

A Brief History of JR Arabians

By Jeanne Rooker

"Doc" Jim Rooker wanted to be a veterinarian from the time he was in kindergarten. After graduating from Arthur Hill High School in Saginaw, Michigan, he enrolled in the Pre-Veterinary Program at Michigan State College. He became a member of the livestock-oriented Block and Bridle Club, where we met. I was an Education major. The club held various events throughout the year. For Little International, Jim drew the three year old Arabian stallion named Anata from the college's horse farm for his project. Anata, sired by Amidore (*Ferdin x *Rossana by Skowronek) and out of Khynata (Sikin x *Incoronata by Skowronek) was a handful to work.



Anata and Jim Cutting Cattle

The previous summer, Howard Wentz, the horse herdsman on campus, had judged Jim at the Saginaw County Fair and recommended him to Professor Byron Good. Mr. Good asked Jim if he would like to break the colt, Anata, and Jim agreed. He taught him reining and cutting cattle and they gave exhibitions at all of the Agriculture School events.

In the middle of his sophomore year, Professor Good asked Jim to move into the Horse Barn on campus. He lived there for three years until December of 1953 when he and I were married. Jim received his Doctor of Veterinary Medicine degree in June of 1954 and I received my Master's Degree in Education Administration. Upon graduation, Professor Good gave us our choice of the MSU broodmares so we purchased Anata's dam, Khynata. We knew Jim would have to serve in the Army and he reported to Fort Sam Houston in San Antonio, Texas in January of 1955 as a First Lieutenant. Khynata was in Saginaw with Jim's family. She had two foals by Azkar (Rahas x *Aziza by Gamil Manial), only one of which lived, named Aznata.

Jim served five weeks of basic training at Fort Sam Houston. We then moved on to Chicago for ten weeks of Meat and Dairy School. Nancy was born there in 1955. Jim was assigned to Kansas City, Missouri to inspect meat for the Army at the Armour, Swift and Kansas City Dressed Beef Packing Plants. The closest Army base was in Lawrence, Kansas, so we lived in a duplex in Independence, Missouri, where Deb was born in 1957. It was the only time in our lives Jim worked five days a week!

Jim and I purchased a Quarter Horse mare to show, as there was a horse show within fifty miles almost every weekend. It was 1957 before we were allowed to buy Anata from MSU. He joined the mare at the horse shows. We had seen the ads for Shalimar Farm, owned by Dr. Bill Munson. The horses in his ads all had pretty heads with lovely, large eyes. Bill didn't breed outside mares, but took Khynata, as he liked her pedigree. She didn't settle and the second year, she fell and broke her hip. She had to be put down.

Jim opened his own veterinary practice in Davison, Michigan, a suburb of Flint in 1958. He showed Anata that summer and allowed me to ride him a time or two. He was one of the first Arabian horses to earn a National Cutting Horse Certificate of Ability. I wanted to buy Khymidore, full brother to Anata, but Jim said he couldn't turn at a gallop in a ten acre field. I didn't want a reining horse and Khymidore suited me well, so we bought him. In 1960, he was High Point Arabian after showing in English Pleasure, Western Pleasure and Native Costume. In between horse calls, Jim greeted his new daughter, Janet at the hospital in 1959.

Jim judged the Midwest Arabian Show in 1960. He and I went on to Dr. Munson's at Cambridge, Illinois, to pick up Garnon (Garaff x Arnon) for Phyllis and Thel Horn of Xanadu Arabians in Davison. While we were gone, Freda and Charles Werner of Grand Rapids called several times to see if we wished to purchase a group of horses from Richard Bosch, from



*Seated Jeanne & Jim-Rooker
Standing L-R: David Johnston, Janet Rooker Johnston, Bob Meszko,
Nancy Rooker Meszko, Ken Geuns, Deb Rooker Geuns, Christina
Geuns, Jeff MacNaughton, Ken Merritt*

Marne, Michigan. As we were gone for several days, the Werners bought the horses. They were Ama and Aza (Amidore x Alaza by Farana), Alza (Alhaamed x Aza) and Kezadore (Kevir x Aza.)

Jim began Alza's training. She showed great promise in harness and under saddle. During that summer, she won the Three-Gaited Championships at the Eastern All-Arabian Show, Indiana All-Arabian Show, the Pennsylvania National Show and Reserve Champion Three Gaited at the Cleveland All-Arabian Show and MAHO All-Arabian Show.

Anata was aging and Jim wanted a new colt to start and Dr. Munson said he had one that could "turn on a dime and give back nine cents change." Jim and I went to see the colt and brought home Shalimar Gillette++ (Garaff x Collette by Rapture) as a yearling in 1961.

