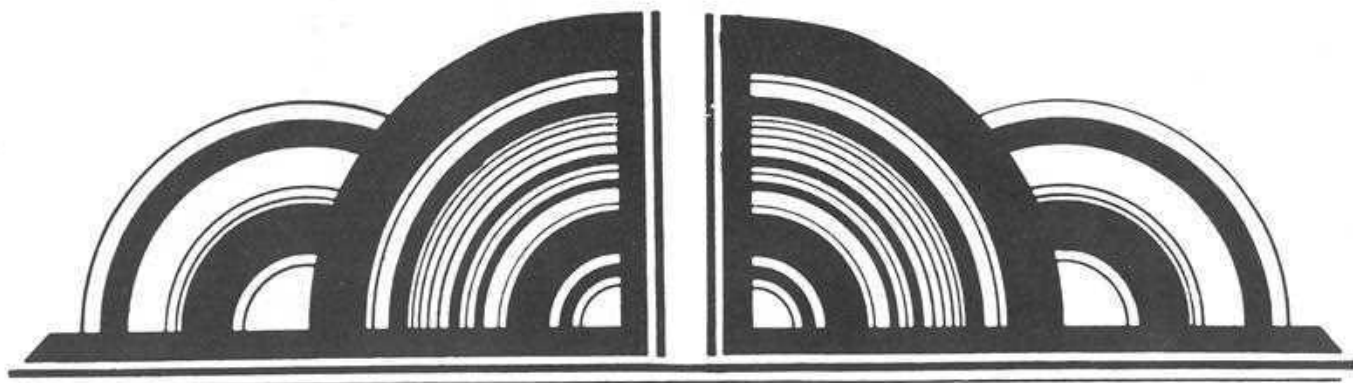


The  
**SAMOYED**  
QUARTERLY

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## SAMOYED PEOPLE

The Samoyed Quarterly  
Talks With  
TOM RALPHS  
Salt Lake City, Utah

*This interview was conducted  
in October, 1980 by  
Margie Clark.*

*How long were you involved with  
Samoyeds?*

When did the Korean War start?  
It was before you were born. The first  
dog I remember I ever showed was a  
bitch in the National Specialty in Long  
Beach. When I was down there, the  
Korean War started. I remember get-  
ting a paper and reading that we were  
starting some kind of a war. That was  
about 1951, something like that. I'd  
had Sammies for a couple of years be-  
fore that.

*Which bitch was that?*

Katje.

*How did you first get started in  
Samoyeds?*

Actually, it was the same way as  
everybody else. I bought one from  
Snowdrift Kennels. That's where 90%  
of the people got theirs! What was  
that lady's name? Mrs. Ingram? Isn't  
the kennel still around? Anyway, I had  
two from her. Joe Dyer's first Sam-  
mie came from her, too. A little gal  
up in Hill Field around here had one  
from her. I had two from her before  
I got Katje. One died quite young and  
the other had yellow eyes. It was sure  
smart though, but it had yellow eyes.

*Real yellow eyes or just a lighter  
brown eye?*

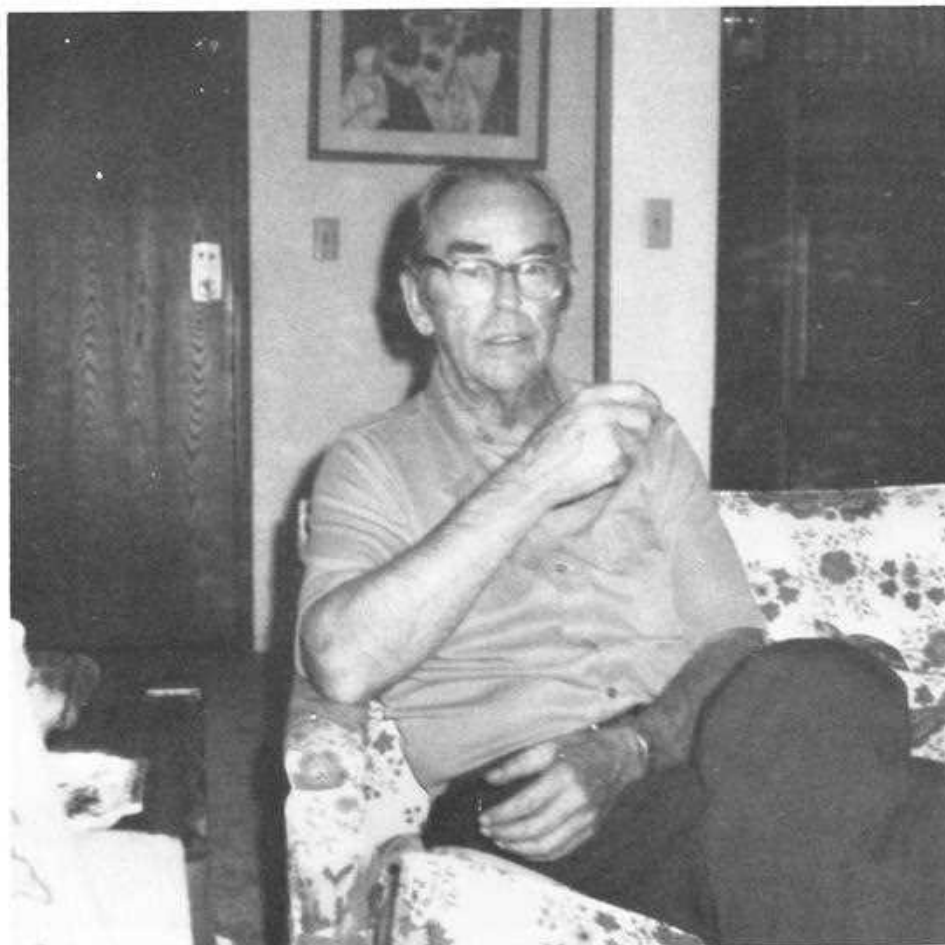
Frankly, they were yellow. Yel-  
lower than any Sammies' eyes I've ever  
seen.

*Why did you decide on Samoyeds?*

I picked them out of a book, the  
way most people do.

*Did you do much breeding?*

Some. I bred Muushka and Willi-  
wah who was his sire. I didn't breed



Bauzahl, Joe Dyer bred him. Really,  
I only had a few litters. Katje only  
had two litters and Lace had one litter  
and Lace's dam Mattel, a big fat lazy  
bitch who had a horrible time having  
her pups. I had two litters from her.  
She belonged to Lois Ranier but Lois  
was a little old lady down in California  
and didn't feel up to having her own

pups, or even WANTING them as far  
as that goes. She had this feeling that  
the dogs should exercise their place in  
life by reproducing. We lost one litter  
of hers and had another litter that had  
a couple of pretty good dogs. Lace  
was Muushka's dam.

*Which was your best litter?*

The best litter was from Martin-

gate's Snowland Taz, that produced Williwah. There was a real good one out of that litter by the name of Bozo. You said to get pictures so I dug some out! I had West Highland White Terriers, too!

To begin with Katje, well, I guess we should begin with Martingate's Snowland Taz who belonged to a lady named Miller. He was a great producing dog. I remember one year they had a National Specialty at Morris and Essex which they don't have anymore. It was the biggest entry up to then. They had 22 specials and as I recall, all but one were sired by Martingate's Snowland Taz. Katje here wasn't very big, only about 20" but she was real sweet. She was straight in the stifle but she was a great moving little bitch. She didn't carry much coat either but she was fairly smart!

*You bred Taz to Katje?*

Yes. This is the only picture I have of Willi. There's a Williwaw down on the coast, but they spell it differently. Williwah is actually a Northern wind if you're going to pin me down! Here are two pictures of old Muushka when he went Best in Show. They're both kind of lousy. Here's two others of him, both when Joe had him. Muushka's Best in Show wasn't at a very very big show! Here's little old Bauzahl who went Best in Show when he was a puppy, he was only 7 months and 3 days old when he went BIS! He was an elegant dog but he was lame. He wasn't lame when he took his BIS, he got hurt about two months later. He was crippled up. He was one of the nicest dogs standing still. He was also, by far, the sweetest dispositioned dog I'd had. He liked everything, little birds, cats, other dogs, people, he just loved EVERYTHING! He'd sing when music played. Bauzahl was the top producing Sammie in the country at one time. I just read that in Popular Dogs one time. I was getting out of the breed at that time and I don't know who it was he produced, but I know I read that he was one of the top producing dogs in the country.

*How many champions were in the litters you bred?*

Golly, I wouldn't know. Muushka had a lot of champions. That Beau that Bruce Holland had, Wes Wilson in Wyoming had a good Muushka son, both were group winning dogs. He had several. Beyond that, I don't know. I didn't use him for breeding, Joe Dyer did. Joe Dyer had Muushka the last eight years of his life.

*The magazine I gave you has the interview from Joe and Mable Dyer in it.*

I'll read it! My favorite dog picture and it's quite small, is a picture of Shondra. I think this one is the nicest Sammie picture. This is when she was going Best of Breed at the National Specialty. Shondra of Drayalene. That's about my favorite picture of a Samoyed. This has to be one of those "walking through memory lane"



*Ch. Bauzahl of Caribou*

things! When I speak of Martingate Snowland Taz, well, there's nobody left from back then except the Wards, and they're in the second or third generation, since I was around. The Dyer's don't do that much anymore. When I met Joe and Mable, they were living in Preston, Idaho and they had this little bitch they got from the South. The Salt Lake Kennel Club was having a class here at Liberty Park in Salt Lake to teach people how to show dogs. I was the teacher!! (laughter) Joe and Mable came wandering out of Preston, Idaho! I think this little bitch was the dam of their Mr. Big. I think he became a champion, too. Those were in the days when you had six dogs entered and five points! Mr. Big produced some pretty good dogs around here.

