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THE STALLIONS PICANTE JULLYEN V (*JULLYEN EL JAMAAL x PRECIOUS V) AND MACHIFICENT RS (MACLINTOCK V x RAVVENS SKYLARK).

Rancho Soñado

by GARY DEARTH

When Dick and Nan Walden met at a wedding in 1998, Dick was a lifelong farmer and rancher, and Nan was a city girl. Dick grew up with ranch horses and had been riding since he was four years old. He attended the Thatcher School in Ojai, California, where horses are part of the curriculum. While there, he competed in horse shows, gymkhanas, and packed out in the Sespe wilderness.

Meanwhile, Nan Stockholm Walden earned her B.A. in Environmental Studies from Stanford University. Later she graduated from the Stanford University Law School where she was the Stanford Environmental Law Society President. She was an

environmental attorney and consultant for over fifteen years before she met Dick. Her professional background also included serving as Chief of Staff to Senator Bill Bradley and counsel to Senator Daniel Patrick Moynihan.

Nan was a typical horse crazy young girl. "I had Breyer horses complete with handmade blankets with their names embroidered on them. I read every horse book written, including all the Walter Farley books. Dad bought me Shetland and Hackney ponies when I was a girl, but sadly, I had terrible childhood asthma," she said. "When I was in law school at Stanford, I received a series of shots, which were much improved by then. It changed my life."



In 1949, Dick's father, Keith Walden, purchased the 10,000-acre Continental Farm, south of Tucson, then owned by Queen Wilhelmina of the Netherlands. Cotton was the main crop along with alfalfa, wheat and barley. Keith ran 9,000 sheep and had a cattle feedlot of up to 20,000 head. With the advent of polyester in the 1950s, Keith became concerned about synthetic fibers affecting the cotton market. After experimenting for years with different crops, he decided the future for his company was pecans. Today that pecan farm encompasses over 7,000 acres, with over 100,000 trees, and stretches for nearly fourteen miles along the Santa Cruz River. It is one of the largest pecan orchards in the world, processing over 26 million pounds of nuts at the plant annually.

Dick and Nan wed in 2001, but Arabian horses had not yet entered their lives. "When we were first married, we had a couple of hand-me-down Quarter Horses from when Dick and his family had the feedlot," says Nan. "The mare I was riding was a really sweet Quarter Horse who eventually passed away. I told Dick how much I wanted a horse of my own, and he told me to do the research.

"Before I met Dick, I had been investigating Arabians, because all those books I read as a child told me how beautiful the Arabian was, how intelligent they were, and how they bonded with their owners. I believed it. I went to one of Bazy



Nan Walden, left, on Chicolena Mac V (Maclintock V x Cimalena AQHA), and Sheila Varian on Jubilation V (Huckleberry Bey x Bint Jurneeka).

Tankersley's week-long clinics in Williams, Arizona, where they let us ride a horse of a different discipline every day. It really opened my eyes as to how versatile the Arabian horse is, and how affectionate and willing they are. So when I found Sheila Varian and told Dick we were going to Arroyo Grande, California, he said, 'Great. Did you find a Quarter Horse breeder?' When I told him that I wanted an Arabian, his face fell."

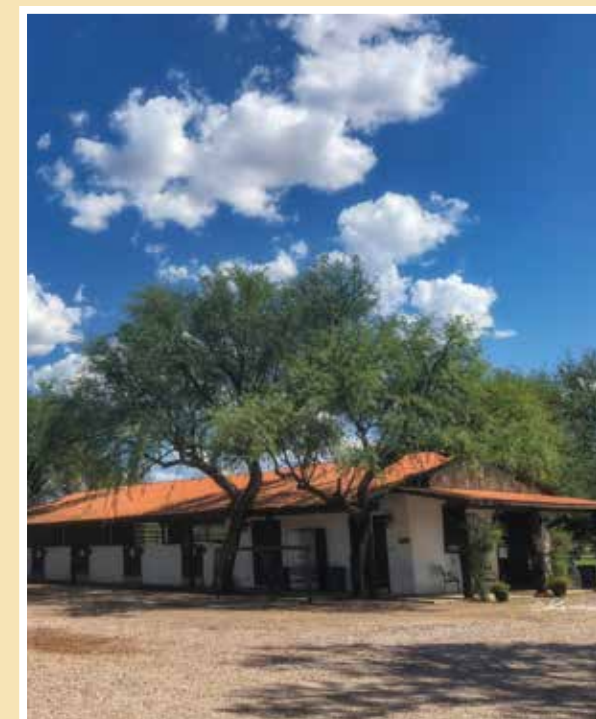
Dick was skeptical, "Green rider, high-energy horse, she will probably hurt or kill us both," he thought.

