

The
SAMOYED
QUARTERLY



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SAMOYED PEOPLE



The Samoyed Quarterly Talks With
ANN C. HAMLIN
ALTA SAMOYEDS
Rosemead, California

This interview was taped at Ann C. Hamlin's home in June, 1977.

How did you first get started in Samoyeds?

Well, my husband died, and in the search to fill an empty space in the house my son and I decided we would get a puppy. Years ago I remember reading the *CALL OF THE WILD* by Jack London. I wanted to get a dog just like the one in my favorite "hero story," so I went searching for a Samoyed. At that time they were extremely hard to find, at least in this area. I was skiing somewhere up in Big Bear and I came over this hill and saw a Samoyed in the parking lot down below. So I skied right down to the dog and his owner and this gal told me where she bought it. The next day Wes and I went out and bought "Frosty," White Queen of Frost. That began a love affair which has gone on fifteen years now. She brought so much happiness into our home. After my husband died I was in a real state of depression, and no one can be depressed with a Sammy puppy in the house...there is no time for it! They are so busy chewing on things and piddling here and there. (Laughter) And to show you how my life changed, my friend came in one day and there was Frosty propped up on the couch. She looked at the dog and she looked at me and

she said, "Ann, I remember the day you wouldn't allow your kid to sit on that couch, and now the dog is chewing on the pillow!"

So that is how I got into Samoyeds. As time went on I met Lou Torres who had a champion male. We bred Frosty to Ch. Danlyn's Silver Coronet and that is where it all happened with Alta; that is where she came from.

Did you try to go out to buy a show quality bitch when you got Frosty?

No. As a matter of fact all we wanted was a pet and I think, truthfully, that is all we really got. John Tyson finished her for me in Mexico and that is as far as she went. She was a big bitch, beautifully coated and she had a lovely head, as well as a nice front. And that is about all I can say for her. (She lived almost thirteen years; she just died... It was a year in January.) But, when I bred her to Sam... Sam had a lot of quality assets to put forth into the litter, and that's how I got Alta. Alta got her mother's size and her soundness from her father. And... (Whisper)...her nasty disposition from both of them! (Laughter)

Had you been showing at the time you bred your first litter?

No.

Then how did you select this particular stud?

Well, Sam was notorious for running away, although I didn't know it. He was already a champion at eleven months, and he had gotten away, and I found him. I spent all of one day looking for his owners



Am. Can. & Mex. Ch. Alta of the Deep Powder,
C.D.X., P.C., C.D. at 7 years

and finally contacted Lou. Lou said he was all set to go to the Pasadena dog show, and after he put the dog in the van the dog escaped and took off down the street. He never got to Pasadena. That's how I met Sam and Louie. In appreciation for finding Sam and bringing him back Lou gave me a free stud service on Sam anytime I wanted to use him.

So Sam may not have lived if you hadn't taken the time to return him.

Maybe so. As a matter of fact, I found him twice. (Laughter) A long time after that Tina Torres, who was Louie's wife at that time, said that they would swear up and down he was going to Ann's. The pound people down in the beach area knew Sam so well they just picked him up and took him home. He was forever escaping. He escaped from me at the San Leandros National Specialty. He jumped out of a window at the Hyatt House and took off down the freeway before we found him!!

So why did you breed the first litter?

Oh, who knows... Probably for all the stupid reasons that novices have. To have puppies. Frosty was two years old; she was x-rayed clear. My son thought it would be an excellent idea; he was about nine years old at the time. So we bred her.

Louie came over to grade the litter, saw Alta,

and he said, "I think that is your hot shot. If there is one in the litter I think that's it." I named her Alta of the Deep Powder because my son and I had been on a skiing trip to Alta, Utah and I fell in love with it. The mountain up there was absolutely spectacular.

When Alta was about three months old Louie called me up and said, "Why don't you try taking her to a puppy match?" I said, "What's that?" To make a long story short, she took nine Best of Breeds in a row at nine puppy matches and I don't know how many Group placements and I was hooked like a heroin addict. Damn her! (Laughter) That's all we did after that. We would go to puppy matches and take little dinky trophies! I'll never forget the first time she took a second. I stood there and said "MY dog doesn't take seconds!" (Laughter) The judge said, "Did today!" But she WAS good. The very first AKC show she was in she was six months and one day old and she went Reserve from the Puppy Class.

Did you ever show her mother?

Yes, I showed her mother. I never got any points on her; I really don't think that she was that good. She did not have all that good of a temperament either. She tried to bite the judge at Silver Bay one time, and that was it. She really tried! She gave it her best shot and she missed. So I retired her while



we were still able to go into the ring without being disqualified. She could win American-bred or something, but she could never win an Open class out here. I've seen worse than her win in other parts of the country, but not out here.

How long did it take you to finish Alta?

Well, she finished when she was four. That sounds terrible, but I had some operations in between. When Alta came in season it was the worst mess you ever saw, so I never showed her in season or out of coat. (And she blew her coat twice a year--down to nothing.) Anyway, I had a pretty limited show time on her. My best shot was to send her out on circuits with handlers, and that is where she got most of her points. I had taken her on the Montana circuit just prior to having her puppies. She only needed one point to finish and she went Reserve her very last show. Talk about a bad sport! I kicked a few cans around!! As it was I had to wait seven months after the puppies, and the coat grew back, and that put her into her fourth year. She finished on the Texas circuit. I sent her out when she had fourteen points and she finished the first day out after she had had her puppies.

Was Alta's litter your second?

No. Frosty had another litter. There was one really super bitch in it, but she was killed. I went back to Sam again. Frosty was only bred twice. I'm not much of a breeder; it is too much work and I get too involved with the puppies. There was a really nice bitch in that litter, and she did some nice winning. I co-owned her with a guy and it didn't turn out too well. She got pancreatitis and she died, which was really nobody's fault. I don't know what causes it, but I know it is very hard for a purebred animal to recover from it. My veterinarian said, for some reason unknown to him, the only ones that ever survived were the mutts or the mixed breeds.

Tell us a little bit about Alta. She is very special.

A super special animal. I think there should be one "Alta" in everyone's life; they should be so fortunate. She rules this home like a dowager Empress from her throne. She is absolutely undaunted; she thinks she is the greatest thing that ever lived and no one is going to dissuade her from that opinion. She gets anything she wants--she has me beautifully trained. About eleven o'clock at night she'll come out of that open

crate, go to the refrigerator and bark. I'm supposed to open the door and we either have cheese, ham, or ice cream--and if I take the wrong thing out I get barked at! (Laughter) She doesn't do it every night, but at least five nights a week. (She has a sweet tooth equivalent to mine.)

Yes, she is a very special animal. There is no way that I should have spent the amount of effort that I did to train that dog to take her through obedience. She was such a devil. It took me 35 AKC shows to get three qualifying scores on that bitch! On Saturday we would go to a puppy match and she would win a trophy with a score of 196 or 197. On Sunday we'd go to an AKC show and she'd do nothing!!! She'd stand out there and bark at me, or run away, or go in the next ring and start a fight! I came back one time and a judge said to me, "You know, one of you two is having a hell of a good time, and it isn't you." (Laughter) I asked one judge what I could do with her because she was so ornery and he said, "Make a rug out of her." (Laughter) I've had some good dogs through the years, but I'll never have another dog like Alta; I couldn't be that fortunate. She never really went out and knocked them dead, but she certainly captivated me--I am her own personal slave. When we were showing in obedience people would come by and say "When is Alta due in the ring?" She was always good for a big laugh. A couple of people suggested I write a book about my experiences in the obedience ring with her.

Why is Alta so special?

I'm sure it was because of the time she came into my life. Even Frosty took a back seat to her. She was such an ego trip for me. Let's face it, the dogs could care less about winning in the ring. She was so lovely as a puppy. I took her to Mexico and she won from the Puppy Class; she beat American champions from the Puppy Class. But, that is the way Mexican judges are, they love a puppy. She was just an interesting experience; I had never been "in" dogs before. She is a conniver, always out for her own interests, and a real challenge to live with!

Tell us about the titles she has.

Well, the American, Mexican and Canadian championship titles came like anybody's would have, and, I think, in short order. Her obedience titles--with me on the other end of the leash--were another story. It was a challenge to get her CD in the United States, and her CDX has to be a test of my own personal forti-



tude. The PC I put on her in Mexico myself, but the CD she got in Canada has got to be the most interesting story. I had written to Linda Cross and told her what an absolute devil she was in the ring. What does she do in Canada with someone else on the other end of the leash, not me? Three high-scoring Novice B's and one high-scoring dog in trial. Linda calls me up and says, "Are you sure you sent me the right dog?" Alta would not work for me, but would work to perfection for someone else!! At the time she went high-scoring dog in trial I remember saying, "From three thousand miles away, Alta is stabbing me in the back, as usual!" (Laughter)

What is a PC?

A PC is the Mexican equivalent to a CD. It means the same as Companion Dog. They also have a PCX, the equivalent to our UD, and a PU. At that time I really didn't think I wanted that. . . a PU Dog? (Laughter)

I've had a lot of fun with Alta, a lot of pleasure. Interestingly enough, I had her entered in the Parade of Champions at the Michigan specialty and I didn't take her. It was a last minute decision not to take her, but I didn't think she would make the trip all that well. I talked to several people who had stayed to watch her and they wanted to know where she was. They had heard about her but had never seen her. To think people would be that interested in a twelve year old dog! At that time I felt very bad that I hadn't brought her. Recently, someone wrote inquiring about stud service on Honey. In part of that letter the woman said that she had stayed to see the Champion Parade in Michigan because Alta was listed and she was disappointed Alta wasn't there. That makes me feel good all over.

Who did you breed her to?