*Who was the biggest winner you bred?*

I didn't breed Bauzahl so I can't claim credit for him, can I? (laughter) Nor did I breed Katje. Probably Muushka, although he wasn't as consistent as Willi. Willi was a good consistent winner, but he didn't ever win a group.

He had quite a few placements but he never took the group. He was actually my best dog.

*Willi?*

Yes. He was unbelievably thin. He was a fairly big dog, a good 23 1/2-24 inches, but he never weighed over 45-50 pounds. He was just skin and bones and he never sat down. He was a quiet, calm, not very intelligent dog but he NEVER sat down. You'd go to a dog show and pile him in the back of a station wagon, in a crate or whatever. Whenever you'd look at him, he'd be standing up. All the other dogs would be asleep or something, and Willi would be standing there looking around. I had a kennel in back of my house and anytime, day or night, you could look out, the other dogs would be asleep and he'd be standing there. I don't think I EVER saw him lay down more than about twice in his whole life! He could run like a gazelle.

*Did you run them on a team?*

No, I used to walk them in the hills, for a long while, in fact, most of the time I had them I lived up on the

north end of town on 11th Avenue. I was only 1/2 block from the edge of town, then there was nothing but foothills and mountains out there. I used to get up about 5:00 every morning and go out and wander the hills with the dogs. They'd flush out rabbits and chase them. Willi could run twice as fast and jump twice as high as the other dogs. That was because he was so skinny. One time I remember they were chasing some rabbits. I had a neighbor who had a Saluki. My dogs began chasing jack rabbits, but they never caught them, and this rabbit was running away farther and farther from them. Here was this Saluki about 1/2 block behind us, and I don't think it was very long before the Saluki just passed my dogs and was gaining on the rabbit! (laughter) I didn't ever realize how slow Sammies ran until I saw that Saluki run against them!

*Did he ever catch the rabbit?*

Nah. At least, I don't think so! They ran down a gully and the rabbit ran up the hill and this Saluki was after him. I swear he'd come down with all his feet together, take off again and go 20 feet then land with all his feet together then take another jump! It was the most amazing thing I ever saw! I've never seen a dog that was so fast and had such terrific spring as that Saluki. I always thought my dogs were pretty healthy and fast afoot, but this dog certainly showed them up. He was a dumb dog, all sighthounds are bone-headed.

*That's funny, some of the Saluki people say the working dogs are bone-headed!*

Sighthounds, ALL of them, are bone-headed. (laughter) If you get into obedience, you'll get the Golden Retrievers, then probably the Shelties, then Poodles are in there pretty strong. If you look at it that way, you've got three groups covered and you're in pretty good shape. Getting back to the other thing, I think Willi was a better dog than Muushka.

*But Muushka did the most winning.*

I think so. He didn't do as consistent in winning as Willi. Willi was very consistent but I didn't show him much as a champion. When I showed him, I don't recall many times when he was beaten.

*Did you have to travel long distances to get to shows then?*

Just like you're doing here, I used to go to Denver. I had Katje shown with a handler down on the coast, we finished her down there. I went to Wyoming and Colorado.

*How many dogs were in the classes in Colorado when you used to go there?*

I can remember a couple that were up to 50 or 60. Willi finished under Lorna Demidoff who was, at that time, an outstanding Siberian Husky breeder and racer. I think that was in Colorado Springs. It pulled a big entry, probably 45-50. I remember some pretty big shows in Denver, too. Salt Lake



*Ch. Martingate Snowland Taz*

never had much. Reno had some big shows. I went to some Specialties down on the coast, too, some of those were over 100. The first one was the Specialty in 1951 when the Korean War started, that was in 1951, that had 112 dogs or something like that. I don't remember who was put up, it may have been a dog owned by a little old gal named Hazel Dawes who was kind of an amazing person. It was Ch. Lucky Labon Nahum. As I recall, he was the dog who went up in that 1951 Specialty at San Mateo. I thought I had the points, but I finally went Reserve to an American Bred bitch of Billy Tucker's. I watched Major Godsol when he

judged the open class in males, I had an Open bitch, and you could sort of see how he was picking his dogs. He came up with two and he couldn't decide which one to put up first. He ran them and ran them and ran them. Back and forth, side by side, just every way possible! When I went in, we did a lot of running, it was a big class, maybe 30 bitches. He did the same thing with our bitches that he'd had the dogs do. Finally, we were all standing around, I was somehow at the head of the line. He'd pick one here and one there and finally, there weren't any bitches around me and here I was in this corner. I was obviously lost from



*Muushka*

all the other ones. He moved all these other dogs around and up and down and all, just like he'd done with the males and when he made his placements, he pointed at me for first! (laughter) He didn't even look at her for more than 20 seconds! I thought I was so smart and that I probably was going to win the National Specialty! We go in for Winners Bitch and I hadn't even seen the American Bred bitch of Billy Tucker's because I was getting my bitch ready. We got in there and he gave me me reserve! I'd rather be DEAD than go RESERVE! I'd rather be anything but Reserve! It's the most sister-kissing job in the whole world to go Reserve.

*Who or what influenced your breeding program the most?*

That's sort of a strange question! Even if somebody DID influence me, I wouldn't admit it because I want to consider myself a STRONG individualist, undeterred by anyone else. (laughter) As a matter of fact, hardly anybody did, really. For a long while, I was the only person in the State of Utah who HAD Sammies. There wasn't really much of anybody TO influence me. I kept in touch with the little Rainer girls, they were 72 and 76 years old at the time. Even as old as I am, back 30 years ago, I wasn't even close to

their ages! They were anything but opinionated ladies anyway, nor did they know anything about breeding. When it came time to have a litter of puppies, they didn't know what to do so they'd breed the bitch, call me up and ask me if they could send her up for me to whelp the puppies and that I could keep them all if I wanted to. (laughter) Anyway, I'd say, no one really influenced me. I was almost out of Sammies when they started coming into Salt Lake. Bauz was the last dog I had and I think he was BIS in probably early 1961 or 1962.

*How many dogs did you have at any one time?*

Four or five usually. That made a problem because as you get more of them, you'd have to give some away. I gave away some pretty good dogs. I gave Muushka and Bauzahl away, they were both Best in Show dogs! Joe Dyer had given Bauzahl to me in the first place! There was another one, Chin-Chin-Dan McGrew, he was a champion I gave to a friend. I just had to give them up to make room for new dogs coming along. In the first place, I didn't want to put a dog out for stud fees, not that I have anything against stud service, but I didn't want to mess with having to meet planes with bitches coming in and trying to keep them

around the place while they were in heat and all that sort of thing. When my own bitches came in heat, I boarded them. I didn't want anyone else's bitch coming around, I just didn't want the responsibility. A dog as a stud was not only an ASSET to me, but he was a real liability unless I wanted to use him on one of my own bitches, which I only did because it was sort of handy. Joe, by the same token, just delighted in having bitches come to him for stud service. It was a logical thing. I was always cutting down on dogs. One dog I sold, he was an amazing dog, his name was Bozo. I sold him to a friend, unregistered for \$35. I had to go someplace to a show and I didn't have a dog to take. This man said his dog Bozo was a pretty good dog and why didn't I show him? I said "Fine, that we'd register him." I only sold him for \$35 so he wouldn't register the dog and there was an understanding that we'd register him jointly if we ever wanted to. Anyway, we registered him as Bozo. We entered him in some show in Idaho and Jean Blank with Yurok of Whitecliff was up there. Yurok of Whitecliff had never been beaten. Bozo beat him.

*Was this when Yurok was still in the classes or was he already a special?*

I think he was a special. Then he came down here the next day and Bozo took the points but Yurok took the Breed, so he obviously was a champion. It was a big show and Bozo picked up 8 points in the two shows, they were both majors. They were either four points or a five and a three. We never showed him again. He was a nice looking dog. He was one out of that Martingate's Snowland Taz litter. He was almost biscuit all over. I've seen a few that were darker than he was but he was noticeably brown spotted. He had a biscuit cap like a Siberian Husky. It was fairly well demarcated and he had large biscuit areas on his body.

*Where do you suppose that came from?*

I don't know. The rest of my dogs were white, except for right on the ear tips. Bozo had another problem too, he couldn't find his way home! I had Lace too, Muushka's dam, who couldn't find her way home either. I lived up on the hills and now and then the dogs would chase deer or rabbits. I'd want to go to work, so I'd just come on home. An hour or so later, they'd come back and sit on the porch, except Lace. She'd be lost. She'd just run around in circles. I'd drive up and down the street and sure enough, I'd find her. This dog, Bozo, was the same way. He'd get lost and the neighbors knew his problem. He'd get excited and run around in circles and bark. The neighbors would call up and say, "Mr. Evans? Your dog is lost and is running around out here!" The funny thing was, the dog was in sight of his own house!! That must be inherited! He was crazy when he was a

puppy. Very pretty, but crazy. Dog's temperaments and intelligence appeal to me a great deal more in a lot of ways than many other things about them.