"When we went to Sheila's 2003 Summer Spectacular that first time, I was just mesmerized," continues Nan. "We ended up buying Kay Pasa V (Desperado V x La Kijan), and I was so overcome. Sheila announced to the crowd that she had been sold to 'that weeping woman in the corner.' That was me. I never thought I would own such a beautiful creature."

That first Arabian mare completely changed Dick, a lifelong Quarter Horse owner, into a fervent Arabian horse fan. "I have come to appreciate what these horses are," says Dick, "how versatile they are. When Kay Pasa V was still very green, I took her on a cross-country trip with my right-hand man, who was riding a King Ranch Quarter Horse, to look at a ranch we had under contract. We rode nine or ten hours. It was all the Quarter Horse could do to keep up with her. She went on with that fast walk all day until we got back to our trailer. At the end of the day he said, 'I think that horse might be okay after all.' Kay Pasa sold me on the breed." And now Dick is spreading the good word. He rides an Arabian or Half-Arabian on the famous Ranchero Ride in Santa Barbara County, which often draws as many as 900 horses. President Reagan used to go on that ride – the oldest organized ride in the United States, and a tradition that goes back to 1930. "For years, Dick and a veterinarian friend of his were the only ones who rode Arabians or Half-Arabians on that ride," says Nan. "In the beginning, Dick took a lot of guff, but they stopped laughing when they saw that their horses were not even breathing hard."

Fifteen years later, the Waldens' 160-acre Rancho Soñado in Amado, Arizona, is home to their 34 Arabians and Half-Arabians. They have about an equal number of outside horses in training and boarding. Here, their horses graze in grass pastures in the Santa Cruz River Valley, west of the Santa Rita Mountains. The facility boasts four barns with tack rooms and wash racks, three round pens, a large arena, 11 grass turnouts, and nine enormous grass pastures for boarders, retired horses and broodmares.

Three mares are due to foal in the spring of 2019, all bred to the Waldens' stallion MacNificent RS (Maclintock V x Ravvens Skylark). "We typically breed two to five mares per year," says Nan.



Opposite page and above: Elephant Head Butte, in the Santa Rita Mountains, and the Waldens' old adobe barn are visible in the background of several John Wayne westerns. Many iconic films and TV series were shot in this area when Old Tucson Studios was at its height. Dick's dad, Keith, hung out with John Wayne and his local friend Ralph Wingfield. Stewart Granger, Jean Simmons, Bing Crosby, Elizabeth Taylor, and others starred in films set in the Santa Cruz River Valley or on the other side of the Santa Ritas in Sonoita and Patagonia. *Oklahoma* was filmed in Sonoita. "One of our friends, Tom Noonan, coached Paul Newman on riding at a nearby ranch for *Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid*," says Nan.

"This part of the Santa Ritas is also world famous for birds and other wildlife. The only jaguars photographed recently in the U.S. are found here," Nan adds.

"Pima County recently purchased the Canoa Ranch, 4,000 acres across the road from our ranch. It has 17 historic buildings, including a smithy shop, bunkhouse, and salt room. Dick remembers as a boy when it was a working ranch. They used Arabian stallions on their Quarter Horse mares to give them more stamina and better feet for the rocky desert terrain. I am on its advisory board, and we are making it into a kind of Williamsburg of ranching, where kids and tourists can learn that milk does not come from a carton, nor hamburger from MacDonald's! We also hope to showcase the rich history of Native American and Spanish and Mexican culture in southern Arizona.

