

Article by Lindsay Ferguson

Foundation Sire

DELL MINGO – FS

ASH Reg: 24898



DELL MINGO - FS at New Frontier Stud, Bendemeer NSW, in 1970.
Photo courtesy of Keith Stevens

This stallion was imported into Australia by the Americans Eddie and Sue Wilson as a three year old in 1968.

He was used by the Wilsons to establish their New Frontier stud at Bendemeer in the New England district of New South Wales, where they also ran Brahman cattle. As one of the early quarter horses in Australia, he was something of a novelty but soon became recognised as a horse of good temperament, with cattle ability and one that had something to contribute to the working horse bloodlines in Australia.

His list of competition events is wide: campdrafting, cutting, working cow horse, roping, reining, barrel racing, halter, western pleasure, trail class and even endurance. His specialty was cutting and some of the people who have contributed information for this article, namely Keith Button, Geoff Williams and John Stanton, have all been inducted into the Hall of Fame for that sport (National



DELL MINGO - FS in action at the championships in Moe, Victoria. Photo courtesy of Keith Stevens

Cutting Horse Association). They have witnessed this horse, his performance and his progeny, in person.

Eddie was known as a great marketer and promoter, building anticipation for the arrival of his horses through advertising that “Dell Mingo is coming”. In what must be regarded as a landmark publication, *Australian Legends – Our History of Outstanding Quarter Horses* (2008), Karen Thrun writes that after a long sea voyage and six months of quarantine in England, they did arrive, but while the stallion ‘took the trip well he was lame with founder and while with various treatments there was some improvement, his feet would never be the same again.’

One of the locals that bred with the stallion early on was Keith Button, who managed a property at Bendemeer. Up until then, Keith used part-bred thoroughbreds and part-bred arabs as station horses with varying degrees of satisfaction. He was looking for a strain of horse that was quiet in nature but that also had cattle sense. He was immediately impressed with the colt when he saw him. “He was in a small lucerne paddock with barbed wire on the two top rows of the fence; across the lane were the yards which held mares in season. Despite the colt merely pacing up and down alongside the fence, Keith was fearful of the colt injuring himself and made a remark about this. Eddie’s reply is still quoted by Keith verbatim, “Goddammit no—that’s a quarter horse!” Keith and his friend and neighbour, Geoff Williams, both had foals out of those early crops.

The Wilsons returned to the USA in 1975 and sold the stud to Keith and Judy Button. With it they acquired the stallions DELL MINGO - FS and his quarter horse stable-mate, Ann’s Hollywood. From knowing nothing about this new breed from the US, Keith became very involved as Vice-President of the Australian Quarter Horse Association (AQHA), then as President of the National Cutting Horse Association and finally as the Executive Officer of the Australian Bushmen’s Campdraft and Rodeo Association (ABCRA) for 14 years from 1982-96.

DELL MINGO - FS, a chestnut born in 1965, was not a big horse and stood around 14.3 hh. Keith recalls that he was ‘solidly built but, by comparison, didn’t have the heavy hindquarters of the King Ranch horses of that time’. John Morrissey, a Scone breeder, considers that ‘he was not a really heavy type of horse but in stock horse terms more of a Bobbie Bruce type than a Radium type.’ This translates to being a smaller type with a cool temperament, rather than being a more rangy type.

