

Foundation Mare Sister Monty

By Joy Poole OAM

Madagascar
Young Valais
Princess Cadena
Starlight
Haydons Starlight
Opal
Topaz
SISTER MONTY - 3542
-
Dandelion Colt
-
Black Opal
-
Unknown Dam
-

At first glance SISTER MONTY seems an unusual name for a mare, but when you realise her full brother's name is Monty the link becomes almost too simple. Monty was an outstanding horse, 15hh who could jump 6' and literally do anything. When he died in the Tamworth district at 18 years of age, the Northern Daily Leader described him as the best horse seen in the district in the last decade.

SISTER MONTY was never to have the same chance to perform as just after being broken the mare tried to rush between a telephone pole and another post resulting in a smashed hip, thereby ending any chance to perform.

SISTER MONTY was a true black in colour and a magnificent type of galloway.

Her dam, Black Opal, had been obtained by Ventry McLennan with a property he purchased from his uncle, Bob McLennan, in 1942.

Black Opal had a double cross of the pony Dandelion. I spoke to Warren Newcombe of Grafton, about Dandelion and he felt he was a pony imported in approximately 1903. Warren believes Dandelion had an influence on horses in the northern New South Wales area from 1910 - 1950.

Warren recalls "the Dandelion stock were quite distinctive, they were more of a little Arab horse, many had neatly turned in ears, were slightly cow hocked and low travelling horses behind. You can still pick out certain horses here today that go back to him. Dandelion must have been a good pony to ride as all his progeny were good bush horses with a lot of cattle sense.

The ponies back then were more refined, like little miniature Stock Horses, but a little neater in the head - they had well sprung ribs and their shoulders were



Maxine Brooks on YARRANOO MINK - winner of Supreme Hack at North Coast National Show in 1980. Mink won 8 Champion Galloway Hacks and 1 Supreme Hack from 9 show outings.

well structured. When you crossed the Dandelion breeding with the Thoroughbred you shortened the leg and ended up with a very good horse.

Elvin McLennan, Ventry's brother had the Dandelion, Arab cross but the exact breeding was lost because his family didn't carry on with the horses. His first Dandelion/Arab cross stallion was the sire of Black Opal.

When we look at the sire line of SISTER MONTY, Starlight was purchased from FB Haydon by Ventry McLennan in 1954. In a letter to Ventry, FB Haydon writes, "I think the colt should be extra good, as he has a wonderful background on the dam's side. Topaz, Locket and Bangles were campdrafters. Bangles' dam Countess, by Planet, was here when

I was very young, my father used her a lot after brumbies, very fast down hill."

Starlight turned out to be an outstanding sire and has had a lasting influence through broodmares in the north coast district.

Further on in his letter FB Haydon writes a description of McLennan's Starlight's breeding.

FB Haydon writes November 24, 1954, "Brown colt, 1 year, unbranded. By Young Valais from Opal by Starlight from Topaz by Jingo Joss from Locket by The Dane from Bangle by Tester.

Jingo Joss by En Garde (imp) from Winnie by Martial (imp). Topaz won Championship Campdrafts at W Tree (Willow Tree) Mdi (Murrurundi), Wingen also competed in Ladies Campdrafts at

RAS in 1937 and scored highest number of points in Ladies section.

Locket and Bangles extra good mares. Opal crippled just after being broken in, was not worked, a good type of mare.

This colt should be a campdrafter. I broke Bangles in when she was six years old. She took a long while to settle down but turned out a champion. I rode her 102 miles in one long day.

FB Haydon".

What wonderful information handed on to us by a letter almost 50 years old.

Starlight, on the sire's side, was by Young Valais purchased from the Segenhoe Stud in 1951. (For further details see page 18 September/October Journal 1999).

Ventry McLennan had a wonderful knack of breeding all round horses. He didn't believe in a horse for an event but a horse for events. The horses he bred were as much at home hacking, in led classes, campdrafting or playing polocrosse.

"The Breed for Every Need"

Black Opal proved a great broodmare not only producing Monty and SISTER MONTY but a mare called Warralee who Ventry regarded as one of the best he ever bred. A big statement when you think of some of his Champions. He mated Black Opal to Bright Flame and produced Maurice who carried his daughter, Maxine Brooks, to many Championships.

SISTER MONTY has almost 600 descendants in The Australian Stock Horse Society Stud Book.

Her immediate progeny number 12. Being injured as a young mare her whole life was spent as a broodmare.

In 1962 she went to Sheedys Radar (BALD HILLS ECHO/YARRANOO BANGLES) and produced a foal called Robin who was sold to the Lockwoods and "won everything".

