



NABINABAH THE GUN

BY JOY POOLE (OAM)

1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th
				Rock Sand
			Tracery	Topiary
		Pantheon		Your Majesty
			Scotch Rose	Rose Of Ayrshire
	Panther			Chrysippus
		Lady Chrysippus		Duke Of Melton
			Grace Melton	Send Off
Panzer				Faustus
			Cesarion	Cleopatra
	Kangon			Pilgrims Progress
			Diffidence	Etra Weenie
	Nellie			Desmond
			Montecello	Sal
	Gooroolai			Bobadil
			Deference	Lady Diffidence

NABINABAH THE GUN (FS) (1957) ASH Reg: 406

				Rock Sand
			Tracery	Topiary
		Pantheon		Your Majesty
			Scotch Rose	Rose Of Ayrshire
	Panther			Bayardo
			Sir Dighton	Princesse De Galles
		Lile Queen		Linacre
			Lile Lass	Marco
Serene				Sacristine
				Lady Pamela
		Lingle		Prudent King
		Gibbergunyah		Glass Bubbles
				Parting Glass
	Brown Girl			
				Switchie

When considering Foundation Sires it is all about the Stud Book and how that particular horse has affected it. How many descendants do they have? Is their influence growing? These are the questions that our criteria seeks to discover. It is not about the performance of that particular horse, that is a totally different area, indeed, many of our Foundation Sires that have had a profound effect on the Stud Book were never seriously campaigned but kept almost exclusively as sires. And this is probably the description that would best fit the Foundation Sire, NABINABAH THE GUN, Reg No 406.

Bred by astute horseman, cattleman and polo player, David Archibald, NABINABAH THE GUN was only lightly worked but was used extensively as the major sire in the Nabinabah Stud for a number of years. Now represented by 4,090 descendants as at the 13th February 2002, NABINABAH THE GUN is one of our most influential Foundation Sires.

David Archibald was one of the forerunners in The Australian Stock Horse Society as a stud breeder and only six years after the establishment of the Society, was conducting his first on-property sale on Saturday, 5th February 1977. Aided by his family and champion horseman, Bobby Palmer, they broke and trained a very good representation of Nabinabah horses that were well presented

for the prospective purchasers. These were ground-breaking times for the young ASH Society. The sale was very successful and David Archibald went on to conduct further sales that kept the Nabinabah name to the fore.

Unfortunately, the untimely death of David Archibald robbed the Society of a man who still had so much to offer. At that time his horses were riding on the crest of a wave.

David Archibald's main interest was polo so naturally when he started to build his stud in the early post war years after World War II he tried to tap into some recognised polo lines.

In the 1940s, the Finlays of Thornthwaite Station, Scone (NSW) were renowned for their outstanding horses, many carrying the famous Gibbergunyah lines. The Finlays at this time were reluctant to sell fillies and mainly kept them for their own use. However, in 1949, the Nabinabah Stud managed to secure an outstanding mare from Mr Archie Finlay called Serene.

The Thornthwaite horses were identified into families, something like the Bruce Lowe System in Thoroughbreds. They all carried the year number on the near side neck, the station brand was on the near side shoulder and on the near thigh was the mare number over the family number. This meant that every one of a mare's foals had identical thigh numbers; the only differentiation was the year number on the neck. Serene came from the very famous Thornthwaite No 4 Family. Don Finlay told me that the No 4 Family was a straight Thoroughbred line.

"When we introduced a Thoroughbred line," said Don we always tapped into the staying lines. Gibbergunyah was by Lingle who ran second in the Melbourne Cup one year and third another. He was reputed to be the best staying son of Linacre."

When I questioned him further about the numbering of the families Don said, "There were 30 Thornthwaite families numbered off thirty original mares. There was no preferential numbering of the mares, just as they were recorded they were numbered. It was just a system we devised over the years to keep track of our horses."

Serene was born during WWII in 1943 so she was a 6 year old mare when purchased by David Archibald in 1949. A very good polo mare herself, Serene proved an outstanding broodmare as, besides producing NABINABAH THE GUN, she also produced two outstanding fillies, NABINABAH GENTLE and NABINABAH SUNSET. In 1975 Sunset was played in the International Tests by Negro Goti and later she was also played by Prince Charles. Her daughter, NABINABAH DUSK, proved Dougal Archibald's best pony and another foal, Dawn, went to England to play. A granddaughter of Serene, NABINABAH EASY GOING, out of NABINABAH GENTLE was played by English Captain, Howard Hipwood in the three tests against Australia. He won the Best Pony and rated her one of the best polo ponies in the world. NABINABAH EASY GOING also won Champion Pony at the RAS Polo in Sydney. Last year her son, ridden by Mike Harley, won the same award.



