



PETER

BY JOY POOLE (OAM)



Charlie Quelch at the Narrabri Rodeo - late 40s, early 50s - presenting his trophy to the winner of the Open Campdraft Alf Bignell on Star. In second place is Harold Andrews on Khyba

in April that mulched the feed and then we had drought."

Trials and tribulations on the land never cease!

Looking at this country gives me a whole new idea of what these horses had to do.

"When I had PETER," continues Charlie, "He was my main work horse. I rode him all the time. I also had another good stallion by PETER, PALEROO CEASAR, that I also rode. They were wonderfully well-balanced horses. You could ride them all over these hills and your saddle never shifted."

"Each year I would take 15 - 20 mares to PETER or, if it was dry, I wouldn't take any. Unfortunately, I've lost my early service books but I estimate he went to 300/400 mares altogether. Some of the people I can remember sending mares include the Kellys, Lex Wiseman, Rafey Howard, Chris and Terry Hall, the Darlings, Malcolm Field, Tony Sherrin and Judith King."

"His service fee, I think, stayed the same all his life. It started at twenty-five pounds and, when decimal currency came in, I just changed it to \$50.00."

PETER was born in 1956 and died in 1983, living 27 years.

"I campdrafted PETER a few times but only drafted around home at places like Tamworth, Narrabri, Barraba, Bingara, Warialda, Manilla, Moree and Wee Waa. Once, when I was judging at Maitland I took PETER there. I was always above the middle, I never over-drafted him. At home, PETER and his progeny were naturals with stock. If you were riding along and a beast broke away, they had it back before you could move! PETER had a very good temperament. I'm sorry I didn't show his son PALEROO CEASAR more; he was a very good type and was the best-balanced horse I've ever ridden."

Time is something Charlie has always been short of. He has served three terms on Bingara Shire Council, 1959 - 1971, 1974 - 1989 and 1991 to today. Charlie was Deputy Shire President from 1968 - 1971 and from 1987 - 1989, but that is only the tip of the iceberg of his public life.

"I represented North West in Country Cricket in 1939. I had the best bowling average the first day and couldn't move the next! Over the years I have tried to combine sport and business but not to the detriment of each other."

"The only thing that made it possible for me to pursue such a full public life was the support I got over the years from my wife, Joan, who was a wonderful woman, my family and my employees. My wife, unfortunately, passed away in 1990. Since 1992 the support of my companion, Margaret Matheson, has allowed me to continue my public life."

"I started drafting in 1936 on a horse that was by Rupert Richardson's Welsh Mountain Pony sire out of a Thoroughbred-

cross mare. Jack Hayes from Llangothlin bred him. I'd go in the drafts, the jumps and the bending and flag races. Dad also rode a Welsh Pony to do his stock work."

"I also did a lot of judging over the years, from Maitland to Lithgow and Dirranbandi to Wellington and all over north western NSW. I stopped judging in the late 70s. I got a lot of pleasure out of horses and judging and made some great friends."

Charlie continues, "I was on the Bingara Land Board for twenty years, which took up a lot of my time, as did my role as a North West cricket selector, which I did until 1982. I can remember, in the 1962/3 season, Roger Wotton and I travelled 5,000 miles to select a team to play the 'Poms' at Tamworth. Doug Walters was in the trials at Maitland, playing for Hunter Valley. In the Final they played North Coast. Doug took 5/6 wickets then scored all the runs needed to win the match. He was a phenomenal cricketer!"

"I also took cricket teams to New Zealand and I was President of the Namoi Bushmen's Carnival from 1956 to 1959 and again from 1966 to 1969. Unfortunately, all this extra activity didn't allow me to give the ASHS the time it deserved. I'm used to responsibility though. From when I was 17, I mainly ran the place as Dad had a fall from his pony and never fully regained his health. In the period 1941 - 1947 I lost my sister, my brother and my father. Only Mum remained and she lived to 89. I was in the Light Horse and the Air Force in WWII but had to get special leave to come home to run the place."

"PETER was bigger than Dimray, PETER was 15.1 hands whereas Dimray was 14.3 to 15 hands. They both had short pasterns but because PETER was out of a Thoroughbred cross mare, Why Not, some of his progeny had the Thoroughbred pasterns."

