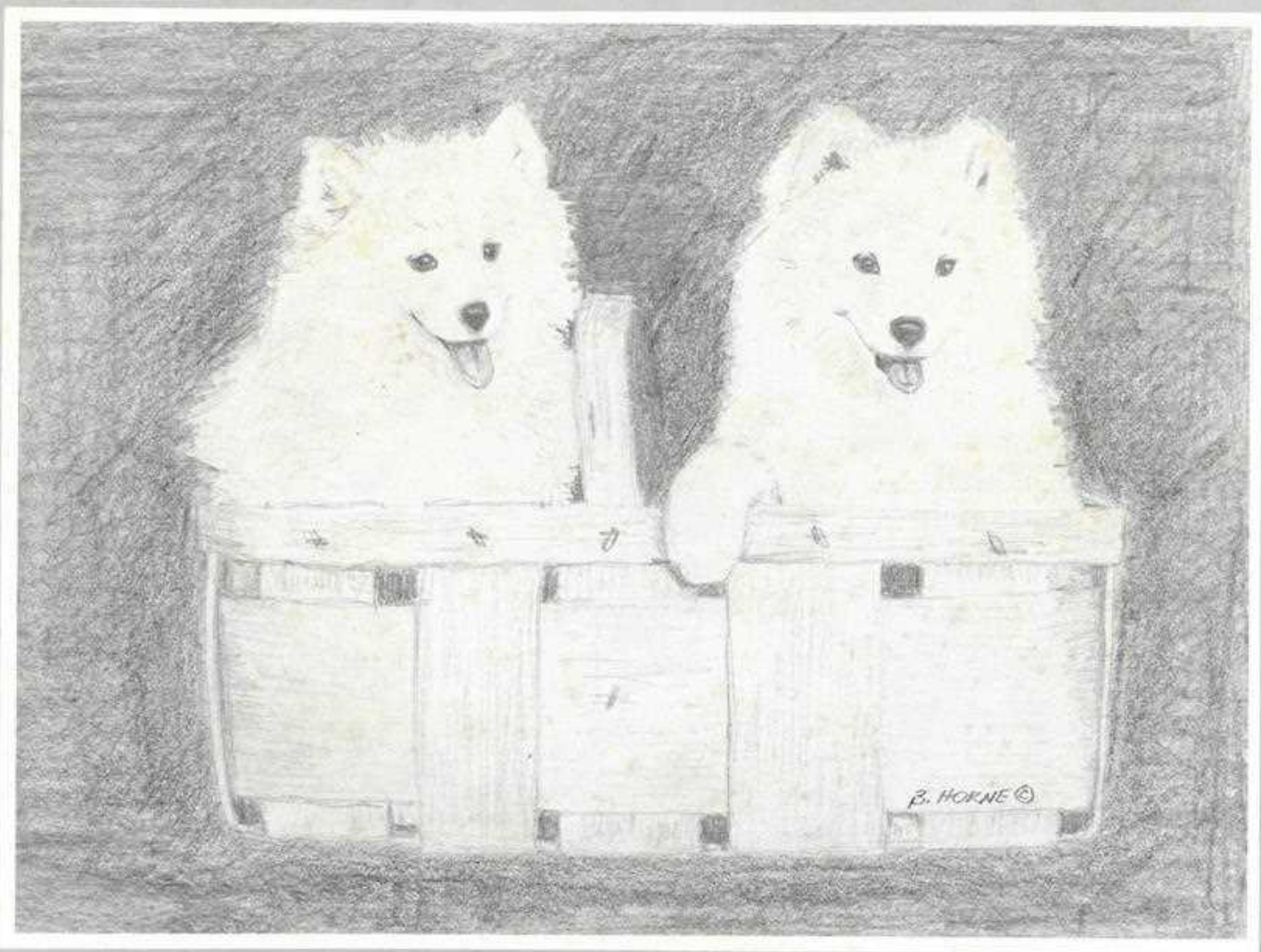
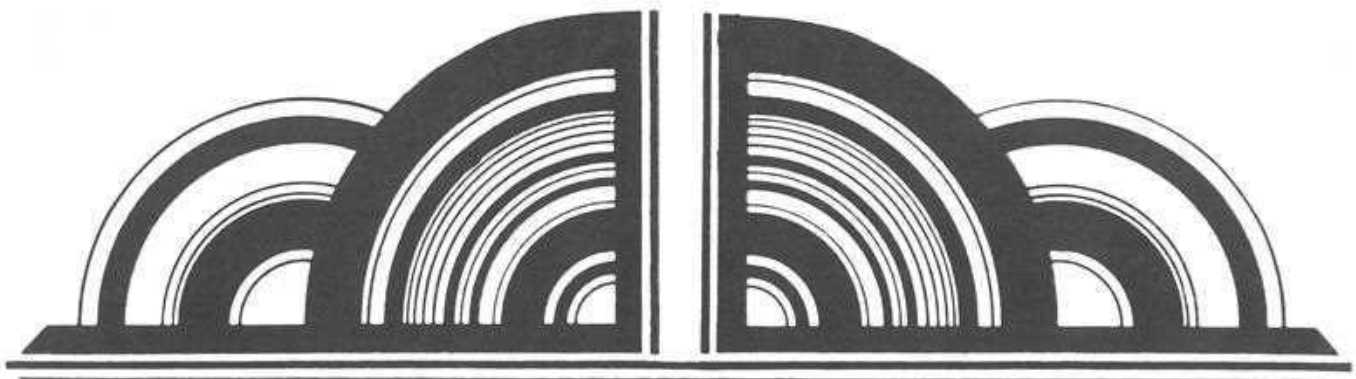


The Samoyed Quarterly
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SAMOYED PEOPLE



The Samoyed Quarterly
Talks With
Doug and Pat Gillam
DESERT SON
Tucson, Arizona

Part II

This interview was conducted at the home of Doug and Pat Gillam in June, 1983 by Lyn Snyder Hoflin.