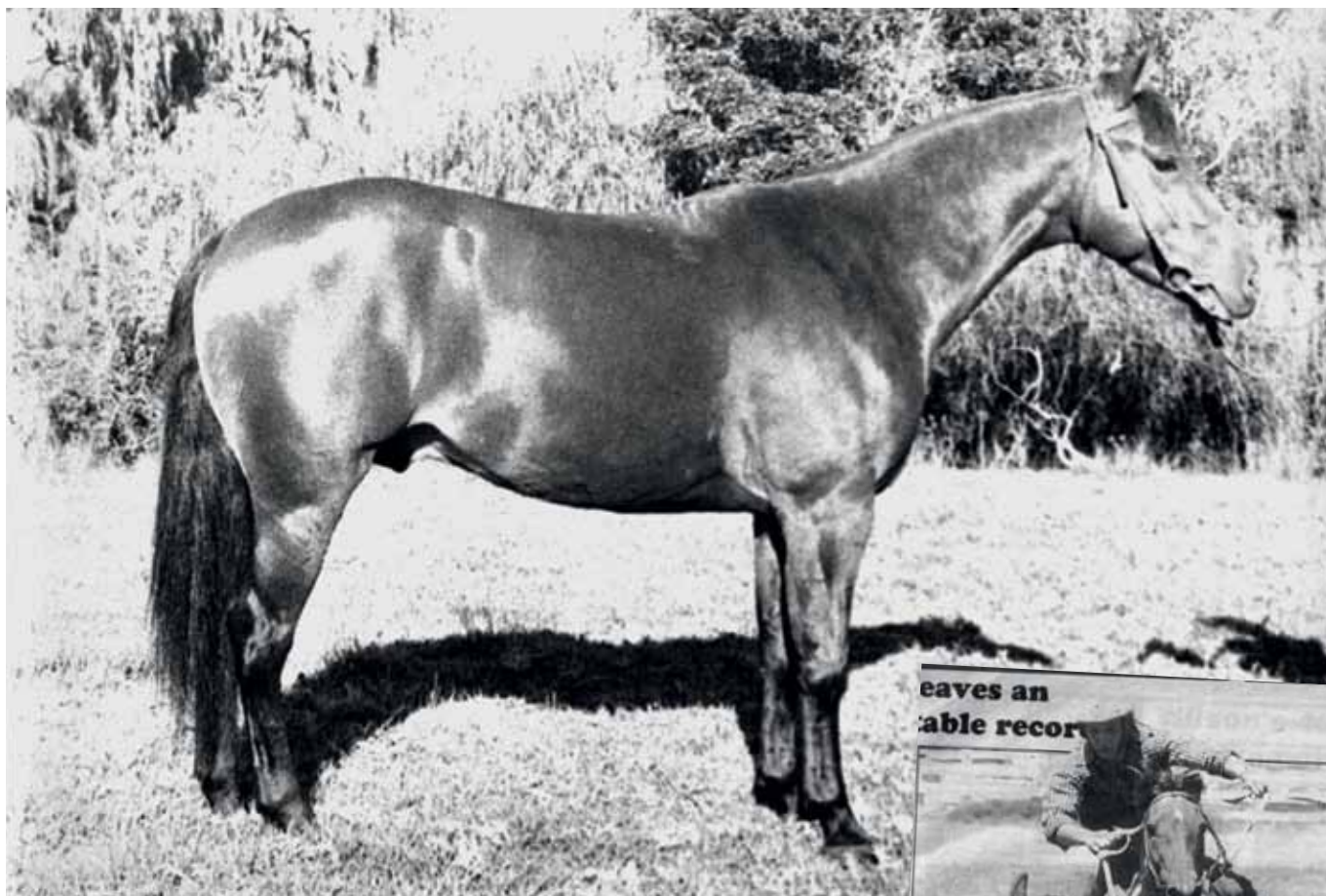
He was bred by Jimmie Randals of Montoya in New Mexico, USA who was one of that country’s most successful young breeders at the time. By nature he was very quiet, and while still in the USA was used by the Randal’s eleven year old son for a youth activity program, winning a number of Grand Champions. Keith remarked that: “from this he seemed to possess a great respect for youngsters. One time Eddie’s son jumped onto him bareback off a post in the yard—and the stallion put up with it, knowing it was just a youngster fooling around.”

John Stanton, another ABCRA man, describes him as, ‘not the best looking horse in shape but, having said that, he looked good even when not rugged. His best feature was his good temper’. There are a number of stories that attest to this. John recalls, ‘I remember once at Taylor’s Arm, I was with Eddie and while riding, we had to leave the horses where we were and go off for an hour and check some other horses. With some surprise I watched Eddie jump off, put the saddle on the ground, tie baling twine around the front feet of the stallion and then let him go amongst the other horses, which included mares. I voiced some concern but Eddie replied, “Hell no—he’s alright. He won’t even squeal without them leaving a deposit.”’

Allan Brideoake, of Scone, tells an amusing tale about the stallion that was told to him by Eddie when he visited this new stallion. Eddie told me that, ‘Some stock horse blokes were watching me ride and decided to really put my horse to the test by asking me to rope a kangaroo. I managed to get one around the chest with my rope. While the horse held the boxing kangaroo which was jumping all around, I didn’t know what to do next. I didn’t get any help immediately either as the other blokes wouldn’t come any closer on their horses, which they got off and tied up before helping me out with the thing’.

DELL MINGO - FS was very well bred, coming from a long line of champion performance quarter horses. He is by the 1950 born bay sire Poco Dell, who was an AQHA (American) champion holding Superior Performance, Superior Halter, High Point Performance and Register of Merit (ROM) Arena. His sire, a 1944 brown horse, held the same credentials in addition to being on the Honour Roll for performance. His dam Shady Dell, was also an AQHA (American) champion and held ROM Arena.

