



SAGE KING

BY JOY POOLE (OAM)

1st

2nd

3rd

4th

Cecil

Radium

Black Bess

Radium II

Molly

Zaraff

Eclipse

Eclipse Mare

Giro

Cecil

Myrtle

Saladin Mare

Bonny

SAGE KING

(FS) ASH Reg: 533

First Barrel

Bronzewing

Cricket

Lodestar

Venus

Zulieka II

Arab Sire

Zulieka

Ethel May

In 1966 a youthful Ken MacCallum rode SAGE KING onto the camp at Moonan Flat for his first start in a campdraft and as a consequence took home the blue ribbon for first in the Maiden. The next year (1967) at Moonan, SAGE KING repeated the dose, this time winning the Novice.

"I won the Novice on him in January, 1967," recalls Ken, "then in November the same year I broke my leg campdrafting at Bunnan which meant SAGE KING was turned out while I was recuperating. Unfortunately he was caught in a fence while he was out and though we campdrafted him again after he recovered and he went on to win an Open Campdraft, he was never the same horse after the injury."

SAGE KING was born in August 1958 and bred by Ken's grandfather JM Clydsdale. The name SAGE KING came from Ian MacCallum's love of Zane Grey western novels and probably the fact that SAGE KING as a young horse was a steel grey like sage in the US.

SAGE KING proved popular as a sire and ended up siring 173 ASH progeny which is a very high number for an ASH sire of this era (1971-1980s). Ken has no hesitation in naming what he thinks was the best horse SAGE KING got.

"MACCALLUMS KINTIRE was an outstanding horse," continues Ken, "I campdrafted him for 18 years and in that time he only missed one campdraft and that was with a partly quartered heel. I probably could have run him that day but I didn't think it was worth the risk."

Anyone who ever saw the mighty little grey horse, Kintire campdraft, will echo Ken's words in reflecting on his greatness, "I won 59 Open Campdrafts with Kintire," said Ken, "and I lost count of how many Ladies and Junior Campdrafts he won."

"Ken used to get a great kick out of seeing juniors winning on him," said Doon MacCallum, Ken's wife. "I remember at one stage Graham Clydsdale won eight Junior Campdrafts in succession."

At last count Ken had named 50 individual campdraft winners sired by SAGE KING.

SAGE KING was a half brother to an outstanding campdrafter of that time, a gelding called WILLANJIE. Both were out of Zulieka

II but SAGE KING was by Dick Mitchell's Eclipse, whereas WILLANJIE was by Rayon. This speaks volumes for the influence of the dam Zulieka II and her line in the SAGE KING success story. Nan MacCallum, Ken's sister, had a very good mare called CROWES DARK DAWN who won at many events including scrubber races. This mare was out of Lovita who was a half sister to Zulieka II which once more emphasises how strong this dam line was.

Kintire, the outstanding campdraft son of SAGE KING was unfortunately a gelding and couldn't promote his sire through the stud book like he had in the campdraft arena so it was left to his other progeny to do this.

With all Foundation Stallions their success lies in their ability to pass on their superior genetics through their descendants and SAGE KING is no exception with 1,765 descendants now registered ASHs as at the 9/4/02. This places him 15th on the all time list of the most influential ASH Sires.