What is "valley fever?"

Doug: You've never heard of that?

Pat: Valley fever is indigenous to the Southwest and to parts of Central California. It is a disease that is transmitted through a spore in the air.

Doug: Actually it's in the ground.

Pat: Yes, it's in the ground initially. The spores get stirred up by the dogs digging holes in the ground and sticking their nose into the hole or digging in gopher holes. The spore is breathed into the lung.

Mishka finished his championship rather rapidly; he started in May of 1977 and finished in November, 1977, I believe. When he finished, he was about two; the following spring, we were going to take him to a show in San Diego at the end of February. At the beginning of February, he contracted Valley Fever this way - it had been raining constantly in Tucson for about a week, and the dogs had been inside most of time. Finally, one day, it was beautiful. I put them out in the dog run; I came home after school and I was in shock because our developer had cleared the lot next door to build a house. That's almost a sure sign that you're going to have valley fever spores disturbed. Sure enough, in about a week, Mishka started with the runny nose and the coughing; we took him into the vets and they thought it might be some type of a respiratory problem. They gave him some medication, and I said, "Well, just for the heck of it, would you test his blood for Valley Fever?" The test came back positive. Anyone that has ever had Valley Fever in their dog knows it's just a devastating thing. At that particular time, there was no medication other than a medication that would possibly do damage to the liver and the kidneys. One vet advised us to put him on it and the other said don't. So we did not. I contacted Pat Morehouse and Bobbie Smith immediately and told them the situation. Pat had given me a list of health foods, vitamins and minerals, to get at a health food store. We put Mishka on an immediate diet; he was sick for a year. He lost nine pounds and was very listless. Trying to keep an active dog down is very, very difficult. We just had to keep him very quiet, be-



cause the valley fever was situated in the lungs. If you let him get very excited, the fungus could disseminate into other parts of his body, into his bones, where he could develop bone lesions, which would result in limping. It was a very unpleasant experience for us. At the same time, there were a couple of my friends, one who was in Phoenix, whose Samoyeds came down with Valley Fever, and subsequently died. It was a very depressing thing. Here we had a beautiful dog that had just finished and we were going to start out campaigning as a special, and then boom! He's got Valley Fever. Mishka was out of the ring for a year. He wouldn't eat; I had to force feed him for six months, twice a day. He swallowed about 30 vitamins a day. It was a very unpleasant time for us, to me especially. Valley Fever in Arizona is not something to scoff at, because it affects people as well as animals.

What is it that causes it?

Doug: There are spores in the



Four of Mishka's offspring (age 6 mos.) from the repeat breeding of Mishka and Gilly. (l to r) Silverado's Prince Snow, Silverado's Konan O'Desert Son, Silverado's Dominik Belin and Silverado's Impossible Dream.

ground, little fungus spores. Same thing that makes mushrooms grow. These spores, when the ground is disturbed, become aerosol. Construction in the Southwest here, especially in Tucson has caused a tremendous amount of Valley Fever. When you're grading land, you're dispersing spores in the air. People breathe the spores in, dogs breathe the spores in, horses breathe the spores in. The spores settle in the lungs, and immediately the body begins producing antibodies to deal with the spores, but oftentimes it takes a long time for the antibodies to deal with the problem. The immediate symptoms in almost all animals and humans, dogs and horses is lassitude. That's because the spores and lesions in the lungs reduce the lung capacity. You don't have as much oxygen going into the bloodstream, therefore, you're not able to oxidize and to make the muscles move. People with tuberculosis have the same symptom, that sort of thing. There is a very real danger of these lesions, these spores, breaking out of the lungs and, as Pat said, going through the bloodstream and lodging in the large bones. Dogs have been known to exhibit systems of dysplasia, stiffness in the hindquarters, because their large bones are riddled with these lesions. They now have a medication for this called Ketaconazol, and they are

using it on people now, too. But for five years the FDA wouldn't authorize the use. You know how the FDA is anyway. I know one person who is taking Ketaconazol. I had Valley Fever; a friend of mine had it very badly. He is even more athletically inclined than I am. He was running six miles a day, even though he had Valley Fever, and the doctors tell you to take it easy. The symptoms are somewhat similar to Mononucleosis in that you're tired all the time. Well, Jim was just enough of a jogger that he wasn't going to let any sickness get him down. He got to the point where he had to be hospitalized and the doctors almost had to remove one of his lungs. That's how bad it was. It's very dangerous. There is a very high mortality rate in dogs and horses, but not that high in people. I know it's indigenous to the Southwest, but I don't believe it's restricted to the Southwest, because I've heard of horses in California dying of Valley Fever. Maybe they were on a circuit in the Southwest where they picked up the spores. It's a real tricky thing. I guess they have vaccine now that they can give the dogs. I'm not sure if it's been approved, but I know it's been tested. They're going to have vaccines for everything pretty soon.