The sire of her only litter was Am. and Can. Ch. Noatak of Silver Moon. She had a lovely litter of seven. The best known and the one that lived the longest was Silver Moon's White Christmas who did quite well. But, in a way, it was like a disaster litter. Four were killed out of that litter, every way from automobile accidents to burning up in a fire. Then I bred her to Am. and Can. Ch. Sam O' Khan's Tian Shan, the Fitzpatrick's lovely male. No litter resulted there. She was bred twice to Noatak, and then she was bred to Ch. Nachalnik of Drayalene and no litter resulted there. However, in between all of this I had taken her to Sacramento to the Davis hospital because I thought it was kind of weird that she would have one litter and then never conceive again. She was there for four days and had all the tests run. As far as they were concerned she was in perfect condition; she should conceive. Later, they decided that in actuality she did conceive, but, somewhere between the second and third weeks, she reabsorbed the litters. Why? Who knows? When I had her spayed they looked through all of her organs and they were in excellent condition. There was no reason for her not to conceive. We even swore she had a prescription for the pill! (Laughter) Doris McLaughlin tried very hard to breed her successfully to Chief. With the help of Dr. Kirkley they ran slides on her every day and flew them to the Davis hospital to the reproduction specialist up there. It was the most scientific breeding going. She SHOULD have had a litter, but she fooled them all. Then, of course, Chief died and I never did try to breed her again. She was nine by that time, and that was my last shot. The first time I bred her, she conceived and had a lovely



*Am. Can. & Mex. Ch. Alta of the Deep Powder,
C.D.X., P.C., C.D. at 10 years*

litter with no problems.

What happened to the three remaining puppies in the litter?

One was spayed and lives out in the valley somewhere. It was the one in the litter with the most problems. She had a liver nose and the tail wouldn't go up over her back. She also had a short coat and all that. The other one I last saw three years ago. I've been trying and trying to track down the man who owns her. He is a school teacher. This one is a bitch and she was bred one time to a son of Maur Mik's Kim. I had an opportunity to have one of the puppies for quite awhile, but it didn't turn out. You can have an average, nice puppy, but out here it has got to be a NICE, nice puppy. And he just turned out to be an average dog so I didn't keep him. The other one was a male and he was fixed. He lived up in Utah the last I heard.

So you have nothing out of Alta?

No. Isn't that a shame. I tried to buy that one bitch back, but apparently the school teacher thought she was more valuable than he had estimated, when I tried to buy her back, and he would not sell her. I just wanted one of Alta's kids around, and I didn't care if they were good, bad or indifferent. Puffy was her last daughter who remained, and she was bred to Nachalnik; she did conceive. Talk about a run of bad luck. The vet let her go too long, and when I finally put my foot down and insisted on a C-section all the puppies were dead. Two months later she herself died of a brain tumor.

What happened to Frosty's second litter by Sam? Alta's brothers and sisters?

As far as I'm concerned, there was only one really good dog in it, a bitch. At that time all I was interested in was bitches. I didn't have a dog in my kennel until Thumper--no, Honey--came along; I didn't have a male in this kennel. This puppy bitch I co-owned with someone else because he was very hot to show her. It didn't turn out well and she died of pancreatitis. Her name was Summer Snow Storm. We had a lovely male in that litter, but he was owned outright by a man who preferred to see the dog in the back yard.

Is that dog still living?

Yes, he lives not too far from here. His name is Moose. The fellow showed him twice and he went Reserve both times. The guy said, "Well, he didn't win so I'm not going to bother." (Laughter) And one of those Reserves was at a specialty.

What happened after your first breeding with Alta? Did you acquire more dogs?

Christmas, Silver Moon's White Christmas, was her daughter, and she was in my life for quite awhile. I campaigned Christmas, and she did quite well. I used to take Alta to the dog shows with Christmas. Then Christmas got killed by a car, which was my own fault. That was a black day; I almost got out of Samoyeds. I went looking at Bouviers, Standard Schnauzers, and Siberians. I found a lovely red Siberian that I was all gung-ho about, but the woman wouldn't sell her. I really was not going to be back in Sams, you see. But, I kept coming back to them. So, in one year, I got my Chiefie, Honey, Heller, Thumper and Babe and I was back in business again. I filled my kennel up. This was in 1975.

Who did you buy these dogs from and why did you buy these particular dogs?

They were all bought as puppies. It was a matter of doing something to get back into dogs. At that point I had Alta who was ten and her mother who was twelve. I couldn't go to dog shows because I didn't have anything. Puffy had died and Christmas had died in 1973. I was totally out of dogs. I had all these empty kennels out here, and I knew something had to give. So I called Doris and she had had her last litter by Chief, the one with Trademark and Melody in it. I have their litter brother and I call him Chiefie. He is a little doll. Then, Barbara Hawke asked me if I

would puppy-sit her litter because she had some personal problems. She had one bitch who moved beautifully and Barbara offered her to me on a co-ownership. Well, the bitch was okay but I kept looking back at this one male who just floated around the yard. That was Honey. So when Barb came down I said, "I sure would love to have that male." Barb was delighted that I wanted one of her dogs, and I said, "I'll take both of them." They've done me proud. They were both out of her Ch. Tasidi's Peaches N Cream and the McLaughlin's Ch. Nachalnik of Drayalene. Lovely pedigree on both sides--and the dogs have turned out really nice.

Then I got Thumper and this is really a fantastic story. Two years before, when I was up at Davis hospital with Alta, going through all those reproduction tests, I went over to see Ed Altomorono and Brad Forrest and they wanted to show me their new projector. And that is really all they wanted to show me, their new projector. They happened to use a roll of film of a puppy match. We were watching all these puppies go back and forth and all of a sudden I said, "If THAT dog ever becomes available let me know!" I loved him at first sight. A year and a half later Ed called and he said, "That puppy you liked is available." I called a couple of people and they told me he was very nice. I bought him sight unseen based upon what they said. Jean Anderson said, "Ann, he's got legs like tree stumps, all the bone you could want." I bought him at seventeen months, sight unseen, and he walked into my life; I just fell in love with him. He is a Mexican and Canadian Champion and I think he has three or four Group placements in those countries. I've got a few points on him in the United States. He is very, very big. (Most of it is heart--he is such a sweet dog.)

Then I bought Babe when she was three years old. I bought her for obedience and that is what she is, strictly an obedience dog. She is a very smart dog and I have a lot of fun with her in obedience. She has her CDX and we are working in utility and tracking. Alta was a real mess in tracking, by the way. That was a degree she never got.

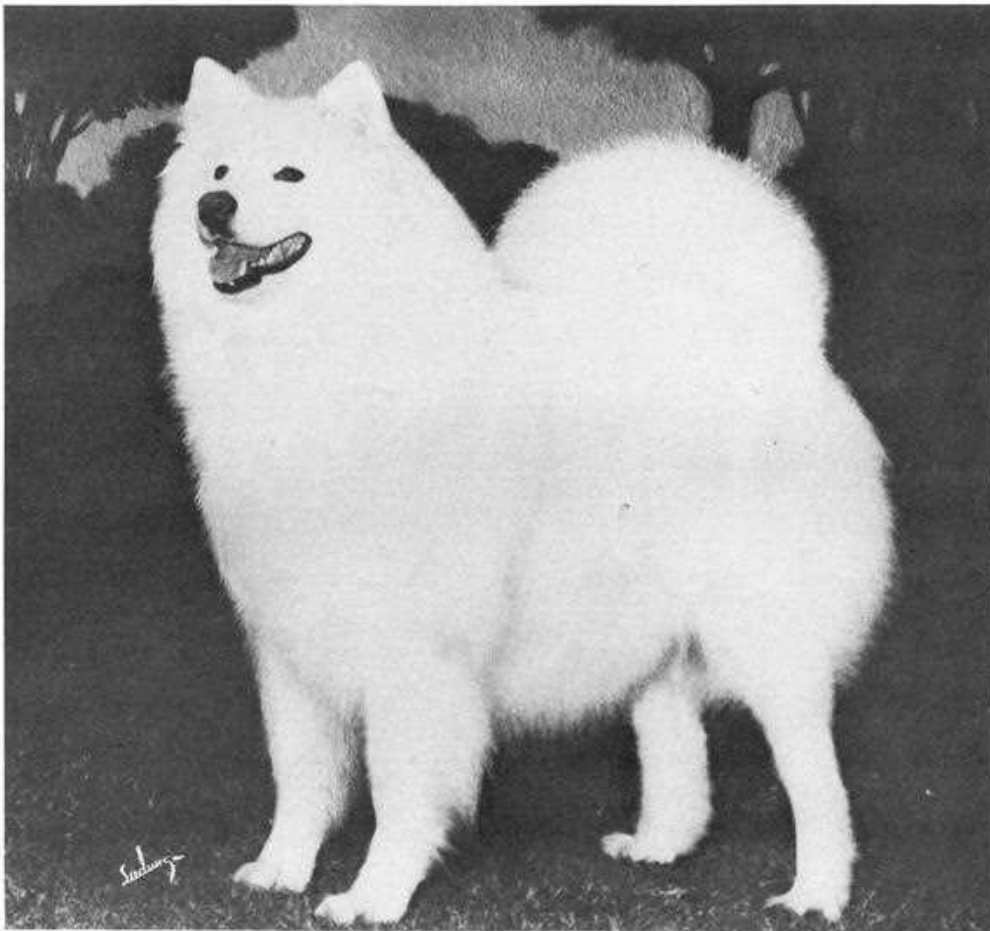
Tell us about tracking.

It is an interesting and different type of working with dogs. The worst thing about tracking is getting up at five o'clock in the morning to go tracking. The rest of it is pretty easy! Alta was never an early riser, and she never did like tracking. She would do it to the extent that she would air-scent track with her nose in the air, and say, "You're over there!" So, instead of going over the trail like a Bloodhound would do, she would go straight to the point and find you. That is not the way it is done! Babe is much better at it. Babe will go from point to point and track, but she hasn't put the whole scene together yet. Right in the middle of her training--and she was getting pretty good at--I had another operation and had to lay off for about seven weeks. As soon as another course starts we'll go back again because Babe is pretty good at it. Tracking is an entirely different way of working your dogs. I enjoy it. One nice thing about that degree is that you only have to do it once; once you ever get it down the title is yours.

