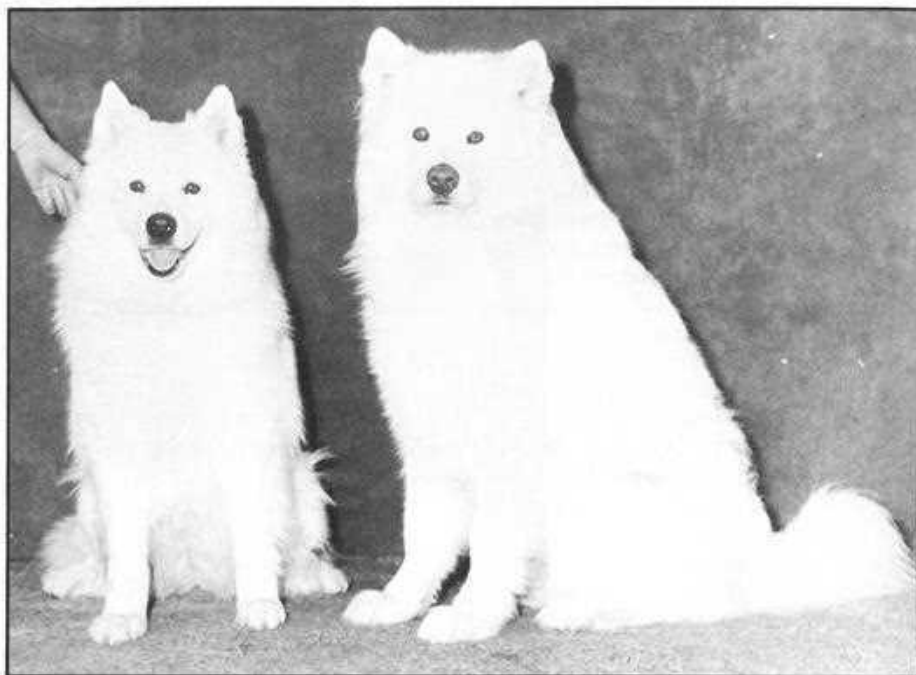


Ch. Sam O'Khan's Kubla Khan

another Sammy pup unless I could plan to take it through obedience. As we are talking about these different dogs, in all our breeding we were aware of hip dysplasia problems. If you start back in 1959, you'll find there was very little concern with that at the time, and I know of many breeders who were not X-raying their dogs. All of ours were X-rayed clear and the dogs that we bred had to be X-rayed clear or we would not breed them. When OFA came along, Sali Sarai and Chingis Khan were OFA SA-1 and SA-2. Shan is OFA, Tsarina is OFA, Muhuli is OFA. If you have bred dogs, you know that you don't hit 100%; you hope by judicious breeding, X-raying and so on that you'll make out. You cut down on the number of dysplastic dogs, but I believe that you will still have some along the way, much to your sorrow. There isn't anything else you can do about it. We firmly believed in X-raying, but now I'm not sure that they know all the problems about it yet.

**Do you have any idea how many litters you bred over the years?**

There are two things: you would like to improve the breed and you feel obligated to have your dogs in good homes. A breeder worthy of the name should have those two things as his goals. The good homes are as important as anything you can get. We did not have a great many. You go back to Kita, the dam of Khan's first litter; the second litter was with Dawn. Tsari and Chum, twice; Tsari and Kris Kringle, once; Tsari and Chief, once. We did breed Sali Sarai once, then Tsarina and Shan, and those would be pretty close to the actual number of breedings we had. We are very proud of the homes that most of them went to. One time we got a letter from this little girl. She had 75 cents and wondered if she could buy a dog. We sent the letter back to her mother, who called and said she and the kids had talked about it and agreed, but the father seemed cool to the idea. The kids, literally, picketed the father with signs that said, "Happiness is a white dog!" We invited them over and they couldn't leave without the dog. They had that dog for years, and then when they lost that, they got another, and then the daughter got one out of Muhuli's litter. This is what makes you feel good when a dog becomes a part of a family; you are fulfilling part of your obligations to the dog. Breeding dogs for the average person is an expensive