Pat: One important thing to mention here is that Mishka, over-

came this particular disease and went on to do very well. He was sick the entire year of 1978; he came back and went on to do very well. In 1980 and 1981 he was in the Top 25 Winning Samoyeds, he went to Canada in 1981 and finished his Canadian Championship in one circuit, so I feel very fortunate that he came through the Valley Fever. He has a very strong constitution which he got from Khan, I think. Having Valley Fever tends to weaken certain systems in your dog. He has also had pancreatitis, which he came out of; many dogs don't come out of it that well. I feel he's done very well for himself. We're very fortunate to have Mishka. He's an all-around great dog, temperamentwise; he's produced well, and he's done very well for himself in the show ring.

How would you describe the ideal Samoyed?

Pat: I think Doug said it a little while ago. One that can not only be good in conformation, but be a good obedience dog as well as a good family pet and companion dog. It would be nice to have all of this in an all around type of Samoyed. What would you say your ideal would be?

Doug: The ideal Samoyed would be a dog who can work and wants to work, but has the ability to play. A dog that is good with kids,

good with people, but not to the point of being a clown or a fool. A dog that has a sense of humor but is not an idiot or a court jester. The ideal Samoyed would have all of the physical traits that we cherish in Samoyeds. I tend to place less emphasis on physiology than I do on personality. They are all beautiful. Some a little more beautiful than others. Pat can elaborate a little bit more on the fine points. My emphasis is on the dependability of the dog - I think above all the ideal Samoyed would be the kind of dog that you would want in your home and the kind of dog that you would want with you in the wilderness. If your four wheel drive vehicle broke down 14 miles from Cutback, Montana, in the dead of winter, you'd want to have a good dog with you, and I can't think of any other dog that I would want to have, because of their loyalty, and because of their general willingness to work; some are a little more willing than others as we all know. But my ideal Samoyed would be - remember Sgt. Preston of the Yukon, he should have had Samoyeds. I think all the traits that they attributed to King - I think the name of the dog was King - are traits that we attribute to Samoyeds. Loyalty, dependability, intelligence. King should have been a Samoyed. I don't know, maybe I'm romanticizing the breed somewhat. You have to have a little romance in your life, I suppose. Whenever you idealize something there is always a danger of being a lyrical romantic. The ideal Samoyed wouldn't have to be white. He'd have to have some white in him. I've seen too many non-white Samoyeds and biscuit Sams that were good dogs, even great

dogs, to feel that anything other than pure white is undesirable.

Would you want a Samoyed that was charcoal gray or ... ?

Doug: Well, I'd wonder if they are just dirty. (laughter)

I've seen pictures of Samoyeds who are dark.

Doug: Yes, they are between cream and tan. It sounds to me like a lot of biscuit.

A dark biscuit -

Doug: Well, there was a reason that the Samoyed people tended to breed all white Samoyeds. I haven't known of enough off-white dogs to detect any difference in personality. But one presumes that there were reasons to do that, because they apparently, consciously, or maybe not consciously, bred white to white and white again through the various generations. Perhaps they valued the appearance of the all-white dog, or perhaps there was something about the personality of the all-white dog that they valued above all others. I don't know; from what I've seen, my ideal Samoyed would not have to be all white. But that may be just my own relative inexperience. When you compare me to some of the other people who have termed themselves Samoyed people, you know I'm just a baby. Twelve years is nothing in this.

If I'm still a Samoyed person in 30 years, maybe I'll know more about what the ideal Samoyed is.

Pat: There are supposed to be black Samoyeds in Siberia. Bob Ward had talked with a friend of ours in Phoenix, Dave Siebert, about going over and bringing a pair of them out. Whether they can is a different thing. I believe there was a picture in either The Samoyed Quarterly or

the Bulletin several years back of a black one. They're more of a medium to smaller medium size which is what Sams used to be. It would be interesting to see a black Samoyed. Someone told me once that there was an all-biscuit, totally biscuit, Sam up in Canada a few years ago. It was supposed to be a very beautiful dog. I've never seen a picture of it though. Owing and showing a biscuit Samoyed has been both somewhat frustrating and interesting. I remember three years ago when we went to the Samoyed Club of America National Specialty in San Diego; there were 75 Specials entered. They were all in the Breed ring together, and right in the middle was Mishka. The effect was totally white except for him. It really caught your eye. I've been told by some professional handlers, by the way, why not bleach his coat or cut his coat down and do something to it so he would be totally white. I can't do that. My dogs are going to be shown the way they are or not at all. I like white Samoyeds, I have white Samoyeds, but Mishka has always been special. He was born under special circumstances, he's come through a lot of difficult situations, and he's done very well for himself. He's beaten some of the top dogs in the country, and we feel very fortunate to have him. He's one in a million as far as we're concerned. Apart from being a top winning dog, he also has a great personality. That's one of things he passes onto his puppies. He's special, very special. We wouldn't trade him.

