

FOUNDATION SIRE

STANTON

STUD DODGE

ASH REG 10001

BY JOY POOLE (OAM)

'Fact is stranger than fiction!' goes the old adage and never was this more fully proved to be true than in the story of Foundation Stallion, STANTON STUD DODGE.

Firstly, STANTON STUD DODGE only had six registered foals representing him and, may I add, one of those was accidental and although he lived to a ripe old age, most of it was spent as a gelding.

"In 1968 when I gelded Dodge," recalls John Stanton, "I hadn't thought of breeding horses at that time, as a matter of fact, the horse industry was pretty weak and I had enough horses by him, I thought, to do me out. I never imagined at that time that I would still be breaking horses in today at 72 years of age!"

STANTON STUD DODGE was foaled in 1964 and certainly was no accidental mating. John Stanton had approached Tiger Batterham, who had a very good mare called Glamour, who was by Dimray and a stallion he had purchased, called

Rayon, who was by Radium. John Stanton was keen to get a foal with the double cross of Radium and offered Tiger 100 pounds for the foal if he would mate Rayon to Glamour, providing the foal was a colt.

"I would never have mated those two horses," said Tiger, "as I would have considered the bloodlines too close but I was to be proved very wrong. In those days 100 pounds for a horse, let alone a foal, was an amazing amount of money so I agreed to breed the foal."

The foal was born in 1964 and duly, as ordered, was a colt. Tiger was to hand the colt over to John when he was a 2 year old but Mother Nature had other ideas.

"That year, 1964, was the worst drought I have ever experienced at Timor where I live," recalls Tiger, "For us, it beat this 'worst in 100 years drought' we are having now by miles. To make it worse, back in '64, we were also being wiped out by the rabbits."

Tiger rang John and told him to pick up the colt or he may not survive.

"I remember him as a weanling," said John, "he had hooves only as big as egg cups when I took him home to feed him."

However this early set back wasn't to worry STANTON STUD DODGE and by the time he was 20 months old, John decided he was big enough to break in.

"I knew the first time that I stepped

1st	2nd	3rd	4th
		Cecil	Red Gauntlet
			Merula II
	Radium	Black Boss	Hakahem
			Midnight
Rayon		Medlow	Mountainbest
		Black Beauty	Medallion Mare
		Trade	Surfing
			Best

STANTON STUD DODGE

(ASH REG 10001)

	Radium	Cecil
		Black Boss
Dimray		Merula
	Doreen	Neeridah
Glamour		Comanche
		Comanche Mare
		Unknown Dam

on him he was an exceptional horse," recalls John, "I started to train him and used to ring my mentor, Frank Scanlon and tell him how well he was going. I was busting for Frank to see him go and appreciate what I had done with him."

"At last, when Dodge was two years old, Frank came for a holiday over to the coast," continued John, "and I was able to show him how Dodge was going. Frank rode him and when he dismounted he said, 'After riding him he's everything you said he was but if he were mine I'd take him off you for two years.'

"I was absolutely struck dumb by what he said but then he continued, 'To be doing the work you've got him doing he needs a four year old leg under him not a two year old leg!'"

John Stanton will readily tell you that one of the greatest influences in his early life with riding and horses was Frank Scanlon so, at Frank's suggestion, he turned Dodge out for two years.

He was turned out at Ron Osland's property at Carroll, not far from Tamworth. Frank Scanlon, after riding Dodge, wanted a foal by him so John suggested he run a mare with him at Carroll.

Frank's mare was by Bobbie Bruce and she had two foals by Dodge. "One foal was a gelding," recalls John, "and the other was a filly that was to become Graham Keys' brilliant little mare, TINY. When Frank shifted from Quirindi to Bundella, Graham helped take his furniture to the new property and in appreciation Frank gave Graham the mare, TINY."

One could never accuse Frank Scanlon of giving away dud horses as he also gave Chan to the late Jim Callinan!

"I got STANTON STUD DODGE back in as a four year old and started work on him again. I was going out to the NorthWestern campdrafts in 1968 and I was taking STANTON STUD TARZAN and a mare out with me. I only got as far as Dorrigo, travelling up that notorious mountain, when

STANTON STUD DODGE





Left - *CARMONA TRIGGER BRUCE* and *CECIL BRUCE* - 'Like Father, Like Son'

the mare got down and ended up underneath Tarzan. When I eventually sorted things out I realised the mare was lame so I decided to go back home and leave her there. At home, Dodge was standing there half clipped and I decided he could fill the empty place on the float."