When did you first learn about the characteristics of a good Samoyed?

I think that came gradually. I wanted a dog like Jack London's CALL OF THE WILD hero, so I went out and bought a Samoyed. THEN, I went back and read the book and found out Buck was part German Shepherd and part Saint Bernard!! (Laughter) By this time Frosty was part of the family, and I didn't care what Buck looked like. (Laughter)

By the time I got Alta and started showing in the ring I knew what a good one looked like. And when I got ready to breed Alta I can honestly say I knew darned well what a good one looked like. I knew what would and what would not win in the ring. For about my first three years in dogs I was a total novice. Then from



*International (CACIB), American & Mexican
Ch. Tamberta of Artic Star at 5 years*

Alta and Tamberta, who came after Alta, but who was being shown in Open at the same time, I really started learning.

Where did Tamberta come from?

Tamberta was a rescue dog, believe it or not. I was working in Samoyed Rescue at the time and she came in... Well, I went out to get her in the beach area. It was either me or the pound. I felt sorry for the animal because she had a lot of health problems. I took her home, although I had no use for the bitch. I didn't know what to do with her because she was in too poor a condition to place. Her coat was so bad I shaved her and you just don't do that to a Samoyed. She had ear problems, eye problems, sores and worms so no one would take her. I just threw her in the backyard and medicated her. One day I looked at her and decided to "support my local bring-everything specialty." Well, out of a huge Open class she went fourth. (Alta had won Bred-By that day.)

The following year Tamberta was a champion and she came back and went Best of Opposite Sex at that same specialty! It was really neat. She had a very English pedigree and turned out to be a gorgeous animal. She never dropped her coat and she loved to show in the ring. I never did breed her. The main reason was that breeding is just too much work. So, Tamberta lived her whole life in celibacy! (Laughter) She also had cancer like Alta had had. She was up at Davis and had several cancer operations. I co-owned her with Stan Rolinski and Stan was very, very good to Tamberta. Alta and Tamberta never did get along--never. They fought like the devil. When I finished showing Tamberta she went to live with Stan. She died when she was about

thirteen, I guess.

I finished Alta and Tamberta almost back to back. When I went to special them, if the judge liked small ones, I brought out Tamberta and if he liked a big one, I brought out Alta. And she was a big one! When I was showing her as a special she weighed about 75 pounds and was in the neighborhood of a little over 23 inches at the withers. She was always very big, and very beautiful.

I won a weight-pulling contest, by "dirty pool," with Alta. We put Tamberta at the finish line! (I told you they hated each other.) Well, we were up there with all of our Malamute and Siberian friends. We hooked Alta up to the sled and I gave her "open season" on Tamberta. I yelled "Get 'er!" and Alta took off with all that weight on the sled to go down there to the finish line and "kill" Tamberta!!

Did you special Alta?

I did some, but I think I did more with Tamberta because Tamberta rarely dropped coat. Alta dropped her's all the time, at least twice a year. You couldn't count on her to have a coat.

Why didn't you ever breed Tamberta?

Well, I think you've got problems there on co-ownership. We could never see eye to eye on a stud. Stanley insisted on an English stud. We finally did come up with one, however. He was an Australian dog. And then we came up with Dimitri of Kobe. Right about the time that we did decide on Dimitri of Kobe, and Stanley was going to drive her to Quebec, Canada, Tamberta came up with a heart condition, a heart murmur according to the vet.

Later, when she had her operations up at Davis

we told them to be very careful because she had heart problems. They reported back that she had NO heart problem. She was an international champion, by the way.

What did you have to do to make an international champion?

Well, this was in 1968 when the Olympics were being held in Mexico City, and they waived some of the rules. In particular, they waived the one that said you had to win one of the CACIBS out of the place of your birth or origin. "Birth" would have been United States, "origin" would have been Russia. We have no CACIB shows in the United States so that would have been out, and I never could have taken Tamberta to Russia. AND they waived the rule that you had to win your CACIBS in no less than one year and one day. That rule was there to insist on sustained quality. In other words, it couldn't be a great dog for a few months and then fall apart. So that rule was waived also. I was down there for two weeks for the Olympics and the International Dog Shows and Tamberta won all four times. That was a requirement; you must win all four shows. She was the only Samoyed there who did win all four times and so she came home with the International Championship. Incidentally, it was not awarded until one year later because that is how long it took them to process the paper work, and it came in the mail. The international title comes out of Thuin, Belgium.

It was a momentous day in my life when it arrived. I took an ad out in the "SCA Bulletin" and I had a picture of the title taken and her picture on the other side. I did that, I guess, for spite. So many people said at that time that it was impossible for her to have won the title. Several of the people who were "in the know," the very doggy people who "knew all about these things," said it was impossible for Tamberta to have won the title and I shouldn't say she had won the title when she hadn't. I got that comment over the phone and in person, to my face, by several well-known Sammy people. Well, when I published the title in the "SCA Bulletin," I got a few retractions and some very nice things were said--finally, one year later.

When you took Alta to her first matches did you have any idea of correct type or movement?

Oh, no. Louie called me up one day and told me about a match at The Mid-Canyon Kennel Club in New Hall. I didn't know where New Hall was. I found it, made my entry, and the first time down and back I tripped over the puppy and fell down. The judge said, "Would you like to do that again, please?" Alta went BOB and that was the beginning of nine BOB's in a row at matches. All I knew was that I had a very nice puppy. I had no idea about movement. I watched other people and what they did in the ring. I went to no handling classes until she was, maybe, seven or eight months old. I learned a lot about showing and grooming her from Lou Torres. Of course, Lou knew more than I did, and he knew she was a good one out of his stud. He saw the potential; I was so gung-ho to show her that if I could just get my act together I would be a good show person and would provide a good show home. He was very helpful, very helpful.

Then Jim Manley started showing her when she was quite young. He's a good friend and professional handler.

Do you think it was the first time she lost, the time she took second and you didn't believe it, when you started wondering why she did or didn't win?

No. I just thought the judge was dead wrong, that's all. He had a definite problem; he didn't know a good dog when he saw one! (Laughter) I have always been a firm believer that whatever is on the other end of my leash when I go in the ring is the best dog there. I don't know what you call it, but I've always been sold on my animals. And even when I show someone else's dog I'm always convinced that I've got the best dog. It's the judge's problem if he doesn't know a good one

when he sees one. She did her share of losing as time went on. She is very big and some judges don't like them that big. I lost one time very definitely on size: The judge said, "She's too damn big," and put her at the end of the line. That was a Saturday show. Sunday, the judge said, "Oh, she's a lovely size," and put her at the front of the line. Harriman thought she was great and a good sized bitch.

Today, right now, they are going for a much smaller bitch. In the days when Alta was showing there were about five who were her size, and one was much bigger. So, the four or five of us would wait and go in the ring together. Anything smaller looked like it was the runt of the litter.

What do you think is the proper size for a Samoyed? What do you like?

I love a big one. I like big bone. And I have always been much fonder of females than males. However, I think everything should be in proportion, and if you don't have the movement you really don't have anything. You've got to have a good moving animal, big or small. Maybe I prefer big ones because Alta is big. If Alta were small maybe I would have preferred smaller ones.

What are your ideals for dogs and for bitches?

I would have to stick with the fact that I think Alta is ideal and she is over 23 inches. Those days are long gone, however. They are showing bitches about 21½ inches now. And what I see in today's ring moves well, and is well-coated. But I'm a funny duck. . . I have to look at them all week long, not just on Sunday. So for my own personal dog and my own favorite I would like a big one, a big bitch. I have bred Heller to Thumper hoping to get a big, good-moving bitch and I would be in my glory. I would quit specializing my males, to be honest with you, and I would special my bitch because I love to go in the ring with a bitch and come out a winner. It is more fun; you see all the male owners going out and talking to themselves! It used to be that way with Tamberta. It has been a long time since I had a good bitch like that. I've had bitches, but not good ones like Alta and Tamberta.

Tell us about the winning that Honey has done.

Honey is my sweetie. He is on the smaller side. I guess he's more like a standard size male. Thumper is bigger. It is unfair to Honey to be comparing him to Thumper because Thumper is so much bigger. But, Honey has come out of the bushes. You might say he's the underdog. And right from the very first day that I showed him which was in the American-Bred class at the 1976 Specialty he has won his class. Almost a year later, at the 1977 Specialty, he went Reserve and finished in the shows that weekend. It took him a year to finish, but he also grew up in that year. He stayed out about four months while he blew his puppy coat and grew new coat. Then one period I didn't show him because the car blew up on the way to the show and I didn't HAVE a car for about two months!!

Since he has been a Special he has won a specialty, the Samoyed Specialty in October of last year. I sent him to Canada to Linda Cross and she finished him at a specialty up there. He has three Group placements in Mexico and one in the States. I think he has about 10 or 12 BOB's. But, about the best thing I can say about Honey is that he is an absolute dream to live with. He is the sweetest dog I have ever owned. Most of my older stock was a challenge to live with because they were not that even-tempered; and then Honey came into my life, and he is all "peaches and cream"! He lives the most placid life. When I advertise I say it is the "Chief influence," and I really believe it. This is all aside from the fact that he is sound--mentally and physically--and he is lovely to look at!!

How tall are Thumper and Honey?

Oh, Thumper is 24½ inches or something like that. He is enormous! You could throw a saddle on Thumper and ride him around the ring! But Honey is 22½ inches or there about. When you put them side by side Honey

appears to be quite a bit smaller than Thumper. They are like night and day; it is hard to believe they are out of the same sire, Chief.

What would you describe as the ideal Samoyed temperament?