Do you think the Samoyed Standard is a good one?

Pat: I think it's a good one, basically. The only thing that I



Mishka's first BOB after year-long bout with Valley Fever.



Desert Son's Ice Break Hallye

would like to see worked with carefully, and perhaps other people have mentioned it, is the size. I realize there are some people that have larger Samoyeds; our standard says a "medium size dog." Mishka's at the top of the standard, 23 1/2 inches. He has produced puppies that are a bit larger than he, but I would not want to see Samoyeds go much larger than that. I'd rather keep it at what it's supposed to be. Size is not disqualifying or anything like that, like with the Siberian Husky. The Siberian Husky must be within a certain standard. I don't have any problems with the standard other than that. I suppose I'm a little bit irked at some of the judges who either don't read or adhere to the standard. Mishka, for example, would not even be looked at in the ring because he was a biscuit color. Conformationwise, he's a good dog; he does have his faults as does any other dog, but I've seen him beaten by lesser dogs because of his biscuit coloration. That is discouraging. I feel that if we'd have more education, and more people and judges read the standard, they would become a little more knowledgeable; it will certainly help in the future.

Do you think judging is fair?

Pat: Doug has his viewpoint and I have my viewpoint. He's more into obedience while I'm more into conformation. The breed ring can be very political. I've seen some judging situations where the judge, as soon as the handler walks in the ring, it's like "old Home Week." You know exactly what's going to happen. "Hi, Joe," or "Hi, Mary, how are you?" "Fine." "How's the kids?" You know you haven't got a ghost of a chance. As far as I'm concerned a judge who does that has lost any future entries from me. I won't show under them. Mishka beat one of the top winning dogs in the country about two years ago. The dog had been heavily promoted, and had thousands of dollars spent on him



Desert Son's Jena O'Devonshire



Stud Dog Winner SCLA (Samoyed Club of LA) Ch. Mishka and sons - Silverado's Sergei and Silverado's Kazak O'Shadow Mt.

for advertising. The dog's structure is not terrific, and his temperament is not terrific; however, he did a lot of winning. At that particular show, the judge put Mishka up for breed over this other dog, the handler blew his stack and yelled at the judge. He said, "This dog (meaning his dog) is one of the top winning dogs in the country. This other dog (meaning Mishka) you put up hasn't ever won a breed." While that, of course, was not true, the judge looked him square in the eye and said, "He has now." In this particular situation, I feel that the judge did a fair job. She put the dog up that she thought was the best at the time, according to the standard. I feel that there are some judges that really don't give you a fair shot and others do. That's unfortunate. Doug feels strongly about conformation. He can give you a long list of things why he is more than a little bit turned off by it. But obedience is more his forte'. There's the dog and his work is judged, period.

Doug: The criteria on which you judge a dog in obedience are much more objective than in the breed ring. The standards, meaning behavior and obedience, are fairly well established and fairly well uniform, and everybody knows that if the dog doesn't sit for the long sit, he's going to blow it. If he breaks, he's going to blow it. But if he does all the things he's supposed to do, he's going to be all right. There's much more of a fairness factor in obedience, because a dog can compete against himself and if he blows it himself, he has no one to blame but himself. What I find disturbing often times about conformation is that no matter how good the dog is, the dog can be 4.9 on a scale of 5, and lose to a dog who is 4.2 because of who's handling the dog or a lot of other factors. It should really have nothing to do with who's showing the

dog. The breed specifications are fairly uniform in the standard and, theoretically, if you compare any dog to the standard and look at the totality of that dog as he measures up to the standard, if he appears to be head and shoulders above all of the dogs in the ring, then that dog should win. That's what I would think. But I've seen a lot of dogs that I felt were superior, physically in terms of conformation, who were just blown right out of the water because there was an inexperienced amateur handler on the end of the lead. Anybody that has been around discipline knows that generally speaking, the professional handlers have an advantage over the owner handlers. Then you get some owner handlers who have an innate ability to show a dog well and they do a lot of winning; that's how good they are. Sure, I believe that a handler who really knows his stuff whether he is a pro or an amateur, can show a dog in such a way as to not emphasize faults that the dog may have in movement, and can handle the dog in such a way to emphasize the good points. That dog may win over other dogs who are physically superior, but not handled as well. I suppose that's the big controversy in my mind, anyway, and why I don't like to get involved in conformation, because I don't see any way to resolve those conflicts within myself. I suppose someone else might say, "Well, by golly, I'll just become the best handler I can possibly be." But that predisposes more of a commitment to the game or gamesmanship. I'd much rather cop out and do it the easy way and show a dog in obedience personally. Pat doesn't feel that way. She'd rather fight the good fight and take it to them in the conformation ring. But I just don't like some of the political stuff that goes on. I don't like the idea that good people can get discouraged; I should