Tsari and Ch. Nachalnik of Drayalene

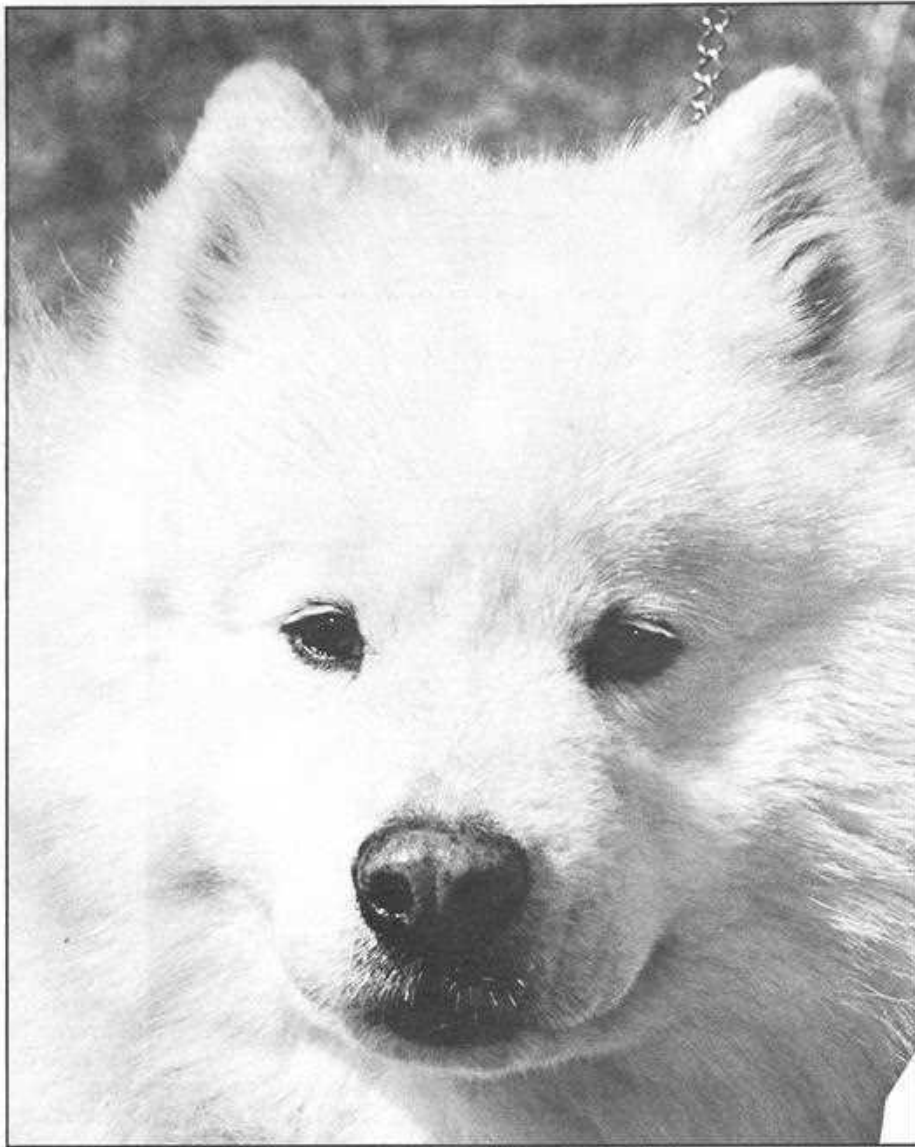


Tsari

hobby if you are going to be fair to the dog and fair to yourself. You don't make money on things like this. When you are breeding and showing dogs, it gives you

an opportunity to see a cross section of the people.

**Do you have any idea how many titled dogs you bred?**



Shan

I have the list here. Better than twenty-five, I'd say. Dawn turned out to be a Top Producing bitch back in 1964; Tsari was four times the Top Producing bitch. Our direct titles maybe aren't that high. Out of that one litter alone, Sali, Kubla Khan, Khyber Khan, Chingis Khan finished, and maybe someone else. We sold a bitch to North Starr and we got to meet them when we lived back in Wisconsin. We went to the Sammy specialty in Michigan, and North Starr's King's Ransom was there. He has many Bests in Show, and Ransom's mother, Sam O'Khan's Karelia of Khan was out of that same litter. They got her and showed her to twelve points, when they decided to breed. They bred her and had King's Ransom and some other dogs that finished. After the litter, waiting for the coat to fill out, she ran out

in the road to meet somebody and a car hit her. The dog's back was broken, of course. He is a neurosurgeon and he called the top veterinarian around. He went to the hospital and got the same tools he used for operating on people, operated on his dog and fixed her back up. The vet called back to see how the dog was doing and he said just fine. The vet asked if he relieved the vertebrae, because in that area the spinal cord is going to start swelling, and if he didn't it would pinch off. He went back to the hospital to get the tools, and do the operation again. She was fine for a couple of days, but then died of pneumonia.

Ransom was a top winning dog who threw champions. Khan also threw champions. There is some substance to the line when you continue to breed

champions; and I would say that the same thing has happened in the Kubla Khan line. I understand that Batu also has champions, and Muhuli, and Shan. We were on the right track, as things have proven down the line.