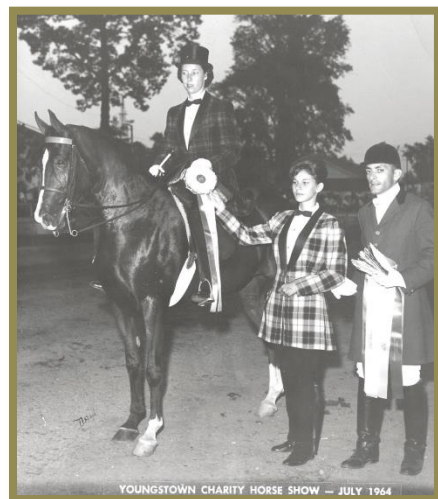
Jim had a Quarter Horse stallion in training for Freda Werner whose name was Dee's Cardinal. In April of 1962, he fell with Jim which resulted in a broken leg for Jim. He had a cast from hip to toe. Also that summer, Alza hurt her hock and could not be shown. Since Alza was out of commission, Dr. Munson had us pick up Shalimar Garlina++ (Garaff x *Salinas by Grey Owl), a three year old mare. During this time, I showed a gelding named Sadiq (Al-Marah Safir x Electra) who was on loan from Sumarr Ranch in Davison. We won Champion Western Pleasure at the Washington International Horse Show where Jim won the Champion Three-Gaited and the Crabbet Cup with Alza after they both recovered.

At the Illinois All-Arabian show in Springfield, Illinois, our neighbor, Dr. Dale Gaide who helped us with the horses, hooked Garlina++ to the fine harness buggy outside of the tack room. We helped Jim in and he showed in the class. This is where we first met Alice Payne, who was visiting Bill and Mae Munson. Alice was stunned. Jim and Garlina++ won a lot of ribbons in 1962, cast and all.

I showed Garlina++ in 101 classes in 1963 and received 98 ribbons. The mare was third in the American Horse Show Association High Score Award. She was Champion Arabian Western Pleasure and Champion Open (All-Breed) Western Pleasure at the Michigan International Horse Show in Detroit. Garlina++ was Reserve Champion Three-Gaited at Grosse Pointe, Michigan, Reserve Champion English Pleasure at the Dixie Classic at Huntington, West Virginia and at the Washington International in Washington, D.C. She was Reserve Champion Western Pleasure at the Eastern All Arabian Show at Quentin, Pennsylvania.



Shalimar Garlina++ with Jim driving, cast and all!



Arza++ with Jeanne

The next year, 1964, Arza++ (Arziza x Aza by Amidore) was undefeated at halter, winning Champion Gelding at the East Coast All-Arabian Show and Champion Gelding at the Michigan All-Arabian Show and State Fair. I showed Arza++ to numerous wins as a junior horse. We traded him to Dick Keller (along with another gelding) for the mare Rafzara (Raffael x Du Raffzara by Rafflinge).

Shalimar Gillette++ was hitting his stride also. He was Reserve Champion Western Pleasure at the Eastern All-Arabian Show and Champion Arabian Western Pleasure at the Michigan International Show.

In 1963, while Alza was laid up, we leased Idora (Amidore x Izmir by Sikin) from Gene Smith Ohlgren. Idora had been broken to ride and drive while at the college and was part of the six-horse hitch team, driven by Jerry and John Rooker. Idora's girth kept getting tighter and soon after, Nadya++ by Zari (Courier by *Raseyn x Maazza by Rabiya), was born.

Nadya++ gave our family many thrills. She was Champion Mare at the Michigan State Fair. As a two-year-old, she was U.S. National Top Ten Mare in Springfield, Illinois. We put Nadya++'s age in our ad and IAHA changed the rule to be Three and Over Mares. In 1966, she was Reserve Champion Mare at the Royal Winter Fair at Toronto.

Nadya++ was Region 6 Champion Mare and East Coast Champion mare in 1967. She was Region 7 Top Five Mare at the Ohio All-Arab, Champion Park Horse at the Michigan All-Arab, East Coast Reserve Champion Park Horse, Champion Park and Halter Mare at the Michigan State Fair in 1967. She had another great year, winning Region 7 Top Five Park Horse at the Ohio All-Arab and Champion Park Horse at the Michigan State Fair in 1968. Nadya++ earned her Legion of Merit in 1969.

We needed more mares to prove Gillette++'s ability as a sire. In late 1964, Leo and Jean Bent moved from Marcellus, Michigan to Neosho, Missouri. While they were setting up their farm, we had the opportunity to lease eight mares. Some of them were already in foal. They were Tanara (Bistan x Belara); Zwaantje (Garaff x Marza); Tizara (Azraff x Tafia); Byzantia (Garaff x Arabesque); Rimaaza (Raaz x Carima); La-Bitna (Bistan x Salasah); Tailormade Bonanza (Bistan x Belara) and Tailormade Zanie (Shalimar Flaraff x Byzantia).

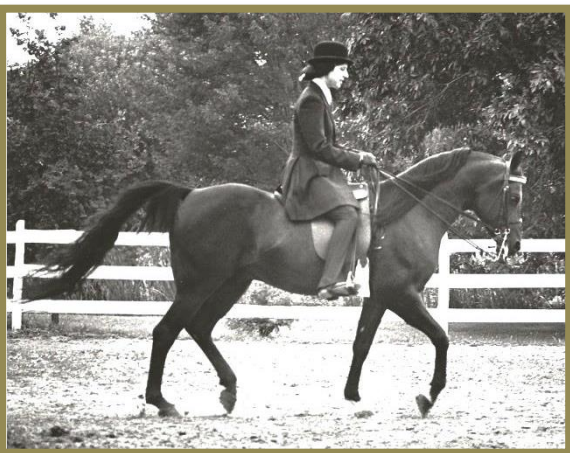
The Bent mares produced very nice foals by Gillette++. The 1965 foals were completely sold out. We sold Rimette++ (Rimaaza) to Don and Neil Barr of Mason, Michigan. Don became a valued member of our show team. He drove the trucks, set up and tore down the stall area. He made sure Jim was up on show day and power washed the show string of horses every morning. Rimette++ and Byzetta (Byzantia) were part of the winning Get of Sire at the Michigan State Fair in 1968 for Gillette++.

