



SNIP

BY JOY POOLE (DAM)

1st

2nd

3rd

4th

The Cuan

Parkwood

Backwood

Yoorala

Bachelors Double

Lady of Grace

Linacre

Carissima

Sunstar

Australian Sun

Rosewarne

Grist

Param

Sun Myth

Istpa

Star Royal

Kismet

Deceit

Bubbles

Musk

Bess

Unknown Dam

SNIP (FS) ASH Reg: 646

When the classifiers looked at the Foundation Stallion, SNIP, on the first of March 1972, they were probably creating an ASHS record. SNIP, the horse being presented to the classifiers of the day, ASHS icons HL (Bert) Griffith, Reg Watts and Edgar (Tiger) Batterham, was 24 years old, probably the oldest horse ever classified!

SNIP, born in 1948, when thoughts of an ASH Society probably weren't even a glimmer in anyone's eye, lived to an age where he could be part of the Society's beginning. The last foal registered with the ASHS by SNIP was BANYANDAH SNIPS PRIDE, born on 1st December 1977, so we can safely assume that he lived to at least 28 years of age.

"Why don't we write on the back of our photos?" asked Beryl Morrison as we looked at a photo of SNIP taken just before his death. "It's a shame we only have this one photo of him as, when this was taken he had gone out of shape but when he was younger he was a very good type of horse - about 15.2 hands high," continued Beryl.

Beryl is the widow of Kevin Morrison who had SNIP most of his life. SNIP was bred by Alexander Morrison Jnr, Kevin's father, who was a dingo hunter on Tomalla Tops out of Scone (NSW).

"I don't think he ever owned a car in his life," said Beryl, "all his life he had a horse and a packhorse. He worked for years at the head of the Hunter trapping dingoes. That's where the Hunter River starts in three streams that come together to form the Hunter River. In later life he had pieces of country around Moonan Flat that he worked."

Beryl and her brother, well known horseman, Colin Davis, have brought along photos and information to help me piece together some of the history of Foundation Stallion, SNIP.

Beryl was also a rider, competing in hacking and sporting events; at the moment she is ribbing Colin about getting her back on a horse, after seven years, for the recent Scone Horse Festival Parade.

"You said he was quiet," Beryl exclaimed, "so what happened then when the bagpipes started!"

Not only was Beryl a competent rider but also a very competitive tennis player retiring from competition at 70 years of age.

"When I felt I couldn't play tennis competitively any more I gave it up. I missed it for a while but now I'm into croquet. I think age is in the mind, if you keep going you will."

I notice on Beryl's wall a plaque from Scone Shire Council that is in appreciation for the years she voluntarily ran the Moonan Flat Caravan Park. After years of living in the Moonan area Beryl moved to Scone four years ago.

"When Kevin's father, Alexander, sent SNIP down to be broken-in, he virtually then gave him to Kevin. We had him for the rest of his life."

"I can't emphasise enough what a terrific temperament SNIP had," said Beryl. "He was a beautiful horse to ride and so quiet. I remember years ago all the creek blocks were washed out in a flood and SNIP ended up out on the road. We eventually found him miles away from home and even though he hadn't been ridden for years, Kevin jumped on him and rode him home - he was a very quiet horse! It also carried through to his progeny as very few bucked."



Kevin Morrison on ZELLITIA VANITY at Gloucester Rodeo - An outstanding mare by SNIP



Kevin with High Hopes (by SNIP) who turned out a great polo pony for Geoff Champion (Windsor)

"I remember when SNIP was competing at Moonan," said Colin, "not long after he was broken in, he was in the hack class which he won. Later on someone said that he shouldn't have been in the hack class as he was a stallion." It sounds like shades of Chan who also was criticised for winning a hack class.

Unfortunately, SNIP was never to make a name for himself as a performance horse as he was caught in wire which affected the joint in his near side hock leaving it permanently stiff.

"Even though he couldn't perform anymore," said Beryl, "Kevin continued to take him, for a time, around the rodeos to teach him manners amongst other horses."

In The Country Life Newspaper, 23rd October 1974 it advertises that SNIP is standing for a \$100 service fee.

"I don't know that we ever collected too many service fees, you know Kevin, he'd give you the hat off his head, well no he wouldn't give you the hat off his head but he'd give you the shirt off his back," laughs Beryl, "so I think most services were given away to mates."

It is quite astounding that a horse of SNIP's age when classified, who only lived for the early years of the ASH Society, still had 53 progeny registered. Bearing in mind that SNIP was foaled in 1948, the oldest foal registered by SNIP was DAVISS GAY, foaled 1/9/59 so all his early progeny went unrecorded. Eighteen foals that were born in the 60s are registered, with the bulk of his foals, (33) being registered in the 70s, so most of his registered ASH progeny were got when SNIP was well in to his twenties.

Looking through SNIP's progeny many good horses appear. ZELLITIA VANITY, a mare that Kevin Morrison had himself, born in 1965 won sporting events and campdrafts.

