

*A History
of the
Utah Arabian
Horse Club
1952 – 1992*

By Yvonne Brown

Introduction

In looking through past materials from show programs, newsletters, gazettes, etc., it reignited many memories for me and I am hoping that is what it will do for those of you who take the time to read through this.

My thanks to Millie and Easton Brown, Thelma Allred and Jack and Agnes Chidester for their help in locating materials and jogging their memories.

The success of the Utah Arabian Horse Club has derived from the ambitions of many people. My thanks to all of them for making the Utah Arabian Horse Club what it has been for me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Yvonne', written in dark ink.

Yvonne Brown

EARLY ARABIANS IN UTAH

The story of Arabian horses in Utah begins with the five endurance rides held by the United States Remount between 1919 and 1926. In these tests (which covered 60 miles a day for five days, and in which horses carried weights from 200 to 245 pounds over the 300 mile distance), the purebred and partbred Arabians proved to have superior endurance and weight carrying ability, plus lower feed consumption and more freedom from unsoundness than other breeds. And so the Remount secured a number of Arab stallions and distributed them throughout the country to upgrade cavalry stock.

Four Arabian stallions came to Utah under this program. The first was EL SABOK 276 (El Jafil x *Narkessa), placed at stud in Emery County between 1923 and 1925. (He left many Arabs in the Castledale and Orangeville area.)

A few years later, NIGAHDAR 399 (*Rodan x Nanda) came to Cedar Valley and later stood at the Stucki Ranch near Clover. Unfortunately he developed an eye condition and went blind, but he was still able to get around and was even ridden at bit. One of his Anglo-Arab sons, Chief, sparked Dean Christofferson's interest in Arabians back in 1936. (Mr. Stan Clark of Lehi bought Chief, and Noy Christofferson obtained one of his colts named Sammy - a sharp little bay with speed and action. E.J. Christofferson had another Chief son, Red Ace, who won over a hundred trophies after being sold to Harve and Mary Sayers.)

The Kellogg stallion RIFNAS 924 (*Nasik x *Rifla) was obtained by Julian Clawson of Salt Lake City, and serviced a number of registered Thoroughbred mares which ran on the Clawson Ranch near Bear River. Rifnas was shot by deer hunters the first Fall, and had to be returned to the Kellogg Remount station in California. He recovered, and was then sent to Oregon, but he left several Anglo Arabs in Utah despite his short stay here.

*LARTUR IV 4051 (Lartur x 10 Kohelian IV), a beautiful grey, standing 15 hands, was imported from Hungary by the U.S. Government about 1946. He ended up with Chuck Storey in Eden, Utah, and was purchased by Mr. Storey when the Remount disbanded in 1948.

About the same time as Lartur IV, Joe Sandino brought the young grey stallion AADEN 2248 (Indraff x Aadah) from the Ben Hur Farms in Indiana to Stockton, Utah. Shortly after, AADEN was sold to W.T. Warren, a construction engineer from Reno, Nevada, then working in the Tooele area. Mr. Warren had one of the few purebred Arabian mares in Utah, FERMAILIA 1862 (Ferseyn x Ismailia), and in 1947 she had the bay filly DENAILA by Aadin - probably the first purebred Arabian born in Utah.

At Christmas time 1945, the Christoffersons purchased their first purebred, ZAROSS 3457 (Rossdin x Zayata). He was just a two year old with long hair and a peculiar mouse color when he arrived in Lehi, and townspeople and friends were far from impressed. Their comments changed when he matured to an attractive white stallion. The Christoffersons then acquired a 6 month old filly, LOTKA 5253 (*Lotnik x Nafa), and waited patiently for her to mature and raise a foal by Zaross, only to have her die five weeks before foaling. Fortunately they fared better with their other mare, NARZAH 4198 (Narzigah x Narlah), who produced 8 fillies and 4 colts for them during her life. The weanling colt, YATEZ 8021 (*Witez II x Riwayat), was added to their small band of Arabians in 1952. He became a champion and sired 22 champions in turn.

In 1948 the E. Dan McArthur family went to Pray, Montana intending to buy a chestnut, stocking-legged filly, and instead came home with a young colt, HAMPTON 4709 (Ptolemy x El Aroussa), who as Dan put it, "Wouldn't stay out of my hip pocket!" The following year they purchased the mare SUBAYLI 5737 (Alla Amarward x Antafa) in California.