"Before the Gadsden Purchase of 1854, our land was part of Mexico. Our personal ranch is 160 fee acres and a 6,000-acre state grazing lease for our cattle. A wonderful place to ride out!"

WINS



Dick and Nan Walden are happy to report that Rancho Soñado had their best year to date, winning 14 National Championships and Reserves and 60 Top Tens in 2017, showing a string of eight horses at U.S. and Canadian Arabian and Half-Arabian Nationals. They competed in western and English trail, horsemanship, ranch riding, hunter pleasure, sport horse under saddle and in-hand, and reining. Highlights included: our stallion, Picante Jullyen V, winning National Top Tens in reining and ranch riding; Renegade Mac V winning his first Sport Horse Show Hack National Championship; Romance V winning double Reserve Championships under saddle and in-hand; and our own homebred "baby" Cowgirl Jake RS winning 3 National Top Tens with Andy Camacho as a four-year-old in her first time showing in herd work! (All these horses come from Sheila Varian lines.)

Nan was named High Point Trail Amateur at U.S. Nationals, and Jill Mitchell, our senior consulting trainer, was named Working Western Trainer of the Year. Dick is enjoying riding Picante Jullyen V in ranch riding and plans to start reining with him soon. Dick's favorite RV horse, Half-Arabian Duns Smokey Lady (Were Dun x "Zerrette), *Legion of Excellence* winner and a granddaughter of Hollywood Dun It, won National Champion in the English Trail Open at Canada, and was top ten with Dick in Western Trail and top tenned again in both at U.S.



SC Chipawa Chinks (Desperado V x Carnation), bred by Suzy Creek Ranch, was another of the Waldens' early purchases. "Dick's daughter Deb loved Chinks's energy and athleticism," says Nan. "Much to our surprise and delight, Deb and Chinks went Reserve Champion Working Cow AAOTR at our first U.S. Nationals in 2006. She was second to Kathie Hart, one of our mentors.

"Chinks took such good care of Deb in a practice session before Nationals," says Nan. "Her cinch came loose when she was taking the cow down the fence at a hand gallop. The saddle slipped under the mare's belly, and that mare gradually slid to a stop and didn't move. You could call it luck, but I think it was the product of breeding for temperament for generations."



Cowgirl Jake RS (Jake Jamaal JCA x SC Chipawa Chinks), and Andy Camacho winning 2018 Scottsdale Reserve Champion Herd Work/Ranch Cutting.



Top: The mare Flower Girl V (Sundance Kid V x Fantos), center, and her fillies May Flower RS (by Monticello V), left, and Faithful Juell RS (by *Jullyen El Jamaal), right.



Bottom right: Courtney Spicer and Chicago Chaps RS (*Jullyen El Jamaal x SC Chipawa Chinks by Desperado V), winning double Reserve Championships at the 2013 U.S. Nationals in Trail Junior Horse and Trail Futurity. Our first homebred National Reserve and the first wins for our trainer, Courtney Spicer.

Bottom left: The stallion Spades Fellow RS (Spades LRA x Flower Girl V). "The first stud quality horse we have bred," says Nan. "His sire Spades LRA (DA Valentino x Serenata El Jamaal) was leased to Australia and was then sold to Dynasty Arabians in Beijing, China."



2017 Canadian National Champion Sport Horse Show Hack **Renegade Mac V** (Maclintock V x Ravvens Skylark), *Legion of Merit*, ridden by Kirsten McKillop.



2017 Canadian National Reserve Champion Sport Horse Under Saddle ATR **Romance V** (Maclintock V x Ravvens Skylark), *Legion of Supreme Honor* and *Legion of Supreme Merit*, ridden by Sierra Swaffer. Romance V was also 2017 Canadian National Reserve Champion Sport Horse Mares In-hand Hunter Type, 2017 Scottsdale Champion Sport Horse Mares In-hand Dressage Type, and 2016 Scottsdale Reserve Champion Sport Horse Mares In-hand Hunter Type.

TRAINING

"You can never rely on a horse that is educated by fear. There will always be something that he fears more than you. But, when he trusts you, he will ask you, what to do when he is afraid."