Honey's is ideal. It is easy going, sweet, and not pushy. The only time he is difficult is when he feels he should be somewhere that you are, and he can pick any lock but a combination lock. But you can live with this dog so easily. It was a different world when Honey came into my life because Sam, Frosty and Alta were all challenges to live with. I'll give you an example with Frosty: She slept with me every night and I was allowed to turn over one time. The first time I got growled at, the second time she would jump off the bed and stomp out of the room! She just didn't put up with that sort of thing. She didn't like anyone disturbing her sleep. Honey just politely walks in and out of every room, and the front door. I have to thank Doris McLaughlin for that because I could NEVER have run my three together the way she runs her whole crew together up there! Fantastic!

I really liked the Silver Moon bloodlines, but that stopped for me the day Christmas died. I decided I would go with Doris because her dogs were so pretty to look at as well as very sound. I don't think I ever saw her dogs move. I loved what Nachalnik was producing. When Barbara Hawke was discussing breeding her Champion Peaches I said, "You know, if she were mine I would send her to Nachalnik. As far as I am concerned he is producing the best in the country." She wrote Doris and finally got around to it. That was one of the reasons I was so interested in the litter and so open-minded about taking a dog that wasn't of my breeding. I reached a certain point where I felt like I definitely wanted to be the breeder of whatever I showed; I guess everybody reaches that point at some time. When I reached the breeding stalemate with Alta I decided that when Honey came into my life there was no way he was going to leave this kennel. I also have to say a word about Barbara Hawke. As far as being a co-owner is concerned, she is the most marvelous co-owner you could ever hope to have. Barbara never interferes, never says a word but "Great"--whether I send him to Canada or wherever. ("Do you want me to take him to the airport?") She is the most accomodating person around, and she's super proud of Honey and the rest of the litter. This was one of Chief's last litters, and Honey was his 39th American Champion.

In general, what do you think about co-ownerships?

Co-ownerships, in general, do not work out.

A lot of good friendships have gone down the tubes because of co-ownerships. Especially, I think, when the animal turns out to be a good one. Usually, you get differences of opinion on breeding. At one time I thought I would never be involved with another co-ownership. However, I thought Honey was worth it. When Barbara and I sat down and had a discussion on co-ownership she was very emphatic about letting me run the show, and she has never gone back on her word.

We have a system. When Honey wins I call her, collect. As soon as the operator says "I have a collect call from Ann Hamlin" Barbara starts to scream in my ear, or anybody's ear!! I wish I had a tape of the night I called her to tell her that Honey had won the Los Angeles Specialty. She accepted the charges. She said, "What did Heller do?" I said, "She went Reserve." She said, "That's not exactly a win, but it is nice. But you said you'd call if she WON." And I said, "SHE didn't win." There was dead silence. "Did Honey win?" I said "Yes" and it was like mayhem! She should have been locked up in a straight-jacket! She screamed so loud I had to put the phone down. It was a great moment in both of our lives. Me? I was very calm, cool and collected. All I did was wet my pants!! (Laughter) Talk about being a novice!! I grabbed Honey and kissed him and carried him around and the

judge went to the other side of the ring until I collected my wits about me. He wasn't going to get involved with "that crazy lady!!" (Laughter) The judge was very sneaky about it. He never looked at me when he said "And this is Best of Breed." He said it and then he turned at a 90 degree angle and pointed to me.

What a life! Dog people are crazy. You can go, maybe, ten or fifteen years in dogs and you might have one split moment every other year which is a highlight. That is what you live on until the next big win comes along. People would say "Oh, you've done a lot of winning," and I would say "Well, my last big winning spree was in 1968!" (Laughter)

Honey is my thrill right now. I took him to Florida where he won two BOB'S. He was pulled out in Group both times and he got a Group II under judge Gregory. That was a neat thing, especially since I think we, truthfully, started out in about fifth place and then worked up to third, and then second.

What is the thrill of it all? Why are people in dogs?

I think it takes a certain amount of lunacy to be in dogs, especially in our breed. If we had, say, a Dalmation or a Miniature Pinscher, where you could wash it off with a washcloth and throw it in the ring you might say "Well, it is something you do on Sunday." But, this project is different: A white dog with all that fur... You start on Friday night and you spend five to seven hours grooming the dog, protecting that coat all the time to see that it is not stained, keeping it white. Then you put it in the ring for 20 minutes and come out, most of the time disgusted. By the time the next weekend comes along you do the same darn thing again. Maybe this time you win, and that makes it all worthwhile, supposedly. We eat, sleep and drink dogs, and love every minute of it. We also bitch a lot, but we wouldn't change it for anything. Look at me! I had a lovely home in Downing, and I had fourteen dogs. I kept telling everybody I had two, but they wouldn't believe me." (Laughter) Finally I decided, "Well I'll make this all legal," so I sold my lovely home and I bought this forty year old monstrosity so that I can have all of my dogs with me and have enough kennel runs to make us all legal! I can't imagine living anywhere else. (Where else COULD I live with all these dogs?) Once you get into dogs, with all the old ones and all the young ones coming up, you just don't pick up and move as easily as you could if you didn't have that many dogs.

I do think it takes a lot of lunacy. We spend so much money on them and we don't begrudge them a cent! No one drives a car anymore; they drive vans or they have to have a motor home, so the dog will be comfortable. I don't care if you have the best stud dog in the world, you never get the money back that you put into them. There are other rewards: For example, I remember when my son was growing up. One of his geography teachers told me that whenever they mentioned any state park or a particular place west of the Rockies Wes would say, "Oh, I've been there; they have a dog show there!" Regardless of what the place was famous for, he associated their names with their fairgrounds! (Laughter) I bought Frosty mostly for him, but by the time Alta came along it was my hobby.

So, personally, you "get off," so to speak, on the wins? Is that the thrill of it?

I have said over and over again, I can't imagine a heroin high being any higher than I am when I'm winning. I'm sure my adrenaline must shoot sky high when the judge points at me; I jump straight up in the air! I am an asthmatic and I take my inhalator into the ring with me. I have one pocket for my bait and one pocket for my inhalator. I know if I win I will immediately have a breathing problem because I get so involved in winning. I love to win; I am a very competitive person. Maybe this is my "niche" in the world because I am sure



Am. Can. & Mex. Ch. Alta of the Deep Powder,
C.D.X., P.C., C.D.

I do my share of winning. I know a lot of people who don't who have nice dogs.

Why do these people keep on showing?

I'm sure it would be the same with me if I hadn't won. I would figure "my Sunday" is next Sunday. Thank God there are more shows on down the line so you can get another shot at it. I groom and I work at it; I wouldn't go in the ring unless I thought I had the best dog. These other people feel that way too.

Speaking for the novice or a new person in Samoyeds, what does it take to win?

In the ring? I think it takes a combination of two things: One is very good teamwork between you and the animal. It takes a really good knowledge of the ring and the particular dog you are showing. You have to know what turns him on, what would make him or her give the best performance. And, I also think in this day and age of competition it is going to take a good, sound animal who is ring conditioned and who will show for you. Unfortunately a good sound animal who is not a showman is not going to get you anywhere. You have to have a dog who will stand there and "turn on" for you in the ring. I haven't seen too many novice people come into the ring with that going for them. Unfortunately, they tend to destroy a good animal just by the way they show it. It makes you want to cry to see a very good animal come into the ring and by the time this novice person finishes showing it the judge has no alternative but to put it down. But that is the best way to start. Get yourself a good one, and get yourself trained.

When I first started your first dog was the one you learned on. Then your second one was better and the third one was better than that. As the years go on you get "the smarts" and you know what to look for and you learn to weed out and keep only those which, in your opinion, would make the grade. A novice person doesn't do all that well, nowadays, in the ring, what with professional handlers and your people who have been around quite awhile. Back in the days when I was first starting things weren't all that highly competitive and I did fairly well. Now, you have professional handlers who can take an average dog and make him look very good--and a novice person can take a good dog and make him look very average!

The first problem is getting a good dog.

Oh, yes. And when you are a novice you don't know what you are looking at. You could have a good dog and not know it and you could have a very bad dog and not know it! I teach conformation handling and I think I am softening as the years go on. The people come into my classes with the most awful specimens in certain breeds. They'll say "He's got 'papers' and his father was this, that and the other, so he's very good and I'm going to show him to his championship." And I think they don't have a snowball's chance in hell! By the time novice owners get knowledge, and a critical eye for a dog, they have probably been through at least two dogs. It is going to take that long if you are the average person.

If you have an eye for a dog, or some kind of inner instinct for the dog game, then you are more fortunate than most. By the time Alta came along I knew Frosty would never make it. Why blow all your money? And if you do get a championship, what have you got? A second-class champion; there are enough of those around. Then I got Tamberta and Alta about the same time. But look at all the many years I have been in dogs; I have been through a lot of dogs who have never made it. I would get a dog and keep it six months or so and then I would look at and say, "Face the facts, Ann, it isn't going to make it!" So I would send it back to the breeder or fix it and find it another home. There would be a big void there, but I would keep starting all over, going through dogs trying to find a good one. And some breeders' ideas of good ones are pathetic. People who have been in the business for ten or fifteen years should know what to send you.

Won't every breeder tell you his dogs are best?

Now that I am a "big hot-shot stud owner," which is something I have never been before, (I have always had bitches) I write people and tell them as I see it: He is small, or this, that or the other; he may or may not be able to fill your bill. How the heck do I know? I don't know the bitch. I'm getting interesting remarks back--like "You're the first one who has written me and said your dog isn't the very best one available." How do I know he is the best one available? I haven't seen every dog in this country. Maybe I'm this way because I was on the other end of the stick for so long, owning bitches and writing to stud owners. You get all these glowing letters. I do not lay it on thick about Honey because, truthfully, I have no idea... He is only three years old; I have no idea of what his potential is. I have no idea of what he is going to throw because nothing is grown up yet.

So what does the novice do if every breeder is going to tell him his dogs are the best? Is that the only way to learn the game? Go through one, two, three dogs and put in your time?