Dusty Pat Star, a 1958 grey mare, was the dam of DELL MINGO - FS. She was by Pat Star Jr, who held ROM Race, ROM Arena, AQHA Champion, Superior Performance, Superior Halter and was a leading sire. Her dam was an AQHA (American) champion, ROM



SNIP O MINGO, the DELL MINGO - FS son who has sired the most ASH progeny

Arena with a Superior Performance and a Superior Halter to her credit as well.

The record of DELL MINGO - FS as a performance horse speaks for itself. During his career in Australia, Eddie travelled widely with him, giving demonstrations and promoting him across the eastern states and over into South Australia. With the AQHA he achieved some significant awards: 1973 Performance – Register of Merit and the QH Champion; 1978 Halter – Register of Merit; 1984 Performance – Award of Honour. From 1977-81 he was their Leading Sire of Performance Horses. With the National Cutting Horse Association he held the Certificate of Merit, the Certificate of Ability and was inducted into their Hall of Fame in 1994.

After Eddie departed, DELL MINGO - FS was retired from competition. As more stock horse mares were coming to the stud, dual registration was desirable so that their progeny were able to be registered with the Society. So Keith successfully presented the stallion for classification in 1976.

As with many of our early foundation stallions, no doubt there were many more progeny than were registered. In The Australian Stock Horse Society Stud Book he has 173 progeny recorded, while in the AQHA studbook he has 620 progeny registered. Keith comments that he ‘stamped himself on his stock. In a line-up of horses which included DELL MINGO - FS progeny, it was easy to tell which ones were his.’ Unfortunately Keith was not able to keep track of the many progeny or their performances but, ‘many went into cutting or campdrafting. You could go to a campdraft and see many a horse there by DELL MINGO - FS—not that in those days the owners would let on.’

Eddie understood the importance of getting a good first crop of foals to allow the stallion to prove himself. He used a technique common with thoroughbreds today of providing a modestly priced service fee of \$100-\$150 in the first few seasons. Thrun writes

that, ‘in the 1969 season, he was so busy that Eddie had to forgo an invitation from the Warwick rodeo to give a cutting demonstration with the stallion.’ John Morrissey of

Score, believes that, ‘the more affordable fee was one of the reasons that made him popular amongst a number of stock horse breeders. The service fees of Clover Leaf quarter horses were much more expensive by comparison.’

For the Frontier stud, DELL MINGO - FS produced three mares and two colts that were registered Australian Stock Horse. John Morrissey used his foundation mare MY CHANCE - FM to breed to DELL MINGO - FS for her first foal (see ASH Journal Nov/Dec 2009). The result was a bay filly, MISS MINGO, who John reckons “was nicely conformed and a really good outcross for a mare of Chan bloodlines”. As a yearling she took out the Grand Champion Led Filly sash at Moonbi in New South Wales against a class of full quarter horses. She went on to win a few hack classes and a maiden campdraft.

As at July 2007, DELL MINGO - FS had 1,582 Australian Stock Horse descendants. Of his Australian Stock Horse progeny, he had a number of horses that went on to be sires themselves. The most prolific was a 1971 son named SNIP O MINGO who sired 51 progeny. He was bred by Ken Griffin of Kempsey out of LADY TOO, a mare by a Barney colt and out of a Moorefield Colt mare. He was sold on to Warren Blackwell and then bought by John and Ngaire



Scott Reynolds riding SNIP O MINGO at the National Finals at Walcha in 1991



Scott Reynolds and BANALASTA TRAVELLER. Photo: Courtesy of Lee Williams

Reynolds, from Wauchope, as a three year old. John was a classifier in the early days of the Society. Ngaire recalls: 'Known to the family as Snip or Snip-O, he was a bay who stood at just over 14.2 hh and showed a lot of potential as a young horse. At the time we had a property which included the mountain at Hat Head; it was very steep country and he proved himself to be very sure-footed.'

John, Ngaire and son Scott were successful campdrafters. With 'Snip O' they won 15 drafts (junior, open and ladies), including the ABBEY Memorial, the Casino Stampede and two 'Walwinglo' Cups (1978 and 1982) – a three draft series. He also regularly won the trifecta of champion ribbons in galloway, stock horse and quarter horse classes at the local agricultural shows. In that district 'Snip O' sired good and versatile stock horses, with many being used for pony club.

He was put down at the age of 29, but left many good progeny including PECKHAM RYE POLLYWAFFLE and a Foal Recorded colt know as 'Charlie' who came second in the Canning Downs Campdraft at Warwick in 1985. A particularly good Foal Recorded gelding by him known as 'Stockman', out of a Schrivner station mare, won the ABCRA Australian Open Campdraft titles at Walcha in 1990 and at Gloucester in 1995 ridden by young Scott Reynolds. Another, SHARON DELL, was in the finals at the Warwick Gold Cup, with Roy Langham on board.