Unable to get Alza with foal, Jim laid her down and removed an ovary the size of a softball. Dr. Bill Munson's Orbit (Rafferty x Raffleeta) was visiting that summer and Alza settled in foal to him quickly. The resulting colt, Rif Et Ref++ was sold to C.P. "Pete" McDonald of Birmingham, Michigan. Rif later became a star of our show string, with wins for Jim and Nancy. He was our 5th Legion of Merit winner in 1970. Pete had limited use of his left arm, so he could not show Rif, but rode him often at the farm, always at a full gallop. Occasionally, Jim let Pete ride Sotep (*Raffles x Zareyna) as a treat, with the stipulation he was not to gallop him.

In 1966, the Munsons sent Garfleet++ (Garaff x Rafletta) to us to be campaigned. He did very well in Western Pleasure. The next fall, Dr. Munson asked if he could borrow our six-horse truck and Jim to pick up six fillies out east. We asked him to come to Thanksgiving dinner and they left for New York early on Friday morning. Leaving Dr. Bill and Jim alone in a truck could lead to only one thing. By the time they reached Toledo on their way to Illinois, Jim owned five of the fillies. (One had previously been spoken for.)

The fillies were Tarsalina (Shalimar Tarde x *Salinas by Grey Owl), Shalimar Tarleen++ (Shalimar Tarde x Shalimar Colleen by Garaff), Shalimar Chandell (Orbit x Shalimar Colleen), Garwila (Garaff x Wilouma by *Witez II) and Tsalzee++ (Tsatyr x Itzawee Alzeeda by Pierre). A two-year-old colt, Shalimar Tarzan++ (Shalimar Tarde x Shalimar Zifgara by Garaff) was to be picked up later.

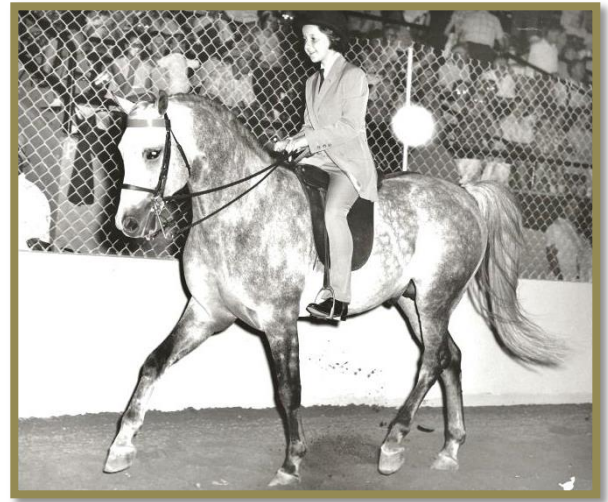
Tsalzee++ was a pretty, dark bay mare with dapples and a fancy way of moving. She was Champion Mare and Champion English Pleasure at the Michigan State Fair in 1974. She was Reserve Champion Mare and Reserve Champion English Pleasure at Eastern Canada. In 1976, Tsalzee++ was Champion Mare and Champion English Pleasure at the Berrien County Youth Fair and Champion Mare at the West Michigan Show in Mason. At the Region 18 Show in Eastern Canada, Tsalzee++ was Top Five Mare and Top Five in English Pleasure. She received her Legion of Merit that year.



Shalimar Tarzan++ with Deb Rooker Geuns

He was also 1st in Reining at Eastern Canada. Like all of the Tarde's, Tarzan++ enjoyed going in harness.

After Idora surprised everyone by producing Nadya++, she was bred to Shalimar Gillette++. She first had a colt, Shalid, sold to Melva Ecker of Ontario, Canada. Idora then had Doretta++ in 1966, a bay mare who was Junior Champion at the Michigan State Fair in Detroit and at the Royal Winter Fair in Toronto as a yearling. At two, Doretta++ was



Shalimar Gillette++ with Nancy Rooker Meszko

Shalimar Tarzan++ was Reserve Champion Stallion at the Buckeye show in Columbus, Ohio, Champion Stallion and Supreme Champion Arabian at the Pennsylvania Livestock Expo in 1967. He was also Champion Stallion at Eastern Canada and Reserve Champion at the Royal Winter Fair at Toronto. In 1968, Tarzan++ was Reserve Champion Stallion at the Muncie, Indiana Charity Show as well as the Ohio Spring All Breed Show. He went on, being Top 5 Stallion at the Eastern All Arabian at Quentin the next year. He was Champion Western Pleasure at the 1971 Canadian Breeders Show and Most Classic Purebred at Southern Indiana.

Tarzan++ received his Legion of Merit in 1971. He continued his show career, winning Region Top Five English Pleasure and Top Five Western Pleasure at Eastern Canada. In 1974, he was Champion Western Pleasure and 1st in Pleasure Driving at Bowers Harbor Park.