"I had been in touch with Carl Mitchell [the breeder of Dimray], about swapping Dimray with me for a Promised Land colt I had called Real Estate, but before we finalised this deal, Frank Dickie, who had a settler's block at Edgeroi, bought him. He came up to Edgeroi in the early 50s and stood at a service fee of ten guineas [ten pounds ten shillings or \$21]."

"Arthur Davis, a good friend of mine, who managed a station nearby had a great mare called Why Not. She drafted in Sydney in the late 40s, about the time we got Narrabri Rodeo going in 1948. I was the first clown! Why Not was by an imported Thoroughbred horse, Promised Land out of a station mare. Why Not was a remarkable mare, I can't remember seeing a better mare in the camp and outside. She was 15.1/15.2 and a good enough type to nearly win a hack. I loved the Promised Land stock! They had natural intelligence, good shoulders and had



Charlie Quelch today, 83 years young!

the knack of shouldering a beast. All my life I've chased the Promised Land breeding. Even big horses by him could get down to shoulder small cattle."

"Arthur Davis had a lot of the Promised Land stock. He sold a gelding by him to Bob Campbell called Blackout who Bob had wonderful success with. I've always admired Bob Campbell's wonderful sense of judgement

when drafting and Bob has always promoted the Australian Stock Horses. Arthur Davis also sold another lovely Promised Land mare called Chantilly to a polo man."

"Later, Arthur Davis shifted from the property near me to Emu Holes at Quirindi but later became ill and retired to Manilla. He sent Why Not out to me in 1954 when he was ill. I put her to Dimray and she had a brown colt, PETER. I used to ring Arthur to tell him about the colt, but Arthur wasn't well and just kept saying, 'Geld him,' but I thought, where would you get breeding like that? Why Not x Dimray, so I kept him a colt. Arthur died in 1956 and never got to see PETER."

What luck that Charlie Quelch stuck to his beliefs and didn't geld PETER as today he has 6,022 descendants in the ASH Studbook which places him third to ABBEY and REALITY as Foundation stallions with the most descendants.

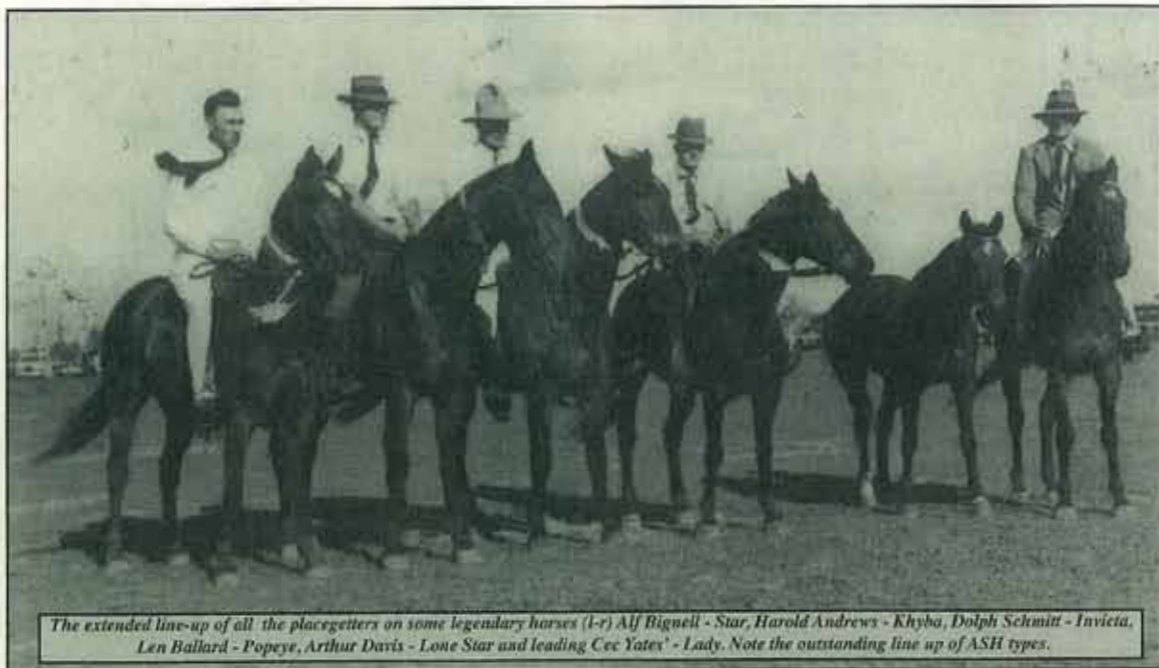
Interestingly these three stallions all trace back to the Initial Taproot Stallion, Cecil. They all descend back through the Initial Impact Stallion Radium and PETER and REALITY go back to Radium through The Initial Impact Stallion, Dimray.