Put in your time, honestly. Unless you get ahold of somebody who is going to lead you by the hand, and you ALLOW them to do this. I have seen some people try to help somebody, and have seen the novices fight it every inch of the way. I had a young couple who came here to see about buying a dog. They described what they wanted and I said "I don't have it, but I know of another litter. We'll look there." So for about seven or eight months they came back. I had one litter in the meantime. We talked and I offered to take them over to see somebody else's litter, maybe to get them the dog they wanted. At various times, they must have taken up four or five Sundays of mine. Finally, they showed up one day with a puppy that they bought who was absolutely atrocious. I sent them over to a vet of mine because I figured it didn't have any kneecaps; that is how it moved. My vet confirmed my thoughts about the kneecaps. It was about four months old and it didn't have any kneecaps. Now, how they could have gone through all they did with me and looked at so many litters with me, and listened to me trying to educate them a little on what to look for, and come out with a

puppy like that is beyond me! That taught me a valuable lesson: Don't waste your time! Let them learn their own way because, come hell or high water, they will get in their own messes anyway.

Were you looking at young puppies? Six to eight weeks?

Not in all instances. I can remember one dog who became available at about six months.

What do you look for in a puppy that you hope will turn out to be show quality?

The first thing that I look for is movement. I will sit right on the ground and watch it move. I want to see very good front and rear action. I want to see it coming at me, single-tracking all the way, with this really nice V-action in the rear and the front. When it moves sideways I want to see the kick-out in the rear and the extension in the front--scaled down to what a puppy can do, of course. Honey had it all right there, even as a very young dog. I've seen other dogs like that. The Siberian I wanted to buy, for instance. I don't think I have ever seen a Siberian move as beautifully as that bitch moved. In her very first show in Arizona, she came out of the 6 to 9 month class and went Best of Breed.

If you look at enough litters you will finally see one dog that says "Look at me!" I not only want to see soundness, I want to see the tail over the back; I want to see a dog come at me--I don't want to see it shy away. If it is at an age when the ears should be up I want to see them up. I don't want to have any part of a dog that shies away from me. It is much easier to take OUT the "wildcat" than to put it IN a shy animal. A show dog can be "flaky" in one area or the other area, but you have to take the total picture into account and it has to say "Look at Me!" If it doesn't do that go find yourself another puppy. That is why Honey's name is Silveracres Special Edition: I thought he was very "special." Some puppies will sit in a corner and have no confidence in themselves. They may turn out alright, but I don't want to invest six or eight months in a puppy who thinks he is a "Plain Jane."

Besides soundness and movement are there any other things you particularly look for?

It should have a pretty head. The show is on Saturday and Sunday; I have to look at the dog the balance of the week. I want a dog I can live with and there are certain heads I don't care for at all, and I would not want to be a part of breeding that kind of a head. I also want a Sammy with a nice full coat. I don't want a stud that throws those things I don't like. Now that I am a stud owner I feel a responsibility to offer a dog at public stud that would have something to offer the breeding public. And if I felt I had a dog that didn't have something to offer I wouldn't offer him. I've had other dogs here at the kennels that I never even bothered to advertise; I figured that they weren't what I would want to breed to. I have to please myself before I please somebody else.

Would you say the primary things are soundness, the look and the attitude?

Yes. Very definitely.

How can a novice learn about soundness and movement?

There are few opportunities to see good movement.

Yes, and it has been my experience that even breeders who have been in the breed many years don't really know movement.

That is true, unfortunately. You don't even get that opportunity every Sunday. There are some average moving dogs and there are some good moving dogs. But a VERY good moving dog. . .you just don't see them very often. You are at a disadvantage right off the bat; there isn't that example you need to compare to. All kidding aside, I really feel that I know what a Samoyed should move like, so I can make a MENTAL compar-

ison. But, a novice looking at some of these champions and the way they move thinks, "Oh is that what they are supposed to move like?" What they are looking at is wrong and they are absorbing it. I've seen some champions that move like terriers; that is, they move parallel, not in a single-track. Some are so short-legged or barrel-chested that you wonder how they ever made their championships. It is a shame that they do, but they do and that is it.

Let's assume that, one way or another, a novice gets a good dog. What do you think about owner-handling versus professional handling?

There are two schools of thought on that. For myself, I would rather do it myself. I've been outside the ring and watched my animal win, and I was happy. I've been inside the ring and have been involved with my animal's winning, and that has got to be the biggest "high" a person can have. I would rather be involved in that win. When the judge points at me all the time, effort, the all-night drives, the six hours of grooming, and everthing else is forgotten. The winning makes it all worthwhile.

But, now if you are not in a position to go in the ring and show the dog yourself for whatever reason, then a professional handler, or even a friend, should be called on. A professional handler, I think, has an edge in that they are in all the rings and their faces are much better known. And your all-around judges go with a sure thing, which probably would be a dog with a professional handler. There seems to be some opinion that a handler won't show a bad dog. . . Well, I can disagree all day on that subject because they will show a bad dog! I think a handler can show an average dog much better than most of your owner-handlers.

There are, however, some owner-handlers who do very well in the ring; they show very professionally. But, most of your owner-handlers go out for a Sunday jaunt; win, lose, or draw they enjoy going to dog shows. It is almost like a social club. You all meet the night before and have a bar-b-que together, and drink together, and tell the same old dog stories! You get up the next morning at the crack of dawn and shout at each other from different rings. Some win, some lose, some never win. Like I said, it is like a big social club--which I enjoy very much. I wouldn't change my life for anything. There was a period of time when I thought that I wouldn't be able to do it anymore and it was a most depressing period of my life. I just can't imagine NOT being totally involved in dogs. I'd go bananas if I were an average type person. . .cleaning house or going to some dumb bridge club!! That is just not my nature.

Do you believe that dog people are more highly



competitive and more outgoing? Are they really "a different breed of cat?"

Yes, I'll go along with that. I think they are "a different breed of cat," but I think that's pretty well true of other people too, regardless of the endeavor a person is in. A person who races cars is an entirely different "breed of cat" too. Anything that is competitive has got to bring out the good and worst side of anyone. Everybody goes into the ring to win, but you can only have one winner. You are going to have some mighty unhappy, competitive losers. I can take a loss in my stride if I honestly feel that the dog I've lost to is a good dog, and, believe me, there are many good dogs around. I've walked out of the ring feeling at ease with the world; I've also walked out of the ring feeling like I had been royally taken to the cleaners and I don't like that feeling at all. I've been around this country now for quite awhile showing dogs. I have come up against some really nice animals. If I lost I thought "Now he is a good specimen, a credit to the breed," and that makes things alright. You walk out and you think, "Well, it was his turn to win."

Do you think that in order to handle well you have to really understand dogs and know faults?

Oh, yes! You have to understand THE dog. Every dog that you put a leash to is a different personality and a different type. Honey is absolutely like a floating leaf on the end of the leash; he doesn't tug; he doesn't pull. But, Thumper... You put the leash on Thumper and he is like a circus elephant!! It takes all your energy to control him in the ring. I definitely feel a handler has to know her dog and has to have a very good rapport with the dog. I think that is why your professionals do so well, because they handle so many different types of animals. They are keenly aware of the differences and they can adjust and bring out the best in an animal.

What handling mistakes do you see novices making most often in the ring? What can they do to correct them?

Putting in your time in the ring by going to puppy matches is your best way of getting around the problems. The more you expose yourself to ring procedure the more at ease you are going to feel. Novices have an awful habit of banging into the dog. This throws off his movement. They'll either string him up so that the poor dog can't move right or let him get six feet in front of them and bump into him. I think this indicates an overall lack of control of the dog in the ring. Rarely do novices act like there is any teamwork in the ring. They act like the dog is an extra appendage out there and like they don't know what to do with it. They'll let the dog jump on the judge or they'll look one way while the dog is going in the other direction. You see total lack of teamwork. You need this one-on-one feeling where you have your dog in total control and you are keenly aware of bringing out the best in him for the judge's sake. Some novices will stand in front of the judge and smile, while the dog is facing a different direction with his feet crossed, eyes crossed, and tail down!! You think, "Oh, Lady, do something with your dog!" From my point of view, it is sad. I have been in the ring several times when I have seen a dog that I have really liked, and then I watch the person on the other end of the leash just slaughter his chances to win.

Novices need to be taught but, even here in Los Angeles where we have thousands of dog people, there are relatively few conformation handling classes. I think I know of only two going at any one time, mine and one other. There really isn't much available for novices to attend. One thing in our favor is that we have an awful lot of puppy matches. You can constantly enter puppy matches and do your "time" in the ring. Some of this is bound to help when you enter the AKC shows.

What are some of the things you have found that will "turn a dog on" in the ring?

With Honey I do a little of "Sweet Georgia Brown" and do a little soft shuffle with my feet. He is crazy about chicken. With Tamberta I used to take a big package of chewing gum in the ring and just unfold chewing gum! She loved to watch chewing gum being unfolded. I showed one dog one time that was crazy about oatmeal cookies. One dog I showed didn't care for Milkbones UNLESS I was the one eating them! The more I chomped on his Milkbone the more reaction I got out of him! I got so I like Milkbones pretty well! (Laughter) Alta likes liver and hard German salami. Use whatever is good for THAT particular dog. When I am teaching my handling class I say: "Find out whatever your dog really likes. Don't reject anything. Then reserve it for the ring. Don't give it to him at home. Then your dog knows it is "goodie time" if he performs well. If he doesn't perform well don't give it to him.

This "rapport" thing is more than just turning a dog on. It is a very definite feeling you and the dog have for each other. It comes with being a member of the family. It has to come from association; it can't come any other way. You live with the dog, watch it mature and grow under your direction. The dog knows your moods and you know its moods, happy or unhappy.