Champion Mare at the Ohio Spring All Breed Show, Reserve Champion Mare at Muncie, Indiana, Region 6 Champion Mare at the Michigan All-Arab, Reserve Champion Mare at the Michigan State Fair, and Reserve Champion Mare at the Eastern Canada All-Arabian Show for Mrs. Josephine Rousom.

At three, Doretta++ was Region 7 Champion Mare at the Empire State Show and East Coast Top Five Mare at the Eastern All-Arabian Show at Quentin, Pennsylvania. Shown mostly by the Rooker girls, Doretta++ began to excel under saddle in 1972. At Bowers Harbor Park, she was Champion English Pleasure and Reserve Champion Western Pleasure. At Eastern Canada, Doretta++ was Champion in both English and Western Pleasure. Doretta++ finished her Legion of Merit in 1972.

Don Barr's Rimette++ (Shalimar Gillette++ x Rimaaza by Raaz), was Champion Stallion at the Michigan State Fair as well as the Royal Winter Fair in 1968 and Reserve Champion Stallion at the Ohio Spring All Breed Show in 1969. By 1972, Rimette++ was going well in harness. He was Champion in Pleasure Driving at the MHS Spring Show, Champion Western Pleasure at Berrien Springs, Michigan and Reserve Champion Western Pleasure at the Michigan State Fair.

In 1973, Rimette++ was Region 6 Top Five Western Pleasure at the NIAHC, in Springfield, Illinois and was Region 10 Champion Western Pleasure at Eastern Canada. He received his Legion of Merit that year. Zalette++ (Shalimar Gillette++ x Aza by Amidore) finished his Legion of Merit in 1974. He was Champion Gelding, English Pleasure and Western Pleasure at Empire State All Arabian.

Davison is only 60 miles from the Canadian border, so we frequently showed there. Toronto, Columbus, and Indianapolis are the same distance for us. London, Canada, however was closer. We had horses for several Canadian families. The first of whom were Bill and Sunny Snider of Sarnia, Ontario, Canada. They brought Gin Dhandi+++ (Imagin x Abuseyna by Abu Farwa), a grey stallion to us. He did very well, winning Region 7 Reserve Champion Stallion at the Buckeye, Champion Western Pleasure, and Reserve Champion Western Pleasure at the Michigan State Fair.

"Big Gin" was rank and I always rode in the truck with him to keep him from causing destruction to himself, the other horses or the truck. Finally, after the Michigan State Fair, Jim gave Sunny an ultimatum. "Either we geld him, or you take him home". After his surgery, Gin Dhandi went to the late fall shows. He was East Coast Top Five Western Pleasure and East Coast Top Five Gelding in the Pennsylvania Livestock Exposition. At the Washington International Show, he was Reserve Champion Gelding and Champion Western Pleasure. In 1968, "Big Gin" covered himself with glory. He was Region 6 Champion Gelding and Region 6 Champion Western Pleasure, Region 7 Reserve Champion Western Pleasure and Region 7 Champion Gelding. He was U.S. National Top Ten Gelding. In addition, he completed his Legion of Merit. After returning to the Sniders in Canada, Gin Dhandi+++ went on to receive his Legion of Supreme Merit.

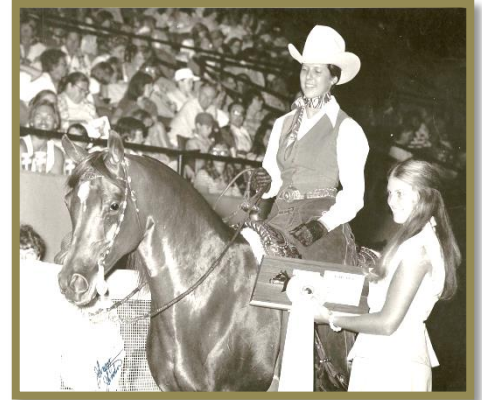
Another young horse we started was Shalimar Typhoon++ (Shalimar Tarde x Shalimar Ghadaia by Ghadaf). He was Champion English Pleasure at the Michigan All-Arab, Champion Gelding at the Michigan State Fair and Reserve Champion Western Pleasure at Eastern Canada in 1967. The next year, he was Champion English Pleasure and Reserve Champion Western Pleasure at Eastern Canada and Reserve Champion English Pleasure at Michigan State Fair.

Later, in 1969, we sold Typhoon to Vining Farms, Greenville, Michigan. He and his new family continued to show with us, winning East Coast Champion English Pleasure at the Eastern All-Arabian as well as East Coast Champion Western Pleasure and East Coast Reserve Champion Gelding. He was Champion Gelding and Region 7 Reserve Champion English Pleasure at the Buckeye. That year, Typhoon received his Legion of Merit.

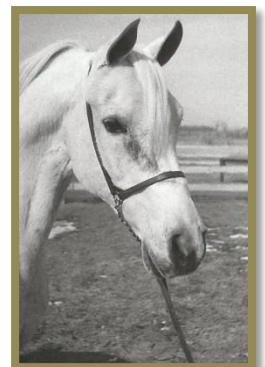
We had the opportunity to attend the Rose Bowl in Pasadena, California, when Michigan State played there. We stayed with Alice Payne and she took us to all of the neighboring Arabian farms and she had friends in to meet us on New Year's Eve. We thoroughly enjoyed going through Alice's *Raffles horses.