Many astute breeders believe Dimray is the greatest progenitor of modern ASH campdraft horses.

If we have a close look at PETER's breeding we find he is by Dimray, a brilliant cattle horse himself who was ridden by his owner and breeder, Carl Mitchell. Dimray was by Radium out of a good mare, Doreen. Radium was by Cecil out of Black Bess. Doreen was by Silvius, who has some interesting breeding, being out of a mare called Addenda who was by the good galloper, Spearmint, who was by Carbine NZ. Carbine, who was born in 1885, was a freak champion galloper. In four years he won 30 Principal Races in New Zealand, Sydney and Melbourne [1888-1891]. He won over distances from six furlongs, [a sprint] to 24 furlongs [a long distance race!]

Silvius is by Silvern whose grandsire, Cyllene, appears on both sides of PETER's pedigree as a great grandsire of Promised Land and Silvius. Cyllene GB [1895] got a lot of good winners in Great Britain in the early 1900s.

On the dam's side, Why Not was by the imported Thoroughbred sire, Promised Land. It is not only Charlie Quelch who speaks highly of the horse but Artie Hall, in a recent article, also sang his praises. Imported by Otto Baldwin, the horse obviously stood to station mares as well as Thoroughbred mares. Promised Land was by a very good sire, Dark Ronald. This horse, born in Great Britain in 1905, got horses the calibre of Magpie (1918), a Principal Race winner, Harold - who won the German Derby and Ethiopian who proved not only a good galloper himself, but produced Principal Race winners.



The extended line-up of all the placgetters on some legendary horses (l-r) Alf Bignell - Star, Harold Andrews - Khyba, Dolph Schmitt - Invicta, Len Ballard - Popeye, Arthur Davis - Lone Star and leading Cec Yates' - Lady. Note the outstanding line up of ASH types.

So, as is always the case in a great sire, the breeding of PETER is filled with quality horses.

PETER's success as an ASH sire is due mainly to the efforts of two of his sons, who were full brothers - RIVOLI RAY and REGAL RIVOLI. RIVOLI RAY, in the early days of the ASHS, was the benchmark from which type was judged and was also an outstanding performer, who was extensively shown. During his lifetime he had the benefits of two great horse families to promote him - the Laws of Yarrawa and the Wilson family with their Glen Lee horses. RIVOLI RAY has 505 registered ASH progeny which include horses like YALLATUP RIVOLI REX, PARLOUR MOUNTAIN COLLECT, CRESWOOD RIVOLI ALL TALK, FLADBURY STUD A BECKETT, GOOLLOOINBOIN DUKE RIVOLI, HILLINVIEW BLACK PANTHER, MCARTHURS REVEILLE, the Wilsons' Glen Lee horses and many other terrific horses, too numerous to mention.

RIVOLI RAY's full brother, REGAL RIVOLI, although never promoted in the showing, also proved a top sire, producing horses such as IVANHOE FOLLI and IVANHOE ELLY, THE ECHO RIVOLI RELIC, GARTHOWEN ZULU and the Kildeys' FLASH LOCKE etc. REGAL RIVOLI has 100 registered progeny.

"It gives me great satisfaction," said Charlie, "to see that my idea of a horse has been recognised."

Charlie attributes a lot of the success of the ASHS and campdrafting to the Pony Club movement. "Narrabri has one of the biggest Pony Club rallies in NSW and Pony Club is strong in the cities. It has meant the re-creation of the horse business today and our success at the Olympic Games."

Charlie Quelch has received a lot of accolades over the years, recognised by Local Government for his work in that area, named as an outstanding contributor in the Year of the Volunteer but even all these honours could not stop the excitement and thrill he got the day I rang to tell him PETER had been named a Foundation Sire of the ASHS.

"I don't believe it!" he said in a shocked and excited voice, "I thought we'd all be dead and gone before people realised how good PETER was!"

Right: Arthur Davis on Why Not

