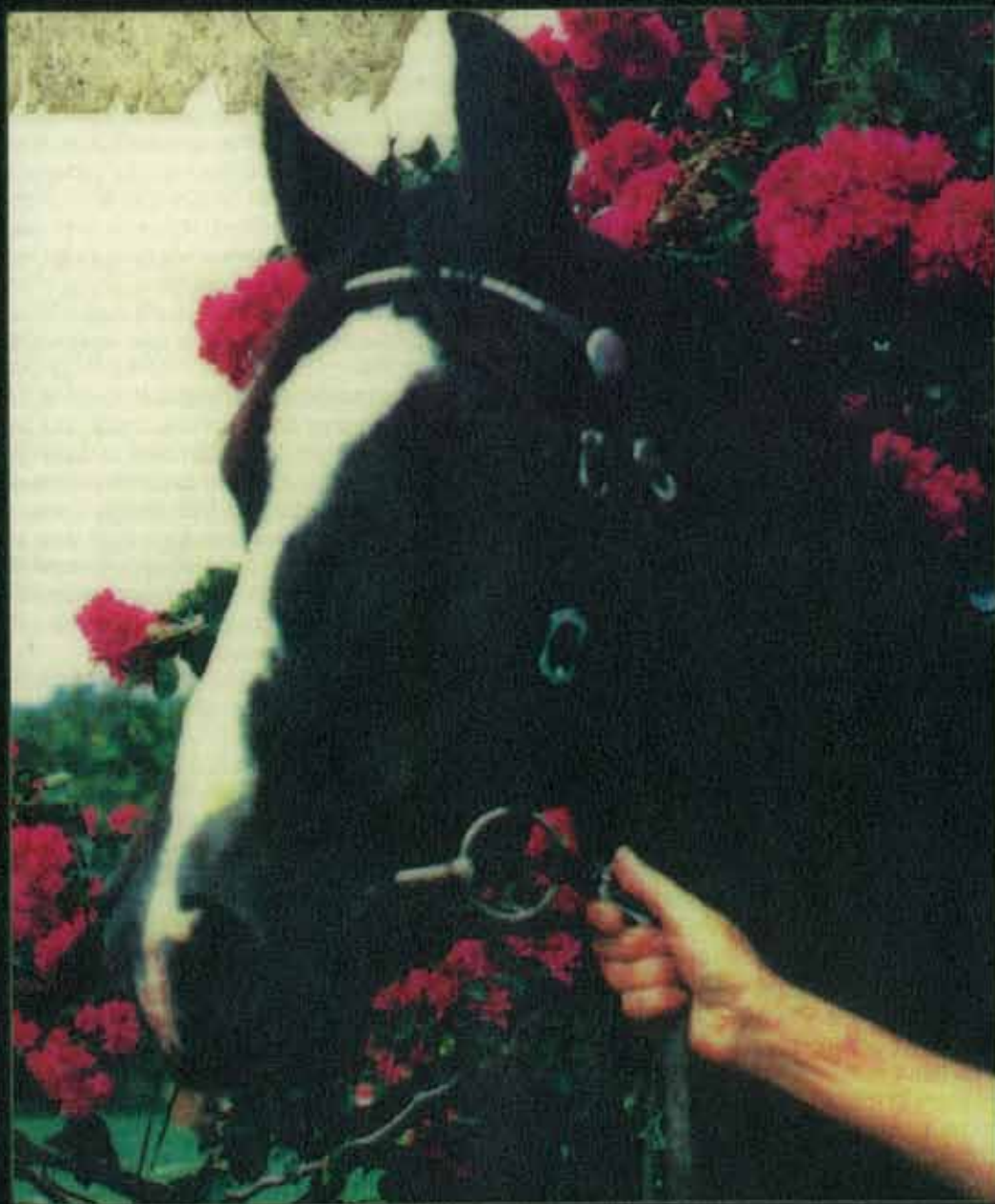


STAR BLACK MINSTRIL



By Joy Poole (OAM)

1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th
				Tourbillon (FR) 1928
			Djebel (FR) 1937	Loika (FR) 1926
		Djafar (FR) 1946		Massine (FR) 1920
			Maforce (FR) 1939	
		Djafar Sire		Fox Tor (GB) 1932
		Unknown Dam		
Omego				Vatout (FR) 1929
			Bois Roussel (FR) 1935	Plucky Liege (GB) 1912
		High Forest (GB) 1947		Caerleon (GB) 1927
			Caerwys (GB) 1936	Aileen (FR) 1918
	Waringa Maid			Rivoli 1919
		Maytown (1943)		Golden Dust 1943
		Town Pal		Palfresco 1932
		Palfresco Mare		Unknown Dam

STAR BLACK MINSTRIL (1971)