In 1967, we added to our growing *Raffles herd. Jim was judging the Pacific Slopes All-Arab Show at Salem, Oregon. For some reason, his flight instead of heading home was routed to Seattle, Washington. We had seen the ad for Jimmie and Kathleen Wrench's herd dispersal. I wanted Jim to see their horses. Knowing Jimmie didn't want to break up the set, we gathered partners Beverly Noble and John Steinborn and bought them all.

That presented an unusual challenge. We had to figure out a way to get them home. The REA Express found a Pullman horse car in Rochester, New York and sent it to Washington to pick up the 24 horses. There were 21 mares and 3 stallions, one of which was old Kubriya (*Raffles x Selfra).



Doretta++ with Janet Rooker Johnston



Kubriya

The ferry from Guemes Island held only three cars, so it took many trips back and forth. The local Arabian horse association members brought their trailers to aid in the transfer. The horses then endured a five-day trip with swinging lanterns all the way to Chicago. That is where the engineers finally figured out how to light up the car. Pat Bernethy, his step-dad, Josh Butler and our brother-in-law, Gerald Gehl, flew out to help bring the horses home. "Ger" filmed the whole trip, a treasure to us so many years later.

In January of 1969, we received a long letter from Alice Payne detailing her breeding theories. The content of her letter and the state of her handwriting made us realize that Alice was very ill. In a month, she was gone. That May, we leased Sotep (*Raffles x Zareyna by *Zarife) from Walter Clark, Eastsound, Washington, on Orcas Island. He stayed two years and was then sold to Don Ford of Lancer Arabians.



JR Jonathan and Janet Rooker Johnston

JR Jonathan++ (Kubriya x Bint Schada by Abu Raseyn) was an early bloomer. In 1971, he was Reserve Champion English Pleasure at the Michigan State Fair and Reserve Champion English Pleasure at Eastern Canada. He received his Legion of Merit that year.

Janet was twelve years old and Jonathan was three. They excelled in Junior Exhibitor Classes and open classes and finished Jon's points in one year. Jonathan was sold to Sam and Carol Carabetta in Connecticut. Nancy, Janet and Christina ran into relatives of Sam at the recent Ohio Buckeye Show at Wilmington, Ohio. It is nice to see his family at the shows and doing so well.

At Dr. Bill Munson's Auction in 1971, Charles and Freda Werner bought Gwen++ (Orbit x Al-Marah Dathyna, by Raffey). Gwen++ had a great walk, and a good trot combined with a very agreeable temperament. She was Champion Mare at the River Ridge Show in Columbus, Ohio in 1972, Champion Arabian Mare at the All-Breed Spring Show in Columbus and Reserve Champion Park Horse at the ASHAM Show at Bloomfield Hills. Gwen++ was also Reserve Champion English Pleasure at Bowers Harbor Park and Reserve Champion Park Horse at Berrien County Youth Fair that year. She was Champion English Pleasure at the Eastern Canada All-Arabian and Champion Arabian Mare at both the Michigan State Fair in Detroit and the Washington International Horse Show.

In 1974, Gwen++ was Reserve Champion English Pleasure at the MHS Spring Show and Reserve Champion Amateur English Pleasure at the Indiana All-Arabian Show. She earned her Legion of Merit that year. Gwen++ was a great driving horse and won Region 13 Champion Pleasure Driving at the Michigan All-Arabian Show in 1975. She was also Region 18 Reserve Champion English Pleasure at Eastern Canada.

In 1972, we were also able to purchase the beautiful Asil Prophecy by Asil Zealot x Prochi, from Dr. Richard and Margaret Stoneback. Not knowing at the time, Prophecy became an important pillar of our more recent show stock.

Also in 1972, Janet and JB Sophia (Sotep x Infanta) had some great wins including the Michigan State 4-H Western Pleasure Championship. "Sophie" was beautiful in everything she did.

After Alice's estate was settled, her sons Bob and Pat agreed to sell us the nucleus of Alice's herd. There were two stallions: Rafferty (*Raffles x Masrufa by Rasraff) and Asil Apogee (Rafferty x Raffleeta by *Raffles). Apogee was one of the four brothers: Syzygy, belonging to Lois Selby Perry, Orbit, owned by Dr. Bill and Mae Munson and Asil Ecliptic, owned by Garvin Tankersley, Jr. Three of the mares were sired by Rafferty and three by Syzygy. They were: Asil Diane (Rafferty x Prochi by *Raffles), Asil Lyra (Rafferty x Afara by *Raffles), Asil Nebula (Rafferty x Prochi by *Raffles), Asil Aurora (Syzygy x Raffleeta by *Raffles), Asil Zephyr (Syzygy x Celeste by *Raffles) and Asil Zillah (Syzygy x Celeste by *Raffles).

Jim, Fred Hembrey and our neighbor, Larry Gaide headed to California with our 4-horse trailer. Bruce Haak, our blacksmith took a load of Appaloosa horses to the west coast in his 9-horse trailer and helped us haul the rest home. We were thrilled to have Alice's *Raffles horses to mix with those we acquired from the Wrench herd as well as the ones we had from the Munsons. We found we could cross the offspring of one *Raffles stallion to those of another and not lose size as long as we did not repeat the dams.

