



SUNDOWN

BY JOY POOLE (O AM)

1st

2nd

3rd

4th

		Swynford	John Ogaunt
			Canterbury Pilgrim
	Blandford		White Eagle
		Blanche	Black Cherry
Midstream			Tracery
		Abbots Trace	Abbots Anne
	Midsummer		Polymelus
		Dew of June	Juana
SUNDOWN		Sunray	Metal
(FS) ASH Reg: 265		Campbells Sovereign	Sarah
			Young Tarragon
Jane		Kate	Bronze
		Armistice	Silvius
			Thoroughbred Mare
Goldust		Lorette	Saladin
			Sir Willie Mare

Just on sundown, as old Sol was about to dip below the horizon, a groom sneaked up to the yards of the mighty Thoroughbred sire, Midstream. In tow was his trusty mare, Jane, and he did the unthinkable, he joined Jane to the champion Thoroughbred sire. For years the breeding of SUNDOWN, so named because of his clandestine beginnings, was talked about in lowered voices and behind closed doors.

To give you some idea of how audacious this act was, it occurred in 1950 when Midstream's offspring had just won the 1949 AJC Doncaster Handicap and STC Canterbury Stakes (Bembrook), the 1949 VRC Victoria Derby, STC Canterbury Guineas, MVRC WS Cox Plate (Delta), and, in 1950, five other Principal Races. Murray Stream won the 1948 AJC All Aged Stakes and BATC Doomben 10,000, Rio Fe won five Principal Races in 1948-1949 including the BATC Doomben Cup; Riptide was winning the STC Canterbury Guineas and AJC Breeder's Plate and Sires Produce Stakes. Snowstream won three cups and the LKS Mackinnon Stakes; True Course had just won all the major Juvenile Classics and Shannon was in the USA taking everything before him with five Principal Race wins, and here was this groom putting his station mare to the champion sire! At that time, Midstream stood at Kia-Ora Stud, out of Scone in the Hunter Valley of NSW and was leading Thoroughbred sire in 1947-48, 1950-51 and 1951-52. From 1945-46 to 1953-54 Midstream was never below third place on the Thoroughbred Sires' list!

I wonder how the groom felt on 5th November 1951 when his liver chestnut colt, SUNDOWN, was born and next day, on the first Tuesday in November, Delta, the son of Midstream, won the 1951 Melbourne Cup. Was he elated or guilty - probably a little of both.

Midstream was a bay horse, 16.1 hands high, imported to Australia in 1938 by Mr



Midstream - Sire of SUNDOWN

Percy Miller to stand at his Kia-Ora Stud. A very good racehorse himself, Midstream ran up to a mile. He started 17 times for six wins, three seconds, one third and two fourths.

"I fell in love with SUNDOWN when I was a teenager," admits Danny Bourke, "when I used to go to 'Mosely Dene,' a property outside Inverell for my holidays, I'd watch Arthur Frame draft cattle on him with just a rope around his neck. Arthur used to manage 'Mosely Dene' for EH Uebergang and Sons. They ran broodmares on the place to breed stock horses and they were using a stallion called Golden Boy. When Golden Boy died, Arthur was looking for a replacement sire. Ken Carter at Scone rang to say he had found an outstanding colt. The colt was being kept on a house

block in Scone and Arthur offered the owner, Arch James, 200 guineas for him. The outstanding colt was to become the Foundation Sire, SUNDOWN."

SUNDOWN was a very successful performer himself and from limited outings won five campdrafts, played polo and won many led classes.