**I've heard it said that you probably bred more Best in Show dogs than anybody else in Samoyeds. Is that true?**

Muhuli's father, Shan, was Best in Show. Actually, there were very few Samoyed Bests in Show until Chingis Khan came along. Chingis Khan had eight American Bests in Show and beat the greatest number of dogs of any Samoyed to that time. My son has always berated us because he, like I, picked Chingis Khan as the top dog of the litter, but Tian Shan was ideally the right dog. Chingis Khan was about 24 inches, and a little more flashy; but Tian Shan matched the standard more, and that is why Frances kept him.

There is a story about Chingis Khan. You see, we start the dogs off on sanctioned matches. I showed Shan down in Richland and got Best in Match; I showed Khyber Khan to a Best in Match. The people we sold Chingis Khan to lived in Kennewick and we tried to interest them in showing. The dog had everything you wanted like a beautiful home and etc., but there were family difficulties. We took Chingis Khan to the sanctioned match in Richland and he won Best in Match. After this couple split up, Frances went down and got him and practiced showing him. I was away working and Vincent and his mother took Chingis Khan to a show in Longview. It was his first show and he came in second and Reserve. Vincent, to this day, still hollers about it. The lady who owned the dog then went to Portland. Bob Bowles was at the Longview show, and Joan Sheets called him to ask where she could get a real good dog. She didn't want a pup, she wanted X-rays, etc. He had just seen Chingis Khan at the show and told her about him and that he was beautiful. She called us up and offered to pay to have the dog X-rayed and then she would buy him for whatever the people wanted. We made the deal, everything worked out and that is how Joan Sheets got Chingis Khan.

In 1965 we went back to Madison Square Garden. Shan had good luck around here, but Chingis Khan was going to the Westminster show, too. There were forty champions there at the

time, and when it got down to it Chingis Khan was at the front, and Shan was at the back. After the judge had gone over all the dogs, he went back to Chingis Khan, and then over to Shan. We thought that the judge would give it to Shan, but just then Chingis Khan said, "Woof, I want it!" (laughter) and so the judge pointed to him. When your breeding takes the Breed at Madison Square Garden it's exciting.

**Did you ever refuse to service a bitch?**

Once in Wisconsin, but even more so here. I would say in more than a half a dozen cases. They would call up and have a bitch already in season. I requested a report from a qualified radiologist, to see the dog and see that she meets the standards of the breed. Then they would say, "We don't have time to do that!" That happened over half a dozen times, but since I have been here the kennel club has a referral service and they will call me up. Instead of going through this now, I refer them to the McLaughlins in Colorado, or once I gave Kuslers' name. Now I turn down many more than I have bred. People will say, "But money is no object." I know, but there is one thing about it: In breeding, people never blame a poor dog, they always blame the GOOD dog if there is anything wrong. Yes, I have turned down many breedings.

**Would you say that a fair stud fee is the price of a puppy?**

That is generally the way it goes. I turned down fifteen hundred dollars once for Shan.

**How did Muhuli get his name?**

Muhuli Khan was a boyhood friend of Chingis Khan, and one of his best generals. Muhuli Khan went on through and conquered Korea when Chingis Khan turned west after his foray in China. One thing about names of that nature is that it is hard to transcribe Mongolian into English. Muhuli sounds kind of like an Irishman, too! (laughter)

**Did you help your bitches whelp?**

For the first litter, we were very green. Some people say you just let them go and they take care of it themselves. When Kita finally settled down and started to whelp, she kept running into the kitchen where Frances was and it became evident that she wanted her around. She pretty much dropped the puppies into my hands. Different ones whelped differently. I



Temujin

would break the sac, dry the puppy well, and then give it to the mother. We never had any adverse reactions. We did have a whelping box with the rim around so the pups could lay along the side and the mother not lay on them. We went to

Dr. Ferguson for years, he was one of the best vets around. Dr. Ferguson never bought the idea that the placenta would help the mother, he felt it would just upset a bitch who was already pretty well upset. The mother never got to clean it up.