"At the first two rodeos, Brewarrina and Walgett, I just hacked him around and gave him a look as he wasn't shod, since I hadn't intended taking him. However, by the time we reached the third rodeo, Gurley, I decided to give him a run in the maiden campdraft. The first round was held on Friday and I managed to make the final on Saturday morning. Up to this point Dodge had only ever been ridden in a hackamore. Come Saturday morning and my hackamore bridle was missing. I searched high and low but it wasn't to be found. I put a bit in Dodge's mouth for the first time, trotted him about to try to get him used to it and then rode into the camp for the final. Dodge won the final!"

STANTON STUD DODGE was to prove an exceptional working horse winning the ABCRA Open Horse of the Year for Campdrafting in 1972 for John Stanton and in the same year, John won the Calf Roper of the Year on him, as well as Campdraft Rider of the Year!

There had been a remarkable turn around in the horse industry since Dodge had been gelded in 1968. In 1971 the Australian Stock Horse Society had been formed and people were now starting to appreciate the breeding of horses and John could see a future in breeding and selling quality, well bred horses.

"When I started to concentrate on breeding," says John, "I couldn't see any sense in carting a gelding as it made more sense to campdraft mares. So Dodge was left off the truck in preference to mares such as **STANTON STUD PERSONALITY**, **STANTON STUD**

BREEZE, **STANTON STUD SELENA** and **STANTON STUD PERFECTION**. Unfortunately, my wife passed away with cancer and my two daughters, who previously had spent a lot of time with her, now spent more time with me. I gave Dodge to my daughter, Judith to ride as I knew he was very well educated and wouldn't get her into any trouble. I said to Judith, 'When you can canter off on the correct leads, turn him around and stop him square, I'll give him to you, he'll be yours.' I had to go away for a week and at the time Shirley McNaughton was working here. Shirley was terrific, she must have spent a lot of time with Judith giving her help and when I arrived back, a week later, Judith said, 'I'm ready for my test now, dad.' I was amazed but I said go on and I will watch you. Out Judith rode and I couldn't believe it, she did everything perfectly. When she rode over to see what I thought I said, 'It looks like you've got a horse!', so Dodge became Judith's horse.

When Judith was 21 and only a month away from being married, she was struck down by a tumour on the brain, I was absolutely devastated, I didn't move from my chair for three days, I just couldn't believe a thing like this could happen."

"We kept Dodge, he never went

anywhere," said John. "He lived until he was 33 years old. We ran him in the bullock paddock at Guy Fawkes Station, managed by my lifetime friend, Tom Scanlon, Frank's son. He was mud fat up until he died. On the night he passed away, in 1999, he came right up to the back gate of the homestead and lay down at the gate. When we found him in the morning he was lying down in a sitting position with his head turned back into his shoulder as if he was asleep but he was dead."

When we look at the breeding of this incredible horse we find that it is filled with great horses. His sire, Rayon was purchased by Tiger Batterham from Stan Hull of Willow Tree.

"Rayon won four or five open campdrafts," recalls Tiger, "but he had a suspect tendon and used to go lame. I remember him winning the open at Gundy and another time he was top scorer in the open at Tamworth in the first round but when I went to get him for the final he could hardly walk."

"When I first had Dodge I remember the great Jack Reilley saying to me, 'Rayon is one of the fastest horses I have ever seen to get going,'" remembers John, "not long before Jack Reilley died he came to visit me and said the same thing again. Rayon must have really impressed him."

Rayon was by the legendary Radium who figures so prominently in Australian Stock Horse breeding. Rayon was out of a mare called Black Beauty who won a lot of pony sprints at the 'all heights' around Quirindi. In those days (WWII and just after) they were very popular and there was generally a meeting on every weekend. Some locations they raced were Jacks Creek and Mt Parry. Black Beauty was by Medlow and some of Radium's



Glamour's daughter TIGER GIDGET

greatest sire sons were bred on the Radium/Medlow cross. Black Beauty's dam, Trixie was by the pony stallion Stirling, who I think stood at Mt Parry Station."