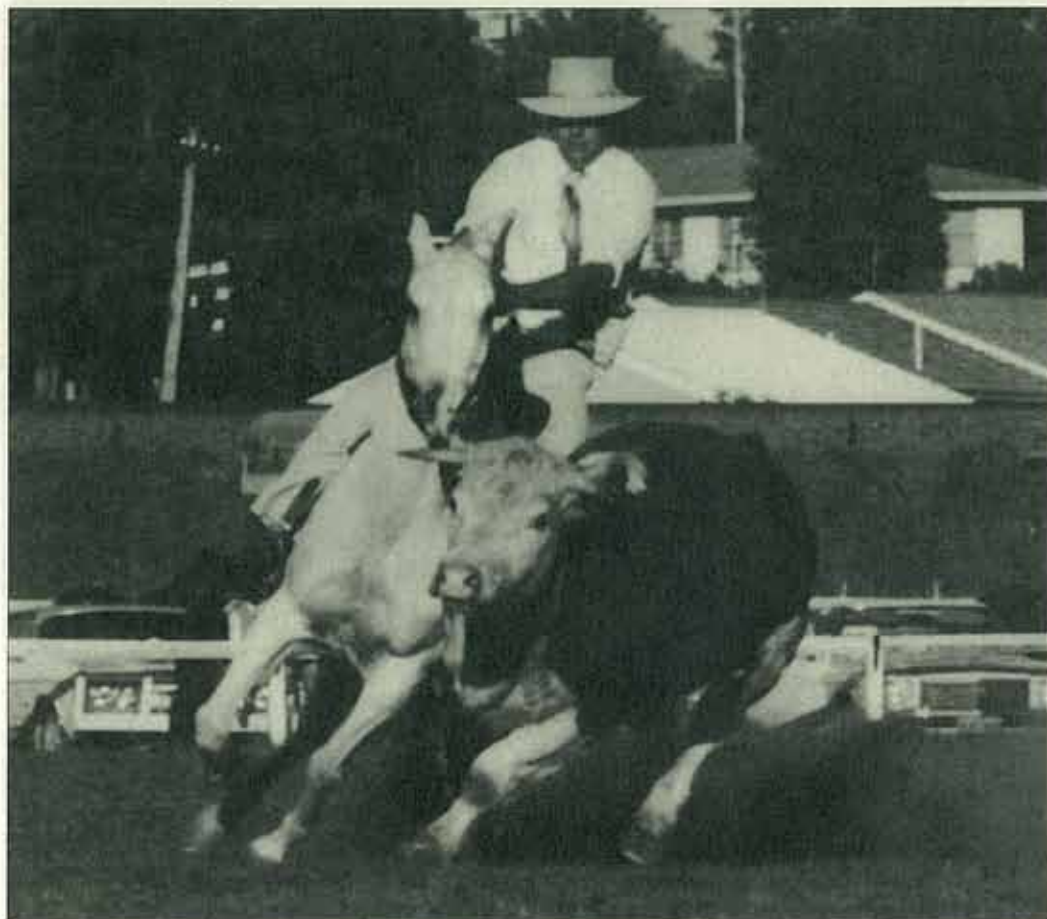
Looking at his progeny it becomes clear that SAGE KING is a stallion that has had a greater influence through his daughters than his sons. For a stallion with 173 registered progeny, only 11 were registered as sires and only seven of these had any significant number of ASH foals. SNIP STAR is his most successful son with 75 foals, GIGOLO 71, WIRAKI SAGE 34, KAROO PALADIN 32, MR ROB ROY 31, RUEBEN 24, PALMERS PARAGON 14, TIGER KING 9, AVOCA RAY 8, BINNIA GLEN and COBARK RIVER THE GAMBLER 6.

SAGE KING's daughter, MISS LYNLAND, was the dam of the sire BULLENBONG WIRIKI who produced 109 progeny and another daughter, PALMERS CHIQUITA produced nine foals including PALMERS FELINA, Garry Craig's outstanding polocrosse mare. One of the top mares in the Rosebrook Stud is the SAGE KING mare, ROCKLEA DIMITY who has produced 12 foals including Colin Parkinson's two outstanding polocrosse ponies, ROSEBROOK DIGNITY and ROSEBROOK STERLING (who is also a campdraft winner) and Louise Parkinson's award winning polocrosse mare, ROSEBROOK SERENE.