Reg No: 23467

			Echo
	Playboy		Brown Bess
	BALD HILLS ECHO		Slumber
	Reg No: 7881	Bublett	Bubbles
	Sheedys Radar		Madagascar
		Young Valais	Princess Cadena
	YARRANOO BANGLES		Dart
	Reg No: 3540	Wongle I	Widden Lass
	YARRANOO STAR (1963)		Madagascar
	Reg No: 2382	Young Valais	Princess Cadena
		Starlight	Haydens Starlight
		Opal	Topaz
	SISTER MONTY (1956)		Dandelion
	Reg No: 3542		Dandelion Colt
		Black Opal	Unknown Dam
		Unknown Dam	

What is it that makes a champion stallion? How many people have wrestled with that idea in an attempt to breed the ultimate sire? Is it performance? Will the horse that is the ultimate performer be able to pass that ability on to his progeny? Is it conformation? Will the well conformed horse produce progeny so structurally sound that they can't help but work well? Is it fashionable breeding? Will those well known lines that have been so successful in the past continue to flourish? Is it temperament? Will the good tempered sire that gets good tempered progeny, which prove to be more trainable, be more successful? Or is it pot luck? Do the genes of a champion sire all click in with that one animal to make him prepotent?

As we think about these different criteria we think of champion sires to match. The great performer - ABBEY, great conformation - RIVOLI RAY, and yet, we can think of champion



STAR BLACK MINSTRIL

sires that don't appear to fully fit into any particular category.

Perhaps STAR BLACK MINSTRIL is one of those horses. Although an incredible work horse in rough country at Miriam Vale, he was hardly ever performed or shown. Sired by a horse that was gelded and used as a Pony Club mount and yet, STAR BLACK MINSTRIL produced champion progeny from foal number one and was still producing Sydney Royal champions at 25 years of age.

Ventry McLennan, the breeder of STAR BLACK MINSTRIL, was renowned as a man who set his own standards when breeding horses. He didn't use 'fashionable' bloodlines, but his bloodlines became fashionable because of the quality of the horses he bred. And, like all quality horses, when you study their pedigrees you usually find valid reasons for why that particular horse was so good.

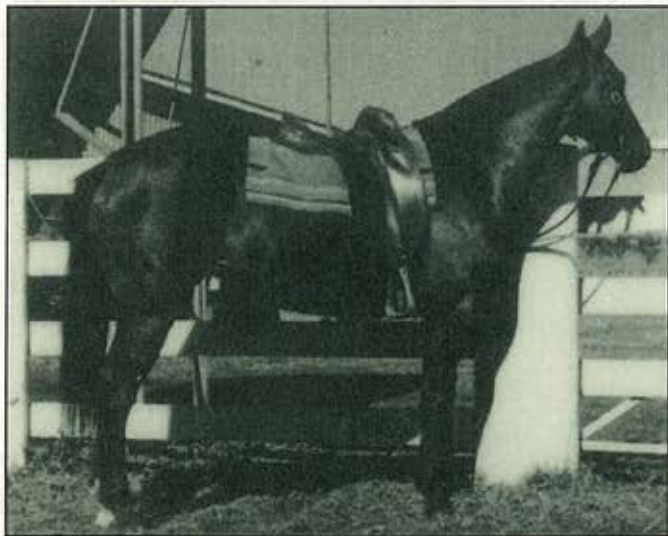
STAR BLACK MINSTRIL is a black horse with a very wide blaze. As a two year old he slipped over the fence and got a mare in foal. The result? YARRANOO DARK GLEN - a champion mare for Maxine Brooks (nee McLennan). Stuart McLennan came down to have a look at a possible sire his father had for him, but Stuart took a fancy to STAR BLACK MINSTRIL. Ventry agreed to let Stuart have the horse but after looking at his first foal, Ventry used STAR BLACK MINSTRIL with three mares before sending him off to Stuart. The three foals from these matings were YARRANOO MUSIC - Bruce McNaughton's legendary campdraft mare, SILVER MINSTREL - a champion sire and KINKA LITTLE MAC - a great campdraft performer.

STAR BLACK MINSTRIL had already done what all champion sires do in common, and that is produce champion progeny.

Over the years STAR BLACK MINSTRIL stood in various locations. He started with Ventry, moved backwards and forwards between Stuart and Ventry, then Stuart had him with



SILVER MINSTREL



YARRANOO MUSIC



STAR BRIGADOON

Allan Gilmore, Ian Glassby, Kevin James and Neville Holz. In 1994 Phillip Roberts purchased STAR BLACK MINSTRIL and the horse moved to Victoria.

Phillip said, "People in Victoria didn't know much about him, and, for the three seasons I stood the horse, most of the mares came from Queensland and the Hunter Valley, sent by people who already had foals by him."