Patty Brace and Desert Son's Dani O'Devonshire
Best Jr. Handler Samoyed Club of San Diego Specialty

say good people with good dogs with a lot of potential can get discouraged by some of the practices and rules. They do. I'm sure there have been a lot of people turned off conformation by some of the things that go on. The breed has probably suffered for it. People get discouraged, disillusioned and say, "heck with it, I'm just not going to be involved with this;" they can't handle disappointment. Everybody has to learn to handle disappointment, but when you can't handle a disillusionment ... What happens it totally

destroys your preconception about what's fair. That's when you become discouraged and that's when you get out, or modify your own value system and stay in and play according to their rules. I don't know what the answer is, I don't know if there is an answer. Or if there is I'll be darned if I'll find it, because I'm not going to look for it. (laughter)

Pat: We just do the best by our dogs, and hopefully they will do their best. We have gotten discouraged in the past, so we have done other things. We were dis-

couraged with Tevye; when he couldn't be shown in conformation, we went into obedience. We were discouraged with Dani being unable to be shown, because of her minor subluxation, so we went into Junior Showmanship. She did well there. So we just do the best with what we have. I think that's all you can do. Just keep trying. It hasn't all been fun and games, but I don't think anything is. We've met a lot of nice people, and a lot of people I wouldn't really want to know better. I feel, by and large, it's benefited us. I made some good, fast friends, in all parts of the country. Lasting friendships, I hope, and I've enjoyed it. It's been a long, hard row to hoe and we learn something new all the time. We're not experts by any means, but we're trying to do our thing the best way we know how. That's about it.

Does advertising influence judging?

Pat: I think heavy advertising can. We've never been able to do heavy advertising, because we just can't financially. We do periodically. We advertise in "The Samoyed Quarterly," the "Bulletin," and I advertised in the "Canine Chronicle" when Mishka was out being campaigned, but we cannot afford to advertise any more than that. I do feel that there are some dogs that have been advertised to the hilt and conformationwise, they are very poor examples of the breed. They have done a lot of winning. Unfortunately a lot of people see these ads, see all of the winning that these dogs have done, and they want to breed to this dog or get a puppy from this particular dog. It's done a lot to hurt our breed, as well as other breeds, I'm sure. In Mishka's case I think it has helped him when we have advertised because of his biscuit color. The winning that he has done, he's done it on his own, regardless of his biscuit coloration. We've advertised sparingly. I don't believe we've advertised more than 4 or 5 times a year, and rarely in both publications. Usually, we advertise one time in one magazine, and one time in the other. It does help in some ways. It helps I think if you're a novice person looking for a dog. Like for example, in our case when we were starting out, we were looking at various pictures to find out what types of Samoyed were available. We came up with three that we liked because of what the dogs looked like that were advertised.

Doug: If the dog has a preconception of itself as a winner, and the people who line the ringside all read "The Samoyed Quarterly" and the "Bulletin" have a preconception of that dog as a winner, and the dog is generating vibrations or vibes, and



Am/Can. Ch. Ice Way's Bialow Mishka



Mishka's daughter, Silverado's Misting Surf

the judge just happens to every now and then see an ad for this dog, there is always a chance that somewhere deep in his psyche, in his subconscious, he is going to have a preconception of this dog as a winner, and very possibly the dog's going to be one that day. It parts right back to the principles of public relations advertising. The subliminal, which they don't allow, but saturation-type campaigns are prevalent today because they're effective. All you have to do is watch television to realize that. That's why some beer companies sell more than other beer companies, because they advertise more. Not that there's that much difference among the top five percent in the quality of the beer. Some spend a little more on advertising. Obviously the product is acceptable or meets minimum expectations. If it didn't they wouldn't sell anything, no matter how they advertised. But saturation-type advertising, I think, has a definite effect on all activities and specifically in the area of showing dogs. You're not talking about a horse race or a car race, where it goes to the fastest. You're talking about subjective criteria here. We have a standard, but the decision is solely that of the judge. It's not a matter of who races around the ring the fastest. It's a matter of that particular individual on that particular day having to decide between 20 or 30 dogs. How they do it, I don't know, because I think I would have a lot of difficulty myself. You're making a subjective determination. I'm sure that all of us are in many ways influenced by advertising. Probably more than we would like to believe. Anybody likes

to think of themselves as independent, but I just wonder how many of us are truly independent, free thinkers.

Does being in the Top Ten or Top Twenty mean anything?

Doug: It means something personally to me if my dog is in the Top Ten or Top Twenty, because it's an indication that on more than one occasion a judge has felt that he was the best out there. Obviously on more than one occasion. Different people have said, "I like this dog best of all." It means more or as much to me, given the fact that his particular coloration has been seen as a disadvantage in the past. I'm not sure if he ever made it to the Top Ten.

Pat: Seventeen.

Doug: Okay. I think that biscuit in the past was a handicap that he had to overcome, and the fact that he did it was a cause for, if not joy, at least maybe a little jubilation. That enough judges felt that all the rest of the good things that the dog has overshadowed his biscuit coloration.

Pat: I think that a lot of times being in the Top Ten for some people is somewhat of an ego trip. Being number one is more important than anything. Sure, it would nice to be number one, but number seventeen isn't so bad, number twelve isn't so bad, number eight isn't so bad. With the many hundreds or thousands of Sams that are being shown in the ring, just to be in the Top Twenty-five is important in many ways. You feel you've done justice by your dog. Your dog is, first and foremost, making a name for himself, and doing something, I feel, to help,

as Doug said, all biscuit Samoyeds. Because they have been so long looked at as something you wouldn't really want to have. So this has been important to me. I've felt that Mishka has helped in that way. Conformationwise, his structure is basically sound. He could have a little bit better front; his rear is very good, and he has excellent side movement. He has done very well for himself and we're very proud of him.