*How do you feel about animal husbandry?*

Oh, we're going to get philosophical! Hazel Dawes was a woman who did more winning, absolutely honest, with dogs that weren't top quality than anyone who ever lived! Hazel Dawes' dogs had unbelievable coats, all of them. They all showed unbelievably well and really, none of them were worth a damn, in my opinion. She had all sorts of dogs but she'd have a dog who could win Best of Breeds, Groups and all, she'd sell the dog and a year later, the dog couldn't win a cat fight. Her top dogs weren't good producers, but Hazel Dawes just did something with dogs that made them show better. I was very fond of Hazel. She had a little tweety voice, like a canary. She had a hard hand with a dog, too. For such a little woman, she didn't mess around with those dogs! The dogs did exactly what she wanted. She began training dogs to show and to be groomed before they were weaned. How she got coats on dogs like she did, I'll never know. It wasn't just that they were long, droopy coats, they were just PERFECT coats. Every hair was in the right place. They had beautiful ruffs, beautiful pantaloons or whatever you want to call that stuff on their rear ends. Everything about her dogs was PERFECT! She'd even get a dog from someone else, a puppy, maybe the most obscure breeding of the year and she'd turn those dogs into these unbelievably wonderful animals!

*What kennel did Hazel have?*

Lucky Dee. I know one time out here on the West Coast, Hazel Dawes would have at least one or two top winning dogs. She didn't have very many Best in Show Sammies but neither did anybody else. She had probably 10 dogs that won groups. Vrai won some groups and Modoc won quite a few, and in his day, Lucky Labon Nahum, that's where she got the Lucky Dee from, he was her first good winning dog. She just absolutely produced dogs that won a lot but weren't very good. I could produce better moving dogs than anybody else, well, I won't say anybody else. I could produce awfully good moving dogs. That's because I ran them up in the hills and when they were little tiny pups, I'd run them up a canyon that had all sorts of rocks. I remember I had a male in a litter that I gave to my sister. She was very fond of dogs and all that, but she was very lazy. She never exercised him. She put this poor dog out in her backyard on the lawn, only about 8 months old, and he'd be down in pastern, cowhocked and all. I'd take him home and in three weeks, he'd be moving perfectly again. That's what happened to poor Bauz, I told you he was lame. I was pacing him along side a car, getting

lazy in my old age. I was up about 5:30 in the morning with him along side the car, driving slowly with the lead to see how fast I could make him trot before he broke into a gallop. I was looking at him, watching him and some damned fool kid came along on a motorcycle and zoomed over to scare the dog. I stepped on the gas, came to a corner and turned down and the poor little dog, he was still young, only about 9 months old or something like that, he'd fallen down and I was dragging him on his shoulder. He limped for a long while and never got over it. I had it X-rayed but he was always lame after that. He was such a pretty dog standing still. He finished his championship after the accident, limping and all. Quite noticeably he limped. To show him, you had to move him awfully slow and hold him up by his neck. It wasn't noticeable normally, but in a show ring, it appeared. He got around all right. If he went downstairs, he'd land on one leg and bring the other one back. If you had him on a grooming table and you lifted the good paw up, he'd shift his rear legs to take the weight off the front leg. Because of it, he was a crabby mover. He wasn't noticeably crippled except he'd kind of wobble in the front and it would throw his rear action off. The faster he moved, the worse it would get. In this picture, he's just a puppy. He was about as nice a dog standing still as you could find. He wasn't quite as nice as Shondra in that picture I gave you but there are pictures of Shondra where she doesn't look quite THAT nice. That particular picture just happens to be a very nice one of her. She wasn't my favorite bitch, but I sure liked that picture.

*Who was your favorite bitch?*

There were some people who had a kennel up in the Northwest. In fact, she was at the same show Shondra won BOB at the National Specialty, at Santa Barbara, and Ventura was the next day. Shondra went BOB one day and this other bitch went BOB or Best Opposite the next day over Shondra. She was just a beautiful bitch and I can't remember what her name was. I think it was the lady who had all those Ghengis Khans and Ali Khans and Kubla Khans. There were about three breeders in the Northwest and she was one of the prominent ones.

*Francis Fitzpatrick?*

I don't remember the names, but it was a REAL classy little bitch. Years ago I got rid of all my old catalogs. I'm sorry about that because we could sure use some of that information now!

My favorite male was shown worse and put down worse than most others I'd seen. He was one that belonged to Percy Matheron. The dog's name was Omak, but he was presented poorly. If Hazel Dawes had had Omak, he'd have been the all time best. He was in as nice a balance all the way around and he felt good all over. He was the

sire of Yurok of Whitecliff. He was an unbelievably good dog. No one appreciated him. He was a champion and it was pretty hard to make a champion in those days because there were a lot of dogs being shown in California then. If he could become a champion the way he was shown, he HAD to be good. Percy and Lena (I think that was her name) Matheron were awfully nice people.

*Did they handle Omak themselves?*

Generally. They also groomed him themselves, but not very well.

*Was grooming a big thing then?*

I think so. I think dogs were put down as well then. They weren't as well handled by amateurs as they are now. I was talking to Mable Dyer yesterday about how well the amateurs are handling dogs as compared to how they used to. I think the handling, by and large, is excellent. I thought the handling all around was real good. Bruce Holland told me that the puppy, the male, that took the class yesterday was older than the others.

*No, he's about the same age as the other two were.*

Anyway, that pup that took the class yesterday looked much the youngest, he also looked sort of like a bitch. If he'd have been a bitch, he'd have been an awful good puppy. Who's is he? He's not a bad dog.

*He belongs to some Colorado people. He's their own breeding.*

I knew the McLaughlins when they were showing. They were awfully nice people. What was her great big husband's name? He was an awfully nice guy.

*Harold.*

Harold, yeah. Is he still around?

Oh yes.

Is he still big?

Oh yes. Still ornery and still big. (laughter)

He got mad at me once. I had a very poor, crippled dog, but unbelievably smart in obedience. I went to some Colorado show and had a dog who wasn't much, I can't remember who it was. I entered him for the points. I told poor old Harold how nice I was to pad the points and that since there weren't very many entered that he was a shoe-in. My miserable dog beat him. I did that to Bob Ward once, too. That was with Williwah. Bob Ward had a dog he lost. Somehow or another, someone found it running around the streets of Los Angeles or wherever it was they lived then. They found this dog five or six months later and somehow he was able to trace the dog down and he knew it was his dog. It was in pretty bad shape, but it was a pretty nice dog. Los Angeles had a big show, Major Godsell was judging, and put this dog up. My dogs were out of coat and that sort of thing but we were having a great big entry in Ogden or Salt Lake. Major Godsell was judging and I knew it would be a five point show, so I either called or wrote a letter to Bob and told him he should get his dog up here because



Ch. Williwah, C.D.X.

I knew the competition wasn't all that great and Major Godsell obviously looked in great favor upon this dog.

Bob sent this dog up with some friends, the little Rainer girls actually, they'd brought some dogs up so they brought Bob's dog with them and put him with some handler. I beat HIM! I'm sure Bob thought I set him up for sure! The next day, some other dog beat us both. That dog ate the window out of poor little Lois Rainer's automobile. She put the dog in the car and it ate the window. The window was cracked so it couldn't get out and it ate the whole window.

*The glass?*

Yep, the whole window.

*Did it die?*

No, it didn't bother it at all. I don't know if it swallowed any of it, but it sure chewed it up good! I can't remember what that dog's name is. Bob never blamed me for any of that, though.

*Let's get into the breeding you did do. Did you help your bitches whelp?*

Not generally, except poor old Mattel. Her first litter was real bad. The next litter I got the vet to give me some pituitrin and it still took her 20 minutes to have one puppy. She was just lazy. Poor Katje used to just have pups popping out all over the place. You'd put her in a whelping box and she'd just shoot them clear across the thing. You'd have thought it would beat their brains out! They'd thump against the box. Anyway, Mattel just couldn't expel her pups, so I gave her pituitrin.

I didn't used to break the sacs or anything, that's the bitches job. With Mattel, her second litter were cold pups too, so was the first. Have you ever had a litter of cold pups?

No.

They're so weak when they're born that they won't nurse. All you can do, and it's sure hard on the knees, is to hold these little fellas up to their mother's nipples and just squeeze milk into their mouths. You lose about half of them because you get the milk in their lungs and give them pneumonia. I tried to feed them with an eye dropper, the first litter anyway, and I killed them all. I kept some of them alive for a couple of days but eventually they'll aspirate some of it and they'll get pneumonia and quit eating and the poor little things will just die, one at a time. Poor Mattel, the first litter, kept one pup alive for about six days. She had about 8 puppies. One by one they'd die. We had a construction site on the other side of town and they were being born in the basement, I'd stay there all night with her. Anyway, they were just dying, one by one. We had this incinerator to burn things in. This last pup died and I took it to this incinerator. When I came down, she had gotten that pup out and sat there with it between her paws and just cried. She cried actual tears. I'd have to take the puppy away from her again and dispose of it. She'd be right behind me all the way. It was the most heartbreaking thing I'd ever seen in my life! The next one, Lace was one of the next litter, I had to do the same thing with those. After

three or four feedings, some of them would pick up fairly quickly, that's with holding them up there to the bitch, but some of them would take almost two days. It was very trying and it just ruins your knees!

