

SS Genuine: Pedigree Profile of a Champion

BY JULIE LYNN ANDREW

SS Genuine's 2002 Five Gaited World Grand Championship is the culmination of efforts by generations of dedicated horse breeders; dynasties of amazing American Saddlebred horses; the artistry, gifts and commitment of the brilliant trainer Merrill Murray; and the devotion and wisdom of owners David C. Nierenberg and Debbie Foley.

At Louisville in 1970, Mrs. Martha Siekman and her daughter Frances, "Faffie," approached Alvin Ruxer about purchasing one of his weanlings. Two fillies were available—Miss Philippa, named for Ms. Sledge, (Supreme Sultan-Midnight Kate, by Veiled Prophet) the winner of the Kentucky Weanling futurity; Sultan's Sammye Sue by Supreme Sultan, out of American Sunset by Americus Denmark; and a colt called Simply Sultan (Supreme Sultan-Grandview's Majorette by Golden Thunderbolt).

They dickered on price and, as Alvin's nephew Bob Ruxer recalls, priced them all the same. Alvin held his ground, and Mrs. Siekman bought all three. Miss Philippa's name was changed to Sultan's Scheherazade, and she attained championship status. The weanling stud's name was changed to Sultan's Santana.

Alvin Ruxer founded a dynasty in Jasper, Indiana, of such immense influence to the American Saddlebred Horse that it is mind boggling. His stallion, Valley View Supreme, not only was a phenomenon in the Walk-Trot World's Grand Championship, where no stallion had gone before, he also passed along his exquisite beauty and quality to his get show horses. He sired 22 World's Champions.

He also was extraordinary as a sire of breeding horses—Status Symbol, Super Supreme, The Supreme Look and a horse named Supreme Sultan. As a broodmare sire, Valley View Supreme is no less impressive: 26 percent of his daughters have produced ribbon winners.

Ruxer had purchased two mares at a sale in New York in 1963—Grand View's Majorette and her full sister Duchess of Grandview. The mares were sired by Golden Thunderbolt out of the amazing mare CH American Beautiful, whose provenance still is shrouded in some mystery. Officially, her sire is listed as Desert Song. She is the dam of seven registered foals, including the good sire Americus Denmark and the two

mares. Bob Ruxer them as rugged, big boned mares with stamina. They were mares built for the "long haul- babies with long show careers."

Duchess of Grandview had 12 registered foals. They include the wonderful walk-trot mare Sabra Supreme and the outstanding mare CH The Supreme Duchess, both by Valley View Supreme. By Supreme Sultan, she produced Sultan's Wild Cherry, a winning fine harness filly and yet another good producer, and Lasting Love, a winning walk-trot mare and a good broodmare.

Like her sister, Grandview's Majorette was the dam of 12 registered foals. The well-known stallions Steppin' Stuff and Sultan's Instant Replay, sons of Supreme Sultan, represented her. The good show horses, Sultan's Good News, Hugo Supreme, Jasper Major, Sweet Sharon Supreme and futurity winner, Echoes of Joy, were out of her. In 1970, she produced a chestnut colt destined for greatness. He would become Sultan's Santana.

Don Brockman remembers the weaning Santana being "very nice with a good trot." As a yearling, he "grew out of himself—got high behind." The colt always drove off of his hocks and wore that inimitable "double hinge." As Don brought the colt along, he taught him to long line and walk, trot and canter in lines. The first time he hooked the colt, Santana drove right off.

Don says, "Santana never showed he was a great horse" until he was warming up as a 2-year-old in Lexington. Don had taken the chestnut down to the show to work him. When the colt stepped on the track at the Red Mile, he "came alive." Don told Mrs. Siekman that they would be showing the colt, and Santana aired up—just got bigger and bigger in what would become his trademark—and won his class. The colt demonstrated outstanding athleticism, gameness and brilliance. "Santana was always there," Don says. "He never let you down."

Brockman broke the colt to ride and felt he was good enough to show that way, too. However, this horse's drive off of his hocks was so powerful he "knocked the stirrups right off my feet." They decided not to show him under saddle. In fact, according to Brockman, Santana



Michael
Boulton '02

got so big." He again was the magnificent horse Don remembered as a 3-year old—full of himself and 110 percent show horse.

After an 8-year absence from the show ring, Sultan's Santana was crowned the World's Grand Champion Fine Harness horse. Today, Don remembers Santana's "spunk and spirit. He was proud. He enjoyed showing himself." Don had the "good fortune of being around Sultan," and recalls the gameness of Santana's father.

In 1982, Tom Galbreath sold Santana at public auction for the record price of \$1,075,000 to Leatherwood Farm. The manager there was 30-year-old Fred Sarver. For Fred, the 12-year-old stallion "exuded quality, charisma and intelligence." The stallion had forebearers that had come from Leatherwood, notably Reveries Desdamona, dam of Golden Thunderbolt, who was foaled at the farm. The stallion had, in many ways, come home.