— Antoine de Pluvinel, 16th century equerry to King of France



Dick on Benedito Bey SMA.



Nan on Stars and Stripes SF.

The Waldens value athletic and beautiful Arabians, trained in a gentle manner with lots of love. Even the youngsters are introduced to trail obstacles in-hand.



Nan on Agracie Girl V.



Kaitlyn Dirkschneider on Faithful Juell RS (*Jullyen El Jamaal x Flower Girl V).

"We want to maintain a small but select breeding program, producing only as many horses as we can use or sell to wonderful homes. I got my first horse at fifty. I feel horse ownership is both a privilege and an obligation. It is our responsibility to find them happy homes and give them good lives. We include a buyback clause when we sell our horses. I admit it's probably easier to adopt a child than it is to buy one of my horses. But there's nothing like giving up a piece of your dream to make someone else's dream come true. I never dreamed I'd have one Arabian, much less a field full of them. So to have that privilege, means that you have to share that joy."

Rancho Soñado horses have amassed a staggering number of National, Scottsdale, and Regional titles in a wide variety of disciplines in a short time, and the Waldens take justifiable pride in the versatility of their horses. "Our goal is to produce an athletic horse," says Nan. "We love Polish Arabians and have drawn heavily from the Varian breeding program. We lean toward western pleasure, working western, hunter, and sport horse. If you have a horse with good conformation, they can do a lot more things than some people would suspect. A good example is Agracie Girl V (Sundance Kid V x Amazing Grace V), who has won in sport horse in-hand and many National Championships in English and western trail. In 2014, both Agracie Girl V and Stars And Stripes SF (Allionces Knight x Starry Spumoni) won Scottsdale, Canadian, and U.S. Nationals in trail. And they were USEF Horses of the Year. We describe our horses as 'open quality, amateur friendly.' We want a horse that older adults, like myself, can ride even though they didn't grow up riding. They are a universal type of horse that anyone would be proud to throw a leg over or put their kid on and go out on a trail ride or into the showring. For us, that settles along the lines of western pleasure, working western, sport horse under saddle and possibly sport horse show hack."

Dick also values the practical applications of the Arabians at their Arizona ranch. "We have a small commercial cattle operation," he says. "And we work the cattle with Arabians and Half-Arabians — both roping during the brandings and cutting. Of course, I like their sensitive side, too. When you walk into the barn, and all the horses nicker at the sound of your footsteps, well, that's a nice feeling." Dick draws on a lifetime of horse experience with

other breeds when he appraises Arabians and likes to tell the story of an early ride on Agracie Girl V that provided another watershed moment. "Shortly after we bought our ranch, we were going to brand cattle one day, and we had them down in our roping arena. Then it rained 2 inches that morning so we delayed the whole effort. I was on Gracie and took her by myself to ride the fence line of a pasture that I had not ridden before we bought it. It was about three hours, and mind you, she was about five years old; still pretty green but settling down. It was amazing how that horse and I developed confidence in each other that day. We had to ride through brush and break branches overhead and back up, find a different spot, and go up and down hills. There was not another horse or rider. She had to totally relate to me and what I was directing her to do. It was an interesting bonding experience. I've done trips like that on other young horses, but I feel the Arabian's relationship with man is much stronger than one can feel with Quarter Horses, and I've had Quarter horses for most of my life.

"There's another story about Gracie around the same time," adds Dick. "I was riding her out with the crew to brand some calves, thinking I was just going to ride drag. We got the cattle to the pens, and the crew kept egging me on to rope. I hadn't roped in 30 years. I had dragged some branches with Gracie, and she was comfortable having ropes all around her and under her tail. So I roped the first calf and dragged it up to the fire. I thought she would blow up when the smoke came up from the branding iron. She stood right there, stock still, ears forward, taking it all in. Totally OK. I roped half a dozen calves after that, and my arm was getting tired, and I started to miss, and she turned her head around and looked at me as if to say, 'What's the matter with you? This is fun!' This horse is really special.