Danny continues, "Initially, nearly all the foals by SUNDOWN went out of the Inverell district. I think Jack Riley sold a lot into polo, polocrosse and the Police Force where they were highly sought after. Then some SUNDOWNS did start to pop up around Inverell - Barry Law's Champion Polocrosse mare, LAWS DREAM, who won numerous No 1 Pony prizes including the Champion Mens Pony at the 1970 Nationals, eight campdrafts and many led classes and DUSK, another beautiful liver chestnut mare, winner of campdrafts, cut-outs and led classes. There was Brian McCormack's SUNDOWNER BIMBO, who was more than 30 times Best No 1 Polocrosse Pony including at the Australian Mens Championships in 1975. In that winning team four of the six players were riding horses by SUNDOWN. Bimbo also won campdrafts and led classes. That was the thing about the SUNDOWNS, they were all beautiful types. I've seen photos of Midstream, and SUNDOWN looked very much like him."

Unfortunately for the Inverell district, Jim Maple-Brown had bought some ponies by SUNDOWN that played very good polo so Jim didn't waste time, he bought SUNDOWN and took him to his property, Springfield, in the Goulburn District. SUNDOWN was to produce some out-and-out Champions including SPRINGFIELD MARQUIS, Champion Polo Pony Sydney Royal 1972,



Like father like son - SUNSTREAM

SPRINGFIELD MAJESTIC -
a sire son of SUNDOWN



Champion Polo Pony Canberra 1968 and 1972, The Mitchell Trophy 1968 and 1971, The Hector King Trophy 1970 and the winning team of polo ponies, Adelaide 1968 and Tamworth 1970; Mr Jinx winner of many polo pony prizes including Champion at Sydney in 1971; Euchre, Champion Polo Pony, Dudley Cup 1973 and Musician, Champion District Hack, Goulburn Show.

"One day, just out of the blue," continues Danny, "I decided to write to Jim Maple-Brown and see if I could purchase SUNDOWN. I had mentioned in my letter how much I had admired SUNDOWN when I was a teenager. To my absolute amazement, he decided to sell him to me as they had a stallion by him, SPRINGFIELD MAJESTIC, that was also producing very good foals and as he said, I was obviously in love with him."

"He was 20 years old when I got him. I didn't pay a lot of money for him, a thousand dollars or something like that and we stood him at a service fee of \$200, top dollar for that time. I asked Brian McCormack if he would like to manage the stud and he agreed. Each year we took 30/40 mares and every year he was booked out!"

As Danny is talking to me he is looking at some old Land Newspaper clippings, "Look at this, SUNDOWN filly sells for \$5,000 in 1977 at the Capricornia Annual Sale and a colt at the Macksville Sale for \$3,000 and SUNDOWN mares sell up to \$7,900. That's a lot of money for those days!"

Danny is certainly correct, it is a lot of money for those days, as a matter of fact some people would be pleased to get those prices today.

Danny continues, "We were also lucky to get a colt by SUNDOWN. Apparently, just before SUNDOWN was to be floated to the Maple-Brown's property out of Goulburn, Arthur Frame joined him to one of his daughters, Twinkle, and the resultant foal was the colt we purchased, SUNSTREAM. As SUNDOWN was very much like his sire Midstream,

SUNSTREAM was a replica of SUNDOWN except he was three inches smaller."

SUNSTREAM was to prove a very successful performer and sire. He won 31 campdrafts and was placed 46 times, he won 10 cut out competitions and 26 stallion and Stock Horse classes. At the NSW Campdraft Championships

at Guyra in 1975, SUNSTREAM ran third in the Open Campdraft and the Junior Campdraft, his daughter won the Novice and SUNSTREAM and three of his progeny filled the first four places in the Lightweight Stock Horse class. In 1978 his daughter, RED FLAME, won Champion Polocrosse Pony at Sydney Royal and at the First Australian Stock Horse Convention at the Gold Coast in 1978 was Champion Mens Playing Pony.

SUNDOWN was an exceptional sire of mares and Darryl Smith's great polocrosse mare, EDENHOPE LILLY, was to produce the great sire, EDENHOPE SAM and HUNTLY SUNSTREAM, another SUNDOWN mare, is the dam of RIVOLI REWARD. Norm Rollings had a great little mare called Sweetheart that he joined to SUNDOWN to produce a mare called FRAMES MELODY who produced a great line of horses for Phillip Frame.