Also from California, in 1950, came the colt BAARSEYN 6506 (Baarouf x Allaseyna) and the mares SHAMMURA 4960 (Assurbanipal X Shammare) and NADASAF 4492 (Assurbanipal x Safanad). These Arabians were purchased by Mr. and Mrs. Rich Whitmore who were visiting in Laguna Beach and looking for Palominos. They accidentally came upon the Jackson Arabian Ranch, up in the hills, and fell in love with the Arabian horses. In 1952 they went back and brought home SENEYN 4958 (Ferseyn x Allaseyna), BALLA 6083 (Assurbanipal x Ruballa) and SHAROUFA 6077 (Baarouf x Shammar.)

Other Arabian horse owners in Utah at that time were: Reed Ekins in Payson - NIRAHBU 3915 (Abu Farwa x Nirah), G.E. Austin in Provo - REYNAF 4095 (Rifage x Ferza), James Duckworth of Kaysville - FERSIK 4870 (Rasik x Ferida). Lowell Titenore of Richmond, Frederick H. Hardy of Salt Lake City, E.R. Firmage of Provo, Bob Fenton of Parowan, W.J. Gransden of North Ogden, Duane Wright of Salt Lake City, Russell Schow of Pleasant Grove and James Robinson of Salt Lake City also owned Arabians.

The increased popularity of the Arabian horse is due primarily to the fact that while he is a classically beautiful animal, he is also an extremely versatile riding and driving horse capable of performing a variety of tasks well. His remarkable endurance makes him a favorite on trail rides, and his early speed makes him a desirable race horse. He can cut cows, participate in stock horse classes, hunt and jump, as well as provide pleasure for the whole family on competitive rides or at horse shows. He makes a marvelous equitation horse for young people, and an equally challenging mount for the amateur or professional in such classes as formal driving, park, dressage and pleasure. A friend and companion, his docility is an inherent trait resulting from close association with man for thousands of years.

THE UTAH ARABIAN HORSE CLUB

In September of 1952, a group of pioneer Arabian Horse breeders held the first meeting of the - to be - Utah Arabian Horse Club. The meeting was held at the State Fairgrounds in Salt Lake City, Utah, (under the bleachers, no less), with twenty-one people in the original group - some of them still active in club activities. They included:

Mr. Greg Austin	Mr. and Mrs. Vern Nelson
Mr. and Mrs. Dean Christofferson	Mr. Russell Schow
Mr. E.J. Christofferson	Mr. and Mrs. Frank Taylor
Mr. James H. Duckworth	Mr. and Mrs. R.D. Taylor
Dr. and Mrs. F.R. Hardy	Mr. and Mrs. Rich Whitmore
Dr. and Mrs. E. Dan McArthur	Mr. Duane Wright
	Mr. and Mrs. Noy Chistofferson

The first officers elected were:

President:	Mr. E.J. Christofferson
Vice President:	Dr. E. Dan McArthur
Secretary-Treasurer	Mr. Rich Whitmore
Directors:	Mr. Greg Austin
	Mr. Noy Christofferson
	Mr. James Duckworth
	Dr. Frederick R. Hardy
	Mr. Vern Nelson
	Mr. Russell Schow

The above listed officers took office in January of 1953.

If he could have found where they were holding the meeting, Leon Miller would have been counted. He looked for them but missed connection.

This same year the members voted affiliation with the International Arabian Horse Association.

The Utah Arabian Horse Club was founded on the principle of democracy and cooperation with one another. In most instances the membership and its leaders have adhered to the feeling of fellowship and working together in promoting the Arabian Horse and the activities provided.

Each year has brought new members, more activities, and greater enthusiasm. The club has grown from its twenty-one original members to over 200 members.

Over the years the club has donated funds to 4-H Club work, the Morris Animal Foundation, the ARC Foundation, Shriner's Hospital and sent Arabian Horse magazine subscriptions to many High Schools and Colleges throughout the state, as well as sponsoring many Youth Shows.

All of the proceeds from the annual activities are used for operational expenses for the Club.

The International Arabian Horse Association was organized in Salt Lake City, Utah, in 1952, by a hand full of generous far-sighted Arabian horse lovers. It has since grown to be the far-reaching and effective organization it is now.