"We try to develop that kind of trust in all of our horses. We're very fortunate in that we have the kind of situation where, if we take the time, we can do these things with the horses," continues Dick. "We believe in riding all our horses out. It's so good for their bodies and minds." Adds Nan, "We are believers in lots of different drills with our young horses. We take them over trail obstacles when they are youngsters."

Resident trainer Courtney Spicer, who oversees operations at the ranch, has just returned to Rancho

AGRACIE GIRLV

(SUNDANCE KID V x AMAZING GRACE V)
LEGION OF MASTER AND LEGION OF EXCELLENCE



"Trainer Amanda Borduin had a lot to do with the development of Gracie as a trail horse," says Nan. "She won her first Arabian title when she rode Gracie to 2010 U.S. National Reserve Champion Trail. A few days later, I won my first National title, the Championship in Trail AAOTR with a combined score of 220 to win the championship. The Reserve Champion's score was 198."

In 2014, Nan and Gracie achieved the "Triple Crown," winning Championships at U.S. and Canadian Nationals and at Scottsdale. At Scottsdale that year in Trail, Nan and Gracie won the AOTR, the ATR, and the Open, because their trainer, Courtney Spicer, had a conflict in another ring and Nan had to ride in the Open or scratch. Judge Bill Hughes told Nan later, "I kept waiting for you or the horse to make a mistake, but you just didn't!" After U.S. Nationals that year, the announcer came down from the stands and said, "I usually announce at Quarter Horse shows, but I have never seen a partnership like yours with that black mare." Gracie and Nan won the English Trail AOTR the first year it was offered at U.S. Agracie Girl V also won 2017 Canadian National Champion Western Trail, and Reserve Champion Western Trail AOTR, both ridden by Nan Walden. 2017 Scottsdale Champion English Trail, 2014 U.S. National Champion Western Trail AAOTR, Reserve Champion Western Trail, and 2010 U.S. National Champion Western Trail AAOTR, with Nan Walden.



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Facing page bottom left and right: 2014 Scottsdale Champion Western Trail Open, AOTR, and ATR and 2014 U.S. National Champion English Trail AAOTR Agracie Girl V with Nan Walden.

Above: Canadian National Champion Half-Arabian Western Trail, Champion Half-Arabian Western Trail AOTR, Reserve Champion Half-Arabian English Trail, and Reserve Champion Half-Arabian English Trail AOTR **Stars And Stripes SF** (Allionces Knight x Starry Spumoni), *Legion of Excellence*, left, and 2017 Canadian National Champion Western Trail, and Reserve Champion Western Trail AAOTR **Agracie Girl V**, right, both ridden by Nan Walden.

BENEDITO BEY SMA

(BRANDON JCA x ONAPAR)
LEGION OF MERIT AND LEGION OF EXCELLENCE



Right: Benedito Bey SMA embodies the Waldens' vision of the versatile Arabian. Here he is crossing a river on the 2016 Rancheros Visitadores Ride in Santa Ynez with Dick Walden. Typically, more than 900 horses, mules, and wagons go on this week-long ride, the oldest in the U.S.

Above: Benedito Bey SMA at the 2017 Scottsdale show, winning first place Silver Saddle Class with Dick Walden, and in 2015 he was Scottsdale Champion Trail AOTR and ATR with Dick.



Soñado after having taken some time off to start a family. "The show horses are started and finished here. If they need something that I can't provide, or if it is beyond me, we will send horses out. I am very comfortable with all of the working western disciplines and western pleasure."

The Waldens believe in a holistic approach to raising and training horses. "We are interested in promoting a gentler horsemanship and training approach," says Nan. "We want to see all harsh training methods and drugs taken out of all horse industries. We pride ourselves on doing things cleanly, and we have a fantastic record as a result. We believe that gimmicks are a substitute for good horsemanship, and that shortcuts always have bad side effects either physically or mentally. Some of our better horses have taken a little longer to train. Because they are very intelligent and have some willfulness, if you are fair with them, they try their hearts out for you. We don't want to cram them into too much of a frame

too early. We think it is frustrating not only to their bodies but to their minds. A lot of western and hackamore horses are asked to do that too soon. They don't have the conditioning or the musculature to be in that contrived frame."