At 25 years of age two progeny were sired by him - CEE DEE SONATA - Supreme Led Sydney Royal 2001, Champion Led Mare ASHS National Championships 2001, and RIVER DANCE - High Point Horse of South East Queensland and a Cloncurry Challenge finalist.

Today, STAR BLACK MINSTRIL is in retirement at Toowoomba, in Queensland, where he shares a paddock with his daughter, STAR CADDIE (second in the Warwick Gold Cup) and her foal by MT HOPE ZORRO.

"I feel very privileged," said Phillip, "to have a horse of his quality. His progeny have beautiful temperaments, a lot of ability and are very trainable."

These sentiments are backed up by Darryl Smith. "I bred six fillies by him and they were all good," said Darryl.

There are 193 registered progeny of STAR BLACK MINSTRIL in the ASHS Stud Book. As you roll them past, names like BONLAC CALL GIRL and BONLAC ESCORT, BOOERIE CREEK FLYING STAR and BOOERIE CREEK FLYING MINSTREL, CEE DEE SONATA and CEE DEE SYMPHONY, GILGANNON MR MINSTRAL, ROSEBROOK SIENNA, Darryl Smith's six Edenhope fillies, Nita and the Late Stuart McLennan's Star horses - STAR BRIGADOON, STAR CAROUSEL, STAR DEBONAIR, STAR PAVAROTTI and STAR TALL POPPY, and the McLennan Holding's Yarranoo horses - YARRANOO DARK GLEN, YARRANOO KRYSTLE, YARRANOO MINTARA, YARRANOO MUSIC, YARRANOO REGGAE, YARRANOO SALAMAGUNDI and YARRANOO STROLLER are only the tip of the iceberg as to what he has produced.

One of STAR BLACK MINSTRIL's other great attributes as a sire was that he threw a very high percentage of fillies.

Like many breeding stories there is a human story that goes with it - Ventry McLennan had purchased YARRANOO BANGLES - STAR BLACK MINSTRIL's great grandmother (see ASH Journal Sep/Oct 1999) - from FB Haydon in 1954. Her great grandmother, Widden Lass had come from the Wormwell's Station on the Mooni River in Queensland. As it happened, in the 1960s, Stuart and Nita were working on a property neighbouring Wormwells and often went over to help.

They were impressed by Wormwell's horses and, after speaking to Ventry, organised for a truckload to be sent down to him.

One of these mares, Waringa Maid, was in foal to a Djafar colt. The resultant foal was a big black colt, which was named Omega. A chance mating with YARRANOO STAR produced STAR BLACK MINSTRIL. As Omega was never meant to be kept as a sire he was gelded and sold to Raymond Bale and became a very good allround Pony Club horse.

This introduction of Wormwell Thoroughbred bloodlines into STAR BLACK MINSTRIL tapped into some very good horses. Djafar was a French horse imported to Australia, who sired Royal Djafar, winner of the Doncaster Handicap in 1960 and 1961. The sire of Djafar, Djebel, born in 1937, won the English 2000 Guineas in 1940 and the Prix de L'Arc de Triomphe in 1942. Djebel went on to sire winners of both these races as well as the Epsom Derby Stakes and two Eclipse Stakes winners. Djebel also sired My Babu, the sire of Better Boy who, in turn, sired such horses as Century, Craftsman and Reckless. High Forest - Waringa Maid's sire - was by Bois Roussel, who was also the sire of Delville Wood (imp). Waringa Maid was out of Town Pal, whose sire Maytown was by Rivoli out of the Heroic mare, Golden Dust.

So, suddenly, through a horse, Omega, that was never meant to be kept a colt, there came a wealth of strong Thoroughbred breeding.

On STAR BLACK MINSTRIL's dam's side - YARRANOO STAR is out of the ASHS Foundation Mare SISTER MONTY (ASH Journal Nov/Dec 1999). Her dam, Black Opal introduces a wonderful Pony line through a double cross of Dandelion (a great pony on the NSW North Coast) and SISTER MONTY's dam, Starlight, taps into the Haydon bloodlines.

The sire of YARRANOO STAR, Sheedy's Radar was out of the ASHS Foundation Mare YARRANOO BANGLES (ASH Journal Sep/Oct 1999), a Haydon bred mare. BALD HILLS ECHO, bred by Alex Wiseman of Scone, taps into the old Hunter Valley blood lines.

So, on closer examination, STAR BLACK MINSTRIL probably has the ultimate well mixed pedigree, with a bit of Thoroughbred, a bit of Pony and some good old fashioned station horse - the various genes all merging for that one individual who used the mix to be such a prepotent sire.

May the little black horse continue to enjoy his retirement on the hill not far from Toowoomba. He certainly deserves it! A.