*So you actually milked the bitch into the puppies?*

Yes, sometimes the puppies would try to help a bit.

*Did they have tube feeding then?*

No, I can guess what that is but I didn't ever know about it then. It would be to put a tube down into their little stomachs, which is an awful lot better than using an eye dropper. I don't know how to do it with little newborn pups, unless you're unbelievably careful, and I thought I WAS, sooner or later you'll give them a drop that's a little bit too big. As soon as it gets into their lungs, they're gone. You didn't have that trouble milking them off the mother as much.

I had one litter of pups, the bitch was bred to Yurok, that was probably Silka. She had her pups on the 52nd day. She was in the kennel at home and it was about 50° or so. They were all dead by the time I got there. Normally, I'll begin taking the bitch's temperature about the 60th day or even a little earlier than that if she begins nesting. This little bitch seemed absolutely normal but on the 52nd day I got home and she had five dead pups there.

*Were they very big?*

No, I guess they weren't much smaller than they should have been, it's hard to remember.

*Did they look term size?*

Yes, they didn't look deformed or anything like that, they didn't look like fetuses or anything. You have to remember that dead puppies look bigger than live puppies. They tend to stretch out and they look larger. I've had some pups, two, actually I've had three I can think of, check and see if this strange phenomenon happened to anybody else. This old bitch that had yellow eyes, Pola, before I was heavy in dogs, I bred her to something or another, I can't remember who, but she had a litter of pups. I had to go away so I left them with a friend at his kennel. The bitch ran away. She was the "running away-est" bitch I'd ever seen. He had an old Chesapeake Bay Retriever with two pups out there. He put three or four of the pups on her and he had a friend that wanted a dog and he said to give him one of the pups, he'd hand feed it. He did it all right but the pup had a very short tail! I thought that was strange, it was only about half as long as a normal Sammie tail. Katje was bred her first litter, by mistake, to her sire and that was the Chin-Chin Dan McGrew litter. She had 13 pups. I was cutting down and my brother-in-law's brother and his wife were ardent dog people of the sentimental type, not the showing type. They begged me to give them some of the puppies because we were faced with having to put some

of them away. I gave them two bitches. They dropper and bottle fed them and the pups grew up! Both of THEM had short tails. Those were the only three bottle and dropper fed pups I was personally involved with. They were only three or four days old, but they all had the short tails!

*Were they feeding bitch's milk?*

After they left my place, I'm sure they went to the vet and got some formula but they'd gotten all the colostrum they needed the first few days, from the bitch. I've never been able to figure that out. These three bitches that had been bottle fed from the time they were four or five days old, all had short tails! They were amazingly short. They were only about half the length of a regular tail.

*Did you end up saving all 13 of those puppies?*

No, I think we put two of them away. There were 13, the friends had two and I think she raised nine.

*What ever became of that litter?*

There was a nice little bitch that died of a heart attack, she had a few points too. She had a C.D.X. degree. She was about two years old and once again, I was getting loaded up with dogs. I gave her to an awfully nice guy, a friend who was also an ardent dog lover but not fancier. They took awfully good care of her. One day they had her out in the backyard, she was only 2 1/2 or 3 years old at the time. They had maybe 8 stairs that came up to their porch. They'd feed her on the porch. They called her to eat, she got about half way up the steps, made a funny noise and rolled down the steps. She was dead! They took her to the vet and he said she'd died of a heart attack.

*Did you get any champions out of that litter?*

Only Dan.

*Was that just because the others weren't shown?*

I don't know, maybe they just weren't much good (laughter). Dan wasn't much good either!! (laughter) The sire of that litter was Chinde of Casper.

*What do you feel with regard to linebreeding or inbreeding?*

Oh, I wouldn't have anything against it. Lace and Willi were half brother and sister. I think you can probably get the best stock if you do it right.

*Inbreeding or linebreeding?*

By inbreeding, I assume you mean father to daughter and things of that nature.

Right.

You're going to come up with a more predictable litter. Obviously, you're going to get different results from breeding a father to daughter than from breeding a brother and sister and it will be a lot more predictable and you won't get a lot of these mutant type things or undesirable recessives that people think they're going to get in brother to sister. There have been an awful lot of dogs around the country

that have been brother to sister breedings.

*Can you name any?*

I could have in the old days. As a matter of fact, the only one I can think of and I can't remember his name, it was before you were born, was a Boxer that was by far the biggest winning canine in the U.S. It was a California dog, a fawn and white. His name was Bangaway, I think. He won Madison Square Garden, too. He was from a brother and sister breeding. I'm sure if you looked, you'd find there are an awfully lot of good dogs that are brother/sister breeding.

*What did you do the most, linebreeding, outcrossing or inbreeding?*

You're only looking at four litters I really had. Mattel's litters all died anyway.

*Some of the names in the pedigrees are really complicated. Like, Bimbo, Vega!*

They were all English imports. As a matter of fact, I think Taz was an import. There were two Snowland kennels in England. Mrs. Wescott had one and there was another one that had two names like English people do, Mrs. Humphrey-Peck or Mrs. Babblesone-Perkins, something like that.

*Did you have a kennel name?*

No. I generally just gave dogs one name. Chin-Chin Dan McGrew and his littermates were named after Robert W. Service's characters. There was "Lady known as Lou," she was the one that died of a heart attack. I gave a friend one that killed all the little dogs in his neighborhood. I had Sams that killed little dogs, too. That's why I gave Muushka to Joe, because he killed little dogs. These dogs will do that just the same as they'd kill a cat. They won't kill a cat unless they're with other dogs and they're chasing a cat. The same thing happened with Muushka. I had a kennel at home and one at the office. One day I heard all this noise, there were about four dogs in the kennel. Some little bitty dog had gotten inside the kennel and all these dogs were taking out after him. I ran out there and let the poor little thing out, but I didn't get much of a chance to see him because he ran away. Maybe a month or so later, the same thing happened down at the yard. I wasn't there but some of the girls in the office heard it and went out to save the poor little dog. One morning I got up and was going up in the hills, and as I went in back to let the dogs out and came through the house for some reason or another, I heard this yipping across the street and there was this little Pomeranian and old Willi had him and bit right through him. I gave Willi to Joe two days later.

*Did they have any trouble with him after that?*

No, the Dyers didn't let the dogs run free anyway, nor did I to speak of except in the early morning. My dogs were well trained. One thing I WAS, was a good dog trainer! I may have

not been the best breeder but I was a humdinger when it came to training them. They were always in control. If they attacked a little dog and I called them back, they'd come. It's pretty hard when little dogs get inside your kennel. Not that I'm making any excuses for it, but I think most dogs would do the same thing. I don't think there's anything in the world you can do to stop them once they get started. You can't stop a dog from chasing cats once they've started. There are a lot of advantages in having little dogs. The little dogs seem to know they're an easy target and they don't wander too far away. You get a moderate or large size dog and they're given to running away.

*You had just the four litters all together?*

Five - two Katje's, one Williaw, and two Mattel's. Mattel's weren't my breeding, she was bred someplace else but had the pups at my place. The other fatal one, where they all died because they were born at 52 days.

*You were at the show yesterday, did you notice any differences in the way the dogs were groomed from how it used to be?*

Not much except ALL of them were groomed. I thought those dogs yesterday were EXTREMELY well handled.

*Why do you think the amateur handling is better now than it used to be?*

There's a lot more competition than there used to be. If it was a local show, there were so MANY people who hadn't ever been to a show in their lives. What do they pay judges now?

I have no idea.

You know, back when I was active in the club, I can remember paying a judge \$750. That was Alva Rosenberg. We paid Percy Roberts \$500. I was quite active with the club for about 12 years, in fact, I usually hired the judges for our shows. The least I remember paying any of them was about \$125. Our problem in those days was that we had so very few dogs shown. I remember a show in Salt Lake one time, it was one of the first ones I ever entered. I wasn't involved in giving the show, but I knew the people that were. When the entries closed, they had only 23 entrees. They scraped around and found a gal who had some pretty good short haired pointers. Every dog she ever sold or knew of, she entered and someone else in another breed did the same thing. They finally came up with a total entry of about 65 dogs but something like 30 of them were German Shorthaired Pointers!

The Idaho shows like Boise and Nampa, Idaho Falls didn't have a show in those days, and Caldwell were owned shows. An owned show was one where the people who put them on would operate them for profit. They'd do all the work, hire and pay the judges, make up the catalogs, pay to have them printed, keep all the entry fees and all

the advertising money and the trophies were donated. They also bought the ribbons. They OWNED those shows. A lot of times you'd only have one judge for a whole show too! In those days there were inexpensive ones such as Vince Perry, two brothers, whose names I don't recall, Matt Corshan, Sandy Forbes and Forrest Hall and Korbel who was a swell old guy with a wine vineyard. We had a lot of shows and a lot of judges. There was the one judge who wrote the spicy book Mandingo, Kyle Onstott. He was quite inexpensive and also wrote a book on canine genetics. He must have been very old the first time I saw him. He never got to look any older but he sure lasted a long while. He went on and all of a sudden the book, Mandingo, came out by someone named Kyle Onstott. It sold two million copies or something like that. I think Kyle made a fortune. I don't know what he did with it, he was quite up in years at the time the book came out. Anyway, he was one of the least expensive judges.