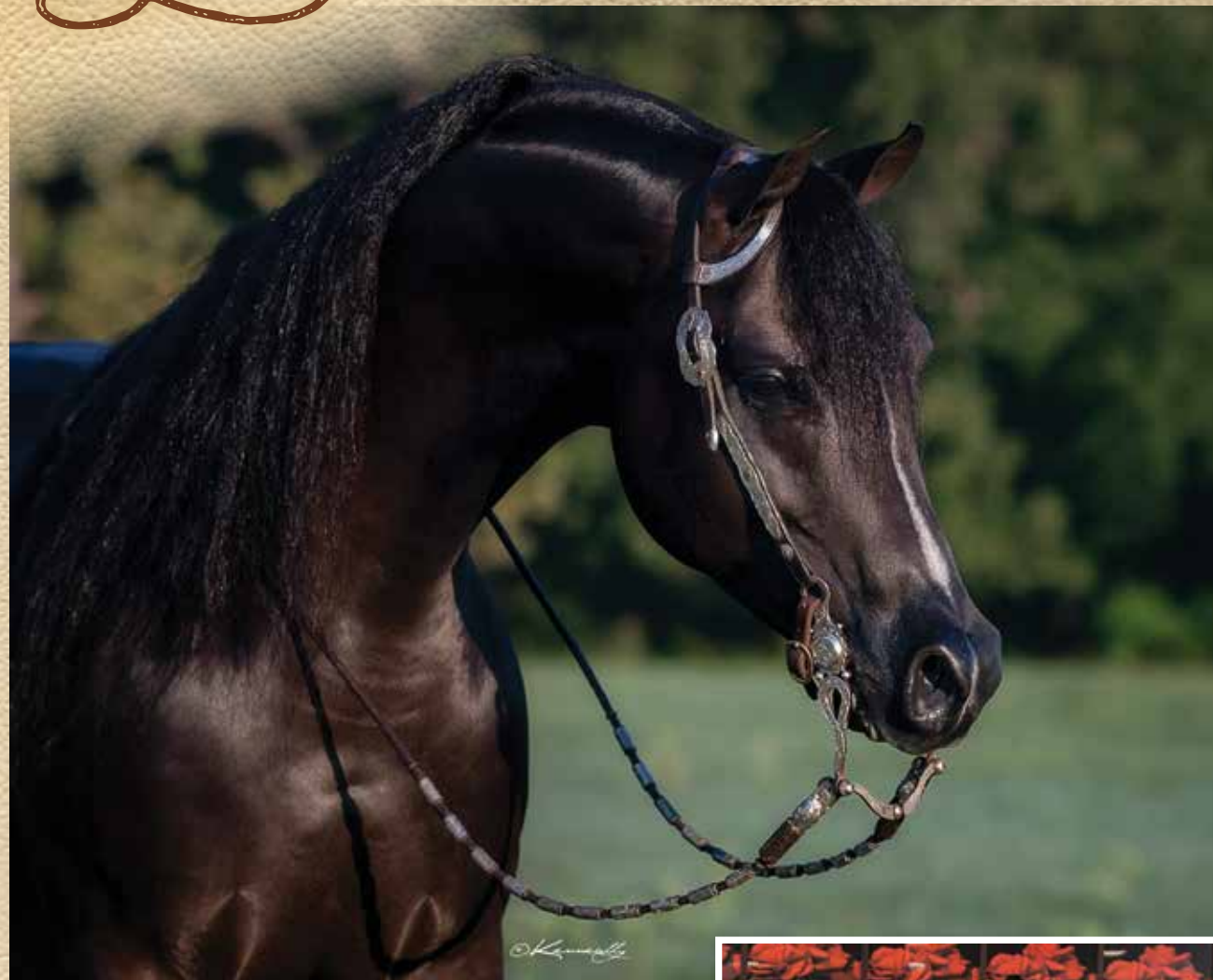
"We are trying to keep the horses in a more natural environment where they are out in pasture most of the day and come into stalls at night," adds Courtney. "They get lots of fresh air, sunshine, and exercise on their own. And we take no shortcuts in training. I'm not a gadget trainer. I keep it simple and focus on body control. When I worked for Gary Ferguson, I learned the importance of not skipping steps. If a horse doesn't want to do a particular job, we find



