



Foundation Mares

SCRUMLO MYSTERY

By Joy Poole OAM

Cecil
 Radium
 Black Bess
 Tinagroo Skibo Radium
 Alvard Sire
 Perfect
 Unknown Dam
SCRUMLO MYSTERY - 57
 Saladin Colt
 Coopla Billy
 Cooplacurripa Station Mare
 Judy
 Albano Cecil Sire
 Reny
 Red Eye

Like the Foundation Mare - SCRUMLO BRANGA PRUDENCE, SCRUMLO MYSTERY was by Tinagroo Skibo Radium, a stallion that proved very successful at Scrumlo.

Judy, her dam was by Coopla Billy who was also the sire of Yellow Rock (see March/April '99 ASH Journal) who was the sire of the Impact Mare RAYS GIFT.

SCRUMLO MYSTERY carries an interesting cross of Cecil through Radium on the sire's side and through an unnamed Cecil colt on the dam's side. All in all a combination of Radium, Cecil and Saladin which figured prominently in many Scrumlo horses.

SCRUMLO MYSTERY went to stud early producing her first foal as a seven year old. John Cowley recalls that SCRUMLO MYSTERY had an injury. Allan Ward told him this occurred when, as a young mare, Jack Wake, who was riding SCRUMLO MYSTERY himself, and another stockman on their way home from work, decided to chase a wallaby. SCRUMLO MYSTERY was so intent on following the wallaby that when it leapt down a very steep bank into the creek bed she followed, jarring her shoulders. She never fully recovered to handle a full day's work, so was used for breeding purposes instead.

Her 1964 foal, a creamy colt by Yellow Rock was sold, unbroken, to Ross Flynn.

In 1969, she produced a chestnut colt by SCRUMLO FIRELIGHT. This horse was named RED BRUCE and was her most outstanding offspring.

John Cowley recalls that he was looking for a future sire and Allan Ward suggested that a foal from SCRUMLO MYSTERY would be an ideal prospect. Allan liked SCRUMLO MYSTERY as a dam for a sire as she had a touch of Thoroughbred.

"Allan was the instigator of us getting Red," says John.

When Allan and John looked at RED BRUCE at Scrumlo he was only three months old and was an out of season foal. It was about three months before John picked him up when he was

handled, taught to lead and taken home to "Taronga" at Glendon Brook which had previously been the home of Bobbie Bruce. Turned out on Mirannie Mountain for fourteen to fifteen months to grow and develop, he was brought in when he caught his foot and badly quartered himself.

Allan Ward, who was a genius at attacking problems, built a shoe that was half taped, half plastered on to support the injured hoof. At 30 years of age this is the only mark on RED BRUCE.

When he was barely two years old John sent him to well known Singleton horseman, Darcy Richards to break in.

"He did an excellent job," John recalls. "RED BRUCE certainly did some work over the years as I always used him as my station horse."

I asked John what he liked most about RED BRUCE. Without hesitation, John answered, "His versatility, whether you were cutting out a beast, leaning off him picking up a kid or opening gates, he was an ideal horse to have. He was never a kid's horse, although he educated our kids to ride - he was always a live horse." John hesitates for a moment and continues, "he stopped us from going broke in 1973, 1974 and 1975 when the bottom fell out of the cattle market. He had forty-four mares two years running. I guess he also sent our kids to school."

It's no wonder the Cowley family hold him in such high regard.

RED BRUCE is by SCRUMLO FIRELIGHT who is by Bobbie Bruce out of Flame.

I asked John if there were any similarities between RED BRUCE and Bobbie Bruce.

"A lot of similarities," John says, "they both tucked their hindlegs under them, but RED BRUCE was more like Bright Bruce in type than Bobbie Bruce."

John should know, as he remembers when his father Ernie Cowley stood Bobbie Bruce and Bright Bruce together, "We had eighty mares," said John, "by the time you got them in and checked them it was a full day's work."

RED BRUCE was a great performer for John winning a seemingly endless string of Champion ribbons for Led and Working Classes. He was placed second in a Maiden Campdraft at his first start and won a Novice at his third start. As a sire he produced led horses, campdrafters, polocrosse ponies and sires.

SCRUMLO MYSTERY's 1969 foal was a filly - SCRUMLO



RED BRUCE

MAGIC. Brian Atfield says about her and Mystery's 1971 foal, SCRUMLO RIDDLE (both full sisters to RED BRUCE), "Put anybody on them who could hold a set of reins and they could ride them." Brian should know, as he rode both these fillies when he worked at Scrumlo. Both these fillies stayed on at Scrumlo.

When I asked Brian about Mystery, their dam, he said, "A useful, good type, athletic mare that was bred from because of injury."

Her 1970 foal was a chestnut colt by SCRUMLO URANIUM and sold to J Perkins. Her 1972 colt by SCRUMLO FIRELIGHT was sold to A Renshaw at a Scone Sale. For the next three years she was sent to a Connemara Pony and produced a filly and a colt.

Her last two foals by SCRUMLO FIRELIGHT were SCRUMLO MYSTIC (Hamish Lee-Warner) and SCRUMLO HIGHLIGHT (Mack Lee-Warner).

Mack Lee-Warner put SCRUMLO VICTORY to SCRUMLO HIGHLIGHT to produce his current sire, BYDAND VESTY.

With approximately five hundred descendants SCRUMLO MYSTERY has earned a name for herself in Foundation Mare history.



**AWARD - first
foal by RED
BRUCE out of
QUAINT.**