*Vince Perry is still around.*

He was an actor, you know.

No, I didn't know that.

He acted in some movies and for a long while, in the Perry Mason shows, he was a judge in about half the Perry Mason TV shows. Is Forrest Hall still around?

*I don't know.*

He was a good dog breeder. He ran great big ads on his Wirehair Fox Terriers - his kennels were called Hallwire. Here's his picture.

*About the judging, were there a lot of politics involved then?*

There were some handlers that were pretty close to some judges but by the same token, except for one case, I can't think of anything I could particularly tie down. I'm not against this necessarily, but I'm sure I've seen it several times and that is, out-of-state judges when Salt Lake was just barely coming and was new and didn't compare in expertise and sophistication with the dogs, I think the judges tended probably to put up a local dog when they could. I would even attribute the win I made with Bauzahl to the fact that he was a local dog. There were some extremely good dogs at that show, as a matter of fact, there were two dogs there who won groups at Westminster that year. There were a lot of handlers there with extremely good dogs. I'm sure the reason Dr. Frank Miller put me up was because he KNEW I was a local. The reason he knew I was a local was before the dog show started, I was out in back grooming the dog and a friend who was an officer of the club was walking with him and as they came by, they stopped and talked to me. Kent introduced me to him and told him I was Tom Ralphs, and that I was active in the Salt Lake club and that sort of thing. I think that certainly carried a great deal of weight. It might of with Forrest Hall because at that particular time with Muushka, I was working the microphone



Ch. Muushka, C.D.X.

at the show. I've known other people who were obviously local where the judge has looked favorably on them, whether he just wants to help the local people or whether he wants them to hire him the next time That wouldn't hold true with Dr. Miller because he was a very rich man who raised horses and was an M.D. He sure wasn't looking for work. Nor was Forrest Hall, as far as that goes, he must have made a lot of money because he sure spent a lot of money for advertising his kennel.

I've seen Derek Rayne put up Corgis where I don't think other people might have put them up.

*Not necessarily his own breeding, just Corgis.*

No, not his own breeding at all. He had an unbelievably good winning little bitch Corgi going up and down the coast at one time. I think probably more judges would tend to put a dog down in the groups if the dog was their own breeding because they know their own breeding better and are more able to spot faults. Judges who don't know, often put up dogs that are hard to see. Back in the old days when they only registered 300 Old English Sheepdogs in a year, you had Old English winning all over the place because they all looked alike! They all had a great deal of hair and sort of a wobbly motion, but

their movement isn't true to other dogs. They have to have what is known as a drover's roll, they kind of wobble from side to side. Bulldogs wobble from side to side too.

*You think judging was fair on the whole then?*

Yes, extremely fair. I think there were some incompetent judges. I think they had judges sometimes judging things OTHER than the dogs. There were certain judges who were favorable to putting up pretty girls. That doesn't necessarily mean the pretty girls were giving them favors, there were just certain judges who would put them up. There were certain judges who would put up little kids. Kyle Onstott, the guy who wrote Mandingo, if you had a little kid and a dog, your chances were improved by putting the little kid in there with the dog, than by taking the dog in yourself. Kyle didn't like to hurt little kids' feelings! Even people like that wouldn't put dogs up for the points so much, but they'd at least place them. If there was this little kid and he thought it was going to break their heart, he might give her a third out of 12 dogs where she obviously didn't deserve it. I don't know, as far as bribery in judging, I think it's probably a pretty clean sport. Obedience is VERY pure. Professional handlers just

present the dogs better than most amateurs. They're handling top dogs, usually, too. There were many, many more professional people in the ring in relation to the entry than there are now. In those days, practically all the placements in the groups would go to professional handlers but the quality they brought was fantastic! They came from the coast, the midwest, Denver, places like that, where the people had a lot bigger dog shows and the people traveled a lot more and had lots better dogs. They were bringing in the best of the best. We used to have shows, that Ogden one had maybe 400 entries. If you looked at the top winning dogs in the country and on the west coast, you could compare it to Beverly Hills or Santa Barbara and we'd have more top dogs in that Ogden show than they did at Beverly Hills or Santa Barbara. We'd have that fairly commonly. Denver wasn't as heavy and they didn't have as good a dogs as we had. They didn't get near as many west coast handlers as Salt Lake did. Local people here could win easier in Denver than they could in Salt Lake or Ogden.

At one time, we only had about 17 breeds that had a point scale above the minimum. It took something like 2 dogs for one point and so on until you got to six dogs for 5 points. Many times they'd combine the sexes and you could get five points. They don't do that anymore, do they?

No.

If they had a small entry and wanted points, they'd put the sexes together. If it was six dogs and bitches for five points, you'd only have one winner, either the dog or the bitch.

*Since you were at the show yesterday, what is your opinion of the quality now, as opposed to when you were active?*

I liked the bitches better than the dogs. The balance of the males, I don't think is as good. Have you seen the old classic picture of Kara-Sea? I'll show it to you. I don't think that with the exception of Omak, who SHOULD have looked like that, that we've had a dog that would look like Kara-Sea. This is the original book by Puxley and that's Kara-Sea. I haven't seen a dog like that. The main thing I'm talking about is the balance of the dogs. They either have too much behind and not enough ahead or their ruffs aren't what they used to be. The one thing we've lost and that they need is the heavy ruff which Kara-Sea had. This dog that won yesterday, the Best of Breed dog, he doesn't have any ruff to speak of at all, at least now, he has this little head sort of sticking out. It's balance. He doesn't go together the way you like to see a Sam.

The ones I saw yesterday, the second and third place open bitches, I didn't get to see the first place open bitch somehow, I was watching rather closely when the specials were in, though. Anyway, I wasn't watching the open

bitch winner very closely, but the second and third bitches I liked unbelievably well and the first one I really didn't get to see that much. I was amazed when he put her up! She was sitting over in a corner and I wasn't able to watch her much while he was examining her. I thought the second and third bitches were elegant.

I like the ruff to come right up to the head, I think that's just elegant. They look strange without the ruff. I think the dogs are getting bitchier, a little, they may move a lot better than they did in those days and they may be more substantial than they were, but pure and simply, speaking about balance, those dogs we saw yesterday weren't balanced very well. We have a lot better angulation now than we did back then. The dogs had much straighter stifles in the old days. They were almost as straight as they are in a Siberian.

*Let's go through the whole dog, piece by piece. Let's begin with the head, what do you like to see?*

I would like a judge to give a lot more attention to expression. I don't think judges are familiar with true Sammie expression. That's a very valuable part of the dog. A Sammie should look happy and friendly. Many of them do. That's something that hasn't changed. If anything, I think the expression is better now than they were when I first went in. By the same token, you get dogs with poor expression that win. Everything else about them is probably okay, but the expression is gone. It should be a vital thing, they should have a Sammy face.

Ears are better now than they used to be.

*Are they larger or smaller?*

Smaller or just the right size. Looking at this picture, those ears are just too big.

*What kind of head do you like to see? The bear headed Sam?*

They were called Kobe heads for British dogs when I was in the game. Kara-Sea had that bear head and I praise him, but I could go either way so long as the expression is there. I don't think a little more length in the muzzle is a bad thing either.

*What about the pigment?*

We had broken lip lines and things of that nature. I don't think that's changed much. I had a bitch with a pink nose and we had some eye rim problems, however, they're seldom shown.

Once again, if the head is in balance, the total degree of muzzle doesn't make that much difference to me. I liked my dog Bauzahl the best, he had a fairly Kobe head. When he grew up, he's obviously a puppy in these pictures, he had a real nice head. He shouldn't have won that Best in Show. I don't believe in putting up a dog that obviously isn't full grown for Best in Show. It can't comply with the Standard. The judge is just telling you it will be a great dog when it's full grown

but he doesn't know that. When Bauz grew up, he was about as pretty a dog as I'd seen. Gordon Parham once told me when I had Bauzahl in the group, he didn't place him but he told me after that it was too bad the dog moved so bad because when he'd seen him standing there, he'd had him picked out for Best in Show, but he just couldn't do it because of the movement.

*Do you have any adult pictures of him?*

No, but Joe would. I don't know if Joe ever showed him.

*I guess there's one in this last SQ. We've taken the head, ears, expression and pigment ...*

I think the eyes should be dark, the darker the better. Have you ever seen a light eye Sam?

Yes.

It's startling, it ruins the expression. The dog just can't have a Sam expression if it has a light eye. They get almost wolf-like. With the yellow eye, that's even worse. I've never really seen a true blue eye on a Sam, that is, the kind of eye you'd get out of a blue merle Collie or a Siberian. Nor have I ever seen an albino Sam. One time it apparently was a problem. I was showing a Sam once in Reno and was off to the side and some local person, who I didn't know, came up and said he'd used to have some of those dogs but that ours didn't have the pink nose and eye. He said he'd had three of them. He thought that was great! He said they were just like a rabbit.

*What did puppies sell for when you were breeding?*

\$75.

*Did you sell them as show quality and pet quality?*

No, I just sold them as show quality. Do I look like a fool? (laughter) I'd run an ad that said, "Show quality puppies, championship sire and dam" that sort of thing. I gave most of them away to pet people. I was never in it for the money, I'd have got out early if I had been! I don't think I ever made any money out of a dog.