Do you generally have handlers show your dogs?

Pat: Mishka is the only one that we really had a handler on. When I started showing him, I was very novice and I would get nervous; it would transfer to him and he would get nervous. There were several times when I began showing him, I started in American-Bred after he was a puppy, I ruined any chance he had because I would be so nervous I didn't know what I was doing. So a friend of mine helped me and started showing Mishka; Ken worked with him and they did very well. After that I just felt that Mishka showed better with someone else. Now that I have more confidence, I show all of my other dogs. I can show other people's dogs, train my dogs, and train other people's dogs, but I guess with Mishka we became very close and attached to each other. I did baby him a lot when he was sick with Valley Fever. I really had to; I was very close to him. I dealt with him everyday, morning and night, the hand feeding twice a day and the pampering, so he would pull through this. Overall, I like showing dogs. I'm basically a very competitive person. I like getting out in the



Mishka and Tomah's Tevye

ring and I like showing my dogs. We lose, of course, a lot more than we win. But when we do win it's very exciting. I just put Jena's first points on her myself last spring, which was a big excitement to me. The first points I put on any dog by myself.

It was a real thrill, and I'd like to do it again. There's no problem with me handling or showing any of my dogs. I enjoy it. I go to classes regularly and as many matches as I can possibly handle. I don't know if I'll ever get into obedience as such. I like an obedient dog so it will mind. I don't know if I have the patience for obedience. You have to have a lot of patience and time. It takes a long time to train an obedience dog. Doug has much more patience than I do. That's why he can do it a lot better, plus he's a lot stronger. He can correct them a lot easier than I.

Have you put titles on any of the other dogs?

Doug: No, after Tevye died Mishka was too young to fool with obedience. Or to fool with him in obedience. Then it seemed like we went from two dogs to five dogs almost overnight, and we really haven't had the time. I'm involved in amateur athletics. On weekends she goes to her dog shows in California or wherever, and then I go to California or New Mexico to play Rugby. We just haven't had the time to do any more obedience work. My rugby season runs from September to April, and, of course, I'd be more than happy to do obedience in the summer except we don't have many classes in the summer. So it's been a schedule conflict that hasn't been resolved yet, for about the last two or three years. Eventually I will plan to figure out some way to get around it. I suspect that all of our dogs have the potential to do well in obedience. The youngest puppy, Hallye, is just a year old, notwithstanding the fact that she acts like an idiot sometimes. Hallye

probably has as much or more potential than any of the others, because she's smarter, I think, than any of them. Maybe not smarter than Mishka, but she's extremely bright. I think that's important. Of course, I've seen situations where a dog can be too bright, and not really do too well in obedience because of being too smart for their own good, as the expression goes. But I think Hallye will work out okay. Her mother, Jena, is going to do well, because she's a good, sturdy sound dog, really amiable to instruction and command. Jena likes to please. Of course she knows she will get a cookie, when she's good.

Pat: She loves her cookies. She finished off a whole four pound box last week. She went in there and stole every one of them.

Doug: To give you an idea of the intelligence of Jena, the mother of Hallye, who is the puppy I said was very bright, Jena went into the pantry and opened a Milk Bone box, a four pound Milk Bone box, with her nose, teeth or whatever and quietly tore off the closing flap. Jena took out almost every one of the Milk bones, you know, the giant size milk bones, and ate them one by one; all the while the other dogs were playing on the rug in the living room, she was in there munching cookies. She would bring a cookie out, lie on the kitchen floor and eat it, go back and get another one until she had almost finished off the entire box. Now it takes either a very smart dog or a very dumb dog to do that, because she was ill for about two days. Maybe she was too smart for her own good. She figured out how to eat them without the other dogs or us knowing, but she didn't realize the consequences.

Pat: She would probably do it again if she got the chance. We'd better watch her.

Would you say that there is a difference between trainability and intelligence?

Doug: Sure. I think some dogs, at least in my experience, are so intelligent that it interferes with their trainability. I suppose I should clarify that a little further. I haven't seen a dog that wasn't trainable although I'm sure there are some that exist. That may be a function of my inexperience with various breeds. But I think that highly intelligent dogs may have a slight disadvantage as a result of their intelligence because insofar as they are capable of doing so, they may question commands. Obviously dogs don't say in their own minds or whatever they have, "Gee, if I do what he says this might happen." But I have seen dogs, highly intelligent dogs, hesitate. Maybe intelligence goes along with stubbornness.

Maybe there are partially the same chemical processes in the brain of the intelligent dog. But I have seen that, which is not to say that some of the dogs that do well in obedience are not highly intelligent. Shelties, I'm sure, are very intelligent dogs and they do extremely well, from what I've seen. Boy, you ask me a question that I haven't spent a lot of time thinking about.

I just thought of it.