"I remember over at Belltrees Sports one day they had a motorbike versus a horse flag race," said Beryl, "Kevin rode Vanity and won hands down."

Ken Cone had a lovely mare, Pride, that was successful in hacks, sporting and campdrafts.

"A lot of the horses we are riding now," said Colin, "are descendants of MISS REGAL, a SNIP mare."

SOVEREIGN BOY, owned by Geoff Nash, was a successful sire son of SNIP getting many good progeny. The Brookers of Main Camp, Rouchel, used this horse to produce good polocrosse, property and campdraft horses.

"They were very good station horses," said Brian Brooker, "Christine's good little mare MAIN CAMP LITTLE SOVEREIGN by SOVEREIGN BOY was her mount when she represented NSW at three National Titles."

Some of the well known prefixes in front of SNIP progeny are Banyandah, Caroonah, Dales, Merriview, Poitrel, Slaters and Trevallyn indicating his appeal to a wide range of breeders, but by far his most outstanding representative was Harold Willard's stallion, TARGET.

This horse was not only a great sire with 192 progeny registered with the ASH Society but was one of the greatest performance stallions of the 70s and 80s. It has often been said that everyone in Harold's family that rides - two of his daughters, Joan Lawrence



MISS REGAL (by SNIP), with foal - DALES KAHLUA (by RAYS SWAGMAN) who went on to qualify in the ABCRA Zone Finals in the Maiden, Novice, Open, Ladies and Encouragement (three different riders)

and Heather Willard, their husbands and children and Harold himself, all won ribbons on this magnificent horse. TARGET started campdrafting at five years of age and went on to be the winner of many Open, Ladies and Junior Campdrafts. He was a great type of horse and often stood at the head of the line in a led class with a champion ribbon around his neck.

On several occasions at the Eastern Branch Breed Show the performances of his progeny made him the most successful sire. Three of his progeny won The Buckley Trophy for the best yearling at this show. His progeny also excelled in the hack, polocrosse and campdrafting arena. At the 1995 Dungog Rodeo his progeny came first and second in the Open Campdraft and another one won the Novice.

In talking to Maurice Mitchell, Harold's son-in-law I found out how Miss Dim was put to SNIP to produce TARGET.

"I had seen Kevin Morrison, riding SNIP's progeny to do his work and thought what useful horses they were. Like a lot of stallions, I thought SNIP was being under-used for the quality of progeny he was producing so, when the time came to breed from Miss Dim, I suggested SNIP could be the horse to send her to, I also liked the fact that he had a high percentage of Thoroughbred in him and this could have been a good cross with the Dimray line. So Miss Dim went to SNIP and TARGET was the foal," said Maurice.

It is undoubtedly this great son of SNIP that has helped him towards Foundation Stallion status.

When we look at the breeding of SNIP it falls into two distinct halves, the breeding of the mare, Bubbles, that is a little obscure and the sire, The Cuan, that is filled with well known and well documented horses.

Both Beryl and Colin remember the mare Bubbles, "She was a station and bush mare that Alex used to use in his work," said Beryl, "but later she was also crippled in wire and used as a broodmare."

Bubbles was by Kismet, a horse that got some good progeny in the Upper Hunter. Most people I speak to think he was an unregistered Thoroughbred horse which is probably correct.

Tiger Batterham recalls, "Kismet actually appears in my stallion, JACK's pedigree. I think Ray Simpson, Colin Simpson's father, had him when Ray had a portion of Glenrock but there were a lot of good horses by him."

Maurice Mitchell said, "When I was about 8 or 9 years old I had a pony by him and she was an old mare then."

In a later discussion with Tiger, this pony was the same pony that appeared in JACK's pedigree. Doing an estimation of when Kismet stood it was probably the 1930s or even as early as the 1920s which makes gaining information on him quite difficult. What gives weight to the fact that he was an unregistered Thoroughbred is that his sire and dam were known and recorded. He was by Star Royal out of a mare called Deceit. Bubbles' dam, Bess, was by Musk out of an unknown dam.

"I can remember Musk coming up in pedigrees in those early classification days," said Tiger Batterham, "but I can't remember who had him or anything about him." So a cloud hangs over the 30 - www.ashs.com.au



Col Davis and Beryl Morrison who helped unfold the SNIP story

information of this breeding.

Nothing could be further from obscurity than the breeding of The Cuan, a Thoroughbred horse with a gem-filled pedigree.

How did Alexander Morrison, a dingo hunter from Tomalla get Bubbles to The Cuan? Obviously a story within a story but the mists of time have clouded the answers.

The Cuan was a Thoroughbred horse foaled in 1937 by Parkwood, who was foaled in 1926. Parkwood was a great galloper winning the 1928 VATC Debutante Stakes and 1928 VRC Maribyrnong Plate, the 1929 AJC Champagne Stakes and the 1931 VRC Newmarket Handicap. Parkwood was by Backwood, an Irish Thoroughbred horse foaled in 1919. Backwood was imported to Australia and in 1924 won the VRC Melbourne Cup!