**Did you tend to go with inbreeding, linebreeding or outcrossing on the litters you bred?**

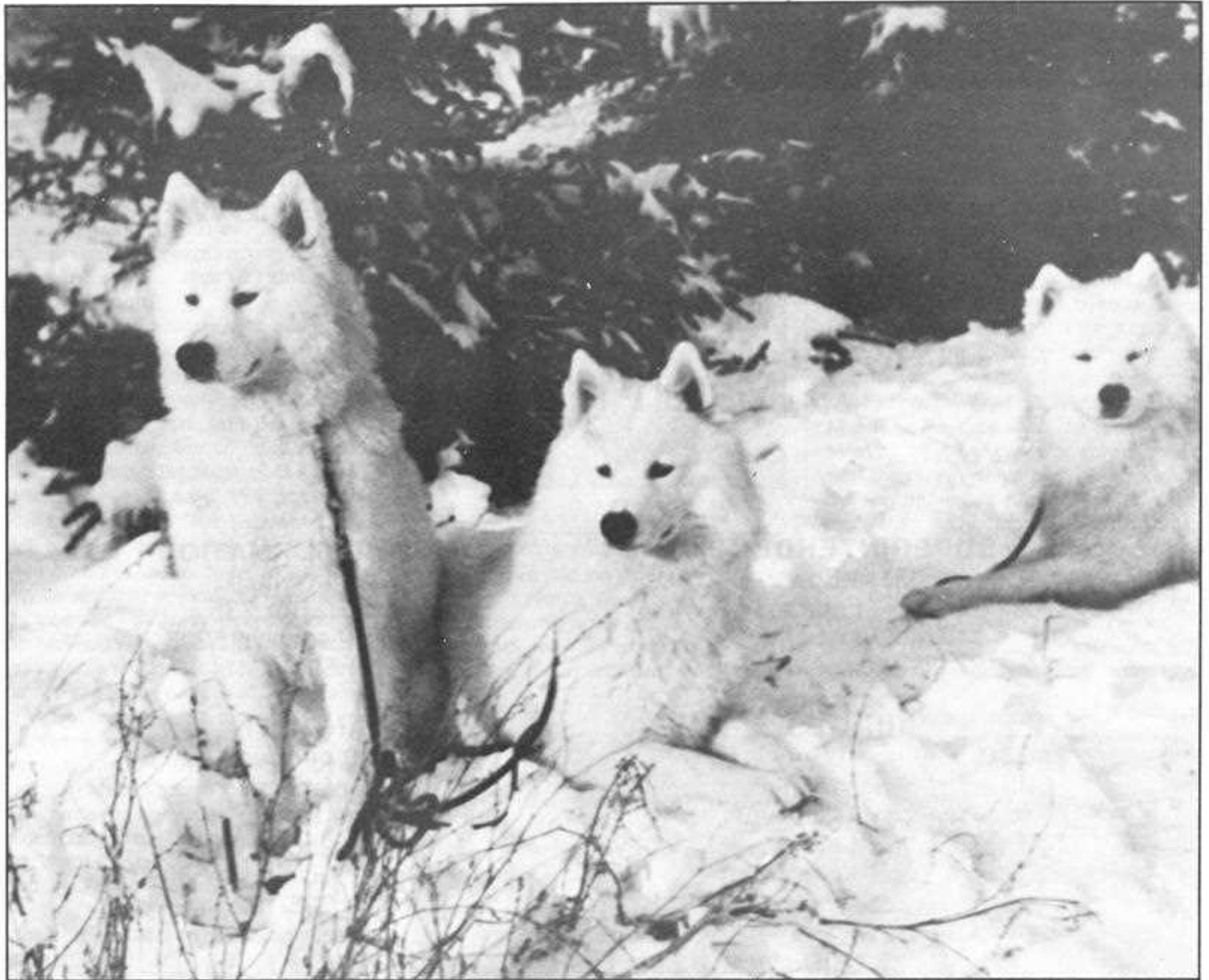
Linebreeding was our basic philosophy. If there has been a lot of inbreeding you are in for a lot of trouble. But if there are no really dominant faults evident you could do a limited amount of inbreeding without adverse effects. Muhuli is the product of an inbreeding. Most of the other breedings were made with the relationships pretty far back. If the dog has a bad rear or front, a major fault, then never inbreed. But to say, "Don't inbreed at all!" is cutting off an avenue of possible improvement.

**Getting back to puppies, when did you usually wean them?**

About the seventeenth day the



Muhuli



Sali Sarai, Tsarina and Temujin

mother is getting pretty well chewed up. The teeth are getting quite predominant. If you do have an eight or nine dog litter, you try to supplement as much as possible. We bought a lot of goat's milk. You do this to help the bitch. Tsarina never got a chance to be a mother because we had to dry her up because of her high acid milk. That was most difficult because she wanted the pups and we just couldn't have it. Frances once wrote a discourse on whelping and sent it out.

**What age did you feel was ideal for placing puppies?**

Being that you wanted to pick out the best, ideally, you would keep them for about six months, but never under eight to ten weeks. Then the other person would get a chance to have them as a pup, too.