At the 2018 Sport Horse Nationals, Benedito was Champion Sport Horse In-hand with Trish Nelson, above left, and at 2016 Sport Horse Nationals he was Top Ten Sport Horse Show Hack with Kirsten Prutch, above right. He also won 2017 Scottsdale Champion Sport Horse Gelding In-hand Dressage Type and 2015 Scottsdale Champion Western Trail AOTR and ATR.

MACNIFICENT RS

(MACLINTOCK V x RAVVENS SKYLARK)



MacNificent RS with Gary Ferguson



MacNificent RS with Gary Ferguson, Nan and Dick, after winning the 2017 Region 7 Champion Western Pleasure Jr. Horse. They also won 2017 Canadian National Top Ten Western Pleasure Jr. Horse.

PICANTE JULLYEN V

(*JULLYEN EL JAMAAL x PRECIOUS V)



SCHATZBERG PHOTO



Top right: Picante with Gary Ferguson winning Top Four in the 2017 U.S. National Reining Derby.

Middle right: Picante Jullien V with Dick Walden winning Top Ten in the 2018 Scottsdale Ranch Horse Riding.



Left: The Waldens, right, and their trainer Courtney Spicer, with Sheila Varian, the day they purchased Picante Jullien V.

them a job they are more suited for. It's a more organic process."

Today, the Rancho Soñado breeding program is revolving around their two young stallions. Trainer Gary Ferguson raves about both horses. "Picante Jullien V (*Jullien El Jamaal x Precious V) is the reiner. I will be showing him at U.S. Nationals in reining and ranch riding. He's a very sexy, big, bay stallion. Lots of hair and mane with a real Desperado V look. He's talented with a great disposition. The other stallion, MacNificent RS (Maclintock V x Ravvens Skylark), has a very hooky neck and is also beautiful with excellent conformation. He is the perfect pleasure horse complement to Picante Jullien V. MacNificent RS was Region 7 Champion Western Pleasure Junior Horse last year.

"Dick and Nan are very passionate about their horses," adds Gary. "I appreciate that they are not afraid to try things and are always working to improve their mare band. They are contributing to the Arabian breed in a positive and

productive way."

Early on, the Waldens realized the importance of introducing new people to the magic of Arabian horses, and they work hard to promote the Arabian breed. "We were inspired by Bazy Tankersley, who experimented with different ways to reach new audiences," says Nan. "Through her brainchild, The Black Stallion Literacy Program, she took horses to shopping malls, and every other opportunity she could find in which to showcase them. Our first resident trainer, Amanda Borduin, took Agracie Girl V to events for the Black Stallion Literacy Program even though

obviously she was not *The Black Stallion*. The kids didn't know the difference. We've had Ranch Days here at our ranch in cooperation with the Cowbells and the 4-H. Fifth and sixth graders come on a bus, and we arrange different stations for them. There are horse demonstrations, a mare and foal in a paddock, a roping demonstration with one of our cowboys, and a play auction. Afterwards, we serve a ranch-style lunch.

"At our annual pecan festival in November, 25,000 people come here to the ranch, and Arabian horses are a big part of the festival," she continues. "The Southern Arizona Arabian Horse Association

helps us by bringing horses of many disciplines. We explain to visitors that if they can't afford a horse, they can take lessons, lease a horse, or share with someone. These days only two percent of the population lives on a ranch or a farm. So, we have to bring the horses to them. We have become removed from how to behave around horses and other animals. Our society is poorer for that. It is fantastic to see a child light up at the sight of a mare and foal."

Dick and Nan Walden are committed to Arabian horses and the people who love them. They breed horses that are successful both in the showing and as wonderful companions and partners. And they



The Spicer family: Scott and Courtney, right, with Sophia and Henry on Al-Marah Dizzy Duke (Habibi Marquis x AM Tisa Dream). Courtney is our returning 2X trainer in residence. Welcome back Courtney!



are doing their part to promote the breed on a scale that is inspiring. "AHA should be so lucky that every member would take such an active interest in Arabian horses as the Waldens have," says trainer Michael Damianos. "It is people like them who build a successful breed association." And, we might add, a stronger breed.