I used to watch Frank Sabella show Poodles. The Poodles he showed lived with him, and I used to think to myself that I had never seen more rapport in the ring. Those dogs used to look up in his face like they loved him, and I know that he spent an awful lot of time with them developing this feeling. It really comes through in the ring when you have an animal who really thinks "It's just you and me, together, baby!" I got so involved with Alta that I reached a point where I couldn't show her any more. I wanted her to win too badly; I just couldn't do a good job. I would get too nervous with Alta. So, I put her with a handler and she finished. I never had that feeling with another dog, where it was so important that they win. This is called a "sport" that we are in, but it ceased to be fun for me. It got to be an ulcer type of thing and I threw in the sponge; I knew I couldn't do this to myself.

When I go in the ring with the other dogs it is a nice thing to win; I love to win. There are no two ways about; I would rather win than lose. And I enjoy being there with the people. I enjoy being in the ring; I enjoy the competition. I figure that if I don't win this week I'll win next week.

What do you think a Samoyed puppy should sell for?

I don't think you should ever gouge the public. You shouldn't put it out of a good home's price range. I think there are a lot of variables in selling a puppy. First of all there's the pedigree, the bloodlines. What good dogs are up front? If you have a nice pedigree, with good dogs up front, and the sire and dam are both doing well, and this puppy has something to offer another kennel, then I think it should go for a good price. Maybe \$500. This is provided the puppy not only has a good pedigree but a good body! It has everything right there. I imagine you should get \$275 or \$175 for a pet puppy with a good pedigree which someone may want to breed to something fairly good. But if you have just a plain ordinary pet, out of parents with so-so pedigrees, I don't think you should gouge the public. Even if they did breed it they are not going to get anything but more pets. I'm inclined to come way down on pet stock just to get them into good homes. If somebody shows up who has a fenced yard, half-grown kids who'll give it a good home and play with it, fine. And, of prime importance to me is whether or not they have had a Samoyed before! If they have had a Samoyed before and come looking for another one it is a good home, because they know what they are getting themselves into! I'll do my darndest to price a pet to

get it into that home. It is a lot harder to place a pet than it is to place a show quality puppy. I have a pet puppy here now for sale. I ran an ad this weekend and I got a few calls, but nothing that I would get too hot about. To be very honest, I would rather give a dog away if I know it will have a good home than to sell it for \$100 and have to worry about it. Not that I am so rich--don't get the wrong idea--but peace of mind is very important. When it goes out the door I want to feel very much at ease about it going away from me.

What do you think about the sale of champions or grown dogs?

I don't approve of that one bit. If someone has died and you have to find another home, fine. But just to raise a dog to its championship and then sell it... I don't even like selling a dog past six months of age. I think they have a terrible time adjusting to a new home. A champion is already up there in age and it should not be relocated. I put that in the same category as selling bitches in whelp. I don't like for people to do that: breed their bitches and then sell them before they whelp. It is a very hard strain on the bitch to have puppies in the first place, let alone having them with new people, in a totally unfamiliar location. I think that is asking for trouble. If you get complications in that litter you deserve it.

What do you think a fair stud fee is?

I don't think any stud fee should be under \$100. A non-champion with a good pedigree is worth about \$100. A good dog is well worth \$200. I, myself, have been sort of varying my stud fees. It depends upon how far they are talking about flying a bitch in from. With airfare the way it is it is going to be prohibitive pretty soon to ship in a bitch. By the time you pay vet fees and everything else, and if it is going to cost you \$150 in airfare, you have a small fortune tied up in the litter.

Do you ever refuse to service a bitch?

Oh, yes, but nothing that somebody else wouldn't have refused to service at the same time. With this being a kennel you get calls. I've had several calls from people whose bitches aren't even registered. I think anyone who is in Samoyeds with any degree of seriousness would never breed to an unregistered bitch. Sometimes it is very difficult to convince people who own the unregistered bitch that you are doing them a service, and doing the breed a service. They act like you are a snob just because your dog has "papers." And I have had two bitches come in who we discussed breeding to, but I sent them to be x-rayed and both of them turned out to be dysplastic.

Earlier you were talking about first-class champions and second-class champions. Would you breed to a second-class champion?

Oh, yes. If it has made its grade in the ring it has beaten a certain number of dogs. I wouldn't have any qualms about the breeding provided they were clear of dysplasia and brucellosis. Getting back into the area of "turning down" bitches, I think when you have absolutely nothing to offer bitches with wide open pedigrees, or she looks bad and/or the owners live in apartments... Puppies are a lot of work and a lot of responsibility. An awful lot can go wrong with a litter because of neglect of either the mother or the puppies. You can cause yourself more heartache by entering into that kind of an arrangement than by backing off and saying no. Besides, there are a lot of Samoyeds and a lot of puppies around; there is no shortage of puppies. I can't see any sense in putting a lot of pet stock on the ground. You can get a bad reputation for using your male on anything that comes along. I am very insistent on the OFA clearance. That discourages a lot of people. Once you start talking about bringing all the shots up to date, having the bitch wormed, having a bath, getting the hip dysplasia

and brucellosis clearances, you've lost them. If they are pet people they will go to the male down on the corner who doesn't require anything!

What is the purpose of breeding?

To me? It has always been to find something better for me to show. With hardly any exception, I have been looking for something better, out of this kennel, for me to show. It would be very difficult for me to turn down a good dog that came in. I've got the room; I have 14 runs. I could always keep something else to play around with. It happens that you keep it, play around with it, and it gets to the point where it is not going to go any farther and you give it away. You could have sold it, but you give it away just to get it in a good home. So, with me, it has always been to have something good to show and win.

You have observed many litters and seen a lot of dogs develop. So, do you have any feelings about what is the best way to go if you want to produce winners, in terms of inbreeding versus linebreeding and outcrossing?

Well, I haven't bred that many litters, but I have sure looked at a lot. From my observations I feel that your linebreeding, if the ones you are breeding are good dogs to begin with and the pedigrees are good, is your best shot--at least as far as I'm concerned. I don't think any bloodlines have been so completely inbred and so very successful as Doris McLaughlin's. However, let's face it. . . she has only inbred and used those GOOD dogs that she has come up with. Looking back over the years, it has only been the very best whom she has bred back to, and then she had that "gold mine" in Nachalnik! He couldn't produce a bad one if he wanted to.

What would you do if somebody offered you a great outcross who could win consistently, but you knew it didn't produce good dogs?

Do you mean for me to own? Oh, I would take it. I never bred Tamberta but I just loved to show her. I could win with her. I think the show ring and the whelping box are entirely different scenes. One is a sport, the ring, and the other has a much more serious side to it. More of a business, you might want to say. If someone gave me a dog, or I could buy a dog I knew I could win with, there is no reason why I couldn't show it and not even bother with the breeding part of it. One time I had eight bitches in this kennel and I only bred two of them. . . ever! The same thing with the males. I've only bred Thumper one time. This hypothetical dog might show better if he wasn't bred. Once they know what it is all about they can't keep their mind on business in the ring. I spread Vicks all over Honey's nose when he goes into the ring. He sneezes a little bit, and his eyes water, but it keeps his mind on his business! (Laughter)

Do you feel more competitive in the breed level or in the Group level?

I feel competitive at the breed level. I don't feel competitive on the Group level in California. I do in other states. Here you have a lot of big-name handlers in the ring, a lot of Best-in-Show dogs in the ring. However, lately I have noticed that more and more working breeds are going up in the Group, although there is usually a professional handler on them. As an owner-handler I don't feel very competitive in the Group ring in this area. In the breed ring I feel very competitive, although I don't always do as well as I would like to.

The Samoyed breed, to me, is the most beautiful breed there is. I think it doesn't matter what breed you are in as long as you are totally sold on it. I love the breed; I love being in dogs. I have been in sledding, weight pulling, obedience, tracking and, last, but certainly not least, conformation. I also belong to the San Gabriel Valley Shutzhund Club. I have the only Samoyed in the Shutzhund Club. I really

felt that protection was really not Alta's forte. She is a little too protective to begin with!

What did you do in sledding?

Alta ran wheel position on Helen King's seven-dog team. We never did anything spectacular, but the dogs always finished. The team was made up primarily of champions and they had two speeds, slow and stop. (Laughter) But, they always finished and a lot of them dropped out along the way. Helen was the driver. It was great exercise for the dogs. Alta always came back nice and hard. Her movement always improved after sledding. Alta, by the way, moved more like a Shepherd. Her gait was really long and flowing; it wasn't totally correct for a Samoyed, but it looked good. She had a lot of extension and great drive in the rear. She ran for three seasons and I went on quite a few of the circuits. We trained with the cart on wheels and then with the sled on snow.

Did you always run in the seven-dog?

As far as I can remember, yes. It was a lot of fun. We tried her at lead but she wasn't interested in leading. She followed really well though; she would pull and carry her weight.

How much weight did she pull in the weight pulling contest?

It was less than 400 pounds, something like 340 or 360 pounds. It was the second division up.

Exactly how does it work? Do they put a harness around her? Does she pull it on a sled?

Oh, yes, she wore a harness. They have a long sled and they put sacks of cement on it, or something very heavy. The harness is different from a racing harness. There is a period where you are allowed to work with the dog to get it facing in the right direction, and as soon as you take your hands off the dog the clock starts. You are supposed to convince the dog to pull that sled down a marked-off area within a certain amount of time. This is all on snow. They don't have to pull it too far; I think it is something like 50 feet. As far as I'm concerned, it is a matter of thinking you can do it. Most of the dogs think they are tied up as soon as they hit that harness in a forward motion and the thing doesn't move, and they don't try anymore. And, if it is really cold the runners get stuck in the ice. The dogs who know they can do it will keep pulling. You watch these Malamutes who know how to do it; they rear up on their hind feet and lunge forward to break the ice.

What do you think about roadworking or physically conditioning a dog for show?