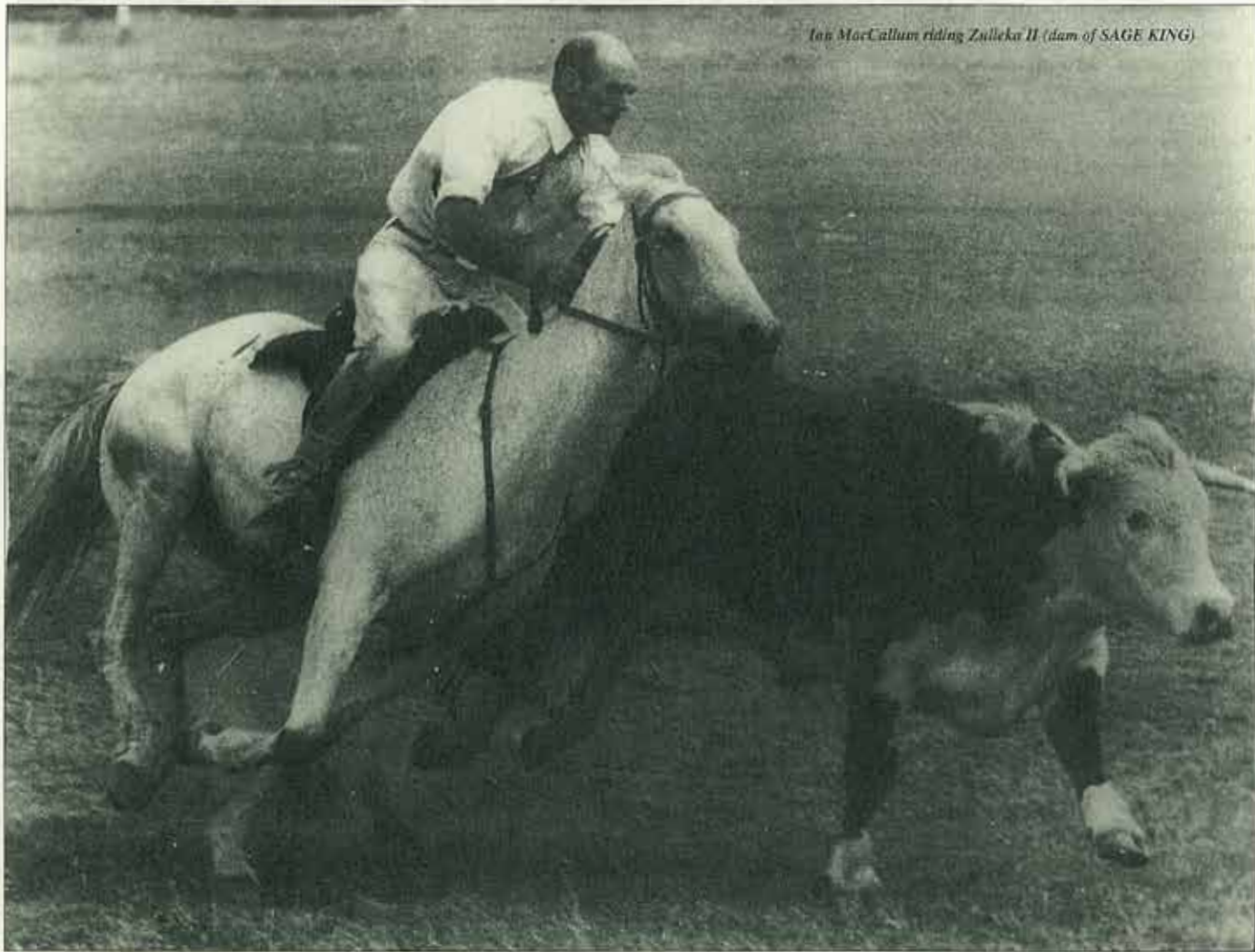
When you listen to Ken describe the SAGE KING characteristics it is easy to see why so many have excelled on the polocrosse field.

"You could break-in a SAGE KING in three days," recalls Ken, "they were free and light; they were natural athletes and you didn't have to pull them around. Mind you, if you wanted to, you could have a fight with them. They were horses you had to understand, that's why I always thought of the SAGE KINGS as being horsemen's horses. They were lovely horses to ride but they did have one funny trait - they could be hard horses to get on when they were young and some of them would never let you ride them bareback all their lives."