The main purpose of The International Arabian Horse Association is to promote the Arabian horse by providing educational material, coordinating on an international basis the activities of the various state and local clubs by encouraging the breeding, exhibiting and perpetuation of the Arabian breed. International Arabian Horse Association also registers the Half-Arabian and Anglo-Arabian breeds. The International Arabian Horse Association is the parent organization of over 50 state or regional associations covering states from New York on the East, California on the West, Texas on the South and Canada on the North.

In 1960, Utah played host to the International Arabian Horse Association's Annual Convention held at the Hotel Utah Motor Lodge in Salt Lake City, Utah.

Utah Arabian Horse Club members who have served as officers of the International Arabian Horse Association are:

Duane Wright

Served on the International Arabian Board of Directors, 1961-1962 before they divided the U.S. and Canada into Regions.

Dr. E. Dan McArthur

Served as: Treasurer in 1969, serving two years in this office. He was then elected 2nd Vice President, then 1st Vice President. He was elected President of IAHA in 1974, serving two years and was instrumental in getting International back on sound financial basis and establishing the Legion of Merit System.

Frank McCormick

Served as: 1st Vice President in 1986 and 1987 and has held positions on many International committees.

Utah Arabian Horse Club members who have served as officers of Region VII are:

Robert Wood - Vice President

Dr. Fred Hardy - Director for 4 years

Thelma Allred - Secretary

Millie Brown - Secretary

Frank McCormick - Director for 4 years

Joyce McCormick - Secretary, Vice President

Lois Lems - Secretary

PRESIDENTS OF THE UTAH ARABIAN HORSE CLUB

1953 - E.J. Christofferson (Deceased 1959), Wife Luella (Deceased 1972)

He was the first President

1954 - Dr. E. Dan McArthur, wife Billie (Deceased 1989)

1955 - Dr. Frederick R. Hardy (Deceased 1991), Wife Edith

1956 - Jack Kueffell (Deceased 1974), Wife Betty

1957 - Noy Christofferson, Wife Elma

1958 - Duane Wright - Wife Effie

1959 - Louis B. Brown (Deceased 1986), Wife Irma

1960 - Russell Schow, Wife Doris

1961 - E. Rumel Cayton (Deceased 1971), Wife Gwen (Deceased 1972)

1962 - Easton Brown, Wife Millie

1963 - Byron L. Whittemore, Wife Pat

1964 - Robert H. Hinckley, Jr., Wife Janet

1965 - Dean Christofferson, Wife Lucille

1966 - Jay H. Rhees (Deceased 1984), Wife Connie

1967 - Harve Sayers (Deceased 1968) Wife Mary (Deceased 1982)

1968 - Joyce H. Garrick, Husband Richard

1969 - Dr. Blake Gammell, Wife Louise

1970 - Stan B. Bonham, Wife Ann

1971 - John Heseltine, Wife Billie

1972 - Frank Davis, Wife Nadine

1973 - Don Cook, Wife Lynn

1974 - Thelma Allred, Husband George

1975 - Robert Wood, Wife Barbara

1976 - George Allred, Wife Thelma

1977 - Paul Leatherbury, Wife Lorraine

1978 - Grant Hansen, Wife Dolores

1979 - Jack Chidester, Wife Agnes
1980 - Gary McDonald, Wife Loye
1981 - Andy Caras, Wife Shirley
1982 - Dean Wells, Wife Flossie
1983 - Don Roberts, Wife Arlene (Deceased 1989)
1984 - Ronald Smith, Wife Connie
1985 - Henry Lems, Wife Lois
1986 - Dan Jones, Wife Linda
1987 - Gary Hardy, Wife Pam
1988 - Yvonne Brown, Husband Dick
1989 - Pat Andregg, Wife Anna
1990 - Grant Fahrni, Wife Lena (Deceased 1988)
1991 - Jack Chidester, Wife Agnes (A two-timer, Thanks, Agnes!)
1992 - Robert Sheriff, Wife Ardath

Needles to say each of these people need to be commended, along with their spouses and families, for the many hours they have given throughout the years, to make the Utah Arabian Horse Club what it is today!