**How would you describe the ideal Samoyed?**

I disagree with some of the people I read about now. They are hollering about the height and so on. The standard is within reason, although I don't like a male under 22 inches. On up through 24 1/2 I have no problem with. The judge, if he is any good, goes by balance. If a dog is balanced, carries himself well, then I, myself, think the larger Sammy is more flashy. I prefer a 24-inch Sammy, if they move well. The movement is what really counts. In Calgary, a long time ago, they went the other way and I once saw some 16 inch ones and that is like a Spitz. You should go by how well they move and their balance. Chingis Khan was likely 24 1/2 inches and it never hurt him a heck of a lot! Most of our real

successful winners, except Muhuli were about 23 1/2-plus. Look at Yurok, Kubla Khan, Ransom ... they were all up there.

We had been in Samoyeds since 1958 or '59, and we always trimmed their whiskers and never saw any adverse reaction. None of our dogs ran into the wall! We also trimmed pads so they wouldn't bring in the dirt, or slip in the show ring. Of course, if you cut the hair in between the toes you are going to get a splayed foot when you don't have it. We always trimmed the back hocks to keep them from looking ragged. I don't like the chalk blocks and that sort of thing; no faking of the dog.

Muhuli got his CD in three shows and we were starting in CDX. About that time I lost Frances and Muhuli was keeping me company, so I didn't have the heart to be yanking him around that

much. Other than the jumping, my dogs took to obedience very readily. That is except for Tsari, when you would walk through a show with her she would jump up on all the grooming tables lined up. All of our dogs were well aware of the fact that they were winning. If the first Khan happened to not win, he would come out holding his head down. Our handlers treated the dogs like people, even though they have many traits better than people.

**Do you think the show attitude of the dog has a lot to do with winning in the ring?**

As you know if you have showed, most dogs handled right will take to showing, but there comes a time when he says, "I've had enough!" You might as well quit. It isn't fair to you or to the dog. It happened to a fellow over in Seattle, and the dog just quit showing. Then Pat Tripp took him and did very well in Canada. There was a dog that I would say had lost interest in showing, but Pat Tripp was an exceptional handler. She did very good by that dog. Most dogs if they are treated right and trained right, will show.

**You mentioned always getting OFA numbers, did you do eye checks also back in the early years?**

We were in Green Bay when this business of PRA came out. In Green Bay there was one of the best veterinary ophthalmologists, Venicee. He was going all over the country operating on animals' eyes. We took the four dogs that we had to Venicee: Tsari, Shan, Tsarina and Muhuli. He showed me Tsari's eyes (who was eleven years old at the time) and he said, "That's the kind of eye you look in and see all these red blood vessels coming together like a sunburst, and that is something in a dog that age!" Muhuli was fourteen months then.

**What do you consider to be good movement in Samoyeds?**

In order to have good movement, you must have a good front end and a good rear. I have seen dogs lifted up who are out at the elbows, so as to hide the fault from the judge. The judge has to be smart enough to tell the handler to relax the lead. If you have a good front, rear and drive, you are fortunate. None of our dogs were out at the shoulder, or did paddling or things of this nature, and I thought our rears were very good. The person handling the dog has got to adapt their pace to what best suits the



Am/Can Ch. Sam O'Khan's Tian Shan

dog. You don't show a Samoyed like a Shepherd. If you have a bad moving dog, you are wasting your money and should go and start your breeding program over again. I have seen dogs with double hocks that had good movement, but you could hear them click in and out! In Canada, a dog needed one point to finish and the judge one day threw him out. Somebody showed the girl how to handle the dog so the hocks wouldn't click quite so much and she won the next day. That, to me, is a major fault.

As one person told us during our show experience, we did more than our share of winning. I replied that it doesn't go by shares, it goes by what you present in the ring.

**How would you describe the ideal Samoyed temperament?**

The Samoyed temperament is not completely outgoing. He is reserved with strangers, but very friendly around his own. He is not the lighthead that just goes and jumps all over every person. In other words, a reserved friendliness.

With the children of their own family, they are pillows and companions without any ill-temper. The temperament has a lot to do with the way the dog is brought up; a dog, as well as people, is a product of the environment. All our earlier dogs were brought up with kids and were very good with kids. In fact, Temuchen left me for eight kids! (laughter) Muhuli was never as outgoing with kids as the others because he wasn't raised that way. I would not let kids wrestle with Muhuli like all the other dogs. Timi would let them do anything and if they got too rough, he wouldn't bite them, he would get up and walk away. The first Khan was the same way. They have to be around children to be their best, and have the opportunity to be around that type of behavior.