SUNDOWN left 107 registered ASH progeny and his sire son, SPRINGFIELD MAJESTIC left 83, SUNSTREAM, 50, and RIVOLI SONNY BOY 24.

Today, SUNDOWN is 11th on the list of the most influential ASH Sires with 3,444 descendants as at 11th February 2003.

Looking at the breeding of SUNDOWN we find he is by Midstream. Midstream was born in 1933. Midstream first appeared as a winning sire in 1941 when Riverton won the

1941 AJC December Stakes and AJC Kirkham Stakes to 1963 when Teastream won the SA Tattersall's Cup.

Midstream was an outstanding Thoroughbred sire getting 38 Principal Race winners of 119 Principal Races who won over all distances - sprints, middle distance and a Melbourne Cup.

SUNDOWN shares the same sire as such great horses as Delta who won 20 Principal Races including the VRC Derby, The WS Cox Plate, The Melbourne Cup and he made the Chelmsford Stakes his own when he won it three years in a row 1950, 1951 and 1952.

During the late 40s and early 50s Midstream was at his peak as a sire and 1951 was when SUNDOWN was born.

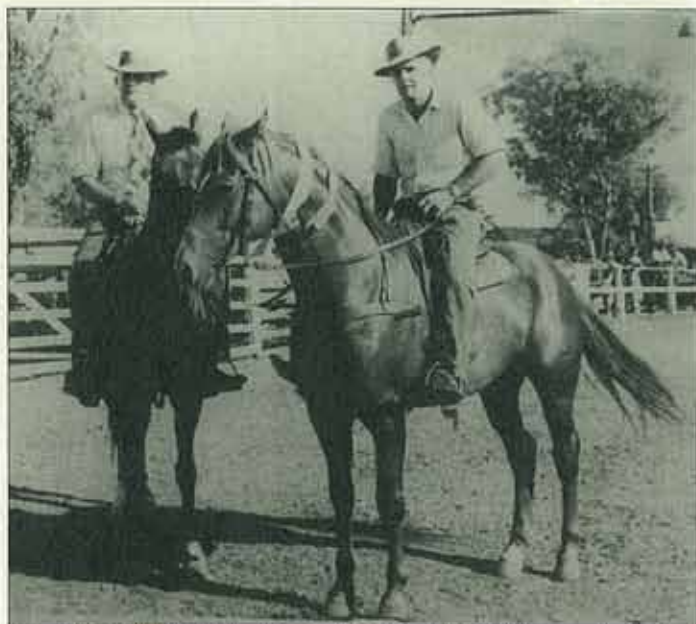
Another great son of Midstream was Shannon who won 11 Principal Races in Australia including an Epsom Handicap and two consecutive George Main Stakes in 1946-47 before being exported to America where he won five Principal Races in the USA including the Hollywood Gold Cup.

Midstream is by Blandford, an Irish stallion born in 1919 and also the sire of eight Principal Race winners of 12 races including four winners of the GB Epsom Derby Stakes, Trigo (Ire 1929), Blenheim (GB 1930), Windsor Lad (Ire 1934) and Bahram (GB 1935).

The French horse, Brantone, by Blandford won the French Prix de L'Arc de Triomphe.

Blandford was by Swynford, the winner of the GB Eclipse Stakes in 1911, out of Blanche who was a great granddaughter of Isonomy (GB 1875) and Galopin (GB 1872), who appear in several Australian Stock Horse pedigrees.