When you talk about stud service, I think I paid about \$100 for Taz. The real problem there was the shipping. I had to ship her to Providence and for some reason or another, this little lady, Mrs. Miller, lived in Corning which is in upstate New York. Maybe I shipped her to Hartford, but anyway, I had to ship her to a handler and the handler kept her for two days and charged me board then took her to Mrs. Miller, then took her back. It was all the DOING that cost me so much. That would have been a good price. In some other breeds, I can tell you some AMAZING things. I almost bought a Bull Mastiff once from England. His name was Grundy of Granturk. He was the best Bull Mastiff in England at the time. He was a champion with nine challenge certificates. They have something at Crufts sort of like Best of Show second day or something like that, and he had that. He had something like Junior

Warrants and about four Best of Shows at non-championship shows. He had just an unbelievable record. I was going to buy him and a bred bitch who had been shown. She'd been bred to the next best Bull Mastiff in England. I was to pay 200 pounds for the two. At that time, the pound was worth \$2.80. For \$560, I was going to be able to buy the best Bull Mastiff in England who was only 2 1/2 years old and a quality bitch who had been bred to a quality male. What blew it all up was this man whose name was East feared the bitch would whelp before she got here. We had to ship the dogs which was fairly cheap. On one of the Queens, you could ship a Bull Mastiff for the same price as you could ship a Maltese, about \$45. He entered in other negotiations and he sold the bitch to a lady named Mrs. Daniel Jenkins in Canada who raised Bull Mastiffs and some West Highland Whites, some pretty good ones. He sold the dog to her, they flew the dog from New York to Ottawa and when the dog got up there, they opened the kennel and he was dead. That's common for bulldogs to do that. He wrote me a letter to ask my advice on something, we'd become pretty good friends, about legal remedies with Mrs. Daniel Jenkins.

I almost bought a dog called Morbert Spooky, an Old English Sheepdog owned by some people named Gilg in Pennsylvania, he was a champion who had gone Best of Breed at the Garden and had a very good record. He was \$175 and for some reason or another, I didn't buy him. They sold him to a professor, it was a friendly deal between us because they sent me Christmas cards and told me what happened to the dog and I can't remember why I didn't buy him, but they sold him to this teacher at Ohio University and the dog won seven groups in a row. In those days, you could buy them cheap. By the same token, people in Salt Lake who didn't know a good dog from a hole in their head, were selling dogs for \$100 or \$150. They thought those dogs were terrific.

This Westie I got from Barbara Worchester, Wishing Well Kennels, I paid \$225 for and he won nine groups. From her point of view, he wasn't a very good dog. She had such GOOD dogs, three Best in Shows at Westminster, as I recall, she had Simon, a Westie, a smooth Fox Terrier and another Westie, all of which went Best of Breed at Westminster. What we consider good dogs out here, she considered them subquality. Westies are supposed to be brave as anything but this one I got from her was cowardly, and the more cowardly he got, the more straight in the air his tail got! Whereas most dogs who are cowardly have their tails down! His would go straight up and he'd pretend he wouldn't see things. I took him to these obedience classes and I remember one day someone came with this little Pekinese. He'd pretend not to see it and he'd walk around with



Ch. Katje, WD

his tail straight out in the air, gazing off into space. The Pekinese would come and the Westie would run behind me. He was the most gutless little dog you'd ever seen! When you spark them, they don't do it as much as they used to, but that's where you get them in the middle and all the terriers make noise at each other. All the others would do it but he'd walk away and look out into space with his tail straight up in the air and people thought he wasn't afraid because his tail was up! He certainly wasn't ever given to joining in the fun!

*Getting back to the dog, describe the rest of the Sam for me.*

I would like to see Sammies generally, with a little straighter pastern. A lot of them are shown that are let down almost as much as a German Shepherd and they don't have the foot of a Shepherd. There are a lot of Sammies going up that are awfully weak in the pastern, I think. It upsets their action. Beyond that, I'd like to see the forelegs well apart without having too heavy a chest. I think we're getting away from that. At one time, we had a lot of heavy chested dogs that were



Shondra of Drayalene, 1964  
B.O.B. - Samoyed Specialty

too wide. You don't see many of those now. There may be some but they aren't showing them much. I like their ears to be short and thick, which is what the Standard says. I like to feel the ear under the hair. I like balanced angulation front and rear. Some I saw yesterday, I thought were over-angulated, whereas in the old days we had too many straight stifles. That was true in a lot of dogs that pulled sleds. That may have been musculature or it may have been just that a dog with a straighter stifle pulled a sled better, I just don't know what it is. Agnes Mason who was one of the pillars of the breed had dogs who nearly all had straight stifles. Her males were not used on sleds only for fun but they were WORKING dogs on sleds. She had a man named Rex Van Sickle out of Idaho that had a mail run. He used Agnes Mason's dogs. She had a lot of dogs. Do you know what a loaded Fox Terrier is?

Yes.

They don't let a Fox Terrier exercise too much because he'll build up muscles in his shoulders and it does away with the smoothness. Her dogs got loaded so they were out of balance. It was the musculature. It showed up primarily in their rear ends because the thighs got lumpy so they had fairly straight stifles but they had this lump that shouldn't have been there, it didn't look good when compared to the other dogs. The dogs should be strong and muscular but her sled dogs didn't win that much. Rex won pretty good but the rest of them didn't do so much. The things that made her kennel, White-way, famous was that she had three bitches, Cleo, Herdmans Faith, Silverstar of Whitecliff, and those three were the foundation of many of the top West Coast dogs over the years.

*Do you think sledding is detrimental to a show dog?*

It is if you want to compare it, just like exercise is detrimental to a Fox Terrier, the dogs just shouldn't be overdone like that. It's the same thing as running through brush and briar is detrimental to a show Springer Spaniel, it will pull all his hair out! The dog might be the best in the world, but he won't LOOK good. The musculature changes just so much, especially in the rear end. That was Agnes Mason's problem. The dogs just get so muscled through the rears that they become tight looking and look nearly cowhocked. The dogs that were used for heavy sledding had a different rear end from the others and as far as the judge was concerned, it was inferior, he was going to put the other dogs up over them. If he needed serum brought to him in Nome, he'd get his just comeuppance because a SHOWDOG just shouldn't do it, but these sled dogs sure could!

Dogs move better now. Single tracking, which dogs should do, was almost considered a fault in those days. You had very poor moving dogs because they had dogs who were moving with

their feet very far apart. You can't get the proper action if they're too wide because they're bound to wobble. By and large, most dogs track better than they used to. We don't have nearly the number of cowhocks we used to because people are showing more superior dogs. I didn't see a badly cowhocked dog out there yesterday at all. We don't have the pacing we used to have either. Let's say a dog is set up with his paws side by side at the proper angle, standing still, I like to see them about so far apart. When he moves, I want him to bring them together pretty much in a straight line. You HAVE to because if he moves with his feet out here, his top action will be just awful and his butt will wobble.

*Do you think that single tracking can be interpreted as a rear that is too close?*

At one time, that's what it WAS. Either he single tracked or he was, to a certain extent, cowhocked. If he bumps into himself, he's too close. Single tracking looks free because you're not aware that he's single tracking. The way you can tell if a dog is single tracking is almost to look at it on a trail. The reason I say you're not aware, is because if he's moving well, one leg doesn't in any way interfere with the other. THAT is good movement. A great deal of the movement, if you do away with the cowhocking and things like that, is reflected not so much in looking at the dog's legs, but actually his whole body and how smooth he travels. If it goes up and down, he's got some trouble in moving. If his butt goes back and forth, he's got some trouble. If his front end wobbles, he's got some trouble. The real thing about movement is that it should be absolutely smooth and he should just glide. You can set a dog with cowhocks up and probably hide them but you can sure spot them when they move. If everything else on a dog is smooth and effortless, the dog is moving well. If there's something wrong with the foot movement, you can see it through the whole dog. When you judge German Shepherds you look at their topline, not their feet. Movement is about 50% or more of German Shepherds when you're judging them. The dog has to be judged on how he moves as a whole dog while he's gaing, not just his feet.

Young Sammies crab. We used to have a lot of adults that crabbed. Crabbing is sidwinding, and it's very common in puppies. Ninety percent of the puppies you see crab. In the old days, many of the adults crabbed.

We were talking about biscuit markings and they've almost disappeared.

*You haven't seen my bitch!*

I didn't see any yesterday with much biscuit on them. There's nothing wrong with biscuit. You used to see quite a bit that was very noticeable.

*My bitch's grandsire was all biscuit. Her dam began developing more biscuit as she got older.*

Sometimes they drop their coats

and when it comes back in, they'll have more and maybe even darker. My dogs seemed to drop a great deal more coat than anyone else's. Everyone would lose their coats, but mine would go absolutely naked! The males would get coats just like a bitch after she'd whelped a litter! I never was able to raise much coat. I always admired Hazel Dawes and I never knew how she got that kind of coat on her dogs. Take Yurok, he never went out of coat. Jean Blank showed Yurok 69 times in one year, I was told, all by herself, and his coat was always just exactly the same. Is Jean still alive?

No.

Is Billy Tucker alive?

*As far as I know, she is. I haven't seen her since the National Specialty in Denver in 1976.*

The Wards are very active in judging?

Oh yes, so are their children now.

They had a daughter named Lindee and this one's name is what?

Mardee.