We have offered special awards to those who have contributed greatly to the club in terms of service and support. Lifetime memberships and the Mel Cayton Award have been presented to the following:

Those receiving Lifetime Memberships are:

1963 - Raymond and Winnie Ashton
1977 - Dr. Fred and Edith Hardy
1977 - Dr. E. Dan and Billie McArthur
1978 - Louis and Irma Brown
1979 - Easton and Millie Brown
1984 - Mary Colton
1985 - Jack and Agnes Chidester
1986 - Dean and Lucille Christofferson
1986 - Noy and Elma Christofferson
1986 - Vivian Whitmore

1987 - Russell and Doris Schow

1990 - George and Thelma Allred

1991 - Frank and Joyce McCormick

Those receiving the Mel and Gwen Cayton Award are: (Began in 1972)

1972 - Jay and Connie Rhees

1973 - Dr. E. Dan and Billie McArthur

1974 - Easton and Millie Brown

1975 - Louis and Irma Brown

1976 - Arlene Colton Roberts and Mary Colton

1977 - Stan and Ann Bonham

1978 - George and Thelma Allred

1979 - Frank and Joyce McCormick

1980 - John and Billie Heseltine

1981 - Ross and Marjeanne McDonald

It was retired to the Cayton Family in 1983

We have compiled some highlights from the memories and records of different club members. We greatly appreciate all the help which has been given to us in getting this together.

In the early years, dinner meetings were held all over the state, Ogden, Provo, Kaysville and Salt Lake City. There were members from as far away as Dragerton , Utah.

At one dinner meeting, Raymond Ashton had obtained a Lady Wentworth film which was shown. The first Roster (Membership Directory) was compiled under his direction and paid for by the Morgan Feed Company of Layton, Utah. Our dinner meetings have become a monthly occasion, featuring, in earlier years, an Art Exhibit held in the Springtime, providing our talented artists the opportunity to exhibit their work and donate the proceeds to the club, informative speakers, a boutique, that we have offered the past few years in conjunction with our annual Christmas Party. We have to mention the dinner meetings that have been held in conjunction with our horse shows. Many people have contributed this to Utah becoming known as the ultimate for our hospitality during our horse shows. We have had some great times and wonderful food, thanks to all of our club members!!

In 1966 the club put on a horse display during half-time at a football game at Utah State University in Logan. The program also consisted of a fireworks display that truly added to the excitement of this horse display !!

Our club has sponsored trail rides, endurance rides, open to all breeds. The first 50 mile Endurance ride, open to all breeds, was held in 1970 in American Fork Canyon. Al and Marilyn Brakensiek were chairman and secretary. This was the forerunner of the present Competitive Ride which is now a 25 and 35 mile ride. In 1991 there were 59 riders.

We have had many overnight or all day rides. At one time there was a Jack Pot Horse Stud Poker game played by drawing from five different decks of cards along the trail. (You can imagine how much fun that must have been.)

One of the most memorable rides was in 1957 held at Wolf Creek Pass. Folks camped out in tents or just laid their sleeping bags out under the stars. Duane Wright hauled an old-fashioned "two-holer" all the way from Salt Lake City. (What we won't do for a little added comfort!)

In 1976, Arabians were predominant in the Great Bi-Centennial Horse Race. The Club and members helped sponsor Darrel Nielsen, of Escalante, Utah, who rode in the race, which started on the East Coast and ended on the West Coast, with horses from all over the world participating. Darrel finished in 11th place !!

We hosted a Regional Competitive Trail Ride in 1981 with Grant Hansen as Chairman and have hosted two National Championship Competitive Trail Rides held at Black Hawk Campground, Payson Canyon, Utah. Easton Brown was chairman in 1983 and Pat Andregg and Ron Smith were co-chairman in 1987. We had exhibitors from all over the United States and Canada.

Our banquets following some of the trail rides have been out of this world. (And breakfasts, too!)

Over the years our horse shows have grown from one day, non-rated shows, to two day - back to back shows, three day and two back to back - two day, Class A rated shows. The number of horses showing has seen rises and falls, depending on the economy (we have had up to over 400 entered.) The number of events offered has increased. We also offer Family Fun and Gelding Promotion shows which are not Class A rated.

In the early days, a real Arabian Princess reigned over the Utah All Arabian Horse Show. In 1976, our own Princess, Miss Utah, in the person of Suzanne McKay handed out the trophies at the Murray Show. She was a great public relations person for the Club, riding her Arabian at every opportunity, even in a TV Studio.