**When you were actively breeding, would you have bred to a dog with a serious fault if everything else about that dog was outstanding?**

It depends. Hip dysplasia is a serious fault I wouldn't breed to. If a

stud had a tight tail and the bitch didn't, then yes. If it was a bad front and rear, then no. As I said before, if you breed two dogs and get a fault in a pup, it is always blamed on the better parent. You can't blame something that isn't that good to begin with. I also wouldn't breed to a dog with too light of a bone. Our males had good bone and could be bred to a moderately light-boned bitch, but not a foxy-looking bitch. We just didn't want to get Sam O'Khan's name on it.

Being in the dogs has been a very interesting experience, and we have met lots of nice people. Some maybe not as nice, but we aren't always as nice either, all the time! (laughter) In my opinion, you shouldn't breed if you aren't trying to improve the breed. I would have to know that something was going to be a very good breeding or a little better than average, or I wouldn't go into it. If you have a stud to offer to other people you should make sure the dog is representative of the breed and without major faults.

#### **How do you feel about biscuit-colored dogs?**

I would be very careful about that. Number one, I have always felt that you would not have a good standup coat without a little biscuit. Mrs. Watson had very dark biscuit and she finished the dog. For my choice, I would rather have a little biscuit. I don't mind spots on the ear. In the first Khan you see evidence of biscuit. If I had a lot of biscuit, like big splashes on the sides, I would breed away from it; but if I had dead white coats, I wouldn't mind picking up some. You have evidence of better guard hair, etc. with biscuit, although I can't quote it as a fact.

#### **Have you been to any shows lately?**

Not in the past year. Even with Emily's bad back, she and I worked in the ring at the Richland Kennel Club Show a couple of years ago. I've been a member for years and years. She sat there and marked the dogs, handled the sitdown chores, and I handled the ribbons and put the armbands on. It worked out great. Somebody said, "Oh, you are going to work in there with your wife?" and I said, "We've never had any problem!" We had boxes of trophies that we hadn't opened up since we left here in 1971 and we gave the Richland Kennel Club three boxes of trophies. We were also very active in the Green Bay club while we were there. I lived in

Richland from 1946 to 1971 and feel the Richland club always puts on a very good show. It is a three-day circuit and we were in the middle; a very interesting weekend.

#### **Is judging fair?**

I would say three out of four times, at least. Certain judges do not like certain types of dogs, but I feel it is usually fair to the best of the judge's ability. There are some biased judges. Isidore Schoenberg once said, "I may not put up the best dog, but I never put up the worst." As he looks at the dog coming into the ring, he tries to see what is there because he doesn't want the name of putting up a bad dog. This is how good judges think. They don't want to put up a bad dog. Once in a while you see a judge who may be new to Sammy judging, but it doesn't take long to see what they are like. Actually, in all the time we were showing, we never picked a judge. If the show was there, we entered the dog, and we found that worked out very well. In my opinion, some of the Canadian judges were not very good, but then they also had some very good ones, like Bob Waters. He's as good as you can get! He likes a good dog who is well presented. It is an insult to a judge to have to put up a dirty dog

unless it is raining outside or something like that. Our dogs were always spotlessly groomed, whether we did it or someone else did. Gene Hanlin was always very fussy, and McGillbry before him. McGillbry handled Khan to his championship and then moved to Vancouver. McGillbry was an Indian from Oklahoma and was a very good handler; and Gene Hanlin was one of the best handlers in the northwest. The way the dog is groomed and presented is all a part of it.

Once you get established and make a name for yourself, judges do know who you are. Judges are vain, like the rest of us, and like to get their pictures in the books. If two dogs are reasonably equal, the judge may go with the one who is likely to advertise the win. Do you agree with that or not?

**We once asked a woman if she thought that advertising influenced the judges. She said, "Well, I don't know, but if they can be influenced I want to be the one to influence them!"**

I say it won't affect 80% of them, but there are some judges, or there have been in the past, that like this sort of thing. They like to knock off champions with nine-month-old puppies.



Tsarina

This isn't fair to the champions or even to the judge himself. That dog is not radiographed and they don't know what he will be at two years old. He may take Best of Winners, but seldom do you see a good judge putting up a dog that young. Some judges are anti-handlers, but if you have a reasonably good dog, a handler can bring out the good points better than most of the people who do not attend shows that much. Sometimes, too, I have worked shifts and we have shown from Calgary to Madison Square Garden, and some of them you just can't get to. On the other hand, Ransom was shown more by Kathy Hritzo than a handler and he was a good dog. He was about 24 inches with good bone; I saw him when he was out of coat and he still did good that day. Muhuli was shown at the show in Pontiac, Michigan around 1974 or '75 and our handler was brought over from Green Bay. There were forty or fifty champions there and Muhuli didn't get thrown out until there were only ten dogs left. He was better than forty others in the judge's eye, which I thought was kind of nice. Ransom was out of coat and came in second, but he had won about five or six Bests in Show that particular year.