The Bluefield, Virginia, area was depressed at the time, and this was an awfully expensive horse. Fred had some security concerns. Fred remembers the stallion having attitude. "He would bite you and mean it." Working the stallion consistently, Fred found you could "just throw the check away. He'd flat walk when you would ask him...just call on him, no whip needed. He was just as bright each time you worked him."

During his three-year stay at Leatherwood, the stallion bred over 300 mares, mostly by artificial insemination. Sarver says Santana passed on his intelligence, his gameness and his "bold-eyed look...Not too many people have the chance to touch a great horse...Santana raised the bar; the standards were higher."

In 1985, Tom Galbreath again entered the magnificent horse's life. Santana was now an established sire ranked at the top of the sire list for several years. The horse had been syndicated into 40 shares, and Tom owned nine. The other shareholders agreed to sell, and despite his wife's threat to "commit him," Tom bought back the horse.

During the 1989 Royal, Santana's old friend Faffie Romero asked her agent and trainer, Rick Wallen, to ask Tom if he would sell the horse to her. After Rick met with Tom at the Vista Hotel, Santana became Faffie's "twice in a lifetime horse" with Galbreath retaining five services per year. Sultan's Santana was 19 years old. Faffie and Rick determined the horse would do best at stud in Kentucky. He was moved to Stallion Avenue and bred as many as 100 mares per year.

In 1991, My Summer Bouquet foaled a chestnut colt by Santana. He was registered as SS Genuine. Of her fifteen foals, My Summer Bouquet has thrown several outstanding show horses, including SS Success, CH SS Sunday's Child and CH SS Sweet Revenge.

Fred Sarver was the manager at Callaway Hills in 1995 when he received a call from Faffie Romero. Santana was in poor health with renal dysfunction. Fred sent an employee with a veterinary



Sultan's Santana with Diane Maroscia, Joe Becker and Faffie Siekman, November 1990

background to bring the horse back to Missouri. Three weeks later, as Fred stroked his neck, Sultan's Santana passed away. He says the horse "launched my career," and adds that although Santana was small, "he thought he was big."

Fred believes Santana crossed best with Wing Commander, Yorktown, Flight Time and Vanity's Sensation mares. But Don Brockman says the horse crossed best with "pretty fronted mares." Tom Galbreath says, "better horses cross well with variety."

Fred Sarver believes "Santana isn't done with us yet," because his daughters may prove to be good producers. In addition to WGC SS Genuine, the grand mare RWGC CH Santana Lass, WC Revival, CH Olivier, CH Springtime Santana, Santana Santana Dana, CH Butterfly Meadow, CH Bi Mi Fascination, CH SS Tampico and dozens more represent him. Santana Ann, a wonderful show filly, Santana Symphonette, and the good walk-trot filly Sweet Treasure, represent him as World Champion-producing broodmares. With his get still gracing the ring, it is hard to believe that Santana has been gone seven years.

Back in Wisconsin in 1995, 4-year old SS Genuine was heading off to work. After a buyers' consideration of the colt as a 2-year-old, he was returned to Faffie's Rancho Romero to grow up. The path that led him from the talented trainer Debbie Foleys' stable to Merrill Murrays' hands has as much to do with this horse's success as the generations of champions and great producers from which he descends.

The eight Hall of Fame broodmares in the first five generations contributed. These include Diana Gay, dam of Valley View Supreme; the grand matron Flirtation Walk, dam of CH WC Lover's Lane; the great studs Private Contact and Command Decision; as well as the terrific show and broodmare CH WC Dream Waltz. The King's Genius daughter, Reverie's Desdamona, dam of Callaway's Hills' founding matron CH Kate Shriver, and outstanding studs Oman's Desdamona Denmark, Ridgefield's Denmark and Clarma, as well as Golden Thunderbolt are the cornerstones upon which dynasties of outstanding show horses have been built.

The brilliant show horses CH Wing Commander, CH Valley View Supreme, CH Anacacho Shamrock and the terrific sires Supreme Sultan, Anacacho Denmark, American Ace and Genius Bourbon King, all grace this horse's pedigree. However, these horses appear on the papers of horses that will never wear the



Sultan's Santana, 1984



CH America Beautiful



The Supreme Duchess, 1971

roses on Saturday night in August. SS Genuine is a synergism of all of these horses, brought to greatness through the patience, skill and kindness of a master, and something more. He has the heart to succeed. He has gameness. He has the ability and talent to perform. He has the look and quality of a show horse. He is a champion.

Sire: Sultan's Santana

Supreme Sultan

Grand View's Majorette

CH Valley View Supreme

Melody O'Lee

Golden Thunderbolt

CH America Beautiful

Genius Bourbon King

Diana Gay

Anacacho Denmark

Judy O'Lee

Anacacho Denmark

Reverie's Desdemona

Desert Song

Judy O'Grady

SS GENUINE

Dam: My Summer Bouquet

Good Spirits

Charlotte Caprice

American Ace

Mollie Gene Eubank

CH Valley View Supreme

Ace's Adoration

CH Anacacho Shamrock

Flirtation Walk

Sun Beau's Glory

Ensign's Dream

Genius Bourbon King

Diana Gay

American Ace

Mollie Gene Eubank



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Foaled

Marked