Backwood is by the Great Britain sire Bachelors Double who won the 1909 Irish Derby Stakes (Ireland) over 2,400 metres. Bachelors Double, besides siring Backwood also sired Comrade (GB 1917) who won The Prix de L'Arc de Triomphe (1920), Bachelors Persse (GB 1913) QTC Queensland Cup 1916, Our Prince (GB 1918) The Adelaide Alderman Cup 1916 and Sonhardric (Aus 1916) SAJC Keswick Stakes 1922.

Bachelors Double (GB 1906) also carries the bloodlines of Isonomy that also appear in the breeding of Bulga Boy, who is the sire of COMARA PRINCESS, the dam of Impact Stallion, ABDUL. Bachelor's Double also appears in the pedigree of EAST LYNNE SAPLING, the Haggerty's very successful sire through his sire, Blue Gum.

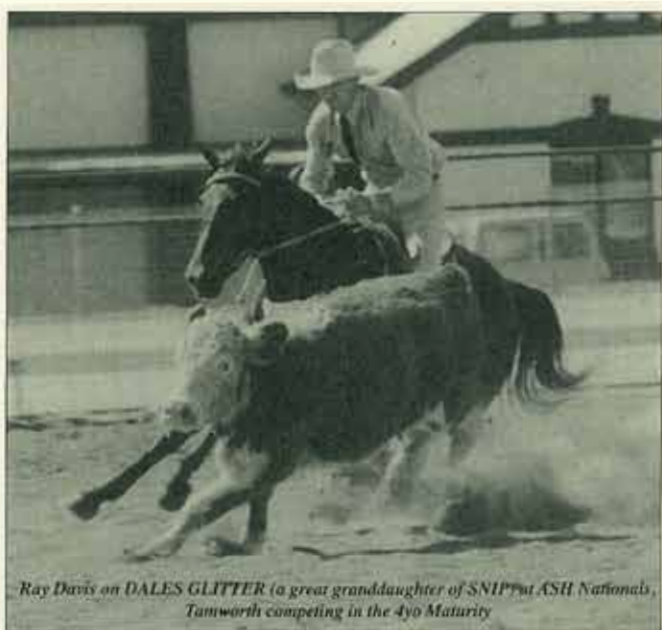
Backwood's dam, Lady of Grace (GB 1908) was by St Frusquin (GB 1893) who was by St Simon. This horse also appears in the breeding of Bulga Boy. (In the March/April 2001 ASH Journal note the photos of St Simon and ABDUL and the likeness in body shape).

Parkwood's dam Yoorala (Aus 1914) is by the outstanding sire, Linacre (GB 1904). Linacre also features in the breeding of NABINABAH THE GUN through Lingle to Gibbergunyah (ASH Journal Jan/Feb 2003).

Linacre produced no less than 50 individual Principal (Group) Race winners of more than 93 Principal races. He produced two year old winners, Derby winners and all aged Champions.



*Photos: Sue Jones
DALES REGAL PAL out of MISS REGAL (SNIP) - Winner of approximately 12 campdrafts*



Ray Davis on DALES GLITTER (a great granddaughter of SNIP) at ASH Nationals, Tamworth competing in the 4yo Maturity

From 1915, when his progeny burst onto the scene with Red Signal winning the VRC Sires Produce Stakes and Eulacre winning the AJC Gimcrack Stakes, till 1928 when Translator won the William Reid Stakes, his progeny were a force to be reckoned with. Even though his progeny raced in that early era he had Principal race winners in every state of Australia!

Linacre through his dam, Lismaine, (GB 1898) also goes back to Isonomy.

All the listed great granddams of The Cuan, Lady of Grace, Carissima and Rosewarne go back to St Simon.

Carissima was also the dam of Amata by Wallace who won the VRC CM Lloyd Stakes and the Newmarket Handicap.

The Cuan was the only listed foal of his dam, Sun Myth (Aus 1931). The sire of Sun Myth, Australian Sun (GB 1917) also got Principal race winners of 17 races. One of his best known was Regal Sun (Aus 1929) winner of the 1933 AJC Metropolitan. Sun Myth was out of Istpa (Aus 1918) who appears to be an Australian Thoroughbred Foundation mare. Australian Sun was by Sunstar (GB 1908) a very good racehorse who won the 1911 2000 Guineas Stakes (GB) and the Epsom Derby Stakes (GB). He also produced Principal race winners. Sunstar had the distinction of producing the winners of the Eclipse Stakes (GB) in 1919 and 1920 with Buchan, in 1921 with Craig An Eran, and in 1923 with Saltash.

What an outstanding pedigree of great horses The Cuan carried. The more we explore the pedigrees of our Foundation horses, the more we realise that the tremendous horse we have today that we call the Australian Stock Horse didn't happen by chance - hundreds of champion horses over the years went into his makeup. A.



TARGET (out of SNIP) whose progeny speak for themselves.