Samoyeds: The Herding Breed From the North



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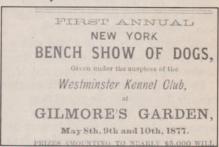
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Cover

In its land of origin, this snowball-sized Samoyed puppy might have grown up to herd reindeer; today it might become a sled dog, champion weight-puller-or beloved house pet. Photo by Kent and Donna Dannen.

Puppy Love

The Nuclear Dog

by Bradford G. Boyle

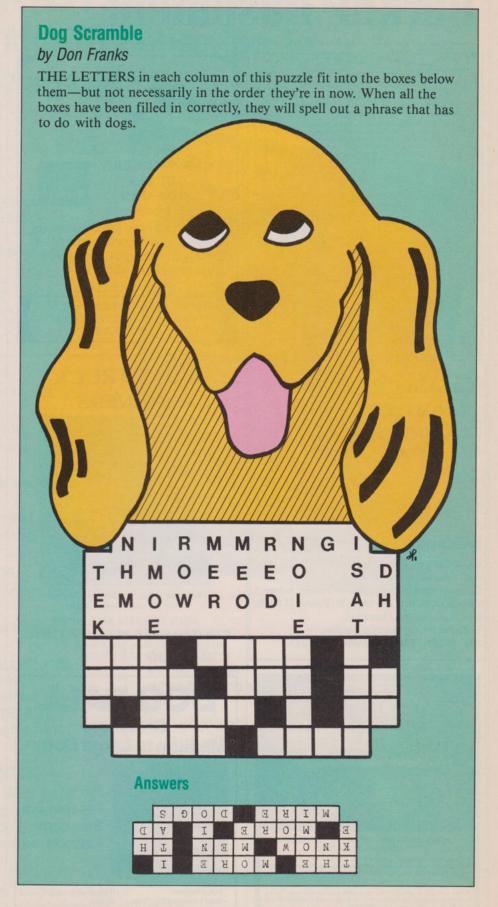
MY DOG MOLLY has been gone for many years now, but memories of her still surface. She was always a slightly rebellious dog, but I never held her responsible since she was a product of our slightly rebellious family. She even chased the governor once, but that's another story.

I was watching a show on nuclear arms control when memories of Molly came flashing back. Now, most people wouldn't think of their dog while watching a show on nuclear weapons, but Molly was once a "doomsday device" herself.

My little brother and my cousin owned what was probably the largest collection of plastic soldiers in the world. They would stage gigantic battles that would fill a room. and play from dawn to dusk. The rules were undecipherable to adults, but parts I could figure out. When a "spy" was captured, he was quickly executed by being tossed to Molly, who would place the unlucky man in her front paws and bite his head off. She would then spit the plastic head out, wag her tail and await the next spy. There must have been a lot of "spies," because there sure were a lot of decapitated plastic soldiers around the house!

But Molly's best skill was as a nuclear bomb. When the boys grew weary of playing, and since according to them (and to many real-life analysts), any major war would end in a nuclear war, Molly was called in. She was locked outside the battle room while each side scattered a measured amount of cornflakes around the battlefield. The more strategic the area, the more cornflakes. The door was then opened, and Molly came rushing in, gobbling up the cornflakes and wreaking havoc on the battlefield. Whoever had the most soldiers left standing after the "nuclear bomb" was through eating, won. Not very scientific, but probably as good a

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method as the real thing.

Perhaps if Molly were still around we could demonstrate to our leaders how devastating doomsday devices are. Besides, I always figured that the "Molly Doomsday Device" was better than some other alternatives folks might devise!