During the years we were showing, nine out of ten times, we got a fair break and maybe eight out of ten times, we won! (laughter) We had to win like that to get the Top Brood Bitch three or four times. Judges, as a rule, are a devoted group of people.

#### **What did you feed your dogs?**

We started with Best Foods Kasco, but then in the Midwest we couldn't get it. We used it for years, the dry food. Their teeth always stayed cleaner with dry food, although we did give choice table scraps at times. They always got a couple of tablespoons of oil along with it. One thing about Kasco, they had 1% more fat than the others and we felt the dogs needed the fat. Richland is hot in the summer, but we never had a hot spot on any of the dogs we ever had. They received powdered vitamins that we used to buy in bulk lots. Of course, the bitches always got calcium. It is an expensive hobby, but the rich man has racehorses and they are a poor man's racehorse. Showing dogs is a good ego trip! Also, it is the only way to be sure that you are staying close to the standard; if you get beat repeatedly, maybe there is something wrong with



Am/Can Ch. Sam O'Khan Muhuli Khan of Ti-Shan, CD

your dogs. However, don't make that assumption because if the dog that keeps beating you is heavily-advertised; it could be that.

#### **That is a beautiful Samoyed fur coat.**

When people come and ask if the breed sheds, you tell them that if they are interested in a dog, they should begin to wear light colors, greys. Navy blue is not the thing to wear with a Sammy. You have to point out that one of the characteristics of the dog is that they do shed. We kept them out during the winter in Wisconsin in their dog house. They would lay on the platform instead and you would see a little black spot where the nose was in the pile of snow. The first Khan would hold coat until the first of June, but Shan would throw his around August. He would not be out of coat very long, either.

#### **What breeders, past or present, do you most admire for the job they have done breeding Samoyeds?**

Jean Blank of Whitecliff, who showed Yurok and put Samoyeds in the Group classes. Back when we started

showing, Samoyeds were seldom in the Group and Jean was getting into the Group. Now, it is not uncommon, and with Razzmatazz going Best in Show, that is also becoming more and more likely. The McLaughlin's have done a very good job of raising good dogs, breeding and presenting the breed in a good light with reasonable guarantees. The Northwest has had its share of good dogs, and its share of problems with dogs. I remember years ago, back in the early '60's, when Frances would go to Samoyed meetings, and very few people thought it was necessary to radiograph the dog. Even before our time, Betty Blue produced a lot of dogs up in the Northwest that were very good. The best ones are those who have had their dogs radiographed and have been consistent in their winning. I know the Nonhofs personally, back in Wisconsin, who own and bred Am./Can. Ch. Moonlighter's I'ma Bark Star. They are very sincere and have put a lot of time and money into the dogs, they have worked very hard. Those breeders back there hold clinics and try to educate breeders. In that group, also, is Don

Hodges. He is the AKC representative for the Samoyed Club, he has had very good luck, and is a product of the Northwest. Although I am more familiar with them back there, there are several others who have worked very seriously at it.

We certainly can't overlook Pat Moorehouse of Kubla Khan. She has worked very hard and has been through the mill trying to raise dogs in Los Angeles. She was still doing radiographs of the dogs on through about twelve years old. She was super careful. After all, she certainly had good foundation stock! (laughter) She, too, is very sincere and she has put her life into the dogs and has been successful at it.

I don't believe in putting too many strings on dogs. We have never done that. You have to sell the dog and let it go at that. You are obligated in a way if you sell a dog and someone doesn't want it, to find a home for it. But where you have a half interest, or a quarter interest because you can't afford to show it - no.

If you are a person of limited means, you can just do so much. We never had a real kennel, dog raising was not my occupation. We only had one son, but he had eight kids. The oldest is a girl, then a boy, then six more girls. It is kind of ironic when you look at it another way: I was very good in my chosen occupations, but more people remember me for the dogs and recognize me for that than what I worked all my life at.

Along the way there have been so many who are still in dogs: Gloria Clouser, whom we sold a dog, is still back in Pennsylvania. There are many cases where the dog has actually brought so much happiness, even if it didn't make much of an impression in the show ring. One of the real purposes of a dog is to be a member of the family. Our dogs were members of the family first, and show dogs second. Muhuli was there with me all the time after Frances died. He was my dog. Tsarina, his mother, was my wife's dog and stayed right by her bed when she was ill. She wouldn't let Muhuli or anybody go by. But after Frances died, Tsarina wouldn't even go into the bedroom. This is what makes the effort of having a dog worthwhile.