John Stanton also used the stallion. He is no stranger in Australian Stock Horse Society circles, having bred CECIL BRUCE - FS, who holds Australian Stock Horse Society registration No.1, and he also was first to register the next 22 Australian Stock Horses

in 1971. John was one of the first to embrace this new bloodline from the USA. He was looking for the second sire to put to the mare STANTON STUD SAUCER - FM, and DELL MINGO - FS was chosen. A colt, DELVENTURE, was the result in 1970, who was sold to Jeff O'Keefe of Yarrowitch but unfortunately broke his leg after only a few years—but not before siring 19 foals.

His other DELL MINGO - FS colt STANTON STUD HEADLIGHT, also born in 1970, was another of the first colts he bred and sold. He was out of a special mare, STANTON STUD MISS G - IM, also

the dam of STANTON STUD CHANCE - IS. This colt was sold to Bill Harrison. John recalls that, "Bill had just employed a fellow named Bobby McGee and I suggested that he ride him in the futurity at Kempsey. With only one ride on him before the event—on the day of the competition—he rode him and

won. Mind you there was not the level of competition there is these days, but it was still a great effort." This colt was later sold up into Queensland and sired 12 foals.

IRVINES FALCONER was a colt bred by the Barnetts in 1974. Clem Barnett of Wallabadah is an inaugural Australian Stock Horse Society Member, classifier and remains an active and long-standing breeder. Clem comments, 'He was a good little colt—the first foal out of my good, all-round mare BARNETTS FLICKA. I sold him as a two year old at the Dubbo sale.' He went on to sire 24 Australian Stock Horses.

Geoff and Lee Williams bred BANALASTA TRAVELLER, a chestnut gelding out of a very good campdraft and barrel racing mare that was half Arabian. According to Thrun, 'he became,

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Roy Langham on SNIP O MINGO at a Kempsey campdraft.
Photo: Courtesy of Lee Williams



Ngairé Reynolds on 'Stockman' at Gloucester Campdraft with the Ladies Walwinglo Cup in 1989

without a doubt, one of the best DELL MINGO - FS all-round performance sons'. As a three year old he won the \$6,000 County of Cumberland Cutting Futurity at Penrith in 1973, then in 1974 won a maiden and novice campdraft at Nowendoc in his first attempt. He also excelled at a range of western events, winning 14 AQHA awards plus certificates from NCHA. For much of his career he was leased to the Reynolds, teaching young Scott and taking him into the ABCRA Campdrafting Hall of Fame as a junior and associate rider (1986-1990).

Another good horse bred by the Williams was SAGE DELL, a 1973 foal out of the mare BANALASTA FINANCE, by the Dimray sire Gauntlet out of a Cecil Colt mare. Other progeny of note include:

- JONATHON JOE, a chestnut stallion who sired 11 horses and won one of the first three halter futurities held in Tamworth by the New England Quarter Horse Association.
- MINGOS FLIT, a 1970 mare who won a maiden cutting event from 25 entries at Moree.
- WINSTON, a 1969 chestnut gelding owned by Ray Mutch. Thrun writes, 'he won his yearling futurity in 1971 from a class of 37 entries, which was the largest class of pure and part-bred quarter horses to be judged in Australia in its day.'

Unfortunately, for the Australian Stock Horse side of the story, their records of achievement are not as readily obtainable as they are for their quarter horse performances. With this foundation sire having many offspring it is hard to generalize, but John Stanton sums his progeny up as being 'easy to train and good to get along with.' Clem Barnett knew Eddie and the horse well. Clem considers that DELL MINGO - FS was 'a great little horse—one of the better quarter horses that ever came out'. The horse died in 1985 of colic, despite receiving some emergency treatment. Keith Button lost a good stallion and Australia lost a versatile sire that had a big impact, especially in the campdraft, cutting and rodeo arenas of this country. 🐾

PROFILE:	DELL MINGO - FS
Colour	Chestnut
Height	14.3 hh
Lifespan	20 years (1965-85)
Breeder	Jimmie Randals, New Mexico, USA
Performance Progeny	All rounder, specialising in cutting. 173 Australian Stock Horse progeny. Most notable being the gelding BANALASTA TRAVELLER and the sire SNIP O MINGO.



DELL MINGO - FS. Photo courtesy of Keith Stevens

DELL MINGO - FS ASH Reg: 24898	Poco Dell	Poco Bueno	King	
		Shady Dell	Miss Taylor	
	Dusty Pat Star	Pat Star Jr	Pep Up	Oklohoma Star Jr
			Waggoner Mare	Vs Pasty Ann
		Browns Dusty	Mr Brown	
			Sage Brush Annie	