When you look at some of the breeders' prefixes on horses by SAGE KING you realise how much he appealed to a range of breeders at that time who were using him for a variety of horse disciplines. Some well known studs that used



MACCALLUMS KINTIRE campdrafting at Scone



SAGE KING were Baree, Bellalvon, Binnia, Brown, Clarkes Stud, Condamine, Dales, Dockaime, Kierahmee, Kirkbys Stud, Lawlers, MacCallums, Mandalea, Moggymill, Nandeye, Nevlyn, Palmers, Parkway, Rocklea, Ronola, Rosebrook, Strathmua, The Echo, Trevallyn and Wigelmar.

If we look at SAGE KING's breeding we find a very interesting mixture of genetics from a cross section of breeds. SAGE KING's sire was Dick Mitchell's Eclipse.

"Syd Bridge won a lot of campdrafts on this horse," recalls Ken, "including three or four at Niangala. Eclipse spent the last few years of his life here on our place at Mandalea. From memory, Dick Mitchell was looking for a home for Eclipse and father (Ian MacCallum) said he could stay here.

Dick Mitchell's Eclipse was by Radium II. This horse also figures prominently in the ASH's most influential Foundation Sire, ABBEY. ABBEY was by Radiant (Old Ray) who was by Radium II and ABBEY's dam, Joy's Pal, was also by Radium II giving ABBEY two crosses to this horse.

Radium II was an outstanding performer who met an untimely end as an eight year old when campdrafting at Taree in 1938. In an article prepared in March 1964 by WG (Glen) Wisemantel, who owned and rode Radium II, passes on the following information:

"In March 1938 while competing in an Open Campdraft at Taree Show he broke his leg and in spite of all efforts to repair the break he had to be destroyed on 29th June 1938."

It is amazing to think that this brilliant young horse who died at a mere eight years of age has had such a profound effect on the ASH breed.

Quoting from WG (Glen) Wisemantel's article, he goes on to say, "Radium II was the winner of five cups including one at Sydney Royal. He won Open Campdrafts at Quirindi with a score of 199 points in two runs in 1934.

He won Campdrafts at Nabcac in 1932, 1933, 1935, 1936, 1937

Bulahdelah in 1931, 1933, 1934, 1935

Dungog in 1933, 1934, 1935

Gloucester in 1934, 1936, 1937

Taree in 1937

Wingham in 1933, 1935, 1936

Kempsey in 1935, 1936

Maitland in 1934

Quirindi in 1934, 1935"

I have heard some of the oldtimers say Radium II was an outstanding horse and when you look at this record for an eight year old horse who can argue with them!

Radium II was by Radium. Much has been said and read about Radium, this wonderful Taproot Sire of the ASH Society but it is worth reproducing, for those who may not have seen it, this extract from The Country Life Stock and Station Journal, 29th November 1946 to illustrate what influence Radium had. The quote is from Mr Herb O'Neill owner and rider of Radium for the latter part of his life.

"No doubt you will think I have forgotten to write to you r/e Radium, sire of Storm, (who was taking all before him at the 1946 Quirindi Show) which I promised to do at Quirindi Show. So as well as giving you a bit of Radium's history I have made a longer story which I hope you will be able to use.

Radium is probably one of the best known of all the state's camp horses and sire of the utility class. His progeny are known far and wide on the cattle camp, polo field, as show hacks, types of stockhorses and general utility horses.

Radium has practically an unbeaten record as a stockhorse type; and many times the minor places have been filled by his sons and daughters. At Dungog Bushmen's Carnival a few years ago, over 20 horses competed in this class. The judge selected five horses and awarded first to Radium and the remaining four that shared the minor placings were all sons of the winner.

Radium was foaled on November 11, 1918 and is still going

strong (28 years in 1946). He is a Thoroughbred with a slight infusion of Arab blood. His grandsire was by an imported Arab sire from a Thoroughbred mare and his sire runs on Eclipse, Cossack and Sir Hercules blood. On his dam's side he is direct from Carbine Musket. There are still many of his sons, grandsons and great great grandsons, sires today which are still producing up to type and utility."

Radium was of course by the outstanding sire and performer, Cecil.