Dr. Munson suggested to Gina Manion in 1974, that she send Winraff++ (Orbit x Shalimar Wingida by Garaff) to us. Winraff++ was an agreeable horse and Jim enjoyed showing him. He finished his Legion of Merit in nine shows and was our 15th horse to receive the honor. Gina came to the Tri-City Show at Midland, Michigan to show Winraff++ in one class and was the Amateur Owner To-Ride Champion. Gina and Pat came to Winraff++'s 1975 Legion of Merit party. (She wore a beautiful lemon satin dress.)



Gwen++

Asil Vaquero (Rafferty x Venus by Shereyn) turned into a great Western Pleasure horse was shaping up to be a stock horse. In 1975, he was Reserve Champion Western Pleasure at River Ridge and at Midland, Michigan. He was Champion Western Pleasure at the MHSA Spring Show in Corunna. The following year, Vaquero was Champion Western Pleasure at the AHAM Amateur Show and Region 18 Reserve Champion in both English Pleasure and Western Pleasure at Eastern Canada.

Sandarac Sanpiper++ (Shalimar Tarde x Shalimar Mitseeah), a great grandson of both *Raffles and Rafferty came to Michigan from John Dornfeld of Sandarac Arabians, Geneseo, Illinois. Sanpiper was a champion at Halter, English Pleasure, Pleasure Driving and Western Pleasure. He was our 19th Legion of Merit Award winner. His foals had square underpinning, smoothness and the fanciest heads.

Our friends Don and Doris Abrams purchased Gai Torero++ (Gai-Apache x Ferzona by Ferzon) at the Gainey Sale in 1975. We showed him extensively and used him a little as a sire. "Torero++" was 1977 Champion Western Pleasure at the Michigan State Fair and the West Michigan Show at Mason and received his Legion of Merit. Torero's main claim to fame was that when he was bred to Asil Prophesy (Asil Zealot x Prochi by *Raffles), they produced one of our premium brood mares, JR Patricia. Patricia had ten foals for us by five different stallions, nine of whom were champions in one or more divisions.

In 1975, at the second Arabian Horse Fair, held in Louisville, Kentucky, we showed six stallions. They were Vigaren (Garaff x Shalimar Vixen by Orbit), owned by Dr. Joseph Logo; Winraff++ (Orbit x Shalimar Wingida by Garaff), owned by Gina Manion; Shalimar Gillette++ (Garaff x Collette by Rapture), Asil Vaquero (Rafferty x Venus by Shereyn) and PHP Dazl (Syzygy x Rafgida by *Raffles), owned by Wanda Mortuk; and PHP Dazl (Syzygy x Rafgida by *Raffles), owned by Lois Selby Perry. What a thrill it was to be a part of that celebration.

Josephine Rousom of Ilderton, Ontario, Canada sent us Tailormade Bojean (Petit Jean x Tailormade Bonanza by Bistan) in 1975. He was Champion English Pleasure at Corunna, Region 13 Top Five English Pleasure at the Michigan All-Arabian Show, Reserve Champion Stallion at Midland and both Champion Western Pleasure and Champion English Pleasure at Bowers Harbor Park. In 1976, Bojean was Champion Stallion at the MHSA Spring Show in Detroit.

One of Bojean's progeny, Bojeanamir++/ (Tailormade Bojean x Daphne Amir by the Amadore son, Ammir) was the perfect mount for Janet to show during her final years as a junior exhibitor. "Bo" was the first Arabian horse to represent the breed at the new Arabian Horse Park in Lexington, Kentucky. After his engagement at the Horse Park, Bojeanamir++/ went on to receive his Legion of Supreme Honor for his new owners in Ohio.

Going back to Sophia on the dam side, JR Timothy++ (Rafferty x JR Zarifa by Shalimar Gillette++ and out of JB Sophia) was a very successful horse for us. Tim was a big chestnut gelding that was Reserve Champion in both AOTR English Pleasure and High Point Gelding at Mason, Michigan in 1979. He was Champion in both English and Western Pleasure at the Michigan State Fair and Region 18 Top Five English Pleasure at Eastern Canada. He was our 20th Legion of Merit winner. He went on to be Region 13 Top Four in Ladies Sidesaddle at Indiana. Don and Doris Abrams bought Timothy++ and Doris showed him successfully in amateur classes.

JR Kathleen++ (Syzygy x Keiris by Kubriya) excelled at halter, winning Champion mare at the Michigan State Fair in 1977. The next year, she was Reserve Champion Mare at Berrien Springs, Champion Mare at the Ohio All-Arabian Show and Champion Mare at the Michigan State Fair. She was Reserve Champion English Pleasure at Showtime in Mason. To wrap up the year, JR Kathleen++ was Champion and Supreme Champion Mare at the Royal Winter Fair in Toronto. The following year, she was Region 13 Top Five Mare at the Michigan All-Arabian Show and was Reserve Champion Park Horse at the Great Lakes Show and earned our 21st Legion of Merit.

When we acquired Gillette++, we learned first-hand about *Raffles blood. They added bone, correctness, tractability and beautiful Arabian type to our herd. We were fortunate to have stood three *Raffles sons; Kubriya, Sotep and Rafferty all of whom added significant offspring to the breeding program. Later, in a period of three years, we lost Rafferty, who died of old age, Gillette++ was kicked by a mare and had a broken shoulder and Apogee died of a stroke.