Oh, I think it is great if you know what you are doing. If you run a dog too much on asphalt, however, you will have all kinds of pastern problems. Also, if you run it too close to the car you will have a carbon monoxide problem. But, it's fine if you are on dirt and you are on a bicycle and you can handle it. Do it on anything that is soft, not concrete.

Have you ever done it yourself?

Yes. It has always been a job to keep Alta in condition. I would run her at the park and pay the kids to take her around in the sand so many times an evening. Every night I had a new crew. And I have worked her at times in an isolated place with a car.

How many miles did you work her a day?

Not very much. Between two and five miles.

At what speed?

The slowest I could go; I just wanted her to get out there and move. A lady who knew what she was talking about said that as long as the dog moved at a consistent speed without overtaking itself it would bring up the muscle. Work at a lope; that gait just before they break into a gallop. I would say use what would be considered good speed for the ring, that kind of thing. Definitely no running.

Did you ever treat the bottom of the feet?

I used a spray called "Rough Stuff." It kept the pads from cracking. (If I had to give advice to

a novice I would say to collect stamps or something that doesn't have to be worried over or bathed!)

(Laughter)

Do you think the novice has much of a chance today?

No, not much. They just don't last too long; you see a new crop every six weeks! They go to a few dog shows and they are out of it, you know? Those that do survive generally turn out to be pretty good people, but it is getting to the point now where I don't even bother to learn their names because they get discouraged so easily. I always figure it isn't something they wanted very badly if they get discouraged that easily. You take your licks learning.

What really hurts me is the prices of getting into dog shows. I hate to see all that money going down the tubes when you don't have a good dog. It kind of dates me, but I remember when dog shows out here used to be \$5 and \$6, even \$4!! Now Santa Barbara is \$14. When you consider the cost of gas and \$10 to park on the show grounds overnight...

The overall outlay on a weekend away from home is fantastic. So you really have to go into the ring with something that has a very good shot at winning to make it worthwhile. Don't go into the ring with a cow-hocked, dirty dog. Do your breed a favor and don't show a dirty dog.

What do you think about biscuit?

Biscuit is fine. I have no adverse feelings about biscuit, whatsoever. As a matter of fact, one of the most gorgeous bitches I have ever seen in my life was Czarina Frostina and she had freckles and circles around the eyes; she was beautiful. I think it enhances a dog's appearance. I had a male for quite awhile that I called Mr. Peepers because he wore the biscuit eyeglasses. I don't like the deep spots all over the body, but I do like it on the face and ears.

How important is not only cleaning but grooming to winning?

It has a very heavy bearing on the overall appearance of the dog. Have it WELL GROOMED and that includes the nails and the feet. Besides being a good dog, it has to be groomed to the very utmost.

What exactly is involved in grooming a Samoyed to the "utmost"?

You start from the skin out. First you have to give it a bath. I wash it first in Ivory soap. Then I use Jerry Readding's Shining Silver Conditioner, which is a blue product, and that is the second bath. Then I rinse it completely with a cream rinse. I find that this makes the fur stand out hair by hair and gives it that fluffy body. You can use Wella Balsam or Short and Sassy. If it is good enough for Dorothy Hamill it is good enough for Honey! (Laughter) Then from the moment he gets out of that bath I put two dryers on him and I brush and brush and brush him until he is dry. You are talking about five or six hours from start to finish.

Then I clip the feet and the nails.

What do you mean when you "clip" the feet?

I have a curved pair of scissors and I use them to cut all the hair off from the bottom of his feet. Then I use thinning shears to round out the feet and take the whiskers off. I also put Vaseline on his nice black nose so it doesn't look dried out and cracked.

Do you trim the pasterns or the front legs?

No. I might take off a little bit just where it hits the ground if it is uneven, but, normally, I leave all that hair there. I do trim the hocks.

Some people have told me they will trim just above the hock to give an appearance of more rear angulation. Do you ever do that?

No, I have never done that.

I have also heard that some people "sculpt" the dog.

Yes, they sure do. If there is enough hair back there you can almost form the rear-end you want!

They used to say that with the proper clip you could create a good Poodle out of a bad Poodle. There are tricks of the trade if you have a rear-end that is less than desirable. You can also leave the nails longer on one foot than the other to slightly change the dogs movement. You've got to want to win badly to do something like that.

What do you think about the ethics of people who darken noses or sculpt rears or necks?

Oh, let me say. . .the name of the game is winning, I guess. If that is what it takes to win, and you want to win that bad, have at it. I'm not going to condemn anybody for that if they are good enough at it to get away with it in front of the judge; and if they do, then we need better judges or at least judges with better eyesight! (Laughter)

How about surgical alteration of dogs?

No, I'm not for that. I think if you have to resort to surgery to win then you are in big trouble; you are only kidding yourself.

Do you think there is much of this "high quality" clipping going on in California?

In all breeds? Yes. I have been in enough tents, seen enough things behind the scenes to see what goes on, and yes. In Samoyeds it may not be to the degree that I know it is in other breeds, but I would say that here and there is that kind of manipulation which makes the dog look better and enhances his chance to win. But, I also think this way: I enhance my chances to win by spending all that time on grooming where other people don't. I think it pays off in the ring when you bring a dog in who looks like he just got out of the beauty parlor, rather than one who looks like he just got out of the washing machine. Some

of them are washed and thrown in a crate and they drip-dry until the next morning, and they look it. The time isn't well spent. On the other hand, you have those who do spend the time grooming, and they also throw a few more tricks of the trade in to increase his or her chances of winning a little bit more.

Have you ever used cornstarch to clean a dog? How does that work?

Oh, yes. Naturally, it is a whitening and cleaning agent. I learned my tricks from Judy Mears in Colorado who did a fantastic job on Honey the night before he finished. I always thought he did look great that day, thanks to Judy Mears. She made him look so gorgeous that I would have bought him if I didn't already own him!

Put alcohol in a spray bottle and spray the dog with it, in just little patches at a time. Throw on the cornstarch and work it in; wait until it is dry and brush and blow it all out! If you get caught in the ring with cornstarch you are going to get disqualified. It is a marvelous cleaning agent between baths. It is a handy thing to have when you can't give them a bath between shows on a circuit.

What do you think about people who, as is sometimes seen in "The Samoyed Quarterly" and in other publications, retouch photographs of their dogs?

If the retouching involves taking out a judge, fine! If the retouching involves making your dog look good, with a better coat, better topline, or like he's not so down in the pasterns, it is not too ethical. You are presenting something that really isn't. If it is a matter of hanging it on your mantle for you to look at, then great--if that is what you WANT your dog to look like. (But it is not really him.)



Am. Mex. & Can. Ch. Silveracres Special Edition

Isn't this "high quality" clipping really the same thing? Isn't that presenting the dog as something he really isn't?

Yes. But, in that case you are presenting the dog to the judge. It is like you are playing a game with the judge; he should know better. If you are advertising for stud services or puppies you ought to give the "unsuspecting" public a picture of what the dog really looks like.

Earlier we were talking about sled-dog racing. I notice in organized sledding, the way it is now, that all or any breed can compete for the prize. In fact, I believe that one of the top winning teams is a team of Irish Setters. Several Samoyed people I have talked to have said that Samoyeds don't usually do very well in comparison to some of the other breeds. What would you think about organized SAMOYED sled-dog racing? Would that benefit the Samoyed breed at all?

Oh, I don't think so. Sled-dog racing, like anything else, is competitive, but it also is a lot of fun. People get together with their dogs; it is a weekend-away-from-home type of thing. Samoyeds do not do very well in comparison to, say, the Siberians and the Malamutes. They finish, but they come in slower; they don't make the good times. You have to also remember that the courses are less than fifteen miles; Sammies are better if you have, say, 300 miles or 1500 miles to go. For this reason it was the Samoyed breed who did all the packing to the Arctics, North Pole and the South Pole, and not the other breeds. They go at a slower pace, but they get there; they are more of an endurance animal. They can pack double their own weight on a sled. In these fun things on the weekend they don't do all that well.

Many of the Samoyed people who are involved in sledding are also show people, and they are very cautious of what they will ask their show dogs to do. They are not going to be inclined to break trail and get their dogs' feet cut up, or to do anything which might get the animal hurt. I think they are a lot more cautious of how they handle their dogs and how they treat them. I'm not saying the other people wouldn't be, but I've been around enough to notice that there is a trend to be a lot more reckless in the mixed breeds.

I think they are having a controversy now in sledding on the use of whips.

Well, yes. I've seen them use sticks or kick them. The people I know in Sammies are more likely to say "Aw, come on, honey." (Laughter) Many of the people I know in Sammies are no longer racing. I don't know what the other activities of the new bunch are, but I still think many of them show.

We used to get together and rent a big mountain house. We would have six, eight or ten couples, a bunch of kids and a hundred dogs. Most of the dogs were not running; they were just along for the ride! We generally just had a good time. I don't think anybody in Samoyeds was totally out to win. We just wanted to have a big spaghetti dinner, go up to the race, and come back and eat again. (Laughter) My son won the single dog racing in the Junior Division one time with one of Helen King's males named Motack. He had a great time; many of the kids participated. I think you have to take a lot of this dog business with a grain of salt. If you can't have a good time then get out. Don't be so serious that you can't laugh at yourself or you can't have a good time.

Well, some people seem to be taking this sledding pretty seriously.

Yes, the Working Dog Association seems to be a very serious minded organization.

Have you tried any herding?

No. One time while we were on a circuit Frosty got away from me and came back with a cow. I didn't know what I was going to do with it so I just left

it there and threw her in the van! (Laughter) I thought, "They're going to shoot me for cattle rustling, sure as heck!" Another time I was down near a dairy and she came back with a live goose! That thing had a wingspan like you wouldn't believe and it was hissing at her. She had it by the wing and the neck, and she drug it all the way over to me. Why it didn't peck her nose off, or whatever, I'll never know! Frosty was really ticked off because I didn't let her keep her "prize"!

What do you think the original working purpose was for the Samoyed?