Pat: Like he said, you see many Shelties in obedience. They're a smart little dog. They like to please; I've watched them many times. Tevye competed with a lot of Shelties when he was going through obedience. A Sheltie beat him once, only because the handler was a novice and the dog already had a CD. But the little Sheltie knew exactly what to do. I thought the dog was the most well trained, and intelligent little dog that I've seen. The obedience part of it, as I said before, I don't think I would have the patience for it but I like watching. It is very time consuming and I admire those people that can do it, because it takes a lot of time, especially with a Samoyed more so than many other breeds. A very intelligent, well trained Samoyed is something really beautiful to behold. I've watched them work and they really enjoy pleasing; they enjoy doing what they're doing. They're very happy looking. They always have a smile on their face, their tails wagging, so on and so forth. At the same time I've seen Sams that just decided, "Oh well, he wants me to do this but that's not what I'm going to do. I'm going to sit up or I'm going to lay down" when it's supposed to be the opposite or "I'm not going to retrieve what I'm supposed to get." It can be very frustrating to those people that are doing obedience. I'd like to see some more of our dogs have obedience degrees. I'd like to see Dani get her CD, now



Don-Del's Subodai O'Desert Son and Ch. Mishka

that she is done with Junior Showmanship. She is a very smart little dog, very willful, but very smart. I think she would enjoy doing obedience, also. She always loved to show and she loved being in Junior Showmanship. Now that she's done with that, I think it would be good for her to be in something else, because she would get to go with everybody else rather than staying home.

Do you encounter problems, having two males together?

Pat: Yes, now we do. Now that Konan has become about a year old. Before it wasn't bad because Konan's temperament is very mild and easy going. Now that he is of age and going through the macho stage, which happens at about a year and a half, in our experience anyway, we do keep them separated. They can be in the same room as long as one of them is in a crate. We had the two males before, Tevye and Mishka, and we had absolutely no problem. We had two males, Mishka and Subodai, after Tevye died, and the only problem that ever came up was when we got Dani; after she came into season the second time, they were no longer friends. So I felt that Dani had quite a big influence; I feel that having the two males together was no real problem until that particular time. I'm sorry that we have to keep them separated, but I certainly don't want anything happening.

Doug: This situation may be a manifestation of Mishka's getting older. Although, I don't know. I never had a Samoyed as long as I've had him, and maybe it's not a natural aspect of getting older, being less tolerant of other males. But for a long time he was the only "bull in the paddock" as it were. And he was spoiled; he was spoiled terribly when he was sick. He was treated like a baby, and I think that it's difficult for him to deal with the fact that he is no longer the favorite. He will still always be the favorite son, but he is no longer the only son, and that he has to share our affections. He doesn't like it, but I expect he'll learn to deal with it eventually.

Pat: It was very surprising to us when we had to worry about two males not getting along after Dani came, of course, because we had never had that problem before. Mishka and Subodai had always gotten along well together. We heard other people say you can't have two males together, but we had up to that point. So it was a shock to us having this problem develop.

Doug: Obviously you can have two males together, because I see pictures in "The Samoyed Quarterly" all the time with six or eight males



Silverado's Kazak O'Shadow Mt.

lined up, staring out a picket fence, and there are all kinds of teams out there consisting of six males. Maybe they're all litterbrothers, I don't know. But obviously you can do it. Maybe the fault is ours in not knowing the proper way to correct the unacceptable behavior, aside from separating the dogs that lunge at each other. I don't know. Maybe I should talk to an animal trainer and see how they keep the tigers from killing each other in the same cage. But I don't know how to neutralize or minimize aggressive behavior on the part of two males when it's equal and opposite in intensity. If one was aggressive and the other was passive, then I suppose we could deal with that much easier, but the plain fact of the matter is when one exhibits aggressive behavior and the other one turns around and says, "Oh yeah, well, in your face, Fool!", then the other will come back with the same stuff. So I don't know. Maybe somebody can explain that to me. (laughter) Have you got any ideas?



Desert Son's Dani O'Devonshire

We have three males and four bitches together.

Pat: Well, you know Mishka is funny sometimes. Away from the house he has no problems with other males, but it may be the fact that here he's King of the Roost, and like we said, we spoiled him. I spoiled him when he was sick because I had to keep him quiet, feed him and I was very attentive to him. I think he can be jealous of me sometimes when I'm with the other dogs. So that could be a factor, also. I like males better than bitches; I always have. That's why we had a male first. Maybe I just like the looks of them better because they have more coat and substance.

What breeders do you admire most?

Doug: I think that both of us have thought highly of and always admired the Nonhofs, Pat Morehouse, the Richardsons, Bobbie Smith, and the Wards.

Pat: One of our all time favorite Samoyeds is Yurok of Whitecliff. Of course, he's been dead a long time, but he was one of the reasons we got into the breed. Every picture I've ever seen of the dog shows him as just being totally magnificent, beautiful coated, beautiful smile, and overall attitude. Gorgeous! Tod-Acres Fang was another Samoyed that we particularly liked a lot, from his pictures. I think there have been a lot of people in Samoyeds that I have particularly admired as far as people and their knowledge, and their breeding practices. There are a lot of new people in the breed now, many more than I know or will ever get to know. Hopefully the new comers can carry on the traditions of the old timers and keep things going. We hope we can have some small part in that tradition.