For the Waldens, the Arabians have meant something else, too. "We often say jokingly, 'we are lousy golfers, we don't own a boat ... thank heavens we found something we enjoy together besides work!'" says Nan. "I also say, if you don't mind some manure on your boots, some windblown hair, and a few ranch dogs running around, you are ok with us. Liking horses and dogs usually is a natural selector for people who have some sense of humor, flexibility, and empathy. We have truly enjoyed the friends we have made in the horse industry.

"For us, the horses are a needed escape from a global business. They get us out of the office and back into nature and all the beauty around us. To be able to share that joy with others, and each other, is a blessing and a dream come true. And that's why we named our ranch, Rancho Soñado, which means 'ranch of our dreams.'"

A few kind words from our friends . . .

It's been amazing to watch the growth and success of Rancho Soñado. From their first gelding and first horse show, in borrowed tack and clothes, they've become a force to be reckoned with at all the major championships; Nan and Dick's dream has become a reality. It's great to have been a small part of that dream since those very early days.

— WENDY DAVIS, THE DIRECTOR OF THE RACE TRACK INDUSTRY PROGRAM AT THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA

The Waldens have been huge supporters and promoters of our horses. They also became dear friends to me and the late Sheila Varian. Their breeding program is well thought out, and they have been very smart about how they have gone about it. Nan can see the evolving picture. She doesn't buy impulsively. If Nan Walden pulls the trigger and buys a horse, there is a good reason.

— ANGELA ALVAREZ, OWNER AND MANAGER OF VARIAN ARABIANS

The Waldens have a deep desire to do things right by the horse. They are willing to invest the time, along with providing their horses a "ranch" way of life. Nan's "stick to it" determination, coupled with Dick's lifelong skills as a horseman, is at the core of their success in and out of the arena.

— LESTER BUCKLEY, TRAINER AND CLINICIAN

I have had the distinct pleasure of both boarding my horses at Nan and Dick's Rancho Soñado as well as competing against them in the show ring. In both settings, they treat all — humans and horses alike — with respect, integrity and kindness. They are a dynamic duo and an absolute gift to the Arabian horse community.

— FRANCES CAUSEY, RANCHO SOÑADO CLIENT

The Rancho Soñado horses are not only beautiful, but also well-mannered and gifted athletes. I have had the pleasure of watching them at U.S. Nationals for years. They are great ambassadors for the Arabian breed.

— ALLAN EHRLICK, U.S. NATIONAL SHOW COMMISSIONER

Dick and Nan work hard in their successful businesses, and they work hard to breed quality horses that will demonstrate their true belief in the versatile Arabian. They are fierce competitors in the horse show arena, and I am always happy to see them.

— LOU ROPER, TRAINER

I first met Dick and Nan when they were my competition in the trail pen at shows. One of the things I love about the working western division is that, for the most part, we all share a great camaraderie. And Dick and Nan were no exception. After I retired my horse and became a judge, I started seeing them from inside the arena on the course. With several National Championships under their belts, they have come a long way. They are definitely a credit to the Arabian breed and very generous with their sponsorships at every level of the shows.

— PATTY ROMEO, AHA JUDGE

I have been the primary veterinarian for Rancho Soñado for the past few years and have had the great pleasure of watching the program develop. The commitment demonstrated by Nan and Dick Walden to the betterment of the Arabian breed is sensational. It has been my honest pleasure to watch their foals blossom into young performance prospects and their established animals continue to flourish. As a veterinarian, it is always refreshing to have owners so committed to breeding, as well as to the health of their animals.

— KARLA LOMBANA, DVM



DICK AND NAN WALDEN WITH BENEDITO BEY SMA (BRANDON BEY JCA x ONAPAR), LEFT, AND AGRACIE GIRL V (SUNDANCE KID V x AMAZING GRACE V).



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