The show world was changing and the versatile horses were replaced by specialization. Western horses' heads lowered towards their knees and English horses raised both their heads and their knees. Aware that *Raffles plus outcross equaled a show horse, we began to breed to outcross stallions.



*Shalimar Gillette++ Get of Sire
Rimette++, Doretta++. Byzetta. Sugar Babe & Rafzarette*

We considered TMA Nufina (Nukhairiyir x Alana by Kubriya) to be our first outcross with our *Raffles horses. Nufina was big, with a bold way of moving. She was one of my favorite English Pleasure horses. Nufina was Reserve Champion English Pleasure at the Great Lakes Show and Region 18 Champion English Pleasure at Eastern Canada in 1979. She won Champion English Pleasure at the Michigan All-Arabian Show in 1980.

We bred our *Raffles mares to *Etiw (Negatiw x Etna), *Sambor (Czort x *Sabellina), La Basque (*Bask x Habina), *Gwar (Comet x *Gwadiana), *Set (Etap x Sekwana), MS Santana (*Bask x SW Saruchna), Caryzar (Carycyn x Zarie) and Bo-Bask (*Bask x Hallana). Don Ford approached Jim at a Registry meeting and told him we needed an Egyptian horse to use on our mares. Jim was busy with spring veterinary work, so he flew me down to stay with Stanley and Kitty White to choose a colt. Stanley brought out three, a bay, a grey and a chestnut. I chose the grey and *Ehab (Akhtal x Zebeda) came to Michigan. Jim broke him to ride. He called me from the kitchen to try him. *Ehab was PLACID. When Dr. Bill Munson came up to read pedigrees for our auction, Jim had him ride *Ehab. We couldn't get him off him to come in to dinner!



*The Tsensation, Top Ten Junior Stallion Halter
U.S. Arabian Nationals*

The cross of MS Santana (*Bask x SW Saruchna) on Jim Johnson's Tsalzee++ (Tsatyr x Itzawee Alzeeda by Pierre), gave us The Tsensation in 1983. Nephew, Shawn Rooker came to work for us that year and stayed for five years. Shawn led The Tsensation to numerous Championships and in 1986, he was Shawn's first U.S. National Top Ten in the Stallion Futurity. The Tsensation produced a number of champions for us. One was JR Primrose, out of JR Patricia. She was Champion Mare and Most Classic Arabian at the Michigan All-Arabian Show in 1990. The show judge was David Boggs. The Tsensation also produced JR Penelope (JR Patricia), who in turn has produced many successful show horses for us. Both JR Penelope and her mother, JR Patricia have been recognized as Aristocrat Dams.

Janet and I learned that Gene LaCroix was at Shawn's Rooker Training Stable and that he had a nice bay stallion on the trailer. Jim was at Shawn's artificially inseminating mares and we called him to check on the horse, as we liked his pedigree. That is how Whamm (Wisdom x Moniet Sherie by Fire Chief) came to Davison in 1991. Whamm had a wonderful disposition. All five of us and our granddaughter, Christina, won championships with him. Janet's husband, David Johnston was U.S. National Top Ten in Country English Pleasure AOTR 18-39 on Whamm in 1996.

A son of JR Penelope, FC Arsonist+ by Afire Bey V, turned out to be a wonderful show horse. He was raised by Janet who showed him extensively along with our granddaughter Christina Geuns. One of the highlights for Arsonist and our family was when he and Christina were Reserve Canadian Arabian National Champion Country English Pleasure Open as well as Reserve Canadian Arabian National Champion Country English Pleasure Amateur Owner to Ride at the Canadian Nationals in 2005.

FC Plutonium (AA Apollo Bey x JR Penelope by The Tsensation++) was a pretty grey gelding who won all of his English Pleasure Junior Horse classes but one. Shawn Rooker showed Plutonium at the U.S. National Show in 2003 and was U.S. National Top Ten English Pleasure Junior Horse.

A sister to JR Penelope, JR Palmyra (JR Patricia x AA Apollo Bey) was Nancy's show horse at the time. They won many Country English Pleasure classes and being Top Five Region 18 in Country English Pleasure Amateur Owner to Ride was a highlight for Nancy.

The same year that Shawn came to us, Ken Merritt joined our crew and has remained with us. "Kenny" is great at getting the horses finished and ready for the shows. He showed Caryzar (*Carycyn x Zarie by *Aramus) quite a bit and took a particular interest in breaking JR Claudette (Caryzar x JR Caprine by The Tsensation). Claudette was shown in English Pleasure, Pleasure Driving and Show Hack. She was beautiful in Arabian Native Costume. Claudette had a little more spark, but Kenny, Jane and Christina loved showing her.

JR Cassandra+ (Whamm by Wisdom x JR Clarice by Asil Apogee) was a wonderful first show horse for Christina. Together, they won countless Hunter Amateur to Ride championships. She also won a few as a Western Pleasure horse. "Sandy" turned out to be a valuable brood mare, producing JR Colleen by Shawn and Carmelle's Apolopalooza who was by AA Apollo Bey. She also has taken many family members for a ride whenever there was a party at the farm. Cassandra+, Arsonist+ and his mother, JR Penelope reign our pasture beautifully in their retirement.