What kind of feeding program do you use?

Pat: We use Ken-I Biscuit. We have for years since we began. We use a combination of canned Kal Kan and Ken-I Biscuit, with a variety of vitamins and minerals added. I think it's necessary to use supplements here in the Southwest because of the dry climate. Mishka had a very difficult time growing coat a couple of years ago, and I heard about a new coat supplement from a friend who had some dogs in Texas. She had started her dogs on it and it helped their coat and skin tremendously. So we started our dogs in on it and we have used it ever since. Dani used to have horrible hot spots during the summer because her coat is so thick. She hasn't had a hot spot in over two years. Mishka had blown his coat in April. I wanted to send him Canada that August to get his Canadian Championship. We put



Desert Son's Jena O'Devonshire

him on the coat supplement and he grew a new coat in six weeks. He went up to Canada and competed with the Canadian dogs who were in their full coats, and he won. This coat supplement really has helped all our dogs.

Doug: Let's not forget that the handler let him sleep outside every night so the cold air helped, too.

Pat: Yes, he came back with an even nicer coat, too. But he wouldn't have gone up there if he didn't have a nice coat to begin with. There are various things we have to feed to our dogs here in the Southwest, because of the dryness. We have to give a lot more supplements in the diet for their coat texture and to prevent dryness of their skin. We do feed cottage cheese; we feed yeast tablets because of possible tick problems. We don't have fleas, thank goodness. It's just too dry here for fleas. We've never had any digestive problems with our dogs on Ken-1 Biscuit. We don't feed table scraps or anything like that. I don't like to give the dogs anything other than what they're used to because it tends to upset their systems. Once in a while, they will get an ice cream sandwich, but it's just the ice cream part, not the cookie part. Of course, they get Milk Bones and knuckle bones, ordinary treats that a dog would get. Before Mishka had pancreatitis, we used to feed him raw liver sometimes, which seemed to help him. But after he had pancreatitis, he couldn't have anything rich like liver any more, nothing fatty. Very bad for his digestive system. Consequently we don't feed anything rich like liver to any of the dogs any more. They get cooked liver as bait in the ring, but that's about it.

Tell us a little bit about your personal backgrounds.

Pat: I'm a school teacher and have been for 14 years. I teach

English and reading to 7th and 8th graders. I think being a teacher and having dogs sort of balance each other, because I see 160 students every day and I can come home to my dogs. It's sort of a relief. Being a teacher, I think, has been beneficial because I am able to meet and greet people outside the classroom that perhaps I wouldn't ordinarily be able to. I like people a lot and enjoy people that have various different backgrounds. I guess that's about it. I enjoy a variety of hobbies; I do macrame, and decoupage. I enjoy bike riding and hiking. I like painting (not artistic painting, but painting houses and furniture); I enjoy interior design, some yard work, like weeding. I like all kinds of things to do, mostly outside. Never a dull moment, that's for sure.

Doug: I work for the county attorney. I'm an investigations supervisor in the child support unit. I have been with the county attorney for about seven years. It's satisfying work because I have an opportunity to have a real impact on people's lives. We help custodial parents, in most part the mothers, obtain child support payments from non-custodial parents who are, for the most part fathers. It's as I said, very satisfying work. Outside of that in addition to dogs I'm also involved in amateur athletics, specifically rugby, I have been playing rugby for about 13 years. I also run in the Spring, I run some 10 K races. I'm not as competitive at the guys who are always in the forefront. I've been running 32 minute, 3 mile courses. For 5 mile races, I run in the 45's. I'm not really into it because I haven't any aspirations to represent my country at the Olympic Games. I do it for the training effect. As far as rugby is concerned, I do that for the fun. Every morning I run four dogs, in shifts of two. So I at least try to get my running in and get a little exercise for the dogs. I play a little tennis, basketball, racquet ball and whatever else happens to come along. Aside from that I lead a sedentary life. (laughter)

Is there anything we haven't talked about?

Pat: I think we covered it pretty much. I think basically we are the type of people that enjoy our dogs, we have always enjoyed our dogs. We've worked them in various capacities in the different aspects of the dog fancy. I would never have thought in a million years that I would be involved in dogs like I am, but I think it's been worth while. We've enjoyed it. I think the dogs have been a large part of our lives in the last several years, since 1971, which is twelve years. It's been an interesting time. We've gone through

a lot of heartache, a lot of laughter, a lot of really good times, and some bad times. I'm sure there's more ahead, but overall it's been a good experience.

Thank you very much.

Doug: I'm trying to think of something momentous to say. (laughter) As far as we're concerned these dogs, all of them, over the past twelve years have never been a means to an end. They have been the end. That's all. Here is a poem that I wrote in February, 1976:

Reflections on Puppyhood

"Of wagging tails
And mournful wails
And an always-empty food bowl;
Of soulful eyes
And puppydog cries
And a newly-excavated bone-hole.

Of puppyish plays
Through an endless day
And the innocent sleep of the
young;
Of the blessed quiet
After the riot
When the howls and songs have been
sung.

His name means "bear"
And he's wondrous fair
And so much fun that I wish ya'
One of your own --
(Did I hear a groan?)
Just like our little Mishka" **



Mishka - 9 weeks