I imagine herding since they had all those reindeer. They really used them as a total animal. They slept with their dogs and used them to keep warm. I think I even read where they ate them and used their fur for blankets. As far as I am concerned they made use of the total dog! If I remember correctly the word "Samoyed" comes from the words "self-eater" or "cannibals." I read that somewhere; I didn't like, but I read it.

What do you feed your dogs?

For years I have been feeding the same canned dog food, which is Kal-Kan and P.S. Chunks. I have been switching brands with their kibble, though. For a long time I fed Waynes, and I started having problems and I went to Kasco. It seemed to be pretty good. Then someone gave me some Nutro. I liked the Nutro because it was wheat-based, and from what I had heard about wheat-based versus corn-based it seemed like the wheat would be the better. So at this particular time they are on Nutro; tomorrow I might switch to something else. I was getting a lot of diarrhea with the Waynes.

What proportion of kibble to Kal-Can do you use?

I use the large cans and feed three dogs on one can, one-third of a can apiece. I imagine, depending upon the dog's size, I feed about four or five cups of kibble a day for the males and maybe three to four cups for the bitches. I feed the boarders exactly what I feed mine. The only difference is that I give mine food supplements. I only supplement "puny" boarders!

What supplements are you using?

Mr. Groom. And I have a protein that I put in their food for coat growth--Vita-Groom which helps keep the skin from getting dry. I feed dicalciumphosphate to a couple of them. I use Vita-Groom, Vita-Grow and Head-Start. Head-Start is for puppies and is for conditioning in the larger breeds, but I have been giving it to Alta all her life and she is thirteen years old. I think it gives her a little spark, keeps her up on her feet. She is a very active dog. The dicalciumphosphate is for bone growth and I give about a tablespoon apiece to Happy, Heller and the puppy.

There has been some concern about over-supplementation.

Yes, I can easily see where you could get carried away with too many supplements and develop problems--like kidney problems.

Do you feed the dogs more when they are being conditioned?

When Alta was on the sled team I fed her more. And when they are in obedience training I feed them a little more because we train every night.

How important is weight?

Good weight is very important. An overly thin animal is just as bad as an overly fat one. A Samoyed is supposed to be in prime condition.

How can you tell when a Samoyed is in good weight?

You can tell by the rib cage, and I can tell in Honey because his movement goes off. His movement is much more sluggish; it is not a floating movement anymore. I like to feel meat over the rib cage, but not too much padding.

In some dogs you can't even feel the ribs.

SQ PEOPLE... CONTINUED ON PAGE 95

TEXAS

BURAN (pds). Mrs Linda Keck, PO Box 7853, Longview, 214-759-4561.
 CANDENZA (pds). Betty Burkland, 1321 S'Abe, San Angelo, 915-653-9806.
 CHOCTAW (s). Jo Walker, PO Box 7284, Houston, 351-1136.
 PIPALUK (ps). Elin Clar, Rt 1 Box 219F, Lindale, 214-882-3523.
 SNOW MOUNTAIN (pds). Sylvia Holton, Rt 1 Box 476, Mineral Wells.
 QUICKSILVER (pds). Danny & Chris Middleton, 4602 Frontier, Houston, 713-460-0248.
 SOMAR (pds). Bert & Gloria Ramos, 230 Westgate, Corpus Christi, 512-888-6410.
 SUNSHINE (ps). Austin & Betty Bond, 4229 W 38th, Amarillo, 806-353-7747.
 TANYALARK (pds). Wilson & Pearl Clark, PO

Box 99, Beeville, 512-358-8808.

UTAH

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

VERMONT

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

VIRGINIA

AESIR (p). David D Evans, 3223 Atlante St, Fairfax, 703-591-5410.
 PUDDIN' HILL (s). FE Dubisher, Rt 2 Box 199, Madison Heights, 804-933-8372.
 TIMBERLINE (p). Keith & Stephanie Kroell, Rt 1 Box 364, Leesburg, 703-777-5185.

WASHINGTON

CO-LEE (pds). Coralie Ingram, Rt 3 Box 66A, Snohomish, 206-568-5123.
 LUPINE (ps). Sir Viris Z Patzer, 21308 NE 174th St, Brush Prairie, 206-892-3720.
 SUN STREAK (pds). Robert & Shirley Cornell, Rt 14, Box 511 B, Olympia, 206-866-4410.

WASHINGTON D.C.

SNOW STORM (pds). Mrs Judith M Williams, 1735A Eleventh St NW, 202-667-8268, 8268.

WISCONSIN

ALISHANDY (pds). Richard & Ann Thew, Rt 2 Box 770, Colby, 715-223-4977.
 BERL (pds). Don & Judy Berlinger, RR 1 Box 144, Neosho, 414-474-4080.

CELTER (pds). Celine Kohman, 3905 Oak Park Rd, Deerfield, 608-764-8001.
 FROSTAM (ps). Francis J & Ruth E Tausend, 12042 Diane Dr, Wauwatosa, 414-453-3303.
 KAMODAN (pds). Eugene Ney, Rt 4 Emerald Ln, Plymouth.
 K-WAY (pd). Bob & Wanda Krauss, Rt 3 Box 12, Kent Rd, Poynette, 608-635-4707.
 POLAR BEAR (s). Mr & Mrs Howard H Haferman, Rt 1 Box 208C, Juneau, 414-386-2792.
 ROYAL AMERICAN (pds). Robert J Ropicky, 7320 Cliffside Dr, Racine.
 WOLF RIVER (ps). Kay Bailey, PO Box 185, Waldo, 414-528-7062.

WYOMING

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

LETTERS... CONTINUED FROM PAGE 20

Enclosed, please find a brief summary of the events as they happened. And, to you who have lost your dog, I can only say my prayers that you find your missing Sam are with you. I will keep any eye and ear out for any "found" Samoyeds throughout the Intermountain West.
 Taaka was hit

Editor:

7 a.m. Friday morning: Let dogs out to relieve themselves. 7:15: Kind neighbor calls and tells me one of my dogs is in his backyard. (Gate somehow open). Called and retrieved five-month-old Samoyed puppy. Missing Samoyed Champion Nootka's Chuckataw Taaka. 7:30: Gentleman tells me a big white dog had been hit on the Perry highway, and appeared to drawing his last breath. Raced down to the highway. There is no big white dog in sight.

After hours and hours of futile searching, my friend, Helen Taylor, and I checked at the white house on the highway where all of this supposedly happened. Yes, a big white dog had been hit, and lain there for 15 minutes until a kind motorist came along, and the man and lady from the white house went to pull him off the road so he wouldn't get hit again. The dog jumped up and ran across the highway. She last saw him in the yard across the way when she went to work.

Searched and called until dark, and then again at daylight the next day. Still no dog. Now my purpose of the details and the letter: My many, many, thanks to all our friends, neighbors, Box Elder News-Journal, my boss, O. Neil Smith and his wife Lois, Sheriff's department, animal control officer, KBUH, Dr. Simper, and the Utah Highway Patrol for all their help and concern.

2 p.m. Saturday afternoon: Two youngsters ring my doorbell. They are standing with Taaka--very tired, full of cockleburrs, a little lame, but appearing intact. Their names are Wes Gibbs and Reed Andreason (to whom I am ever grateful).

I had a reward which was to be given to anyone who found Taaka, and, gladly, went to pay it. These youngsters would not accept the reward because they are Boy Scouts. They did their good deed and that was thanks enough. How proud these parents, and the Perry Scout Troop No. 330, must be of these boys! Now, a few words to the man who did hit my dog and didn't even slow down: "Nuts to you, mister."

Sue Skrobiszewski
 Perry, Utah
 SQ

pretty if he is underweight, and he is going to roll or move improperly if he is underweight.

How important is coat to winning?

I think it is fairly important. I have seen good moving dogs win without coats, because of what else was in the ring. I am for that because I firmly believe that they can always grow a coat; they cannot get good movement if it is not there. I would never "down" a judge who put up a good moving animal who was out of coat.

Is there anything else you would like to talk about?

No, I don't think so. I think we have covered just about everything. I have met some marvelous people over the years by being in dogs. Relationships that I am grateful for and they came about because I am in dogs. Those which weren't all that great have fallen by the wayside, which is the way it is in life. I've had some marvelous times and I hope to have a lot more. I just can't imagine not being in dogs, not being in Samoyeds. It is a shame that they don't live longer; they spend such a short time with us in relationship to our own lives.

Tell us something about yourself.

I'm not going to tell you how old I am. (That's for sure.) I've been in dogs about fifteen years. My son was in dogs with me right from the very beginning. It was great for him because he traveled so much with me.

This is a licensed kennel which was a necessity of life as I turned up with fourteen dogs. I had to do something drastic to make it all legal.

Where were you born and reared?

I was born in New Jersey and I was reared on a farm there. Because of my asthma we moved to the city and I grew up in Long Island, New York. When I became of age, because of the asthma, I had to move away from New York and I moved to Arizona. I have spent most of my adult life in Arizona, Nevada and California. I got into these dogs after my husband died as a form of therapy for both Wes and I and it turned out beautifully. Frosty filled a great place in our lives and even though she was never a big-name champion there was a big sense of loss when she died.

What do you do for a living?

I work for Owens-Illinois. I have been with them eighteen years, and they have put up with my dog traveling for that long! They have been very good to me. For a long time I was a secretary to executives and when "women's lib" turned up I went into sales and service work. I am now what is referred to as an "inside sales person" and I work for the corrugated box division. For years it was a man's position, but now there are three of us women in there. It buys the dog food! (Laughter)

Thank you.

SQ

SQ PEOPLE... CONTINUED FROM PAGE 90

That is too much padding. It is according to the size of the animal as to how much weight you want; I don't like a thin one or a fat one. Some dogs are more hyper and they seem to run or worry the weight off. I think a Samoyed in good weight is in good show condition. A dog's coat isn't going to show up as