NABINABAH SUNSET with international Polo player Negro Goti and the late David Archibald



Possibly the greatest ASH mare of all time NABINABAH BREEZETTE and Bob Palmer

Over the years the Archibalds proved great buyers of the Thornthwaite horses and many of their lines were built from them.

Brown Girl, the mother of Serene, proved a very good brood mare producing quality stock including a sister to Serene, a mare called Jedda, who was the dam of the stallion, Korak.

Serene was by the Thoroughbred horse Pantler, a handy galloper who won the AJC Winter Stakes. Pantler, crossed with Gibbergunyah mares, proved a wonderful cross with such mares as Serene, the mother of NABINABAH THE GUN. Pantler in turn was by Pantheon, a class galloper who, in the 1926/1927 seasons, won such races as the 1926 and 1927 AJC Randwick Plates, the 1926 VRC CB Fisher Plate and as well, in 1927, the AJC Autumn Stakes and the VRC Essendon Stakes.

Was it coincidence or was it planned? But just as Pantheon was the grandsire of the dam of NABINABAH THE GUN, Serene, through Pantler, Pantheon was also the grandsire of the sire of NABINABAH THE GUN, Panzer, through Panthom.

Pantheon, a great galloper himself, proved an outstanding sire, producing 26 Principal race winners including Avenger who won the 1937 AJC Derby, Bahtheon winner of the 1944 Doomben Cup, Billy Boy the 1936 Canterbury Guineas, Feminist the 1939 AJC Metropolitan, Maikai who from 1937 to 1940 won Principal Races in three states - Western Australia, Victoria and NSW, Pandect the 1940 AJC Derby, Pantler mentioned previously and Panto winner of the VRC Hotham Handicap.

But by far his most famous son was the chestnut stallion with the flaxen mane and tail, born at Baroona, Singleton (NSW), the incredible Peter Pan. This mighty galloper won the 1932 AJC Derby and in 1932 and 1934 the VRC Melbourne Cup. During his racing career, Peter Pan won 22 Principal races. On his death he was buried at his birthplace, Baroona, and his grave and headstone are still there for people to see.

So NABINABAH THE GUN had the benefit in his genetic make-up of a double cross of a sire, Pantheon, who had proved a consistently high producer of Champion horses.

Serene's sire, Pantler was by Pantheon out of the Thoroughbred mare Life Queen who was by Sir Dighton whose grandsire, Bay Ronald (GB 1893) was also the grandsire of Promised Land mentioned in our Foundation Stallion article on PETER.

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Out of interest I traced Life Queen back to her taproot sire in the 1700s and it was The Darley Arabian.

Serene's mother, Brown Girl, was by Gibbergunyah out of Switchie. I can remember years ago talking to the Late Jack Palmer from Thornthwaite, about Gibbergunyah. Jack had said that it was nothing to see 14 or 15 polo ponies by Gibbergunyah, at any polo carnival in those days, tied to the lines.

NABINABAH THE GUN's sire, Panzer, (named after Rommel's tank divisions in WWII) was Mr Bob McKay of Tinagroo, Scone's Champion Polo Pony and sire. In an interview with the ASH Journal in January 1977, the Late Mr McKay revealed the following information:

Panzer was foaled on 26th September 1945 and died on 16th December 1974. During his performance career Mr Bob McKay rode him to victories in the Dudley Cup in 1950, 1951, and 1952 with his team Wirragulla. He also played in the Australian Gold Cup at Maitland in 1952 and the NSW Night Polo Championships in Sydney.

Mr McKay said, "He played polo until 1956 when he was 11 years old and about reaching his prime. I say this because each chukka he played was better than the one before. That year we won the Northern Challenge Cup at Quirindi for the third successive year, but my health forced me to give up polo. Panzer retired with me as did two of his daughters, TINAGROO MERSA and Misra, both of whom had been playing beside him for the past two or three years. It was unfortunate for Panzer, as he would have played on another four or five years at his top. He never developed a heavy neck as some stallions do and become heavy to handle, but remained a very orthodox polo pony; he never pulled or ran on and always played off the single bottom rein of the curb."