In 1963 she went to Sheedys Radar again and produced the mare YARRANOO STAR. This mare was the mother of STAR BLACK MINSTRIL.

In 1965/1966 she produced two foals by WARDANCE. The 1965 foal was named Black Jack.

Her 1967 foal was Fraser Ramsey's great campdraft horse, Freedom. Winner of numerous campdrafts including the Canning Downs. Freedom was also a prolific winner of hack classes and station horse classes including wins at Brisbane Royal. Freedom was by COLLUM SIMMER (WARDANCE/Rivett).

In 1970 a stallion, War Chief was produced, a full brother to Freedom. War Chief was exported to Papua New Guinea and when crossed over Star Kingdom mares produced top polocrosse, Stock Horses and Picnic race horses.

The year 1973 saw her produce DAFFODIL by the Thoroughbred sire Saint Nilo.

In 1974 she produced TENERIFFE

MAGIC and in 1975 YARRANOO ZANE by YARRANOO GLENCOE who won many campdrafts.

YARRANOO MINK, her 1976 foal, won nine championships from eight shows at one stage of her career.


YARRANOO STYLE, the 1977 foal was a Royal Show Galloway who competed at Sydney and Melbourne Royals. Style was by the Thoroughbred horse VOLSUNG.

Maxine recalls that Style was very similar to Robin and their dam SISTER MONTY, "They were quality plus, Royal

Show quality but they were good after cattle," Maxine states.

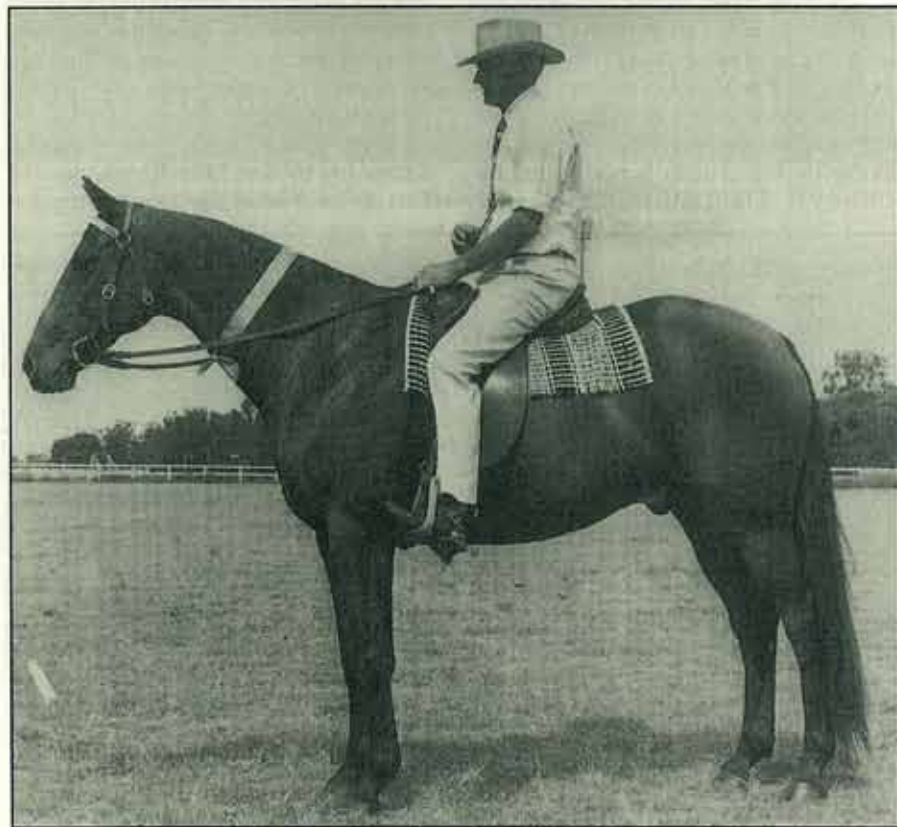
Her last foal, in 1979, YARRANOO MONIQUE was a great tempered mare and also a galloway hack winner, that "everyone" learnt to ride on.

Maxine said, "All the foals from SISTER MONTY were good."

The Yarranoo horses proved so successful as Ventry McLennan produced a true Stock Horse, one that fitted the motto "The Breed for Every Need." This is probably a message that breeders today should heed. 



Maureen Walker competing at Sydney Royal on YARRANOO STYLE, a similar mare to her dam, SISTER MONTY & her half sister Robin.



Fraser Ramsey on Freedom, SISTER MONTY's 1967 foal who Fraser describes as "a truly great horse."