"Dodge was out of Glamour," continues Tiger, "I actually bought Glamour's mother, Comanche Mare, from Carl Mitchell, in foal to Dimray and the ensuing foal was Glamour. She is the first foal by Dimray. He was actually running on a property adjoining us as an unbroken colt with the Comanche Mare when I first saw her. Comanche Mare was a Thoroughbred mare off Tinagroo Station that was accidentally sold at Scone saleyards. I think Carl paid 12 or 15 pounds for her. Tinagroo would have liked to have bought her back but Carl decided to keep her. Comanche Mare was out of a very good Tinagroo polo mare called March."

STANTON STUD DODGE's dam, Glamour, won seven open campdrafts including the Northern NSW Championships at Scone and was also a champion flag racer winning 49 open flag races.



Tiger Batterham (right) on Glamour with Oscar Saunders

"In those days everyone flag raced," recalls Tiger, "it was a good way to pay your entry fees if you could win. I remember one day at Quirindi beating Len Ballard on Dot in a flag race, at the time she was one of the best flag racers on the coast (North Coast NSW)".

Glamour was not only to prove an outstanding performer but was also to prove a brilliant broodmare as, besides producing STANTON STUD DODGE, she is also the dam of TIGER GIDGET and is the granddam of TIGERS DELIGHT.

Rayon was also a very successful sire, producing, among many good horses, MacCallum's great horse WILLANJIE.

Well, who were the horses that propelled STANTON STUD DODGE to immortality? First and foremost were his great sire sons CECIL BRUCE, who was out of the Foundation Mare, STANTON STUD SAUCER, STANTON STUD

CHANCE who was out of the Foundation Mare, STANTON STUD MISS G and BLENHEIM WONGA BOY who was out of the Foundation Mare STANTON STUD HENRY. STANTON STUD CHANCE and CECIL BRUCE were not only great sires themselves but had the ability to produce great sire sons. CECIL BRUCE (368 registered progeny), produced sire sons such as CARMONA TRIGGER BRUCE (158 registered progeny), CECIL HENRY (79), COCK ROBIN (76), WUNDURRA SCHYLOE (67), STANTON STUD WRANGLER (62), SLATERS MR BRUCE (62), OUR BYANDAH PRIDE (60), RIO BRANCO (54), EULABAH NEON (53), KEMPTON PARK BARNARD (44) and BANNERMAN BRUCE (41) to name a few of them.

STANTON STUD CHANCE, the accidental and improbable foal by Dodge had 99 registered descendants.

"I was lying in hospital with a broken leg," recalls John, "when Jack Biffen Snr called in to see me. 'You're breeding from your polocrosse mare, Miss G,' he said.

"What are you talking

about."

'Oh I saw her running with Dodge.'

"I wouldn't worry too much," I replied, "as the mare is in hard condition from playing polocrosse and furthermore, Dodge has been gelded for 26 days."

"Well, 11 months later along came this colt. If ever a foal earned the name of Chance, it was him." said John

STANTON STUD CHANCE produced sire sons such as STANTON STUD ALLMAN (68), POITREL HEROIC (28), STANTON STUD EYEZON (31) and TALLERACK TIC TAC (20).



BLENHEIM WONGA BOY was a successful sire but left all daughters to carry the breed on.

The great little mare TINY unfortunately only had one registered foal that never had any progeny and the same is true of Dodge's other daughter, STANTON STUD JEANNIE. The sixth foal, STANTON STUD SNAPSHOT was a gelding. So the bottom line is that three sire sons are responsible for the amazing success of STANTON STUD DODGE!

When we look at the all time most influential sires in The Australian Stock Horse Society we find STANTON STUD DODGE sitting in number five position with 5,388 descendants as at 11th February 2003. The first question that springs to mind is - what if he would never have been gelded? We can conjecture all day as to what may have been but I just marvel at what is! STANTON STUD DODGE, the part time stallion, with six foals who were to represent him so well that the 14.2 hands Stock Horse, who lived most of his life as a gelding, will remain forever remembered as one of the most influential Australian Stock Horse Society Foundation Stallions of all time! A.



A great son of STANTON STUD DODGE - CECIL BRUCE