



FARID'S FANTASY (Fancy) 1/2 Arabian

I find this article the most difficult to write of any I have ever done for the newsletter. How can one say in such short space all about a TRULY GREAT MARE. She carried this heavyweight rider a total of 2570 miles in NATRC competition and who knows how many conditioning miles where we gathered cattle or just plain went for a ride. The experiences we have shared over the years would fill a book and a great many of them have been told in previous newsletters. Some of my grey hairs may very well have Fancy's name on them but they were worth it for this mare brought so much joy into this riders life by allowing her to ride her over the trails of NATRC.

Fancy was 7 in Feb of 1970, a beautiful chestnut mare, 15-2, when I bought her against the advice of Liz Grogan who told me she had a screw loose. Little did this former QH person have any idea of the natural agility of an ARAB! The next 6 mo. (in and out of competition) were spent going in circles, pushing other horses off the trail, running up hills leaping ditches, running away, etc. with me wondering if I had a secret death wish. Have you ever been astride a horse who going downhill in a washed out gully could leap from boulder to boulder with all four feet on one boulder-goat fashion? Or jumped a cattle guard on an NATRC enduro? Or done the 2 mi. at a dead run several times (record is 8 min.) Or tried to teach a mare who has decided she enjoys traveling in a trailer in the prone position to stand up (yes, we ended up with a 4 horse trailer)!

Together we shared these experiences and many more with this rider learning that training an Arabian requires a lot of slow walking miles for if you try to tire them out with running they get stronger and you get weaker! But persistence does have its rewards and came the day when Fancy and I signed a pact. The lady who fed, watered, groomed and cared for her becoming at last a TRUSTED friend, and in turn the lady overcoming her fear and trusting her four footed companion to get her on down the trail and home in one piece. Even with our training program in 1970 we ended up 4th place overall heavyweight with 50 points.

In 1971 we got down to business and ended up 2nd place Overall Hwt with 111 points and even took in two 50 mile endurance rides (whoops instant revert back to race horse!). It became evident to myself and my fellow competitors that those horses who competed with her, especially the studs and geldings, were all falling in love with her. She would graciously wait at P&R's for them because should she leave you could be sure that they would have elevated rates. The voice of her owner (never known to be too quiet) was associated with the fact that Fancy was coming behind and actually caused her male friends to pause and wait for her...very handy when doing a judges obstacle!

1972 was her first BIGGIE....1st PLACE OVERALL HEAVYWEIGHT 131 pts and at long last a National Championship (tat trip to Arizona never seemed to pay off in a 1st or 2nd until that year). We journeyed to near and distant rids accompanied by young dtr Denise and her pony Stormy. During a fun filled trip to Colorado and Wyoming we looked up her breeders and found that her Sire Hadatan of Pico was a fence runner and her mother Blondie-Thorobred was a real goer! Shucks we kept thinking maybe there was some nice calm QH back there. Seriously though we did find that her sire (Hearst Ranch) was a great grandson of Guemura and great great of Ghazala the 2nd Arabian imported to U.S. and foundation arabian mares. Now that was super impressive when we read this in Arabian World! All during 1972 she ran in the same pasture with our young stud SurFarr (son of Shafarr-Presidents Cup NATRC 1969-4th Tevis) and although all the other mares settled it seemed Fancy was into "Planned Parenthood". She simply waited until immediately after the last ride of that year to get bred. As if to say "I worked hard and now I deserve a rest."

The rest in 1973 resulted in a very pretty little filly foaled Sept '73', the spitting image of her mom with a blaze in the shape of a "J" (for Joan of course!) And that dingy arab was the very best mother you could possibly imagine.

1974 and BACK TO WORK resulting in 2ND TIME to take 1ST PLACE OVERALL HEAVYWEIGHT with 110 pts and 1st in the Region. She weaned her filly in time to start competing in April and although a short year in actual number of rides this was her biggest winning year. This was the year she would carry husband Bill on the Tevis Cup 100 mile ride. This she did in her usual fine style and even though it was the hottest Tevis on record and Bill got sick half way thru she ended up in 30th place. Although most of the other horses who did the Tevis that year took a while to snap back Fancy was never in better shape and won every NATRC ride the rest of the season.

Today semi-retired and planning on raising more babies Fancy still whinnies each time I take a colt out. She will always be my first love for this great mare possesses all those things we are looking

for in a competitive horse....STAMINA, SOUNDNESS AND HARDINESS and has proven herself in miles of competition. Fancy sends her love to all her male horse friends...Pepe, Dagger, Dante, Cochise, Stormy, Kandar, Samah, Ace, Casey, Banner, Jahn & Jay who shared those miles of trail with her and of course along goes the love of her rider to both man and beast. SEE YOU ON THE TRAIL!
Joan Throgmorton