**If you had it to do over again, would you?**

Oh, yes. There is not much that I

would do differently with the success that we had. The Samoyeds were worth the effort, more so than any other dogs or cats. Too many just tolerate you, there is no doubt that the Samoyed has your interests at heart first. When we first brought our granddaughter, Chris, home, the Samoyeds would get between other people and Chris.

A man saw the first Khan once and said he looked like a dog he knew. I asked who it was and it turned out to be Khan's grandfather. I asked if he was a good watchdog. He said they had this dog on the ranch and he was always very good. One day the people were gone, but the neighbor wanted to borrow a saw. He went over, met the dog outside, they went into the toolshed, and he reached up for the saw. The dog took hold of his leg. He put the saw back and the dog let go. They walked outside just fine. This is so true of the Samoyed. All the Samoyed people had were dogs and kids, so that is what made them so close.

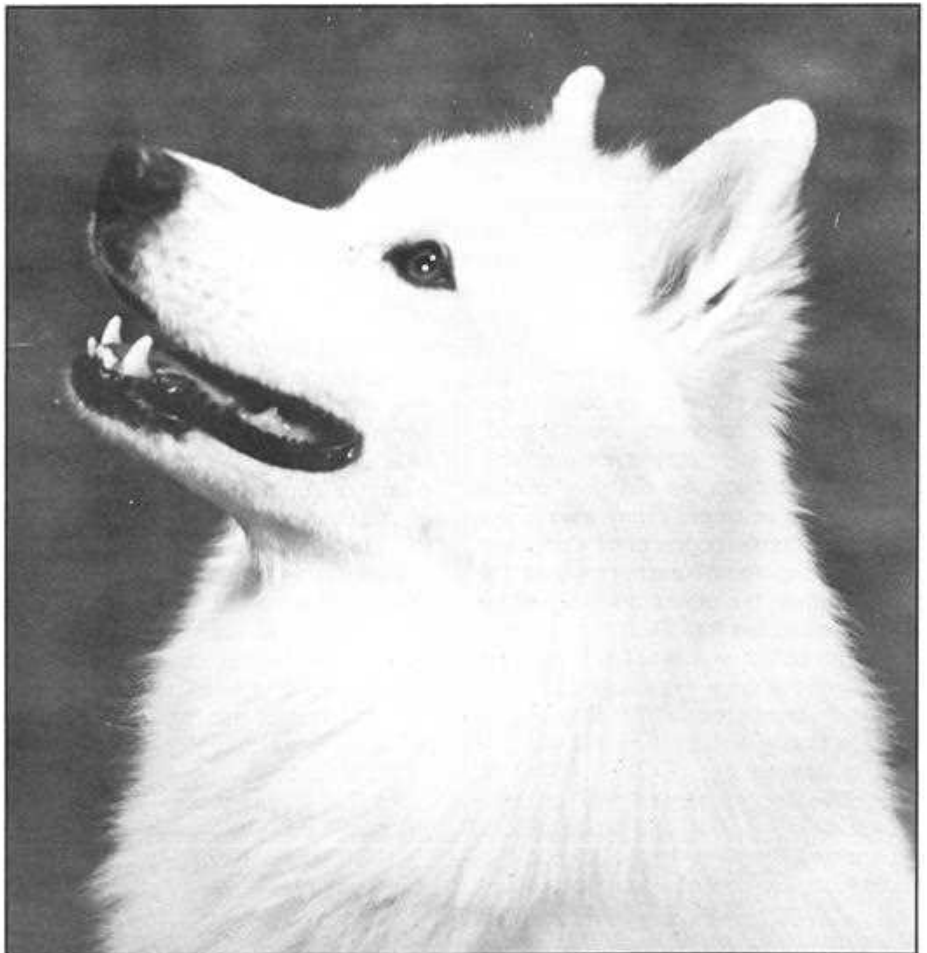
**Is there anything we haven't**

**covered?**

I just hope it has been worthwhile. I have the greatest respect for the Samoyed people who are trying to improve the breed. You get out of the dogs just what you put in, and you must have good stock to begin with. We picked Dawn, and Dawn clicked with Khan. Then Muhuli with at least eleven champions, so it wasn't all based on just one dog. Then we had no trouble with OFA and had no major faults, and very few minor ones. We never had a coarse dog. I have seen some mean Sammies, but this was due to their environment. Every dog that a neighbor of ours had ate up the mailman!

**Thank you for such a nice interview.**

You're welcome. Frances would have done a much better job. \*



Tsari