Jim and I are proud that Rooker Arabians have achieved 21 Legion of Merit awards, two Legion of Supreme Honors and two Legion of Honors. Among the horses we have sold or promoted, seven more have received their Legion of Merits, two have received Legion of Supreme Honors and three have received Legion of Honors.



FC Arsonist+ with Christina Geuns

While reflecting on all of these fun years, we have met great people not only through showing horses, but serving on committees as well. Jim was a director of the Arabian Horse Registry for thirty-one years, serving as President for the last five. During his tenure, the board accomplished approval for blood typing, artificial insemination and embryo transfer. Jim also served on the American Horse Show Association Board of Directors for 16 years on the Drugs and Medications Committee.

In 1995, Jim became an Assistant Adjunct Professor of Michigan State University. A veterinary student would spend three weeks observing on road calls and surgery at the hospital. In 2012, he received the award named in his honor, the Rooker Award for Excellence in Equine Practice.

Even though we are not actively breeding now, it gives us great satisfaction to see produce from our farm in the show ring. JR Magnolia+ (VCP Magnifire x JR Patrice out of JR Penelope) is owned and shown by Boni Johnston. JR Chanel (Tryst CCF x JR Colleen out of JR Cassandra+) and Cats Pajamas (Prosuasion x JR Claudia out of JR Caprice) are owned and shown by Julie Shick. All three mares trace back to Crabbet and *Raffles horses.

Some of Jim's accomplishments include:

- Judged the U. S. Arabian Nationals at Springfield, Illinois in 1966
- Judged the Eastern National Morgan Show in Massachusetts and the Canadian Arabian National at Calgary in 1968
- Director of the Arabian Horse Registry beginning in 1970, serving as President from 1987 until 1992
- MSU Adjunct Professor for the College of Veterinary Medicine, 1995-2012
- Received the AHOF Rodania Award in 1996
- Director and Past President of the Arabian Horse Association of Michigan
- Instructor for the Arabian Horse Judges' Seminar for several years
- Recognized Judge in Arabians, Morgans and Reining

MSU awarded the Rooker Award for Excellence in Equine Practice to Jim at the Annual Michigan Veterinary Conference in Lansing, Michigan on January 27, 2012. The Rooker Award for Excellence in Equine Practice, established in 2012, is awarded annually by the MSU College of Veterinary Medicine and the Michigan Equine Practitioners Association, to an outstanding Michigan equine practitioner that has devoted his or her career to the advancement of equine veterinary medicine and the training of future generations of equine practitioners and professionals.

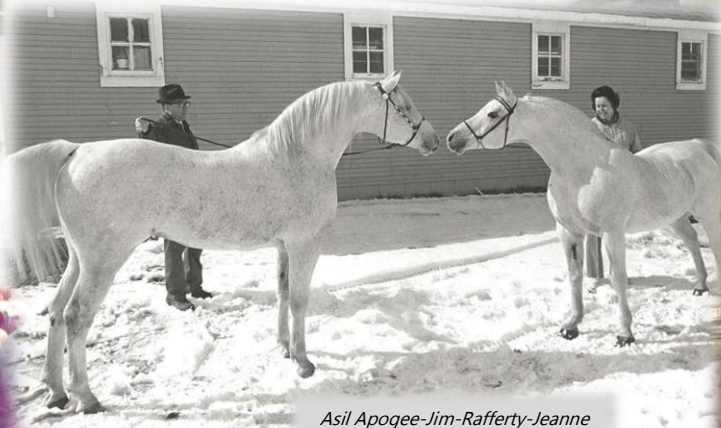
And many other acknowledgements and recognitions.....



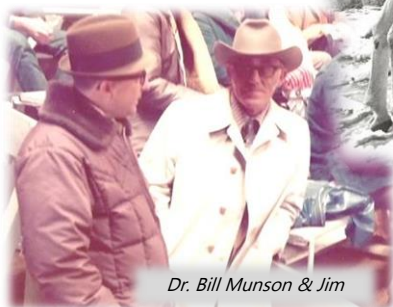
Family & Friends at Train Depot



Shalimar Tarleen++ with Jeanne



Asil Apogee-Jim-Rafferty-Jeanne



Dr. Bill Munson & Jim



Jim Judging

Tribute

Our congratulations to the Rookers for a lifetime of accomplishments with the Arabian horse. The history of the Arabian horse would not be complete without mention of Dr. James Rooker and wife Jeanne Rooker-the ECAHS 2021 Hall of Fame Honorees. They join an impressive group of people who have preceded them in receiving this award.

The Rookers were wonderful hosts at their farm in Davison, Michigan. We would load a 4-horse trailer with mares to be bred to one of the stallions they stood and then we'd leave River Dale Farm in Keymar, Maryland at 6 p.m. and arrive in Davison at 6 a.m. the next morning. After unloading the mares, we'd be invited in for a delicious breakfast and the offer of a shower after an all-night road trip. Then we would go out to the barns to see the horses. It was always an enjoyable time there. We want to thank you for those times and for your many contributions for the betterment of the equine world.

Best Wishes,

Garvin and Lee Tankersley