They had horses too. Anyway, these people who always had a lot of coat on their dogs just HAD to be doing something different. I could NEVER raise coat. I think maybe running the dogs in the hills had quite a bit to do with it. I think also that I groomed them so much, that might have been a problem. I loved to groom my dogs.

*Was there a lot of chalk and that sort of thing used then?*

Oh yes, probably about the same as now. I'm sure not against it, it keeps the hair separated and all. I don't think people use it much to dye their dogs, it's just a good way to clean them. I've never been against using chalk or cornstarch.

*Did you notice any difference in trimming?*

No, we used to do things like trim feet and whiskers. Except for these old ones, in Puxley's book. She probably has some English ones in here. See on Kara-Sea, they had his hocks trimmed. They'd let the feathering grow out way far from the feet. I don't like it. As a matter of course, I always kept the hair trimmed from the dogs' feet because it was a nuisance. They'd pick up June grass and all that stuff. You can't make a cat-foot out of a dog that doesn't have a round foot. You have a hare foot on the dog and it will be a hare foot no matter what you do. I don't think you gain anything by having a lot of hair growing around the feet. I always cut the hair from between the dogs' toes too. If you run them or have them in the winter, it comes out naturally because they get these ice balls between their toes and they pull them out with their teeth! I like the way they trim the dogs now. They don't do that much trimming. I think the only real trimming you DO on a Sammy is the feet, and the whiskers, of course.

I don't consider trimming to be a bad thing. I DON'T think that ta-

tooning a nose is a good thing, I'm not real proud of that. It didn't do me any good anyway. It just cost a lot. Collie nose where the nose got sore and flaked off a lot used to be quite a disease. Collies used to get it a lot.

What about knuckle chews, are there still some of those?

Oh yes. *It just doesn't show up as much in the ring.*

It must have been bred out of them. At one time, I'd say almost 1/3 of their dogs would have big areas on their forelegs that were chewed. There were even quite a few who would take the hair off their stifles. I never had the problem, myself. Oh, maybe I had one that would do it occasionally. I used to put oil of Capsicum on them if they did it. They sure didn't chew much after I put that stuff on them.

*We used to use Bitter Apple, which has quite a bit of alcohol in it and I had one dog that really went after it! He just loved it.*

I had a friend once with a Setter, who slept in their bedroom. That dog used to bite his toenails. It bit its toenails and made so much noise that it woke them up at night! He'd keep the whole household awake!

*What about temperament?*

I don't know that much about modern Sammies and their temperament. Apparently they're fairly quiet in the ring now. At one time, there were a lot of dog fights in the ring. There was a lady who taught English at the University of Wyoming, who raised Sams. She sent a little bitch, an adult, to some people here who had bought her. She came in a crate, they opened the crate and the bitch attacked them! They had her in the basement so she wouldn't run away, it was one of these old foundation basements with a ledge. The poor man got on the ledge and the dog was attacking him. The wife called the lady and told her the dog was attacking her husband. She had them call me and she told them the only thing they needed to calm this dog down would be to have more Samoyeds around her and she'd be perfect. These people called me and said she had told them to have me bring my dogs out there so they could get her husband off the shelf! I told them there was no way I would do that but I knew a man, Tom Imlay, who would do it for money. Tom was very good at handling dogs. I called Tom and told them about the situation (laughter) and somehow or another, I think Tom ended up on that shelf too! Between the two of them, though, they were able to subdue her and get her back into the crate and ship her back to the woman in Wyoming.

Someone else shipped a dog to me here, I don't remember the circumstances, I think it was going to Joe Dyer and the people shipped it to Salt Lake for Joe to come pick it up. It was a big male. I let this dog out of its crate and it attacked me but I handed it all right. I let it out with

my dogs and it attacked all my dogs. Fortunately, I had both inside and outside dog pens and that took care of the trouble. That was a mean dog.

There used to be a lot of dog fights in the Sammy ring.

We don't have nearly as many Sammies doing obedience. We never did. As compared to other breeds, and I'm talking about higher obedience titles. I taught a lot of training classes. I had one extremely smart Sammy who was an unbelievably high scorer in obedience. With that exception, they were slow learners. Some of them maintained pretty well, but they didn't learn fast. Not like Poodles. There are so many Poodles now that there are some dumb ones. As compared to German Shepherds, well, they aren't winning in obedience like they once did. Shepherds will train out much faster than a Sammy. Unless you have an unusually smart one, it takes a lot of time to train a Sammy. Once they're trained, they do retain what they've learned pretty well and they're fairly consistent, they don't go sky high on you like some dogs do. Obedience is a lot of work and I suppose you don't have many people who want to really WORK.

*There are quite a few people in our Denver club who are active in obedience now.*

That's tremendous.

*We have one little gal near Boulder who is just starting her Sam in Utility class very soon.*

That's wonderful! You can nearly name on one hand those Sams with Utility. In the old days, the first Utility dog was one named Rimsky of Norka who is pictured in Blanche Saunder's book, "Training You To Train Your Dog." He was a champion too. That goes way, way back. It was years before there was another one. There are a lot of dogs who could NEVER, under ANYONE, be made a utility dog. Anyone who trains a lot of dogs will tell you it is impossible to train them all. The dogs just generally can't retain their knowledge at that level. Do you know of any that have their Utility degrees?

*There is one in Colorado. The man brought her to a fun match to give a demonstration for us and it was just amazing. She doesn't have her utility degree yet, but he's been working on it with her for awhile.*

If I were going back into obedience heavily again, which I would probably do if I ever went back into dogs, I wouldn't use Sammies. It just takes too long. They're just dumb as compared to some other dogs. As compared to a Sheltie or a Border Collie or an Aussie or a Golden Retriever or what a Poodle SHOULD be before they got all loused up because there are so many of them, or a Papillion, they train just like nothing! I've had dogs that are so smart that it would break your heart, dogs in my classes, because those dogs were SO intelligent



Ch. Muushka, C.D.X. - 1963

and the trainers were just SO dumb! I've seen a Poodle we taught to go to heel after being put through it only once. The dog never knew what going to heel was. It only took once to show him and that's fast learning. In Sammies, it would take me 500 repetitions before he'd do it. Once they learn, though, they're pretty trustworthy. Their retention is good. They'll hang in there pretty well. They'll train out to Utility dogs, and they're pretty good on scent. I've never entered tracking trials but I had two or three Sammies that were good trackers. I had Sams that could follow my trail for a mile and a half when the trail was a day old!

*I've heard people say they hate to take a dog through Obedience before they're through in Conformation because it breaks their "spirit." They hate to take them back into Conformation because they lose their animation. Do you think that is true?*

No, and I'll tell you why. I'll tell you exactly what you should tell people. The other things I've said are just opinions but this I will state as a fact. There is a time in every dog's training that it becomes very unhappy. It gets bewildered and sad and it just breaks your heart. A lot of people stop at that point. That is the worst thing they could possibly do because they stop the dog at that point, the dog will act that way forever. Every dog goes through it. If you carry them THAT far, you damned well better keep on going because you can really get them in a mess. People also used to say they couldn't train their dog for obedience because if they took the dog into the show ring he'd sit every time they stopped. If you can train a dog to sit, you can train a dog to stand up. Where people really fail their dogs is that they really don't train their dogs to SHOW. People bait a little better than they used to, they used to bait by shoving stuff in the dog's mouth but now we have people who are really BAITING. People still

probably bait too much. Anyway, I've trained an awful lot of dogs and I'd say the dogs invariably showed better because they were trained. I had MUCH better control over them because they were trained.

*How old do you think the dog should be before you begin seriously training them for obedience?*

Six months. The best obedience dog I ever had and certainly, the one who LOOKED the liveliest, he'd come on a dead run, stop and practically knock dust up in your face, you'd tell him to heel and he'd jump up and heel. That dog HATED obedience. I'd take him out to practice and he'd hide! I'd call him over and he'd come, I'd put the lead on him and he'd just come alive. He didn't like it, though. I had others who liked it real well, except they were kind of like Boxers. There's no more active or lively a dog than a Boxer. They'll jump up, hit you with their damned heads and knock all your teeth out! Boxers invariably work slow in the obedience ring. I don't think you can hurt them by doing obedience. We'd have people come tell us they were going to take their dog through obedience, but they'd wait until he was finished. You'd look at the dog and think, "I should live so long!" He may never get a point!

I think SOME obedience training is necessary, because it gives you control of your dog. I had five pups and was training them all, they were about seven months old. I bet a man I could walk from South Temple to Third South and back on a weekday, in the middle of the day, with these five dogs off lead and not have any trouble at all. I didn't have any trouble going through downtown traffic, three blocks both ways.

*I'll bet that was a sight!*

Yep, it sure was! I didn't try to get them to heel too close or anything like that but none of them ever got more than a little way ahead of me. The thing about training dogs is we don't have a purpose for a dog anymore so dogs are sort of unnatural. I talk about dogs losing their way. If you keep a dog in your yard all the time, he can't ever find his way back. All dogs who are kept confined have lost, to a large extent, their ability, they get away and they don't come home. That's fairly common. In the old days people would let their dogs out on the front porch. The dogs never got lost. You'd even hear of dogs being taken across the country and they'd get back.