Radium II was out of Molly who was by Zaraff who was by Zulu. Zulu won the 1881 Melbourne Cup and speaking to Phillip Abbott, who has a great knowledge of the North Coast horses, he recalled, "Zulu was walked behind a sulky from Tinonee, a small village near Taree on the North Coast (NSW) to Melbourne to run in the 1881 Melbourne Cup!!"

It is interesting that Sir Hercules (Aust 1843), mentioned in the breeding of Radium is also the grandsire of Zulu.

Molly was out of a Hooke's Old Eclipse mare. This Eclipse was also by Cecil. Dick Mitchell's Eclipse was out of Myrtle who was by Giro who was also by Cecil out of a Saladin mare. This gives SAGE KING on his sire's side three crosses of Cecil and two of Sir Hercules.

In 1951 Ian MacCallum was the inaugural winner of the ABC (now the ABCRA) Campdraft Rider of the Year, his two main mounts were Zulieka II the mother of SAGE KING and Teddy Wharton's, Marlene. It is interesting to note that both of these mares were by Lodestar!

"Zulieka means Princess in Egyptian," explains Ken. "My great uncle, Jack Clydsdale, went to WWI, a wonderful horseman himself, he brought the name back from the War with him. Zulieka II was a very smart mare but a bit difficult, she won campdrafts but could throw father (Ian MacCallum) anytime she liked." Zulieka II was by Lodestar.

"I think the Lodestars were a fantastic breed," said Ken. "Arch MacCallum had a terrific Lodestar horse called Topper. Lodestar was by Bronzewing. Keith Cameron had two horses, Glencoe, who in 1934 became the only horse to win the Open Hack and the Open Campdraft at the Sydney Royal and a horse called Simmer, owned by Bill Hayes, who won the Ladies Campdraft at Warwick in 1932 ridden by J Soloman and countless other campdrafts. The Pinkertons of Gundy, who were great horsemen, asked Bill Hayes to send down a colt that had similar breeding to these horses and Lodestar was that colt."

The writer has been able to ascertain through Dick Hayes, Bill Hayes' nephew, that Simmer was definitely by Bronzewing but I can't verify Glencoe's breeding to know whether he was a Bronzewing horse as well.

"Unfortunately, the Pinkertons went to WWII and Lodestar was sold on to



Rob Clydsdale on Zulieka (photo from the 1971 Merriwa Rodeo programme)

Queensland and we never got the full benefit of him," laments Ken. Lodestar was out of Venus who Ken MacCallum believes was by North Star out of Deceit.

Zulieka II's dam was Zulieka. Enid Clark told me that when her mother and father worked for the Clydsdales at Albano that was the time Zulieka was being ridden.

"Mum always said she was the prettiest horse she had ever seen. Her silver mane and tail rippled as she moved," recalls Enid.

The arab sire that Zulieka was by, according to Ken, was Shahzada.

"My grandfather sent Ethel May to Shahzada, the imported Arab stallion, when he was standing at Woodlands Grace near Denman (NSW)."

Shahzada was one of the greatest performers and sires of all time winning races from seven furlongs to 500 miles!!! His progeny and descendants have gone on to excel in all areas, ridden, endurance, racing, campdrafting, polo, polocrosse etc.

Zulieka's mother Ethel May was known to the MacCallums as Phil May. Ken's grandfather, JM Clydsdale managed Albano Station and came by Ethel May (Phil May) in an unusual way. The Knights of Aberdeen came to Albano with their horse team to pick up the wool bales to take back to the Scone Railhead. One of the Knights was riding Phil May, a Thoroughbred mare, who on reaching Albano was lame so JM Clydsdale swapped a sound horse for her.

In true ASH fashion, SAGE KING's breeding has it all, Stock Horse, Thoroughbred, Arab, all judiciously introduced to produce a Foundation Stallion of note. A.



Louise Parkinson riding a granddaughter of SAGE KING - ROSEBROOK SERENE, who won the 2002 NSW Ladies Open Horse in the ASHS State Polocrosse Awards