Several years back we offered horse racing in our shows, this was a very popular event, with two or three races at our Utah All Arabian Show at the Salt Lake County Fairgrounds, Murray, Utah.

We must also mention the egg races, adult lead line classes and of course, the infamous trailer races. The object of the trailer races was to pull the trailer into the center of the arena, unload the horse, saddle the horse and ride to the opposite end of the arena and back to the trailer, load the horse and close the

tailgate, in the fastest time. The most famous of these events had to be in 1979 or 1980, the "Twilight Ride" of Paul "Revere" Leatherbury. Paul tried this without doing up the cinch. It took him two or three different tries, (falling off and bouncing back up) but Paul and the "spirits" that carried him, finally completed his ride, after much entertainment for the crowd!! It was great!

In 1978 we hosted our Silver Anniversary Utah All Arabian Horse Show and Governor Scott M. Matheson declared the week of June 25 through July 21, 1978 as Utah Arabian Horse Week.

We have hosted three Region Seven Championship Horse Shows, one in 1980, 1985, and in 1991. Jack Chidester has been chairman of all three shows and they have all made a profit, which has enabled the Utah Arabian Horse Club to continue to offer all of its activities for the membership.

In the 1979 U.S. National Show we had several youth exhibitors and were very proud when three of them placed Top Ten in Saddle Seat Equitation. (Probably a first for one club and probably has not been surpassed as of yet.)

We have had several members who have done very well on the Regional and National levels, too numerous to mention, but it should indicate the quality of horses and riders that we have and have had in Utah!!

Since its beginning, the club has published a newsletter, which turned into a rather large booklet that we have called the Gazette. This publication has featured news of members, upcoming events, items for sale, new foal information and many informative articles on different subjects pertaining to the care and well being of our Arabian Horses. The Gazette has many times made Top Ten in newsletter competition recognized by the International Arabian Horse Association.

Our Youth Program has included Youth Judging Teams that have competed at the U.S. Nationals, winning first, second and third places. We have had some outstanding clinics which have allowed many of our youth (and adults) to participate with a trainer showing them different aspects of readying horses for competition. Many of our local trainers have donated their facilities, time and talents for these clinics. We have also had many other clinics over the years presented by some of the top professionals in the industry.

Many of our Club members have enjoyed participating in Parades. We have had entries in buggies as well as native costume, english and western attire, winning First Place in their categories in both, the All Horse Parade and the Days of '47 Parade.

In 1974 the Club established the Half Arabian Achievement Program and the Gelding "Triequalon" Program to encourage participation of the Half Arabians and Purebred Arabian Geldings.

A Stallion Service Auction was started in 1979, featuring many beautiful Stallions, whose owners have donated the amount of the breed fee to the Club. This has proven to be very successful for the owners as well as the club. Proceeds have been used to help finance many club activities.

We also have established an InState Futurity open to anyone within the State to encourage breeding of quality horses.

In November, we hold our Awards Banquet to recognize achievements and participation throughout the past year. Awards are given in many different categories.

In conclusion, during the Annual Utah Arabian Horse Show, held in July of 1992, some forty years since its origination, the Club held an "Old Timer's Dinner." The name given was done so with extreme respect for the many people that have contributed to the success of the Club. There were about 80 people in attendance, including four Charter members, thirteen Life Time members, eleven Past President's and four Past President's wives.

Over the years many of us have seen new ideas come about with a great deal of success and a lot of the original ideas still being utilized in our activities.

To sum up the aims and meaning of our club, let me quote from a message written by Thelma Allred in 1974.

"The Utah Arabian Horse Club was founded years ago with the purpose of the originators being the perpetuating, improving and enjoying one of God's loveliest creatures, the Arabian Horse. The personal integrity and honest, friendly service of the early members soon set the character of the club. A good number of these people are still actively engaged in club service.

The years have seen many members come and go, some of these strengthened their ethics. Others, falling short have passed on to other fields of interest. The club endeavors to give honest service for the good of ALL MEMBERS alike. It strives to carry out the original purpose of the club. Traditional activities which have proven good for the general membership are offered. New projects are tried. Father Time has a way of weeding out that which does not fit the needs and character of an organization."