"Although Panzer was a brilliant horse cutting out on a camp - I always used him for this work on the property - I never allowed him to campdraft as for me he was a specialist as a polo pony."

A Thoroughbred carrying excellent bloodlines, Panzer was never recorded in the Australian Stud Book (ASB). His dam, Nellie, although mentioned as a foal in the ASB, due to WWII, was never returned to The Keeper of The Stud Book. On returning home from war Mr McKay found that several of his Thoroughbred mares were in the same position but nevertheless made the decision to continue breeding from them to produce polo ponies. (The ASB certainly was tough on the diggers!!)

Panzer's and Serene's grandsire, Pantheon, was by Tracery (USA-1909) out of Scotch Rose (IRE-1912). Tracery not only produced the good Australian winner, Pantheon, but also Gothic who won 12 Principal Races including the 1927 and 1928 Newmarket Handicaps, the 1929 William Reid Stakes, the CM Lloyd Stakes in 1928 and 1929 and the Linlithgow Stakes in 1928. Tracery also got good horses in Ireland and Great Britain. And just to add a little intrigue to the genetic puzzle, the Tracery line also goes back to The Darley Arabian.



NABINABAH GUNNER and David Arnott - top price at the first Nabinabah Sale



BETTER VIEW GUNFIRE - 19 years old

Tracery, himself, won The Eclipse Stakes in Great Britain in 1913. Pantheon's dam, Scotch Rose, is by Your Majesty (GB-1905) out of Rose of Ayrshire (GB-1905). Both Tracery and Scotch Rose go back to St Simon (GB-1881).

Kangon, the sire of Nellie, the dam of Panzer, was out of a mare called Diffidence and Diffidence was also the great granddam of Nellie's dam, Gooroolai.

Diffidence, a winner of the Sydney Cup, was out of what Bob McKay describes as one of Australia's greatest broodmares, Etra Weenie who was a granddaughter of the colonial taproot mare, Sappho (1847).

The Late Mr McKay, in his 1977 interview, goes on to say, "Sappho must have been a very good mare and much admired as she was stolen three times by bushrangers, each time to be recovered by her owner, Mr George Lee, of Leeholme Stud, Bathurst."

Bob McKay's property, "Tinagroo," was next door to where Gibbergunyah stood at "Thornthwaite" so many Gibbergunyah mares were crossed with Panzer for very good results. Panzer, besides siring the Foundation stallion, NABINABAH THE GUN, was also the sire of another Foundation Stallion, MYRA BRONZE, an outstanding achievement in anyone's eyes.

NABINABAH THE GUN's pedigree is filled with champion horses with strong sire lines and tremendous dam lines; it is no wonder that he had the genetics to produce champion horses himself.

David Archibald had the knack of selecting breeding stock and by mating the non-performed NABINABAH COMMA with NABINABAH THE GUN some outstanding progeny were produced. NABINABAH COMMA is of course an ASH Foundation Mare. The results of these matings were NABINABAH BREEZE, BELLTREES MUSKET, NABINABAH ZEPHYR, NABINABAH GUNNER, who top priced the first Nabinabah Sale at \$4,200 and is the sire of the very popular present day sire, NABINABAH EASY

GUN, NABINABAH TOP GUN, NABINABAH COOL CHANGE, NABINABAH CALM II, NABINABAH SHOGUN and NABINABAH COOL GUN who top priced the Nabinabah sale in 1983 for \$13,000. Note the jump in price from the first sale in 1977 to 1983 showing how aware people were becoming of the quality and performance of this breed of horse. And of course, probably the greatest ASH mare of all time, NABINABAH BREEZETTE.

There were numerous good horses by him including AYR GUN, TERLINGS MOUNTBATTEN and BETTER VIEW GUNFIRE to name a few.

The fascination for the breeder is trying to work out the puzzle as to how to fit the pieces together to produce a consistently good sire.

It's interesting that Panzer had an amount of line breeding in him back to the mare Etra Weenie, NABINABAH THE GUN had a double

infusion of Pantheon on both sides of his pedigree and Pantheon has several crosses of St Simon (GB-1881) in his pedigree.

Formulas, theories - the debate goes on as to how to breed the perfect horse but no matter what your opinion is, those who worked on NABINABAH THE GUN's genetics got it right, for not only did he get good progeny but his sons and daughters also did and now their sons and daughters are doing the same. *A.*



Right: Annette Law with NABINABAH COOL GUN - with whom the Laws have had great success.