Midstream's dam, Midsummer, is by Abbots Trace who is by Tracery (USA 1909), the winner of the GB Eclipse Stakes in 1913. Tracery is the sire of Pantheon which makes Tracery the great grandsire of Panzer, hence he appears in the breeding of two other



In front - SUNDOWN with Arthur Frame and Bob Campbell (behind), in approximately 1953



1975
Australian
Polocrosse
Championship
winners -
(back)
Darryl
Smith,
Brian
McCormack,
Tiger
Ponton,
(front)
Danny
Bourke,
John
Bourke
(capt) and
Allan Colly.
Four of the
players
were riding
SUNDOWN
mares

Foundation Stallions, NABINABAH THE GUN and MYRA BRONZE.

Midstream's granddam, Dew of June, is by Polymelus who figures in several ASH pedigrees including the Foundation Sires that are by Dimray. Polymelus (GB 1902) was a very successful sire getting Principal Race winners in Australia, Great Britain, France and the USA. Who said you needed 'shuttle stallions' to get progeny all over the world!

Polymelus was by Cyllene (GB 1895) who was also an International Principal Race Sire getting Principal Race winners in Great Britain and Argentina. Like Blandford, Cyllene's stock had a liking for the GB Epsom Derby Stakes. Cyllene sired four winners of this event, Cicero in 1905, Minoru 1909, Lemberg 1910 and Tagalie in 1912.

Cyllene also sired two winners of the Argentinian Grand National Derby in consecutive years, Gaulois (ARG) in 1920 and Pulgarin (ARG 1921).

SUNDOWN's dam, Jane, also carries some interesting breeding. Jane was by Campbells Sovereign. From the Scrumlo records we learn that Campbells Sovereign was bred by Ken Campbell and later in his career was purchased from Tomalla Station by Scrumlo Station to use in their breeding programme and was the sire of seven registered Scrumlo mares.

Campbells Sovereign must certainly have been a great producer of the creamy colour as sires produced by him were Cabans Sovereign, Taylors Sovereign and Lowreys Sovereign who produced the late Marj Graham's LORD FURY, also a creamy. Altogether there are 21 horses in the ASH records credited with being by Campbells Sovereign. Sunray, the sire of Campbells Sovereign was by Metal who was by Radium. Metal was out of a Silvius mare and we will touch on the incredible influence of Silvius on ASHs a little later. Sunray's dam, Sarah was by Tarragon.

The dam of Campbells Sovereign was Kate who was by Young Tarragon by Tom Thumb and Kate was out of Bronze. Jane's dam Goldust was by Armistice who was by Silvius.

Now to focus on Silvius (IRE 1924) who was by Silvern who was also by Polymelus. Silvius was out of Addenda (GB 1910) who was by Spearmint (GB 1903) who was by the mighty Carbine (NZ 1885).

Silvius was imported to Australia as a young horse and as a three year old in 1927 won the Moonee Valley Cup, VRC CB Fisher Plate and the VRC Melbourne Stakes. He was a very successful Thoroughbred sire with 10 Principal Race winners of 22 Principal Races including Sylvandale (AUST 1931) who won eight Principal Races including the 1935 Chelmsford Stakes and the 1935 VRC Australia Cup.

But you be the judge as to the influence Silvius has had on the ASH breed! Silvius is the sire of Doreen, the dam of Dimray! Silvius is the grandsire of Cadger, the mother of Bobbie Bruce!! Silvius is double crossed in the pedigree of Jane, the dam of SUNDOWN!!!

So, as we look through our ASH Foundation and Impact Stallions, we find Silvius appears in the breeding of REALITY, PETER, RIVOLI RAY, WARRENBRI ROMEO, SUNDOWN, MUSTER, SCRUMLO FIRELIGHT and SCRUMLO VICTORY. As I said, you be the judge of the influence of Silvius!

The dam of Goldust, Lorette was by Saladin out of a Sir Willie mare.

Like father, like son could be the best description of SUNDOWN. A wonderful horse himself, SUNDOWN consistently produced progeny of outstanding ability and type and has set in place horses that continue to do the same. Maybe the stolen service was not the way to go but a wonderful line of Australian Stock Horses would never have existed except for the audacity of that groom! *A.*