Obedience makes a dog so that he's not a nuisance so you can handle him in situations properly. A person should be able to stop a dog from doing ANYTHING just using their voice commands. A person should have a dog that will come when you call him, no matter what, including pursuing a bitch in heat. All of these things are for your own peace of mind and the well-being of the dog. It makes them much easier to live with. You can't have a

dog that's going to be a pest all the time. It also makes a good feeling between you and your dog.

Samoyed temperament is about as nice as they come. They DO train a little slow but so do a lot of dogs. The thing that makes a German Shepherd guard your house, that sense of property, most Sams don't have.

*We have lots of them, club member's dogs, that will really make a great deal of racket whenever someone is around their car or their house.*

Mine never really used to be that way.

I don't recall I EVER had a dog that had much protective instinct. Sammies are a little cowardly, too. I used to just let my own dogs fight among themselves, they'd never fight that hard.

There's another interesting thing that has always amazed me about the dogs. I had as many as five or six dogs at one time. When they were fairly young, if you'd put a bone out, you might get a fight. It wouldn't last very long. They had their pecking order but I could bring any other dog in, even if it was just a little puppy, and they wouldn't hurt that new dog but they'd fight among themselves. They weren't BAD fights, just short ones. They just had to re-establish their order again. In a couple of days, everything was fine. The only protective thing I recall a Sammy ever did for me was, I once had a little dog, a little obedience dog. He got hit by a car in front of my house. He was lying out there sort of half conscious. I went out to grab him and he was hurt, I should have known better than to do that. I had other dogs behind me, I'd let them out to play. This dog turned around and snapped at me and the other dogs all pounced on him! Here was this poor little dog who had just been hit by the car and the other dogs pounced on him because he'd tried to bite me!

Poor old Katje, didn't have any teeth from the time she was four years old. She'd gotten an infection and we had to pull them all out. She lived until she was 11. I was in front of the house, she was with me, I was taking some garbage cans out. A man came along with just a young Doberman pup. The cans startled the puppy and he lurched at me and snarled and old Katje really lit into him. She didn't have any teeth and she gummed him up good!

I had very tranquil dogs and these three exceptions cover a period of years. A bitch with puppies was different. They'd get hostile pretty easily until the puppies were a little bit older.

*Did you advertise your wins much?*

No. I wasn't in the fancy for money. We had quite a few publications available but I just never did any.

*Do you think advertising would influence judges?*

No, I don't think they'd recognize dogs that well. I know so many judges who have gone far afield with the same dog looking the same with differ-

ent handlers and the judge's placements wandered all over the place. If it's his own breed, he'd probably know individual dogs. Even then, I think with a different handler, he's likely to go a little far afield. If a dog is a big national winner, somehow or other, that judge will know that dog is there and if he had any problem with the dogs, he'll put THAT dog up. That way, no one can say he made a mistake. By the same token, there are other judges who wouldn't put that big winner up at all. You could have the best dog that ever lived and this judge won't put it up REGARDLESS because he's got to be different. I don't think it makes much difference.

The big handlers in the country today, say, the Forsythes back east, they carry almost nothing but top winning dogs, Group and Best in Show winners and things of that nature. Judges DO recognize them. I know it was fairly well known that you could sit around and old dog people could tell you there'd be a handler carrying around a dog who had been doing a lot of big winning and he'd come in with a different dog that hadn't done anything and the judge would just put him up. That judge would probably think it was the dog that had been doing all the big winning. Judges, many of them, don't like to get in left field. By the same token, there are some judges, or there used to be, who do rather amazing things with the dogs in the ring! In Sammies particularly, I've known people to say a particular judge just loves their dog, he'd put the dog up here and there and they'll take him in under this SAME judge and the judge just looks right past them! Maybe he doesn't remember them or the dog, I don't know.

*Did you happen to notice the open bitch class yesterday? He had five bitches pulled out of that bunch.*

I'm not sure.

*The bitch he had in fifth place was the same bitch he'd given a four point major in Colorado just two weeks before out of very nice competition!*

That happens all the time, they just don't know the dogs from one time to another unless they're with someone well known.

*What advice would you give to novices just starting out in breeding and showing dogs?*

If I were going to buy a dog, I'd go to the top winning dog producer I could find. I think I'd get a good dog far cheaper than I would from anyone else. If I were buying a PROVEN dog, an adult, I'd pay a lot more money. I'm just talking about a puppy. Especially a puppy 3-4 months old. I'd definitely go to a big kennel. At that age, you can't tell what a puppy is going to be. I could tell puppies, how they were going to turn out or how I THOUGHT they were going to turn out, up until the time they got to be about 8 weeks old. After that time, they would change almost by the DAY. Some would grow in the front and not

in the rear and that sort of thing. It was amazing how these dogs would come out when they were full grown. You raise a litter of six or seven puppies and keep them until they're 7 or 8 months old and during that period if you have to pick the best puppy, you'll almost go through the whole bunch unless you have a runt or a cripple in the bunch of them! The main thing is, lots of people raise dogs and their dogs really aren't that good, but they THINK they're good. They know the prices people demand so they demand the same price the top breeders are getting for THEIR dogs. I mentioned this Westie earlier, what that lady considered a CULL, was really a top dog! What they consider a top dog is, well, there AIN'T any of them around here! That's why I'd always go to the top winning kennel. You know what you're buying then and they're usually reliable. If a person just buying a dog buys from a winning combination, a proven sire or dam, one who has produced all sorts of top rate dogs, they'll be a lot better off, even if that sire or dam isn't a champion. Champions aren't always necessarily the BEST. It's kind of a crap shoot!

*How long have you lived in Salt Lake?*

All my life, about 66 years!

*What do you do for a living?*

I'm in the soft water business and construction business.

*Did the dogs greatly affect your lifestyle?*

Oh sure, I paid more attention to those dogs than I did my own kids! It affected THEIR lifestyle!! (laughter) My wife always said I liked the dogs better than I liked her!

*What were the benefits of being in dogs?*

They were just a hobby. It was a real pleasure.

*What were the drawbacks?*

There probably really weren't any except you could say the time you spent doing the dog thing you could have been spending doing something else. It was a nice, pleasant avocation the same as anything else, be it camping or collecting stamps or anything. You meet some awfully "dooley" people but they're kind of interesting. There's an awful lot of nuts in the dog fancy, more so than there are in other hobbies. That's why you have all that trouble with dog clubs.

*Why did you get out of Samoyeds?*

I got out of dogs basically. I decided to get smaller dogs because they were so much easier to handle and take care of. I had a Westie and two Dandie Dinmonts. I guess you get kind of bored after awhile. That's the unhappy part. When I look at my whole history in dog showing, you get sort of blah. You lose something when you get those Best in Shows. When I first got in dogs, a big class was four! If you won, it was a real glorious thing. I

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



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kick myself when I look back because I thought handlers were such wonderful people and I wished I knew handlers and could talk to them. Actually, most of the handlers I got to know eventually were kind of "puds." Right now, if I got on a plane and sat along side a handler, I'd probably move back! I'd much rather sit by an exhibitor than a handler. People get out of the dog business eventually or at least most people do. Once you gain these little things that seemed to be so important when you start, seem to be hollow when you finally get them. Getting higher up than that becomes really more what it's worth. Obviously, everyone would like to have a dog who won Best in Show at Westminster but the cost and chances you take just aren't worth the effort. I got busier too, I had many other things to do. Probably the big thing that affected it more than anything was I went in business down on the coast and I had to go to Los Angeles a lot, at that time, every week. I did that for two years. That was when I went out of Sams in 1961-63. I was away from home for three days at a time. No one was that enthusiastic about dogs in the house and I had to

cut down. I couldn't take them to work with me anymore and I had to leave them kenneled in the yard all the time and it wasn't good for them.

I used to worry if dogs didn't exercise. A dog that's in a kennel all the time just drives me crazy. I'm a great believer that dogs should run three or four miles a day. Eventually, I used to drive the car high up on the north bench and let the dogs follow along. I don't know if it's good or bad, but I think they have to have exercise. The dogs love it! I just don't like to have them penned up. It was handier and the family liked small dogs better. Sammy hair is an awful problem in the house!

*How long were you involved with the breed?*

Oh, a long time. Katje was 11 or 12 when she died and I was into these other Sams for 1 1/2-2 years before I got her. Bauz came along after I'd gotten out of dogs. Joe called me up and said he had this awful nice pup and he wished I'd take him. I did, I really didn't WANT him but I took him. Let's see, it's probably close to 16 years.

*Do you miss it?*

I miss dogs in general. I don't cry myself to sleep over it! (laughter)

Given my druthers right now, I'd like to have dogs. If it weren't for the fact that I have to go out of town and that I live in a place like this, I'd have dogs again.

*Would you like to have Samoyeds again?*

I don't think I'd have Sammies again. I'd either get one of the more trainable breeds and if I lived out in the country, I'd probably go to Golden.

I don't have any regrets about being in the dogs. I would LIKE to have dogs, I don't believe in having just one dog, they should never be by themselves, you should have more than one all the time. If the conditions permitted me, I would certainly have dogs again. I MIGHT have Sammies but there are problems, Sammies are a dog that is unbelievably hard to keep clean if they're being shown, they have that hair dropping problem all over the place, they're not a dog with a purpose unless you want to carry serum to Nome. There are a lot of other dogs who offer the same things as Sammies without the trouble a Sam can be.

*Is there anything you'd like to add?*

Nope, not a thing!

Thank you very much. !!